



**NEW ASSISTANT SEC. NAV.**

At 1100, 18 January, the Honorable Charles Edison assumed the duty of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy. He is the son of the former Electrical Wizard Edison and was appointed late this past fall to fill the vacancy left by the late Col. Roosevelt who the Houston, in May 1935, had the honor of taking to Honolulu on an inspection tour.

**U. S. NAVAL HOSPITALS**

The U. S. Navy maintains 18 hospitals for the welfare of the personnel of the Navy and Marine Corps. One is at Canacao, P.I., one in Guam, one in Hawaii, the other are located in the United States. There are also three Naval Dispensaries.

**SAILORS UNIVERSITY**

Six enlisted men of the crew of the U. S. S. Mineapolis attended classes of the University of Hawaii while their ship was being overhauled at the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard last Fall.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

During 1936, the United States Navy maintained in commission and operated at sea a total of 318 ships. Also operated in Naval districts and Stations were 169 other small craft.

Few people know that the United States Navy endeavors to keep brothers together in the Navy if the brothers so desire.

On an average, there are three and one half pounds of salt to every one hundred pound of ocean water.

**FLEET WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE OPENING OF THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE**

In a recent dispatch to Mayor Rossi of San Francisco and the members of the Golden Gate Fiesta Committee Admiral Hepburn expressed his regret and dissatisfaction that the FLEET would be unable to participate in the Golden Gate Fiesta which will be held some time this coming May in honor of the opening of the Golden Gate Bridge. In declining the invitation and expressing his regret, the Commander-in-Chief went on to explain that during this period practically every unit of the FLEET would be absent from the West Coast taking part in Fleet Problem 18 which forms the focus of all training throughout the year.

In view of the fact that extensive plans for transportation, supply, navy yard work and schedules of various sorts must be made months in advance to prepare for these exercises, the Admiral stated that he didn't feel that he could recommend changing the schedule so that the fleet could be properly represented.

With the memories of the last bridge Fiesta fresh in our memories this announcement comes as bad news to personnel of the Fleet. The famed hospitality of San Francisco and her pride in the Navy always make prospective visits to the metropolis of the West looked forward to with the keenest expectation by every sea going sailor.

**BELIEVE IT OR NOT!**

By F. Himrod

45 - 45 = 45

(Answer on page 4)

**HOUSTON TO BE INSPECTED**

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 28-30 January, the HOUSTON will be inspected by the Board of Inspection and Survey. This will be the first time she has been inspected by this board since the inspection she had upon returning from the Asiatic Station in the winter of 1933. The Pacific Section of this board, whose headquarters are in Long Beach, is composed of the following members: Captain M. S. Davis, Captain E. Friedrich, Captain N. H. Wright, Comdr. O. L. Wolford, Lieutenant Commander K. J. Christoph, Lieutenant-Comdr. N. S. Ives, Captain L. S. Border (CC) and Lt-Comdr. W. W. Hastings (CC).

It is the duty of this board to inspect and examine all naval vessels upon their return from foreign stations and all vessels in the United States as often as once every three years and to report upon the condition

(Continued on Page Four)

**HOUSTON TO GO TO CRUDIV FOUR**

On the first of February the HOUSTON will be transferred to Cru. Division Four. The transfer from division five to four is brought about by a new assignment of the heavy cruisers into four-ship divisions instead of the five three-ship divisions. The new arrangement is as follows:

**CRUISER DIVISION FOUR**

- (ear Admiral Brinser)
- CA26 Northampton (F)
- CA24 Pensacola
- CA25 Salt Lake City
- CA30 Houston

**CRUISER DIVISION FIVE**

- (Rear Admiral E. B. Fenner)

(Continued on Page Four)

--: 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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23 JANUARY, 1937

★ ★ ★  
 THE MAN BEHIND THE GUNS

The most impressive incident of the Battle of Santiago, as related by an eyewitness in his memoirs, was when dapper Captain Paul St. Clair Murphy, USMC, paid his complements to Commodore Schley after the surrender of the Colon. The two officers presented a striking contrast.

Tall, handsome, excessively dignified Murphy, immaculately attired in his resplendent marine uniform, looking the picture of a character out of Anthony Hope's novels, hig-stepping or rather strutting, approached the Commodore, clicked his heels, saluted with a flourish and speaking in a loud, sonorous, measured voice said,

"Commodore, permit me to congratulate you upon this glorious victo .... "

Schley, in an old civilian alpaca coat, nondescript hat, without insignia of any kind, grimy and battle smeared, left sleeve stained with poor Ellis' blood, interrupted, saying,

"No, no, Captain Murphy, not on the victory. Congratulate me on the honor and privilege of having under my command such splendid officers and men. Not to me nor to Captain Cook, but to them, the men behind the guns and the men below in the engine rooms, belong the credit for this great victory."

**Note:**

The above incident, witnessed by Captain Cook, Flag Lieutenant Sears, the narrator of this anecdote, and one or two others, seems to have escaped mention in any of the published reports of the battle.

"Your neighbors are honest, I hope?" asked the old Negro.

"Yassir, dey it."

"But you keep that loaded shotgun near your hen coop."

"Yas, dat's to keep 'em honest."

Dear Sal,

How the pigs doin' from the fall farrowin' old gal? Lay ya a mint lollypop to a bag of your old Pa's indian remedy there ashiverin' and atremblin' from the bone penetratin' blasts of old man winter these here days.

Had the rip roarin'est time over on one of them other cruisers the other day. Haven't had so much fun since Pa chopped off his big toe in the lawnmower. Well, the decks were covered with blood and gore from stem to stern; the shells were ahittin' the ship like a rivet hammer; steam pipes were abustin' and aspoutin' steam; and men were afallin' like flies. 'Twas a terrible sight. (Sal, it wasn't actually really done, but was all imaginin'. And ya know how ya get worked up in things like that). The place was bloodier than the old butcher house down in the lower forty in hog killin' time.

I was right in the thick of it, doin' my duty, ahelplin' the crew imagine, ashoutin' orders, and atellin' everybody they was dead. Felt sorry for one poor laddie. I says your'e dead to him real emphatic like, and he says "never felt better'n my life." Well, we all knew he was supposed to be deader than a mackeral at a fish fry. But ya can't get for with a soul like that. One of tha boys stared him in the eye right then and says you're dead, get down there and stay dead! He shivered a bit for a minute and the prettiest nipup ya ever did see. 'Twas so real he knocked his bean on a stanchion goin' down, and folded up like a tent. Goes to show ya, you gotta be real smart at imaginin' things sometimes in this man's Navy.

Heave a laugh at this. They got agassin' the ship with real gas so everybody had to rush on gas masks on the double quick. Didna' hurt a body 'twas believed when all of a sudden there was the most awfulest weepin', and walin' and atearin' of sheets. They had forgotten about tha Sick Bay. Sick Bay didna furnish gas masks. So as I say, Sal, 'tis a hard, cruel, bitter world.

Tell your Pa his new sea sick medicine didna work. What a fella needs is a scatterin' of good cement with his chow. She'll stay down and she'll stick. Get him aworkin' on that.

Love,           Gus.



Last week this feature hit a snag. The editor responsible for the omission is sorry and promises not to let this dereliction occur again.

The radio bay station in the Port Tower has been completely installed. Much credit is due Noble, CRM, Readette, RM1c, and "Hoot" Gibson for the time and effort spent in doing a fine job.

Flight operations have been somewhat limited during the past two weeks, even so, the "unusual" California weather has given us much to worry about. The squall of Tuesday before last gave us all a thrill and a thorough drenching, otherwise no casualties.

In the excitement of the moment, the clamor of wedding bells was mistaken for fire bells. Result: "Charlie" Noble got away again.

The much monikered Rosenkrans has acquired another. First it was "Porky", then "Sunshine" and now it is "Goon"! Why, we ask?

It's about time for Swenson to break all those fancy New Year's resolutions. Perhaps San Diego may prove his undoing. (We hope!)

Andy Mellon is advised to take advantage of this week end and haunt the pike for his own god—if he didn't do it last week?

Happy landings, Shipmates!

A dentist had a room opposite the Salvation Army noticed that some patients who came to have gas sat down in the chair, looked out of the window, and then changed their minds, saying they would not have gas that day. The dentist did not discover the reason until one day he sat in the chair, and, looking through the window, saw painted on the opposite wall in big letters, "Prepare to Meet Thy God."



**NOSEY  
NEWS  
'BOUT  
EV'BODY**

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! This week's meeting is hereby called to order! No stomping fellow citizens, please. This is a business meeting, not a barn dance! Mister Chairman, if you will show **Hank Cromwell** the cuspidor and call the roll, we will proceed.

The first matter for consideration concerns an anonymous threat received by an innocent member of Nosey News Incorporated. The misguided threatwriter claims membership in a **Black Hand** group and his underhanded methods reek with Dime-Story melodrama. The hand lettered message, embellished with crude sketches of a spreading "Black Hand" and a claw hammer, read thusly: "WATH YOUR STEP . . . THE HAMMER IS ABOUT TO FALL! !" At the bottom, apparently an afterthought, this was added, "And it will be a **CLAW hammer!**" What all this means or who the perpetrator is we nether know nor care; we would like to know why the disgruntled one specifies a claw hammer?? NOTE: It is reported our No. 1 sleuth is hot on his trail and will unmask the mystery man any moment.

In accordance with the double-barreled warning to all hands by our recently departed columnist, an effective smoke screen has been laid down by the most persistent of our headline crashers. Nevertheless, each division has it's hardworking underground man and the news continues to filter through, though a bit hazily. The motto of this column is: **IF YOU DO IT—WE'LL PRINT IT!**

This week, new additions to the muster rolls of Uncle Sam's Navee got a fair sized sample of that time honored combination—pork chops and the Pacific's sickening roll. Pale green

makeup was affected by several. One lad remarked: "Fred Astaire sure sang a mouthfull when he yeodeled, . . . and the Pacific isn't pacific!"

Joe West was on the job the other day when the body of a luckless man was fished out of San Pedro harbor. He reports the incident: "I dashed up with my pad and pencil all set for an interview . . . but he wouldn't talk!"

"Goon" Jones of the galley force had a birthday Thursday, January 14th. In his honor there was a "spanking" good party given by division mates with much gusto. Hearty cheering for "Goon" and fun a'plenty for the merrymakers, was only slightly overshadowed by groans from the guest of honor, who hasn't been seen sitting since.

This roving reporter made a special trip to the Majestic Ballroom last week for devious reasons. Most Houstonites were tripping it somewhere else. Once the favorite haunt of our terpsicorean inclined, only a handful of the old crowd put in an appearance. Nearly forgot to mention that "Doc" Visard and "Frenchy" Latour held the usual position—beside the gate nearest the orchestra. It would seem strange NOT to find them there.

To Dan Daly of the "R" goes this week's prize. Dan is now rated the topflight economist of the ship. His night's lodging expenditure has reached a new low; 5 cents was the outlay and in a pent house, no less! Investigators found it was one of those so humorously described in Chic Sale's classic, "The Specialist".

Scoop! . . . Mosher, who swears he's a Boilermaker, beats this unusual californian weather—which is more unusual than usual—by sleeping with a genuine, old fashioned water bottle. That is one for the book!

Story of the week. The lad who thought to embarrass the popular Ship's Service Store operator by hanging out the artistically done sign, "HEAD'S GYP JOINT", failed miserably. Head enjoyed the joke and insists business has doubled within the week. Aside: We think the joker had something . . .

To one of the First division's playboys, an orchid for originality. His

name: Harry J. Hart. He return-addresses letters to his lady with the initials, H. J. and a sketch of a quivering heart.

Charlie "Yap-Yap" Campbell once made these paragraphs lively with his antics and skiddings; lately his light has been hidden under an old hatch cover. Today finds him in the limelight again. Reason: When a hairy chested Coxswain wears pink silk haberdashery—and we don't mean neckties—that is news!

Ambition and persistence is rewarded in the case of "Red" Meyers, former fireroom burner twister. "Red's" burning yen to strike for Electrician's Mate was made known over a year ago but until this week he kept right on "missing his calling". We are now happy to report he is under the experienced, if somewhat eccentric tutelage of Si Pierce and seems contented though "shocked".

You had fair warning, so don't kick! Little Audry found her kid sister chopping off little brother's fingers and toes and tossing them into a hot frying pan. Little Audry laughed and laughed, and laughed . . . She knew her sister couldn't cook.

One of this battle buggy's gayer blades paid rapt attention to a C-30 Club girlie all thru the evening. Champaign cocktails an' everything. The sky was the limit! Just before the two o'clock curfew bell rang he looked in every nook and corner for the damsel, who had "gone to powder her nose" . . . no-could-find. Duck Weber had been left holding the proverbial sack . . . and to reflect on the inconsistencies of women generally.

Oddity of the week: Doctor Schlack was actually seen sitting down during working hours!

This and That: Strange though true, is the story about Fritts, new boat engineer becoming marooned in a motor launch while tied to the boom. He says he was so hungry he didn't have the strength to climb that ladder even if it was supper time. . . It is rumored Sammy Ashcraft of the 3rd. is an authority on love making procedure in a trolley car . . . Barthe of the "E" makes this sheet again because he parked his brother's car

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NOSEY NEWS

(Continued From Page Three)

then couldn't find it. . . He was only four hours late in arriving home . . . Scallions to George Baker, "Flag" printer and tireless Blue Bonnet craftsman . . . Smiling George is always on the job . . . As are all of the Printshop's efficient crew. (Printers' addition to this article) "Send around the Sailmaker to make us some new hats after this gets well circulated".

\* \* \* \* \*

That, worthy readers, just about dots all the I's and crosses the T's of this week's busiens. Thanks for coming. Meeting's adjourned.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

(Continued From Page One)

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 = 45
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 = 45
8 6 4 1 9 7 5 3 2 = 45

HOUSTON TO BE INSPECTED

(Continued from Page One)

and efficiency of the vessels so examined. It conducts the preliminary and final acceptance trials of new construction with the view of determining whether or not the contractor has fulfilled his contract. It makes recommendations for changes in design of further construction. When the cost of repairs to any naval vessel appears disproportionate to her value, the board may inspect her and report upon her with the view of sale, determining whether she should be sold as a ship or as a hulk and what equipment would be retained for further use.

Prior to the inspection of a ship, the Captain submits for the boards consideration a written statement relative to such repairs and alterations as he deems necessary. If there are any alterations which he deems necessary or desirable that have been turned down by one of the bureaus he submits it to the board for reconsideration.

Mike: "Tis a fine lad you have here. A magnificent head and noble features. Could you lend me a couple of dollars?"

Pat: "I could not. 'Tis me wife's child by her first husband."

HOUSTON TO GO TO CRU DIV FOUR

(Continued From Page One)

- CA29 Chicago (F)
CA27 Chester
CA28 Louisville
CA33 Portland
CRUISER DIVISION SIX
(Rear Admiral F. H. Sadler)
CA36 Minneapolis (F)
CA32 New Orleans
CA34 Astoria
CA35 Indianapolis
CRUISER DIVISION SEVEN
(Rear Admial J. B. Downes)
CA38 San Francisco
CA37 Tuscaloosa
CA39 Quincy
A44 Vincennes

GROUP TWO BASKETBALL

The group Two Bracket of the Scouting Force basketball schedules will be played in the Admiral Leigh Gymnasium, San Pedro, Calif. according to the following schedules:

- 25 Jan. 1300 San Francisco vs Astoria
25 Jan. 1500 New Orleans vs Salt Lake City
25 Jan. 1630 Tuscaloosa vs Chester
26 Jan. 1330 Utah vs Relief
26 Jan. 1500 San Francisco vs Minneapolis
26 Jan. 1900 Astoria vs Salt Lake City
26 Jan. 2030 Chester vs Indianapolis
27 Jan. 1330 Minneapolis vs New Orleans
27 Jan. 1500 Relief vs Chester
27 Jan. 2030 Indianapolis vs Utah
28 Jan. 1330 Salt Lake City vs Tuscaloosa
28 Jan. 1500 Astoria vs Utah
28 Jan. 1900 San Francisco vs New Orleans
28 Jan. 2030 Tuscaloosa vs Relief
29 Jan. 1330 Minneapolis vs New Orleans
29 Jan. 1500 Chester vs Salt Lake City
29 Jan. 1630 San Francisco vs Tuscaloosa
30 Jan. 1600 Minneapolis vs Utah
30 Jan. 1730 Indianapolis vs Relief

The congregation had come to pray for rain, and were met at the church door by the clergyman. He looked them over and observed: "My friends, where is your faith? You have come to pray for rain and not one of you brought an umbrella."

In going over the records of the Navy Recruiting Station at Detroit, it was observed that only one man named Murphy had been enlisted during the past 14 years from Michigan. For the same period 71 Smiths joined. At this rate, each ship will no longer have it's "Spud" Murphy.

OSCAR'S OPUS NO. 14

Vind

Ay wish Ay vas a nasty skvall
Real big and Vild and free
Yust crusin round and raisin hal
Vit ship out on da sea
Ay make dem putting hatch hoods on
And make dem cuss and fret
Each time dey try to vork topside
Ay get dem gude and vet.

Oh ya, Ay vish Ay vas a skvall
So Ay could have gude fun
Tu givin' people colds and flu's
Vile blockin' off da sun
Ay vorry ships at anchor tu
And make dem get up steam
Tu ease strain on anchor shain
Ven Ay push on da beam.

My lofe, Ay sponse, would be quite short

But dat ain't bodder me
Ay blow and rain and rip and snort
And havin' vun beeg spree
And ven Ay skol be out vind
And find Ay losing bout
Ay drop my guard below my shin
And sunshine knock me out.

—O—

Oscar says dis har ban true
"It ain't ban fun tu have da flu."

"How do you like your new boss, Mayme?"

"Oh, he ain't so bad, Lil, only he's kinda' bigoted."

"Whadda y'mean bigoted?"

"Well, he thinks words can only be spelled one way."

Barber: (finishing the lathering of a customer): "No, sir, there's no carelessness allowed by our employer. Every time we cut a customer's face it means a fine of twenty-five cents."

Then he added, brandishing his razor: "But today I don't care a rap. I backed a winning horse yesterday and drew \$25."

Three blood transfusions were necessary to save a patient's life at a hospital. A brawny Scotchman offered his blood. The patient gave him \$50 for the first pint, \$25 for the second pint—but the third time he had so much Scotch blood in him that he only thanked him.

Don't forget to mail the Blue Bonnet to the folks at home!