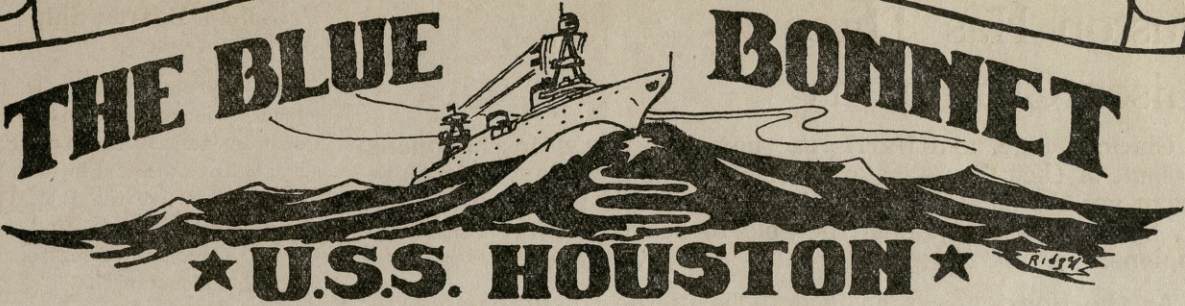


THE BLUE BONNET

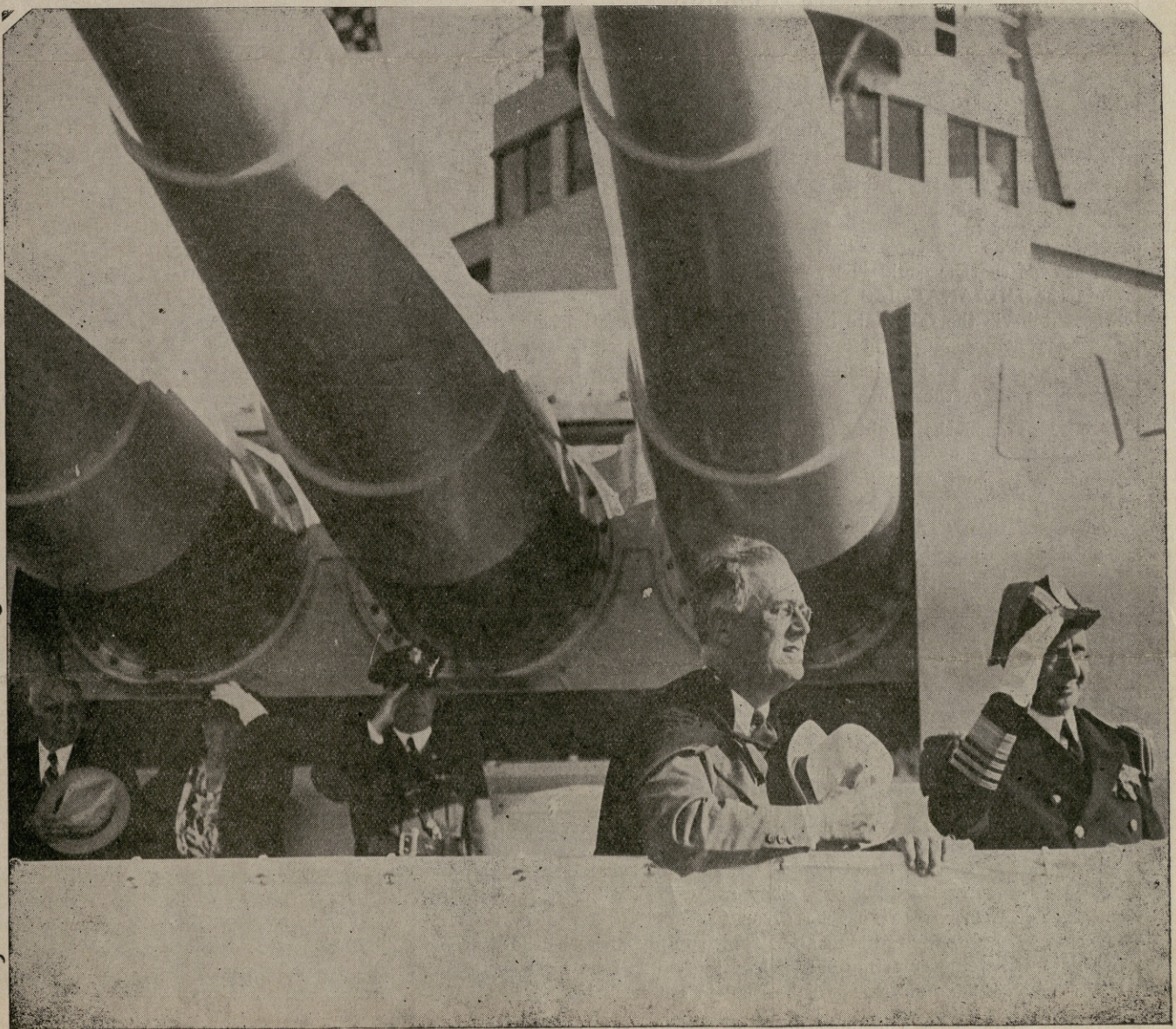
★ U.S.S. HOUSTON ★



Volume I. Number 4.

AT SEA

21 February 1929



President Roosevelt Again Embarks

Houston Has Three Cruiser Champions

Chick, Hodge, and Harris are now heavy cruiser champions as a result of their bouts last week in Guantanamo Bay. Two more meets to go, the semi-finals on 25-26 March and the finals on 1-2 April, before this ship should be able to boast of three All-Navy Champions.

As the Houston is scheduled to be in the Guantanamo area during the final two meets every last man aboard will be as close to the ringside as possible to cheer for our fighters. They are certainly putting out for us.

U. S. S. ARGONNE

Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
11 February 1939.

Dear Editor:

Thought perhaps a little writeup regarding the Houston's representatives in the Cruiser Finals would be of much interest to you so am forwarding the results to you with the hopes that you may find space in the "Blue Bonnet".

The Houston's All Navy Wrestling Champ, Chick, proved to the crowds that he could justly be called just that by defeating Miller from the INDIANAPOLIS in a fast and interesting match by taking this match via the fall route in the small fraction of time of 2 minutes and forty five seconds. Miller vainly tried to put Chick down on the mat but to no avail as the master of his weight easily ended this match with his skill of the game.

When the mighty "Major" Hodges entered the ring he was given a mighty cheer by numbers of onlookers who remembered him from his last bout and it is easy to see that he is a well liked fighter. His opponent was the highly claimed future champ from the ASTORIA, none other than Capelli. This bout proved a fast one while it lasted with Hodge wining by a TKO in the second round.

Harris showed the crowd what a real fighting heart he has when he won his bout from Clark of the CHICAGO by a KO in the fourth round. In the first round Harris had his right eye cut pretty badly and it looked as though the fight would be given to Clark but Harris held that he was all right and proceeded to give Clark a lot of grief during the rest of the fight. The canvas was used as a resting spot for Clark three times before the final knockdown which ended the fight. Immediately after the fight Harris was worked over by the pharmacist's mates who sewed him up with three stitches. This cut will have six weeks in which to heal and Harris should be none the worse for this when he enters the ring on April 2nd for the Fleet Finals.

The Officers and Crew of the Houston should be very proud of these three men and the way they are carrying her name through the Fleet. Much credit must be given to "Archie" Arsenault for the thorough way he handles his men. Letters from members of the Houston to these men would certainly cheer them lots while they are away from their home, which they sure will be glad to get back to.

Well, hope you don't mind me writing this article and hope you can use it.

Your old shipmate,
Steve Sivak Jr. SK1c.

President Boards Ship At Key West

President Franklin D. Roosevelt ended a journey down the Atlantic Coast by embarking aboard this vessel at Key West, Florida, Saturday afternoon at five ten P.M. The arrival of the President and his party marked the start of his fourth cruise with the Houston.

All hands extend to the President a sincere welcome and desire that he shall have a most enjoyable cruise. To the Chief of Naval Operations Admiral W. D. Leahy, and to members of the Presidential party we wish the same hearty welcome and happy voyage. Your presence aboard serves as a high spot in the history of this vessel.

Saturday's arrivals include: President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Admiral W. D. Leahy, Rear Admiral Ross T. McIntire, Colonel E. M. Watson, Captain D. J. Callaghan, Lieut. Comdr. Freseman, Chief Pharmacist G. Fox, Mr. Russel C. Wood, Mr. T. J. Qualters, Mr. M. F. Reilly, Mr. E. J. Michel, Mr. C. F. Pattavina, Mr. W. D. Simmons, Chief Yeoman J. L. Learson, and Irving McDuffie. Others who arrived previously are: Lieut. L. M. LeHardy, Lieut. H. L. Reed, Lieut. R. J. Fabian, Lieut. M. S. Holmes, and Chief Boatswain's Mate W. A. Bartos.

New Coach at Academy

Captain Emery E. Larson, U.S.M.C. newly appointed head football coach for the Naval Academy, played center on the Annapolis team in 1919, 1920 and 1921 (all years in which Navy defeated the Army). From 1922 through 1924, he played on the All-Marine team at Quantico, Va. In 1925 and 1926 he coached the All-Navy team in Hawaii. He was line coach at the University of Hawaii in 1928 and three years later went back to Parris Island, S.C. to coach the Marines. In 1934 and 1935 he coached the USS Pennsylvania teams, which won two successive fleet championships. Prior to being ordered to Annapolis as head coach he was on duty out in China.

When nature wants an oak she works on the job a hundred years; if a squash, a few months are sufficient.

Dry Tortugas And Doctor Mudd

Forty five miles due west to where men's bodies and souls stagnated then rotted to resemble the slime kicked up on stone walls by the sea fed moat. Forty five miles to a living hell where escape was impossible save that offered by the razor edged teeth of sharks. Forty five miles to as grim a reminder of cruel confinement as will ever sully the pages of American history. That was the exact distance from the Houston's anchorage in Key West, Florida to the mouldy walls of the former Federal prison which leaped into prominence before the American public recently when "Shark Island", the motion picture, was released.

On the last minute bit of land on the map which forms one of the Florida Keys one sees the name 'Dry Tortugas'. Any coastal steamer going around the Keys to or from the Gulf of Mexico passes within sight of Fort Jefferson on this island. As they do a few of the passengers and crew no doubt think back upon the torment and anguish undergone there or suffer a twinge of remorse in knowing the unfairness of justice in the case which scarcely has a parallel in all legal history, the trial and incarceration of Doctor William Mudd.

The trial is singular in that it involved a man unwittingly entangled, yet quite indirectly so, in one of the greatest tragedies that ever befell the American people, the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.

Anyone familiar with American history knows that John Wilkes Boothe broke a leg in jumping to the stage at the Forde Theater after he fired the fatal shot into the President. His subsequent escape to find a doctor in order to set the leg, and the happenings which actually transpired afterward are more or less as varied and confusing as there are relaters of facts of this period. However, as a result Doctor Mudd was arraigned and found guilty of high treason. He innocently had set the leg of a fellow human being. His crime was that he had helped the wrong human, assassinator Boothe. Therefore Doctor Mudd was sentenced to Fort Jeffer-

(Continued on Page 4.)

Band Entertains Daily

During the noon hour and before the movies the mellow tones of our new band delight the ears of us all. They either swing it to the most modern versions of catchy tunes or entertain in the sedate proper classical fashion. This musical organization has no set method of presentation. Every man being able to play at least two instruments, makes it versatile to the nth degree.

Twenty men under the leadership of J. D. Carey, Mus. 1c came aboard in Portsmouth and rapidly "quartered down" for the duration of the President's cruise with our vessel. Sea duty, however, is not new to them as they recently went to South America aboard the Phoenix on the vessel's shakedown cruise. We are glad to have them with us at the present time. They'll be missed when they leave.

This band is a student band which is composed of men who are required to enlist for a period of 6 years; 2 years of instruction and 4 years of active service. The new method of assembling Naval bands was originated by Lt. Charles Benter who now is in charge of the music school in Washington, D.C. His aim was to better Navy music by founding a school comparable with the best in the country. Results speak for themselves.

Two Men

One leaned across a battered, heaving rail
And strained his eyes, grown wise with sea travail,
Beyond horizons, breathing rose and musk,
And dreamed of gardens lost in scented dusk.
The other paused at noon beside his plow,
To rest a bit, and cool his sun-burned brow,
The while he counted clouds, like little ships—
And wiped the thought of spindrift from his lips.

THE BLUE BONNET, a weekly publication of the ship's company of the U.S.S. Houston, Captain G. N. Barker, U.S.N., Commanding and Commander C. A. Bailey, U.S.N., Executive Officer. Editor, Lieut. (jg) E. A. McDonald; Assistant Editor, Ensign J. P. M. Johnston; Cartoonist, W. C. Ridge; Circulation Manager, M. A. Pipp, Yeo3c; Printers, R. L. Beckwith Sea1c, E. Essy, Sea2c.

She's A Feeder

"When a man does his work well, commend him at once." In the continuous hustle and bustle of Navy life the above is the exception rather than the rule. Very often I've dreamed (but not on watch) of a position that would make it possible for me to spend my time observing men at work and when the occasion warranted it, voicing the "Well done." In general, no blame is attached to officer or enlisted personnel in authority for failure to commend men at work because absorption in their duties prevents them from being in a position to do so. Those of us, however, who have the time and are so disposed, can help out by expressing our sentiments.

This cruise originally struck me as an "extra duty" job. The only consolation I had was received from the statement of a great number of ex-Houston crew — "she's a FEEDER".

Throughout the Navy the topic "chow" is second in importance — need I mention the primary one? Food, its preparation, quality and quantity are discussed from dawn till dusk and individuals and ships they serve get panned or glorified as the case may be.

Here on the Houston, I've found that she is a feeder and something else too. Some one in that galley force expresses his personality in preparing the food to such an extent that upon getting up from the table you unconsciously look around for your host so that you can thank him for your pleasurable feeling. Not only is the main course O.K. but the desert fits in like a glove — the cooks have good company in their bakers.

I could go on like this for hours and hours but I wouldn't want anyone to think I'm a gourmand. This opinion I have of your commissary force is shared not only by most of the temporary duty personnel on here but I find the crew thinks that way too.

Well Done, Commissary Department. Keep up the name of the good ol' U.S.S. Houston.

Dry Tortugas

(Continued from Page 3.)

son, then a Federal prison, to serve a sentence lasting for the remainder of his natural life.

History goes that within the moat (In which an ever present army of expectant sharks swims) the famous prisoner languished in a dungeon like cell for eleven long years. Food was pushed in to him through a small opening in the cell door. His release was then occasioned strangely enough by a reason similiar to the one which brought about his trial, his desire to aid and remedy human suffering. The Doctor proved the stop gap which halted a serious epidemic of yellow fever at the prison. As a result of this service his release was effected but so broken in body and spirits was the kindly doctor that he lived only a few years.

It is a sad picture which the memories of the past paint within the reminiscent brain of the enlightened present day wanderer or curiosity seeker when he looks upon the grey outlines of Fort Jefferson. But time alone can soften the cruel results of a mistaken crime.

Here lies the body of William Jay,
Who died maintaining his right of way;
He was perfectly right as he skidded along
But he's just as dead as though he were wrong.

"Jack has given up smoking."
"Yeah? How did he manage it?"
"He knocked out his pipe on a gasoline pump."

"Father!" said Jimmie, running into the drawing-room. "There's a big black cat in the dining room."

"Never mind, Jimmie. Black cats are lucky," replied his father.
"Yes, this one is," said Jimmie. "He's got your dinner."

A fly was walking with her daughter on the Bos'n's head. "How things change, my dear," she said. "When I was your age this was only a foot-path."

There is a current of warm water flowing from the Atlantic under the Arctic ice cap below the ice and below a layer of cold water of less salinity. In this instance warm water goes down.

Duval Street in Key West runs from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico.

The Naval Observatory, Wash., D.C. and the Manila Central Observatory broadcast daily time signals. Daily broadcasts of weather are made from 25 naval shore radio stations.

Only three men have ever held the permanent rank of full admiral of the U.S. Navy—David G. Farragut, David Porter and George Dewey.

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

- Snow White —Dutton, CBM
- Bashful —Johnstone, Pl. S.
- Sneezy —Meadows, F.2c
- Grumpy —Nicolette, MM1c.
- Sleepy —Felix, Y2c.
- Happy —Mullane, CWT
- Nosey —Powell, CSF
- Dopey —Franklin, CWT.

Following are the group A (CruDiv 4) and Group D (CruDiv 7) wrestling and boxing results of 29 January 1939 (1st Elimination Bouts) which were held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba:

BOXING

Weight	Name	Ship	Name	Ship
118	Won by Meskcher, M.	Pens.	Reyes, D.	Relief
126	Won by Payne, S. C.	Pens.	Fuchs, J.	Relief
135	Lewanski, C.	Nor.	Won by Morrison, E.	San Fran.
147	Won by Hodge, M.	Hou.	Thompson,	Relief
160	Won by Harris, C. W.	Hou.	Hale, A. M.	San Fran.
175	Dosskey, G.	Ves.	Won by Chockly, W.	Relief
—	Lewdanski, J.	Hou.	Won by McCarry, J.	Qui.

WRESTLING

Weight	Name	Ship	Name	Ship
118	Won by Chick, E. A.	Hou.	McKenzie, R	San Fran.
126	Won by O'Grady, J. P	Nor.	Brodeur, J.	Tus.
135	Won by Kozminski, J.	Pens.	Bartolucci,	Quincy
145	Won by Young, J. M.	S.L.C.	Iames, H. O.	San Fran.
155	Butler, O.	Hou.	Won by Emerson, E.	San Fran.
165	Orr, J.	S.L.C.	Won by Rebstock, L	San Fran.
175	Won by Baris, S.	S.L.C.	Andres, H.	San Fran.
—	Won by Zelensky, B.	Pens.	Greenaway	Quincy



The first anchors we have any record of were used by the Egyptians. They were made of stone encased in a rope network and were called "Drag Stones." The Chinese used iron and lead anchors 3000 B.C. The word anchor is of Greek origin meaning hook or crooked. Iron anchors have been fished up from the bottom of the ocean near Europe dated 600 B.C. Cast steel is now used for anchors in a ratio of one-half pound of anchor to each ten of ship. Our battleships carry three or more of these anchors.

That the Leviathan carried some 120,000 soldiers to France.

That during 1937 the Normandie crossed the Atlantic 36 times covering 122,400 miles averaging 28.87 knots.

In 1382 25-inch guns fired stone cannon ball weighing 700 pounds.