



**AULD LANG SYNE**—The appointment of Mel Griffin to a lieutenantcy in the Marine Corps Reserves recalls a great basketball team that he coached at Long Beach Junior College. Left, Dick West, forward; (upper right) Captain Bob Howard, Coach Griffin and Don Cecil; (lower right) Grant Denmark. Dave Cohee, spark-plug forward is not in the picture. West is at U. C. L. A., Howard and Cecil at Oregon State, and Denmark at St. Mary's Pre-flight. Of the reserves, Ed Gillian is in the Merchant Marine, "Red" Meirs in the Navy; Gordon Courson is at Douglas; Arvid Sutherland at Oregon U., and Jack Bradley at Long Beach jaysee.

By **CARL STONE.**

**I**T'S before Pearl Harbor. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was just beginning a third term. You could buy tires, butter, meat, eggs and rationing was something you read about in Europe and felt smug about here.

It's at Modesto in January, 1941, the semifinals of the state junior college basketball championship are under way. The favored team of the tournament has just left the floor for the half-time intermission. It has scored only six points in the first half and trails, 25-6.

The boys come back after the intermission and play spectacular ball but lose, 48-40, scoring 34 points in the last half.

That was one of two games lost by that Long Beach Junior

cause they wanted to, but because with their natural abilities couldn't help it.

Like in the Pasadena game when Pasadena got a little "come-uppance" in the first half.

**35 PER CENT FOR SEASON!**

Starting the second half, the Vikes hit 80 per cent of their shots in the first 10 minutes! It is just as well to mention here that they had a season's average of a little better than 35 per cent on shotmaking. Five per cent more than is considered good for any one game!

Well, back to the return trip from Santa Monica. The season was almost over. Everyone in the car was thinking the same thing. Griffin voiced it when he sort of sighed to himself. "Fifty points in the back court. I'm sure going to miss that next year." He was speaking of Don Cecil and Bob Howard.

Which reminds of another amusing little incident which was typical of the Vikes.

It was at Westwood when the Vikes played the U. C. L. A. frosh as a curtain raiser to the Stanford-U. C. L. A. varsity game.

The Vikes were loafing in the first half and the Bruin frosh were taking some liberties.

Starting the second half, the Vikes began their merry-go-round. Passing, passing until the frosh themselves stopped in sheer admiration and lack of breath. Finally some wag in the stands yelled: "You'd better make a break, they can do that all night!"