



by Jim "Reddog" Mann

# Mess Decks Intelligence

Since there seems to be quite a number of rumors floating around the ship, I'll try to fill you in on the straight scoop received by MDI. Our WESTPAC cruise for next year is still scheduled. Our trip to Alaska in November is indefinite due to the recent earthquakes. It's a little too early to be certain of our around-the-world cruise set for 1966 but you can bet your last can of fresh water we'll be picking up the twin astronaut launch later on this year.

According to many of the new Ensigns on board, the toughest role as an officer is drinking the wardroom coffee.

Speaking of coffee, Percy Mangels seems to think REF 8 makes the best coffee on the ship. The gang down at the Oil Shack doesn't wholeheartedly agree. Of course the Oil Shack boys spike their coffee with a little bit of black oil every now and then.

Ben's softball team got off to a fine start this year by whipping HS-8 4-1 on a one-hitter pitched by W. W. Schultz. Many of the old players are back from last year so we can be assured the team will have another good season. Last year, if you recall, our softball team clinched the Long Beach league title.

A recent survey conducted shows that out of 2,342 sailors on board Bennington, exactly 2,342 of them want to go home.

Most of us join the Navy in order to see the world. Jarl Fossum of M Division saw a good part of the world long before he thought about going to sea for Uncle Sam. Born in Jevaker, Norway, 20 years ago this month, Fossum and his family traveled extensively throughout Scandinavia and parts of Europe before coming to the States in 1956. Going to sea is nothing new to Fossum either. In his travels around Europe,

water often became his highway. He is quite proud of the fact that many of his ancestors were seafaring Vikings who explored the coasts of Europe during the ninth and tenth centuries. Guns are his favorite hobby. Known to his friends as "The Rifleman", Fossum is a member of the ship's landing party and also has earned a sharp-shooting medal from the National Rifle Association. Fossum now makes his home in Minot North Dakota.

Child: "Mother, tell me a story."

Mother: "Well, once upon a time, many, many years ago, your young and handsome father....."

Child: "Gee, Mother, that was a good one."

During our first four days in Yokosuka, the Post Office received somewhere in the vicinity of four tons of mail, an average of about a ton a day. Sorting the mail took the postal clerks past liberty hours but they remained faithfully on the job. To the Postal Officer Ens. Hamill and to PCs K. B. Clark and A. N. Lutz and to SAs W. M. Clark, G. T. Brophy and N. G. McFarland, we say hats off to a job well done. Incidentally, all three SAs make PC3 next month.

MDI sends get-well greetings to James Maryman of B Division. At the present time, the 1st Class MM is in the Yokosuka Naval Hospital. Maryman is in charge of the evaporators aboard ship. To Maryman we wish a speedy recovery. As one of the auxiliary gang put it, "Making fresh water just isn't the same without Maryman around."

A sailor has a language all his own. But do you know the origins and meanings of the words you use most every day? Definitions of the following words were taken from the book NAVAL CUSTOMS TRADITIONS AND USAGE.

BLUEJACKET-The first uniform that was ever officially sanctioned for sailors in the Royal Navy was a short blue jacket open in the front.

CHARLIE NOBLE-Derived from the British merchant service Captain Charlie Noble, who required a high polish on the galley funnel. The funnel of his galley was of copper and its brightness became known in all ports visited.

CRUISER-Derived from "cruasal" or fast, light vessel used by pirates in the Mediterranean. They were not essentially fighting vessels, but were used for raiding and pillaging.

SON OF A GUN-In the early days, sailors were permitted to keep their "wives" on board. The term was actually used to refer to children born alongside the guns of the broadsides.

LIMEY-A friendly name given to British blue-jackets and merchant sailors in particular was derived from the old practice in the British Navy of giving lime juice as an anti-scurbutic.