



**H THE NEW YEAR**

New Year's Eve; whistles blowing, horns tooting, hands clapping, people shouting, feet stomping, noise-making at its height, people wearing paper hats, people wearing silly grins, revelry supreme.

Yes, it's that time of the year when everyone wants to give vent to all the pent up joy that has been stored for months. Out with the old year, and in with the new. New anticipations, new joys, prosperity, good luck, and a new life. All join in Aulde Lang Syne, voices are so loud they shake the rafters. All raise a parting toast for the old year and a welcoming one for the new. It's the night of nights.

Many years ago there was no celebration of New Year, nor did the new year start with the month of January. The Roman year originally began with March and consisted of only 10 months. Numa is said to have added January and February to the calendar; but although the Romans as early as 251 B.C. accepted January as the first month of the year, the nations of Europe did not universally adopt it as such till the 18th century. Wulfmonath was the Anglo-Saxon name for the first month. The 25th of March was the beginning of the ancient Jewish year, and that day, instead of 1 January, long held a legal position in Christian countries as the opening of the new year. January was named by the Romans after their God Janus.

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**H HOUSTON SPORTS**

A great many of the men do not know the athletic organization aboard the ship. For the guidance of those interested the following organization is printed:

- Athletic Officer: Lt. Comdr. Tarbutton.
- Wrestling Officer: Lt. (jg) McDonald.
- Wrestling Coach: BM2c Wellbourne.
- Boxing Officer: Lt. (jg) Long.
- Boxing Coach: EM2c Arsenault.
- Rowing Officers: Ensign Quackenbush and Ensign Minter.
- Sailing Officers: Ensign Hilger and Ensign Johnston.
- Baseball and Basketball Officer: Ensign Wengrovius.

Men interested in any of the sports interview the above officers or coaches concerned.

**Wrestling** After a week and a half layoff, due to the Christmas leave period, the HOUSTON grapplers swing back again into the harness in preparation for their coming meet with the VESTAL on 7 January. We are looking forward to taking the VESTAL team in tow and making it two in a row for the HOUSTON team. Arthur, GM3c, of the 2d Division, although a short-timer with only a few days to do, has agreed to represent the HOUSTON again in the 145-lb. class. Four members of our squad, namely; Chick, Short, Folta and Fordemwalt will be transferred sometime in January to the ship designated as wrestling ship for the Heavy Cruisers wrestling team. A team will be picked of the best in each weight to represent the Scouting Force against the Battle Force in the All-Navy finals. This

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**A APPRECIATION**

The following letter was received by our Commanding Officer and shows the deep appreciation of one of our guests of Christmas Day for the kindness, courtesy, and happy time shown this person by the efforts of the Officers and Crew of the HOUSTON.

Christmas Night

Dear Sir:

Wishing to express from one of the many homes:

**DEAR MEMORIES**

No spoken word could well express  
The gratitude tonight,  
That fills the heart of every child  
That to your party went.

If wishes good and jolly,  
Handshakes warm and true,  
Was a great big Christmas package  
I'd send them all to you.

To you, the Houston's Officers,  
To you, the Houston's Crew.  
For the happy, happy Christmas,  
That so many children knew.

So for the coming year and then,  
For every year thereafter,  
Best wishes through the New Year  
To the Houston's Officers and Men.

A GUEST.

Gatun Lake which connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans by means of the Gatun Locks in the Panama Canal is the largest artificial lake in the world.