



Many Facilities Available At Mare Island

The Mare Island Recreation Center, for commissioned officers and their families, is maintained by membership dues and green fees. The Center House, which has facilities for serving drinks, sandwiches, lunches and dinners, is located to the rear and south of the Naval Hospital grounds, and is near No. 9 green of the nine hole golf course. The services of a golf professional, who also sells golfers' supplies, are available at No. 1 tee. His rates for adults are \$1.00 per half hour, twelve half-hour lessons for \$10.00; for children 16 years of age or under, \$.75 per half hour; and for classes of five, \$.50 per person.

Enlisted personnel of the Navy and Marine Corps may use the Mare Island Golf Course, except when it is closed for tournament play or due to inclement weather, under the following regulations:

- (a) Each player shall start at No. 1 tee and there sign in the Golf Register his name, rate and station or ship for each day of play.
- (b) Green fees shall be at the rate of \$.50 per day up to but not to exceed \$2.00 per month for each player. The fee to be paid to the attendant at the caddy house prior to teeing off.

The Warrant Officers maintain a Recreation Center in Building No. 41 across the street from the Marine Post Exchange. For further details apply to the Secretary of the Warrant Officers' Center, Mare Island, Calif.

Tennis: There are seven officers' tennis courts and four enlisted men's courts located as follows:

Officers' Courts:—

Contributions Wanted

AS 17 JUNE is the eighth anniversary of the commissioning of the HOUSTON, next week we desire to publish an anniversary issue. In this edition pertinent facts concerning the Houston and its history will be mentioned. Particularly of interest will be special episodes which happened in the early days after the ship was commissioned. You plank owners can help us with your contributions. Give us your support by dropping your remembrances, with your name signed, in the box provided for that purpose in No. 1 messing compartment.

- 1 at Mare Is. Recreation Center.
 - 3 on Walnut Ave. by St. Peter's.
 - 2 on 12th St. by Rodman Center.
 - 1 at Submarine Barracks.
- Enlisted Men's Courts: —
- 3 on California Ave. between 13th and 14th Streets.
 - 1 court at Submarine Barracks.

The Rodman Naval Center and Ships' Service Store for all Naval personnel, located inshore from Berth B, near

(Continued on Page 2.)

The Dude Ranch For Dogs

"HE LEADS a dog's life." This used to be a popular and an often repeated saying but it is not true anymore in the sense intended. At least those lucky dogs that get a chance to register at the unique and already world famous institution, the dude ranch for dogs, are "lucky dogs" indeed.

Listen carefully to the following facts. Located at Big Bear Lake, California, at an altitude of 7800 feet is the dude ranch for dogs; where it is too high for flies or fleas (this usually bothers most dogs) and where the sage of the desert meets the pines of the mountains. Here a dog gets his vacation while his owners are on theirs. Three cars are at the disposal of the dogs, fully equipped with everything for a dog's comfort and convenience—well ventilated, radio, heater, et cetera. The cars will call right at the dog's home even though it is over a hundred miles away and drive them to the lake.

When a dog comes into the DUDE RANCH he signs up for whatever sport he enjoys most. There is hiking, hunting, swimming as summer sports; dog sled teams, tobogganing, and hiking in the snow for winter recreation. There are some dogs who wouldn't think of getting their paws wet in the daily swim, but they love to hike away back in the woods with a knap-sack on their back full of goodies. After a 3 mile hike they have their lunch and start back, others take to hunting. There are specially trained supervisors, both dogs and men to take the groups on

(Continued on Page 2.)

—: 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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The Moocher (Not Minnie)

Q: Now as I understand it, Mr. Gooch, you are what is called a cigarette moocher?

A: Yeah, I don't ever buy none.

Q: How do you operate, Mr. Gooch? Do you just ask people for cigarettes?

A: Naw, that's just plain bummin' I mooch'em. I use psychology. Suppose I see a guy take out a pack. I say, "Boy, that reminds me. I'm fresh out of cigarettes." The other guy nearly always says, "Won't you have one of mine?"

Q: But suppose he doesn't?

A: Well, if the guy is tough I work the decoy-pack trick on him. As soon as he lights up I pull an empty pack and look surprized when I don't find any. Then I say, "By golly, I thought I had one."

Q: And if that doesn't work?

A: Well, then I get out a match and light his cigarette and look all the time as if I would like one.

Q: But supposing he does not fall for that?

A: Then I give him the works. I get out a cigarette of my own and drop it on deck.

Q: You mean you actually have a cigarette of your own?

A: Yes. But I only have to carry one and I can use it plenty of times. I don't ever smoke it; I just drop it on deck and say, "There goes my last cigarette." The other guy offers me one of his and when he is not looking I pick up mine and use it another time. By the way, I'm fresh out of cigarettes!

According to the latest definition, an old maid is a "yes" gal who never had a chance to talk.

Mare Island Facilities

(From Page 1.)

the Shipfitters' Shop No. 11 (the large building to the south end of the Industrial Section of the Yard). An Assistant to the Captain of the Yard is in charge.

Telephone Numbers:—

Canteen - Mare Island 361.

Ship's Service Store and Office - Mare Island 164.

The Theatre of Better Pictures - latest talkies shown nightly, including short musicals, comedies and late news reels, etc.

Two shows nightly. First show, 6:00 p.m.; Second show, 8:15 p.m.

Price: Admission, Adults 10 cents; children, 5 to 14 years of age, 5 cents. Coupon Book containing \$3.00 worth of tickets for \$2.50. Refund made on unused tickets.

Marine Barracks Activities: The Post Exchange Store, Restaurant, etc., is located on 13th Street, in the Marine Corps section of the yard. Telephone Mare Island 90.

Vallejo Navy Y.M.C.A., is located at 307 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo. Mr. Thor E. Eriksen is in charge, phone Vallejo 222. The Army-Navy Department of the Y.M.C.A. in New York and the citizens of Vallejo have made possible a wonderful club for the men in the United States Naval and Military Service. It is your Young Men's Christian Association. Your uniform entitles you to membership in the Navy Y.M.C.A.

St. Peter's Chapel: Both Protestant and Catholic Services are conducted every Sunday morning in St. Peter's Chapel, located on Walnut Avenue. These services are for personnel of ships present in the yard, as well as the yard personnel. Catholic Mass at 9 o'clock, Protestant services at 7:30 and 10:30 o'clock. The Chapel is open every day from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. There are many interesting memorial windows and tablets to service heroes which are of interest to all service personnel.

Navy Relief Society. The California Auxiliary (Mare Island) of the Navy Relief Society is available for assistance to the personnel of ships present in the yard. Cases are handled and information given by the Yard Chaplain whose office is at the Hospital.

The Dude Ranch

(From Page 1.)

the different trips in the woods and to the Lake, but each and every guest has his recreation for the day.

There is a maternity hospital, spotlessly white and offering every comfort for the expectant mother. Pups born here have every advantage in the world because they can play in the woods and use the special pen when they are old enough to enjoy the rubber balls, bones, pork chops, rats, mice and all that goes with them. Special sand from a special nearby mountain provides sand for this play pen. The little rascals are weighed daily and a chart kept on each of them.

A scientifically balanced diet with all the vitamins is prepared in a pressure cooker for their rations. No french pastries are allowed, only husky ranch fare, but those desiring special diets are served from the chuck house. In the chuck house is listed the names of each guest and his special menu for the day. Some dogs get one egg on rising and others two, depending on whether they are still growing. For the dogs that have difficulty in dropping off to sleep a portion of hot milk or ovaltine is served. As the special orders are taken to the various guests in a chuck wagon one will find the dogs usually reclining on their sunbath platform absorbing the ultra violet rays of this enchanting altitude.

The more delicate breeds or the pampered ones have indoor quarters for sleeping with access to the outside runs so that they can go out and in as they desire. All of the individual bunk houses have one large window, tile floors, elevated beds, a ventilating system, and are furnished with turquoise and blue pottery. In the winter months this is kept at an even heat day and night. For the dogs that desire them wool jackets or SKI SUITS are furnished when the snow falls. Snow men with eyes of meat are made so that the dogs can enjoy playing with them to the utmost. Cold mountain water and even sulphur spring water is at hand for the dogs.

Navy Bill opines that the greatest water power known to man is a woman's tears.



Stopped in to see Whitey Wellbourn in the brig the other day. He had received a letter from John 'Wop' Plental, now BM1c, formerly a fast Cox'n of the 4th Division, who is now aboard the U.S.S. Yorktown. Wop gave us some news of former shipmates aboard here, among them Edens, a former seaman of the First Division now a cox'n in the same division on the new carrier. Squashie Fortune, formerly cox'n of the CinC Asiatic Fleet barge on the Good Ship Houston, is there also. Bart Fahey, one-time quarterdeck bos'n mate, is now permanent appointed chief, and went out on 16 years. Old friend KINHARTZ, who was on the 'AA' five-inch, is now 1PCGunner's Mate, and is doing fine in the 6th division of the Yorktown. Many thanks to Wop and to Headlock for this valuable bit of news. (Anyone hearing of former shipmates kindly drop the dope in the BB Contribution Box in the No. 1 Messing Comp't. We'll be glad to put it into print.)

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What leading P.O. of the 'M' Division was seen in the topside library the morning we got underway from Long Beach, sleeping peacefully (?) with a copy of "How to Win Friends and Influence People" between his feet on the deck? That is some way to influence people; Ocko says a little more of the old rule of 'practice what you preach' could be well used here.

#

Stinky Carter is hanging around the vicinity of the Power and Light Shop recently. Could it be that the lad is thinking of changing his rate? We hope not, for Machado would surely miss his big smile in the F Division.

#

Squeaky Campbell, former Turret One Sparktrician, was aboard one day last week. Someone told Ocko he came to see 'Bunk-time' Crego, the flashy pappa of the Rat Races. How about it Sea Gull?

Well, it looks as if Churchman will be staying aboard the Rambler Ship again for a while. The lad was recently married and not more than ten days after the ceremony what should happen but we go to Mare Island.

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Jenkins, GM1c of the Fourth Division, is about to leave our company and do a cruise in the American Naval Station at Tutuila, American Samoa. He tells me that he will be leaving from Goat Island, San Francisco, some time the last of August. Little Ocko understands that the duty also includes that of Mail Orderly of the Station there. We wish a good shipmate all the luck in the world . . . A happy cruise.

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One of our shipmates received a letter from Obie O'Brien, who was the Second Division bos'n mate for some time on here. He said to tell all hands 'Hello' for him and that he sure did enjoy getting the Blue Bonnets when the mail arrived there at Guam. Obie made chief this year, and we might expect some of those Asiatic cigars if he ever gets back to the Houston. For the benefit of the newcomers aboard, he was the man that made the knot-boards in the port and starboard passageways and OOD booth on the fo'c'sle.

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D. H. Lambert, Cpl. USMC, probably the most popular and best liked Marine the Houston has had aboard in a long time, left the ship last Monday afternoon for duty at Mare Island. He has a year left to do, and we wish him the best. Little Ocko says we ought to have more men like him in the service, both sailors and marines.

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Some things we'd like to see on the Houston: Bucky Haratyk without a comb or hair brush working on those blond waves he's been developing; Houston staying in port more than one week at a time; one week without a Saturday Inspection; the First Lieutenant sleeping in till 0700; Red Clymer not sitting on the bitts on the fo'c'sle; Dell Hunter Smith without some mail and hurrying off to deliver it; Baldy Davis with hair like Jim Brady's; Nicolette without dire financial worries; etc; etc; . . .

Congratulations to Buck Weaver and Ed St. Marie, who received their appointments to Permanent Chief Gunner's Mate and Permanent Chief Water Tender, respectively. Little Ocko says they had it coming to them.

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Also leaving the ship with that coveted piece of paper in his right hand, seabag over his shoulder, was Cooley, QM3c, Honorably Discharged after four years of pacing the quarterdeck. Good luck on the U.S.S. Outside feller, we hear you'll need it . . . they say jobs are scarce.

#

Sivak tells me he's been in far places and seen many things but one he'd like to have seen and did not was Churchman in 'soup and fish' at his wedding. Well, I saw it, and if I had not known the difference I'd have thought he was one of the '400'. A swell wedding and party after; ask Buck Weaver.

#

Well, there goes Liberty Call, gotta make that boat . . . see you next week folks . . . thanks for listening.

Challenge

Word was brought to the press that the 'M' Division challenges any division aboard ship to a game of baseball while we are here in the yard. They propose any Saturday afternoon as the time. Are you going to let them get away with that you deck hands?

Two Aviators Detached

Lt. (jg) A. G. Dibrell was detached last Monday to duty to the Naval Aircraft Factory, Philadelphia, Pa., whereas Lt. (jg) P. E. Emrick left the ship on the following day for duty with squadron VS2T aboard the U.S.S. Lexington.

The Houston wishes them luck in their new assignments.

"There are two kinds of spots a girl likes to see before her eyes, — Fives and Tens.

And while heaven may protect the working girl, I'm wondering what there is to protect the fellow she's working.

Sivak Starts Novel

Word has trickled from the forward scuttlebutt that our famous novelist and poet, Herr Sivak, is starting to write an epic novel. The Ship's Reporter went to interview the maestro on the subject, and found him surrounded by a sheet of paper, on which he was preparing to write, but he kindly consented to pause long enough to sketch out the plot roughly.

The novel deals with the Ah family, old man Ah Right; his wife, Ah Rong; his daughters, Ah Hoy (named in honor of her uncle, a seafaring man), Ah Chu, Ah Doo, Ah Can, Ah Nother, and the last, Ah Thru. It is tragic in tone, dealing with the death of the eldest daughter, who drowns trying to swim to an American warship one night when she thinks the quartermaster is calling her. Even as the yellow waters of the Whangpoo close over her she still hears him calling "Boat Ah Hoy! Boat Ah Hoy!" —But she cannot answer.

The second daughter, Ah Chu, also meets an untimely end. She goes to work for an English family and has a nervous breakdown when they all contract 'Hay-fever', and she hears them calling "Ah Chu!", Ah Chu!" from all corners of the house.

That is as far as the author has carried his plot but we think that is quite far enough.

I Don't Get It

"I see in the papers that a guy ate six dozen pancakes."
"Oh, how waffle!"

Then there was the young lady who had water on the knee, so the doctor told her to wear pumps.

Sea: Your sister was shocked by the way I kissed you.
She: Oh, did she peek?
Sea: No, I showed her.

An old maid is too bad. Too bad is a rotten egg. Rotten eggs are foo. Foo is nothing. Therefore: an old maid is an egg that never gets married or nothing.

1st Seagull: My, but you certainly made that sailor mad this morning.
2nd Seagull: Yes, he was ready to fight at the drop on the hat.

Speed Record Set By U.S. Destroyer

The new navy destroyer McCall made 42 knots—said to be the fastest speed ever turned out by a naval craft—in preliminary acceptance tests completed Monday, it was learned the other day.

The speed, equal to 47 land miles per hour, was reported maintained for four hours in a test run outside the Golden Gate. Specification speed for the 1500-ton displacement vessel is 38½ knots per hour.

Twin screwed and oil powered, the 341 foot McCall is the first naval ship to be built by a private company since 1921. She was constructed in the San Francisco yards of the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation, Ltd.

Preliminary tests for the McCall were made by Bethlehem officials under the supervision of Alfred S. Gunn, general manager. She was 15 months in building.

Ensign Johnson Married

On June fifth at half after eight in the evening, Ensign B. Johnson of this vessel was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Houghten of Long Beach, California, in a ceremony which was performed at St. Mathew's Church of Long Beach.

The groom at present is enjoying an 18 day leave of absence from his ship's duties. The entire ship's personnel wish to extend him and his bride congratulations and the best of luck.

The best man was Ens. Ray Thompson and maid of honor, Miss Jeanne Houghten. Bridesmaids were Mrs. A. Ageton, Mrs. H. Pool, Mrs. M. Hansen, and Mrs. J. Lewis. The ushers were Ens. D. V. Wengrovius, Ens. R. W. Meyers, Ens. C. I. Raymond, and Ens. F. Springer.

The printer is interested in finding copies of the first two Blue Bonnets, not of the present series, but the issues put out in China previously. There were only two editions printed. Anyone who has, or knows the whereabouts of a copy of these two, please let the printer know.



? The Gulf Coast line of the United States is nearly 300 miles longer than the Pacific Coast line.

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? As the initial step in tying Alaska with the Aleutian Islands into our scheme of Pacific defence, the Navy Department formally established an air base at Sitka, Alaska on June 1, 1938.

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? The San Pedro-Long Beach breakwater is 12,500 feet long and exceeds anything of its kind in the world.

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? The U.S.S. Manley on Dec. 6, 1937, broke the record in making a quick passage through the Panama Canal. She was on the Pacific side of the Canal when she received orders to transit the Canal with all possible speed in order to investigate a gun runner off the coast of Honduras.

!!!

? In the cities of Egypt there flourishes a system of five scales of prices. One for Egyptians. A second, 10 per cent higher, for all the Arabic-speaking peoples. A third, 100 per cent higher, for the black, brown or yellow folk who do not speak Arabic. A fourth, 500 per cent higher, for Europeans. And the fifth, unhampered by any limit and gauged only by the gullibility of the buyer, for tourist's from the United States.

!!!

? Part of the income of India's Aga Khan, spiritual head of 100,000,000 Ismaelian Mohammedans, comes from the sale of his daily bath water, which is put up in bottles. Faithful Mohammedans believe that it has the powers of healing, and they pay five dollars a bottle for it.