

# USS TOPEKA CLG-8 Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 4-4

November, 1993

## Committee:

*Jack Connery, President; Dudley E. Cass, Secretary/Treasurer;  
Dick Jolliffe, Assistant Treasurer; Dudley Cass, Reunion '94 Chairman  
Jack Connery, Newsletter Editor*



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

When I stop to think for a moment, so many things flash through my mind about Reunion '93. Things that made it a Class Event. The fine hotel accommodations and food, and the treatment by hotel staff that made us all feel good. Seeing the Grand Ole Opry; a fabulous banquet that included the Sounds of TOPEKA and a speaker we all enjoyed; the number of new people joining the Association this year, and coming for the first time; the good feelings all seemed to have. It was great. Thanks Ike.

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I've never really been a country music fan, even with growing up in Oklahoma where both Bob Wills and Garth Brooks and a lot of others in between got their start. However, a walk through the Country Music Hall of Fame, seeing all these legends of the past, is close to overwhelming. It was an outstanding event in our reunion.

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Thanks to the membership for having the trust and confidence to let Dudley and I continue to run our organization. And welcome to Dick Jolliffe, who joins us as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. There was just too much for Dudley to do.

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And for those of you who didn't make Nashville, you really missed it.

Jack Connery

## ASSOCIATION BYLAWS

Members in attendance at the reunion, along with those who submitted absentee ballots, unanimously approved the proposed Association Bylaws, mailed earlier this year.

Only two changes were made to the mailed version. Since a Reunion Chairman cannot be identified until a reunion site has been selected, this position was changed from an elected to an appointed position. Certain "boiler plate" information will be added to comply with Internal Revenue Service regulations for a non-profit organization.

The new bylaws officially establish a Board of Advisors. Five board members were elected. A slate of Don Nellis, John Reynolds, Parky Parkhurst, Ike Roberts, and Jim Ownby was presented and elected. In order to provide continuity from year to year, the new board drew numbers from a hat to indicate 1, 2 or 3-year terms. Parkhurst will serve one year; Nellis and Roberts two years; and Ownby and Reynolds, three years. After this, each new board member will serve a term of three years. The Board will select a Chairman among themselves.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Upon establishment of a Board of Advisors, the board presented a slate of officers for 1994. This slate included Jack Connery for President, Dudley Cass for Secretary-Treasurer, and Dick Jolliffe for Assistant Secretary-Treasurer (a new position). There were no nominations from the floor, and these three were elected.

The position of Vice President was eliminated. The new bylaws give the Board authority to appoint a replacement President, should the incumbent not be able to continue.

## MEMBERSHIP STATUS

The following membership status was presented in the annual business meeting:

● Total number in data base	408
Active	360
Paid Dues	170

- New Members since last Reunion 82
- Members attending reunion 49

The President stated the goal of doubling in size during 1994. "It's simple," he stated. "Each of us find one new shipmate." He added, "I don't want to push our organization on those who don't want to belong. There are some who don't. I would just like to give everybody who is eligible the opportunity to join. To do that, we have to find them."

## IT'S SAN DIEGO FOR 1994 (AUGUST 18-20)

Three cities were presented to the membership as suggested sites for the 1994 Reunion: Seattle, Portland and San Diego. San Diego won hands down. Most likely, we'll go back to the Holiday Inn on the Bay, where this association met for the first time in 1990.

Dudley Cass volunteered and was appointed to serve as Reunion Chairman.

So, put August 18-20 on your calendar now, and let's plan for a big one. **To aid in preliminary planning, please complete the form at the end of this newsletter and return to Dudley.**

*Ed note: The January newsletter will feature San Diego.*

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Jack Timmons (1964-65) on winning the membership drive drawing. Those who found new shipmates during the year got their name put in a hat for this drawing. The prize was the cost of the reunion registration and hotel accommodations for two. This amounted to \$422. With that, Jack decided to stay in Nashville a couple more days.

This contest will not be scheduled during 1994.

## REUNION 95

The 1995 reunion is tentatively scheduled to be held in the "East." Don Anderson, Max Kaster, Steve Archbold, and Ike Roberts volunteered to present proposed sites at the 94 reunion. Tony Barbaro volunteered to work on the "West" site for 1997.

## 1994 DUES

Dudley Cass announced at the reunion that 1994 dues are being accepted. The membership voted to continue annual dues at \$15. Several at the reunion have already registered.

Dues will be mentioned only one more time in the January, 1994, newsletter. However, there will be a change in procedure to provide a subtle reminder.

In the past, the newsletter address label indicated that dues had been paid. In 1994, address labels will indicate both paid and non-paid. This is being done based on the assumption that some people need occasional reminders.

Each year, generous members send contributions in addition to their dues. This year, we will keep all contributions separate in a "worthwhile charity" fund. At our next reunion business meeting, we will decide how to apply this fund. Possibilities include Navy Relief or a scholarship fund administered by a Navy-related organization.

## 1995 TOPEKA CALENDAR

A special Topeka calendar will be created for the year 1995. Orders will be taken at the San Diego Reunion in August, and they will be distributed before Christmas. A very suitable tool for use in your home or place of work, or as a possible Christmas gift. Estimated cost will be about \$4.00

### We need your help.

- Look back through your memory, records, memorabilia, etc. and send me those dates during your tour of duty that were significant to you, your division, the crew and the ship. They will be noted on the calendar. Because of the large numbers, we won't be able to use those of a personal nature, ie birthdays, reporting/detaching dates, etc; just those that affected the ship or crew.
- The Editor, once again, needs to borrow cruise books. He has the one for the Vietnam deployment, but needs the three WestPac cruise books before that, and the Med cruise book. They will be cared for and will be returned.
- The Editor also needs pictures. A lot of Topeka pictures will be used in this calendar. Send anything you may have, I'll take pictures of them and return them.

This can be a neat calendar -- and useful too. But it's success is up to you. We need your help, just like we did when we put together *Baka Hachi*. Please help.

## BINNACLE LIST

Doyle Wills (65-67), recovering from cancer surgery in Panama City, FL.  
 Joe Peragine (60-66), recovering from bypass surgery in San Diego.

## TOPEKA BALL CAPS AND SHIRTS

We now have high quality ball caps and shirts. The ball caps have the ship's name and silhouette. The white pullover shirt has the same information above the left pocket. Ball caps are \$8, white shirts are \$20, and blue shirts (from last year) are \$12. Add \$3 to any order for mailing.

Dick Jolliffe, the new Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, will have custody of the Ship's Store. Contact him at 7453 Golfcrest Dr., San Diego, CA 92119. Phone (619) 287-3630.

## LETTERS

Dear Ed:

You can not believe how surprised I was to see my picture (the one in whites) in the August, 1993, newsletter. I was probably JOOD at the time. I believe it was taken in Portland, Oregon, in 1965 during a visit there. I do not recognize the other Chief in the picture. While there, TOPEKA performed a burial at sea.

I was not able to attend the Nashville reunion. However, I hope to attend the next one.

Donald L. Bradford, RMCS (1965)

Dear Ed:

I was really glad to hear from Topeka. I've thought about her and our crew many times over the years. I can recall the good times more than the bad, and always wondered what happened to the ship. Now I know.

Being on Topeka at that early time of my life inspired me in many positive ways throughout my life. Irene and I are really looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones at the reunion. We are glad someone took the initiative.

Ken Kucin, RD2 (1964-66)

Dear Ed:

Thanks for a very good reunion. It was tremendous. Peggy and I really enjoyed it. Captain Joe Taussig was the "top of the mountain."

Thanks for continually reminding me to go.

Bob White (63-64)

## MINI-REUNION IN LAUGHLIN

The Southern California bunch is gearing up for its annual mini reunion March 4-6 in Laughlin, NV.

Headquarters will be the Flamingo Hilton. Contact the hotel for reservations.

According to Ruth Cass, Eddie Arnold will be appearing down the street at the Riverside. Seems like a natural follow-on to Nashville.

Jim Ownby is interested in putting together a Friday-Saturday golf tournament that weekend in Laughlin. One day would be stroke play with the second being a scramble. Contact Dudley for information.

*Ed. Note: I have been to the last two of these and they are really fun. A small group, a weekend to kick back, and the best of friendship. However, if you can only go to one reunion, wait til August and San Diego.*



The Great Child

The Association Officers and Members of the Board of Advisors take this opportunity to wish all of you the best of Seasons' greetings and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

## REMEMBER WHEN . . . ?

How many of you remember this or similar notes appearing in the Plan of the Day after a few days at sea? This one appeared about 18 July, 1960, between Brooklyn and San Juan, Puerto Rico:

"WATER:

Rated Capacity: 2,000 gallons per hour  
Actual Made: 2,551 gallons per hour  
Actual Used: 3,309 gallons per hour  
Lost: 758 gallons per hour.

At this rate, the tanks will be empty in 6 1/2 days."

*Ed Note: Thanks to Tom Zogarc (1960) for this contribution.*

## FROM THE EDITOR

After the first reunion, there were a few complaints (perhaps just comments) that there were too many officers and chiefs, and not enough White Hats.

Well, take a look at the following list of new people since August. All White Hats except one. Things are evening out, and that's because you guys are out there looking for TOPEKAMEN. Everybody find one new one in 1994!

## WELCOME ABOARD (SINCE AUGUST)

Victor Sheppard, SN (66-68) Evansville, IN  
Robert F. Baker, QM3 (60-62) Hudson, NC  
James R. Ayres, RD2 (60-62) Necedah, WI  
Ed Heilbrun, RM2 (60-62) Las Vegas, NV  
Dean Green, SH2 (65-67) Folsom, CA  
Michael Phillips, HMSN (63-66) Monticello, MN  
Ray Atkins, SM3 (64-66) Columbus, MS  
Ken Kuchin, RD2 (64-66) Country Club Hills, IL  
Warren Messick, GM1 (62-62) Rossville, IN  
Raymond Spatz, CS3 (68-69) Long Island, NY  
Troy Thomas, ICFN (64-66) Waycross, GA  
Dale Mlady, SFP3 (67-68) Marquette, NE  
Ron Baugh, YN3 (65-67) Dundee, OR  
George Crouch, ETR3 (63-65) King George, VA  
Frankie Ward, MM2 (67-69) Dallas, TX  
Steve Archbold, SKSN (60-63) Dix Hills, NY  
Arthur Nolan, SMC (64-66) Cumming, GA

**USS TOPEKA (CLG-8)**  
**REUNION ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**  
c/o JACK CONNERY  
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Thomas Zogoric, FTM2 (60-62) Merritt Island, FL  
Richard Bleckinger, CYN2 (65-68) Kansas, OH  
Gordon Herigstad, MM1 (62-64) Burbank, CA  
L.T. (Butch) Fields, LCPL (65-67) Mulberry, FL  
Richard Sampson, EM3 (63-66) Plymouth, MA  
William Rose, GM1 (60-64) Moulton, AL  
John Bailey, RD3 (61-62) Blue Springs, MO  
Blackie Mann, Garden Grove, CA.

## A MOMENT FROM HISTORY

The USS CUBERA (SS-347) was commissioned 19 Dec 1945, at Electric Boat Company, Groton, Conn., with LCDR Roger W. Paine, Jr., in command. (second CLG-8 Commanding Officer, 61-62). The submarine reported to the Atlantic Fleet for duty.

*Ed note: Thanks to Bill Carver (60-63) for the input.*

## '94 REUNION PLANNER (SAN DIEGO)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to attend the San Diego Reunion: Yes/No

If yes:

How many attendees in addition to yourself \_\_\_\_\_

Will you stay at the reunion hotel? Yes/No

Plan on playing golf? Yes/No.

Preferences for types of tours? \_\_\_\_\_

# REUNION 93, NASHVILLE, TN, OCTOBER 14-16

Reunion 93 officially opened Thursday morning with the opening of the Hospitality Suite. Beer was iced down in the bathtub and the bar was open. There were also soft drinks, juice, coffee and snacks. The hotel accommodations were really great, and the hotel staff was really nice to us. It just couldn't get better than this.

First one on the scene that morning was Tom Lee (60-62) from Cassopolis, MI. He had come down to Tennessee to look for trucks for his business, and decided to join us.

A new twist was added this year. Playing cards for bridge and pinochle were available, along with an Acey Ducey board. There were a few takers over the weekend, but not many. Also on this long conference table were TOPEKA shirts, ball caps and the *Baka Hachi*. Cruise-books, pictures and other memories of life aboard ship were around, taking many people back 30 years in time.

Thursday was an easy day of check-in, kick back, see old friends again, and make new ones. It was difficult for this writer to leave the hospitality suite that day - afraid of missing somebody. By 2 p.m. the room was full and the reunion was in full swing.

Friday morning, most of the gang, except for the few who hit the golf course or went to the Jack Daniels Distillery, assembled in the lobby to take part in the tours. We split into two groups and boarded buses. Both buses made the rounds of old Nashville, seeing such sights as the Ryman Theater, original home of the Grand Ole Opry, the replica of the Parthenon, the state capitol and other downtown historical sights. Then they split.



For many years, the Ryman Theater was the home of the Grand Ole Opry. It was constructed as the Union Gospel Tabernacle in 1891.

One went through Music Row, then to the Country Music Hall of Fame for a tour. This was followed by a drive-by the stars' homes, including Ronnie Milsap,

Tammy Wynette, Dolly Parton, and Minnie Pearl. None of these folks came out to greet us.

The other bus, after finishing the downtown tour, went 17 miles and 100 years down the road from Nashville - - to Franklin, site of a major Civil War battle, and the ole Plantation Days. The gals enjoyed shopping in the tiny boutiques of Franklin. Reports indicate the buffet was excellent.



Mary Reynolds and Leanne Pennington ham it up in their own karaoke style at the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Friday night the dress was cowboy boots and hats, and the fare was southern barbecue and dancin'. Our instructor led us through several line dances, the two-step and the cotton-eyed joe. All had a great time with that.



Our instructor leads us through one of the many line dances. For us old sailors, this was "dirty dancing."

Saturday morning, we got the business of the organization out of the way. Significant items are covered elsewhere in this newsletter. We did recognize about 15 new people, attending a reunion for the first time. In addition, the delegation from New York was recognized. Steve Archbold, Tom Hoard, Ernie Kershaw, Ray Spatz,

and Doug Weeks, our entire contingent from New York, were present.

Then another first. Joan Anderson, wife of Don (62-64), got us all together for a group picture, shown on the picture page. If you want a copy, contact Joan.

Saturday afternoon, it was off by bus again to the Grand Ole Opry. Difference was, this time it was raining - - hard. The bus got us as close to the gate of Opryland Park as possible, and we slogged through the park to the theater in a downpour. By the end of the performance, which featured some of the country music greats, most of us were almost dry, and it was out into a harder rain, through the park, and into a parking lot to search for our bus among the dozens there.

All enjoyed the show, and nobody really minded the rain, except perhaps the gals, who didn't really have a whole lot of time after we got back to the hotel, to fix their hair before the banquet.

And the banquet: Fantastic. It kicked off with another first - - The Sounds of TOPEKA, a 3-minute cassette tape made in WestPac in 1964. This contained all the sounds of the ship, from reveille to taps - - Special Sea Detail to General Quarters - - Commence Ship's Work to Liberty Call - - Shooting the guns to firing a missile. This got everybody's attention. All attendees were provided a copy of the tape.

Jerry Judge, perennial master of ceremonies, opened the program and our own Chaplain Hal Sessions (61-63) gave the invocation.

Following a delightful meal, we got to hear Captain Joe Taussig, Jr., Silver Star winner at Pearl Harbor on the USS Nevada, and former Special Assistant to the SECNAV (Survivability), speak. He talked of his experiences in the Navy, much of which was involved with increasing the damage control readiness of the fleet. To say he was entertaining is certainly an understatement. And it was obvious that his favorite sailor is the Chief Petty Officer.



President Jack Connery presents a "thank-you" plaque and Topeka Ball Cap to Captain/Undersecretary/Master Chief Petty Officer Joe Taussig, Jr. at the banquet.

After the banquet, it was back to the hospitality suite to start the hard part - - to start saying good-bye. This con-

tinued through Sunday morning breakfast as people gathered in small groups to eat, then depart for home.

The most common parting words heard were, "It's been great. See you in San Diego."

If you were not at Reunion 93, here's who you missed. A few others had to cancel out at the last minute because of illness, family concerns and other things. See how many you recognize in the pictures.

Paul Abrahams, LT (66-68) Punta Gorda, FL  
Don Anderson, ET2 (62-64) Woodbridge, VA  
Mike Angulo, CWO3 (65-67) Spring Valley, CA  
Steve Archbold, SKSN (60-63) Dix Hills, NY  
Tony Barbaro, BMC (61-62) Poulsbo, WA  
Dudley Cass, LTJG (61-64) Bonita, CA  
Jack Connery, LCDR (64-66) Bixby, OK  
Jerry Craig, FTM2 (66-69) Cartersville, GA  
Donna Glenn, LT (62-64) San Diego, CA  
Tom Harris, CSCS (65-67) Tallahassee, FL  
Herb Hedge, LCDR (64-67) Ottumwa, IA  
Bill Herring, CSC (61-64) Tallahassee, FL  
Tom Hoard, LTJG (64-67) Ithaca, NY  
Norbert Howe, SDC (1960) Lakewood, CA  
Paul Hulette, LT (66-68) Novato, CA  
Jerry Judge, FTCS (63-66) Chula Vista, CA  
Max Kaster, ETNSN (59-60) Columbia, SC  
John Keith, RD1 (59-60) Portland, OR  
Ernie Kershaw, BT2 (59-63) Melrose, NY  
Bob Kershner, LCDR (63-66) Southern Pines, NC  
Ray "Chips" Kraft, LTJG (59-62) Madisonville, LA  
Ken Kucin, RD2 (64-66) Country Club Hills, IL  
Tom Lee, GMT3 (60-62) Cassopolis, MI  
Vince Manion, LCDR (60-62) Eugene, OR  
Frank Mecham, GM3 (66-69) Paso Robles, CA  
Rick Milstead, RD2 (65-66) Jacksonville, FL  
Gary Minnis, GMSN (61-64) Overland Park, KS  
Don Nellis, CDR (63-65) San Diego, CA  
Don Nelson, BT2 (64-66) Brooklyn Park MN  
Joe Nolan, SMC (64-66) Cumming, GA  
Jim Ownby, LT (62-65) El Cajon, CA  
Parky Parkhurst, FTSM (63-66) Granada Hills, CA  
Jerry Pennington, RD3 (63-64) Temple City, CA  
Mike Phillips, HMSN (63-66) Monticello, MN  
Jack Priesmeyer, LTJG (64-66) Fenton, MO  
Dick Ramsey, GMCM (62-64) Lutz, FL  
John Reynolds, FTM1 (61-66) Redondo Beach, CA  
Ike Roberts, IC3 (65-68) Hixson, TN  
Hal Sessions, LCDR (61-63) Memphis, TN  
Vic Sheppard, SN (66-68) Evansville, IN  
Ron Smart, RD3 (59-62) Turlock, CA  
Ray Spatz, CS3 (68-69) Long Island, NY  
Troy Thomas, ICFN (64-66) Waycross, GA  
Jack Timmons, LTJG (64-65) San Diego, CA  
"Vic" Victory, SFCS (60-64) Port Orchard, WA  
Ernie Villamil, DKCM (63-65) Annapolis, MD  
Doug Weeks, RD2 (60-63) Canastota, NY  
Bob White, LT (63-64) Joplin, MO  
Bud Zimmerman, GMT1 (59-62) Bremerton, WA

*Ed note: Thanks to Joan Anderson and Bob White for providing pictures.*

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# Reunion 94, Nashville





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