OLYMPIANS SIGN ON TO "HELP BUILD A DREAM"

Two Olympia mariners have signed one-quarter contracts as visiting faculty members at Evergreen to help build a dream. Originator of the dream, Evergreen faculty member and ten-year veteran of the Merchant Marine, Beryl Crowe, has designed a full-year academic program entitled "Marine History and Crafts." At the core of his program is the design, construction and launching of a commercial fishing vessel powered by the wind and crafted of wood.

Hired to help Crowe and three other faculty members instruct students on the marine history of the Pacific Northwest and to design and launch the boat are Olympians Gordon Newell and Henry A. Long Jr.

Newell, a marine historian of the Puget Sound area, has authored numerous books and articles on the history of local shipping. A native Olympian, Newell currently works for the majority caucus of the State House of Representatives and is a founder and President of the South Sound Marine Historical Society. He will work Fall Quarter with four Evergreen faculty and an estimated 80 students as they gather historical data about Puget Sound and prepare a book for publication on the history of Northwest fishing.

Long, whose family has been building wooden ships in the Olympia area since 1910, owns the only boat yard left in the Capital City. A specialist in wooden hull construction, Long has volunteered his boat works as the site for construction of the new Evergreen craft and hopes to involve his father, H. A. Long, as an advisor and critic to the unique academic program.

Faculty Member Pete Sinclair, whose field is humanities, will coordinate the program along with Crowe and two other Evergreeners --- physicist Byron Youtz and marine biologist Larry Eicksteadt. They also hope to involve H.C. Hanson, owner of the Hotel Olympian, who is considered the dean of naval architects on the West Coast. Hanson has served as an informal adviser to the faculty already and his experience as a traveling inspector for the Pacific Northwest shipyards during World War II and naval architect before World War I will be "an invaluable asset to the program," according to Sinclair.

Actual design of the vessel is up to the students, but Sinclair says they'll have to keep several limitations in mind. The young mariners will be restricted to use of local materials and less than $10,000 for expenses. Sinclair hopes to raise the money through donations. They will also have to thoroughly research the kind of vessel they have in mind --- how many fishermen it should be built to accommodate, what kinds of fish the fishermen will seek, and who will want to make use of the vessel once it's complete.

Crowe says the energy crisis and increasing awareness of the lack of fossil fuels prompted he and Sinclair to begin seriously considering the academic program. But racing as crewmen on the yacht of President Charles J. McCann convinced them it was possible. They were frequently pitted against a wooden sailing craft designed in 1933. Impressed by the performance of the vessel, Crowe agreed to develop his idea and Sinclair to administer the year-long study project.

But, as Sinclair points out, the year-long study effort is designed with more in mind than constructing a dream. "We'll introduce students to a wide spectrum of academic disciplines," he says. "In a year they'll have to gain a healthy understanding of marine history and literature, economics, meteorology, climatology, physics, math and oceanography, just to get started." Sinclair, who says he comes from a long line of Nantucket whalers and navy men, points out that the students will also gain skills in drafting, engineering, design, wood technology, electronics, model making, testing and marine law.