

THOMAS J. CRUTCHFIELD, shipfitter, left, relaxes while Charles Hockenberry (center), and Peter Peronne welders, make necessary repairs on the pressure hull of the USS Medregal, submarine stationed here.—Official U.S. Navy Photo.

Navy Ships' Department Shows It Really Can Live Up To Motto, "Doing The Difficult"

"Doing the difficult" is the motto of the Key West Naval Station Ships Department, who had the opportunity recently to put their motto to work.

Working on the pressure hull of a submarine is critical business, especially to the crew of the boat concerned whose lives depend upon hull standing up under deep pressures. As a consequence, the Navy's Bureau of Ships maintains a tight control over any submarine welding and authorizes only a few naval activities to weld on submarine hulls.

So when the USS Medregal (SS 486), operating out of Key West, Florida needed main engine repair work, there was a problem of getting it done. The Ships Department of the Key West Naval Station had never been authorized to work on a submarine's pressure hull, and this was the only way to make the necessary repairs on the Medregal main engines.

The repair officer for Submarine Squadron Twelve asked Commander S. H. Pierce, Head of the Naval Station Ships Department if he thought the hull work could be done in Key West. Although a repair of this nature had never been done in Key West before, Commander Pierce assured them that it could be done.

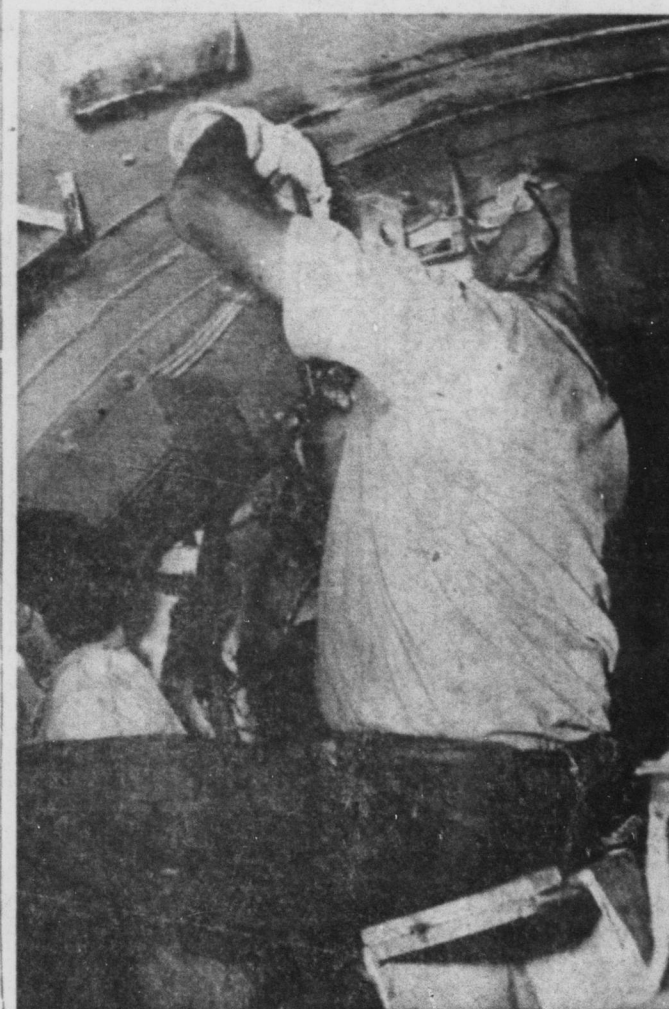
Then came the problem of selling the Bureau of Ships. The welders assigned to the Medregal project underwent a strict welding examination established by BuShips. Specifications detailing the rigorous BuShips requirements had to be prepared and issued as instructions to the shops involved. Finally, convinced that the Naval Station had taken every precaution and would stick to its rigorous standards, BuShips gave their okay, and work began.

Removing and welding large holes in a submarine pressure hull is ticklish work. Warpage, which is considered a routine hazard in most welding jobs, is not permitted in submarine work. Once the burning of the 40 square foot hole began, careful measurements were taken after the 40 foot patch was removed and while it was being re-welded. The least deviation meant that the work would have to be done all over again.

Once the welding began, it had to continue through to completion. If the plate was allowed to cool, the hull would warp seriously, so the welding continued around the clock for two days.

When the welding was done, X-ray pictures were taken of every inch of the welding. On the surface every thing may look perfectly good, but inclusion of minute quantities of slag or invisible cracks would mean doing the job over again. The Xray revealed a perfect job, a credit to the Design Superintendent's Bernard Frank who performed the technical supervision.

Cleaning Weld Area



BIBB G. JOHNSON, shipfitter, cleans the area which has been welded so that an Xray picture can be made of every inch of the welding.—Official U.S. Navy Photo.

The final test of the work was made fathoms deep in the waters off Key West. It was a success, and now Key West Naval Station Ships Department is ready for the next "difficult" job that may come their way.

In the United States, the proportion of women in the labor force increased from 17 per cent in 1890 to 24 per cent in 1940.

Man To Be Freed

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Public Defender Homer Thompson moved today to free "the forgotten man" from county jail before Christmas Day.

Thompson, going from cell to cell yesterday to see whether any prisoner needed legal aid, came across Douglas Martin, 44, who said he had been there for 68 days. Committed for failure to pay \$50 court costs in a dismissed child support case, he apparently had been forgotten. Thompson said Martin already had served more than enough time to write off the costs.

The defender petitioned for his freedom on a writ of habeas corpus.

For Bargains Galore—Read The Citizen's Classifieds

Public Offers Suggestions To Rescue Puppy

CARLSBAD, N. M. (AP)—Bolstered by a multitude of suggestions, Fire Chief Ira Stockwell today took his turn at trying to rescue a 2-month-old pup from the bottom of a dry water well.

Ideas by the dozen were offered by newspaper readers and radio listeners. It all began nine days ago when 5-year-old Teresa Curtis pushed two pups into a hole in her back yard. It's about 10 inches wide at the top and 38 feet deep.

Her cousins, Dan Hardin, 15, and Poe Hardin, 12, rescued one of the pups. They lowered a burlap sack and the pup walked into it. But the other little mongrel shied off.

The Hardin boys have been keeping the trapped pup alive by lowering bowls of milk and cereal. Yesterday a couple of Boy Scouts tried unsuccessfully to drop a rope loop over the pup and haul him to safety.

New Mexico newspaper and wire service offices were besieged with suggestions for rescue. One of the plans came from a woman who said:

"Send the other puppy down in a basket. The trapped puppy may be so glad to see him he'll climb in the basket too."

A fisherman: "Drop a piece of net the size of the bottom of the hole to the bottom with ropes tied to the four corners. When he reaches for the piece of meat in the center, jerk him out like a catfish."

One man asked, "Why all the fuss?—kick the hole in on top of him."

Another offered, "Fill the well to a depth of two or three feet with corks. Do it slowly so the pup can crawl on top. Then fill the well with water so he'll float to the top."

"Lower a little boy in a stout pair of coveralls on a rope," suggested a woman, "and let him bring the puppy back."

An elderly lady suggested building a lattice work ladder and letting the pup climb out.

Fails To Escape

WAILUKU, Hawaii (AP)—William Isaac Kamiko, 40, escaped from Olinda prison in a stolen car. It ran out of gas yesterday on a main highway and he hailed a passing car.

Out jumped Warden Alfred O. Souza of Olinda and two trustees. "You're just the man I'm looking for," said Souza.

Kamiko made a break. The warden fired three shots. The first two in the air—the third at Kamiko.

Kamiko, who had been serving a seven-year term for burglary, was reported in good condition at the Maui County Hospital.

Learns Of Wreck

DALLAS, Tex. (AP)—Atty. John P. Green, on his way to work, stopped at a wreck and noticed the license number on one of the cars was one issued to a state official.

At his office, checking up, he asked his law partner, Barefoot Sanders, "How would you go about finding out who has license plate No. SO-128?"

"That's easy," answered Sanders, a state representative. "It's mine."

And that's how Sanders learned his wife and baby were in a bad wreck, although not seriously injured.

REPEAT CANDIDATE

WEST BEND, Wis. (AP)—Charles Hayden, at 98 one of the world's oldest public officials, has taken out nomination papers to succeed himself as justice of the peace in the spring election. He has held the post continuously for 43 years.



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