

USS TOPEKA CLG-8 Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 9, No. 1

February, 1998

Committee:

John Reynolds, President; Dudley E. Cass, Secretary/Treasurer;
Al Jefferis, Assistant Secretary; Tom Victory, Bud Zimmerman,
Reunion '97 Chairmen; Jack Connery, Newsletter Editor



FROM THE PRESIDENT

I just ordered my plane tickets for the Boston reunion. May I encourage you to pick up the phone ASAP and join me in making plans for the '98 Boston Bash. If you need a reason let me give you five good ones:

Beautiful place to have a tea party.

Overwhelming hospitality by all Bostonians.

Shopping made easy (if you have a good credit card).

Terrific beans and clam chowder served daily.

Old Ironsides awaits your arrival.

No better place to go, this side of Heaven

Put them all together, they spell the **BEST TIME** you will ever have. Come join us August 19-22.

John Reynolds

LAUGHLIN MINI REUNION SCHEDULED

Let's meet Tuesday, March 3-5 at Laughlin, Nevada. The Riverside Hotel (800-227-3849) offers a package deal for a room for two for Tuesday and Wednesday nights, and two tickets to the Roger Whittaker (remember "Harbor Lights") show, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday for \$89.00. Reservations for the package must be prepaid with a credit card.

If you elect the package, ask for seats at the Ruth Cass table. Rooms only (not including the show) are: River view - - \$32.00; mountain view - - \$27.00; and limited view - - \$19.00 per night. Bring your own snacks and drink for "happy hour" at the Cass room Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon. Call Dudley or

Ruth Cass for more information. Hope to see you in Laughlin.

MEMORIAL TO CRUISER SAILORS

The U.S. Navy Cruiser Sailors Association will plant and dedicate a tree as a living memorial to all U.S. Navy cruiser sailors at Arlington National Cemetery at 1100, April 25, 1998.

This promises to be a memorable event and one in which participation of all cruiser sailors will add to the occasion as tribute is paid to our shipmates. A luncheon will follow afterwards at 1300 at the Channel Inn, 650 Water Street NW, Washington, D.C.

If interested in attending, contact William Baker, USNCSA Treasurer, 2604 Nuckolls Road, Cumming, GA 30041-5995.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The new 1998 membership directory is now available and has been sent to all paying their 1998 dues. The mailing label on this newsletter shows your dues status, including indication of those paid in advance for 1999 and 2000. Members paying '97 and '98 dues late in 1997 were credited with paying '98 and '99 dues because the '97 dues books were already closed. Shipmates will be provided a new directory when they pay their dues.

There have been a lot of address, zip code, and phone area code changes in the past year. If you haven't already, please notify Dudley Cass of any such changes that have occurred for you.

This directory also contains a listing of those members on the internet and their e-mail addresses. Please keep Dudley advised of any e-mail address changes also.

MOVING? MOVED? WAS YOUR NEWSLETTER FORWARDED?

Then drop a card to Dudley Cass and let him know your new address.

COMING TO BOSTON?

Thirty members have sent in responses to the request in the last newsletter, indicating tentative plans to come to Boston. To allow us to complete plans for the reunion, we must have a better indication of how many are coming.

Please take five minutes and fill out the "box" which follows, and send it to Dudley Cass.

Formal reunion registration form, including costs, will be published in the May newsletter.

Reunion 98 Tentative Plans

Name _____ Number attending _____
Please indicate the days you plan to attend:
Wednesday ___ Thursday ___ Friday ___ Saturday ___
Will you be staying at the reunion hotel?
Yes ___ No ___

Here's who's coming thus far:

Don Anderson, Woodbridge, VA.
Bill Carver, Des Moines, IA.
Dudley Cass, Bonita, CA.
Jack Connery, Bixby, OK.
Tom Eagling, Tucson, AZ.
Donald Everitt, Pittsburgh, PA.
George Grupe, Marlboro, NJ.
Virgil Kefauver, Myersville, MD.
Ernie Kershaw, Melrose, NY.
Calvin Ladd, Minnetonka, MN.
Mike Leahy, Fraser, MI.
Don Nellis, San Diego, CA.
Loy Nix, Flowery Branch, GA.
Arthur Nolan, Cumming, GA.
Charles Northrup, Palm Harbor, FL.
Richard Olsen, Los Altos, CA.
Irad Parkhurst, Granada Hills, CA.
Jerry Pennington, Fallbrook, CA.
John Reynolds, Redondo Beach, CA.
Patsy Richardi, Randolph, MA.
Russ Richards, Apple Valley, CA.
William Sache, Watertown, MA.
Robert Schramm, Orange, CA.
Austin Schroder, Smith, NV.
LeRoy Servin, Apache Junction, AZ.
Alonzo Simmerman, Lodi, CA.
Raymond Spatz, South Hempstead, NY.
Richard Wallace, Halifax, MA.
Egon Werdelman, San Diego, CA.

WHAT WE'RE DOING IN BOSTON

John Kehoe, Reunion Coordinator for the Boston Reunion, has submitted the following to let us know what to expect in Boston:

"I have been in touch with Dick Wallace (60-63) and he is going to arrange a tour of the Constitution for us. I hope we can do that on Saturday morning, after the annual meeting. More on that next issue.

"We are looking into one of two cruises for Thursday evening for dinner and dancing. These will range in cost between \$45.00 and 50.00 per person.

"We are trying to schedule tours of the USS Massachusetts, the Joseph P. Kennedy, and a Fleet Boat sub on Friday with a stop at the USS Salem on the way. I don't know if we can work in all, but we will try. If there is an active Navy ship in port, we will arrange a visit.

"As always, there will be golf available both Friday and Saturday if there is enough call for it.

"On Thursday, Friday and Saturday there will be sign up tours of the Freedom Trail, Quincy Market, Faneuil Hall, and Lexington and Concord, where the Revolution started. There is a daily 4-1/2 hour cruise to Provincetown at the tip of Cape Cod, which is a picturesque tourist town.

If there are enough gamblers, there are the Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun casinos 2-1/2 hours distant."

Other sites include the Bull & Finch Pub, the Boston site that inspired the hit TV series "Cheers," the John F. Kennedy Museum and the Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum.

"The seafood is great. The beaches are near and the weather should be about 80 degrees.

"I am looking forward to seeing all of you in Boston. As I said in Seattle, they must have some good things in Boston. They have had 368 years (founded in 1630) to put things together."

Ed Note: For those of you on the internet, there is a lot of information available about Boston. I found this description of Boston: "Welcome to Boston, the Capital of Mass.; the Athens of America, and the Hub of the Universe; Also the land of the bean and the cod - - where the Lowell's speak only to the Cabot's, and the Cabot's speak only to God."

WHERE DID IT COME FROM? GALLEY?

The galley is the kitchen of the ship. The best explanation as to its origin is that it is a corruption of "gallery." Ancient sailors cooked their meals on a brick or stone "gallery" laid amidships.

LETTERS

Dear Ed:

I am happy to read about the successful reunion in Seattle. I wish I had been there to enjoy and meet all the shipmates in attendance. Because of personal commitment, it is not possible for me to travel far from home. If ever again the reunion is held in Long Beach, I will surely be there. My best wishes to the Association and to the hardworking officers for making all the happenings a success.

Felix Vasallo (62-66)

Dear Ed:

The newsletter just arrived and my wife and I enjoyed very much revisiting the Seattle experience. This was our first reunion and we were very impressed with the warm reception we received from everyone we had the opportunity to speak with. I was especially pleased with the group photo that was included in the newsletter because, due some poor planning on my part, we were forced to leave for the airport before the official photo was taken. We are looking forward to Boston next August and renewing friendships we made in Seattle.

Mike and Debby Leahy (66-69)

Dear Ed:

I would like some information.

During the return from the first WestPac cruise in 1961 (or was it 1962) we spent some time in a typhoon called Nancy. As a member of the Marine Detachment, about all I could do was hold on, and I have often wondered just how severe the storm was. It was certainly all the weather I needed, but what I would like is a professional opinion as to the severity of the storm.

I do recall being on the bridge when a pretty large wave covered the ship, and did some impressive metal bending. At that point some of the people who had been saying "this ain't nothing" got sort of quiet.

If someone from the 60-62 period could provide some info, it would be appreciated.

Joe Golden (60-62)

Ed Note: It was August-September timeframe, 1961. David Walton, First Division, in Baka Hachi, talks of a 40-degree plus roll while he was on watch on the bridge one night. "It scared the hell out of all of us. I thought we were goners, but she came through with flying colors."

The Editor would like for someone to provide an account of this typhoon for inclusion in the revision of Baka Hachi. Captain Janney, or someone, can you help us?

Dear Ed:

I need some help!!

I have been trying to find a plastic model of our ship or of a ship of the same class as ours. I haven't been successful. If anyone out there has any ideas, please let me know.

I would like to obtain a model to display along with my other Navy stuff. My son in San Diego has been looking, and I have tried the shops in Phoenix, with no luck.

Would appreciate any help I can get. Thanks in advance.

Abel Flores (66-69)

Ed Note: Perhaps there are others who would be interested in having a model of the ship's likeness. If anyone has any ideas, let me know and I will publish in the next newsletter.

Dear Ed:

Please extend to all of your Topeka Shipmates my sincerest apologies. I regret all the frustration caused by my slow delivery dates of Seattle reunion photographs and unreturned phone calls to Reunion Coordinator Tom Victory and other members of your Association.

I want to clear the reputation and integrity of Bob Odman, who hired the "promptness challenged" photographer (me). In regards to Bob (and Debbie), they made many valiant, noble, persistent and polite attempts to get the photographs delivered promptly. This has been a very frustration-filled year of change for me. My "plate" has been a little too full to keep up with commitments.

I have enclosed all the extra prints and all negatives from the Seattle reunion. Use them any way you want - - all rights and ownership are the Association's.

I wish you the very best in future reunions.

Christopher Riesenweber
Artist/Photographer

Ed Note: I now have all the negatives and extra prints of pictures taken by the photographer. If you want a negative of a picture taken of you (by the commercial photographer only), let me know and I will send it (if I have it).

USS OKLAHOMA CITY - - A TARGET

Remember USS Oklahoma City (CLG-5)? She was the Seventh Fleet Flagship, homeported in Yokosuka. Topeka saw her many times in WestPac deployments.

The Navy has appropriated funds to use Oklahoma City one last time. She will be towed from California to Hawaii this spring and used as a target ship and sunk.

Members of the Oklahoma City Association are trying to get as many items of memorabilia off the ship, including the gun barrels, for permanent display in Oklahoma City.

Courtesy, the OKC Corral, Association Newsletter

BAKA HACHI REVISION

Don't forget to jot down your favorite story/memory about Topeka and mail to newsletter editor Jack Connery for inclusion in the revision of *The Baka Hachi 1960-1969*, to be re-published and available for distribution at the 10th anniversary of the Reunion Association in 2000.

All of you have memories. All of you have stories. How about stories from the wives? Dust off the cobwebs, write those stories down, including names of other shipmates, time frame, and let's get them recorded before they are lost. Don't worry about grammar or spelling, Jack will take care of that. Be a part of this history, something that no ship has ever done.

SHIP'S STORE REPORT

The following items are available in the ships store. Add \$5.00 for shipping

- Adult shirts

Green, sizes 2XL, XL, L	\$22.00
Navy Blue, sizes 2XL, XL, L	22.00
White (on sale) 2XL, XL, M	15.00
- Ball caps 8.00

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



- Key Chains 3.00
- Baka Hachi Book 7.00
- Wine glasses/tumblers 4@ 12.00
- Topeka Jackets, Navy, size 2XL 35.00
- Ship's Plaque 22.00
 (Personalized) 27.00

NAMES/TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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