

Turner Times

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

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VIVA LAS VEGAS!! '98 REUNION TOPS!!

Las Vegas was a great success and now it is on to the Windy City area in '99.

Las Vegas certainly lived up to its reputation as a fun place. Those who were there for the first time couldn't believe their eyes and ears. Those returning were amazed by the

new attractions and their sights and sounds. As always, the scheduled activities,

tours, dinners, etc. were well planned and executed. The Imperial Palace was an excellent choice, right in the middle of the Strip and the action. Our tours to Red Rock Canyon, Hoover Dam and the city were well re-

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ceived and someone told the *TURNER TIMES* that some old sailors seemed to like the hula girls who entertained during the Hawaiian luau.

We were again honored with the presence of three commanding officers and their wives: Captain McMullen ('57-'59), Captain Callaway ('65-'66) and Captain Pauly ('66-'68). Attendance by the Skippers adds significantly to the reunion and we hope they will all continue to come year after year.

Our two known Pearl Harbor survivors, Ed Correia ('50-'56) and Jim Bostick ('47) were recognized. In case you hadn't noticed, both dwelt in the firerooms. There are fewer and fewer December 7th, 1941 heroes around. We hope we'll be seeing Ed and Jim at *TURNER* reunions for a long time to come.

Next year we will gather in the Chicago area, probably early in August. Once plans are firmed up, you will hear about them in the *TURNER TIMES*. But now is the time to block out early August on your calendar. There is plenty to do and see in and around Chicago, and rest assured, we will have a good place to stay at reasonable rates. So, why not get out your copy of the roster and contact your shipmates, particularly those you have not seen for years, and work up a mini-reunion. Our experience is that mini-reunions, and renewing those close relationships, are very rewarding. At a minimum, let's all, each one of us, work at inviting at least one other person to come. If we do, we're sure to have another bang up reunion.

CAPTAIN LOCKEE AT THE HELM

"I believe every career oriented junior officer who has the opportunity to serve in a destroyer looks forward to the day he assumes command of a Tin Can." These are Captain Garette Lockee's words. He speaks knowingly on the matter, as well as from a strong sense of pride and accomplishment, having commanded *TURNER* from 1960 to 1962.

When Commander Lockee assumed command, he was a seasoned

officer. In 1943 after his commissioning, he was assigned to the USS *LAWS* (DD-558) which (as was the wartime practice) soon found itself joining Task Force 58 and the fighting in the Pacific. At war's end, the *LAWS* had steamed over 100,000 miles, fired more than 5,000 rounds from each gun and had participated in nine major campaigns. Of the nine destroyers making up *DESRON* 55, only the *LAWS* escaped battle damage. Three were sunk and the

other five were severely damaged.

During his career, Captain Lockee served in seven destroyer/cruiser type ships, and from this experience he tells us, "... both officers and crewmen develop faster in destroyers than in any other type of ship." He continues, "... there is much satisfaction to be gained from serving in these capable ships." But, he also notes, "... destroyer men live a pretty rough life." *Did somebody*

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TIME FOR ANNUAL DUES

Reunion '98 is now history. As our business year runs from reunion to reunion, this means our association is beginning a new fiscal year. That also means it's time to solicit annual dues.

This past year, we have been very active in searching for "lost" shipmates, and have been successful in adding nearly 200 to the roster since last year. Additionally, we began this newsletter, the "Turner Times", to keep the memory of Turner alive and to let all of our shipmates, and their families, know the news of our association. These efforts, along with the rest of our association's business, cost money. The cost of printing (newsletters and search postcards) and postage are this association's two largest expenses!! We need your support to continue these efforts and to initiate new ones, such as creating a USS Turner website on the Internet!

Unlike other reunion groups, in an effort to not exclude anyone who wants to participate in our association, we have chosen to keep our \$20 annual dues voluntary. Unfortunately, last year only about 10% of the shipmates on our roster paid dues. That means that our treasury has less money in it now than it did last year at this time. If we are to continue our mission of keeping Turner's memory alive, we must reverse that trend!

So, please dust off that checkbook and unlock that wallet and mail your \$20 annual dues to our Treasurer, Mike Quinn, at 15022 Hix Street, Livonia, MI 48154.

We know many of you are on a fixed income and others may have more than one reunion association looking for dues. If \$20 is a problem, please send whatever you can, so we can continue to keep alive our collective memories of Turner.

FROM THE OF THE PREZ

Harry Tice, our new President, has been traveling since his election last month. Unfortunately, because of our publishing schedule, we could not include his column for this issue. We look forward to his column in the next issue.

OUR TURNER TIMES

WHAT WE REMEMBER ABOUT OUR TIME ON BOARD

Glenn E. Berry, RM2, '46-'47

"We had to run along side a carrier and pick up fuel and mail, and the seas were a bit high. Our helmsman brought us in very close as we ran parallel. We were rolling and heaving and he had his hands full when the current closed the gap between the two ships and the lines went in the water. As he opened the gap, the lines stayed intact and the transfer continued. I was in and out of the radio shack, so that I could watch what was happening."

"I can also recall that, when we were running in very rough seas, we could look over at destroyers running parallel with us and they would just go down behind the waves and we could not see each other. Then they would plow up through an oncoming wave so fast that I could see back a ways under their bow as it came clear out of the water."

"It seems like we were a part of a search for a freighter that split in half north east of Pearl. Her name was the Fort Dearborn and only one half remained afloat with some crew aboard. We didn't find her, but other navy vessels found her and she was towed into Pearl. I guess they were closer to her and got there before we did."

Patrick Zaczyk, EM2, '67-'69

"Places of the mind: Mt. Stromboli, Mt. Etna, the Straits of Gibraltar, Messina and Sicily, Soudha Bay, Crete - the beach party, the BEER? Valletta, Malta! The Vernon Club; I think it was for the Merchant Marine sailors! Fresh MILK in diamond shaped cartons. The Dardanelles Straits-through Istanbul; Bosphorus Straits - the Black Sea! Never thought that I'd see salt water freeze (OR a Russian Guided Missile Frigate up close & personal) like that!!!!"

"Port Mahon, Spain-The wine cellar!!! Barcelona, Spain!! GIRLS - EVERYWHERE!!! Bum boats!! Naples, Italy. Mt. Vesuvio, Pompeii, the "club" girls! "I love you Joe, buy me a drink?" Fresh bread, Fleet landing, "want to buy a watch?" Pizza !!!!!!! Buying Cameo's for my wife!! Hunting for the Israeli submarine Dakar? The Bosun's pipe sounding and then "Stand by for heavy rolls as the ship comes about in heavy seas."

"DESRON 8, Second Fleet. Mayport, FL. The Acey-Duecy Club! Miles, days even, of Sargasso weed in the glass seas of the Caribbean. Dolphins "surfing" our 1st transverse wave! Sea turtles, shark fishing, swimming off the fan-tail! Shooting craps at the Caribe Hilton! (And on the mess deck too!) -Ed.) Pay-day stakes poker games. Ships Party at the EM Club."

"USS Turner DDR 834 with our sister ship, the USS Goodrich DDR 831. During war games, when we were on opposing sides. We painted over our 4 to make it look like a 1, snuck into their formation and kicked some Admiral's butt! Remember the war game with the submarines? The submarine captain that said "nya nya, you missed me!!!!" and then surfaced to find one of our hedge-hog dummies stuck ON his deck!!!!"

"Polaris A3 missile shot. Live torpedo shot, noise seeking as I recall; "Set condition Zebra below the waterline"! Turner Tigers!!"

A CHANGE AT THE HELM

Harry Tice (' 57) has relieved Nils Rueckert (' 58 62) as President of the Turner Reunion Association. Peter Varley (' 66 69) was elected Vice President, and again we are fortunate to have Mike Quinn (' 56 59) and Dick Shanaberger (' 54 ' 55) signing on for another cruise as Treasurer and Secretary.

All of them have given much for the betterment of the association which keeps us sailing along. While it is a labor of love on their part, it is a gift to the rest of us, and we thank them. We also thank the others who are working in the background. Especially the wives. And, we thank Nils for a successful year as President. In his year, the association grew bigger and better. To all who had an oar in the water, WELL DONE!

Our new president expresses the thought that the motivation for our reunion is to reunite with shipmates and their spouses. So, if you were on board the TURNER when the association officers were, as indicated in parenthesis following their names, think seriously about attending next year. They want to see you. If you don't come, you'll miss out on some fantastic sea stories which begin with, "Now, this ain't no lie." The time to start planning to attend our next reunion in the Chicago area is now.

Final Roll Call

We have learned since our last issue that these shipmates have answered the call of the Supreme Commander:

Anema Jr., Gilbert	ME3	54-56
Boucher, George F.	BT1	69
Jett, Joseph R.	SN	66
Loome, James M.	LTJG	66-67
McMurry, Donald C.	EM1	65-67
Neumann, Herbert J.	LTJG	51-53
Stair, Vernon E.	MM2	69

CAPTAIN LOCKEE (CONT.)

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say, "I'll drink to that."?

"USS TURNER (DDR-834) provided me with the greatest thrill of my active duty lifetime." Why? Because of a loyal, devoted and capable crew: the ' Turner Tigers' . They all lived up to the nickname, which leads Captain Lockee to write, "To all my shipmates - I say to you unhesitatingly - A HEARTY WELL DONE."

Since retiring from the Navy, he acquired some bird dogs which he trained, bred, developed, hunted, campaigned and field trialed. The result: a super dog, which won 11 championships, six runner-up championships and 25 other major placement field trials. Her photo hangs in the Field Trial Hall of Fame at the National Bird Dog Museum in Grand Junction, Tennessee, as does Captain Lockee's. He is the founder of Bird Dog Foundation, Inc.

Editors note: If you go through Grand Junction and you see a fella with a bird dog, gazing as if out to sea (you know the look), stop and visit.

\$ SHIP'S STORE ¢

Turner baseball caps are available for the modest cost of \$15. Up-to-date rosters are also available for \$3. Both items can be ordered from Dick Shanaberger.

Official photos of the Turner (and any other U.S. Navy ship photos taken prior to October 1, 1981) are available from the U.S. National Archives. You can write to them at:

U.S. National Archives
Still Picture Branch
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001

and they will advise you of the sizes and cost of reproduction.

Sailor's Rule of Thumb

When in heavy seas, if the ship's bell starts ringing on its own, **put on your life jacket.**

When in a submarine, add the number of times you've submerged to the number of times you've surfaced, and divide the total by two. If you don't have an even number, **don't go on deck.**

How Did You Salute??



The Parachute



Peek-A-Boo!

