

# USS TOPEKA CLG-8

## Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 13, No. 2

May, 2002

### Officers:

Dudley Cass, Chairman, Board of Directors; John Reynolds, President; Jack Timmons, Secretary-Treasurer; Ken Noble, Reunion 02 Chairman; Jack Connery, Newsletter Editor; Ken Noble, Web Master



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Did you know that in 1858 a precious metal called gold was discovered in Cherry Creek USA. That led to 50,000 prospectors arriving in Cherry Creek in 1859. In nearby Central City, a major silver strike began which resulted in the area being called the "Richest Square Mile on Earth".

The state's underground wealth is not limited to precious metals. Coal underlies one quarter of the state. Shale deposits are among the richest, yielding more than 15 gallons of petroleum per ton of shale rock.

"Where is Cherry Creek?" you ask. Cherry Creek is now called Denver, Colorado. See you there in August.

John Reynolds



President John Reynolds was present during this famous gold strike, and as a result, this is how he will be arriving at the Hilton Denver Tech South August 21 for the 2002 reunion.

### LAUGHLIN IN 2002

Twenty-three shipmates and wives came together for one of the best attended Mini Reunion's in Laughlin, Nevada March 10-11.

Many stayed at the Riverside Resort where Ruth and Dudley Cass had the hospitality suite (high over the Colorado River with a balcony view) open for a few hours each day. It was BYOB and lots of folks brought hors d'oeuvres. Dinner was at Jim Van Sant's favorite Italian restaurant, with some getting lost in the hold of the Colorado Belle Casino. Many saw the show "Spirit of Ireland Dancers" which is similar to the River Dancers.

Those attending included: Ruth and Dudley Cass (the organizers), Judy and Jim Van Sant, John Reynolds (Mary was home with a cold), May Ann and Paul Wourenmaa, Jutta and Tom Eagling, Pat and Gary Baker, Karen and Ted Treschel, Helen and Egon Werdelman, Betty and "Parky" Parkhurst, "Ski Kowalski and his daughter Carol, Charlotte and John Bockuis, and Jean and Jack Timmons.

Anyone left off this list has Jack Timmons' apologies.

This group seems to get bigger every year.

### NEW MEMBERS (SINCE FEBRUARY)

"Ron" (Ronald) Downs SK3 (65-66) Citrus Heights, CA  
Rick Adams SN (67-68) Mineola, TX  
"Steve" Steven Carter JO2 (65-68) Gold Canyon, AZ  
Robert Leibel QM3 (65-68) Desert Hot Springs, CA  
Ted Parker BM3 (63-66) Peculiar, MO  
John Goodlett CYN3 (63-67) Colton, CA  
James Rebeor MMFN (68-69) Oswego, NY  
Anthony Gregg SN (64-68) Wichita, KS  
Arthur Yeakey SHSN (63-64) Mishawaka, IN  
Norman Trabucco CSSN (59-61) Los Alamos, CA  
"Joe" Joseph Woody LTJG (61-63) Webster, NY  
Robert Rooker EN2 (63-66) Charleston, SC  
Charles "David" Spier RM2 (62-65) Winnetka, CA  
Courtney Rudin FTG-2 (63-66) Healdsburg, CA

## WHO'S COMING TO DENVER

Here's who's coming so far. But it's only a start. These folks signed up early to get the best rooms. We want you all to be there so you better get on the stick. Make your hotel reservations and get your registration into Jack Timmons by July 10 so Ken Noble can complete reunion planning.



The balcony of our hospitality suite is just behind this staircase. All rooms in the hotel either have a balcony to the outside, or one overlooking the atrium. You can see from the reunion highlights that Ken Noble has a memorable week-end planned for us.

We want to see your name on this list in the July issue.

James Ayres, RD2 (60 62) Necedah, WI  
Gary Baker, FT2 (63 65) Billings, MT  
Jack Connery, LCDR (64 66) Tulsa, OK  
Irye Couch, BM1 (60 65) Grand Junction, CO  
Chester Goodwin, BTC (63 65) Arvada, CO  
Michael Hight, RD2 (60 62) Avon Park, FL  
Norbert Howe, SDC (60 6) Lakewood, CA  
Loy Nix, GMM1 (59 62) Flowery Branch, GA  
Robert Plake, HT1 (59 61) Indianapolis, IN  
Paul Ruby, LTJG (62 65) San Francisco, CA  
Michael Thomas SN (62 65) Sherman, IL  
Egon Werdelman, CDR (60 61) San Diego, CA  
Bud Weldon Zimmerman, GMT1 (59 62) Bremerton, WA.

Whatever it takes - -just be there!

## TUESDAY NIGHT AT THE FORT

Ken Noble is organizing a night out for those "early birds" arriving in Denver on Tuesday. He would like to make reservations at The Fort, a few miles west of Denver for 20-29 shipmates and wives.

The Fort requires a \$500 deposit to reserve the facility for the evening, and Ken says that they do not rush us out.

Dinner is served banquet style, and offers a variety of entrees ranging from \$20.00 to \$30 plus gratuity and tax.

If interested in joining this bunch, send Ken a \$25.00 check per person. This will be applied to your dinner tab. He will not cash checks until July 25, the deadline for making reservations. If the number doesn't make, your check will be returned to you at the reunion.

Contact Ken for more information at 303-410-7150, or you can check out the Fort on the internet at [www.thefort.com](http://www.thefort.com)

## WE'LL HEAR A HERO

Ever heard of Paul Murphy? Perhaps not. By the end of the banquet Saturday night, you'll know a lot about him.

Like thousands of others, Paul was drafted into the Navy at the age of 18, two weeks out of high school sometime during the 1940's.

After completing Boot Camp and advanced Fire Control School, he was assigned to the USS Indianapolis (CA35). His battle station on the Indy was Main Battery Plot. "Occasionally, we fired all guns at the same time. Believe me, it really rocked the boat."

During WWII, Indianapolis, at times served as President Roosevelt's *Ship of State*, was hit by a Japanese Kamikazi in 1945, suffering 45 casualties, and earned 10 battle stars.

Paul was on the Indianapolis when she took two torpedoes from a Japanese submarine just past midnight on July 30, 1945, somewhere between Guam and Midway Islands, just after delivering the atomic bomb to Tinian Island. Indianapolis sunk almost immediately.

The surviving crew was in the water five days with only life jackets. Of the 1197 men aboard, only 317, one of whom was Murphy, were rescued. "I tell you I prayed, prayed, and prayed some more. I truly believe the Good Lord saved me for a reason . . . and besides . . . sharks do not like Irishmen."



The USS Indianapolis Survivors Association help to raise 1.5 million dollars for the construction of this monument to their ship and crew.

When discharged, Paul went to the Missouri School of Mines, and obtained a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Over the years, he worked for the U.S. Geological Service, and was involved in family businesses.

He was elected chairman of the USS Indianapolis Survivors Organization in 1995, and his wife is the secretary.

His organization is largely responsible for the monument shown above, now recognized as a National Monument.

### YA WANTA VOLUNTEER?

Is there a VA hospital in your area? More than 100,000 volunteers contribute millions of hours a year helping hospitalized veterans with compassion and attention to their individualized needs. This is a place to start if you are looking.

Stage and television actor Gerald McRaney (TV series Simon and Simon and Major Dad) is chairing the 2002 campaign to recruit volunteers and recognize veterans.

"I am deeply honored to be asked to serve our nation's veterans," said McRaney. "While we have troops deployed now, we must not forget the ones who gave us the freedoms we already have."

President Bush, in his State of the Union address, also talked about the need for volunteerism. He cited the USA Freedom Corps as a volunteer group for our consideration. The Freedom Corps has three major federal components that include the Citizen Corps, AmeriCorps, Senior Corps and the Peace Corps.

Now that many of us are retired, there are places out there where we can lend a hand, whether it be a local school, hospital, or perhaps something like Meals on Wheels.

### AND THE REST OF US?



... And this is how the rest of us will arrive in Denver.

### MOVING? MOVED? WAS YOUR NEWSLETTER FORWARDED?

Then drop a card to Jack Timmons and let him know your new address.

**USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Association**  
**C/O Jack Connery**  
**9814 E. 83<sup>rd</sup> Pl.**  
**Tulsa, OK 74133**

**PRESORT STD**  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
**TULSA, OK**  
**#418**



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **NAMES/TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

### **Board of Directors**

Dudley Cass, 3028 Bonita Woods Dr., Bonita, Cal., 91902; 619-267-3123. Members Don Anderson, Jack Connery, Jerry Judge, Ken Noble, Jerry Pennington.

### **President**

John Reynolds, 916 Esplanade, # 177, Redondo Beach, Cal., 90266; Telephone 310-540-7817.

### **Secretary-Treasurer**

Jack Timmons, 2661 Poinsettia Dr., San Diego, Ca, 92106-1121; 619-224-8928; Email JETimmons@aol.com

### **2002 Reunion Coordinator**

Ken Noble, 14019 Summer Bay Lane, Broomfield, CO 80020; 303-410-7150; Email Kennoble@usstopekaclg8.org

### **Newsletter Editor**

Jack Connery, 9814 E. 83<sup>rd</sup> Pl., Tulsa, Ok., 74133; 918-459-8918; Fax 918-459-9758; E-mail JJConn@AOL.com.

### **WebMaster**

Ken Noble, 14019 Summer Bay Lane, Broomfield, CO 80020; 303-410-7150; Email Topeka@usstopekaclg8.org

### **Ship's Store**

Jill Connery, 9814 E. 83<sup>rd</sup> Pl., Tulsa, Ok., 74133; 918-459-8918; Fax 918-459-9758; E-mail JJConn@AOL.com.

## **SHIP'S STORE REPORT**

The following items are available in the ships store.

### Old Style Shirts:

Adult shirts  
 Green, sizes S, 2XL \$22.00  
 Red, sizes XL, 2XL 22.00

### New Style Polo Shirts

White or Gray w/Navy trim, Beige  
 w/Black trim; Sizes M, L, XL, 2XL 28.00  
 Ball caps 10.00  
 Key Chains 3.00  
 Ships Plaque (with name) 30.00

### New Style Nylon Jackets

Hunter Green or Royal Blue, both w/Navy  
 trim; sizes M, L, XL, 2XL 46.00  
 Cold Drink Holders 5.00  
 Topeka Note Pads (5-pack) 5.00  
 License Plate Holders 4.00

Include \$5.00 shipping with each order and send check or money order to Jill Connery.

## DENVER 2002 REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

**Reunion Dates:** Wednesday, August 21, 2002 to Sunday, August 24, 2002.

**Hotel:** Hilton Denver Tech South, 7801 East Orchard Road, Englewood, CO 80111-2508.

Rates are \$79.00 (single or double occupancy.) (Plus Sales tax of 6.7% and local Occupancy Taxes of 3% for a total of 9.7% taxes.) Guaranteed Room Rates are good from Sunday, August 18, 2002 through Sunday, August 25, 2002.

**Make your own hotel reservations. Deadline for hotel reservations is July 18, 2002.** To receive the contracted rates, you must identify yourself as being with the **USS Topeka Reunion Association**. The hotel will continue to accept reservations July 19 or later based on hotel availability.

**Phone number for reservations is: Call 1-800-327-2242. This is a direct line.** Do not call the Hilton Worldwide 800 number, They will not be aware of the Reunion Rates. The Hilton Denver Tech South is conveniently located at the Denver Tech Center just 15 minutes from Downtown at the corner of I-25 and Orchard Road (exit # 198 off the I-25), and 35 minutes from the Denver Airport. Hilton Denver Tech South has 305 comfortable guestrooms. All rooms feature private balconies, air conditioning, cable TV, ESPN, HBO, AM/FM radio-alarm clock, working desk, two phones with modem hook-up, complimentary morning newspaper, iron and ironing board, in-room coffee makers, and hair dryers. When you are in the mood to exercise, take advantage of the indoor/outdoor pool, health club, and dry sauna. There are jogging trails nearby for walkers and runners. Restaurants, Lounge/Bar/Nightclub are onsite. Dry-cleaning/Laundry service and guest laundry facilities. Business services are available. Advise the hotel of any handicap requirements when making reservations.

**Airport shuttles. Super Shuttle service is available.** Roundtrip transportation from the airport to the hotel and return is \$28 (cost subject to change) when you identify your self as members of the USS Topeka Reunion Association.

**Reunion Schedule:** We recommend you plan on arriving Tuesday, because there are plenty of things you will want to do Wednesday through Saturday

**Tours:** It is planned to have all tours leave from the Hilton Denver Tech South Hotel. Reservations for the tours should be made with your Reunion Registration to guarantee your choices. Requests made after July 10, 2002 will be attempted. **Book early.** Tickets can be sold onsite based on seating availability. All tours are planned to be with Gray Lines of Colorado. Again, if you want to be on a tour, book with your reunion registration. **Book Early.**

**Wednesday, August 21, (8:00 AM – 6:15 PM) “Tour A” on your Reunion Registration Form**

**Pike’s Peak, the Air Force Academy, and Garden of the Gods. Depart the Hotel at 8:00 AM.** Tour enters the United States Air Force Academy via the North Gate with the first stop at the B-52, “Diamond Lil”. Here we exit the coach for a walk around this plane that was the workhorse of the Air Force until it was replaced by the B-1 Bomber. Then it is on to a scenic view pullover to visit the Academy Sports fields and campus proper. Next the tour will include a visit to the Barry Goldwater Visitor Center for restrooms and official Academy gifts. We will then tour the Air Force Academy Chapel, the most visited manmade tourist attraction in Colorado. Lunch planned at the Academy Club or Arnold Hall. Departing the Academy, we next visit the 1400 acre Garden of the Gods Park with beautiful spectacular sandstone formations. If we did not have lunch at the Academy, we can have a lovely lunch at the Garden of the Gods Trading Post. We’ll use the restrooms and then off to catch the 1:20 PM train up the Pike’s Peak Cog Railway for a journey to the top of the mountain at an elevation of 14,100 ft above sea level. Bring a sweater/jacket and water to drink on this exciting adventure. The train returns to Manitou Springs at 4:30 PM for a Bus ride back to the Hilton Hotel in Denver. Lunch at the Air Force Academy is not included.

**Price: \$63 per adult. Includes tour guide, lunch at the Trading Post and ticket on the Pike’s Peak Cog Railway.**

**Thursday and Friday Tours – see the next page!**

## DENVER 2002 REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

**Tours:** (continued): All tours leave from the Hilton Denver Tech South Hotel

### **Thursday, August 22 (8:00 AM- 6:00 PM) "Tour B" on your Reunion Registration Form -**

**Rocky Mountain National Park Tour.** Depart the Hilton Hotel at 8:00 AM. Heading west towards the mountains, through Idaho Springs before climbing the Berthoud Pass. One of our first stops is at the summit of Berthoud Pass for restroom and pictures. Then we drive through Winter Park and Granby before stopping for lunch (Lunch is on your own) in one of Grand Lake's restaurants. After lunch, we enter the Rocky Mountain National Park for the awe inspiring trip over Trail Ridge Drive. Highest point on this tour is on Trail Ridge Road at an elevation of 12,138 ft above sea level. The motorcoach makes several stops in the park for pictures and comfort stops before arriving in Estes Park for shopping. Then we head back to town via Lyons and Boulder and back to the Hilton in Denver by 6:00 PM.

**Price: \$50.00 per adult, includes tour guide and admission to the Rocky Mountain National Park.**

### **Friday, August 23 (1:00 PM to 5:30 PM) "Tour C" on your reunion registration form.**

**Denver Mountain Parks.** Depart the Hilton Hotel at 1:00 PM. Travel to the Red Rocks City Park with stops at the Amphitheater and Trading Post. The Amphitheater is a popular venue for performers and audiences due to its nearly perfect acoustics and beautiful mountain scenery. (No performances are known to be scheduled at the time of our tours.) Time is allowed for picture taking and getting refreshments. We will go west up Bear Creek Canyon along the route of pioneer stagecoaches to the town of Evergreen for shopping and restrooms. Next we will visit Lookout Mountain with entrance to the Buffalo Bill Museum and inspection of the last resting place of Buffalo Bill Cody. We depart Lookout Mountain via the Lariat Trail emptying into Golden before returning to the Hilton Hotel by 5:30 PM. Tour Guide and Admission to the museum is included in the tour cost.

**Price: \$25 per adult, includes tour guide and admission to museum.**

### **Friday, August 23 Evening: No Host Cocktail Hour 6:00 PM, followed by a Buffet dinner at 7:00 PM.**

Featuring the "Wild West Buffet." Country Potato Salad; Creamy Cole Slaw; Barbecue Chicken, Barbecue Pork Ribs; Texas style chili; Sweet Molasses Baked Beans; Corn on the Cob; Cornbread Muffins; Peach Pie for dessert. Coffee and Tea drink selections.

### **Saturday, October 13: Reunion Association Business Meeting at 9:00 AM, followed by group pictures.**

On your own the rest of the day.

For the evening: **No Host Cocktail hour at 6PM, followed by sit down dinner banquet and a short program at 7:00 PM.**

Dinner menu includes choices of Prime Rib, Salmon, or vegetarian plate (chef's choice). Salad; Baked potato with sour cream & chives; Chef's choice of vegetable; Butter and rolls; Cheesecake w/ strawberries; coffee and tea drink selection. Wine will be served; the wine choices are White Zinfandel, Chardonnay, Merlot, and Cabernet Sauvignon.

**Please come to the 2002 Denver Reunion and have a good time with your shipmates and long term friends.**

# USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Registration FORM

Denver, Colorado, August 21-24, 2002

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Plankowner? \_\_\_\_\_ Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_

Staying at the Hilton Denver Tech South Hotel? \_\_\_\_\_ (Y or N)

Emergency Contact: Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_.

Any Handicap and/or Special Dietary Requirements? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) for nametag(s) (if you haven't previously received permanent Nametags):  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Reunion Fee:** The Reunion Fee includes the cost of the Hospitality Room, the Friday Night Buffet, the Saturday night Banquet, and other fixed costs of the Reunion. Reunion Fee for adults attending all four days: \$110. For those not attending all four days: \$10 for Wed; \$12 for Thurs; \$36 for Fri, and \$57 for Saturday. For children (12 and Under) \$19 for Friday and/or Saturday if attending the Buffet and/or Dinner Banquet, if the child's plate is selected. Otherwise Teenager prices (defined below) apply. For Teenagers: \$24 for the Friday Buffet and \$39 if attending the Saturday evening banquet. No charge for children and teenagers unless attending the Friday buffet and/or the Saturday banquet.

<u>Days Attending</u>	<u>Number Attending</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Cost</u>
All four days	_____	\$110	_____
Not all four days			
Wednesday	_____	\$ 10	_____
Thursday	_____	\$ 12	_____
Friday	_____	\$ 36	_____
Saturday	_____	\$ 57	_____
Children at Buffet (child's plate)	_____	\$ 19	_____
Children at Banquet (child's plate)	_____	\$ 19	_____
Teenagers at Buffet	_____	\$ 24	_____
Teenagers at Banquet	_____	\$ 39	_____

Reunion Fee Total \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet Entrée Choices (give number):  
 Prime Rib \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Plate (Ages 5 - 12): \_\_\_\_\_ Children under 5 free \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Continued on reverse side)

**USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Registration Denver 2002 (continued)**

Group Events:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Tour "A" - Pike's Peak & Air Force Academy and Garden of the Gods Wednesday - August 21 8:00 AM to 6:15 PM Includes bus, guides and admission. Lunch at an U.S. Air Force Academy Club is planned, but not included. Includes Cog Railroad to top of Pike's Peak.			
Price	_____	<u>\$ 63.00</u>	_____

Tour "B" - Rocky Mountain National Park Thursday - August 22 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM Includes bus, guides and admission to Rocky Mountain National Park. View summit of Berthoud Pass, drive through Winter Park and Granby before stopping for lunch at Grand Lake. Lunch on your own. Enter the Rocky Mountain National Park for the awe-inspiring trip over Trail Ridge Drive. Several stops for pictures and comfort stops before arriving in Estes Park for shopping. Finally return to Denver via Lyons and Boulder by 6:00 PM.			
Price	_____	<u>\$ 50.00</u>	_____

Tour "C" - Denver Mountain Parks. Friday August 23 1:00 PM to 5:30 PM Includes bus, guides, and admission to museum. Travel to Red Rocks City Park, with stops at the Amphitheater and Trading Post. Then up the Bear Creek Canyon to Evergreen for shopping and restrooms. Next visit Lookout Mountain with the entrance to the Buffalo Bill Museum and inspection of the last resting place of Buffalo Bill Cody. Depart Lookout Mountain, via the Lariat Trail emptying into Golden before returning to the Hilton Hotel by 5:30 PM.			
Price	_____	<u>\$ 25.00</u>	_____

Tours Cost Total: \_\_\_\_\_

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Add : Reunion Fee (from other side) \_\_\_\_\_

Reunion Fee and Tours Costs: Total \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for payment of above costs is July 10, 2002

Make checks payable to:  
USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) REUNION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Please: Make a copy of this form for your files.

Mail this form and the payment checks to:

JACK E. TIMMONS  
2661 POINSETTIA DR.  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92106-1121