

CAIMAN FAMILY-GRAM  
(WestPac 1961)

Dear CAIMAN Family:

We are approaching Yokosuka, Japan, the end of our first of many trips to be made in this 6 month cruise. Our cruise so far has been enjoyable. We stopped in Pearl Harbor and received your first batch of mail. The weather at Pearl was sunny and warm, but many could not enjoy all of it because of the short stay and the amount of work we had to do. They even got me to do some work on Sunday.

On the way over we were happy to learn of four more additions to our CAIMAN Family. There were: To Ferrol and Neil Harrer, a baby boy. Steven 6 lbs 4 ozs. at 1016, 9 July at Grass Valley, California. This is their first child. And to Karen and Jerry Manning, a girl, Tammy Beth - 6 lbs 10 ozs. born at 2010, 10 July at the U.S. Naval Hospital, Memphis, Tenn. This is their first child also. Eunice and Donald BURREINGTON had a baby boy, Steven weighed in at 6 lbs. 8 ozs. and was born at U.S. Naval Hospital, San Diego, California. Dalbert "Pappy" Weis received a radio message proclaiming the birth of a fine baby girl while we were underway, as yet he doesn't know her name, but she weighed 9 lbs. 10ozs. and was born at El Cajon Valley Hospital, El Cajon, California. Congratulations to each of you!

On the way to Pearl we had study classes for all the boys eligible for advancement, and on the way to Yokosuka we conducted the examinations. The following personnel took exams for advancement to the rates indicated:

Gus STEPHANOS	RMCM	George O'MALLEY	ET2
Burnell BANDFIELD	EMCM	Allen GIBBONS	FT2
James BAIN	EN1	Roy FRINK	SOS2
Jose CRUZ	CS1	Dennnis HAMANN	SOS2
Frank LEWIS	EN1	Ronald ERB	TM2
Robert DUKES	SD1	William HOLDREN	TM2
Jerry MANNING	IC1	George ALLEN	TM3
George MEHELICH	TM1	Aquino ARROCENA	SD3
Eugene MONROE	FT1	Felipe BERNAL	SD3
Lawrence OVERHOLD	QM1	Dennis BIEHL	TM3
Charles PIEZZI	QM1	Robert BOWLIN	QM3
Neil POSEY	TM1	Clyde CORBIN	MM3
Douglas ROGERS	SO1	Bruce COPLIN	ET3
Robert TEATER	CS1	Billy FOWLKS	TM3
James WALL	SK1	Charles MC KINLEY	EM3
Harvey FLORIANIC	YH2	Alfred MC MILLIN	MM3
David LEMM	EM2	Palmer RAMSEY	ET3
Donald BARNBERSEK	EN2	David SCOTT	IC3
		Marion STRAWMYER	EM3

All those taking the tests reported the tests were quite rough. We expect to hear about the 1st of November how those above did. Most of the men eligible to be advanced will be advanced effective 16 November 1961.

SWIM CALL - CAIMAN STYLE - All of us out here between Catalina Island and Outer Mongolia have the unqualified sorries for the folks back home with their 17 foot square kidney-shaped swimming pools. Our's stretches 5000 miles across and 3 miles deep.

So far we've tried out the pool three times - very nice, and warm, but just a little choppy. Ask PERAITA and KINSELLA; both about as buoyant as the starboard anchor.

Still, it was great fun, and a painless way to keep clean. We had everything - bright sun, life guards, shark guards....the only thing missing being those lovely swimmers of the two-piece bathing suit variety.

So enjoy those wading pools of yours, folks. Out here there just ain't no such thing as touching bottom.

CAIMAN's first cribbage tournament was held just prior to our arrival in Pearl. From the nearly 30 starters at the beginning, the tournament worked down to Lloyd WILLETTE and Gerald MORSE playing in the finals, with Lloyd WILLETTE coming out in the best three out of five series as CAIMAN's champ. Unquestionably his championship will be challenged in the future tournaments.

On our arrival in Pearl Harbor we were net by Commander Submarine Force Rear Admiral R.S. BENSON, USN and may, many other people on his staff or attached to the Submarine Base. It was a real "Aloha" in the finest traditions of the Islands. Almost all of our detailed problems were handled most expeditiously. Arrangements were made for all hands to go through the training tank for re-familiarization of the submarine escape procedures. For many of us this was the first time since sub school days at New London that we had had this opportunity.

When we left Pearl on 27 July, Rear Admiral BENSON again paid us the courtesy of coming sown to wish us smooth sailing. It is truly a pleasure to be working for such a fine naval officer.

While at Pearl Harbor, Aquino ARROCENA and Lloyd WILLETE reenlisted for six and four years respectively.

When we leave Yokosuka, where we go and when we leave is indefinite. There are so many variables, such as availability of ships, cancelled operations, storms causing delays in arrivals, etc., that the operating schedules are constantly being revised. But if we cannot tell you where we are going we can at least tell you where we are when we get there.

We hope all of you are keeping in touch with each other while we're gone. If not, here is our latest list of all of you on the Family Gram mailing list in case you want to send a Christmas Card, etc.

List of address was here.

T. J. Bruck  
Lieutenant Commander  
U. S. Navy  
Commanding