

USS TOPEKA (CLG-8)

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 3, No. 2

April 1992



Committee:

*Don Nellis, President; Dick Jolliffe, Vice President;
Dudley E. Cass, Secretary/Treasurer; Jim Carey, Reunion '92 Chairman
Jack Connery, Newsletter Editor*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have been getting a great response on dues. Please keep it up. Special thanks to you members who gave more than the required \$15. We hope to make it "money well spent."

Jim Carey called the other day and told me he had finalized a deal with the Marriott Courtyard in Crystal City/Arlington Va., for Reunion 92. He got a tremendous price -- \$55.00 day/room. Fantastic. Good work Jim. He and his committee will meet shortly to work out the details for the D.C. bash. Dates selected are Thursday-Saturday, October 15-18. More information can be found elsewhere in this issue. Come one/come all. It definitely will be a ball.



Travel Agent Margery Pfund has a deal on discount travel to Washington via United Airlines, also covered in this issue.

Jack Connery and his 93 site selection committee are hard at work looking for a great midwestern spot for the 93 reunion. They will make some good proposals for our consideration at the D.C. reunion. Jack has a question he needs the answer to now. Look elsewhere in this issue and send him your answer.

One of the highlights of our January 92 newsletter was the "Letters" column. Please keep those letters coming. "Attaboys" and "gotchas" gratefully accepted.

Sincerely,
Don Nellis



LET'S GO TO WASHINGTON

October 15-18 is the time. The Marriott Courtyard in Crystal City/Arlington, Va., is the place. TOPEKA sailors from around the country will gather and pay homage to that fine ship, and to each other. Be there.

Jim Carey and his committee, composed of Dick Slye, Gerry Dunne, and Jim Howard are putting together a bash we should all look forward to attending.

It's economical too. Room reservations are \$55 a day. These rates are good before and after if you want to come early or stay late. Call (703) 549-3434 for reservations. You can even do it by fax at (703) 549-0320. Make sure you specify USS TOPEKA Reunion Association. If you have questions about the hotel, ask for Mr. Art Scanlon. Other fees, such as the Saturday banquet will be published later, and can be paid to the Reunion Association.

Jim and his gang are working out the details of the schedule now. This will be published in the next newsletter. Details thus far indicate a "welcome aboard" reception Thursday evening, a reception on the fantail of the USS John Barry, station ship for Washington, on Friday (fantail frolic?), annual meeting and banquet Saturday, and a lot of time for sightseeing.

Hotel amenities include complimentary airport (National) van on arrival/departure, cable TV, Club room, swimming pool/sauna, and free coffee and breakfast buffet. It's within three blocks of Crystal City, and 5 blocks of the D.C. Metro.

Jim Carey says it's awfully crowded in Washington in October -- especially in an election year. If you want to tour any of the government facilities, ie, White House, Capitol, Treasury or FBI Buildings, write to your Congressmen or Senator now to arrange for tickets, at no cost.

Start your planning now. We need you there to help make this a real success.

AIR TRAVEL TO REUNION 92

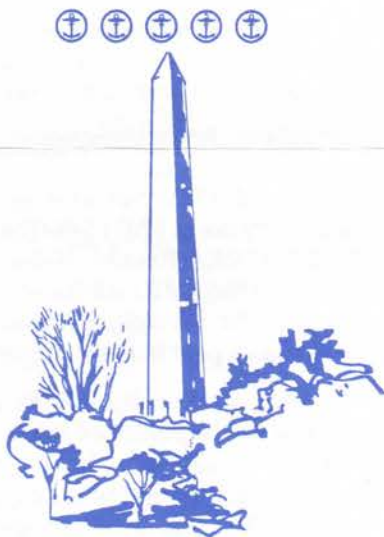
Fly to Washington at a discount. Margery Pfund, a San Francisco Travel Agent, and wife of Gale (62-64), has arranged with United Airlines to provide a discount fare package.

United Airlines will allow 40 percent off full coach travel, or 5 percent off the lowest published fare into any of the three Washington area airports (National, Dulles or Baltimore). These fares will be valid from two days prior to the reunion until two days after.

To get these fares, call TRAVELWAYS, Inc., collect at (415) 543-0800 or (415) 397-9080 and reference TOPEKA Reunion. A toll-free number, (800) 356-2538, is also available. If you use the 800 number, reference "Code BSGR40" along with TOPEKA Reunion.

As an alternative, Margery also says that most airlines allow a senior citizens discount of 10 percent to those 60 and older, and their traveling companion, regardless of age, as long as they travel together on the same itinerary.

Ed note: This prepared prior to airline reduction in fares, and may be subject to change. Call TRAVELWAYS, Inc., for latest information.



IN MEMORIAM

Art Johnson, ETCS (60-62), Cheltenham, Md.

Dorothy Wemette, wife of Dick Wemette, Chula Vista, Calif.



YES OR NO?

Now that we have you thinking about Reunion 92, the Reunion 93 site selection committee needs to know your opinion. How would you vote on this question?

"Do you want to join forces with the USS TOPEKA (CL 67) Reunion Group for a 1993 Reunion?"

The CL 67 Association is a group like ours -- composed of shipmates who originally put TOPEKA in commission in 1944 and sailed in her through the end of WW II, and until decommissioning in 1949. They have been meeting yearly for 20 years, and their influence was instrumental in getting the Attack Submarine SSN 754 named TOPEKA. And some of them know real war stories.

A joint reunion has been discussed informally on occasion, the thought being that someday it would happen. Send your "Yes" or "No" right away (no later than May 8) to Jack Connery, 16334 South Lewis, Bixby, Ok., 74008, and we'll get on with the planning. We have to present a site recommendation at our Washington meeting. Keep in mind that a "Yes" vote may mean we have to compromise some on 93 Reunion location and time. If we vote "No" we will retain complete control over where and when we have our 93 reunion.

Yes No



WELCOME ABOARD (SINCE JANUARY 1)

- Charles Beardsley, BM3 (62-65), Carson, Cal.
- Roger Beukema, RM3 (63-65), Davisburg, Mich.
- Larry Geibe (60-64), Kingwood, Tex.
- Joe Jeannice, BTC (59-62), Lake Charles, La.
- Jim Kittinger, DK2 (65-68), Sturgeon Bay, Wisc.
- Peter Mercier, Ensign (60-61), Grosse Point Mich.



1992 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Dick Jolliffe hasn't received too much help for the 1992 Membership Drive, as requested in the last newsletter. He really needs help getting this off the ground.

There have been past comments about "too many officers," "not enough enlisted," "too many chiefs, etc. And there's always the question, "Have you heard from _____?" Now is the chance to do something about it. Help Dick find more of our shipmates. Here's how:

- Tell Dick you want to help.
- Get the names and addressees of several (at least 5) newspapers around your state. (You can get names and addresses at the Public Library from the Standard Periodical Directory, or the Gale Directory of Publications and Broadcast Media.
- Dick will send you tailor-made press releases for you to send to those newspapers. Your name and address

will be used as a point of contact. Newspapers are more likely to publish if the contact is local, at least within the same state.

- When a shipmate contacts you, drop him a note and send his name and address to Dudley Cass so we can get him on the mailing list.

Now to sweeten the pot: For every name you send to Dudley, who is not presently on our rolls, your name will go into the pot. It doesn't make any difference whether you get the name and address following the above steps, or in any other manner. Each valid name submitted will be a chance to win three nights (for two) at the Marriott Courtyard for our reunion, and the reunion banquet fees, or an equivalent cash prize. Drawing will be held at the reunion, and you don't have to be present to win.

Can't beat a deal like that.

Let's help Dick get this in automatic. Contact Dick at 7453 Golfcrest Drive, San Diego, Ca., 92119, (619) 287-3630.



FROM THE EDITOR

A few weeks ago I had the chance to take part in a "mini reunion." Seven of us and wives got together for a weekend. It wouldn't qualify as a "spur of the moment" thing, but it was close. What an enjoyable time we had!! It was my second "mini." Last October, three of us got together in Oklahoma. To think that for 25 years, these names and faces were only good memories. Now, good friendships have been re-established. You may want to think about a "mini" in your neighborhood. As we parted a few weeks back, the last words exchanged were, "See ya in Washington."



DUES

Over 70 have paid their 1992 dues, and a large number of those included a contribution in addition to the dues. We appreciate those contributions, and plan to use them to promote increasing our membership. See the notice on the membership drive.

MEET YOUR SHIPMATE

Boot Ensign Jack Kehoe reported to TOPEKA in Long Beach on the day she returned from the 1961 WESTPAC cruise. He was all fired up and ready to go, and was somewhat disappointed when everybody wanted to go on liberty. He had been commissioned through the NROTC program at Harvard University.

Initially, he was assigned as Fox Division Junior Officer. He remembers telling one of his FT's that it was his birthday. "Which one?" he was asked. His reply of twenty second was greeted with dismay bordering on disbelief. This "hat" makes even a kid seem old.

After six months with Fox Division, Jack was transferred to First Division as Junior Officer, then took over as Division Officer at the beginning of the 1962 WESTPAC cruise. This was the year of the "Missiles of October" when the U.S. faced off with the USSR concerning missiles in Cuba. Jack had taken leave, and coming back early, found that TOPEKA had left Hong Kong in a hurry, leaving him and others behind. His job during this period was to collect all the Hong Kong purchases TOPEKA men had left behind. He caught up with the ship six weeks later.

Jack must have been quite a story teller. At Reunion 90, Norm Malmberg remarked, "it seemed only like yesterday to hear again Jack Kehoe spinning a yarn across the room with the same old expressions and gestures."

TOPEKA returned to Long Beach in time for Christmas leave in 1962. The spring of 1963 saw a yard overhaul at Hunters Point. Jack was discharged in Long Beach in August, and drove his 56 Mercury convertible back to Boston. He remembers 100 degree plus temperatures in the Mojave desert and a shimmy in the front end. He arrived in Boston broke, hungry and out of gas.

He continued his education, entering Harvard Law School in September, 1963. He graduated in 1966 and has been practicing law in Boston since. For the first 11 years, he was with several large firms, and in 1977, started his own practice. It has now grown to eight lawyers, specializing in civil trials including personal injury, defense of negligence cases and product liability.

Jack remained a bachelor until the age of 30, stating that Boston is a good place to be a bachelor. "Liberty is good in Boston." Another reason for this is that the work week for a young lawyer is about 60 hours. Jack had a friend who had met a very attractive and accomplished young woman through a computer dating service. He decided to do likewise. That's how he met Eva, his wife-to-be, in 1970.



Eva, a practicing pediatrician, was born in England and has an accent like the royal family. This contrasts significantly with Jack's South Boston delivery. Their three children, two of which were at Reunion 91, find the completely contrasting styles of their parents a source of enjoyment. Jack says that they would have never gotten together in the normal way.

Jack and Eva live in Wellesley, a Boston suburb. They have a son John, a sophomore at the University of Arizona, a daughter June, a high school junior in Wellesley, Ma., and a son Ted, a prep school freshman.

Between the three kids and their activities, Jack practicing law, Eva practicing medicine, and Jack's 86-year-old mother who moved in with them last year, it's about all Jack can do to get in a little skiing in Vermont occasionally. It is a good life, but a little hectic.

TOPEKA MEMORABILIA

The following memorabilia is available:

- The Baka Hachi, 1960-1969; the story of TOPEKA, as told through the experiences of the men who sailed and fought her. Edited by Jack Connery. \$13.00. A must for all former TOPEKAMEN.
- TOPEKA Ballcaps: \$12.00.
- TOPEKA Shirts (Navy Blue Pullovers): \$15.00.
- TOPEKA Coffee Mugs: \$8.00.

Order The Baka Hachi from either Jack Connery or "Parky" Parkhurst. Order other items from "Parky." Check the directory for addresses. Make checks payable to the Reunion Association.



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