



Published monthly (except July and August) in the interest of philately and to promote collecting of U.S. Navy ship postmarks and cachets and special event covers honoring the Navy. This is NOT an official U.S. Navy publication. Future issues are obtained by annual membership subscription of \$2.00 Compiled and distributed by W.R. Skelley, Jr., Chief Yeoman, U.S. Navy 1210 Earle Avenue, Chesapeake 6, Va. Translated and reproduced in Germany as "SCHIFFSPOST NEWS".

U.S.C.S. needs you.....

join U.S.C.S. and travel with ships.

"SEALIFT FOR SECURITY" means M.S.T.S.

Military Sea Transportation Service exists to provide sea transportation for personnel and cargo of the Department of Defense. This does not include personnel and cargo transported by Fleet Units. Among other things MSTS provides support ships for scientific programs, and to be expandable in time of war.

MSTS is classed as a fleet under the command of a vice admiral and a component of the Navy's operating forces. Approximately 110 ships designated USNS (United States Naval Ship) are manned by officers and crewman who are employees under the regulations governing U.S. Civil Service employees.

Three Navy manned transports are the USS MANN (T-AP-112), MITCHELL (T-AP-114) and BRECKENBRIDGE (T-AP-176) also comprise this MSTS Fleet.

MSTS ships supply some points where a commercial ship would have very little reason to visit. Transporting tanks, dependents of military personnel, household effects, automobiles and troops are some of the jobs performed by MSTS ships. Some commercial ships do carry military cargos but the higher commercial shipping charges keep MSTS in business.

Established in 1949, USNS ships didn't have to wait long to keep. First Korea, then a sealift of 300,00 fleeing Vietnamese who preferred freedom to communism, ships later became a haven for fleeing Hungarian refugees, supplies transported during the Berlin Crisis, logistic support to UN Congo operations and much more.

MSTS is particularly proud of its support furnished to Arctic posts. Last year, USNS ALATNA (T-AOG-81), a tanker with a specially fitted icebreaker hull and the Navy icebreaker USS BURTON ISLAND (AGB-1) hauled petroleum into Greenland. USNS REDBUD (T-AKL-398) assisted the Navy in repairing submerged petroleum lines at the Greenland site.

A fleet of special project ships which are used to explore the frontiers of space and probe ocean depths is coming into a reality.

In the space field MSTS tracking ships are equipped with telemetry, data processing and radio instruments as well as recovery facilities for returning nose cones. USNS RANGE RECOVERER (T-AG-2) and RANGE TRACKER along with five others converted from World War II victory ships form the MSTS missile tracking and nose cone recovery fleet.

USNS KINGSPORT .. unique ship with a unique mission. The world's first satellite communications ship has now officially joined the fleet. The (T-AG-164) originally an 18 year old Victory-type cargo ship named for a city in Tennessee has a new profile. The new profile is dominated by a 52 foot pressurized radome, set on top of the deck house. As a mobile communications satellite terminal, KINGSPORT will operate in many waters, processing satellite data.

She has been stationed off the West Coast of Africa to track Syncom I which has for a time been lost in

(continued on the back page)

WHERE ARE THEY?

CHILTON, THUBAN, UVALDE, TRAVERSE COUNTY, WAHIAKUM COUNTY, RUSHMORE, SAN MARCOS, MT. MCKINLEY, GRAND CANYON, HAWKINS, FISKE, KASKASKIA, WRANGELL, ENTERPRISE, BAINBRIDGE, NORFOLK, CANBERRA, LAWRENCE, J. KING, DAHLGREN, HENLEY, NITRO, KEITH, HAYNSWORTH, J.W. WEEKS, DUPONT, J.P. JONES, NORRIS, BRISTOL, SALAMONIE - all in the Mediterranean...

LITTLE ROCK (CLG-4) for the last 11 months has weathered all storms alongside at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard undergoing extensive modifications to her weapons systems. Getting set for shakedown cruise.

The deadline for selling the 35,000 ton battleship USS MASSACHUSETTS has been extended by the Navy to 1 April. Citizens of the Pine Tree State are attempting to raise money to purchase their namesake. Massachusetts is in the Reserve Fleet (inactive) at Norfolk.

IMPORTANT NOTICE - Keel laying of the SSN-639 delayed until 1964. All covers will be held and serviced at the proper time. DO NOT send inquiries about your covers to Ignalls Shipbuilding Co. Collectors are reminded as well as individuals that sponsor cachets do not have business or personal funds to carry on a large volume of correspondence. Also most events at the Electric Boat Co., Groton, Conn are delayed.

CHANGE OF DUTY - W.W. GLENN, PCC, USN has been transferred to the INDEPENDENCE. Chief Glenn did an outstanding job of selling the Navy during his tour aboard Enterprise.

ABOUT CACHETS - Some ships are still using the "Sixty years of Destroyers" cachet which should have been discontinued December 31st.

ABOUT STAMPS - The Post Office Department has announced the release of an 8¢ Amelia Earhart Commemorative Stamp on July 24th. A few of us will remember the search for the lost American aviatrix, while the rest of us don't want to remember how ancient we are growing. Congress awarded her the Distinguished Flying Cross - the only woman so honored. On July 1, 1937, accompanied by Capt. Fred J. Noonan, the plane was flying over open waters toward Howland Island, 2,556 miles away. The pair were never heard from and no wreckage was found. The ships USS ONTARIO, SWAN AND LEXINGTON participated in the unsuccessful rescue and recovery. Covers postmarked between 26 June and July 1937 may be considered valid to commemorate this event.

NEW CONSTRUCTION AND CONVERSIONS ANNOUNCED - The Cold War has gone to sea. The Cuban Situation definitely teaches us that expanding Soviet sea power renews the obvious need for more ships and greater vigilance. Congress has approved construction of 41 new ships and almost as many conversions in 1964. A polaris submarine will be stationed in the Mediterranean within the next two months. In my opinion, deployment of atomic submarines to vast regions of ice and snow is very probable. Increased surveillance of the Arctic and Antarctic continents are caused by communism moving into geographical areas directly influenced by the sea.

NAVY DAY - was established by the Navy League in 1922 and is celebrated every year on the 27th of October - the birthday of Theodore Roosevelt and also the day on which in 1775 the Continental Congress received a bill providing for the creation and establishment of a Fleet. The Navy League believes that an observance of this kind - voluntary in nature and under civilian sponsorship - is most appropriate for honoring the men and women of the United States Navy and Marine Corps. The Navy is authorized to participate in the NAVY DAY observance to the extent of having "open house" at its installations and aboard ships, but the major emphasis has been that it is a civilian tribute by a civilian organization without the expenditure of tax dollars.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON POLAR COVERS - Plans are being worked out to enable you to get some might nice covers from ships participating in Polar Voyages. Will try to give you plenty of lead time and good news next month. Don't miss it.

EDITOR'S VIEWPOINT

During the past year my correspondence with so many fine people in the U. S. and abroad has made my task of bringing you the news a delight.

My family shares your joys and sorrows. Without their love, patience and encouragement my efforts would fail. May, I say that my family is tops, and who else would put up with my mess, moods, and share my hobby of providing you with the news. Even the mailman has the right to complain - a mail call seldom passes without a few letters.

My philatelic interests first lead me to stamps and I never have been able to include covers. Why? Well because I haven't found the time for stamps or covers due to the correspondence and Navphilately. Someday, when I get to cantankerous to put out a paper and get settled down in my retired pasture, depending upon the availability of work at retirement time, and cost of living at that time. The stamps that are purchased or received are carefully protected and stowed away until that day arrives. Utilizing my spare time with my stamp and cover accumulations will be some consolation.

Billy (14) followed me by beginning a Scouts on Stamps collection for the purpose of earning a merit badge in scouting. Next was Blanche (13) whose topical focused on Israel. David (7) has been interested from the very start but it's my fault, he isn't organized yet. Then, the better half, my faithful and loving wife broke the ice and hinted she might collect flowers on stamps. Her current idea was suggested by a fellow collector Geo. D. Rose (Des Moines). Mr. Rose sent us a slide containing a picture made from stamps. Polly had the outline of a large American eagle on white poster paper. She is seeking some lightly cancelled new 5 centers Washington and Clay. The theme to be represented is the Blue and Grey (North & South).

Meanwhile, the Mercury cover program came along and now the ball is rolling to prepare a permanent naval cover exhibit at the Mariner's Museum.

None of us collect covers but sometimes we send for a few to help those who "missed the ship" (not boat in the Navy).

Letters received from a child, shut-in, or handicapped person are answered with a few covers enclosed. Although, I haven't taken the space in the newsletter to say thank you each time, your covers are appreciated and put to good use.

I cannot always measure the good that comes from a project but each of you is something "special" to me.

Besides keeping busy, we are a normal (?) average family with bills and problems which I am sure are no different from any of yours.

Evaluating the progress we have made in the past 12 months indicates we have come a long way together toward reviving not only a patriotic but most interesting hobby. Thank you for the privilege of serving.

Correspondence from collectors further indicates greater activity in the procurement of naval covers ships engaged in Oceanographic work. Several teachers write that their students are especially eager to travel with our Navy and digest history, geography, current events and now science. Can you imagine a classroom of students sufficiently motivated to painlessly absorb these dry texts. How is it done? By creating enthusiasm in reading and writing, this adept teacher has actually caused her pupils to discover new adventures. Most every child is inclined and willing to engage in adventures. Some adventures are attended with risk requiring courage. Speaking about adventures I am reminded of some my own. My high school math teacher, who when angered shook her fist at me and clearly bellowed "Bill Skelley - you see this it means six months in the hospital." Then, shaking the other she eloquently pronounced "this one means sure death."

KATALOG KORNER - Collector participation by sending questionnaires to Navy Postal Clerks makes this section possible and evidently the results reported are worthwhile.

USS SHIP	POST OFFICE	CACHET	FPO	REMARKS
KODIAK LSM-161	NO	No	SF	Ship's return address stamp Smith, YN2.
BEALE DD-471	Yes	Yes	NY	Note #1
ARGONAUT SS475	No	No	NY	Captain collects stamps. Note2
AMBERJACK SS-522	No	No	NY	Ship's return address stamp. Collectors on board. Note#2
DAVIS DD-937	Yes	No	NY	Note #1 K.G. KUNZ PC1
PARICUTIN AE-18	Yes	No	SF	Note #1
TROUT SS-566	No	No	NY	Return address stamp only
UHLMANN DD-687	Yes	No	NY	Note #1
STODDARD DD-566	Yes	No	SF	Note #1 Collector is Frank T BUCK, SKCS, USN -Note#2

Note: Submarines do not have postoffices but some do have cachets. Most submarines will use their return address stamp.

TRIGGER SS-564	No	Yes	NY	Note #1 and 3
HOPEWELL DD-681	Yes	No	NY	Note #1
PANDEMUS ARL-18	Yes	?	NY	Note #1 Very clear
TORTUGA LSD-26	Yes	No	NY	Note #1
NECHES AO-47	Yes	No	SF	Note #1
MT. KATMAI AE-16	Yes	No	SF	Note #1
ASPRO AGSS-309)	No	now in Reserve Fleet at San Diego, California		
TURNER DDR-834	Yes	Yes	NY	Note #1 STROPES, PC2
BAYFIELD APA-33	Yes	No	SF	Note #1
WASP CVS-18	Yes	No	NY	Note #1 Mail clerk collector
TRACER AGR-15	Yes	Yes	NY	Note #1 and 3
CONSTANT MSO-427	No	No	SF	Return address stamp only
BARBEL SS-580	No	Yes	NY	Note #1 collectors on board
KOINER	Yes	No	SF	Poor cancellation received
FLORIKAN ASR-9	No	Yes	SF	Note #1
PASSUMPIC AO-107	Yes	?	SF	Poor cancellation
BLUEBACK SS-581	No	Yes	SF	Captain might autograph your covers & use return address stamp

MONTICELLO AND AUCILLA HAVE POOR HAND CANCEL STAMPS

BITTERN MHC-43	No	No	NY	Note#1 -return address stamp
J.K.TAUSSIG DE-1030	Yes	No	NY	Note #1
KOKA ATA-185	No	No	SF	Note#1 -Collectors on board. Executive Officer writes use of return address stamp .

CORRECTION: PAUL REVERE HAS A CACHET NOW. . .

BACHE DD-470	Yes	?		No questionnaire received.
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NO NEED TO SEND ME LARGE ENVELOPES FOR YOUR SUBSCRIPTION COPY OF NAVPHILATELY.....

Note#1 Postal Clerk(PC) willing to assist collectors providing a limited number of covers request received.

Note #2 Collectors of stamps or covers are on board as indicated by the PC

Note#3 Large cachet -leave entire left half of envelope blank or ship's seal.

CAPTAIN ESPERANZA'S ACHIEVEMENT

Oceanography, the science that studies all the phenomena common to the ocean. Oceanography integrates the marine sciences and deals with such problems as the boundaries of the oceans, the composition of sea water, the topography of the basin floor and the character of the sediments found there, and marine biology.

Oceanography as a science began to develop after 1900. Up to that time soundings were taken only along the shores of the various nations and data concerning such matters as reefs, fishing banks, currents and winds were obtainable only from ship's logs. The Challenger Expedition (1872-76) marked the beginning of organized research. In 1902 an International Council for the study of the sea was organized. Numerous expeditions have since added much detailed information (Refer to Navphilately Feb & Dec issues). Although as late as 1945 there were areas in the Pacific and Indian oceans for which there was no accurate information, or only information of conditions during certain seasons.

Some of my own personal experiences in oceanography include a tour of duty aboard the USS NOXUBEE (AOG-56) during August 1946. We found the rugged coast deeply indented with numerous bays and inlets and swept by the Labrador Current.

Our mission to refuel the U.S. Army Base at Goose Bay, Labrador. During this mission NOXUBEE made five shuttle trips through poorly charted, narrow waters, and swift unpredictable currents up to 6 knots with few and untrustworthy navigational aids. NOXUBEE provided safe routing and passage for the USS PAWCATUCK (AO-108), drawing 32 feet, by preceding her with continuous soundings to a safe anchorage in Hamilton Inlet.

NOXUBEE traversed the longest of these inlets. Hamilton Inlet, a might fiord which penetrates into the land for 200 miles. Goose Bay is located on the Hamilton River.

Lieutenant Walter Esperanza, U.S. Navy (now retired) was Commanding. Captain Esperanza had to overcome a serious range problem and time was of utmost importance. In bays or estuaries the tidal wave tends to pile up and the range may be as great as 50 feet (Bay of Fundy). As most harbors are located in bays, the great range creates a harbor problem and sedimentation of the channel may occur.

Some additional information concerning one of the Atlantic Ocean currents are of particular interest.**The Gulf Stream, largest of the ocean currents moves northward along the United States coast to Delaware and then turns northeastward; off Labrador, it becomes the North Atlantic Drift. As the North Atlantic Drift, it moves northeastward and carries warm water to the shores of Great Britain and Scandinavia. Oceanographers estimate that it takes three years for a single rotation.

PAWCATUCK because of her deep draft was unable to proceed beyond her station near the mouth of the Hamilton River. NOXUBEE shuttled aviation gasoline between the PAWCATUCK and the base up river. Speed had to be reduced considerably and each destination had to be accomplished with the tide.

Captain Esperanza was an excellent navigator, his knowledge of seamanship and ship handling was the reason we overcame both extreme and unknown hazards safely. The crew's morale never wavered under the most precarious circumstances. These operations are believed to have been the first of large U.S. Navy ships in this area. Thus, a valuable contribution to the knowledge of the area for future operations. He charted NOXUBEE's zigzag tract compelled by contrary winds and currents through these dangerous waters. He performed a service to our Nation which he loves and served honorably and faithfully. Captain Esperanza worked his way up through the ranks and made a favorable impression on me. Perhaps, more so than any other skipper I had the pleasure to serve. Why? - A man of sterling worth.

** First chart prepared by Benjamin Franklin about 1769

Nov 23
see

HAMPTON ROADS CHAPTER OFFICERS

Introducing:
Vice President -T.G. Nicholson
Secretary-Treasurer -T.C. Miller, Jr
Chapter Advisory Council-Captain H.F. Rommel, USN
Projects - Louis C. Vincent

Several associate memberships have been received.

CHANGE #1 to NAVPHILATELY SHIP SCOREBOARD:

Under New York Naval Shipyard add:

LPD 4 - USS AUSTIN

LPD 5 - USS OGDEN

PROJECT MERCURY EVENT DELAYED

Periodicals report Astronaut Cooper's flight postponed until May 1963. Some collectors report his 18-22 orbit ride -the longest yet by an American astronaut may even be delayed until June.

U.S. ATOMIC POWERED MERCHANT SHIP:

Savannah has port of entry approval to visit Greece, Netherlands and West Germany. Foreign collectors and friends of ship mail here is a chance to help with some might fine covers. Write me earliest date if you will help.

POLARIS SUBMARINES - Three Polaris A-sub's are destined to report for Med duty about 1 April and probably operated from Rota, Spain. These subs may be the first Polaris craft to give their crews liberty on foreign shores when deployed. Messdeck scuttlebutt(gossip) has it that the submarines may enter Turkish ports to give evidence that Turks are still protected by U.S. nuclear weapons. Withdrawal of 30 Jupiters from Italy and 15 from Turkey and 60 Thor missiles from Britain is in progress. It is interesting to note that in only four years the Jupiter missiles are obsolete weapons by the Navy's Polaris missiles, mounted on submarines which have an 1800 mile range(300 greater than Jupiters or Thors). Polaris submarines can fire rockets at targets in Russia from below the surface of the sea. Just think of the progress and technological advancement the U.S. is making toward preserving a world peace.

MSTS SEAMAN HAS A HOBBY-Mr. Felix Kurcevitch, USS GEIGER dables in commercial art and plans to make it a career. Perhaps, some collector in Brooklyn will contact this Navy veteran of World War II and encourage a cachet from his ship. Who knows what might result.

IMPORTANT CHANGE.. NASA to establish Deep Space Tracking Facility in Australia about 11 miles southwest of Canberra, a manned space flight and scientific satellite tracking station at Carnarvea in W. Australia and a smaller station at Darwin. This station will be an additional unit of the deep network which presently consists of stations near Woomera, Johannesburg and Goldstone, California

18-Station Mercury Network

1. Cape Canaveral, Florida
2. Grand Bahama Island
3. Bermuda
4. Mid-Atlantic ship
5. Canary Islands
6. Kano, Nigeria
7. Zanzibar(E. African Coast)
8. Indian Ocean ship
9. Muchea, W. Austrailia
10. Woomera, Austrailia
11. Canton Island
12. Kauai Island, Hawaii
13. Point Arguello, California
14. Guaymas, Mexico
15. White Sands, New Mexico
16. Corpus Christi, Texas.
17. Eglin, Florida
18. Grand Turk Island

CORRECTION ON PACIFIC COOPER COVERS

Send your covers to George H. Walsh, PCC USN, Navy #128(Duty), Fleet Post Office San Francisco, California, USA. Covers already dispatched will be delivered to Chief Walsh who is a collector himself...

MSTS (continued) in space and recently found by a large telescope in orbit... While the range trackers look upward, MSTS Oceanographic ships explore the ocean's depths - USNS ELTANIN(T-AGOR-8) is a floating laboratory designed to conduct Oceanographic surveys, study marine data, biology, meteorology and conduct on the spot research. Three Victory hulls are presently being fitted out to serve as Army store ship USNS PHOENIX, PROVO and CHEYENNE. MSTS has 26 offices scattered over the sea ports of the globe. FAR EAST:(1) Yokohama*(2) Inchon(3)Manila(4) Okinawa(5)Pusan(6) Sasebo(7)Taipei.PACIFIC AREA:(8) San Francisco*(9)Anchorage(10)Guam(11)Honolulu (12)Long Beach(13)Seattle ATLANTIC:(14) New York*(15) Balboa,C.Z.(16) Cocoa Beach (17)Norfolk(18)San Juan GULF AREA(19) New Orleans*(20) Houston EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN(21) London*(22)Bremerhaven (23)LaRochele MEDITERRANEAN(24)LEGHORN*(25) Casablanca(26) Naples. Does this suggest an exhibit?

* Denotes headquarters branch...

NEW FLEET ASSIGNMENT

Churchill County's first Atlantic Fleet duty increases the Amphibious Fleet to 60 ships. Commissioned in 1944 the LST _____ earned battle ribbons during World War II at New Guinea and Philippine Operations.

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Last December 18th, a satellite was sent into orbit to become a navigational star. TRANSIT 5A should be able to allow vessels anywhere in the world, to obtain a position fix regardless of weather conditions. Courtesy of NNL #61. . .

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IMPORTANT REMINDER... Please remember to include your name and address when writing to me for the newsletter and/or information etc. . . .

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IMPORTANT DATE TO REMEMBER . . . "NAVY DAY"

October 26-27 1963 -Mariner's Museum for a USCS Cover Exhibition. Plan to attend. . .

SOLANT AMITY IV - Since 1960 Solant Amity ships have made 58 visits to 37 ports in 25 nations. Amity IV consisting of 3 ships (Spiegel Grove, VanVoorhis and J.K.Taussig) will visit Freetown, Sierra Leona 4-6 March. April will mean visits to the ports of Lourenco Marques, Diego Suarez, Dar es Salaam and Mombassa and others. The goodwill, medical supplies, clothing and shoes distributed by Amity ships supports the People-to-People Program. This is made possible by Americans donating these supplies and goods.

SHIPS IN THE NEWS. . . . U.S. Destroyers

LEARY and WOOD recently joined Venezuelan destroyers NUEVA ESPARTA & CARAS in the chase of the communist hijacked Venezuelan freighter ANZOATEGUI (3,127 tons) off the Brazilian Coast. NANTAHALA(AO) furnished logistic support while USNS GIBBS (AGOR) enroute to Belem, Brazil kept the siezed freighter's position on the plotting board.

ADMIRAL IN NEBRASKA NAVY "ON DECK"

Recently, Chief and Mrs. Dean Brandt, Beatrice, Nebraska were piped aboard amid a snow storm and Chesapeake Bay gusting winds.

Admiral Brandt, Nebraska Navy and a Naval Reserve CPO was ordered to duty aboard the USS CASA GRANDE (LSD-13) at Little Creek. His 14 day active duty for training was highlighted by a few days underway, a visit to the Mariner's Muse Museum and naturally some good ole southern fried chicken.

Since there is a good woman behind every successful man, Mrs. Brandt navigated the new Chevvy very well.

Dean aroused my curocity as we were riding along when he pointed our the hulk of LST 551 in the Marine Railway at Norfolk Shipbuilding Co.

So here is a report on some of the Navy's oldest landing ships which were built during the last world war.

Propelled by diesel engines these 328 ft. landing ships have a speed of about 10 knots these 11 ships will become LST Squadron TWO and will be placed in a "commission in reserve" status at Norfolk Ready and standing by - if needed for an amphibious invasion or anything else. These ships will be fully manned, loaded and at sea within a matter of hours.

LST 551 -Chesterfield County

LST 825 -Hickman County

LST 902 -Luzerne County

LST 904 -Lyon County

IST 912 -Mahnomen County

LST 515 -Caddo Parish

LST 532 -Chase County

LST 1066-New London County

LST 1032-Monmouth County

LST 1067-Nye County

LST 1088-Pulaski County

Beep Beep-Admiral Brandt departing. . . .

NEVER FEAR COMRADE, THE POLARIS MAY BE GOOD BUT THEY'LL NEVER GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO LAUNCH IT.

