

# USS TOPEKA CLG-8 Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 6, No.1

February, 1995

## Committee:

*Jack Connery, President; Dudley E. Cass, Secretary/Treasurer;  
Dick Jolliffe, Assistant Secretary, Don Anderson, Reunion '95 Chairman  
Jack Connery, Newsletter Editor*



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

This newsletter is the only formal means of communication we have. This, and the face-to-face communication that goes on occasionally and at annual reunions. The problem is that the newsletter has become a one-way communication--from us (primarily the editor) to you.

I would like to change this during 1995. But the help to do so will have to come from you. Let the editor know what your doing, what's going on in your life, etc. Many are really interested in "Letters to the Editor." There are none in this issue. Participate by submitting letters or "Remember When . . ." stories. Other shipmates are interested in what you have to say.

Sincerely,  
Jack Connery



## 1995 DUES ARE DUE

1995 dues of \$15.00 are due, and should be submitted. Make checks payable to USS TOPEKA Reunion Association and mail to Dudley Cass, 3028 Bonita Woods Drive, Bonita, CA., 91902.

This is the only time dues will be mentioned in this newsletter. Bringing news of the Association to you is more important. However, there will continue to be a subtle reminder.

Address labels on these newsletters will indicate both paid and non-paid. This is being done based on the assumption that some people need occasional reminders.

Each year, generous members send contributions in addition to their dues. This year, all contributions will be assigned to the scholarship fund.

So, before you write your check, see scholarships article, page 2.



USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Bell occupies a spot in the Civic Center Plaza, Topeka, Kansas, between the city and county buildings. The CL-67 Association was instrumental in getting the bell moved to Topeka on a loan basis in 1981.

## TAPS

Roy H. Dewitt, BTC, 1960-63, Bakersfield, Ca., January 19, 1995.

Walter H. Baumberger, RADM, COMCRU-DESFL0T 3, 1962; Charlottesville, Va., Feb., 1995.



## ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

As approved by the Reunion Association membership at the 1994 Reunion, the Board of Advisors met and discussed ways and means of implementing a USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Association scholarship.

Several ideas for raising funds were suggested and considered, but it was decided that for the present time, the Board will rely on member donations. The Board will continue to develop procedures for administration of the funds, and will develop recommendations to present to the membership on scholarship criteria.

1995 Dues of \$15 are payable now. The Board requests that members voluntarily increase their payment by an amount of their choosing to get the fund established.

A report on the status of the fund will be presented at the annual business meeting in Norfolk.



## LAUGHLIN IN MARCH

The Spring mini-reunion is being planned for Laughlin, Nevada, Sunday and Monday, March 5-6, 1995. Meet in the Cass's room at the Flamingo Hilton.

For this time of the week, rooms are \$14-\$15 per night, depending on the "special" they have. You may find better rates and stay at one of the other Laughlin hotels. Phone number for reservations at the Flamingo Hilton is (800) 352-6464.

Bring your own beverages and snacks and we'll get together and retell all the Topeka sea stories. Maybe one of us will hit it big at the slots.

The Smothers Brothers are playing at the Riverside while we are there. Tickets are \$20/\$25 and the Riverside phone is (800) 227-3849, ext. 616. Please call or write Dudley Cass if you can make it to Laughlin, or if you have questions.



## ADDRESSES FOR ASSOCIATION MATTERS

### Newsletter inputs:

Jack Connery, 16334 South Lewis,  
Bixby, Ok., 74008.

### Dues, Member information, reunion information:

Dudley Cass, 3028 Bonita Woods Dr.,  
Bonita, Cal., 91902.

**Death or illness:** Either Dudley or Jack.

### TOPEKA Caps, Shirts, other Ships Store Items

Dick Jolliffe, 7453 Golfcrest Dr., San  
Diego, Cal., 92119

### Reunion 95 Chairman:

Don Anderson, 13007 Orleans St.,  
Woodbridge, VA, 22192; phone 703-491-4883.



## REUNION 95

Put August 17-19 on your calendar now and plan on coming to Norfolk, Virginia, for Reunion 95. Lets give the East Coast Topeka sailors a chance to shine like the West Coast did in San Diego last year.

Don Anderson, (62-64), of Woodbridge, Va., assisted by his wife Joan, is our Reunion Chairman this year and is already working on a program.

Reunion site is the Norfolk Waterside Marriott, 235 East Main, Norfolk, 23510. Telephone number is 804-627-4200, and if you have access to Fax, that number is 804-628-6452.

Make your own reservations. Room rates are \$85.00 per day, plus tax. Reservations must be received by the hotel no later than the August 1 cut-off date. After that date, the hotel will accept reservations on a space available basis only.

Although the agenda is not firmed up as of yet, Don is working on tours to the Colonial sites of Williamsburg and Jamestown. Available for sightseeing will be Busch Gardens, Chrysler Museum, Naticus Museum, the MacArthur Memorial and Virginia Beach, among others. We'll also get to see the Naval Base, and Don is looking into the possibility of a Dependent's Cruise.

Don is also scouting out the local golf courses for use Thursday-Saturday. A full schedule of reunion activities, and a reunion "wish" questionnaire will be published in the next newsletter.

If there's something you would like to add to this list, contact Don. His address and number are above.



## WELCOME ABOARD (SINCE JUNE 1, 1994)

Bob Baron, LTJG (66-68), La Palma, CA  
James Banks, EN2 (63-65), Tyler, TX  
William Glidden, SN (59-62), Farmington Hills, MI  
Rod Harley, LTJG (65-67), Redmond, WA  
Jack Walkins, LTJG (62-64), Reno, NV  
Don Liles, QM3 (62-64), Kilgore, TX  
Mel Stebbins, LTJG (65-67), Holland, OH  
Dexter Wilson, CWO2 (66-69), Vallejo, CA  
James Dyer, MM2 (59-62), Union City, CA  
Martin Weiner, LT (66-68), Portland, OR  
Ed Schackleford, SN (67-69), Springdale, AR  
Tony Martini, DK3 (59-62), Grandville, MI  
Ed Greenleaf, MM1 (62-64), Akron, IA  
Gary Loper, LTJG (65-67), Glassboro, NJ  
Bob Derby, LT (66-68), Dallas, TX  
Jim Brady, LTJG (66-68), Windemere, FL  
James Bond, YN3 (64-67), San Angelo, TX  
Quentin Saracino, LTJG (67-69), San Diego, CA  
Ronald Greuel, CS2 (59-62), New Holstein, WI  
Jerry Gross, SN (66-68), Munjon, KS  
Wayne Meagher, YNSN (60-62), Arlington, TX  
Ralph Page, HM2 (61-63), Corona CA  
Jesse Adkinson, RM3 (60-62), Mayfield, KY  
George Neyman, LCDR (66-69), England, UK  
Frank Spacek, BT2 (59-62), Maspeth, NY  
Gary Chambers, RM3 (63-63), Phoenix, AZ  
Bill Thompson, BT3 (65-68), Chino Hills, CA  
Paul Velasco, MM3 (65-67), San Mateo, CA  
Carl Hemenway, RM3 (62-64), Centralia, WA  
Bob Eyler, RM3 (59-62), Dyer, IN  
Robert Bond, DK3 (63-65), San Antonio, TX  
Richard Malone, AG2 (64-67), Garden Grove, CA  
Marion Adams, YN3 (65-67), Olathe, KS  
Ernie Rouleau, RD3 (65-68), Portland, ME  
Wally Clark, SK3 (63-66), Casper, WY  
William Balfanz, BM2 (60-64), Brooklyn Park, MN  
Alonzo Simmerman, BT3 (67-68), Lodi, CA  
Steve Warren, DN (63-67), Tulsa, OK  
Peter Mere, SN (59-63), Bryan, OH  
Kenneth Balfanz, SN (66-68), Clearwater, MN  
Romeo Ricarte, EM1 (64-67), Cerritos, CA  
Norman Goguen, LT (59-61), Lynnfield, MA  
Jose Ermeno, SK3 (63-65), National City, CA  
Ricardo Fera, SDC (60-65), Chula Vista CA  
Ernesto Sebastian, TN (60-60), Menifee, CA  
Delesforo Empleo, San Diego, CA  
Edd Clark, LCPL (65-67), Novato, CA  
Jim Parker, RD2 (67-69), Alta Loma, CA  
Joe Minor, CPL (62-63), Cedar City, UT  
Daniel Thies, PFC (62-63), Shellsburg, IA  
Eric Young, PFC (62-63), El Monte, CA  
Patrick Humphrey, PFC (65-67), Clare, MI  
Klaus Vondaggenhausen, PFC (62-63), Byron, MI  
Marty Kerrins, LCPL (61-63), La Grange Park, IL  
Mrs. James Schafer, LTJG (60-62), Memphis, TN  
Jim Curtin, LTJG (60-62), Hinsdale IL  
Odlle Wood, LCPL (62-63), New Bern, NC  
James Hartley, LCPL (64-67), Circleville, OH  
Dennis Corkrey, SN (60-63), Westbrook, ME  
Jerry Witterman, SM2 (66-68), Bremerton, WA



Jack Connery (64-66) and Juliet Tiley were married Oct. 22 at The Little Church of La Villita, San Antonio, TX. Jim Ownby (62-65), El Cajon, CA, was Best Man, and her daughter, Victoria Tiley, of Austin, TX, was Maid of Honor. They will make their home in Bixby, OK.

## GREAT LAKES NEWSLETTER

Dick Walker (67-68) has published and distributed the first newsletter covering activities of shipmates in the Great Lakes area.

"I live in the small town of Mendon, Michigan, just 15 miles north of the Indiana border in the center of the state. I am within a 2-hour drive of about 30 shipmates. Thought we ought to have our own newsletter.

Ben Wheatley, a plank owner, is helping Dick with the project.

In that first newsletter, Dick painted a glowing report on the San Diego reunion. It is not exaggerated. It was just a good reunion. "San Diego has changed," says Dick. "Couldn't find the old locker clubs, tattoo parlors, and other establishments that sailors frequented 30 years ago. Found a lot of other good things though."

*Ed. Note: This is not an official publication of the Reunion Association. But Dick has some good ideas. Anyone living in that area or wanting to participate, contact Dick at 28964 W. Jacksonburg Rd., Mendon, MI 49072: telephone 616-496-7730.*

*And those of you who have not been to a reunion, ask Dick for a copy of his first newsletter. That could well get you to Norfolk.*



## LOOKING FOR HELP

Want to help with Reunion 95? Live in the Virginia area? If so, contact Don Anderson, Reunion Chairman. His address can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Those of you who attended the reunion in San Diego must have an idea of all the time and effort required to pull it together. Without that list of volunteers, it would not have been the success it was.

Now, it's Don's turn. If you live in that area, give him a call.



## ASSOCIATION HISTORY

The Reunion Association was formed in late 1989 with the objectives of locating and organizing a reunion for the crewmembers, Navy and Marine, serving on board TOPEKA during the period 1959-69. The first reunion was held in San Diego in August, 1990; the second in Long Beach in August, 1991. Reunions since have been in Washington, D.C. (1992), Nashville (1993), and San Diego (1994).

Officers in the organization include a president, secretary-treasurer, assistant secretary, and reunion chairman. The Association adopted bylaws in 1992 and a Board of Advisors was established.

We have a growing membership, over 600 in our data base now, and we send a directory of members to those who submit the annual dues of \$15. Widows of deceased members are welcome to participate in the association, and are exempt from the annual dues.



## REMEMBER WHEN . . . ?

Got a good story about life on TOPEKA? One your shipmates would want to read? Put it on paper in 100 words or less and send it to Jack Connery, 16334 South Lewis, Bixby, Ok., 74008. If selected for use in this column in a 1995 TOPEKA newsletter, Dudley Cass will send you a check for \$25. Jack will be the judge and his decision final. The only ground rules are that it doesn't start with, "Now this is N.S.;" it must be suitable for publication, and can not be offensive to any one. Involve other crewmen, where possible.

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

