

Cruising With Covey

By DAVID Y. COVERSTON, Y2c

Women! A sweet word to the ears of a lonely sailor, and a headache to the man who owns one! A tempest in a calm or a ray of sunshine in a storm, these lovely and deadlier members of the species have long ago proven their worth in almost every field known. Beating a typewriter, welding a ship, or being a housekeeper, they do all equally well.

Today Pre-Flight incubators of aviators find their staffs liberally sprinkled with fair femmes.

Miss Blanche Lalle led the vanguard of ladies into action, holding the honor of being the first woman connected with Pre-Flight when she accepted a position in Washington as the program started rolling. Recently transferred from Washington, this lady is now in our midst, as a valued member of the academic staff.

Miss Virginia Harrison, Pre-Flight pioneer at this station, arrived on the scene when this school was a fledgling, and has been affiliated with the disbursing office ever since.

Mrs. Miriam Fink, the Skipper's secretary, was next in line of arrival at Chapel Hill and spent many hours in the early days answering a flood of questions arising with the establishment of a new organization.

Miss Jo McCauley, a local girl, became the next lovely to enter the scene, going to war for the supply office, then transferring to the military department.

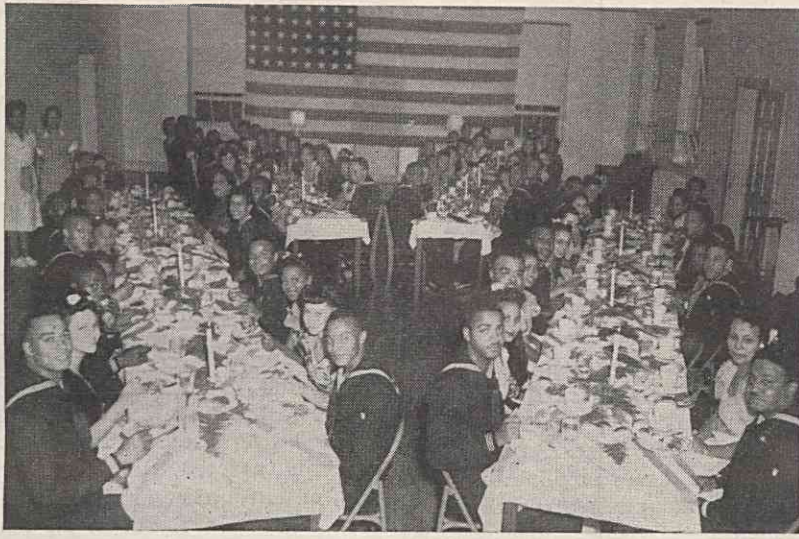
Mrs. Myrtle Etheridge and Mrs. Cecile Holshouser moved in to take over the switchboard, and as the school really hit the groove, more and more of the not-so-weaker sex arrived to help ease the load which burdened the struggling officers and men.

At the present time, 35 women are employed in different sections of this school. Besides those already mentioned, we have, in their respective departments, the following:

Miss Virginia Heyward, secretary to the Executive Officer, and a promising yeomanette who is kept constantly busy learning the why's and wherefore's of running a Yeoman's office; Miss Kay Bowden, latest addition to the Cadet Record office; Miss Mary Armbruster and Miss Jane Leonard trying to get from under all the invoices continually pouring into the Supply office; Miss Kay Armstrong in the First Lieutenant's office; Mrs. Mary Speck plugging away continually in the CLOUDBUSTER office in an effort to keep this paper running off the press; Miss Faith Brewer and Miss Virginia Sloan beating out propaganda from the Public Relations stronghold, and Miss Mabel Stone, giving her all for the Military.

We'd venture to say that 100% of the people in the world appreciate payday better than any other day of the year. This takes us down into the "bilge" to that mecca of money, the Disbursing office. Paymaster Mack started his setup with a CSK and four

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CHICKEN DINNERS served on candle-lit tables featured the party given for the station's all-Negro band last week. The tables were arranged in a double V, and a large Ensign all but covered one wall.

Pre-Flight Colored Band Has Made-to-Order Party

It is now three months since the first all-Negro Navy band of this war was welcomed aboard the Navy Pre-Flight School at Chapel Hill. It was a college group, a third of its 44 members being college graduates and almost all of the remainder having at least two years of college work behind them. The colorful group was strictly North Carolinian, too, its members having been recruited from the several Negro colleges of the state.

From the beginning there was a feeling of local pride in the group which was to be housed in a new building started as a community center for the Negroes of Chapel Hill. An attractively planned structure of natural-color rock with walls two-feet thick and a lobby-parlor 80 feet long, it was taken over and completed for the headquarters of the Pre-Flight School's popular all colored band.

Last week, on Thursday, Oct. 15, a party was given in appreciation for the first weeks of necessarily relentless work to which the band was assigned. Under the Captain's orders, the party was to be exactly what the men wanted, with nothing spared in meeting their requests and wishes.

The bandmen wanted it to be formal. They wanted their guests to be the girl friends they had left behind in college. Accordingly buses were sent to Negro colleges in Durham and Greensboro to pick up the ladies and bring them to the party, and additional buses were provided for the return trip so that their hosts could escort them back to the doors of their dormitories.

The men wanted the party to be a banquet followed by dancing, games, and entertainment. They wanted chicken dinners served on candle-lit tables, and lime-ice punch (unspiked) later in the evening.

All they asked was granted. Lieut.

Frank L. Gillespie, assistant welfare and recreation officer, to whom the Chaplain, Lieut. Eric H. Arendt, had assigned the carrying out of the requests of the band, saw to that. A double coat of wax was rubbed down on the already shining hardwood floor of the lobby, extra tables, chairs, silver, linen were supplied, and the service help was doubled for the evening. The welcoming committee was made up of E. Willie Currie, Thomas A. Keller, "Lanky" Cole, Lawyard L. Wilson, James D. Morgan, and Simeon O. Holway, all Mus.2c.

At exactly 2000, the guests arrived and were announced. In a few minutes bandsman and guest, both excited, sat down about tables that were arranged to form a large double V. The colors of the gigantic Ensign, which all but covered one wall of the lobby, reflected in streamers of red and blue down the long white tables. Courtesies and manners went unbroken.

Early in the evening, the Captain of the station, Comdr. O. O. Kessing, and Mrs. Kessing arrived, were acknowledged in correct military manner, and accepted seats at the tables with the bandmen and their guests. From the moment the Captain entered the room a broad smile of appreciation and respect played on the face of every sailor in the room.

When Chief Bandmaster Dudrow arrived, a cheer of welcome rushed to meet him. He is the band's instructor who recruited the group and guided it through its nine weeks of training and its first weeks of station experience.

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Pre-Flight Women's Club Elects Officers, Forms Committees

Organization of the Pre-Flight Women's Club took a big step forward at the last meeting of Navy wives Oct. 14, when officers were selected and chairmen appointed to direct the activities of 10 working committees.

Mrs. O. O. Kessing and Mrs. John P. Graff were named honorary chairman and honorary vice-chairman, respectively, of the woman's organization.

Mrs. Howard Hamilton was selected as chairman, while Mrs. Harvey Harman will serve as vice-chairman, Mrs. Jesse G. Wright as executive chairman, and Mrs. Harry Harrison as recording secretary.

On the executive committee are: Mrs. O. O. Kessing, Mrs. John P. Graff, Mrs. Benjamin Micou, Mrs. Harvey Harman, Mrs. Howard Hamilton, Mrs. James Crowley, Mrs. James P. Raugh, Mrs. Eric H. Arendt, Mrs. Thomas Carruthers, and Mrs. Jesse G. Wright.

Committees of the Pre-Flight Women's Club are headed as follows:

Navy Relief, Mrs. Kessing and Mrs. Graff; *Children's Kindergarten*, Mrs. C. W. Hartsough, Jr.; *Children's Afternoon Supervised Play*, Mrs. Crowley and Mrs. Micou; *Gray Ladies*, Mrs. Hartsough; *Home Nursing*, Mrs. Thornton Scott and Mrs. William Patterson; *Blood Bank*, Mrs. George Allen; *Recreation*, Mrs. George E. Shepard; *Social Committee*, Mrs. George E. Brown; *Emergency Committee*, Mrs. Carruthers; and *Hospitality Committee*, Mrs. Robert Howe.

The newly elected officers—Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Harman, and Mrs. Wright—have issued the following statement to the CLOUDBUSTER for the attention of all wives of Navy officers:

"We feel that the meeting last week was very successful. The only disappointment was that we didn't have 100% attendance, due to illness in some cases, but mostly perhaps because the notices of the meeting did not reach you as intended. We would like to repeat that the Pi Beta Phi sorority, 109 Hillsboro St., is having

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supervised play for the children every Wednesday afternoon from 2:00 until 5:00, and that transportation will be provided to our meetings.

"We also feel that each Navy wife is interested in serving in the war effort at the Pre-Flight School in some capacity, and coming to the meetings is one way that you can help. While there is much work to be done, we do expect to have some fun every now and then. So please circle the second Wednesday of every month on your calendar for the meeting of the Pre-Flight Women's Club in Lenoir Hall, starting at 2:30 p.m."

Fighting French Aviators Arrive for Training in U. S.

A detachment of officers and men of the Fighting French Naval Aviation has arrived at an East Coast port and will soon be undergoing flight training at a U. S. Naval Air Station in accordance with an agreement between the Navy Department and the Fighting French Naval authorities. Several members of this first group have already been decorated for their gallantry in action against the enemy.

The aviators will form a French unit to operate in cooperation with United Nations Naval Air Forces with warplanes furnished by the United States.

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