

**PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY**

On the occasion of his birthday the Captain sent birthday greetings To our Commander-in-Chief on behalf of himself, the officers, and the crew. This week acknowledgement of those greetings was received, showing once again the fine impression we made on our distinguished guest.

The White House:—  
Washington.

February 1, 1935.

My dear Captain Woodson:

One of the first and most delightful messages of birthday greetings which came to me was that particularly nice one you sent from all hands on the good ship Houston. I am genuinely grateful to you all.

Wasn't it a grand cruise!

Very sincerely yours,  
Franklin D. Roosevelt.

**ADMIRAL BAYLY SUGGESTS VISIT**

Speaking in England recently, Admiral Sir Lewis Bayly, R.N. commander of the Queenstown base during the World War and of Queenstown based U. S. destroyers, is quoted as suggesting an invitation to the United States to send a squadron of five or six ships to pay a week's visit to England this spring as guests of the English nation. In his opinion, this would "show the world that our two navies are not competitive but complementary, and that the two form a powerful instrument for peace.

"Our two navies worked together during 1917-18 in perfect harmony, and are ready to do so again should the peace of the world be endangered."

**KENNEDY, WILMOUTH, DOUGLAS NAMED IN ALL SCOUTING FORCE BASKETBALL SELECTIONS**

Wilmouth and Kennedy were named in the second team for forward and center respectively on the All Scouting Force Basketball Selection as made by Jack Moore, noted Navy sport writer, and various Navy coaches. Both these men were strong contenders for these positions on the first team. Wilmouth being beaten out by Barrett of Chester. Wilmouth played a very smooth all-round game and was always one of the high scorers of every game. Douglass was another threat at forward position.

Gliniany of the Vestal and Kennedy were a toss up for the center berth. Gliniany probably being picked because of the better record of his team rather than because of any individual superiority. Kennedy always had control of the situation but at times was unable to get the proper range thereby missing more shots than he should have, but he was an outstanding player in every game.

Douglass was named as right forward on the second team as picked by Lt. (jg) Dennett, Cruisers Basketball Officer. Douglass was not such a high scorer as Kennedy and Wilmouth being essentially a feed man, however he seemed to have a knack of being at the right place at the proper time and knowing just where to pass without a moment's hesitation. Nevertheless at times he turned in some mighty nice scores.

If a selection of a three man combination had been made it would undoubtedly have been Wilmouth, Kennedy and Douglass. They were with-

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**SIGHTS WORTH SEEING**

It has been said that Southern California offers a greater variety of attractions - more to see and do and remember - than any other single resort area anywhere. Many of these attractions are so well known that they scarcely need mentioning.

We learn from our exchange of some attractions not so well known but well worth seeing.

Have you ever visited the California Alligator Farm, the W. K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Ranch, the Los Angeles Ostrich Farm and Cay's Lion Farm? These places are most interesting to visit and all within easy reach from Los Angeles, either by auto or bus. The California Alligator Farm is located near Lincoln Park, Los Angeles. Here can be seen hundreds of alligators of all sizes, from little babies hardly the size of a lizard, up to huge monsters, 500 years old or more. The nests, the eggs incubating in machines, all to be seen in a beautiful park and miniature lakes with special exhibitions given daily of trained alligators shooting the chutes.

W.K. Kellogg's Arabain Horse Ranch lies near Pomona, California. One sees much beautiful country even going there. At this beautiful farm with its white spotless stables, surrounded by green pastures and fertile fields are bred and raised the finest of Arabian stock. Many of these are prize winners and are much sought after by motion pictures producers. White uniformed attendants gladly show visitors around.

And then a real treat can be had by visiting the Los Angeles Ostrich Farm. This farm has the only trained Os-

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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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**PEP TALK**

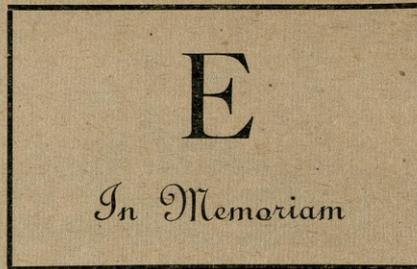
The U.S.S. Dumar, an ammunition ship, was anchored in the harbor of Apra, Guam, during the war. In addition to explosives, she was carrying a cargo of gasoline stored on her decks. Shortly after leaving Guam, she ran into a tremendous storm, lightning struck the gasoline stowage, and fire resulted. The radio operator at once began to send SOS calls to the station on the Island of Guam, while her crew got off in the boats.

All that afternoon and night they rowed toward Guam, believing the SOS call would be answered; and sure enough next morning the Station tug stood out from the harbor. But they realized that she had changed her course in an opposite direction, to visit another part of the island. They continued to row towards the island in the hope that they could make a safe landing. But the wind, tide and current of the ocean were too much; and after more than twenty-four hours, they gave up and decided to use the wind and current to carry them to the Philippine Islands, some 1500 miles away. In one of these boats were fifteen men, with little or no provisions, and a small supply of water. The boat landed in the Philippines, but only after the death of five or six, and after several had become insane, and all the survivors near death through thirst and starvation.

The Navy made an investigation to find why the SOS was never answered. The radioman on that wave length had decided there was no use listening in because nothing ever happened.

The lesson is obvious.

## SPLIT ESSES



## CRUISER WING TO SAN DIEGO

All preparations have been completed during the past week to disembark the entire Cruiser Wing, for the six weeks concentration, training and upkeep period at San Diego.

Present plans call for planes, plane crews and equipment to leave the ship today. Personnel remaining on board over the week end will be transferred via tug Monday morning.

This concentration will mark the first time that the entire Wing has been based ashore, since April of last year. It is expected that several of the new cruiser units will make their debut at this time, in the form of a new squadron, to be known as VS-128.

This concentration period is primarily for the purpose of getting equipment and personnel in the best shape possible, for the coming years activities.

The definite date for the return of the Units is set for 23 March. It is planned to keep the ship posted on our operations, through the BLUE BONNET, until that time.

## ISN'T IT THE TRUTH

You can count on the stars in their courses.

To follow their usual route;  
You can often depend upon horses,  
To win you the race by a snout.

You can trust in a heaven or a hades,  
And taxes and death, it is said;  
But a man who relies on the ladies  
Is certainly tetched in the haid.

Inconsistency—is it a virtue?

Inconsistency—is it a vice?

When a girl should be nice, she'll hurt you;

When she ought to be nasty, she's nice.

When you feel you've won her affections,

You'll find your faith is misplaced.

When she runs in the other direction,  
She only wants to be chased.

## SCOFOR BASKETBALL SERIES

The Scouting Force Basketball Championship series (1934-35) will be held at 1430 on 18, 19 and 20 February at the National Guard Armory, Mission and Fourteenth Streets, San Francisco. A three game series will be held. The third game, scheduled for 20 February, will not be played unless necessary to determine the winner of the series. The Chicago and a team representing the Destroyers Scouting Force will compete for the championship.

These past few weeks, due to LR BP, Scouting Force athletics have been at a rather low ebb. Our own baseball team has been held up on account of lack of equipment, however, it is believed that on our return from San Francisco the team will begin practice in earnest.

Last week our boxers were seen working out on the fantail almost every afternoon under the eye of Ens. Long, ably assisted by Kline who seems to be as good a stable master as a boxer. Krzywick, Adams, Swanson, Mustain, Kennedy and Phillips have been working out quite regularly. Now's a good time for any of you would-be fighters to learn a few pointers. Turn out next time you hear the word passed for the boxers. Who knows, you may be a second Demsey or Baer.

## THE NAVY MAN

Rear Admiral Bradley A. Fiske, U.S.N. (Retired) once said: "And do not think these ships as the Navy. The ships alone are masses of inert matter, they are of themselves powerless. The thing that makes them turn to the right and to the left, and take part in maneuvers, and fires their guns, is the spirit of man. It is the spirit of man that designs and makes and operates and vivifies ships. The Navy is not composed of ships; the Navy is composed of men. The ships are the tools they use."

Figure this one out and marvel. An English parachute jumper has set a record—he actually did eight parachute decents in 16 minutes 50 seconds—average of 2.06:25 to get into plane, get off the ground, up to height safe for jumping, jump, and descend to ground!



## NOSEY NEWS by EV' BODY

Another week of maneuvering and of course even though we have been at sea, the scandal leaks out and oh, what do we hear about the boys this week and to commence with we learn that the art of self defense goes back to "Slug McGee," for he insists that he is one of the old school who know their stuff, and that popular SK3c is slightly agog about has shore duty and of course if the Bureau says yes he will no doubt complete that longer for marriage. Oh was it a disappointment to see the respectable young man from the "V" division strutting around the Pike deeply worroed over the loss of the sweet young thing, what about those good resolutions, Gibson ? ? ? They say it is not news to see a man-o'-war's man step up to a shooting gallery and try his hand, but when he tries his hand with the fair young thing behind the counter, what then ? ? Now we should get together and help this poor young man out, here is the problem, the future Mother-in-law writes him and tells him to write oftener to the daughter for unless she receives one letter a day she seems to let the family have very little peace, will anybody kindly help this GM out who is badly in need of a stenographer. Fulks, RM2c, headline hunter of the "V" division seems to have a standing order for buttermilk, and it is rumored that when he returns from Diego he will have a gallon a day on board. After all these years (7 to be exact), with years of experience in all parts of the globe, one LONE little kiss has just about made a good injun out of Mac's right hand man on the forecandle. Now for all of you prospective lovers who are contemplating a marriage, here is a new slant on romance, do as our QM Gowler

did, take the gal on the merry-go round as part of the honeymoon. Who said "Omar the Tentmaker," (Snarfy Joe to youse people) gave the deserving Miss a ring, well what we want to know is was it a wedding ring? ? What have we here, Weigand strolling down the boardwalk with his big bundle of joy and nonchalant as could be, considering the moonlight and starlight skies, oh ain't love grand. It appears that Dazzy Vance of the fighting 3rd seems to be recovering from the "One hour with you." And it's happened again, this time to Brown of the Gunnery Office, says he is ready to sail anyplace including China, Africa, Samoa, etc., since the big disappointment in love. Wasn't that a sweet little theatre party they held the other night, and all divisions were well represented. It is easy to understand why a certain BM1c is angling to make the trip to San Diego with the aviation unit. Wilburn would like to know what makes the law misunderstand him so. Highstreet looks just too sweet with that wrist watch and chewing gum about the well-deck. It appears that Norris has had his face lifted and is seriously thinking of becoming a Hosp. App. Wirebrush Robertson is in high spirits again, due chiefly to the fact that the new outfit from stem to stern has risen several good marks. Can it be that the C-M's have night-mares, one would think so with all the repairs coming to gangway in boats. Imagine the commotion that was raised last Friday morning when after hours of labor on the well-deck with ye olde field day, the lads returned to find that old Nemesis, good old No. 1 stack had erupted again after being quiet for several weeks. Hartkopf one of the oldest members of the Stbd. hanger seems to be having his troubles keeping up with his Navy duties and the same time keeping the Heart Throb squared away. While taking a coxswain's exam "Agnes" Gardner of the "F" Div. was asked the following: How can you determine a holiday? Ans: When I come over the boom and see all hands caulking off. Even Gunner Condit and Joe Phalon enjoyed the fireworks on the Comm deck last week. What could have happened to "Stinky" Davis of the 3rd, all set to leave on the S.L.C. observing party only to find that he had two left shoes on ? ? ? And it was received from

good authority that the muchly in love and muchly married storekeeper from the Pay office bought an electric heating pad, now what can this world be coming to ? ? ? What was that blonde haired incinerator man doing in the drug store buying ladies underwear ? ? ? What will the ship do if the fighting fourth doesn't stop taking all the women over. Seen in one of the ship's washrooms, Hank Kenedy, with a piece of soap, good work Hank, keep it up. You know one a week don't hurt. Si Pierce, the "Fred Astire" of the "E" division demonstrated a "four" point landing to the lads during a recent exhibition of the dance.

### NEWS OF FORMER SHIPMATES

Don LaRue, who left us so suddenly while the ship was in Bremerton, says "hello" from the Destroyer Base at San Diego.

John Viner said "I do" after being out less than three months and is now aboard the Prune Barge and in the 6th Div. Says the outside is not only cruel but chilly also.

Grubb, "Henry" to some of us, continues on striking for QM on the San Francisco. Some day soon he may wear the eagle. Lt.(jg) O'Donnell is listed on the roster also.

"Abe" Balint, CBM, is now attached to the Floating Drydock that was brought around from the East Coast for use at the Destroyer Base, San Diego.

How many of these questions concerning Navy life can you answer?

Note: The answers are not to be found in the book.

1. Where is Dead Mans Island?
2. What is a Yangtze Moor?
3. What is a Santa Anna?
4. What is a Honey Barge?
5. Where is Moaning Maggie?
6. Where is the Red Barn and what is it?
7. What is a Tree Nail?

KENNEDY, WILMOUTH, DOUGLAS  
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out a doubt one of the smoothest working combinations in the Scouting Force. These three men deserve a lot of credit; they played a real game of ball.

## CAULKING OFF

Among Navy expressions none is more common than the above. In the past few years one hears this pronounced by many as though it was "corking off," but the pronunciation is incorrect and is probably due to the fact that few have ever seen these words in writing or print.

The origin of this expression seems to be solved by the following explanation: Many years ago in the days of wooden ships and the use of sails, time dragged with the ship's company when on a long cruise. Also, the effect of the tropical sun on the decks was not beneficial to the seams of the decks. It was customary during a dull period when the sun waxed fervent and the seams yawned somewhat, to detail a small party of men to caulk the weather decks. This involved an attitude on the decks more suggestive of sleep than work. Lying down with a small caulking iron and mallet in the hands did not inspire the worker with any keen desire for labor. The warm sun aided and abetted the toiler in his craving for rest.

As, a result when the boatswain's mate would leave the group for a time, other duties calling him away, the workers would promptly stop caulking seams and give way to that boon of the ages—sleep. Upon his return they would hastily resume operations sometimes being assisted thereto by the B. M. In short there would be "caulking on" instead of the brief period of "caulking off" which had been enjoyed by the wearied salts.

This seems to be the most satisfactory explanation of the very familiar words "caulking off", meaning a brief siesta or an abbreviated period of sleep. The only sailor who could not seem to "caulk off" was the far famed Ancient Mariner and every one knows that this gentleman whose ability to sleep was "knocked for a goal" by reason of his shooting the albatross was after all a myth and the product of a poet's mind, for whoever saw a real healthy man of the sea who could not enjoy a nap whenever the chance came.

—Keystone

Send the BLUE BONNET home.

## KNOWING THE NAVY

"A fleet of 24 Navy planes took off on 22 January from Coco Solo, Panama, on a 24 day cruise of the Caribbean Sea."

\* \* \*

"Seventeen new submarines and destroyers, now under construction, will be commissioned in 1935 and 1936; and will then join the Fleet forces based at San Diego."

\* \* \*

Mainmasts of battleships in our Fleet will hereafter be painted black, while the rest of the ship will remain its usual grey.

This is an economy measure—one that will save much paint and elbow grease, and delight the deck forces. It will also add to a ship's appearance—as the present gray on the mainmast has always refused to remain a respectable gray—with belching smoke-stacks, blowing tubes, and laying smoke screens.

\* \* \*

"France while actively concentrating on building cruisers of various sizes, submarines, and a sister battleship to the DUNKERQUE, the French Naval Authorities have been experimenting with new departures in maritime warfare. Realizing that blockade has a definite and important place in most wars, the French have been developing a combined blockade runner, and blockade maintainer. This boat is a sixty foot launch, which developed a speed of more than fifty knots in trials at St. Nazaire. Her shallow draft renders her impervious to mines and at sea she is invisible to aviators, while her great speed protects her from artillery fire."

\* \* \*

The Naval salute to the quarterdeck dates back to ancient history. The Greeks had a statue of Mars and Athene on the part of the ship which today corresponds to the quarterdeck, and everyone coming aboard or leaving the ship made obeisance to those statues. In the middle ages the ships of Christian nations had a crucifix which was saluted when passed. In modern ships the salute to the quarterdeck is really interpreted to mean a salute to the flag.

\* \* \*

Several bills were introduced in Congress for the restoration of the Federal pay cut,—dating from 1 Jan-

## THE FLEET IRON MAN RACE

Although the Tennessee appeared to have the Navy-all-around athletic title clinched a few weeks ago, the West Virginia now holds a commanding lead in points for the Iron Man Trophy, the highest of all Navy athletic awards.

To win the trophy, the Tennessee must show a perfect record in sailing, rowing and baseball. The California is given an outside chance to come from third place to nose out both of the favorites.

## BELIEVE IT OR NOT

The Houston has been in commission for four years, traveled 110,000 miles, touched four continents, hit 87 ports, had her mail sent via PM, Seattle, Washington for three years, and yet has never visited that port.

## SIGHTS WORTH SEEING

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tricks in the entire West. Visitors are given the opportunity of seeing these giant birds ridden astride, or harnessed and driven to a sulky. There are nearly a hundred of these birds on exhibition, some of them being the largest Ostriches in the U. S. and some the tallest in the world.

Gay's Lion Farm only a few miles from Los Angeles is one of the most interesting places in Southern California to visit. Animals far superior to those imported from the jungles of Africa can be seen here in a perfect state of health and contentment. Lions from this unique farm have been shown throughout the world. Here can be seen "Numa," the world's most valuable lion, and "Slats" the one that plays heavy roles before the camera.

People who miss visiting these places while in Southern California are as unfortunate as tourists traveling through Egypt and never seeing the Pyramids.

uary, 1935. The Senate and House both passed an amendment this week to the deficiency bill restoring the remaining five per cent cut as of April 1. Unless the President vetoes this bill, which appears unlikely, your pay beginning April 1, will have the additional five per cent.