

Mayaguez Captain Claimed as Father

A Terra Linda brother and sister believe that the captain of the rescued Mayaguez is the seagoing father they haven't seen in 22 years.

James T. Miller, 34, and Cheryl Miller Pederson, 28, said yesterday they are trying to reach Captain Charles T. Miller in Hong Kong to tell him he now has two married children and six grandchildren.

"He's my father, but I had no means of finding him until now," said Mrs. Pederson, who lives next door to her brother in the Marin county suburb. "I didn't even know if he was living. When I was born, he and my mother were divorced."

Jim Miller, an electrician, said he and his mother recognized the captain's voice on a television news show after his release by Cambo-

dia. "We compared old photos to pictures in the papers," he said. "He's older now, but it's him. No doubt about it."

In a letter to the captain, Mrs. Pederson wrote in part: "Dad, I guess it seems kind of funny to get a letter after all these years. . . We can't believe we finally found out where you were, and it is unbelievable how we found out."

The captain's present wife, Ann Miller, reached at her home in Orange county, would neither confirm nor deny that he had been married before or had any children. "They should ask my husband that," she said.

Miller, 62, was not available for comment. Sea-Land, the Oakland-based owner of the ship, said the Mayaguez will be in Hong Kong for five days.