

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 7, No. 1

February, 1996



Committee:

*John Reynolds, President; Dudley E. Cass, Secretary/Treasurer;
Dick Jolliffe, Assistant Secretary, Jack Connery, Reunion '96 Chairman
Jack Connery, Newsletter Editor*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Time is fast approaching Reunion 96 and great things have been planned in the city of our namesake. I hope you will all join us as we continue the fun times and exciting stories we didn't get to finish at Reunion 96.

The reunion has added an extra day this year so we will be checking in on Wednesday and concluding on Sunday

Don't forget your blue jeans, guitars, banjo, etc. our director has planned a trip down the old Oregon Trail Thursday evening complete with blue grass music, chuck wagon, barbecue and all.

Lots of other great things are being planned and you'll just have to be there or you will miss out. Reunion information is contained in this newsletter. Complete the registration form and return it to Dudley Cass at the address shown as soon as possible.

It will be great to see all of you again and finish all those tall tales we didn't get to finish in Virginia. The hospitality room will again be well stocked with your favorite refreshments and we can all get down to some serious communications.

Y'all come, hear!
John Reynolds

WELCOME ABOARD (SINCE JULY 1995)

Gary Punch, BTFN (63-67), St. Charles, IL
Freddy Bruce, BTFN (64-67), Grand Blanc, MI
James Boyd, ETN3 (63-66), Brighton, MI
D. Kenneth Nelson, SN (64-66), Nampa, IN
Edward Mauck, SN (60-63), Kent, OH
James Kelly, SN (60-62), San Marcos, CA
Michael Orr, CPL (63-65), Tucson, AZ
James Morrison, FN (59-62), New Smyrna Beach, FL
Larry Wood, SK3 (59-63), Wesley Chapel, FL
Gene Hill, BMC (62-63), Tahuya, WA
John Boehm, GMM2 (63-66), Boise, ID
Richard Archer, DK3 (63-65), Wataga, IL
Jon Sorensen, BM3 (63-65), Arvada, CO
Donald Dillon, RD2 (62-64), Cedar Rapids, IA

Richard Schneider, MM3 (66-67), Wapakoneta, OH
Dave Barnicoat, SN (62-64), Hesperia, CA
Dale Crandall, DC2 (67-69), Petersburg, NY
Eugene Taylor, SF2 (63-65), Burlington, WA
Frank Terry, SH3 (63-64), Lipan, TX
Al Keadle, LT (66-67), Pryor, OK

WHAT YOU WANT IN A REUNION

The number of responses to the reunion questionnaire carried in the last newsletter was a little disappointing. A review of the questionnaire, however, indicates its construction was not the best. (You can blame this on the editor).

More than 40 replies were scored two ways and the results were the same in both cases. Primary reason for coming to a reunion is to see and visit old friends and make new ones. Tied for second were geographic location of the reunion and reunion events.

The encouraging result is that all but one of the replies indicated that they would most likely come to Reunion 96 in Topeka. One could assume that they were supposed to complete it only if they were coming to Topeka. This was not the intent. Determining reunion interest/priorities should not have been combined with coming/not coming to a specific reunion.

LAUGHLIN MINI-REUNION

March 10-12 are the dates for the annual West Coast get together in Laughlin, Nev.

The Riverside Hotel offers a 3-day, 2-night package for \$66, which includes tickets to the Roy Clark show; or \$62 which includes a Mel Tillis show. Packages must be prepaid by credit card. Call the Riverside at 800-227-3849. If not interested in either show, the Riverside room rate is \$16 standard/\$28 river view. Flamingo Hilton rates are \$29 standard/\$39 river view.

Bring your choice of beverages and snacks. Dudley and Ruth Cass's room is available for hospitality. Let Dudley know if you plan to go. A better group rate and hospitality suite may be available if there are 20 or more couples.

LETTERS

Dear Dudley:

Can you send me the appropriate pages from the ship's commissioning program showing my name? I reported to the original MARDET in Brooklyn in early 1960. I want to write to the Navy Historical Society and get a piece of the plank.

Incidentally, I somehow ended up with the MARDET guide-on, fancied up with a broad border and fringes at the Brooklyn shipyard sail loft. I believe it was a gift from the MARDET on the USS Shangri-La. We mounted it on the lockers next to the after hatch of the Marine compartment. If I make it to Reunion 96, I'll bring it.

H. Wells "Red" French (1960)

Ed Note: We look forward to seeing you in Topeka. However, if something comes up that you can't make it, we would still like to display the guideon. Many folks bring lots of memorabilia to display. Since I am also the Reunion Coordinator, you could send it to me.

Dear Ed:

Sorry we're so late in sending '95 dues. Hope enclosed amount is right. As of now, we are looking forward to being at the reunion in Topeka. May even get to Laughlin in the Spring. Keep us informed on what the plans are.

Thanks for the newsletters. We really look forward to them.

Everett and Colleen Siler (63-65)

Dear Ed:

Was wondering if there are any future plans for a reunion in the Pacific Northwest, ie Seattle, Tacoma, Bremerton?

Bill Bradley (60-61)

Ed Note: I hope so. The 1997 reunion will be in the Western U.S. The site selection committee is composed of John Keith, Tom Victory, Brad Parkhurst, John Reynolds, and Dudley Cass. They will recommend a number of cities which will be published in the July newsletter. Reunion site will be selected by vote at the annual meeting in Topeka. To push for your choice, I would recommend contacting Tom Victory or John Keith.

MOVING?

Or have moved? Put us on your list to send a change of address card. Occasionally, newsletters are returned with the notation, "forwarding time expired." Sometimes, the Post Office will apply a yellow sticker, giving the new address. Then, we have to re-mail the newsletter. Sometimes, however, they don't. In that case, unless someone knows where you are, you are lost to us.

Send change of address cards to Dudley Cass, 3028 Bonita Woods Drive, Bonita, CA 91902.

1996 TOPEKA CALENDAR PUBLISHED



The 1996 Topeka calendar was published and mailed to all 1995 dues-paying members in early December.

The calendar contains an 8 x 10 cover picture of the ship at sea along with 8 x 10 pictures for most months, all depicting life at sea. Significant dates in the life of the ship are indicated.

There are a few copies left, which are available for \$6.00, which includes postage. Send requests to the Editor at the address shown in this newsletter.

The following are a few of the responses to the calendar:

Dear Ed:

I want to comment on how impressive the calendar is. It is great. I am sure all Topeka Association members will appreciate the time and work that went into producing it. What a great keepsake it will be. I hope another will follow.

There are three photos in the calendar I would like to have: the personnel inspection prior to commissioning, the power squadron regatta, and the first shot in anger, Vietnam. If you can make 8 x 10's of these, I will pay for the cost of printing them. Thanks again.

John Woolston (59-62)

Ed note: John, thanks for the compliment. As soon as I am satisfied that I have all the requests for reprints (or at least most of them), I will make all the copies at one time. Keep in mind that I will have to take a picture of an old picture, so a little of the quality may be lost.

Dear Ed:

Thank you very much for the 1996 calendar. It appears as though you covered the main events of the CL-67 as well as the CLG-8. The workmanship was very good. I will keep it handy to know what is going on.

Jim Wilson
President, CL-67 Association

Dear Ed:

Thanks a lot for sending me the Topeka calendar. I have it in my den along with my other Topeka photos. I'm planning on attending the reunion in Topeka.

Jack Mansfield (CO. 62-64)

Dear Ed:

I want to thank you for the calendar. We are really enjoying it, and will throughout the year. It is just what I wanted to add to my book. Thank you so much.

Jeannie Peterson (Armond (D). 63-65)

Dear Ed:

Dues 96 are enclosed. The calendar is great.

Joe Golden (60-62)

1996 DUES ARE DUE

1996 dues are due. But it only happens once a year. Annual dues will remain at \$15 for this year. Make checks payable to USS Topeka Reunion Association and mail to Dudley Cass, 3028 Bonita Woods Drive, Bonita, Cal. 91902.

This will be the only mention of dues in this newsletter. However, your address label will serve as a reminder as to whether you are paid or not.

In 1995, the Association received \$1267 in contributions to what was called a scholarship fund. Because of several factors, the Board recommended to the membership at the annual meeting that the scholarship idea be dropped.

Instead, it was proposed and approved to donate the \$1267 to the U.S. Naval Home in Gulfport, MS in honor of ETC Victor Hammond (63-65), a resident of the home. A thank-you for that donation was contained in the last newsletter.

The check was presented to the Director of the Home by Billy D. Harris (59-61), Pascagoula, MS.

The Naval Home is the direct descendant of the Naval Asylum, established in November, 1831 in Philadelphia, PA, for the benefit of "disabled and decrepit Naval officers, seamen and Marines" so that they might spend their remaining days in a safe harbor.

The board has decided that contributions in excess of dues received during 1996 will again be donated to the Naval Home. Should you want to contribute to this charity, please include your donation with your dues check.

WHO'S COMING TO TOPEKA

Early responses indicate the following are coming to Topeka for Reunion 96. Get your registration in early so friends can read in the next newsletter that you are coming.

Mike Angulo, CWO3 (65-67) Spring Valley, CA
Al Ansoerge, CDR (61-63), Mt. Vernon, IL
Robert Bond, DK3 (63-65), San Antonio, TX
James Bond, YN3 (64-67), San Angelo, TX
Phil Brooks, MR2 (63-65), Cloverdale, CA
Parker Butcher, FTM2 (63-66), Shenandoah, IA
Tom Butler, SKC (62-64), Las Vegas, NV
Bill Carver, BM3 (60-63), Des Moines, IA
Dudley Cass, LTJG (61-64), Bonita, CA
Wally Clark, SK3 (63-66), Casper, WY
Jack Connery, LCDR (64-66), Bixby, OK
John DeFord, SA (64-67), Broomfield, CO
Mike Faber, SK3 (62-64), Centralia, WA
Francis Finerfrock, GMT2 (65-66), Pinellas Park, FL
Harold "Buddy" Haley, STG2 (63-65), Broken Arrow, OK
Billy Harris, QMSN (59-61), Pascagoula, MS
Joe Heeney, CWO4 (63-66), Torrance, CA
Mike Hefele, FTM2 (63-64), Fenton, MO
David Hyslop, RM3 (64), Chardon, OH
Gerald Judge, FTCS (63-66), Chula Vista, CA
Al Keadle, LT (66-67), Pryor, OK; Tucson, AZ
John Keith, RD1 (59-60), Portland, OR
Ernie Kershaw, BT2 (59-63), Melrose, NY
Mike Leahy, MM3 (66-69), Fraser, MI
Larry MacDonald, IC2 (60-62), Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Dean Mahaffey, GMG3 (63-65), Kansas City, KN
Jack Mansfield, CAPT. (63-64), Silverdale, WA
Bill Marx, RDSN (62-63), Owensboro, KY
Don Nellis, CDR (63-65), San Diego, CA
Loy Nix, GMM1 (59-62), Flowery Branch, GA
Art Nolan, SMC (64-66), Cumming, GA
Richard Null, MM3 (65-67), Bonanza, AR
Jim Ownby, LT (62-65), El Cajon, CA
Irak Parkhurst, FTCM (63-66), Granada Hills, CA
Larry Patriquin, FT2 (61-64), Barrington, NH
Jerry Pennington, RD3 (63-64), Temple City, CA
Richard Pinnell, FT3 (59-61), Farmersville, IL
John Reynolds, FTM1 (61-66), Redondo Beach, CA
Paul Ruby, LTJG (62-65), San Francisco, CA
Jim Rudeen, LTJG (61-64), Ridgecrest, CA
Everett Siler, EM1 (63-65), Ashfork, AZ
Jon Sorensen, BM3 (63-65), Arvada, CO
Ron Smart, RD3 (59-62), Turlock, CA
Jimmy Starr, GS2 (60-61), Topeka, KN
Jack Timmons, LTJG (64-65), San Diego, CA
Leonard VanGemert, ET1 (63-65), Bradenton, FL
Dick Walker, AG2 (66-68), Mendon, MI
Steve Warren, DN (63-67), Tulsa, OK
Doug Weeks, RD2 (60-63), Canastota, NY
Egon Werdelman, CDR (60-61), San Diego, CA
Bob White, LT (63-64), Joplin, MO
Doyne Wills, LCDR (65-67), Panama City, FL
Paul Wuorenmaa, LT (62-64), Colorado Springs, CO
Bud Zimmerman, GMT1 (59-62), Bremerton, WA.

SHIP'S STORE REPORT

We had a wonderful response after the last newsletter, with many ordering Christmas gifts. We hope all were satisfied.

We have sold most of the Topeka polo shirts, but white shirts are still available in sizes M and L, and blue in XXL. Also available are sizes 6-8 and 14-16 in childrens' tee shirts. We will re-order shirts in time for the reunion.

We still have wine glasses, tumblers, key chains (key chains were not mentioned in the last newsletter), and ball caps, as well as copies of *Baka Hachi* and a few 1996 calendars.

Call Jill Connery at 918-366-4581 with your order, or write to 16334 South Lewis, Bixby, OK 74008. Make checks payable to the Topeka Reunion Association. Except where indicated, include \$3.00 for each shipment.

Price List

Adult Shirts	\$15.00
Childrens' tee shirts	6.00
Ball Cap	7.00
<i>Baka Hachi</i>	7.00
Key Chains	3.00
Wine glasses/tumblers	12.00 (set of 4)
1996 Calendar (includes postage)	6.00

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



TAPS

Lucile Johnson, widow of Art Johnson (D), ETCS (60-62), Cheltenham, MD, December 7, 1995.

Alan Drentlaw, IC2 (59-62), Esko, MN, December 9, 1995.

REMEMBER WHEN...?

During a visit to Yokosuka in 1961, the destroyer USS Agerholm was also in port. The pulp magazine ARGOSY had provided Agerholm with a mascot "Aggie," a paper mache cow's head mounted on a 24 x 24" plywood base. This hung in one of the main passageways on the ship. It was also used to test the ship's security.

Using a ruse of medical supplies being delivered to the wrong ship, SGT Robert McMillan of the MARDET and I captured Aggie and successfully carried her back to Topeka.

Agerholm's Commanding Officer recovered her the following morning.

Jim Willis HMC (61-63)

Reunion 96 Information/Registration Packet

August 14-17, 1996

Ramada Inn and Tower

Topeka, Kansas

This pull-out contains:

- **Reunion Registration Form (reverse side)**
- **Reunion Schedule (Some of this is still tentative)**
- **Reunion Highlights**
- **Ramada Inn Reservation Form**

Your Action is to:

- **Complete registration form and return to Dudley Cass.**
- **Complete hotel registration form and send to Ramada Inn.**
- **Place schedule and highlights on the refrigerator as a reminder.**
- **Get excited and call a shipmate to make sure he does the same things.**
- **Come to Topeka August 14-17.**

Reunion Registration

Reunion 96, August 14-17
Ramada Inn and Tower
Topeka, Kansas

Name _____ : Number in your party _____ ; Date _____

Will you be staying at the Ramada Hotel? Yes _____ : No _____ : See description in Reunion Highlights

Will you be flying into Kansas City International? _____ : Will you need ground transportation to Topeka? _____ (See Transportation in Reunion Highlights.

Golf and Optional Events: Please indicate your interest in each event.

Activity	Day(s)	Time	Cost	No. of People
Golf	Thurs Fri	7 a.m.	To be determined	
Eisenhower Museum	Friday	8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	\$20.00 each plus small admission fee	
Oregon Trail Adventure	Thursday	6 p.m.-10 p.m.	\$29.00	
Ladies Tea	Saturday	1 p.m.-4 p.m.	\$10.00	

Other Attractions: Check if interested. We may be able to set up small group tours.

Combat Air Museum _____
Kansas Museum of History _____
Tour of Topeka antique shops _____
Kansas City River boat gambling _____

Banquet Entrees:

Banquet entrees are as follows. Please indicate your choice

Roast prime rib _____
Salmon filet w/dill sauce _____

Reunion Fee:

Deadline for Reunion Fee is July 15, 1996
Make checks payable to: Topeka Reunion Association
Mail to: **Dudley Cass, 3028 Bonita Woods Drive, Bonita, CA 91902**

It is estimated that reunion costs will be about \$75.00 per person, which includes cost of hospitality suite, Friday night Welcome Aboard Reception and Cocktail Party, and Saturday night Banquet and Dance. For those not attending all four days, price will be broken down in a daily rate. The optional tours are in addition to this cost. Detailed total and daily costs will be published in the next newsletter.

We would like to get your reservation as soon as possible. Knowing the number attending early is very important in scheduling events. Please submit reservation now with a \$25.00 deposit. Balance will be due July 15. Reunion Fee is totally refundable if you have to cancel.

Name Tag Information

First name (or nickname) and last name will be on the name tags provided. Please **print** names below:

First Name

Last Name

For additional information about Topeka contact **Jack Connery, 918-366-4581, or Jimmy Starr, Topeka, 913-232-4854**

USS Topeka Reunion Association
Reunion Schedule 1996
Topeka, Kansas, August 14-17

Wednesday, August 14

- 9 a.m.: Hospitality Suite opens. Check in/registration all day.
- Pick up nametags and registration packet
- Info on tours and other sights.
- Beverages and snacks available
- Ships store sales
- Will arrange for a place we can all go out to eat Wednesday night.

Thursday, August 15

- 7 a.m. Golfers depart for the links
- Visits available in small groups to places like:
Combat Air Museum
Kansas Museum of History
Kansas City Riverboat gambling
Ship's Bell
- 9 a.m. Hospitality Suite opens. Registration continues.
- 6 p.m: An evening on the Oregon trail. Bus to Seranata Farms, outside of Topeka to relive the days of those heading westward on the Oregon Trail in the 1800's. See description in Reunion Highlights. Chuck wagon barbecue and Blue Grass entertainment. Return to hotel about 9:30 p.m.

Friday, August 16

- 7 a.m. Golfers depart for links.
- 8 a.m. Depart by bus for visit to Eisenhower Museum and Library at Abilene, Kansas. See description in Reunion Highlights. On return trip, stop at Paxico for visit to the first winery established in Kansas. Return to hotel at 4 p.m.
- 9 a.m. Hospitality Suite opens.
- 6 p.m. Welcome Aboard Reception and Cocktail Party in the hotel.

Saturday, August 17

- TBA: Hospitality Suite opens
- TBA: Business meeting
- After Business Meeting: Group picture
- 1 p.m. Ladies depart for visit to Governor's Mansion and tea at the Kansas Museum of History. 1800's vintage style show.
- 6 p.m. Coctail party. Cash bar.
- 7 p.m. Banquet and program
- 9-12 p.m: Dancing to the music of the Cadillacs.

Sunday, August 18

- 8:30 Departure breakfast. Fair winds and following seas until 1997.

Reunion Highlights

Accommodations

The Ramada Inn and Tower, located at 420 E. Sixth Street in downtown Topeka, is the headquarters for Reunion 96. This is the largest convention hotel in Kansas with facilities accommodating as many as 2,500 guests. During the past year, it has undergone extensive renovation, and will be complete by our arrival. Room prices are \$56.00 (Main building) and \$61.00 (Tower) for double occupancy. Single occupancy is less. This includes free parking and free continental breakfast, or \$3.00 credit toward a regular breakfast. The tower and main building are connected. **(Note: The hospitality suite will be in the tower. Should you be in the main building on the second floor or above, you will catch an elevator down, then another up to the hospitality suite.)** Complete the hotel reservation card contained in this newsletter and return to the hotel, or call the Ramada at 800-228-2828 or 913-233-8981 no later than July 12. Make sure you indicate that you are with the Topeka Reunion. The hotel is within easy walking distance of the State Capitol building and the civic square where our ship's bell is located.

RV Accommodations: At Lake Shawnee Campground, 3435 SE Edge Road; 913-267-1859; about 3 miles from hotel; tree shaded along lake shore. 160 sites available with water and electricity hookups, showers, restrooms, laundry and concessions. \$9.00 a day.

Transportation: Kansas City International (KCI) is served by most major airlines. US Air serves Topeka from KCI with a number of commuter flights daily. There are a couple of vehicle shuttle companies, one of which is Travelers Express, that also serve Topeka. KCI to the Ramada is about 75 minutes and the fare is \$27.00. Detailed shuttle information will be published in the next newsletter.

Golf Outing: Jimmy Starr is scouting out five different golf courses to develop the best package. If there is enough interest, we will play two days (Thursday and Friday), and may combine play with some Topeka residents. Please indicate one or two day interest on the registration form.

An Evening on the Oregon Trail: Travel back 150 years to the place where frontiersmen, pioneers and emigrants embarked on the greatest journey of their lives . . . where boot, hoof and wagon wheel marked the way for thousands of others to follow. Relive the adventure that is the Oregon Trail. Escorted by emigrant re-enactors aboard Seranata Schooners, we will be briefed on the history of the area. This area, later known as Big Springs, was a watering and rest stop prior to embarking on the trail. Enjoy a trail-side buffet with an evening's entertainment, including bluegrass music. **Cost: \$29.00 per person.**

Eisenhower Center, Abilene, Kansas: The museum exhibits depict the military and civilian careers of Dwight D. Eisenhower. The Visitor Center houses a gift shop and auditorium, where a film on Eisenhower is shown several times daily. Other features include the research library, family home where Ike lived as a boy, and the Place of Meditation, where President and Mrs. Eisenhower are buried. **Cost 20.00 for transportation. (minimum 30 people) plus small entrance fee.**

Ladies Tea: Saturday: Have tea at the Kansas Museum of History, located on a branch of the Oregon Trail. The museum provides the story of Kansas from the Indian era to the Civil War up to the present. It contains one of the nation's largest prairie collections of memorabilia and historic objects. Visit Cedar Crest, the Governor's residence, overlooking the Kansas River. Cedar trees line the long drive up to the French-Norman style home. Enjoy (and participate in) "Fashion and Fads from the 1800's", a show filled with fascinating facts about fashions from the early days, put on by Ms. Ruth Lawson, one of Topeka's favorite historians. **\$10. per person.**

Combat Air Museum: Offers a wide variety of military aircraft and aviation-oriented memorabilia, ranging in time from WWI to the space shuttle program.

Kansas City River Boat Gambling: Transportation provided to the River Boat casinos of Kansas City for a day (or evening) of gambling. More in the next newsletter.