



MORAL AND JAMES McCULLOUGH

## Like Father, Like Son, Rings True On Bennington

Each evening at movie time aboard Bennington two sailors can be seen walking together on their way to the nightly entertainment. A bystander would think they were just two more "whitehats" who had become friends while out at sea. But this twosome has more than friendship involved....they are father and son.

The remarkable fact that the father, Moral McCullough, TE2, OE-Division, a career man, and son James, MMFN, A-Division are both aboard Bennington came about when the head of the family returned to the states in 1955 after 34 months of shore duty in London, England. Moral who has also seen carrier duty on the Midway and Block Island explained that after being assigned shore duty at Norfolk, Virginia he began thinking of the possibilities of joining his son in Bennington. James

had arrived aboard "Big Ben" last August.

While on a ten day leave visiting his wife and 18 year old daughter who make their home in Leaksville, North Carolina, Moral's idea was further strengthened and upon his return to Norfolk, he requested transfer to Bennington.

The Navy moved quickly and one day later his chit was approved, his papers were in order and he was on his way.

On the afternoon of September 5, 1955 James was standing on the fantail of Bennington which was tied up at Mayport, Florida. When he turned around, there stood his dad.

With the natural opening question of "What are you doing here?" the two sailors greeted one another.

Today the two men have settled into the daily routine of Bennington life. Moral works in the post office while James is learning the various duties of A-Division. During the past five months they have gone on liberty together in many of the ports and they are looking forward to more enjoyable months ahead.

When asked how he feels about having his dad aboard with him, James replied, "It's great and he doesn't even pull rate on me."

### *I Think*

I think, as the sea sprays on my face  
Where you are tonight, the time, the place  
A show, a dance or a college play  
Or perhaps some roadside hide-away

I think of the Sunday rides we took  
The twinkle of your eye each time I'd look  
The fairness, the fall that shown in your hair  
The glory of beauty in the dress you'd wear

I think of the T.V. and hamburgers too  
The meals you'd cook just for two  
The cokes, the rum or one can of beer  
The soft low lights, the warmth of you near

I think of the nights we'd dance till dawn  
Or lay on a blanket in the garden lawn  
The moments, the minutes in which I'd feel  
Were moments I knew loving you was real

I think of Tulagi's and the pizza pie  
The nights on Flagstaff, the mountains high  
The strolls in the wind, the rain and snow  
The brilliance of love wherever we'd go

I think, also, of the miles we're apart  
The feeling of loneliness within my heart  
The wanting, the wishing you'd be close by  
As I watch the Japanese sunlit sky

Yes, I think of you from day to day  
In big, in small and every way  
Each minute, each hour all day through  
Where I am right now, I think, of you

MARC WHETSTONE

### Armed Forces Total Stands at 2,916,028

Washington (AFPS) — The numerical strength of the armed forces was 2,916,028 at the end of November, a decrease of 6,964 from the previous month, the Defense Department has announced.

Preliminary reports based army strength at 1,094,955; navy at 668,345; air force at 951,710 and marine corps at 201,018.