Local Pilot, Whose Bomber Scored Hit On Jap Cargo Ship, Awarded Air Medal

Dubiously good was the news received here today about First Lt. Donald R. Latham. Junior college graduate, he is now piloting a B-25 bomber somewhere in New Guinea. He has been awarded not only the Air Medal, but the gold Oak Leaf cluster to the Air Medal, "for meritorious achievement while participating in an air action over the Bismarck Sea." Despite Japanese anti-aircraft fire, his plane, on a bombing mission, hit a Jap cruiser, made a direct hit on a combat ship. Lieutenant Latham, grandson of Mrs. W. S. Ring, and the late W. S. Ring, 2619 Burlington avenue north, enlisted in the Army Air force early in 1941. He completed advanced training at Elmendorf field, Alaska, and was assigned to the 305th bombardment squadron as second bombardier in the latter part of May 1943. His promotion to the rank of first lieutenant came when he was sent overseas last August for active combat duty.

Full details of this recent exploit over the Bismarck sea raiding the Air Medal and Oak Leaf cluster, are contained in a letter of commendation received here by his grandfather from Lt. Gen. George C. Kenney, commanding headquarters Fith Air Force. The letter continued, "This award was made for meritorious and conspicuous service to his country in action against the enemy. He flew 25 missions during a campaign 14 months long. His courage and honor to the core. I would like to have sent him a box of good grain seed. I am to have run much as my grandfather in my command and his good gained I am to show these young Americans with such courage and conspicuousness are the backbone of our country's battle against the aggressor nations.

Extension of Disston Avenue To Be Sought

POLICE BEAT

Forgery Charge Placed Against Local Man

Arrested yesterday on a charge of forgery, Ralph Edwards, 748 Ninth street north, was in jail last night where he was being held under $1,000 bond.

According to Sgt. Howard Kentz of the receiving station, Edwards, an employe of an independent exximating company, allegedly forged the name of an employer to an outstanding check in the amount of $160 and later restated only $60 of this amount in his compte.

With a total of 19 streets made for both cars and state authorities up until a few hours last night proved the root of the problem. All were arrested, however, were of a minor nature.

State police staged three gambling raids which netted a total of $1900 in cash. All were arrested. Those taken in the raids, excepting five whose names were not revealed, included: John L. Judd, 764 Fourth avenue south; James Jones, 756 Fourth avenue south; John Dudley, 623 1/2 Third avenue south; Thomas Williams, 469 Third street south; James Brown, 469 Third street south; Poage Goods, 240; Seventh avenue; James Hinson, 1640 1/2; John Bostrom, 1640 1/2.

Realtors Postpone

At Werly, president of the St. Petersburg Board of Real Estate, yesterday told merchants there will be a postponed. He said only one real estate board in the city is meeting Tuesday night.