

### A Perusal Of Ship's Service Activities

During the past few months the Ship's Service has undergone a series of what we sincerely hope are improvements. It is believed that a brief outline of these changes would be helpful. Comments and suggestions are desired regarding stocks to be carried, etc., and will be given careful consideration.

The Ship's Service is for the convenience of the crew. It is with this thought uppermost in mind that the recent changes have been made. Arrangements have been made with a number of local firms to give special discounts on purchases by individuals who have Ship's Service Orders. Arrangements have been made to include the services of a shoe repair shop whereby shoe repairs are made 15% cheaper than the regular cost ashore. The Ship's Service will make every effort to purchase through "special orders" any article not carried in the store, but which can lawfully be handled through the Ship's Service. A charge of 2% is made on such purchases. It will be noted that prices in the Ship's Service Store have been substantially reduced through direct buying from manufacturing concerns rather than the local "middle men."

Credit is extended through the use of coupon books. Each man is allowed two books (\$4.00) credit per month. Coupon books are issued at regular hours (1120 to 1200 and 1220 to 1300) on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Due to the limited space in the store it is not expected that a very large stock of Christmas gifts will be kept

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### Good Year Looms For Ship In Boxing And Wrestling

Since the boxing and wrestling season has been officially opened with our meet with the MINNEAPOLIS on 26 November enthusiasm for these man-o'-war-men sports have grown by leaps and bounds. The meet, as you should all know by this time, turned



into a decisive victory for us, due chiefly through hard work and training of the teams and their coaches.

At present because of the operating schedules of vessels in our group bracket there will probably be no cruiser meets during the month of December, but meets will be arranged with other ships or athletic clubs in order to keep the men in top-notch shape.

Outstanding candidates in these sports will be nominated by vessels concerned before the final cruiser eliminations have been run off and these candidates will be quartered aboard some heavy cruiser so that a heavy cruiser team may be entered for fleet meets. Such candidates will be sent to the cruiser selected by 3 January.

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### For Thriftiness Be Your Own Banker

You've no doubt envied at times solidity and security as exemplified by your home town banker from the time that you first knew the meaning of the word money. But have you ever thought how you could be your own banker and gain just as much security as he? 'Twould be pretty nice to think of yourself as "Joe Gish, Banker, U.S. Navy," wouldn't it? Well, it is easier than you could possibly believe. Here's how.

Let's assume that for the sake of argument that you desire to buy a car; a second hand car from one of the reputable concerns here in Long Beach. All right—you go down to the lot and pick out one for \$500; one of those baby blue jobs that you've had your heart set on so long, make a \$150 down payment and drive away the proud possessor of a lovely John Jalope with the first payment some thirty days away in the roseate future. We will analyze the transaction.

The used car company sells your contract to a finance company for the amount due them—\$350 in this case. Usually they sell it for a little bit less, but that is no concern of ours at the moment. Whether or not you knew it, you signed a contract with the finance company at the time of the sale to the effect that you will pay them a stipulated amount, about twenty-six dollars in this case, for the next eighteen months in nice "easy" payments—making a total of \$468. This added to the initial down payment adds up to the large figure of \$618. Quite a long way from the original \$500, isn't it?

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## —: 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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### Aviation Memorial Trophy Awarded

The Rear Admiral William A. Moffett Memorial Trophy, emblematic of aircraft operations conducted with a maximum of safety by battleship and cruiser-based aviation units was awarded to the U.S.S. TEXAS for the fiscal year of 1937.

Lieutenant G. H. Hesselman, now commanding the aviation unit of the U.S.S. ARIZONA, was senior aviator of the TEXAS for the above period and was qualified under the award rules to be the recipient of the trophy for the U.S.S. TEXAS.

The Chief of Naval Operations congratulated all units on their high scores and the excellent administrative and tactical leadership that was so evident in this competition. The HOUSTON aviation unit standing of twenty-first in the forty units competing was therefore quite commendable.

### Navy Pay Versus Civilian Pay

Before considering entering civilian life after a worth while cruise in the navy, it is suggested that you study the following table. It is a comparison of pay of two young men, equally capable, between the ages of 18 and 21. One is a civilian and the other is a seaman second class in the navy.

	Navy Man	Civilian
Pay, monthly	\$36.00	\$90.00
Room and board	Free	40.00
Clothing	5.50	10.00
Amusements	3.00	10.00
Laundry	.50	4.00
Car fare	.50	4.00
Medical care	Free	3.00
Haircuts (2)	.50	1.00
Incidentals	5.00	6.00
Total expenses	\$15.00	\$78.00
Savings per month	\$21.00	\$12.00

### Be Your Own Banker

(From Page 1.)

Now you are asking, "How can I turn banker?" Simple. All you have to do is to pay yourself the down payment of \$150 and put it in the bank to draw interest while you are paying yourself the rest of the "easy" payments. Using a very conservative rate of interest, 3%, your down payment increases to \$156.75, while the rest of your monthly payments made regularly to the bank and earning money at 3%, simple, semi-annually increase to \$430.09, giving a grand total at the end of the eighteen month period of \$586.84.

What does this mean? First we can now buy a car for \$500 cold cash and save, according to our first figures, \$118 since it would have amounted to \$618 on the installment plan. Furthermore, instead of having only this amount in the bank there is \$86.84 additional which coupled with the \$118 means a saving of \$204.84—just because you decided to become your own banker.

The same principle holds true whether you anticipate buying a car, radio, jewelry, or a horseless carriage. Don't think that we are deprecating or disparaging borrowing entirely. The entire business world depends on borrowing and credit for its very existence, but why not make your money "turn to" for you thereby earning money for what you want or need instead of allowing it to work for the other fellow?

### Puzzled

"I'll tell you how it is," said the sad looking young man. "I met a young widow with a grown daughter, and I married that widow. "Then my father met our stepdaughter, and married her. That made my wife the mother-in-law of her father-in-law—and made my stepdaughter my stepmother, and my father became my stepson. See?"

"Then my stepmother, the stepdaughter of my wife, had a son. That boy was of course, my brother, because he was my father's son, but he was also the son of my wife's stepdaughter and therefore her grandson. That made me grandfather to my stepbrother. And now just who the heck am I?"

### Don't Weaken

When you feel on the bum, the outlook is glum,

An' you're wonderin' what's comin' next,

When everything's drear, and life loses its cheer,

And the skipper and first luff are vexed -

If this tropical south puts you down in the mouth,

'Till your shipmates they ain't even speaking,

Just don't rock the boat - keep a turn 'round your goat;

It's a great life IF you don't weaken.

If the admiral's boat refuses to mote,  
 And the cat spoils your clean quarterdeck

During captain's inspection, don't show your dejection -

Though your feelings may hurt something horrid;

Getting low ain't worth while, so force out a smile,

Take your hat in your hand and go forward.

If you should lose sight of the flagship by night

On' get lost alone on the ocean,  
 And you go under hack, just smile,  
 smile and "come back;"

Don't fume and stir up a commotion.  
 When we're running around if you put her aground

By mistaking a star for a beacon;  
 Why, there's no greater sport than a general court -

It's a great life, my son, but don't weaken.

When we're darkened at night and there aren't any lights,

An' you beat it on deck to your station

An' you flatten your face on a stanchion or brace,

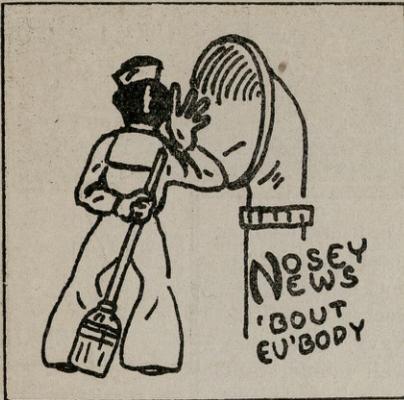
Remember it's all for the nation.

If you fall down a hatch, Surge will put on a patch

To bind up your holes and stop leakin',

Don't get sore like a pill, for it's part of the drill -

It's a great life, my boy, but don't weaken.



Greetings shipmates and congratulations to those men who have advanced another step in their ratings. The ship's company surely appreciates the cigars that are so willingly distributed by those who are so proudly wearing their new rates.

\* \* \* \*

Last week's issue has received quite a bit of comment, this mostly due to the "Orders of the Day" which seems to have pleased all who have read it.

\* \* \* \*

J. L. Moore, "A" Division mess cook, recently left a letter to one of his fair sex friends around the compartment and it was read by all hands. Seems he invited himself to the girl friend's home for dinner and requested that he be allowed to prepare it. We don't know if she took him up on his culinary arts.

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Boris of the Log Room, better known to the Engineer's Force as "Little Napoleon," was surely trying hard to convince the girls in the local cafes how important he is to the ship. Most of the girls, though, have more time with navy men than he has.

\* \* \* \*

Have you noticed that the women in Long Beach won't sit next to a sailor in a bus and yet when the bus is filled they always go alongside a seated sailor knowing that he will get up and give his seat to her. It never fails.

\* \* \* \*

The following FLASH was received from the contribution box: . . . What Storekeeper from Arkansas, while a-courting his present wife, carried a hog-leg for protection against those big bad boys up in them thar Hollywood Hills?

Then we have another concerning a dashing mess cook who tried playing around with two girl friends. They both came out to the ship and asked to see him. He had one on the Main Deck Aft and the other in the No. 1 Messing Compartment. When it was time to set up mess he was too tired due to his having to run forward and aft all afternoon.

\* \* \* \*

One of our MM2c's (wearing two hash marks) while out dining with his wife, kept joking about his being under 21 years. Upon placing his order he had a hard time convincing the waitress he was of age. That's the penalty of having blond wavy hair, blue eyes and dimples.

\* \* \* \*

"Don Juan" Rushworth claims that he is one of the finest dancers who ever glided over the Majestic dance floor. Doesn't even have to buy tickets as the girls come over to him requesting dances.

\* \* \* \*

Everything is going along smoothly regarding the inspection of the ship. Credit is given to all those who are really bearing down and getting all those little details.

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A request for information concerning the definition of "stick happy" is desired. Seems the musicians use this term quite a bit.

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With only a few more weeks left before Christmas is here again quite a number of men are lost as to what they should give their one and only. Heard some wish to give watches away but postcards are much cheaper.

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At a dinner not long ago, the man sitting next to the lady was, to say the least, inebriated. He leered at her and commented, "Shay, you're the homliest woman I've ever seen." With a show of spirit she replied, "Well, and you're the drunkest man I've ever seen."

"Yeah, but I'll get over that in the morning."

—

A man in an insane asylum sat fishing over a flower bed. A visitor wishing to be friendly walked up and said: "How many have you caught?"

"You're the ninth," replied the nut.

## Life In Our Navy

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, 'he Philippine Insurrection and the Chinese Boxer uprising. The present RELIEF is 483 feet long, 60 feet wide, has a displacement of 9,800 tons, 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 serious diseases. One or more surgical operations are performed every day. 417 majors and 566 minor operations were performed last year. Only 3 out of 1000 die, while 20.5 percent are transferred to shore hospitals and 70.72 percent recover within 21 days. The RELIEF has the most modern equipment that is obtainable and is ranked with the leading hospitals of the country.

—o—

"I am satisfied on one thing at last; I found where my husband spends his evenings," remarked Mrs. Gadabout.

"You don't say so, dear; how did you find out?" questioned the excited Mrs. Gossip.

"I stayed at home one evening last week and found him there," answered the satisfied lady.

SEND the BLUE BONNET to the folks at home.

## Little Ocko Says . . .

C. A. Mahl, S2c, 1st Division, dined at Bernstein's Cafe one evening recently. The waitress named the various soups and entries and our hero, misunderstanding, said, "Break it all out—I'm good for it." As luck would have it a couple of lads who knew him saved the day.

Churchman, recently returned to our galley from school at San Diego, was told the other day he had made Ship's Cook 1st class in an examination taken during his period in school. Nice work; Little Ocko says: Don't forget the cigars!

Shirley Steele, spud cox'n Romeo, is now hoisting cokes and coffee. Yep! The boy is on the wagon, due to influence of a lovely black-eyed lassie who is making a new man of him. Nice somebody can still perform those feats. Keep up the good work, kid!

Saw a couple of sea soldiers on the boat deck last Sunday a.m. doing some jujutsu acts with ye olde service rifle. Boys must be preparing for war—or maybe they're not married after all.

It has come to the ears of this scribe that Oren E. Gibson, AMM1c, of our "V" Division, is to be united in marriage to Miss Doris Moore of Long Beach. It is no surprise to those who know this genial "mech" and all hands take pleasure in wishing the newlyweds lots of luck. Little Ocko says it is just one more good man gone over to the ranks of the Golden Grainers.

Shivel, Cox, 1st Division, says that when he was at the Torpedo Repair Station at Keyport, Wash., he saw many strange things. Marines rowing in a small creek on a Sunday afternoon and a Marine private standing watch for three days. Well, it may be so but Little Ocko never saw a Marine who had that much real life ambition in time of peace. (No offense intended.) That may have been a sea story too, fellows.

Been wondering who the cute little brunette was that was favoring McNulty of the radio gang in No. 3 Messing Compartment last Sunday afternoon. After the stories of his esca-

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We have some good material on board in training, but it is felt that there still is some material uncovered. Maybe there is a fireman down in No. 1 fireroom, or a mess cook with the sufficient brawn and brains. Maybe you, yourself, would be a fleet champion in a few years with proper training. Strange things have happened. We quote an old proverb, one which demonstrates our point so thoroughly: "Nothing ventured, nothing gained." As a bonus of 5 points per man is awarded any ship entering a team in the inter-cruiser competition, win, lose, or draw, it is extremely lucrative for us to enter a full team. Anyone or everyone interested in wrestling see Wellbourn, BM1c, or Lieutenant (jg) E. A. McDonald. If you are interested in boxing see Arsenault, EM2c, or Lieutenant E. C. Long.

## Ship's Service Activities

(From Page 1.)

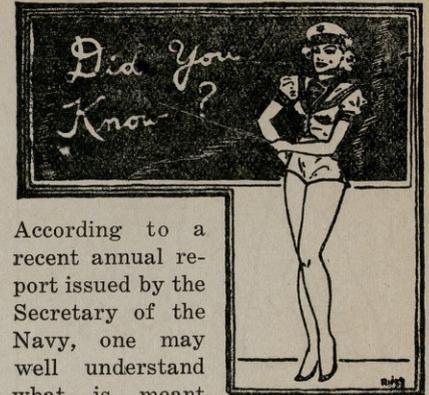
aboard. However, we will make a sincere effort to purchase any article desired.

The Ship's Service profits are turned over to the Welfare Fund Treasurer each month. This money purchases athletic gear, provides for the Christmas parties, ship's dances, and various other activities. BE SURE TO BUY HOUSTON.

pades in Astoria it did look odd to see our hero standing and the fair damsel sitting on the bench where there was plenty of room for him. Didn't have a boil, did you Mac? Well, take it easy lad.

"Spike," Chief Sheriff, says he had things all set last week. He was just ready to sue Chief Commissary Steward Barnett for putting red lead in his night rations on Thanksgiving Day when "Red" Oldham, C.P.O. Sea-soldier cook, sold out as star witness for a hamburger sandwich and malted milk.

Little Ocko says that last one is enough for one week. I'll have to dodge "Spike" and Barney for a month now.



According to a recent annual report issued by the Secretary of the Navy, one may well understand what is meant when it is said that the navy is a youthful outfit. The statistics reveal that over ¼ of our navy is under 25, which, by the way, is the maximum recruitable age.

It is further revealed that 85% of the enlisted personnel is under the 35th age post. There are 26,950 sailors in the United States Navy who have not reached the age of 25, and of this number 17,073 are between the ages of 21 and 24.

In 1907, during the voyage of the U.S. Fleet around the world, music was broadcast for the first time. Radio operators on board the battleships placed phonographs in front of their microphones and were able to broadcast to other vessels in their squadrons, to commercial ships at sea, and to shore stations.

The first ocean steamer sailed through the Panama Canal on 3 August 1914, about 10 years after the United States took over construction work. Electric mules furnish the motive power for vessels entering and leaving each lock.

It is a far cry and a long road from the blood-soaked cockpit of our old wooden frigates (where men suffered amputation by the grisly medium of a hacksaw and a hot iron with senses undulled by any anaesthetic) to the cool gray and white of the "sick bay" that is found on our modern men of war. The modern sick bay is supplied with every comfort and merciful agency that the cumulative years of medical research and investigation can furnish. There is nothing that can more aptly typify the contributions which the United States Navy has made to medical science in the hundred-odd years of its existence.