

Crowds Jam El Cortez For

Big name personalities highlighted the "Bennington Ball" in the glittering atmosphere of San Diego's El Cortez Hotel when approximately 1200 ship-board personnel and their guests jammed the Caribbean Ballroom each evening of September 4th and 5th.

Although the seating capacity was far too small to accommodate the huge crowd, the floor show and fine dance music made the long awaited affair a success.

Johnny Grant, well known disc jockey from radio station KNPC in Hollywood, was master of ceremonies and kept the packed house laughing with his rapid fire jokes. Grant has had a great deal of experience entertaining the Armed Forces in Korea and Japan, having traveled all over the Far East with Bob Hope and his troupe.

But the big event of the



MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC - Lovely Kay Brown purs forth with rhythm, backed up by Stan Myers and his Orch. Miss Brown is a Decca recording star and frequently appears in leading nite spots.

first night was the appearance of Jane Russell. The buxom blonde (still wearing her hair bleached from her latest picture, *The Revolt Of Mamie Stover*) received a tremendous ovation when she appeared on stage. Jane attempted to say something but her voice was drowned out by the din of cheers and ovations. After standing on stage for a full five minutes and still no let up, she smiled, waved at the crowd and joined photographers at the nearby outdoor pool's edge where she posed for over seven hundred individual photographers with the ships crew. The pictures will be sent to every hometown newspaper from California to Maine.

Another big hit was vivacious Lois Ray. Miss Ray, a professional dancer and entertainer, has made several appearances on the Ed Sullivan Show. Her tap and soft shoe routines won the



IS EVERYBODY HAPPY? - Star attraction of Bennington's Ball, Jane Russell shouts a welcome to the boys upon being introduced by disc jockey Johnny Grant. Stan Myers, Orch. leader, attentively looks on.



OPENING NIGHT - Glamorous and famous movie star Jane Russell arrives at San Diego's magnificent El Cortez hotel for the first night of Bennington's BALL. Escorting Miss Russell are Benn's executive officer CDR Parks (facing camera) and LCDR King.