

Navy shapes up for dress codes

United Press International

SAN DIEGO — Senior Chief Petty Officer Fletcher Tucker ran his fingertips along his clean-shaven cheeks and said, "My wife and two kids back East have never seen me without it."

Tucker's beard of 17 years had a close encounter with a sharp razor recently.

Since Jan. 1, naval personnel have been getting shipshape by shaving their beards — although they can keep their mustaches — to comply with new regulations.

Tucker, a 24-year Navy man attached to the chaplain's office at North Island Naval Air Station, spoke of his late beard like a lost friend.

"It was well kept," he said. "It met all uniform regulations. It complied with grooming standards. I miss it. I feel like I'm being punished for something and I don't know what."

Many Navy people say the new grooming rules mark an end to the Zumwalt era. Adm. Elmo Zumwalt, former chief of naval operations, liberalized the code in the 1970s, dropping the bell-bottom uniform for enlisted men and letting them have beards.

"He thought Navy people should look like civilians," said a young officer. "But the men never really went along with that."

Zumwalt is now retired. Not only are beards disappearing but Navy personnel now eat in a "mess hall" again — not a "dining facility." It's all part of a return to earlier traditions.

Navy Adm. James Watkins, chief of naval operations, said in an order radioed to all Navy commands last

Dec. 14: "All Navy men are to be clean-shaven except for neatly trimmed, military-appearing mustaches."

Navy Secretary John Lehman said the Navy was looking for "a general sharpening of appearance."

Earlier, Watkins restored the traditional bell-bottom uniforms for sailors below the rank of chief petty officer. Last August officers in "highly visible" commands were ordered to forego their beards.

Rex Kramer, another chief petty officer whose cheeks lately are paler than his forehead, said, "Anyone who was surprised by the regulation wasn't watching things. It's part of a trend that started slowly gaining strength about 1978. The feeling I get is one of quiet acceptance. It's as if your ship was going to pull out tomorrow and you didn't expect it."

Kramer said the Navy seems more "calm and clear" today than in the 1970s, and he considers that a fair tradeoff for his beard. He applauded a recent directive from Lehman bringing back traditional nomenclature such as "mess hall," for "enlisted dining facility," which came into vogue in the Zumwalt days.

Civilian barber Dick Butz at the post exchange in Imperial Beach, who whisked off a number of beards in the two weeks before New Year's, said, "One senior chief had his beard and his head shaved at the same time as a sort of protest. After he left, his wife called up to see if he had taken his hair and whiskers with him in a bag. She was worried. She said he threatened to send it to the chief of naval operations."

Schroeder takes on a 'normal' day

United Press International

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Bill Schroeder, completing his seventh week with his mechanical heart, enjoyed a quiet Saturday watching college basketball on television and listening to Tanya Tucker's latest country music album.

Schroeder, 52, who became the world's second permanent artificial heart recipient Nov. 25, continues to improve his strength as he recovers from a Dec. 13 stroke that briefly left him paralyzed on the right side.

"His strength is improving," said Linda Broadus, a spokeswoman for Humana Hospital Audubon, the only facility with Food and Drug Administration approval to implant mechanical hearts.

Broadus said Schroeder's growing strength was reflected in his ability to ride a stationary exercise bicycle without holding the handlebars.

Schroeder, a grandfather and retired munitions inspector from Jasper, Ind., managed the no-hands ride on the exercise bicycle after walking back and forth from his room to the hospital's physical therapy unit, Broadus said.

Before undergoing the implant, Schroeder's diseased heart had left him unable to exercise even brief periods without becoming fatigued.

Schroeder spent a quiet Saturday

and had time to listen to a new country music album personally presented by Tucker, who also brought flowers to Schroeder in a surprise visit late Friday.

Schroeder is a fan of country music and also enjoys college basketball, especially the Indiana University Hoosiers coached by Bobby Knight, who sent Schroeder an autographed basketball and a taped pep talk last month.

Dr. William DeVries, who implanted the world's first permanent artificial heart in Dr. Barney Clark in 1982, agreed to stop by Schroeder's room to watch Saturday's televised game between Wisconsin and host Indiana.

"Today is going to be a quiet day," said Broadus.

"He's going to spend time with his family."

His wife, Margaret, has lived in the hospital since the implant and his children have been commuting almost daily from Jasper 70 miles away in southern Indiana to visit Schroeder.

Broadus said Schroeder "has a good appetite (and) he eats everything in sight."

She said the hospital, which has reviewed three patients for possible mechanical heart implants, has not admitted any of them.

War hero to be buried with military honors

United Press International

PITTSBURGH — Congressional Medal of Honor winner Charles E. Kelly, who will be honored with a 21-gun salute at his funeral today had difficulty making the transition to civilian life after his World War II heroism, his brother says.

Kelly, who single-handedly held off a platoon of Germans, died Friday of heart failure in Pittsburgh at the age of 64. Services were scheduled for Monday at Sperling Funeral Home.

He will then be buried in Highwood Cemetery.

Kelly's brother, Howard, of nearby Shaler, said Kelly did not handle the pressure of being a war hero well.

"He couldn't handle it as well as somebody else might have been able to," he said.

"He moved around a lot, never settled down. I never knew what he was looking for."

Kelly, who rose to the rank of sergeant, became one of 432 World War II participants to receive the Medal of Honor.

He volunteered to defend an ammunition dump at Altavilla, killing 40 attacking Germans, while other members of his unit retreated to Salerno.

Kelly also was awarded two Silver Stars, two Bronze Stars and British and French military medals.

He will receive a military salute at his funeral usually reserved for

someone who dies while in the service.

The services Monday will include a 21-gun salute by a military firing squad at the cemetery. The military also is sending an honor guard and six pallbearers, said Walter Sperling, owner of the funeral home.

"That is what they usually send for any individual that's in the military service and died in the line of duty," he said Sunday.

Sperling said he grew up in the same neighborhood as Kelly, and said Kelly looked upon his heroism as part of the job of defending his country.

"He was that type of individual," Sperling said. "He was (loyal) to his line of duty. I think any of those people (in his northside Pittsburgh neighborhood) are that type of person," he said.

Sperling said he expects about 100 people to attend the service.

After the war, a bad investment cost Kelly the \$40,000 he received from the Saturday Evening Post for a story about his exploits. He ran a gas station and later worked as a house painter.

His wife died in 1951, leaving him with two small children. He remarried and moved to Louisville, Ky., but lost his job and was soon forced to move into a low-rent apartment with his family.

Kelly is survived by two sons, a stepson, three daughters, seven grandchildren and five brothers.

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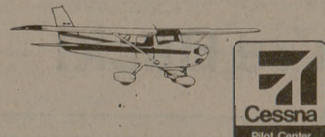
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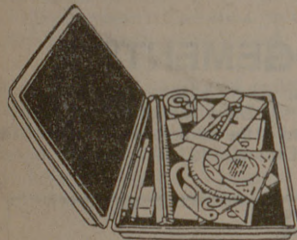
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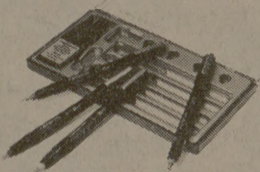


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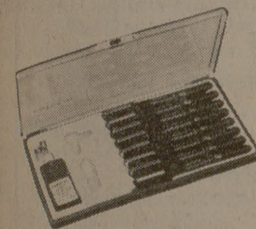
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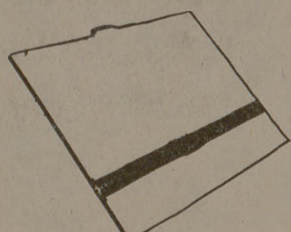
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