

LINCOLN YOUTH IN THE NAVY



Leslie Calvin Served Nine Months as a Jacky But Secured His Discharge Because of Lack of Opportunity Offered for Advancement. * * *

Leslie Calvin is back from the U. S. naval training station at San Francisco. He is the seventeen-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Calvin of 844 L street. For nine months he served as a naval apprentice at the station and then, his health being poor, his parents sought for him a purchase discharge. He was in the hospital at the time, suffering with one of the fevers common to the climate at this time of year.

Since returning he has resumed the studies he left in the high school last spring. Good health has come back to him, he is glad to be at home again with his parents and is not in the least disappointed with his experience excepting that it furnished no opportunity for his ambition. Had he remained at the station he would have been out on a cruise at the present time—a long cruise down the coast. It is his only regret that he is unable to report the pleasures of one of these excursions. Nevertheless he has many interesting things to tell of life on Goat island, for that is where the station is located—a neat wooded isle in San Francisco bay, north of the city.

Inland some distance from the dock at which presides the old warship Pensacola, stand the barracks that shelter the apprentices. Young Calvin was one of four hundred of them. The buildings, including the officers' quarters, are clustered at the foot of a slightly hill and here the lads pass the days and nights in pursuit of the learning that shall prepare them for the naval battles of the future. Mr. Calvin tells of the strict discipline of the place and is proud to say that he made a record unblemished. While he enlisted, as do the others, for five years, his discharge was honorable. In addition to the fact that his health was not the best he had come to the conclusion that the navy is no place for a young man with ambitions. For those reasons he was anxious to secure his discharge. His parents besought Congressman Burkett to intercede for their son and he did.

There are three sorts of discharge—medical, for failure of health; useless, for shiftlessness and disobedience; and purchase, which is given for substantial reasons and is honorable, entitling the apprentice to his uniform and to re-enlistment at any time should he pine for the navy again. Not many purchase discharges are given, nor many medical ones either, but quite a number of the boys who show but scant disposition to keep up with their

studies and to obey soon find themselves out in the cold. Demerits, extra duty and solitary confinement are the three degrees of punishment next to ejection. For instance, if a boy is caught smoking he is given demerit marks and with each repetition he gets extra duty and finally solitary confinement on the regal fare of "sponge cake and white wine"—(bread and water). It only takes about four repetitions of the offense to earn the youth five days of solitary confinement and then he is turned out into the heartless world.

Every morning at 11:30 the captain "holds mast." It is a sort of police court in which the youths who are charged with offenses are lined up before the chief officers. The captain reads the charge, the petty officer who signs it is bidden out to tell the story of the evil deed, the accused is given a chance to vindicate himself and then the court proceeds to give sentence, either punishment or acquittal. Never having been summoned before the court for the least offense, young Calvin's record is clean.

There was a time when numerous goats roamed over the island, says Mr. Calvin. Gradually they were killed out until finally none were left but two big bucks and these one day came together and fought a battle to the death. The survivor is there yet with a mate brought for his comfort, while the horns of the deceased animal occupy a conspicuous place in one of the naval buildings.

It is a sunny island lapped by the waves and all the year round the Pensacola floats at the dock. It is the old flagship that was used by Admiral Farragut in the days of the civil war, so it has quite a history back of it. Every day the uniformed boys swarm its decks in the various stages and processes of their training. Five hours are consumed thus every day, including the time devoted to work in class rooms. There is gunnery, seamanship, knotting and splicing, boats and topsails, wigwagging or signalling, single sticks or fencing, small arms and battalion drill once a week and bag and hammock inspection. Those who were given extra duty for offenses were obliged to perform whatever drudgery they were appointed to after their regular five hours of drill were over.

"It's all right for a fellow who has no home," says Mr. Calvin, "but there is no hope for any great advance in any number of years. There is a case on record of an apprentice becoming, after many years, an ensign but it is only one. Warrant officer, or one of the officers of the deck, is about the highest an apprentice can ever get. That carries a salary of from \$1,200 to \$1,800 a year but it takes fully twelve years to get that far along and then there is only one chance out of scores and scores that it can be secured by the one who wants it the most."

The apprentices are given \$9 a month with board. At the start the government furnishes them with \$45 worth of clothing and after that they must pay for their own. "Unless a man has a strong love for the sea and great hopes of seeing foreign ports," added Mr. Calvin, "it is hardly worth while."

Early to bed and early to rise is the rule followed on Goat island. Every boy sleeps in a hammock and washes and mends his own clothes. Once every three weeks he is given shore leave, when he may visit San Francisco. Saturdays he has a good deal to himself but he cannot leave the island. Football and baseball in their seasons attract the boys and they have pretty strong teams. Hunting tempts them but they are not allowed to carry weapons over the island. Ducks are plentiful and the officers take the boys out in boats around the island. The officers shoot while the boys pick up the game. That's about all the satisfaction they get out of it. The ducks fly so close that the young men with the true hunting spirit are driven almost frantic in their helplessness. California meadow larks and quail abound in the woods and shrubbery, which covers the island.

In the draft which took Mr. Calvin to San Francisco he was the only boy from Lincoln, though quite a number went from Omaha, Fremont, Grand Island, Loup City and Blair. Excepting for fogs during the wet season, which begins in November and lasts until March, Mr. Calvin enjoyed the climate out there. The dampness, however, is the cause of much fever among the naval students and it was this that had him in the hospital at the time his parents were working to secure his discharge. He says the fogs are so dense some of the time that one can not see twenty feet. Railroad and boat collisions have been frequent this winter, he says. With him he brought a number of pictures of the island, the barracks and the Pensacola, in one of which he himself is to be described high in a mast.

Pullman cars are swept with air delivered by hose from the compressor of the air brake.

UNDISMAYED

Santos Dumont, the famous skipper of the skies, is a man unacquainted with fear. His previous failures far from acting as a damper to his enthusiasm, have only strengthened his determination to perfect his device.

Ansonia Conn., a thriving manufacturing town, is governed in every department by officials belonging to trades unions. The mayor is a working carpenter. Official meetings are held at night and no one is at the city hall during the day except the janitor.

New Lincoln JOHN S. CAIN
Proprietor
139 S. Tenth Street **Bowling Alleys**
Everything New and Strictly First Class
Ladies Especially Invited

Many Things are Dear . . .

But the dearest of all is inferior work. My
PAPER HANGING, PAINTING, and INSIDE DECORATING
will always bear the closest inspection.

Prices that Please
CARL MYRER
Phone 5232 2612 Q STREET

RUDGE & GUENZEL CO.

FIRST SHOWING OF **New Carpets** FLOOR COVERINGS NEW SPRING

Brussels Carpet For new designs and rich effects you must come to R. & G. Co.'s—the largest daylight show room in Lincoln. **at 50 cents . . .** Carpets at prices that are bound to win your trade. **WILTON RUGS**—Oriental Wiltons, in any size at the price of the "Royal" or cheaper Wiltons—exclusive patterns. Best 2-ply Ingrain, fully guaranteed, 70c per yard—others, 30c up.

Choice Rug	3x6 Velvet Rugs	\$3.50
	27x63 inch Rugs	1.35
Bargains . . .	3x6 Sanjo Japanese Bedroom Rugs	1.75
	Carpet size Rugs made from odd borders and remnants of carpet, at half price.	
	\$6.50 for 3½x7ft. Wilton.	\$15.00 for 8½x12ft. Axminster.
	9.50 for 6x9ft. Axminster.	17.50 9x12ft. Velvet.
	13.50 for 10½x12ft. Tapestry Brussels.	19.50 for 10½x12ft. Velvet.
	Carload of Japanese and China Matting,	15c-65c.

Rudge & Guenzel Co.
HOUSE FURNISHERS - 1118-1126 N STREET.