



THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

The response to the Christmas Party questionnaire produced some interesting figures. For one thing over half the HOUSTON'S Navy juniors are under 5 years of age. It was originally intended to restrict the ages of the children attending to the limits of 5 to 12 years. However, as there are so many very young children we have stretched a point and will include children down to three-year-olds. We wish we could ask the babies to come also but fear that the presence of those under three might be embarrassing to all concerned. We hope the babies and their parents will not feel slighted and will remember that they will have their innings in a year or so. Also we might drop a hint that Santa Claus will not forget the infants even though they are not present at the party.

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PERMANENT APPOINTMENT

The Blue Bonnet on behalf of the ship's company wish to congratulate the Commissary on receipt of his permanent appointment as Chief Commissary Steward. Nolan J. Barnett has served in the navy for a period of ten years and on board the Houston for one year. How about it Stew, do we get an extra nite-ration?

NEW "PAPA"

Word was received that Thursday morning Lt. (jg) Weller became the proud father of a daughter. Much to the relief of any number of people with flight orders, the father is doing as well as can be expected.

SURPRISE INSPECTION OF SHIPS

There has been a change in the method of inspecting ships. We will have two military inspections a year. These inspections are to be a surprise. The ship to be inspected and the assisting ship are to be notified at 1800 the day before the inspection.

Due to the change of procedure it behooves everyone to have a suitable suit of inspection clothing at all times. Have one suit for inspection purposes only. Keep it clean and neat. A good man-of-wars-man is always ready for inspection anytime, any place. The Houston is always prepared to meet any emergency!

**MACHINE GUNNERS
COMMENDED**

During the period that the Houston was in San Francisco six marines and two seamen attended a two week period of extensive training at the Fleet Machine Gun School aboard the Utah. The period was devoted to intensive training in the knowledge of the gun and to firing at towed targets.

In commending upon the ability of the various men the Captain of the Utah said that all men applied themselves with praiseworthy effort and that the following men are especially to be commended: Chapman, G. W., Pfc; Withey, C. H., Sgt., Stockton, H., Pvt., and Nelson, H. F., Cpl. These men are to be congratulated upon the fine showing that they made at the school and should prove an asset to our gunnery organization.

NAVY PERSONNEL SITUATION

In the annual report of the Secretary of the Navy for the fiscal year 1936, the statement is made that for the fiscal year of 1936 the average enlisted strength of the Navy was 88,000 men which permitted the increase in the allowance of vessels to 85.9 percent of enlisted war complement against 81 percent for the year of 1935. The report then goes on to say that in order to provide a sufficient nucleus for war time needs and to sufficiently man the new vessels which will be commissioned this coming year the average strength for 1937 should be increased to 96,500 men.

This same report states that the situation in respect to officer personnel is not as favorable as that of with

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SAN PEDRO DISPENSARY MOVED

On Friday 20 November, 1936 the San Pedro branch of the Long Beach Naval Dispensary was moved from its former location in the Bank of San Pedro Building to the new Post Office and Custom House Building, Beacon Street between 8th. and 9th. Streets, San Pedro.

The Branch Dispensary will occupy the North East wing of the third floor of the building.

HERBERT SCHIFF TROPHY

The Herbert Schiff Trophy was awarded for the fiscal year of 1936 to VN Squadron 8D5 of Annapolis, Md. which is commanded by Lt-Comdr Andrew C. McFall, USN. This trophy is emblematic of aircraft operations conducted with a maximum of safety.