



Published monthly (except July and August) in the interest of philately and to provide collectors of U.S. Navy ship postmarks and cachets and special event covers honoring the Navy with the news. Future issues may be obtained by a membership subscription necessary to defray the cost of materials and postage. Compiled and distributed by: W.R. Skelley, Jr., 1210 Earle Avenue, West Chesapeake, Virginia 23506. Translated and reproduced in West Germany by Mr. Dieter Lange, 42 Oberhausen, Keltenstr. 14, West Germany. This newsletter encourages and supports the President's People-to-People Program. In this issue...Submarine covers..... Stamp notes..Construction news...Readiness-More than a state of

ARCHIMEDE - French Bathyscape

Several months before the tragic loss of THRESHER, France issued a 30Fr stamp Scott # 1052 commemorating her new bathyscape. It was launched July 27, 1961 and named she began her career. A bathyscape is a water-tight hull with windows(ports to a swabbie) in which men can descend into the sea depths to study the plants and animals there. The U.S. Navy's Trieste now in San Diego completed her role in the Thresher search but the Archimede now in South America may resume further Thresher studies next spring where the Trieste left off. Submarine cover collectors may have considered their albums closed insofar as Thresher was concerned. A friend has sent me a beautifully cacheted French FDC of Archimede. What do you think? Will Archimede occupy a place in you album of submarine covers? Can the Thresher story be complete without it, if she takes up the search. A little research on the part of ship cover collectors in Scotts might prove interesting. See France B339, B311, B204, B114, 1018, 371, 300 and also Canada Stamp of Frobisher FDC etc.....

FOREIGN SHIP COVERS - Bill Luetge(USCS 3938)

This month our journey to West Germany the collector a wealth of rubber stamped postal or illustrated markings. Covers desired from ships of the German Federal Republic must bear valid postage stamps of West Germany.

Printed Matter-Covers unsealed with a plain filler with the flap tucked inside need 20Pf postage. Surface mail(by ship also) will require 40 Pf and airmail is 60Pf per half-ounce. Covers desired returned by airmail service should be so marked otherwise they will return via surface mail. The currency breakdown is as follows: 100 Pf = 1 mark about 25¢ US and there are approximately 4.2 marks to the dollar. So you can see that airmail from the U.S. to Germany and vice versa is about the same cost either way. International Reply Coupons (IRC) are available at most US post offices @ .11¢ each. These IRC's are redeemable for the ordinary letter rate(surface rate) to the country in which it was purchased i.e., A 60Pf West German IRC is redeemed for only 11 cents in cash or stamps. Use them in lieu of small checks or money orders. West Germany has a philatelic agency which may be your source of stamps. Write: Federal Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Koblenstrasse 81, Bonn, W. Germany but I prefer to mingle with the large number of W. German collectors and swap covers for stamps that I need. When writing to the German Philatelic Agency send along one IRC to obtain a philatelic sales order blank and instructions. This article continued on another page of this issue.....

TIME CAPSULE...About a year ago, the philatelic press as well as most of our Nation's newspapers carried the Hammaraskjold Stamp error as bid news. Temporarily collectors forgot about the great statesman as they examined their stamp stock and waited for the Post Office Department's decision, while looking for the reported discovery on cover. This year some curiosity was aroused with the postponement of the Audubon stamp as reported in Linn's Dec 9th and 16th issues but seemed to vanish for the most part with the announced rescheduled date of December 7th. However, what hasn't yet been revealed by anyone that I know of is that these new beauties might bear close examination. It is not my intention to create a reckless furor but to invite your curiosity to do some research of your own. Research is defined by Webster as: careful, systematic study and investigation in some field of knowledge, undertaken to establish facts or principles - to do study. Some collectors of U.S. Stamps own errors that probably have never been reported but the chap who had a whole sheet of Hammaraskjold errors made the fatal mistake of telling the whole world. On the other hand, the lad who sold Stolow's a sheet of 4¢ UN Housing and Community errors received \$208.00 per stamp or \$10,400 - a silent profit don't you agree.

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continued on another page of this issue.....

Foreign Ships - West Germany(continued)Zerstorer(destroyers)

Zerstorer	Z1	- RS/ICS
"	Z2	"
"	Z3	"
"	Z4	"

Unterseeboote(submarine)

U-Boot Hai	RS
U-Boot Hecht	RS
U-Boot U-1	RS
U-Boot U-2	RS
U-Boot U-3KOBLEN	-RS
U-Boot U-4	RS

Fregatten/Geleitschiffe(DD, DE & DL)

Brommy	ICS
Raule	RS
Brunner	RS
Wespe	RS

Gneisenau	RS
Hipper	RS
Graf Spee	RS
Scharnhorst	

Koln	ICS
Emden	ICS
Augsburg	ICS
Karlsruhe	ICS

Landungsfahrzeuge(Landing ship)

Krokodil	L-750	RS
Eidechse	L-751	RS
Salamander	L-752	RS
Visper	L-753	RS
Otter	L-754	RS
Natter	L-755	RS

Schnellbootgeschwader(Quick boats)

Silbermowe	-RS	Sturmmowe	-RS
Eismowe	-RS	Wildschwan	-RS

Segelschulschiffe(school or training ship)

Gorch Foch	RS/ICS and Deutschland	-RS only
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Hilfsfahrzeuge(transport ship)

Eider	-RS
Trave	-RS
EMS	-RS
Rhein	-RS
Sicherungsboot Passat	-RS
Dithmarschen	-RS
Pfalzerland	-RS

Kustenschutzboot Herta	-RS
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TF-Boot Theseus	-ICS
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Trossschiff Bondensee	-RS
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Trossschiff Angelin	-RS
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Tankschiff Borkum	-RS
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Tankschiff Butin	-RS
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Minensuchboote(minesweepers)

Duren	-RS	Flensburg	-RS
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Gemma	-RS	Konstanz	-RS
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Deneb	-RS	Wolfsburg	-RS
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Wega	-None	Fulda	-RS
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Mars	-RS	Minden	-RS
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Sirius	-RS	Völklingen	-RS
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Atair	-RS	Jupiter	-RS
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Stier	-RS	Merkur	-RS
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Fischereischutzboote(Fishing Protection Boat)

Poseiden	-RS and Fritjof	-RS -Send covers to the ship c/o Wasser und Schifffahrtsamp, Cuxhaven, 219, West Germany.
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Special remarks: RS= rubber stamped postal marking. ICS= illustrated confirmation stamp.

Send covers to the ship c/o 23 Kiel, Flottenstation, West Germany. For example: A cover from from the Transport Ship Eider would be addressed accordingly:

Hilfsfahrzeuge Eider
c/o 23 Kiel
Flottenstation
West Germany

Need assistance write to me and include a SSAB#10
W. J. Luetge, 3211 North 44th Street, Milwaukee,
Wisconsin 53216. Information on visiting warships
from all countries is desired and appreciated.

FANCY CANCEL: Our friend E.G. Koschmann reports that USS SURIBACHI(AE-21) has a postmark with an inverted "a" and collectors of postmarks and/or fancy cancels should take note of this news item and expedite their cover request. News items are always appreciated - Thank you sir.

Naval Phraseology - The term "crow's nest" was derived from the cage which housed ravens at the top of the mast of Norse ships. When the Norsemen lost sight of land, a raven would be released and followed. FRISCO, a slang expression of sea-going men for San Francisco has another meaning in today's Navy and it also means Fast Reaction Integrated Submarine Control and you will probably be hearing more about both FRISCO's. Did you know? Erie and Ontario were the first American large screw steamers specifically intended for Atlantic Service. These wood ships were built at Newburyport, Massachusetts in 1866.....N/S SAVANNAH reactor begins operation again which signifies the training of another crew.....James M. Clark, Box 327, Newberg, Oregon - a ten year old of a retired Navy man is interested in collecting postcards: Naval covers maybe?????.....Project Mercury U.S. Navy ship covers interest revives as the approach of Project Gemini gets lined up and with the holidays behind us I would say it is a good time to check with Bob Boudwin, 1119 Harker Ave, Woodbury, N.J., Joe Fitzpatrick, Spacecraft Covers, Box 2296, Hunting, West Virginia and Alfred Roman, 5119 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa., if your missing some Mercury U.S. Navy Recovery Task Force covers. Next February and March the hunt will be quickened as the public recouperates from Christmas, income taxes and winter fuel bills plus the reminder that Gemini is ahead. Write 'em, they got 'em.

S T A M P ***** N O T E S

A lesson learned.... The West Chesapeake Post Office had the new Audubon commem on sale, Saturday, Nov 30th the day after the originally planned first day of issue. I purchased a sheet of these new beauties and used almost a full sheet on letters to USCS prospects as a result of Linn's favorable publicity. The following Monday the Air Station Postal Clerk informed me the new 5¢ commemorative had been withdrawn and wouldn't be issued. Telephoning the various base postal facilities on the story was the same but the reasons varied and the possibility of errors could not be overlooked...Here, I was with a PB of six and a few singles of a stamp that had been on sale for only one day and then suddenly and mysteriously withdrawn from sale....By Friday the FDC's had not been received but the local population was out on a stamp hunt. Word had leaked out and some folks were known to have driven 100 miles seeking the mysterious but beautiful stamp....My dilemma was relieved somewhat as the PMG announced postponment of the First Day of Issue to Dec 7th..another memorable day in our history.. What lesson did I learn??? Never to use a sheet of new stamps until they have been in circulation for a few months at least..Never did I really believe that I had a philatelic find but what would you think if you were in my shoes.

Jerome Balin writes: Send one or two covers to: Officer in Charge, Makapuu Point Light Station, P.O. Box 150, Waimanalo, Oahu, Hawaii for the return address stamp. Thank.

NEW SHIP CONSTRUCTION NOTES.....LPD-6 is the second ship to be named for the third largest city in Minnesota. DULUTH, for whom the city is named, was a French explorer who in 1679 raised the French Flag at the western most point of Lake Superior. Navy amphibious transport docks are named for U.S. cities whose namesakes were explorers and developers of America. Ships in this class are 521 feet long and displace 13,900 tons fully loaded. Top speed is in excess of 20 knots and will be armed with 4-3inch, 50 caliber twin gun mounts. LPD's are manned by 30 officers and 460 enlisted men and can carry 930 troops and 2,000 tons of supplies and equipment. Keel laid at New York Naval Shipyard on December 18th.....

Reconversion contracts.....Three ships to be converted are the USS MISPILLION(AO-105), PASSUMPSIC(AO-107) and PAWCATUCK(AO-108) at American Shipbuilding Company, Lorain and Toledo, Ohio. The conversion will consist of installing new mid-bodies to increase the cargo capacity of pumps and deck equipment and installation of an auxiliary machinery plant. The new mid-bodies will extend the lengths of the ships by about 93 feet giving them an overall length of 644 feet, a beam of 75 feet and a full load displacement of 34,600 tons. Editor's note: Noxubee and Pawcatuck both engaged in oceanographic in 1946 in Laborador and both were relatively new ships at that time. Now the Pawcatuck is having a reconversion job to streamline and modernize the Navy's tanker requirements. How do I know I was there. Unfortunately, man cannot go into physical conversion periods but must be spiritually converted instead to the design and patterns of the Master Builder.....

SHIP CONSTRUCTION SCOREBOARD CHANGES::::::::::

USS JAMESTOWN(AG-166) Dec 13th at Newport News, Virginia
USS SAM RAYBURN(SSBN-635) Dec 20th at Newport News, Virginia
Commissioning of the NATHAN HALE(SSBN-623) on November 23rd brings the total fleet ballistic missile submarines to 14 commissioned, 10 are deployed, 11 launched but not commissioned and 16 under construction or authorized. A total of 41 are authorized including the fiscal year 1964 program. Where? at Groton, Conn.
USS DALE(DLG-19)-guided missile frigate was also commissioned on Nov 23rd at Camden, N.J.
USS STONEWALL JACKSON(SSBN-634) launched 30 Nov at Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, California while the USS JOSEPHUS DANIELS (DLG-27) was launched at Bath, Maine but due to inclement weather didn't hit the water until Sunday.

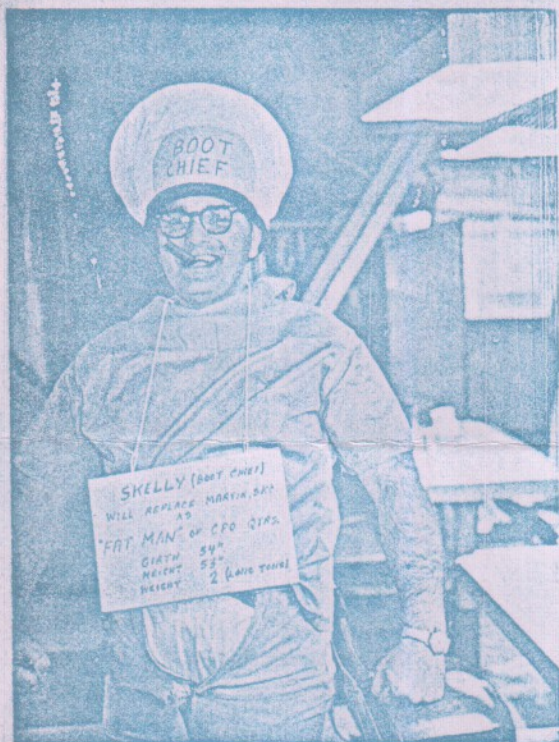
SS MORNING LIGHT.. Owner: Waterman Stramship Corp, 19 Rector St., New York, N.Y. -C-2 hull, Gross Tonnage 8,210 (1944)

PUBLICATION: "America in Space" 72 pages @ .45¢ Catalog No. NAS 1.19:14-depicts Project Mercury -potrays space sciences - illustrates the progress in weather and communication satellite developement - shows the aspects of some research and space investigations. The first five years.....A pictorial review

MSC-296 built at Surgeon Bay, Wisconsin for the Republic of Korea....the second MSC....

a time for promotion...a time of joy...
a time to get even and a time of woe...

INITIATION *** DAY



X CHANGE KORNER.....OKAY THE HOLIDAYS
ARE OVER.....READY OR NOT.....

WANTED FOR A FRIEND: Keel laying covers
of SSBN 619,624 and 640. Will trade
covers cacheted with President Kennedy's
Enterprise visit or purchase. Must be
good material no junk desired. *Waste Shalley*

Mail Call...T. Kitabatake, President of the
International Pen Friends Society, P.O.B.
3, Edogawa, Tokyo, Japan sends a most in-
teresting and informative booklet of lit-
erature where you may contact new friends
abroad with similar philatelic interests.
Remember this type of program supports the
People-to-People Program. Send 3-IRC's for
a copy of "AMITY" and other details.....

Suggestion....Need information about a par-
ticular ship? Write to the ship's Public
Information Officer and request a copy of
the ship's history or other prepared data.

Until 1963 supply is exhausted....100 blocks
of 4 Xmas seals from Boys Town, Nebr., 75 bl
blocks of 4 TB Xmas seals, 100-strips of 3
different American Bible Society Xmas Seals,
50 blocks of 4 National Wildlife Federation
Xmas seals. Will trade for SSAB & blocks
of four of any other Xmas seals. State
preference and substitute or will exchange
for 1 5¢ mint US comm. Mint stamps will
be converted to cash for the charity on the
seal. Preparing stamp club exhibit of Xmas
seals and need as many different as possible
Interested write: Mrs. Evelyn Zirkind,
547 Wyndham Road, Teaneck, N.J. 07666

h-e-l-l I dared to with my less fortunate
shipmates - revenge.. 0400 - Report to the foscle and observe sunrise. Make reports to
OOD, JOOD and all sleeping CPO's. Did you ever wake a grizzly Chief Boatswain Mate at
0400? No, well my friends it's something to learn and never to forget believe me. 0600-
Serve CPO's in bunks...0630-Mess cook in CPO galley-Prepare table and chow..0700-Shift into
the uniform of the day for "Boot Chiefs". Special hat size-11 7/8; shirt on backwards,
pants 26 for a 36 waist; hull card around neck; rope belt and hip rubber boots. Assignment:
Quarters for muster and roam about the ship giving away cigars. 0900- Kangaroo Court -
select defense counsel and charges preferred on "Boot Chief". By the time my Defense Coun-
sel (the rat) finished suggesting more charges and punishments - I pleaded guilty without
reservation. 1100- Sentenced; To eat a specially prepared chow from a specially made wooden
trough, give out more and better cigars and take the Captain, Executive Officer and all
CPO's ashore for a beer bust. My friends - CPO's don't bust. 0200- Liberty launch for
ship...Making Chief is one of the happiest days in a sailor's life but it can also be one
of the longest. In case you a physical fitness bug - try climbing around a ship most of
the morning in hip rubber boots. The Navy is a great outfit - don't sell it short.....

Amphibious ships that will return to the U.S. in February from training exercises in
the Caribbean are: MONROVIA, ROCKBRIDGE, UVALDE, RUSHMORE, DE SOTO COUNTY AND LIDDLE....
SAVE YOUR MONEY.....From my experience with ship covers placing advertisements in the
classified listings of philatelic paper seldom brings fruitful results but the reason may
be that I am a hit and run advertiser. The Western Stamp Collector, Linn's Weekly Stamp
News and McKeels bring the best results. These thoughts are in no way meant to be critical
of the philatelic articles in other stamp or cover periodicals.USCS Log is best for ship
covers collectors because it reaches more specialized collectors.....

 * READINESS - MORE THAN A STATE OF MIND *

What, then, is readiness?

Yes, the state of being ready: to be prepared to act immediately; to be willing; to be prompt; to be destroug; to be available. The dictionary is quite explicit.

We use the term constantly. "The Seventh Fleet is our ready power for peace in the Western Pacific." The Navy is ready for any eventuality from limited aggression to an all out war."

But -- what do we mean? What does it take to make a sailor, a ship, the Navy - ready? Start with the sailor: basic training, yes, and uniforms, a service record, health record, pay record; and an oath of allegiance to his country not lightly given. Assign him to a ship along with other men and you have a crew. The crew will man the ship's battle and control stations; cook the food and wash the dishes; do the laundry, make fresh water, handle cargo, predict weather. A multitude of skills brought together, from machinist to stenographer to electronics technician. Every member of the crew will know how to fight fires, how to administer first aid, what to do in case of nuclear attack. Every time a man is lost through transfer or discharge a new man must be trained to take his place.

There is the ship: a multi-million dollar floating city. It must be kept in a state of absolute repair at all times; propulsion plant, radar, pumps, hundreds of miles of electrical wiring and piping, 500 electric motors constantly running and 50,000 gaskets in tight seal. The ship must be provisioned and stocked, able to stay at sea for extended periods without any advance notice; 18,000 items in the store rooms repair parts, light bulbs, scouring powder, pencils.

Organize several ships together and make a squadron or flotilla or task force or fleet. Organize schedules with care; the earth is large, and over 70 percent of its surface is water. The oceans of the world stretch out for vast distances; it takes a fast ship almost two weeks to go from Long Beach to Taiwan, which is less than a day's steaming from the Philippines; four days from Japan to South Viet Nam, which is less than a day from Singapore. Events develop swiftly-where will our forces be needed? When Lebanon was threatened by communist takeover, the Premier requested military support from the United States; it took only 12 hours to put the Marines on the beach, and a crisis was averted without the firing of a shot. A massing of communist troops in Laos prompted the government of Thailand to ask for our assistance; the amphibious assault ship Valley Forge (LPH-8) moved quickly into position and put marines ashore by helicopter. Where next? The Navy is somewhere nearby.

Plans for the future: call for every ship on station overseas, have a replacement ship back home undergoing shipyard overhaul or extensive training; for every ship in the fleet that is nearing the end of its usefulness because of old age, design and build whatever replacement may be required tomorrow or five years from tomorrow.

This is readiness. The Navy is ready. But-- why, then, is readiness?

Readiness is because: of communist aggression in Korea; in South East Asia, in India; of the brutal suppression of the Hungarian uprising; of the incredible wall past which the residents of East Berlin may not go, under pain of death; of the incomprehensible slaughter of millions of peasants in China,

Readiness is to keep the seas free, for ourselves and for the world. The United States consumes over one-third of the industrial production and nearly one-half of the raw materials output of all nations; 99 percent of these commodities are carried in ships

Readiness is our future. Yours; your children's. Admiral George W. Anderson, former Chief of Naval Operations, put it this way:

"Twenty-five hundred years ago, Themistocles said, 'He who commands the seas commands everything.' Today this is still true. Let us lose command of the seas, and we become an island, isolated and alone. Let us lose command of the seas, and the wheels of the incomparable industrial complex which provided us the tools needed to make us the most powerful free nation on earth will grind to a halt - - slowly, but inevitably. Let us lose command of the seas, and ultimately we will command nothing, not even our own destiny."

EDITOR'S VIEWPOINT ***** A FAREWELL SALUTE*****

Public opinion is an immense force; and its currents are as inconstant and incomprehensible as those of the atmosphere. Nevertheless, in free governments, it is omnipotent; and the statesman is to find the means to shape, control and direct it. According as that is done, it is beneficial and conservative or ruinous. The public opinion of a civilized world is International Law; and it is so great a force, though with no certain and fixed boundaries, that it can even constrain the victorious despot to be generous, and aid an oppressed people in their struggle for independence.

Above all, the love of country, state pride, the love of home, are forces of immense power. Encourage them all. Insist upon them in our public men. Permanency of home is necessary to patriotism. A migratory race will have little love of country.

See that we use these powers for good purposes - to teach, exhort, ennoble the people, and not to mislead or corrupt them. Corrupt and venal orators are the assassins of the public liberties and of public morals.

It is the men of will and action.....not the men of pure intellect, that govern the world. The greatest of these moral forces is faith, which is only true wisdom, and the very foundation of all government.

A theory learned from some experiences in life is that some good emerges from every bad situation. The full understanding of what good will transpire from this assassins deed may never be comprehended. America and the rest of the world is experiencing a realistic revival in patriotism. The loyalty of our youth as a result of this sad occasion leaves little doubt in my mind that we stand together for world peace and our Country.

Perhaps, we could say that the Supreme Ruler turned our heads.

As a Navy man, I appreciated President Kennedy's personal interest in Navy affairs and his understanding of readiness problems.

This interest was most recently demonstrated by his "on site" inspection of a Polaris missile firing. He viewed this test from the USS OBSERVATION ISLAND as the submerged nuclear submarine USS ANDREW JACKSON unleashed the missile.

My own opinion is that his outstanding leadership and courageous efforts to maintain a world peace was proven at Cuba. In my lifetime, the highest peak of readiness has been achieved in the United States and this is creditable to him.

Today, the Nation mourns the loss of a beloved son, a great American and Champion of Liberty. Finally, you have been a witness in these days of mourning to the forces of public opinion in action. To me, it was like losing a "big brother" who left his Massachusetts home and made his mark on the world from his kind office....

Publication available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Merchant vessels of the United States(including yachts). Cat. # T17.11/2: \$7.00. Not quite so expensive but probably a good reference for paquebot and merchant cover collectors is the World Port Index, 1963 Cat # D203:22:150/963 for \$1.50. When writing ask for the free circular on Internal Revenue Service Publications containing helpful tax information tips.....

M.S.T.S. Briefs.....

USNS SGT. MORRIS C. CRAIN, FPO, NEW YORK has been toting the Navy's Bullpup air-to-surface rocket engines from the U.S. to Europe.

U.S.N.S. SGT MULLER, FPO, N.Y. is doing oceanographic work in the Caribbean...

USNS CROATAN, FPO, NY works in the Mediterranean Sea..a "baby flattop" with lots of underdeck stowage space.

USNS BLAND - the only ship of her kind in the world - a prototype from which the present day Mariner Class ships evolved. USNS SCHUYLER OTIS BLAND that is....FPO,SF

FOR THE RECORD... The Navy's vaunted A-3 Super-Polaris was fired from a submerged submarine for the first time in October 1963

HMAS PERTH, first Australian ship to be built in a foreign country(US) will be commissioned at Boston,Mass in May 1965. U.S. launched with sea trials next spring on Lake Huron.

Cape Canaveral renamed Cape Kennedy in honor and memory of the late President.

No tiddly winks....The Navy's inshore minesweepers, the 112 footers USS COVE (MSI-1 & CAPE(MSI-2), recently completed a ten day(2,2250 mile) voyage from Long Beach, Calif to Pearl Harbor. The ships are among the smallest Navy ships to complete an ocean transit of this distance since the days of sail. Cove and Cape are doing a big job with a small crew of 3 officers and 19 men.

Honors for the historic shot went to USS ANDREW JACKSON(SSBN-619)in the Atlantic Fleet while ETHAN ALLEN SSBN-608 has the distinction of having fired the only nuclear ballistic missile ever detonated by the U.S. in the Pacific(May-1962).

BELIEVE IT OR NOT: John P. Carleton, Jr was the winner of last month's riddle- Answer: GOLDWATER....

The ship's Bell is the official publication of COMBINE(Collectors of Match Books in the Navy Exclusively). A kind letter from its Editor- George H. Lewis, 103 12th St., S.E. Winter Haven, Florida indicates that match book covers play an important part in ship cover collecting inasmuch as attractive match books may be mounted on your postmarked U.S. Navy 6-3/4 or monarch size envelopes. Well written and nicely illustrated., Thanks...

Ray Duffy, 29 Jefferson St., Winthrop, Mass writes he has 5 different JFK postcards for .35¢ postpaid. Four are in color and one is a sketch of JFK's Hyannisport summer residence. Real nice set.....

INDIAN OCEAN FLEET ANTICIPATED.....The U.S. is planning to assign a permanent naval force to patrol the strategic Indian Ocean area which stretches from Australia to East Africa. Aircraft carrier, destroyers and support ship.

Dave Halpern writes..I have moved into a side-light of collecting covers from ships other than military vessels. These include steamships and ocean liners. U.S. postage was used to obtain the following covers:

- SS FLORIDA - P & O Steamship Co, P.O. Box 1349, Miami 1, Florida
- SS EVANGELINE - Eastern Steamship Corp.,
- SS BAHAMA STAR- Pier 3, P.O. Box 882 Miami 1, Florida
- SS INDEPENDENCE - American Export Lines Transportation Bldg., 1708 Pennsylvania Blvd., Philadelphia 3, Pa
- M/S VICTORIA - Inces Line, 39 Broadway, New York 6, New York
- OCEAN MONARCH - Furness Liness, 39 Whitehall St., New York 4, N.Y.
- DELTA QUEEN - Greene Line Steamers, Inc. 351 Public Landing Cincinnati 2, Ohio

A picture postcard of the Bahama Star was also received. The "Florida" cover is stamped-Nassau-S.S. Florida and postmarked in Miami. Victoria cover is postmarked San Juan, P.R. Ocean Monarch cover -"Posted on the High Seas" and the cover from the Independence is post-marked Naples, Italy. Anyone interested or desiring more information write to: Dave Halpern, Pennsylvania State University, 223 Pollock Hall-A, University Park, Pa., 16801. Much information about liners and addresses may be obtained from the travel sections of your local newspaper. Thanks Dave and it looks like a very promising New Year philatelically speaking. USCS #4481

Things to write for(cont'd)

An illustrated story "John F. Kennedy in World Philately" is offered free by:

Goodwill Ambassador, Box 26, Flushing, New York - 11358 include SSAE #10

SSAE#10, SSAE#6-3/4 and SSAEPC means:

stamped self addressed envelope #10 or 6-3/4 indicates the size.SSAEPC-postcard.

Collectors should have a supply of stamped self addressed 6-3/4 envelopes prepared ahead to insure complete 1964 ship coverage to accomodate sudden news releases.

M.S.T.S. modifies two LSD's for shipment of Saturn V stages from production and test sites in California and Mississippi to the launching site at Cape Kennedy. Two ships of the LSD class-USNS POINT BARROW and possibly USNS TAURUS will be modified by MSTs with additional equipment and instrumentation to carry the large stages such as the S-IC booster which measures 172 feet long and 38 feet in diameter. Using the "Roll-on roll-off" technique, the stages will be loaded and unloaded on specially designed modular transporters. Total combined shipping weight of transporter and S-IC is 260 tons.Under the agreement with NASA, the first shipment could occur as early as 1965. The ships will carry the S-IC and S-IVB stages of Saturn V between production and testing sites.

World Reports....In 1964 the U.S. and West Germany will jointly launch a destroyer designed to be a test ship used operationally in the proposed Atlantic Alliance Nuclear Fleet. Despite powerful opposition from France and England newspaper accounts indicate Turkey, Italy, Belgium, Holland and Greece may share in this project...The Federal German Republic is also obtaining three modern U.S. type rocket armed destroyers.....Three important points to be considered in the 1964 French missile plans are (1) Major missile efforts included in the 1964 French budget is launching of SSBS(Sol-Sol-Balistique Strategique) ICBM type weapon(2) Announcement of additional French Navy ships to be re-equipped with TARTAR and MALAFON missiles. The first French built HAWK missiles will become operational in French units this year (3) According to recent news reports the French plans are to have an operational force of at least three MSBS(polaris type) submarines by 1973 despite the fact the first submarine is expected in 1968-69. Collectors and interested writers should begin now in establishing reliable philatelic contacts in European countries. Personally, I am a little disapointed with the mutual exchange of ship cover events from West Germany inasmuch as supplying the news for a cover event or sponsors of appropriate cachets are not being received and unless the situation improves we as collectors and supporters of the People-to-People Program are hampered in our meager efforts to help one another.....Thailand receives a new Navy coastal minesweeper MSC-297 built at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin.....Here at home the Navy has decided to retain at least 5 of the 8 Naval Reserve training ships (PCB types) afloat on the Great Lakes..... USS WRIGHT (CC-2) had joined her sister ship NORTHAMPTON(CC-1) in the Atlantic Fleet.Collectors are reminded that the Navy Times, a weekly newspaper read by thousands of naval personnel provides it's readers with a stamp column but seldom mentions the hobby of collecting naval covers. 2201 M Street, Washington, D.C. How do we as a group accomplish and encourage naval personnel to assist us in our cover efforts, if we seldom make the hobby of collecting naval postmarks and cachets known. Before, I went aboard Alstede I can truthfully say that I never heard of you folks out in cover land.

About 170 steamship companies with offices and/or agents in San Francisco are listed in a steamship directory issued by the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. Copies may be obtained by writing the Chamber of Commerce, 333 Pine Street, San Francisco, California, U..S.A.

FLASH...FLASH... THETIS BAY(LPH-6) named for a small Alaskan Bay where the revenue cutter THETIS rescued the Greeley Expedition in 1884 scheduled for decomissioning in January 1964. Don't delay act today - if you want to obtain a few more covers. DeComm cachet maybe????????

** named HMS LADYA

Special Note: Please excuse the sloppy crossword puzzle in last month's issue. I started to point the finger at the printer but upon further examination I noticed the other four fingers on my hand were pointing toward me. It was my fault.....

Putting the paper to bed....A blanket of snow covers the main decl of "Old Ironsides" as Navy Yard workmen carefully removed the mizzen mast of the famous naval shrine. A new mast, out of Douglas fir, cut from Oregon trees that were approx. 275 years old replaces the old.

H. M. S. DRAGON

DRAGON; light cruiser; 4,850 tons; 16 Aug 1918 to 8 June 1943; damaged by torpedo off the coast of Normandy. Constructive total loss(In Polish service), this laconic record in the Royal Navy's Statement of Losses 1939-45 is the obituary of a ship that served faithfully in two World Wars and the troubled years between them.

H.M.S. DRAGON, the fourteenth ship to wear the name in the Royal Navy, was one of three ships of the DANAE Class. She was built by Scotts at Greenock, Scotland, being completed in 1918. Upon completion she served with the 5th Light Cruiser Squadron(Harwich Force). Along with her sisters, DANAE and DAUNTLESS, she remained in this service until 1919. Her service between wars varied; Atlantic Fleet 1919-25, Empire Cruise 1923-24, Mediterranean Fleet 1929-28, China 1927, Refitted 1928-30, Atlantic and West Indies Station 1930-37, Reserve Fleet 1938. DRAGON was due to be scrapped being "overage and obsolete" but the outbreak of WW II saw her back in service. She again served in various capacities until she was transferred, along with DANAE, to the Polish Navy. AS O.R.P. DRAGON, she earned the Battle Honour, Arctic 1944. While patrolling in the channel she was heavily damaged by a torpedo from a German midget submarine during July 1943. Reaching port, she was found to be beyond economical repair and was used as part of the breakwater in Siene Bay.

DRAGON, a light cruiser of 4,850 tons on dimensions of 445 x 46½ x 14¼ feet, carried an armament of 6-6", 3-4" AA, 15 smaller guns and 12-21" TT.

During her service on the West Indies Station, DRAGON supplied various ship markings on many covers. These exist with an unofficial postmark, regular ship markings and with the "regulating office" handstamp used as a cancelling device. During World War II, O.R.P. DRAGON had an official postmark, an oblong metal date stamp showing a ship silhouette and reading POLSKA MARYNARKA WOJENNA - date and ship number - AGENCIA POCZTOWA (Polish Navy Postal Agency). DRAGON was number three. There were two types of this cancel and several rubber stamp markings.

DRAGON is represented in my album by the postage stamp used in Poland in 1945 and by several covers. The most interesting, to me at least, is a cover from Rotchester-Chatham dated 28 May 1937, bearing a cachet and photograph of the ship. The cachet reads: HMS DRAGON BIDS GOODBYE-DECOMMISSIONED TODAY. The cover also has the "regulating office" stamp in blue with the date of 28 May 1937.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very peaceful, healthful and prosperous New Year.....Art Mears, USCS 189, The Ledge, St. Stephen, N.B. Canada.

Wanted: WWII covers from APO's especially 5, 610,611,612,810,860 and 1028 and from Navy numbers 25, 101,102 - all Army and Navy Post Offices ashore in Iceland, Anxious to have some contact with US collector who served in Iceland during WW II. Write: Axel Miltander, Bevoringsgatan 11, Gothenburg, Sweden

Things to write for...U.S.C.S. Membership applications blanks from the editor. Collectors who desire a Kennedy Cachet applied on envelopes that they are holding already cancelled or on uncanceled envelopes. Send your covers with sufficient return postage and container addressed to Ray Duffy, 29 Jefferson St., Winthrop, Mass. This is not an agreement to obtain cover postmarks but rather cachet application only.Ship covers postmarked during the Cuban Crisis will be stamped "Cuba Quarantine Ship". Reminder... Space Stamp Design Contest deadline date is 31 Mar 1964. Write: Space Craft Explorer P.O. Box 2296, Huntington, West Virginia for details. M.L. Nickel, Box 3038, Cocoa, Florida 32924 will service your SSAE for the Atlantic Missile Range and Edward S. Colburn, 515 Ash St., Vandenberg, AFB, California will accomodate your Pacific Coast Space launchings. Service charges are 10¢ per cover or one IRC from Europeans.....

COVERS ACKNOWLEDGED.....with Thanks

Bob Boudwin-ADSA NY Stamp Show, T.G. Nicholson -EDISTO 1963 Arctic Cachet, launching USS ULYSSES S. GRANT;KINGSPORT -Satellite Communications Ship,Werner Hofferek-Paquebot Newport News visits Hamburg 26-28 Aug, M. Polak FDC from Holland, Space Covers from Austria-ballon-post; and Poland, Europa Covers from W. Germany and Holland, Glenn Brazelton sends 8 of his own handdrawn designs commemorating famous naval battles, Joe Edinger sends unique US Xmas FDC with both US & 1962 N.Z. Xmas stamp with cachet. Covers sent to PERMIT(SSN-594) last year received with cachet"SUBROC-First Firing Submarine" SUBROC means Submarine launched rocket propelled depth bomb. Permit is a Thresher Class sub and a ship of the Pacific Fleet. Comm.Covers.. J.MONROE(SSBN-622);ENGLAND (DLG-22);JAMBSTOWN(AG-166) from Nicholson and Beck.Launching covers: S. JACKSON (SSBN-634);J.DANIELS(DLG-27);SCHOFIELD(DEG3) and First German Nuclear Merchant ship.

PROJECT GEMINI CACHET ANNOUNCED.....

This is what I call planning ahead... Cachets will be applied to all your post-marked naval or Cape Kennedy covers as the first un-manned flight progresses next February. Here is what you do..U.S. fans send their postmarked covers to the address given below plus a stamped self-addressed envelope(SSAE) to permit your postmarked Project Gemini covers to be cacheted & returned to you. A 2¢ per cover service fee is requested.....FOREIGN FRIENDS may send their SSAE to the address given below plus 1-IRC for each cover they want cacheted & forwarded to Cape Kennedy for cancellation on the appropriate date. Deadline for overseas collectors is 1 February 1964.. Don Schultz, 1225 E. Marquette Street, Appleton, Wisconsin 54914 U.S.A. Mr. Schultz is editor of the Nuclear Ships Newsletter published about every three weeks - a good paper with a lot of thought and hard work...Nice fella too.....

U.S. Navy Chaplain Corp Anniversary is celebrated annually on November 28th next year 189 years of "service to the fleet." Jot these dates down on your cover planning calendar
New series of picture postcards: (1) LST 1153(2) INDEPENDENCE(3) FORRESTAL(4)TASK GROUP ALFA (5)RANDOLPH & FORRESTAL (6) NORTHAMPTON & BOXER -all six postcards in color @.35 postpaid.
New views and postcards are not repeats of the November series offer expires 1 March 1964
PRAYERS REQUESTED: Mr. Jim Hickman almost killed in auto accident on 15 December - family is continuing collection work. He is a patient at the Naval Hospital, Key West, Florida. Seriously injured and the family requests the prayers of us all. I believe in the power of prayer.....

THREE CHEERS FOR THE POD.... In the Navy POD means Plan of the Day but in philately it means Post Office Department, Audubon Commemorative is a genuine work of art-Well Done.

PREDICTION: 1964 will be a year of philatelic surprises particularly with regard to new stamp issues. Maybe a bay-bridge tunnel and ship commemorative stamp huh!

SUBMARINE COVERS... U.S.C.S, MEMBER #4691

A family has a collection of submarine cachets, covers, envelopes, keel layings, launchings, deep dives, commissioning, first day in service and decommissionings. There are over 250 covers in this collection with some items dating back as far as 1924. They collect anything and everything concerning subs including: patches, pictures, crews, ship's parties, menus and all other paraphernalia that even smells of the life and history of submarines. The collection is not for sale but will be donated to the Submarine Library at Groton, Conn., when they feel they can do any more research or obtain more covers for it. Full credit will be given to all cover or picture donors with all duplicates being returned. Memorial Cover Donations will be accepted but DO NOT send any money as they do not need it or want it. "Cumshaw" is a word in Navy lingo that means trade, swap, beg, borrow and includes more dangerous methods. This collection belongs to: James M. Hickman, EN1(SS), USN (RETIRED) P.O. Box 668, Marathon, Florida 336050. Mr Hickman has served on board the submarines TUNA(SS-203),CHIVO(SS-341),CAPITAINE(SS-336) BERGALL(SS-320),GAR(SS-206) and 6 years and 10 months in the QUILLBACK(SS-424)- Boy what a short-timer.....What do you think? Can we members of USCS and readers of Navphilately help this shipmate mould a nice beginning into a real nice addition at the Submarine Library. Suggest you send along a SSAE #10 for a reply.

HMS VALIENT (SSN-102) launched at Barrows-in-Furness, Lanc"s, England on December 3, 1963 Haven't seen any covers yet.....

CHECKING THE 1964 MAILING LIST I DISCOVERED YOUR RENEWAL SUBSCRIPTION HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED AND RECORDED FOR 1964. RENEWAL OF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION MAY BE ACCOMPLISHED USING A POSTCARD, IF CONVENIENT, PAYMENT OF \$3.00 MAY BE DELAYED UNTIL 1 APRIL. ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS BEGIN ON 1 JANUARY AND EXPIRE EACH YEAR ON DECEMBER 31ST. THIS POLICY WAS ESTABLISHED TO REDUCE PAPERWORK AND ALLOW THE MOST PLANNING POSSIBLE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR. IF THIS NOTIFICATION IS INCORRECT PLEASE DROP ME A FEW LINES ON A POSTCARD. NEW SUBSCRIBERS ARE REQUESTED TO DEDUCT THIRTY CENTS FOR EACH 1964 ISSUE THEY DID NOT RECEIVE. FOR EXAMPLE: A MARCH 1964 SUBSCRIBER WOULD REMIT ONLY \$2.40 FOR THE REMAINING ISSUES OF 1964. 1963 SUBSCRIBERS WHO HAVE NEGLECTED TO RENEW THEIR NAVPHILATELY SUBSCRIPTION THUS FAR HAVE BEEN MISSED. TEN ISSUES PER YEAR ONLY. PLEASE ALLOW ME TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXTEND THE VERY BEST WISHES AND PROSPERITY TO YOU AND YOURS DURING 1964.

SPECIAL OFFER... while they last Presidential Visit, USS ENTERPRISE CVA(N) 65 postmarked 14 April 1962 and cacheted with a picture of the late President Kennedy. Limited quantity - \$1.00 each. Write Skelley, 1210 Earle Avenue, West Chesapeake, Va., 23506

BRITISH CACHETS: HMS VALIENT SSN-102, Vickers-Armstrong Ltd., Barrows-in-Furness, Lanc's, England. Also HMS DREADNOUGHT, c/o The Admiralty, London SW-1, England.

SUBSCRIBERS NOT IN RECEIPT OF NAVPHILATELY BY THE 30TH OF EACH MONTH EXCEPT JULY AND AUGUST ARE URGED TO SEND ME A POSTCARD WITHOUT DELAY. PUBLICATION AND MAILING DATES ARE BETWEEN THE 5TH AND 15TH OF EACH MONTH. BACK ISSUES ARE NOT AVAILABLE AFTER THE 10TH OF THE MONTH FOLLOWING.

CONSTRUCTION SCOREBOARD CHANGES....H. CLAY 2-28-64; D. BOONE 23 Apr 64; SYLVANIA JUNE 64; WHALE -FEB 64; C. PULASKI - FEB 64; GUARDFISH MARCH 64; R.K. TURNER FEB 64; TAUTOG JAN-FEB 64; DACE - 29 FEB 64; N. GREENE MARCH 64; J.ADAMS-MAR 64;

unassigned: SSN 661, 663, 664, 665

LONGER SUBMARINES

Navy to lengthen three submarines to allow for weight increases. The three submarines involved, FLASHER(SSN-613), GREENLING(SSN-614) and GATO(SSN-615), will be lengthened by 13 feet, nine inches. All three are under construction at the Electric Boat Co. Of the THRESHER class, these submarines have heavier propulsion plants than their sister ships, and have heavier "sails" (bridge structures) than called for in the original ship

USNS NORWALK, FPO, N.Y. was originally built as the Norwalk Victory and since her conversion by MSTC as a fleet ballistic missile resupply ship she will be assigned to the Atlantic Fleet. Undergoing conversion also is the FURMAN VICTORY at the American Shipbuilding yards at Lorain, Ohio, a second ship of this type to be converted.

The Navy minesweeper TANAGER is scheduled for active service again with the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, Reserve Training Center, Yorktown, Virginia., about July 1st. Her mine-sweeping gear is being removed at Baltimore. This ship will establish a new ship type in the Coast Guard - WTR. "W" designates an ex-minesweeper from the Navy and "TR" denotes "Training Reserve". These so-called Navy types are expected to be stationed at New York, Boston, Norfolk and one or two major seaports on the Pacific Coast.

CACHET AND COVER ROUND-UP: Last minute news before putting the paper to bed....

LT Bart Rhoades, USN, USS ANDREW JACKSON (SSBN-619), FPO, N.Y. 09501 has covers available for .25 cents each.

Welfare Officer, USS WOODROW WILSON(SSBN-624), FPO, N.Y. also has covers @ .25 each plus a SSAE. All checks and money orders are payable to the Welfare Officer.

Public Information Officer, USS DANIEL BOONE(SSBN-629), Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, California has .25 cent covers. Checks or money orders made payable to: LT James Moorefield, USN.

Dynamic Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 849, Groton, Conn 06341 has a 10th Anniversary of the Nautilus cover coming up @ .25 cents each plus a SSAE.

Important note: Collectors are reminded to send along a large stamped self-addressed envelope to permit the sending of the covers requested from the above sources.

Editor's Note: Monarch size envelopes are a handy container to mail 6-3/4 envelopes inside providing you do not intend to mail more than four at one time. Collectors desiring to obtain a box (500) of these envelopes may order them from me prior to 1 April @ \$3.00 per box postpaid anywhere in the U.S.A. I have found that #10 envelopes are too large in some instances and some damaged covers are the result. Sample monarch envelope furnished upon receipt of a SSAE#10.

ESTATE AUCTION.....The late James Fullum collection consisting of 3,954 covers of all descriptions. Send 25¢ in coin or stamps to: Don Schultz, 1225 E. Marquette Street., Appleton, Wisconsin 54914.

FOR EXCHANGE ONLY...Would like to exchange Kennedy covers. Have mourning covers cancelled at key U.S. cities and from Cuban Quarantine Navy ships and other ships dated up to December 22, 1963. Appropriate cachet and wording. Exchange only...Send covers or want list. Ray Duffy, 20 Jefferson Street, Winthrop, Mass.