



THE BINNACLE

Vol. I. No. 15

Special Edition

January, 1944

CMA Loses To Mare Island Five

MUSICAL TALENT

In line with the current policy of establishing an extra-curricular program that will aid the regular and paramount curriculum of officer training and also provide a diversion for the midshipmen in their free moments, the suggestion has been made concerning the prospects of forming some type of musical organization. With thoughts of famous orchestras playing for noon messes at other localities, and static-ridden radios annoying us in general, the idea of having our own musical organization composed of the many fine musicians seems very pleasing.

Many of the men who would be able to participate are ex-sidemen of professional orchestras, and their experience would be invaluable in forming a small band or an orchestra of the average dance band size. Trumpets appear to predominate of the instruments played by the cadets, and possibly if a complete band cannot be brought forth, at least we may be able to enjoy a drum and bugle corps or, which sounds like the best suggestion of all, a brass quartette.

Possibilities of a drastic improvement in drill could be expected with the aid of a drum and bugle corps; the impetus to stay in step would be so strong as to keep even Don Guthrie in step. A small organization of brass and percussion instruments would bring spirit aplenty to our basketball games, as well as create a very favorable impression to the public.

Gerald Hodgkinson was representative of the sentiments of the cadet corps concerning the proposed band when he said that "it would be a great thing for C. M. A., giving us something that would arouse spirit and pride and make the Academy really smart-looking."

Just a few of the possible men who would be very interested in the formation of a band, orchestra, or small "combo" are H. M. Banke, James Muhlstein, Paul Lawrence, L. W. Parente, M. P. Clendenny, George Robison, Ed Stephenson, Delmar Kolda, A. R. Southwick, Roger Putnam, M. H. Foskett, H. D. Huycke, F. W. Fay, P. G. Boomer, P. J. Marincovich, Dunham, Van Sicklen, Hall, as well as many others

ADDITION TO ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

Taking the first step toward active participation in the affairs of the Academy, the new third class elected four members to serve on the Athletic Committee on January 19. Those selected from the lower class were Howard Annin, Irwin Rosa, Marvin Hall and Mervin Tripp. The addition of these new men to the Committee has strengthened the position of the Committee and created greater unity amongst the classes, which should accelerate the action of Committee in furthering recreational activities.

MIDSHIPMEN DROP TILT. 47-41

In its second hardwood endeavor of the season, CMA's basketball team went down to defeat at the hands of the Mare Island All-Stars, 47-41, on the latter's home court. The loss to the sailors was not considered too great a blow to the Academy casabamen, as they were undefeated going into the contest and the men comprise the cream of the basketball crop on the Island. Inasmuch as the CMA athletes were in dire need of conditioning and practice their showing was quite remarkable.

Starting out to topple the M. I. giants in an efficient manner, the Academy five kept pace with the sailors during the early part of the first half. Soon, however, Mare Island's tremendous height advantage and aggressiveness took its toll, and the "Sea Dogs" found themselves trailing. At half time the score had gone to 20-13 in favor of Mare Island. It was an uphill fight all the way in the second half, and the Midshipmen put up a doughty battle to the end.

Probably the greatest single drawback to the CMA attack was the weakening of its offense due to inaccurate shooting. However, strangeness to the court and the abbreviated backboards played a large part in the Academy's inability to put the ball through the hoop. Marcus and Ambury of Mare Island accounted for 8 each of their team's total, and this time CMA's attack was spearheaded by "Dashing Don" Tedsen, who flipped his way to scoring honors for the Cadets with 14 points.

While the Mare Island team looked formidable throughout the encounter, it would appear to the C.M.A. rooter that the contest would have been much closer had the Sea Dogs had a few more practices under their belts.

LABOR VS. WAR EFFORT

The problem created by organized labor's failure to live up to their pledge to keep production at a maximum and adhere to the principle of no stoppage on vital war work has become one of the serious weaknesses in America's all-important ship-building program. The interference of ambitious unions, however beneficial in their aims, is a serious detriment to the

Recently a case arose in Alameda where the workers program set up by the War Shipping Administration. walked off the job when a dispute between union and employer developed. Taking immediate action, Naval authorities stepped in and completed the building of the naval vessel by using Bluejackets to finish the work. The vessel's crew worked all night to replace the shipyard workers who had walked out on the job just before completion of the work. The spirit of the sailors was commendable; we have another word for the patriotism of the workers.

THE BINNACLE LIGHT

We don't like to run off at the mouth about keeping physical fit while we are in training at the Academy, mostly because there is at this time so much being said on that particular subject in respect to training programs throughout the nation. However, we do think it should be brought to the attention of the Midshipmen themselves, if no one else, that they owe it to themselves to participate in some sort of beneficial recreation regularly. An increased amount of free time has been allowed in the new routine adopted at the base, and the opportunities for recreational activities have been materially increased thereby.

It is quite obvious that one may derive fine benefits both physically and mentally from athletics; the Navy, Army, Marine Corps, and every other service has recognized the value of physical education and have incorporated into their training programs adequate athletic activities. Physically any sport gives the individual many advantages, developing coordination, alertness, speed, poise, and endurance, to name just a few. Mentally the benefits, while not so easily recognized are equal (if not superior) to those attained physically. Judgment, alacrity, composure, and stability of mind are increased; the qualities of leadership, perseverance, sportsmanship, enthusiasm and cooperation are developed as the young man strides toward manhood.

The all important attribute of making decisions promptly and with prudence and foresight is one of the most important benefits of athletic training, one which we think has been justly evaluated by the Armed Forces in acknowledging athletics as a character builder of fighting men. Very often sports bring out ambition, honesty, and wholesome mental outlook to the boys who have taken up football, basketball, baseball, track, swimming, or any other sport and given it their best efforts. It is quite remarkable that many excellent scholars are also outstanding athletes, and later on prove to be very successful along other lines of endeavor.

Athletics seem to bring out the inert qualities which make the individual find himself; whereas some are gifted and sports serve as an outlet for their talent, very often those who are not outstanding in other fields discover hidden abilities by participating in athletics and gain confidence, which serves to give that certain something that was lacking before but with which they can attain success in life.

We need not preach for sports as a body and character builder—there is no need for that, especially since most of the Midshipmen at Morrow Cove are former athletes of high school and college and well acquainted with all that has been said. However, it is very easy to slack off when it comes to keeping physically fit, and for that reason we would like to suggest that whenever possible each individual owes it to himself to take advantage of any facilities which may help him regain that spirit of well being, of enthusiasm, of keenness, and of self-confidence which makes life well worth living and enables America's youth to gain victory over any and all adversaries.

PERSONALITIES

Frederick Walter Fay, one of CMA's more lovable characters, has been the subject of dispute ever since people began to notice the port list of his physiognomy and observe the quaint babblings that issue forth from this back room philosopher. Walt was introduced to the world on the morning of December 16, 1923, and the world has been a little embarrassed ever since. Attending the school in San Francisco until his entrance into the Academy, young Fay matriculated at Lowell High School, where he won aquatic laurels by being on the swimming team for three years. Walt also competed for the Olympic Club swimming team (polywog class) for two seasons, and has thereby made a name for himself in the athletic world.

However, Fay's favorite sport is sailing, and he began his yachting career at the age of 14. When Walt was 15 he won his first—and last—race, he has sailed in practically every class of boat in the bay, including his own, Pidgeon II of the Miscellaneous Pot class. "Frederick The Great" is one of the most sought after yachtsmen in the bay, having brought many a winner in—for the other boats.

Walt enjoys dancing, extremely rare roast beef, blondes, Cadillacs and a good time. Possessing one of the most refreshing personalities in the St. Francis Woods, Walt Fay has long been considered a "must" on every party list, and a veritable sensation at any gathering. His genius is evident in his every undertaking, such as shooting the breeze, playing the ocharina, and winning the prettiest girl in Berkeley.

Without Walt's grand humor and congeniality, the first class would be at a complete loss, and so we nominate Frederick Walter Fay as the outstanding personality of the month.

PLATTER PALAVER

Recently the trend started by Artie Shaw to introduce strings in the prominent dance bands has been quite definite. The majority of the successful bands, although hesitant at first, have noted the excellent results and the balance those fiddles bring and have followed the example of their professional brothers. Very likely one of the most important factors in the meteoric success of the Harry James band was his adoption of strings to his faltering organization, which like most bands had a rough time getting started.

It is refreshing to note that Jack Jenny, trombonist on the "Metronome All-American Band," volunteered for active service with the Navy when so many other musicians are seeking deferments and 4-F ratings. Favorite of Lou Parente and more and more of America's music lovers, Dave Rose has in the past few years risen to the stature of another Kostelanetz in presenting popular music in a lovely semi-classical form, which in our opinion is the form in which much of the works of Kern, Herbert, Romberg, Hammerstein, Porter, Friml, et al, will remain for the coming generations to enjoy.

For our money one of the greatest pieces of piano work waxed at any time was done by Duke Ellington in his transcription of "Frankie and Johnny," a compliment to the Ellington genius. And speaking of Edward Kennedy, he began 1943 with a concert performance at Carnegie Hall in January, which was claimed elegiac, dolorous, and lugubrious (sad to the uninitiated) by the classical critiques and praised by the swing critics, and he ended the year with another stint at the Hall in December, described by the sedate critiques as terrific and termed "a step in the wrong direction" by the popular experts. Wonder if the boys will ever get together?

Variations: Surprise record of last year: the old "Paper Doll" brought to life by the Mills Brothers and Ed Grehler. Best ballad of the year: "You'll Never Know." Surprise band of the year: Jan Garber, who has a fine swing outfit, and if you still don't believe it, give a listen to him sometime. Liz Tilton provides the vocals and almost matches sister Martha's accomplishments in them oviacs, radio, and platters. Martha's job of lyricizing with "Comin' Thru the Rye" and "The Angels Cried" (a comer) proves the contention of so many critics, among them Harry James who was unable to secure her to replace Helen Forrest, (who like the rest of the featured vocalists went out on her own) in appraising her as one of the best. Martha does quite a bit of dubbing for Hollywood, and so if you hear a beautiful voice coming from some voluptuous creature (Tilton is no slouch either) whom you can't imagine as a canary, it may very likely be the "Liltin'" Tilton.

"Esquire's" current edition of its All-American Jazz Band re-establishes its firm determination to maintain Louis Armstrong as the King of the Trumpet and Jazz at the end of each succeeding year. We wonder if the "authorities" who knock that stuff out know how the "Satchmo" sounds now, or are they still digging the stuff that made him the greatest pioneer of American jazz and the leading figure in the field fifteen years ago. We received quite a thrill listening to all of those jazz immortals on the same program together a few days ago when the winners of the Esquire poll all got together at the Metropolitan in a fine exhibition of jazz.

The concert brought together men like Coleman Hawkins, Barney Bigard, Teddy Wilson, Louis Armstrong, Roy Eldridge, Art Tatum, Lionel Hampton, Sid Catlett, and Benny Goodman (by remote control). It must have been quite a party.

There exists in the cadet corps a sharp delineation between music lovers. The rabid lovers of swing just can't understand what those stalwart supporters of the more serious forms of music can see in the enjoyment of cultured music, and the lovers of classical and semi-classical works can't understand why the "jive hounds" get such a big bang out of jumping up and down spasmodically (even convulsively) at the wail of a trumpet or the throaty moan of a saxophone. We think the solution to the feud is for each faction to trouble themselves sometime to see what the other type of music has to offer. We are certain if they sincerely endeavor to understand and appreciate their former "pet hate," they will even enjoy the other type of music, and in so doing broaden their musical education and themselves.

SPORT SPUTTERS

By Bob Myers

I guess we haven't put it strongly enough—C. M. A. needs a nickname. Whether you believe it or not, there will be a definite need for some appellation for the Academy, and that need will increase as the Academy's prominence grows. The Athletic Committee has accumulated several appropriate names to submit to the Superintendent for approval, but they would very much like to have many more suggestions from the Midshipmen as well as the support of the cadet corps itself in the matter. We hope by the time our line basketball team goes into action again it will have the benefit of some nickname they may be called besides those unmentionables by which they have been known in the past.

While on the subject of the basketball team, the question of school support comes to mind, and the subject is indeed distasteful to anyone with an iota of pride in the Academy. When liberty is granted to enable the Midshipmen to see their classmates represent the Academy and a tremendous rooting section of three or four men show up, there is indeed a great deal to be desired in the way of spirit among the midshipman corps. The spirit amongst the basketball players was very high despite the absence of support, and the display of courage and gameness which they exhibited gave a good indication as to what type of athletes CMA possesses.

Sudden thought: Wonder what the Mare Island-CMA basketball score would have been if the Midshipmen could have sneaked in just one more practice. Think of the possibilities if our boys could obtain four or even five practices before a game.

Perambulations: Walt Fay, one of our foremost swimmers, felt a little hurt when we didn't build up the possibilities of a swimming team (and Fay) enough. . . . Whatever happened to that ping pong tournament that should have come off months ago? . . . Unfortunately, chances of a game with one of the University of California's basketball teams are very slim now, as U. C.'s dates seem to be all filled up for the season; because of wartime circumstances the Bears engage only one opponent a week. . . . An informal interview with "Nibs" Price, Cal basketball mentor, gave an insight into the coaching policy of our universities and colleges in these times; the accent now is on the game for the player's sake, and more and more coaches are clearing the benches in each game, and fewer and fewer are driving their men for victories—it isn't necessary when there is so much more of real importance to be worn by those same young men.

GLIMPSES

Fake frequenting the "Y" fountain nightly; he's getting sick of cokes, but declares the scenery is beautiful. . . . Swab Griffith giving his earthquake version of the "Balboa". . . . Vaughan getting caught by a drunk barber. . . . Lewis storming up and down "A" barracks. . . . Schwimmer "guarding" the swabs as they turn-to. . . . Grundy sending his pants to the cleaners regularly—that anti-freckle lotion is darn hard on clothes. . . . Banke taking soundings submerged. . . . Tripp singing Barracks "C" to sleep every night. . . . Atthowe advertising his favorite house through the nose; his beakon now listed in Aids to Navigation. . . . Fay making up to the second class. . . .

Second class engineers being acclimated at the sentry box. . . . Parente getting the secret of How to Make "Friends" and Influence "Acquaintances" from Tedsen via the conviviality route. . . . Huycke when asked if he were born on a four-masted schooner, replying "No, it was a four-poster!". . . . Zeluff, Anderson, and Lewis going after the local talent at the Club Kona. . . . Fisk taking a collection to buy a pair of turn-to shoes. . . . Guthrie surprising Mr. Tubbs as well as the class with a correct answer in Navigation. . . . Brown with a blank stare and Berkeley on his mind. . . . Myers buying new sets of dungarees because they cannot take what he gives them; after all they are not elastic. . . . Detweiller letting Hodgkinson in on the secrets of life. . . .

All right!! Room 41! . . . What first class engineer is called "Chubby" by total strangers? . . . Wilcox, where are the reversing links on an automobile engine? . . . Brown coming back in blackface from Fire School. . . . Which money mad first class engineer finally took a night off to see his "ideal"? . . . Ley in his glory as sick bay attendant—there must be a zillion pills in there. . . . Latest engineering problems: How to eliminate water hammer and how to make billie hammer. . . . Why the mighty parade, Mac—we've all seen the bathrobe?!

INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL

In order to utilize more completely our recreational facilities and create an activity providing diversion and exercise, intramural basketball competition was begun on December 14. Organized and maintained by the Midshipmen, the season has progressed nicely in the limited amount of time in which the participants have had to schedule the games.

In the opening game of the first round, the "Terrors," a smooth working combination led by Bob Atthowe and Don Tedsen, set back the make-shift "Blues," headed by Lou Parente, 42-16. Lacking most of its regulars, the Blues found it impossible to keep pace with the Terrors; however, the Blues will be seeking revenge in their return match with the Terrors in the second round.

In a rough and tumble battle which found two evenly matched teams fighting it out bitterly to the very end, the "Toughies" trimmed the "Morons," 38-31. Captain Vorous led the winners, and aided by Tom Lewis the Pirates showed a good deal of defense strength and aggressiveness. Captain Dick Moore and the Morons led throughout the game, but succumbed to the bombastic rally put on by the Toughies that gave them their initial victory of the first round.

Exhibiting some of the talent which was lying dormant before, the hitherto downtrod Blues won a hard fought contest from the high flying Toughies, 29-22. Captain Fred Vorous of the Toughies accumulated eleven points, and carried away high point honors. Captain Lou Parente didn't find the going quite as rough as in the Blues' first time out, and working well with McKune and Evert also in the lineup, the Blues gave a good performance and a promise of more to come when they will be at full strength with Lee Spieller aiding the attack.

After the entrance of the new third class, several of the neophytes were seen enthusiastically tossing the casaba about the court. In order to give the "younger boys" a chance to actively participate in our athletic program, two teams were organized composed entirely of third classmen. These teams will be given an equal opportunity to garner the laurels in the tourney as well as the chance to demonstrate what class spirit they have. The first opponent of the "swabs" in the opening round was against the rapidly improving Morons, who were barely able to down the eager lower classmen in a very close game. The Morons did emerge victorious by a 23-19 count, but if the "Torpedoes" get a little practice working together they will be tough a combination to topple again.

Thus far the intramural season has progressed quite satisfactorily despite handicaps of officiating and the condition of the court. As we are about to go to press, the Terrors appear to be the team to beat, and the rest look to follow closely on their heels. Perhaps the Blues will finish the first round with the services of all its mainstays, which event will make it one of the best balanced and most powerful squads in the running. The Morons may come through unexpectedly, especially will they be dangerous with Luke Aluevich in the lineup; and like the Morons, the Toughies have the power to come through and cop the title. The two swab teams are the big question mark, and just how good they are we shall soon see; it wouldn't surprise us a bit to see them carry on the old third class tradition of knocking the wind out of the upperclasses.

STANDINGS

Team—	Won	Lost	Pct.
Terrors	1	0	1.000
Blues	1	1	.500
Toughies	1	1	.500
Morons	1	1	.500
Torpedoes	0	1	.000

KENTON CAUGHT AT NAPA

On January 15 the "Dream Bowl" near Napa was distinguished with the appearance of the fine Stan Kenton band, and we were fortunate enough to be able to catch Stan and his crew and compare his music at the present with that which set Southern California pulsating with excitement at a new rhythm, which promised to offer something great to contemporary popular music. We regret to say that Kenton could not truly represent himself or his music to an unresponsive audience of yokels and inebriates, and thus we felt cheated and are inclined to believe that there was a great deal to be desired in the evening's entertainment, which lacked the enthusiasm, originality, drive, and spontaneity which characterized that terrific band which left Balboa and Hollywood buzzing to conquer the East.

Unfortunately, Stan didn't conquer the East, but he did at least prove that he had something, even though constantly heckled by song pluggers, unnecessarily censorious reviewers, and unappreciative audiences. Stan's forte was his originality, which sprung almost entirely from his own genius at harmony and swing orchestration. The terrific amount of work which Stan had to do taxed his energy to the utmost. Evidently, composing and arranging most of his library was a little too much for Kenton, and by the time he returned to southern California to pick up a spot on the Bob Hope show, he had also picked up a good deal of the commercialism which he had formerly disdained. Then too, by the time the band returned the original men were gone, lost to the Army, other bands, and various other interests, and replacements have changed practically the entire personnel, with the notable exception of "Red" Dorris, the featured tenor man.

Instead of a few Negro-styled vocals by Dorris, there is now a great deal more of commercial warbling, provided in part by the pretty Dolly Mitchell, an advantageous addition in some ways but certainly no step forward in Kenton's contention for a permanent niche in American music. Long a subject for heated argument, Stan Kenton held steadfastly to his own style of music, refusing to adopt the accepted sweet-swing song plugging technique of America's favorite bands.

Perhaps Stan has given in for good and succumbed to the inevitable commercialism which has been escaped by few bands, among whom the "pure combos" and Duke Ellington are standouts, or perhaps Stan has toned down his loudest of brass sections and tamed the savage beauty of his reed section for the present only, building his reputation to the point where by degrees of familiarization to the public he may submit with more approval his original contributions to truly indigenous American music.

COMPOSITE PICTURE OF FIRST CLASSMAN

Best Personality—Jack T. McDonald	Sex Appeal—Simpson
Ears—Lewis	Forehead—Jenness
Nose—(Zoot) Tedsen	Musical Knowledge—Southwick
Teeth—Wilcox	Temperamentalness—Myers
Most Colorful Posterior—Grundy	Beard—Parente
Abdominal Protrusion—Andrew	Unassuming Manner—McFarland
Laugh—Marincovich	Tugboat skill—Athowe
Attitude—Guthrie (I. G. M.)	Wit (half)—Opferman
Eyelashes—Collins	Congeniality—Fleming
Legs—(bowed)—Harvey	Operation—Pease
Hair—Issett	Profile—Gruhler
Shape—Sales	Carefree Attitude—Harthorn
Lips—Devoto (in memoriam)	Smell (fishy)—Zeluff
Slut Technique—Bauer	Jaw—Kolda
Smile—Boomer	Superiority Complex—Anderson
Studiosness—Malcolm	Humming Ability—Banke
Chin—Hodgkinson	Disposition—Marshall
Eyes (Red)—Evert	Geometric Genius—Flickwir
Hunting ability (gooses)—Steel	Rural Touch—Putnam
Sincerity—Bernhardt	Daintiness—Marsh
Brains (sails for)—Huycke	Connections—Fay
Gait—Brown	Haircut—Giessner
Industriousness—Kelly	Hips—Goetz
Sleeping ability—Fake	Seamanlike Appearance—Clendenny
Shoulder (chip on)—Fisk	Tenderness—Black
Voice (operatic)—Alfson	Enthusiasm—Ley
Sense of Humor—Foskett	Talent—Muhlstein

BAND BREVITIES

Among his other distinguished accomplishments (such as his genius for getting into fights with everyone, including brother Jimmy), Tommy Dorsey has undoubtedly produced more outstanding vocalists than any other bandleader in recent years. To begin with, Tommy launched Jack Leonard, considered by many to be supreme in the years when Dorsey was making a fine showing at the righteous stuff (1936-39). With T. D. at that time also was the beautiful Edythe Wright, who, while very successful, gave up her career after leaving Dorsey. Then followed the very popular (but not at CMA, we regret to say) Frank Sinatra. The blending of the Sinatra voice and the top-notch Dorsey background was deemed a perfect union by most lovers of popular sweet music, and when strings were added to the Dorsey crew the girls screamed with ecstasy and the boys turned out the lights.

Along with Sinatra in the vocal department until the Fall of 1942 was a pert, diminutive dish, Connie Haines by name. Connie, like almost all of the successful Dorsey warblers, branched out on her own after an illness which left her in Hollywood when the band went East after a West Coast tour. Miss Haines has done very well for herself since leaving Tommy, and she has especially distinguished herself in radio. Like "Frankie," Dick Haymes came to T. D. after some very successful work with Harry James, and though his stay was brief, the Haymes talent did a beautiful job of combining with the famous Dorsey accompaniments, producing the finest in popular ballads. Dick has made good as a star on radio and now seems destined for a screen career. He has the looks, personality and ability to make a success in the "flickers," and it wouldn't surprise us to see him emerge finally as a star of greater magnitude than Sinatra. In our opinion, Haymes has one of the best natural voices in the profession, possessing a tone, pitch and range surpassed only by Bing Crosby.

A vital unit throughout the prosperous years from "I'll Never Smile Again" to "It Started All Over Again" was the superlative singing group, known to all the followers of popular music as the "Pied Pipers." This group of four outstanding harmonists has ranged for several years now as the leading singing combination in the business, and now they are appearing on the air with Bob Crosby in his popular Sunday program.

Probably one of the strongest reasons for their success was the personable young lady who blends so well with her three male co-workers and solos very well occasionally during the singfests ("Star Dust" notably), Jo Stafford. Jo has topped off the list of singers emanating from Dorsey organizations, and her success in the past promises to be surpassed to her performances to come in the future. In probably the greatest surprise of the recent Downbeat poll, Jo was voted as the number one girl vocalist of 1943, edging out Peggy Lee and last year's winner, Helen Forrest. Jo's recent recordings featuring her by herself have no doubt helped her to the top among the field of female warblers, and one of the finest releases given by any vocalist recently is her recording of "How Sweet You Are," backed by "Old Acquaintance," which we expect to go places.

In looking for any bright new songstress or swooner to appear in the future, it may be safe to turn to Tommy Dorsey, whose talent for turning out top-notch performers seems peerless.

R. E. MYERS
CALIFORNIA MARITIME ACADEMY
MORROW COVE - - VALEJO

SEC. 562, P. L. & R.

Form 3547

Postmaster: If addressee has moved, notify sender on Form 3547, postage for which is guaranteed. In case of removal to another post office do not notify the addressee but hold the matter and state on Form 3547 amount of forwarding postage required, which sender will furnish.