

USS ROCHESTER (CA-124)

Association

News Letter

Vol. I, No. 20

August 2003

NOTES

Arlington, VA -- We received this note from **D. B. Cox**, from way out in the great state of Kansas. Good to hear from you, D. B. --
"Hello Shipmates:

Enclosed is a picture taken recently in Dallas, TX, at the home of **J.J. & Mary Hunt**. **Earl Lanning** & I went to Dallas to give depositions for a lawsuit **Harold Boak** has ongoing against an asbestos company. He has an asbestos related cancer acquired during his Navy tour of duty.

We saw it as an excellent time for a small R-Div Rochester reunion and J.J. Hunt and wife Mary invited all to their home where we enjoyed their hospitality, and the fine meal **the four wives** prepared and brought.

Some had been to the reunion but I hadn't seen Boak, and **Cordell** for over 50 years. Time was limited and some had traveled 100+ miles but a good time was had by all.

The names of those in the picture are as follows:

R.R. Randall---Tyler, Texas
D.B. Cox-----Clifton, Kansas
J.J. Hunt-----Dallas, Texas
Earl Lanning--North Carolina
Dave Cordell--Gunbarrel City, Texas
Harold Boak---Granby Lake, Texas



"OLD" Shipmate DB Cox!!!!!!

Ron Stalsberg sent a note giving us his new address in Newaygo, Michigan. (Ron, where is that in relation to the middle knuckle?)

MCPO **Tom Helvig** (Ret.) sent an inquiry to the Association regarding whether any of our members have any information about "bell photos from all US Navy ships." If any of you have pictures of the ROCHESTER bell, I sure he would like to hear from you. His address is:
62 Battleship Place, Camden, NY 08103.

The Association received a \$150 contribution from **Mr. and Mrs. William Brownlow, Skipper Jones, Dottie and Mark Tucker, and Julie and Tim Goforth** in memory of our shipmate, **George A. Evanick** (see TAPS). We wish to express our sincere appreciation to Mr. & Mrs. Brownlow, Skipper, Dottie, Mark, Julie, and Tim for their thoughtful donation. The funds have been placed



in the Sea Cadet educational fund. (Our best regards also go out to Joanne Evanick.)

We want to express our sympathy to our shipmate **Bill Howard**, whose wife **Betty** passed away this spring. Betty had been ill for some time. Bill, our prayers and best wishes are with you.

NEW MEMBERS:

We wish to welcome aboard (again) the new USS ROCHESTER Association Members:

David C. Anderson
Wendell E. Baroch
Howard W. Behle
Bernard "Bernie" Clifford
Walter E. Disher, Jr.
Robert J. Fisher
Horace E. Howell, Jr.
Willard J. Jennings
Harold L. Johnson
Lee T. Leonard
Charlie G. Lupton
William "Don" Majewski

Harry J. MacDonald
Louis R. March
Harold G. Scott
Richard Allan Smith
Gerald "Sid" Walls

Also
LTJG Daniel D.
Whaley, USN, Sea
Cadet Commander
and
Mr. Gian C. Cervone,
Registrar Rochester
Museum and Science
Center.

detail. 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.

Looking for a Boatswain's Mate – We have the pipe. All we need is a Boatswain's mate at the next reunion to ensure its proper use. Any volunteers?

San Diego in 2004!

Ship's Store

We're also looking for someone with some business experience (or SK experience) who would like to dedicate a few hours a month to running the Ship's Store. If you would like to give it a try, please contact me or one of the Association's officers and let us know.

Right now, the Ship's Store is with **Garry Phillips** in Arlington, Virginia. He needs some help with this, so feel free to jump right in there and take over! Please note the change of address on the order form.

New Membership & Mailing Information (Please Read Carefully)

Cookeville, TN---Membership dues cover the period 1 January through 31 December. We realize the difficulty in members trying to keep up with their dues. At times we misplace our membership cards and often times, we forget. Therefore, and after having received a most beneficial suggestion from Thomas Finnegan, **we are putting a new procedure in place with the mailing of this newsletter. The year that the dues are paid up to will be indicated on the address label** just like the magazine subscriptions do. For example: Thomas Finnegan 03. (If HM, SP, or LM is after your name, the year will not appear. HM stands for Honorary Member, SP is Special Member and LM is Life Member.) If you wish verification or further information, Joe Hill will be glad to explain in

Association Officers

Garry L. Phillips, President	Robert A. Litts, Secretary
Richard Becker, Executive VP	James Young, MAA
Bart Bartholomew, 2 nd VP	Dennis Winkle, 1st VP
Joseph S. Hill, Treasurer	Frank West, Chaplain
William Hummel, Storekeeper	John A. Turner, Mbrship (Hon)

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 Garry Phillips, 5731 4th Street South, Arlington, VA 22204

Chaplain's Corner

Psalms 1

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Traveling ...

From "The Scotsman," a.k.a. **Gordon Cargill**, who is traveling in his motor home this summer, comes this message:

"We are presently in Columbus, Montana. It's been very hot in this part of the country. Thursday we went to the Northeast entrance to Yellowstone Park. What a great place to visit. Saw plenty of bison, a few deer, plenty of streams, a few rivers, a couple of waterfalls, sulfur boils, mud boils, a large lake, rolling hills, open fields, a large number of trees, hundred of miles of roadway all at about 8000 to 10,000 feet. We have only been able to see a small portion of the park. No wonder this is the granddaddy of the National Park System. We have also been doing some local touring as well."

(Gordon, It's 92 degrees in the shade, here in Washington, DC. I'm envious! *Ed.*)



TAPS

Name	ST	Yr	Div	OnBd
Baker, Leslie A.	SC	2003	Fox	52-55
Beesley, Lee P.	NV	2003	R	51-55
Blackwood, Brooke	NV	2003	B	50-54
Boston, Allen R.	CA	2003	A	51-54
Cook, Jackie O.	PA	2002	5 th ,H	51-53
Evanick, George A.	PA	2003	N	52-56
Gremling, Charles L.	OH	2003	5 th	52-56
Hubbard, Joseph V.	OH	2002	5 th	50-54
Kingsbury, Craig "Tiny"	FL	2003	Fox	50-52
Moyer, Floyd W.	PA	2003	X	49-53
Nielsen, Kenneth E.	MO	2000	A	51-54
*Snell, John F.	NJ	2003	1, 2 nd	46-47
*Tew, Alton C.	AL	2002	M	46-47

**Plank Owners*

Reminiscences ...

Captain Ed Willis

(My thanks to Ed Willis for this recollection. Both "the storm" and the "Saigon Pots" stories are very memorable for me. Ed.)

The most dramatic watch I stood occurred during the midwatch on 14 November 1957. The ship was enroute to Hong Kong from Taiwan with COMSEVENTHFLT VADM Wallace M. Beakley and staff aboard, including a meteorologist. We knew that Typhoon Kit was proceeding northward and at last notice had been over Luzon in the Philippines. The strategy was to stay well to the east of Luzon until the storm had passed on to the north and we could turn west and come in behind it. Well, typhoons are notorious for being unpredictable. When I took the watch the surface search radar was completely covered with "grass," the sea return from waves whipped up by the wind. A short time later I looked again at the radar repeater and saw about 25 miles away a round hole in the grass.

I called the Captain on the voice tube and said, "Captain, it appears that just 25 miles away." He replied, "be," and went back to sleep. The Quartermaster of the Watch at the wind velocity had increased to



gain I called the Captain and reported the wind speed. In a very few minutes he was on the bridge, and we had to ride out the typhoon. I remember as it got light that the sky was completely filled with rain and clouds that were quite yellow in color. Fortunately for us we were in the safer quadrant of the storm and because it had been over land it had lost some of its punch. Nonetheless, we sustained some significant structural damage and equipment topsides took some hits.

I remember some humorous incidents, too. Admiral Beakley performed his diplomatic duties in port calls, but he also enjoyed nightlife. He came aboard in the wee hours of the morning one time and the inport Officer of the Deck greeted him, "Good morning, Admiral." The Admiral dressed him down and said it was still evening. The word went out to the watch standers. A few days later, the Admiral again came aboard very early in the morning and ENS Dick Walters greeted him with "Good morning, Admiral." "What did you say?" the Admiral demanded. Dick replied, "I said good morning, but I meant good evening."

Then there was LTJG Robert Cosgrove, a mustang and most eligible bachelor, who bet the less experienced junior officers that no matter what port in the world the ship might enter he would know someone there. They took him up on the bet, and when the ship tied up in Saigon they believed they had him. As the Navy onlookers ashore looked up at the ship, sure enough one of them called out to Cosgrove.

On that same visit to Saigon, when the ship was getting underway, one of the lines snagged a row of decorative pots on the pier and pulled them into the water. ENS Robert Silberling, who put together the cruise book, recorded that episode with photos. First there were four, then three, then two, then one.

San Diego in 2004!

Word of the Day ...

"PIPE DOWN"

Big sailing vessels required large crews, since most work was done by hand. Noise of winds and waves made it difficult to transmit orders by shouting. So, the boatswain used a special pipe whose notes could usually be heard, even in a storm.

When a master wished to give special instructions or give a crew an opportunity to voice complaints, the boatswain piped "All hands on deck." Another signal was used to send men to their quarters below deck. Sometimes a harsh captain would break off discussion and signal the boatswain to pipe the crew down. Failure to obey could be interpreted as mutiny, so rebellion was rare.

Long used literally in the lingo of the sea, the expression adopted and modified at the U.S. Naval Academy. About 1890 it became customary for a man in his third or fourth year to command a plebe, "Pipe down!" Instead of being an order to go to quarters, this was a demand for silence, and today we treat it as slightly milder but nearly equivalent to "Shut up!" (*Thanks, J. B.! Ed.)*

from Secondary Conn

by Garry Phillips

I am very excited about the reunion in San Diego. This one has the potential of being "the best one yet!" A lot of work has gone into its making and we have received stirrings from all of the States that people are planning to go, many of whom have not attended before.

California shipmates, not surprisingly, number more than twice those of any other state, and a ROCHESTER reunion has never been held in California. We are looking for a huge turn-out there. Although Long Beach and San Diego have changed considerably since the ship was home

ported there, many of the landmarks still stand. (That break wall in Long Beach never changes!) San Diego is more beautiful than ever.

I encourage you to make every effort to come to the reunion. The fun is in exchanging sea stories with old shipmates and running into guys you used to know. Not a reunion goes by that I have not heard the same heartwarming story a half dozen times: “My Lord! I hadn’t seen him in forty (or fifty) years!” It’s great fun.

San Diego in 2004!

Recap of Reunion News

First, the dates are September 28 through October 3, 2004. This is a little longer than previous reunions, but since it is the first on the West Coast, we thought it would be appropriate to provide a little more time for visiting old haunts and hanging out together. It is not necessary to be present every day to get the benefit of the banquet, ship’s store, tours, hospitality room, discount rates, etc., if you can’t be there all the time. Feel free to choose your days. However, we would encourage you to eat the whole enchilada. These are also the dates for San Diego’s “Fleet Week,” a special annual celebration for the Navy. (The President and most of the officers of the Association will be there the entire week.)

The location for the reunion will be the Red Lion Hanalei Hotel in sunny San Diego.



Borrowing from their web-site, they say: “Set amidst tropical palms and lush, inviting gardens, the Hanalei Hotel's intimate atrium setting is the perfect place for your stay in the heart of San Diego. The Red Lion Hanalei Hotel is conveniently located in Mission Valley, close to all the city's finest attractions. On Hotel Circle North in Mission Valley, the Hanalei Hotel provides easy freeway access to the business district, recreational and sight-seeing attractions in San Diego. With a new look and upgraded amenities, the Hanalei is the ideal backdrop for your vacation,” Rooms are \$100.55 per day. All rooms have a small refrigerator and



microwave. Shipmates will need to make their own reservations with the Hotel beginning early next year. We will let you know in a later newsletter when to start making reservations. We will also have more specific information in the next newsletter.

We have some great tours planned, with a lot of Navy stuff thrown in for old time's sake. The best part about any reunion is seeing old friends and sharing memories of days gone by.