



THE HOLIDAY PARTIES

The Finance Committee has supplied the following information concerning the total cost of the Holiday Parties:

A total of \$224.60 was collected from the ship's company for the Christmas Party and Dance.

The cost of the Christmas Party was \$116.30 and the Dance, \$244.30, leaving an unpaid balance of \$136.90 which was covered by the Ship Service Fund.

ALL HANDS are to be congratulated for their hearty response and cooperation which made these two parties a great success.

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

SACRAMENTO ORPHANAGE

December 27, 1936

Lt.-Com. M.B. Arnold
U.S.S. HOUSTON
Mare Island, California.

Dear Sir:

The children arrived home safely, with happy faces and their arms laden with gifts after a most happy time. It will ever be a great event in their lives.

Words cannot express my thanks to you and all who helped to give our boys and girls such a Happy Christmas Day.

Wishing that 1936 will be a very happy and interesting year.

Sincerely Yours,
Elizabeth Colton
Superintendent

**CHRISTMAS BALL
GALA AFFAIR**

**FINE ATTENDANCE DESPITE
THREATENING SHOWERS**

Our Xmas Ball, staged at the Veteran's Memorial Hall, was one of the most successful ever sponsored by the crew of the HOUSTON.

That this Ball was really an "All Hands" affair, staged in good old HOUSTON style is proven decisively by the compliments and fine tribute received from all sides.

Early in the evening, overcast skies and intermittent showers gave rise to fears of a small attendance, but happily, we now know how groundless were those fears.

A gay and dance loving crowd of nearly 500 were present, enjoying themselves immensely during every moment of their stay.

Due credit should be given to the dance committee for their untiring efforts toward presenting the most delightfully arranged dance program it has been our pleasure to ever attend.

In simple words, the music was swell, and lots of it, while a better ballroom floor could not be asked for.

Decorations were simple but impressive, adding color to a colorful and enjoyable affair.

Little need be said of the refreshments—popular demand spoke far more than words, still, we must add the punch was far more popular than greatest expectations which speaks well for the refreshment committee who warmly deserve a big 4.0 for their efforts.

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**HOUSTON OFFICERS AT THE
HOSPITAL**

At the present there are three officers from the HOUSTON on the sick list, Lt. Comdr. Connally, Capt. Curry, and Boatswain Self. We wish them a speedy and full recovery.

It is with pleasure we see our Executive Officer, Comdr. Robottom is able to resume his duties.

**HOUSTON SCHEDULE OF EM-
PLOYMENT, THIRD QUARTER
1936**

From 1 January, to 2 March, 1936
Overhaul at Navy Yard, Mare Island California.

From 3 March, 1936 to 4 March, 1936.
Enroute San Pedro, arriving the 4th.

From 5 March, 1936 to 6 March 1936.
Calibrate Direction Finders.

From 7 March, 1936 to 8 March, 1936
At anchor, San Pedro.

From 9 March, 1936 to 15 March, 1936
Gunnery - BAAP 3rd "B" and spotting.

From 16 March, 1936 to 22 March, 1936.

Gunnery - BAAP 2nd "B"

FROM 23 March, 1935 to 31 March, 1936.

Gunnery - LRBP and BAAP 4th "B" and Spotting Practice.

(The HOUSTON Aviation unit will probably return shortly after arrival San Pedro.)

NOTE

There is a limited number of the Christmas Day issues of the Blue Bonnet available in the print shop.

—: THE BLUE BONNET —:

REGRETS

Thursday, 2 January, 1936

A weekly publication, published by the ship's company of the U. S. S. HOUSTON, Captain G. E. Baker, U.S.N., Commanding and Commander P. K. Robottom, U.S.N. Executive Officer.

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JANUARY 5, 1936



WELCOME

The Blue Bonnet wishes to take this opportunity to welcome aboard Machinist H. T. McCrary, USN. Mr. McCrary comes to us from the U.S.S. Ramapo.

It is hoped his stay and cruise on the HOUSTON will be the most pleasant of his Naval memories.

LOVE AND A DOG

I met a dog the other day.
Who, when I went to pet him, slunk away.
Cautiously he sniffed with raw and bleeding nose.
I gazed and wondered at those careless blows.

I watched him as he cringed along the street.
Snapping passing legs and flying feet.
I could not blame him for his look on life.
He had no home, his world was one of strife.

I met that dog again this very morn,
He'd had a bath, his shaggy hair'd been shorn,
His back was straight, he walked with kingly tread.
I marveled at this dog, once good as dead.

A child was whistling on his mother's lawn;
The dog rushed to him bounding like a fawn.
I held my breath lest should this beast revert,
And harm this child, revenge an ancient hurt.

Instead it placed its paws upon the child
And liked his face, acting gentle, mild.
I watched them as they rolled upon the earth.
And then I knew of love's true worth.

I turned for home, thinking of this scene:
A kindly child, a dog once mean.
Love and God had gave them both a friend,
So, "Thanks to God for Love on Earth,"
I send. Jarvis Barr (?)

Chairman Dance Committee.
Dear Friend:

Mrs. Williams and I appreciate the most thoughtful invitation sent to us to be present at your Christmas Dance on 28 December, 1935.

We expected to be with you, but just simply couldn't make it.

May your dances always be a success and the HOUSTON continue to be a happy ship.

Very Sincerely,
Y. S. Williams, Rear Adm. USN

IMPRESSIONS OF THE BALL

- LOVELY LADIES
- DELIGHTFUL DANCING
- MARVELOUS MELODY
- PEPPY PUNCH
- SALTY SAILORS
- CHEERFUL COOPERATION
- ATTENTIVE ARRANGEMENTS
- COLORFUL CROWD
- WET WITHOUT-WARMTH WITHIN
- PLEASING PROGRAM
- COMPETENT COMMITTEE
- COMPLIMENTARY COMMENTS

UNFILLED RATINGS CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS

The recommendations for advancement to Chief Petty Officer ratings have been received in the Bureau and the eligibility lists compiled. In six ratings the assignment quotas were not filled. The following table shows the unfilled ratings.

Rate	Authorized	Rec'd.	Unfilled
CBM	140	78	62
CTM	108	33	75
CTC	45	10	35
CQM	100	47	53
CWT	125	114	11
CCStd.	90	41	49

About 1 March, 1936, the Bureau will authorize the submission of recommendations for advancement to Chief Petty Officer ratings to complete the unfilled quotas listed above.

All eligible men should prepare and compete in the proposed examinations. (BuNav Bulletin—230)

"Did anyone ever hear that song: 'Music Goes Round and Round'".

EXHAUST-PIPE



No sooner did the unit arrive in San Diego, than we were immediately in the midst of a full calendar, consisting of practicing and firing free machine gun practice and routine overhaul and upkeep.

Therefore the writer did not find much time to get out regularly. While no records were broken in our free gun practice, we feel we did good under the circumstances and when the rest of the cruisers finish we feel we shall be among the leaders. At the present time all hands are taking advantage of the much looked for Xmas leave, with just a few of us holding down the fort.

We are facing a few more weeks of comparative idleness for our pilots, with the exception of Lt. (jg) Coates the preparing for the duty of ferring planes to the East coast, starting the 3rd, returning about January 15 with the new type Curtiss plane.

In the meantime we are to turn our planes over to the Northampton and Salt Lake City temporarily for duty as observation and spotting during their gunnery practice. The reason we are doing this is because of the fact their planes are unfit for catapult use now. Our own planes were in the same condition when we left the ship but a little hard work by all hands during the holidays found them in good shape with the motors shifted and a general overhaul on the entire plane.

Kelly, our dashing yeoman pro-tem, acquired the automobile fever upon our arrival and is he counting his nickles.

Pemberton, S1c. was transferred to the parachute school at Lakehurst, New Jersey.

Kerr now has the opportunity to get in a few bets on the Bang-Tails too.

Orchids to DeBri, we will collect the cigars later. Our regards to the "F" Division, and if they are real good we will bring back a belated Xmas present in the form of four planes.



NOSEY NEWS

by
EV' BODY

Sunny (?) Cal. greets us in the New Year with more of her usual unusual weather but we are sure everyone is used to it so the effects will be small in the activities of HOUSTON this year.

Now that we are off to a flying start the eligible boys on this war craft had better watch step. This is the gals year yuh know, and they have an extra day in which to make use of their chance. Some of our more prominent eligibles are: McCarty, "Joe" Bush, Lewis, Yates, Sivak, Wellbourne, Dembach, Vizard, and last but not least, our own little Dutchy Boy of the galley. (He can cook too, gals).

The closing weeks of the old year found the good ship HOUSTON in a high degree of good spirit and all around efficiency, with indications of the brightest year in the ship's history in the offing.

Our ace sluths were at their best at the Ball, but found little or no dope, for this was a great dance made so by a snappy group of sailor men.

Starke of the "R" div. did lend humor to the proceeding though, by giving us his own interpretation of how "hit the deck" and never miss a step.

Herrick Says: "At the next dance let's have more and bigger committee badges, the gals just wouldn't leave me alone". We wonder who the EM3c could be who was overheard asking if anymore refreshments were on the way at 01:00. Remember dearie, it was a ship's dance, not a cocktail party.

Apparently Brown, Witzek and Foxwell haven't been around long enough to realize that all ship's dances have duly appointed committees to supervise the details including the enter-

tainment. Whoever threw that bar-rag at them should be ashamed of himself. As it wasn't big enough, Foxwell inflicted more of his asinine antics on the good nature of the croud after he had heard his own burps over the broadcast system.

This one should go to Ripley: Calif. sunshine wipes all the coloring off the HOUSTON'S Xmas lights. ? ? ?

Most novel of Xmas gifts noted so far is the little drummer boy, "Curley" Davis of the Exec's office received. Just like all curious little boys he investigated the motive power the first day. You know the rest! ! !

Schrumm says he has hopes of being in circulation soon for he is tiring of Ranch Romances. ? ? ? ?

Van Detti was about to treat the gals (the new year spirit you know) but he pulled an about face at the opportune time. Of all the confirmed bachelors we were sure would never slip, "Long Nose" Webb of the "E" was the last, but he was gone and crossed us up. Congrats John, even if you did get by us for a time. Dont forget the stogies. Just drop them in the box.

Looks like another G.G. will be in our midst soon. Overheard 'Gork' SM3c discussing prices of wedding rings with the S.S.S. operator. How about it, McMurphy?

A little late, but nevertheless well intended—An orcidid to our new Com-misary Steward for that wonderful Xmas dinner. Everything on the Menu was indeed swell and tastefully prepared, from soup to nuts.

We can't overlook the "E" division for their part in the excelent lighting decorations, not only at the fore and about the well deck but also the tree which was really a beautiful sight. With Crego, EM2c at the helm it is understood why the sparkies did a good job. That genuine looking snow at the foot of the tree was the masterpiece of a man from the snow country, Euphemia, F2c.

"Pappy" Hammers reports quite an excursion to the big city over the New Year, even to the extent of trying out the bumper qualities of a yellow cab. But "Pappy", where did you find that straw derby ? ? ? The Snoop and Scoop boys report they could go like this for days and days but space decides otherwise so until next week—

PENALTIES THAT ATTACH TO DESERTION, UNDESIRABLE, BCD OR DISHONORABLE DISCHARGES

The Bureau believes that if the average enlisted man has definite knowledge of the great handicap he imposes upon himself and his future hope of success in his chosen career, when he deserts or commits an offense resulting in his trial, conviction and sentence of either a bad conduct or dishonorable discharge or is unfit for the Navy and is discharged as undesirable, he would carefully weigh and reconsider, any contemplated act which might result in his desertion, undesirable, bad conduct or dishonorable discharge.

A few of the known penalties which attach in such cases and the effect of which will follow a man through life, are here noted: (1) Act as a bar, for at least 3 years against employment in civil service. (2) Bar employment in municipal service, such as police, fire departments, and positions controlled by State Employment Agencies. (3) Bar reenlistment in the Navy, or enlisting in any other branch of the U.S. Military Service, including the Coast Guard. (4) In some states will bar voting priviledges. (5) Deprive a man of the benefits of possible future legislation in the interest of men previously discharged under honorable condiiions. (6) Under present Relief Acts may prevent Federal or State aid if destitute. (7) Deprive a man of the priviledge of entering Soldiers and Sailors Homes. (8) Bar him from the benefits under control of the Veterans' Administration, such as hospitalization, adjusted compensation etc. (9) Probable loss of civil employment when it is found that a man is a deserter, or was given an undesirable, bad conduct or dishonorable discharge. (10) Such men who have served one or more enlistments will find it very hard to obtain civil employment of a desirable character because of lack of honorable discharge certificate. (11) The feeling of shame which such men will experience in after life when their true naval status becomes known to those they desire to think well of them.

The stigma that attaches in such cases stamps that man as one who lacked the stamina to take the bumps

Continued on Page Four.

--DOTS & DASHES--**--HOISTS & FLASHE--**

This week we find R. P. Campbell returning from a ten day leave period in our favorite State, Texas.

Joe West says he is going to have his eight month old son selling papers soon now.

While strolling about 'Frisco happened to see Gene Willmuth shaking a salty ankle at the Bal Masque, his dancing partners being Blondes, Brunettes, Redheads and what have you. Some stepper, that lad.

Happened to see Jenkins with a very cute blonde at the same place too, while Chay and DeForge, although together, were each busy at his own pastime—Chay dancing, DeForge guzzling suds.

Azbill reports he is all set for thirty days leave in Arkansas, and the gal he left behind is waiting, so he says: Well, have a good time, and let us know if you join the now famous GG Club.

Lee, Foreman, Mustain, and Moyer will soon return from their 30 day leave periods and we are all just terribly anxious to learn more about the inland conquests of the HOUSTON—ITES. (It is said McMurphy can send the most realistic kisses via phone—is it love? And how. !!!)

CHRISTMAS BALL—Cont'd.**Continued from page one**

The regular bar in the Memorial Hall also received a good patronage from those that preferred a little foam with that pause between dances.

The cooperation shown by the building management was the best, being of invaluable assistance to our own committee.

A word of appreciation to the volunteer patrol, whom we are proud to say, were not needed, this fact crossing up the pessimistic minority aboard.

The great success of the Ball is not only a tribute to the committee but to everyone of the crew that attended.

Even now, comments about the decks seem to be paving the way for another of these enjoyable affairs sometime prior to our departure from the Yard.

BASKETBALL

Showing a strong offense as well as an impregnable defense, our Basketballers took the measure of another Service League team Thursday evening in turning back the MacLeish five 47 to 24.

The HOUSTON starting lineup was: STODDARD, JONES, BURKHEAD, FREEMAN, and ADAMS.

These boys used a slow breaking offense to good advantage, while their defense work forced the opponents to shoot long shots throughout.

At the half WILLMUTH, HENDERSON, KENNEDY, ULREY, and O'BRIEN went in, this combination crossing up the MacLeish in using a fast breaking offense, scoring the majority of their points right under the basket, the opposition being caught repeatedly by the Willmuth, Kennedy and Henderson speed combination.

The MacLeish, although greatly outclassed, were game to the core, fighting right up to the final whistle.

Boroen, their center was their outstanding player and he was a constant threat since he is quite a port side sharp shooter.

PERSONNEL**UP THE LADDER**

Burkhead, L. A. F2c to F1c.

RECEIVED

Taylor, D. W., CBM, from U. S. S. San Francisco.

Muller, H. E., Ptr1c from U. S. S. Astoria. (Temporary duty.)

Sackett, A. L., F2c, from Nav. Hospital, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Chick, E. A., S2c from R. S. San Diego.

TRANSFERS

Veasey, D. W. SC1c to Naval Hospital, Mare Island, Cal.

Hared, R. C. MM2c to Optical School, Mare Island (Long Course)

Wishard, R. S. S1c to Optical School, Mare Island. (Short Course.)

DISCHARGED

Wersal, S.H., GM2c. (Spec. Ord.)

"PENALTIES" Cont'd

which of necessity form a part of any military life, but which life, in a real man develops the traits of character which in later life are a definite aid, never a handicap, in any work which he may undertake.

SOFT BALL

Since our arrival in the yard quite a number of the more athletically inclined members of the crew have been taking advantage of the close proximity of the baseball field. Instead of baseball they have been playing softball, enjoying this game just as much as the notional pastime. One advantage of this game is small amount of equipment required, but it detracts very little from the fun and action usually found in baseball.

If you have been observant, you have noticed on every Saturday, Sunday, and holiday, quite a number of men going into the yard, returning about one hour later in the best of spirits, proving how popular the game is.

It has been suggested that the divisions organize their own teams and go through a regular league during the remainder of our stay in the yard.

This seems to be a good idea and is a fine opportunity and method to uncover new baseball material for any man that shows up well in this game is bound to perform well in baseball.

NEWS OF FORMER SHIPMATES

"Joe" Woodward, Ye02c, in a recent letter from Samoa, lets us know he is getting along fine on his new station, but still prefers the good ship HOUSTON, So do we Joe.

"Jew" Freedman, QM1c, (now on the list for chief) also sent his regards to all hands and says a word from anyone of the gang would be a treat in far off Samoa. Break out your pens Shipmates.

Post, RM3c, now serving aboard the Chester, has been telling us all about our former station. Evidently the HOUSTON is still a popular ship in the far East. The just deserts of a splendid record.

Douglass, F2c, formerly an outstanding member of our baseball and basketball squads, is progressing nicely on the Vestal, but says the HOUSTON is still in him and hopes to be back with us soon.

MacCumber, formerly Ye01c and our personnel yeoman is now Chief and happily married. Congrats Mac.

People die from the effects of a broken pocket-book more often than from a broken heart.