



THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

The response to the Christmas Party questionnaire produced some interesting figures. For one thing over half the HOUSTON'S Navy juniors are under 5 years of age. It was originally intended to restrict the ages of the children attending to the limits of 5 to 12 years. However, as there are so many very young children we have stretched a point and will include children down to three-year-olds. We wish we could ask the babies to come also but fear that the presence of those under three might be embarrassing to all concerned. We hope the babies and their parents will not feel slighted and will remember that they will have their innings in a year or so. Also we might drop a hint that Santa Claus will not forget the infants even though they are not present at the party.

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PERMANENT APPOINTMENT

The Blue Bonnet on behalf of the ship's company wish to congratulate the Commissary on receipt of his permanent appointment as Chief Commissary Steward. Nolan J. Barnett has served in the navy for a period of ten years and on board the Houston for one year. How about it Stew, do we get an extra nite-ration?

NEW "PAPA"

Word was received that Thursday morning Lt. (jg) Weller became the proud father of a daughter. Much to the relief of any number of people with flight orders, the father is doing as well as can be expected.

SURPRISE INSPECTION OF SHIPS

There has been a change in the method of inspecting ships. We will have two military inspections a year. These inspections are to be a surprise. The ship to be inspected and the assisting ship are to be notified at 1800 the day before the inspection.

Due to the change of procedure it behooves everyone to have a suitable suit of inspection clothing at all times. Have one suit for inspection purposes only. Keep it clean and neat. A good man-of-wars-man is always ready for inspection anytime, any place. The Houston is always prepared to meet any emergency!

**MACHINE GUNNERS
COMMENDED**

During the period that the Houston was in San Francisco six marines and two seamen attended a two week period of extensive training at the Fleet Machine Gun School aboard the Utah. The period was devoted to intensive training in the knowledge of the gun and to firing at towed targets.

In commending upon the ability of the various men the Captain of the Utah said that all men applied themselves with praiseworthy effort and that the following men are especially to be commended: Chapman, G. W., Pfc; Withey, C. H., Sgt., Stockton, H., Pvt., and Nelson, H. F., Cpl. These men are to be congratulated upon the fine showing that they made at the school and should prove an asset to our gunnery organization.

NAVY PERSONNEL SITUATION

In the annual report of the Secretary of the Navy for the fiscal year 1936, the statement is made that for the fiscal year of 1936 the average enlisted strength of the Navy was 88,000 men which permitted the increase in the allowance of vessels to 85.9 percent of enlisted war complement against 81 percent for the year of 1935. The report then goes on to say that in order to provide a sufficient nucleus for war time needs and to sufficiently man the new vessels which will be commissioned this coming year the average strength for 1937 should be increased to 96,500 men.

This same report states that the situation in respect to officer personnel is not as favorable as that of with
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SAN PEDRO DISPENSARY MOVED

On Friday 20 November, 1936 the San Pedro branch of the Long Beach Naval Dispensary was moved from its former location in the Bank of San Pedro Building to the new Post Office and Custom House Building, Beacon Street between 8th. and 9th. Streets, San Pedro.

The Branch Dispensary will occupy the North East wing of the third floor of the building.

HERBERT SCHIFF TROPHY

The Herbert Schiff Trophy was awarded for the fiscal year of 1936 to VN Squadron 8D5 of Annapolis, Md. which is commanded by Lt-Comdr Andrew C. McFall, USN. This trophy is emblematic of aircraft operations conducted with a maximum of safety.

—: 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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14 NOVEMBER, 1936

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ATHLETICS

Last week the Blue Bonnet printed a story referring to the lack of support in athletic activities, which in many parts of the ship was discussed by many of the men interested in athletics.

I heard many of these discussions, and may I recommend one thing of interest to all. Why don't more of these petty officers encourage their men to go out for some team to represent the ship?

This statement seems to be a passward around the ship; one that goes like this: "Why don't our teams ever win"? What's wrong with our team? Well, just to satisfy a few of you shipmates, I'll answer both questions for you. The answer to these questions are: There is absolutely nothing wrong with our teams. They are well drilled by coaches who know a great deal about Baseball, Basketball, Rowing, Boxing, Wrestling, etc.

It is not our team that is losing the games, it is you, men of the good ship Houston.

At some of our games, if there had been a little cheering, it would have been a different story.

Those fellows on the different teams are only human and they need at least a little encouragement from the rest of the ships company, if they expect our teams to ever win.

Until the ship's company decides to help out, no better results can be expected. —Mr. "X"

The Blue Bonnet staff concurs one hundred percent with the above article. It is hoped that the ship's company takes it seriously enough to give the various teams the backing and encouragement they need and deserve. It shouldn't be so hard to do either, these games and matches are plenty interesting to watch.

This is the second article by our

anonymous Mr. "X". It is hoped that in the future he will continue to contribute to the paper. He has some very good ideas and doesn't beat around the bush expressing himself. The staff thinks that they are good, what do you readers think?

Mr. "X" also handed in some very good personal "Questions and Answers" which were incooperated in "Nosey News". The only reason they weren't given a separate column is because "Nosey News" is supposedly written by Ev'body. It is written by one person from contributions by everybody. It is hoped that Mr. "X" and other members of the ship's company will continue to contribute to this column so that no one will be exempt from the "see all and hear all" sleuths.

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BASKETBALL

During the past two weeks our basketball squad has been working out steadily, preparing for the Cruiser Series which is scheduled to open about December 9.

At present our opponents in order, are not known, but that means little to this years squad. They are ready to go now and are eagerly looking forward to the opening date. With a few of last season's squad back with us and a wealth of new material, the starting line-up will most likely be in doubt until just before game time.

The only noticeable weakness to date is the center jump. We have the players who can play that all important position well, but getting the tip-off is not their specialty.

This fact does not materially weaken the team since the entire squad is working on air-tight defense and good team work. These two factors will carry them a long ways toward their goal, this season, the Cruiser Championship.

Advance dope on other Cruiser teams indicate our boys will have to be at their best to come through.

These past few weeks has found the team pointing toward just that, being at their best, being in the win column from the opening date until the finals.

McQueen—To history, the Liberty Bell is worth a great deal of money.

St. Marie—I don't see why, the bell is cracked.

WRESTLERS WIN 33 TO 5 OVER
CHICAGO GRAPPLERS
BOXERS LOOSE 8 TO 5

Opening the CruScoFor boxing and wrestling season, the HOUSTON boxers and wrestlers tangled with the CHICAGO Saturday nite at Trona Field, San Pedro.

Wrestling was staged first, with our mat men coming through to win seven out of eight bouts,

Duggan, 118 lbs, Chick, 126 lbs and Hennessey, 135 lbs won by default, while Arthur, 145 lbs, Pratt, 155 lbs, Fordemwalt, 165 lbs and Folta, 170 won their matches in convincing style. Henry, our heavyweight gave a fine account of himself before being thrown.

The excellent showing of the wrestlers was the result of long hard weeks of steady training, and a lot of credit is due Lt. Young, Whitey Wellbourne, BM2c. and Juul, Cox, in their fine coaching.

It is a record our athletic teams can shoot at. This first win in the 36-37 season is the greatest win a Houston wrestling squad has ever chalked up.

Due to lack of material our boxing squad did not fare so well, but credit goes to Hasty in his scrap which he lost in a close decision.

Hill picked up some points for the team via the default route, while Carter, another promising Houston entry was unable to enter the ring due to sudden illness.

Lt. Davis, Carp. Calb, CCstd Barnett and Kollemer, WT1c. have done their bit toward developing a boxing squad this year. All that is necessary to have a great squad is the appearance of a few more candidates. There must be a few potential champs in our midst.

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AIR MAIL SERVICE

News of an Air-Mail stop being authorized at Long Beach should be good news to all hands. Service men have long felt this arm of our mail service would be a great advantage since so many of us have a considerable amount of correspondence.

This service will be inaugurated December 1, 1936. Of interest to many of our shipmates is the added note that the usual treatment of Philatelic mail will be accorded.

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Mail the "Blue Bonnet" home!



**NOSEY
NEWS
'BOUT
EV'BODY**

"Home again" is the Rambling Houston and her cavorting Houstonites. Looking over reports available we find the prospects of an early return to the Home Port did not effect that Grand Finale week-end in 'Frisco, there is even a faint suspicion some of the lads secretly hoped the Bay City would find us riding at anchor in her front yard for some time to come.

Getting back to the GG paradise - the first night failed to prove our theory that Hamburger Canyon had planned a Gala welcome; instead a number of our shipmates decided to put on a gala homecoming celebration.

The Howler of the Fan-Tail, Sharp, led off by surrounding a cargo of giggle juice, enough to last him through his mid-night reville attempt.

John Lee, muscle man extraordinary of the "E" made the first night rounds in typical BatFor style, kid gloves and all. He was last seen heading for the famed C-30, a popular rendezvous of many of our thrill seeking shipmates.

Moulten, a Stb'd. hangar employee found things to his liking the first night too, matter of fact, the lad parked in the same spot so long the manager assessed a parking fee.

Rush calls seemed to be the order of the day, no sooner than the first line was at the buoy, last Wednesday. Hanna of the "N" and Chmielewski of the 2nd received their rush calls from San Pedro. A surprising bit of news to learn these two lads have drifted as far away as Pedro?

In a way of showing his appreciation, Brown of the "F" has recently taken unto himself a bright red pair

of socks. To the experienced eye these socks appear to be of the feminine cut.

Burwell of the Comm. Deck breezed in from his long leave telling tall tales of the midwest, but private info leads us to believe he had to make up those tales.

A certain 3rd. class EM is sending high praises to the heavens in honor of the Sody Font these days. Seems the lad burned out a bearing one recent evening and tomato juice was the only antedote.

A new angle on "Fog over 'Frisco" is about to be published since that recent scare the GG's had.

The No. 1 Stooze in the 1st Lieut.'s office, Berg, admits his efforts to reform Schrum and Guard are not very successful. Guard says he needs little guidance when shore-side, even tho he did find it rather difficult to get home the first liberty.

Headlines in the making is what some call this. Vizard, CPhm. nonchalantly strolling down the deck with a 36" pipe wrench in his mits.

Boris, big "I" man of the Engineers should join the club. Maybe his nocturnal musings would cease then. Some of his shipmates admit it would be entertaining if he weren't so vague.

Who is the enterprising young Radioman that copied a message stating that:—"This man was horribly discharged", can it be the same individual whose weather report today had "disability zero?"

We are unable to make a statement concerning McNesby and his two flat foot friends in 'Frisco. We know they spent an entire week in futile search for some addresses. Maybe Mac will have an opportunity to continue his search soon. ? ? ?

What is this rumor concerning "Swede" Larson acting in the role of "match-maker" ? ?

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

To make a small story short, we will use a title of a song for the answers and for more information, you will question person involved:

Q Why does CWT Law part his

hair on the side. A It's the accent on youth.

Q Why does the Chief Printer use so much Foo-foo. A Just a gigilo.

Q Did Clymer profit by his experience the past week. A Brown eyes, why are you blue.

Q Why does McCarty come aboard in the wee hours of the morning and stand before the mirror combing his hair. A When did you leave heaven.

Q Why did McCormick growl at the mess cook in no. 2 Mess hall. A I just couldn't take it baby.

Q Why is CWT Smith always wearing a big smile. A He's an old cow hand.

Q When is Ridgie Boy going to comb his hair. A When the roses bloom again.

Q What do you think of the last liberty, Whatley, and why so much excitement. A Sweet Violets and Show me the way to go home.

Q Did Durant profit by the lecture given him by a fair maiden from 'Frisco. A You're an old meanie.

Q Why is Paul Lawson saving his hard earned pennies. A I'm a'headin' for the last round-up.

That is all this time, but beware for you may be the next patient.

NEW OFFICER TO REPORT

Despatch orders were recently received ordering Lieut. (jg) Edwin A. McDonald, USN to the Houston for duty. It is expected that he will report today. For some time now Mr. McDonald, who is a member of the Naval Academy Class of '31, has been under treatment at the Naval Hospital, San Diego.

THINK IT OVER!

When you have to wait in line for a hair cut, don't growl. The same applies at the canteen, and for delayed laundry and tailor services.

Just remember, during the past month the Houston has averaged over 775 officers and men in the ships company.

Zeitfuss—Why are you waving your hands in the air?

Osborne—Silence Stupid; I'm taking first year shorthand.

BM1c—I always thought a Baseball Coach had four wheels".

Yeo3c—Well, don't they?

HONOLULU BOUND

This past week Mach. Hobart T. McCrary received despatch orders to the Navy Yard Pearl Harbor, T. H. for a tour of shore duty. It is expected that Mr. McCroary will be detached about five December. He will sail for Honolulu leaving San Francisco about 14 January 1937.

THIS WEEK IN NAVAL HISTORY

November 23, 1862—Expedition to Jacksonville, N. C., under Lieut. W. B. Cushing.

November 24, 1776—U. S. Ship Alfred (24 guns), Captain J. P. Jones, captured three British vessels off Isle Royal.

November 25, 1861—Reconnaissance in St. Helena Sound, S. C., by the U. S. squadron under Comdr. P. Drayton.

November 26, 1846—Boats of the U. S. Brig Somers, under Lieut. J. L. Parker, burnt the Schooner Creole, under the guns of the Castle Juan d'Ulloa, Vera Cruz, Mexico.

November 27, 1864—Naval expedition up the Broad River, S. C., by the squadron under Rear-Adm. J. A. Dahlgren.

November 28, 1812—Capture of Fort Niagara, Lake Erie, by the boat expedition under Lieut. S. Angus, and the army expedition under Lt. Col. Boerstler.

November 29, 1775—Continental Schooner Lee (4 guns), Capt. J. Manly, captured the British Ordnance Ship Nancy, at sea.

Hodges:—"Dearest, your stockings are wrinkled."

Heart-Throb:—"You Brute! I don't have any on."

Burke:—"Why do you always eat with your knife?"

Dainwood:—"Because the fork leaks."

ROMANCE

Jack and Jill went up the hill
To see the Fleet at anchor;
Jill got home so late that night
Her mother had to spank her.

OSCAR'S OPUS NO. 7
(Dedicated to Sam Veller)

"BABY FELLERS"

Lots of people vunder vhy
Liddle baby fellers cry;
Yu vould tu if yu skol get
Seat of britches soaking vet
And if yu ban hungry tu
Ve skol hear some noise from yu.

Baby fellers yell real strong
Til yu fix da ting dats wrong
Shange deir pants and give dem fude
So dey feeling plenty gude;
Baby fellers never cry
If tummy's full and pants ban dry.
—OSCAR

SCHUMAN-HEINK 1861—1936

One of the greatest contraltos of her age, a marked favorite as a grand-opera star, as a concert singer and as a radio artist. She was born at Lieben in Bohemia. At the age of 17 she appeared in Dresden in her first grand opera roll, that of Azucean in *Il Trovatore* and for many years thereafter, sang in various parts of Germany. She gave her first performance in an American city at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York in 1898. Her deep rich voice was enjoyed as fully when she sings simple folk songs in her recitals.

Her principle gift to the American soldiers was her Grossmont estate. This estate is only a short distance from San Diego, Calif. This gift was made in 1928 as a refuge for sick and disabled veterans of the World War, and their families.

Her words were: "You have honored me by calling me 'Mother' you honored me by honoring my boy who died on a submarine."

She is to be given a full military funeral by the Hollywood post of the American Legion. Her untiring efforts during the war to make evenings pleasant for the ones in various training stations endeared her in the hearts of the A.E.F.

The World has lost a wonderful person, those who have heard her and know her wish her soul "may rest in peace".

Passenger—Does this bus stop at the Ritzmore Hotel?

Conductor—No sir, we leave it at the barn at night.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY
(Continued From Page One)

We have also decided to invite the mothers of the children attending. This is going to mean, for one thing that the commissary department will be placed on its metal. The bill of fare will come under the keen eye of real experts this time. Cooks and Bakers, do your stuff!

For the division Christmas trees it has been decided to merge the smaller divisions. The "R" and "V" divisions will work together, the "N" division will join the "C" division and the "H" division will join the "E" division. This will make a total of 14 division Christmas trees with about 6 children assigned to each. The division committees mentioned in a former issue of the Blue Bonnet have now been organized and are beginning to function. Stand by for a call for help, more news about the work of the committees will appear in next week's issue.

Mr. Quackenbush has found dramatic talent for the "Happy Hour" but needs some more acts. Don't hide your light under a bushel, step up and make your theatrical ability known!

NAVY PERSONNEL SITUATION
(Continued From Page One)

regards to enlisted personnel. Studies indicate that 7,941 line officers are necessary to man fully the treaty navy now authorized and building. Legislation inacted by the last Congress authorized the increase from 5,491 to 6,531 line officers, leaving a deficiency will in part be taken care of by detailing aviation cadets to three years sea duty. Other methods of relieving the shortage are being studied.

Never in the history of the peace time Navy has there been such wonderful opportunity for advancement in rating. It behooves every man to take advantage of this advancement. With a proposed increase of some 8,000 men a good many new rates are going to open up. However these require that a man prepare himself by careful study and diligent work. They will go to the man who is best fitted, not to the man who figures that it is only a question of time and doesn't put forth the necessary effort to take advantage of the so-called break.