

Turner Times



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 1, 1997

JACKSONVILLE - 1997

The 1997 reunion is history, but memorable. Accommodations, meetings, meals, tours, renewed relationships and the camaraderie were all terrific! We all got acquainted with another shipmate and some saw a dear friend for the first time in many years. A good time was had by all and we thank the association officers for the arrangements.

The Navy just keeps producing heroes. As usual we had the 50/50 drawing. Mrs. Royal Wigley won \$25.00, as did John Overstreet. Simo Maki had the right ticket to pocket seventy-

five bucks, but he didn't. All three contributed their winnings to the association's piggy bank. We all thank these gracious winners, especially our faithful treasurer Mike Quinn.

The door prizes, four of them, were for a two night stay at the Radisson Hotel. Royal Wigley (who can't wait to get to Las Vegas), Pete Varley, Bill Patrick and Vince Pangori were the winners.

Five TURNER commanding officers attended. Somehow it isn't quite natural to think of the

(Continued on page 2)

NEW LEADERSHIP FOR '98

Nils Rueckert was elected to take the helm for 1998. As president he will be ably backed up by our new veep Harry Tice. We are extremely fortunate to have Mike Quinn remaining as treasurer and Dick Shanaberger continuing as secretary. These men give an incredible amount of time and other resources of theirs to keeping the reunion association afloat. We thank them. We thank John Byron, our

(Continued on page 2)

WESTWARD IN '98

The membership voted to meet in Las Vegas in 1998 and, as if by magic and the good work of Dave Buck and Dick Shanaberger, we will gather at the **Imperial Palace Hotel and Casino**. Arrival in Las Vegas will be August 24th, a Monday, with departure on Friday the 28th. Room rates for these days are very reasonable at \$49.00 plus tax. So, make plans to attend early. We can come early and stay late, having a Las Vegas vacation as well as attending our seventh reunion.

Why did we opt for Las Vegas?

Well, we haven't been there and it seems to hold a lot of interest for those in attendance at Jacksonville. Las Vegas has changed. If you haven't been there for a while you will find that it is still a gaming and show town, but there is plenty of family activity and entertainment. You will hear more about Las Vegas in future issues.

This brings us to why the reunion will be in August rather than September or October. The hope is that more of us can attend in August. A few shipmates with children at home, and others who have

grandchildren, have been unable to show up in the past because of school. We also get more bang for the buck for accommodations during August. Let's talk it up. How about some mini reunions? The McMullen/Ditto/Lockee wardrooms have been doing this for about three years. It has worked exceptionally well and it has been great fun. The 1998 reunion can easily be our biggest and best if we get ALL HANDS ON DECK, nautically speaking.

JAX '97

(Continued from page 1)

"Old Man" as a shipmate, but we do. Everyone was delighted to see them and appreciated their presence. It adds something to the reunion when the skippers want to show up. Captain Callaway (65-67), Captain Dudley (63-65), Captain Lockee (60-62), Captain McMullen (57-59) and Captain Pauly (66-68): we were honored. By-the-way, where were the XO's? We need to work on this.

Six hundred and fifty-five names are now on the roster. This year, 46 shipmates registered for the reunion and 93 of us attended the banquet. We can do better and we should. All 655 shipmates were found by the good efforts of another shipmate who cared. Obviously, we don't want to stop here. If you know anyone else who is not on the roster, please send his name, address and telephone number, if you have it, to our secretary, Dick Shanaberger at 118 Baldwin Terrace, Wayne NJ 07470. If we aim high and fire on the up roll, we'll have an even better gathering in Las Vegas. Tell your friends you're going and that you want to see them there.

NEW LEADERSHIP

(Continued from page 1)

former president, for his part in making this past year a successful one. We also thank others, and particularly the wives, who are busy with TURNER business in the background.

FROM THE OF THE PREZ

My greetings to each of you. My wife and I just returned from Turner's 6th annual reunion in Jacksonville, Florida, which was another thoroughly enjoyable get-together with shipmates of years gone by. I was fortunate in being able to greet almost a dozen with whom I served during the late 1950s-early 1960s, two of them past Skippers.

We thought a newsletter would keep interest up among Turnermen, be a good motivator

We solicit your suggestions, not only for this newsletter, but for our reunions as well.

to generate an even higher turnout at reunions, and keep open the lines of communication more than just once or twice a year. Your Staff Coordinator, Mel Edwards, will be looking for input for future editions. We want the newsletter to be interesting and just plain fun to get. I'm sure Mel will have a few words to say about this elsewhere in this first edition. It will eventually be just what you Turnermen out there make of it, so please to not hesitate to make your contribution.

You will hear about our Jacksonville get-together, and also learn about the exciting plans in the works for next year. We have a directory of over 650 Turnermen from 1945 to 1969 that we are always trying to expand. If you can help us, please take the initiative in trying to lo-

cate shipmates from your division, your own gang, your chief's quarters, your wardroom. There's nothing like the thrill of either receiving or making a call and talking to someone for the first time in 30, 40, even 50 years.

We solicit your suggestions, not only for this newsletter, but for our reunions as well. Again it's what each of us contributes that will make both a success in the future.

We are indeed fortunate in having an association as dedicated as we have. Without the strong motivation, good planning and lots of just plain time-consuming work on the part of some visionaries some 6 years ago and since, we would not have had this opportunity to rekindle ties with long ago shipmates and friends. The reunions have been a wonderful experience.

It will soon be the holiday season. Along with the uplifting religious significance of these days, past shipmates and friends are good reasons to celebrate this happy, hopeful time of the year. So, too, are our wonderful country, our precious freedoms, and our proud traditions of unselfish service, and the thousands of willing people in uniform today who permit us to celebrate and enjoy life in peace and prosperity. With a thousand blessings in mind, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 1998 my fellow Turnermen and families.

— Nils Rueckert

IMPERIAL PALACE

Dave Buck tells us the Imperial Palace Hotel and Casino is a medium sized casino located dead center on the Strip, from which all Turner sailors can easily walk to the TREASURE ISLAND to see the multi million dollar simulated pirate battle every 90 minutes after dark, or to the MIRAGE, perhaps the most glamorous resort on the Strip

“the Imperial Palace is the stopping point of the free Las Vegas trolley that carries visitors all around Las Ve-

with its rain forests, white tigers and volcano that erupts every 15 minutes after dark. CAESARS PALACE,

with its animated statues and Roman feasts on display, is also close by.

For places, on and off the Strip, possibly too far to walk in the summer heat, the Imperial Palace is the stopping point of the free Las Vegas trolley that carries visitors all around Las Vegas. Riders can get on and off as many times as they want. GRAY TOURS LINE leaves the Imperial Palace for half and full day trips to LAKE MEAD, HOOVER DAM, RED ROCK CANYON, THE VALLEY OF FIRE, BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK, ZION and the GRAND CANYON.

In the hotel and casino itself, there is a well-known show called LEGENDS IN CONCERT with live recreations of legendary superstars in a stage spectacular. In addition, the Imperial Palace has a famous antique automobile collection on display that is worth a peek.

While not expensive, the Imperial palace is right in the middle of all the action and perfectly situated to make our visits inside and outside Las Vegas convenient. Sounds like an excellent choice for a TURNER reunion!

CHIEF SNIFF

Alvin Sniff, GMCM (Ret.) received standing applause during dinner in Jacksonville. Al was recognized because he served the Navy on active duty for 44 years. He was on the TURNER in 1964, 65 and 66. Congratulations Master Chief.

NOTE THIS CHANGE

Correct your copy of the roster because Dick Shanaberger's telephone area code has changed from 201 to 973, effective immediately. As the association's Secretary/Reunion Chairman, being able to stay in touch with him is pretty important.

NEWSLETTER LAUNCHED

While Dick Shanaberger has always kept us informed with mailed announcements, this year we are inaugurating a more formal newsletter. This will be the first and we are not certain what it ought to look like. So we need your feedback on every aspect of it.

Prez Rueckert gets to the reason for the newsletter in his column. But quite simply, we want to communicate and exchange information and stories that are of interest to all of us. The source for these items is "the staff". The staff is the 650, or more, folks on the roster - all of you. I have assumed the responsibility of Staff Coordinator which means I'm going to be asking, and/or begging you for your input to our newsletter. So, let me begin by begging. Please send articles to me: Mel Edwards, 4711 Bieker Road, Washington, MO 63090, or send them via e-mail to melbet@fidnet.com. The telephone number is (314) 239-8960.

The finished product you receive will be distributed by the Secretary, however, it will be the work of Pete Varley, our Editor/Publisher. You can reach Pete at 202 Shadowbend Drive, Wheeling, IL 60090 or by e-mail at Peter_Varley@msn.com. His telephone number is (847) 808-0460. Pete is going to have a good size job requiring a bunch of his time. Thanks Pete!

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U.S.S. Turner Reunion Association
118 Baldwin Terrace
Wayne, NJ 07470

**Forwarding And
Address Correction
Requested**

FIRST CLASS MAIL

MOVED ???? If you have moved, plan to do so, changed your telephone number, or have any change of status, please drop a note to Dick Shanaberger at 118 Baldwin Terrace, Wayne, NJ 07470, or FAX him at 973-696-0783. Stay in touch: we don' t want to lose you!

ASSOCIATION DUES -- Although dues are voluntary, we could use your help. Look at your mailing label. If "Dues Paid" appears under your name, your dues are paid. If not, and you want to pay them, send \$20 to Mike Quinn at 15022 Hix Street, Livonia, MI 48154.

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WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A DESTROYERMAN

Being a member of the greatest Navy in the world cannot help but generate a feeling of pride in each of us who serves. Being a member of the hardest hitting, most versatile Force in this great Navy adds still further to our pride in service. We are "Destroyermen". The very word suggests "Leyte Gulf", "Iwo Jima", "Normandie", "Guadalcanal", "The Slot", "Okinawa", "Inchon", "Wonsan". Our heritage is rich in tradition and action. Our reputation as the hardest working, hardest fighting outfit in the Navy has been well earned. It is up to us to preserve and nurture that reputation. You' re riding in some of the highest powered, fastest ships in the world. You' re a member of a great team. No one on the team is unimportant. Everyone has a job to do and the success of the team depends on how each of its members perform. Your Captain is the Captain of your Team. He, like any other Team Captain, must have the full and loyal support and devotion of each member. There are no free riders in Destroyers. You have to lay back on your oar or the entire team is weakened. The Destroyer Force is made up of aggressive, hard hitting, devoted sailormen and you' re part of this great Force.

[From Destroyerman Reef Points, circa 1957]