



### Houston Completes LRBP.

This past Wednesday the HOUSTON fired her LRBP, firing a day earlier than expected because of weather conditions. The practice stood out for the smooth manner in which every thing went off. Every one knew his job and did it, with the result that there were no casualties. To date no official scores have been received; but, regardless of scores, all hands are to be congratulated on fine spirit shown during and preparing for this practice.

### USS San Francisco Joins Fleet

During the Fleets visit to San Francisco it was joined by one of the Navy's new cruisers, the USS San Francisco. The San Francisco is commanded by Captain Royal E. Ingersoll, son of the late Rear Admiral Royal A. Ingersoll, who died in 1931. Com'd'r. R. G. Thomas is the Executive Officer.

This cruiser is of the latest type construction, being built at the Mare Island Navy Yard. Her keel was laid 9 September, 1931; launched 9 March, 1934; and commissioned 10 February 1934. She has an overall length of 538 feet with a beam of 64 feet. Her armament consists of nine eight in. guns, carried in three turrets; eight five inch AA guns and four observation planes. She has a complement of fifty officers and six hundred men.

After commissioning she lay in the yard for three months before making a three months shakedown cruise to Hilo, T.H., Acapulco, Mexico; Victoria, B.C.; Portland, Ore.; and the Canal

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### Navy Chiefs To Be Moved

According to press reports, seven-teen changes in the Flag command of the Fleet and important shore stations has been ordered by Secretary of the Navy Swanson. Vice Admiral T.T. Craven, Commanding the Battleships Divisions of the Battle Force, to Commandant of the Thirteenth Naval District at Seattle; Admiral Frank H. Brumby, Commander Battle Force, to the Fifth Naval District at Norfolk, Va.; Vice Adm. E.H. Campbell, Commander Scouting Force, to Commandant Twelfth Naval District at San Francisco; Rear Admiral Adolphus E. Watson, Commander Destroyers, Scouting Force, to President of the Naval Examining Board; Rear Admiral H.E. Lackey, Command Cruiser Division Four to Shore Establishment Division, Navy Department; R'r. Admiral A.W. Johnston, Commander Aircraft Battle Force, to the General Board.

New officers to join the Fleet are: Rear Admiral A. St. C. Smith to Battleship Division Three; Rear Admiral A.P. Fairfield to Commander Cruiser Division Seven; Rear Admiral F.J. Horne to Command Cruiser Division Six; Rear Admiral H.L. Brinser to Command the Fourth Division of Cruisers; Rear Admiral W.N. Vernou to Command the Third Division; Rear Admiral G.F. Neal to Commander Mine Squadrons.

Other changes are: Rear Admiral W.H. Allen to command the Yangtze Patrol relieving Rear Admiral J.E. Wainwright who will be assigned to the Board of Inspection and Survey. Rear Admiral C.S. Freeman to Com-

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### Houston Officers Due For Promotion

A number of Houston officers are due for promotion. Lieut.-Comdr. M. B. Arnold to the rank of Commander; Capt. Fellows, U.S.M.C. (Flag) to Major; First Lieut. Benson to Captain. These promotions will become effective sometime during 1936. Lieut. (jg) Robinson in the near future is due to be promoted to Lieutenant. This coming June, Ensigns Slayden, Lyons and Sutton will carry more gold.

### Successful Speed Trial

The good ship Houston, during her brief career as a fighting unit of the Navy in peace time, has undoubtedly proven herself worthy of the name "Man-o'-War." Many times, too numerous to speak of, she has made enviable records in all those activities which are an essential part of Fleet training. A ship is only as good as the men who man her, so those men deserve all the credit for keeping her out in front or at least among the leaders.

Few men outside the Engineering Department realize the exacting requirements for Full Power Trials. Any one of a thousand things can go wrong and even a slight derangement of machinery can cause a casualty and that means a penalty. All of which leads up to our highly successful Trail of last week.

The official report reads: Full Power Trial and Smoke Prevention Run were made this date; no casualties, no penalties, no violations of good engineering practice. A comparison of scores shows this trial tops the last

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## —: THE BLUE BONNET :—

A weekly publication published by the ship's company of the U. S. S. HOUSTON, Captain W. B. Woodson, U.S.N., Commanding and Commander F. D. Manock, U.S.N., Executive Officer.

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March 2, 1935.



It is with deep regret that we learn of the death of A.S. Mercer, father of J.H. Mercer, Sea2c., Third Division. Mr. Mercer passed away the evening of 28 February of a heart attack. We extend our sincere sympathy to our shipmate and his family in their recent loss. Mercer left Friday morning on 10 days emergency leave to join his family at their home in Hyattville, Wyoming.

## Boxin' The Compass

"This is my sphere," said the happy miss, as she pated Debris on that bald pate.

The reason some sailors can't make ends "meet" is because they are busily engaged in making one end "drink."

When several Golden Grainers arrived home late Wednesday night, they found their wives dressed in black; upon inquiring as to the reason, they were surprised to learn that the ladies were in "mourning for our late husbands."

Hand: It pains me, Baldy, to see you coming out of that bar-room.

Romine: All right, Oscar, anything to save yer tender feelings, I'll go right back in.

If you are simply gone on that young woman, Arthur, do not color your moustache, for we have it from good authority that "true love never dyes"

When the state is most corrupt, then the laws are most multiplied—Tacitus.

## FAITH

In spite of the Leaders who fail to lead,  
In spite of Bribery, Graft and Greed,  
In spite of the men who, day by day,  
Pile on the taxes we have to pay,  
I still believe in the U.S.A.

In spite of the note with interest due  
In spite of an Income cut in two,  
In spite of the Bond that fails to pay,  
In spite of the Dividend gone astray,  
I still believe in the U.S.A.

In spite of the Gang and the Racketeer—  
Hell-fired whiskey and week-kneed beer,  
In spite of the lawyer that knows the way,  
To serve the crooks by the Law's delay,  
I still believe in the U.S.A.

In spite of the Banks and Foreign Loans,  
Frozen as hard as the Arctic zone,  
In spite of the cotton we hold today,  
In spite of the wheat we've stored away,  
I still believe in the U.S.A.

In spite of the Hell we're passing through  
There's still a fight in me and you—  
It's bound to help if you grin and say—  
"I still believe in the U.S.A."

—Author Unknown.

## Navy "Y" Assured For Long Beach.

The construction of a Navy "Y" building on municipally owned property near the Pico Street Navy Landing was assured when the \$20,000 goal was over-subscribed by more than \$3,000. To this \$20,000, the National Council of the Army-Navy Department of the YMCA, New York City has agreed to add \$50,000. The campaign to raise this subscription was carried on by two divisions, one in the Battle Force and the other in the Scouting Force. Each division was divided into 11 teams with 10 men to each team or ship.

## Questionaire

1. Where and how did the title of "CHARLIE NOBLE" originate?
2. Why is that beloved instrument of labor, the HOLYSTONE, called the holystone?
3. Where is SHIP STREET?
4. What does the term "Splice the mainbrace" mean and why doesn't it mean a thing to you and I?
5. What is a deadlight, deadline, deadhead, deadwoow?
6. Do you know why soccer is listed as an official sport on the athletic program of part of Uncle Sam's Navy?
7. Where is Fourth of July Street?

Patience is bitter, but the fruit is sweet.—Rousseau.

## SPLIT ESSES

F. A. D. San Diego

(This copy arrived too late to print in the last issue of the Blue Bonnet. Someone forgot that Air Mail costs six cents.)

Due to adverse weather conditions, operations during the past two weeks have been somewhat limited. However, a great deal of progress has been made in improving the material condition of the planes, and at the present they are a beautiful sight, when lined up between the hangars, preparatory to taking off. It is expected that better results will be obtained in the way of operations during the coming weeks.

Advancements in rating was not neglected during the hustle and bustle of getting organized as squadrons, and this week, examinations were held for the six aviation rates open. The air is full of wild rumors as to who made it, and who didn't. Congratulations are due to Schaffer, our only Sea2c who made Seaman1c. He does not have to worry. He has it now.

The Units are combined into squadrons, and are operating as a Wing. Many Units are top-heavy while others are sadly undermanned. In order to remedy this condition, transfers are being made, and in the shuffle we lost Bryant, J.L., Sea1c to VS-9S. Good luck in your new billet, old man.

Everyone is enjoying their vacation here. Plenty of liberty is the order of the day. Living conditions are swell, with the exception of those parasites, better known as MAA's. There are so many sheriffs around here at Reville, that they wear badges to keep from putting each other on report. The dean of the clique is an old "Square Knotter". One of the few left.

All the married men are doing nicely. Practically the entire Unit migrates to Long Beach over the week ends. Last week the Frisco had the situation well in hand.

Our Headline Hunter made the news again, and dragged our leading CPO in with him. An unauthorized extension of liberty amounting to 55 minutes was clocked against him. Mac was only clocked for 15 minutes, but it had us worried. A collection is being taken up to buy them both "Big Bens."



## NOSEY NEWS by EV' BODY

(Dedicated to McGovern, BM1c,  
and to "Zig-Zag" Ditzek, TM2c.)

There's the love a hunter has for his  
dog,

There's the love of a dog for its  
master.

There's the puppy love of two young  
folk

That makes their hearts beat faster.

There's the willing and unselfish love  
That a son can get from his father.

But the greatest love I've ever seen  
Is one dead drunk for another.

Well another week erased from the old calander and what have we in line of news on all youse people's as seen by the local press man. Even his best friends were suprised to see his curly locks clipped so shortly, but they did not know that he had left his sweet dream in Frisco' and not having that will-power, decided that the best way to remain in true form was to clip the top, well Pinion you don't look so bad, here's to a long cruise so that it will grow back in time for the visit in August to Frisco. It appears that even the cross word puzzles don't even have a chance nowdays as was seen in our supply office, three of them thar lads gang up one one little puzzle and use the well known Webster, and encyclopedia and latest World Almanac oh yes and least we forget the phone at times, now just what kind of a chance has this little puzzle. What has come over our fair haired boy Robertson "Wirebrush" to you, he has been combing his hair lately, does she inist on that to. Joe E. Brown has a competitor on this ship and none other than "Joe'ssy" Sharp, the howling gun greaser of No. 2 turret, but will you

please do your howling on the bench. After 34 years of peaceful bachelor-hood (more or less) "Wimpy" Steve is about to become a member of the well known "Golden Grain" Club, and here we thought all the time that his heart rested in the Orient, but the magic title and the zipper bags do present their inspirations. We now learn that "Stormy" Kellans has added a new line to his job as ship's MAA, he is now a rare old collector of flags, see him for his collection. And then "K" boy Brown just had to paint the town red just to show the gals that he was back in circulation. The plank owning SK of the supply office has been receiving some good advise from the blonde in N. Y., but how is she to know how he has been acting since we left N. Y. Now that "Don Juan" George of the fighting 2nd has decided that he needs a better half, what is to become of the old love in Shanghai. There was a little doubt as to why Hill made that nose dive in the M. L. on the fare-the-well night in Frisco, but we learn that the heart throb was giving him one of the extra special farewell embraces, Mmm My, What a man you are ? ? Tatkiewicz, "Biscuit King" and "Headlock" Wellbourne had the crowd spellbound with their debate one evening, but when the King broke out his pet topic the Biological Urge, he had Headlock stopped for the time being, but he being a charter member of the Famous Algerian Ballon Corps, was soon in the thick of the fray and finally won by a nose. Although the lady has been teaching school several years, it took DeBri and Shaw plus a few pints to teach her things about Frisco and especially howling. It has come to light that we have an excellent Swordswallower in none other than Kennedy and it seems the fair sex just have to quit work to be near him. "Terry" McGovern has just about decided to give up riding that certain White Horse, since it has thrown him so easily. Despite the fact the he remains single and footloose, so he says, the big handsome brute of the Laundry, Kirkpatrick, was really desirous of some special liberty last Wednesday night, how come Kirk, there is always another day ? ? With the current rumors of the ship returning to China, there seems to be a lot of gossip among the members of the Golden

Grain club, well lads don't let it get you down, the tour it only thirty months. Knowing that the certain battle-wagon would not be in Sat. evening, our fair haired boy from the laundry stepped over, and was he all smiles. Kremensky says the ship was sure a welcome sight after those dreary days aboard the Argonne, it just seems they made him earn those beans, while the homeguards aboard delighted in his work. With deep regret we learn that "Si" Pierce has been loking over the wedding rings in the catalogues in the S. S. store, now Si don't tell us the spell has come over you too. What sort of a plot could McKee and Freedman have been hatching when they were seen consulting so secretly ? ? It has come to light that our able bodied MAA has taken out a course in Public Speaking, now Wellbourne, what next ? ? Steve Sivak just about lost control when a certain sea soldier stepped up to the canteen and asked wether or not he could bust a pack of razor blades so that he could purchase one. When ever "Snarfy" Joe is lonesome and blue he just proceeds to the post-office and calmly looks over his art gallery, and then he is a new man once again Brown insists that he does'nt mind a glass of beer being slopped on him now and then, but to have some fair young thing do it and then have the "Awful Man" Kennedy laugh at him is too much. Seen in the washroom, the Biscuit King taking a bath and a shave, but the best part of the story is that a peacoat was being used to keep him from catching a cold, a new style in bathing we calls it. Porky Rommie has just confessed to the world at large what his big secret of his phenominal success in life was, he was the "Honor Man" of his company while going thru training years back. Who is the brute in "A" division whose little doll in Frisco calls him Lambie Pie.

When your heels hit hard,  
And your head feels queer,  
And your thoughts arise  
Like the froth on beer,  
When you sit around  
The whole night long,  
And laugh like hell  
At some damn fool song,  
You're drunk, by God!  
You're drunk!

### Athletics

For several weeks now we have been holding out hope of getting together a Houston baseball team. We have plenty of material but lack gear. However, this very morning your editor actually saw the approved and signed authorization for this gear and the bids being prepared. Perhaps, there is still hope.

At present it is difficult to give any information in regard to the strength of various teams for the coming season. The Vestal will undoubtedly have her usual strong aggregation. The Chicago has been practicing for some time now and seem to show good strength; however, her team has been handicapped by having the basketball finals hanging over her head. In the Battle Force the Tennessee and the Nevada seem to have the slight edge on the other "wagons" in that they have been playing all winter in a local sand lot league.

These bids for baseball gear also include gear for the boxing and wrestling teams. Looks like we may have some real athletic activity yet.

To-day, Thursday, the call went out for first and second enlistment whale boat crews. The response to these calls was gratifying but a lot more men are still needed. The races are to be pulled this Tuesday or Wednesday. This doesn't give much time for practice; however with that spirit which was shown in the LRBP and Engineering Speed Run, we can still show these other crews a thing or two. How about it?

The Tennessee brags that H. A. Guthrie one of their star basketball players threw and made 85 field goals in 19 basketball games. We have a man on our team who has that record beat a mile. Wilmouth threw and made 86 field goals in 14 games. In one game against the Portland he made 33 points of which 30 were accounted for by field goals. To the best of our knowledge these are two All Navy records.

College Grad: "Your methods of cultivation are hopelessly out of date. I'd be astonished if you got even ten pounds of apples from that tree."

Farmer: "So would I. It's a pear tree."

### The Military Gentlemen

We extend our heartiest congratulations to the culinary department, somebody there knows how to make Soup - could we have more of it - say at the evening meal?

Judging from the number of brass buttons seen in the line waiting for liberty at ten o'clock last Saturday night, Long Beach must have "IT" or "THEM", but at least Sgt. Webster walks the straight and narrow path. Ask him how he does it. By the way gentlemen, this other strange looking Sgt. is named Ross.

Between Ship's routine, guard duty and shining buttons the Devil Dogs have found time to learn semaphore, musketry and other things of war. It's all in the day's work boys.

### Fleet Basket-ball Finals

The fleet Basketball finals are to be played off Friday and Saturday, one and two March, and the following Saturday if necessary, at the Admiral Leigh Gym, San Pedro. The Scouting Force is to be represented by the Chicago and the Battle Force by the Tennessee. Originally there was to be a play off between the Chicago and Destroyers Scouting Force to determine the Scouting Force championship; however, the Destroyers forfeited. It is reported that the Tennessee has lost three of her star players. If this is true, the Chicago stands a good chance of winning the series. On the other hand, the Chicago has played fewer games since the end of the season than the Tennessee has. The week-end will tell the tale.

This past week Joe E. Brown's All Star basketball team was beaten by a combined Navy quintet by a score of 41 to 40. The Navy team was composed of Loughlin, Navy All-American '32, '33; Bedell, captain N.A. team '33; Rankin, captain N.A. team '34; and two of the Tennessee stars. The All-Stars were reputed to be one of the best teams in the states.

Luella: "Last night I went to the Navy dance and became engaged to a very charming sailor."

Flo: "What's his name?"

Luella: "How should I know? A girl can't start right in asking personal questions like that."

### Successful Speed Trial (Con't.)

one by about 5%. Perfection is hard to attain in nearly every branch of human endeavor; that score seems to indicate perfection in one instance at least.

The Admiral, our Captain, and Engineer Officer seem very much pleased over the result of this Trial. The Commanding Officer demonstrated his pleasure by officially congratulating the Engineer Officer and all hands in the Department.

Like everything else, this success was not due to the efforts of a single man. Team-work, and complete cooperation on the part of all hands thruout the ship helped make it possible.

Congratulations Houston, keep up the good work!

### Navy Chiefs To Be Moved (Con't.)

mandant Norfolk Navy Yard. Captain G.H. Meyers to Commander Special Service Squadron in the Carribbean. Rear Admiral Walter H. Gherardi to Commandant of the First Naval District. Captain Edward J. Marquart to Commandant of the Sixteenth Naval District.

Previous changes in the Fleet were: Vice Admiral Harris Lanning to Commander Battle Force with the temporary rank of Admiral.

### San Francisco Joins Fleet (Con't)

Zone. After completing this cruise, she returned to the Mare Island Navy Yard where she had flag quarters installed.

Th San Francisco is named after the city of that name where 70 seamen and marines landed from the USS Portsmouth on 9 July, 1846 and set up the American flag. San Francisco, we welcome you!

When a woman is good, that's beautiful,  
And when she's beautiful, that's good.  
But when she's beautiful and good—  
that's a shame!

Medico: "Young lady, you have a cute appendicitis."

Moll: "Listen, lug, I came here to be examined and not admired."

Send the BLUE BONNET home.