Texas Navy Is Recognized Everywhere

BY LIZ BRANDIT
Chronicle Staff

It's "full steam ahead" for Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Porter, Jr., pictured at the helm of their 40-foot cabin cruiser, the Libbie R. (Chronicle photos)

Never underestimate the power of the navy, particularly Texas type!

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Williams had an adventure-filled maiden voyage aboard their spanking new 68-footer, the "Claracuda," but the prize story of 'em all occurred in the Havana harbor.

Skipper Williams pulled into the naval basin there, and immediately berthiened officials of the Cuban Navy rushed aboard to inform him that the area was for the use of authorized personnel only. Quick thinking Claude reached in his wallet, pulled out his card showing his rank of Admiral in the Texas Navy. And from that moment on, the Cubans couldn't do enough.

The "Claracuda" stayed right where it was, and the Houstonians were taken on special tours of the island as guests of the "authorized personnel."

Two-Month Trip

Mrs. Williams flew in from Montego Bay, Jamaica, this week, happily here after two seagoing months. Her husband is accompanying the yacht on its return trip, and should arrive in a couple of weeks.

The couple sailed from Galveston on Feb. 24, accompanied by her sister-in-law, Mrs. George Merle Morris of Temple, Mrs. Ernest Ross and the Pat Boys of Devers.

At various ports of call—including Florida, Cat Cay, Nassau, Cuba and Jamaica—they were joined by a number of guests from Washington, D.C., the Christopher Bolands, the Dick Connors, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Briggs and the Willard Marroette.

What's the next trip for Mr. and Mrs. Williams? "It'll be a little more "up in the clouds"... Come July, they'll depart on a round-the-world junket by air.

Nautical Notes

Two other Houston couples who've been cruising in the Caribbean flew in Friday night, just in time for the Houston Yacht Club San Jacinto Day series. Mr. Club Commodr. and Mrs. Charles Smythe and past Commodr. and Mrs. Charles Knipe, who've been aboard the new Knipe 42-footer, the Charleston V., were at the helm of the Lady Lou and the Tony III—owned by the Smythes—in Saturday's yacht parades.

Spotted at Saturday night's gala "South Sea Island" party at H.Y.C. were Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Younger, Jr., the Frank E. Mappins, the William D. Morse, Judge and Mrs. W. P. Hambden, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Mills, the Nox Anthony, Mr. and Mrs. James E. Evens, the Fred Drews, Capt. and Mrs. Bill Parker, Harry Keep and the Ben A. Masons.

Next Saturday debs Marion Martin and Mary Settegast will be honorees at a pool-side party and cocktail supper at the yacht club. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Burns will be hosts.

Alley Awards

Devotees of the theater will head for the Houston Club Monday evening for the annual Alley Theater Awards dinner... Pulitzer Prize winner Marc Connolly, who authored "Green Pastures," will speak on modern drama and awards for the year's top performance will be passed out by Alley director Nina Vance.

Early reservations for our town's "Oscar" night have been made by the Warren M. Flemings, the Louis Lobis, the Herbert Kramers, Joe Javor, David Moncrief and the Curtis Wrights... Volunteers also will be cited for their contributions at the dinner by Alley board president Burton Pell.