

SECOND ANNUAL XMAS PARTY

Last Tuesday morning Lt. Comdr Arnold called a meeting of the ship's entertainment committee, in the wardroom, to discuss and plan another Children's Christmas Party.

It is proposed to give a Christmas Party on Christmas Day, for approximately 30 children between the ages of six and twelve years.

It is planned to bring the children aboard from Sacramento, a splendid idea, for it is believed the youngsters in the inland cities have very little opportunity to enjoy these annual parties which are becoming traditional throughout our Naval forces afloat.

The party will be financed by a fund created through contributions from the ship's company, supplemented as necessary by Ship Service Funds.

It is hoped that all hands will contribute fifty cents each in order to make this, our second annual party, just as great a success as our first.

Those of you who were aboard during last year's party will remember the real happiness and joy brought to those little children.

Seeing them open their presents, enjoying a real Christmas dinner, happy eyed and full of joy, will always be a pleasant memory because of your individual effort and generosity.

Under present plans the children will be taken to and from the ship by bus, arriving here about 11:00 Christmas morning and remaining for several hours.

Because of mother nature's variable moods in this area, the tree and

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CHRISTMAS AGAIN

The football season is over
 And Christmas is drawing nigh
 I've spent all my money for tickets
 But there's presents I must buy.
 For Mom and Pa and Margie
 My gal and her brother Bill
 The thought almost drives me crazy
 When I look at the list I get ill.
 Now next year I will save my money
 Yes, lock it away in the till
 Seems I said that last year, oh how funny,
 You know it, yes, like h — I will.

ANOTHER CHRISTMAS PARTY

We are to have a Christmas party for the kiddies again this year.

To those who were not on board last Xmas and wish information; just ask how everyone thoroughly enjoyed himself, much to the surprise of many skeptics.

These parties were started by the U.S.S. NEW YORK at Queenstown, Ireland, during the war and were continued by that ship and copied by many others each year since.

The children are invited and arrangements made through some welfare organization on the beach. The youngsters usually come on board during the forenoon or shortly before dinner, and the crew vie with one another for the chance to entertain the little guest, at dinner.

After dinner they gather around the Christmas tree, where Santa Claus distributes presents of clothing and toys to the boy or girl whose name is attached. A list of the guests are compiled early so that presents suitable to age and sex may be chosen.

There are many in the Navy whom

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SEEING THE BAY AREA

As the ship is to be here for several months everyone is looking around for things to do and places to go, make the stay here enjoyable and interesting.

In Vallejo one might find only the usual bar rooms and small town entertainment. The city boasts of 4 theaters and dance each Saturday nite at Memorial hall.

The Budwieser Beer Garden under the Travelers Hotel on upper Georgia St. boasts of the only dine and dance in the city, moderate prices prevail. Every Thursday nite is wrestling nite (40 cents per person) at the skating rink; other nites roller skating (35 cents skates provided) is held there.

The Navy YMCA is quite popular here with its various activities. They maintain a housing and information department that will aid the golden grainers to settle in a new home.

On the island the best place for an evenings entertainment may be found at the Rodman Club. Every other Wednesday dances are held (free) from eight until midnight (Beer 5 cents), free pool tables.

Tickets for the lady friends may be procured at the door. Only men in dress blues are permitted in the club on these nites. The club helps maintain the golf course which is free to enlisted men. The ball field, tennis courts etc are available to all. The theater and Marine Barracks canteen post exchange have interesting entertainment for all hands too. Out of door men will find the bay area a paradise, hunting, fishing and camping trips may be made within a reas-

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—: 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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December 8, 1935

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SECOND ANNUAL XMAS
PARTY

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trimmings will be set up in one of the hangars.

It is here that Santa Claus will dispense generous portions of joy, -how much - depending upon ourselves, in the form of presents, shortly after the arrival of the children.

Depending upon funds available, it is planned to give each child a suitable toy and a practical outfit of clothing.

It is expected that enough messes will be set to permit having one or two children at each mess. It need not be said that each child will be well looked after, as last years party proved.

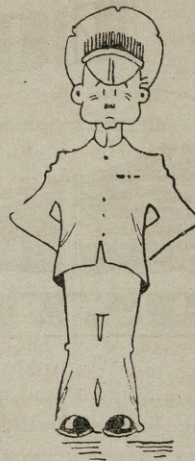
Several committees were appointed to assist Mr. Arnold in the continuance of this commendable custom which was first inaugerated on the HOUSTON last year.

Division representatives will receive all contributions which will in turn be submitted to Lt. McCallum who is in charge of the financial arrangements.

All members of the ship's company desiring to have members of their immediate family on board for the festivities should get in touch with Hodges, GM 3c. who is in charge of that part of the arrangements.

It is sincerely hoped that all hands will participate in putting over this, our second Christmas Party, in good old HOUSTON style.

The folks at home will enjoy reading the BLUE BONNET. Mail it.



Battallion
Of
Death
BLASTS



It was with some regret that this writer saw his friend and shipmate Corporal (snooper) Kitchen leave the ship for his new station, thereby leaving this column for some one else to fill in. It seems there has been some difficulty in the matter of transfers, our Redhead has been praying to the great white father in Washington for San Diego, but his pleas have been in vain. He is now doing nicely on Mare Is. The same sad story could be said about Heyworth only he wanted Bremerton, but thats the way it goes. Bennington our gadget has terminated his stay on the sea (for a while) and has been transferred to the 2nd. Signal Co. in San Diego.

Chop the bugler, has decided the service of the guard should be cashed in on, so he is running the following advertisement. (adv.) hauling and moving done cheaply — we move anything. See Sgt. Terpsten and his forty slaves. The detachment has three new faces, by name, Pots, Frye Silva and Lambert, who have just come aboard from Mare Is. We welcome them and wish them luck.

There was a certain amount of heaving and puffing on the ammunition barge the other day, but the 8 inch projectiles finally won out, so now Nelson is nursing a sore toe. Cheer up Nelson it could have been worse. The Gunny and 13 of his leath-er-necks are on the range this week, with the assistance of the shark shooter, we should have a good number of experts when the final score is reached. Ryan (he of the silver tongue) seems to have missed his calling, because the other night it was discovered that he had a marvelous voice for

announcing fights — LADIES and GENT'MEN! — IN THIS CORNAW

If anyone aboard this vessel would like a black picture or any crepe hanging done just speak to William-son, he is being transferred to Mare Is. also, but there is some dispute as to when Willie may pack his bag and travel.

FESTIVITIES CHRISTMAS
WEEK

Two parties are being planned for Christmas week.

On the 25th. of Dec. the ships company will be host to almost thirty children from the interior of California. These children have never seen a man of war. They belong to that unfortunate human class of youngsters, who are forced to live on charity—no parents.

There will be a Santa Claus, who will distribute presents. There will be a big feed, candy, music and all that goes to make a party. All hands must help to make this party a success.

On the night of December 28, the ship's company will be hosts at a ships dance. The location of the festivities has not yet been determined.

PERSONNEL

DISCHARGED

Fair, D. D. S1c

REENLISTED ON BOARD

O'Dea, E. A. SF2c
Branan, O. M. Ptr. 2c

RECEIVED

Barnett, M.J. C.C.Std from U.S.S. ASTORIA. Davisson, C.C. S2c from U.S.S. MINNEAPOLIS. Churchman- L. from U.S.S. ASTORIA.

TRANSFERS

Berry, J.H. C.W.T. to F.W.R. (Our hearty wishes to a HOUSTON old old timer.) Tobin, J.S. CY to U.S.S. ASTORIA. Elliot, P.C. SF1c to Deep Sea Diving School. Lottman, E.G. F3c to Naval Hospital Mare Is. Brackets- T.A. to 11th. Naval District.

UP THE LADDER

Creech R. F. H.A. 1c to Phm.3c

The HOUSTON has steamed well over 135,000 miles since commissioning.

Some girls let a fool kiss them, others let a kiss fool them.



NOSEY NEWS

by
EV' BODY

Despite firm convictions to the contrary, not a single case of "nostalgia" has been reported since our arrival in the bay region. Apparently our GG's are resigned to their fate. Still why not consider the fact you are all members of the crew of one ship that is always ready to sail forth on unexpected duties and perform these duties in a commendable manner.

That single liberty in Long Beach certainly gave the slightly used slogan "no sleep", quite a bit of misuse for it must be admitted the boys had quite a bit of unfinished business in the GG paradise.

Jesse James would have been a piker in the village of Vallejo with the dearth of apartments bringing the landlords into the profiteer's shadow. Seems as though Navy owned apartments would just about fill the place here.

Three section liberty eases the pain all around, although the "Chief Medicine man" of the Shunk Indians, Vizard, says:— H-U-U-M-P—H three section liberty here, me no savy -H-U-U-M—P-H!

Can you imagine two of our briniest four fathom gigjols speaking over the phone, deciding Vallejo actually has the best of them. Evidently the howling hyena and his sparring partner miss Tony's bar.

We have heard this one before, but this is the first time actual proof has been had. It seems that a certain coxswain was debating whether or not the 8 inch powder could be loaded on the lighter before the tide went out too far, thereby causing the lighter to be too low. Page Charlie Campbell for more information????

Although we always thought a service stripe indicated a man had served four years or more there seems to be

quite a number of our first cruise salts wearing service stripes plus some pretty salty airs.

Lord has finally weakened for he did part with a two bit piece for a shore boat ride in Long Beach, but then it was a time when principle didn't matter so we are told.

Looking back through the pages of the Blue Bonnet we find where Highstreet was in the need of a lawyer during our last stay here, but now he is in need of a parson so we hear.

And then two years ago the HOUSTONITES made quite a splash around here and the ripples are still felt.

Wonder what come over "Moe" Ivy to cause him to suddenly become soustified ? ? ? ? Warning — The Goon is on the loose again — he had to walk home from Vallejo.

We wonder why "P. W." Godaire was told that he would have to be a better man in order to be eligible at the May Flower Grill ? ? ? ?.....

As we close for this week we might add that the forthcoming ships dance shall give the local "Lonely Hearts" Club a little patronage since our boys are still more or less strangers here.

NEWS OF FORMER SHIPMATES

McMahon BM1c former boat deck BM is still serving on the Astoria, the ship he went to when he left the HOUSTON. He is just about due for the buttons too.

Ostergren EX SK2c. our former public bills man in the supply office is making good in a big way on the outside.

His address now is:— Chief of Requisition and Specification Dept., Procurement Division, of the Treasury Department, Phoenix, Arizona. It is good news to learn of our former shipmates success.

Richter, EM3c formerly a HOUSTONITE on the Asiatic Station is now on the Minneapolis, but still has a deep interest in his former ship.

"Windy" Gwinn, Sea.1c formerly of the second division is now serving aboard the Astoria. Paid a short visit to the ship recently and says he wishes he were still with us.

Niagra Falls is the outlet of the four Western Great Lakes, which constitute half the fresh water of the world.

BOWLING

The initial steps toward the forming of a ship's bowling team have already begun and Friday evening the first match was to have been bowled with a local team. Our team, made up of Gilliam CM3c, Standifer, S1c, Kirkpatrick, S1c, Nelson S1c. and Schram S1c. were on the alleys at the appointed hour but for some unknown reason the rival team did not show up. Still, it was at least the starting of season for our boys as it is expected to have many good matches during our Navy Yard stay. If we have any prospective bowlers in the ship's company who would like to join the team, just see Kirkpatrick.

PISTOL TEAM

As we go to press our up and coming pistol team is out on the Navy Yard range firing a match with the Chicago and we expect to be able to give an account of a good match next week for it is known that the Chi boasts of a fine team and our team has been making great strides too. During the past week the team failed to get in any practice due to the general activities relative to our arrival in the yard but is expected to see them out quite regularly soon. Plans are also made to take a certain number of the crew over to the range daily, when the opportunity presents itself and if the plan is carried through we shall see a great number of the crew qualified during the Navy Yard period.

HOUSTON BASKETEERS LOSE SEASON OPENERS

It was somewhat of a surprise to our basketball team when they learned that two official games had to be played with the CHICAGO team.

Facing the greatest of handicaps, that of lack of practice, condition and familiarity with the local court, our boys took the court in the first game Thursday nite.

Even though four days training were all they could boast of, the HOUSTON five played the CHICAGO five to a standstill. It was encouraging to note that the HOUSTON team did play a fast action game, actually holding their own until lack of condition told.

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SEEING THE BAY AREA

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onable distance of the yard. Steelhead, salmon and bass abound in the waters here. Information on this can be obtained at any local sporting goods dealer.

Trips to San Francisco by car are costly due to the high tariff on Carquinez Bridge (60 cents per car) and Oakland San Francisco ferry (70 cents). Bus runs hourly during the rush hours and every two hours afterwards to Frisco (\$1.25 round trip) trip taking 150 minutes. Ferries (\$1.20 round trip) run at odd hours for liberty men and are not recommended. There is a bus that leaves 5th. Mission St. San Francisco at 5:50 a.m. every morning reaching Vallejo at 7:30 a.m.

In San Francisco there are various dance halls. Bel Mas the most popular. Geary St. contains the dine and dance clubs. For the sightseer Telegraph Hill, Golden Gate Park (with its thousand and one interesting sights). The Beaches and amusement park much like, but not as good as our own beloved Pike. The Presidio, Yacht Club, Fish Wharf and hundreds of other places well advertised throughout the state. For a good evening try Topsy's Roost at the Beaches with chicken dinners and dancing. San Francisco is truly the New York of the west.

The War Memorial Bldg. contains all the meeting rooms of the VFW and American Legion and other military orders, with the Civics Center across the street displaying the products of the city. San Francisco should prove itself for all hands — its a wonderful city.

STOP

PRESS FLASH

Results of the HOUSTON — CHICAGO Pistol match have just reached us. HOUSTON won the match easily by a score of 1284 to 1149. Complete lineups and scores will be published next week. "Keep up the good work gang."

Have you written home this week?

NEW SGT. MAJOR

First Sargeant Luck has just received orders advancing him to sargeant major, Congragulations Top, and all hands wish you luck in your new assignment.

WRESTLING

Once again our wrestlers are to be seen leaving the ship every afternoon at 1300 journeying to the Vallejo Navy Y.M.C.A.

The "Y" facilities are excellant as is their cheerful cooperation.

Lt.(jg) Young is wrestling officer, while "Whitey" Wellbourne is instructor and "Jack" Holt manager.

At present eight promising youngsters are under training, with several more prospects in line. With Wellbourne's vast experience in both competition and training our bone crushers shall go a long way. We are sure there must be a few more men interested in wrestling. Anyone wishing a tryout just see either Mr. Young, Wellbourne or Holt and get the dope.

Members of he team at present are:

Arthur, S1c, Hennessy, J.K., S2c, Folta, S1c, Pickens, S1c, Beckwith, S2c, Thornton, S2c, Pratt, F2c, Stockton, Pvt.

BASKETBALL

Continued from page three.

We all know the CHICAGO'S last year Sco For championship team is still intact. Two of their team members were selected for all Navy honors last season, and so far this season they have played and won most of 23 games not a bad record for any team

Having to play official games so soon was a decidedly bad break for our team for these two losses dimmed our bright hopes for a successful season. Nevertheless the team is to continue, and it is planned to enter the Navy league here in the yard. No doubt the CHICAGO will breeze through the Sco For Championship again now that one of the undoubtedly stronger teams has been eliminated. Scores for two games were:—
Thursday, HOUSTON 24 CHICAGO 30
Friday HOUSTON 24 CHICAGO 32.

Boost HOUSTON Athletics!

ANOTHER CHRISTMAS PARTY

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depression has not greatly affected. They should have been on my mess last year. I gathered a boy and his little sister, ages around 6 or 7, under my wing and took them to the mess table, where I started loading up their plates, starting with a choice piece of white meat. Much to my surprise, after a short conference between the two, they spurned the turkey and ham and asked for a second and then a third helping of vegetables.

Later, quering the welfare worker in charge, she explained that it was quite possible the children had never eaten meat, so had no acquired taste for it.

Nevertheless they had a good time and went home with their arms full of toys and bundles, very happy and not too tired.

"JIMMY LEGS"

With a call so stentorian

He makes sure you are never late

He's always after someone

Regardless of their rate.

He wakes you up in the morning

With a powerful yell, "Let's go",

At times I'd think he's human

If he didn't bother us so.

He picks up all our clothes

And puts them away

He always makes us certain

That our clothes never stray.

At night he puts out all the nights

And when we've settled for the night

He comes around to make sure

That things are put away just right.

So throughout our Navy life,

I'm sure you'll have no doubt,

You'll make sure the "Jimmy Legs"

Never seeks you out.

AIR MAIL SCHEDULES

The Air Mail Schedule for points North, South, East, and West has the same closing time. The schedule for points South is quoted for your information.

Closing time Mare Island: 9:00 am,

11:00 am, 2:45 pm, 4:30 pm.

Leave San Francisco Airport, 2:00 pm,

4:00 pm, 2:55 am, 2:55 am.

Arrive Los Angeles California: 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 5:34 am, 5:34 am.

Arrive San Diego, California: 8:40 pm, 8:40 pm, 6:40 am, 6:40 am.

Additional Air Mail schedules and information may be found on the bulletin boards.