

## Tubular Scaffolding—Twelve Miles of It— Expedited Construction of Bennington



High along the hull of the Bennington, members of the Joiner & Shipwright Shop remove one of the last remaining bays of pipe staging just before the ship's launching.

Until very recently, you could hardly see the Bennington for the tubular scaffolding that ran the length and height of the ship. That network of staging was, in effect, practically a smoke-screen—or pipe-screen. Its purpose, however, was not to hide the growing ship as she took on the form and power of a modern aircraft carrier.

Tubular scaffolding is simply an efficient method of supporting workmen and the tools and materials they use to construct a mighty ship in a building dock. Wooden staging provided good enough support—but it was not fireproof, and its useful life was limited to one job.

Pipe staging is prefabricated, can be quickly assembled in the graving dock in varying combinations to meet the needs of different points along the ship's frames. And it can be used again and again. As various units have served

their purpose, they can be taken down easily and immediately installed for another job.

Responsibility for erecting the tubular staging for the Bennington fell to the Joiner and Shipwright Shop. C. S. Gay, Master Woodmaker, tells us that 60 of his men were assigned to the job, which was a progressive one. A total of 63,322 feet of piping was used—about 12 miles. 86 days of staging were erected to a height of 65 feet; there were 24 bays extending 90 feet upward.

As the Bennington is christened today, you won't see this maze of scaffolding that made her construction possible. By that time, members of the Joiner and Shipwright Shop will have spirited it away. But it served its purpose well—and will do so again!

## Bennington Sponsor



C. Bachrach

GRACIOUS SPONSOR for New York Navy Yard's first aircraft carrier is Mrs. Melvin J. Maas, above, wife of the Honorable Melvin J. Maas, member of the Naval Affairs Committee, House of Representatives, and a Colonel in the United States Marine Corps Reserve.

Colonel Maas is, at the age of 46, a veteran of World Wars I and II. He served with the 1st Marine Aero Company in the Azores during the last war, and, in this as Aviation Observer on the Staff of the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet, before he was released to inactive status in 1942. Colonel Maas received the Silver Star for gallantry in action over New Guinea.

Mrs. Maas is air-minded, too. An enthusiastic air traveler, she has made many flights over land and sea. Born at St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1909, she attended Carleton College at Northfield, Minnesota, and in 1932 received a B.S. degree from the University of Minnesota's Department of Education.

Representative and Mrs. Maas were married in 1934 and have a four-year-old son. Mrs. Maas will have as her attendant at today's christening ceremony Miss Katherine Maas, fifteen-year-old daughter of Colonel Maas by a former marriage.

## Historic Bennington

Bennington is an old and historic town located in southwest Vermont, worthy of having U. S. men-of-war bear her name. The home of Ethan Allen and Zerah Warner, the village was the center of the activities of the famous Green Mountain Boys. During the Revolutionary War, the Continental Army maintained an important storehouse there. The flag raised during the Battle of Bennington—fought in the vicinity in 1777—is said to be the oldest Stars and Stripes in existence.

## Bowling Tourney Proposed

The Electric Shop has proposed that New York Navy Yard employees stage a bowling tournament. Any department, division, office or shop interested in entering such a tournament is invited to submit entries to Ensign W. F. Halpin, USNR, at the Personnel Office, Building 152. Telephone extension is 3051. Entries should be in not later than next Wednesday, March 1.

## Help on Slipcovers, Home Nursing

Wives of shipworkers as well as women employees of the yard are invited to attend a free demonstration of slipcover making to be held at 8:30 p.m. next Thursday, March 2, at the Walt Whitman Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library, Miss Mildred Kiffin, expert from McCall's Style Service, will cut and fit a slipcover on the spot, throw out helpful hints on sewing and answer questions asked by her audience on special homemaking problems.

Another opportunity offered women of the Navy Yard family is a free course in Home Nursing which begins next Tuesday evening. Sponsored by the library, the course is given by the American Red Cross. All who wish to attend may register at the library, located at St. Edwards Street and Auburn Place.

## First Bennington Took Wake

(Continued from Page 1)

United States of America  
William McKinley, President;  
John D. Long, Secretary of the Navy  
Commander Edward D. Taussig, U.S.N.  
Commanding USS BENNINGTON  
this 17th day of January, 1899, took  
possession of the Atoll known as  
Wake Island for the  
United States of America

The first Bennington was 230 feet long and 36 feet abeam. Her draft was 14 feet and she displaced 1,705 tons. She was armed with six guns and rigged as a three masted schooner. Authorized by an act of Congress dated March 1887, she was built at Chester, Pennsylvania. Her keel was laid in June 1888 and she was launched two years later.

Following her commissioning in June 1891, the first Bennington cruised on the South Atlantic Station and in European waters and finally on the Pacific Station, where she remained, cruising up and down the coast of the Americas and westward to the Hawaiian Islands until February 1899, a month after she claimed Wake as Uncle Sam's. At that time she was ordered to duty in Asiatic waters. In 1901 she left Hongkong for the West Coast to undergo repairs. Re-commissioned in 1903, she operated with the Pacific Squadron until 1905, when she was placed out of commission at Mare Island Navy Yard. Five years later she was stricken from the Navy list.