

Star Dust

By VIRGINIA VALE
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MARY ASTOR certainly started something when she signed up as master of ceremonies for that new Thursday night air show, in which she is starred with Charles Ruggles and Mischa Auer. Within a week sponsors were being deluged with plans for programs on which girls would act as emcees. And just ask John Charles Thomas if the ladies are taking over! He's a placid, composed individual, but he nearly lost his calm



MARY ASTOR

recently, at one of his Sunday afternoon broadcasts, when he saw six new girl members of the orchestra.

Penny ("Blondie") Singleton is a very proud young woman. She now answers to the name of Mrs. Major Sparks—her husband was recently promoted, after performing distinguished service as a captain. Penny's more elated than he is!

If it's announced that Capt. Clark Gable will appear at your local movie house in a new picture, "Wings Up," don't expect to see a great deal of him in it. The film's an Office of War Information short subject, and it's certainly worth seeing, but Gable isn't on the screen much of the time. He acts as narrator, and makes an appearance only in the concluding scenes.

Now you'll have to add another Ameche to your list. He's Jim Jr., son of Jim Sr. of the Sunday "Here's to Romance" broadcasts, nephew of Don. The five-year-old appears on CBS in the "Big Sister" serial.

To make the cloud effects for the Heaven scenes in "A Guy Named Joe," starring Spencer Tracy and Irene Dunne, the air must be undisturbed and the temperature even. So an air lock system is being used on the heavy double studio doors, and a watchman's been installed to see that the outer one's closed before the inner one's opened. Of course the cast has nicknamed him Gabriel.

Among the congratulatory wires Bill Stern received when he switched to a Friday night spot on NBC was one signed by George Raft, Betty Grable and Tommy Dorsey. He's slated to make a movie with them some time next fall.

They put Marie McDonald into a wig, for the first time in her life, for scenes in "Tornado," since her own blonde hair was too short. So when she lighted a gas heater in her dressing room, gas which had escaped during the night exploded in a burst of flame, which caught the long ends of the wig. The wig was ruined; Marie would have been badly burned if she hadn't thought fast and snatched it off.

Signe Hasso, of "Assignment in Brittany," has been signed to contract by Metro, and around the studio they are predicting that she will be one of the biggest stars in Hollywood after two or three roles in top pictures.

Anne Shirley, the romantic interest of "Bombardier," has the largest collection of service men's flying wings of any Hollywood star—42. But Donna Reed has a set of flying reports taken from a Jap flier shot down at Guadalcanal, a bomb fragment from London, and walrus tusk sewing needles from Iceland, all sent her by soldier admirers.

Susan Peters and her fiance, Richard Quine, had a bad spill the other day. They were showing off before some friends with a bit of trick double riding, on Susan's new motor bike—it went down and so did they, but hurt nothing but their pride.

ODDS AND ENDS—Humphrey Bogart and Robert Young have made more free appearances for the Screen Guild Players than anybody else—seven broadcasts apiece for the charity... "A Date With Judy," another serial about an American family, will replace Eddie Cantor's "Time to Smile" program for the summer... The day after Phillips Lord blasted tire stealers on "Gang Busters" he started for Maine—and somebody stole the tires of his roadster... George Louthor, writer-narrator-producer of "Superman," says he's never had Mike Knight because he spent three years as cheer leader at New Haven high school, megaphone in hand.

The Comforts of Home Under the Sea



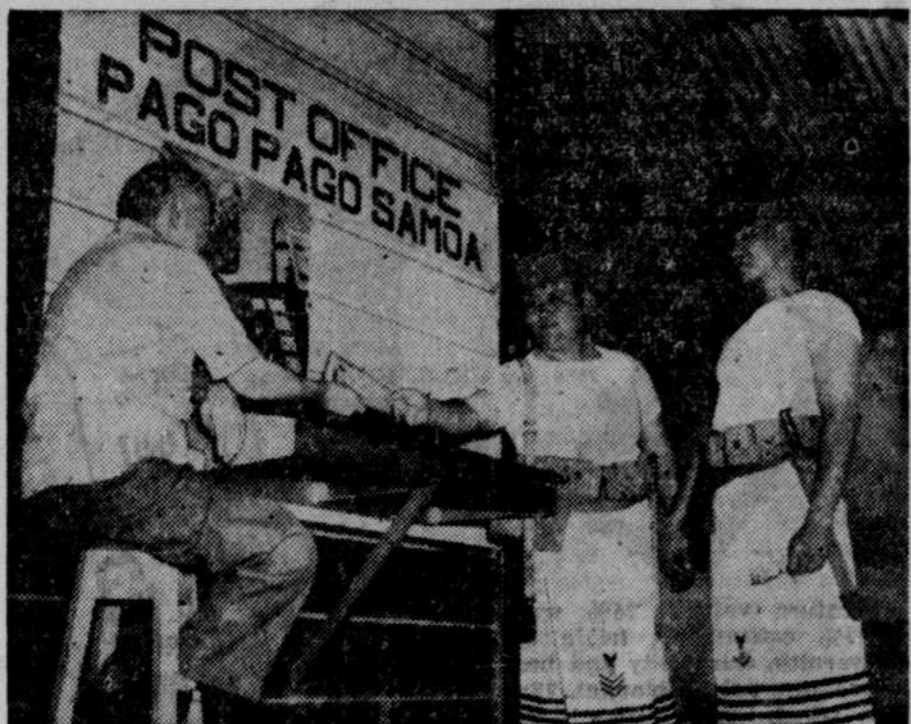
The USS Cuttlefish, a modern submarine, was built to provide comfortable quarters for its crew as well as to raise havoc with the enemy. Its facilities include a reception room, shower, and radios used solely for amusement. At left, a yeoman keeps records in the sub's office. Those records show that the Cuttlefish has sunk one Jap warship and three Jap merchant ships although it was launched very recently. At center is the crew's quarters, and at right, the cook smiles as he prepares turkey for dinner. The spacious engine room and other compartments of this sub belie the visions of cramped living conditions so often associated with submarines. The Cuttlefish is powered with Diesel engines and has the latest safety developments in its escape hatch.

New Gun Is Sturdy, Accurate and Light



An Allied weapon which is causing all sorts of trouble for the enemy is this sub-machine gun which is small enough to be carried in a briefcase yet so sturdy that 49,000 rounds of test firing improved rather than decreased its accuracy. Corp. Lloyd W. Ricketts is shown in two poses with the gun which is a .45-caliber weapon, weighing less than nine pounds, and has been named the M-3. It is capable of firing 450 rounds per minute and costs less than \$20 to produce. Amphibious troops have found that rain, salt, spray, or even complete immersion in sea water has little effect on the reliability of the M-3.

Samoans Invest in U. S. War Bonds



These "skirted" members of the Fita-Fita native guard in Samoa are regulars in the United States navy. They receive overseas pay for serving at this station which is home to them and promptly spend 50 per cent of their income in U. S. war bonds. Boatswain's Mate Suitoanu (center) and Coxswain Hopati buy bonds from Samoan Postmaster David J. McMullin.

Jap Scores Bullseye but U. S. Fliers Safe



Officers and crewmen of a Liberator B-24 bomber are pictured beside their plane somewhere in the Southwest Pacific shortly after raiding a Japanese base at Gasmata, New Britain. A Jap Zero pilot scored a bullseye through the center of the bomber's marking star but failed to bring the plane down. Four other heavy bombers took part in the raid.

On His Last Leg



Apparently Axis troops are using one-legged men. An American soldier is shown examining an artificial leg which was left on a Tunisian battlefield by some German or Italian soldier who is literally on his last leg. Artificial limbs are a rarity on a battlefield where men are assumed to be in perfect condition.

A Rookie Again



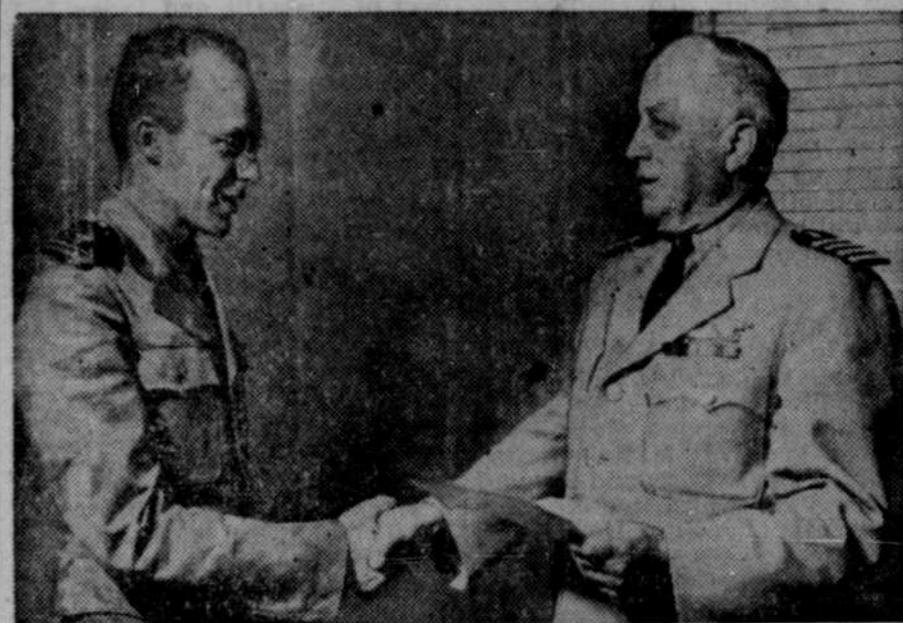
Private Terry Moore, formerly an important member of the St. Louis Cardinals ball team, is shown with his equipment just after being sworn into the army air forces in the Canal Zone.

Hundreds Offer Home to Soldier's Waifs



Their father is in the army and their mother is ill in the South, so the four bright-eyed brothers pictured at top were waiting at the Children's Aid society in New York for someone to give them a home until their parents can come back. Hundreds responded to their plea expressed via a newspaper. Among them was William G. Hells, millionaire oil man shown at bottom. Hells is a Greek-American who has contributed over \$1,000,000 to Greek war relief.

He Made Salt Water Drinkable



"Water, water, everywhere, and not a drop to drink." This cry of the shipwrecked sailor is no longer true. Lieut. Clare R. Speakman, USN (left), has discovered a simple process to make sea water drinkable which can be carried out in a few minutes by a shipwrecked sailor. He is shown being congratulated by Capt. William L. Mann.

Paralysis Healer at the White House



President Roosevelt meets a famous Australian nurse, Sister Kenny, who has developed a new method of treating infantile paralysis. Pictured above are President Roosevelt, Basil O'Connor, head of the National Paralysis Foundation, and Sister Kenny. She was a luncheon guest at the White House.

WAVES Learn to Rule Waves



The historic Charles river in Cambridge, Mass., where Harvard masculine crews practiced and raced for many decades, is now the scene of a training headquarters for WAVES. A group is shown carrying their shell from the boathouse. They learn to row, handle a small boat, and other water lore.

Warning!



"You guys better get out of here while the getting's good." That's what the characters on this imitation leaf told the Japs on Kiska island. The leaves were dropped by U. S. aviators to enemy forces who are supposed to have an aversion for the leaves, supposedly from a Japanese Kin tree.

The Road Back



With the Axis cleaned out of North Africa, refugees like the ones shown above can move back into their homes. These people are returning to Bizerte aboard their carriage which is fitted out with springs, rubber tires, and a wheel assembly from a Rolls Royce automobile.

Zip Off Zoots



Servicemen and zoot suit wearers fought a small war of their own in Los Angeles, sending many youths like the one above to jails and hospitals. The servicemen were stripping the "zooters" in revenge for previous assaults.

Limbering Up



Gunder Haegg, Swedish distance runner, limbers up with Greg Rice, America's speediest two miler, after Haegg arrived in New York for the National AAU championship track meet.