

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 5, No. 2

May, 1994

Committee:

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



FROM THE PRESIDENT

WOW!! Look at the "Welcome aboard" list. Two full pages and 234 names - - all since February. Just some thoughts:

- Ten of these guys I stood CIC watch with in the Gulf of Tonkin during shore bombardment and Piraz operations. Now, if they all come to the reunion along with the other members of that gang -- some of which were there last year -- we can put together a Condition II port or starboard CIC watch team.
- I said at last year's reunion that I would like to double in size this year. Look's like we will make it. And the thanks goes to Dudley and Ruth Cass and Ernie Villamil.
- If the New York delegation wants to set the record again for 100 percent attendance, they will have to hustle. Seven new ones have been added.
- And finally, someone from Arkansas. In fact, four in this group. Arkansas has been one of the few states not represented until this time. Welcome aboard shipmates (and neighbors).
- When one considers milestones, we reached our 500th. That honor goes to Ron Roop, SK3 (63-66), Wapakoneta, OH. Welcome aboard Ron, and congratulations.
- Two are from the TOPEKA (CL-67) and have indicated they would like to associate with our group. Welcome to you also.
- All but two of the 234 are former enlisted. That's great. That dispels entirely some early complaints that we were too much like a Wardroom-Chief's Quarters organization. And by the way guys, we only list rank/rate to help others pinpoint where you were on the ship. In practice, we

are just shipmates looking to remember an earlier time in our lives.

- And now, if we could all get together in San Diego August 18-20. . . . Dudley's got a fine time arranged for us, and you won't be disappointed. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Sincerely,
Jack Connery

WHAT IS OUR MISSION?

There has been talk of late as to what our association should be doing, if anything, in addition to finding shipmates and having reunions once a year. Opinion has it that we ought to be doing something.

The Board of Advisors met last month to discuss this question, and developed the following list of items to consider at the August Business Meeting. Any of these items would represent a commitment of time and money.

- Develop a scholarship program
- Support the Navy Relief Society
- Support the Special Olympics
- Support Multiple Sclerosis fund raising
- Support the VA hospital program
- Support of the Homeless

Don Nellis, Advisory Board Chairman, would appreciate any comments/suggestions on these or any other ideas you may have. Contact him at 12735 Abra, San Diego CA 92128, before the reunion.



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 Jack Connery 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 (1965-66) and the 1964 cruise book, but needs the two 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.

PLANKOWNER INFORMATION

Plankowners intending to write the Navy Historical Society requesting a piece of deck planking must have proof that you were, in fact, a member of the Commissioning Crew.

If you do not have such proof such as a Plankowner Certificate, contact Dudley Cass and he may help you. He has a copy of the ship's commissioning diary. If your name appears on it, he will send you a statement that you can send to the Naval Historical Society. We think this will work.



RETURN OF THE FANTAIL FROLICS!!

Remember the famous all-star Fantail Frolics? John Reynolds needs volunteer talent to stage an authentic return of the Fantail Frolics at the San Diego Reunion. Musical, comedy, lip-sync, slapstick - - if you can do it, here's your chance to star again in the revival of the Frolics. This is not limited to just the guys. Wives can put something together. Contact John Reynolds at (310) 540-7817.

ADDRESSES FOR ASSOCIATION MATTERS

Newsletter inputs:

Jack Connery, 16334 South Lewis, Bixby, Ok., 74008.

Dues, Member information, reunion information:

Dudley Cass, 3028 Bonita Woods Dr., Bonita, Cal., 91902.

Death or illness: Either Dudley or Jack.

TOPEKA Caps, Shirts, etc.

Dick Jolliffe, 7453 Golfcrest Dr., San Diego, Cal., 92119.

A WEDDING



Proud Parents Joe and Rose Ripley (59-63) pose with their daughter Rosanne Cecile and her new husband, Peter Brefeld, after their wedding on April 9 at St. Hedwig Catholic Church in Los Alamitos, CA. The reception was held at NAVSTA Long Beach. Association members attending included Jim Ownby, Dick Wemette, also Rosanne's Godfather, and Donna Glenn and her son, Greg. The Brefeld's will reside in Seattle, Washington.



TAPS

Bobby G. Warren, SF1 (65-67), March, 1994, Westchester, OH.

FROM THE REUNION COORDINATOR

Make plans now for San Diego in August. Reunion 94, our fifth, returns to the site of the first reunion: The Holiday Inn on the Bay in San Diego. Many of the members at that first reunion claim it was the best. Our aim this year is to make it better. Highlights of the reunion include the Mixer, a stand-up party for meeting everybody, and the Banquet, a sit-down dinner with entertainment and a program. The Hospitality Room is a place where we relax, swap sea stories, and visit over a beer or cup of coffee.

SAN DIEGO

San Diego is a great place to bring the family. The ocean beaches, Mission Bay Park beaches and recreation areas, Balboa Park, museums, and the famous San Diego Zoo, wild animal park and Sea World offer plenty to youngsters and adults alike. For the wives there are San Diego and Tijuana shopping tours. Horton Plaza is a large, unusual shopping mall only a few blocks from the Reunion hotel, and offers a delightful shopping environment.

August weather in San Diego is great. While the rest of the country is sweltering, the normal temperature in San Diego on the Bay is in the 70-80° range during the day, and 60-70° at night. The humidity is low and the air is clean.

From our 14th floor hospitality suite, you will see the Navy "grays" coming and going Thursday and Friday, and the local sail boats and yachts on Saturday and Sunday. About one-third of the Navy Fleet is homeported in San Diego. The USS TOPEKA (SSN 754) is homeported here and will be available for a tour. A tour of a new Aegis cruiser, USS Chancellorsville (CG 62) is also planned for those interested in seeing the new Navy.

Military and municipal golf courses are available for the golfers. If you are interested in playing golf, let Dudley know ahead of time so appropriate plans can be made.

A big turnout is expected for this reunion. Over 50 shipmates live in the San Diego area, and there was good representation from all over the country at the first reunion in San Diego. The city is a major airline hub, so if there are air fare discounts in effect, they will probably include flights to San Diego from other major airports. If you are interested in available RV parks, reservations should be made now. Call Dudley for additional information on RV parks.

PROPOSED REUNION SPONSORED EVENTS

Thursday, August 18:

Hospitality Room opens 10 a.m. daily
Registration/Name Tags
Sign up for tours
Sign up for golf (11 signed up thus far)
Afternoon tours

Friday, August 19:

Golf (early a.m. tee time)
Tours (dependent on member response)
San Diego tour 8:30-12:30
Tijuana tour
Sea World
Harbor Cruise & Seaport Village
Mixer, with heavy hors d'oeuvres 6-9 p.m. A toast will be made to the 50th anniversary of Topeka launching.
Hospitality Room reopens at 9 p.m.

Saturday, August 20:

Business Meeting (Membership), 9 a.m.,
Election, '95 reunion site, etc.
Group Picture, after Business Meeting
Business Meeting (Officers, Board of Advisors, Reunion 95 Coordinator, '95 reunion planning meeting) 11 a.m.
Tour, USS Chancellorsville (CG 62), 1 and 2 p.m.
Banquet 6-9 p.m.
Hospitality Room reopens 9 p.m.

Sunday, August 21:

Hospitality Room open until noon.

TOUR ARRANGEMENTS

Tour costs will be collected at the reunion, except for Sea World, the San Diego Zoo, and the Harbor Cruise. The admission/tour prices shown for these three attractions are the costs at the Marine Base. Gate prices are much higher. For these tours, indicate on the registration form how many tickets you want and include payment with your Reunion fee.

San Diego Tour: Old-town trolleys will provide a 4-hr narrated tour of San Diego with tour stops and a lunch stop. Cost is \$12-\$16 per person dependent on number of people.

Tijuana Tour: One of our own, James Willis, will lead this tour to Tijuana using the San Diego trolley to the border, then buses from the border into town. 4-hour tour. Cost about \$6-\$8 for transportation per person. Pay as you go.

Harbor Cruise: a 2-hour narrated cruise of San Diego Bay. The tour departs from a pier a short walk

WELCOME ABOARD (SINCE FEBRUARY, 1994)

Carl Adair, JO3 (63-65), Newport Beach CA
Elmer Alexander, SK1 (66-69), Williamston SC
Jack Allard, HM3 (65-66), Pryor OK
George Ames (D), FN (65-67), Cape Coral FL
Robert Applebaugh, SN (64-66), Coffeyville KN
Ray Athey, RD1 (66-67), Ontario CA
Leo Balistreri, CS3 (64-66), Bath NY
Mrs. Vickie Barr, RM3 (62-65), Newton KN
Lavern Bartram, GMG2 (66-68), Goose Creek SC
Robert Beaupre, RD3 (61-64), Duluth MN
David Beebe, SN (65-67), Pekin IL
Fred Beglau, EM3 (60-62), Veradale WA
Charles Bigham, BT3 (63-65), Santa Rosa CA
Ben Bivins, SFM2 (64-66), Darlington MD
Chester Billings, FTG2 (64-66), Springfield MO
Gary Blamer, RD3 (65-67), Simi Valley CA
Leo Blea, SK1 (59-65), San Antonio TX
John Bockius, CS3 (59-63), Phoenix AZ
James Boettcher, BT3 (65-67), Foley MO
Duane Bokus, STG3 (64-66), La Salle IL
Thomas Book, EMFN (61-63), Englewood CO
Paul Boyd, BT3 (63-64), Sequim WA
Robert Brengman, MM3 (63-66), Billings MT
Dan Bridgewater, SN (59-62), Louisville KY
Charlie Brocklesby, SN (65-67), Goleta CA
Phillip Brooks, MR2 (63-65), Cloverdale CA
Thomas Caray, BM2 (63-65), Lauren IA
Chris Cargill, SN (64-65), Oklahoma City OK
Abraham Carr, FN (60-62), Jackson MO
Pete Cavanna, BT2 (59-62), Long Beach CA
Earl Caywood, FTM1 (62-68), Huntington Beach CA
Erasmus Cisneros, SM3 (63-65), Torrance CA
David Clarridge, RD3 (63-67), Lancaster OH
Jack Cochran, ETR2 (62-64), Tucson AZ
Dan Cornia, HN (65-66), Yucaipa CA
Robert Danis, QMSN (59-61), Warwick RI
Tom Davenport, PFC (44-45), San Antonio TX
Vern Davis, LT (64-66), Marshall VA
John Debiase, FTMSN (63-64), Grass Valley CA
Al Devoignes (D), RDCS (64-66), Long Beach CA
David Dilsaver, BTFN (59-60), Marshall MI
James Discawicz, SN (60-62), Daytona Beach FL
Cecil Dobbs, SN (65-67), Miami FL
Patrick Doyle, SN (60-62), Grand Rapids MI
Alan Drentlaw, IC2 (59-62), Esko MN
Paul Dworznik, ETR2 (59-62), Parma OH
Ed Dzielsky, GMG1 (59-65), Eagan MN
Charles Edens, EM3 (65-68), Silver City NM
Doug Edmonston, QMSN (66-68), Anchorage AK
Don Ervin, QMC (60-61), Chula Vista CA
Glen Erway, EM2 (64-66), Greeley CO
Ron Esser, GMM3 (65-67), Pontiac MI
Clinton Estes, FA (65-67), Excelsior Springs MO
Donald Everitt, SM3 (60-63), Pittsburgh PA
Bob Eyley, RDSN (60-62), Dyer IN
Bill Fazekas, PN3 (63-64) Seattle WA
Randy Feiling, GMG3 (62-66), Nampa ID
Phil Fernino, BTFN (60-63), Patterson NJ
Francis Finerfrock, GMT2 (65-66), Pinellas Park FL
Daniel Flanigan, RD2 (66-68), Cornwall NY
Robert Fletcher, SN (60-61), Danville CA
Richard Fogarty, SN (61-65), Mohave Valley AZ
Henry Forrest, DKC (59-61), Dorchester, MA
Don Foscatto, LTJG (65-68), New Canaan CT
Frank Freeman, CYN3 (65-66) Norco CA
Eston Fritz, DC3 (62-65) Winfield PA
David Fullmer, YN2 (66-68), Salt Lake City UT
Richard Gaither, EM2 (60-64), El Cajon CA
Daniel Gallucci, EM2 (59-63), Bonita Springs FL
Robert Garloch, MM3 (64-64), Goshen NY
Joe Gavlyak (D), BTFN (63-65), Elmont, L.I., NY
Adam Gay, MM3 (63-65), Natchitoches LA
Fred Genetti, ICFN (65-66), Bedford MA
Richard Glascock, RD3 (65-67), Anaheim CA
Fred Godwin, GMG2 (59-62), Vancouver WA
Tom Govero, MM3 (60-63), Ottawa IL
Don Grady, MR2 (60-62), Mechanicsville VA
Stephen Gregar, SN (65-67), Jamaica NY
Dewayne Hafen, ETC (65-67), National City CA
Art Halleen, FTM3 (62-65), Pottsboro TX
Victor Hammond, ETC (63-65), (Naval Home) MS
Charles Hapes, ET1 (62-65), Aurora CO
Melvin Hargis, CS2 (64-66), Coin IA
Donald Hayworth, MM3 (59-62), Rensselaer IN
Dana Heater, SN (66-68), Lapeer MI
Harvey Hershkowitz, CYNSN(64-66), Murietta CA
Edward Hewitt, SKC (63-66), Brigantine NJ
Arnold Hoel, BT3 (63-66), Carson CA
Ren Hone, EM3 (62-66), Coeur D'Alene IA
Gilbert Hrna, GMG3 (62-65), Round Rock TX
Jerry Hudelson, MM3 (60-62), Lafayette IN
Joseph Huskuliak, GM3 (60-62), Hyde Park PA
David Hyslop, RM3 (64-64), Chardon OH
Richard Ingo (D), AG3 (63-65), Soddy Daisy TN
Wayne Israel, MM2 (64-66), Portland, OR
Mike Jacobson, SN (60-62), Charlotte MI
John Jaffarian, MM3 (60-62), Bradford MA
Ronald Jameson, SH3 (65-69), Cedar Hill TX
John Javage, SN (65-67), Costa Mesa CA
Andrew Jensen, SN (63-65), Adelanto CA
Thomas Killinger, GMG3 (59-62), Scottsdale PA
Sid Knowlton, SN (63-65), Lynn MA
Craig Koester, EM2 (59-63), Clawson MI
Bryan Kohl, SN (64-66), Maplewood, MN
Lee Koski, RD3 (59-62), Muskego WI
Don Kuhr, ET3 (60-61), Montgomery OH
Calvin Ladd, MM3 (63-66), Minnetonka MN
Curtis Ladd, FN (65-67), Young America MN
Arthur Lancia, MM2 (61-64), West Covina CA
Duane Langer, GMG3 (63-66), Red Wing MN
Viron Largent, SFM3 (62-64), Temple TX
Tom Lascano, RD3 (65-67), Whittier CA
Roger Lauer, PH3 (61-65), Denver CO
Larry Lemay, BM3 (65-67), Sarepta LA
Russell Lett, SN (66-68), San Jose CA
Lloyd Libby, SN (59-62), Sault Sainte Marie MI
Vern Lien, SK3 (63-65), New Hope MN

WELCOME ABOARD (SINCE FEBRUARY, 1994) (CONTINUED)

Evert Lindsey, RM3 (65-66), Longview TX
Jim Leuhr RMSN (65-66), Conroe TX
Eddie Luevano, RD2 (62-64), El Paso TX
Dan Luke, BMSN (65-67), Minden NV
Larry MacDonald, IC2 (59-63), Edmonton Canada
Jerry Nagel, EM2 (64-66), Burlington IA
Dean Mahaffey, SN (63-65), Shawnee KS
Ford Mason, SN (60-62), Norfolk VA
Edward Mayr, SN (65-67), Lake Worth FL
Jimmy McBryar, EN2 (60-63), Richland WA
Donald McFarland, PC3 (63-66), Oceanside CA
Jack McKay, SN (63-66), Milwaukee WI
Roy McLain, FN (59-62), Lebanon, PA
Ray Michalski, SMSN (60-62), Tehachapi CA
Ben Miller, BT3 (63-67), Powhatan VA
Mark Mincer, RM3 (59-62), Butler PA
Waymon Minor, FTM3 (60-62), Alexander AR
Franklin Morehead, MMC (66-67), Henderson NV
Charles Muse, RM2 (65-66), Gray TN
Willie Nelson, BT2 (64-66), San Diego CA
Neil Nicolay, CT3 (65-66), Lindenhurst IL
Loy Nix, GM2 (60-62), Flowery Branch GA
Kenneth Noble, RD3 (60-62), Louisville CO
Gary Noland, FTG3 (64-66), El Cajon CA
Jim Nordness, SN (65-67), Kent WA
Richard Null, MM3 (65-67), Bonanza AR
John Odell, FTG3 (65-66), Steinhatchee FL
Bob Odman, BM3 (64-67), Kent WA
Robert Ohm, ET2 (60-61), Bedford TX
Reed Orr, SN (65-69), San Antonio TX
Robert Osselin, STG1 (65-67), San Diego CA
Ronald Ostrowski, IC2 (59-63), Charlotte NC
John Overbey, FN (64-65), Ottawa OH
Ron Paulovich, ETNSN (60-62), Long Beach CA
Joseph Pearce, RD2 (60-63), Gainesville FL
William Perales, SHSN (63-65), Elk Grove CA
Richard Peters, QM3 (59-62), Bellefonte PA
Armond Peterson, PC1 (63-65), Fairview, UT
Richard Pinnell, FT3 (59-61), Farmersville IL
Wayne Pitman, EM3 (65-66), Atlanta GA
Felijardo Plata, SD3 (60-65), San Diego CA
Frank Poehler, GMM3 (61-65), Sturgeon Bay WI
David Pogatchnik, IC2 (65-67), Rice MN
Robert D. Popovich, SN (66-68), Broadview Heights
Dominick Porco, SN (66-69), Stamford CT
Ron Preston, ETN2 (65-67), Columbia MD
Andy Puller, SM3 (59-62), Ridgefield NJ
Don Raley, MM1 (63-65), Stover MO
Kenneth Rappe, IC3 (63-64), Englewood CO
Vincent Reilly, SH3 (65-66), Nanuet NY
Carl Reissig, ETN3 (66-68), Elk Grove CA
Russ Richards, EM3 (64-67), Apple Valley CA
Raymond Richards, DC3 (59-62), Somerset KY
William Riggs, BM3 (66-69), Boyce LA
Roger Rinehart, RMSN (66-68), Portland OR
Kenneth Rives, SN (63-65), Hamshire TX
David Roderer, RD2 (64-65), Washington DC
Ronald Roop, SK3 (63-66), Wapakoneta OH
Harry Roth, SK3 (63-67), Sallisaw OK
Jim Rutledge, SN (65-67), Theriot LA
Larry Samuels, EM2 (59-63), Clawson, MI
Carl Sapp(D), GMCN (64-66), Cerritos CA
Gerald Schiefert, FN (63-65), Hopkins MN
Terry Schlenker, SN (65-67), Atlanta GA
Bob Schweich, MMFN (59-62), Rio Rancho NM
Andre Seaton, RD2 (59-62), Reseda CA
Cliff Sechrist, BM3 (60-61), Vaughn CA
Everett Siler, EM1 (63-65), Ash Fork AZ
Larry Silva, MR2 (62-64), Fort Bragg CA
David Six, HM2 (63-66), Sarasota FL
Henry Snyder, BM3 (60-62), Basking Ridge NJ
Mike Steed, GMM3 (63-66), Independence MO
Clyde Stevens, MR1 (64-66), Ocean Springs MS
Tim Stickney, IC2 (59-62), St. Louis MO
Robert Stodulski, SK3 (64-67), Locust Hill VA
Royal Stokes, DC3 (64-65), Bono AR
Bill Stoner, MR3 (59-63), Arvin CA
Richard Stratton, SN (66-69), El Monte CA
Kerney Strickland, SN (65-67), Conway AR
Jimmie Strickland, GMG3 (65-67), Florence AL
Derrel Strother, RM3 (66-67), Lafayette LA
Cliff Tatum, SN (67-69), Floral Park NY
Oliver Taylor, IC3 (63-65), Robstown TX
Park Teasdale, MR3 (62-64), Meadville PA
Gerald Tewart, RM3 (65-67), Sisters OR
Cliff Thallis, ICFN (64-67), Palm Springs CA
CharlesThornberg, FN(62-64), FountainGreen UT
Jerry Thrash (D), SN (63-65), Bossier City LA
James Tilden, FTM3 (66-69), Santee CA
Chuck Timmons, IC3 (59-61), Swartz Creek MI
Tracy Tipton, SFM2 (64-66), Mason OH
John Trahan, SM2 (44-45), National City CA
Ted Treschl, EM3 (63-65), Naperville, IL
Lewis Trew, RDSN (65-66), Moorpark CA
Efren Tulao, TN (63-65), San Diego CA
James Turner, SH1 (60-66), Nashville TN
Tom Uber, SN (60-62), Struthers, OH
William Van Cott, SN (59-61), Carmel NY
L.M. Van Gemert, ET1 (63-65), Bradenton FL
Tad Van Hintum, ETN3 (65-66), Manassas VA
D.L. Vanderburg, SN (65-67), Angleton TX
Julius Vaughn, CS1 (60-63), Tampa FL
Dennis Vignapiano, EM2 (59-63), Carlisle PA
Tom Vroe Gop, SN (65-67), Redington Beach FL
Dick Walker, AG2 (66-68), Mendon MI
GregWapelhorst, ETR2(66-68), WebsterGrove MO
Bobby Warren (D), SF1 (65-67), West Chester OH
Kenneth Wehunt, FN (64-67), Gray LA
Robert Westlake, MR3 (59-62), DeGraff OH
Ben Wheatley, SN (59-62), Fairland IN
James Whisennand, SF3 (65-67), Elkhart KS
Merle Whiteman, ETN2 (65-66), Girard KS
John Wilms, Jr., DK2 (65-67), Long Beach CA
Lynn Woodard, FN (65-66), Desert Hot Springs CA
John Woodard, YN3 (59-62), Raymond MS
Hector Zamarano, RD2 (66-68), San Diego CA

from the hotel. Cost \$6.50 per person. One or more cruises a day. Can go any day.

Sea World: Not a pre-arranged tour. Go any time you like. Some will stay 3-4 hours, some may want to stay 12 hours. Recommend private vehicles (\$5 parking fee), or take a Yellow cab (up to 5 passengers per cab for \$11 total fare. Admission \$21.70 adult/\$15.70 children 3-11.

San Diego Zoo: Not a pre-arranged tour. Go any time. See item above on Sea World. Admission \$11.15 adult/\$6 child 3-11. Cab fare about \$5 from hotel to Zoo for up to five people.

USS Chancellorsville (CG 62): Will be berthed at the 32nd Street Naval Station. About a 1-hour tour. Bus will leave hotel at 1 p.m. and at 2 p.m.. You'll get back about two hours later. Cost \$3 per person for bus transportation.

SSN Topeka: The USS Topeka (SSN 754) has offered tours to our group. We will have information on this tour at the reunion.

REUNION COSTS

Room rates at the Holiday Inn are \$87 for bay view, and \$77 for City view. These rates are available August 15-23 for those who want to come early/stay late. For reservations, call (800) 877-8920 or (619) 232-3861. Be sure you mention you are with the TOPEKA Reunion. The deadline for reservations at these rates is July 18. Get your reservations in early. The hotel has rooms for handicapped, and non-smoking rooms.

The reunion fee pays for the sit-down banquet (planned entrees include choice of prime rib or fresh

salmon), hospitality room snacks, beverages (alcoholic, non-alcoholic, and coffee); heavy (you won't need dinner) hors d'oeuvres at the Friday night mixer, entertainment and audio set-up for the banquet, and the association meeting expenses. The reunion fee is set to accommodate those who can't make all three days of the reunion, with special rates for children under 17 attending the mixer and/or banquet. Fees are prorated to accommodate those who are able to attend only portions of the weekend. A refund will be provided should you have to cancel for any reason.

FINAL MAIL-IN FORM

Your response to our previous requests for reunion attendance information is appreciated and has been used to make arrangements with the hotel, tour arrangements, etc. Thank you for your response. Now, we ask you to fill out one more, even if you have already paid, so we will know how many seats on the bus for the tours, how many admission tickets, how many entrees of each kind, names for nametags, and reunion fee owed/paid. Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed form and return it to Dudley Cass, 3028 Bonita Woods Dr., Bonita Cal., 91902.

REUNION COMMITTEE

We have a stellar committee this year who are doing their damndest to make this the best reunion ever! John Reynolds, Don Nellis, Jim Ownby, Dick Jolliffe, James Willis, Egon Werdelman, Jerry Judge, Parky Parkhurst, and Dudley and Ruth Cass.

FROM THE EDITOR

To borrow from the prophecy of a famous baseball movie, "Build it, and they will come." Dudley and his gang built and they are coming. Find a shipmate on this reunion list and come see him -- and the rest of us too.

One hundred and fifteen have already indicated they are coming. There will be more. Look at the list, read what is planned, send in the form and start thinking San Diego.



LETTERS

The following was received in response to one of Dudley's "Were you on the Topeka?" postcards:

Dear Mr. Cass:

I received your postcard concerning a reunion. My name is Richard W. Ingo Jr. I believe you are searching for my father, Richard Ingo, Sr. I'm sorry to tell you that he passed away on Jan. 10, 1979. I was only 11 years old when he died, so I know very little about his Navy career. If there is anyone in your organization who remembers my father, I would like to hear from them.

I do have documents that state that he was to report for duty on TOPEKA in October of 1963. I also know that he participated in TOPEKA's People-to-People program in Yokosuka and Subic Bay in May, 1964.

My father served 20 years in the Navy, and retired in 1978 with the rank of AG1 from NAS Dallas. I look forward to hearing from you or from any of my father's fellow shipmates.

Thanks you,
Richard W. Ingo Jr.
2800 Igou Ferry Road
Soddy Daisy, TN 37379

Ed. Note: Someone will remember Richard Ingo, AG1. If it happens to be you, please respond to this young man.

Dear Ed:

You don't know what finding "old shipmates" after some 34 years means to me. I have spent over 30 years trying to locate the men I served with.

Quite by accident, a Sears lawnmower repairman and I were talking while he worked on my mower. He had served on the Saint Paul in the Pacific and had just received his "Shift Colors." He said he saw that Topeka was having a reunion. The rest is history.

Thank you for keeping the ole girl alive through the Reunion Association.

Sincerely,
Rev. Claude Kinder

Ed Note: Yes, Claude, we all know what that means. Many of us have found the association through similar accidents. I hope you'll come to San Diego now and see some of those "old shipmates" in person.

Dear Ed:

In your "Welcome Aboard" list in the February newsletter, you got my nickname wrong. You listed Francis "Ski" Townsend, and it should have been "Skip."

My regrets to those who suffered damage during the quake. I wish everyone well and a speedy recovery.

Skip Townsend

Ed note: Sorry about that Skip. I do know, however, that the next letter is from Ski

Dear Ed.

Please find enclosed my reunion dues for the next year. I have also included dues as a gift for a friend of mine who was also on the Topeka: John Bockius of Phoenix, AZ

He was on the Topeka at Commissioning, and in fact, baked the cake for the commissioning ceremony. He was a CS3. He says he'll be at the reunion in San Diego.

I would like to know if other family members can come to the reunion. My daughter and son are interested. Enclosed is an additional small gift for the association.

Sincerely,
Ski Kolodzik

Ed note: Thanks for sending John our way. And thanks for the gift. Our reunion will mark the 50th anniversary of the launching of TOPEKA. Perhaps he will bake another cake. My daughters, as many as four, have been regulars at reunions. Only two will be there this year. Thanks also for the compliment.

Dear Ed:

Thanks for you guys' efforts to make the TOPEKA alumni group a growing concern. Keep up the good work.

Greg Davis (64-66)

Ed Note: Greg, our reward will be seeing you at the reunion in San Diego and taking an active part in the association.

Dear Ed:

Until recently, I thought my time on Topeka to be a solitary memory. I worked with a guy that claimed to be on board in the late 50's, but I wasn't really sure.

Then two weeks ago, this guy, Dave Delsaver, got a card in the mail asking if he were the Dave Desalver that was on Topeka. He showed me the card, and I called your number. Dave and I know two other Topeka sailors in the area.

Enclosed are registrations for both of us. We'll get the other two in as soon as possible.

Dave was a BT fireman and was on board in Brooklyn. I was an AG2 weatherguesser assigned to work on ASWEPS gear (that never got installed) in 1966. The crew would never let this Airdale below the third deck so I had a 1 1/2 year cruise of taking weather observations, reporting them to the XO and OOD, and waiting for the next port.

In the past two weeks, Dave and I have remembered the beer and our girls in every port, and in every ocean. I still think Topeka sails daily and will until her last sailor meets Davey Jones.

Dick Walker (1966)

Ed Note: Dick, it sounds like a vacation cruise when your job is operating gear that didn't get installed. Thanks for the picture. I note that one of your guys, Tom VroeGap is listed in the Welcome Aboard list.



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



COMING TO THE REUNION (AS OF MAY 22)

Paul Abrahams, LT (66-68), Punta Gorda FL
Don Anderson, ET2 (62-64), Woodbridge VA
Mike Angulo, CWO3 (65-67), Spring Valley CA
Jesse Aragon, BM1 (59-62), Anaheim, CA
Steve Archbold, SKSN (60-63), Dix Hills NY
Tom Arnold, MM3 (65-68), Spokane WA
George Badger, LCDR (66-67), Alameda CA
Stan Bartnick, 1STLT (63-64), Encinitas CA
Roger Beukema, RM3 (60-63), Davisburg MI
Joe Buda, GMC (60-62), Garden Grove CA
Tom Buell, CAPT. (64-66), Coronado CA
Don Cameron, LT (60-62), San Diego CA
Keith Camp, BT3 (61-65), Placerville CA
Dick Campbell, LT (60-61), El Cajon CA
William Carver, BM3 (60-63), Des Moines IA
Dudley Cass, LTJG (61-64), Bonita CA
Pete Cavanna, BT2 (59-62), Long Beach CA
Earl Caywood, FTM1 (62-68), Huntington Beach CA
Erasmus Cisneros, SM3 (63-65), Torrance CA
Jack Cochran, ETR2 (62-64), Tucson AZ
Jack Connery, LCDR (64-66), Bixby OK
Irye Couch, BM1 (60-65), Grand Junction CO
Willard Cox, SK2 (61-64), Billings MT
Jerry Craig, FTM2 (66-69), Cartersville GA
Walt Davidovich, GMC (59-63), Poway CA
Roy Dewitt, BTC (60-63), Bakersville CA
William Dorsey, MM2 (65-68), Long Beach CA
Paul Dworzniak, ETR2 (59-63), Parma OH
Charles Dykeman, LT (64-66), El Cajon CA
Tom Eagling, GMC (60-63), Tuscon AZ
Erin Endicott, RD3 (61-63), Cove OR
Don Ervin, QMC (60-61), Chula Vista CA
Glen Erway, EM2 (64-66), Greely CO
Mike Faber, SK3 (62-64), Centralia WA
Francis Finerfrock, GMT2 (65-66), Pinellas Park FL
Robert Fletcher, SN (60-61), Danville CA
Adam Gay, MM2 (63-65), Natchitoches LA
Mrs. Donna Glenn, LT (62-64), San Diego CA
Elmer Greeno, FTCS (60-63), Garden Grove CA
Willis Gwynn, SDC (64-66), Carson CA
Dennis Haines, CDR, CO TOPEKA (SSN 754)
Will Hays, LT (60-61), San Diego, CA
Joe Heeney, CWO4 (63-66), Torrance CA
Roger Heron, SN (62-66) Cypress CA
William Herring, CSC (61-64), Calvary GA
Hal Hodson, LCDR (60-62), Palos Verdes CA
John Hojaboom, GMG1 (60-68), Carson CA
Frank Hosfelt, SN (64-65), Garden Grove CA
Nathaniel Houseal, BM1 (60-63), Wellington NV
Norbert Howe, SDC (1960), Lakewood CA
Adam Howey, GM1 (59-62), Westminster CA
Paul Hulette, LT (66-68), Novato CA
Will Inman, LT (64-65), Orange CA
David Iwatsu, DC3 (59-63), San Diego CA
Allen Jefferis, CDR (67-69), San Diego CA
Josh Johnston, LT (65-67), Subic, Zamboles, RP
Dick Jolliffe, LT (64-66), San Diego CA
Gerald Judge, FTCS (63-66), Chula Vista CA

John Keith, RD1 (59-60), Portland OR
Bob Kershner, LCDR (63-66), Southern Pines SC
Keith Kincaid, SK3 (60-64) Banning CA
Gus Kleinfeld, SM1 (65-66) Poway CA
Ervin Kolodzik, BTC (60-67), Buena Park CA
Ken Kuchin, RD2 (64-66), Country Club Hills IL
Paul Ladd, SF2 (59-62), Vallejo CA
Bill Largent, WO1 (64-67) San Diego CA
Elwynn Laughorne, FTM1 (60-66), Garden Grove CA
Ben Luistro, TN (65-69), Riverside CA
Norm Malmberg, LTJG (60-63), Fort Jones CA
Steve Manley, MM3 (66-68), San Diego, CA
Jack Mansfield, CAPT. (62-64), Silverdale WA
Rudy McAfee, LT (62-65), San Diego CA
Eugene McKinney, RM3 (62-63), Rocklin CA
Pete Minickiello, FTGSN (60-63), Plymouth NH
Don Nellis, CDR (63-65), San Diego, CA
Harvey Nelson, LTJG (64-66), Ridgecrest CA
Willie Nelson, BT2 (64-66), San Diego CA
William Noel, QMCM (64-66), Canoga Park CA
Arthur Nolan, SMC (64-66), Cumming GA
Gary Noland, FTG3 (64-66), El Cajon CA
Jim Oehler, CWO2 (66-68), Las Vegas NV
Richard Olsen, CDR (60-61), Los Altos CA
Jim Ownby, LT (62-65), El Cajon CA
Roger Paine, Jr., CAPT. (61-62), El Cajon CA
Irad Parkhurst, FTCS (63-66), Granada Hills CA
Larry Patriquin, FT2 (61-64), Barrington, NH
Joe Paulis, LCDR (60-62), Bonita CA
Jerry Pennington, RD3 (63-64), Temple City CA
Joe Peragine, CWO3 (60-66), San Diego CA
Gale Pfund, LTJG (62-64), San Francisco, CA
Wes Preston, ETN2 (65-67), Columbia MD
Ira Price, LTJG (64-66), San Diego CA
John Reynolds, FTM1 (61-66), Redondo Beach CA
Hank Rinnert, LTJG (60-62), Aiea, HI
Joe Ripley, LTJG (59-63), Los Alamitos CA
Paul Ruby, LTJG (62-65), San Francisco CA
Gerald Schmehl, SN (60-62), San Jose CA
Andre Seaton, RD2 (59-62), Reseda CA
Ron Smart, RD3 (59-62), Turlock CA
Ray Spatz, CS3 (68-69), Long Island NY
Don Stewart, LTJG (63-66), Redlands CA
Jack Timmons, LTJG (64-65), San Diego CA
Tracy Tipton, SFM2 (64-66), Mason OH
James R. Turner, SH1 (60-66), Nashville TN
Felix Vasallo, YNC (62-66), Long Beach CA
Ernie Villamil, DKCM (63-65), Annapolis MD
Doug Weeks, RD2 (60-63), Canastota NY
Dick Wemette, ENS (60-62) Chula Vista CA
Egon Werdelman, CDR (60-61), San Diego CA
Ben Wheatley, SN (59-61), Fairland IN
Ted Whitman, BMSN (60-62), Long Beach CA
James Willis, HM1 (61-63), Chula Vista CA
Doyne Wills, LCDR (65-67), Panama City FL
John Woolston, FTG2 (59-62), Santa Ana CA
Ron Zuccaro, SN, (67-68), Rio Rancho NM.

REUNION REGISTRATION - '94 Reunion San Diego

Name _____ Date _____

Are you staying at the reunion hotel? yes/no

Sign-up for tours/golf:

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Number Persons</u>
Golf	_____
San Diego Tour	_____
Navy Cruiser Tour	_____
USS TOPEKA (SSN 754)	_____
Tiajuana Tour	_____

For Reduced Rate Tickets: (Pay in advance.)

San Diego Zoo	Adults _____	(@ \$11.15)	\$ _____
	Children (3-11) _____	(@ \$6.00)	\$ _____
Sea World	Adults _____	(@ \$21.70)	\$ _____
	Children (3-11) _____	(@ \$15.70)	\$ _____
Harbor Cruise	_____	(@ \$6.50)	\$ _____
Include payment with Reunion Fee			TOTAL \$ _____

**** Reduced Rate Tickets not refundable after 12 August ****

Number of Banquet entrees: Prime Rib _____ Fresh Salmon _____

Reunion Fee Deadline for Reunion Fee is 18 July 1994. Make checks to "Topeka Reunion". Mail to: D. Cass, 3028 Bonita Woods Dr., Bonita, CA 91902.

	<u>Price (each)</u>	<u>Number Persons</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Adults:</u>	\$70	_____	\$ _____
or, for those who can't attend all 3 days:			
Thurs -	\$10	_____	\$ _____
Fri	\$20	_____	\$ _____
Sat	\$40	_____	\$ _____

Children (17 and younger - pay only if they attend mixer and/or banquet)

Fri	\$10	_____	\$ _____
Sat	\$20	_____	\$ _____

Total submitted \$ _____

**** Reunion Fee totally refundable if you have to cancel. ****

Nametags. Firstname (or nickname) and last name will be on the nametags for all attendees. Please print below the names to be used:

