



OH, FOR A ROOTING PARTY

Dil you see the ball game last Saturday, HOUSTON vs ASTORIA? I'll answer that question for you. NO! But here is a question for you to answer. Why didn't you see the game? Could it be that it's too far for you to walk? Maybe it's because there are not enough pretty girls attending the games, therefor there is nothing to draw the handsome sailor to the game. Probably the best reason is, they don't serve beer at the ball games.

When you enlisted in the Navy, you gained a lot of shipmates, but the men on the HOUSTON are your closest shipmates. The ship is the same as your school in your school days, when your school had a game, regardless whether it was baseball, football basketball, or track, if you weren't participating in the game, you probably were backing them to the fullest extent in the rooting section. So, why don't you root for your ship's team?

Yes, they lost with a score of 7 to 6. They didn't lose because the ASTORIA had a better ball team. They lost because the ASTORIA had a large rooting party attending the game. Did you ever stop to think that a large group of people booing and yelling at you will cause you to become nervous. That is what happened to the HOUSTON players Saturday. Up to the seventh inning, they were playing a magnificent ball game with heads-up ball playing by each player and the brilliant pitching of DINGLE, CMM. They were in the lead 6 to 2. In the last of the seventh inning the rooting party of the ASTORIA took it upon themselves to win

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APPEAL FOR FUNDS

The American Red Cross and the Navy Relief Society, having completed another busy year in alleviating distress and having frequently assisted naval personnel, are making their annual appeal for funds. The good use to which the funds are put is a matter of daily record in the nation's newspapers and needs no further comment.

CinCUS Fleet has designated the month of September for collecting funds on all ships in the Fleet. Div. Officers will receive contributions commencing Friday, 1 September.

As a guide in making contributions, it is believed that everyone should give approximately one (1) per cent of his month's pay, this amount being based on the suggestion of CinCUS Fleet. When it is considered that the contribution is for a whole year and for both organizations, surely one per cent of one month's pay is not too much. It will go a long way in tiding somebody over sickness, flood, earthquake and other disaster.

**INTER-DIVISION
SOFT-BALL LEAGUE**

League I				League II			
Div.	Won	Lost	Pct.	Div.	Won	Lost	Pct.
C	4	1	.800	B	5	0	1.000
1	4	1	.800	2	3	1	.750
8	3	2	.600	4	3	1	.750
M	3	2	.600	5	2	2	.500
3	1	4	.200	S	1	3	.250
E	0	5	.000	F	1	4	.200
				A	0	4	.000

The series for the Soft-ball Championship of the HOUSTON will begin the Tuesday following Labor Day, with the three top teams in each league as contestants.

MARINES IN RIFLE MATCH

At the Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club rifle match at Camp Wesley Harris August 27, the HOUSTON was represented by Platoon-Sergeant Johnstone, Cpl. Bihm and Pfc. Manning. Apparently having an off day our star hope, Johntone, came in with a score of ninety on the offhand firing, which should have been closer to the possible score of one-hundred. With a more or less bad start he finished with the score of 222, possible being 250. Bihm and Manning tied at 219, and though the boys were not in the money they were far from the bottom of the list.

The match was won by First Sergeant Kelly, USMC, of the USS Minneapolis, score 239; second place went to Pfc. Butcher, Marine Barracks; third place to Pfc. Tryon, Marine Barracks, who also won the High Tyro; and the last place went to Pfc. McClure, Marine Barracks. The awards were The George E. Miller, Sr. Trophy for one year and two silver medals to first place, one medal as winner of the trophy from the Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club, and the 2nd medal given by George E. Miller, Jr. son of the donor of the trophy; the latter is a Memorium Medal. Bronze medals were awarded to 2nd, 3rd and High Tyro. A small monetary award was also given.

The George E. Miller, Sr., Trophy was given to the Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club in 1928 by Mr. Miller, now deceased, who was then President of the Bremerton Trust and Savings Bank, Bremerton. Until his demise and for more than forty years George Miller, Sr., was a prominent figure in the development of Kitsap County.

The match was run at Camp Wesley
(Continued on Page 2)

—: THE BLUE BONNET :—

Published every two weeks by the ship's company of the U.S.S. Houston, Captain F. Cogswell, U.S.N., Commanding, and Commander A.R. Early, U.S.N., Executive Officer.

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In the past few issues, the BLUE BONNET has tried to serve as a real newspaper. As well as we know, we've attempted to tell you in an interesting way what the other people in this ship have been doing during the last two weeks. We think you want a BLUE BONNET that is an all-ship NEWS-paper. But to give you anywhere near all the dope—and to keep it interesting for you to read—we need a large number of news sources. We must have a lot of different viewpoints. You don't have to be a polished writer to give the rest of the ship's company the dope on what's happening in your part of the ship. Just scrawl it on a scrap of paper, then drop it as surreptitiously as you wish in the BLUE BONNET contribution box in No. 1 Mess Hall. If you have, perhaps, been hankering to have a small part in putting out this paper, drop your name in, too. You'll be given a chance!

Typical of the new order of young Navy men is Val Guidry, Storekeeper Second Class, of the U.S.S. Argonne.

With less than four years in the Navy, Young Guidry is the proud possessor of a college degree.

While serving on board the ARGONNE, he registered at the University of Southern California and attended evening classes and now he is a graduate of U.S.C., and a Bachelor of Science and Education.

The Navy is often referred to as the greatest school in the world, and while all men do not have the opportunity to complete their educations in the manner in which Guidry did, the Navy furnishes free extensions courses and a large percentage of men

take advantage of this opportunity to further their education.

These courses are in addition to the various service schools maintained by the Navy on both coasts.

—Exchange

SWORD AND GUN SALUTES

All naval salutes have had their origin in an act which disarmed the one who first salutes, or rendered him unable to attack. The point of the sword held to the ground, expending the loaded shot from a ship's guns, lowering the sails, tossing oars, or, today, stopping the engine of a boat—all these actions place the junior in such an off-guard position that the vessel or person being saluted could feel certain that no attack need be expected. These were signs of submission or juniority. Their significance remains today.

In the sword salute, the custom of raising the hilt to the face, with the point extended upward, probably dates back to the time of the Crusades. Hilts of the Christian swords invariably took the shape of the cross, and it was a ritual to kiss the cross before going into battle or performing any important duty. In many modern swords and dirks, the symbol of the cross remains in the design of the hilt; regardless of design, the kiss on the hilt still makes up the first part of our sword salute.

It is a matter of ancient superstition that gun salutes must always be odd in number. Lt.-Comdr. L. P. Lovette, U. S. N., quotes Boteler's "Dialogues" of 1865 to the effect that any firing of guns other than an odd number indicated "that the Captain, or Master, or the Master Gunner is dead in the voyage." The number seven, which now in our navy is the number of guns with which a flag officer returns a single ship's salute, is thought to have originated in the Near East, where the number was accorded a mystic significance. The earliest British regulations prescribed seven guns as the national salute to be fired by ships, while, being better able to keep powder on hand, shore batteries were permitted to fire three times that many. When gunpowder improved, enabling ships to keep larger amounts stored aboard, 21 guns became also the standard national salute for seagoing ship's of war. In

the United States, the national salute until 1841 was a gun for each state in the Union. For this reason, John Paul Jones, when he first obtained salutes for our flag, in Quiberon Bay, and Brest, France, saluted the French flag with 13 guns. Since 1841, the 21-gun salute has been the national salute of the United States as well as of Great Britain. The matter was agreed upon by treaty in 1875.

(Thanks is due Lt.-Comdr. Lovette for material obtained from his splendid work, "Naval Customs, Traditions, and Usage". Watch for more interesting facts about naval traditions in future issues.—The Editors.)

Rifle Match (Cont'd)

ley Harris, U.S. Marine Rifle Range, about eight miles from Bremerton on the Seabeck road. Under the direction of Chief Marine Gunner Robert S. Allan, in charge of the firing line, and Mr. Earl H. Harkins, Sec'y Kit-sap Rifle and Revolver Club. The Service Rifle with service sights was used at the following ranks:

200 yards, slow firing, standing, 20 rounds.

200 yard, 10 shots rapid fire, sitting from standing, time 1 min.

300 yards, 10 shorts, slow prone.

300 yards, 10 shots, slow prone, prone from standing. Time 1 minute, 10 seconds.

Sunday, Sept. 10th, there will be a small bore match, open to anyone, at 200 yards. There will be four trophies, medals, two junior trophies, one men's trophy and one ladies trophy. For some good sport go out and watch the matches or enter them.

Lt.-Comdr. Holbrook returned bright and chipper from three months of gunnery school to resume as Sky Control Officer. The effectiveness of his previous work is attested to by the recent awarding of prize money to the Sky Control party. Welcome back!

The first class asphaltic cement tennis courts are completed and ready for play at 11th and Beacon streets, one block from the Army and Navy YMCA in San Pedro. The courts will be open from 7:00 AM until dusk every day, and Service men have preference of play and free privileges on the courts. Tennis shoes or sneakers are necessary.



Having been away from the Rambler Ship for three weeks, Ocko is not very well up on the happenings of daily life aboard. Dropping in occasionally gives one a wee insight into movements and maneuvers of personnel and organization.

Simmons, long-time friend and shipmate of your roving reporter, is now established under the wing of faithful McCumber. Only thing Mac's faithful to is Lucky Lager! Brady still holds the fort in the Exec's Office with "Sully" Sullivan, diminutive ex-"F" Division sailor as No. 1 Boy. Willis J. Boo is also in the office next to Baldy Davis' Hock Shop. There! I'll get shot for that. Gedunk Jerker Bailey is good with a Springfield "fowlin' piece", too. Don't know about Horn, but I see Chick, our Ship's Service Barber No. 2 out here on the Rifle Range at Wesley Harris, holding a billet at the mess table when not squeezing off bulls-eyes or squeezing out time in his bunk.

HOUSTON marksmen are doing pretty well, tho, under supervision of Lt. (jg) Burkart and Ensign Ingham, coached by Sgt. Lyke. Some mighty nice scores coming in. Some not so good, too.

Be too bad if we revealed the name of the deckhand who requested Sgt. Lyke's permission to go down on 200 yard firing line and "boresight" his Springfield.

Recently married men of the Rambler Ship's company are Sgt. Bereuffy, Bob Wicker, GM2c, and in accordance with custom, Little Ocko gives 'em best wishes, happy days, happy cruise and many of 'em. Wicker got himself another chevron and got married almost simultaneously. Bereuffy, we hope to see wearing platoon sergeants loop in a short time.

Datson and Datson, Div. 3's twin combination, have gained the favor of a couple of Everett's comely daughters, who also happen to be twins. Looks pretty bad, in fact Ocko says

he expects to see cigars any day now.

Chief Sheriff Mullane chased a gang of loafers out of No. 1 mess Deck the other morning and started an evolution. Spike had no sooner pressed on forward than the first ones to leave began coming in from aft. They had gone topside and down amidship messdeck ladder back to where they were before.

Back aboard after a 30 day extension leave, was our friend, Popejoy, WT1c, looking healthy and in good spirits. Looks like Pope just got in under the wire on the shipping-over money as did SC3c Frank Augustus Henry, the 220 lb. bantamweight from our galley.

Happiest man in the crew nowadays is my friend Albers, Sea2c, who recently transferred from the 4th to the "S" Division as a storekeeper striker. Gonna have to keep an eye on him, Cochrane, the wind's liable to blow him off the fo'c's'le.

Here's a P.S. on the Datson story. Seems Campbell and our twins were seen along the Everett highway with three pretty girls. Junior Datson says the society girls are extra nice. Charley Workman is worrying about a certain Miss Happybottom from same city as prospective Mrs. Datson. The Marine Detachment won't let him forget it at all.

Ocko says he must give personnel congratulations to all hands moving up a pay grade on the way to No. 1. Noticable among them was Curley Standafer who pulled down the only second class Watertender rate on the ship. Nice going, Curley!!!

Very plain to see and hear is Private Burns persistence that "Rosalie" is not only his theme song but also one of the nicest girls ever written. He spends enough nickles on it anyway. Why don't you buy a phonograph like Chandu? And by the way, who is Rosalie? It has some connection with Houston, Texas, but so do a lot of other happenings and heartbreaks on the Floating White House.

Kane, SK1c, in speaking of a recent weekend in the country, says the swimming and campfire were nice, but he cannot remember any moon. Must have been blind. Also, apparently due to something he ate, too many hot dogs or something, Kane felt bad all day Monday! Having regained his health, we are glad to see that he is once more his usual smiling self.

PLANK OWNERS

There are very few plank-owners left on the HOUSTON and there is no remedy for improving this. It is believed that most men aboard know the meaning of "plank-owner", but for the benefit of those who do not, a plank-owner is anyone attached to a vessel when it goes into commission.

At the present, there are only four (4) men attached to this vessel, who are plank-owners and one of them is now on temporary duty at the Fleet Air Base, San Pedro, Terminal Island, Calif. The names of the plank-owners of this vessel are:

Cawthon, Joe N., WT1c., USN
 Sanders, William L. WT2c., USN
 Standafer, S. D., WT2c., USN
 Gibson, Oren G., AMM1c., USN
 (Temporary duty)

Our plank-owners are becoming as scarce to the ship as the buffalo herd is to the nation. Plank-owners are a great influence on the ship in many ways. You, yourself, having been aboard for only a few short years, while on the beach will point out the HOUSTON and say, "There is my ship.", which is true, it is your ship, your home and your work, but the plank-owners are more justified in saying 'there is my ship', especially after putting a ship in commission and staying on board for nine or ten years. There is always a big turnover in personnel on a ship during nine or ten years, and any man who is a plank-owner after such a period of time is very fortunate in not being transferred.

There is always on file the movements and duties of a ship, but these files could never tell all the things a plank-owner could tell. In the files there will be many small details left out, but get one of these plank-owners to tell you these small details and after listening to these sea stories of the minor details, you will wonder why things like that are left out of the ship's files.

We wish to praise these men who have stayed so long with THEIR SHIP.

Fireman: Request permission to blow tubes, sir."

Fresh from the Academy O.O.D.:
 "Bugler! Blow tubes!"

SPORT NEWS - - -

by Bud Adams

Baseball...

In what proved to be the most hotly contested and thrilling baseball game played so far this season, the Houston Baseball Team dropped a close decision to the highly touted U.S.S. Minneapolis, by the score 8-6.

Big Boy Callison started for the Houston, but his slow ball seemed to be to the Minneapolis's liking. They made three runs before he was replaced by Shaw. The HOUSTON tied the count at three all in their half of the second inning and forged ahead five to three in the fifth.

It turned out to be a pitching duel until the seventh inning when Shaw's control wobbled and he walked three men in a row. The next batter was hit by a pitched ball to force another run across the plate, and one more man was walked to tie the score at five all. The next man up hit a fluke hit to clear the bases and prove the margin of victory for the Minneapolis.

The Houston started a rally in the ninth with two men getting on bases. The game was lost when one man struck out and the next two grounded out to the shortstop and third baseman.

Although losing the contest the team at last hit a smooth stride which was due to brilliant fielding and heads-up ball playing. This can be proved by the fact that the Minneapolis made thirteen hits while the Houston only made seven which she used to good advantage.

The sparkling play of Bennfield behind the bat and Matthews at shortstop deserve an honorable mention.

Softball...

The interdivisional softball games are as hotly contested as a major league contest and for days after each game it's the same story; "If that umpire could only see or call them right, we would have won!" All in all, it's proving to be a lot of fun and good sportsmanship.

At the end of the softball series, the officers in charge of the tournament will pick an All-Ship softball team. It won't be an easy thing to do with so many fine performances.

Boxing...

To watch the present boxing squad at work will convince anyone that the Houston is due for another winning team. Colbert, Christenson, Bishop and Lewdanski are improving by leaps and bounds.

Lewdanski has been traveling at such a terrific clip, it has been hard to find sparring partners for him. Last year he seemed to have trouble controlling his right hand but has now developed it until it has become as deadly as his left.

Another south-paw, Herndon, has been added to the squad, and, with a little more seasoning, already looks as if he will give any light-heavy-weight a lot of trouble. Anglin and Yanzig are also developing into a pair of promising middle-weights.

McGarvey, a boy who has had a little previous amateur experience before entering the Navy, looks to be a likely welter-weight prospect an may even be able to work down to a light-weight. At that weight he should show to good advantage.

More candidates are needed to round out a full squad, so anyone who thinks he would like to give it a try, report to Ensign Shepherd.

Wrestling...

With the nucleus for a strong wrestling team this year, the squad is planning to start work immediately.

Led by Chick, two-time All Navy bantamweight, who will step up one weight this year, and supported by Harvey, 135 lbs, Miller, lightheavy, Korich, heavy, Henry, heavy, the Houston team should prove as formidable as ever. Anyone desiring to try out for wrestling is advised to see Ens. Frosch.

Rowing...

Under the capable coaching of Chief Boatswain's Mate Proimos, the rowing team is developing into a smooth-working crew. They have been working out twice daily, and with the same members turning out regularly, should turn out to be one of the finest rowing crews in the Scouting Force. Rowing contributes more points toward the Iron Man trophy than any two sports combined, and with this

point in mind, the squad is working doubly hard to gather those points for the ship. Members of the crew now working are:

Hayes	1st Div.
Charles	1st Div.
Hart	2nd Div.
Nies	3rd Div.
Hanson, C.H.	3rd Div.
Valliere	3rd Div.
Hanson, R.L.	4th Div.
Korich	4th Div.
Irvin	"C" Div.
Smestad	"C" Div.
Veselka	"B" Div.
Young	"S" Div.
Britt	"S" Div.

The first enlistment crew has not been finally chosen and no selected crew has been organized at all so far. Candidates who want to work hard should see Ens. Leedy, Ens. Mastin, or CBM Proimos.

Rooting Party (Cont'd)

the ball game. By yelling and booing the HOUSTON team they caused them to become very nervous and unsteady, thus causing the Astoria to advance into the lead. Did the rooting party let up? No! They were proud of their team, pulling out of the hole like they did.

If you would only attend these games of the HOUSTON and yell for your team, you could cause them to have more confidence than they themselves can build up. Let's get a rooting party bigger than the ASTORIA and any other ship and back our team to the limit. WIN or LOSE, let's stay with them and give them the slap on the back and cheerful word that they deserve. They are still our shipmates and if they do lose we will know that they are doing their best. We can do our best by attending the games and showing the other ships what a REAL rooting party looks like!

—E.C.S.

A man can be pretty accurately measured by the size of the thing that makes him angry.

Any person in the world who is not on the way is in the way.

—Selected.