

USS TOPEKA

REUNION ASSOCIATION

c/o D.E. Cass
3028 Bonita Woods Drive
Bonita, CA 91902
EDITOR: DUDLEY CASS



Volume 2, No. 1 January, 1991

COMMITTEE

Don Nellis, President
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Jack Bock
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... THE BEST FOR THE NEW YEAR!

The Committee extends best wishes to you for 1991. May it be a happy, healthy, and prosperous year for you and yours.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

This is our first newsletter of '91 and we think this edition will set the standard for what we want to get across to all members, new and old.

Thanks for your great support in '90. The San Diego BASH went off perfectly. Let's make the Queen Mary BASH, scheduled for 15-19 August 1991, in Long Beach BIGGER & BETTER.

As you know, it's DUES time. The DUES are our bread and butter so please respond early.

Plans are moving along for the Queen Mary OUTING and John Reynolds and his committee are tracking it well. Please keep the 15-19 August open for our reunion and keep those dues and comments coming.

Let's increase membership and reunion attendees by 100% in '91.

Thanks,
Don Nellis

... FROM THE EDITOR

In February of last year, the association sent out its first newsletter to the 17 TOPEKA men we had on our mailing list then. This newsletter is going to over 200—by the end of the year, I expect we will double that number. To do this - to locate and communicate with former TOPEKA crewmembers—takes dollars. Each newsletter costs the association about \$1 per copy to get in the mail - each reunion notice to newspapers, etc., costs about \$.50. That's why we must have your support. Your \$15 annual dues is used primarily to pay for the newsletters and the newspaper reunion notices. Please use the form provided at the end of this newsletter, and mail me that check!

I have just updated the Association directory, and will mail it to everyone who pays, or has already paid, their dues.

TOPEKA TO BE HOMEPORTED IN SAN DIEGO.

The USS TOPEKA (SSN 754) will be homeported in San Diego commencing May of this year. The Association welcomes them to San Diego, and has invited representation from the TOPEKA to our next reunion.

ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOUR HELP TO LOCATE TOPEKA MEN

Most of our current Reunion Association membership is from the Western states. We are trying to reach potential members in the rest of the U.S. Our press release database is being expanded, right now, to include wide coverage in Texas, Florida, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arizona. Eventually, we will cover all 50 states. Future reunions will be held wherever the membership decides; to get the reunion away from the West Coast, we only have to get the membership to support it, and vote for it. You guys East of the Rockies, help us out!



**“MORE HAPPY FACES FROM THE '90 REUNION.
JOIN US AT THE '91 BASH IN LONG BEACH.”**

... LETTERS

The Topeka reunion in August was my first ship's reunion. I cannot possibly imagine any ship's reunion being any better. I thoroughly enjoyed it. It was great seeing old shipmates and friends... Looking forward to August 1991 in Long Beach.

Dick Wemette
Chula Vista, CA

Thanks for your letter, Dick. I've been trying to think of ways to convince everyone they shouldn't miss our next reunion—your letter says it all! (And thanks for the '91 dues.)

Please enroll me as a member and a copy of the directory would be appreciated. You may add my name if it is not too late.

Ronald Smith
Waupaca, WI

We are delighted to enroll you as a member, Ron. The directory update is in the works — and I'll be getting them in the mail in January. Ron, how did you hear about the Association? And where is Waupaca? Your letter gives me a perfect lead-in to note that the Association is gathering more information on our shipmates - such as:

*When were you on Topeka?
What was your rank/rate?
When were you released from active duty/retired?
What was your highest rank/rate?
What have you been doing (briefly) since Topeka?*

We got this sort of information from many of the reunion attendees, but we would appreciate everyone on our mailing list providing this information, using the form at the end of the newsletter.

... and from CAPT J. E. Mansfield, Commanding Officer, 1962-63, in response to our request for TOPEKA incidents/events/anecdotes:

... One incident... involved CAPT Bill Ruhe and CDR Perkins. A classmate of CAPT Ruhe had command of another cruiser in Long Beach, and the two skippers engaged in a friendly contest to see which could penetrate the other's security on shipboard. One afternoon Captain Ruhe returned to the TOPEKA following his afternoon tennis session and on entering his cabin he found a small brown package in the middle of his desk, labeled "BOMB" Obviously TOPEKA's security had been penetrated. A deck below, CDR Perkins answered his intercom to hear, "Perkins, I just returned to my cabin to find this package labeled "BOMB." What are you going to do about it?" Perkins thought a minute, pressed his "talk" button and replied, "Keep your intercom switch down, Captain, and if I hear a loud explosion, I'll come up and take command."

A great story, Captain Mansfield! I knew both Captain Ruhe and CDR Perkins — from my memory of both these gentlemen, I can picture the expressions on their faces, and imagine the tones of voice each used in this conversation. To the rest of you guys out there, I'm sure many of you have stories of humorous things that happened on Topeka. Send them to me so we can share them.

... WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

(from questionnaires filled out at the '90 Reunion.)

Isaac Roberts, IC3 on TOPEKA from '65 to '68, left the Navy in '68. Ike is now "working, so I can quit working." He entered the Reserves in '80, is now IMC with 6 years left to build in USNR for retirement. Hobbies include coins and baseball cards. Ike and Linda have 2 children and live in Hixson, Tennessee.

Bill Bundy served on TOPEKA 1960-62 as ENC, and retired in 1962. He worked for the City of Oxnard from '62 to '77. '77 to '84 was devoted to golf; and since '84, he is an airline pilot. Bill and his wife, Donna, now reside in Oxnard, California.

Marvin Davis was on TOPEKA 1961-62; he left TOPEKA and was released from active duty in 1962 as a LTJG. Since then, he has held engineering, managerial, and executive positions with several firms. Marv's hobbies are sailing and travel. Marv and Trudy have 2 children and live in Atlanta, Georgia.

Gerald Judge, FTCS on TOPEKA 1963-66, retired from the Navy in '68. He finished work for a college degree and became a school teacher. Jerry is now Assistant Principal of a San Diego high school. His hobbies include golf and travel. Jerry and Ruth have 4 children and live in Chula Vista, California.

William G. Noel served on TOPEKA, as QMCM, from 1964 until his retirement in 1966. On retirement, he has worked in aerospace electronics, retiring from Hughes Aircraft in 1989. Bill's current hobbies are "making sawdust" and fishing. Bill and Dorothy have 5 children, and live in Canoga Park, California.

Stan Hayes, SN to PH2 from '66 to '69 on TOPEKA, left the Navy in '70. He has spent the last 20 years as a railroad conductor with Santa Fe out of Needles, CA. His hobby is model railroading. Stan and his 3 children live in Needles, California.

Robert Goe, QM3 on TOPEKA in '67-'68, was discharged from the Navy in '68. He was in the finance business for 7 years, then reenlisted in the Navy in '75. Presently serving onboard the USS PELELIU as Leading Chief in the Navigation Department. Bob is a widower, has 1 child, and lives in San Pedro, California. His hobby is golf ("what else is there?").

Jim Pflieger, LTJG on TOPEKA from '62 to '65, was released from active duty in '65. He remained in the Reserves and retired as CDR, USNR in 1987. Jim is a forester; working for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the past 22 years. He is currently the Assistant District Forester on the Buchanan State Forest. Hobbies include hunting, fishing, and a cabin in the mountains. Jim has 2 children and lives in McConnellsburg, PA.

Note from the editor: As you can see, the reunion had good representation from the ranks and rates serving on TOPEKA in the '60s. I found it interesting to hear what my shipmates had been doing since they left TOPEKA, and felt you would, too. I plan to include more information such as this in future newsletters. PELELIU is currently participating in Operation Desert Shield; our best wishes go to Robert Goe, as well as to all our other friends, sons, and daughters, serving over there now.

QUEEN MARY —TRULY A NAUTICAL SITE FOR THE '91 REUNION.

The Queen Mary, now a hotel berthed in Long Beach Harbor, is the site for our '91 Reunion. In common with TOPEKA, in addition to her "elegance and charm," she has a history which includes WWII service. The following paragraphs were taken from a pamphlet provided by the hotel.

The legendary Queen Mary is a masterpiece of elegance, charm and grace. Conceived in 1926 by a cadre of Cunard's expert shipbuilders, the Queen was destined to be the most luxurious ocean liner ever built, the First Lady of the Sea. Skilled craftsmen spent 10 years creating a 1019-foot work of art. Fifty-six varieties of wood, representing each of Britain's colonies, were used to fashion her exquisite Art Deco decor. Fireplaces and dramatic lamps were carved from alabaster. Silver and brass artisans created elaborate railings and grills. Etched leaded glass, Art Deco paintings and elegant furnishings were carefully selected to decorate this Grand Lady in luxurious style.

Today, after logging more than a million miles asea, the Queen Mary reigns as the First Lady of Southern California, the most unique hotel experience in the world. Staying aboard this Grand Lady is akin to reliving the romance of an era filled with elegance, charm and grace.



The below form is provided for use in forwarding annual dues and/or submitting personal information for the Reunion Association database. Please cut out and mail to:

USS TOPEKA CLG 8 Reunion Association
c/o D. E. Cass
3028 Bonita Woods Dr.
Bonita, CA 91902

Checks may be made out to: **Topeka Reunion Association**

USS TOPEKA CLG 8 REUNION ASSOCIATION

Name _____ Date _____

'91 Dues Submitted _____

Do you plan on coming to '91 Reunion? _____

Period served on TOPEKA _____ Rank/rate on TOPEKA _____

Date, and Rank/rate, on retirement or release from active duty _____

Name of Spouse _____ Number of Children _____

Hobbies: _____

Please attach a brief summary of what you've been doing since leaving TOPEKA:

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STAMP

