

KEAR SAGA^{II}

The Newsletter of the Kearsarge Association

SPRING

CV, CVA, CVS-33, LHD-3

1997



USS KEARSARGE CV-33 LEAVING
BROOKLYN NAVAL SHIPYARD

1998 CORPUS CHRISTI REUNION

Plans for the 1998 reunion are well underway. The dates for the reunion will be April 29th to May 2nd. The Ramada Inn hotel was selected and the contract with the Lexington Museum for our dinner/dance is in the final stages. As we are having the dinner dance aboard the USS Lexington, the theme will be "Nautically Casual". Dig into the old seabag and see if you can find something that fits or kinda fits. There will be no inspections so it doesn't have to be perfect. Corpus Christi will be a fun place for the 1998 event. A lot of our members from the air groups were stationed there and are looking forward to going back and those who have never been there

will be impressed with what it has to offer. Mark your calendars and start making your plans to be there. Try and find a former shipmate to meet you there and renew an old friendship.

BRUCE COVINGTON, PRESIDENT

While discussing the 1998 reunion with Bruce Covington last week he wanted to inform the association members that he has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. Bruce, who has been president of the Kearsarge Association since 1994, is undergoing chemotherapy and after the first session said he "tolerated" it quite well. Bruce is in good spirits and is busy working on the 1998 Corpus Christi reunion. He has been working out details with the staff of the USS Lexington, getting us the best rates for our dinner dance. Bruce has all intentions of attending the 1998 reunion so please keep Bruce in your thoughts and prayers.

USS LEXINGTON MUSEUM

Judith Whipple, USS Lexington Ship Historian, has offered to set up a USS Kearsarge room aboard the Lexington to display all types of Kearsarge related items. Members would donate items to the museum such as memorabilia, artifacts and related items. Items donated would be used for exhibits, research, as an aid in the enhancement of the ship and would become the property of the museum, however items displayed would show the donor's name. If enough materials are collected for this room, the museum will have the dedication at the time of our reunion with full press coverage. (We will probably be setting up another room at a later date aboard the USS Hornet located at Alameda, California. Members who live on the West Coast may wish to wait and donate to this museum.) For more information call or write me: John Bennett, 815 Savannah Dr., Columbus, OH 43228-2944 Phone 614-272-6842

Judith said it would take her a year to set up the display. So if this becomes a reality donations of memorabilia need to be made soon!!

Association members, Jackie Olinger and Larry Emmert, have completed their training to be tour guides aboard the USS Lexington.

MARINE DETACHMENT REUNION

The clock is ticking if you plan to attend the reunion of the Marine Detachment of the USS Kearsarge CV, CVA, CVS-33. They will be holding a reunion/convention in New Orleans July 31 to August 3, 1997. For more information on this event contact H. Hoppe III at PO Box 1775, Slidell, LA 70459. You would be staying in the French Quarters with the finest of restaurants and tours of your choice. **Time is running out if you plan to attend this reunion. Colonel Hoppe III needs to have a number of attendees so he can make plans for this event.**

FOUND

Thank you for helping me locate patches for the 7th Fleet Task Force 77, via the Kear Saga. The response was great, and I can now complete my project. I would like to express my

appreciation to the following:

Charlie Crookshank, Missoula, MT - T.W. Smith, Clarkston, GA - Vernon D. Wagner, Great Bend, KS - Paul J. McAllister, Jacksonville, FL - Dale A. Hancock, Boise, ID - William J. Moore, Randallstown, MD - R.D. "Skip" Stombaugh, Springfield, IL - Cal Waterbury, Copperas Cove, TX - Charles J. Flenniken, Knoxville, TN.

I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU - THANKS GUYS!

Sincerely

Charles N. Phillips, S1 Div., '53 - '55

Sonora, CA

NAVAL TRAINING CENTER, SAN DIEGO

After more than 73 years of service to the U.S. Navy, the Naval Training Center, San Diego has been formally closed. At the time of its commissioning in 1923, Camp John Paul Jones (now the commissary parking lot) housed the entire population of the station and the maximum strength of 1,500 recruits. The land where Preble Field, the north athletic area, and Camp Farragut are now located were underwater. Recruits spent their first five weeks in training under canvas in wooden walled tents.

In 1939 construction began to increase the capacity of the Station four-fold. All construction was completed by September 1942 when the station reached its wartime peak of 33,000 Sailors, 25,000 of whom were recruits. Forty-one service schools, teaching a wide variety of skills and trades, were established or reactivated to provide wartime training.

In April 1944, the Training Station was redesignated as the Naval Training Center, San Diego. In the years following World War II, NTC's population declined. However, when the Communists invaded the Republic of Korea, expansion began again. By September 1950, the center was near capacity once more. In 1953, the land southeast of the estuary was developed into the recruit training area known as Camp Nimitz.

RTC graduated its last company on Nov. 19, 1993 and on March 21, 1997 the history of the Naval Training Center came to an end.

More than 1.75 million recruits and more than one million "A" and "C" school personnel graduated from the Naval Training Center during its 73 years.

Information from the Disestablishment Ceremony Booklet sent to me by Paul Young, R Div., '52-'55.

While attending the 1996 San Diego Reunion I had the chance to visit NTC, San Diego and drive around. I was there in 1959, Company 001 and it was fun looking at the areas where we marched, went to classes, ate and practiced for that graduation day that seemed so far away. I think training was only nine weeks but it seemed a lot longer. I had just turned 17 and like the rest of my company already knew about everything there was to know. Looking back at it, the Company Commanders had a job trying to make everyone think alike. I'm sure many of you who went to boot camp or school there have some interesting stories to tell. There has to be a lot of memories about NTC. If you have one how about sharing it with us???

FIRST DAY COVERS

Paul Young has been a stamp collector for longer than he cares to tell about but he did say he has subscribed to the *Stamp Collector* for over 30 years. When Paul received the January 13, 1997 issue he was dumbfounded when he turned to page 20 and saw an article about collecting covers and the three covers used in the article were of the Kearsarge and included the cover Paul designed and had printed for the 1996 San Diego reunion. The article by Barbara Anderson tells about finding one of her "Miscellaneous U.S. Covers" canceled May 16, 1963 and carrying a rubber-stamp cachet of the *USS Kearsarge CVS-33*. (The date astronaut White was recovered by Kearsarge) Barbara's curiosity grew as she viewed a recent acquisition, a cacheted cover commemorating the 50th anniversary of the *USS Kearsarge CV-33*. What was going on?

"Living in the Midwest, far from the ocean and any kind of maritime activity, I never had a serious interest in commissioning and decommissioning of American naval ships. My knowledge consisted of one aspect of U.S. ship launchings: a bottle of champagne, wielded by a person of note, was broken across the bow on the occasion of the launch. Beyond that I was woefully ignorant.

"Time to go into the Internet and see what might emerge. Working through one of the web browsers, I entered "Kearsarge" and came up with several pages of technical data about the fourth Kearsarge LHD-3 and brief biographical information on the three previous ships that carried the same name. Four ships all with the same name? How did they keep it all straight?

"My husband, an old Navy man, told me that before a new ship is named, the previous craft with the same name is decommissioned; that is, taken out of service and possibly sold for scrap, maybe even scuttled, or in some cases, sold to another country.

"The decommissioning and commissioning of ships are occasions for commemorative covers, and the Universal Ship Cancellation Society (USCS) monitors maritime activity, offering special cancellations for unique events. Founded in 1932 the USCS is a worldwide group of over 1500 members.

"After talking to Phil Schreiber of New Jersey I not only found out about the USCS and the Society's monthly bulletin (the USCS LOG) which contains articles about Navy covers, the history of the U.S. Navy and other maritime services but was also able to find the history of Kearsarge."

Anyone interested in information about the USCS should contact William Amick, Secretary, Universal Ship Cancellation Society, 14416 Lake Winds way, Gaithersburg, MD 20878-4309

USS KEARSARGE SLOOP-OF-WAR

The years I spent in the Navy was on two ships, the USS Randolph and the USS Kearsarge. A friend sent me a book titled "The Civil War Complete Military History" by Mr. Douglas Welsh. It's very interesting reading with one section on Naval warfare. The Kearsarge engaged the Confederate ship Alabama off the coast of France in Cherbourg Harbor in June, 1864. The Alabama engaged northern ships seventy-one times and won all except when it was defeated by the Kearsarge.

I left the Navy and went into the Army and became friendly with our security officer, who in his office had a photo of the original USS Kearsarge, given him by his grandfather...that was all he knew about the ship. But when I left the Army he gave it to me since I served on its namesake.

Over the years the picture, like everything else, just lay in a chest. In 1984 my daughter went to college in Buena Vista, VA. My wife and I would drive down about 350 miles each way, but turned it into a sight seeing trip each time. We happened to stop at the New Market Battlefield Museum where there was an abstract painting of the Kearsarge, that included the ship's history. I asked if they had any photos of the ship and was told none existed. The following year we stopped at the museum and asked if they would like to see the photo I had. After seeing it they asked to study it for two days, using measuring devices and glasses. When we returned three days later they stated, as far as they knew, it was the Kearsarge and would I be interested in loaning them the photo for exhibit. They were happy when I gave it to them as a gift to the museum, so much so that they treated us to a supper at the New Market Restaurant, and asked us to return when we were ready to leave.

My wife and I returned to the museum and was introduced to three of the curators who then presented my wife and I with a scroll entitling my family and all heirs to free admission to the museum for life. We feel good knowing the photo had a permanent home so other Americans can see and read about our history.

I thought you would be interested in knowing where a photo of the USS Kearsarge's namesake now resides.

John Ray

USS KEARSARGE BB-5

Matthew L. McEvoy, died February 19, 1997 at age 97. Mr. McEvoy taught English and history in Milwaukee for more than 40 years, first at St. John's Cathedral High School from 1926-34, then at Boys Tech until 1966, finishing his career at South Division High School in 1968. Matthew was an outstanding coach at St. John's Cathedral where many championships were won. He was elected to Wisconsin Coach's Hall of Fame in 1980. Matthew served in WWI aboard the USS Kearsarge BB-5 in the Atlantic Ocean.

Sent in by Billy McCoy
E Division, '46-'47

THE LADY KAYS

Come on guys!! Give this article to your wives or girlfriends.

Attention all wives or girlfriends of association members. Let's get organized and begin making plans for the next reunion in Corpus Christi, Texas. To join the Lady Kays dues are only \$5.00. This will pay for correspondence and any extra will be applied towards a tour to be decided upon at the 1998 reunion. We want to have a more active part in this reunion by organizing and setting up munchies in the hospitality room, helping to operate the ship's store, helping attendees check in upon arrival and having our own luncheon and outing. This will give all the ladies a better chance to get to know each other and will relieve the guys of some of the responsibility of putting on a reunion. Participation is strictly voluntary and even if you can't work at the reunion we encourage you to join and socialize with other Lady Kays. So we can begin making plans please contact Gloria Covington, Treasurer of the Lady Kays at 4928 Admiration Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23464. Phone 804-467-1668.

Diane Lewter, Public Relations, Lady Kays

LOOKING FOR

I received an E-mail from E. A. Sloan looking for information about his father's service aboard the Kearsarge in the '46-'50 period. His father was Harry J. Sloan Jr. and was in V3F Division. His rate he thinks was F 1/c. Anyone who may have known him please let me know.

John Bennett
Editor

THE MIGHTY KAY ON THE INTERNET

Those of you on the Internet may want to check out The Kearsarge Association web page.
www.cris.com/~keeshaba/kearsarge/

Or you can also contact the association at the following E-mail address.
JBenn20630@aol.com

USS KEARSARGE, LHD-3

I received an inquiry via E-mail asking about the Kearsarge Association and when I replied I discovered that the inquirer was Tami Dotson, whose husband, Clint Dotson MS3, has been aboard the USS Kearsarge LHD-3 for three years. She informed me the Kearsarge has started a six month cruise with Africa being the first stop.

TAPS

Mike Barratta passed away July 11, 1996 after a heart attack. Mike, was a ME3 in R Division and was aboard the Kearsarge from 1952 to 1955.

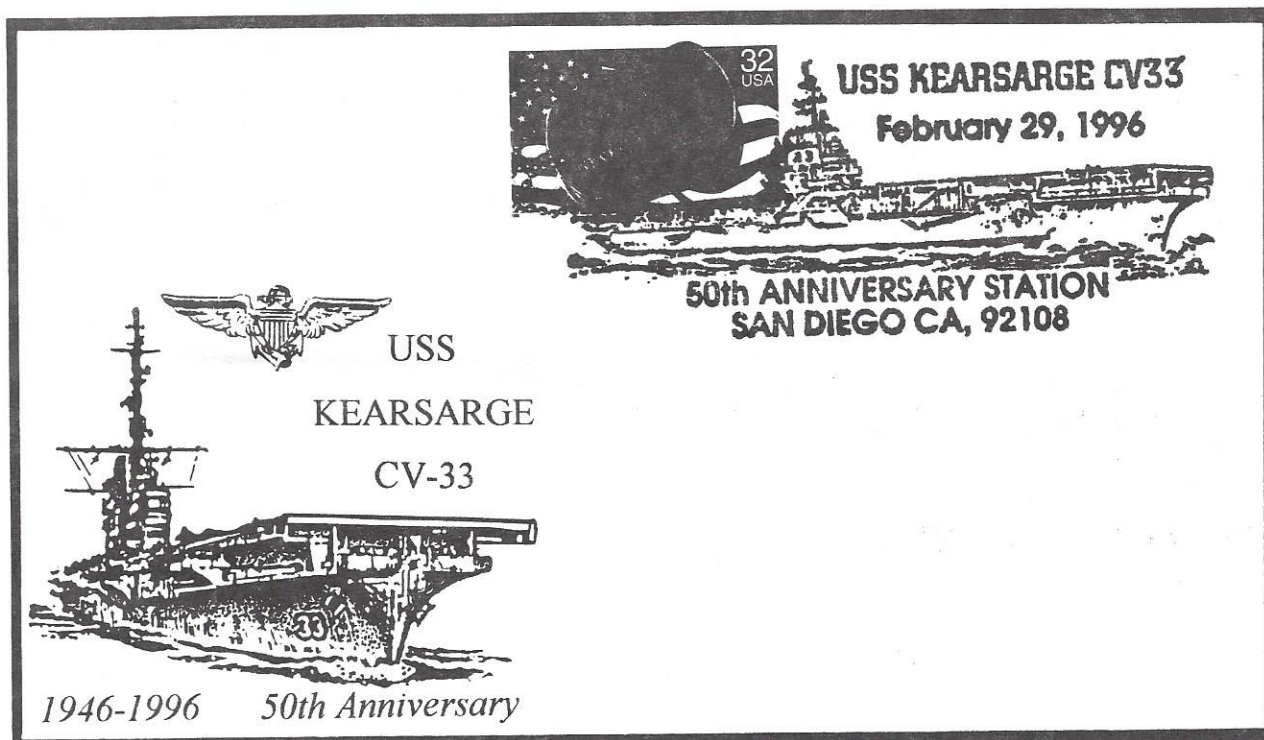
SHIPS STORE

USS Kearsarge Caps, 50th Anniversary	Navy Blue and Marine Red	\$14.00
USS Kearsarge Caps, White, CV,CVA,CVS 33		\$14.00
USS Kearsarge Caps, Blue, CV,CVA,CVS 33		\$14.00
Ties, Navy Blue , Ships Silhouette, CV,CVA,CVS 33		\$22.00
Magnetic Ships Crest 3" (for your refrigerator, etc.)		\$3.00
USS Kearsarge Coffee Mugs with CV 33 and LHD 3 Crest		\$13.50
USS Kearsarge Tie Bars		\$10.00

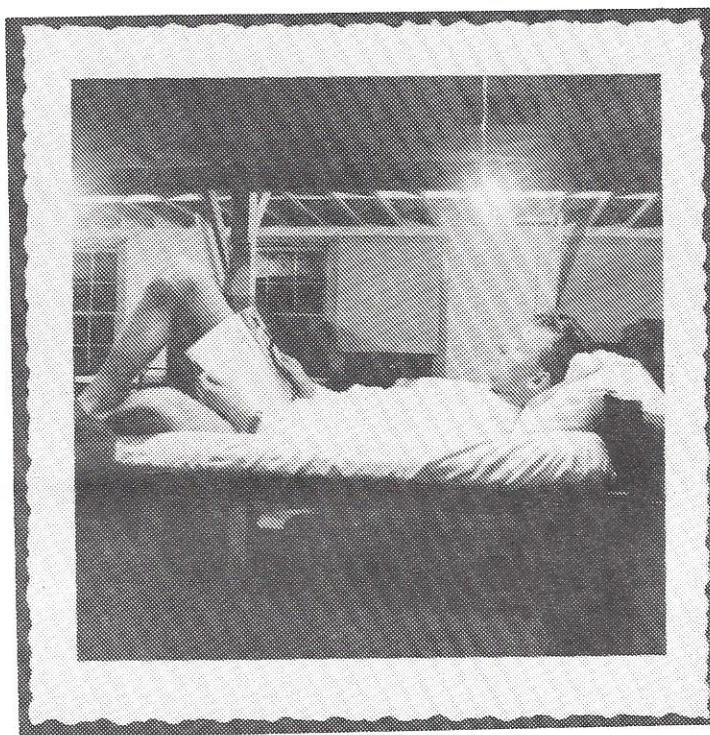
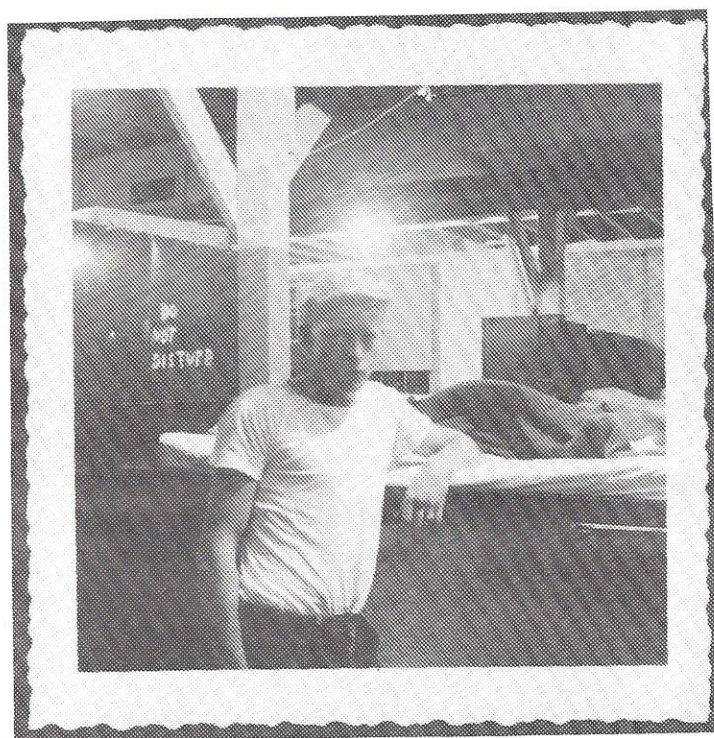
All prices include shipping and handling

Cachet (picture in newsletter) \$1.50 each, including self-addressed stamped envelope with order.

Make checks payable to The Kearsarge Association and order from Art Killian, 3632 Spring Hill Lake, Tuscaloosa, AL 35405, Phone (205) 553-2710



FIRST DAY COVER DESIGNED BY PAUL YOUNG
AND SOLD IN THE SHIPS STORE



VF112 LOUNGE LIZARDS

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USS Kearsarge Association
815 Savannah Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43228

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL FOR YOUR DUES EXPIRATION DATE

DUES & MEMBERSHIP

The yearly dues for the Kearsarge Association is \$10.00. Check your label to see when your dues expire. To pay your dues send a check made payable to the Kearsarge Association: To Robert Finley, address below

To sign up a new member send information to John Bennett: Address below

FIND A NEW MEMBER FOR THE 1998 REUNION

Bruce Covington, President, 4928 Admiration Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23464 804-467-1668

TW Smith, V-President, 1172 DeLeon Court, Clarkston, GA 30021 404-296-3317

John Bennett, Sec., Kear Saga Editor, 815 Savannah Dr., Columbus, OH 43228-2944 614-272-6842

Robert Finley, Treasurer, Box 155495, Bellmead, TX 76715-5495 817-799-4041

Art Killian, Ships Store, 3632 Spring Hill Lake, Tuscaloosa, AL 35405 205-553-2710

Steve Udell, Historian, 211 Northwest First St., Young America, MN 55397 612-467-3943

Kenneth McDaniel, Honorary President (Deceased)