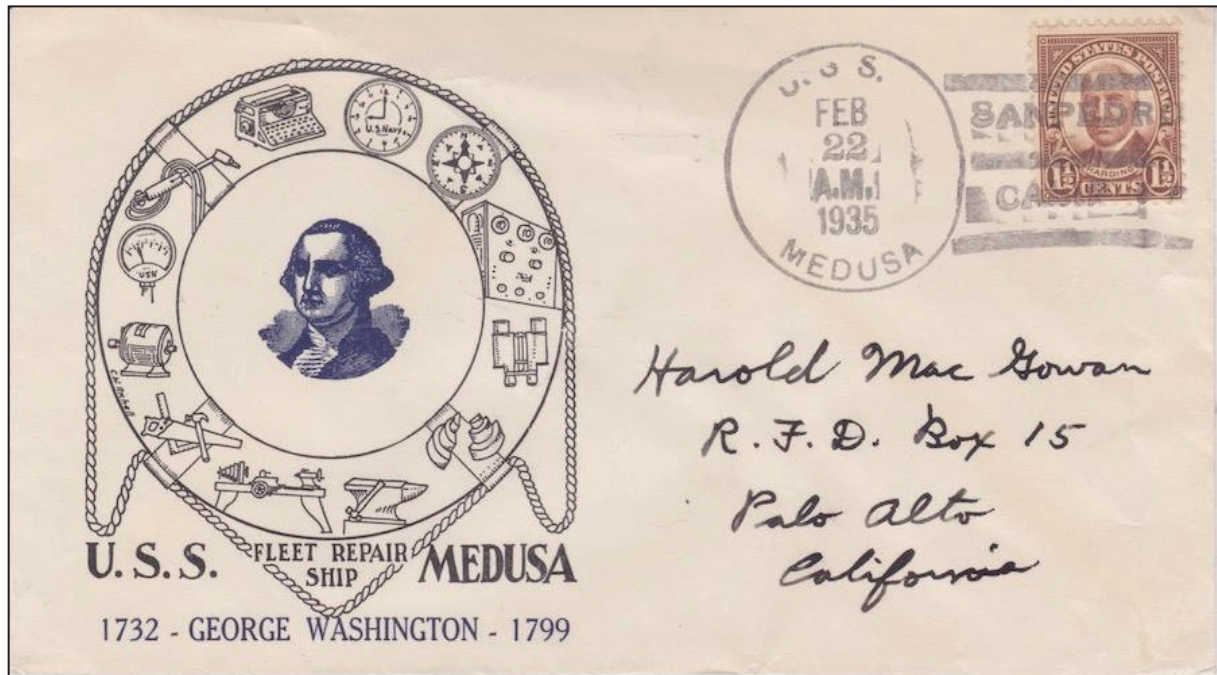


USS Medusa AR-1
By Howard Grenzebach



Raffle prize at a recent club meeting.

Above is a cover won as a raffle prize drawing using three tickets I purchased for only a buck! It's amazing what you can win for only a dollar for three raffle tickets. This cover was possibly made by K. E. Brown (return address on back) in the print shop aboard the Medusa, a repair ship that was launched in 1923 and commissioned about a year and a half later in 1924. Built to service repairs on battleships at sea as well as the aircraft serving on them.

The ship was based in San Pedro, CA at this time but saw earlier service in the Caribbean based out of Norfolk, VA. Her finest service, however, was at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

During the Pearl Harbor attack her crew downed at least two Japanese aircraft and a possible third. They had one bomb dropped on them, that missed, by the first aircraft they shot down. They spotted a periscope in the water off their bow and opened fire with a machine gun and 3-inch anti-aircraft shells. Then watched a destroyer sail over it dropping depth charges, probably destroying it. I have a copy of the entire report, if interested.

There are a large number of covers from the *USS Medusa* (one with a similar cachet and many other cachets) that would make an interesting collection in itself and possibly a one or two frame exhibit.

The *USS Medusa* was decommissioned after service through WWII on November 18, 1946.

Howard Grenzebach is currently a Director of NSSS and collects Worldwide pre-1950, early Grenada, and Swiss standing Helvetia.