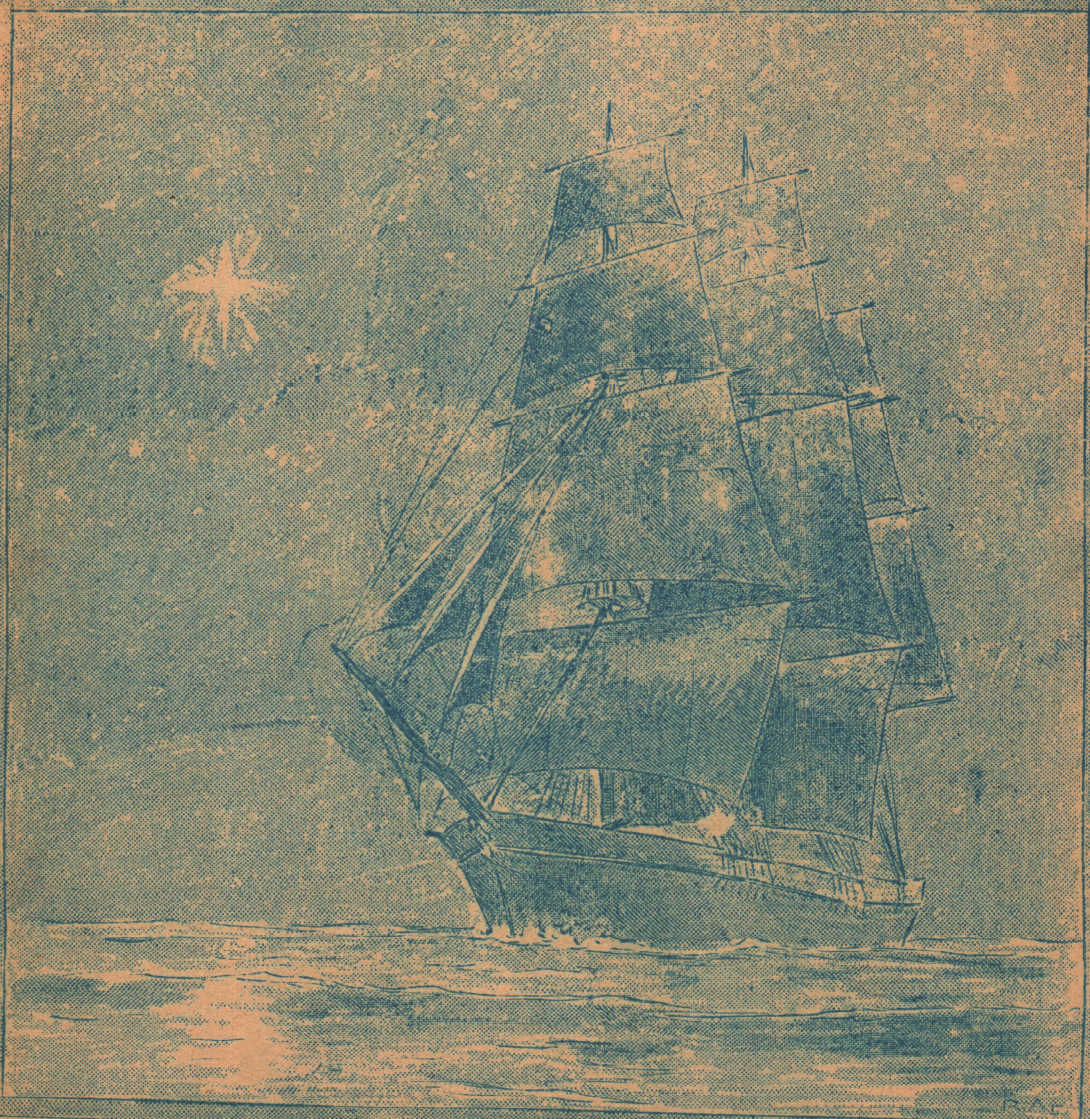


# The Binnacle

VOLUME II NUMBER 6

DECEMBER 1941



MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CALIFORNIA MARITIME ACADEMY

## THOUGHTS AT CHRISTMAS

How strange and different is the mood of this Christmastide. The U. S. at war! In place of the customary sound of carols and the sight of brilliantly lighted Christmas displays we have air raid alarms and blackout. All of us here have been called out of deep slumber by the eerie thrilling sound of the Alarm. As this is written, we of the mainland have not yet experienced the crashing destruction of bombs. Not yet have we seen wave after wave of enemy aircraft high in the night, hammering the sky to pieces with the sound. But hardly is there a hamlet that does not sleep in total darkness - no place is immune from the possibility of the screaming hell! Gone is the peaceful security given us by our "Magnificent Lines" - the Atlantic and Pacific. Great is our fury and concern as a fanatic and determined invader spreads his assault in scope and intensity as the hours pass. That which we have long looked upon as inevitable is now upon us. We hear of men we know out there at the front, knowing that soon we shall be taking our places beside them.

The change from peace to war has been so rapid as to seem fantastic. The class of '42 which was to graduate in May will be at sea working for Uncle Sam in January. The class of '43 must do in six months what it would have had eighteen in which to do. The course has been shortened from three years to twenty-two months. Soon a new class will make its bewildered way to the schoolship. All must work together in the common cause. All must keep in mind our creed -- *Labore pugnare paratus sumus* -- "To work, to fight, we are ready."

The ship has moved from the Ferry Building to the ship yards to get a new lease on life and some new paint on her bottom. The old HENRY COUNTRY (now GOLDEN STATE), built for World War I, girds her loins to take her part in World War II. Work will probably be done quickly and she will return to her accustomed berth to resume her regular duties immediately following the first of the year, as the old class leaves and the new class enters.

Now, with this, the last BINNACLE of 1941, the staff

sends its best wishes. This December has a great need for a Merry Christmas. We of C.M.A. wish the joys of the season to all of pitiful humanity in its hour of pathetic distress. To those who fight our battles at home and at the front, and

to those who will inherit our world, Happy New Year! May 1942 bring in one hand the courage to weather the storm of blood and tears it brings in the other.

N.B. Martin

## THE BINNACLE WATCH

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### NEW WATCH ENGINEER JOINS SCHOOLSHIP

Replacing Mr. J.R. Shafer, who accepted a job with the Dagan Corporation, Mr. W.R. Putnam reported for duty on the GOLDEN STATE on 1 December.

Mr. Putnam has had varied experience on several ships. After graduation from this academy in 1933 (in the same class with Mr. Tubbs and Mr. Bellamy), he shipped out as third assistant on the POINT ESTERO for the Swain and Hoyt Steamship Co. Later he sailed as junior on the PRESIDENT VAN BUREN. On that ship were three other classmates of his. On the VIRGINIAN for American-Hawaiian he sailed as third assistant. Mr. Bellamy was with him on this run.

Here on the schoolship, with his second's license, he has been put in charge of the electrical equipment and some auxiliaries.

One thing many cadets have noticed here is the fond affection Soogie, our mascot, has for Mr. Putnam. Soogie nearly goes wild with joy every time he sees our new engineer. Mr. Putnam attributes this to the fact that Soogie always accompanied him when he was assigned to trace water lines

on the old base over a period of two months.

His experiences and training, as well as the first impression he has left here among the cadets, leads us to believe that there is every reason for his success at the academy. We wish him good luck.

F.A. Phillipow

\* \* \*

### NEW EDITOR TAKES OVER

Because the declaration of war has necessitated the early graduation of the Class of 1942, consequently requiring that class to cease all active participation in school activities, it is my duty, as retiring editor, to turn over the publication of the BINNACLE to our assistant editor, Harold Oldfield. In the past he has enthusiastically and unselfishly devoted his talents to what we hope has been a successful periodical.

I wish to express my profound appreciation to all those who have contributed their efforts to this publication, and with the knowledge of what work the editorship involves, may I wish "Barney" lots of success. May he have the same support if not more, as has been given in the past.

R.W. Dasso



### GYRO SCHOOL

The First Class Deck Cadets are now the proud possessors of the coveted certificate issued by the Sperry Gyroscope Company, which certifies them as being competent to operate and maintain gyroscopic compasses.

Under the watchful eye of Mr. Bodian, who is a graduate of the New York State Maritime Academy and a former mate in the merchant marine, the cadets have been able to solve the mysteries of this delicate instrument. After many hours of theory, and practical application in operating, cleaning, and dismantling the gyro equipment, the cadets qualified themselves to take a stiff examination on what they had learned during the course of instruction.

The value of the certificate is two-fold. Not only does it signify the ability of the bearer, but it is a requirement for second mate's papers.

The Sperry Gyroscope Company maintains this school for the benefit of mariners and aviators who use their equipment, and much credit is due to Mr. Bodian for his able and patient instruction.

R.L. Smith

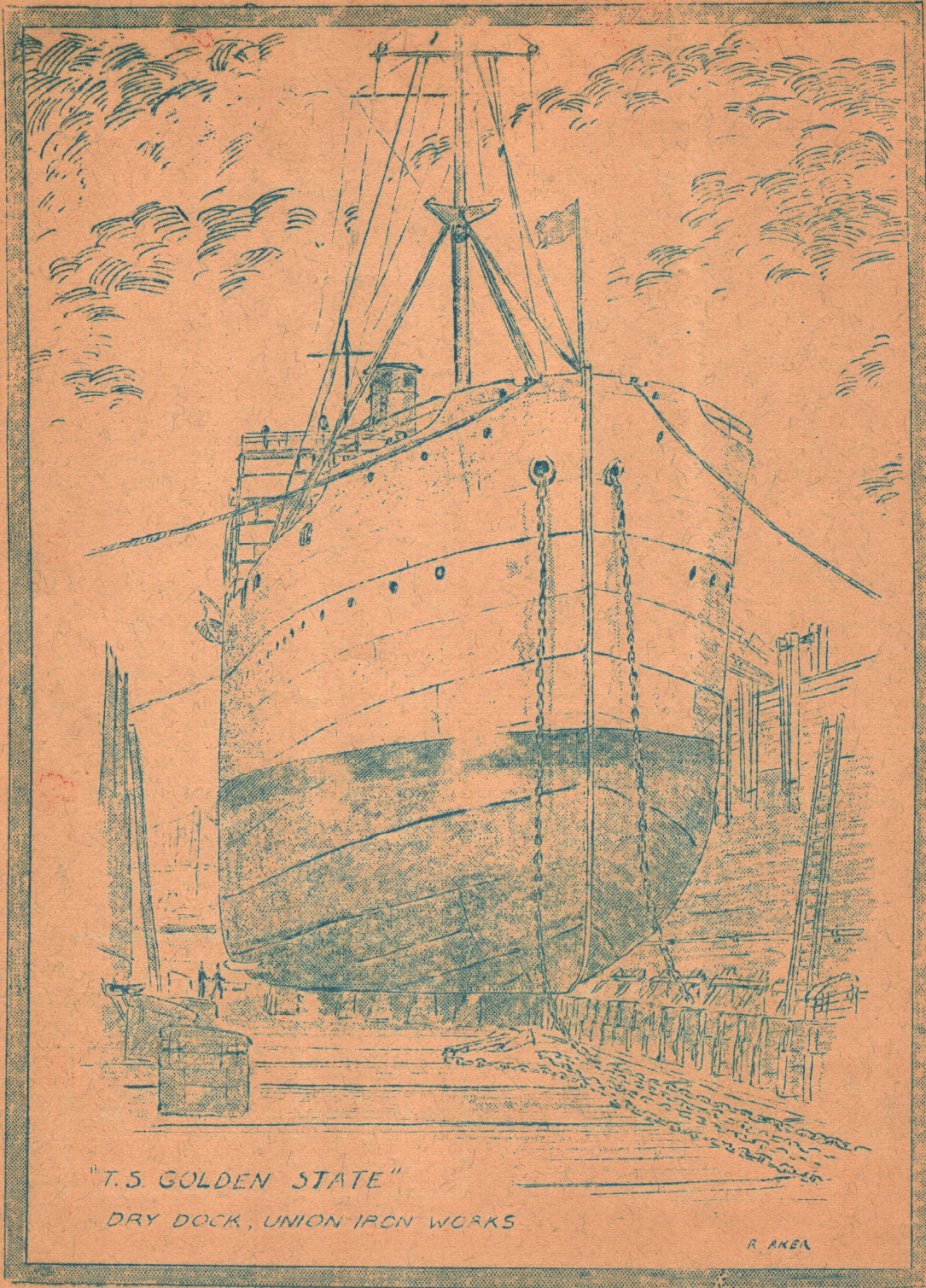
### CHANGE OF NAME

The Maritime Commission recently instituted several changes in the various state nautical schools. C.M.A. came out with very few changes to its previous routine and set up.

Perhaps the greatest change was the changing of the ship's name. Instead of the C.T.S. CALIFORNIA STATE, the official name of the ship is now the T.S. GOLDEN STATE. There have been a few complications arising from this choice of name, but they are more amusing than annoying. It has been suggested that we remind certain fourth classmen that the truck which comes to the gangway every morning at seven thirty is NOT our new station wagon, but is merely the mobile representative of a certain dairy concern.

H.L. Oldfield

The sincere sympathy of the entire company of Cadets and Officers is extended to Cadet John Hansen at this time of great sorrow for him. News of his father's passing finds us with none but these hollow words to express our profound regret.



"T.S. GOLDEN STATE"  
DRY DOCK, UNION IRON WORKS

R. AKEA

ATTENTION ALUMNI

Dear Alumnus:

This school has been in operation for over ten years, graduating classes annually. This means that there are quite a few of us--well over two hundred and fifty with the majority still connected with maritime life. I know at sometime or another some classmate's name has been mentioned, which brings forth "I wonder where he is now, and what is he doing? How does he look?" This has probably happened to many of you lots of times. In addition, cadets on the ship wonder what the alumni are doing now.

In the past, after graduation, each man usually goes on his own way and all ties between C.H.A. and his classmates are broken. This should not happen.

If we start now to organize our alumni, in not so many years, we could have a large, powerful group, with a good spirit of fellowship, and enough power in our organization to do the school and ourselves some

good.

The Academy has a paper which is printed each month, entitled the "BIMNACLE", and the cadets are more than willing to set aside two pages in each issue for the activities of the alumni. This paper is entirely supported financially by the subscriptions from the parents of the cadets and by shipping men interested in the welfare of the school. These subscriptions cost only one dollar (\$1.00) per year. It is time we were doing something toward the beginning of a real alumni association.

If this sounds interesting to you, write in and subscribe to the "BIMNACLE" and give them your name, company, position, and any other information that you think might be interesting to print for the benefit of your own classmates and of the cadets of the Academy.

LET'S HAVE YOUR SUPPORT!!

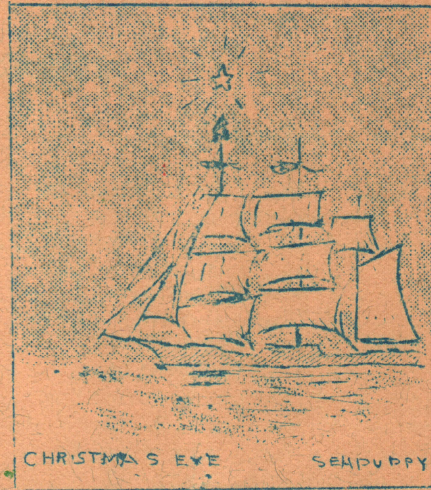
W. Bollany '38

## NORTH AND SOUTH CALIFORNIA RIVALRY IN SCIENCE

During a recent astronomy lecture delivered by Dr. Max Mason of Cal. Tech. at the P.G.&E. auditorium, a group of cadets were furthered in their knowledge of the 200 inch telescope being installed in Southern California and the Cyclotron at Berkeley. With the aid of these instruments, the men of science are certain that they will learn many new facts about the structure of matter. Dr. Mason pointed out that the cyclotron has one advantage over the 200 in. telescope, in that with the cyclotron, one works with matter that is right here, while with the 200 in. telescope the individual studies matter that is millions of miles away. The innumerable difficulties that were encountered and solved in the building of the telescope were also discussed.

The doctor concluded his lecture by telling of what he called the practical side of these very expensive endeavors. He said that through studying atoms, molecules, etc., man can peer into the universe and learn of its orderly organization and operation; thus, superstition will be wiped away by facts, and also by knowing the behavior of matter, we shall be able to understand the queer behavior of certain leaders in the world today.

W.J. Fennick



### SEA SLANG

Let's look into another phase of the old salt's life besides his slang.

Christmas at sea hundreds, even thousands of miles from home, yet with the typical fortitude of his calling the old salt made the best of things.

A Christmas tree, ranging from a real tree to a pole with bits of rope yarn tied to it and the whole painted green, was hoisted to the foretruck. The officers gave the seamen the day off, and merriment (with the officers and crew) reigned both fore and aft. Rousing sea chanties and old Yuletide songs of many countries were sung to the accompaniment of a stretch piano and a mouth organ.





The old timers usually managed to give their shipmates something, even if only a pair of socks knitted while off watch.

If during the rest of the year, the crew ate poorly, the ship's owner usually saw to it that there was plum pudding, roast pork, and a ration of rum for all hands to top of their Christmas cheer.

So even in the days of the windjammer Christmas was enjoyed by all hands.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

L. Petersen--the Seapuppy

"Why in heaven's name don't you blow tubes me ma white?"



## DANCE GIVEN BY JOB'S DAUGHTERS

Last Friday, November 5, Bethel number one of the Oakland Job's Daughters were dancing partners and providers of an evening of fun and entertainment for the twenty-five cadets that attended the dance given them by the Job's and held at the Oakland Women's City Club. The music was of the best inasmuch as it was all canned. "Swede" Stendahl put on an inspired exhibition of dancing to the "Hitout Song" and Jake Jacobson really moved around with a bit of San Pedro jittering. "Wild Bill" Fennick wouldn't go any farther than one of his Rochester voiced protests when asked to "Balboa" for the assembled crowd. During intermission, while the refreshments furnished by the girls were being downed by all hands, Don Koroid quite ably tickled a few tunes from the piano. Because there were a few extra girls at the dance, there was a quick turnover of partners most of the time.

One of the local girls there is to be doubly fortunate in that, primarily she will go to God's Country (the Beautiful Southland), and she is also to be queen of the Oakland city float in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year's Day.

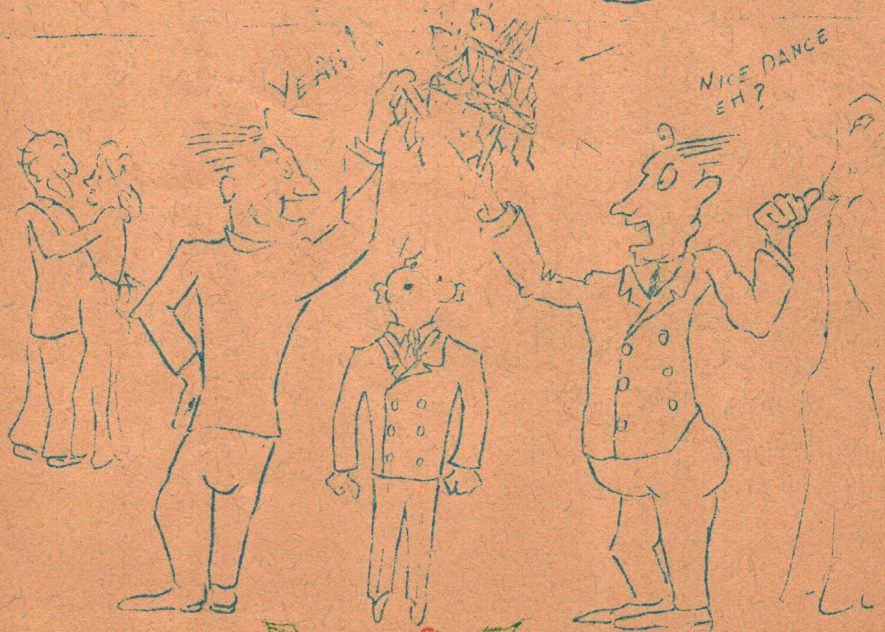
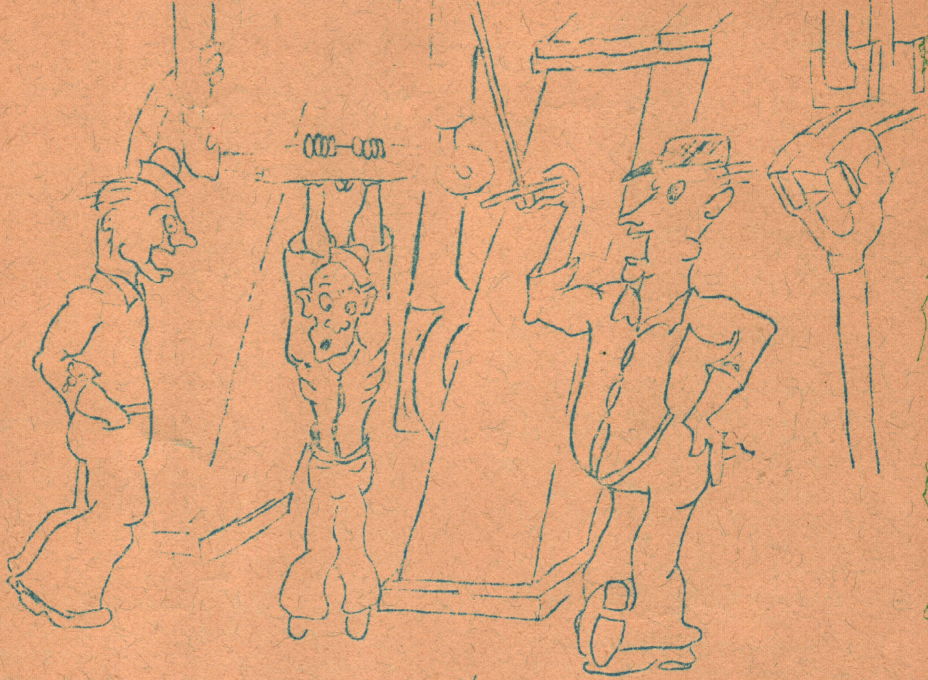
When the dance broke up, and some phone numbers had been taken, everyone felt that Art Behm, the Job's Daughter Bethel, and all

others who had a hand in the dance deserved a lot of credit for engineering a pleasantly spent evening. Also, why don't we do this more often?

J.W. Towar



# JUST HABIT



### C.M.A. BASKETBALLERS OPEN SEASON

The C.M.A. basketball quintet opened the present basketball season with two games last week.

The squad dropped both contests, one to Armstrong College, 37-33, and the other to a strong Oakland "Hi" squad, 49-40. In both games the cadets showed a lack of team work and a need for more practice. Previous to the two games they had only two days of practice. The loss of Robert Young and R.L. Smith proved a handicap to the cagers, also these two lads were counted on a lot because of their height.

The game with Armstrong was a close contest all the way, through with our boys closing fast at the finish.

The game with Oakland looked like a walk away in the first half for their rivals. But again in the last half the C.M.A. quintet came up fast, almost taking the lead away several times. Joe Gates, Glen Lafrenz, Buzz Geandrot, Dick Braly, Svede Stendahl, Jack Welch, Ed Borryman and Kent Savage all turned in fine performances for such short practice. Welch, Woods, and big Svede Stendahl were outstanding for the cadet squad.

D. Braly

### BADMINTON

Now that we have such excellent facilities here in the Ferry Building's spacious waiting rooms, and evenings and week-ends in which to play off matches, it was decided that a pleasant diversion after a day's turn to would be to start a ladder on which the twenty-one aspirants to fame and success along the line of bird mangling might fight it out for the top rung. The short time before the graduation of a few of the better players in the first class in January necessitated the playing off of all challenges as soon as possible. The winners will take on the Ferry Building employees Badminton Club champs. We have a good crop of players and whoever comes out on top will have really earned the position of honor.

J.W. Tower

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FISHING CLUB NEWS

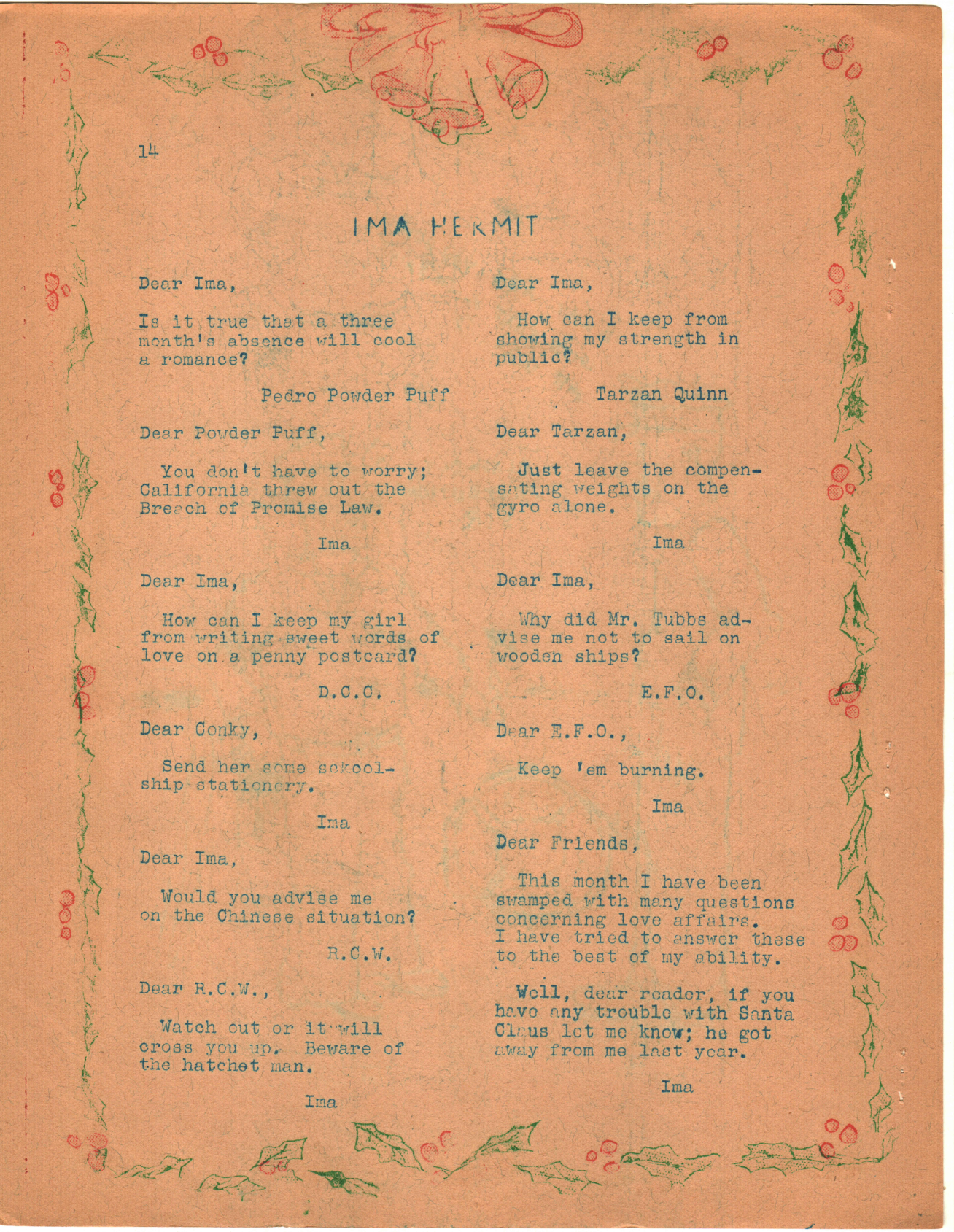
W.J. Fennick

WHAT ARE YOU DOING  
WITH THAT BLACK PAINT,  
MR. WELCH?

BLACKOUT  
PRECAUTIONS  
SIR



THE BOYS



## IMA HERMIT

Dear Ima,

Is it true that a three month's absence will cool a romance?

Pedro Powder Puff

Dear Powder Puff,

You don't have to worry; California threw out the Breach of Promise Law.

Ima

Dear Ima,

How can I keep my girl from writing sweet words of love on a penny postcard?

D.C.C.

Dear Conky,

Send her some schoolship stationery.

Ima

Dear Ima,

Would you advise me on the Chinese situation?

R.C.W.

Dear R.C.W.,

Watch out or it will cross you up. Beware of the hatchet man.

Ima

Dear Ima,

How can I keep from showing my strength in public?

Tarzan Quinn

Dear Tarzan,

Just leave the compensating weights on the gyro alone.

Ima

Dear Ima,

Why did Mr. Tubbs advise me not to sail on wooden ships?

E.F.O.

Dear E.F.O.,

Keep 'em burning.

Ima

Dear Friends,

This month I have been swamped with many questions concerning love affairs. I have tried to answer these to the best of my ability.

Well, dear reader, if you have any trouble with Santa Claus let me know; he got away from me last year.


Ima

## EDITOR'S NOTES

Next month will bring the BINNACLE'S combination graduation and alumni number to press. Complete (as far as practicable) information concerning the whereabouts and activities of all the alumni. Also, the inside information on the class of '42.

Because of the advanced graduation of the First Class, there are now several positions open on the staff of the BINNACLE. Fourth classmen who are interested in this type of work should contact the Editor. Selections for these positions will be made on the basis of ability and previous experience.

The Editor



MINATURE RINGS  
NOW AVAILABLE  
TO  
GRADUATES  
APPLY TO CADET R.H. MUIRHEAD

## Proclamation

Hear ye! Hear ye!

A proclamation to all fishermen tried and true.

We the Co-Presidents of the Fishing Club, R.L. and C.F. Smith by name do hereby proclaim that the title of "Kingfish" be bestowed on the most honorable Bartholemew J. Fennick who because of his untiring efforts in luring the wiley Denizens of the Deep does most honorably deserve this high and mighty office to carry on the best traditions of the Club.

"To Cast-To-Troll"  
We are Ready!

P.S. No Large Bass Actually Landed

16



BEST WISHES  
FOR A

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

AND A  
HAPPY NEW  
YEAR

~BINNACLE STAFF~