



September 1963

Published monthly (except July and August) in the interest of philately and to provide collecting of U.S. Navy ship postmarks, cachets and special event covers honoring the Navy. This is NOT an official U.S. Navy publication. Future issues may be obtained by annual membership subscription of \$2.00. Compiled and distributed by W.R. Skelley, Jr, 1210 Earle Avenue, W. Chesapeake, Va. Translated and reproduced in West Germany as "SCHIFFSPOST NEWS" by Mr. Ulrich Naumann, 3392 Clausthal-Zellerfeld, 1./FmBtl 762, Breslauer 34, West Germany. Released - 17 July 1963.

Normally this would be the front page of the September Navphilately containing eight pages of ship news and other items of interest to collectors of ship covers. However, due to the '64 DEEP FREEZE cover deadlines I am obligated to send you this important announcement in advance to insure success in complete Deep Freeze coverage. Here is half of the September issue and the other portion will be mailed about 15 Sep with the October issue.

DEEPFREEZE TO POSTMARK COVERS FOR PHILATELISTS.

Collectors may obtain covers postmarked in Navy Post Offices at the South Pole and Byrd Stations in Antarctica, and from U.S. Navy ships participating in Operation Deepfreeze which operate Navy Post Offices during 1963-1964 Antarctic season. These postmarks must be requested before 1 September 1963. Only one cover per person will be accepted for cancellation at Byrd and South Pole Stations. Ships will accept not more than three covers per person. Postmarks from Byrd and South Pole Stations may be obtained by placing two addressed envelopes with First Class United States Postage affixed or accompanied by an International Reply Coupon for each cover requested, in an envelope and mailed to: DEEP FREEZE PHILATELIC MAIL, U.S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION CENTER, DAVISVILLE, EAST GREENWICH, RHODE ISLAND...

One cover will be sent to Byrd Station and the other to the South Pole for postmarking. If a cancellation is desired from only one station, the word "BYRD" or "POLE" should be indicated on the lower left hand corner of the outer envelope.

Covers must be mailed in time to reach East Greenwich, Rhode Island by September 1, 1963. The covers will probably be postmarked during the Antarctic winter and returned between October 1964 and April 1965. Some of the covers may be returned during the current operating season. If postmarks from participating ships are desired, philatelists should not place more than three addressed envelopes bearing the correct U.S. postage or may be accompanied by sufficient International Reply Coupons, in an envelope and mailed to: DEEP FREEZE MAIL, USS \_\_\_\_\_, FLEET POST OFFICE, \_\_\_\_\_

Ships assigned to Operation Deep Freeze which operate Navy Post Offices are:::~::~:

USS HISSEM	DER400	FPO, N.Y.	15 August
USS ATKA	AGB-3	FPO, N.Y.	1 October
USS BURTON ISLAND	AGB-1	FPO, S.F.	1 October
USS GLACIER	AGB-4	FPO, N.Y.	1 October
USCGC EASTWIND	WAGB-279	FPO, N.Y.	1 December

Covers on which postmarks of ship cancellations are desired should be mailed to reach the ship not earlier than 1 month before the date the vessel is scheduled to sail from the United States. Covers requested from ships will not be returned until after the ship returns to the United States. This will be approximately 1 May 1964.

Postal Clerks at stations and on the ships will return all covers uncanceled when more than the authorized limit is submitted; if it appears that covers are to be used for commercial purposes; if covers are received after the cutoff date or when covers are submitted to ships or units in Deep FREEZE which do not have or operate a Navy Post Office.

COVER TIPS... The use of a notorial seal on your covers sent to ships that will apply the ship's seal in lieu of a postmark or cachet can really add to a collection of these covers. These seals come in assorted colors red, blue and gold and may be purchased your favorite stationary dealer. Ask for Dennison Notorial seal No. 21. These seals are packed 40 to a box and are relatively inexpensive. Please accept the enclosed sample as a gift. If you decide to use notorial seals, it is important to position the seal not more than 1/2 inch from the left edge of your cover. This will permit the impression to be placed directly on the seal. A lightweight rather than a heavyweight filler is recommended also.

HERE...and ...THERE...

CANBERRA (CAG-1) designated to report to the U.S. Pacific Fleet with homeport being San Diego and home yard Long Beach. This change came about as the heavy cruisers HELENA & LOS ANGELES deactivate and this change will afford a balance of seapower in each fleet.

USS GEO WASHINGTON, first overhaul for the first Polaris firing nuclear submarine goes to the Electric Boat Co, Groton, Conn., which built her (une 1964).

TINOSA commissioning set for Oct. 19.....

USCGC MATAGORDA & BERING STRAIT operate in the Pacific use FPO' Seattle, Washington

PGM 84 & 85 contracts awarded to Tacoma Boat-Building, Tacoma, Washington..

DLGN-35 named TRUXTON...

ANNAPOLIS (AGMR) scheduled to be commissioned in December is the name assigned to the ex-GILBERT ISLAND.

AGS 26- awarded to American Ship Co, Toledo, Ohio. AG-167 & 168 are named Belmont and Liberty respectively. Williamette Iron & Steel Co, Portland, Oregon. The naming of these ships recognizes 19 U.S. cities by the name of Belmont and 16 tagged Liberty.

USNS KINGSPORT - Lagos, Nigeria

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NEW NAVAL UNIT... For those collectors who also collect naval shore postmarks:

Mail Clerk, Navy No. 522, FPO, San Fran....

PHILATELIC COURTESY..... is the equivalent of good manners. Collectors should always enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope when seeking information or a reply from another collector or cachet sponsor.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS.. News and exchange corner items should reach me no later than the 10th of the month in which publication is desired. So, if you find some worth-while ship news item- Why not share it???

ENVELOPE FILLERS ANYONE????? More than 150 IBM fillers FREE..Send 50 cents in coin or stamps to defray cost of mailing and handling..

THE KINGSPORT.. a ship that is making history. The ship station is a former World War II victory ship which was transformed into a seagoing satellite communications laboratory last year by the Navy Bureau of Ships under the SATCOM Agency's direction. The 11,000 ton Kingsport has a 10,000 mile range at a sustained speed of 15 knots. This mobility will enable scientists and technicians to gain valuable and extensive data on satellite communications capabilities from fringe angle areas, over various combinations of land and water, and under differing hemispheric and atmospheric conditions. The ship's satellite communications and tracking antenna, which features a 30 foot parabolic reflector, is gyro-stabilized on three axis and is housed beneath a hypalon-coated dacron radome on the deckhouse aft.

AMONG THE RETIREDSD.....X-CHANGE KORNER..

George Parton, 2 Lincoln Ave, LeRoy, N.Y. writes he served in the Navy from 1919 to 1923 aboard the USS BIRMINGHAM: MELVIN(DD-335) & EDSALL(DD-219). Seeks Deep Freeze Covers-63

WANTED... All types of LPH covers. Will buy or trade with covers or stamps. State your wants. Glenn Brazelton, 1120A Crescent Drive, Warner Robins, Ga - 31094

COVER CLEARANCE... Cacheted with Glenn, Carpenter and Schirra and two others my choice for \$1.00. No Approvals and currency sent at your own risk. Blanche Skelley, 1210 Earle Avenue, W.Chesapeake, Va.....

NAVPHILATELY BACK ISSUES... Back issues not available. If you do not receive your copy by the 1st day of the month please write to me immediately. Next segment of this issue to be mailed about August 25th,,,

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BEACH PARTY.....DUTCH TREAT.....

All U.S.C.S. members invited.....

Uniform: Bathing attire - Please no bikinis as some of the older collectors cannot stand the shock..

Date: Call 545-8629 for arrangements - if your in town.

Place: Chesapeake Beach - off shore drive past Lynnhaven Bridge at Lynnhaven Fishing pier on the right side of the pier....

Time: Most any Saturday and Sunday afternoon

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EDITOR'S VIEWPOINT..... USCS President and also Log Editor rate a "QUEEN ANNE" salute for the outstanding conversion job done on the USCS LOG as she came out of printer's overhaul this month. I urge each and every-one of you to re-read the very last paragraph of the item entitled "From the Editor's Desk." Collectors who read Navphilately on a regular basis are requested to send Pres. Boyland a postcard complimenting him on his fine USCS leadership and understanding our problems. Twelve more months of improvements such as we have experienced this month and Navphilately will be in mothballs. Well Done Sir.. If your not a U.S.C.S. member then you should be inasmuch as you need U.S.C.S. and they need you....Have a nice summer you all...

## THE MARINERS MUSEUM

A museum devoted to the culture of the sea and its tributaries - its conquest by man and its influence on civilization. Where? Newport News, Virginia

The Mariners Museum on the Virginia Peninsula is a privately endowed institution founded in 1930 by the late Archer M. Huntington. It now comprises a museum, a library, a print and painting department and an 880 acre Park bordering the historic James River.

The Museum is a non-profit institution, education in purpose and world-wide in scope. Its aim is to display the maritime accomplishments of all times and of all nations.

The extensive Museum collection includes more than 400 ship models, items of whaling and fishing equipment, navigational instruments, lighthouse and lifesaving material, silver and glassware designed in nautical motifs. Also displayed is an outstanding collection of over 80 carved wooden ship's figureheads. One of the museum's prized collections, the August F. Crabtree Collection of Miniature Ships, includes fifteen exquisitely carved models representing types from the dugout to the steamship.

A display of actual small craft is arranged in the Museum courtyard. This comprises such primitive craft as dugouts, skin boats, and bark canoes, through racing and pleasure boats, lifeboats and even small submarines.

The Museum maintains two major exhibitions on "Chesapeake Bay" and "Sea Power in the Civil War." The Civil War exhibition features an exciting diorama of the battle between the ironclads Virginia (ex-Merrimack) and Monitor.

Special exhibits such as International Antarctic Exhibitions are held annually at the Museum. Their purpose is to help keep the public informed on subjects, both historical and contemporary, relative to maritime affairs and to fulfill the Museum's dedicated role of portraying man's never ending conquest of the sea.

Naval cover collectors interested in contributing some naval covers are encouraged to do so. These voluntary contributions of ship covers will be catalogued and displayed as appropriate. The Bayliss Collection that I am working on at home consists mainly of naval covers with several albums devoted to the CONSTITUTION and only one album on merchant and steamships. I am not asking you to donate a large number of covers at one time but just as your heart dictates as we progress in our hobby of enjoyment. Thanks.

### U.S. ASTRONAUTS ARE JUMPING....

Scientists are playing a major role in the preparation of the GEMINI spacecraft for its maiden voyage, slated sometime next year. A highlight of the GEMINI spacecraft is the seat ejection system. This two-man spacecraft is currently undergoing a series of tests. One of these tests was conducted on the 150 foot launching tower even while Astronaut Gordon Cooper was on his 22-orbit flight around the earth. Unlike the escape system of the Mercury spacecraft in which the whole spacecraft is rocketed off in case of launch vehicle malfunction, the Gemini escape system provides for a seat ejection of the astronauts from their spacecraft in case of a launch vehicle failure on the launching pad. It may also be used during the early part of powered flight. The ejection system would also be used as an escape system if anything malfunctions following re-entry. A project engineer explains that under actual launch conditions, the two astronauts riding the Gemini spacecraft would be fired clear of the spacecraft by a shell-type charge. A small rocket motor then ignites and thrusts the sea away and higher into the air. The idea is to shoot a man as far away from an exploding launch vehicle as is necessary and as fast as possible without harming him. Catapulting a man several times the length of a football field without applying fatal acceleration stresses is no easy task. With huge launch vehicles emitting fiery blasts, escape for astronauts becomes a rocketry problem in itself. Gemini vehicles will be used for ground testing and for orbital flights of up to two weeks duration. During some of the flights, the astronauts may climb outside their spacecraft for brief periods, to determine man's ability to observe and work in the true space environment.....

U.S. Astronauts will undergo parachute training at the U.S. Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida late in August or early September in conjunction with this survival training. While making the jumps the astronauts will wear the Gemini pressure suits and survival kits.

GREEN LIGHT ON NASA TRACKING STATIONS

Mr. Gene Dixon writes that he enclosed an International Reply Cupon along with a courteous letter asking for postmark on the date of the Cooper launching and, if possible, autographs by some of the station members. He sent only one cover to most stations and no more than two to the rest. The cover sent to the Canary Island station was the only one not postmarked on the correct date but a letter from the station director explained that they were sorry that they goofed. Mr. Dixon's advice to collectors interested in collecting covers from tracking stations would be to keep your requests to a very minimum, enclose a International Reply Cupon and possibly a few U.S. mint commemorative stamps and DON'T send more than two covers.

Covers should be addressed NASA Gemini Tracking Station with the address listed below. All of the PO box numbers are from the rubber stamp return address which most of the covers display.

Keep this list handy for reference:

- P.O. Box 58, St. George, Bermuda, B.W.I.
- Las Palmas, Grand Canary Island, Spain
- Kano, North Nigeria, Nigeria
- P.O. Box 1283, Zanzibar, East Africa
- Muchea, West Australia
- P.O. Box 457, Waimea, Kauai, Hawaii
- Apartado Postal 47, Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico
- White Sands, New Mexico
- P.O. Box 6005, Corpus Christi, Texas.
- P.O. Box 1466, Grand Forks, N. Dakota
- USPO 06/50000, Box 53, Canton Island, Phoenix Group.
- Woomera, South Australia
- and
- Commander, Grand Bahama AAFB,
- Grand Bahama Island, Bahama Islands

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Alfred Roman, 5119 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia 39, Pa will send you a copy of his next auction by mail catalog upon receipt of a long (#10) stamped envelope. His last auction notice listed 606 items and had considerable polar cover material.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE: Six wallet size satellite information cards Cat. No. NAS 1.2:Sa8/2 @15 per set(2) A world in Space Cat. No. NAS 1.23B-2-63 @.15 ea(3) Our Flag Cat. No.D2. 14:5-6a @ .25 ea from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Wash,D.C.

\*\*RESERVE TANK LANDING SHIP SQUADRON TWO

LUZERNE COUNTY	LST 902
NEW LONDON COUNTY	LST 1066
MADERA COUNTY	LST 905
HICKMAN COUNTY	LST 825
MAHONEMEN COUNTY	LST 912
CHESTERFIELD COUNTY	LST 551
NYE COUNTY	LST 1067
PULASKI COUNTY	LST 1088
CADDO PARISH	LST 515
CHASE COUNTY	LST 532
MONMOUTH COUNTY	LST 1032

\*\* Commissioned in reserve only. This definition is a little different from being "in full commission" with a full personnel complement. These ships are in a sort of standby-ready status able to be activated on short notice.

SEA STORIES . . . . . The next time your taking a shower or Saturday night bath and begin making a lot of noise which sometimes can be expressed as musical tunes. Just remember you day has yet to arrive. Believe it or not - each of the 110 known whale varieties has a characteristic song of its own. Really now, - your thinking the heat and sun from Chesapeake Beach has caused the writer to flip his lid... Well sir, right now up in Woods Hole they are recording "whale songs". Perhaps, this accounts for the reason I always wondered why porpoises swam for miles alongside ocean going ships, diving into the ship's wake and frolicking like a school of happy sea mammals - what else. Who knows they may even reach high "C".

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DID YOU KNOW??? The second KEARSARGE(BB-5) was the only battleship in the history of the U.S. Navy not named after a state.

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WATERFRONT GOSSIP - PROTEUS slated for the Med next winter. Now at Charleston with plans to go to the Pacific in the summer of 1964. Holland commissioning set for Sep 1963....The fourth keel laid for another nuclear powered ship - a 9000 ton frigate (DLG(N)-35) will be in addition to the Bainbridge, Enterprise and Long Beach already in commission.....

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U.S.C.S. needs you and YOU need U.S.C.S.

Editor's note: Material for a collector's mounting and display kit is being prepared and should be ready about 15 September. It is requested that you send me a postcard, if your interested in details of this research that can add beauty and importance to your collection.I think you'll be pleased..