



**HOUSTONITES CLIMB ONE MORE RUNG**

The Blue Bonnet takes pleasure in announcing the advancement of several more of our shipmates. McGovern, J. BM1c to CBM (AA). Wallace, J.K. GM2c to GM1c, Shanks, W..V. MM2c to MM1c, Lee, M. S1c to SM3c, McElhanon, B.F. S1c to SK2c, Bickler, P. F3c to F2c, Eufemia, F3c to F2c. Congratulatory wishes are in order, as well as hearty wishes for a continuance of your good progress in the Naval Service.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS**

The Commander in Chief of the U. S. Fleet has published a letter suggesting the discontinuance of the custom of distributing cards between messes of Officers, due to its growth to such a proportion as to be needlessly burdensome and expensive. This can be done without lessening the goodwill or the harmonious relations between the units of the fleet.

While the sending of cards has come down as a fine old custom, "commercializing", we believe, has gone too far, and more personal cards or letters would be much more in order. Christmas is, essentially, a time for remembrance of persons absent and not an occasion for just sending cards because every one else does. If the latter is the case, we feel the true reason is being lost, and suggest none be sent. Personalize your Christmas cards this year!

It is with deep regret we announce the death of the four year old son of CBM Kaspar. Our heartfelt sympathy and Condolences are extended to CBM Kaspar and his family in their hour of bereavement.

**SHIP SERVICE STORE PREPARED TO SUPPLY YOUR CHRISTMAS NEEDS**

During the past week our Ship Service Store received a large consignment of miscellaneous articles, each and every one well suited to the needs of members of the crew for their Xmas lists.

As every one knows the Store is maintained primarily for the benefit of the crew through its ability to supply the wants of all hands at a much lower rate than the average shore establishment.

This year the Store carries an exceptionally fine assortment of items at the usual reasonable rates. If you wish, you may obtain a cute "Shirley" Temple doll for the little ones; there are neckties, scarfs etc. for dad and brother; innumerable household appliances for mother, sis, the missus or even the bride to be.

Before going ashore to do your Xmas shopping, drop around to the Ship Service Store and you may save yourself the needless trouble of battling the Holiday shopping crowds and also the possibility of purchasing shelf worn or badly handled articles as is always the case where so many prospective buyers crowd the shops and stores at this time of the year.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY PLANS WELL UNDERWAY**

Last Saturday morning the second meeting of the entertainment committee and division representatives was held and the preliminary plans for both the Kid's party and the Dance were discussed.

Encouraging reports were submitted, indicating that both events of the holiday season are to be successful affairs.

Each and every committee is working hard to insure a successful completion of all plans, although several committees must await further developments before being able to make more progress.

The finance committee must await  
**Continued on page four**

**THE CHRISTMAS BALL**

The HOUSTON'S second annual Christmas Ball will get underway at the 28th of December, according to the latest dope.

21:00, in the Rodman Club, Saturday. With one of the snappiest dance orchestras in Frisco lined up we are assured of some high class dance melody.

About 100 of the bay region's snappiest girls are to be invited, therefore HOUSTONITES and GG's are assured a full dance program.

Punch and a fine array of refreshments will be served in the dining room above the ballroom, assuring one and all a pleasing interlude to the gay round of festivities in store for you. Aside from being our second annual Christmas Ball, this is also to be our first dance in Mare Island. Let's make the first one a huge success—more are sure to follow.

—: THE BLUE BONNET :—

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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December 15, 1935

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**PISTOL TEAM**

The pistol match fired last Saturday morning with the CHICAGO was the first real test our team has had against teams in their own class. Although Kitchen was lost by transfer in San Diego and Pinion is also gone the strength of the team is by no means impaired. Lieutenant Robison still has several good prospects lined up and we feel he will soon have another well balanced team ready for competition. It is planned to continue having matches every Saturday if possible while in the yard thereby improving the competitive markmanship of the team a great deal.

The training and qualifying of the crew is in full swing now with the Petty Officers going to the range at the present time. No doubt several unknown pistol shots of team calibre will be uncovered in this manner too.

A complete lineup and individual scores from the match with the CHICAGO is given below.

U. S. S. HOUSTON

|                     |    |    |    |      |
|---------------------|----|----|----|------|
| Ens. Burdick.....   | 62 | 69 | 73 | 204  |
| Ch. G. Condit ..... | 66 | 88 | 99 | 231  |
| Mach. Woodruff..... | 52 | 62 | 53 | 177  |
| Pinion S1c.....     | 69 | 82 | 85 | 236  |
| Arminger PFC.....   | 71 | 81 | 77 | 229  |
| Hyndman F2c.....    | 56 | 80 | 71 | 207  |
| Team Total.....     |    |    |    | 1208 |

U. S. S. CHICAGO

|                        |    |    |    |      |
|------------------------|----|----|----|------|
| Capt. Kline, USMC..... | 57 | 77 | 73 | 207  |
| Lt. (jg) Tjibault..... | 29 | 72 | 59 | 160  |
| 2nd. Lt. Hudson.....   | 28 | 75 | 71 | 174  |
| Ens. Thompson.....     | 68 | 67 | 67 | 202  |
| Elgin, EM1c.....       | 61 | 94 | 89 | 244  |
| Maddox, Gy. Sgt.....   | 40 | 66 | 56 | 162  |
| Team Total.....        |    |    |    | 1284 |

This match was fired over the National Match Course.

C. P. O. CHATTER

Now that most of the chiefs are citizens of Vallejo things are very quiet in the quarters. About the only time you see action back there is around sixteen thirty.

After Dutch pestered all hands in the yard to get an air hose connected back aft Mitchell takes it for his own use, so this makes Dutch angry and he demands a hear-say, but they compromise. Mitchell is to let Dutch use the air hose when he isn't using it. Nice people this boy Mitchell.

Gunny Greenwood has Kaspar and Ernst on his neck for making so much noise in the early morning and for lighting off his pipe with all the ports closed.

Over heard Bon-Bon Darr and Smitty asking each other what had happened to Beverly.

We lost a good shipmate last week. Ross, chief firecontrolman was transferred to the U.S.S. PENNA. We all wish Ross a happy cruise on the PENNSY.

Kaspar, our newly appointed M-A-A has just provided himself with all the credentials necessary for a position of this nature.

Last Thursday noon, McGovern, newly rated chief boatswain's mate, made an official call on the chiefs and therefore demanded his rights as such. The chiefs were very obliging. In fact believe that McGovern was astonished at the reception he received. Why, the chiefs were kind enough to allow him to use one of the stanchions to hold his hands around. Then when the feast was spread they were so obliging a special place was made available for him at one of the tables. Also a strictly private food container, a type generally used by farmers to feed hogs in, was provided by our most generous caterer. However, a grave social error was made for someone forgot to provide McGovern with silverware. Little did that stump Mac though for he started right in with his fingers when Redding, our chief signalman, called order and officially welcomed the newly made chief. Redding's speech was a masterpiece and very touching in parts. I shall endeavor to quote the speech word for word: "On behalf of the chief petty officers I welcome you to the quarters. We realized what it

means to you to make chief and we are glad to see an old shipmate become a new shipmate in the quarters. HOWEVER, there are several strict regulations which you must abide by. First - Never man the ports for a look see. That is only a chief water-tenders privilege. Second you rate with but after Frenchy LaTour, therefore, you will place your seat at the movies accordingly. Third, stay away from the Gunnery Sargeant. You are corrupt enough now. Fourth, When using the head don't take the day's paper for reading purposes. You only rate a two day old paper. Fifth, Last but not least; speak only when spoken to, and don't OH YEAH to Bill Murray.

BASEBALL

Last Sunday morning a group of HOUSTON baseball enthusiasts left the ship for a practice game with the DETROIT. The DETROIT'S Baseball officer had been aboard Saturday afternoon and had asked for a short practice game in order to have an opportunity to look over his nine, in competition, as they intend to enter the winter baseball league in San Diego.

The old regular HOUSTON rooters and scorers were on hand as always, a few of them being "Kinky" Price, more recently our popular acting Commissary Steward, Charlie Campbell, "Johnnie" Johnson, the tailor, Kremensky and several others.

Those who participated in the game were: Egarter, Davis, R.E. Nickle, Felts, Hurley, Dainwood Slough, Willmuth, Hynes, Ryan, Gilliam, Burkhead and O'Brien.

The DETROIT used a southpaw on the mound to good advantage, although it is a known fact that southpaws are easy pickings for our heavy stickers but the old batting eyes were not up to standard. The fielding of our nine was good though with possibly three errors being committed.

O'Brien started on the mound for the HOUSTON in the absence of the regular chucker. He lasted about four innings, Egarter then going in to mow the opposition down with his fast ball and a deceptive hook that even had Felt on his toes.

The final score:-DETROIT 3 HOUSTON 1.



## NOSEY NEWS

by  
EV' BODY

With the first week in the yard producing very little if any newsworthy events for this column it appeared as though the boys had really begun turning over a new leaf almost a month early this year.

We are quite mistaken in our supposition for right out of a clear sky comes news that our famous and otherwise notorious Howling Hyena, Johnie "P" Sharp is up to his old tricks again, that of helping balance the budget of the local town, this time Vallejo. Such generosity is to be appreciated, still, it would be a better plan to hear the inside story from the lad from No. 2 Cheesebox.

It seems that Felt, the popular sail maker has been making his way quite well without the assistance of ye old standby demon rum. We may be wrong in this for all good undercover men make mistakes.

Say! That Christmas spirit certainly is well situated aboard this battle boat if we are to judge by reports of kind donations being made by members of the crew to the little village across the mud flats. Smith of the "F" division was the latest donor.

We wonder what happened to the newest CM3c of the "R" division, to have caused him to miss that last morning ferry - - - ?? ??

Leo of the "E" admits he is not much of an athlete but wearing the equipment does give him that huge muscle feeling. My! My!

Those Central Park lakes in NYC have nothing on our own Mare Island Straits when it comes to the men of the sea going out canoe riding.

The two HOUSTON sailors who enjoyed the trip last Sunday looked right at home in that punt, making their way from Vallejo.

The way some of our sailors go about ignoring Naval Etiquette is becoming noticeable. Although we have noticed none of the HOUSTON sailors being so careless, it is a very thoughtless and careless habit, especially when on shore. Don't forget, there are close to five thousand civilians working in the yard at present and if you think they fail to notice those who fail to render those time honored courtesies, you are badly mistaken.

Can yuh imagine a GG suggesting the Blue Henry, now at the disposal of the HOUSTON, being used for their transportation ? ? ?

Now that the air hammer ensemble is in full swing, we note quite a few cases of shattered nerves, but don't give up yet, in another three months you will not be able to sleep unless some good shipmate pounds the bulkheads as a lullaby.

"Izzy" Ehlo, that plug chewing son of the firerooms gave us all a surprise treat a few evenings ago when he tickled the ivories on the sadly worn and sea smitten resemblance of a piano in the Rec. Compt'. He could be justly called a sea going bard for in the midst of one of his inimitable renditions he related how he has a terrible time hitting the target on the pistol range. It seems he was brung up to shoot from the hip and taking aim just upsets him terribly ??? ?

Speaking of the pistol range: Daniel Boone was born a hundred years or so too soon, he would never have been heard of if he had been unfortunate enough to be among our Dannie Boones. Pawlak, the Mayor of El Capitan and "Primo" Kollmer seem to be right in line for a job with the Rangers or the NW Mounties.

Although our ace undercover man has been working on the case for several days now he can find no suitable report to turn in concerning the great change that has recently overcame one and only "PRETTY BOY" ELLWOOD. While holding down the somewhat strenuous but nevertheless necessary billet, that of being "TURREEN JOCKEY" No.1 of the E Div. he was going great as one of our first string basketball players. Right out of a clear sky he was promoted to messenger boy No.1 of the log room. Now, sad to say the poor boy is so terribly laden with work(so he

says) he has not time for basketball in the cool of the evening. The picture is not as tragic as it may seem for we feel sure his afternoon journeys to the tennis courts will keep him in the pink for his social activities.

### PERSONNEL

#### RECEIVED

Swartzell, B., Sea1c., from U.S.S. CHAUMONT. Sukow, E. E., from N. T. S. San Diego, Calif.

#### REENLISTED ON BOARD

Wade, R. J. Bmkr.2c.

#### TRANSFERS

Ross, C. A., CFC(PA), to U.S.S. CHICAGO FFT to U.S.S. PENNSYLVANIA. Loggins, T. J., MM2c, to U.S.S. CHICAGO FFT to U.S.S. INDIANAPOLIS. Peek, J. M., Matt. 2c, to U.S.S. CHICAGO FFT to N. T. S. San Diego, Calif. Zainfield, S. L., Sealc, to Naval Hospital, Mare Island Calif. Ryan, R. J. F3c, to Naval Hospital, Mare Island, Calif. Raney, R. OC1c, to FNR Lawson, P. W., Sealc, to Naval Hospital, Mare Island, Calif.

### WRESTLING

The team spent another week working out at the YMCA in Vallejo and from all prospects we have the makings of a belt winning team this year.

This week also saw us lose one of our fine men Thornton, S2c, who was transferred to the HOUSTON aviation unit at San Diego. When the unit rejoins the ship upon completion of the overhaul we look forward to having him back with us.

Tuesday during workout at the Y. Arthur hurt a couple of ribs and has been laid up for the past few days, but we will have him lined up by the first of the week.

The team under the keen supervision of "Whitey" Wellbourne is shaping into one of the snappiest wrestling outfits in the fleet.

We still can use some more material and anyone wishing to work out, see either Mr. Young, Wellbourne or Holt and they will gladly fix you up.

The only way to have a friend is to be one.

If you have one true friend you have more than your share.

### BATTALLION OF DEATH BLASTS

We welcome the new top, Bob White. The entire detachment wishes him a pleasant cruise aboard the HOUSTON.

So long Williamson. hope you enjoy good fortune on your new post.

"Willie" Greenwood still has his straight shooting leathernecks out on the range, and judging from the scores turned in last Wednesday the detachment can still shoot straight, even though it is cold as being in Alaska on the firing line.

We suggest the benches at the movies have aviation safety belts installed. Williams almost fell off his seat at that "Harlem" show the other nite.

It seems Ryan overslept a few mornings ago-no, he hadn't been ashore. He arose requesting breakfast only to find it was 0800.

### HOUSTON BOXERS STEAL THE SHOW

Last Wednesday evening two of the HOUSTON'S up and coming mitt artists appeared on a local amateur card and from newspaper accounts it is readily seen that they made quite a hit with the fans.

The bout that stole the show was a four rounder, "Kenny" Kendricks of the HOUSTON vs Stanley Ketchell of Pittsburg.

Ketchell won the bout when Kendricks was unable to answer the bell for the third round; a bad cut on the chin made his going on impossible. it was a whirlwind from start to finish. Ketchell knocked Kendricks down in the early part of the first round but Kenny came up fighting and turned the same trick on Ketchell. The round ended with both boys groogy from the fury and power both contestants displayed.

In the curtain raiser, "Pee Wee" Phillips, the second HOUSTON representative on the card, won from Pete Troia when Troia couldnot answer the gong in the third due to a badly cut eye. Pee Wee used a devastating right across to put an early end to a fast and clever bout.

McCarty:- "Listen, Dear, Can you take a joke"?

Sweet Young Thing:- "If you mean that as a proposal, No!

### CHRISTMAS PLANS Continued from page one

until all contributions are turned in before making a report on funds available, this of course holding up the Procurement Committee.

The Orphanage in Sacramento has been visited by Lt. Comdr. Arnold and he reports the plan to bring children from that city will enable the HOUSTON to play host to youngsters who have never saw a ship.

With Santa Claus and all the other happy surprises planned for them we shall surely see the spirit of the season in full bloom aboard the good ship HOUSTON.

In order to facilitate the purchasing and assigning of presents, also the decorating of the ship and last but not least, complete arrangements for the dance, it is fel all Division Representatives should strive to receive all contributions and turn them in not later than payday.

Even then it will be a problem to dispose of all necessary details in the few days left.

From time to time news of progress made will be givgn out letting all hands know just how the planned festivities, made possible through your own efforts, are proceeding.

The amount asked of each member of the crew is not much but combined into one fund, it will be the means of many happy hours for many children, who might otherwise see the Christmas season and its attendant joys pass, knowing what Christmas means to most children, but to them just another sad occasion.

Let's every man-jack of the crew give this worthy custom our whole hearted support and make this Xmas a happy one for these little children.

### HOUSTON BASKETEERS ENTER VALLEJO Y SERVICE LEAGUE

SCHEDULE OF PLAY FOR HOUSTON  
Monday Dec. 16, USS HOUSTON vs  
USS DUPONT. Friday, Dec. 20 USS  
HOUSTON vs US NAVAL HPITAL  
Thursday, Jan. 2, USS HOUSTON vs  
USS CHESTER.

The winner of the first round, Service Division will play the winner of the first round, Civilian Division on January 6, 1935.

### BASKETBALL

After a three day letup in practice and training due to a lack of court facilities our basketeers took the floor Thursday night facing a mediocre DETROIT team. Our boys started out in fine style but soon found themselves in trouble, failing repeatedly to score when opportunity presented itself.

Despite these setbacks the old saying, "you can't keep a good team down" could be justly applied to our squad for they really have the stuff and with a normal amount of training, enough at least to become a smooth working five instead of an off balance poorly conditioned five, they will more than justify our confidence.

The final score of this game was, DETROIT - 23, HOUSTON - 14, the lowest score ever turned in by a HOUSTON squad since Commissioning.

Even Friday the 13th. did not help our basketeers out of their losing streak, for the game with the Marines, our first in the service league found us on the short end after thirty minutes of below average basketball.

The HOUSTON were lacking in all departments of the game, still, the boys were in there every minute of the game with that never say die spirit.

The final score of the HOUSTON MARINE game was 29 to 21 in favor of the Yard Marines.

### NAVAL FACTS WORTH KNOWING

Over 15 years ago when the U. S. S. New York was a coal burner, King George of England and the late King Albert of Belgium became "Honorary Coal Passers" aboard the ship after they had visited and fired the boilers of the New York. The two shovels used are on display in the Crew's Reception Room of the U. S. S. New York.

TRIXIE: "The way that boy Bush pets is a crime"

JANE: "Introduce me. I just love criminals."

The folks at home will enjoy reading the BLUE BONNET. Mail it.