

Volume IV

Long Beach, Calif., 27 March 1937

Number XIII

### WARDROOM NEWS

Recently a number of Wardroom Officers received orders detaching them from the Houston this spring. Lieutenant Moosbrugger has orders to the Naval Academy. Lieutenants (jg) Young, Peters and Davis have orders to the "Beef Boats," Brazos, Chaumont and Arctic respectively.

This past Monday, Ensigns Long, House and Mackenzie completed their professional Examination for Lieutenant, Junior Grade. All three feel confident that they were successful in these examinations. They will receive their commissions as lieutenant (jg) some time during the early summer.

At the present time Lt.(jg) G. L. Huff, Senior Aviator, Houston Aviation Unit, is taking his examinations for promotion to Lieutenant. He reports, "So far, I have known most of the answers."

A week ago Thursday the Houston Wardroom Officers gave a combination farewell and welcoming cocktail party to Vice Admiral Tarrant, Rear Admiral Fenner and their respective staffs at the Villa Riviera Hotel, in Long Beach.

### TRANSFERS AND DISCHARGES

Hayes, Q. P., F3c., USS Relief  
Kollmer, L. A., WT1c., NYD Mare Is.  
Ford, R. J., RM2c., USS Relief  
Connors, T. F., MM2c., Hon. Discharge  
Connors, T. F., MM2c; R/S New York

### RECEIPTS AND REENLISTMENTS

Davis, S. W. jr., Sea2c; NTS San Diego  
Canonizado, G., OffCk1c; USS Kalmia  
Moser, W. E., Bmkr2c; USS Relief  
Connors, T. F., MM2c; Reenlisted on board.



Easter is a happy time... it heralds the earth's awakening from winter's long sleep into her brightest season... springtime. These are days when smiles are gayer and hearts are lighter. May we wish all of Easter's joys and blessings, and the fullest enjoyment of the season to the Blue Bonnet's many friends and readers.

### CAPTAIN BARKER TO COMMAND HOUSTON

According to "Orders to Officers" appearing in a recent issue of the local newspaper, Captain George Nathan Barker will relieve Captain Guy E. Baker as Commanding Officer of the Houston. It is expected that Captain Baker will turn over his command some time during this coming July. At the present time Captain Barker is professor of naval science and tactics of the Naval R.O.T.C. Unit of Harvard University at Cambridge, Mass. Captain Barker, who is the holder of a Navy Cross, is a member of the Naval Academy class of 1907.

Upon being relieved Captain Baker will go to Washington, D.C., where he will have duty with the Chief of Naval Operations.

Mail the "Bonnet" Home!

### CHURCH SERVICES.

In accordance with the policy of Admiral Hepburn to have divine services held thruout the Fleet during the Lenten season, Chaplain Forsander of the Nevada will hold Protestant Services in the Houston at 0830 Easter Sunday morning. Easter marks the end of the Lenten season and will probably be the last Sunday for some time that we will have the opportunity of attending services aboard. Chaplain Forsander has the reputation of being a very good speaker and he will undoubtedly deliver an interesting sermon.

### AVIATION CADET DUGAN REPORTS

This past week Aviation Cadet Arthur J. Dugan, USNR reported aboard for duty with the Houston Unit of Squadron VS nine.

Mr. Dugan recently received his "wings" at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida. Between the time that he finished his course in Pensacola and reported to the Houston he visited his home in Corona, New York. The "Blue Bonnet" wishes our new shipmate HAPPY LANDINGS in his tour of duty aboard.

### A to N COURSE

According to the latest Bureau Navigation Bulletin, the courses for Water Tender, first class and Chief Water Tender are now ready for issue. These courses, to date haven't been received aboard; but, it is expected they will be in a short time.

—: 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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27 March 1937

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## Easter

Tomorrow is Easter Sunday, one of the most important Feast Days in Christendom. It is the day which symbolizes new life, new hope—new ideals for countless millions of peoples of every nation and color, of every Faith and Creed. More than nineteen hundred years have faded into the past since the first Easter Sunday; on that Sunday morning in far-away Judea, Christ arose gloriously from the tomb in which he had lain for three days. On the Friday before he had been put to a disgraceful death by people who either would not or could not understand his teachings.

No living personality, or personalities, have nearly approached the permanent imprint made on the minds of men by Christ, who was the foster Son of a lowly Jewish carpenter. During the thirty years He lived among men, He gave them rules for living that have had more effect on the peoples of the earth than all the written or spoken words since time began. And yet, if there had been no Easter Sunday, there would be no Christianity, no history as we know it, and the world would be quite a different world than the one we live in.

That which He taught has been followed by billions who are now mere dust; more millions and millions of Christians now living believe this Man was not a mere man, but the Son of God. Tomorrow these vast numbers of men and women throuout the world will honor and celebrate the day which is next in importance to His birthday; Easter Sunday, like Christmas, should be a day filled with joy and peace. May yours be all of that.

## INSTALLMENT CONTRACTS

It may be worth while to point out briefly some of the difficulties that beset installment purchasers. It is not intended to discuss the merits of extended credit. Many necessities or "necessary luxuries" are sometimes are obtainable in no other way. It should be remembered that the motive of the installment seller is primarily to gain a livelihood. This he cannot do by engaging in business at a loss. The seller's interests can be protected against loss only by a contract which will pass all risks to the purchaser. His motives are perfectly legitimate. The buyer's natural motives should lead him to read his contract thoroughly, determine the exact meaning of every provision and what risks it imposes upon him, and decide if he wishes to incur the risks and liabilities resulting from the proposed contract.

## Always Read Contract

A written contract should never be signed without reading it for the reason that its meaning is interpreted by reference to the written words. Oral testimony, in case of litigation, is not admitted to vary the terms of the contract. That principle is definitely established in the law. It is, moreover, specifically stated in most contracts that the agreement is fully set forth in the written document. In some cases there is a provision that the agent who signs the contract has no authority to change its printed terms. All he is authorized to do is to fill in the blanks. If he tells you that any written part of the contract is not binding on you, you should conclude that he is definitely unreliable and probably unscrupulous. A purchaser who delayed in making all or part of a required payment would be subject to any forfeiture provisions that the contract might contain.

## Not Property of Purchaser

For the added protection of the seller is customary to provide in such contracts that an article is to remain the property of the seller until the last payment is made. The same provision is part of the statute law of some states. What of it? Just this — the purchaser, so long as any part of the price remains unpaid, since he does not own the article, cannot deal with it as if he did own it.

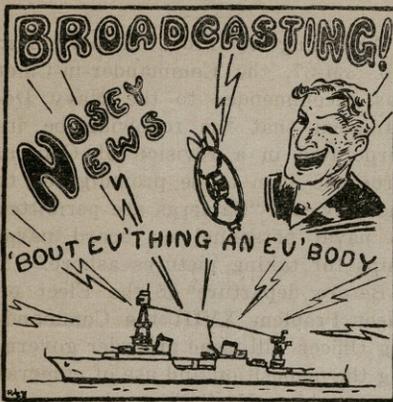
If he is short of cash and needs money he cannot sell it or pawn it. If he should do either he has committed a crime. How will anyone know? Well, he can't produce it on demand of the seller should he be delinquent in his payments. If he pawns it, there is apt to be a register which the pawn broker is required to keep of all transactions, available for security by anyone showing proper authority. The contract will probably provide that he must keep the article within certain limits, according to its nature. While more freedom would be allowed with an automobile, a sewing machine or a washing machine might on the other hand have to be kept at one address, unless the seller gave his written consent to move it. On change

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## NEW LIBRARY BOOKS

The following new fiction books have been received this date and are now available for issue in the Ship's Library:

Author	Title
Basso	Courthouse Square
Bently	Trents Own Case
Brace	Murder Goes Fishing
Brand	South of Rio Grande
Cary	African Witch
Childs	El Jimm Outlaw of Patagonia
Christie	Murder in Mesopotamia
Coffin	John Dawn
Cunningham	Whistling Lead
Field	Coyote Gulch
Frome	Mr. Pinkerton Has the Clue
Gibbs	Anything can Happen
Grey	The Lost Wagon Trail
Hobart	Yang & Yin
Hurst	Great Laughter
Laing	The Life and Adventure of John Nichols
McHugh	Caleb Catlums America
Maxim	A Genius in the Family
Morley	The Wreck of the Active
Raine	To Ride the River With Gold is where you find it.
Ripley	The Fortunes of Captain Blood
Sabatini	Kingdom in the Cactus
Seltzer	Hashknife of the Double Bar 8
Tuttle	The Kidnap Murder Case
Van Dine	Corpse With the Floating foot
Walling	Far Forest
Young	



Howdy Folks! Here's Mister Chat-terbox comin' right at ya' with another one of our prattle fests. Before Old Adam gallops across your sensitive sensibilities with the weekly batch of grandiose garrulity, vague verbosity and urbane utterances, may he pause for just a moment and in all sincerity wish his listeners much joy and happiness at Eastertime.

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The Gong for Adam! The "Meir" who received unwelcome publicity last week is really Weir of the "2nd" and he's been at it again: Sunday afternoon found him on an uncharted bilge exploration because a fair damsel came aboard unexpectedly. An orchid to McNiell for rescuing the lady in distress. Tuesday, someone sent the same Weir a fake telegram. Imagine his chargin when upon arriving at the dock, breathless but spic and span, there was no lady to greet him.

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Scoop! Longtime G.G. Club member goes astray.... For some reason, Osborne, Nav Yeoman, decided to prove to all and sundry that he wears the male attire in his family. Using one of the Pike's better known rendezvous, "The Keg", as a proving ground, he did himself proud as an imbibber, then sauntered??? home to the other half. Bravo fellow! Well proven.... but we wonder if the seas of matrimony became too stormy for navigation?

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Unusual, Unusual Weather.... Or Was It?? Will all native sons, including the "Third's" Fantail booster, Slug Harrison, explain the rattling good Hail Storm on the second day of spring. No evasions accepted.... We want facts and plenty of them.

Have a Giggle: A St Pat's Day card in a bright green envelope came to a Houstonite who's name is G-Z-M-O-C-I-N-S-K-I. Pronounce it?!! I can't spell it!!! That ought to make the dear old Saint turn over in his grave.

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Flash! The Long Beach Press Telegram is our authority for this news item: Captain George N. Barker has been ordered to command U.S.S. Houston. Date of arrival not known. We are sorry to see Captain Baker leave and he may be sure this is the sincere expression of the entire ship's company.

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Rumor-Rumor-Who's Got a Rumor? Just about everybody had one this week. "The ship is to leave the Repair Ship Monday." ... "We're going to Bremerton next week." ... "We're going East." ... "The ship won't go on the Cruise." These and many more flew thick and fast, seemingly on good authority and especially the first one. (Someone overheard the Captain say so!) Perhaps so, but, he wasn't talking about the ship; he referred to his family leaving for the East.

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Bazooka Backer: Starkie, Shipfitter second class, insists there's plenty of music in the instrument made famous by the Squire of the Ozarks. To prove it he's manufactured one and expects to master the darned thing in no time. After experimentation, this stillson wrench maestro decides the bazooka can stand improvement; he plans one patterned after "the music goes down and around" type of horn. Perhaps Bob Burns should look to his laurels.

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That Reminds Me: The same Gentleman from Arkansas sez: "After seein' some of the new Easter hats the wimmin are wearin'. I thing it's time for Queen Mary to laugh!"... We agree!

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Question: A reader poses this one: "Does anyone care to know what a Rope Yarn Sunday means in the "Thirsty Third?" Answer: Turn to! and more turn to!

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Hiss Horse Opera: The stay-aboards had fun aplenty t'other evening. If the director and producer of that rootin' tootin' drammer of the stage-coach days, "California Mail," could have heard the boisterous reaction on

this ship there would be fewer of the flimsy type of Western pictures. Boos, hissing, catcalls and derisive laughter greeted nearly every scene... Maybe we're wrong tho ... Perhaps it was meant to be comedy.

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Popular Frankster: When a man liberty bent is detained against his will, things begin to happen. If the inside of one of the catapult towers looks like something had exploded violently, it's because Sheriff "Tiny" Rimmer locked up Rosenkrans of the "Flying Fools" just a little while before departure of the early shore boats. He made more noise than a Missouri mule in a sheet iron barn.

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Brief Brevities: Jimmy Franklin, while passing thru Dallas, Texas, recently, was royally entertained by the local Navy Girls' Club... They have thirteen pretty members—what a time he must have had!... The "Rover Boys" Vizard and Latour have plenty of Houston company in their perennial rendezvous at the Majestic. All that's needed now is someone to sound "Quarters" and muster all hands... A new edition to the Sick Bay personnel was seen flaunting a brand-new crow and hash mark in the same Ballroom... You have to put up with four years of tough sledging to rate one of those "bean bars," buddy... Robinson, Water tender told a handsome brunette in the Restwell Cafe that he would personally bring her a seal skin coat from Alaska... So that's where we're going! If you wonder about the sudden appearance of so many healthy coats of tan... There's a group of the lads who soak up sunshine on the Boat Deck every noon hour and other odd times... Good old California sunshine when it shines!... Weir stumbles into the spotlight again: He passed up the Houston on the shore boat and landed on the Nevada, disgruntled, disgraced and dumb--founded!... Our Mister House declared that the quintuplet picture, "Reunion" was no proper cinema fare for rough sailors... But... He was there, and sat thru to the bitter end, impatiently, we imagine... Picture this: McClure and Rabyk, sometime "Steve Brody," marching down the Pike full of masculine independence, refusing to give two good-looking girlies the least bit of a tumble... Why?... Maybe they

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Dear Sal,

Say, this here layin' alongside tha repair boat may be great guns to some but she sure puts tha crimp in a body makin' tha beach. In tha old stamp-in' water one could get tha urge and be ashore all fresh as a daisy, but now when a body gets tha hankerin' to stretch his legs on tha soil, tha feelin' is battered from his soul and body on tha way in.

Puts me in mind o' how strong an urge can really be. My brother Norval went to sleep one night, a feelin' a gnawin' in his vitals and tha urge to eat great quantities o' victuals. Ma cut his rations short for supper (corn meal mush and milk) and held him to a kettleful o' mush with two gallons o' milk. He started a havin' dreams o' food, but tha cold ate into tha marrow o' his bones, and he awoke to find the top covers and half tha mattress gone. Pa allus said there's more stomach to him than a penful o' fattenin' barrows.

So Easter is about to break tha shell o' hidden obscurity. Females bedecked with fine raimet and puddin' bowl bonnets will be a struttin' their stuff on tha avenues, and the males will be a slitherin' by their sides; maybe their old suits will be a bearin' the shine o' tha pressin' iron and maybe they'll be a wearin' their old hat with a new crease. Anyway, says I, 'tis a heap different from tha birds and fowl. Tha male does tha struttin' there. But as Pa says, females is a necessary evil. Allah, give me sin.

So, Sal you say you told clumsy, blubberin' hayseed, Felix Jackson, tha lowdown about what I was a goin' to do his frame if he dinna turn his feet from your doorstep. Just tell him confidential like that Gus is got the whole United States Navy back o' him. They'll be a comin' up there at my yell, and wipe Felix with his whole forty acres and cesspool right off this here earth. Ain't that somethin'?

Though we be rocked in tha cradle o' tha deep and breathe pure sea air (when tha wind's not a blowin' tha graveyard o' fish smell from Pedro) we can stick out our upper lips at times and make tha cursed feel we're tha spawn o' tha devil.

So to you this time I say awe reservoir, which means in French I'm a closin' tha hatch.

Love,  
Gus

### INSTALLMENT CONTRACTS

(Continued From Page Two)

of station this might prove inconvenient. Suppose the agent says, "Oh! That's just a formality we have in all our contracts. We don't enforce that against men in the service". Don't be a sucker. Tell him to get his "Head Office" to modify the contract before it's completed, or no sale. If he won't change, you'd better pass up the deal. If he says he'll change it, see if the contract denies him such authority. Be assured that if he insists that the plain written terms of the contract are not binding, he is lacking either in scruples or intelligence. You may know of numerous cases in which such contracts were not enforced because it suited the company, but that does not deny their rights to enforce them if they decide to do so.

### Repossession

Suppose you fall behind in your payments each month for several months during which the seller makes no complaints then one day you go ashore and the wife says, "Oh! What do you think? The man from the Guaranteed Gadget Sales Company came out today and took our gadget and says we'll have to pay to have it overhauled and we don't get any refund on the money we already paid them." Unfortunately that will quite possibly be just about the size of things. You will very likely find that the sales contract permits the seller to waive a delinquency and then suddenly clamp down. Is it fair? It certainly is if it's in the written agreement. Is it fair for the agent to mislead you? Well, ask yourself if you were fair to yourself and your family when you signed a contract without reading it.

If you can't understand the terms proposed, ask advice of a disinterested person such as your division officer. No purchase is apt to be so

### CAMERAS TO BE PERMITTED

According to Fleet Memorandum No. 3M-37, the Commander-in-Chief has recommended to the Navy Department that the following be incorporated in a revision of General Order 35 soon to be promulgated to the service: "Cameras are permitted to naval personnel on board naval ships for taking pictures ashore."

Before departure of the Fleet on Fleet Problem XVIII the Commanding Officer will issue an order governing the disposition and use of cameras aboard ship. Until this order is published the present restriction, prohibiting cameras aboard ship is to remain in effect.

### NOSEY NEWS

(Continued From Page Three)  
were full of something else... Wade, the gull-gunning Boilermaker, reports that this nine-shot compressed air pistol is on its way and he intends making a serious business of teasing innocent sea birds... For shame!... McCarty, is among those bitten by the liberty bug, and after all these months of seclusion!... Is she pretty, Mac?

It's time to bring our little broadcast to an end. Au revoir, friends. Don't forget the boos and bouquets are welcome. Thanks for tuning in... So long.

### Joke?

The barber shop patron had settled back comfortably in the chair. The barber was applying the brush with generous gobs of nice, fluffy lather. The door to the shop opened and a small boy stuck his head in and yelled:

"Your house is on fire, Mr. Georgewink!"

The customer leaped from the chair, dashed out the door and madly up the street for about three blocks, when he came to a sudden stop and exclaimed:

"What the devil am I running for, my name isn't Georgewink!"

important that it can't wait while you get advice on it. And remember that the agent is working for the selling company, not for you, the purchaser. Don't think they'll be afraid to lose sales by enforcing their legal contract rights. They do just that every day.