

# Navy Announces ROTC Exams

The ninth annual competitive examination for high school seniors who desire to attend college and train for careers as Naval Officers will be held throughout the nation on December 11, the Navy announced today. Applications for the NROTC are now available, but must be received by November 20, the announcement added.

Successful candidates will start their Naval Careers in colleges and universities across the country in 1955, with substantial financial assistance from the government. After a normal college education, graduates will be commissioned in the Regular Navy or Marine Corps, for active duty with the Fleet throughout the world.

Male citizens of the United States, between the ages of 17 and 21 are eligible to apply for the NROTC aptitude test. Persons who attain a qualifying score will be given the Navy's rigid midshipman physical examination next February. From the pool of qualified candidates remaining in competition, approximately 1800 young men will be selected for appointment to the NROTC, and the college of their choice.

Students enrolled in the Regular NROTC program will spend their summers on training cruises with the Fleet, and will receive \$600 annual retainer pay until commissioned. In addition to the normal college curriculum, the midshipmen will study a planned course in Naval science. All tuition, fees, and books will be furnished by the Navy.

This college training program is also open to enlisted men on active duty in the Navy and Marine Corps. Such candidates will be selected under a separate quota established for the services.

Applications are now available at all high schools, colleges, and U. S. Navy Recruiting Stations, or direct from the Chief of Naval Personnel, Washington 25, D. C.

# Optimists Outnumber Pessimists By 59-37

By Kenneth Fink, Director Princeton Research Service

PRINCETON, N. J. — Confidence in the nation's business and job prospects is greater today than it has been at any time during the past twelve months.

A United States Poll survey just completed shows that a majority — 57 per cent — expect more or the same amount of business and jobs for the nation during the next few years than it had during the past year or two. At the same time, nearly two out of every five — 39 per cent — in the nation see less business and fewer jobs ahead.

Four months ago, 54 per cent expected more or the same amount of business and jobs; 41 per cent expected less business and fewer jobs, and five per cent expressed no opinion.

Today's findings thus represent three per cent more optimism, and two per cent less pessimism in the nation as a whole since the beginning of June.

The significance of today's optimistic upswing — small though it is — can be fully appreciated when it is realized that during the period between March, 1953, and March, 1954, there was a slow but steady decline in optimism regarding business and job prospects on the part of the nation's adult population.

The April 8 United States Poll — six months ago — marked a halt in this decline by registering a five per cent gain in optimism.

The June 3 United States Poll report continued this optimistic upswing, albeit by a margin of only two per cent.

And today's survey findings register a three per cent gain in optimism since June.

This optimistic feeling, should it continue through the next few weeks, could very well have an important bearing on the nation's Congressional Elections, since

any great upsurge in pessimism will almost certainly hurt the party in power, and any great upsurge in optimism should help the party in power.

When United States Poll staff reporters asked a representative cross-section of the nation's adult residents: "How do you feel about business conditions in this state for the next few years? Do you think there'll be more business and more jobs than during the past year or two or less business and fewer jobs?"

Here is the trend since December, 1952:

	More or same	No. Less opinion
December, 1952	70%	15
March, 1953	71%	17
July, 1953	65%	32
October, 1953	60%	34
December, 1953	53%	42
March, 1954	47%	49
April, 1954	52%	43
June, 1954	54%	41
TODAY	57%	39

Today's U. S. Poll results in the light of the experience of the past years would indicate that the nation can look forward to business and job prospects slightly better than they were in 1950 (prior to the Korean outbreak) and better than they were in the period between December, 1947, and December, 1949, but not so good as they were in the period between the outbreak of the Korean War and October, 1953.

Princeton Research Service has been making periodic measurements on people's outlook or future business and job conditions in various parts of the nation and in the United States as a whole. During that time, there has been a close correlation between the answers people have given and the actual business and job conditions in the areas measured.

The Herald presents the reports of the United States Poll exclusively in this area. (Copyright, 1954, by Princeton Research Service.)

## DO IT NOW

A Feature on Gardening by the Kings Mountain Garden Club Council.

This is the ideal time to start a compost pit. The bad habit many people have of burning leaves is the greatest waste of the year. Sometimes called "Gardener's Gold," leaves contain valuable plant food. Each pile of leaves ten feet square and ten feet deep when decomposed contains organic fertilizer equal in value to a ton of manure. So let's save every single leaf.

Build a pit about five by ten by five feet deep. It can be made of wood, wire, cement, or just be a hole in the ground. Be sure to leave the ground as the floor. Into this bin put leaves, rinds, grass clippings or any kind of waste organic matter to a depth of six or eight inches. Then add a layer of manure or about thirty pounds of commercial fertilizer and a sprinkling of lime. Cover with one inch of topsoil and wet down well before starting another layer. Turn several times at three week intervals. The finished product will be a rich, black, fertilizer containing traces of every beneficial soil element. It can be used on everything and will be ready to distribute by spring.

If it is impossible to have a compost heap, still make use of your valuable leaves by raking them underneath the shrubbery or in some out of the way corner where they will decompose in about a year.

As soon as there is enough moisture in the ground, sow seeds of the following hardy annuals: larkspur, cornflower, calendula, poppy, phlox and gysolphilla. Biennials such as fox-gloves, Canterbury bells, sweet williams, stocks and hellebore should also be planted. It would be wise to sow biennials in plant boxes so that they will be ready for transplanting to the border in November.

Now is the time to order tulips and rose bushes for November planting.

Divide and reset bearded iris. Trim leaves back to four or five inches to prevent evaporation while new roots are developing. They need good drainage and sunshine, although partial shade in afternoon is desirable. Plant rhizomes just below the soil, spread out roots well and firm soil around. Dutch iris may be planted now. They need a rich sandy loam and some shade each day. Plant these bulbs about three inches deep and five inches apart. Both types of iris like bonemeal.

Public assistance is given through county welfare departments to persons in need, based on a carefully computed budget.

Rabbit hunting is probably the most popular shooting sport in North Carolina just as it is in nearly every other state.

This fall many a brunswick stew will be graced by the flesh of a squirrel or two, taken in North Carolina forests.

The common toad eats about 10,000 garden pests in a year. Its work is worth about twenty dollars.

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### East School P.T.A. News

The newly organized East School P.T.A. will meet next Tuesday at 3:30 p. m. in the new cafeteria. All parents are strongly urged to attend this meeting, not only to discuss better parent-teacher relationships, but also to inspect the new addition and renovated sections of the building.

East School P.T.A. is now an accredited association with various committees and organizations formed making a new and effective working unit. One, which can be recognized by the State and National Parent-Teacher Associations.

The officers are: for president, Mrs. James Dover; vice-president, Mrs. Arnold Kincaid; secretary, Miss Jackie Blanton, and treasurer, Mrs. Edna Gallman.

The various committees appointed are: Hospitality with Mrs. Carl Logan, chairman. Other members on this committee are Mrs. James Robbs, Miss Jette Plonk, Mrs. Tommy Ellison, Mrs. Coleen Price and Mrs. Carol Wolford. Members of the Membership committee are: Mrs. C. E. Fite, chairman, Mrs. Charles Lackey, Mrs. Ray Sarvis, and Mrs. James Navy. Members of the Budget and Finance committee are: Mrs. Zudy Pierce, chairman, Mrs. E. E. Ross, Miss Jackie Blanton and Mrs. James Jonas. Members on the Publication committee are: Mrs. Sam Hughes, chairman, Mrs. Fred Pritchard, Mrs. Suther Bennett, Mrs. Paul Bennett. Members on the Program committee are: Mrs. Scarr Morrison, chairman, Mrs. Ralph Mauney, Mrs. Arnold Kincaid and Mrs. Garland Still. On the Publicity committee are: Mrs. W. R. George, chairman, Mrs. Ella Reynolds and Mrs. Fred Kiser.

This October 19, Mrs. Pritchard's sixth grade will give the devotionals and short program for the P.T.A. This will be followed by an address given by Chief Logan on the subject, "Safety Measures For the Whole Community".

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