



Vol. III, No. 2

U.S.NSGA Bremerhaven, Germany

January 1971

Result of 'Z-Gram 24'

Navy Wives Meet With CO

In "Z-Gram 24," Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt Jr., Chief of Naval Operations, inaugurated a Navywide policy change de-

signed to provide Navy wives with a direct line of communication to the commanding officer of the bases where their

husbands are stationed for the purpose of voicing their "complaints, viewpoints, and suggestions."

This change went into effect at NSGA Bremerhaven last month when representatives of the Chief Petty Officers Wives' Club and the Navy Enlisted Wives' Club met with Captain James W. Osmer Jr., commanding officer, to discuss various problems and suggestions of wives in the Port City community.

Admiral Zumwalt stated in "Z-Gram 24" that "The importance of the Navy wife as a member of the Navy team cannot be overemphasized. Although the welfare of wives has always been of great concern to the Navy, it has been noted that these dedicated women have never had an official representative to express their views to commanding officers and base commanders."

"To remedy this situation, all shore based commanders shall establish procedures which give Navy wives an opportunity to present complaints, viewpoints, and suggestions to commanding officers. In particular, such procedures shall include the selection of a wife by each local wives organization who will have direct access to the commanding officer. This Navy wives ombudsman concept shall reflect and build upon related activities in existing wives organizations and Navy services and benefits councils. We have each been getting good advice from our own wives. Let's listen carefully to an official representative."

An ombudsman is essentially an official who investigates organizational problems and makes recommendations for remedial action to improve the quality of administration and redresses individual grievances.

NSGA Bremerhaven has four such representatives, each of whom will be serving as an ombudsman by meeting directly with Captain Osmer to keep him informed of the viewpoints and feelings of the wives of Navymen at this command. They are: Mrs. William D. Garner, Mrs. James L. Herrod, Mrs. William H. Sink and Mrs. Gerald M. Rebeck.

At their first meeting last month with Captain Osmer, Mrs. Sink and Mrs. Rebeck discussed various complaints and suggestions of Navy wives in the community. The two representatives also emphasized that their purpose is to serve all wives of NSGA Bremerhaven Navymen, regardless of whether or not the wives are affiliated with a local wives organization.

The representatives will be meeting with Captain Osmer on a monthly basis.



WIVES SPEAK OUT — "Z-Gram 24" established a direct line of communication between the wives of Navymen and their husbands' commanding officers. The program went into effect here in Bremerhaven last month when Mrs. William H. Sink (left) and Mrs. Gerald M. Rebeck met with Captain James W. Osmer Jr. to discuss various complaints and suggestions of local wives.

Tournament of Plays

The Port City Theater of Bremerhaven will be participating in the 1971 U.S. Army Europe "Tournament of Plays" in March in which major European commands will compete for awards in the categories of Best Production, Best Actor, and Best Actress.

Approximately 30 theater groups will be competing in the March 1-April 3 tournament and will be judged by three members of the American Educational Theater Association.

According to CT1 George J. Hagerty, a member of the Port City group, "Judging will be based on three areas — Interpretation, Staging and Selection of the play, with the greatest emphasis being placed on Interpretation. This category includes such things as the concept of the play, individual portrayals of characters, and ensemble playing. The category of Staging includes such things as lighting, costumes, make-

up, and set design. In the category of Selection, the judges will examine the suitability of the play for the particular performance group and their production facilities. Within this category, they will also judge the entertainment value of the production for an adult military audience."

The Port City Theater's entry in the competition will be decided sometime this month.

The Bremerhaven group's performance will be judged March 19 and all public performances will be free. Those seeking further information, should phone the Radio City Theater at Mil. 3370.

The "Tournament of Plays" is a biennial event and the Port City Theater has won awards in both of the last two tournaments. In 1966 the group presented "The Crucible" which won them the Best Supporting Actor and Actress awards. They won the same awards in 1968 with their production of "The Miracle Worker."



ENLISTMENT — CWO-2 Lyle I. Westrom swears in Wayne F. Hansen during enlistment ceremonies conducted here Dec. 14. Looking on as their son begins his four-year enlistment, are Mr. and Mrs. John H. Hansen, formerly of Plöen, Germany.

Special Services Trips

NSGA Bremerhaven Special Services is now offering ski trips to the Harz Mountains of Germany and to Austria. In addition, a special vacation trip to the Canary Islands is planned for early spring.

According to Storekeeper Second Class John T. Murray of the Special Services Office, "The ski trips to the Harz Mountains will be three-day trips consisting of two nights and three days at a ski lodge in Bad Harzburg. The lodge offers an indoor swimming pool and a sauna bath, as well as a beauty salon and various beautician services for the ladies. The price for each of the four trips, which includes hotel and breakfast, is \$25.00 per person. The dates for these trips are Jan. 29-31, Feb. 12-14 and 26-28, and March 26-28."

"Registration has closed on the first two trips; however, there is still time to sign up for the remaining ones. The down payment deadline dates for the Feb. 26-28 and March 26-28 trips are Feb. 3 and Feb. 16 respectively. The down payment fee for these trips is \$10."

Austria Trip

A ski trip to the village of Ellmau, Austria is planned for March 7-14. Ellmau lies between the Kaiser Mountains and the Kitzbuhel Alps and is surrounded by extensive ski slopes.

"The climate," said SK2 Murray, "is ideal for guests who are looking for sunshine and exceptionally fine skiing. Excellent snow conditions are in effect from December to

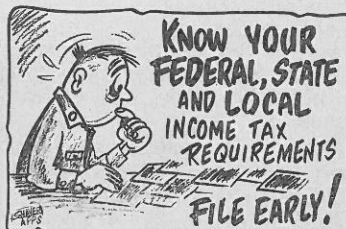
April during which time there are also long periods of sunshine. A ski school is available for beginners and special lessons are offered for the more experienced skiers. Guided ski tours, weekly ski races, and side trips to places of interest are also available.

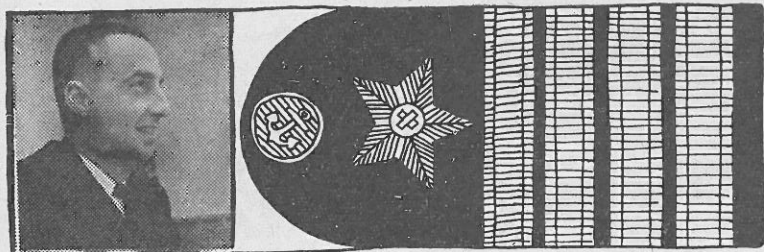
"The price for this tour, including private rooms with bath, three meals per day and transportation, is \$75.00 per person. The down payment required is \$20 and this fee should be paid no later than Feb. 2."

This spring, Special Services is offering a two-week vacation package to the island of Teneriffa in the Canary Islands. Swimming and sight-seeing trips to various parts of the island will be available.

The price of this trip is \$175 per person and includes round trip jet transportation and hotel lodging. Accommodations include room with bath, breakfast and private balcony.

According to SK2 Murray, "The actual departure date has not yet been arranged, but the trip will include the last week in April and the first week in May. The down payment of \$50 is due Feb. 17."





Several comments have been received that the Military-Leadership examinations administered as part of the advancement process are too difficult and not relevant to the duties of petty officers at this activity. This comment is undoubtedly related to the poor showing by some divisions on these examinations, particularly those for PO2.

The Military-Leadership exams are prepared by the Bureau of Naval Personnel, and a series of four is received each year for each pay grade. I have just finished reading those for PO2 and PO3 for 1970. The majority of the questions are on leadership, the Uniform Code of Military Justice, first-aid, and NBC defense — subjects applicable to all Navymen. The remaining few questions are scattered among such subjects as: Methods of instruction, pay, safety precautions, survival, military courtesy, Navy traditions; and the Navy's mission.

There are very few questions that are not relevant to petty officers here. In view of this and also the relatively low score required for passing, the complaints about the examination do not appear to be valid.

The North Sea Amateur Radio Club, along with becoming a Military Amateur Radio System affiliate station, is in the process of moving to new quarters in Building 105. Chief Bachmann is in charge of the move, which should take place about Jan. 20.

The European Exchange System (EES) will provide beer dispensing machines for the barracks and they are expected to be in operation in early February. It has been indicated that four brands of beer will be stocked.

The Facilities Engineer has advised NSGA Public Works that the contract for work on the barracks heating system has been awarded, with work to start in February. Meetings will be held with the successful bidders soon; the schedule for work should be available following these meetings.

As a result of my meeting with two of the Navy Wives' ombudsman representatives, I spoke recently with Mr. Nolte, the EES Department Store Manager. I discussed with him various criticisms of the store, primarily the lack of adequate stock in men's, ladies', and children's wear. I was told that the store is limited in the amount of stock it can carry and, since the limits are by departments, it is not possible to cut back one department's stock in order to increase stock in another.

One aid to the out-of-luck shopper is the "customer convenience request" (which is different from the "special order"). By using the "customer convenience request," the customer is "asking to see" what the EES Northern European Region has to offer in the way of a particular item. The store has such items that are available sent here and the customer buys if he likes what he sees (with the "special order," the customer is **ordering and paying** for a specific item not stocked by the exchange system). The person to see regarding "customer convenience requests" is Mrs. Struckmyer at the EES Department Store.

Among other miscellaneous items of information picked up in my conversation with Mr. Nolte were the following:

—If you have complaints regarding a particular employee, see the store manager, Mr. Korytkowski. Also, see him if you want to commend an employee.

—Bids are out for building the food services facility that will serve the transient billets and be located in the hospital. This will be a combination vending machine and hot food line operation. Current plans call for the hot food line to be open seven days a week for breakfast and either lunch or supper.

—If you submit a suggestion to the EES store, you should get a written reply (please write clearly).

—Some 20 or 25 additional shopping carts are on order.

—A suggestion (submitted by a Navy wife employed by EES) to install a launderette in the housing area is now under consideration at EES European headquarters.

—A coin operated dry-cleaning machine was tried out four years ago — unsuccessfully. However, EES may try again.

—Our representatives on the EES Council are Lieutenant Ceo and Senior Chief Bailes. The council meets quarterly and they are always interested in your criticisms, comments, and recommendations.

Thanks to the Navy Wives' Club members and friends who took the time on Thanksgiving and Christmas to come in and serve dinner to the watchstanders. And thanks, too, for the free gift wrapping service.

The Supply Scope

By SK2 J. R. Howard

More "Gold Flow" — Lt Jerome Ceo, supply and fiscal officer, was recently selected for promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Commander. Hearty congratulations to the boss on his latest acquisition of "gold."

The Robert Jameses are the proud parents of their first child, Allison Lee, who was born Dec. 16 weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces. Their baby daughter turned out to be a very timely Christmas present. Boy, those DKs sure know how to program their income tax bennies!

The Dale Jorgensons had their first son, Robert Dale Helmer, arrive here Oct. 8 weighing 6 pounds, 9 ounces. Robert received a warm wel-

come from his sister, Linda, upon his arrival at home.

A new employee at the Supply Department (DK Section) is the new secretary, Mrs. Margaret Honicke. Deutsche Marks, anyone?

Two Supply men recently departed Bremerhaven for new assignments. SK2 Steve Padgett was transferred to USS Conyngham (DDG-17), homeported in Norfolk, Va. and SK3 Mike Hayes has returned to civilian life for permanent "R and R" in Knoxville, Tenn.

Another arrival at the Supply Department is "yours truly" who recently reported aboard from the U.S. Naval Air Facility, Naha, Okinawa. I am presently serving as Supply's stock control supervisor.

Sailor Of The Month



CT3 Donald F. Baker

CT3 Donald F. Baker of Second Division has been selected as the "Sailor of the Month" for January 1971. In CT3 Baker's letter of selection, Captain James W. Osmer Jr. stated in part:

"You have been selected as the U.S. Naval Security Group Activity, Bremerhaven 'Sailor of the Month' for January 1971.

"Since your arrival at this command in February 1969, you have shown yourself to be an enthusiastic, capable, and persevering petty officer. Your interest in your specialty and the willingness with which you accept additional responsibilities make you a valuable asset to your division. In your current billet you have revised accountability procedures for classified matter, thus improving security.

"Your congenial personality, cheerful manner, and sense of humor are positive factors in the promotion of good morale among your shipmates.

"In addition to your professional accomplishments, you have been an outstanding contributor in the area of community activities. This is evidenced by your active participation in Project Heartline, the Port City Theater, and the Gangway Singers. Also noteworthy is your service as First Vice President of the Protestant Men of the Chapel and your membership in the chapel choir.

"I commend you for your excellent performance. I am pleased to present you with a \$25.00 U.S. Savings Bond and a plaque commemorating your selection as 'Sailor of the Month.' Well done!"

The untaxables.

No state or local income tax



Take stock in America
Buy U.S. Savings Bonds & Freedom Shares

Focus on Faith

By Chaplain Ervin D. Ingebretson

A goal is a mark on which you set your eye. Each sincere, thinking person is seeking some kind of a goal for the new year. The beginning of a year is an appropriate time for each of us to make this assessment. Your goal may be some specific accomplishment.

Although this may not bring with it the excitement of some special event, a goal which seeks for a genuine happiness in life and dispenses this mood to fellow companions is a worthwhile one.

If happiness is to be our goal in this new year, one thing is sure: It will not be done all at once. The year is too large a unit to work with all at once. I advise that you divide it into 12 equal parts. Even a month is too large; divide that month into its respective number of days and live each day at a time.

Into each day put eight parts of good, honest work. Learning to work and do our best, despite the job, will breed temperance and self-control, diligence and strength of character, and cheerfulness and other virtues which the idle never know. It is not the number of hours a man puts in, but it is what a man puts into the hours that really counts.

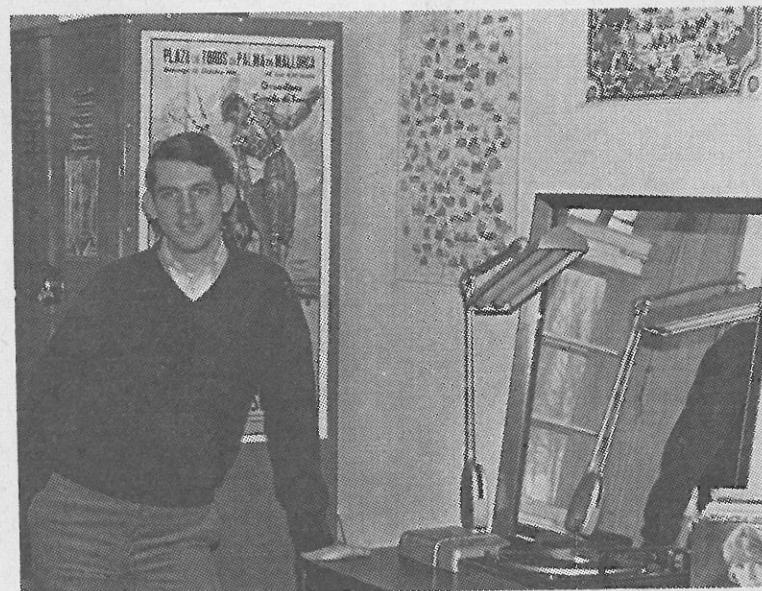
Make it your goal to look for ways of creating happiness. Too many people begrudge their neighbor "the time of day." If our response to our surroundings is downcast and gloomy, here are thoughts worth considering: Talk happiness, for the world is sad enough without our woe; talk faith, for the world is better off without our morbid doubt.

Be sure to add to your goal in life an expectation of something desired — hope. God's promise to the human race is that He will do something for each person far greater than our own ability to accomplish. There is no evidence that God has lost hope in us. Let us keep hope in Him.

As the days come and go, let us reexamine our goal. If a bad taste develops on any one day, let us critically analyze our mistakes and add to or take away until the goal is achieved.

IN MEMORIAM

At a time when life seemed to offer its greater challenge, our shipmate, Builder Third Class Thomas Paul LaBonce, United States Navy, was suddenly and tragically taken from us. He was a young man whose sincerity, enthusiasm, vision, and sacrifice were challenging marks of character and devotion. Who can measure the influence of youth? Petty Officer LaBonce, through his pleasant personality, drew a host of friends about him who admired him and enjoyed his company. In tribute to Petty Officer LaBonce, who served his country honorably and faithfully, may the lasting memory of his comradeship remain with us always.



ROOM OF THE QUARTER — Communications Technician Second Class Thomas L. Niedzinski of the Communications Department had his room selected as the Bachelor Enlisted "Room of the Quarter" for the quarter ending Dec. 31. Communications Technician Third Class Ralph A. Loehr of First Division received "Honorable Mention" for his room.

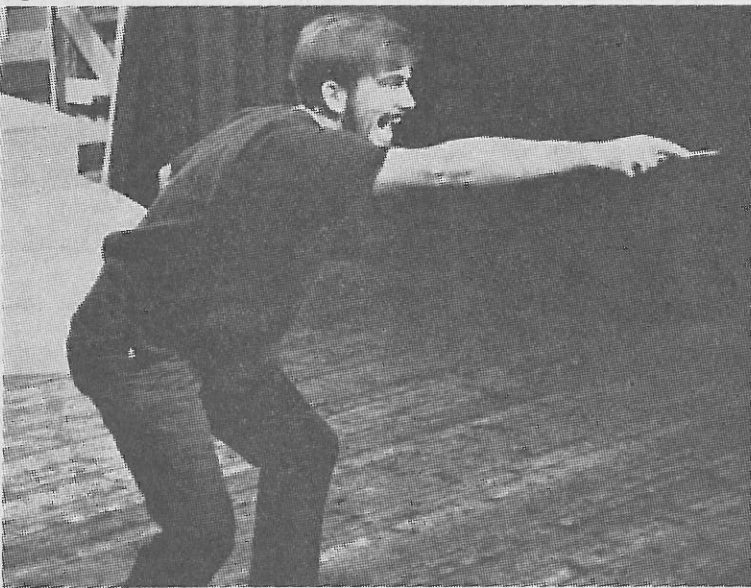


COMMANDING OFFICER CAPT J. W. OSMER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER CDR T. C. BOSWORTH
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER CWO-2 L. I. WESTROM
ASST. PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER CTS S. L. MORRIS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF JO2 J. E. DORMAN
PHOTOGRAPHER CT1 R. F. FRITSCH

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Port City Theater Presents:

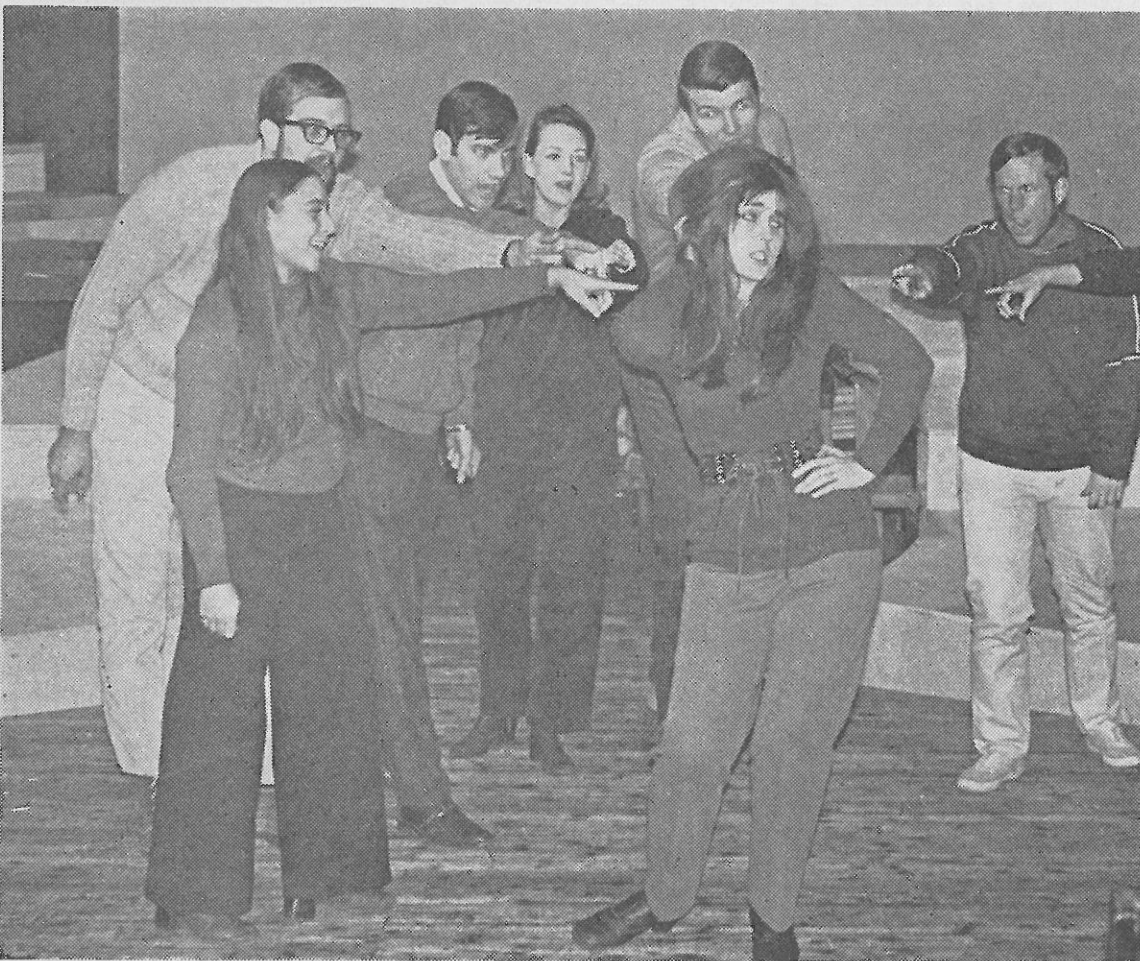
'The Apple Tree'



Jim Clark makes his "point" during rehearsal.



Russ Robbins directs Mrs. John Turner in a scene.



The chorus accuses Passionella (Mrs. John Turner) of being unreal.

By CT2 Don Draughton

The Port City Theater is proud to present the three-act musical comedy, "The Apple Tree." The production will run Jan. 28-30 and Feb. 4-6, with all performances beginning at 8:00 p.m.

Being a musical, "The Apple Tree" involves much more than a straight play; players must work together on harmonies as well as on lines and choreography is involved instead of just walking up or down stage. In addition, the musical score, though simple to the listener, is actually quite complex. It is beautiful and follows the play so perfectly that the whole production fits smoothly together.

Another reason for the play being so demanding is the fact that it is actually three one-act musicals in one, requiring three sets, four changes of costumes, and, in addition numerous swift costume changes.

Jim Clark and Martin Busert of NSGA Bremerhaven and Mrs. John Turner each play a lead part in the production.

The script's humor ranges from pure sight gags to subtle one-liners and the cast is having a great time working with it.

"The Apple Tree" could easily prove to be the Port City Theater's most pleasant production, if not its finest. Thousands of hours of work will have gone into this production by curtain call. It is the most difficult play attempted here since "My Fair Lady" three years ago.

The production is directed by Russ Robbins and produced by Tom Elliot. Reservations can be made by phoning the theatre at Mil. 3370 or by stopping by in person. The theatre is located above the bowling alley in the Service Club at Radio City.

Why not treat yourself to a free night on entertainment? Come see "The Apple Tree," possibly the Port City Theater's finest production.

Promenade!

By Barney Dunce

Howdy pardners! Just got back from "West" Berlin; came back on the duty coach, of course, right through maverick territory and all. Eighteen of us Promenaders safe and sound without a scratch. H-e-e haw! Course we warn't about to rile them thar easterners; no tellin' what them hostie folks mighta done to us peaceable square dancin' folk.

Anyways, seein' as how some o' you fellas been havin' a bit o' difficulty gittin' to the western territory of Berlin fer a visit, I ain't gonna git yore dander up with no deescripshuns o' the place. It's jest how you probly fancy it anyhow.

Did think I'd tell y'all bout the sho nuff, right neighborly hospitality us Promenaders got from them thar "Dancing Bears," the square dancin' club in West Berlin. Why we no sooner arrived than this fella Dave Bournem of the Bears was a waitin' on us—at 5:30 in the mornin'! Dave's little woman, Jan, had coffe n' grub a waitin' on us at the house so he took us there in a big motor wagon he'd borreed from the U.S. Army!

'Bout that time we met a fella named Mike Bently, the coach driver, and his side-kick, Dale Crist. Well, h-e-e haw! Mike drove that thar coach like all thunder an spite what some people might say, Mike's a right fine wagon master! Why I'd be willin' to bet odds that if there was one o' them new fangled heaters in that coach, Mike woulda found it! 'Sides, some ingrate's always a lookin' a gift horse in the mouth.

Anyway, them "Dancing Bears" not only gave us a tour o' the "West," but that Saturday night they tied the feed bag on us at their dancin' hall! Eat? Why I thought I'd bust mah belt! There was d-e-e-lisshus ham, biscuits n' beans, taters, all sorts o' greens an' assorted pastry.

Then, grashus me, three fellas—Paul Greer, "Woody" Woods n' that thar West Berliner, Dietmar Weigel—all got up n' started some o' the finest foot stompin' square dance callin' this side o' the Rio Grande. Why, we jest had tuh git up n' hoop n' holler—spite o' how full our bellies was!

Got a lil worried there fer awhile, though, when ol' Paul really got wrapped up in his callin'! I'm mighty thankful he didn't git all "fired up" with that cegaret he was a tryin' to light whilst promenadin' us around. H-e-e haw!

Well, the festivities got topped off that night with some dancin' to the callin' o' the Port Promenaders' own Bob Rollins up on West Berlin's "Funkturn." (That, pardners, is a radio tower, an' it's five hunnert feet high!) Poor ol' Hank Andersen o' the Promenaders looked kinda sickly when we came back tuh earth, but it didn't hurt this ol' mountain climber none. I kinda thought all that light down below was real purty; sorta like one big sparklin' Christmas dekeerashun.

Now I ain't got writin' room enough tuh 'spress the Port Promenaders' 'preesheashun for all the dadburned friendly hospitality we got from the "Dancing Bears" o' Berlin, but we shor do hope they can mosey on down to Bremerhaven an' pay us a visit. 'Specially afore we gits knee deep in snow! H-e-e haw!

By the way, pards, if'n any y'all would like tuh try yer hand at square dancin', come on an' look us up. We had another brand spankin' new class git started Jan. 12 and we'd like tuh see y'all enrolled in the next one. Square dancin' tain't hard tuh do at all an' if'n y'all don't come on over an' pay us a visit, ya jest won't know the fun yer missin'. Hee, hee, hee!

'Ivory Town'

A German town called Erbach has a unique claim to fame — it is the European capital of the ivory cutting art. Some thirty workshops are engaged in creating precious sculptures, unusual jewelry, decorative but practical household articles. A school there trains young artisans.

Erbach is in the Odenwald, east of the Darmstadt-Mannheim Autobahn. Ivory cutting came to its district almost two hundred years ago, through the agencies of its reigning count, Franz I. He loved the art of classical antiquity, above all ivory carving, and himself became a master carver. Local craftsmen at that time carved in wood and deer horn, but Count Franz encouraged them to use Ivory, and established a special guild for ivory carvers. The art flourished.

Erbach boasts an Ivory Museum, housed in the beautiful, new Festival Hall on the outskirts of town.

In the town, gift and jewelry shops abound where you can purchase ivory carving — delicate bracelets, necklaces, earrings, brooches or massive medallions hung from leather thongs; spectacular chess sets and religious statuettes; severely modern salt and pepper shakers and condiment dishes; jars and boxes for cosmetics or trinkets. The variety of articles is as large as the range of prices. (Reprinted in part from "Focus on Germany.")

Supporting Statements

By Al Jeers

I couldn't think of a lot to rap about this month and I was getting a little worried. I couldn't let down my thousands of faithful fans, and yet, I couldn't get motivated to create my usual monthly masterpiece.

Then it hit me! I needed atmosphere — local color. What better place to find this atmosphere than the Coin-Op Washerette? I hurriedly scraped a mountain of dirty clothes together and packed them and the wife into my spacious "bug." We were off for a fun afternoon.

We parked right away (one of the cars occupying the other three places was leaving). Getting out of the car, we marveled at the stimulating panorama before our eyes: A stately doggie graveyard framed by evenly spaced railroad tracks, complete with the perpetually gray sky. Beautiful!

Squeezing through the door with our clothes, we noticed there were only eight people ahead of us waiting for a washer. At least two of the seven washers (one more than usual) were operating. Not only that, two of the four dryers were spinning (two more than usual). What luck!

Settling down for the wait, I decided to get in some serious writing. Just then, my thoughts were interrupted by a kind of "squishing" sound. I looked up and saw some five-year-old trying to jam an ice cream bar into the coin return slot of the pop machine. "Hey, kid, that's not nice," I admonished. He took off yelling into another room and came back with his father, whom I judged to be an E-8 type.

"Duh, whatya been doin' tuh my kid?" he demanded. I merely pointed to the now melted ice cream bar sticking out of the pop machine.

"So you'd do that to a defenseless child, huh, tough guy?" and with that he took a swing at my head. I ducked and he nailed that pop machine with a solid right.

Shades of Las Vegas! That machine started spitting out change like there was no tomorrow! The guy forgot about me and joined the scramble for the coins, clawing at them with his one good hand. His son did better, however, and when they left, pop was patting his kid on the shoulder, muttering, "Atta boy, Lyndon, atta boy."

Resuming my writing, I soon felt a tug at my sleeve. It was my wife complaining about the line not moving fast enough.

"No problem," I assured here, "Wait here."

Two minutes later, after the screaming subsided, the place was empty. "Where'd they all go?" asked the wife.

"Beats me," I replied, "I just told them that the family of mice living under the building were really three-foot Norwegian wharf rats, suspected of carrying the bubonic plague."

"E-E-E-EEEEEEEEEEK!" she screamed, as she dashed out the door. Some people have no sense of humor.

So, as it turned out, I had to finish the wash myself. I wasn't alone though; Don "Bumbles" Baker came in to wash the four guys' white hats that he'd spilled coffee on the week before. But then, that's another story.

The 'True Squid'

By CTC S. L. Morris

In order to properly define the term "true squid," it is first necessary to ponder the ordinary definition of the term "squid." Unlike a "squid," which is a 10-armed sea mollusk not having a shell, a "true squid" has two arms, two legs, and possesses a highly developed brain which it uses when its mood strikes it to do so.

The "true squid" speaks a language all its own and is cared for by its parents until it is approximately 18 years old. At this time, the "true squid" leaves home in search of its fortune, despite the fact that its mother wishes she could keep it under her protective wing forever. Its father wants it to be "just like dad," and its brothers and sisters wish only that it had left sooner.

Soon after acquiring its independence, the "true squid" finds life quite difficult. The older and wiser "true squids" soon discover this confused, hard-headed and somewhat drifts novice and make him work unmercifully hard to survive.

After two months of this terrible treatment, the "true squid" goes into training to become wise like its teachers. The first several years away from home pass quickly and the "true squid" is suddenly forced to choose whether to remain in training to become an old and wise "true squid." The pull toward home is strong, but the call of his natural habitat, the sea, is much stronger. The "true squid" answers this call of nature and proceeds to reenlist in the Navy.



CHRISTMAS DINNER — Communications Technicians Second Class William M. Gleason (left) and Richard C. Leach, both of the Electronics Department, had the watch Christmas Day, but that did not interfere with them enjoying a Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings, courtesy of the Navy Wives' Club.

Company 'F' Round-Up

By LCpl Trunick

Two Company "F" Marines were honored last month during an awards ceremony here for their "meritorious service" in the Republic of Vietnam.

SSgt Richard W. Shelley was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal with Combat "V" for "meritorious service from September 1969 to August 1970 while engaged in armed conflict against North Vietnamese and Viet Cong communist aggressors" thereby showing a tremendous degree of professional proficiency and dedication to duty.

Sgt Robert A. Rugg was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon for "exceptionally meritorious service" from Oct. 3, 1968 to July 31, 1969 during operations against enemy forces in the Republic of Vietnam. Sgt Rugg helped provide technical support to the 1st Radio Battalion, Third Marine Amphibious Force. He "displayed a high degree of professionalism" while supporting tactical field commanders in 25 major combat operations.

The annual Christmas party was held Dec. 20 at the Officers' Club. By the time you put away the steak dinner with all the trimmings, you couldn't help feeling a bit stuffed. Following dinner, there was dancing while the well-decorated Christmas tree provided the seasonal atmosphere. Major Finlon and Captain Nason circulated throughout the evening and found time to talk with the company's newest members, thus helping to welcome them to Bremerhaven. The overall atmosphere was one of comradeship that could be summed up by the expression "We, The Marines!"

New arrivals to Company "F" include LCpl Enzell, PFC Labonte and myself who arrived in November and LCpl Welsh and PFCs Melody and Prince who arrived last month. MSgt Surles also arrived recently "mit Frau and Kinder." There were some other recent arrivals to the Company in the form of three new baby boys. The proud fathers are Sgts White and Aldrich and LCpl Klimp.

Departures from the Company included SSgt Rodgers and Sgt Cain who transferred to civilian life. SSgt Rodgers is headed (flak jacket, helmet and all) for a position on the New York Police Department.

Other items of interest included Marine Corps Institute course completions and a reenlistment. The following personnel have completed courses from MCI: GySgt Brown (Basic Extension Course); Sgt Demuth (Military Functions in Civil Disturbances and Disasters); GySgt Frank (Basic Extension Course); and Cpl Fitzl and Sgt Mitchell (M-60 Machine Gun). SSgt Shelley was the company's latest reenlistee at this writing. He reenlisted for four years.

Our basketball and bowling teams are doing as well as they can and the Captain's Cup should be something to look forward to in the future. One game that will be remembered for awhile was played last month in which Sgt Donley scored 30 points all by his lonesome! One can always look forward to an interesting basketball game or bowling match when Company "F" is playing so come on out and cheer for them and show your pride in the Marine Corps.

COMM-ents By Fisher

To start out the new year right, I'm passing on some New Year's resolutions found drifting around the Communications Department:

Mr. Haizlip will only drink one martini at a time while attending a social gathering... Mr. Nelson will reenlist in the Navy for another 30 years (this time without pay)... Chief Tebo will trade in his expensive new car for one with a scratch-proof body... Chief Norris will be sure not to slide his car's rear window down in cold weather... Chief Johnson will nail all his office equipment to his desk so he will be sure to have everything on Monday mornings... Chief Screws will start a scrapbook in which he will put all the mementos he receives from the troops... Chief Reeves will retire his hair waving machine... CTI Meders will reenlist for TA D orders... CTI Smith will buy a parakeet to bring to work and converse with during his labors... CTI St. Germaine will serve in Bremerhaven long enough to earn another medal for his uneven bar, four rows up over his pocket... SSgt Duran will do his best to convert every sailor in his section into a Marine... And myself, I resolve to check all pop cans before I can proceed to drink from same.

Since my last article in November (I donated my space in the December issue to a Christmas poem), the Communications Department has gained two new men and lost eight. We in COMM welcome CT2 David Wurst (already nicknamed "Bratwurst") who hails from Milwaukee and Sgt Richard Brewer from Phoenix, Ariz. By the way, Sgt Brewer is not new to Bremerhaven; he

is our gain and First Division's loss.

The following personnel are our losses and someone else's gains: CT1 Dunlap to California; CT2s Hancock and Johnson to Adak, Alaska; CT2 Moss to Guam; Sgt Diamond to the United States; Sgt Aldrich and CT2 McDonald to "the land of round doorknobs" and back to civilian life; CT3 Heller to the Republic of the Philippines; and CT3 Martin to somewhere in the middle of the ocean. Good luck, guys, and don't forget good ol' Bremerhaven!

Before CT3 Toft's great feat is just so much sporting history, I want to make sure his name lives in the minds of flag football fans in Bremerhaven. Yes, our man scored a smashing touchdown during the November Army-Navy game here. When the special offense was called in, the crowd knew something big was coming. In the next few seconds — that's how fast he is — CT3 Toft was running around the goal posts with success in his hands. As a result, CT3 Toft lives in the hearts and minds of the men of NSGA Bremerhaven... our idol!

Now that the snow is finally here, CT1 Meders is full of anxiety. He just cannot wait to get out in the snow and play with his new land rover with its four-wheel drive. No one in Bremerhaven wants snow more than he. Right, "Big Ed"?

And finally, our "Smiler of the Month" awardee for January is CT3 Larry Thomas. I'm sure that he is so happy being able to play first string on the Bravo Section basketball team that he spreads this same happiness at work. Congratulations, Larry, and keep smiling!

'T-Bones'

By Phil Albohn

It was a slow mid watch for Charlie Section on New Year's Eve, but the CS boys met the challenge. Between quoting the hour that people were beginning to "get plastered" in various parts of the world, the men composed several pieces of memorable verse that might not phase Longfellow, but would certainly make Frost very uncomfortable:

Tis the New Year's time of cheer
and Charlie Section still is here.
And though it's true that you may doubt,
Charlie Section's not "blown out."
When the New Year rolled around,
Charlie Section was still around.
Twas not our choice, now, that is clear,
But faithful Charlie still was here.
Though mistakes may still abound
(If the "Day Ladies" come around),
through all this sweat and all this heat,
Third Division is still unbeat.
So give a cheer and tell the tale
of Charlie Section that does not fail.
Though endless duty we might stand,
We'll always be a tight-knit band.

From the "Doggie Bag," we have this little piece of New Year's cheer:

In a small Iroquois village in the Old West, there were three women who happened to be expecting additions to their families. Two of them were wives of braves and the third was the chief's squaw. The brave's wives asked their husbands to provide them with ceremonial hides on which to have their children. The braves obliged with two very large bear pelts. Now the chief's wife, not to be outdone, asked her husband to give her an African hippopotamus hide for her child's birth. On the blessed day, each of the ordinary squaws bore a son, while the chief's wife bore two sons. This only proves that "the squaw of the hippopotamus is equal to the squaws of the other two hides." And the crowd boos...

