

USS ROCHESTER (CA-124)



Association



News Letter

Vol. II, No. 01

February 2005

Branson, Missouri 2006

St. Louis, MO - Our next reunion is already under way with Bob Cosgrove being our point man and working with a reunion coordinator in Branson Missouri to put together a package that will be enticing to all who attend.

Two years is almost not enough lead-time to plan a reunion in Branson. With a group our size the number of facilities that can accommodate us is limited and they are reserved early. It was not possible to find suitable accommodations for our group in the time frame we were looking at (Sept.-Oct.) with a Thursday to Sunday reunion. Here's what we've come up with.

The Lodge of the Ozarks can take our group Sunday, October 1 – Wednesday, October 4, 2006. With most of our members in the retired category, I'm hoping this won't be a problem.

The Lodge of the Ozarks is located right on Hwy 76, which is the main street of Branson. It is directly across the street from the Jim Stafford Theater, next door to the Mickey Rooney Theater, and about two doors from the Mickey Gilley Theater. There are numerous eating establishments within walking distance. However, I would highly recommend the restaurant in the hotel where I discovered the food is excellent and the prices are reasonable. The hotel has an indoor swimming pool, beauty shop, dress shop, sundries shop, and ample parking. They will have reunion prices available 3 days before and after the reunion to accommodate those who prefer to spend additional time in the Branson area.

The Lodge is one of the finest facilities in Branson according to those who have used it in the past for various reunions. There will be an arrival reception, shows, hospitality room, Ships Store room, and all the usual reunion functions. One price will cover the hotel, banquet, departure breakfast, shows, transportation to and from the airport color guard, and guest speaker for the banquet dinner, group picture, and other amenities, even a fashion show for the ladies. An arrival package will consist of local information about Branson and other information provided by our Association. We will keep everyone posted as the plan comes together.

See you next year!

Bob Cosgrove, your 2006 Reunion Coordinator.

Lost & Found

At the San Diego Reunion a Canon 35mm camera was found in the Hospitality Room. If you think this is yours, please contact Gordon Cargill at (858) 592-9366 so it can be returned to its' owner.

Membership & Mailing Information

Cookeville, TN - The Association runs on its active membership. We can't thank you enough for renewing your memberships and doing it on time. However there still several shipmates who have not renewed their memberships for the Year 2004. Membership dues cover the period 1 October through 30 September. Shipmates are requested to send in changes in mailing address, phone numbers, and e-Mail address changes. Up-to-date information will speed up the exchange of information between shipmates and the Association. If you wish verification of your status or further information, Joe Hill will be glad to talk with you. He can be reached at 4011 Ditty Road, Cookeville, TN 38506-7663. Phone (931) 432-4848; FAX (931) 432-2534 E-Mail is: joehillsr@multipro.com

Joe will also provide members' addresses and phone numbers upon request. If you haven't paid your dues, do it now!

New Members

We wish to welcome aboard (again) the new USS Rochester Association members:

Wayne L. Cherveney, SK2, S1 Division
Winfield, KS DOB 51-55
Jerry B. Falls, BM3, 4th Division
Ormond Beach FL DOB 50-53
Dilbert L. Fraka, ET2, T Division
El Paso, TX DOB 54-56
Galen L. Gockel, LTJG, OI
Oak Park, IL DOB 54-55
James F. Good, BT2, B Division
Landrum, SC DOB 50-54
Donald Herzog, SN, S2 Division
Salt Lake City, UT DOB 51-55
David L. Kelly, RM3, CR Division
Victoria, TX DOB 53-54
Edwin Legge, LT JG, CS,2,6 Division
Peotone, IL DOB 49-52
Pete Parnagian, YN3, X Division
Fresno, CA DOB 56-56
Art Riola, EN3, A Division

1st Vice President

San Diego, CA - One of the duties of this office is to publish this newsletter four times a year. This is my first experience as a publisher and there will be a learning curve in doing so. This is your newsletter as it distributed to all the active members of the Association. I am asking each and every one of our shipmates to contribute information that would be of interest, whether it would be a good story or a happening or an event. It has been forty years plus since we were on the USS ROCHESTER and this is a good way to share some of those experiences. You can send them to me at my e-mail address, scotsmann31@aol.com or snail mail to Gordon Cargill, 11485 Luz Place, San Diego, CA 92127.

And now I would like to tell you a little about the person you elected as the 1st Vice President at the San Diego Reunion. I was the Chairman of the committee that put the San Diego Reunion together. During that time I was able to meet a number of shipmates that served aboard the ROCHESTER. I was aboard from December, 1951 to January, 1955 and assigned to the E Division. I only stayed in the Navy for the four years that was required for enlistment. After the Navy, I attended New York State Technical Institute and earned my Associates Degree and went to work at Grumman Aerospace as an Electrical Test Engineer. After thirty-two years it was time to move on. I retired from Grumman Aerospace and went to work for the Village Of Patchogue, New York, my hometown, in the Community Development Agency. For five years I was the Project Coordinator for various Village improvements projects and the housing inspector for home improvements. In 1996 my wife, Marge and I moved to San Diego where we now reside. From here we do quite a bit of traveling around the country in our fifth wheel recreational vehicle with our four-legged child, Adonis.

Ship's Store

Montrose, IL - Ahoy there Shipmates!!

For some of you Spring is setting in; for some others Spring is a fond wish; and, for those who live in the "Sun Belt" ... well, good for you. Wherever you are and however close you are to Spring we're sending you all good wishes.

Spring is perfect weather for our USS Rochester windbreakers or sweatshirts. If you're golfers (or not) our golf shirts are a good thing to have, too. We will soon have another shipment of the golf shirts and windbreakers in stock. They have been very popular.

Most of you have received your San Diego Rochester Reunion Books by now. To accommodate those of us who seem to lag behind a little we have a few extra books. We have heard from several shipmates that this book is one of the best ever done. Don't miss your chance to have this meaningful reminder of the enjoyable times in San Diego. The cost is \$25 each book. Shipping is included.

The letter openers are all gone. We have no plans at the present time to re-order those particular ones. They were souvenirs of the Nashville Reunion in 1998. Perhaps at some time in the future we will have another style USS Rochester Letter Openers.

Think Spring !!!!!!!!!!!

Larry and Mary Stone
198 Co Rd 650 E
Montrose, IL 62445
(217) 924-4109
mdlrstone@aol.com

SHIPS STORE SPECIAL

We have a limited number of golf shirts ON SALE. These have NO pocket, but otherwise are just like the others. WE only have a couple shirts in each size, so if you want one, please don't hesitate. Sizes available are L, XL, 2XL, 3XL. Cost is \$20 each. Naturally, shipping charges apply.

Chaplain's Corner

*Frank West
Chaplain*

Isaiah, chapter 9, verse 6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Thought For The Day

By Frank Dayak.

No experiment is ever a complete failure. It can always be used as a bad example. You may fail a thousand times, but success may be hiding behind the next step. You never know how close the prize is unless you continue.

Help Our Overseas Service Personnel

Pray for them.

Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to our shipmate, Dr. James C. & Anne Hamilton. They celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in Jackson, Mississippi on February 13th.

From Secondary Con

by Garry Phillips

Dateline 1957: Wilson, Louie, and I stocked up on some shaving lotion, dog tag chains, and Lucky Strikes and headed for the beach in Keelung. In usual form, we didn't have much cash, but the commodities collected from our lockers would serve us well. We were met just outside the gate to the pier with a large contingent of rickshaw drivers, all intent upon taking us to wherever we, or they, wanted to go.

They were pushing each other and yelling at us to climb on board. As they grabbed at my arms, I would pull away and firmly say the one word that I knew that they knew: "No!" Louie was doing the same as we made our way through the maze of wheels, carts, dogs, and people. "No! No! No! No!" It seemed to be working.

Something was not quite right, and then I realized that Wilson was missing. When I turned around, I could hear Wilson yelling at a fevered pitch, but he was trying to *reason* with the rickshaw industry, with words like, "I don't want to ride. I want to go with my friends. Put me down!" We had to rescue Wilson.

Two of the rickshaw drivers had picked Wilson up and had put him in one of the rickshaws – and they were holding him in place. Just as we were about enter the fray, Admiral Beakley's Chief Steward came on the scene carrying a large basket with some fresh vegetables in it, undoubtedly heading for the Admiral's table. Those of you who remember the Chief remember that he had hash marks from here to eternity, and he gave the impression of being someone you definitely shouldn't mess with. The Chief assessed the riotous atmosphere with scorn, and with indignation that can only be mustered by an old sea dog Chief, thundered, "Put him down!"

With that, the startled rickshaw drivers pulled Wilson out of the seat, and helped him to the ground. "Go away!" the Chief bellowed, waving his arms. The drivers backed off a few feet. The Chief looked at Wilson with a weary eye, then continued on his way. Seizing the moment, we grabbed Wilson and hurried off to further our goals.

The shaving lotion, dog tag chains, and Lucky Strikes were highly prized and appreciated. But, contrary to what we had been told, they made a lousy substitute for hard cash. – See ya in Branson

Memories

From Gene Dixon.

Something stirred some humorous memories today. Check me on the details; I'm 70 and sometimes have a memory that is better than truth. Happy New Year!

At some time in my '55-'57 ride on the Rochester, a new skipper came aboard as we headed west again. He brought his dog aboard. A white French Poodle. Going to WesPac. The skipper's orderly complained of an armed Marine walking a dog and that duty was referred to one of the mess-men. The deck gang put a lot of sweat and toil taking care of the wooden part of the deck. They didn't like a stain of any kind on it. There were quiet bets on how soon the dog would go swimming some dark night. As I recall, the dog went ashore to a new home in Japan and we didn't see him again on that cruise.

Another...

One night, the brig guard clocked in at 2345 to relieve the other guard. There were two drunks sleeping it off, one in each cell. The PFC on watch realized that he forgot to check his pistol. He pulled the slide back and forward and pulled the trigger and a bullet shot through the wall (bulkhead?)! Forgot to take the clip out. The PFC, full awake now, made his pistol safe and phoned the Sergeant of the Guard to report. The shot woke up both of the sailors in the cells, wide awake and suddenly sober. Each one thought that the sentry had killed the other one and he was next. They calmed down when the Sergeant arrived and checked the damage. There was a bullet hole through the wall into the head next door and the bullet had pierced one of the stainless steel commode. Before the Sarge got there, a sailor in that compartment had put a piece of tape over that hole, as if no one would notice.

TAPS

The following shipmates were reported to have passed away recently. If anyone has additional or different information, please let us know.

Name	ST	Yr	Div	OnBd
John D. Brennan	NJ	2004	B	46-48*
Anthony Congelos	CA	2004	7 th	49-51
Ilar A. Easterwood	MI	2004	N	51-52
James F. Monarch	PA	2004	6 th	46-49*
Loren E. Rainboth	OR	2004	Fox	55-58
Ralph R. Sprague	CO	2004	Fox	48-50
David Limkemann	IA	2004	R	51-55
O. Ronald Tatom	CA	2005	2,3,MAA	48-53
Johnny C. Awe	CA	2005	R	51- 55
Stanley M. Osborne	CA	2005	K/OI	52-55

*Plank Owner



Association Officers

Garry L. Phillips, President	Richard Becker, Executive VP
Gordon W. Cargill, 1 st VP	Bart Bartholomew, 2 nd VP
Joseph S. Hill, Sec./Treasurer	Frank West, Chaplain
James Young, MAA	Larry Stone, Storekeeper

This newsletter is published quarterly by the USS ROCHESTER Association. The Association's officers encourage questions and comments. You may contact the Editor by writing Gordon Cargill
11485 Luz Place, San Diego, CA 92127
(858) 592-9366
scotsmann31@aol.com

Missing Person

The following e-mail was sent from Dave Doyle to the Rochester Association. Mr. Dave Doyle is trying to locate C.E. Meyers. Farrell Ferguson did respond to Mr. Doyle but more information is requested. Do any of the shipmates have any further information?

Email to Rochester Association:

Hi I have recently come into possession of a record, which was recorded at the San Diego Armed Services YMCA. The postmark is dated Aug 5, 1951. The return address is a C.E. Meyers (at least it looks like an 'E') from the USS ROCHESTER. It is addressed to a Miss Bernice Meyers, 2 E 12th Street, Alton, IL. I would like to find the family and maybe get this back to them as it may hold sentimental value and just got lost somewhere over the years. Could you post something on your site asking for information about this person and maybe even his current whereabouts? Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you, David Doyle

A response from shipmate Farrell Ferguson 50-53 to Joe Hill

Good Morning Joe

I have gone through the records and I have found his name is Charles E. Meyers. He was in the S-1 Division and came aboard 8/21/50, the same day as I did. His service number was 340-35-94, which was issued in St. Louis, just across the river from Alton, IL where the letter was addressed. I could find no Charles or C. Meyers or Bernice Meyers in the Alton area. There are several hundred Charles Meyers in the country so it would be difficult or impossible to find him that way. I would suggest that you put a note in the newsletter asking if anyone would know where he might be found. I looked on the main roster and there are several that were in the S-1 Division at the same time, in fact one, Charles Ferrell came aboard the same day as Meyers. Good luck...Farrell

Does anyone know the whereabouts of C.E. Meyers?