ACTIVITIES OF Y.M.C.A. AND Y.W.C.A.

By DOROTHY GARBUTT
The Hostess

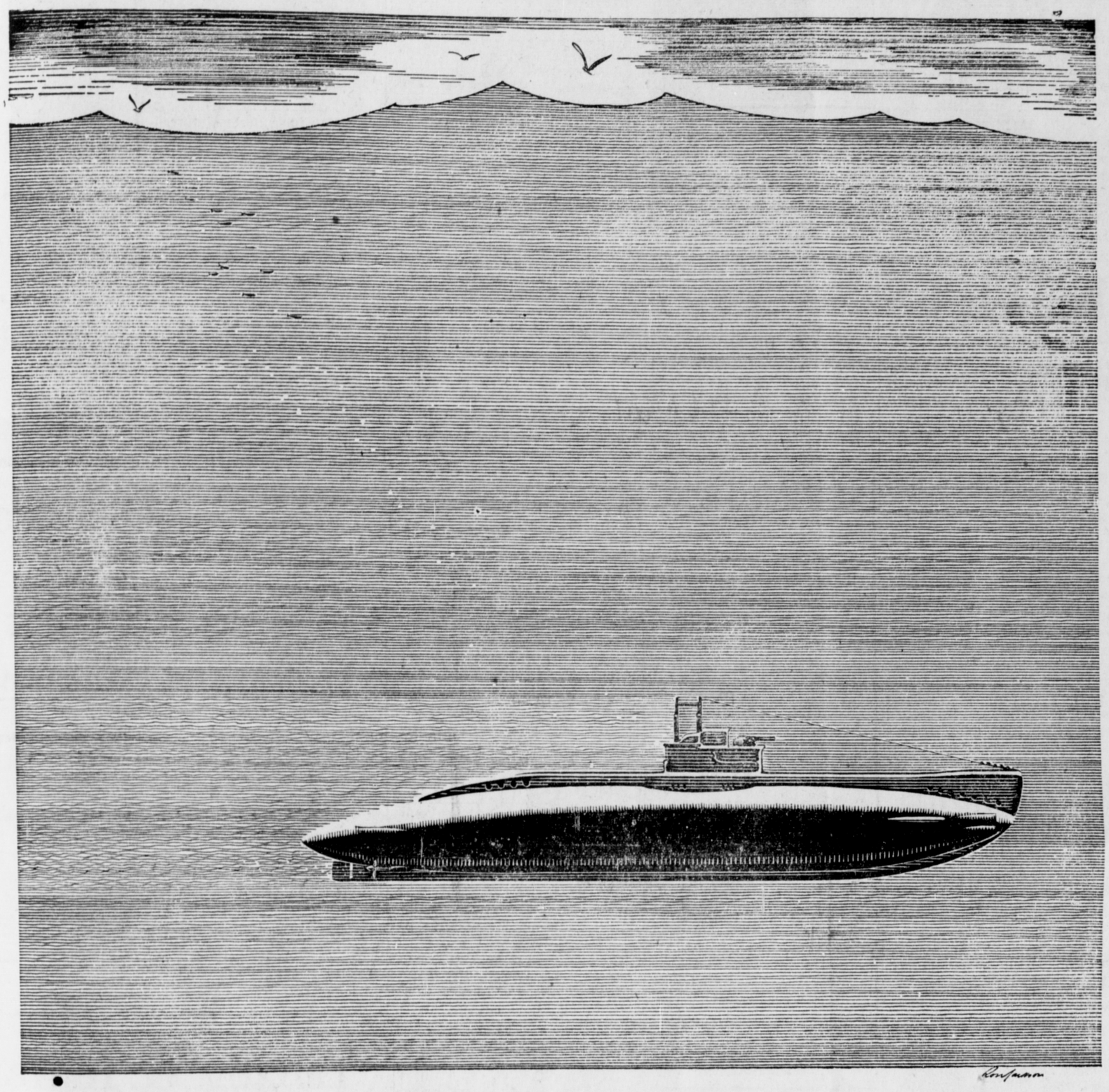
I don't know about Navy Week but it's certainly going to be Navy Week-end in Prince Rupert this week-end what with dances and parades and concerts and the impressive drum-head service. Makes us just a little bit prouder our our lads in navy blue doesn't it?

The big Navy dance last night drew a larger crowd than I have seen at any of the service dances. The Empress Hall was smartly decorated with streamers of signal flags from the ceiling. Around the walls were lengths of bunting and at one end of the hall three magnificent dress signal flags. No mistaking it for anything but a Navy dance. Commander Wallace and Lieut. Commander Harrison attended for a short while and were pleased at the very evident success of the dance. And the dance orchestra, what an orchestra! It is made up of thirteen members of the Royal Canadian Navy Band from Esquimalt and each member has been a professional musician from well known dance bands in civil life — so Drum Major Dick Thorne tells me. Al Lockie, the leader, for instance, was a member of Stan Patton's band. There are fifty-one in the entire band and they come from all over Canada. They often go on tour and just now have completed a short tour in British Columbia. They have been playing together for two-and-a-half years which makes their music smooth and solid and above all danceable. Last night they broadcast for half an hour over CFPR on the CBC system. Doug Allan, the vocalist with the band, added to the enjoyment and most of all with the romantic "Sleepy Lagoon" number while Chuck Rowe the drummer with the band, just about stole the show in the featured "Drum Boogie." The first dance after the intermission was dedicated to Coxswain Alex Bell of the ship which brought them up from the south.

It was decidely quite an evening what, with the Navy Band, the good humored crowd and over, well over, a hundred girls—and in Prince Rupert that is quite something—in their pretty formals. Thanks to Drum Major Dick Thorne, Band Leader Al Lockie and company. for a wonderful time, and I mean wonderful.

I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Swain of the American Red Cross yesterday afternoon when he paid us a visit and I had the additional pleasure of thanking him in person for the gifts of two American flags given us last summer by the King County Branch of the American Red Cross in Seattle. It turns out that Mr. Swain was organizer of that very branch for several years. Wasn't it lucky that I had my British flag to match the American one and had both flags placed only last week ?

Note to all our Navy boys—or at any rate some of them—our Marie now works at the Empress Club all day and every day.



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