

CRUCIAL BOXING AND WRESTLING MEET WITH PENSACOLA

SELECTED WHALEBOAT CREW IMPROVED

An especially enthusiastic turnout for the selected whaleboat crew has been noticed during the last two weeks, and with its continuance can be developed a group of oarsmen to equal that which was produced while the HOUSTON was on the Asiatic Station. Not a little bit of this enthusiasm has been in appreciation of the daily opportunity for a workout on the beach with the recently purchased footballs. The greatest news of all, however, has come with the announcement of a six-days-a-week schedule instead of the former four or five.

The engineers are well represented on the crew with seven men out of the "M" Division showing up regularly; these include McDonald, Partridge, Newton, Brinn, Durose, Krecklow, and Gryckiewicz. Viscovich is supplied by the "S" Division and fills the bill of stroke to a tee; another oarsman from GSK is Manley, who has slipped right into form without much trouble. Garcia, Hart, Nantz, True, and only one Marine are other candidates for the race to be run sometime in February. There is still plenty of room in the boat for those who want to get a daily workout, and if you aren't so good at rowing come out to provide ballast for those who are!

TOUGH PENSACOLA TEAMS CHALLENGE OUR BOXERS AND WRESTLERS

THE place: Long Beach Boxing Arena on West Anaheim. HE time: 1400 Saturday 15 January 1938. If all hands wish to see a boxing and wrestling meet which will no doubt be closer than the clearance of a gnat's eyelid and so torrid that it will keep all the fans up in their seats until the last bout is run off just stroll out to the above mentioned place at the specified time. There will be action aplenty.

The PENSACOLA comes down here with a full boxing and wrestling team and the will to sweep all before it in their fight to the group championship. They have three title-holders on their boxing team and two on their wrestling squad.

We will have each weight represented. So far we have won the other two meets with the MINNEAPOLIS and VESTAL. We should take the NORTHAMPTON squads over without much trouble next Saturday so if we can get past this one hurdle, the PENSACOLA, we will have the group championship in the bag.

Our teams are all primed and ready to go out there and give everything they have. It's up to the ship's company to go out and root for them—back them up like they never have been before. Let's show the rest of these cruisers how the HOUSTON does it.

Two old-timers have showed up for the squad. They are expected to add strength to the team in their weights. We'll need everything we can give.

— **BEAT THE PENSACOLA** —

BASKETEERS BOW TO CHICAGO TEAM

In a nip and tuck game the CHICAGO basketball team defeated the HOUSTON in the last five minutes of play. Never separated by more than 4 points the two teams battled to the end in a fine game. Rogers, high scoring forward of the CHICAGO, was hot the second half and made 14 of his team's 32 points. Hattemer played the entire game with a broken toe.

With a three won-three lost 500 percentage the HOUSTON is tied with the PORTLAND for fourth place and will play-off the game at a later date to establish the fourth place winner. Then the four high teams of each group play a round robin play-off for the heavy cruiser championship. Let's get behind this team and push them through the play-off with the PORTLAND and eventually into the final play-off.

SUMMARY OF SEASON'S SCORING

Name	Pos.	Games	Goals	Fouls	Points
Phillips	F	6	30	19	79
Chumura	F	6	22	5	49
Bailey	F	2	0	0	0
Willmuth	F	2	0	0	0
Hagerstrom	C	6	18	7	43
Hattemer	G	3	8	0	16
Adams	G	5	4	3	11
Faulkner	G	5	0	0	0
Sheffield	F	1	0	0	0
Jones	G	5	4	2	10

—: 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.

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15 January 1938

EDITORIAL

With all hands agog over the coming meet with the PENSACOLA it seems as if there isn't much else to write about at the present time. They say that this PENSACOLA team is "hot" with about the finest array of wrestlers and boxers that any cruiser has in these waters. They took the VESTAL over by a score of 29 to 10 in the wrestling meet and 30 to 5 in the boxing bouts. This would indicate that our teams don't have much of a chance, yet the ones in the know will tell you that the HOUSTON is all set to overturn their steam roller, and when the smoke of battle clears the PENSACOLA won't have many marbles to pick up.

All hands seemed to like the last super-special edition of "Ye Old Navy" very much because there isn't one copy left now in the issuing box. The staff appreciates your approval of their extra work, and in the future will publish more special editions. Ridge, "Chandu the artist," sketched some commendable cartoons for which he deserves much praise. The printer and the editor take a bow also. Next week it is planned to put out another special in the form of a "Ship's Service Edition." All contributions or ideas, serious, humorous, novel, or instructive will be received with an open hand. Any jokes or data concerning ship's service personnel will be used also.

—(SATURDAY AT L.B. BOXING ARENA)—

"The type of youngsters we have in the navy today are different from those of a few years ago," said the gun deck philosopher; "they are brighter, quicker at picking up things."

"Yes, I'll say so," said Bosco, "one of them picked up my new white hat pretty fast this morning."

LONG BEACH ENTERTAINS THE FLEET

The Chamber of Commerce and the city of Long Beach have extended invitations to fleet personnel of ships as follows:

15 January, 2000, entertainment and ball for warrant officers; 21 and 22 January, dances for enlisted personnel other than chief petty officers; 5 February, 2000, entertainment and dance for chief petty officers.

—(Beat the Pensacola)—

HEALTH IN THE NAVY

56 officers and men of the United States Navy were killed in motor vehicle accidents in the fiscal year ended 30 June 1937, 13 more than the previous year. This group of accidents continued to occupy first place as a cause of accidental death in the navy this year, as it did in the preceding five years. Deaths from drowning numbered 41. Prior to 1930, drowning was the principal cause of accidental death in the navy. Sailors are in greater peril ashore than at sea.

There were 367 deaths in the navy from all causes during the past year, giving a rate of 2.95 per 1000. This is 12 percent lower than the expected rate, 3.35 being the median rate for the preceding 5-year period. A slight decrease was noted in the general rate for injuries.

—(Pull for the team.)—

SOMETHING TO PUZZLE OVER

THE CRYPTIC NATIVE

A hunting party had been in the woods for so long that they lost track of the days. The first question they asked when they arrived at a small settlement was: "What day of the week is it?"

The native to whom the question was put, responded: "When the day after tomorrow is yesterday, today will be as far from Sunday as that day was which was today when the day before yesterday was tomorrow."

It is not known whether the exasperated hunters killed the native or not; but he really had given them the information they wanted.

What day of the week was it after all?

(Answer on page 4.)

HAMS — INVITATION

To some people a "Ham" may always mean an actor, or perhaps an actor may sometime be a ham, we know not, and care not. To others the name "Ham" is spoken of with pardonable pride for it means the amateur radio operator of the deepest dye.

If our fair ship's company includes any radio "Hams," regardless of their proficiency as such, who feel the need to keep their hand in, they are invited to the beginner's radio code school in after search light control each working day from 1245 to 1330.

Printed copies of the International Morse Code will soon be ready for issue to those desiring them.

—(Beat the Pensacola)—

THE COMMISSION PENNANT

In the days of chivalry, knights rated a small pointed flag or pennon. The mark of a squire was a long pennant very similar to the 'coachwhip pennant' of modern men-of-war. Bannerets ranked the knight and took precedence below a baron. They carried a knight's pennon with a slit in the end. It was customary to create barons on the battlefield by the king or general cutting off part of the fly of the pennon. This square flag was then a symbol of increased rank. One may trace directly from these customs, the commission pennant, 'coachwhip,' broad command pennant, and broad flags worn by commanding officers of ships, and by commodores, as well as the square flags of the admirals of our own navies.

When Maarten Harpertzoon Tromp, the Dutch admiral, hoisted a broom to his masthead to indicate his intention to sweep the English from the seas, the English admiral hoisted a horsewhip, indicating his intention to chastise the insolent Dutchman. Ever since that time, the narrow, or coachwhip pennant, symbolizing the original horsewhip, has been the distinctive mark of a vessel of war, adopted by all nations.

—(SATURDAY'S THE DAY)—

Navy Bill opines that an old-fashioned girl blushes when she is embarrassed, but a modern femme is embarrassed when she blushes.

LITTLE OCKO SAYS . . .

L. B. "Bud" Barricklo, Bkr1c, came back to duty Sunday evening. He had been on thirty days leave supervising the building of a new home near San Diego.

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Mousey Lloyd says he'd like an apology from Little Ocko. Well, we will apologize for calling him second class! Mousey has been in the navy ten years and has third class to his credit.

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Jenkins, GM1c, finishes one more cruise next Friday, 21 January. Same day Carter, Bkr3c, is to be paid off. Says his "goin' back to Texas." Most likely be back in the navy again too. We know Jenkins will.

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Since Charlie Putnam has taken over "Jimmy Legs" duty, Swede Kjolhede has been helping Shorty Wade do very little as Boilermaker. Nice going, boys!

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Jarvis, Sealc, sternhook of the barge, received a picture of his true love in Seattle. She looks pretty nice and he says it won't be long now.

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Looks good to see "Baldy" Davis, fancy style soda jerker at our Ship's Service Store, back on the job. Baldy has been on the RELIEF and says they really fix you up over there.

↵

Harry Hart, unchallenged champion gigolo of the ship, pulled a good one lately. A strip-tease dancer went out with our hero; had to buy her own lunch and Hart chiseled her out of half of that. Keep it up, Harry, you'll be a wealthy man some day.

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Balickie, fo's'le swab swinger, has gone back on the ladies of the Pike. They have refused to go out with the lad because he won't buy nickel hamburgers for 'em like he used to before he made Seaman.

↵

Azbill and Olson, Semaphore Wagglers, told me a story on their partner, Charley Chay. I can't print it but I've got one on those two that I'd like to put out if I could. Has some bearing on our recent navy yard overhaul period. You fellows better be careful what you tell on Chay.

UNLUCKY FRIDAY

A century ago in England, Friday was considered such an unlucky day that the Admiralty decided to break the superstition with the building of a "Friday ship." Friday was the day her keel was laid, and the day she was launched. Friday was the name of the ship, and of her Captain. Friday was the day she started on her maiden voyage—and many Fridays have long passed, but the ship was never heard from again.

Even today this strange superstition still holds sway in the minds of many of our Canadian cousins who will neither begin nor finish a long trip of any kind on Friday. They believe that to do so would surely result in bad luck for themselves.

—(SUPPORT YOUR TEAMS)—

HE PACED the hospital corridor nervously. Cold sweat stood out on his brow. If they would only hurry! Every minute seemed an eternity. Would they never let him know? This couldn't happen to him. She meant his whole life, his everything, his all. The door opened! A nurse approached him timidly. Her lips parted. He held his breath as she spoke: "Yeh, I can get off tonight!"

—(BEAT THE PENSACOLA)—

Turret Striker Wicker of the Third Division has also returned to duty from the RELIEF. His trouble was an operation for appendicitis.

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When a man can eat up to seven normal rations and growl between each bite as he does it, he's usually a fair bet for a 20-year man. Ask DeForge!

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The good ship looked sort of strange on coming back in the seven o'clock boat and no planes on the flight deck or catapult. While our boys are in "Dago" for repairs it gives Jack Machado and his boys a chance to really go to town.

↵

Little Ocko is signing off for this week. So long 'till we meet again.

A NAVY WIFE'S DAY IN SAN PEDRO

1000—Reveille. The Mrs. turns on perculator, grabs milk off the stoop, looks out toward the sea and blesses (?) the President or somebody for sending the fleet to sea.

1030—Finishes morning coffee and wonders what's the use in straightening up the house. Neighbor lady asks for bottle opener and leaves the Mrs. envying these civilians who have husbands who never go to sea or anyplace else without them. Spotting practice my eye! Never have been able to understand why the fleet couldn't turn the guns out towards Catalina and fire what they have to fire right at anchor. That spotting practice reminds her to take that dress to the cleaners, the one that got chili all over it.

1200—Still puttering around, feeling kind of low. Wonders why she ever married a sailor with so many unemployed to pick from. Decides to phone Trona Field and find out when the ship will get in. Line busy. Tries six times. Line still busy.

1400—Decides to go to movie to take mind off the fleet. News reel picture of fleet at anchor, followed by sailor picture. Lot of hooley. Can't stand it and takes ride out to Point. Sees a fishing smack through the fog and races to dock. Misinformed shore patrol tells her ship has left for Bremerton. Heart spasm. Business of running around in circles. Another shore patrol tells her ship has just anchored. Finds out ten minutes later that fleet is anchored, but ship is still at sea.

1700—Makes another trip to dock. Ship still at sea. Boats from every other ship making the dock. Sea duty, what I mean, sea duty.

1730—Ship's boat makes dock. Consoling shipmates say hubby has the duty. Everybody gets read off. Goes home. Tries reading but Base Force family next door making too much noise. Wonders why Jack never thought of getting in the Base Force.

—(SATURDAY AT L.B. BOXING ARENA)—

Thomas, I do not like calling my chauffeurs by their Christian names. What is your surname?"

"Darling, madam."
"Drive on, Thomas."

HOUSTON WRESTLERS WIN A CLOSE ONE

Last Friday night at the Long Beach Boxing Arena on Anaheim Street we saw one of the best wrestling meets of the season. At the finish of the 6th bout and with only one bout to go the score stood all even between the VESTAL and the HOUSTON grapplers, but Henry went out there in that one bout and cinched the meet for us.

Chick, our diminutive aviation mech., strutted out of his corner to meet the VESTAL'S Thiede. After one minute and forty-eight seconds up to which time he was looking for an opening, Chick flopped his opponent flatter'n a buckwheat cake and the score stood 5 to 0 in favor of the HOUSTON.

The 135 pound bout went the limit with Harvey going against McCracken of the VESTAL. At the end of the bout, fought under A.A.U. rules, two judges out of three gave decision to the VESTAL by the narrow margin of one point. Score: VESTAL 4 - HOUSTON 5.

In the 145 pound bout Kozel of the VESTAL had to put on the pressure to take a fall from Shortt. Shortt stayed on top until Kozel happened to get the hold which ended the bout. Score: VESTAL 9 - HOUSTON 5.

Folta, painter extraordinary, gave Jones, VESTAL man, as nice a working over as we have ever seen. In two minutes he had Jones, mustache and all, ground into the mat. Score: VESTAL 9 - HOUSTON 10.

In the next bout, 165 pound class, two good wrestlers, Fordemwalt of the fighting Third and Barling of the VESTAL, tusseled and groaned for the entire period. Fordemwalt was clearly the aggressor and won on all the judges' ballots by the point system. Score: VESTAL 9 - HOUSTON 14.

Branaman of the VESTAL proved a little bit too wary for Miller of the "N" Division, but we saw Red right in there all the time. Branaman pinned Miller in two minutes and thirty seconds. Score: VESTAL 14 - HOUSTON 14.

With the score all even, Henry went in the ring resolved to give everything he had for the team. Chestney of the VESTAL wanted to do the same thing, but it wasn't long until the stronger Henry got on top and seeing his open-

THE CRYPTIC NATIVE

(Answer)

Sunday was the day the hunters finally came out of the forest.

—(ON TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP)—

LET'S HAVE A SMILE

"My son sure is broadminded."
"That's all my son thinks about too."

1907: "Shall we join the ladies?"

1938: "Where is my wife?"

First girl: "I'm thinking of marrying Jack."

Second girl: "So am I. Do you know anyone who has it?"

Marine: "A man can't be too guarded in his conversation these days."

Sailor: "How come?"

Marine: "Well, I asked a girl if she was fond of nuts, and she thought it was a proposal."

A rather inebriated individual entered the office of the Registrar of Vital Statistics and said:

"Gentlemen (hic) I wanna reg'sher birth of (hic) twinsh."

The Registrar replied: "Why do you say 'gentlemen'? Can't you see I'm here alone?"

"Only one of you?" said the father, astonished. "Guessh I'd (hic) better go home an' make sure. Maybe it isn't twinsh after all."

The program director of a radio station was calling on a client. "Miss Hunt, you'll either have to change your name or your slogan for your beauty shoppe."

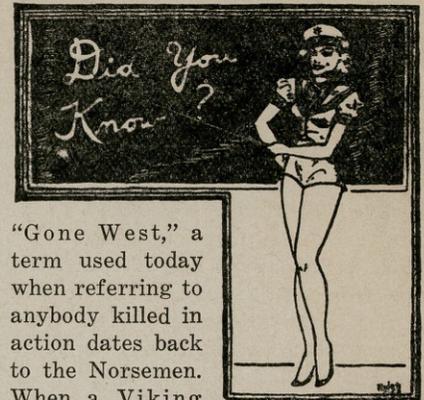
"Why, what's the matter?"

"Well, it looks all right in print, but we simply cannot broadcast this message: 'If you wish to regain your lost beauty, go to Helen Hunt for it.'"

ing flopped over the VESTAL man in one minute and thirty seconds, thus giving the HOUSTON the match.

Score: VESTAL 14 - HOUSTON 19.

There were no boxing bouts due to the fact that in the first six weights no men were entered by the VESTAL, and in the one weight, heavyweight class, for which they had an entry, we had no entry. This automatically gave the HOUSTON the boxing meet by a score of 30 to 5.



"Gone West," a term used today when referring to anybody killed in action dates back to the Norsemen. When a Viking chief died, his body was placed in a sepulchral chamber aboard his ship. Having her steering oar lashed to keep her on her course the vessel was set afire and sailed into the West towards the sun.

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Sailors first earned the name of "tars" from the old custom of tarring their trousers and jumpers in order to make them water proof.

o o o

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

o o o

The first U.S. squadron on the Asiatic Station was organized as the East India Squadron in 1835; the name was changed to the Asiatic Squadron in 1866; the Asiatic Fleet and Pacific Squadron were combined as the Pacific Fleet in 1907; the title Asiatic Fleet was used in 1910.

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According to a recent press release, the navy, in conjunction with the Weather Bureau, will establish a new station in the Aleutian Islands this winter. A party of experts will set up the equipment and remain there through the winter.

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A young man recently traveled six thousand miles to enlist in the United States Navy. This youngster, William J. McCarthy, Jr., enlisted in the Navy at Haverhill, Mass., after a long trip from Honolulu, Hawaii. His acceptance was delayed three months pending arrival of necessary papers from Honolulu and he is now finishing training at the Naval Training Station at Newport, Rhode Island.