

Chick Meets San Diego Force Champion

Chick, champion of the 118 lb. class wrestlers of the battleships, cruisers, repair ships, and aircraft carriers based at San Pedro, and pride of the "V" Division aboard our good ship Houston, will try his wares against San Diego's chosen one in this class.

When he goes out there to the center of the mat, with him will go the hopes and best wishes of all hands aboard. The meet will take place in the near future at the Navy Field, Pico Landing, Long Beach.

The San Diego based contingent will meet the Long Beach vessels in boxing and wrestling. Out of these fights will emerge the all-Navy champions. The battleships-heavy cruisers bouts of two weeks ago gave the Heavy Cruisers two positions out of eight on the wrestling team and four out of seven on the boxing team. Incidentally, this year is the first year which the Heavy Cruisers ever beat the battleships in boxing.

Following is a summary of the men who make up the Long Beach team:

Wrestling

118 lb.	Chick, E.A. (Hou)
126 lb.	Carson, Q.A. (Col)
135 lb.	Stiles, H.M. (Idaho)
145 lb.	Dietz, T.E. (Tenn)
155 lb.	Cahow, G.W. (Nev)
165 lb.	Skok, J. (Penn)
175 lb.	Phillips, A.A. (Tenn)
Heavy	Drake, B.K. (Ind)

(Continued on Page 4.)



SHIPMATES

During the past few years those of us who have had the pleasure to serve on the good ship HOUSTON have seen a lot of men come and go.

On the 10th of February when the Indianapolis came alongside we lost some excellent shipmates. It was a pleasure to have such excellent shipmates as Admiral Tarrant, his Staff and enlisted personnel on board.

Our wish is that wherever they may go success and happiness will follow and that they will always remember that the gangway on the HOUSTON is open to one and all, Always.



Water, Water, Everywhere

In the old days only a few hundred gallons of fresh water were carried in our warships, and this water was guarded well and rationed to the crew with care, so that enough water would be maintained on board for drinking purposes. Salt water was used for bathing, as fresh water was too precious. Today in our navy it is a different story, for enough fresh water is made by the evaporators to care amply for all hands' showers and thirsts.

Abraham Lincoln Sixteenth President

Feb. 12, 1808 - Apr. 15, 1865

Today is the birth date of one of our country's greatest men. Let us recall for a few minutes the not too well known events by which fate or chance seemed to guide his destiny.

In accordance with the customs of the time Abraham, after his 21st birthday, left the home of his father, Thomas Lincoln, to make his own way in the world. For two years he engaged in various pursuits such as building a flatboat, in company of others, and conveying a cargo of furs and produce from Beardstown, Ill., to New Orleans. After this voyage he returned to New Salem, Ill. Shortly after his return an election was held, one of the election clerks was ill and unable to be present. One of the clerks, who was also the local schoolmaster, in searching for a colleague, asked Lincoln if he could write, as that was the main qualification for the job. Upon assurance that he could Lincoln was immediately induced into office. After the election Lincoln went to work in the store of a Mr. Denton Offute as a clerk and spent much of his time studying English grammar, having borrowed a text book from the schoolmaster.

In March, 1832, Lincoln, when 23 years old, announced himself a candidate for election to the State Legislature from Sangamon County. The election of candidates to this office did not occur until August, and in the meantime Governor Reynolds, directed General Neale of the Illinois Militia to organize six hundred volunteers of his brigade for military duty

— : THE BLUE BONNET : —

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12 February, 1936

Abraham Lincoln

(From Page 1.)

against the Indians under Black Hawk, the war chief of the Sacs. Lincoln joined a volunteer company and to his own surprize was elected captain. On April 21, 1832, the company was organized at Richmond, Sangamon County, and on April 28 was inspected and mustered into service at Beardstown and attached to Colonel Samuel Thompson's regiment, the Fourth Illinois Mounted Volunteers. the campaign produced no serious fighting and the volunteers not being enlisted for any specified period of time became anxious to be mustered out of service which was done on May 27 by orders of the Governor. Not wishing to weaken his forces before the arrival of new troops already enroute, the Governor called for volunteers to remain in service for twenty days longer. Therefore, on the same day on which he was mustered out as a captain, Lincoln reenlisted as a private in Captain Iles company of mounted volunteers, organized primarily for scouting service. Other officers who imitated this patriotic example were General Whiteside and Major John T. Stuart with whom Lincoln later practiced law. Captain Iles' company was mustered out of service on June 16, 1832 after having faithfully performed its duties, and Lincoln returned to New Salem. During the election the August following, he was defeated in the campaign for election to the legislature. This is the only time he was ever defeated on a direct vote of the people.

In 1834 Lincoln was elected to the Illinois legislature where he served until 1841 when he retired from public

life and practiced law in Springfield, Illinois, in partnership with his old friend, Major John T. Stuart. In 1846 Lincoln again returned to public life upon being elected to the House of Representatives where he served one term. In 1858 he debated the Slavery Question with Stephen A. Douglas in the latter's successful campaign for reelection to the U.S. Senate.

Two years later the new Republican party met in convention at Chicago to nominate their presidential candidate. The favorite was Senator William H. Seward of New York who was later to be Secretary of State in Lincoln's cabinet, but due to his great political prominence, the party leaders were afraid to nominate him and nominated Lincoln instead, who, the little known outside of his own state had a solid reputation of many years standing for sincerity, frankness and honesty. In the election that followed, Lincoln would have been badly defeated had it not been that the Democratic vote was divided between two candidates, so it seems that fate interceded at this critical time and provided the Union with this kindly, country lawyer who was destined to be one of our greatest leaders.

Many volumes have been written on the civil war, its campaigns, and the life of Lincoln, but there is no room for further comment on them here. Rather, I would like to suggest that, whether familiar with it or not, you take the necessary few minutes and look up "Lincoln's Gettysburg Address." You will be richly rewarded. It was delivered November 19th, 1863, at the dedication of a memorial on the Battlefield at Gettysburg, Penn.

When the war was over Lincoln stood steadfast in defence of the South against those of the North who would plunder it. "Enough lives have been sacrificed, we must extinguish our resentments," he said at what was to be his last cabinet meeting.

But Lincoln's star had already set, he was shot while attending a performance in Ford's theater the evening of April 14th, 1865 and died the following day.

* * * *

SEND the BLUE BONNET to the folks at home.



Dear Sal,

Time's been a flyin' like green water through tha scuppers on its way back to tha briny since I put my hand to writin' matter. But us Navies shure been a bearin' down hard durin' this season 'stead o' patchin' up harness and tools like you uns do back on your places.

Please be a forgivin' a body for his forgettin' ways. Sal, 'cause my heart stills warms a mite for you. And if you haven't traipsed up tha middle o' Squire Milltruck's preachin' house with that no account Felix Jackson a danglin' you on his arm you can do me a pert heap o' good by sendin' me writin' matter.

'Member that little squirt, Exodus Jones, who allus had to drape tha ol' school's dunce cap over his no account ears at school whenever his Pa could spare him from chorin'? Tha hankerin' o' tha sea musta ate into his bones so or his old man musta been larrupin' tha tar outa his onery hide again - - - - anyway, bein' past tha consent age he joined up with tha Navy for a hitch 'cause I ran smack dab into tha critter tha other day. He was peelin' tators on tha spud pile.

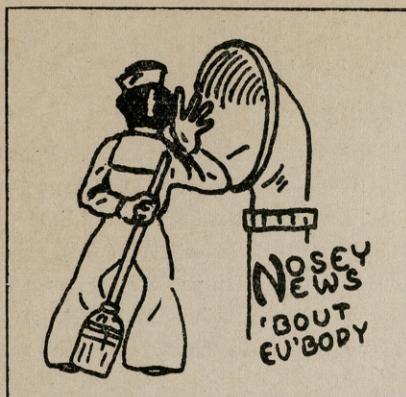
Exodus got up when he saw me a buggin' my eyes out at him. "Gus, you all heah too?"

Seen' he was down in tha dumps and not wishin' to say more 'count o' puttin' more bilge water on his spirits I only said, "yes."

He looked so sad. After a spell he sorta slithered down and took to blubberin'. "Fust, they axed me to walk 'round with a squirrelin' piece. They took to makin' me sleep in a swingin' bed. Now they got me a doin' female work - - - - and no pone or pot likker to put in a body's belly. I was raised on 'em eatin's."

"Yeah," said I, hittin' him 'cross

(Continued on page 4.)



Greetings shipmates and congratulations to those who advance another step in their rate. During this week, two events of great importance occurred. First we had our annual Admiral's Inspection which came off with best results. All hands are congratulated for their untiring efforts in keeping the Rambler Ship up to its usual standard. Second, the advancement in ratings quota which shows that there is always an opportunity to become what you desire in this mans Navy.

Sure sorry to see the Flag leave us, not only because we lose our good berth, but because they sure are a pretty good gang of fellows. Here's hoping we get them back on board soon. With them goes that well organized orchestra and our nightly happy hours.

"Rebel" Rogers, Seaman of the "F" says he can't send mail to his home in Georgia if the stamp has General Sherman on it. Can't forget that ride thru that fair state. His secret ambition is to become a member of the K.K.Ks.

Many hard words have been directed at me due to some items in this column but the latest and hardest was being told that I should be horse-whipped for some of the items published. No hard feelings are intended in this column but we must publish news which interests the crew.

This Saturday finds the Houston represented in the Fleet finals by Chick of the "V" Division. Lets all go out there and cheer him to a victory and watch him bring back a Fleet belt to this ship. Good Luck to you Chick.

Wednesday's noon meal had all hands mouths watering and much credit must be given to the cooks for putting out a meal such as they did. Won't be long before we will be losing two of our best liked cooks, Paul and Andy Slovak. They intend to return to Wyoming and put out their delightful meals to Dudes who visit the ranches noted for their wonderful entertainment.

Wonder if the person whose slippery fingers happened to take a package of cigarettes from the petty officers' washroom has an idea of what he actually did take. Inside the package of cigarettes was a bit of money and a cigarette lighter. Pretty cheap of him to take a package of less than five cigarettes.

DeBri is being haunted lately by the Foutch twins. Always has one on either hand asking him sultry questions. The only way he can escape them is by going ashore and then he dreams of them.

Now that we have three SK2c's on board, they are all arguing as to who will be transferred first. Sivak and Yates are competing for duty at Samoa while Cochrane desires duty in San Francisco so that he can be closer to his fair one.

Talking about storekeepers has us wondering whether Slough really intends to sell ice-cream in Galveston. He is the type who would eat more than he'd sell. Two-to-one he'll ship over. This gamble due to his desire to be close to Wilmington.

Don't forget that we have a wonderful chance of getting a number of points in Athletics. The Basketball team has a couple of games coming off and lots of support should be given them.

Won't be long before we will be losing one of the most liked officers on board. Heres hoping we may all have the chance to serve with you once again Mr. Ball.

Also noticed in orders to officers that Lt-Commander V.M. Davis will become the Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. WASMUTH. We wish him the best of luck in his new command.

(Continued on page 4.)

Little Ocko ...

Ivan E. "Ski" Mustain, SM3c, has come back to the fold like all good sailor men do. "There's something about a sailor's life —," how about it Ski? Needless to say we'll be glad to go up on the bridge and see that happy, smiling face again! Welcome!!

Johnny Sharp, GM2c of turret three's efficient crew, has had some time explaining the black eyes and so on received on entering the compartment in the dark recently. Don't know for sure if he fell over a hatch or what. Ask Lewis, BM1c, Johnny, maybe he can tell you what happened.

A. M. G. Kunz, SC3c, our Clever Cleaver Master of the butcher shop is taking a rest cure in the sick bay. Before long we hope to see him back carving steaks once more.

Archie Holmquist, Stores Striker, is recuperating in the sick bay from an auto accident in Los Angeles. It becomes a miracle that more harm was not done after a look at his visage. Tough break, Pal.

Vendetti, SC1c, our Jack-o'-the-Dust, is again threatening to go out on twenty. Well, I'll tell you, he's been talking that way ever since he passed the sixteen year mark and is still good for thirty years.

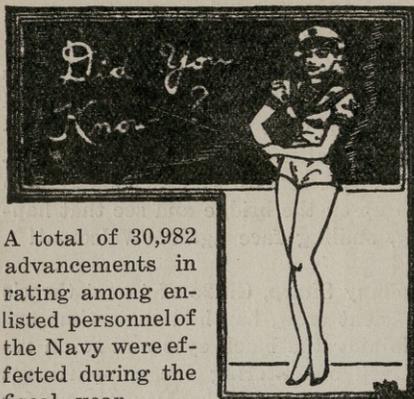
Saw Coats, ex-MM2c of the boat shop on the beach recently. Says he's making out fine. He's got the stuff it takes and we wish him a lot of luck. 'Congratulations to the boys who have succeeded in going one more step up the ladder of Navlife. Don't forget the "ceegars" fellows! Ought to be plenty of them—we hope!

"Tex" W.G. Farquhar, SC3c, left us for duty on the U.S.S. Kanawah, an oil tanker. Good luck Tex!

Hatch, CQM, has been in the habit of singing "The Music Goes Down and Round". The chiefs are hoping he gets a new tune soon.

Spike Mullane, Chief Sherriff has lost competition in the Quarters for having a loud voice. Freer,CY has gone back to the Indianapolis so Spike is alone in his glory.

(Continued on page 4.)



A total of 30,982 advancements in rating among enlisted personnel of the Navy were effected during the fiscal year.

That the noise created by twenty-seven singers is only twice that of one singer.

That "Coal Trees" have remained complete through the ages which turned them into coal. They are found in mines standing in their normal position and perfectly formed, except that their roots, trunks, branches, and even their leaves have been converted into coal.

That paper was invented in China about 102 A.D. It was introduced into Spain by the Moors in 1151, where its resemblance to papyrus led the Europeans to call it paper. Paper did not come into general use until the fourteenth century, when a paper mill was erected in Germany. Most of the products of this mill were used for school books.

"Bluejackets in the U.S. Navy wear neither suspenders nor belts with regulation trousers. The trousers are made waist tight fit. In days of sailing ships when it was necessary to go aloft to furl sail, it was not desired to have any loops or articles of clothing which might be caught on the marlin spikes or pin rails."

The expression in the Navy of "going to mast" probably had its origin from sailing vessel days when the Captain of the ship meted out punishment for violation of the rules by holding court at the base of the mast. Today the practice is still in use, but in addition requests from enlisted personnel are considered at this time. When called before the mast for exceptional performance of duty, in order to make commendation, it is termed meritorius mast.

Nosey News

(From Page 3.)

Hearing the deckhands growl about all the brightwork they have to polish brings to light that firerooms have more brightwork than they have ever seen. They should take a look at No. 4 fireroom and see what brass really should look like.



Shepherd CSK has been doing quite a bit of growling lately. Seems that he is being reminded of his old Army days with the marching that goes on across the deck over the Chiefs' quarters all night. He just can't go to sleep because of this.



"Spike" Mullane gets quite a hand during his daily speeches in the messing compartment during meals. Sure has a voice that would make any Senator proud to possess.



As yet no one seems to know what that box in the forward messing compartment is for. That is where you place your bit of news concerning shipmates who should be in the light, so just remember to drop in notes revealing all events which can make this column longer and more nose-y. So till next week here's hoping that the box is filled with all the latest scandal and good news.

Gus's Weekly Letter

(From Page 2.)

his behind with a swab handle, "and you was raised by some o' this too."

'Pears to me that tha Navy is no place for tha likes o' him and he'll be a coolin' his heels in tha brig one o' these days, a wishin' for some good old Navy chow 'stead o' bread and water he'll be a gettin'.

Shure hope you ain't mad.

Love

Gus

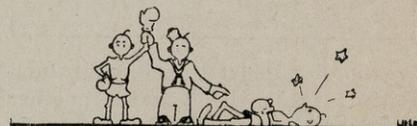
Luke had it before, Paul had it behind, Mathew never had it, all girls have it once, boys cannot have it. Old Mrs. Mulligan had it twice in succession. Dr. Lowell had it before and behind and he had it twice as bad behind as he had it before. What in the "L" was it?

All Navy Finals

(From Page 1.)

Boxing

- 118 lb. Mesecher, M.C. (Pens)
- 126 lb. Steed, C.D. (Arg)
- 135 lb. Grime, R. (Calif)
- 147 lb. Saxell, A. (Col)
- 160 lb. Hipps, S.F. (Pens)
- 175 lb. Bailey, W.P. (Arg)
- Heavy Gurlacz, H. (Miss)



Little Ocko

Says . . .

(From page 3.)

Prominently present at the rat races and stampede in the Majestic recently were Hattemer, 2nd Division boat cox'n, and Simmons, Exec's Office Yeoman striker. "Bucky" Haratyk, Spud Cox'n, was seen smiling with pleasure or sompin, while Hart and Balicki also ran.

Bill Murray, CWT, says one evening recently he opened the pantry door to see Shepherd, "nut and bolt" big man from G.S.K. with his head in the ice box. After waiting for some time Bill asked Shepp to move. Shepp said impossible and when Murray asked why, Shepherd told him he'd been in the ice box so long his ears had frozen and he was afraid to pull his head out. Murray gave up.

The Blue Bonnet, the Supply Department, Galley, and Bake Shop, in fact the entire Ship's Company, are soon to sustain a heavy loss. Our popular Chief Pay Clerk, Mr. Ball, leaves us on March 12. Little Ocko sure hopes he gets a chance to serve with him again some day! Mr. Ball will always be remembered as one of our finest officers and friends, and above all, a fine shipmate.

Fireman: "Wish we had a fifth for bridge."

Seaman: "You don't need a fifth for bridge, you dope."

Fireman: "Well then, make it a pint."