

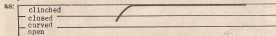
(Cont.)

Fools And Boatswain's Mates

'rag bags' went out, piping became the exclusive province of the fighting ship and the Navy Boatswain's Mate.

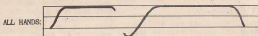
The Bosun's call still directs the deck gang on a few types of Naval vessels. Winchmen on some cargo ships are directed by pipe when their loads are out of sight, although hand signals are most often used. On the BENNINGTON, as on most ships, it is used only for piping the daily routine and passing the word. Some of the calls you hear are used in the same way they were 300 years ago and some are old calls adapted for modern use. As examples we have attempted to note some of the calls our ship uses, explaining a little of their use and history.

This is the one you hear day and night along with messages such

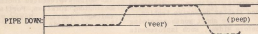


Now the smoking lamp is out throughout the ship...

It is known as ATTENTION or PASSING THE WORD.

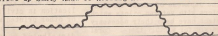


is piped to announce any event in which all or most of the crew must participate. Revellie, General Quarters and Flight Quarters are preceded by an ALL HANDS.



means just that when it is used as 'taps' at 2300. It is also piped for SECURE after an all hands evolution. The first part of the call is a VEER, trilled by fluttering the tongue against the back of the teeth. Veer means to slack away on a line or 'walk back'.

An undulating call known as HEAVE AROUND signalled clipper ship sailors to strike up *Santy Anna* or *Rolling Home* and start around the capstan:



We hear it three times a day as part of MESS CALL. This call is calculated to last at least 60 seconds and is made up of a lengthened ALL HANDS, HEAVE AROUND, and a PIPE DOWN in that order.

The calls shown above, along with SWEEPERS, SIDE PIPE, BOAT CALL and a few others, have to be mastered by anyone going up for a set of crossed anchors. In order to do this a striker has to get his hands on a call. The ship has a supply of calls which can be issued by the First Lieutenant, but most Bosun's Mates buy one of their own on the beach. In case you've just decided to pick up a silver pipe as a Navy souvenir, the asking price is \$6 to \$10.

If you do buy a pipe, you will find that you can't just walk out of the store and start piping. Even that good \$10 call won't sound like much of anything until it's tuned. There are different ways to go about it, but the first step is usually to take a nail file and shape the pee and the hole so that the blast of air is exactly split by the hole's edge. The bowls of most new pipes are too large, so the volume of air held in the chamber must be reduced. This can be done by putting a healthy dent in the bottom of the silver bowl, but this is considered crude. The best method is to fill up about a third of the chamber with melted beeswax.

Armed with a properly tuned call the striker looks up one of the seasoned Boatswain's Mates aboard ship. Under his eyes (and plugged ears) he begins to learn the fundamentals. But mastering the pipe

takes practice; especially that high 'clinched' tone, the trills, and the undulations. To practice the man has to find a quiet, unoccupied space to blast away. The bilges and the Bosun's Locker are the choice spots aboard most ships and on the BENNINGTON men are allowed to practice out on the crane sponson. Three weeks of good solid practice are usually enough to pass the performance test for SM3, but real proficiency comes only after five or six years of piping.

Most of the people who have tried to play the Bosun's call will agree that you can add this to the old saying: 'Son, only damn fools or Bosun's Mates would take the trouble.'

Four years ago this week, USS MANCHESTER and USS NICHOLAS steamed into Wonsan Harbor and shelled North Korean positions.

Forty-years ago this week, less than three weeks after war was declared, the first detachment of U.S. destroyers sailed from Boston for service overseas.

Busy Schedule Awaits BENN In Sydney

The people of Sydney are, from all reports, eagerly looking forward to our arrival there on 30 April. The visit of a 40,000 ton attack carrier is very unusual and we will be a major attraction to the Australians, particularly to the many who have an interest in the Navy.

Open house will be held daily, beginning on 30 April, between the hours of 1300 to 1630. More than 40,000 visitors are expected to come aboard during these periods.

On 1, 2, 3, and 6 May the ship will hold special tours for groups of boys in the morning from 1000 to 1200. The boys will range in age from 7 to 14 years and will come in groups of about 100 each day.

A formal reception for about 300 guests invited by the American Consul General in Sydney will be given on 2 May. The ship's band will turn out for the occasion to play dance music on the hangar deck.