

JET BLAST



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U. S. S. Bennington CVA-20

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Public Visits Benn



CAST YOUR VOTE - Three of the charming contestants of the 1956 Rheingold Girl Contest pose on Benn's bridge with the envied escorts. The young ladies drew plenty of attention from stern to stern.

Father Handran Bids Farewell To Crew After 20 Months

Farewell to a good friend who has helped bring Benn a long way since her rebirth in Brooklyn. Senior Chaplain, Commander Ralph E. Handran has received orders and will report to the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland.

For twenty months Father Handran has done more than his primary duties as a Catholic priest. In addition to Celebrating the services for boys of his own faith he has been active in projects of the recreation committee and was a member of the cruise book staff.

He holds a degree in music

and this talent has been used to advantage in playing the organ in hangar bay 1

Father Handran was born in Boston, Mass. and studied for the priesthood at Villanova University. He was ordained in 1937 and became a faculty member at Villanova from 1938

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VIP's Highlight Past Three Months

In the past three months Bennington has been host to more than 50,000 guest, including movie stars, beauty queens, VIP's and taxpayers representing many of the western states.

The largest percentage of these visitors came aboard during the three weekends that Bennington joined the Fiesta del Pacifico at Broadway Pier. Each Saturday and Sunday saw an average of 7,000 persons parade across the hangar and flight decks to view the displays of equipment and the methods used in launching and retrieving aircraft.

While thousands viewed the carrier during Open House, others witnessed carrier operations at sea. Between July 23 and August 10, guests of the Secretary of the Navy and Commander Air Force Pacific Fleet made cruises off the coast of California. Aboard for one day cruises were members of the Society of Automotive Engineers, and the West Coast Electronics Manufacturers Association.

The visitors were more than impressed with flight operations and commented on the smoothness and teamwork of the aircraft handling crews. They also lauded the efficiency of the other departments in carrying out difficult duties with apparent ease.

Bennington had her share of beauty queens during the three month period. On August 18, six semi-finalists from the Miss Rheingold Contest crossed the

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