

"Golden Cane" award to the captain of the ship which was first to arrive in Montreal in the New Year. Since then this honour has been conferred on Hero of Socialist Labour A. Pineshaninov, M. Sis'kov, R. Igritskii, E. Kurpi, S. Pustovoyt and Yu. Kovalenko.

I think that both the high degree of professionalism of northern seamen and their extremely conscientious attitude to work grew from a tradition originating in the peculiar atmosphere of coastal life. The first settlers to arrive on the shores of the Barents and White Seas were noted for their great tenacity, their love of life, if you like, and their penchant for work. Without these qualities they simply would not have survived. And whereas it is said that idleness is the mother of vice, one might also say that work is the father of virtue. It was under harsh conditions, when it simultaneously became both a necessity and a requirement, that the coastal dweller's high moral ideal and moral code were developed. And even without glancing into distant history (many documentary and artistic works have been written about how northern sea routes were developed) one will see that the descendants of the ancient northern coastal settlers constituted the backbone of the Murmansk Marine Steamship Line from the day its inception. On the other hand, the Murman Coast was visited by top-class specialists - navigators and research scientists who had received their training in the institutions of higher learning of St. Petersburg - people of high culture and noble heart. A fine fusion, which indicates that the Murmansk Marine Steamship Line has a very noteworthy lineage.