



Published monthly (except July and August) in the interest of philately and to provide collectors 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, Va. 23506. Translated and reproduced in part by Dieter Lange, 42 Oberhausen, West Germany as "SCHIFFSPOST NEWS". This newsletter supports the People-to-People Program. IN THIS ISSUE..... FOREIGN SHIP MARKINGS
 --- SHIP CONSTRUCTION SCOREBOARD CHANGES.... X-CHANGE KORNER.....
 SUBMARINE NOTES..... GEMINI RECOVERY SHIP INFORMATION..... INTERPEX
 WEST GERMAN KENNEDY FDC ASSISTANCE.... EDITOR'S VIEWPOINT.....

FIRST GEMINI MISSION IS KEY TO INITIAL TWO-MAN FLIGHT THIS YEAR..... The first un-manned Gemini orbital flight (April 14th) from Cape Kennedy is the first step in the drive to orbit two men by the end of this year. The project - with primary emphasis on its manned orbital rendezvous and long duration missions, now calls for 12 flights. The first manned flight will be a simple three orbits. The second will extend to four days, and the third to seven. Rendezvous tests will begin with the sixth mission; then the space agency plans to alternate the long duration missions of up to two weeks with the rendezvous docking experiments. Three flights are scheduled this year. Four are planned for 1965 and five for 1966. The Gemini spacecraft is similar to the basic shape of the earlier one-man Mercury spacecraft. It is wider in diameter at the base and longer, and it contains 50% more volume than Mercury. There are two hatches on top of the cabin to provide for entry and egress of astronauts. Two man Gemini Teams will perfect many techniques required for Apollo effort. Gemini promises a string of spectacular feasts over the next two years as well as a row of covers. After the second un-manned shot this summer the first Gemini manned flight should be off to a flying start with veteran space traveler U.S. Air Force Major Virgil I. Grisson and LCDR John W. Young, U.S. Navy - a former test pilot. LCDR Young has two world records for time-to-climb in the 3,000 meter and 25,000 meter events in an F4B aircraft. Then, two-man teams will fly every three months on a stepped-up schedule that according to some news sources could start leaving Russia far behind in the moon race. The second un-manned test set for this summer, will rocket a fully equipped capsule on a ballistic flight in a check out of all systems and the parachute water-landing recovery operation. Here is an IMPORTANT REMINDER: Collectors should be certain to include a 4¢ U.S. Postcard (self-addressed) with their covers being sent to cachet and cover sponsors to insure notification of replacements being used up in Gemini effort not to mention the ship covers - our main interest in this phase of the cover world. My initial Gemini Philatelic Report is corrected and revised accordingly insofar as covers for the "do-it-yourself collector" is concerned..... Morris W. Beck, P.O. Box 116, Whitewater, Wisconsin is the Universal Ship Cancellation Society's Cachet director. Mr. Beck will service your stamped self-addressed 6-3/4 white envelopes for each of the Gemini U.S. Navy Recovery Ships on a continuing basis. This means to keep an adequate supply of covers on hand with him. His service fee is 2¢ per covers and is used to defray the cost of printing materials and re-mailing your covers to the U.S. Navy Recovery ships or the cover coordinator on each coast. Covers received in excess of the Gemini requires will be serviced for some important ship event. Mr. Don Schultz, 1225 E. Marquette Street, Appleton, Wisconsin - is sponsoring a cachet on behalf of the USCS Nuclear Ships cachet. This means that he will apply a cachet to your 6-3/4 envelopes (without postage) providing you send him sufficient postage for their return via first class U.S. mail and include a 2¢ per cover servicing fee for the chapters treasury. When you received your cacheted but unserviced covers back from Mr. Schultz you may mail them to: M.L. Nickel, P.O. Box 3030, Cocoa, Florida for servicing and postmarking on the appropriate dates of significant Gemini events at a 10¢ per cover service fee. Foreign collectors using 5¢ U.S. postage on their un-sealed, stamped self-addressed 6-3/4 white envelopes will obtain the best results. These envelopes must however be marked "PRINTED MATTER" to insure postal return. A light weight or cardboard filler is recommended for the best possible results.... Here is a collectors opportunity to do something for himself while plenty of time exists and before the manned flights commence. Collectors when writing to me for information are requested to include a long stamped self-addressed envelope....

Here is the final Project Gemini report being sent to you as requested announcing the details on how to obtain U.S. Navy Gemini Recovery Force ship covers commemorating the first un-manned flight involving recovery ships.

Collectors who follow these instructions (as corrected) will probably receive at the appropriate time excellent results from their efforts.

Covers sent to Mr. Beck will be postmarked on board the Navy Gemini Recovery ships. It is important to point out that collectors should send along a stamped self-addressed postcard so that they may be kept informed of the dwindling supply of envelopes being used as the events occur. Nothing in philately can be guaranteed but all of us realize your investment and appreciate your interest in Our Navy.

U.S.C.S. is providing it's members and friends with up-to-date news coverage, exquisite low-cost cachets and the necessary details to allow collectors "to do it yourself."

The U.S.C.S. cachet sponsors are doing excellent work and their services are seldom duplicated at the 2¢ per cover service fee, which is used to defray mailing and printing expenses. Please find enclosed an envelope containing two sample of our artistic cachet director's work. Isn't it beautiful?

The first manned Gemini Flight will probably occur late this autumn and receipt of two more stamped (long) #10 envelopes will keep you informed of the details. No charge.

U.S.C.S. was organized in 1932 and is composed of members interested in collecting ship covers particularly covers and cachets from U.S. Navy ships. Corresponding with these USCS friends during the past few years has enabled me to become proficient as a do-it-yourself collector thus keeping my collecting expenses to a minimum. U.S.C.S. LOG(copy available upon request) is included in the membership dues. Our members are the folks who contribute the LOG material and some writers are leading authorities on cover subjects.

U.S.C.S. has prospects for additional chapters in Delaware, Florida, Missouri, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Washington, Connecticut and our neighbor Canada. If, your state is not represented just drop me a few lines for assistance or further information. Perhaps, you are interested in the leadership and organization of one of these proposed chapters. From my experience in organizing USCS Hampton Roads Chapter #63 I can truthfully say that chapters can be organized and effectively carried on with little extra effort.

Most of our members are sincere individuals like yourself collecting "one-of-a-kind" with a duplicate cover for trading purposes. Many also collect other items like postcards, stamps, matchbook covers, FDG and space covers.

Should you decide on USCS membership please complete the endorsed membership application blank and mail it together with your remittance to the USCS Secretary noted on the back. If, you do join please be sure to drop me a line as I would like to send you a space-ship cover as a token of my friendship.

In closing the folks who comprise our membership are all interest in helping you get started. For my part, you are only as far away from assistance as a five cent stamp. Please include a stamped envelope for the reply requested. Your not obligated to join U.S.C.S. for this assistance but we are selling something and "the best people in cover philately" are selling friendship. THIS IS U.S.C.S. - "F R I E N D S H I P."

Thank you for being a Navy supporter and keep in touch. Need a cover? Looking to trade or swap material here or abroad? Need more details on how to collect intelligently? How may we be of assistance to you?

Send me a long stamped self-addressed envelope and I will mail you my duplicate stamp (mint and used) and ship and space cover list that is presently in preparation. Please allow at least three months for me to complete same. 2

X CHANGE KORNER FOR COLLECTOR USE ONLY

WANTED: Mexico Mint SCOTT #774,775,776,C123, C124 & I25 -Will swap for Mercury ship or city cacheted covers. Charles Jarrett, P.O. Box 29, Granite Quarry, North Carolina.USA

SWAP U.S.NAVY SHIP COVERS -For keel laying, commissioning, launching or decommissioning Will trade one for one on the older submarine covers and 2 for one on newer nuclear subs. Can use duplicates for swapping material. This collection being compiled for the Submarine Library at New London, Conn. Listing of swap covers is available. Hickman, P.O. Box 668, Marathon, Florida 33050.

SWAP TALENT - SHIP COVERS: Will do artwork for cachets in exchange for rocket, ship and nuclear submarine covers. Robert J. Rensch, 48 Howland Avenue, Toronto 4, Ontario, Canada.

Harry Benedict, 563 Sunningdale, Inkster, Michigan 48141 has some Kennedy covers to trade and 2-20-63 -First Anniversary of John Glenn's Flight -all cacheted.

A. Lang, 60 Longview Ave, Fairfield, Conn 06430 needs following space covers: Wallops Is., Little Joe I and II(1959);Cape Canaveral Mercury Test (11-21-60)Discoverer 1,2,6,9,10,12;Explorer 2 &5; Shotput 5(5-31-60); Pioneer 9-17-58 & 9-24-59; Echo(5-13-60) and Samos 3 (9-9-61)

Those collectors who are interested in looking over the final segment of my duplicate ship cover list which includes space items, submarine covers and foreign first day covers loaded with topical stamps - may do so by sending me a #10 SSAE when the list is ready.Skelley, See heading for address.

National Steel and Shipbuilding, San Diego, California(a labor surplus area) awarded the construction contract for the third ship of its class. - AFS-3. USS MARS(AFS-1) and USS SYLVANIA(AFS-2) are the sister ships.

SHIP CONSTRUCTION SCOREBOARD CHANGES::: "POWER FOR PEACE"-Armed Forces Day - 16 May 1964

SSN-647-USS POGY- New York Ship, Camden, New Jersey
SSN-648 USS ASPRO -Ingalls Shipbuilding, Pascagoula, LA
SSN-651 USS QUEENFISH - Newport News Shipbuilding Corp
SSBN-654 USS GEORGE C. MARSHALL -Newport News Ship. Corp.
SSBN-655 has been named STIMSON
USS D. WEBSTER(SSBN-626) commissioning 9 April 1964 at Groton, Connecticut. ??
USS WAINWRIGHT(DLG-28)-launching at Bath, Maine on 25 April 1964
USS SAMPLE(DE-1048)-launching on 28 April at Seattle, Washington
USS D. BOONE(SSBN-629)-commissioning at Vallejo, California 23 April

USS MAUNA KEA(AE-22) and USSPYRO(AE-24) conversions awarded Puget Sound Bridge & Dry Dock Co, Seattle, Washington. Maryland Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co., Baltimore, Md will convert the USS NITRO(AE-23)

BRITAIN'S NUCLEARS SSBN-01 H.M.S. RESOLUTION-first polaris keel laid 26 Feb 64. Others named in numerical order RENOWN, REPLUSE AND REVENGE. Keep this address handy: Vickers-Armstrong, Barrow-in-Furness, Lanc's, England....SSN-101 HMS DREADNOUGHT; SSN-102 VALIANT and SSN-103 named HMS WARSPITE....Could use more assist from collectors and readers in Great Britain...?

6-3/4 OR MONARCH ENVELOPES - I plan to discontinue these envelopes by the box(500 each) between 1 June and 1 October. Please send in your envelope requirements now. 500(1 box) 6-3/4 postpaid anywhere in the USA \$3.00 and the Monarch size is NOW \$3.50 per box of 500. Long business size envelopes (#10 are available upon request). Remember no envelope orders filled between 1 June and 1 October 1964 - I'm going to spend some time at the beach and I guess I'm lazy in the summer months. Skelley, 1210 Earle Avenue, W. Chesapeake, Va. 23506.

Ray Duffy, 29 Jefferson St, Winthrop, Mass.. writes that German collectors may obtain a 1964 Thresher Memorial Covers at 11¢ US each He requests that you send address stickers and TRIESTE II is expected to make Sidgivesland this should give collectors an idea of how many covers to send to Mr. Duffy. U.S. Collectors send SSAE -3/4 plus 5¢ service fee per cover.

ROUNDUP OF DOBBINS CHAPTER COVER ACTIVITIES:

(1) USCS DOBBINS #20 will cachet your envelopes postmarked 10 April "Thresher Memorial Covers" for a 2¢ service fee plus a SSAE #10 or monarch size envelope. (2) Collectors of covers cancelled at Detroit River Boat Station send 2¢ service fee with their covers. (3) The River station covers will bear the Dobbins Chapter Cachet. Send all covers to: A.O. Wickard, 9162 Rockland, Detroit, Michigan 48239 (See you in August boys -I hope)

Ed Heim sends a special New York Newspaper issue containing information all about the New York World's Fair. Thanks Ed....A lot of folks have sent me covers and I wish to express my thanks here and now - -THANKS- -

"TUESDAY"-Best Day-Financially

Why has the National Aeronautical Space Administration selected Tuesday as the traditional day for Mercury manned space flights and will this tradition be retained in the Gemini flights?

Has it been a sentimental choice? Not at all, NASA officials say. The decisions to choose Tuesday has been a cold, hard one- financially.

Weekend launches of U.S. astronauts would likely attract a greater audience that the mid-week jaunts around the globe. However, they would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars more if they came on Saturday and Sunday.

More than 25,000 military and civilian personnel are involved in the launching of an astronaut whether he goes 3,6 or 22 orbits.

There are 21 tracking stations around the world, manned by about 500 technicians as well as five tracking ships.

Also scattered across the world are hundreds of other technicians who play a vital part in the program.

Before the six-orbit flight of Schirra, there was some discussion among NASA officials of a Sunday "space show" so more Americans could watch on TV, but the idea was junked when NASA book-keepers totaled the extra cost.

"READ THE ENTIRE STORY AT LUNCHTIME "

"Rockets" of the Navy" by Eric Bergaust Forward by RADM W.F. Raborn, U.S. Navy. This is the Navy missile story -the full account of all unclassified Navy rocket and missiles. Profusely illustrated 48 pages that can be read at lunch. Check out a copy at your public library and learn more about Polaris, Sidewinder, Rat, Terrier etc - based on official U.S. Navy releases and photographs.

CONSTRUCTION SCOREBOARD CHANGES: 25 Apr.

- 23 Apr -Commissioning USS D. BOONE(SSBN-629) at Vallejo, California
- 25 Apr - Launching USS WAINWRIGHT(DLG-28) at Bath, Maine.
- 28 Apr - Launching USS SAMPLE (DE-1048) at Seattle, Washington
- 1-2 May - Re-commissioning USS CHICAGO(CG-11) at San Francisco, Calif
- 12 May - Commissioning USS J. ADAMS (SSBN-620) at Portsmouth, N.H.
- 12 May - Launching USS N. GREENE (SSBN-636) at Portsmouth, N.H.
- 14 May - Launching USS GATO(SSN-615) at Groton, Conn.

Mr. William A. Heiser, 2817 28th St., S.E. Apt 4, Washington, D.C. 20020 reports that the USS TULLIBEE(SSN-597) is using one of the nicest cachets that he ever has seen. TULLIBEE, FPO, New York. . . . Bill Ekas reports that the USS SKIPJACK(SSN-585), c/o FPO, New York is offering ship's patches at \$3.00 each and ship's lighters at \$3.25. Send orders to the Special Services Officer. Both items bear the ship's insignia...4.....

TRADE NOTICE: HAVE: First flight, HPO, US & UN FDC, Convention Covers, Slogan cancellations for trading only. WANT: Keel laying, launch, commissioning and other special naval event covers. WILL: Trade up to 6 covers for one naval. Send SSAE#10 and state the list you desire.... Bob Ekas, P.O. Box 146, Chicora, Pa... Excerpts from Dill Reports the News". Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth, the largest British vessels, have weekly service to Cherbourg, Fr. to New York. Send covers to Purser of the ship c/o Cunard Steamship Co, 25 Broadway, N.Y.4., N.Y

ITALIAN PASSENGER VESSELS: Have post offices on on board which postmark with the ships mark on-ly on covers bearing Italian stamps. Departure and arrival schedule: Lv. Genoa-New York- SS CHRISTOFORO COLOMBO 26 Apr; LEONARDO DA VINCI 9 May; SS VULCANIA 26 Apr; SS SATURNIA 18 May; SS VULCANIA 6 June; Send covers bearing Italian stamps or IRC's to the Purser of each ship c/o Italian Line, Battery Park Bldg., 24 State Street, New York 4, New York.

GERMAN RESEARCH SHIP METEOR- Applying rubber stamp cachet. Send German stamped covers to: An deh Herrn Zahlmeister, des Forschungsschiffs, "METEOR", des Deutschen Hydrographischen Institute, im Hafen von, 2 Hamburg, West Germany. This ship will participate in the 1964 International Indian Ocean Expedition with ships of other lands.

X CHANGE KORNER ITEMS..... Exchange items are listed at no expense to collectors. Ads should be limited to "swap" items - what you have to trade and what you need. This news letter does not accept paid advertisements. My deadline for receipt of notices for the fall issues will be 1 Sep because we will be escaping from the heat and hu- ma-dit-a-tee" where the girls are. Let me assure you that my intentions of taking a book along to read are honorable but for reasons on each side of my nose I find it impossible to concentrate on a book under the home-made beach shade. Therefore in the interest of "economy" and the reduction of paperwork(between L July and 1 Sep) I do not

recommend this method of reading improvement. Let's strive to make the Sep-Oct issues the biggest swap issues on our Third Year of Service

RESEARCH THAT IS PAYING OFF! ! ! - Dear Mr. Skelley: I would like to thank you for two covers which you sent recently and for the information contained in Navphilately. Your publication has been of great help to me and it was through the articles on the ships of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, U.S. Air Force ships and U.S. Coast Guard that I started collecting covers from Government owned and operated ships other than those of the U.S. Navy. There are a surprising number of such ships, but it takes a bit of digging to find out about them. Following are some notes of interest and also some questions which some of your readers may be able to answer: M.S.T.S. - USNS NEW BEDFORD(T-AKLI7) was used as the supply ships for the Texas Towers off the coast of New England. With the decommissioning of these radar stations, the services of NEW BEDFORD were no longer required so the ship was scheduled to be transferred to the U.S. Navy where it was to be used at the Navy's Torpedo Station, Keyport, Washington. It was reported in transit to the Pacific Coast about Aug 63. Later in the year, it was reported that Western Boat Bldg. Co, Tacoma, Wash., received a contract for the conversion of the NEW BEDFORD. That is the last I have heard of the AKL-17. USNS AKL-43 was another FS being used to supply the Texas Towers. It was scheduled to be transferred to the Coast Guard(according to Jane's Fighting Ships) in late 1963. USNS MIZAR (T-AK-272) was based at Seattle, Washington, and operated as a cargo ship between Seattle and Alaska. In the fall of 1963(late fall I believe) it was announced that the services of MIZAR would not be needed on the Alaska - Seattle Run. I believe the next word on MIZAR came in Mar 1964 when I read in the newspaper that the MIZAR was scheduled to sail from Seattle for New York. I believe the MIZAR left Seattle about March 8th. I would appreciate any word as to the present status of these three ships. Perhaps some of your readers know more details. Editor's Note: MIZAR in operation as far as is known....U.S.COAST & GEODETIC SURVEY SHIPS: Your article in the past Navphilately covered this subject quite well but I have a few notes which might be of interest..USCGS Ship SCOTT - Covers returned with the notation -"Ship Decommissioned" return to sender. USCGS Ship MARMER(ASV-89) -New address: 102 West Onley Road, Norfolk,Va. Mail for the Marmer addressed to the ship at the St. Petersburg, Florida address was not forwarded but was mailed from the USCGS HYDROGRAPHER with the notation that the Marmer was now at Norfolk. USCGC Ships WAINWRIGHT & HILGARD using same address at MARMER now. Note that we have two ships here. I assume that the two ships act as a team with one U.O. According to the New York Times, these two ships are operating in the Gulf of Mexico(primarily off the coast of Texas, I believe) charting sunken ships. Addresses needed: USCGS PEIRCE - Covers sent to Mobile address returned with the notation "Return to sender/address unknown" WHITING, a sister ship of the PEIRCE. It was commissioned after the PEIRCE and did not appear in your list. NEW CONSTRUCTION: GIBBS SHIPYARD, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA: Two Class I hydrographic ships 303 foot length named USCGS DISCOVERER AND OCEANOGRAPHER. MARIETTA MFG.C., Two Class II survey vessels 220 feet long named USCGS FAIRWEATHER and RAINEER. I don't know how close to completion these four ships are but I suspect that the OCEANOGRAPHER and FAIRWEATHER are nearly finished. U.S. COAST GUARD: Your previous articles on the Coast Guard have been very informative but it does not seem that anyone has made a list of Coast Guard Ships from which one can obtain covers. The Fleet Post Office does not seem to handle mail for the smaller ships so collecting covers from Coast Guard ships can be difficult unless one knows the homeports of these ships. Following is a partial list of Coast Guard ships based in the Pacific Northwest. In collecting covers from these ships one should remember that they DO NOT have post offices on board but I am sure that they will apply their return address stamp to covers mailed from their ships. I am also sure that they will NOT appreciate a deluge of mail or any unreasonable requests. (All ships designated USCGC)

MODOC (WATA-194), Coos Bay, Oregon	USCG LIGHTSHIP 604-Columbia River Lightship c/o Coast Guard Depot, Tongue Point, Astoria, Oregon 97103
YOCONA(WAT-168) , Box 836, Astoria, Ore.	USCG IVY(WAGL-329) -Coast Guard Depot, Tongue Point, Astoria, Oregon
WHITE BUSH (WAGL-542) Box 810, Astoria, Ore	USCG FYR(WAGL-212) -27th Avenue West, Commo- dore Way, Seattle, Washington
MALLOW (WAGL-396) " " " "	
BLUEBELL (WAGL-313), General Delivery, Vancouver, Washington	

I hope to have a more complete listing available later. It might be interesting if some of your readers could prepare a similar list of Coast Guard ships which are based near their homes. M.L. Campbell, Chief Boatswain, U.S. Coast Guard, C.O. USCGC WHITE BUSH was kind enough to write me a note telling about his ship, so I would like to quote part of his letter. "The Coast Guard Cutter White Bush(WAGL-542) is a 133 foot coastal tender.(next page)

There are eight of this type cutter, all of which were transferred from the U.S. Navy. This vessel has a 31 foot beam, draws nearly 9 feet of water and has a 600 ton displacement. Two 300 HP Union Diesel Engines drive this cutter through the water at cruising speed of ten knots. The White Bush services nearly 200 aids to navigation annually on the Washington and Oregon Coast from Grays Harbor to the Coquille River and up the Columbia and Willamette Rivers to Vancouver and Portland, respectively. Would certainly enjoy having you visit the White Bush." Finding men like Chief Campbell certainly makes our hobby more enjoyable. U.S. ARMY TRANSPORTATION CORPS: Yes, the Army does have a "navy". At least two cargo ships, the HICKORY KNOLL and the LCOL JOHN U.D. PAGE are operated by the Army to experiment with improved methods of cargo handling. Both ships are based on the Atlantic Coast. Perhaps some reader can supply a mailing address for the two ships. The HICKORY KNOLL looks like a C-1 type ship converted with special cargo handling facilities. The LT.COL PAGE is classed as an "Army Beach Discharge Lighter(Ocean going)."

Any information about these or any other ships operated by the Transportation Corp would be appreciated.

I hope that some of this information can be useful. If there is enough interest I hope to have more information available about ships operated by some of the other government agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Alaska Native Service, Pacific Islands Trust Administration and the Army Corp of Engineers.

Sincerely yours, Bill Stubjaer, 1225 North 18th Street, Corvallis, Oregon 03582 Thanks
Editor's Note: The only manner worthy of my appreciation was to print Bill's letter....

PUTTING THE PAPER TO BED...(April 28th).. Secretary of the Navy Paul Nitze has announced the Navy is contemplating demothballing some of its old cruisers because of the need for the 8 inch guns in the event of enemy amphibious landings. All but two of the 12 cruisers now in service have been converted to missile ships for protection from air attack.....

The keel for the first British Polaris missile submarine was laid at Barrows in Furness. Named: RESOLUTION -Britain has announced plans to build 5 instead of the original 4 subs.

SEVEN MORE 5 YEAR CHARTERED TANKERS FOR M.S.T.S. TANKER FLEET:::*****

SS BARBARA JANE	31,792 DWT	Skouras Lines
SS ATLAS	35,477 DWT	Tankers & Tramps, Inc.
SS SEA PIONEER	27,105 DWT	Pioneer Tankers, Inc
SS SAROULA	31,880 "	Esso International, Inc.
SS THETIS	41,586 "	Rye Marine Corp
SS VIRGINIA TRADER	16,735 "	American Trading & Production Corp.
SS OCEAN PIONEER	27,305	Pioneer Tankers, Inc.

USNS SGT. CURTIS F. SHOUP, FPO, S.F. USNS ELTANIN"a floating scientific station",FPO,S.F.
USNS HARRIS COUNTY, FPO, S.F. USNS MANN(AP-112), FPO, S.F.
USNS GILLIS, FPO, N.Y. USNS PLEDGE(MSO-492), FPO, S.F.

USNS TALLULAH and USNS SUAMICO busy shuttling water cargo to Guantanamo Bay from Florida.
USNS SULTAN, FPO, S.F. USNS RINCON(T-AOG-77),FPO,S.F."celebrates 19th birthday."

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Reading an article entitled "Bonanza U.S.A." in the magazine section of the Virginia Pilot Sunday paper I noticed it contained a list of publications readers could write for and obtain FREE. The item that caught my eye most was "Hobby on the Rocks" an illustrated guide to rock collecting available from the Shell Oil Company which encompasses science and history. It tells how to collect and where to find specimens. Wouldn't it really be a boost for some other large corporation to offer a similar guide on "Ship Cover Collecting" particularly U.S. Navy ships with post offices. Oh! well, a poor man's dream..

EYES RIGHT!!! "THE SPACE REPORTER", a new publication edited by Tom Dixon and his associates combines the news and views in their house organ published by TD Productions. Hans Muller's column "Astro Queries" contains some down-to-earth reading that makes it easier for all "EGAPS SGUB" - Space bugs spelled backwards to ascend and comprehend what's going on in space philately using simple terms. Good luck and Bon Voyage - Astronuts..Thank.you.....

I.N.T.E.R.P.E.X. - NEW YORK CITY 6-8 MARCH 1964. This report is from a collector that says English is not one of my virtues. You can't be handsome, strong and all that jazz and still be able to spell.

INTERPEX this year was by far the greatest ever held. The new and beautiful Americana Hotel in downtown New York was the setting. Present were about 45 dealers from all over the United States selling every type of stamp, coin, cover and many other items interesting to the collector. The U.S. Post Office had its usual fine display of material. There were about 200 panes on exhibit showing everything from the space theme to all kinds of topical, freak stamps, covers and many other collector items.

Bill Ronson stole the show with his display on the now famous First Official U.S. Rocket Mail that was fired from the USS GRAYBACK (SSG-574) in September 1958.

There were many officers in attendance at the Rocket Mail Society Meeting. I had the honor of being elected Vice-President for this coming year. Only yesterday, I also found out that I'm also one of the assistant editors of Rocket Mail Society. This year we will strive to stir up more interest in the rocket field. The society celebrated its TENTH ANNIVERSARY at the show. We are a young society and expect to make great gains in the coming years as the interest in rocketry increases.

I met some swell people at the show. During the years we felt we knew each other through correspondence but I finally met, Earl Wellman, Harry Gordon, Bill Ronson Captain William Peters and many other fine collectors and dealers.

Captain Van Ness (U.S. Navy) of the Naval Test Station, Point Magu, California who was on hand at the firing from the GRAYBACK showed some wonderful color movies of the actual flight.

All in all I had a swell time and met some of the best people. Any collector who might be interested in joining the R.M.S. please contact me - Sincerely - Robert Boudwin, Vice President, Rocket Mail Society, 1119 Harker Ave, Woodbury, New Jersey.

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WATCH YOUR PLANNING CALENDAR. By now most of the more seasoned collectors know that the Navy Press releases concerning "DEEP FREEZE" are available in mid-July each year. This year, it is not my intention to send out this information by "special sheet" in July because I anticipate taking my vacation the first three weeks in August and the importance of other pressing matters that require my attention in the cover program.

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COVER ALBUM WEEDS - Information from USCS members and other interested friends indicates a greater interest in cachets that postmarks by some of the newer collectors. It is not my intention to tell you here and now what you should or should not collect but rather to commend the efforts of a couple Detroit collectors for their outstanding work on the 1964 THRESHER Memorial Cover - My hat is off to Harry Benedict, Bob Szczepanski and Al Wickard for the fine effort to produce something of artistic value and historical significance. I would like to point out that stock designs do serve a purpose but the danger is that they are often "overworked" resulting in far too many cover events of little or no importance. Quality and NOT quantity builds better collectors and collectors. For example: Some of the covers that have emerged from the 30's commemorated everything from Women's Rights; N.R.A and even Valentine's Day plus a barrel of junk that keeps rotating at many cover auctions.

The West German Postal Administration (Deutsche Bundespost) does not prepare first day covers. Collectors have to prepare the covers themselves and send them to a Post Office (Postamt) which uses a special First Day Cancel or postmark. These Offices are published 2-4 weeks before the day of issue. The Postamt, 53 Bonn 1, West Germany always uses a First Day Postmark and sometimes a second office that has a special relation to the new stamp. Collectors have to send the covers within three days of issue to the Post Office using the postmark. Only postcards and letters are allowed - no "Printed Matter." For instance, a stamp is issued on April 10th, I buy them at my local Post Office and prepare my covers which I have to mail at latest on April 12th to the published post office address. The outer cover is addressed "Postamt, 53 Bonn 1, West Germany and in the left corner of the outer envelope I write "Ersttagsspempeling". Some days later my FDC's come back cancelled with the special postmark dated April 10th. If a FDC has a circle in pencil in its left part, they strike a second stamp in this part besides the stamp. All cancels of the Deutsche Bundespost are hand

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE 7

EDG: ... and to the correct place. If you are interested in FDC's of the

A BRIEF HISTORY OF GUANTANAMO BAY - ~~Guantanamo~~ Bay first received historical recognition when Christopher Columbus entered it on his second voyage to the "New World" and spent the night of 30 April 1494 there. He and his Spanish Adventureres were looking for gold, and finding little, left the next day.

Subsequently, la Bahia de Guantanamo(Guantanamo Bay) enjoyed a reputation as a natural port for pirates, privateers and fishermen. It was the scene of some fighting between the British and French in the 17th and 18th centuries.

In 1741, the bay was used as a base of operations by British Vice Admiral Edward Vernon, Commander of the British West Indies Squadron, who undertook an attack on Cartagena, Columbia. The expedition was a failure, however, because the troops and sailors fell victim to tropical diseases.

In 1898, with the declaration of war between Spain and the United States, the attention of the U.S. Government was focused on Guantanamo Bay. On June 10th of that year, a battalion of U.S. Marines was landed at Fisherman's Point to establish a naval base of operations for the campaign against Santiago de Cuba, 40 miles to the west. The Marines were joined by Cuban allies under the command of an experienced soldier, Colonel Enrique Thomas, and together they defeated superior Spanish forces and captured the bay.

This operation was credited with pinning down some 5,000 Spanish troops at Guantanamo City, thereby preventing them from going to the aid of the Spanish forces at Santiago. This factor materially contributed to winning the war. Our campaign against the Spanish in Puerto Rico was also launched from Guantanamo Bay.

It was apparent that Guantanamo Bay would be valuable as a coaling station and a base of operations for the Atlantic Fleet, especially during the winter months when the weather was cold and uncooperative in the North Atlantic. This weather undoubtedly accounts for so many of the old U.S. Navy ship covers being stamped "GIMO BAY" or "GUANTANAMO BAY" between the killer bars in the postmark. Accordingly, the land on which the base is now located was leased to the United States in 1903 by the newly formed Republic of Cuba. The first lease agreement was signed by President Estrada Palma for the Republic of Cuba and by President Theodore Roosevelt for the United States to effect the establishment of a coaling and naval station. The lease agreement involved a total of 28,821 acres of which approximately 9,000 acres is covered by water.

Another treaty, negotiated by ~~Cordell~~ Hull and signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt on May 29, 1934 has the effect of giving the United States a perpetual lease on the base. It can be voided only by our abandoning the area or by mutual agreement between the two countries. The United States has exercised control over the Guantanamo Bay without actually owning it for more than half a century. However, its sovereignty still rests with Cuba.

The impact of World War II resulted in a reappraisal of United States overseas bases.* The impetus provided by the attack on Pearl Harbor has continued to this day, although the building program is now aimed primarily at replacing temporary wartime structures and facilities.*Thus Guantanamo, among others was earmarked for expansion. The rest of the story concerning Guantanamo Bay you know.

WEST GERMAN FDC CONTINUED.... steel cancels. You see that it is almost impossible for collectors in other lands to get new stamps and mail FDC's at the right time and to the correct place. If you are interested in FDC's of the West Germany President Kennedy Commemorative probably issued in November 1964 send your FDC requirements to Mr. Skelley as I am willing to help U.S. collectors in this particular project. It will be less expensive for me to send them to Mr. Skelley rather than handle so many requests and distribution by re-mailing after the covers are returned to me from the Post Office. The price will be announced in the June or September issues of Navphilately or as soon as the stamp denomination and expense is determined. Remember to send your orders to Mr. Skelley as the deadline date is 10 September 1964. Thank you for the assistance offered and it is offered in friendship. Gotthard Fischer we thank you sir, NOTE: Collectors desiring to send Mr. Fischer ship covers as a token of their appreciation, thanks and friendship are invited and encouraged to do so. Mr. Fischer has not requested any fee for servicing these FDC President Kennedy covers.

Calumet Carton Company, Inwood Building, Homewood, Illinois offers the dealer and collector 61 stock sizes of mailing cartons which will greatly assist dealers. Write to : Mr. Albert Inwood and ask him to send you his stock sizes and price lists in your stamped self-addressed #10 envelope. Your attention is particularly invited to Stay-Flat mailers and other carton mailers. Available with and without printing. Dealers should look into this item.

DID YOU KNOW???????

The word Mayday stems from the French word "m'aidez" meaning "Help me." It was adopted as a distress call or signal for ships and aircraft by International Radio Regulations because it is brief, clear and unmistakable, and can be pronounced in most languages.

Here is a list of ships that have used their ship's seal on covers when it has been requested. Please bear in mind that some ships may not use same as different CO's and PIO's do not sanction the use of them. I conducted this list as an experiment and through inquiring of these ships apply their seal as a matter of course but on others it has to be requested. This list is by no means complete but I have said it was an experiment and am submitting it for the benefit of anyone that may be interested:

NAME		FPO
BALAO		
BANG	(Now decommissioned)	
BARRY	SS-385	NY
BASHAW	DD-933	NY
BAUER	AGSS-241	SF
BLACKFIN	DE-1025	SF
BLUEBACK	SS-322	SF
CHOPPER	SS-581	SF
COUGAL	SS-342	NY
EDSON	ASR-8	SF
GALVESTON	DD-946	SF
GLENNON	CLG-3	SF
GOODRICH	DD-840	NY
GRAFFIAS	DDR-831	NY
GRAND CANYON	AF-29	SF
GREAT SITKIN	AD-28	NY
GREENFISH	AE-17	NY
GUADALUPE	SS-351	SF
GUARDIAN	AO-32	SF
GUNSTON HALL	AGR-1	NY
GURKE	LSD-5	SF
HAL EAKALA	DD-783	SF
HALSEY POWELL	AE-25	SF
HAMMER	DD-686	SF
HANK	DD718	SF
	DD-702	NY

Submitted By: Joseph M. Prockton, 67 Burmon Drive, Buffalo, New York 14218-the future home of another USCS Chapter..... Thanks Pal

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SUBMARINE NOTES... The regulus missile-firing submarines GROWLER AND GRAYBACK will be phased out but not mothballed in April or May. BARBERO will do the same in June. Mare Island is designated to do the work...TUNNY and HALIBUT, the Navy's first nuclear powered missile sub will remain in active service in the Pacific Fleet. HALIBUT was the Navy's first nuclear sub ever built from the keel up to carry missiles.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.....

With the influx of new shipmates into ship covers we have been fortunate to acquire some very able, willing and creative hands into the ranks of our hobby. Several have expressed a desire to assist in creating artwork designs to assist our cachet sponsors. This is particularly good news since ship streamlining has outdated some of the ship designs. The trend among the majority of collectors shipwrecked on our shores from other phases of philately indicates a cacheted cover that tells a story in color plus a neat and clear postmark. All of us want to stick with the 6-3/4 white envelope for economy reasons. Although the monarch and #10 envelope sizes are collectable and acceptable - the 6-3/4 size prevails as the most popular.

Again I would like to repeat myself and say that I do not know of another hobby as informative, interesting, adventurous and economical as collecting ship covers particularly in the naval cover area.

A nutshell version of what I mean can thus be summed up: "the collector sets his own pace and governs his own collecting habits." For example, this statement is not necessarily true in stamp collecting as some other agency or group of individuals decide how many issues the topical trend will bear plus a few extras to boot. Many times it appears that some of the stamp producing municipalities have a "custom-made" program for the topical collector depending on the topical not tropical winds.

Here is our future and these brief statements are signs of the times (1) better covers can be anticipated with improved cachets (2) a greater demand for quality postmarks (3) a few more USCS Chapters in 64 (4) less individualism or localism in cover projects with greater emphasis on USCS Chapter projects (5) greater harmony and understanding among is foreseeable (6) more USCS reinstatements (7) consolidation of important news and information into the USCS LOG for collector benefits (8) fewer "cover album weeds or junk covers" (9) more trading or exchanging and fewer cover sales and (10) the brightest years in our hobby since the conclusion of World War II are yet to be enjoyed as we travel with U.S. Navy ships. Membership in U.S.C.S. means friends. Remember your only as far away from assistance with your covers as a 5¢ stamp....

NAVY BEGINS GEMINI/APOLLO RECOVERY TRAINING: Involved in the training techniques to be used in retrieval of Gemini and Apollo Spacecraft were the USS INTRPID(CVS-11), USS LIND(DD-703) with special cranes and ELOKOMIN(AO-55)...

Australia's postage rate is 8d for surface mail. Stamps are available from your favorite stamp dealer or from the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, Melbourne C2, Victoria, Australia. When you write for the current list of stamps available why not ask that your name be placed on the mailing list for the bi-monthly "Australian Postal Bulletin" sent to collectors free of cost. This paper is very informative and interesting.

To the best of my knowledge the HMAS ANZAC and HMAS MELBOURNE have a postal marking. Send your stamped self-addressed envelopes to: Captain's Secretary, (name of ship), Care of General Post Office, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

Cover sponsors or servicers that have agreed to assist the collector are:

John R. Alexandre, P.O. Box 32, Blenheim, New Zealand, who will service and sponsor covers from ships of his country. There is no service charge but I imagine a few duplicate naval covers will be very much appreciated. Send one IRC per your ~~un-stamped~~, self-addressed envelope to him at the above address.

Rolf Keirat, 185 Bremerhaven-Surheide, Salzburger Str. 12, West Germany will service and probably sponsor covers for ships of other navies visiting and ships of the West German Navy as well. For each self-addressed, un-stamped envelope that you send include 8 cents in U.S. mint postage, IRC or one naval cover to defray his postage expenses.

Ed. Lameck, 1854 Wyandotte Street, East Windsor, Ontario, Canada is sponsoring covers for Canadian ships. Send your covers bearing 5¢ Canadian postage affixed plus a 2¢ per cover service fee.

T.G. Nicholson, P.O. Box 8097, Norfolk, Virginia 23503, a veteran cover sponsor and servicer invites your stamped self-addressed envelopes at the usual 2¢ per cover servicing fee. Mr. Nicholson provides excellent covers from visiting foreign naval ships. Collectors will find delight with the excellent postmarks obtained from this source.

The writer would like to mention once again that any of you who have postal markings from straight line cancellations to cancellations which are used in cancelling the stamp are requested to send me a full description of these for a proposed foreign ships cancellation chart now in the making. I need your help. The finished product will be a chart which will be shared by all. My address is: 3211 North 44th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216. Covers servicers or sponsors not mentioned in this column are invited to make their services known by writing to me also. So long until next month.

EXCERPTS FROM "DILL REPORTS THE NEWS" - Launching German Nuclear Merchant ship on 13 June 1964 with a special postmark available at the post office at 23 Keil-Gaarden, West Germany....Mr. Arnold Heine, P.O. Box 2901, Wellington, New Zealand is servicing covers for HMNZS ENDEAVOUR, ROTOITI etc for a service charge of 2d(2 cents) by forwarding your stamped self-addressed covers for the ships marking....German Destroyer "HAMBURG"-German Navy commissioned 23 March. The Mail Officer is applying cachet to covers bearing the ships coat of arms. My correspondents tell me this is a very beautiful cover. Address: Herrn Kommandanten des Zerstörers "HAMBURG" der Deutschen Bundesmarine, 23 Kiel, Flottenstation, W. Germany. Remember to send IRC or West German postage on the covers you want returned to you. German Navy Destroyer(ex-USS CHARLES AUSBURN also applying ship cachet same procedure as per above and address is: Herrn Kommandanten des Zerstörers "Z 6" der Deutschen Bundesmarine, 239 Flensburg, W. Germany. New subject: French Navy Ships visit Hamburg Helicopter Carrier La Resolute, destroyers Chevalier (D-626); Duperré(D-633); Dupetit Thouars(D-625); Casablanca(D-631). A special visit cachet was applied to the ships mail 24-29 April 1964. For reference purposes covers would have been addressed to: Monsieur le Gerant Postal des françoiseschen Helicopter-Traegers (name of the ship) (or des françoiseschen Zerstörers(name of the ship) 24-29 April in Hamburg, Ueberseenruecke, West Germany....Collectors interested in N/S Savannah ship covers while the ships visits in Europe are reminded that time draws nigh.....

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Superintendent of Documents, G.P.O.,
Washington, D.C. Cat.No. NAS 1.2
SP 1/4/963 50¢ "Space the New Frontier"
Discusses in easily understandable
language, the space age and NASA programs
including a history of space exploration.
Among the photographs shown in this pub-
lication are 5 in full color which were
taken during the orbital flight of "Faith
7 Spacecraft" - 72 pages illustrated...
Also available..Missiles and ventures into
space progress report 1962-63 70¢ Cat. No
D 101.22:70-5-11.

Here is an item for you submariners.....
Basic enlisted submarine Text, Part I
Cat. No. D 208.11/2:Su 1/2/963/pt 1 \$2.25
215 pages illustrated with a lot of good
dope on submarines....

Quincy Shipyard sold to EBCO.. Electric
Boat Company has purchased Bethlehem's
Quincy Shipyard. The only construction
work at the yard, which EBCO expects to
take over are two-improved Thresher class
fast attack submarines. With the keel-
laying of the first of these, WHALE has
begun at this yard. EBCO is thinking of
getting into the nuclear destroyer business
at the Quincy yard when that program begins.

FRANCE...launched atomic submarine Q-251
GYMNOTE-designed to test equipment systems
for her Navy's future missile firing nu-
clear submarines. *Havent seen any covers -*

APOLLO astronauts returning to the earth
probably will land in water, instead of
on land as planned, because landings would
be safer. Early in the program, the para-
glider had been considered the primary re-
covery system for all Gemini flights. The
possibility of recovery in our inland waters
rather than the open sea is being considered.

USNS PERSEUS, former fleet refrigeration ship,
keeps her appointed rounds in the Pacific.
USNS ASTERION (another reefer) and PERSEUS
replaced the USNS GOLDEN EAGLE (now USS ARCTURUS
AF-52) and USNS FLEETWOOD in the MSTs Fleet

FOR REFERENCE: M.L.NICKEL, P.O. Box 3038, Cocoa, Florida 32924 will service your stamped
self-addressed covers at 10¢ per cover service fee. Edward E. Colburn, 515 Ash Street,
Vandenberg AFB, California will service West Coast launching covers at the 10¢ per cover
service fee also.

EXCERPTS FROM "DILL REPORTS THE NEWS" - This year between 21-28 June a great number of
foreign Navy ships will again participate in the "Kieler Woche" event. A slogan depict-
ing sail "Kieler Woche 1964" will be used at the post office of 23 Kiel 1, West Germany.
If no valid West German stamps are available for use on your covers you may send un-sealed
addressed covers containing fillers plus 7¢ US or IRC per cover to: Frau Ilse Horn, Otto
Hahnstr 26, 874 Bad Neustadt/Fraenk, Saale, West Germany //

USCGC RELIANCE LAUNCHING POSTPONED but US
stamped covers are still being accepted.
USCGC RELIANCE, P.O. Box 9638, Houston, Texas
77015

USCGS "PIONEER" is participating in a six month
cruise as part of the 1964 International Indian
Ocean Expedition. Ship has large red cachet in
use. No post office on board but covers will be
mailed through a Navy Post Office. Send to
Mail Clerk, US&GS SHIP PIONEER, 121 Custom
House, San Francisco, California 94111
Dynamic Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 849,
Groton, Conn 06341 is sponsoring an ALUMINAUT
cachet plus a few others @ 25¢ each.

POLAR MAIL.. "On the Rim of the Arctic Circle"
being applied by the Postmaster, Allakaket,
Alaska to collectors SSAE #6-3/4 envelopes.

SUBROC flight test phase completed on 10 Dec-
ember 1963. Subroc is a submarine launched,
rocket-propelled, inertially-guided, nuclear
depth bomb for long range destruction of hos-
tile submarines. SUBROC covers are available
and a good trading material...

PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S LAST VISIT TO THE OPERAT-
ING FORCES WAS ON 16 NOVEMBER 1963 WHEN HE
FLEW OUT TO SEA BY HELICOPTER AND LANDED ON
BOARD THE USS OBSERVATION ISLAND (EAG-154) TO
WATCH THE USS ANDREW JACKSON (SSBN-619) CONDUCT
A SUBMERGED FIRING OF A POLARIS A-2 MISSILE.

KEEL LAID-Navy's 4th Polaris submarine tender
to be launched in February 65 and delivered in
September. Same basic design as USS HOLLAND
which was also built by Ingalls Ship at the
Pascagoula, Miss. yard...

* William B. Hudson, Postmaster, Wallops
* Island, Va., will service all Wallops
* Island launchings. Please send all en-
* velopes without postage affixed to your
* covers. Enclosed payment for postage by
* airmail or first class mail. No fee for
* servicing. Be certain to enclosed the
* correct amount of postage to insure the
* return and appreciation for his services
*

Keep your eyes on the road

EDITOR'S VIEWPOINT - This time every year colleges and universities the world over are graduating thousands destined to become missionaries. Missionaries trained to administer to man's spiritual and medical or even his educational needs especially in the less fortunate areas of this wonderful world. We should also be keenly aware that as each graduating class goes forth seeking passports and visas to do good in other lands another type of missionary is penetrating the same areas and barriers but he is pretending to speak the same truth. Trained to spread a different gospel - a gospel of terror and deceit. -The gospel of communism. If for no other reason reading is more important than ever to the free world and it's inhabitants. "Reading is the key...that enables us to see with the keenest eyes, hear with the finest ears and listen to the sweetest voices of all time." (James Russell Lowell-1885). Reading is also the key to successful collecting whether it be stamps or covers. A collector that fails to avail himself of the adventures stored up in the volumes in his local public library is missing the boat. In my opinion, he is cheating himself by not unlocking this knowledge storehouse regardless of his station in life or employment. Reading today is many more times important and more books are available to choose from. Free people should read far more than in Lowell's day and do. What profit has a collector gained from storing his collection of ship covers in albums - if he cannot relate some historical information about the covers he owns.

NEW SUBJECT: The novice collector is a collector who has never won an exhibition award or medal (1-2-3-places). I consider myself in this class but please do not allow me to set the example. The greatest personal satisfaction a collector can experience in this phase of our hobby is providing a spectator with something beautiful, interesting and instructive about OUR NAVY. Photographs and negatives (black and white) are always appreciated by the writer and will be included in future texts as space permits.....Ed Heim sends a special New York newspaper edition depicting the New York World's Fair..Thank Ed.....

SOMETHING FOR THE BETTER HALF- A little jewelry shop near the U.S. Consulate in Barcelona, Spain displays a sign which reads "Our wedding rings shine forever, if they are dipped three times daily into dish water."

FROM THE ORIENT - My Japanese correspondent informs me that when the MSDF's first Training Squadron sailed from Tokyo in January 1957 for their first goodwill cruise to the United States, Hawaii and Australia, he was able to take some nice photographs with his camera. Collectors interested in a set of these pictures should correspond with me before June 1st. Mr. Fukaya also send the following ship name translations for reference:

HARUKAZE = Spring Wind; KUSU= Camphor Tree; SUGI=Cryptomeria; KAYA=The Miscanthus.....end.
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SUBMARINE BRIEFS...USS OBSERVATION ISLAND (EAG-154) now deployed in the Pacific before the arrival of the first polaris submarine probably to be TECUMSEH as predicted by most of our newspapers. DANIEL WEBSTER (SSBN-598) is the first to carry out a submerged operational firing of the new version of the polaris missile.....SEA TRIALS for the 3,000 ton French experimental submarine launched March 17, 1964 are expected next year before being commissioned in 1966. The keel laying of the first French nuclear submarine at Cherbourg isn't very far off according to newspaper reports. France plans to build three 7,500 ton subs and put them into commission by 1972.....TRIESTE II scheduled to arrive at Boston on April 28th from her homeport of San Diego, aboard the USNS FRANCIS X. MC GRAW. CHICAGO (CG-11) scheduled for commissioning on 1 or 2 May (reports vary) at San Francisco - the fourth ship to carry this name is to be homeported at San Diego.

WANTED: From West Germany a cover postmarked 27-29 Sep 1963 reading "Freimaurer Konvent, Bad Godesberg VI, Deutcher VGL." Will repay postal expenses in U.S. mint postage or send naval covers for the kindness to repay the sender's full expenses. Vernon Hudson, 305 Revere Street, Clifton Forge, Virginia

ROBERT EKAS, P.O. BOX 146, CHICORA, PA sends this information and details on the covers he services...For a SSAE #10 he will send you a list of subs and aircraft carriers with the commissioning dates and list of Navy numbers....Services covers for anniversary of ships in commission (1) conventional submarines and auxiliaries (2) nuclear ships and aircraft carriers. Send SSAE 6-3/4 plus 2¢ per covers fee and state services desired...Has Naval Shore Station Cachet and will apply FREE of charge to your covers. Please include SSAE and sufficient postage for their return...Have covers for trading mostly nuclear ships but some conventionals. Send me SSAE #10 for copy of duplicate list with your needs etc.