

*G. Edwin Popkess*



*East St. Louis, Illinois*

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

January 15, 1936

Log of the S. S. Fellowship:

The other evening listening to the radio, I heard the Household Finance Corp. program featuring Eddie Guest; it was announced that a calendar with sepia photograph of Mr. Guest would be sent to those who request it. I immediately thought of our crew and of Arnold Exo, our passenger on the S. S. Fellowship. Why couldn't he send a calendar to each of the crew? I wrote Arnold and he says he'll be delighted to send you each one so you can expect one of the calendars in the mail soon. When you get it, remember our "passenger" Arnold Exo, fine enough chap to be in the crew, but unfortunately he wasn't a past officer or director of the USJC. We're glad to have him as a passenger and he says he is enjoying the cruise. Thanks for the calendars, Arnold. You have a life-time pass on our ship.

I'm also glad to announce that a complete roster will soon be sent to you through the courtesy of Harvey Humphrey at Los Angeles. Harvey has launched out as President of a new firm in Los Angeles, although retaining his present position with the Title Company. He's going to Mimeograph the list of the crew on his new letterheads and when he sends them to me, I'll forward each of you one. I hope you will get into the habit of dropping in on the members of the crew when you are in their city - to drop them a line or two occasionally and revive old acquaintances and generally fraternize.

Notice the letterheads - they are from "Ed" Popkess - the jovial publisher of East St. Louis. If I understand it correctly, Ed. publishes about six or seven papers or magazines and has a thriving business. He has an infectious smile that wins 'em over.

It was a source of much pleasure to the Keeper of the Log that so many of our crew were here in St. Louis at the call of Allen Whitfield to attend the meeting of the Board of the USJC - I was tickled to see Allen - Gareth Brainerd - Geo. Bray - Walter Finke - Walt Holman - Bill Hoeflin - Roland Maxwell - Harold Marks - Dick West - Bob Smith - Tom Sweeney - Sherman Humason - Andy Mungenast - Grady Vien - fine fellows all of them.

It was almost a reunion itself.

And it was darn fine of Allen and Sherman to arrange for the Keeper of the Log to say a few words about our beloved ship and to assure the Directors and Officers that they are eligible now or at their retirement for membership in the crew.

And how they took to the idea - like a duck to water. Some of them didn't want to wait until their retirement - they wanted the Log NOW. I didn't come there to sell them but to have them know how we keep up the old contacts and the idea was so universally approved it was immediately asked if they could join the crew right now, and many of them did join right then and there.

Answering the query "Should auld acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind" we are prepared to say "absolutely not" at least not as long as there is a crew of the S. S. Fellowship.

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Just as I was writing these lines, there came a letter from Lucille Viets, the charming wife of old "Doc" Viets that genial host of Flint days. She says:

"I know you asked "Doc" to write some time ago but due to his heavy duties he hasn't done so but because I'm enjoying your messages as much as he is, decided to write and give you what news I could about him. Since our enjoyable time at Flint, Doc has transferred his affection to the Oldsmobile Motor Company and is factory sales representative in Northern New York State with Zone Headquarters at Albany. However within the next 10 days we will be transferred to District #5 including Vermont and part of Massachusetts with our present intention to live in Pittsfield, Mass."

That's a dutiful wife for you - writing letters her husband should be writing, and if some of the other "silent majority" of our crew will adopt this method maybe we'd hear from more of these old salts. Thanks Mrs. Viets. Now you other wives who want to relieve your husbands of a job they should do but put off, can follow this example.

By the way, Harry Krusz, Mrs. Viets also said a very good friend of hers, Miss Florence Williams has just gone to Tulsa to teach Physical Education; she just returned from a year of exchange teaching in Scotland. She suggests you and Henriette get acquainted with the young lady. No doubt, all you other Tulsans who are in the crew would like to welcome the young lady to your fair city and will also make her acquaintance. Mrs. Viets I am sure will sponsor you.

Congratulations to Baxter Maddox who in addition to all the other titles he has is now President of the Atlanta Life Underwriters Club.

Congratulations to Durward Howes, too, on his election to office of Director of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

And do you know:

That Roland J. Faricy, Past Pres. of the St. Paul JC has been accepted as a passenger on the good ship S. S. Fellowship?

- 17th Annual Convention of the USJC and the 2nd annual reunion of the crew of the S. S. Fellowship will be held at Memphis Tenn. June 3-4-5-6 1936. We will likely only have one or two days for the reunion - unless you wish to stay over. I suggest 4th and 5th. How does that strike you? I'll expect to hear from each of you members of the crew and our "passengers".

- John J. Gillin, Jr. Radio Stat. WOW, Omaha, Nebraska, is now a member of the crew.

- so is Ivan P. Gillette, Box 308, Arkansas City, Kansas.

- so is Rufus A. Putnam, 200 N.W. 7th St., Evansville, Indiana

- so is Roswell P. Rosengren, 618 White Bldg., Buffalo, N. Y.

- so is Austin Salisbury, Box 1123, Boise, Idaho.

- so is Luther Williams, PO Box 381, Tulsa, Okla.

- so is John O. Jenkins, 602 Main St., Newton, Kansas.

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- and so is J. H. Fox - 12th Floor Empire Bldg., Birmingham, Alabama.
- and so is Wm. D. Becker - 408 Louisville Trust Bldg., Louisville, Kentucky.
- and so is B. B. Kerr - 811 First National Bank Bldg., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
- and so is F. Allen Meitzen - 2424 North 61st St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The crew, you can see, is growing to beat the band - it widens our sphere of influence and brings into our circle more of the fine men who ought to keep up their friendships through the years to come.

One of our old timers, E. Fred Johnson, is getting a lot of publicity through the FHA publicity office. They sent out a group of letters from various banks complimenting the FHA on their plan. One of these on the stationery of the 4th National Bank of Tulsa was written and signed for the Bank by its Vice-President who is none other than our worthy mate. These are going all over the country, Fred, so you'll be more famous than ever. I hope that the new Mrs. Johnson is enjoying her new title and that we will all get to know you both better as we sail along.

George Bray, our mate at Chicago is plenty enthusiastic about the new magazine "Young Executive" the second issue of which just reached me. Geo. asked me to include in this log his broadside telling the merits of the magazine. Its well gotten up - and so is the magazine.

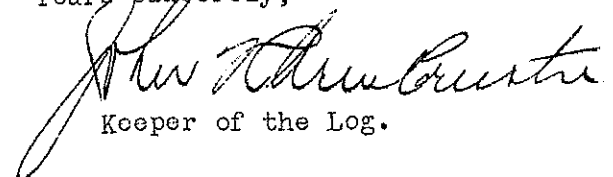
As I promised in a previous Log, enclosed is the famous Walt Holman Announcement of the new baby star. You'll enjoy reading it, and those of our crew who are fathers will chuckle at the clever way in which the "blessed event" was publicized.

And don't forget to change Geo. Olmsted's address to 1017 Walnut Street, Des Moines, - his Company is now in their new building, I understand, and I hope it is making the usual fine progress. Congratulations, George, on the new home.

In chatting with members of the crew from time to time - when we get talking of our experiences we find that in everyone's life sometime we have to face discouragement. We can face it but we must not succumb to its subtle influence. There is a legend of a man who found the barn where Satan kept his seeds ready to be sown in the human heart, and on finding that the seeds of discouragement were more numerous than the others, learned that those seeds could be made to grow almost anywhere. When Satan was questioned, he reluctantly admitted that there was one place in which he could never get them to grow. "And where is that?" asked the man. Satan replied sadly, "in the heart of a grateful man." This simple legend shows plainly that gratitude and discouragement cannot dwell together, the latter being a negative condition and produces many and varied discords.

Being grateful for all our blessings is a wonderful antidote - and I think we in the crew have a lot to be grateful for. Don't you?

Yours sincerely,

  
Keeper of the Log.