

Volume 3 Number 1

Pearl Harbor, T. H.

January 20, 1940.

### HOUSTON ENSIGNS SCALE MAUNA KEA

The Houston mountain-climbing Ensigns, Wightman and Smeja, let themselves in for a beating during the Hilo visit, in undertaking a combined 350 mile trip around the Island of Hawaii and also climbing to the 13,825 foot summit of Mauna Kea, the highest peak in the Hawaiian Islands.

Starting at 6 a.m. Friday, January 5th, with Mr. MacKinney of Hilo, in the latter's car, they proceeded northward along the coastal road then over the tortuous, twisted dirt roads of the Parker Ranch, up through the cloud banks that cling to the mountain around 6000 feet, past the tiny C.C.C. camp and Humuula Sheep Station until the road becomes too rough and steep for the car. Six miles of hiking brings the three climbers to a good camp site at 9500 feet. Here they build a three-sided shelter with a concave stone reflector of lava blocks across the open fourth side. The care and work entailed in building the shelter and fire reflector is well repaid that night when a freezing wind rises.

At midnight with reduced packs the climb begins. It is disheartening to put out the cheery fire, for the surrounding landscape is desolate and wind cutting. Overhead the stars twinkle in frosty brillance, while far below, an ocean of white clouds closes upon the steep slopes. At first the trail is well marked and easy to follow with the powerful flashlights, but as the terrain changes from cinder to lava, the trail is lost. At three a.m. in the lee of a huge lava block, a halt is made and a tiny fire built from dead shrubs. Slightly warmer, the party spreads out, finds the trail and

### VISITORS FROM THE ARMY

At the invitation of Commander Early we have aboard three members of the U. S. Army's Chemical Warfare Service. They are Captain E. C. Maling, Staff Sgt. J. F. Leslie and Corporal W. H. Williams.

Captain Maling and Staff Sgt. Leslie are instructors in Chemical Warfare and on invitation gave a few pointers on the use of some equipment.

Our guests say they find everything quite crowded but they seem to feel we have all we need. Sometimes we feel we have too much.

It is a fine thing for us to be able to demonstrate our ship before members of a fellow service and we feel privileged to have them aboard. Come again!!

### "The Play's the Thing"

The Bard of Avon had (as the boys say) "something" there. And he made a good record in the show business in his day. His stuff still pack 'em in whether in Helena or Helsinki, for people like shows and they'll put their folding money on the line any day for a belly laugh.

It has been proposed that the Houston put on a show to amuse our fellow sailors of the Hawdet Navy. It takes time to get one up but what it really takes is talent. Have we tal-in the Houston? Have we men who, in their High School days, trod the merry boards of the thespian? Have we material from which quartettes are made? Have we at last a half dozen good sports, with the nerve of a traffic cop, who would be willing

### HOUSTON VISITS BIG ISLE

For the first time this cruise, the Houston visited Hilo, spending the first week of the new year there. It goes without saying that all hands appreciated the opportunity to have a look at the biggest of the "enchanted islands", Hawaii itself. To judge the territory by Honolulu, or even Oahu, would be unfair, for Hawaii boasts other and different charms to add to the total sum.

On the "big island" we found many of the beaty spots pictured in well-known travel folders. It is the home of the famous Rainbow Falls, and the great volcanos Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea, and the rugged impressive little Onomea Arch, framed in palms and tropical undergrowth. Some fortunates were even able to make the 350 mile circle of the island, and see the beautiful Kona Coast of the opposite side.

Tho the Houston's visit was short, she also fell heir to Hilo's hospitality --being provided with baseball, basketball, softball, rifle and pistol competition by various local teams. Socially, Hilo entertained the officers at a dance Saturday evening, and Admiral Andrews furnished a grand finale to the visit with a reception aboard, Sunday afternoon, just before departure. Hilo, the Houston's looks forward to her next visit!

### CONTRADICTORY PROVERBS

Absence makes the heart grow fonder. Out of sight, out of mind.

Happy the wooing that's not long adoing. Marry in haste, repent in leisure.

Where there's a will, there's a way. You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink.

## —: THE BLUE BONNET :—

Published every two weeks by the ship's company of the USS HOUSTON, Captain J.B. Oldendorf, USN, Commanding and Commander A.R. Early, USN, Executive Officer.

Editor: Ens. W. C. Leedy

Assistant Editors: Ens. F.B. Weiler  
Ens. G.A. Smeja

Associate Editor: W.J. Bannen, Bkr3c

Sports Editor: W.L. Adams, Cox

Cartoonist: W.C. Ridge, F1c

Circulation: E. Essy, Sealc

## PRINTERS

R. T. Wheless, CPrtr H. G. Byrne, Sealc

D. D. Casteel, Prtr2c J. Kauffman, Sealc

T. B. Razlaff, Prtr3c J. Brookshire, Sealc

## "GUS"

The former First Division Officer, now Lieutenant E. A. McDonald, famed as "Gus", author of "Slaughter Among the Icebergs", has now achieved success in writing beyond having his stories published in the **Blue Bonnet**. Watch for a two-part serial in forthcoming issues of "Our Navy" under the pen name "Gus Merkel".

## AND OUR SPORTS EDITOR

The editors voice a hearty second to Little Ocko's acclaim of our sports editor, Bud Adams. Not only does he play basketball in the afternoon, then fight a hard boxing bout that same night, but the next morning he's on hand to write up the exploits of all the rest of the ship's athletes.

## AND SIMMONS

Lieutenant McDonald is not the only writer to get his start in our favorite bi-weekly publication. E. C. Simmons, Y3c, also has his following. This communication was recently received by the editor:

Dear Sir:

The Connecticut Nautical Cadets would like to reprint the story, "A Change of Heart", from your August 18th issue of the "Blue Bonnet" in our paper. I will send you a copy of the first issue when we complete it.

/s/ Y3c Quinn,

150 Blue Hills Ave.,  
Hartford, Conn.

Lahainaluna School, above Lahaina, on west Maui, founded in 1831, was the first general school in the Islands.  
**SEND THE BLUE BONNET HOME**

## ENSIGNS SCALE MAUNA KEA

(Continued from Page 1)

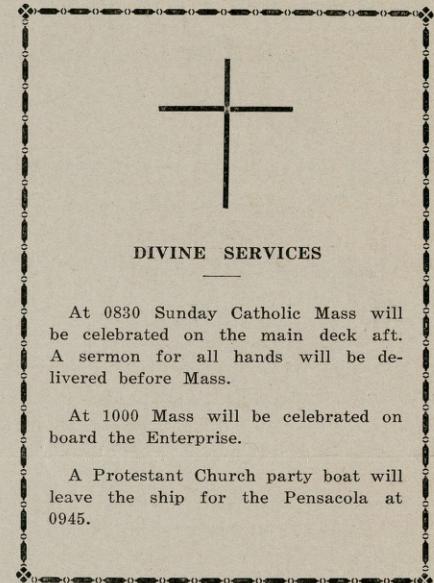
continues. Everyone tries to be cheerful in the piercing cold wind which is continually gaining in velocity. But as the trail becomes steeper and the air lighter, talking ceases and the three climbers plod on, following the beams of the flashlights, across ridge after ridge, and over an unending series of cinder domes.

Morning twilight finds the trio at 13,000 feet, at Lake Waiau surrounded by icy snow banks. Mac, his ambition to be in snow in Hawaii realized, decides to return to the rest camp. Smeja and Wightman start on the last mile to the summit, with mutual assurances that this is the last mountain they will ever climb. Meanwhile the wind of the lower slopes has increased greatly until, on the barren summit it attains an estimated 90 knots, and the climbers are forced to crawl on all fours. Breathing is painful and can be done only through cloth or wool mittens. Progress is slow, two breaths to a step, and only a few yards can be made between stops.

And then it's done! The figures crouch in the lee of the rock cairn at the summit, and fumble with numb fingers at the cameras. On two of the three cameras the focusing mechanisms are frozen. But pictures must be taken.

The panorama is magnificent. The rising sun is made brighter still, by the sea of fleecy white clouds lying a mile below. To the north the 10,032 foot summit of Haleakala on the Island of Maui, barely juts out above the clouds. To the south Mauna Loa's cratered dome appears to be higher but is actually 150 feet less in altitude. But of Hilo and the U.S.S. Houston anchored in Hilo Bay nothing can be seen. Down there, two and a half miles below, there is no sunrise that morning. The morning watchstanders on the Houston see only the rain splattered quarterdeck and the bleak sky.

The pictures taken, the mountainers hurry down from the wind-swept summit. Now as they return in the daylight they see the utter desolation of the ugly, twisted lava flows and the unending cinder fields. But all that is forgotten as they reach the C.C.C. camp in time to climb around the first hearty meal in twenty-four hours. The



At 0830 Sunday Catholic Mass will be celebrated on the main deck aft. A sermon for all hands will be delivered before Mass.

At 1000 Mass will be celebrated on board the Enterprise.

A Protestant Church party boat will leave the ship for the Pensacola at 0945.

rest of the day is spent in sleeping and fixing blisters.

Sunday morning, the last of the three days leave, the trio is up at 2 a.m. for the trip to Kawaihae, the Waikiki of the Island of Hawaii, for a swim before sunrise. Then they drive down the Kona Coast with its cactus deserts and coffee plantations; past famous Kona Inn and Captain Cook's Monument; through the serene towns of Kealakekua and Honaunau, famous in song; then through huge black lava flows southwest of Mauna Loa. After a few hours at Kilauea Crater, Halemaumau and the Thurston Lava Tube in the Hawaiian National Park, the tired and bewhiskered travelers returned to Hilo and the ship.

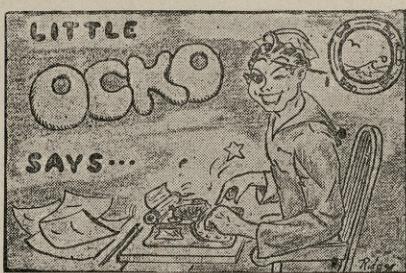
## OVER THE BROW

Received from the USNTS San Diego, California—Kopp, A., PhM3c; Barratti, T. T., S2c; Faulk, E. K., S2c; Chandler, D. A., S2c.

Received from Rec. Ship San Diego, Calif.—Battle, R. L., Y1c; Cook, H. T., Y2c.

## TRANSFERS

Coats, J. T., S1c to USNH, P.H.  
Callison, C. T., WT2c to USNH, PSNY  
Guard, F. M., Y2c to Rec. Ship S.D.  
Ashton, C. E. MM2c to Des Base S.D.  
Vogel, J. J. WT2c to USNH, P.H.  
Buchanan, W. H., S1c to USNH, P.H.  
Leslie, R., F1c to USNH, P.H.  
Yarbro, R. L., GM2c to USNH, P.H.  
Bassett, R. A., F1c to USNH, P.H.



Greetings shipmates, another issue of our sheet is coming off of the press, and Ocko doesn't feel much like handing out praise to some of our Crew as he sets this down. A reprimand is due.

At one of the best events that has occurred since the Hawaiian Detachment was formed, probably one of the finest smokers ever held in the Navy, the Houston has been blackly disgraced. About three or four of our brilliant apes sat at the near ringside and heartily booed each Northampton entry to the contest. When that fine trio came into the ring it was almost impossible for them to announce their numbers. No wonder the lad wouldn't play a violin solo!!!! When the referee gave a decision in wrestling to the Northampton the same clarion voices raised a squawk.

We once read a sign, "Fools' names and faces are always found in public places." In this instance we could substitute "voices" for "faces".

The U.S.S. Houston has a fine crew, under one of the best Skippers ever to take a command. Let us not do anything to disgrace either our Captain, our ship, or ourselves. We're in the Navy now, not on the lower East Side. Booos and cat-calls have no place at a Navy Happy Hour.

Aside from the above the smoker was the finest and the best that anyone present seemed to remember. To the Northampton we send our thanks, and a hearty "Come Again."

It is about time for a few more to go back States-side, to other duties Naval and Civilian. Talk is flying and speculation is rife as to who is going back and what on. All want to go home. Before long only a few of the old familiar faces will be left. They are passing along, a few at a time.

On June 17, 1940 the Big "H" will have been in commission ten years. A couple of years ago Ocko compiled a list of Plankowners a foot long, now

only three remain, Arsenault, EM1c, Cawthorn, WT1c, and Standafer, WT2c. As I have said before, someday we'll have a whole new crew.

Out on the dock during refreshments after the Smoker Ocko saw Charlie "Yap Yap" Campbell, BM2c, making up to our Commissary Steward. Guess Charlie must want to come back to the Rambler.

"Runt" Akeman has asked Ocko to send him a copy of the Blue Bonnet once in a while. Ocko says he'll wait until he's had a letter from Runt in Missouri. Sorta think he'll stick around myself. Pelican Burch will be found on the corner where they played mumbleby-peg in grammar school, most likely running a tavern or paying for it from in front of the bar.

Our old friends, the ScoFor Band, have brought back many memories by their evening concerts in the starboard hanger. Seems like days on former trips in other tropic waters, when our Good Shipmates were aboard. How they do go to town on the new novelty "Scatterbrain."

At the recent Pensacola bout on that ship there was an unexpected upset in the Adams-Jones bout. Our Sports Editor put in a note in last issue's sport news to the effect that "Adams won over Jones by a decision." Ocko is gonna give you the inside dope on it.

Bud Adams has been a regular member on our baseball, boxing and basketball teams for four full years. During that time he has been deckhand, boat cox'n, and Master-at-Arms.

We now come to the Pen-Houston Smoker: Bud played a full game of basketball that afternoon, bathed and weighed in for the toughest match of his career. We need not tell you he won it decisively. No one on the Pensacola expected their man to lose, odds were 5 to 3 in Jones favor, and rightly so, he's a good man. Adams is our Sports Editor so Ocko is putting his oar in to say this about him. Some would call him a shrinking violet or something.

Dick See, long-time quarterdeck seaman, is now Chief Yeoman McCumber's Number One Boy in the Captain's Office, replacing Simmons who migrated to the First Lieutenant's Office, four doors aft.

More next time, per usual,

OCKO



Dear Maw:-

I kinda figgered mebbe I'd break out that pen you give me fer Christmas and tell ya all the dope on this Hawaiian crooze what jest goes on and on and nobuddy knows how temporary except the guy what makes all the roomers and he's never right.

We been over to Hilo on the Big Island and I took a ride with the gang out to the volcano which is a big hole in the ground and is empty as a sailor's wallit after on liberty in Honolulu. Ha Ha. And them sampan busses aint so bad but it was hard to git a seat in the one the pretty gal drove cuz the gang figgered she was kinda cute and the cops didn't care how fast she drove. That's how I spent most of my dough, ridin in her sampan. Gosh, wasn't that somepn.

I wuz a towel waver at the Smoker last Satday night. Me and Lewdanski, he's my pal, give the Northampton heavy a nice shellackin, what I mean. He's a game guy but we showed the customers that a Marine maybe good at packin a rifle but he aint always so hot packin a punch agin a tough hombre like my pal Ski. We'll take on any guy what thinks he kin box, irregardless of weight or disposchun, mean or nice. Ha Ha. We sure had a big evening and them Northampton fellers wasn't very happy until we broke out the cold beer.

Well I hope everthings jake on the old ranch. I gotta go now and fight them guns agin. So long.

Your lovin boy,  
Gus.

Doctor (after examining patient): I don't like the looks of your husband Mrs. Brown."

Mrs. Brown: "Neither do I, doctor but he's good to our children."

"My little sister ate some chicken yesterday."

"Croquette?"

"No, but she's very sick."

## BASKETBALL

A brief summary of the games played in the past two weeks. The Houston basketball team defeated the Eagles, Senior League Champions of Hilo, 47-46. In a thrilling battle through the whole game, the lead changed hands alternately, the winning basket being thrown by Haggerstrom in the final 30 seconds of play.

The next game with Hilo High School, Inter Island Champs. The Ramblers emerged victorious 40-39. Schnozz Hattemer, playing a stellar game throughout, came through with the winning basket in the last 8 seconds. The Houston led the first quarter, but trailed the rest of the game until the final basket.

In official league games the Houston defeated the Minneapolis 33-18 and the Pensacola 30-25, to tie for second place in league standings, and enter the final playoffs.

Against the Minneapolis, the Ramblers played a winning brand of basketball, being in the lead throughout the game. Hattemer and Haggerstrom starred on defense, with LaBarge, the big offensive star, scoring 13 points.

Houston versus Pensacola was a battle from opening whistle to final gun. The two teams never were separated by more than three points, until the final four minutes. LaBarge and McFadden played a stellar game both on offense and defense, with Hattemer, brilliant left guard, breaking through to tie Haggerstrom for high point man.

## THE PLAY'S THE THING

(Continued from Page 1)

to take part in a sketch and take a ribbing for it the rest of their days? It's been done, and no one got hurt.

If you would like to have a lot of fun and pass out a laugh to your shipmates turn your name into your division officer and become a member of the "Houston Dramatic Club."

The Commander of the Hawaiian Detachment recently sent out the following letter to the ships of the Hawdet:

"1. It is proposed that men of the Detachment having theatrical talent be organized into troupes whose services will be available for Happy Hours and for short performances prior to the showing of movies.

2. It is requested that the names be submitted of any enlisted

## SPORT NEWS - - - by Bud Adams

## HOUSTON WRESTLERS AND BOXERS CRUSH NORTHAMPTON

## Wrestlers Win by Score 30-8

Colbert 118 lbs., Chick 126 lbs., Harvey 135 lbs., and Riechel heavy, won matches by default.

In the first bout of the evening, Arthur 145 lbs., pinned Kampa of the Northampton in 5 minutes and 35 seconds. A lot of credit is due to Dick. Without a single workout, he substituted for Keene and defeated a very good boy.

Buttler 155 lbs., our classy old timer proved his experience by throwing Clifton in very short order.

At 165, Tremaine was thrown by a lad with a lot of experience.

The writer would like to make a few comments about this wrestler of ours, a boy with the heart of a lion, without any experience, but even in defeat giving the crowd a pleasing bout all the way. Never quitting for a single moment and always fighting. Everyone likes a winner, but we also like a game loser.

Korich, a green 175 pounder, almost pulled a stunning upset by holding Sinclair, of the Northampton to a split decision. A fine performance, wrestlers!

## Boxing Squad Wins by 30-5

McPerson 118 lbs., the boy you all were warned to watch this year, lived up to expectations by winning via T.K.O. in the third round from Guzman. Boxing, slashing, and slugging all the way, Mac proved too much for the Northampton bantam-weight.

Blackie Strickland 126 lbs., won his match by default when Whitney, Northampton, was unable to make the weight.

Hasty, a newcomer to the squad, made a fine showing for two rounds against Lewanski, last year's group champion, but was unable to last the four rounds due to lack of condition.

Aligo fought one of the finest battles of his long career to defeat Dum-

men who would be willing to take part as vocalists, monologists or instrumentalists in such brief entertainments. . . .

3. An Amateur Night program, with appropriate prizes, to be held

oulin. By having his man down twice in the first round and going on to win a flawless decision, he proved that the old veteran still has a lot of punching power and caginess.

Adams 160 lbs., won by default from Cotton.

At 175 lbs., Blackie Hartwick added another T.K.O. to his record by defeating one of the gamest fighters this writer has witnessed: Porter of the Northampton. Using a good left hand and crossing with the right Blackie kept his man continually in trouble. The bout was stopped in the third round.

The fight of the evening proved to be the heavyweight bout between our Joe Lewdanski and McKean, Northampton. A thrilling, slashing battle all the way through kept the crowd hysterical and on their feet continuously. McKean, possessing one of the most beautiful left hands a heavyweight could possibly have, made a grand fight of it all the way, but Joe seemed to have just a little too much on the ball that evening.



The third round was a thriller from bell to bell, with Joe dropping McKean just at the end of the round.

It is the opinion of the writer and everyone interviewed, that it was one of the best, if not the best, Cruiser smokers ever staged. Congratulations, wrestlers and boxers, the Ship's company is proud of you.

on two evenings each month, will be inaugurated in the near future at the Navy Yard Y.M.C.A. This program should aid in lining up men of talent and popularize throughout the Detachment in this form of amusement