

- MERRY CHRISTMAS -



THE SHIP'S BANK

There is a possibility that many of the crew do not know we have one of the finest and simplest means of saving a few dollars for the inevitable "rainy day", right here on board ship. It is popularly known as the "Ship's Bank," otherwise referred to as a depot for savings and is provided for in Article 1731, U. S. Navy Regulations.

Men may deposit with the paymaster, in cash at any time, amounts not less than \$5.00, but not a fractional part of a dollar.

Men may also make deposits by checkage on the roll, in the same manner as allotments are now handled.

For any sum not less than \$5.00 deposited for a period of six months or longer, depositors, on final discharge or upon furlough in accordance with the Act of August 29, 1916, shall be paid interest at the rate of 4 per cent per year. These deposits cannot be repaid until actual date of discharge.

There is no limit to the amount you may deposit in the Ship's Bank and there is one case on record wherein an enlisted man (CPO) retired after thirty years service with \$28,000 to his credit.

With the New Year approaching many of us will be making the usual resolutions, so why not treat yourself to a most beneficial resolution, that of opening a savings account with the Ship's Bank.

CHRISTMAS BALL

The Christmas Ball which was to have been held at the Rodman Club is to be held at The Veterans Memorial Hall, on Marin St. in Vallejo instead. This change should evidently meet with the approval of many of the ship's company for various reasons. Transportation will be a minor item in the plans of most of us now so get into the spirit of the Holiday season and bring the girl friends en masse. There should be a goodly re-

Continued on page three

APPRECIATION

Through the good offices of the San Francisco Chronicle the Blue Bonnet and the print shop have been ably assisted in producing a varied assortment of assignments during recent weeks. The staff of the Blue Bonnet and the Print Shop extend their hearty thanks to an outstanding big brother.

As has been the custom in past years, several chapters of the American Red Cross in the State of Texas have sent the HOUSTON a large consignment of Menu covers, very tastefully arranged, and well suited to the Christmas and New Year needs of the ship. This year the Junior Red Cross of Dallas and Brownsville were the donors. We take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation in their thoughtfulness and evident interest shown in the good ship HOUSTON.

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Just a few more days and the fruits of the entire crew's efforts shall become a reality.

To many of us this Christmas Day shall have a double significance. Aside from being the day on which we celebrate the birth of Christ, a day on which our thoughts turn to our families, it shall also be the day on which those of us who are not with our families, shall be part and parcel to a touching but joyous drama wherein our little guests shall enjoy the material blessings of Christmas.

Each committee reports all plans well toward completion, with only a few last minute details to be attended to.

One of these, and a most important one too, is the selection of Santa Claus. We are fortunate in having several outstanding personalities, well suited to fill the billet splendidly, so let's see the contribution box well filled with votes.

The Entertainment Committee is happy to report contributions were very generous, the total amount contributed being \$211.00, to date.

Once again HOUSTONITES have come through in great style, proving the good ship HOUSTON and her snappy crew are right in step with the finest traditions of our Navy.

--: 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. Rebotom, U. S. N. Executive Officer.

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December 22, 1935



WHO WILL BE SANTA CLAUS

All hands are requested to deposit their votes, for a Santa Claus, to officiate during the Christmas Party, in the Blue Bonnet box located in the reception compartment.

Ballots need not be signed with the voters name.

LONGEVITY PAY

Since a great number of men have difficulty in understanding their status regarding Longevity Pay we shall endeavor in a few words to give a general outline on this subject.

Navy enlisted men receive a pay raise every 4 years, regardless of whether they are promoted or not. As a permanent addition to the base pay, the pay of each rating is increased by 10 per cent of the base pay upon completion of the first four years of service, and further by an additional 5 per cent after each succeeding four years of service, up to 16 years.

The minimum is 10 per cent and the maximum is 25 per cent.

(Paste this in your scrapbook)

During the past week well over \$400.00 in stamps have been used by the crew of the HOUSTON.

SEE YOU AT THE DANCE NEXT WEEK.

Even Kennedy believes in pink finger nails. We wonder why?

Have you written home this week?

PERSONNEL

REENLISTED ON BOARD

Putnam, C.T. MM2c, Arsenault, A.J. EM3c.

RECEIVED

Winig, G.A. FC3c, Larson, G.G., FC3c
Waterman, W.A. FC3c, from USS NEW MEXICO.

TRANSFERS

Slusarsky, E.M. BM1c to FNR, Hadlock, E.G. CM1c to USS BRAZOS. Hand, A.L. MM1c, Lord, J.T. MM1c to USS INDIANAPOLIS, Shumway, A.R. EM1c to I. C. School, Bellvue. Bell, W.R. to New London for duty. Bryan, A.E. WT1c, Duszynski, T.W.R. SC3c, Bradford, C. F2c to East Coast for discharge. Woolridge. S. MM2c to Optical School, Washington, D. C. Kremensky, S. Sea1c to USS RIGEL for duty. Blackburn, E. J. F2c, Kjolhede, G.M. F2c to Naval Hospital Mare Island, Calif. Thornton G.C. to NAS, San Diego, for duty with VS-10-S.

SERVICE STRIPES

Although it is believed the majority of the crew know and understand the meaning of the service stripe (hash mark), it would not seem amiss to give a short outline on the use and meaning of this part of the uniform.

"Enlisted men of the U. S. Navy wear stripes on their left arms to indicate their length of service".

They are entitled to wear one stripe for each four years of active service in either the Navy or the Naval Reserve.

Service stripes are stitched diagonally on the left sleeve at an angle of 45 degrees, about two inches from the cuff end of the sleeve of a C. P. O., and four inches on the lower rating's sleeves.

Officers do not wear any insignia indicating length of service.

CORRECTION

...In last week's issue of the Blue Bonnet an error in copy caused the wrong score to be published on our recent pistol match with the CHICAGO. In as much as the Houston's team made a fine score against a fine team we wish to correct this error. The final scores should have been: HOUSTON - 1284. CHICAGO 1149.

PISTOL RANGE ACTIVITIES

During the past two weeks quite a number of HOUSTONITES have been learning the fine points in the art of using the regulation 45 calibre pistol under the supervision of Lt. Robinson and Ensign Murphy.

Although to date, few experts have been uncovered, the training received has been invaluable. Just compare the first day averages with the last day's and you will be surprised at the great improvement. To the uninitiated the pistol seems a very simple weapon to master, but once on the range you soon realize that here is a weapon which requires attention to a few simple but very important rules.

Those of the crew who are given an opportunity to be included in one of the range parties are indeed fortunate for if there is any pistol ability in your makeup, our excellent instructors will bring it to the fore.

Under the new Sco For rules the ship, having the greatest number of Officers and Petty Officers qualified as Expert, Sharpshooters or Marksmen with the pistol, shall be awarded fifty points towards the General Excellence Trophy.

The HOUSTON is sure to stand near the top at the end of the Competitive year for we have some very patient and excellent coaches, that in itself being a very important part in the training and qualifying of those going to the range. Qualifications to date.

COURSE C

Name	Score	Qualif.
C. G. Condit.....	268.....	Ex
Nielson, RM2c.....	225.....	S.S.
Abbott, MM1c.....	225.....	S.S.
Kollmer, WT1c.....	218.....	M.
Machado, Cox.....	217.....	M.
Sivak, SK3c.....	216.....	M.
Campbell, RM3c.....	206.....	M.
Mauchley, CM3c.....	205.....	M.
Brown, L. L.....	203.....	M.
Pawlak, BM2c.....	201.....	M.

COURSE D

Name	Score	Qualif.
C. G. Condit,	393.....	Ex.
Bennet, MM2c.....	361.....	Ex.
Ens. Murphy.....	353.....	S.S.
Lt. (jg) Davis.....	336.....	S.S.
Martin, SF2c.....	332.....	S.S.
Lt. (jg) Harris.....	302.....	M.
Horobetz, RM3c.....	321.....	M.
Godaire, SF2c.....	314.....	M.
O'Brien, BM1c.....	304.....	M.



NOSEY NEWS by EV' BODY

Our third week in the yard finds the good ship HOUSTON safely settled down to the overhaul routine -- her snappy crew, not to be outdone, have kept right in step, some even managing to find time to make the headlines. Some, of course, will say they have to hurry to get in their final fling at the expense of the old year. The Yule season, as always, awakens even the most depressed.

St. Marie says: Since it is Xmas season, the most colorful of the year, I can see no reason why I should not carry my own color with me. ? ? ? ?

After many inquiries as to just how and where Pickens obtained his school girl complexion, we find he has been religiously using a popular brand of "Tissue Cream", 's help me 'tis true.

Two of our popular and well known shipmates have been making themselves known in the local village so we hear. But then two personalities such as "Ham Bone" Bacon and "Strawberry" Leslie are sure to find a means of becoming acquainted wherever we may go.

"Sparks" Boyle has certainly earned the gratitude of his pistol shootin' shipmates in being so generous with his "Benzine Beetle", going and coming from the range. It is quite a walk at that. Try it sometime.

"BD" McKee demonstrated to the rest of the range party how to fan a gat the modern way when he put out seven slugs in six seconds. It seems the boy was anxious to get out the last string so he would not miss the first liberty party. - ?-?-??

Our popular ship's writer Tommie

DeBri says hot cakes and "Honey" can't be beat since he is our most recent addition to our famous GG club. Congrats Tommie, and don't forget the stogies when you return from the honeymoon.

Seeing the boys practice their dance steps in the street is a common sight but seeing them practice roller skating in the street is something new. Maybe they felt their childhood days coming back.

The din of air hammers etc., is giving our fast talkers quite a bit of competition. It is feared if some means is not found soon to help the loud speaking boys we will be out several good sea story narrators when we do sail from the yard.

Since Cheek has received the developed results of his midget camera we note two of our sheriffs, namely "Joe" Bush and "Headlock" Wellbourne are positively Flicker Flippy.

Creech, of the pill dispensers informs us this is a case to worry little over for the victims never become very violent.

Doing their bit to uphold the fame of the clan, "Ikie" and "Squeakie" of the famous Campbells were observed making a noble bid for admittance to the Rangers too.

And was "Frog" Godaire nonchalant when he shot off his sights in a blistering barrage of rapid fire at 25 yards.

To prove their rough exterior is only a front, four of our BM's were observed chanting Christmas Carols several evenings ago.

We'll be seeing you, even if you do make that resolution.

YOU TELL 'EM J. P.

More divorces are caused by women who talk too much than by any other one thing. Men learn, when they are small, not to say everything they think. If they do, somebody knocks their block off. Nobody knocks a little girl's block off, for she says what she pleases until she is a garrulous old woman.- Justice of Peace Charles Claypool, Seattle.

Send in your "Blue Bonnet" contribs!

EXHAUST-PIPE



WRESTLING

Grunt and groans from the gang show that another week of hard training is bringing about another fast team for competition with the fleet.

Several new members joined up this week thusly bringing the team total up to twelve men.

We still can use more material and anyone wishing to come out either fall in at 1300 on the well deck or see Mr. Young, Wellbourn or Holt.

CHRISTMAS BALL

Continued from page one

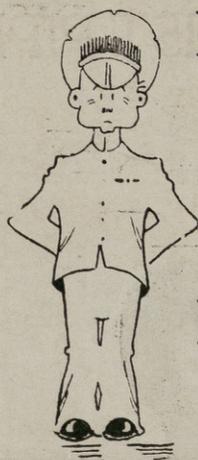
presentation of the fair sex in evidence because invitations have been mailed to about one hundred sixty young ladies who live in Vallejo and environs. Refreshments will be served and music will be furnished by a nine piece orchestra which is really good. It is hoped that as many as possible of the personnel will attend.

Remember that this dance is for all hands and that it can be as big a success as each individual wishes to make it.

It will be repeated at some later date if this dance proves to be popular with you.

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

● ● KEEP THE E ON THE HOUSTON ● ●



Battalion Of Death BLASTS



The past week found the second range detail blasting away as the first did on the rifle range - "blasting away" is the only word that can express an existing situation in the butts when the Gunnery Sargeant's sharp-shooter was throwing more than ordinary rifle bullets at target six. After that experience, at Willie Greenwood's expense, I don't blame Grimes for feeling bad, he made four points more in one relay than his official score indicated.

Although all have fired the rifle **and pistol for record** and it is now past history, the sharp-shooters still vividly tell why they didn't make expert and the marksmen, how they missed making sharp-shooter.

Kid Rotch, in his deep bass voice, was heard lamenting the fact that his Kentucky Windage just didn't seem to work like it did in Alabama when the "Pesky Revenoers" visited the still.

The coffers of Benecia have become quite swollen since most of the Detachment descended upon that town enmasse. There must be something there because all day and long into the night the boys can be heard rabidly extolling the virtues (???) of the Benecia Belles.

All have their favorites but Chastain, the Welaha wonder; he says Edna is the kind of a girl he wants because she is so easy to feed.

It appears that Mike Stipetic does not know right from left after dark. Even though he was given very explicit instructions on how to arrive at a certain door, he turned right instead of left, opened the wrong door and the next thing heard from him was a hollow thumping as he des-

cended a flight of steps on his head. He claims someone cut the light out, but 'tis said there is such a thing as unconsciousness.

Our "Virginal" young Corporal says he has sworn off "it all", but it seems that he is swearing off "it all" before he has learned WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT.

BASKETBALL

In a fast and well played league game last Monday night our basketeers looked their best so far this season, and right up to the final whistle it was anybody's game. Misfortune overtook our boys in the form of an unusually number of personal fouls being called, these unearned points finally being the margin of the victory for the DuPont. IN as much as we were out to win this game in an attempt to break into the win column, we must salute the snappy DuPont team. It is very seldom a destroyer can boast of such a strong squad, and it is our firm belief they would go a long way against other Cruiser and even Battleship teams.

The final score of the game was HOUSTON 32, DUPONT 34.

Kennedy, Willmuth and Henderson worked well together, this game being their first together in the new organization. Ulrey and Jones showed great improvement in the guard position while Stoddard worked well at forward. Other members of the team showing great improvement since regular workouts have commenced are: Brown, Burkhead, Nier, Zeitfuss, Adams and Freeman.

Friday night our Basketeers finally broke into the win column by scoring a decisive victory over the fast Hospital team.

The boys more than justified our continued confidence in them, at times the floor play and team work actually dazzling the opposition. Kennedy and Willmuth scored repeatedly on neat plays ably assisted by Nier, while Ulrey, Burkhead and O'Brien broke up the Hospital's scoring threats time after time. The final score in this game was: HOUSTON 39, HOSPITAL 18.

WHO REMEMBERS?

FOUR YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

On the 1st. day of December the HOUSTON arrived in Manila P.I. having completed a very rough trip from Hong Kong, China.

This season of the year finds the far Pacific quite stormy and the HOUSTON was no exception to the wrath of elements.

Immediately upon arrival in Manila many passengers were transferred to various ships of the Asiatic Fleet in the harbor. This trip was first of many wherein the HOUSTON acted as a transport, thus earning the temporary nickname: "The HOUSTON Maru, Transport Service".

The CinC US Asiatic Fleet and his staff also left the ship at this time, remaining temporarily on board the U. S. S. ISABEL until December 16

During this period the HOUSTON trained for and fired her first Night Spotting and later, Night Battle Practice.

The ship was based at Olongapo on Subic Bay until all gunnery was completed which was about Dec. 15.

Christmas, our first in the Orient was spent in Manila, many of the crew attending the annual Baseball game in Manila, this game comparing to our own Rose Bowl Football game on New Year's.

During the latter part of the month many thoughts were turned "home-side", for the HENDERSON was in port making preparations for the return cruise to the States.

REENLISTMENT ALLOWANCE

In the annual report of the Sec. of the Navy for the fiscal year 1935, the following is quoted for your information.

"The reenlistment allowance for enlisted men authorized by law, but which has not been appropriated for, is now the only remaining loss to naval personnel resulting from economy legislation. This situation in affect deprives men in the service of an allowance upon reenlistment which by the law granted at the time they enlisted and which men now in the service believe they have right to expect. It seems only equitable and just that this allowance should be restored."

Send in your "Blue Bonnet" contribs!