

USS TOPEKA CLG-8 Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 7, No. 3

August, 1996

Committee:

*John Reynolds, President; Dudley E. Cass, Secretary/Treasurer;
Dick Jolliffe, Assistant Secretary, Jack Connery, Reunion '96 Chairman
Jack Connery, Newsletter Editor*



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Steaming as before.

Well, shipmates, it's time to start singling up for Port Topeka. The report from our committee chairman looks good. The cooks will be heading for the galley and the feast will begin on Saturday evening for all hands. The three days before that don't look too bad either.

This year, we will be welcoming about 30 new shipmates to our annual bash. Looking back on our humble beginnings, it's great to see such enthusiasm for our reunions as we keep growing in number each year.

The report on golf looks good; so bring your clubs. It looks like a number of golfers are coming and tee times are being arranged. So, if you want to be among them get your oar in the water ASAP.

It will be great to see you all again at the reunion. It's always a great time to renew old friendships and I can hardly wait to get to the hospitality suite.

See ya there!

John Reynolds

TAPS

Annevon Hojaboom, wife of John; June, 1996, Carson, CA.

TOPEKA WEEK IN TOPEKA

On Tuesday, August 13, the day before our reunion begins, Topeka Mayor Harry "Butch" Felker will present a proclamation to the City Council designating that week USS Topeka Week at the Council's 7 p.m. meeting.

Any "early birds" arriving in Topeka on Tuesday are welcome to attend this presentation. Anyone interested in attending contact Jack Connery at 918-366-4581. Jill and Jack will be arriving in Topeka that day and will attend the presentation.

KCI TO TOPEKA

If you are flying into Kansas City International and need transportation to Topeka, two shuttle services are available. The combination of KCI Roadrunner and Travelers Express schedules has one leaving about every hour.

Call the 800 number listed a day before your flight and provide KCI arrival times, and either service will reserve space. Fare runs about the same for both (\$24-26). Round trip tickets are available. Either will stop at the Ramada Inn.

	KCI Roadrunner	Travelers Express
Telephone	800-747-2524	800-826-8294
KCI Phone	5000 White Phone	272-4877
Pick Up Area	Terminal A Gate 6	Baggage Claim area

GETTING AROUND IN TOPEKA

For those driving into Topeka, the map below may be of some help in finding the Ramada Inn. It is located downtown on Sixth Street, just east of Interstate 70. Better maps will be available in the Hospitality suite.



Downtown Topeka. The Ramada Inn is located on Sixth Street just east of the Intersection of Interstate 70

LETTERS

Dear Ed:

Unfortunately, the wife and I will again be unable to attend the reunion this year in Topeka. Hopefully, next year, it will be possible.

Would you kindly pass the word to any shipmates who may be visiting the greater New Orleans area to give me a call. It would be a great pleasure to speak with them and possibly show them around.

Please keep up the good work with the newsletter. It is a pleasure to learn what everyone is doing, and I look forward to receiving it.

I have recently been promoted to the position of Assistant Chief of the fire department for which I work. Not bad for someone whose career was somewhat, shall we say, checked.

William E Kavanaugh (63-67)

Dear Topeka Friends:

Just wanted to let you know, much to our disappointment, we will not be able to attend the upcoming reunion. Our thoughts and prayers will be there with you all - - have fun. God Bless you all.

Everett and Colleen Siler (63-65)

Dear Ed:

Received my newsletter of February 96. Under the Welcome Aboard List, my name and rate were incorrect. It should have read "Eugene Tabor, SF1 (65-67)." Would appreciate the correction. Enjoy the newsletter very much.

Gene Tabor

ABOUT THOSE RIVERBOAT CASINOS

Interest has been shown about the Kansas City riverboat casinos, more so than the reunion coordinator thought. If you want to gamble, it's a place to go. However, the following thoughts are shared:

- Transportation to the casino area is very inexpensive. However, you go and return on their schedule. In other words, they want to keep you in the casino.
- "Riverboat gambling" is somewhat misleading. They do not steam up and down the river. Instead, the casino is a building built on a barge, tied up (like the old tenders which we said couldn't get underway because of the coffee grounds underneath) along the river bank.
- Once you enter the building, you will not know you are afloat. Just bright lights, slots, tables as far as you can see.

It is regretted if this newsletter misled shipmates about the river boat gambling.

1997 OFFICER SLATE

The Board of Advisors will present the following slate of officers for 1996-97 to the membership at the annual meeting in Topeka. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor:

Officers

- President: John Reynolds, (61-66), Redondo Beach, CA.
- Secretary-Treasurer: Dudley Cass, (61-64), Bonita, CA
- Assistant Secretary: Allen Jefferis, (67-69), San Diego, CA.
- Board of Advisors: No changes.

REUNION SCHEDULE

Time	Event
Tuesday (Earlybird)	
7 p.m.	Mayor issues Topeka Week Proclamation to City Council
Wednesday	
10 a.m.	Hospitality Suite Opens. Check-in begins. Welcome aboard.
P.M.	Continue arrival and check-in. Informal go-out for dinner
Thursday	
7 a.m.	Golfers head for the Links.
10 a.m.	Hospitality Suite opens. Continue check-in.
6 p.m.	Depart for Oregon Trail Adventure. Meet in hotel lobby.
Friday	
7 a.m.	Golfers depart for links.
8 a.m.	Depart for Eisenhower Museum, Abilene, Kansas. Meet in lobby.
10 a.m.	Hospitality Suite Opens. Ships Store open.
2:30 p.m./	President, Chairman, Board of Advisors, call on Mayor (tentative)
4:30	Officers, Board of Advisors Meet. Place to be determined.
6:30	Welcome Aboard cocktail party. Cash bar.
Saturday	
8:30 a.m.	Group picture of the crew at the bell. Meet at 0815 in Hotel lobby.
9 a.m.	Membership Business Meeting. Location to be announced.
- - -	Hospitality Suite opens after business meeting
11 a.m.	Meeting, Officers and Board of Advisors
1 p.m.	Ladies depart for tea at Cedar Crest, the Governor's Mansion. Assemble in the lobby.
6 p.m.	Cocktail Party. Photographer available for individual/couples portrait pictures.
7 p.m.	Banquet and program
9-12 a.m.	Dancing to music of the Casual Cadillac Band
Sunday	
8 a.m.	Departure Breakfast
9 a.m.	Smooth Sailing. Until next year!

REUNION PICTURES

A group picture of Topeka shipmates will be taken at 9 a.m. Saturday, August 17, gathered around the ship's bell. This is about 3 blocks from the hotel and we will assemble at 8:30, prior to the Business Meeting.

Orders will be taken for 8 x 10 color prints by the photographer. Cost of the picture is \$13.00. The picture will be captioned "USS Topeka (CLG-8), Reunion 96, Topeka, Kansas."

The photographer will also be available at 1800 Saturday in the hotel, prior to the banquet for couple portraits. Several choices of portrait packages will be available.

ABOUT THE REUNION

At 8 a.m. Friday, many will gather in the lobby for a motorcoach trip to the Abilene and the Eisenhower Museum.

We will be welcomed in Abilene at the Visitors Center (historic Union Pacific Depot) with a beverage and sugar cookie made from Mamie Eisenhower's recipe. Abilene and museum tours will follow.

In the early days, Abilene developed a reputation as the "wickedest and wildest town in the west" as hundreds of cowboys arrived in town along the historic Chisholm Trail in the late 1800's. The name Abilene means "city of the plains" and was selected from Luke 3:1 in the Bible by Sylvia Hersey, the wife of Abilene's founder, Timothy Hersey.

It was founded as a log cabin hamlet and stagecoach stop in 1857 with a population of 300. As the railroad pushed west, it was discovered by the cattle traders, and overnight, boomed to a population of 3,000. Soon, it had the largest stockyards west of Kansas City, more than a dozen saloons, gaudy night clubs, gambling houses, thriving mercantile businesses, and hotels. Tom Smith and Wild Bill Hickok became famous for their attempts to maintain law and order on Abilene's legendary Texas Street.

The United Telephone Company, which later became Sprint, was founded in Abilene.

Abilene has come to be known as the Greyhound Capitol of the World. The Greyhound Hall of Fame is located there, as well as a Greyhound kennel industry.

Dwight Eisenhower and his five brothers grew to manhood in Abilene.

The Eisenhower Center and Museum, established in 1962, depicts the military and civilian careers of Dwight Eisenhower. Exhibits change yearly. The Visitors' Center houses a gift shop and auditorium, where a film is shown several times daily. Other features include the research library, family home, where he lived as a boy, and the

Place of Meditation, where President and Mrs. Eisenhower are buried.

All will be on their own for lunch, and a number of restaurants and fast-food establishments are available.

On the return trip if time exists, we will stop at the Fields of Fair Winery in Paxico, Kansas, the first legal winery in the state.

We should return to the hotel by 4:30.

1997 REUNION SITES

The 1997 site selection committee, composed of Dudley Cass, John Reynolds, John Keith, and Tom Victory, will present the following sites for consideration for the 1997 reunion in the western states areas. These will be voted on at the annual business meeting in Topeka.

- Long Beach, California
- San Diego, California
- Portland, Oregon
- Seattle, Washington

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



Newsletter Addendum

SUGGEST DRESS FOR EVENTS

Several inquiries have been received concerning dress for various events at the reunion. Since approximately one third of the shipmates coming to Topeka have not been to a reunion before, the following might be helpful in packing for the trip. This table is based on what has developed through past reunions.

Suggested Dress for Reunion Events	
Tuesday City Council Meeting	Coat and tie
Eisenhower Museum Visit	Casual, informal
Oregon Trail Adventure	Western, casual
Friday night Welcome Aboard Party	Casual
Group Picture	Casual
Saturday business meeting	Casual
Ladies Tea Saturday	Dress/skirt and blouse
Saturday night cocktail party and banquet	Coat and tie

AIRPORT SHUTTLE DISCOUNTS

(See Airport Shuttle article on first page)

If you use the KCI RoadRunner shuttle, and make reservations the day before you leave home, be sure and tell them you are with the USS Topeka Reunion Association, and they will offer you a group discount. The fare will be \$40 round trip.

If you use Travelers Express, make reservations a day ahead of time, and are traveling as a family with a minimum of three, the third member will travel for half-price.