LOG

The CRUISE 1938
THE INSPECTION CRUISE AND FISHING EXPEDITION OF PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT ON BOARD USS HOUSTON 16 JULY 1938 - 9 AUGUST 1938
PRESIDENTIAL DETACHMENT

U.S.S. HOUSTON, Presidential Flagship
Captain G. N. Barker, U.S.N., Commanding

U.S.S. McDUGAL, Escort Vessel
PRESIDENTIAL PARTY

Embarked in U.S.S. Houston

The President.

Guests of the President
Mr. Basil O'Connor, Mr. Frederick B. Adams,
Mr. Stephen T. Early, Secretary to the President,
Dr. Waldo L. Schmitt, National Museum Scientist.

Personal Staff:
Captain Ross T. McIntire, (MC), U.S. Navy, Aide.
Colonel Edwin M. Watson, U.S. Army, Military Aide to the President.
Commander D. J. Callaghan, U.S. Navy, Naval Aide to the President.

Staff:
Chief Pharmacist George A. Fox, U.S. Navy.
Chief Boatswain's Mate W. A. Bartos, U.S. Navy.
Chief Yeoman James L. Learson, U.S. Navy.

Secret Service:
Mr. Russell Wood, Mr. Thomas Qualties, Mr. James Stringfellow,
Mr. Michael Reilly, Mr. Charles Fredericks.

Embarked in U.S.S. McDougal

Secret Service:
Mr. Paul Hart, Mr. Albert Peck, Mr. Dale Whiteside.

Mr. H. M. Theurer, Postoffice Inspector.
## ITINERARY OF THE CRUISE

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Saturday 16 July

After a delightful visit to Yosemite Valley and environs on 15 July, the President and his party aboard the Presidential Train arrived at Los Angeles at 0900 on this day. Approximately an hour was spent by the President in greeting various Federal, State and Civic dignitaries and the members of the welcoming committee. The President made a short off-platform talk to an enthusiastic throng gathered around his car and, about 1020, embarked in his automobile for the drive to San Diego.

Cheering crowds greeted the President during his passage through Los Angeles and towns along his route. In Long Beach, Pa Watson was surprised and not a little gratified by the vociferous greeting given him by one curb stone spectator, A. J. Davis by name, a former Colonel in the Army. (See Army Court-martial Case in 1934, and Pa Watson's appeal in his behalf.)

The 130 mile drive along the shore line of Southern California was interrupted by a welcomed "al fresco" lunch at San Clemente Park, after which the drive was resumed. The President, at 1520, dedicated the new Civic Center in San Diego, making a stirring speech.

At 1530 the President and his party boarded the Houston after which the President devoted himself for about two hours to clearing an accumulation of mail and to bidding "goodbye" to members of his party who were not to accompany him on the trek to southern waters.

To the accompaniment of loud "Bon Voyages" from throngs gathered on nearby piers the Houston unmooed at 1730 and, escorted by the McDougal, stood out of San Diego Harbor. Honors were rendered by Naval ships in the harbor and by the Army post at Fort Rosecrans. On clearing the harbor the course was set to the south'ard for Cedros Island, and speed increased to nineteen knots. A cool westerly breeze coupled with a sleep-inducing dinner, reminded all hands that the welcoming ministrations of Morpheus were not afar, and early in the evening the President and members of his party sought their bunks - for a pleasing night's rest and dreams of rugged fishing exploits on the morrow.

(P.S. Colonel Watson noted with evident satisfaction the cross-hair precision with which the salute came from Fort Rosecrans. He was heard to explain that, generally speaking, this was what could be expected from the Army.

He also reaffirmed his faith in Colonel Davis who appeared to be quite prosperous.)

Note: The above, in parenthesis, is copied from a postscript in Pa's own handwriting.

Sunday 17 July

Late rising and late breakfast were the order of the day, for the cool pleasant breeze made sleeping a pleasure and all hands obtained a surfeit of it. However, when the Houston anchored at 0940 on the eastern side of Cedros Island, 250 miles from San Diego, all hands were astir looking forward to the day's sport.

Church services were held on the quarterdeck at 1100 and the President and his party attended. The services were conducted by Lieutenant Herbert R. Trump, Chaplain Corps, who used as his text: "Blessed now are we the sons of God."
About five minutes before the conclusion of Divine Services a boarding call was made by Capitán de Navío Roberto Gómez Maguro, M.N., head of the Naval Service at Puerto Guaymas, accompanied by Commandante Magana the commanding officer of the Mexican Gunboat G29, which anchored about five hundred yards off our starboard beam. The Capitán and Commandante were ushered to the Captain's cabin where they awaited the President, and then were shown to the President's cabin. Capitán Maguro conveyed to the President the well wishes of President Cardenas, adding that the President of Mexico hoped President Roosevelt's visit in Mexican waters would be happy and his fishing luck the best.

After luncheon the party embarked in the boats and shoved off - the first fishing venture of the trip. President Cardenas' well wishing must have brought luck for a very pleasant afternoon was spent. The honors for the first fish appropriately went to the President, as well as the honors for the biggest fish of the day, a 30 pound Yellow Tail, which gave him a good fifteen minute battle. The greatest number of fish caught by one person was seven, by Mr. Adams, a comparative amateur at the game, against such seasoned anglers as Colonel Watson, Dr. McIntire, et al.

The total catch for the day was thirty-seven fish, with fourteen for the President's boat, twelve in Colonel Watson's boat and eleven in Steve Early's boat.

While the boats were away from the ship, the crew fishing over the side of the Houston, caught in the neighborhood of 200 fish of all sizes and species. The grandaddy of them all was, however, a 120 pound black sea bass, landed on a 20 pound test line by one of the crew after a two hour battle.

The sea remained calm and the weather cool throughout the day, and about 1900, the second leg of the journey was commenced. As there are bigger fish in the sea than have ever been caught, on we go to Magdalena Bay, three hundred miles away!

After an early dinner, the party divided itself between movies, letter writing and the early-to-beds.

Monday 18 July

After a fast twenty knot trip from Cedros Island the Houston anchored about one mile north of the northern entrance head in Magdalena Bay, Baja California. The weather had remained comfortably cool for the passage and made sleeping a pleasure.

Shortly after anchoring, at about 1000, the President and members of his Party were away in the ship's boats to try their luck again. The desire of the President of Mexico that the President should enjoy the best of fishing luck during his visit in Mexican waters was fully realized and all voted the forenoon's sport a great success.

The President landed a 38-pound Yellow Tail, the prize of his catch; but honors for the day went to Colonel Watson who was finally able to force his way into the "big fish" class with a 60-pound Grouper. Another prize catch of Pa's was a California Sea Bass at first mistaken for a salmon. The White Sea Bass is quite rare and was the only one in the catch.

During the luncheon hour the Houston got underway and proceeded seven miles to the southward in the Bay to an anchorage off Santa Margarita Island.

After luncheon a short rest was in order and about 1600 the party was in the boats again for another try at the fish in Almejas Bay and environs acting on the advice of the Mexican Naval Officers who had boarded the
Houston in the morning. The luck in the afternoon did not prove as good as in the morning, however, and the catch was almost negligible. The fishing was continued until sundown and several boats, including the President's, did not return until after the evening twilight had well set in.

With six hours in the small boats for the day no sedative was needed to induce sleep this night. And so, after dinner and the movies, all hands turned in at an early hour.

At 2000 the ship weighed anchor and proceeded out of the bay for the next stop on our trek, Cape San Lucas, 270 miles down the peninsula of Baja California.

Incidentally, Magdalena Bay, our stopping place for the day, at one time served as the training base for the Pacific Fleet of the United States Naval Forces. It is an immense bay—eighty square miles of good anchorage area which can easily shelter the whole fleet.

**Tuesday 19 July**

At 0100 this morning the Houston crossed the Tropic of Cancer and the results were quite evident for the temperature rose to ninety degrees and by morning all hands had shifted to appropriate clothing and uniforms. Awnings were spread on topside to protect the voyagers from "Old Sol's" rays.

After a night's run over a smooth sea the Houston anchored at about 0920 in forty-eight fathoms of water off Point Gorda, some twenty miles to the eastward of Cape San Lucas, Baja California. A slight sea and swell were running, but not enough to keep the President and party out of the boats; so after a late breakfast, at about 1040, all hands were away for the morning's sport.

The fishing did not live up to expectations. Again Pa came up with the largest fish of the day, a twenty-pound Grouper. This was one of seven that made up the total catch of the day, with none being caught in the President's boat. Having caught the largest fish for two consecutive days was the cause of a near-serious inflation on the part of Pa and a few SOS despatches were sent out to Secretary Ickes and Mr. Harry Hopkins for moral support in the deflation process. Also in the catch were two "Striped Pargos," a fish peculiar to these waters.

In the days of the Spanish Dons, Cape San Lucas was used as the "jumping-off" place for Galleons that plied between Manila and Acapulco. In like manner the Houston is using it as a place of departure from the mainland for its voyage through the Islands of the Eastern Pacific. And so, at 1438, the anchor was weighed and the ship again headed southward for the next stop, Socorro Island, the largest island of the Revilla Gigedo Group, 180 miles away.

While underway at eighteen knots during the afternoon the ship created its own breeze which greatly relieved the heat and made lounging and sleeping a real pleasure.

After dinner the President and his Party aired their dulcet tenor voices before the movies in a "Community" songfest.

(P.S. The mention that Colonel Watson caught both of the "Striped Pargos" was omitted at the Colonel's request. He, being a modest retiring individual, was beginning to be embarrassed by his repeated successes.)

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Note: The above statement in parenthesis was written by the Colonel himself.
Wednesday 20 July

The green verdure of Socorro Island as we approached was a welcome sight to eyes a bit fed-up with the barren wastes of Baja California. The island's coastline was rugged and broken but the terrain beyond gradually rose to a central peak some 3,700 feet high, whose slopes were grass covered.

The Houston and McDougal anchored about 0830 off the entrance to Braithwaite Bay, on the southern coast, where a measure of shelter from the prevailing "trades" was afforded, though not from a fairly heavy ground swell.

The poor fishing luck of the previous day whetted the piscatorial anticipations of the President and his party, all of whom eagerly embarked in the fishing boats as soon as they were hoisted out. The reward was nearly three hours of excellent fishing, the waters in and near Braithwaite Bay abounding in fish of all species, particularly Groupers of which a large number were caught. The honor for hauling in the largest fish of the morning went to the President, by virtue of a Jack which tipped the scales at thirty-eight pounds. This streamlined finny "critter" put up quite a battle before he was landed, affording the President the best of sport. Honors for the largest catch went to the boat occupied by "Doc" McIntire and Steve Early with a total of 48 - a sizable catch for the less than three hours of sport. Much to his discomfort, Pa Watson did not participate in either of the day's fishing prizes. Much chaffing at the dinner table ensued over Pa's failure to "bring home the bacon" by his so-called "commercialized" methods. In order to reach Clipperton Island by early forenoon the next day at a reasonable speed, it was decided to curtail further fishing exploits at Socorro. So, at 1230, the Houston and McDougal got underway in company and proceeded toward the French-owned Clipperton Island.

The weather during the trip to Clipperton was a bit on the "muggy" side though the temperature was tempered somewhat by a fifteen knot breeze from the southwest.

Thursday 21 July

Coral-reefed and circular Clipperton Island was sighted about 1000 just as it emerged from a curtain of rain deposited by a passing squall. Its low-lying sandy terrain was distinguishable by one prominent 62-foot rock, resembling a sail at a distance, and a few lonely and scattered palms. Because of lack of charted soundings it was approached with caution and the Houston and McDougal did not anchor until about 1055, the former in seventy-two fathoms of water.

Despite a somewhat choppy sea and moderate swell the Presidential Party took to the fishing boats shortly after luncheon for a resumption of fishing activities after a twenty-four hour respite. Hardly had the President's boat shoved off from the Houston before he had hooked and landed a sixty pound shark - a forerunner of the type which played havoc with fishing tackle and spoiled, after a fashion, the day's sport. For, hardly had one hooked a Grouper, Jack or Yellow Tail before it was snatched bodily by a voracious Shark. The waters in this area are literally alive with them as with other species as well. Steve Early had a monumental struggle with a 175-pound Shark for an hour and forty minutes, finally passing the combat to another member of the party when cramped leg muscles cried for relief.
A Typical Presidential Catch

Anent Sharks, much argument ensued at the dinner table this night as to whether or not a shark was, in reality, a fish, and should or should not count in the day's catch as to size and quantity. Pa contended that the "revolting Shark" was not edible (none contested that statement!) and therefore should not be counted. Arguments pro and con were settled when the President announced his decision that now and henceforth Sharks would be counted as part of the day's catch.

During the fishing period Dr. Schmitt accompanied by a large volunteer party of officers and men landed on the Island through the surf and conducted a bit of scientific exploring. Among the trophies brought back by this party were a small black and young pig which fell to the unerring marksmanship of Lieut-Commander Kelly, and an innumerable number of land and sea crabs, shrimps (burrowing type!), etc.

The omnipresence of Sharks, and the calamitous loss of a large amount of fishing gear rather dampened the ardor of the piscatorial enthusiasts, and all hands were pleased when, at 1719 this day, the Presidential Detachment got underway and headed to the southeastward at twenty-three knots for the Galapagos Islands.

(P.S. Colonel Watson was seen walking the quarterdeck with another scientist, Dr. Schmitt. This Smithsonian agreed with the Colonel that a Shark was after all only a mammal. They were heard to laugh heartily over the entire affair.)

Note: Another of Pa's own postscripts!
Friday 22 July

An eighteen to twenty knot breeze moderated the warm weather as the Presidential Detachment, comprising the flagship Houston and Escort Ship McDougal continued their twenty-three knot jaunt toward the Galapagos Islands during the day.

A leisurely rising, a late breakfast, followed throughout the day by light reading, restful siestas, etc., occupied the members of the Presidential Party according to individual tastes. In the later afternoon certain members of the Party tossed a medicine ball about to sharpen appetites for the forth-coming dinner or to assist in reducing the waistline.

As the Domain of Neptunus Rex is approached it is remarkable to note the increasing tension prevailing the ship. The "Pollywogs" skulk in corners and hie themselves with celerity from the immediate vicinity of scowling "shellbacks". Hectic preparations for the fitting and proper reception of His Royal Majesty are the order of the day. Various hairy-chested and hardened "Shellbacks" are busily engaged in erecting platforms, testing electric chairs, sharpening surgical and barber's instruments, etc., in anticipation of delivering the "Royal Works" to lowly "Pollywogs" during the initiation ceremonies.

Table conversation in the Presidential Mess, subtly directed by the President himself, and ably seconded by Colonel Watson directs the attention of the "Pollywog" members (Early, Adams, O'Connor) to the horrible details of former initiations witnessed by the recounters or undergone by themselves. Tales of broken bones at the hands of the "Bears", or exquisite torture under the implements of the "Royal Surgeon", etc., regale the ears of the lowly ones; so that now, instead of the scoffing attitude initially evident, the "Pollywogs" are lapsing into a state bordering on deep concern, hoping thereby to placate the "Royal Temperament" and win for themselves an easement of the "Royal Tortures". But - how vain the hope!

(P.S. Steve Early, for the past few days, has associated almost exclusively with Navy Shellbacks. No one, of course, suspected that he was bootlicking the Court of King Neptune -- Oh, no!) EMPW.

Saturday 23 July

Enroute to Tower Island in the Galapagos Group the Houston and the McDougal continued their passage this day at twenty-three knots, except for a short period during Captain's Inspection when speed was reduced to fifteen knots in order to moderate topside apparent wind conditions thus facilitating the Inspection. While Captain Barker was conducting his usual eagle-eyed Saturday morning inspection several members of the President's Party seized the opportunity to make a tour of the weather, main and second decks of the Houston and found much to interest them. Tasty samples from the Ship's Galley and Bake Shop were furnished the visitors who made voluble and complimentary comments on the quality of the food served to the crew.

"Davy Jones" watches were set at 1330, "Pollywog" lookouts being stationed on top of No.2 turret, in the eyes of the ship and on top of No. 3 turret. Helmeted, clad in cold-weather flying suits and supplied with cumbersome "binoculars", the "landlubber" members of the Presidential Party furnished much amusement for the "Senior Shellback" and his "Shellback" aides, as they (the "Pollywogs") stood their lookout watches on No. 2 Tur­ret. Particularly tickling to the risibilities of the hardened onlookers were the varied and facetious "reports" (albeit most lubberly in context) rendered by the "lookouts". Pa's hearty guffaws over such reports as: "Two burrowing shrimps on a seahorse," were highly infectious and heighten­ed the laughter which the sallies merited.
After dinner and the movies members of the Presidential Party retired to their several staterooms to indulge in reading, letter-writing and, eventually, good old-fashioned and welcomed "Sleep".

**Sunday 24 July**

The Houston and McDougal anchored this morning in thirty fathoms of water some fifteen hundred yards south of the entrance to Darwin Bay, Tower Island, Galapagos Group. Poor boating conditions with a southeasterly wind of force four blowing, and the uninviting appearance of the terrain led to the decision to forego fishing in this area.

While at anchor off Darwin Bay, at 1000, Divine Services were conducted on the quarterdeck by Lieutenant Trump, the Ship's Chaplain. The services were attended by the President and all members of his party.

"Doc" O'Connor complained on rising just in time to snatch a hasty breakfast before church, that he had been awakened by the staccato sound of hammers, and, on looking out of his after port was startled to note a scaffold being erected on the quarterdeck. He was informed that recalcitrant "Pollywogs" frequently were treated to a dose of the hangman's noose to insure a tractable frame of mind.

At 1114, after church services, the Presidential Detachment got underway and proceeded to Sullivan Bay, on the east coast of San Salvador (James) Island where the Detachment anchored at 1440 in a sheltered anchorage. Immediately after anchoring the President and his Party embarked in the fishing boats and for some three hours enjoyed excellent sport. Some fish of rare species were caught by the President while bottom fishing and Steve Early brought back a Golden Grouper.
A novel dinner was given by the Wardroom Mess at 1800 this night, preliminary to the reception accorded "Davy Jones". Pa Watson acted as toastmaster for the Shellbacks, in his inimitable way, while Steve Early acted as spokesman for the down-trodden "Pollywogs".

While the Shellbacks, seated at an L-shaped table nearly surrounding the "Pollywogs", regaled themselves on succulent morsels such as crab-meat cocktail, turkey, et al, the "lowly ones" were served soup garnished with brass nuts, hamburger without the ham, and dishes of similar tastiness. During the meal "never a dull moment" presented itself because of the amusing entertainment provided by the "Pollywogs" and because of the sparkling repartee passed back and forth by Pa and Steve. The dinner terminated on a note of terror for the "Pollywogs" as the Senior Shellback himself delineated some of the horrors in store for them on the morrow.

At 2000, on the bell, "Davy Jones" boarded the Houston, was received with full honors and presented to the Senior Shellback. To the assembled "Pollywogs" (officer and Presidential Party members on the center-line platform in the full glare of flood lights) Davy Jones then issued individual "Summons", jocose, bellicose, and pungent, to the festivities of the following day.

**Monday 25 July**

In order to permit early arrival at Tagus Cove and to "cross the line officially" between 0830 and 0900, the Houston and McDougall got underway at 0658 and proceeded around the northern end of Albemarle Island.

At 0850 as the "line" was crossed King Neptune and his Court and retinue "arrived" on board, was accorded full honors, and greeted by the Captain who in turn presented him to the President. The latter graciously and heartily received the King and his Court and adjured the former to deliver the "Royal Works" to all Pollywogs aboard the Houston. This meeting was witnessed by the Pollywogs of the Presidential Party, who, while preserving an outward mein of insouciance, were in common with all Pollywogs inwardly quaking in their boots.

That the King's menage had listened attentively to the advice of the Senior Shellback was very evident when a few moments later with strident shouts and loud bellowings they took up their work upon the luckless Pollywogs. "Doc" O'Connor was the first Presidential Party Pollywog to enter the windsail "tunnel" for entrance on the scene of action. He was followed in order by Steve Early and Fred Adams. All went well until the end of the tunnel was blocked by the feet of one shellback "policeman" whereupon progress stopped - much to the discomforture of the crawling Pollywogs and particularly to Steve Early, who, with kindly epithets and endearing terms, implored Doc: "For God's sake get out of here!" On final emergence the three luckless ones were prodded by the "Royal Devils" before the Royal Court where sentence was passed. Steve Early was given the entire "Royal Works", (through which he passed with flying colors) while Doc O'Connor and Fred Adams were fined one "buck" apiece and allowed to leave the field of carnage, not however before the latter was clapped into the "stocks" for a trying two minutes.

The proceedings were completed about 1100, all Pollywogs having been duly initiated into the Royal Order of Shellbacks by that time. As a mark of admiration for his sportsmanship Davy Jones presented the Royal Flag to Steve Early prior to his departure for his finny Royal Palace, a gesture fully concurred in by all Shellbacks, even Pa!

Steve Early, erstwhile "King of the Pollywogs", indited the following letter to His Royal Majesty, Neptunus Rex:
THE BEARS GIVE THE POLLYWOGS THE "ROYAL WORKS"

"From: Ex-King of Pollywogs.
To: Neptunus Rex, Davy Jones and Members of the Royal Court.

Subject: Commendation.

"1. We who have been so signally honored by admission to the Kingdom of the Sovereign of the Seas, desire to pledge you our undying loyalty and to express our wholehearted congratulations to you and your aides for the most entertaining and enjoyable initiation it ever has been our good fortune to experience.

"2. The Ship's Carpenter has been consulted. It is in accordance with his wish that I herein express individually his thanks to you one and all.

"3. We recognize the fact that we are neophytes -- mere infants. We are determined, however, to so conduct ourselves in afterlife that we may be adjudged competent and worthy to carry on the high traditions of Your Majesty's Most Imperial Domain.

"4. Our only regret is that we ever were such lowly creatures, as in our present state of enlightenment we know Pollywogs to be.

"5. To speak orthodoxy, we each can say for the first time in our lives:

"Today I am a Man."

Stephen T. Early"

After anchoring at Tagus Cove, Albermarle Island, at 1430, the President and all members of his party took to the boats and fished the smooth waters of Tagus Cove and nearby strait. The results were excellent in a fishing sense with a large catch of Grouper, Mackerel and Tuna falling to the piscatorial skill of the party. (Another Golden Grouper fell to Steve Early's skill!) A strange fish with the appearance of a fresh water "gar" was hooked by Ross McIntire. The boat containing Pa Watson and Steve
Early again took top honors for the largest catch of the day. Pa earned the sobriquet of "Gun-Shot Watson" when he directed the firing of two 45 caliber bullets into an inoffensive Tuna on his hook mistakenly taken for a Shark - Pa's pet abhorrence!

Recognizing that the initiation ceremonies of the day took heavy toll of the energies and imagination of the former Pollywogs in the Presidential Party especially of the press correspondent, Steve Early, the President himself added these lines to the day's press release:

"The former Pollywog members of the President's Party have all survived but while they are recuperating, this despatch is being sent not by Mr. Early but by the Senior shellback himself."

After an eventful day all hands were prayerfully glad to hie themselves to the "downy" after the movies. And the Engineer's Force earned an unexpected and welcomed respite when it was decided to remain at anchor overnight.

Tuesday 26 July

At 0700 this morning off Tagus Cove the McDougal moored alongside the Houston and commenced fueling. By 1000 the operation was completed, 75,000 gallons of oil having been transferred from the Houston to her smaller Escort Ship and, at 1016, both vessels were underway and proceeding toward Elizabeth Bay on Albemarle Island. Narborough Island was rounded during this passage affording a complete view of that bleak, volcanic bit of land.

Late rising by the President and his Party was the order of the day after the busy activities of the preceding one. But, after anchoring in Elizabeth Bay at 1430, "anglers fever" returned in full force and all hands eagerly took to the boats for three hours of fishing. By a remarkable coincidence all three boats brought back the same number of fish, forty. Each catch comprised about an equal number of Grouper and Mackerel while the President caught a number of small fish of rare species as a result of his bottom fishing. No extremely large fish were caught this day but, when the sizable ones were weighed it was found that the day's honors for single fish poundage went to Ross McIntire with a nineteen pound Grouper - shading by a whisker one landed by the President. Pa Watson regretted that his aversion for Sharks led him to throw overboard the one landed by him - for it is highly probable that his shark would have taken the honors.

Immediately after hoisting her boats (1823) the Houston got underway for Post Office Bay on Charles Island, an easy overnight run.

The President and members of his Party after an excellent dinner took in the movies ("Double Wedding"). Due to anticipation of early rising for the morrow's landing party, most of the Party hied themselves to early bed.

Wednesday 27 July

After an overnight run the Presidential Detachment anchored in Post Office Bay, Charles Island at 0725 this day.

Shortly after anchoring a volunteer party of some fifty officers and men plus Dr. Schmitt put off in a motor launch and landed on a sandy beach. Supplies for Mr. Wittmer and family, who reside on the Island, were taken ashore by this party. It was the original intention to carry these supplies inland to the Wittmer abode, but, due to the scarcity of time (it was expected to get underway at 1100) and the distance to traverse over a rough trail, the supplies were cached in an old overturned tank just inshore from the "postoffice barrel" erected years ago by British whalers. The party then trekked inland for an hour hoping to meet...
Mr. Wittmer on his way toward the beach. But on failing to contact him after an hour's hike, magazines and newspapers were left on the trail under a mound of stones, together with a letter stating the location of the supplies. Thereupon, the party returned to the beach and reembarked, arriving at the ship about 1100.

Much concern was expressed over the non-return to the ship of Pa and the First Lieutenant of the Houston, Lieut-Commander Kelly, who had landed on an exploration tour shortly after the first party. They (Pa and Kelly) were reputed to have wandered off the trail after separation from the remainder of their six-man party and to have been lost. As it turned out, they did lose the trail and had beat their way to the beach through brambles and underbrush, during which dash Pa slipped headlong on the volcanic rocks and returned with several abrasions and contusions on his jaw, these furnishing the topic for much good-natured chaffing—veiled references being made to meetings with the "Sarcastic" of fabled fame, whose former habitat had been this identical island. (Note: See Pa's postscript.)

Meanwhile another expedition of "succor" had been despatched in a motor whaleboat to a point along the coast-line some four miles to the southward, where ship's aviators had noted two men and two women in the vicinity of miserable huts. It developed that these huts belonged to an Ecuadorian Indian and his companions. They were found to be sufficiently supplied with food, but additional delicacies were given them as well as to two Americans, a Mr. and Mrs. Conway, who later appeared on the scene with many letters for transmission to the United States.

The Houston, meantime, had left Postoffice Bay and lay-to off the small cove where the transfer of supplies was taking place. This operation having been completed the Houston at 1430 departed for Gardner Bay on Espanola (Hood) Island, anchoring there with the McDougal about 1800.

A delicious dinner given by Captain Barker to the President and members of his Mess was greatly enjoyed by all hands. This was followed by the movies ("Vivacious Lady").

The Houston and McDougal remained at anchor overnight at Gardner Bay.

P.S. Colonel Watson with his usual reserve, at first made no comment on this incident. He finally consented to talk as follows: "He and Commander Kelly and four others, to be exact, Captain Barker, Commander Bailey, Doc O'Connor and Qualters, started off on an animal trail, in the hope, as the Colonel expressed it, of meeting hand to hand and capturing for Dr. Schmitt a specimen of wild bull known to be in large number on the Island. The six-man formation proceeded intact until it received point-blank a salvo of pistol fire delivered by a recreation group of sailors doing a little practice firing. It was said that O'Connor hit the full prone position at the first burst. Anyhow, when Watson and Kelly looked around they were alone and remained so during their explorations." EMW.

Thursday 28 July

The Presidential Detachment remained at anchor in Gardner Bay throughout the day.

Forenoon fishing of some two and a half hours was enjoyed by the President and members of his party. All hands attempted to hook large fish and avoid shoal Grouper waters but despite the precaution each boat's catch contained a goodly sprinkling of this ubiquitous fish. Several excellent specimens of the comparatively rare Golden Grouper were caught. Fred Adams returned to the ship with the largest fish of the forenoon, a 46-pound Yellow-Fin Tuna, while he and Pa Watson also garnered the honors for the boat having the largest catch.
A late luncheon followed by a short siesta occupied the early hours of the afternoon. At 1530, however, the fishermen were at the sport again. During the afternoon period the President's boat followed the northwestern coastline of the Island from Gardner Bay in the hopes of coming upon a school of large fish sighted in that area during the forenoon plane operations. The President's jaunt was unsuccessful with respect to large fish, but he and Steve Early brought back some small, brilliantly-colored fish caught while "bottom" fishing. Pa Watson's boat returned to the ship with a forty-two pound Wahoo caught off the rocks south of Gardner Bay along with some fine Yellow-Fin Tuna. Both species are gamey fish and furnished the anglers with great sport!

Movies followed the late dinner enjoyed by the President and members of his party -- after which early retiring was the order of the evening.

Friday 29 July

In order to reach Seymour Island off the North Coast of Indefatigable Island at a seasonable hour the Houston and McDougal got underway at 0550. The two vessels anchored at 1055 in thirty-eight fathoms of water, just to the south'ard of the passage between Seymour and Indefatigable Islands.

The President accompanied by Pa Watson and Dan Callaghan embarked about 1130 in a motor whaleboat for a fishing expedition around the Daphne Islands some 40 miles to westward of the Houston's anchorage. Indifferent fishing was found there, only one Tuna and several Groupers being hooked. On the President's suggestion this fishing party proceeded thence to the windward (eastward) side of Seymour Island where, despite the rough seas, an hour and a half was spent in trying to land Tuna from the several schools sighted. A number of heavy strikes were encountered but no success was had in landing any of the fish. During the return to the ship innumerable Groupers were caught but consigned again to the deep.

About 1230 the remainder of the Presidential Party took to the boats. Besides Groupers (few of which were brought back) these boat expeditions landed a small number of Tuna, Bonita and a sprinkling of Barracuda. By a remarkable coincidence, Ross McIntire and Fred Adams each landed Tuna of the identical weight - 35 pounds - so honors were evenly divided as to single fish poundage. The boat carrying Steve Early and Fred Adams captured the day's honors for the largest catch (exclusive of Groupers, which species did not count) bringing back, between them, some eleven fish of varied types.

During the movies this evening ("In Old Chicago" - a very spectacular film) the overcast skies broke and a beautiful crescent moon, flanked by a bright planet, shed its effulgence on the waters of the anchorage. Coupled with the vivid running lights of the planes as they hurtled through the skies while engaged in night flying exercises, the evening heavens distracted the onlooker's attention from the dramatic spectacle being displayed on the screen.

The Presidential Detachment remained at anchor overnight off Seymour Island.

Saturday 30 July

The President decided that a profitable forenoon might be spent on San Salvador (James) Island in search of the grave of Lieutenant Cowan, USN, attached to the Essex (Commodore David Porter, USN) and who, in 1813, as a result of a duel, was killed and buried in the vicinity of James Bay.
Accordingly, at 0530 today the Houston and McDougal got underway from Seymour Island and proceeded to an anchorage in James Bay which they reached about 0905.

A landing party of some fifty officers and men disembarked on the beach about 0905, and forming a skirmish line normal to the beach, swept the interior area from north to south for a distance of approximately one and a half miles and three hundred yards in depth in search of Lieutenant Cowan's grave. No conclusive evidence of its location was found although Ensign Johnson, USS Houston, located a peculiar and uniform assemblage of rocks at the foot of a thirty-five foot spire of volcanic rock which might possibly have indicated a grave. Further investigation of this area revealed nothing, so, at 1150, the search was abandoned and the party returned to the ship.

While the searching operations were in progress, the President accompanied by "Doc" O'Connor and by Ross McIntire and Steve Early, in a second boat, engaged in a bit of fishing which yielded a small number of Tuna, some Groupers and sundry smaller fishes, but which yielded large, uncomfortable dividends in the matter of wet clothing. Pa Watson proved very "cagey" this forenoon (for which he later paid in full measure) for, after casting his weather eye on the choppy weather in the Bay he decided that exploration on the beach held more allure for him and for his running mate, Fred Adams.

At 1250, all parties having returned to the ship and boats having been hoisted, the Presidential Detachment departed for Sullivan Bay on the east coast of James Island, where the vessels anchored at 1500 for their second visit in a week to this area.

Allusion has been made above to Pa's "caginess"! On arrival at Sullivan Bay the President indicated that the two explorers of the morning should try their luck with rod and reel. With dragging footsteps and evident reluctance they (Pa and Fred) finally betook themselves to boat. Their fishing "zeal" was rewarded however, with a fair catch of Tuna --- in fact, one landed by Pa, topped at fifty pounds, any other Tuna landed during the cruise.
Captain G. N. Barker (Houston) and Commander R. C. Starkey (McDougal) were dinner guests of the President this evening. Afterwards a varied program of wrestling, boxing and instrumental numbers was enjoyed by all hands at a ship's "smoker" given aboard the Houston.

Sunday 31 July

Arriving off the entrance to Darwin Bay, Tower Island, at 0850, it was decided that wind and sea conditions were such as to preclude the lowering of boats with any degree of comfort. So at 0910, the Presidential Detachment proceeded for Cocos Island at 16 knots.

Leisurely rising and breakfasting for the President and members of his party was the order of the day when decision was made to proceed onward and Divine Services were deferred until 1030. The services conducted by the ship's Chaplain, USS Houston, were attended by the President and all his party and by a goodly sprinkling of officers and men of the Houston. The Chaplain delivered an excellent sermon on "Living with Ourselves."

Dr. Schmitt had luncheon in the President's Mess this day, as the latter's guest. During the course of the luncheon the Smithsonian attaché regaled the members of the Mess with many tid-bits of interesting scientific facts concerning the Galapagos Islands and the fish which abounded in the surrounding waters.

The warm moist air enveloping the ship during the afternoon, on emergence from the Humbolt Current, induced a tropical lassitude which inevitably led to indulgence in a siesta, thoroughly enjoyed by all hands. Several members of the party attempted "sun bathing" on the Communication Platform but passing clouds obscured the sun during the greater part of the day to such an extent that "sun bathing" was only a partially successful operation. With no fishing for the day in prospect letter writing also became one of the favored occupations of the afternoon -- after "siesta-time", however.

"Doc" O'Connor and Steve Early deserted their mess-mates at dinner time. They dined in the Warrant Officer's Mess and reported a delicious dinner consumed and an enjoyable hour and a half spent in the company of the "old-timers" in the Warrant Officers' Mess.

After the movies Ross McIntire, the sole representative of the President's Mess in the "acey-deucey" Wardroom Derby, met his opponent in combat and went down to defeat much to the chagrin of Pa. He stood on the sidelines watching the contest and cheering his mess-mate on to glorious victory - to no avail!

Monday 1 August

What a welcome sight to eyes hardened by the almost universal desolation of the Galapagos was the island named "Cocos" as the Presidential Detachment anchored at 0830 this morning in Chatham Bay. Lush tropical vegetation everywhere met the eye - even precipitous cliffs, dropping sheerly into the sea, boasted their carpet of green; and, in many places lace-like waterfalls were in evidence.

The far-famed and oft-mentioned abundance of fish in these waters aroused the piscatorial ardor of the President and his party and shortly after anchoring the fishing boats were manned and away. The forenoon catch was but fair; as at Clipperton, sharks played havoc with Wahoos and smaller fish hooked and many were the moans anent the "big ones" lost and the fishing gear carried off in the mouths of the rapacious "tigers of the sea".

-14-
During the afternoon the President decided to engage in a bit of "bottom-fishing" while the remaining members of the party determined to seek Sailfish in the deeper waters off-shore. The President returned with many rare small fish to the delight of Dr. Schmitt, together with Bonitos, Wahoos and one 120-pound shark captured just as the President was about to reel in, finally, for the day. Pa Watson with his usual "Irish Luck" brought back a sailfish which tipper the scales at 130 pounds and measured ten feet one and one half inches. The other deep-sea fishermen found Sailfish in abundance, but because of "insecure hooking or failure of gear" none but Pa's was landed. Steve Early, after hooking two booby birds with his lure to the accompaniment of many imprecations, finally found his line whizzing through his reel and a leaping Sailfish on the business end. To his utter disgust his "big-one" departed for parts unknown when his tackle failed after a fifteen minute combat.

How the wordy-war raged at the dinner table over the question as to whether a "dehydrated" Shark weighing 120 pounds, was, in effect, a bigger "fish" than a Sailfish (also claiming dehydration) of 130 pounds! At this writing the question has not been settled! And momentous results hinge on the decision, for the prize for the largest fish of the cruise is involved. Many gibes were directed at Pa for his "modest" declamations regarding his skill with rod and reel. His day's catch and the complacence which followed brought its own "reward", for the President directed that Pa compose the press release for the following day as "guest-writer". At midnight Pa was still tearing up reams of paper in an effort to indite the first paragraph. In despair he finally dashed off one short article casting aspersions on the rod-and-reel ability of his messmates and lauding his own to the skies!

Tuesday 2 August

The arrival of an official mail pouch for the President via U.S.S. Dallas prevented him from engaging in his favorite sport during the forenoon of this day. He spent the period studying official papers and documents.

At the invitation of the President, Rear Admiral Walter N. Vernou, U.S.N., now Commandant of the Fifteenth Naval District and formerly the President's Naval Aide, arrived via the Dallas to pay his respects and enjoy a bit of fishing. Admiral Vernou came aboard the Houston at 0805 and a short time later had a pleasant chat with the President.

During the forenoon Fred Adams and Dan Callaghan attempted to emulate Pa's success in landing a Sailfish, but to no avail though one was landed by Lieutenant Ageton, who also was in the boat.

At 1130 the President embarked with Admiral Vernou in a motor whaleboat and proceeded to Wafer Bay where a landing was effected on a shelving beach and where, after being joined by the other members of his party, the President and all hands enjoyed a delicious picnic lunch in a truly tropical setting. Incidentally, Admiral Vernou caught the largest fish in his eventful life when enroute to the picnic site he landed a forty-five pound Wahoo.

During the course of the fishing, following the picnic, the President landed a one hundred pound, nine and one half foot Sailfish, while Ross in the same boat, captured a one hundred twenty-one pounder of the same species. The landing of the President's finny beauty constitutes a remarkable story well worth inscribing here. It appears that the President had hooked a monstrous Sailfish, and while playing it, a second Sailfish became entangled in the line. The resulting threshing and leaping was a sight to see - the originally hooked fish finally breaking free and taking lure and leader with him, but leaving the second fish still entangled in the line. It was this second Sailfish the President finally landed after a 20 minute combat. When it was gaffed and deposited in the motor launch it was
The President Lands A "Sail"!

found that the President's line was secured to it's "bill" or "spear" with several round turns and half hitches; so, literally, he was landed by the line alone - a remarkable piece of work!

The afternoon saw three others of the Mess join the "Franklin D. Roosevelt Sailfish Club" (organized during dinner this evening) when Ross McIntire, "Doc" O'Connor and Dan Callaghan all succeeded in landing "Sails". "Doc" O'Connor was elected "Measuring Secretary" by acclamation. The lucky anglers were in jovial mood during the evening meal with Pa leading the chortling; while the unsuccessful ones were a bit downcast - though hopeful that the morrow would bring a change of luck.

At 1615 the Dallas departed for Balboa, returning Admiral Vernou to his Station and transporting the official Presidential mail pouch to the Canal Zone for further air transfer to the White House.

**Wednesday 3 August**

"The Grandaddy of them all" was landed this morning by the President, who, while embarked on an "around-the-island" tour, unexpectedly hooked a Tiger Shark. A monumental struggle lasting for one hour and thirty-six minutes ensued, with the monster, later found to weigh two hundred thirty-five pounds, finally stretched at gasping length in the foresheets of the motor launch. One can predict now, without fear of future contradiction, that the President's Shark will capture high cruise honors for weight. Even Pa conceded this surety!

Steve and Fred left the ship at an early hour in a last minute effort to bring back a Sailfish a piece thus qualifying for membership in the newly organized "Franklin D. Roosevelt Sailfish Club". Success crowned Fred's labors but Steve was disconsolate over his ill luck in his quest for membership.

During luncheon in the President's Mess all hands voted our stay at Cocos Island the most interesting and profitable of the cruise. And this stay terminated during luncheon, for at 1229 the Presidential Detachment got underway and steamed for Balboa at twenty-four knots.

The lazy afternoon was given over to siestas, letter-writing, etc. Despite the afternoon's physical inactivity appetites were lusty at this evening's jovial meal which was followed by the best movie so far witnessed during the cruise, i.e., Shirley Temple in "Little Miss Broadway."
Fred Adams Lands A Sailfish

The "Old Maestro", Pa, with his usual blushing but becoming modesty, claimed the credit for selecting this movie.

Ross missed the movies this evening, for an acute appendicitis case compelled his efficient attention in cooperation with the ship's medical officer, Commander Alden. At last accounts the patient was "doing nicely".
For the club records the following is the summary of Sailfishes caught by the President and his party at Cocos:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caught By</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Weight in Pounds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The President</td>
<td>9' 6&quot;</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Doc&quot; O'Connor</td>
<td>9' 6&quot;</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred Adams</td>
<td>9' 7&quot;</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pa Watson</td>
<td>10' 14&quot; (He claims 2&quot;)</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross McIntire</td>
<td>9' 7(\frac{3}{4})&quot;</td>
<td>120(\frac{1}{8})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Callaghan</td>
<td>9' 7&quot;</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

P.S. The above figures speak more eloquently than I could. In passing I'd like to bring out that my fish was weighed in after dehydration.

EMW.

Thursday 4 August

During the forenoon the President and members of his party spent their time at leisure having risen and breakfasted at a later hour than usual because of no fishing in prospect for the day. Meanwhile, the Presidential Detachment continued on courses for Balboa, passing through several heavy squalls.

While luncheon was in progress Army bombers and fighters roared overhead in welcome to the President, terminating their maneuvers as the Houston reached the outer channel buoys about 1250. Much to the gratification of Pa, Fort Amador fired a national salute with precision as the Houston stood up the channel. In the turning basin off the Balboa docks, the Houston was turned through 180 degrees and backed alongside Pier 18 (starboard side to,) Mooring was completed at 1415. Shortly thereafter the President received representatives of the national press associations with a goodly sprinkling of local press representatives.

A White House mail pouch was received aboard during the press conference on the completion of which the President studied the papers and documents forwarded. This official duty was cleared up by 1515, thus freeing the President for the afternoon's tea party in honor of the President of Panama, and the subsequent receptions of Delegations of Canal Zone "Old Timers" and of the Zone Labor Councils. The President also received the Rt. Rev. John J. Maiztegui, Catholic Archbishop of Panama.

Promptly at 1630, President J. D. Arosemena of Panama came aboard and was received with full honors (except salute - dispensed with because of Zone regulations). He was followed at short intervals by other distinguished guests who had been invited to the President's "Tea". Among these guests were the following:

- Secretary of Government and Justice (Panama) Leopoldo Arosemena
- Governor and Mrs. Clarence S. Ridley
- Dr. Frank P. Corrigan (American Minister to Panama)
- Dr. and Mrs. Harmodio Arias (Former President of Panama)
- Rear Admiral and Mrs. W. N. Vernou (Commandant 15th Naval District)
- Rear Admiral Yancey Williams (Commander Special Service Squadron)
- Major General and Mrs. David L. Stone (Com.Gen. Panama Canal Dept.)
- Dr. and Mrs. Augusto Boyd (Minister of Panama to the United States)

The President's Mess at dinner tonight was sadly depleted - the President insisted that the other six members dine ashore which was finally, though reluctantly done. Dinner at "El Rancho" opened a "large" evening during the course of which Pa startled his compatriots (and other onlookers) by an exhibition of the "Art of Terpsichore" that was wonderful to behold! Ross, too, "shook a wicked leg" for a few short encores. Having exhausted the entertainment possibilities of "El Rancho" by twelve thirty (a.m.)
Other and fresher pastures were sought. Four of the six members hied themselves to a (in)famous and internationally known night club for the closing hours of the night's frolic.

**Friday 5 August**

Promptly at 1030 today the President disembarked from the Houston for a tour of inspection of the Canal Zone and environs. He was accompanied by the President of Panama and by various Civil, Military and Naval Officials. The forenoon automobile ride on the west side of the Canal, across the Pedro Miguel locks, and through Ancon revived the spirits of the "six-man formation" of the Presidential Party - whose spirits were a bit on the droopy side at the outset of the drive.

A delicious luncheon tendered the President by the Governor and Mrs. Ridley was enjoyed thoroughly by all hands. The spirits mentioned in the above paragraph as being a bit droopy were restored practically to normalcy by the succulent dishes which comprised the various courses of the luncheon.

Embarkation on the special Trans-Isthmian train was completed at 1436. Everyone was intensely interested in the various Canal points of importance pointed out during the train ride. At 1620 the President and his party disembarked at Colon and entered waiting automobiles. A drive through the following points was then taken: Colon, France Field, Naval Air Station, Submarine Base, Fort Randolph, Fort Davis and finally to the Upper Gatun Locks where, at 1800, the President re-embarked in the Houston. The latter and the escort ship McDougal then proceeded through the remaining Gatun Locks and at 1920 passed the Colon Breakwater and set course for Old Providence Island.

As a result of his tour of inspection at the Canal Zone the President expressed himself as being impressed with the strides made during the past three years in improving the defenses of the Zone, one of the most important of our national areas. The military bearing of the troops and naval units inspected and the excellent condition of their equipment also drew commendatory remarks from the President.

All members of the Party voted the day as most interesting and instructive, but all breathed a sigh of contentment and relaxation when "home" was again boarded.

As an aftermath of the "night-before", Pa was reputed to have received a most endearing telegram while crossing the Isthmus by train. The fact that Pa had been inducted, apparently, as a charter member of the Hollywood "Movie Colony" was a source of much amusement to the remainder of the Party.

**Saturday 6 August**

It had been intended to anchor off Catalina Harbor, Old Providence Island, by 1000 on this day. But the Island on approach was completely blotted out by a driving rain squall, so the Presidential Detachment slowed in order to obtain proper navigational fixes prior to anchoring. At 1026 the Houston anchored in eight fathoms of water.

About one mile inshore of Houston anchorage lay the Colombian destroyer Caldas full-dressed in compliment to President Roosevelt. A boarding officer from this vessel came aboard Houston at 1040, and at 1135 her commanding officer, Capitan de Fragata R. Roundell, boarded the Houston to pay his respects to the President who received him and chatted informally with him for some fifteen minutes and arranged to pick him up later for a fishing excursion. This Colombian destroyer skipper proved to be a most entertaining and likable chap - a retired British Naval officer who, because of
inability "to make a go of it ashore" had accepted a commission in the Colombian Navy.

On the return of a preliminary reconnaissance party from the ship in charge of Lieutenant Holbrook, a report about the interesting ruins of an old Spanish fort on Catalina Island was rendered to the President. This particular fort played quite a part in the buccaneering days of Sir Harry Morgan who used the "Island of Providencia" as his refit base for forays against Panamanian ports.

Four of the "six-man formation" (Presidential Party) devoured an early luncheon and headed on an exploring expedition to the fishing village on the island. They were back in a little more than an hour, hot and satisfied that they were not numbered among the local inhabitants. Pa came back from this trip seeking the professional services of Ross. It appears that the boat coxswain committed a slight error of judgement in making the boat landing in the town with the result that the boat "brought-to" with extreme suddenness, catapulting Pa "through the air with the greatest of ease" and bringing his chest in violent contact with a thwart. His "sympathetic" companions in the boat, so 'tis told, were most concerned over Pa's injury. But frequent and odiferous applications of Panamanian "Eau d'Cologne" eased the pain and brought about rapid convalescence (so says Pa!)

The President accompanied by Ross and Dan, embarked in the motor whaleboat for a look at the town, picking up Capitan Roundell of the Caldas en route. At the town pier, above-mentioned, the President was greeted by the Alcalde, the Port Captain and other local officials. Departure from the dock was made in a tropical downpour thoroughly wetting the President and his "boat-mates" despite "sou'westers". A short stop was made at a beach on Catalina Island from which Ross, Capitan Roundell and Dan Scrambled uphill throughbrambles to take a "look-see" at the ruins of the Spanish Fort previously mentioned. The exploring party returned to the President's boat full of scratches and mud, and literally covered with ants.

Indifferent success met the President's fishing excursion on the shoals off Catalina Island, so, after landing Capitan Roundell on his vessel, the President returned to the ship. The Presidential Detachment got underway for Pensacola at 1800.

A very clever "take-off" on a Radio Broadcast show was presented by the ship's company after dinner for the edification of all hands. It was very well done and thoroughly enjoyed by the President and his party.

**Sunday 7 August**

A quiet day, this Sunday! The usual Caribbean "mugginess" obtained to the detriment of physical exertion. Beyond dressing after a late breakfast, attending church services at 1030 and proceeding to the table for two full meals, the maximum physical exercise undertaken by the members of the President's Party was that attendant upon lifting themselves on to and off their bunks for a dripping afternoon siesta.

The President alone was busy during the afternoon remaining at his desk to draft his speeches to be delivered during the trip from Pensacola to Washington.

Throughout this day the Houston and McDougal proceeded on courses for Pensacola, the terminal point of this memory evoking cruise. With no prospects of further fishing in the offing Pa insisted on collecting from the losers and paying the winners in the "fish derby" maintained during the cruise.

Strange are the ways of the angler! Pa, who claims honors for landing the largest fish of each of the species Tuna, Grouper and Sailfish (which claim is admittedly correct!) was one of the prominent losers principally, however, through his side-waters with various members of the party.
"Doc" O'Connor really "gave the party" and after the "pay-off" proclaimed his stringent financial status by erecting the following sign over the door leading to his stateroom:

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77B
BANKRUPTCY
8/7/38
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One doubts the veracity of the sign!

Monday 8 August

The sound of hammers nailing up boxes and the sight of passageways lined with trunks and bags brought home the sad realization that the Presidential Cruise, 1938, on the U.S.S. Houston, was nearly over. It was with heavy hearts that each member of the Party stuffed his belongings into his luggage preparatory to the morrow's disembarkation.

Flat seas, warm moist air with just a suggestion of a breeze from the southward prevailed during the day. The temperature was agreeably lowered once during the afternoon by passage through a tropical squall with its concomitant torrential downpour. But as soon as "Old Sol" returned to his tropical work in full force the humidity was greatly enhanced by the steam arising from canvas and other moist fittings about the ship.

During the afternoon, on the Communication Platform, the President completed his draft of speeches to be made on his forthcoming train trip and was quite ready by dinner time to forget serious official business and to engage in the usual table bandinage which characterizes all meals in the Presidential Mess. Fresh subjects for sly digs were present this evening when Captain Barker and Dr. Schmitt joined the Mess for dinner at the President's invitation.
A short but gracious speech after the movies by the Commander-in-Chief, was greeted gleefully by the officers and crew of the Houston, ending the festivities for this evening. Pa attempted to woo sleep in his stateroom but gave up after a short trial and steamed topside like an enraged bull. When last seen, his sylph-like frame was stretched out on a cot in the bright moonlight. As he modestly chortled about his accomplishment in finding a likely spot for cool reviving sleep, he wound up his self-eulogy with the words: "I've got something here!"
And, steaming oneself, one would fain agree!

Tuesday 9 August

The end of the cruise! Steve Early characterized the general feeling of all hands in these three sententious words: "Home, Work, Worry!"
The Presidential Detachment, at 1240, passed the entrance buoys and proceed into Pensacola Harbor. At 1330 the Houston anchored off the Naval Air Station to be boarded immediately by Secretary McIntyre and the Press. At the same time a White House Mail Pouch was placed aboard together with several sacks of mail for the ship.
Disintegration of the Presidential Party began almost immediately when, about 1430, Fred Adams (accompanied by Lieutenant LeHardy) left the ship.
The Commander-in-Chief completed his press conference about 1440 and immediately thereafter cleared up the bits of official mail which had been received. Meanwhile, the McDougal had moored alongside and at 1700 the President and the remaining members of his Party embarked on that vessel which immediately unmoored and proceeded to the dock at the Naval Air Station.
"All good things must come to an end" says an old adage! On this note of regret ended the Presidential Cruise, 1938. The President disembarked from the McDougal at 1745 and entered his waiting car for commencement of his tour of inspection, with Washington the ultimate destination on the forenoon of August 12th, 1938.

FINIS
APPENDIX

ANOTATED LIST OF FISHES, PRESIDENTIAL CRUISE, 1938

By Waldo L. Schmitt, U. S. National Museum

This list includes the species definitely identified during the cruise as well as the specimens preserved for study at the National Museum. The latter were checked over and with the exception of a few immature specimens were determined by Dr. Leonard P. Schultz, Curator, and Mr. Earl D. Reid, Aid, of the Division of Fishes, with some assistance from Dr. S. P. Hildebrand and Mr. Isaac Ginsburg of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries.

Specimens of the commoner species and otherwise readily named fish were not saved in all cases. Of three of the fish I did not actually see specimens. However, on the basis of descriptions furnished me, I feel justified in including them in the list.

Eighty different kinds of fish are enumerated. The names of fifty-eight genera and thirty-one families of fishes appear in this list. Two hundred and thirty-five fish representing forty-two different forms were brought back to the Museum, either as pickled or frozen specimens. Ten of the species are new to the study collections of the National Museum. They are indicated by an asterisk (*).

New records: Of weight, Rainbow Runner, Elagatis bipinnulatus, twenty pounds (species No. 12 of list); and Blue Crevally, Caranx stellatus, thirty-eight pounds (species No. 14). Of occurrence and extension of range, first time from the Galapagos Islands, False Albacore, Gymnosarda alleterata (species No. 5) and Pacific Amberjack, Seriola colburni (species No. 10); for the Gulf Grouper, Mycteroperca jordani, so far as I can ascertain, first time south of Cerralvo Island on the western side of the Gulf of California (species No. 22). A few additional records of this sort are furnished by the Gobies which Mr. Ginsburg worked up and will publish in another place.

Also worthy of note is the President's capture of a Sailfish on his line in a loop or tangle in advance of the hook, probably the first time that one of these powerful game fish has ever been brought to gaff in this manner. (See under species No. 7.)

PART I - Species identified during the Cruise.

(Family Thunidae - As used here includes the Tunas, Albacores, Skipjacks, Bonitos, Sierras and Wahoos. One other species belonging to this family appears in Part II of this list, species No. 46.)

1. Yellow-fin Tuna, Neothunnus macropterus (Temminck and Schlegel).
   Caught at all Galapagos stops; heaviest about 56 pounds. Of 97 fish caught at Hood Island during the forenoon of July 28th, the majority were yellow-fin Tuna; two of the larger ones weighed 47 pounds apiece. The Galapagos Islands are the southern limit of the range of this species.

2. Black Skipjack, Euthynnus lineatus Kishinouye.
   Three specimens from the Galapagos Islands were saved; one from off Hood Island, July 28th, and two from off the northern end of South Seymour, July 29th.

3. Bonito, Sarda Lineolata (Girard).
   Taken at Cedros Island and off Magdalena Bay. The species is abundant between Santa Barbara and Magdalena Bay.
4. Sierra Mackeral, *Scomberonorus sierra* (Jordan and Starks)
Taken off Magdalena Bay and Cape San Lucas; and at practically all,
if not all, Galapagos stops. Some of the largest of the cruise
were taken in Elizabeth Bay, Albemarle Island.

First taken on the cruise in the Galapagos at, at least, three
stops including Tagus Channel, and Sullivan Bay, James Island; heavi­
est caught weighed about seventeen pounds. Although known from the
warmer waters of the Pacific and Atlantic, these represent a first
Galapagos record. There may be some question as to the identity of
this species. Anatomically it seems to differ little from *Euthynnus*
lineatus (Kishinouye), No. 2 above, over which it may take prece­
dence as the earlier named species. The color and color pattern of
the two is quite different and if not due to variation will serve
for ready recognition of the two forms in the field. One specimen
from Tagus Channel, Albemarle Island, July 25th, 1938, was saved.
The color and pattern of the markings on the back of this fish at
first glance appear very much like those of the Pacific Mackerel as
figured by Walford in color in his "Marine Game Fishes" (Plate 37,
fig. b). Also the color note given by Hildebrand in Mee and Hilde­
brand, "The Marine Fishes of Panama" 1923, (p. 311) appears to fit
our specimen.

(Family Acanthocybiidae - The Wahoos)

Caught at Hood Island, July 28th, and at Cocos Island, August 1st.
The heaviest weighed fiftyfour pounds and was caught at Hood by
Colonel Watson the afternoon of July 28th. "Games fish of trip.
Red, or red and white feather is best lure."

(Family Istiophoridae - The Sailishes)

7. Pacific Sailfish, *Istiophorus graysi* (Jordan and Hill)
Sixteen taken in two days fishing off Cocos; heaviest about one
hundred thirty pounds, ten feet one and one half inches long, caught
by Colonel Watson; smallest eightyseven pounds. Four of these large
game fish were saved for mounting. If the fish does not throw the
hook before the third jump it can usually be landed. The largest
number of jumps counted for one of these sailfish was ten. The
President caught a sailfish on knot or tangle of his line - having
two sailfish on the line at the same time. The hooked one got away,
but the one in the knot was caught - and landed in twenty minutes.

(Family Coryphaenidae - The Dolphins)

8. Common Dolphin - *Coryphaena hippurus* (Linnaeus)
A specimen was taken over the side of the ship at one of the Gala­
pagos stops.

(Family Carangidae - As used here it includes the Seriolas, Jacks,
Amberjacks, Runners, Crevallys and Pompanos.)

9. California Yellowtail, *Seriola dorsalis* (Gill)
Taken along the Lower California Coast and at Clipperton Island;
heaviest of cruise about thirtyeight pounds, caught by the President
at Magdalena Bay, July 18th, 1938. President also caught a thirty
pounder after a fifteen minute battle at Cedros Island, July 17th.
There were many of them in Magdalena Bay on the forenoon of July
18th; 20-38 pounds in weight.
10. *Pacific Amberjack, Seriola colburni* evermanni and Clark
Taken off Hood Island, July 28th, and South Seymour, July 29th.
Heaviest about 28 pounds. The larger of the two Hood Island Specimens saved weighed twenty-four pounds, here at the Museum after having been pickled in formalin and then alcohol for some days. This appears to be the first definite record of this species from the Galapagos Islands.

11. Mazatlan Yellowtail, Seriola mazatlana steindacheri
Only one specimen taken; Tagus Cove, Albemarle Island, July 25th.

12. Rainbow Runner, Elagatis bipinnulatus (quoy and Gaimard)
Several specimens taken at Cocos Island, August 1st. The President got the heaviest one, which was saved; fresh weight twenty pounds, a record! Heretofore, the weight of this species has been given as "at least 12 pounds."

13. Jack-Crevally, Caranx caninus ( Günther)
Taken during cruise along the Lower California coast, July 17th to 20th and at Clipperton Island, July 21st.

14. Blue Crevally, Caranx stellatus (Eydoux and Souleyet)
Taken off Cape San Lucas, Socorro and Cocos Islands. The heaviest of several specimens was caught by the President at Socorro, July 20th. It weighed about thirtyeight pounds, a record for the species. Heretofore, the weight of this species has merely been recorded as "more than twenty pounds."

15. Brown Jack, Caranx lugubris (Poey)
Taken at Socorro Island, July 20th. We do not have the actual weight of a specimen of this species; none were saved. A twenty-four pound fish believed to be this species was also caught at Socorro Island, July 20th.

(Family Hoplopagridae)

16. Striped Pargo, Hoplopagrus Güntheri (Gill)
A single specimen was taken off Cape San Lucas, July 19th; weight about ten pounds. Though not saved, there was no mistaking the identity of this fish.

(Family Lutianidae – The Snappers)

17. Red Snapper, Lutianus sp.
Taken off Magdalena Bay, July 18th, and in turn, or rather out of turn, carried off by one of the mess stewards. I did not see this fish and so could not specifically determine it; most likely the "dog snapper" Lutianus novemfasciatus (Gill) which is well known from Cape San Lucas.

18. Blue and Gold Snapper, Lutianus viridis (Valenciennes)
Twentythree were caught by the President at Cocos Island, August 1st. This species more recently has been placed in the genus Evoplites formerly a subgenus of Lutianus.

(Family Serranidae – As used here includes the Sea Basses, Jewfish and Groupers. Other species belonging to this family appear in Part II of this list, species Nos. 48 and 49.)

19. Black Sea Bass or Jewfish, Stereolepis gigas (Ayers)
Taken both at Cedros Island, July 17th and in Magdalena Bay, July 18th. The largest specimen taken was caught over the side on a sail-line having a tensile strength of about 20 pounds. This fish weighed about 120 pounds and was only landed after a two hour struggle. The 60 pound Bass caught by Colonel Watson at Magdalena Bay may well have been this species.
Four were taken at Magdalena Bay, July 18th. A very well marked species. The "broom-tail" which gives this species its common name, and the pointed dorsal and anal fins quickly distinguish this Grouper from its cogeners on the west coast.

21. Leopard Grouper, *Mycteroperca pardalis* (Gilbert)  
Taken off the Lower California coast and at Socorro Island. The heaviest specimen seen, one of about 20 pounds in weight was caught by Colonel Watson at Cape San Lucas, July 19th.

22. *Gulf Grouper, Mycteroperca jordani* (Jenkins and Evermann)  
A twenty pound specimen of this species taken off San Jose del Cabo Bay, Cape San Lucas, July 19th, was saved because so far as I am aware, it represents a first record for the species south of Cerralvo Island on the western side of the Gulf of California. On the eastern side of the Gulf this Grouper has been found along the Mexican coast as far south as Mazatlan.

The common and abundant Grouper of the Galapagos Islands; heaviest taken during the cruise believed to have weighed about thirty-nine pounds.

24. Spotted Cabrilla, *Epinephelus analogus* (Gill)  
One specimen taken at Socorro Island, July 20th.

25. Rock Bass, *Paralabrax Maculatofasciatus* (Steindacher)  
Taken at Cedros Island, July 17th.

26. Sand Bass, *Paralabrax Clathratus* (Girard)  
Taken at Cedros Island, July 17th.

27. Kelp Bass, *Paralabrax clathratus* (Girard)  
Taken at Cedros Island, July 17th and in Magdalena Bay, July 18th.

Abundant on the west side of Albemarle Island, July 25th to 26th; over a washtub full was taken on the second of the two days by members of the crew fishing over the side.

29. Southern Creole Fish, *Paranthias furcifer* (Cuvier and Valenciennes)  
About a dozen were caught by the President in Gardner Bay, Hood Island, July 28th; and brought back to the ship alive; color photographed.

30. Grey Thread-fin Bass, *Cratinus agassizi* Steindacher  
First one of the cruise was caught by the President off Tagus Cove, Albemarle Island, July 25th. This and four other specimens from Elizabeth Bay, Albemarle Island, July 26th, were saved. A grey thread-fin bass eaten by the President’s Mess was pronounced "very good eating." This species was also found at South Seymour Island, July 29th.

(Family Sciaenidae - The Croakers)

A thirty pound specimen was captured at Magdalena Bay, July 18th.
(Family Branchiostegidae)

32. Ocean Whitefish, Caulolatilus princeps (Jenyns)
Several were taken both by the fishing parties and over the ship's side at Cedros Island, July 17th; one of twenty inches standard length at Sullivan Bay, James Island, July 24th and west side of Albemarle Island, July 25th and July 26th.

(Family Sphyraenidae - The Barracudas)

33. Southern Barracuda, Sphyraena idiastes Heller and Snodgrass
The six specimens taken were saved; all from the Galapagos Islands as follows: One from Tagus Channel, Albemarle Island, July 25th; two from the east side of Hood Island, July 28th; and three from off the north end of South Seymour Island, July 29th. The color pattern of freshly caught specimens closely resembled the color plate given by Walford in his "Marine Game Fishes" 1937, for the Mexican Barracuda (Plate 66, fig. b), but aside from markings they were silvery all over as is Walford's figure below the lateral line. On the basis of coloration alone the Southern Barracuda might be mistaken for the Mexican species.

34. California or Mexican Barracuda, Sphyraena sp.
One barracuda which I did not get to see was captured in Magdalena Bay, July 18th. It could have only been one of two species, the California S. argentea (Girard) or the Mexican S. ensis (Jordan and Gilbert). Both are known to occur in Magdalena Bay.

35. Great Barracuda, Sphyraena barracuda (Walbaum)
Two small specimens of this species were hooked off Old Providence Island, August 6th.

(Family Chaetodontidae - The Butterfly-fishes)

36. Pacific Rock Beauty, Holacanthus passer Valenciennes
Two specimens only; caught in Gardner Bay, Hood Island, July 27th; saved for mounting; color photographed.

(Family Carchariidae - The Grey or Tiger Sharks)

37. Tiger Shark, Galeocerdo arcticus (Faber)
Most if not all of the Sharks taken during the cruise were of this species. The largest weighing between 225 and 230 pounds was caught by the President at Cocos Island, August 30th; color photographed. A second specimen of good size was taken at Elizabeth Bay, Albemarle Island, July 26th, and one of sixty pounds at Clipperton, July 21st. This last was in the younger, spotted and black-barred phase; also color photographed. The tiger sharks lose this very characteristic marking of the young with age. Mr. Early landed a 175-pound Shark after a two hour fight.

(Family Mobulidae - The Giant Rays, Mantas or Sea Devils)

38. Manta, Giant Ray, Manta birostris (Walbaum)
One was taken by the U.S.S. McDougal off Chatham Bay, Cocos Island August 2nd. It weighed 1,645 pounds; 15 feet wide and 9 feet long, exclusive of a 4 foot tail.

Blue and green parrot fish were plentiful at Clipperton Island but none were secured and so not identified. Similar "parrots" were observed at Cocos Island.
PART II - Species Identified at the Museum.

(Family Muraenidae - The Morays)

39. **Muraena clepsydra** Gilbert
    One from Post Office Bay, Charles Island, July 27th.

40. **Gymnothorax** sp. (young)
    One from Old Providence Island, August 6th.

41. **Urotrygon necturus** (Jordan and Gilbert).
    Two from Clipperton Island, shore collecting, July 21st.

(Family Dussumieriidae - The Round Herrings)

42. **Etrumeus micropus** Temminck and Schlegel
    Two from South Seymour Island, July 29th.

(Family Fistularidae - The Cornetfishes)

43. **Fistularidae petimba** Lacépède
    The dried skeleton of one of these fishes was picked up on the
    beach at Sullivan Bay, James Island, July 24th.

(Family Mugilidae - the Mullets)

44. **Mugil setosus** Gilbert
    One from Socorro Island, shore collecting, July 20th.

45. **Querimana curema** (Cuvier and Valenciennes)
    Fifteen specimens at anchorage off Tagus Cove, Albemarle Island,
    July 25th; taken at night off gangway with electric light and dipnet,
    at 11 p.m.

(Family Thunnidae - The Tunas, Bonitos, etc.)

46. **Sarda velox** Meek and Hildebrand
    One specimen lacking specific locality, Galapagos Islands, July
    24th - 30th.

(Family Holocentridae - The Squirrel Fishes)

47. **Holocentrus vexillaris** (Poey)
    Two from tidepools, Old Providence Island, August 6th.

(Family Serranidae - The Sea Basses, etc.)

48. **Epinephelus Labriformis** (Jenyns)
    Two specimens from tidepools, Sullivan Bay, James Island, July 24th.

49. **Alphestes multiguttatus** (Olsather)
    One specimen, Sullivan Bay, James Island, shore collecting, July 24th.

(Family Haemulidae - The Grunts)

50. **Orthopristis forbesi** Jordan and Starks
    One from South Seymour, July 29th.

(Family Kyphosidae - The Pilotfishes and Chubs)

51. **Doidixodon freminvillei** Valenciennes
    Fifteen specimens from tidepools, Sullivan Bay, James Island,
    July 24th.
(Family Pomacentridae - The Demoiselles)

52. *Pomacentrus leucopus* Gilbert
   Taken at Sullivan Bay, James Island, July 24th, two specimens;
   Narborough Island, shore collecting, July 25th, two specimens;
   Gardner Bay, Hood Island, July 28th, one specimen.

53. *Pomacentrus arcifrons* Heller and Snodgrass
   Two specimens from tidepools, Sullivan Bay, James Island, July 24th;
   and from Post Office Bay, Charles Island, July 27th, collected
   along shore by members of thecrew.

54. *Nemilosus albemarleus* Heller and Snodgrass
   One specimen from Narborough Island, July 25th, and three taken by
   the President at Tagus Cove, Albemarle Island, same day.

55. *Azurina eupalama* Heller and Snodgrass
   One specimen at anchorage off Gardner Bay, Hood Island, July 27th,
   taken at night off gangway with electric light and dipnet, 11 p.m.

   Twentyseven specimens, all small, from tidepools, Sullivan Bay,
   James Island, July 24th; and from Old Providence Island, four speci­
   mens, shore collecting, August 6th.

   One from tidepool, Sullivan Bay, James Island, July 24th.

58. *Eupomacentrus leucosticus* (Müller and Troschel)
   Thirteen specim8ns, Old Providence Island, shore collecting, August
   6th.
   *Pomacentrid* (tiny young)
   One from off Tagus Cove, Albemarle Island, July 25th.

(Family Sparisomidae - Parrotfishes)

59. *Sparisoma rubripinne* (Cuvier and Valenciennes)
   Four from Old Providence Island, shore collecting, August 6th.

60. *Sparisoma hoplomystax* (Cope)
   One from Old Providence Island, August 6th.

(Family Labridae - The Wrasses)

   Several were taken over the ship's side by members of the crew;
   South Seymour Island, July 29th, color photographed.

62. *Bodianus diploataenia* (Gill)
   Taken by the President at Cocos Island, August 1st, two specimens.

63. *Thalassoma grammaticum* Gilbert
   (Labridae) (tiny young)
   Clipperton Island, shore collecting, July 21st, one specimen.

(Family Acanthuridae - The Tangs and Surgeonfishes)

64. *Hepatus triostegus* (Linnaeus)
   Taken by the President at Clipperton Island, July 21st, one specimen.

   Three specimens were caught by the President at Clipperton Island,
   July 21st, with trout hook and pole with bit of fish skin as bait;
   were schooling at the surface. Another specimen from Cocos Island,
   August 1st, was also taken by the President.
(Family Tetraodontidae - The Puffers or Swellfishes)

66. Sphoeroides annulatus (Jenyns)
   Two from Elizabeth Bay, Albemarle Island, July 26th; one from
   South Seymour Island, July 29th.

67. Tetraodon hispidus Linnaeus
   One from Clipperton Island, shore collecting, July 21st, and one
   without label from the Galapagos Islands, which was, I believe,
   picked up at James Bay, July 30th, by one of the crew.

(Family Canthigasteridae - The Sharpnosed Puffers)

68. Canthigaster rostratus (Block)
   One from Old Providence Island, August 6th.

(Family Gobiidae - The Gobies. Mr. Ginsburg who identified the gobies,
   this family and the following, the Eleotridae, says
   the specimens not specifically determined represent
   new species. He is preparing descriptions of them.)

69. Bathygobius lineatus (Jenyns)
   Twentyfour specimens from tidepools, Sullivan Bay, James Island,
   July 24th.

70. Bathygobius soporator (Cuvier and Valenciennes)
   Two from Old Providence Island, shore collecting, August 6th.

71. *Garmannia sp.
   One from Old Providence Island, August 6th.

(Family Eleotridae - Gobies, the Sleepers)

72. *Odondebuenia sp.
   One from Old Providence Island, August 6th.

(Family Clinidae - Small Rockfishes and Kelpfishes)

73. Malacoctenus zonogaster Heller and Snodgrass
    Eight from tidepools, Sullivan Bay, James Island, July 24th.

74. Malacoctenus culebrae Evermann and Marsh
    Two from Old Providence Island, shore collecting, August 6th.

75. Malacoctenus biguttatus (Cope)
    One from Old Providence Island, shore collecting, August 6th.

76. *Labrisomus herminier (LeSeur)
    Two from Old Providence Island, shore collecting, August 6th.

77. Labrisomus nuchipinnis (Quoy and Gaimard)
    Two from Old Providence Island, shore collecting, August 6th.

78. Auchenistius stahli Evermann and Marsh
    Five from Old Providence Island, shore collecting, August 6th.

79. *Auchenopterus fajardo Evermann and Marsh
    Three from Old Providence Island, shore collecting, August 6th.

(Family Echeneididae - The Remoras)

80. Echeneis remora Linnaeus
    Four specimens taken by the President from Sailfish he caught at
    Cocos Island, August 2nd; and two specimens from a Sailfish
    caught by Mr. Adams, at Cocos Island, August 3rd.
ADDITIONAL SPECIES FOUND IN COLLECTION AFTER COMPLETION OF FOREGOING LIST.

81. *Caranx marginatus*, Gill. Bigeyed Jack. (Family Carangidae - The Jacks)
    Two specimens from Socorro Island, July 20th.

82. *Dermatolepis punctatus*, Gill. (Family Serranidae - The Sea Basses).
    Two specimens without label, probably Socorro Island, July 20th.

83. *Xentichthys mento* (Jordan and Gilbert) (Family Balistidae-Triggerfishes)
    One specimen without label, from between Cedros Island and the Galapagos.