

# USS TOPEKA CLG-8

## Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 2, No. 4

October 1991



### Committee:

Don Nellis, President; Dick Jolliffe, Vice President;  
Dudley E. Cass, Secretary/Treasurer; Jim Carey, Reunion '92 Chairman  
Jack Connery, Newsletter Editor



RADM Frank Pinney, USN(Ret), first Commanding Officer of TOPEKA (CLG-8), was guest speaker at the Reunion '91 banquet. Here, he tells some of his favorite anecdotes about those early Topeka years.



### ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING

The Reunion Association Business Meeting was held 17 August, 1991 on the Queen Mary. Items of business included:

- Decided that the next reunion will be held in the Washington, D.C. area in October, 1992.
- Accepted Jim Carey as Reunion '92 Chairman.
- Elected Officers: Don Nellis, President; Dick Jolliffe, Vice President; Dudley Cass, Secretary/Treasurer.
- Decided that reunion sites would alternate between the East Coast, West Coast, and Central U.S. Jack Connery, Clyde Leite, and Richard Olsen appointed to a committee to recommend Midwestern sites for the 1993 reunion.

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was a great reunion. The Queen Mary was fantastic. I didn't go ashore for even a minute. (*Ed. note: Don didn't go ashore? That speaks extremely well for the reunion.*)

My special thanks to John Reynolds for heading up Reunion '91. The Queen Mary was his idea and it turned out to be a great one. And a special thanks again to Ruth Cass for all her help, repeated from Reunion '90. Jim Carey needs to bring her to Washington next year.

Information about '92 officers and the '92 reunion is contained elsewhere in this newsletter. Jack Connery will be the Newsletter Editor during 1992, with the assistance of Dudley Cass.

Remember guys, we need members. So please contact any TOPEKAMEN you know and make them aware of our association. Have them contact Dudley Cass or myself and we'll do the rest.

Thanks to outgoing Reunion Officers "Parky" Parkhurst and Jim Ownby for jobs well done. TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Association was an idea/hope of Jim Ownby in 1989 and he was the main developer of today's successful association.

This newsletter is our main conduit for communication between members. We will do our best to keep you informed. Please send Jack the much needed feedback on TOPEKA matters or other information of interest to your shipmates and he'll pass them along in this newsletter.

Thanks,  
Don Nellis



## THE BAKA HACHI 1960-1969



Remember those forms Jack Connery sent you early this year, in which he asked for your favorite TOPEKA memory? He received a lot of input from you guys, interspersed those stories with the official ship's history, and the result is *The BAKA HACHI, 1960-1969*.

It was one of the highlights of the reunion, and if anyone left Long Beach without one, it was an oversight. The reviews have been good. It was the consensus that everyone should have one. To get your copy, send a check for \$13.00 payable to TOPEKA Reunion Association to Jack at 16334 South Lewis, Bixby, Ok., 74008; or Irad Parkhurst, 11213 Densmore Ave., Granada Hills, Ca., 91344, whoever is closer. The price includes postage. All proceeds go to the Reunion Association.



## REUNION '92

The Nation's Capitol will be the site of Reunion '92, to be held on dates to be determined in October. Reunion '91 was so good that those in attendance are already looking forward to '92. And those who didn't attend should be.

Jim Carey was selected to head up Reunion '92. He's already working on it, and has arranged a reception aboard the USS Commodore John Barry, Station Ship for Naval Support Activity, Washing-

ton. More about that in following issues. Jim is planning a reunion site that will be within walking distance of most of the monuments.

If you live in the DC/Maryland/Virginia area and would be interested in helping Jim, contact him at (703) 971-3220 (home), or (202) 783-9207. Jim lives at 6022 Knights Ridge Way, Alexandria, Va., 22310.



## FROM THE EDITOR

When I remember Reunion '90, I am reminded of an earlier high school reunion where someone commented that there "were no lawyers, doctors, oilmen present, -- just a bunch of high school kids having a good time." That's the way Reunion '90 seemed to me: "No officers, chiefs, or enlisted -- just a bunch of sailors -- shipmates who had sailed and fought a ship, getting together to remember."

Others saw it somewhat differently. One said that "it was a lot like having dinner in the Wardroom or Chief's Quarters." Another said, "There needs to be more enlisted men at the next one."

After thinking about these three impressions, I agree with all. These impressions could also be expressed about Reunion '91, although there was more balance among officer-enlisted. Attendance records for both reunions break out as follows. Figures may not be exact, but they are close:

Rank/Rate	'90	'91
E1-E6	14	24
E7-E9	14	16
W1-W4	4	3
O1-O6	40	33

I stand by my opinion that we were a bunch of sailors -- shipmates, getting together to remember. But I still agree with the other two.

When one adds the above figures to the number of family, friends, and guests who attended, we had a good crowd for a reunion. However, this is a small number compared to the total number of men who sailed in TOPEKA during those nine years.

**I issue a challenge to all shipmates during 1992: Find one TOPEKA shipmate who is not on our mailing list and send his name and address to Dudley Cass. Wearing the ball cap is one way. See "... Letters." That will double our data base, and most likely our attendance next year, as well.**

## REUNION '91 MUSTER LIST

Frank L. Pinney, Jr.	CAPT	59-60
Dan B. Leonard, Jr.	LTJG	59-61
James A. Mahoney	HM3	59-61
Joseph Buda	GMC	59-62
Adam J. Howey	GM1	59-62
Ray Kraft	LTJG	59-62
Ron Smart	RD3	59-62
Bernard Visser	GMC	59-62
Walter Davidovich	GMC	59-63
Fred Howes	SN	59-63
Joe Ripley	LTJG	59-63
Austin Schroder	LCDR	59-63
Joe Peragine	CWO3	59-66
Charles Northrup	SK3	60-61
Richard Olsen	CDR	60-61
Egon Werdelman	CDR	60-61
Jesse Aragon	BM3	60-62
Bill Bundy	ENC	60-62
Don Cameron	LT	60-62
Will Hays	LT	60-62
Vince Manion	LCDR	60-62
Peter Minickiello	FTGSN	60-63
Norm Malmberg	LTJG	60-63
Keith Kincaid	SK3	60-64
Thomas Victory	SFCS	60-64
Robert Robbins	FTC	60-65
Elwynn Laughorne	FTM1	60-65
John Hojaboom	GMG1	60-68
Elmer Greeno	FTCS	61-63
Hal Hodson	LCDR	61-63
Jack Kehoe	LTJG	61-63
David Proctor	PNC	61-63
Dudley Cass	LTJG	61-64
Mike Angulo	CWO3	61-65
Clyde Leite	SA	61-65
John Reynolds	FTM1	61-66
Tom Butler	SKC	62-64
Don Cates	LTJG	62-64
Donna (Gene) Glenn	LT	62-64
Ted Haessler	LTJG	62-64
Jack Mansfield	CAPT	62-64
Gale Pfund	LTJG	62-64
Richard Ramsey	GMCM	62-64
Jack Bock	LTJG	62-65
Jim Carey	LTJG	62-65
Ed Moran	LT	62-65
Jim Ownby	LT	62-65
Paul Ruby	LTJG	62-65
Ronald Smith	SK2	62-65
Felix Vasallo	YNC	62-66
Robert Dillon	YNC	63-64
Ted Hendershot	LCDR	63-64
Don Nellis	CDR	63-65
Joe Heeney	CWO4	63-66
Roger Heron	SN	63-66
Gerald Judge	FTCS	63-66
Irad Parkhurst	FTCM	63-66
Bernardo Pulido	SDCS	63-66
Charles Dykeman	LT	64-65
Jack Connery	LCDR	64-66
Dick Jolliffe	LT	64-66
Harvey Nelson	LTJG	64-66
William Noel	QMCM	64-66
Dick Slye	LT	64-66
Herb Hedge	LCDR	64-67
Mike Giampietro	EN3	65-67
Dwight Baumann	SN	65-68
Issac Roberts	IC3	65-68
Dale Anderson	FN	65-69
Benjamin Luistro	TN	65-69
George Badger	LCDR	66-67
Louis Rodriguez	SHSN	66-67
Jerry Craig	FIM3	66-69
Steve Manley	MM3	66-69
Allen Jeffers	CDR	67-69
CDR Wil Cooke, CO, USS TOPEKA (SSN 754)		

## ... LETTERS

I ran across a fellow shipmate in New Jersey wearing a TOPEKA ball cap. He informed me of the Association and the reunion just passed. I was in the commissioning crew and made two WEST-PAC cruises and enjoyed every minute of my tour. Started as an FA and left as a DC2. I hope there will be another reunion.

I have quite a bit of stuff saved from TOPEKA—Commissioning Ceremony book, Shell Back Book, cruise books, Plainsman and more. I guess I'm just a junker, but many times, I came close to trashing this stuff, but just didn't have the heart.

I only live 10 minutes from the Philadelphia Navy Yard, and passed the Old Girl many times before she left for good. What a great skipper Captain Pinney was.

What's my chances of getting a TOPEKA hat? Please send me info on obtaining one. It would be a treasure—proudly worn.

Fred Clark, Jr.  
Moorestown, N. J.

*Fred, a real pleasure to hear from you. This newsletter will answer most of your questions. We'll see you in Washington in October '92. And bring all that stuff. It will really add to the reunion.*

*And to whomever was wearing the ball cap: Thanks for finding another shipmate.*



## SEASONS GREETINGS

The Reunion Committee takes this opportunity to wish you, your family, and your friends the best of Seasons Greetings. We wish you much to be thankful for at Thanksgiving, a Blessed Christmas, and a Joyous New Year. And let us not forget, at services on Christmas, to say a prayer for our Shipmates at Sea.



## ASSOCIATION HISTORY

The Reunion Association and Committee were formed in late 1989 with the objectives of locating and organizing a reunion for the crewmembers, Navy and Marine, serving on board TOPEKA during the period 1959-69. The first reunion was held in San Diego in August, 1990; the second in Long

Beach in August, 1991. A third is scheduled for Washington, D.C., in October, 1992. We have a growing membership, 280 in our data base now, and we send a directory of members to those who submit the annual dues of \$15. Widows of deceased members are welcome to participate in the association, and are exempt from the annual dues.



**REMEMBER WHEN . . . ?**

Got a good story about life on TOPEKA? One your shipmates would want to read? Put it on paper in 100 words or less and send it to Jack Connery, 16334 South Lewis, Bixby, Ok., 74008. If selected for use in this column in a 1992 TOPEKA newsletter, Dudley Cass will send you a check for \$25. Jack will be the judge and his decision final. The only ground rules are that it doesn't start with, "Now this is N.S.;" it must be suitable for publication, and can not be offensive to any one. If not used in the newsletter, it will be held on file to use in Revision One to The BAKA HACHI, 1960-1969, to be published in 2-3 years. Deadline for entries for the first issue, 1992, is January 10.

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



**TOPEKA MEMORABILIA**



"Parky" Parkhurst is warehousing TOPEKA Memorabilia. Any item would make a great Christmas gift. Ball Caps are \$12.00; Shirts \$15.00; Coffee Mugs \$8.00. Add \$3.00 postage for one or all, including BAKA HACHI, 1960-1969. Contact Parky at 11213 Densmore Ave., Granada Hills, Ca., 91344.



# REUNION '91





# MORE REUNION '91



