S O U N

EDITED BY MERRILL WITTY

MAIDEN VOYAGE

Courageous Ace's Maiden Voyage

Mitsui O.S.K. Line's pure car carrier *Courageous Ace* called the Dundalk Marine Terminal's berth 1 recently to discharge Mitsubishi automobiles.

The vessel, built by Minaminippon Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. of Usuki, Japan, flies the flag of Panama. She is 198 meters long, 32.2 meters wide and has a cruise speed of 20 knots. Her deadweight tonnage is 19,927 MT and cargo capacity is 6,400 cars. The line calls Baltimore five times per month.

Agent: **William S. Dimond**
Stevedore: **Ceres**
Towing: **Moran Towing**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BILL MCALLEN

Right, left to right: Walter Neaf, Moran Towing of Maryland; Mel Bafford, MPA; John G. Lomba, MOL; Captain S. Kapur and Don Maney, ISS Marine.

NEW DESIGN

MOL's New Pure Car Truck Carrier Marks A Step Ahead

Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. (MOL) has announced the launch of the pure car truck carrier (PCTC) *Courageous Ace*, featuring an energy-saving design that reflects MOL's commitment to protecting the environment. The *Courageous Ace* is designed for improved aerodynamics to enhance fuel efficiency. It is the first of six newly designed PCTCs to be launched by January of next year.

The *Courageous Ace*'s maiden voyage included a visit to Baltimore.

MOL's corporate principles emphasize "safe operation and environmental protection," based on the company's environmental management system (MOL EMS 21), which has acquired ISO 14001 certification.

The shape of conventional car carriers makes them very susceptible to wind resistance and a phenomenon called "leeway" in which the wind pushes the vessel from the side. The *Courageous Ace*'s design, developed jointly with Universal Shipbuilding Corp., reduces leeway and enhances fuel efficiency. Improved fuel efficiency, in turn, contributes to energy conservation and helps reduce vessel emissions. The new design also allows a higher service speed.

The vessel's bow is aerodynamically rounded to help reduce pressure from head winds.

The upper deck has cargo space (called the garage deck) to maximize load capacity. The vessel also has wind channels along the sides of the vessel at the top of the garage deck, which help the ship maintain a straight course and result in an improvement in fuel efficiency.

MOL already plans to launch six of these new-type PCTCs between March 2003 and January 2004. Three will be built at Minaminippon Shipbuilding and three at Shin Kurushima Dockyard Co., Ltd.. in Ehime. The company will continue to adopt this new design (patent pending) on future PCTCs. ⚓