

Naval Aviators To be Promoted At Faster Rate

More rapid promotions in the expanding aeronautical organization of the Navy has been promised by Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, who announced recently that steps have been taken to insure that sufficient officers will be available in the various grades for the growing program.

Lists of officers for temporary promotion to higher grades have been prepared using the selective system, and have been approved by the President. The lists will not be made public, but promotions will be made from these lists as the needs of the service require.

In view of the rapidly expanding aeronautical organization, it may be expected that temporary promotions of naval aviators will occur at earlier dates than regular line officers, the Secretary said.

3,300 Students Expected at UNC

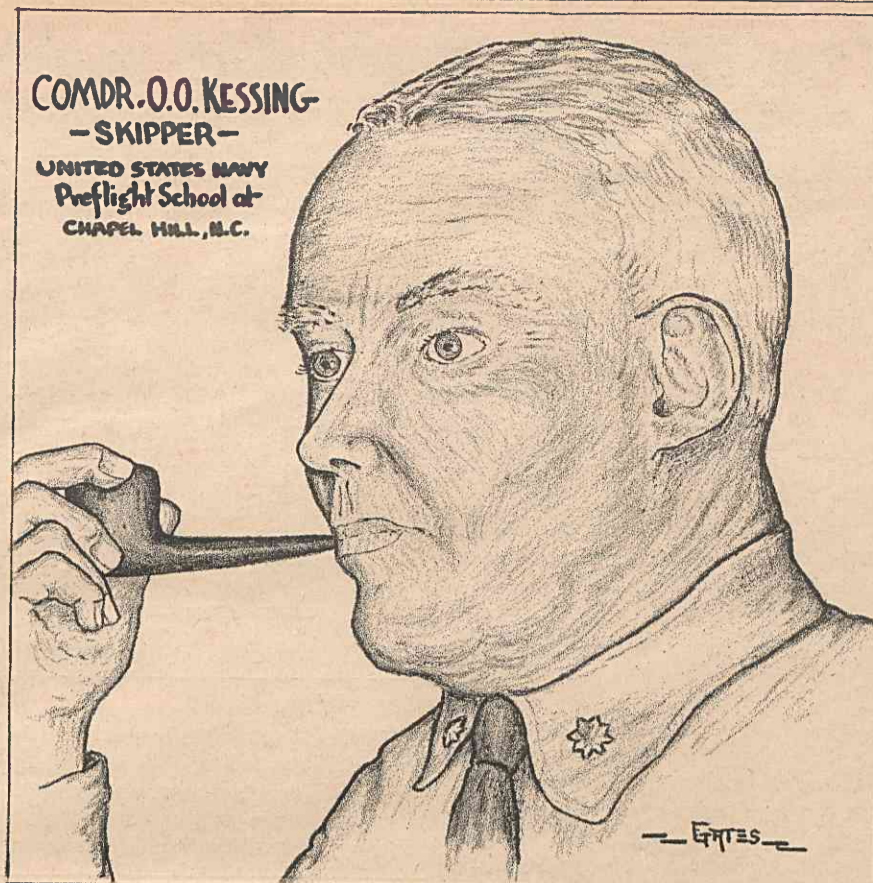
Some 800 coeds and approximately 2,500 boys are expected to be on hand as the University of North Carolina, America's oldest state university, begins its 149th year next Thursday.

Many of the students have already arrived, and they will continue to come over the weekend in preparation for the school opening. According to university administrators, total student enrollment will approach the 3,300 mark, about 700 less than last year.

Approximately 30% of the students come from out-of-state. New York state leads the Yankee invasion with about 150 students, with New Jersey contributing around 90.

Ex-Coast Guarders

No strangers to the sea are Cadets Joseph P. Van Vooren, and Robert Paul Weber, both of whom were in the Coast Guard before coming here. Van Voorens is from Patterson, N. J., and Weber is from Chester, Pa.



A Cadet Goes Backstage With 'Scrappy'

By CADET JAMES G. BUTLER

Armed with the doggerel advice of that infernal nonsense Pinafore, "Stick close to your desk, and never go to sea,

Someday you may be ruler of the Queen's Navy,"

I prepared to meet the Captain. After the encounter I definitely decided that Gilbert had not met many men like the Captain. For his desk is still as new as his job, with scarcely a foot mark on it. Not only showing his intense activity, but his unfamiliarity with the ways of the landlubber.

The Skipper hails from Greensburg, Indiana (no, I never heard of it before either). His family were not traditional Navy men and as far as he knows, he is the first sailor in the Kessing clan.

He still remembers the day he approached his father with the proposal that he would like to enter West Point. His dad referred him to a Congressman that lived across the street, (that was when they got home once in a while). He received the august assurance of this Hoosier Representative, and after a period of time he received an official envelope containing his appointment—but not to the Point. Rather to some unheard of place called Annapolis. When he again confronted the Congressman with the query "Why not the Point?", he received the assurance that "Son, that's perfectly all right, it's merely the Southern Branch."

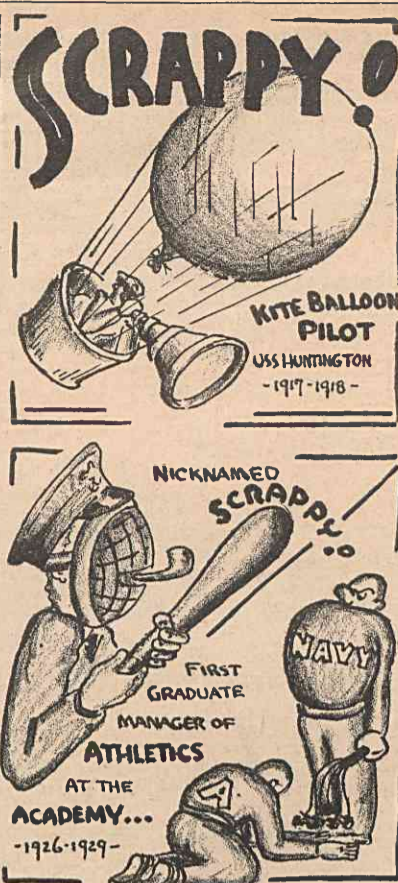
Thus it was that O. O. Kessing, (the double O is classified as restricted material, Oliver Owen) entered the Academy, in 1910. While there he participated, he will have you understand, not starred, in boxing, wrestling, football and lacrosse. His career there might

be best described as that of a very energetic midshipman. Besides picking up more than his share of bruises on the athletic fields, he also picked up the cognomen "Scrappy" which has stuck as close to him through his life as a wet pair of pants. O. O. always possessed a mind of his own, and was never averse to airing his opinions. So adding up his strong will, a better than average boxing ability, subtracting his five, eight stature, one need not be a 4.0 math genius to see the result in "Scrappy."

He was graduated from the Academy, right into the Mexican war and the armored cruiser, Maryland. During this campaign he was on the little known West Coast of Mexico and served with distinction.

With the outbreak of the World War he was assigned to the USS Huntington on convoy duty, and volunteered as a Kite Balloon Pilot. The K. B. was a forerunner of the barrage balloon, but with a basket. It was attached to the ship by cable and flown some eight hundred to a thousand feet in the air. K. B.'s were supposedly super-lookout for submarines but it was soon discovered that the U boats could spot the kite balloons long before the K. B. P. even suspected that underwater craft were around. When the Huntington finally lost the balloon, and couldn't replace it, "Scrappy" came down to earth.

His Naval career continued with heavier-than-air training at Pensacola following the war. Abruptly interrupted, it was succeeded by destroyer duty for several years in the Mediterranean and Adriatic. Shipmate and boon companion with him on this trip was Lieutenant Commander John P. Graff; the ship was the Reuben James,



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signment before coming to Chapel Hill was as C. O. of the USS Chaumont, a naval transport on the Asiatic Station, until December 1941.

In all he has 22 years of sea duty, and holds medals for the Mexican campaign in 1914, the World War, the Haitian campaign, and for China Service. Shrouded behind the naval records hang two tales of being reportedly killed twice. On one of these occasions he had the "rare privilege" of reading his own obituary in the United States newspapers.

Looking at the record, it is not hard to see why Captain Kessing was picked to be the prime mover in the setting up of the four Naval Pre-Flight Schools. In this job he inspected over sixty universities before the final selections were made. And now still acting in an advisory capacity, he keeps the airlines busy with his hops to the capital, and the West Coast and to other points North and South.

In charting the Skipper's career, his course seems to be laid out in straight lines, with successive jobs well done. It is a story of perspicacity and energy leading to success. But his has been a tale without one of the usual accoutrements of success. It is best described in the words of Lt. Comdr. Graff, executive officer of this station: "It is the good fortune of very few naval officers to have as many friends both senior and junior contemporary, as O. O. Kessing."

From the Argentine Army

That "Latin-American Way" was acquired by Cadet Roland B. Smith in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He served 13 months in the Argentine Army as a private. He attended Cornell and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, graduating this year. His brother is in the 26th Glider Pilot Training Detachment.

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