

The Guest Of Honour Commander Earl To Open Festival



Lieutenant-commander
W. C. EARL

The guest of honour for the 1965 Balclutha Festival Week will be Lieutenant-commander W. C. Earl, of the U.S.S. Calcaterra, the weather picket ship now operating out of the Port of Otago.

By inviting Commander Earl to Balclutha, the Festival Committee has followed the custom of having a distinguished visitor to open the Festival and remain for part of the festivities as its guest.

Tomorrow evening Commander Earl will declare the Festival open after a concert at the War Memorial Hall and then officiate at the crowning of the Festival Queen.

When interviewed by members of the committee this week, he indicated that he would like to stay in Bal-

clutha over the weekend to join in as many of the activities as possible.

Among events he is keen to participate in are the trolley derby, which will also be contested by borough councillors and prominent citizens, and the go-carting.

He is also keen on musicals and, if possible, will stay to see the opening night of the Festival production, "No, No, Nanette." With Commander Earl for the weekend will be a dozen men from the Calcaterra who will be billeted with townspeople tomorrow and on Saturday night.

Commander Earl (39) was born in New Castle, Pennsylvania, but his family later moved to Arlington, Virginia, where he graduated from Washington-Lee High School. He later attended the United States Naval Academy, from which he graduated in 1951. While at the academy he was awarded letters in football and lacrosse, and also a trophy for his contribution to the promotion of athletics.

His first assignment was to the battleship U.S.S. Missouri in 1951, and since that time he has served on the aircraft carrier Midway, the submarine Pompon, had a tour of duty at the Naval Academy and later joined the landing ship dock San Marcos, from which he took part in amphibious landings at Lebanon.

Before assuming command of the Calcaterra in April, 1963, he was operations officer and later executive officer of the destroyer Glennon, and was for a time on the staff of the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington.

He is married with two daughters—Martha Ann (10) and Peggy (8).

Men's Basketball:

CALCATERRA TEAM BEATS ST. KILDA

Superior in all aspects a team from the weather picket ship, the U.S.S. Calcaterra, downed a St Kilda side 58-36 in a men's basketball match at the Caledonian Gymnasium last night.

The taller American seamen held a monopoly of possession through skilful rebounding under both baskets, and found the St Kilda defence fairly easy to pierce.

On the other hand, the St Kilda attack was crippled by the tight defensive tactics of the Calcaterra and mainly relied on gaining points from long shooting.

The Calcaterra held command of the game from the out set and steadily increased in the second half after a half-time score of 28-19.

Top scorer for St Kilda was R. Stewart with 17 points.

Mayoral Visit To U.S. Ship

The Mayor of Dunedin, Mr R. J. Calvert, will visit the United States picket ship U.S.S. Calcaterra on Thursday.

He will have lunch on board and will be taken on a tour of the vessel.

Tuesday will be a busy day for most of the crew. In the morning many of them will give blood to the Otago Regional Blood Transfusion Service. In the afternoon officers will meet the rest of the crew in a game of American touch football.

The ship will be open for public inspection on both Saturday and Sunday.