



**MOVIES**

In answer to some of our readers complaints about the movies, particularly to the showing of the same movie several times. This condition is brought about by the fact that we are in the Navy and operating schedules come before movie schedules. Often times ship movements prevent our receiving our movie allotment on time, as was the case on the cruise last spring. Then too, some emergency or unexpected movement is ordered as was recently the case. All the movies come from a distributing center in the East. A recent large allotment was originally scheduled to be brought to this coast in the Indianapolis. When it was found that she was to remain on the East Coast for some time, they were to be transported in the Oklahoma, but she remained in Europe longer than had been planned. In the meantime a number of those movies in the Fleet had to be sent on to the other branches of the service so as

(Continued on Page Four)

**BASKETBALL NOTES**

The HOUSTON hoop artists broke the ice with a decisive victory of 41 to 12 over the PORTLAND quintet Thursday afternoon at the Long Beach Armory. The game proved excellent evidence of hard work in the past by each member of the team, but featured the accurate eye of Phillips and Chmura, smooth pass work of the center and guards, and a well refereed game.

Even though this game climaxed the season as far as Naval competition is concerned, the team will endeavor to schedule games with civilian teams at one of the local courts.

**"CONGRATULATIONS"**

Again the HOUSTON scores One Hundred percent. At this time of the year much interest is taken throughout the service, patiently waiting the results of the selection board. This year keen interest was taken aboard the HOUSTON as there were three Lieutenant Commanders whose records would be studied very closely and if found satisfactory would be nominated for the rank of Commander.

The Blue Bonnet wishes to extend its sincere congratulations, not only to the new Commanders, but to ourselves, for having had the pleasure of serving with them.

So to Commanders Vytlacil, Keating, and Inglis: We salute you and wish you many pleasant cruises.

"Fine Officers make fine Ships".

**"PLEASANT CRUISE"**

Lieutenant Commander A. O. Rabi-deau DF, (USNR), reported on board the 24th January, 1937 for additional duty.

His permanent station is that of Commanding Officer of the USS PADUCAH stationed at Duluth, Minn. The Paducah is assigned to the training of Naval Reserves in the Ninth Naval District.

We wish you, Commander, a very pleasant cruise on the good ship HOUSTON.

**IS No. 13 UNLUCKY?**

When the Union Royal Mail Liner TAHITI sank in the South Seas in 1930, she had 13 life boats aboard her but only 12 of them were launched. The 13th boat was allowed to sink with the ship.

**BLOOD DONERS**

In response to a request, the following men volunteered and reported to the Seaside Hospital at Long Beach, California, willing to act as blood donors in the case of Mrs. Margaret Athanour, wife of a First Seargent, USMC. This was on 18 January.

Peiffer, G.J., RM1c, Freeman, H.E., GM3c, Hartkopf, D. L., Sealc, Miesse, L. L., Sea2c.

It so happened that it was not necessary to use any of them, but their immediate response is very commendable. The Commanding Officer and the Senior Medical Officer of the Naval Unit ashore wish to express their sincere appreciation of their generous conduct.

**WRESTLING NOTES**

Pratt, W. H., F1c., - Our 155 lb. wrestler is entered in the Southern California A. A. U. Wrestling Tournament. He won his first match, Saturday, 23 January 1937, by pinning his man in three minutes, gaining the right to enter again this week in the second round of the tournament to be held at the Hollywood A. C. in Hollywood. We wish him lots of luck! It is the opinion of the writer that Pratt will go a long way in this tournament.

The results of the Group 1, Semi-finals Scouting Force wrestling in which the HOUSTON had four entries namely: Chick, E. A., Sealc.; Arthur, R., GM3c; Folta, A. E., Sealc; and Fordemwaldt, J. W., Sealc, resulted in the team losing all their bouts but the men deserve a lot of credit for having gone as far as they did considering the fact that all the men with the exception of Folta, were first

(Continued on Page Two)

--: 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.

EDITOR, Ensign C. J. Mackenzie

Ass't. Editor:— R. C. Ball, Ch. Pay Clerk

Associate Editor:— A. D. Hall, MM1c

Rewrite:— W. G. Zeitfuss, Bugle

30 JANUARY, 1937.

★ ★ ★  
THE PEACOCK THIEF

This is the time of the year when the peacock thief flourishes. In cooperation with merchants on the beach who are nothing more than "fences" they work a vicious cycle on gullible sailors who indirectly help these thieves to filch them.

In the first place we don't take care of our peacocks. We leave them around where the peacock thief can get them and then say to our petty officers and division officers that they have been stolen. Second when we are forced to get another by cold weather or a bag inspection, instead of getting one legitimately from the small stores, we buy a stolen one for a few dollars cheaper on the beach. Of course the man who loses the coat and the man who repurchases it unlawfully are not usually the same but they might as well be.

It is well for all hands to remember that there exists a lucrative market for stolen peacocks not only among sailors but also civilians who find them excellent and handy warm clothing for outdoor work.

A peacock is always good for from three to five dollars in many second hand and pawn shops. Leaving an unguarded peacock about is just like leaving that much money around. The people who are going to stop the peacock thieves in this ship are the crew themselves. All the ship's orders and inspections in the world will do no good if we continue aid this vicious practice. Two simple rules will stop it: (1) Watch your peacock. (2) Don't buy a stolen peacock on the beach. If a peacock thief is found, report him. What happens to him may deter other peacock thieves. [Catapult]

In 1810 bluejackets on board the Macedonia wore scarlet vests and straw hats.

## PASSING THE WORD

A Lieutenant to his Petty Officer 1/c:

As you probably know, there will be an eclipse of the sun tomorrow, which does not occur everyday. Have the men on the bridges and spar decks at 0800 in working clothes. They will be able to see this rare phenomenon, and I will make the necessary explanations. If it rains, there will be nothing to see, and in that case let the men remain in the gun compartments.

The P. O. 1/c to the P. O. 2/c:

On the recommendation of the Lieutenant, tomorrow at 0800, there will be an eclipse of the sun, in working clothes. The Lieutenant will make the necessary explanations, to the bridges and spar decks, which does not occur every day. If it rains, there will be nothing to see, and in that case the rare phenomenon will take place in the gun compartments.

P. O. 2/c to P. O. 3/c:

By orders of the Lieutenant, tomorrow at 0800, there will be an eclipse of the sun on the bridges and spar decks in working clothes. The Lieutenant will make the necessary explanations in the gun compartments on this rare phenomenon if it should rain, which does not occur every day.

P. O. 3/c to Seamen:

Tomorrow at 0800, the Lieutenant will make an eclipse of the sun in working clothes, with the necessary explanations. If it should rain, this rare phenomenon will take place in the gun compartments, which does not occur everyday.

The Seamen among themselves:

Tomorrow at 0800, the sun on the spar deck will make an eclipse of the Lieutenant in the gun compartments, with the necessary explanations. If it should rain, this rare phenomenon will take place in working clothes, which does not occur every day.

## FAMOUS LAST WORDS

"What day are we getting paid?"

"What time does 'Libery' start?"

"Has the mail been issued yet?"

"Have you any Ship's Service chits? I need a haircut."

"It's your turn to pour the 'jamoke' Joe."

"Hey, have you seen the guy with the 'Liberty Cards'?"

"Yeah, I'm shipping over for the good old U. S. S. OUTSIDE."

## OSCAR'S OPUS No. 15

## FOGHORN

"OOOO-MY" Da fog horn cry,

"Da fog ban tick, dat ain't no lie,  
Dese citrus guys make lots of smoke  
My t'roat get dry, and make me shoks.

My voice tubes skol get plenty corse,  
And make sound like ay ban horse."

"OOOO-MY!" Da fog horn sigh,

"My t'roat get sore and make me cry  
But to keep still ay ain't skol dare  
For ships ban steaming every where,  
Ay like to shut my mout' by Yee,  
But some ship might run into me!"

“?”

There's going to be a vacancy above  
you later on.

Some day you'll find the P.O. or  
Chief-of-Station gone.

Are you growing big enough, when  
this shall be the case,

To quit the post you're holding and  
step into his place?

You do the work you have to do with  
ease from day to day.

But are you getting ready to deserve  
the larger pay?

If there should come a vacancy with  
bigger tasks to do,

Could you step in and take the place  
if it were offered you?

The bigger job is just ahead, each  
day new changes bring—

Suppose the post were vacant now,  
could you take charge of things?

It's not enough to know enough to  
earn your monthly pay.

Some day there will be a vacancy with  
a greater task to do—

Will you be ready for the place when  
it shall fall to you?

—Edgar A. Guest.

## WRESTLING NOTES

(Continued From Page One)

year men. Now that we have these men to build a team around, it is expected that the HOUSTON team will be heard from in a bigger way next year. However, a team cannot win all the battles by themselves as they need a little encouragement from the side-lines. Let's all get out and back the team in all athletic events as well as the team was backed at the last wrestling bouts.



**NOSEY  
NEWS  
'BOUT  
EV'BODY**

How do you do, folks! You're tuned to Station U. S. S. HOUSTON for your weekly human interest broadcast. The Nosey News reporter is on the air! and wishes to thank all those newshawks who have helped dig up the details that make this famed feature possible . . . From all our faithful listeners critical comment and newsworthy notes of interest are welcomed . . . Throw brickbats, bouquets or bombastic banter, but **throw something!** This is your broadcast—about you—by you—and for you! Let's make it better than just good. . .

**So you'll know what is wanted, here is a repeat.** This item is taken from the script of three weeks ago and is mentioned again because most of our regular dialers missed that program. . .

Now seems to be the right time to mention a change of policy in the conducting of this column. It is a well known fact that the type of news item that asks a question then fails to supply the answer, such as: Who? did What? and Where? is journalistic effort at its worst! Most will agree. . . When you know something about a shipmate, ex or otherwise, that is interesting, amusing . . . even ridiculous, if not hurtful, give us the lowdown and give it in detail. Names, place, time, date and all the pertinent facts are essential to a good story. Scribble it on paper, type it, use stylus on parchment, whittle it on the bark of a sturdy oak, carve it in granite or send it by carrier pigeon, but get it in the Contribution Box or to one of the editors somehow! We'll do the rest.

**Example: And there was the Sea-Soldier who walked to L. A. and half way back just to see a show! How about it "Portland Flash"? The good**

intentions of the 5th's tattler is appreciated but it isn't complete and consequently doesn't interest more than a very few. That Gyrene's pedestrijaunt—brand new word, and it means a ramble on foot to youse guys and gals—would have been a good story had there been more to work on . . . Get it?

**Story of the Week: Well known about the decks is "Ducky Wucky" Allen, Scotch and charter member GG Club. Until now was never suspected of doublecrossing. He was forced to tap another machine shop laddie for the bus fare home the other day, because the money Dullaghan had seen allotted by Mrs. Allen had been spent for cigarettes, For shame, Johnny!!**

**FLASH! Scoop! Super Scoop! Donald Fraser Cochrane, key-dangler of the "S" and better known as "Flossie" and "Cocky", is on his way to the altar. Engagement recently announced to Miss Adeline Passarino of Healdsburg, Sonoma County, California. Though no definite wedding date has been set, it is presumed it will take place at the bride-elect's home very soon: Classed as special news because the gentleman from Baltimore, Maryland, boasted about no one knowing the answers to: Who? When? Where? Remember our slogan: YOU DO IT AND NOSEY NEWS WILL BROADCAST IT!**

**One of our snoopers turned in a garbled bit of news about the Blonde Adonis of Number Four Fireroom. It was reported that Rudloff received the shiner and cut under one eye from the backhand of a left-handed wench. It sounded a bit off, and an investigation proved the injury resulted from "The backlash of a left-handed wrench!" Glad we straightened that out before going to press . . .**

**Quite a following on this ship has been built up by Sammy Kaye and his excellent dance band. Broadcasting from Pittsburg on a national network during the afternoon, this newcomer to the Western airlines has something more than just good music. Several inveterate dialers are tuning in to "Swing and Sway with Sammy Kaye" every afternoon and are enthusiastic to no end about this youngster who is getting country wide recognition for the first time. In apprecia-**

tion a letter was written and signed by Houston fans; Sammy answered, sending along good pictures of himself and orchestra also promising to feature one or more numbers in honor of the Houston's crew on February Fourth. That's next Thursday gang, better listen in. . .

**Last Fishday, D. P. Hartley, I. C. Simon Legree, was a bit discombooberated to find two false teeth in the piece of sea bass he had elected to masticate. Remarking, "This must have been a man-eating shark. . ." the incident was forgotten until after leaving the Mess Hall he discovered the teeth were his own!!**

**No broadcast of today would be complete without calling to mind the plight of hundreds of thousands of our fellow countrymen who are battling the ravages of the worst flood the Ohio Valley has experienced in its history. The newspapers do a fine job of depicting with words and pictures the abject sufferings incidental to such a catastrophe; nevertheless, it is difficult to imagine the desperate need of so many people. Most of us have relatives, friends or acquaintances in the affected area, even if that isn't true in every case, every one of us feels an urge to help if only in some small way. Suggestions as to a Flood Relief collection have been made by many and this reporter believes it is the desire of the majority that this typical Navy gesture be carried out as usual. Navymen have long been honored for their quick readiness to help the destitute and needy. Let's lend a willing hand to those who really need it!**

**During Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the entire Aviation Unit managed by Hurculean effort to get all their baggage, equipment and planes off the ship and on the way to San Diego, where they will participate in the coming tactical problem. Cool landings Gang, and hurry back.**

**This brings our weekly broadcast to an end folks. We'll be "On the Air" the same time next week . . . until then . . . may good fortune, good cheer and happiness follow you. And remember friends . . . You can't find a better Ship's Paper than the Blue Bonnet . . . Thanks for listenin' . . .**

## GUS'S WEEKLY LETTER

Dear Sal:

Here we be, swingin' around old bouy George within spittin' distance o'shore and a takin' it real calm and peaceful like. 'S like twixt grain seedin' and the spring plowin' when a body hangs about the house takin' on choice victuals & readin' the new almanac.

A passel o' inspectors came troopin' over the gangway tha other day and right away swarmed around the ship. They got a swingin' and pokin' their little hammers against the ship, a tryin' to find if they could punch a hole in her. 'Pears to me it's mighty risky business lookin' for trouble with one of them little inocent hammers. S'pose they whanged away at a double bottom real enthusiastic like, and in comes old man ocean with a rush. Right there, I'd sooner be in tha tops than way down there below with a pesky hammer holdin' me down.

Been a sniffen' and a sweatin' from the Flu these past days. Haven't felt so bad since Pa larruped me with tha raw hide. Remember when Lou, the brindle-faced heifer, got that awful throat swellin' from eatin' her fill outa' tha kraut barrel. Well, Sal, this here Flu ailment was a lot worse than that. Those little bugs sure do get ta eatin' and a tearin' at a body's vitals so ya didna care whether you're workin' for old Uncle Sammy or a polishin' bright work for Gabriel.

This here Navy sure does eat a plenty. The boys been bringin' sides of beef, gorden truck, hen fruit, and a lot of eatin' victuals over tha side. Let me tell ya, Sal, the army ain't got no option on that sayin' about travelin' on its stomick. Why, after we put on the nose bag we could roll from here to kingdom come, take the fork away from old Nick on tha double quick, and jab him into a froth. No sir, tis not a laddie here that kicks about the chow.

When's old Molly gonna turn fresh? Bet your Pa'll sure whoop for joy. He always says there's no milk like it this side o' the Mississippi. He 'lows it's so thick with butter fat ya gotta melt her down so it'll pour and then she's like tar on a mid winter morn.

Love,  
Gus.

## DID YOU KNOW THAT?

Waves in an average ocean gale are not more than 40 feet from hollow to crest.

All nations of the world carry bells for fog signalling except Turkey. That country is allowed to use drums.

The United States Navy has had but four fleet actions, but in each one it captured and destroyed every enemy ship.

That approximately 90 percent of China's 450,000,000 people are classed as poor.

That Canton, China, has a population living in boats that numbers between 100,000 and 200,000.

That the sinking of the TITANIC was the cause of all nations forming the ICE PATROL to keep check on all icebergs that break away from the mother load.

In 1913, during a storm in the North Sea, a man was washed overboard from the U. S. S. NEW YORK and was then washed aboard the U.S.S. TEXAS, the next ship in column.

That the Navy has 21 Naval Hospitals in the United States and beyond the seas which are maintained for the welfare of the personnel of the Navy.

A United States Naval Expedition in the year 1848 established the fact that the Dead Sea is 1300 feet below sea-level.

The U.S.S. MERCY, hospital ship, now decommissioned, was a non-combatant ship, yet carried more guns than any other ship in the Navy. The guns were all obsolete, and were carried as ballast.

Almost all the fliers and aviation personnel employed by the Pan-American Airlines are ex-Navy men who received their flight training in the United States Naval Service.

Sailors in the United States Navy are healthier than any other similiar group of men in the world.

The telegraph cable line across the Pacific from Hawaii, to Guam, the Philippine Islands, to Japan, was surveyed by the U. S. Navy.

A neat trick in ship surgery was done by England during the World War. Two of its destroyers of the same class - the ZULU and the NUBIAN - bumped into mines and were damaged beyond repair, the former losing her bow and the latter her stern. In the Navy Yard, the ships

were cut in half and the good bow of the NUBIAN was welded to the good stern of the ZULU, and the "new" ship was named ZUBIAN.

A destroyer lengthens itself from six to eight inches when it speeds up to thirty knots. This is due to the pressure of water on both sides.

There are 275 different flags carried on the Navy's larger ships of today.

In the battle between the USS ENTERPRISE and the British ship BOXER, during the War of 1812, both Captains were killed and were later buried side by side at Portland, Maine.

The world's loudest noise was the volcanic explosion on the Island of Krakatoa in 1883. The noise was heard for a distance of 1,400 miles.

After the President of the United States has made a trip on a Navy ship, his official flag is forwarded to the Navy Department, with a record of the cruise for historical purposes.

The study of 902 major wars fought since 500 B.C. was made recently by two Harvard professors. The World War was eight times bigger than all the 901 wars combined.

## MOVIES

(Continued From Page One)

not to tie up their program schedule. Until the new movies arrived, it was a case of showing repeats or none at all, we chose the repeats.

As a matter of fact the Navy maintains the largest movie exchange in the world which, according to other distributing agencies is handled in the most efficient manner. Thirty new movies are purchased each month. Considering the number of pictures shown and the class of pictures the movies aboard ship compare favorably with those shown in almost any first run theater. True we get our share of the old ones and bad ones; but, consider the number of pictures that are shown aboard before they reach some of the first run theaters ashore. In the past three years practically every show of any note has been shown aboard this ship.

Short True Story: "Squeakie" Campbell, too well known to need identification, promised to "bring you something" when he borrowed a Shipmate's car. "Squeakie" brought him something alright! A parking ticket!