

Many Attractions Offered By Southern California

HAVE You been to the Pike (Hamburger Canyon) in Long Beach? What, you never heard of it? Better go on a little exploring trip next time you go ashore and visit this marvel of Southern California.

Most of you think that there isn't so much around these parts, but as a matter of fact Southern California offers a greater variety of attractions, more to see and do and remember, we believe than any other single resort area anywhere.

Have you ever visited the California Alligator Farm, the W.K. Kellog Arabian Horse Ranch, The Los Angeles Ostrich Farm, or Gay's Lion Farm? These places are most interesting to visit and are all within easy reach of Los Angeles, either by auto or bus.

The California Alligator Farm is located near Lincoln Park, Los Angeles. There are hundreds of alligators of all sizes, from little babies hardly the size of a lizard to huge monsters 500 years old or more. The nests, the eggs in the incubators, all are to be seen in beautiful parks and miniature lakes with special exhibitions given daily of trained alligators shooting the chutes.

W. K. Kellog's Arabian Horse Ranch lies near Pomona, California. One sees much beautiful country to and from the ranch itself. At this farm with its white stables, surrounded by green pastures and fertile fields, are bred and raised the finest of Arabian stock. Many of these are prize winners and are much sought after by motion

Young Aviator Makes Perfect Landing

There was a roaring and a rush of wings as a great white bird with a long yellow bill throttled down and rolled to a perfect landing. A very, very young gentleman scrambled off his perch on the back of the bird and reported for duty to Lt. (jg) and Mrs. A. G. Dibrell. Lt. (jg) Dibrell who is attached to the aviation unit on board this vessel states that the youngster will be given every opportunity for bettering his flying technique, but is a bit young for solo work as yet.



Last Saturday, on the 30th of April, a son was born to the above mentioned parents. Although no facts were learned concerning his poundage, disposition, et cetera, all hands greet the newcomer with the best of wishes and hope he becomes a proficient aviator in the future. In the meantime the wardroom is anxiously awaiting the usual cigars.

picture producers. White uniformed attendants gladly show visitors around.

At the Los Angeles Ostrich Farm are the only trained Ostriches in the entire west.

These are but a few of the sights to be seen on leave or liberty from our ship. Go out and see this part of the world, and you'll enjoy it around here a whole lot better.

Baseball Team Ready For Series

IF YOU have noticed, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday you will hear the call, "Now the baseball team fall in on the quarter deck." This means that on these days the team musters and goes over to practice at the Navy Athletic Field.

From all reports the team is shaping rapidly into playing form and they will give the other cruisers something to worry about in the Spring series which will start somewhere about 18 May.

The squad under Worthington, SF2c, is made up of the same players who started playing good ball about the time we were leaving the Navy Yard. We have Felix, Sheffield, Waterman, Jones, Coates, Shaw, and Bird on the pitching staff. Jasinski is doing the catching as usual. Then in the infield there is Rebert at first base, Phillips at 2nd, "Pooch" Chumura (Capt.) at short, and Griekewitz (Kelly) at 3rd. Hattemer, Adams, and Wright are doing the fielding. Guard and Waterman help Worthington at coaching.

It is a known fact that the average age of our players is below that of any other baseball team in the service. In the long run this is bound to produce results if the necessary pep and backing from the ship is continued as it has in the past. The squad is a bit hampered by lack of equipment but this matter will be rectified in the near, future, so it will be "play ball" for the Rambler Ship's team when they hit the field in their first game.

FLASH — Friday's game: Saratoga 7, Houston 15.

—: 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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— Editorial —

Conversation is an art in which a man has all mankind for competition.

— EMERSON —

NAVY men have been stamped from time immemorial as being colossal bores since the only subject of conversation with which they are familiar is the Navy. Now, while we are not disparaging knowledge of your work, there's no use forcing a full enlistment upon friends and relatives, including mothers-in-law. To be sure, they will usually listen politely to your gory tales of the roaring main, take your laughter and ridicule of their ignorance of Naval terms with a wry smile, stifle a yawn of ennui with a fluttering hand, and adroitly attempt to switch the topic of conversation to something else. If their plan is successful and another subject, such as the President's policies, political and military measures in the Japanese conflict, or the European situation, is brought forth for consideration, you are left to flounder in a conversational maelstrom of a type you know nothing of.

If the mountans would not come to Mohammed, Mohammed went to the mountain. If conversation isn't within your tiny, narrow, begoted orbit, you'll have to increase your orbit so as to include more extensive fields. Remember that no matter how important the Navy is, or how important you think it is, it is not the center of the universe about which all must revolve.

When people mention Chiang Kaishek, do you mutter, "yes, he is a Chinese laundryman, isn't he? Now when I was on the Tuscaroara in 29 . . ." Your verbal opponents undoubtedly throw in the towel at this point, settle down with a pained

The Pantless Gunner Of Panay

Commend me to that noble soul
Who, in the battle's heat,
Rushed to his post without his pants,
The bomber's dive to meet;
Who stood upon the rocking deck
In careless disattire,
With shirt tail flaunting in the breeze,
To deal out fire for fire.
Old Glory's color deepened
As she floated o'er this son—
The man who had no time for pants
But plenty for his gun.
Come, name a million heroes,
But to me there'll never be
A finer show of nerve or grit
On any land or sea —
Then dwell upon your epics
Should you feel an urge for chants,
Recall the sinking Panay
And the gunner minus pants!

—Vaun Al Arnold.

The above poem has appeared in most of the ship's papers in the fleet, and we deem it proper that such a ballad should find its way into our Blue Bonnet also. Those of you who saw news reels of the bombing of the Panay will no doubt recall the pantless gunner, as he stood there in his shirt tail, returning the fire.

We're Crazy

There are meters of accent,
There are meters of tone,
But the best way to meter,
Is to meter alone.

There are letters of accent,
There are letters of tone,
But the best way to letter
Is to letter alone.

expresion, mentally award you the leather medal for the biggest bore of the century, and vow not to be in the next time you come to call.

Do a little outside reading when you can't make up your mind whether to go ashore or not. The Reader's Digest and similiar publications are strongly recommended as a foundation upon which to place your stores of current events gleaned from daiy persual of the newspapers. Increase your conversational orbit by finding out what is happening in this old world of ours and you'll find that your coming will be heralded instead of bemoaned.

Our Hospital Ships

A brief glance at the history of employment of hospital ships during the past 75 years will reveal that no first-class nation will carry on a major war without employing hospital ships to serve the Fleet.

The United States Navy's floating hospital, U.S.S. Relief, only hospital ship attached to the Fleet, takes care of the sick and injured personnel of the ships of the Navy. The Relief, placed in commission on 28 December, 1920, is the first ship of any navy in the world to be built as a hospital ship, is named after the first Relief, a converted vessel which served as a hospital ship during the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection, and the Chinese Boxer Uprising.

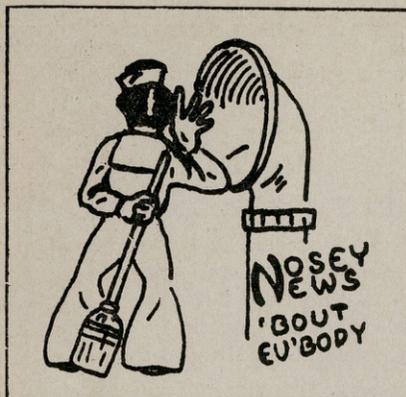
The present Relief is 483 feet long, 60 feet wide, has a displacement of 9800 tons, cruising speed of ten knots and a cruising radius of 15,000 miles. Though smaller than the average hospital ashore, it is equipped to handle 360 cases and 500 cases in an emergency.

This is more than the average hospital can handle. No less than ten medical officers, three dental officers, twelve nurses and 118 men of the hospital corps, who act as technical assistants, minister to 2200 patients each year.

About six new patients are received aboard the Relief each day for treatment of everything from broken legs, colds, burns, and aching teeth to the more serious diseases. One or more surgical operations are performed every day; 4417 major and 566 minor operations were performed last year.

Only 3 out of 1000 die, while 20.5 per cent are transferred to shore hospitals and 70.72 per cent recover within 30 days. The Relief has the most modern equipment that is obtainable and is ranked with the leading hospitals of the country.

The Relief is the only ship in the Navy which has women as regular members of the ship's complement. They are members of the Navy Nurse Corps. These nurses are seagoing and travel aboard the Relief as the ship accompanies the Fleet. The tour of duty aboard the hospital ship is very desirable and for one year only.



• **HEARTY** Greetings Shipmates and Friend,! Once again we greet you all from our local stompin' grounds and give you the latest news events. Our first Sunday here we had a few of our former shipmates visit us and tell us about their new positions. You probably remember Finnie, Ex-storekeeper striker, his new work is handling pottery in Los Angeles. Stoddard, ex-seaman of the 4th Division is now passing concoctions over the bar instead of receiving them.

• **THE** local police managed to snare another victim in their traps. This time our chunky baker Barricklo came in wide open and stepped right into one of them. Better watch out Bud, you're a marked man now.

• **THE** first liberty party was somewhat disappointed in not being able to go ashore as soon as liberty call sounded. Seems that the motor launches decided not to run on that day.

• **THE** latest rumors regarding all the traveling that we are going to do are beginning to worry the married men. If the dope is true, the name 'Rambler Ship' is rightfully the Houston's.

• **NEXT** month will see the Houston completing eight years of service with the forces afloat. Not many of the plankies left on board to tell about the wonderful trips this ship has had the fortune to make.

• **ONCE** again the crew is standing by for cigars, and congratulations are in order for the men who will have advanced another step in their rates. Quite a number of advancements will take place the 16th of this month.

• **SURE** is good to hear the State-side music again. Hawaiian songs are alright in their way but the many varieties we have here can't be beat.

• **'ERLY** Hoiman' Manley, GSK striker, was invited by Philips, SK3c to see a couple of girl friends. Seems that Phillips received a note telling him to come over and bring jack along. Manley is the only Jack he knows in the S Division, but then again she might have meant the kind of jack that is used to buy things with. The night before receiving this note he got another one telling him to meet the same girl. He waited three hours and finally came back to the ship a very disgusted person.

• **YATES**, SK2c, and Osborne of the Ship's Service must have their daily spat or their day would be spoiled. Heard Yates tell Osborne that he'd put his thumb on Osie and crush him to death.

• **WHITEY** Welbourn, our Sheriff, and Borghetti, our Betting Commissioner, were both recalled from leave in order that they get the proper training for next weeks firing. Their smiles were few and far between while manning their stations.

• **REBEL** Rogers of the Exec's Office wishes all hands to know that he did not have his teeth knocked out by any Yankee. Claims he fell asleep in the dentist's chair and woke up minus them. We can say that he's still managing to outdo most of the men on his mess.

• **MANY** men are quite upset about their coat of tan disappearing due to the lack of sunshine. They thought it would be time to go swimming in Long Beach when they got back but the unusual weather is still with California.

• **SMITH**, G. A., our former printer, is now struggling with types and presses on the U.S.S. Outside after 8 years in the service. Mark another ex-Houstonite down as making good on the beach where you have to be good.

Battalion of Death Blasts

And a good-afternoon to you. It has been many moons since this column has hit the print so here goes.—

The ol' dopester hasn't been around much since the cruise but gets the dope just the same. Some of the boys opened up a little once we hit the states again and did some things that are worth remembering. PFC Wilson seems to be striking for side-cleaner since he drank all that Sloe-gin. It left a nice pink color all over the side, and must have been pretty hard to get off.

One of our amateur photographers pulled a nice trick on our Police Sergeant the other day, his last few days aboard too. The man took some pictures on the trip around the island and didn't have the nerve to take them in to have them developed so, very innocently he gave them to Jenner, who also went back to get them. The girl clerk wanted to look through the pictures with Sarge and imagine his embarrassment when they ran across a certain picture that should never have been taken. . . Now Jenner is waiting for his relief to come aboard and then he will be on his way home for ten days before he has to be in Mare Island for duty. We will see him out on the good ship Houston when we scrape bottom. People like that just can't stay away.

Johnstone sure has been taking off since we came back. I wonder if he swings the Chrysler around like he did the bus in Honolulu.

Coursey and Norris, our two most up and coming communication orderlies, went ashore on a dollar and came back holding hands trying not to make any noise. They almost succeeded too.

Fabick is slowly getting his gear and clothing fixed for a quick pack-up. Lambie-pie isn't very far behind either. He isn't interested in the coming cruise, so he says.

And that is all there is time for before the press starts putting out this week's Blue Bonnet, so 'nice to have met you'.

An Experiensh

Imashin a man fallin up a wall.
He jush leant too far and tuk a fall.
Now everyone knowsh I tel no liesh,
And I shaw it widsh my own two eyes.

T'wash tha shillies thing I ever did shee,
For he shat on hish handsh with hish head on hish knees.
And he shat and he shat, such a stupid face
I laffed ash i shat on the empty case.

My casesh musavben bolted down
Caush i shat on the ceiling, my faysh to tha ground.
But thish man that had fell didn't thing it wash fun,
And before i had knew idt tha deed wash done.

He mushav slipped caush his hand hit my chin,
But maybe I'm wrong, caush he did idt again.
I wash tired anyway sho i wentto sheep.
Now the moral of thish is shorta shteeep.

If you wan to get shoushed like tha man in thish tale
Go ahead and drink yore doshtup ginger ale,
But i wanna shtay sober and defend myself
Like i'd a done thish morning if i'd had good healthsh.

Editors' Exclamations

Getting a paper out is no picnic;
If we publish original matter, they
say we lack variety,
If we publish things from other pap-
ers, they say we are too lazy to
write,
If we stay on the job, we ought to be
rustling up news,
If we don't print all contributions, we
don't show proper appreciation,
If we do print them, the paper is
filled with 'junk',
Like as not some fellow will say we
swiped this from some other
paper. Wel' we DID.
So how's about some contributions
for next week's paper?

Webb: The girls run after my kisses.
Hart: So what? After mine, they
limp.

Preacher's parrot: "What shall we
do to be saved? What shall we do to
be saved?"

Sailor's parrot: "Pump like hell or
we go to the bottom. Pump like hell
or we go to the bottom."

He who laughs last didn't get the
joke in the first place.

The Race

The tortoise never swerved from
the course. He looked neither to the
left nor to the right. He had eyes only
for the goal and mind only on the
prize. Mercilessly, inch by painful
inch he dragged himself onward in a
straight, unbroken line.

The hare was obviously the better
man and was off to an early lead. But
he could not pass a strange road with-
out darting off his course to inves-
tigate as far as he dared, and some-
times farther. There were many such
bypaths on the course, some dark and
forbidding, some bright and promis-
ing. To the inquisitive, wide-eyed
hare all beckoned irresistibly. He was
now thrilled, now terrified by what he
found. But he missed not one.

The tortoise reached the goal first.

Who won what?

—Howard Blake.
(A Coronet Item).

Seaman Sam says that paying ali-
mony is like putting nickles in the
gas meter after the stove has been
disconnected.

And Navy Bill says that a woman's
mind is cleaner than a man's because
she changes it more often.

What are you reading these lines
for? They're only here to fill in
Space



IT is an old Naval tradition that mari-ners who have been north of the Arctic Circle rate putting both feet on the messtable after supper, while those who have made the passage around the Horn can only put one foot on the table. All others keep their feet on the deck.

THERE is on record a ship that ran aground on the ice-bound coast of Chile and kept mules 'hauled out' to the port quarter boom for use as 'running boats' to the beach. Also, old whalers frozen in for the winter in the pack in Berring Sea frequently kept dogs and sleds secured to the ship for the same purpose.

THE submarine S-14, while running submerged off Bartlett Reef Light, broadcasted a radio message that was clearly picked up over ten miles away. This was the first time in history that this feat has been accomplished and was the result of several weeks of careful preparation by four civilian engineers.

BRITISH Warships of the home fleet are painted dark grey and those of the Mediterranean Squadron are painted light grey.

The ships on the China Station mostly cruisers and sloops, have white hulls and grey upperworks.

THAT only one German Submarine saw service from the beginning of the World War to the end of the war. This was the "Lucky U-19". She was surrendered to the British at the end of the war.

THAT Japanese Battleships and Aircraft are named after Japanese Provinces and mountains; their Cruis-ers are named after winds, trees, flow-ers and fruits.