

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 7, No. 2

June, 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

USS Topeka Ladies are the Best:

As we begin to single up and make preparations to get under way for the city of our namesake, I am sure that we will be getting our sea stories in order so we can look back on some of the "good old days."

Looking back on our Long Beach reunion, I remember using the phrase 'good old days' while discussing some memories with Captain Mansfield and his lovely wife, Marie; and Marie quickly qualified the term by reminding me that the good old days were not so good for the ladies we left at home to keep the home fires burning as we sailed off to do our "people to people" thing in other parts of the world.

Looking back on the past great reunions we have had, it has been our ladies that have made the reunions such a great success. Not only have they had to listen to all our sea stories and tales of yore over and over again, but they have been there to guide things along and help plan and carry out many of the details that we overlooked. Those Friday buffets that we enjoy every year have been a labor of love from the ladies of the USS Topeka.

As President of the Reunion Association, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the ladies who attend the reunions and support us in making our gatherings among the greatest in the world.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Topeka, August 14-17.

WELCOME ABOARD (SINCE FEB. 1996)

If one of these shipmates lives near you, or if you happen to remember one, give him a call and a personal "welcome aboard."

And for you new shipmates: Some of you already have your name on the "Who's Coming to Topeka" list contained in this newsletter. We look forward to meeting you.

And the rest: Come join us and help us celebrate the memory of this fine ship.

Dave Laird, SN (60-66), Syracuse, NY
Dale Sherwood, SN (60-63), Ypsilanti, MI
Henry Rathjen, MR2 (59-60), Merrill, WI
Richard Wallace, SMSN (60-63), Halifax, MA
Larry Holland, CS3 (59-61), Bedford, TX
Harvey Stradley, QM3 (65-69), Virginia Beach, VA
John Milbrodt, SFP3 (65-67), Canton, OH
Lonnie Taylor, QM3 (60-63), Adworth, GA
Ramond Geibe, SM1, (59-63), Wichita Falls, TX
Richard Berg, FTM2 (59-61), Madison, AL
Benjamin Benito, PN2 (61-66), Las Vegas, NV
Dave Price, BM3 (67-69), Covington, VA
Charlie Hunter, LCPL (60-62), Lanham, MD
Gene Fryer, MM2 (59-62), Great Falls, MT
Loren Schaal, ETN3 (60-61), Virginia Beach, VA
George Alcaraz, TN (60-61), Virginia Beach, VA
C. Stringstun, PH2 (63-64), Oak Harbor, WA
John Attey, RD2 (62-65), Ofallon, MO
L. Fisher, BM1 (65-69), Kinsley, KS
Jerry Jackson, SN (67-68), Adrian, MO
Bruce Black, Sr., BT3 (67-67) Rices Landing, PA
Robert McCullough, GM1 (68-69), Renton, WA
Robert Schramm, GSC (61-62), Orange, CA
John Peterson, SN (60-62), Port Orchard, WA
Lowell Schultze, RM3 (64-66), Simi Valley, CA
Mike Wallace, RD3 (65-67), De Ridder, LA.

TAPS

John Mobley, CS2 (59-61), San Diego, CA, March 28, 1996.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As you can see from the list of new members, we continue to grow. As of this writing, we have:

- 807 names in our data base.
- 749 active members.
- 235 have paid 1996 dues.

WHAT ABOUT TOPEKA?

Topeka is the capital of Kansas and the seat of Shawnee county. Located on the Kansas River, it was incorporated in 1857. It is a commercial and manufacturing center situated in a fertile wheat and cattle raising area. Major manufacturers include processed food, printed materials and rubber and metal products.



Downtown Topeka

Having a population of 119,000 (1990), it is a city of wide avenues and open spaces, and is located at the cross roads of America. Interstate 70 connects Topeka with Baltimore to the east, and with San Francisco and Los Angeles to the west via I-80 or I-15. A spur of Interstate 35 connects Topeka with Laredo, TX to the south and Duluth MN to the north. Topeka is the site of Washburn University of Topeka, a prominent midwestern law school the only city-owned university in the country, and the Menninger Foundation, a noted neuropsychiatric clinic that maintains research and teaching facilities, as well as a museum. Points of interest include the Kansas State Historical Society Museum; the Mulvane Art Center, the State House, modeled after the U.S. Capitol and the Reinisch Memorial Rose and Rock Gardens.

The community was platted in 1854 near the dividing point of the old Santa Fe and Oregon Trails, and developed as a division center for the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad. (Remember that song?). For years, it was the hub of conflict between the pro slavery and abolitionist factions in the Kansas Territory. Topeka became the temporary territorial capital in 1859 and was selected as the permanent state capital in 1861, when Kansas entered the Union.

CLG-8 was the third ship of the line to carry the name Topeka (if CL-67 (1944-49) is counted as a separate ship). PG-35, a gunboat, was a combat veteran of the Spanish American War and was decommissioned in 1929. The fourth, SSN-754 was commissioned in 1989 and is home ported in Pearl Harbor.

Additional information on Topeka is contained in *The Baka Hachi 1960-1969*.

FLYING TO KANSAS CITY?

Reunion 96 is in the middle of the heavy vacation travel time. "If you are flying to Kansas City, the sooner you make your reservations, the better," says Margery Pfund, a San Francisco travel agent (and wife of Gale, 62-64).

"It's better for both price and getting the type of reservations you want," she continued. "To get the best rates, book reservations at least 21 days ahead of travel." And if you qualify, watch for the senior citizen discounts.

"There are no special deals at this time, but watch the ads for discounted fares," she adds.

SHIP'S STORE REPORT

The Ship's Store will be open in Topeka, and new hats and shirts are now being ordered. You will note that effective with this newsletter, some prices have gone up, including the charges for shipping, to cover increased costs.

Two new items will be available for order at the reunion - - a Topeka jacket and a ship's plaque. At this writing, these will be special order items, and the price has not been determined.

The last of the 1996 calendars will be available as souvenirs at the reunion at a discounted price

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 children's' tee shirts. We will re-order shirts in time for the reunion.

We still have wine glasses, tumblers, key chains, 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 her at 16334 South Lewis, Bixby, OK 74008, Make checks payable to the Topeka Reunion Association. Except where indicated, include \$4.00 for each shipment.

Price List

Adult Shirts	\$20.00
Children's' tee shirts	6.00
Ball Cap	8.00
<i>Baka Hachi</i>	7.00
Key Chains	3.00
Wine glasses/tumblers (set of 4)	12.00
Shipping costs (per order)	4.00

REUNION REGISTRATION FORMS

Reunion registration forms are contained in this newsletter. If you are coming to Topeka and haven't submitted one to Dudley Cass, take the time now to do so.

There are minor changes in the form because of scheduling of events and reunion costs have been determined.

WHO'S COMING TO TOPEKA

The following have indicated by one method or another that they will be joining us in Topeka August 14-17 for our annual reunion.

Not all, however, have sent their registration form to Dudley Cass. Even though the deadline is not until July 15, it would be a big help to the Reunion Coordinator in planning events, transportation, etc., etc., to have the numbers as early as possible.

If you are coming to Topeka, complete the registration form contained in this newsletter and mail it to Dudley as soon as possible.

Mike Angulo, CWO3 (65-67) Spring Valley, CA
Al Ansorge, CDR (61-63), Mt. Vernon, IL
Steve Archbold, SKSN (60-63), Dix Hills, NY
Ben Billings, SFM2 (64-66), Darlington, MD
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
Lloyd Couch, BM1 (60-65), Grand Junction, CO
Jerry Craig, FTM2 (66-69), Cartersville, GA
Vernie Davis, LT (64-66), Marshall, VA
Jay B. Davis, CPL (64-66), Kansas City, MO
John DeFord, SA (64-67), Broomfield, CO
Erin Endicott, RD3 (61-63), Cove, OR
Mike Faber, SK3 (62-64), Centralia, WA
Francis Finerfrock, GMT2 (65-66), Pinellas Park, FL
Larry Fisher, BM1 (65-69), Kinsley, KS
Paul Gass, ETCS (65-67), Sparta, MO
Ronald Greuel, GS2 (60-62), New Holstein, WI
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
John Hojaboom, GMG1 (60-68), Carson, CA
Norbert Howe, SDC (60-60), Lakewood, CA
Paul Hulette, LT (66-68), Novato, CA
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
Calvin Ladd, MM3 (63-66), Minnetonka, MN
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
Don Nelson, BT2 (64-66), Minneapolis, MN
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
Irad Parkhurst, FTSM (63-66), Granada Hills, CA
Larry Patriquin, FT2 (61-64), Barrington, NH
Jerry Pennington, RD3 (63-64), Temple City, CA
Joe Peragine, CWO3 (60-65), San Diego, CA
Richard Pinnell, FT3 (59-61), Farmersville, IL
John Reynolds, FTM1 (61-66), Redondo Beach, CA
Ike Roberts, IC3 (65-68), Hixson, TN
Paul Ruby, LTJG (62-65), San Francisco, CA
Jim Rudeen, LTJG (61-64), Ridgecrest, CA
Robert Schramm, GSC (61-62), Orange, CA
Andre Seaton, RD2 (59-62), Reseda, CA
LeRoy Servin, BM3 (62-64), Casa Grande, AZ
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
Ernesto Villamil, DKCM (63-65), Annapolis, MD
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
Robert Westlake, MR3 (59-62), De Graff, OH
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.

LETTERS

Dear Ed:

I was going through old slides and found some from our last Med-Cruise in 1968. I picked out the best ones and took them to be made into photos.

Some are from our port of call in Naples and Rota, some have notations about the current event and a few have names. I have checked those names against our directory and they are not there. I will research their names and see if I can locate them.

Could you use the pictures at the next reunion? Please let me know if you would be interested in copies.

Edward Florence (68-69)

Ed Note: Yes, by all means we can use them. Many bring pictures, cruisebooks, and other memorabilia to the reunion and we set it out on a table. Perhaps others can help with the names. And Dudley Cass has several ways of tracing people.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE REUNION

On Thursday evening, we'll travel a short distance to Big Springs, a watering and rest stop more than 100 years ago for those pioneers beginning travel on the Oregon Trail.

You'll get to imagine what it would be like to pack all your belongings into a covered wagon, rely on oxen, horses or mules to pull that wagon, and set off down a "road", where the only road signs are the wagon-wheel ruts left by the wagon in front.

The wagon trains, composed of 25 to 250 wagons, left in April to take advantage of spring grass to feed the livestock, and to get through the mountains in the Fall before the first snowfall. Fifteen miles traveled in a day was a good day.

This 2000 mile wagon train trip started in Independence, MO, and reached Big Springs the third day out, the last stop before jumping off into untamed territory. It was here that the Oregon and Santa Fe Trails split, the latter heading southwest to Dodge, and the Oregon, heading northwest across Nebraska to Ft. Laramie, Wyoming. The first wagon train, headed by the American pioneer physician Elijah White, reached Oregon in 1842. The trip took the early pioneers four to six months, and was a journey fraught with

much hardship resulting from poor equipment, illness, weather, and attack by Native Americans, for whom the growing number of travelers on the trail was an ever-constant threat.

From our arrival point, we'll be escorted by emigrant re-enactors aboard wagons, and we'll be told the history of the area. At the springs, we'll enjoy a dinner of the times, and entertainment, including blue grass music and folklore.

We'll leave with a sense of appreciation for pioneer families, leaving the comfort of their homes, loading all their belongings into a wagon limited to 1200 pounds, and heading into the unknown.

When we leave, and get back on Interstate 70, we will appreciate that too.

INTERESTED IN BRANSON?

Interested in going to Branson before or after the reunion? In the survey done earlier, there was not enough interest shown to schedule a trip to Branson following the reunion.

However, Dudley and Ruth Cass plan to go to Branson for a few days after the reunion, and they have found a new hotel that offers special discount rates to Topeka sailors for a stay either before or after the reunion. Contact Dudley/Ruth at 619-267-3123 for information.

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



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 (Schedule getting nailed down)**
- **Reunion Highlights**

Your Action (if you haven't already) is to:

- **Complete registration form and return to Dudley Cass.**
- **Make reservations at the 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

Reunion costs will be \$75.00 per person for the four days, which includes cost of hospitality suite, Friday night Welcome Aboard Reception and Coctail Party, and Saturday night Banquet and Dance. For those not attending all four days, prices are as follows: Wednesday only no charge; Thursday only \$20; Friday only \$25; Saturday \$50. The optional tours are in addition to this cost.

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

- 10 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 off to the links (Due to limited response, golf may be cut to one day).
- 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 at Big Springs, 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 off to the links. (Due to limited response, golf may be cut to one day).
- 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. (This stop tentative). 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 previously provided, 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. (Response has been slim thus far.)

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. (This tea may be at Cedar Crest, the Governor's Mansion. 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.