

United States Ship California

San Pedro, Cal
, 6 November 1927

Dear Mr Smith, I have intended to write to you ever since I got and had but your business idea how made details there are to getting settled down to a life on a ship. It isn't really so different from living on land. We are a bit crowded so three junior officers are quarters in one stateroom. I find myself the most basin pretty crowded before breakfast. My messroom though is ideal. It is arranged and furnished much like a club or fraternity house. The thing that takes the time is getting used to the part of the ship and the ships routine which affects your assignments. Mine is a particularly difficult one as it covers everything from the masthead light to the electric fan in the Admirals cabin. I am junior officer of the electrical division.

as modern ships and electricity have become synonomous that makes quite an outfit. In looking over the ships plans I found that there is $35,000. worth of electrical machinery on it. Think that over in terms of silver dollars or bales of cotton.

When getting acquainted in a new country is not so easy the advocates of western cordiality would have us believe. There is only one aristocracy in California and that is based on wealth. I therefore a young officer just joining in the community. We have a number of dances and parties, some very splendid in their pompous formality and some quite the go with abandon. Hollywood and Oakland have been very aptly called the Sodom and Gomorra of America by Will Rogers.

I was very anxious to make the acquaintance of your Mr. Dixon that in the whole week that we were in



United States Ship California

San Francisco I was unable to find him at home. being back there since but in a few months we will sure return. I have made the acquaintance of a rising young commercial artist & through his art teaching. I am studying commercial art from Correspondence & the nominal (?) cost of five dollars an hour. Professor he is very good and I consider the time & money well spent. He would dislike teaching at all except that he is making up a correspondence course on drawing and needs contact with pupils to understand their needs. I have done little work other than that because I had no time or — well to listen it is rather a man must to draw pictures more than anything else. A few headings and footings for the Herald Constitute proceedings make up the sum total of work

accomplished. However this art work is with me still "unfinished business" and will certainly be brought up again to the old fortune. With the training I am getting I will be all ready for that ambition when she returns.

I would like to hear from you Mrs. Smith. The interest you showed in my work and enthusiasm were a big help to me. Enthusiasm isn't often appreciated as much as ability but I maintain that it's value is as important and when I get back I'll prove it.

Sincerely
Jack Bowling