

FLORAL TRIBUTES FOR THE SAILOR DEAD

OCEAN TO BE STREWN ON MEMORIAL DAY
WITH BLOSSOMS IN THE COLORS OF
THE NATION



Mrs. Forbes and procession of Santa Monica school children marching out on pier.

PATRIOTIC LOS ANGELES PEOPLE START
A MOVEMENT WHICH MAY
BECOME GENERAL.



Garlanded school children singing patriotic songs.

Why not make floral tributes to the Republic's sailor dead a permanent feature of Memorial day throughout the country? Thus to honor the naval heroes whose unmarked graves are in the deep, elaborate preparations are being made along the entire coast of California.

The ceremony consists largely in strewing flowers upon the ocean which is thus made literally to blossom as the rose. This unique and beautiful idea originated with Olive Armitage S. C. Forbes, of Los Angeles, California, to whom the inspiration came in a curious manner. Being among other things a newspaper woman, Mrs. Forbes was anxious to provide her paper with an original Memorial day story. While pondering over it one morning she sang a favorite song as she went about the room, "Cast Thy Bread Upon the Waters." In her pre-occupation she substituted, unconsciously, "flowers" for "bread." "Cast Thy Flowers Upon the Waters," she caroled and suddenly stopped. Why not cast flowers upon the waters which covered the sailors' last resting place, and thus inaugurate a custom which should become a part of the Memorial day observances?

Being a patriotic woman, Mrs. Forbes saw in this another means of teaching patriotism to the young, and she, therefore, at once determined to interest the school children in the matter. Their response through school superintendents was most enthusiastic. As a result of this, on Memorial day, a month after the idea was born, beautiful ceremonies in honor of the sailor dead took place in the Pacific Coast towns near Los Angeles.

To Santa Monica this year belongs the distinction of having Mrs. Forbes in



NAVAL VETERANS
CARRYING BASKETS
OF FLOWERS TO BE
THROWN FROM THE PIER.

charge of the ceremonies. Long Beach and other places along the coast have been eager to get her, but she gives the preference to Santa Monica, because its nearness to the Soldiers' Home enables the naval veterans there to join her at the beach and do their part in honoring old comrades; besides, Mrs. Forbes naturally likes to be among the veterans who have made her an honorary member of their association.

Three jolly old tars are as busy as bees at the Home just now rigging a mini-

ature ship, which on Memorial day will be elaborately trimmed with flowers and launched from the wharf among the other emblems sent out to sea. There is also a rumor that they are designing a marvelous anchor, which they will present to Mrs. Forbes, to be used by her as her tribute to their departed comrades, whom she is interesting the country to honor.

It is Mrs. Forbes' notion to have the observances in memory of the sailors simple, but as impressive as possible. The preliminary ceremonies are to be held on shore and will consist of patriotic speeches and songs, an address suitable to the occasion and part or all of the service for the dead of the National Association of Naval Veterans. After this the officers in charge and the school children are to march down to the end of a wharf. A firing squad of soldiers will precede, and on their arrival will fire a salute over the waves. The flower strewing will then begin and thousands of blossoms will be cast upon the waters, some in garlands, some in nautical emblems, others loose, but all of red, white and blue. The effect of the sea blossoming with the National colors is most beautiful and stirs alike the heart of young and old.

From the start Mrs. Forbes has had the support of the highest officers of the Navy

who heartily endorse her plans. Dewey, Sampson, Schley, Evans and many others wrote to her expressing their appreciation of what she is trying to do for those who have gone aloft forever.

Through the courtesy of the Secretary of the Navy and of Colonel Stone of San Francisco, a revenue cutter is to be placed at Mrs. Forbes' disposal for the ceremonies this year. This will go out from Santa Monica, flower trimmed and flower laden, and impressive ceremonies will be held at sea under the auspices of the Naval Association Women's Relief Corps of Los Angeles. In addition to this a service will be held on shore by the children.

It is the ardent desire of Mrs. Forbes to have her floral tribute to the sailor dead become a permanent feature of Memorial Day throughout the country. It need not be limited to the coast of California—wherever there is water—be it ocean, lake or river, the thing can be done. In places where flowers are not abundant leaves can be substituted and beautiful wreaths and garlands they make as every one knows.

This year Mrs. Forbes hopes to succeed in getting a ship sent out from Key West to strew flowers over Havana Harbor, and thus do honor to the victims of the Maine. Secretary Long has promised the ship if she can get the flowers, but there arises her difficulty, for flowers do not grow at Havana or Key West. The obstacle she hopes to overcome by having flowers donated by patriotic women, two of whom, Miss Helen Gould of New York and Mrs. Peck of Los Angeles, she hopes may furnish all the flowers that are necessary.

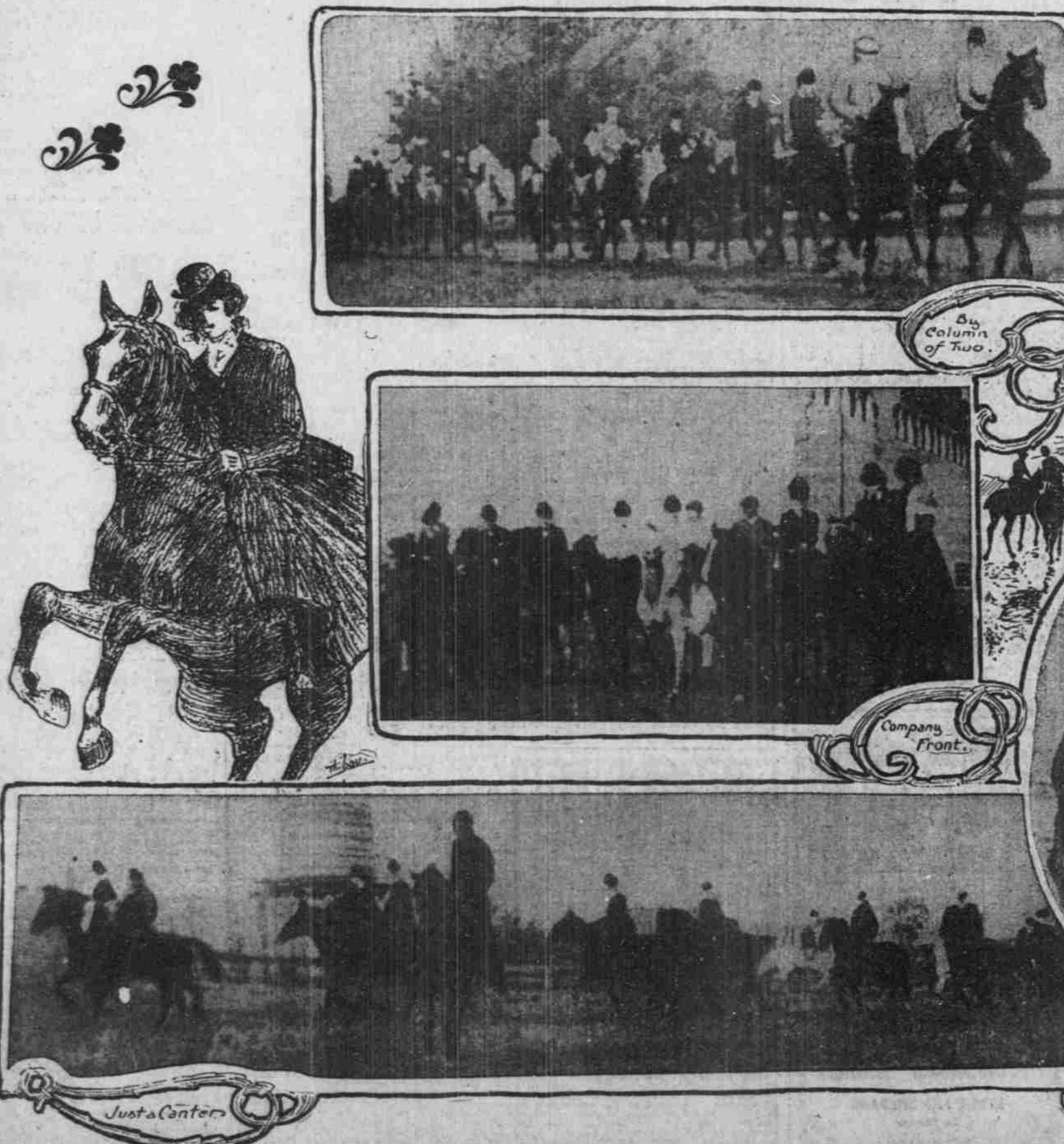
There is no reason why every ship at sea should not have a floral service of its own on Memorial Day. The sailors could make paper flowers. They are deft with their fingers and could while away many a tedious hour by flower-making and the designing of flower anchors, ships, flags, and such other emblems as suit their nautical taste. The work would have the charm of novelty and appeal to the hearts of all who go down to the sea in ships.

Mrs. Forbes is a resident of Los Angeles, but a Pennsylvanian by birth. She has the blood of patriots in her veins, being descended from John Page, the first male child born in Philadelphia, and her ancestors were conspicuous in the Revolutionary War. None of them, however, was a sailor, and she is the first of her family in whom patriotism has taken a naval bent. Going to Kansas with her parents in her youth, Mrs. Forbes was educated at Wichita, where she married an Englishman, Armitage S. C. Forbes. With him she went to London, where her taste for art and literature developed and was increased by years of travel in the Old World. She wrote letters to American newspapers and upon her return to this country gave considerable time to journalism. Her recent articles on Chinese life and customs over the signature of Harry Forbes have been widely read over the country. Though prominent in women's clubs, Mrs. Forbes is by no means the typical new woman. On the contrary she is intensely feminine, believes that the home is woman's sphere, never allows outside matters to interfere with domesticity and has no interests which her husband does not share.

FRANCES WESTON CARRUTH.
(Copyright 1902.)

PREPARING FOR THE HUNT CLUB'S FIELD DAY

THERE WILL BE
GREAT GOINGS-ON AT IRVINGTON TRACK
NEXT SATURDAY



THE second annual field day of the Portland Hunt Club will be held at the Irvington racetrack next Saturday, and elaborate preparations are now being made for the big event. Each afternoon the horsemen assemble at the racetrack and go through their drills and practice evolutions. It is a fine sight to watch a hundred expert riders, mounted on well-groomed steeds, gallop to and fro across the green and jump the hurdles with accuracy and speed. The Portland Hunt Club is an institution that fosters correct riding, and most of the members are experts in the saddle. The rivalry, especially among the gentlemen, is intense, and many are already telling how their girded steeds with flashing eyes and foaming flanks will carry their masters through to victory.

The exercises will begin with a grand entry of all members, one that will possess the features of a cavalry charge. The whole troop will gallop at full speed past the grandstand, after which the events of the programme will be carried out. The first of these will be a schoolboys' exhibition, which will be followed by a gentleman's running race of one mile. The tandem trot and the junior running race will be followed by a trap show parade of doubles and singles. A pony race for a quarter and a three-quarter dash for stable boys are numbers that are attracting considerable attention. The last numbers of the programme will be a mile trot, for both ladies and gentlemen, and a two-mile hurdle race. The latter event promises to be the most exciting of the day. The entry list numbering about 30. All in all, the field day promises to be well worth seeing. A portion of the proceeds will be devoted to charity.