

## Open House (Cont.)

quarter deck and were eagerly met by twelve hand picked escorts. The charming girls observed Captain's Inspection, ate lunch with the crew and provided an immeasurable boost to morale.

Reserve naval officer and movie star Kirk Douglas paid a surprise visit the last weekend in August when he came aboard with his wife and friends. Mr. Douglas was emcee on the Ed Sullivan TV program which presented the finalists from the All-Navy Talent Contest.

More beauty queens followed, this time feminine charms from nearby Chula Vista. The ten young ladies were contestants for the Fiesta de la Luna Queen-ship.

Just how beneficial the week-ends of Open House, and guest cruises were to the general public and business groups, can partially be determined by the numerous letters received by the Captain.

The following are excerpts from the letters: "...the opportunity to view an operation such as Bennington in action, for most of us, comes once in a

**THEY WENT THAT-A-WAY** - Fiesta de la Luna Queen contestants from nearby Chula Vista bring a bit of cheesecake to the crew's lounge.



**LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION** - Busy movie actor Kirk Douglas take time out for a look around the big carrier.

lifetime," wrote a Chief Lubrication Engineer from Long Beach. "The hospitality left absolutely nothing to be desired..." is quoted by the Mayor of San Bernardino; and a San Diego homesaker writes, "It was indeed a thrilling experience for me."

It can be seen from these letters and many more along the same lines that the citizens are eager for knowledge concerning the Navy.

## Radio Announcers Needed For WBEN

A completely new staff of radio announcers will be needed when the ship's radio station, WBEN, returns to the air next month.

The station, rated as one of the finest in the fleet, is manned by members of the crew who donate their free time in the evenings to be disk jockeys of jazz, rock 'n' roll, western and popular music.

WBEN operates seven hours daily while the ship is at sea. When Bennington pulls into port where commercial radio or Armed Forces Radio can be heard, it signs off. It operates on a closed circuit which broadcasts solely on the ship.

Besides music, "The Voice of Bennington" also broadcasts the news three times a day and Armed Forces Radio Shows such as Jack Benny, Dragnet and Suspense can be heard on weekends. A subscription service to all the major recording companies keeps the station well supplied with the latest in popular music.

All enlisted personnel who are interested in radio announcing are urged to contact the station manager, Jim Glynn, JCG, at the Public Information Office or call 466.

## Farewell (cont.)

through 1962, teaching American Literature.

The call to duty beckoned and CDR Handran entered the Navy in March of 1943. His initial orders found him serving with the SeaSees in Mississippi.

During the Korean conflict the Padre watched over his flock from the decks of military transports operating in the Far East.

His Irish sense of humor and penchant for following through on a job have made Chaplain Handran "Tops" with his wardrobe associates as well as the seamen and PO's of every depart-ment.