

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 3, No. 3

July 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

It's time for a situation report:

The "Upside"

Jim Carey and Crew have decided on an \$80 per person fee for Reunion 92. This \$80, coupled with the \$55 per-day room fee at the Marriott Courtyard in Arlington, Va., represents a real bargain. These bargain basement prices are the result of outstanding planning and negotiation by Jim and his Crew.

As you can see in this newsletter, the D.C. reunion is really shaping up. All it needs now is YOU.

Financially, your association is sound. We have \$3,200 and change in the bank with no major outstanding obligations.

The "Downside"

We have 230 plus members on our mailing list and so far, only 87 have paid their 1992 dues.

The response to our 1992 membership drive has received only minimal attention by the membership.

The response to the question of a joint 1993 reunion with USS TOPEKA (CL 67) was dismal, at best.

As I've said in the past, the future of our association lies in your hands. Let's all take a little more interest in our association workings. Let's all plan to attend the D.C. Reunion. Let's all "pass the word" to every shipmate we know and encourage them to join and participate.

I'd like to pass on some info from Jim Carey. October is a busy month in D.C. With an election year, this October will be extremely busy. If you are planning on a Capitol tour, White House tour, FBI tour, etc., contact the local office of your Congressman or

Senator **now** to reserve tickets well in advance. Jim says to do this at least eight weeks in advance to avoid disappointment.

See you in Washington.

Sincerely,
Don Nellis



DUES INDICATOR/MAILING LABEL

"D92" printed in the upper right corner of your newsletter mailing label tells you your 1992 dues have been received and credited. Absence of this indicator on your mailing label is a reminder that the Association welcomes/depends on your financial support to pay for these newsletters, directories, and distribution of reunion notices to newspapers and periodicals. (Widows of deceased TOPEKAMEN and honorary members, ie., CO, USS TOPEKA (SSN 754), are exempt from annual dues. Please use the form included in this newsletter to submit dues.



WELCOME ABOARD (SINCE MARCH 1, 1992)

- Lyman Franklin, Wake Forest, N.C.
- Frank James, GMGC, 1968, Newport News, Va
- Joseph Jackson, Terrytown, La.
- Max Kaster, ETSN, 1959, Landrum, S.C.
- Randy, McCormack ET3, 1959-61, Ventura, Cal.
- Rick Milstead, OS2, 1965-66, Jacksonville, Fla.
- Larry Patriquin, FT2, 1961-64, Barrington, NH.
- Morris Smith, MMCS, Ft. Payne, Ala.

REUNION 92

Reunion 92, October 15-18 in Washington, D.C., is shaping up to be a good one. With the likes of Jim Carey, Dick Slye, John Bianco, Pat Roth, Jerry Dunn, Jim Howard, and Bill Montgomery working on it, it's got to be good.

(Ed note: I know all of these guys, and when that diversity of talent gets together to put on a reunion, we all need to be there.)

The Hospitality Suite will be open daily. Here is the basic schedule:

Thursday, Oct. 15: Arrive, get re-acquainted.

6 p.m.: Welcome aboard cocktail party (cash bar) at the Marriott Courtyard.

Friday, Oct. 16: Sightseeing as desired. Perhaps a tour of the Pentagon. See note on reunion form. See comments below about getting tour tickets to the Capitol, White House, FBI, etc.

6 p.m.: Fantail Frolic with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres on fantail of USS Commodore JOHN BARRY at the Washington Navy Yard. Transportation to be decided Friday p.m. The U.S. Navy Museum is just across street from the BARRY. Might want to go early and visit museum. Hours announced Friday.

Saturday, Oct. 17: Sightseeing as before.

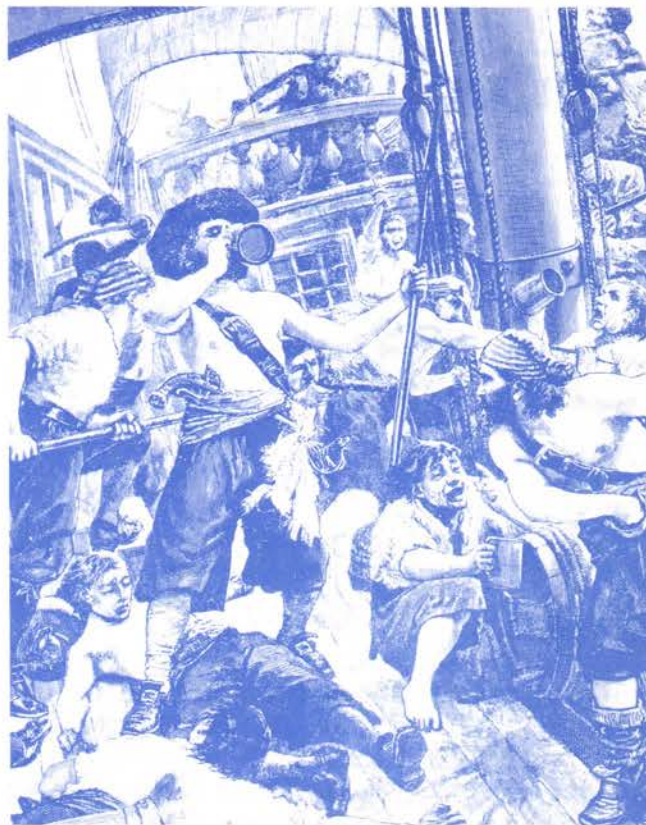
P.M. :Business Meeting at hotel.

6 p.m.: Banquet at the hotel.

Sunday, Oct. 18: Reunion concludes.

Washington D.C. Information:

- Washington crowded in October, especially with election coming. If you desire tour of Capitol, White House, FBI or other prominent government tourist attraction, contact the local office of your Congressman and Senator **now** to arrange for tickets.
- Primary transportation in the Washington area is the Metro subway system. One of the best in the world.
- Tour Mobiles make regular rounds of the main touring attractions. You can write your own touring schedule, using this system.
- Deadlines:
 - Hotel Reservations, September 30. All unreserved rooms will be released October 1.
 - Reunion Reservation Form (contained this newsletter) August 1.
- TOPEKA Memorabilia (Ball caps, mugs, etc) will be on sale in the hospitality suite. If you have TOPEKA treasures and would like to share them with your shipmates, bring them.



Reunion 92

FROM THE EDITOR

In the April edition of this newsletter, a prize was offered as part of the 92 Membership Drive -- three nights at the Marriott Courtyard and reunion fees for two, or cash equivalent. That's worth \$325. All one had to do to be eligible was submit names and addresses of TOPEKA sailors not already on our rolls. Each name submitted entitles you to a ticket for a drawing, to be held at the reunion. You don't even have to be present to win.

Right now, either Pete Minickiello, (60-63), Plymouth, NH, or Ray Kraft, (59-62), Madisonville, La., have it waxed. They have the only tickets in the pot, each with one name submitted. They are already asking for us to close it out, but we can't do that -- at least not just yet. They're still pretty confident though. Their names are already on the list to attend, and they don't think they'll have to pay.

I don't believe either has it won. I believe there are some more TOPEKAMEN out there who think a paid-for reunion is worth the effort and will send in at least one name, giving Pete and Ray a run for the money.

Don't disappoint me Mates! And don't let one of them just walk away with it.

Ed.

MEET YOUR SHIPMATE

John Reynolds reported aboard TOPEKA in July, 1961, as an MT1. He served aboard almost five years, leaving in June, 1966. While aboard, his time was divided between the Missile House and the Master At Arms Force.

John was recognized in 1963 when he was presented the Navy Commendation Medal for saving the life of a crewman.



Shortly after leaving TOPEKA, he retired from the Navy. He took advantage of the GI Bill and continued his education. Upon completion, he launched another career as a high school teacher. He is now a high school principal in Los Angeles.

“My years spent aboard Baka Hachi were the most memorable of my 24 years in the Navy. The officers and men were the finest in the Navy. The WESTPAC cruises, happy hours, fantail frolics, etc., are times to be cherished for life.

“Although I enjoy my second career, I still long for those “good ole days” aboard Baca Hachi, and the great times we had in the Orient.”

Since Day One, John has been very active in the Reunion Association. Reunion 91 was his. The Queen Mary was his idea, and he engineered the reunion, adding another Bravo Zulu to his credits.



AIR TRAVEL TO REUNION 92

In the April edition of the newsletter, the availability of discounted air travel to Reunion 92 through United Airlines and TRAVELWAYS, Inc. was announced. At press time, the airline fare war began. The best we could do at the time was to get a “wait and see” editor’s note tacked on to the end of the article.

Immediately, airlines stopped entering into group discount fare contracts. At the present time, none of the major airlines are offering group travel discounts. So, we will have to pay the regular airline fares. However, with the lower fares, and the bargain hotel rates and reunion fee, the reunion is still a fantastic deal. So come on.

We apologize for any inconvenience the discounted fare article may have caused. Ed.

REMEMBER WHEN . . . ?

After I enlisted in the Navy in October, 1961, a friend of mine, a former sailor, told me that soon after Boot Camp, I would be promoted to Captain of the Head. “Gollleeee!” I said. The Navy sure believes in rapid promotion.”

The first week in Boot Camp, I found out what the head was.

He was right. Soon after reporting to TOPEKA in 1962, I was placed in charge of the Second Division Head. Captain Mansfield was CO, and Commander Ansonage was XO. BM1 Jack Hodges was my Leading PO. In fact, as a BM3, Hodges set the first In Port Watch after Commissioning in 1960. He was really proud of the ship and demanded that I take pride in the Head.

Having been raised on an Iowa farm, I was not afraid of work. After Quarters, I would attack the head with vigor, hooking up a hose to hot water and washing down the bulkheads, deck, toilets and urinals.

One day, I was looking at the rubber hoses that supplied water to the toilets and urinals. They would look so much better if they were a bright black. This was before “Armor All,” so I carefully painted them with a glossy black enamel paint. Man, did they look good. I couldn’t wait for our next inspection, which was the next day.

Commander Ansonage was the Inspecting Officer. Those who remember him know that it was really tough to get a smile from him. I was very much intimidated by him. Think about it -- he was a Commander, the XO, and I was a Seaman Apprentice. There he was, with his white gloves and the Master at Arms. He checked everything twice without looking at the hoses. As he was leaving, having said little up to this time, he said, “Sailor, by any chance did you paint those rubber water hoses?”

“Yes Sir I did,” I replied, not knowing whether to be proud or not. He stared at the hoses for what seemed to be a long time, as whatever pride I had turned to regret.

Finally, in a low voice, he said, “You know, Sailor, you reduced the life of those hoses by half because you painted them.” As a young, naive 18-year-old, I didn’t understand.

Remember When . . . ? (Cont'd)

I thought they looked good. I had hoped to become "Sailor of the Quarter," or something like that. I was really getting nervous. Then, as he left, he continued, "Of course, you and I will be long-gone before that happens, won't we?"

He was really smiling. I'll never forget that incident.

Chuck Beardsley

Ed. Note: Chuck will receive \$25 for publication of this "Remember When. . .?" Send entries to Jack Connery, 16334 South Lewis, Bixby, Ok., 74008.



**USS TOPEKA (CLG-8)
REUNION ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
c/o JACK CONNERY
16334 SOUTH LEWIS
BIXBY, OK 74008**





TOPEKA REUNION ASSOCIATION DUES/REUNION FORM

Complete and mail this form by 1 August to:

TOPEKA REUNION
c/o Dudley Cass
3028 Bonita Woods Dr.,
Bonita, Calif., 91902
Phone: (619) 267-3123

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (____) _____

On TOPEKA from _____ (year) to _____ (year); Division/Department _____

Rate/Rank on TOPEKA _____.

I am enclosing annual dues of \$15.00. (Yes _____) (No _____). (A "D92" in the upper right hand corner of your address label will indicate that dues have been paid and credited).

I plan to attend the 1992 Reunion in Washington, D.C., Oct. 15-18 (YES _____) (NO _____).

If YES to above:

Reunion Fee (\$80 per person) enclosed (Yes _____) (No _____). If not, money must be submitted to Dudley Cass at the address above by 1 October. Make checks payable to TOPEKA REUNION.

Number of persons attending _____.

Name(s) desired on name tags _____

Choice/number of banquet entree(s): Beef/No. _____ Fish/No. _____.

Would you be interested in a tour of the Pentagon (Probably Friday) (Yes _____) (No _____)

How many nights will you stay at the Marriott Courtyard Hotel _____.

Note: You must make your own reservations not later than 30 September. To make reservations, call the Marriott at (703) 549-3434; FAX (703) 549-0320. Be sure to tell them you are with the TOPEKA Reunion. Room rate is \$55 per night.



COMING TO THE REUNION

The following have indicated that they are coming to Reunion 92, as of 25 June. Check this out. There is someone there you'll want to see. Plan on seeing them in Washington October 15-18.

Several others have indicated "maybe." To finalize reunion planning, we must have an accurate count of how many will attend. If you plan to attend, and your name is not on this list; or if your name is here and you have changed your plans, please let Dudley Cass know. You can use the form included in this newsletter.

Don Anderson, ET2, 62-65
Mike Angulo, CWO3, 65-67
Jesse Aragon, BM3, 59-62
Stan Bartnick, 1st LT, USMC, 63-64
Roger Beukema, RM3, 60-63
John Bianco, LT, 64-66
Ernest Blanton, LT, 62-64
Bill Bundy, ENC, 60-62
Don Cameron, LT, 60-62
Jim Carey, LTJG, 62-65
Dudley Cass, LTJG, 61-64
Jack Connery, LCDR, 64-66
Jerry Craig, FTM2, 66-69
Walter Davidovich, GMC, 59-63
Gerry Dunne, LTJG, 63-65
Edward Florence, SN, 68-69
Joe Heeney, CWO4, 63-66
Jim Howard, LTJG, 62-65
Dick Jolliffe, LT, 64-66
Gerald Judge, FTCS, 63-66
John Kehoe, LTJG, 61-63
Jim Kittenger, DK2, 65-68
Ray Kraft, LTJG, 59-62
Don Lamb, LTJG, 60-62
Jack Mansfield, CAPT., 62-64
Richard Martin, FTCS, 61-64
Peter Minickiello, FTGSN, 60-63
Bill Montgomery, CAPT, 66-67
Don Nellis, CDR, 63-65
Don Nelson, BT2, 64-66
Jim Ownby, LT, 62-65
Irad Parkhurst, FTCS, 63-66
Joe Peragine, CWO3, 59-66
Gale Pfund, LTJG, 62-64
Isaac Roberts, IC3, 65-68
Dick Slye, LT, 64-66
Ron Smart, RD3, 59-62
Ron Smith, SK2, 62-65
Tom Stumpf, CAPT, USMC, 64-66
Tom Victory, SFCS, 60-64
Bernard Visser, GMC, 59-62
Egon Werdelman, CDR 60-61