



AHOY MATE . . . Pert Karen Jensen, one of 12 finalists in the "Miss Press Club" competition being sponsored by the Greater Los Angeles Press Club, is hoisted by Chief Petty Officer Daniel Prizznick Jr. (left) and Lt. (j.g.) Peter Gunn of the Seabees during preliminary judging. Winner of the title will be announced at a Press Club dinner Wednesday.

... Let's Go
By HARRY MACARAY

For three years we have one can set a limit for his subscribed to the Parke-Bernet sales catalogs from New York. In case you can't place the name, Parke-Bernet is the very distinguished public auction house where "Aristotle Contemplating the Bust of Homer" by Rembrandt was sold for \$2,300,000. Norton Simon of Hunt Foods almost topped this figure when he paid \$2,234,000 for Rembrandt's portrait of his son, "Titus" in a London auction.

Paintings are not the only things that are sold at Parke-Bernet. Catalogs come to us describing all kinds of valuable jewelry, furniture, antiques, sculpture, bits of Americana, Dorothy Doughty Birds, art glass, and modern graphics by such masters as Pivasso, Braque, Miro, Chagall, Lars Bo, Degas and many others.

The auction season begins in mid-September and ends in mid-June. During this period there are usually about eighty sales of various kinds. Not all the items for sale bring \$100,000 or a quarter of a million—there are paintings that go for as little as \$400, fancy sofas of an antique period for \$250, and authentic Early American armchairs for \$35. There are really many bargains if one can learn to recognize them.

THERE ARE DEALERS galore at these auctions so you know that bargains are to be obtained if you know what you are doing. It really is not a complicated procedure to make a bid and finally a purchase. There are auction houses here in Los Angeles too—and the method of buying is the same.

The difficult part of buying this way (an auction house never guarantees the authenticity of any piece but sells everything "as is") is knowing how much to bid in order to buy the item at a bargain. The smart way, at least this is what the dealers do, is to view the items several days ahead in the showrooms and then it pays to run around town and determine retail values of similar items.

Having determined a fair retail price for the item, then

final bid—and let's hope it can be purchased for less. Finally, when the item is offered for sale, the auctioneer will "suggest" a starting price that will be a clue that he expects to sell it for three times that amount. If no one bids his suggested starting price, the item will be withdrawn and not sold—but will appear in a later auction.

Two years ago when I visited the galleries (not looking for a Rembrandt—just curious) I happened to catch a furniture sale in progress on the third floor where most of the auctions are usually held. What really interested me was not the antique furniture on sale but the intense feeling of the auction room.

At the front of the sales-room was a stage several feet higher than the audience and to one side, a wooden pulpit. It reminded me of being in a church—everyone so quiet and actually talking in whispers—the people were all expensively dressed—and I suppose one could call it a place of worship, the worship of extremely expensive works of art.

Army PFC James P. Harbuck, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Harbuck of 3511 Gibson Place, Redondo Beach, fired expert with the M-14 rifle at Ft. Hood, Texas, Sept. 8.

The expert rating is the highest mark a soldier can achieve in his rifle qualification test.

Harbuck entered the Army in February, 1966. He is a 1961 graduate of Aviation High School.



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