

### Ship's Wrestling Team Shows Class

Last Thursday, 2 September, the Houston wrestling squad met the Dobbin wrestlers in a practice tilt, and defeated them by winning two bouts to their one. In the other six weights represented the results were draws.

Looks like a good team this year for the Rambler Ship. The following men comprise the wrestling squad:

- Folta, A. E., Ptr.3c
- Freeman, H. E., G.M.3c
- Mallette, E. T., Sea.2c
- Rogers, G. W., Sea.2c
- Harvey, D. J., Sea.2c
- Beckwith, R. L., Sea.1c
- Pratt, W. H., M.M.2c
- Plemel, L. M., Sea.1c
- Fordemwalt, J. W., Sea.1c
- Henry, F. A., Sea.1c
- Chick, E. A., Sea.1c
- Miller, J. R., Sea.1c

There are openings on the squad for men weighing from 140 pounds to 150 pounds. Candidates in this weight class should get in touch with "Headlock" Wellbourn.

#### THE KNOCKER

A knocker is a two-legged animal with a corkscrew soul, a water logged brain, and a combination backbone of jelly and glue. Where other man have their hearts, he carries a tumor of decayed principles.

When the knocker comes down the street honest men turn their backs, the angles in heaven weep and the devil shuts the door of hell to keep him out. Therefore don't be a knocker. You can't saw wood with a hammer.

### Tenth Anniversary Of Houston's Name

THE following message was received by the Commanding Officer of the Houston on the 7th of September:

"Tonight the cruiser Houston committee commemorates with a banquet the tenth anniversary of the official naming of the cruiser Houston by former Secretary Wilbur. This occasion entirely incomplete without our sending you and officers and men of your command heartiest good wishes for health, happiness and success. A. D. Simpson."

The following reply was sent by the Commanding Officer: "The Commanding Officer, officers and crew of the Houston are deeply appreciative of the interest and good wishes expressed by the citizens of Houston to their ship. I regret that we cannot be with you to join in a fitting celebration of the tenth anniversary of the official naming of the cruiser Houston. U.S.S. Houston."

Indeed, it is with a feeling of sincere regret and no little disappointment that we are unable to visit this beautiful, thriving city of the Southland on such a fitting occasion.

In the hearts of the lucky few officers and men still aboard, who visited the city on the ship's last cruise there, nestles many cherished memories. The citizens and committees of the city showed a warm hospitality which endeared them forever to the officers and crew.

We feel deeply proud and honored that we are lucky enough to be able to serve aboard so fine a ship named after so worthy a city.

Better do a little well than a great deal badly.—Socrates.

### Baseball Team Defeats Vallejo Moose

Last Sunday the Houston baseball team defeated the Moose Club of Vallejo by the score of 6-2.

This was a fast nine inning game featured by the hitting of Rebert, who in the sixth inning caught hold of one of Miles fast ones and parked it over the fence for a homerun. The infield of the Houston team showing sparkle at times, pulled off two fast double plays that stopped important rallies. Felix pitched good ball and held the Moose team to three hits while striking out 11 men.

Wednesday the Richmond beat the Houston baseball team 8-7 in 11 innings of hard, fast ball. Behind 7-3 going into the ninth inning the Richmond put on a four run rally throwing the game into extra innings. In the 11th the Richmond team scored one run by the aid of a hit, a hit batsman and a wild throw down the third base line. It was a tough game to lose and outside of one inning the Houston clearly out played the Richmond nine.

This Sunday, the ship's team plays the Spinello Grocers on our own Kearney Field at 1430. The butchers and bakers have a good team and a good game is in the offing. Let's have all hands out and support this ball team of ours. Do you know that the average age of our players is well below that of other teams? Just think what that will mean to this ship in a few years if the team can be kept together.

Navy Bill Says: Some people aim at nothing and hit the mark every time.

## —: 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.

Editor, Lieut. (jg) E. A. McDonald

Assistant Editor: R. C. Ball, Ch. Pay Clerk

Associate Editors: Stefan Sivak, Jr., SK2c

R. B. Thompson, Sealc

Circulation: John Boris, F3c

Printers: G. A. Smith, Prtr3c

R. L. Beckwith, Sealc

11 September 1937

## AN ODE TO SINGLE BLISS

THERE was a terrible sailor who  
Was neither a Pole nor a Jew.  
In fact he was quite the cream  
Of a division that fooled with steam  
And he was harder than the rest of  
the crew.

He would swear and pound his chest  
As he hollered, "I'm the best.  
Stand clear or I'll smear  
You grinnin' mugs from ear to ear."

BUT one day this bold bad gob  
Met a slight young damsel with a  
sob.

"Protect me," cried the maiden fair  
"Save me from all worldly care.  
You're strong and you're manly  
In your uniform you look so grandly.  
To the altar we must go.  
There you'll find I'll not say no."

THERE was once a terrible sailor  
who  
Acts now like neither a Pole nor a Jew.  
He doesn't holler, rant, or rage  
But is as gentle as a lamb in a cage.  
Oh, where is gone that voice of might  
When a word in answer meant a fight.  
As he bellowed, "out of my way, you  
lugs, them's my wishes."  
While now he says, "yes my love, I'll  
wash the dishes."

"Does my gown look as though it  
were falling off my shoulders?"

"Naw, let's dance."

"I'm sorry, but I must go and re-  
arrange it. It's supposed to look that  
way."

\* \*

Mess Attendant: "What yo' all doin'  
with that queen o' spades in yo' poc-  
ket?"

2d ditto: "Dat ain't no queen o'  
spades, dat's mah gal."



Dear Sal,

Tha homecomin' sure was a warmin' to tha heart strings, but tha roastin' pan o' duck, chicken, and goose was more satisfyin' to my greedy stomach. Fresh chicken eggs every mornin' flavored with tantalizin' strips o' last year's batch o' 'smoked hog meat still makes me hanker to turn my steps from the ways o' tha sea after I get a heavin' deck o' my own under my lower limbs. Yes sir, there's that soil hankerin' in my soul, but a body's gotta think o' fame and fortune. Tha noggin's tha better says I.

I got to lookin' 'round in tha tool house tha night after you went out with Felix to go down to Schemmerhorn's dance hall and came 'cross some mighty interestin' things there. In one corner, covered with tha cobwebs o' tha ages, stood Ma's old wood cook stove. This sent my thoughts a gallopin' back to tha time I use to watch tha stew kettle a bubblin' on that very same stove in my younger days.

One time when I was in my knee pants and a goin' barefoot both summers and winters a strange scourge musta come right up our fields and landed plumb smack dab on me. I awoke with tha greatest collection o' squash bumps you ever did see, and coughin' spells use to rack my system till I developed a wheeze worse'n tha old well pump. It wasn't so bad, just tha fits o' coughin' and tha welts, but it got so that every time a spell o' coughin' would hit my frame I'd lose a tooth. Pa sure hollered because I use to sit in front o' this cook stove, and tha fallin' fangs would hit tha stove with a gosh awful bang. He'd get to thinkin' it was tha dinner gong and come a tearin' into tha house all set for some vittles only to find me a hangin' 'round with green under my gills. Well, it got so that he finally called in old Doc. Summers. Tha old Doc prescribed a diet o' sour butter-

(Continued on Page 4.)

## Life Of An Escort

"Good afternoon, Madam, may I offer to take your party around the ship? Follow me please. No, I'm sorry I don't know Gus Glip from Iowa, maybe he's on a different ship. Oh no, there are lots of sailors I don't know. You see I don't get around very much.

"Now this is the Crew's Reception Room—that's a funny name for it, because it's just a place for the marines to sleep. No lady, that isn't a gorrilla, he's a coxswain who trains boxers. That's an office in there, inhabited by yeomen. Huh! Oh a yeoman is a sort of a person who has done a girl's work so long he's beginning to act like one. This is the third division compartment. See how all those sailors are afraid of that big boatswain's mate? Here's the radio compartment. You can tell the radiomen because they all look dispeptic. What did that horn say? Well, man, I can't talk that lingo, it's called "boatswainian"—something like Russian only it can't be written.

"Careful, man, don't go in there, it's the CPO. mess room and they're liable to eat you. A CPO is a man who can eat and sleep all the time.

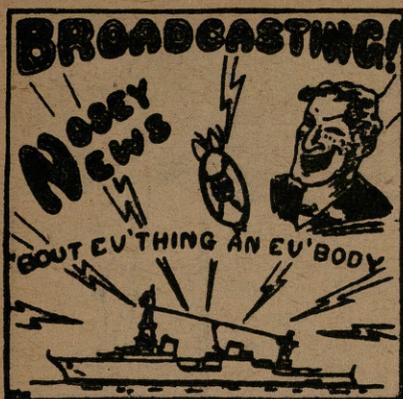
"That place is the Ship's Service Store. They have lots of stuff there but you can't buy anything 'cause they are never open. Besides if they sold their stuff, they'd just have to buy more so what's the use? Down that hole? Oh, the bilge rats live down there. No, they're not really rats even tho they look and act like rats. They are different kinds of bilge rats—the boiler snipes' ears are always full of soot, the main drive snipes' faces are all flat from sleeping in coke alley. "A" Division snipes all run and hide when they hear a boat bell, and "E" Division snipes always wear ragged clothes with tools sticking out of their pockets just as if they were going to use them.

"Well, g'by man, I enjoyed showing you the ship." —Mountaineer.

## Excerpt from the Articles for the Government of the Navy:

"And it is honestly recommended to all officers, seamen, and others in the Naval Service diligently to attend every performance of worship of Almighty God."

Send the BLUE BONNET home.



**GREETINGS;** friends and shipmates, especially the ones who so greatly contributed to this column for the last issue. Let's keep these notes coming in about everyone and see their reactions when they read about their undoings.

\* \* \* \*

**WITH REGRETS** concerning the omission of writing about the death of one of our shipmates in the last issue we report the departure of our dear friend Al Buckridge from our ranks. This shipmate served on board the Houston and was transferred to the Submarine School at New London, Conn., where he met his death while riding a motorcycle.

\* \* \* \*

**CONCERNING** the quality of paper being used for the Blue Bonnet. An order has been placed with a leading paper firm in San Francisco. As yet delivery has not been made.

\* \* \* \*

**WE BELIEVE** our suspicions confirmed in regards a new G.G. in the "R" Division. At least the "Mrs." on her return address points that way. How about it, Wishard, do we or don't we get cigars?

\* \* \* \*

**THIS PERSON** will be glad to tell everyone interested, just exactly what happened to Doerfler, 1st Division, and how come he returned to the ship minus one skivvie shirt.

\* \* \* \*

**PUDGY OWENS** of the 3d Division, had quite a time explaining the horse hair on his dress blues. Seems he thought himself a bronco-buster but couldn't get on the bronco. If you'd been more gentleman than man at the bar that evening, we have no doubt that you could have mounted your steed.

**FOR POSTERITY;** It has been reported that our super child, Coxswain Yap Yap had an enlargement made of one of his baby pictures. This, so he says was a picture suitable for any art gallery, perhaps he was thinking of the Smithsonian Institute. This picture or etching was given to his wife for safe keeping on the piano. Is it correct, Yap Yap, that the little lady hung it up in the wood shed?

\* \* \* \*

**JACK BARRON,** claims he got some stamps from Joe West (our dashing mail clerk), that were glued together. Joe explains this by saying they probably are some of the stamps left from the days that McCormack had the Post Office.

\* \* \* \*

**TOMMY CRANE** ought to go out for fight promoting. Took him only a short time to get Mustain and Drake into a battle royal. Drake gave up the title.

\* \* \* \*

**JIM WALLACE, GM1c,** claims that Tom Brown, GM1c is getting quite stuck on himself. We never thought Tom would get "that way," but Jim says the Gunner remarked he mistook Tom for Jim and says Jim, "See what happens."

\* \* \* \*

**KNEW A FELLOW** once who wore pretty large shoes, in fact very big, but he had nothing on Bannon of the 1st. A few weeks ago he discovered that the Small Stores didn't carry his size so the Supply Office rushed a special order in for size eleven shoe to Brooklyn along with an order for a couple of special sized suits of undress blues. Upon their arrival on board, Cochrane, the Small Stores Yeoman submitted an old pair of trousers for one of the new ones. When Bannon discovered he had an old pair of blues in his issue, he reported it to the Supply Office and there was Cochrane as well as his new trousers. Cochrane couldn't explain how it all happened.

\* \* \* \*

**AND IT SEEMS** as though our newsboy, in the person of "Rolling Rink Romeo" Freddy Hessen, is following in the hoofsteps of the better (?) Houstonites. Ask any of the gals at the roller skating colosseum, they'll tell you who our Fred is.

**FLASH!** In an exclusive interview with Felix Gomez (better known to his many fans as "goofy") your reporter has discovered a few interesting facts. As we all know, Goofy, beg pardon, Mr. Gomez pitched the Houston's team to a victory last Saturday. When interviewed after the game he was his usual self, bashful and shy, and would make no comments on the game. After a quick trip to the showers he caught the first ferry to Frisco to see a certain young lady or perhaps ladies. No doubt this popular athlete has many a feminine heart a flutter. We often wonder why these big, powerful, shy and retiring athletes are such big successes with the ladies. Won't you tell us, Mr. Gomez.

\* \* \* \*

**WE ARE** wondering what would be a good explanation for a man returning to the ship, generously covered with warm, rich catsup. Perhaps Gilmore can tell us something about this.

\* \* \* \*

**ROYAL,** master mind of the scullery, declares Horn sounded like Yap Yap especially when he is behind something so you can't see his face.

#### JACK O' THE DUST

Probably the only place the term "Jack o' the dust" is used in the United States is in the U.S. Navy. Apparently a common term in medieval times for the custodian of the pantry supplies and stores. Present practice is to call men on this duty in other walks of life "stewards," or assistant stewards. However, it is still a live calling on the ships of the U.S. Navy. The Jack o' the Dust on large ships is a rated cook. Aboard the smaller vessels he is an apprentice cook.

A farmer was driving past the insane asylum with a truck load of fertilizer. An inmate called out: "What are you hauling there, Napoleon?"

"Fertilizer," replied the farmer.

"What are you going to do with it?"

"Put it on my strawberries."

"You ought to live here. We get sugar and cream on ours."

\* \*

Boatswain: "Believe me, I cursed the day I was born."

Seaman: "That's odd. I didn't until I was a year old."

**Results Of Division  
Baseball**

**GROUP "A"**

Team	GP	W	L	Percent- age
"S" Division	4	4	0	1.000
"R" Division	5	4	1	.800
"F" Division	4	2	2	.500
"A" Division	5	2	3	.400
"M" Division	4	1	3	.250
2d Division	4	0	4	.000

**GROUP "B"**

Team	GP	W	L	Percent- age
"C" Division	5	4	1	.800
"B" Division	4	3	1	.750
3d Division	5	3	2	.600
4th Division	5	3	2	.600
5-H-N Division	5	2	3	.400
"E" Division	5	1	4	.200
1st Division	5	1	4	.200

**Lineup Of Houston  
And Moose Teams**

**Moose:**

	AB	H	R
Brazzi cf	3	0	1
Bennevinto lf	4	0	0
Keeft 1b	4	1	1
Burchard 3b	3	0	0
Barthlemess c	4	1	0
Miles p	4	1	0
Hurley ss	3	0	0
McMills rf	4	0	0
Meyers 2b	4	0	0
		3	2

**Houston:**

	AB	H	R
Schrum rf	4	2	0
Gryckiewicz 3b	4	0	2
Phillips ss	4	2	0
Hattermer lf	5	1	0
Rebert 1b	5	3	2
Jasinski c	4	1	1
Wright cf	4	1	0
Felix p	5	1	1
Brown 2b	4	1	1
		12	6

Doubles: Rebert, Miles.

Triples: Phillips.

Home run: Rebert.

Double plays: Phillips, Brown, Rebert (2).

Struck out: By Felix 11, by Miles 7.

\* \* \* \*

"What is the spinal column?"

"A long curved series of vertebrae. The head sits on one end and the body on the other."

**Officers' Golf**

Thursday at the Vallejo Golf Club, an eight man team composed of four officers of the Dobbin and four officers of the Houston was defeated by a team representing the local club. Once again Lt. Comdr. Tarbutton garnered the lion's share of our points when his match ended all even, for the 18 holes, and the 3 points were divided equally. Captain Gerard also contributed to the score by shooting a sterling 77. Ensigns Minter and Wengrovius completed the Houston team. Mr. Durham, Van Eaton, Riley and Dittmarr played for the Dobbin.

The pairings were as follows:

Durham	81	1	(Leachman	77
Gerard	77		(Armstrong	80
Van Eaton	85	2	(Barker	88
Wengrovius	84		(Bell	83
Riley	82	3	(Randall	87
Tarbutton	92		(Byrne	90
Minter	96	4	(Doran	89
Dittmarr	96		(Hatch	90

**Gus's Weekly Letter**

(From Page 2.)

milk and said that I'd have to gnaw on sticks o' fire wood to toughen up my gums. He said that it took strange medicine for strange diseases. Anyway, tha scourge took out and left, as did most o' my teeth. It's comfortin' to know that they were only tha first set.

Love,

Gus.

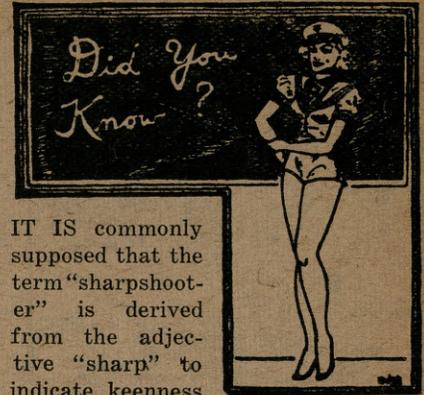
**DOG AND CAT USEFUL TO NAVY**

There are two ways to run a telephone cable through a subterranean pipe. One is the hard way and the other is the way the navy does it.

Instead of ripping up the linoleum, wood and cement floor of the Naval Air Reserve Base at Floyd Bennet Field, Chief Radioman Harold A. Williams and Ralph Cabanillas, Jr., recruited a cat; yes, they got him from the P.W.A.

To the cat, they attached a gauze harness, hooked the harness to a line, put the cat at the mouth of the tunnel and said "Scat."

The cat didn't scat, so a police dog was called, the cat ran through the pipe, and the job was done.



IT IS commonly supposed that the term "sharpshooter" is derived from the adjective "sharp" to indicate keenness or precision in shooting. As a matter of fact, the term originated with the introduction of the Sharp's breech-loading rifle, invented in 1857. This weapon was much superior to the firearms then in use and a "Sharpshooter" fired more accurately than a man armed with a musket. The word soon became a synonym for an accurate marksman, regardless of the weapon used.

o o o

The United States Navy engaged in Indian fighting at the Battle of Seattle, Washington, on October 27, 1835, when the crew of the U.S.S. Decatur was landed to assist the white settlers in repulsing an attack by hostile Indians.

o o o

Five hundred draftsmen have begun work on the fourteen month job of designing necessary plans for the new battleships Washington and North Carolina. The plans will be made at a cost of \$3,000,000. The two 35,000 ton fortresses are the first to be built by the United States since 1923. The Washington is to be constructed at Philadelphia and the North Carolina in Brooklyn, at a cost of \$60,000,000 each.

o o o

The deepest canyon in North America is that of the Snake River, on the boundry between Idaho and Oregon. It exceeds that of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River by several hundred feet. The Snake River Canyon is more than a mile and a half deep.

o o o

April has marked the opening of four major wars in which the United States has taken part: the Revolution, April 19; Civil War, April 12; Spanish American, April 25; and the war with Germany on April 6.