

## Houston Enters Basketball Final Playoff

### DEFEAT OF PORTLAND MAKES TEAM ELIGIBLE

The Houston Basketball Team defeated the Portland a week ago last night at the Admiral Leigh Gymnasium 58 to 12 in the finest brand of ball they have played this year.

The old guard of Phillips, Chumura, Adams, Hagerstrom, Hattemer and Faulkner were ably assisted by Bailey and newcomers Elwood and Felix. Chumura and Phillips were the high scorers with Hagerstrom a close third.

The Houston defence was nearly perfect With Hagerstrom and Hattemer outstanding under the basket. Bud Adams showed some of the brand of ball he is capable of producing. 'Pooch' Chumura with his one hand shots and 'Ace' Phillips kept the ball rolling from a 33-5 half time score to the final 58-12 tally.

This win enables the Houston to enter the play-offs, and playing this kind of ball they should finish well at the top second only to the Vestal who has been declared first place winner.

Let's get behind these men and bring them home in the money!



### Would You Believe It ?

The Boatswain's pipe which is used in connection with passing the word aboard ship, was first used during the 14th and 15th centuries by Admirals as an emblem of their office.

### All-Navy Finals On Monday 21 February

Don't forget the fleet finals in boxing and wrestling which will take place at the Navy Athletic Field, Long Beach. Next Monday will see the crowning of some new all-Navy champions.

Chick will be there in the 118 lb. wrestling match with the San Diego champion. Let's give him lots of support.

### Aviation

To keep the flying Navy in the air will require pilots, machinists, carpenters, metal-smiths, ordnancemen, aerographers, photographers, electricians, and radiomen. Four classes of enlisted men will be assembled at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida in February, March, April, and May of this year. Training requires one year.

Requirements for flight training are (1) Candidate must not be over 30 years of age on 1 July, 1938; (2) Candidate must be physically qualified and temperamentally adapted for aviation; (3) Men of aviation, radio, and electrical experience with aviation units are especially desired.

### George Washington

Feb. 22, 1732 — Dec. 14, 1799

Washington, the national capital, is the soul of our country and one cannot visit or study the scene of Washington without feeling that he has touched the very pulse and throb of the Nation. It is unique among the great capitals of the world, other great capitals became so more by chance than design but President Washington and the brilliant French Engineer Pierre Charles L'Enfant visioned our National Capital as it is today and planned it deliberately. There, everyday, events are enacted that affect the lives of each and every one of us and will, undeniably, leave their impression upon the future.

The noblest monument in America, the great obelisk, towering five hundred and fifty feet towards the skies, which commemorates the life and character of George Washington, will be ninety years old, dating from the corner stone laying, the fourth of July.

It was in 1848 that a distinguished group of people looked on when the keystone was swung into place, Dolly Madison, widow of our fourth president was there as was the widow of Alexander Hamilton who was also well acquainted with General Washington, Hamilton having been his secretary, Aide-de-Camp and Secretary of the Treasury. Washington's adopted son, George Washington Parke Curtis was also a prominent figure in the group which heard Robert C. Winthrop, Speaker of the House, make the principal speech. "Build it to the skies," he said, "you cannot outreach

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— : 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.

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19 February, 1938

## GEORGE WASHINGTON

Feb. 22, 1732—Dec. 14, 1799

(From Page 1.)

the loftiness of his principles. Founded upon the massive and eternal rock you cannot make it more enduring than his fame. Construct it of peerless Parian marble you cannot make it purer than his life."

The work of building that mighty shaft which now stands between the beautiful Memorial to Lincoln and the inspiring dome of the Capitol, continued in various degrees of intensity for thirty-seven years and now on this anniversary, the two hundred and sixth, of George Washington's birth, everyone should realize how much it represents the simplicity and strength of the soldier and statesman who gave us our country.

Its proportions are so perfect that as one gazes at it from a distance and from any direction, it seems to lift from the ground and float suspended in the air. It stands for something in the true character of the American people, as well as an everlasting tribute to the greatest American. It has been said that no reputation in history has so well withstood the gnawing of time as Washington's.

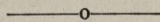
The first notable reference to Washington as an important individual is when in 1752 Lord Fairfax commissioned him to survey several million acres laying to the westward from Virginia. That experience taught him woodcraft, gave him a knowledge of the Indians and the self-reliance so necessary to a frontiersman.

A few short years later in 1755 after General Braddock had arrived in Virginia with his crack troops for his

ill-fated expedition against the French at Fort Duquesne, (now Pittsburgh) Washington was a young officer in his provincial regiment.

At this time a friend in writing to an officer serving on General Braddock's staff made the following statement: "Is Mr. Washington among your acquaintances" "If not, I must recommend you to embrace the first opportunity to form his friendship. He is about twenty-three years of age, with a countenance both mild and pleasant, promising both wit and judgement. He is of a comely and dignified demeanor and at the same time displays much self-reliance and decision. He strikes me as being a young man of extraordinary and exalted character and is destined, I am of the opinion, to make no inconsiderable figure in our country." One of the most remarkably accurate predictions ever made.

The city of Washington, with the soul and aspirations of the Nation expressed in memorials and monuments, in magnificent public buildings, beautiful parks, tree-shaded avenues, splendid museums, galleries of art and shrines of history, should be the "Mecca" of every American citizen.



### The Commission Pennant

The distinctive mark of a ship of the Navy in commission, other than the National Ensign, is a flag or pennant at the masthead.

In the days of chivalry, knights rated a small pointed flag or pennon. The mark of a squire was a long pennant very similar to the coachwhip pennant of the modern man-of-war. Bannerets ranked the knights, and took precedence below a baron. They carried a knight's pennon with a slit in the end.

It was customary to create barons on the field of battle by the King or General cutting on the part of the fly of the pennon. The square flag was then a symbol of increased rank. Edward, the Black Prince, after the battle tore the tail off the pennon of Lord John Chanoos, saying, "Sir John, behold, here is your banner; God send you much joy and honor with it." One may trace directly from these customs the commission pennant, "coachwhip",

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Dear Sal,

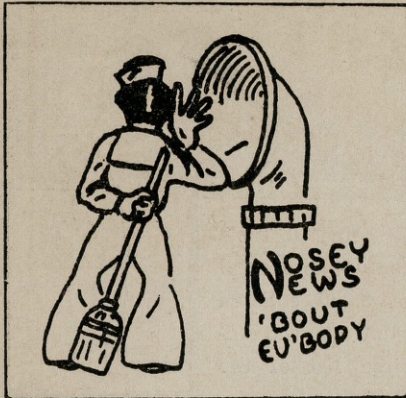
Shure puts my heart to beatin' in jig time to know that you didn't go traipsing down tha middle o' squire Milltruck's preachin' house with Felix. You'd been a takin' in washin's to support tha varmint a long afore now if you'd had tha mind to 've nodded your noggin' to one o' his askin's.

There's a mite bit o' difference betwixt hatin' a fella and bein' only sorry for tha critter. Take me, Sal, I harbor no ill feelin's agin Felix cause he's a mess at courtin' anyways.

There's my old aunt Agatha who had truck with nary a soul save some o' her close relations, and they hadda be perched next to tha door to be ready for some fast skedaddlin' case she took a sudden dislikin' to their ways. She was the beatin'est woman I ever did see for bein' jealous. Poor Uncle Ned, as good a soul as ever put a plow in tha sod, nary could get a mite rest from her thinkin' he was allus hidin' out with some strange woman.

Uncle Ned hitched up his two mares to tha buckboard one day and headed for tha Olenderfer General store which was a good piece from his place. He happened to recollect that tha very next day was Aunt Agatha's birthday, so athinkin' he'd suffer less naggin' if he'd fetch home a pretty present he made tha trip just for her. He took considerable time in gettin' tha present but when finally he persuaded old skinfint Olenderfer to put tha cost on tha bill till next spring he set out for home with his heart a singin' all tha way.

When he got home he saw Aunt Agatha out by tha woodpile so he sneaked in tha house without her suspectin' a thing and nailed tha present up on the wall next to tha bed. Then he set himself down to watch. She came in finally and spied it quicker'n



Hello again shipmates. Here we are once again with a few interesting items which seem to warrant your lending an ear. For instance, while talking about shipmates, "Buck" Weaver, CGM showed how much of a shipmate a person can be, this due to his seeing the electricians mates shivering while manning the serchlights and immediately thereon bringing them a pitcher of steaming coffee.

Last week saw our Basketball team take the PORTLAND for the deciding game in their bracket. This entitles them to be in the playoff with the leading teams in the Cruisers Competition. Not much of a hand was out to see their fast and furious playing. Lets get together and be on hand to give them the much needed spirit they rate in the forthcoming games.

While mentioning sports we might talk a bit of the whaleboat crew. Immediately upon anchoring at San Clemente they turned right out and started churning the local waters to a heavy foam. From the looks of the way the oars keep together we should have a winning crew.

Looks as tho "Professor" Osgood has serious intentions. Has been reading all editions of "Meditations of a Married Woman". Nothing like being prepared for future events.

The following was in the contribution box; Seems Willie Fish has turned over a new leaf. Three liberties in succession and not a drink to quench his usual thirst. Rumors have it that he is anxiously waiting for his freedom so that he can make it number "four".

"Playboy" Willie Slough, SK3c, managed to catch up with the mighty Rambler ship. Couldn't get to her on time before our departure but reported on board the TUSCALOOSA which finally caught up to us. As expected he found places to sleep where he couldn't be found.

Anyone desiring to hear a great verbal battle report to the bake shop, time between one and three in the afternoon. "Big Boy Yates" versus "Round Boy Bud". Just because Yates makes his liberties in Hollywood Bud seems to think there is something unusual about him. Bud has been losing slowly but he sure puts up a great battle.

One item of great import this week is the cause of that arched chest upon "M" Division's Shoemaker. Aside from him being mighty proud of himself we've been hearing a familiar sound caused by oscillation of the lips, commonly known as the "bird" or the "raspberry" directed by him at Gregson, Slodek, Kelso, and Palmer. It seems Shoemaker received a message congratulating him on the arrival of a fine baby boy Tuesday morning. The cause of the raucous sound is that the last four mentioned of the same division are the papas of just girls.

Butler, keeper of the Quarter-Deck has been showing the youngsters how to really drop the ball in the bucket. Tells them he used to be champ of one of the finest basketball teams in the Navy.

If you have any difficulties in balancing your budgets or in keeping your accounts straight, the man you should see is "Osie Osborne" Accountant Extraordinary, keeper of the Ship's Service Books. He himself will tell you how good he is at work.

"Frederick Methodius Viskovich" (its his name) ,Storekeeper Striker feels bad lately. This because Sivak has only 30 chickens on his ranch. He was invited to stay there for a while but now he feels that that isn't enough chickens to tickle his regular appetite. Stick around Fred as there is a cow around the place also.

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## Little Ocko Says . . .

DID YOU see the various hearts on the Valentine cover of this week's "Liberty"? Just like some of these sailors, a heart for ever place on the Pike.

SOME persons were suggesting a novel idea a few days ago, namely a beauty salon in connection with our Barber Shop. Personnel mentioned as possible operators were Osborne, Y2c; Steele, SC3c; Slovak, SC2c; Ramsdell, Sea.2c, F Div.; John Boris, Y3c; and Morisey Lloyd, SM3c. Somehow, I'm afraid the man-o'-Wars-Men of the good Rambler Ship would all go ashore for their haircuts and finger-waves!

HAVE you noticed what a nice finger wave Dell Hunter Smith, BM, has developed since his advent to the Post Office? My friend Jenkins, GM1c, has commenced cultivation on an odd growth of some sort on his upper lip. Wonder what it will turn out to be— a Van Dyke ?

BALDY, rechristened "Stinky" Davis, of the gedunk stand, says that Stachnich, BM1c, has become a barfly. Just from recent frequentation of the of the soda fountain, I suppose!

B UDDY Adams, newly rated Cox'n of the Foc's'le Force, was seen sporting that crow last Tuesday. About a day or so ahead of time weren't you, Bud ?

SOME time ago we had a story on Steele, SC3c, and a pair of black eyes he was carrying around. It related to the fact that in spite of an impaired visage he was capable of doing the Pike with a certain local strip-tease artist. It seems she more or less resented the allusion that she was in anyway connected with a strip-tease act, or so she told me. She also informed me she would take pleasure in paring on my tonsils if she were only sure that I was known as Little Ocko. As it now stands, I am more or less bound to ask someone's pardon, but am at a loss as to whom I should go. I meant the lassie no harm, but I sort of think she meant some to me. I didn't stay to find out, however.

(Continued on page 4.)

## Little Ocko Says . . .

(From page 3.)

LEWIS, BM1c, has been hanging around the after half of the galley so much recently that one of the shipfitters thought he'd changed his rate to Mess Attendant.

GOT some new pill rollers aboard, one named Davis and one named Davies. Asked the latter if he was any relation to Marion but he said "No, and not to this other guy either".

MALCOM, Cox., 3rd Div., received a letter addressed to Raymond "Don Juan" Malcolm. He's quite sure some of his shipmates sent it to him but the truth of it all is she loves the boy. Don't take it to heart so, feller!



## A Contribution

THE THREE Rover Boys in the Navy" should be the title of that dashing trio Nicholas Joseph (Stew) Vanzetti, Ralph Nelson (trouble shooter) Crego and Anthony (Curly) Nicollette. This flashy triumvirate have formed a close friendship either from having reached that certain age or because birds of a feather flock together. Crego, that erstwhile EM1c and Vanzetti are almost inseparable.

In fact you can find them together in the Commissary Issue Room at most any time of day in deep discussion. We have it on very good authority that Stew Vandetti is giving him (Crego) lessons on how to run the Commissary Department. Also we understand that Crego is seriously considering changing his rate to ship's cook after these many years as an Electricians Mate?

Curly Nic can turn up in the most surprising places about the ship. As a rule though he can be found in the vicinity of the bake shop asking for a hand out and discussing the whys and wherefores of the Navy. Another favorite hang out of this old timer is the Sick Bay, usually after a visit to the Bake Shop. We have often wondered where he earned his \$3.50 a day. This beautiful friendship is indeed very touching. We know that they will have a delightful time in the Old Sailors Home if and when they get there. Curly upon being asked today when he expected to retire and

## Gus's Weekly Letter

(From Page 2.)

a flash. A makin' her way over to it she looked at it for quite a spell. Then Uncle Ned heard her say, "so that is tha old hag he's been a chasin' 'round with. He's hung her picture up in our home." After sayin' this she took a swipe at it and broke it into a million pieces. And that was tha end o' Uncle Ned's new present, a lookin' glass.

I guess some folks are naturally born with a streak o' meanness in them but such folk make a body 'preciate good souls.

Love,  
Gus

## Nosey News

(From Page 3.)

These drills we have been running to lately have the boat deck force so occupied that "Sammy Fox", Boat-swain's Mate First of the Fourth can be seen doing all the necessary work that must be done. Has the hose in one hand and a scraper in the other removing paint spots from the deck.



"Ten Percent" Davis of the Ship's Service Store has been doing quite a lot of talking lately. Seems he wants to sell the large assortment of hair tonic in the store. Must say his shining pate is not a good advertisement for these items.



A tip to the seamen who use the petty officers washroom; have been told that enforcement of some sort would be placed in effect to allow only those authorized to use it to enter therein.

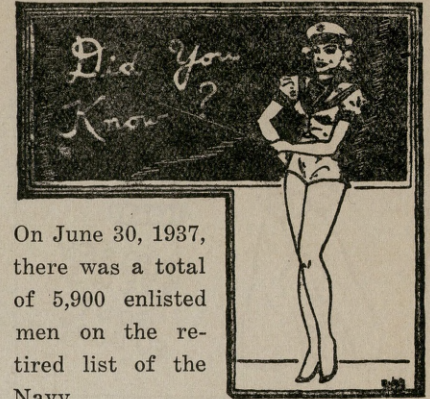
"We're not retreating," the Admiral said,

"This Navy knows no fear."

"We're just traveling around the world

"To attack them from the rear."

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give the young men a chance seemed to be terribly hurt and offended. No offence meant Curly but we do like to see old horses graze in green pastures after years of faithful service and your time for grazing has come and gone my frand.



On June 30, 1937, there was a total of 5,900 enlisted men on the retired list of the Navy.

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That the famous lighthouse on the Mole of Naples, in the Mediterranean was extinguished about three years ago, for the last time, after burning every night for over six hundred years.

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Each year Congress appropriates a certain amount of money to be expended for the welfare and recreation of navy personnel. These funds are in most part allocated to the various activities afloat and ashore, in accordance with the number of enlisted men at each activity. It is believed that the recreation, healthful exercise and amusement given in part by this appropriation is a material factor in the maintenance of the good health and high morale of naval personnel. The Navy Department encourages amateur athletic contests both afloat and ashore at every opportunity.

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## The Commission Pennant

(From Page 2.)

broad command pennant, and broad flags worn by Commanding Officers of ships and by Commodores, as well as the square flags of the Admirals of our own and other Navies.

When Martin Tromp, the Dutch Admiral, hoisted a broom at his mast-head indicating his intention of sweeping the English from the sea, the English Admiral hoisted a horsewhip indicating his intention to chastise the Dutchman. Ever since that time the narrow or coachwhip pennant, symbolizing the original horsewhip, has been the distinctive mark of a vessel of war adopted by all Nations.

Speaking of songs, have you heard the new parachute song - -

"It don't mean a thing if you don't pull that string."