

## Identical Twins



The ship has a set of identical twins. Elvin and Melvin Fountain are jet plane handlers and work on the forward end of the flight deck. They grew up together in Biloxi, Mississippi, joined the Navy together, and have been together ever since, except for a time in 1952 when they worked at different airfields in the Pensacola area. They joined the Bennington at its re-commissioning last November after having served previously on the carriers USS Rendova and USS Valley Forge on the West Coast.

### Protestant Choir Forms; To Sing Easter Morning

The Protestant Choir, the ship's only singing group, is directed by Richard E. Mitchell and now has twenty members. Since their first appearance, at last Sunday morning's service, they have been rehearsing for the coming Palm Sunday and Easter Sunrise services. Meetings are two nights a week.

## Meet Your Chiefs

In 1952 Franklin Hearn, Chief Engineer of the Presidential Yacht, the Big Wheel, was transferred to the Bennington as head of the ship's diesel gang. While the switch between these two jobs reflects the wide range of duty and the surprises that are part of a Naval career, it doesn't tell the whole story. For Chief Engineman Hearn has spent most of his twenty-seven years in the Navy aboard submarines.

### War Duty

During World War II he served on three subs in the Pacific, the USS Barracuda, USS Halibut and USS Devilfish. He was in charge of the main engine room on the Barracuda when war broke out, but when the Halibut was commissioned in 1942 he went aboard as Chief of the Boat. (The Chief of the Boat is responsible for the ship's security, cleanliness and smooth operation.) In 1945 he transferred to the Devilfish, again as Chief of the Boat.

### Nine Patrols

In all, Chief Hearn made nine long war patrol runs with those three subs. During the nine runs, the Chief estimates, the subs sank over 200,000 tons of Japanese shipping. He was awarded the Silver Star and a Letter of Commendation during his tour on the Halibut. At present he is in charge of the two diesel engines that supply the ship with light and electric power.

### President's Yacht

Mrs. Hearn and their three



Chief Hearn

children are living in Key West, where the Chief used to take President Truman and other dignitaries on fishing trips in the yacht. But Chief Hearn is a submarine man; and he says, "I'd like to get back to subs again, soon."

