

KEAR SAGA^{II}

The Newsletter of the Kearsarge Association

Issue 16

CV, CVA, CVS-33, LHD-3

August, 1998

1998 REUNION, CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

The reunion is over and those who attended had a wonderful time! The hotel worked out great with a huge hospitality room that offered a fantastic view of the harbor and plenty of room for our memorabilia and crafts to be displayed. The hotel also had a very large lobby that was a good place to meet friends and relax. The weather cooperated and the sun was shining for the entire reunion. The tours all went as planned except that there were more Kersargers who wanted to go to the Ingleside Naval Station than we could find busses for. Fortunately, sleeping in on Saturday sounded good and a few canceled out so that there was enough room. Some of the best memories are seeing everyone enjoy a marshmallow roast at the King Ranch, and there is no denying seeing a bunch of "Old Salts" dressed up in their uniforms at the dinner dance was a sight for sore eyes!

Thanks go to the Lady Kays who handled the craft raffle, the 50/50 drawing and the hospitality room. There were more items contributed to the raffle than ever before. I think all would agree that the Lady Kays did a fantastic job.

In Texas you must have a "pour room" to dispense alcoholic beverages and Senior Chief Don Donley and his wife Nan did a fantastic job of picking up the needed items, getting things iced down and keeping everything under control. He also kept the sea stories flowing and in his spare time, along with Senior Chief Frank Walters, gave lessons in the art of rolling a neckerchief for the "Boot", George Beam.

Art and Betty Killian again had the Ships Store in operation with many new items for the members to grab up. Art has also been known to give you a few free sea stories while selling you the merchandise.

A special thanks has to go to Diane Lewter who is always there to help me both before and during the reunion. Without Bruce Covington attending, the Kearsarge team chipped in and helped me get through it. A special thanks to Noel and Joyce Binder who were always there when I needed them. T.W. Smith and his wife Elizabeth did a special job of taking care of the registrations and checks as shipmates registered. I would like to thank all the others who helped to make this the memorable reunion that it was.

Though unable to attend the reunion because of illness, Bruce Covington contributed immensely to the success of this event. Most of you may not realize that work on a reunion starts many months prior to the event. The smoother a reunion goes the more work that goes on behind the

scenes. Bruce did a tremendous amount of work getting the tours lined up, finding someone to supply us with the needed busses, arranging the dinner dance and always looking for a good price for everything. **Thanks, Bruce!!**

Rhode Island will be the next reunion spot planned for the year 2000, if the dates on our computers will let us. If you couldn't make this one start planning for the next as we have been told by the local coordination committee that this will be the best reunion to date.

BUSINESS MEETING

The highlights of the business meeting are as follows:

1. The motion was made that if the Kearsarge Association was to disband any monies left in the treasurer would be donated to the Hornet Foundation. The vote was for.
- 2 The motion was made to find a new Historian who has the time to make displays of donated items and ship them to the reunions and see that they are returned. Also part of the position would be to do an article for the Kearsaga. The vote was for.
3. The motion was made to do away with the position of secretary and add a couple of positions that would be more general in nature. The vote was for.
4. The motion was made to elect Robert Finley to the position of Treasurer for two more years. The vote was for and Robert Finley accepted.
5. The motion was made to elect John Bennett, President of the Kearsarge Association. The vote was for and John Bennett accepted. Past association president, Bruce Covington declined to run for president because of failing health.
6. The motion was made to hold the next reunion in the year 2000 in Providence, Rhode Island. The vote was for and Plankowner Ted Edington agreed to be the local reunion coordinator.
7. The motion was made to close the business meeting until the 2000 reunion business meeting. The vote was for.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

It was my pleasure to co-ordinate the raffle for the Corpus Christi reunion. The response was so overwhelming in donations from both men and women that it would take most of this page to name you individually. My deepest thanks for your generosity as it made our raffle a huge success. I would like to thank those who assisted me in calling the numbers and delivering the prizes. They were Joyce Binder and Jeff and Ellsbeth Richard. They made my job so much easier. A special "Thank You" to Charlotte Patton who gave so much of her time to selling raffle tickets and for the 50/50 drawing at the dinner dance aboard the USS Lexington. Without all of you it

couldn't have been accomplished. I hope you had as much fun with it as I did. Thank you again.

Evelyn Hanson
Lady Kay

REUNION BOOKS

Anyone who would like to order a reunion book, who did not already, may still do so by sending a check for \$15.00 made payable to the Kearsarge Association to John Bennett at 815 Savannah Drive, Columbus, OH 43228-2944. Checks must be received no later than September 24, 1998 as this is when our pictures will be sent to the printer.

AS I REMEMBER IT

On board a carrier, very few enlisted men are aware of the amount of beer and whiskey taken on a cruise when the carrier leaves on extended deployment. In 1949 on a European deployment, a few Machinist Mates found this "Pot of Gold"! "Bulldog" Byrnes MM2 and "Dallas" Kirby MM2 stumbled on this storeroom, watching the storekeeper going in and out. The storekeeper was using a standard lock purchased at the ships store - so - "Bulldog" bought a lock just like it and kept a watch for the storekeeper to re-enter the storeroom. When he did a couple of days later, "Bulldog" changed locks, so when the storekeeper snapped the lock shut, only "Bulldog" had the key.

In the wee hours of the next night, the "Snipes Working Party" went to work. There was beer in every engineering space and the party was on. This went on for about a week before the storekeeper went back to the storeroom and found the lock had been changed. We were underway most of this week, and one morning about 0300 "Bulldog" was caught by the MAA dragging a "Fartsack" full of empties to the fantail for disposal. Fortunately the MAA was a Machinist Mate friend of "Bulldogs" so nothing happened. I don't remember the port we pulled into, but after all quieted down from pulling into port the party shifted to Number 1 Engine Room. While in port a search of the ship was being conducted to find the missing beer. Our MAA friend warned "Bulldog" of the search and there were cases of empties in the Engine Room and no more "Fartsack" disposal as everyone was on the lookout. In steps "Dallas" Kirby and his solution. "Lets put them in the discharge side of the main condenser and flush them overboard that way" - a brilliant solution. The main injector and overboard valves were closed, the condenser drained part way down and the aft manhole covers removed. All of the empties were then put in the condenser, the manhole cover replaced and the main valves were reopened. Job well done!

But - one major oversight. Two days later when the lighting off watch started the main condenser circulator pumps - what a noise! The Engineering Officer of the Watch nearly had a heart attack, the Engineering Officer was called, and everyone who was any body was on the deck plates within minutes, listening, trying to pinpoint the problem. Only one thing to do, shut number one plant down, go inside the condenser and check it out. (Maybe some of the zinc plates came loose). We left port on three engines and after a very through check of everything associated with the condenser, nothing was found. (By this time the cans had been flushed overboard)

The search of the ship was also a dud as nothing was found and the rest of the cruise was uneventful except for the sea stories about the "Snipes Lost Week".

BRUCE COVINGTON MM2,'47-'50

BRUCE COVINGTON

Bruce Covington is taking it easy at home and would enjoy hearing from his Kearsarge shipmates. You can call Bruce at 757-467-1668 or drop him a line at 4928 Admiration Dr., Virginia Beach, VA, 23464.

MYSTERY PHONE

I am searching for information regarding the USS Kearsarge. This ship was broken up in 1974-75 at National Metals, Long Beach California. I worked in the Harbor at the time and obtained a telephone from the Kearsarge before it was scrapped. It is a wall unit that is chrome plated on the body, a phenolic Bakelite handset (heavy enough to use as a club) and a faceplate that appears to be brass. The handset locks into the cradle when not in use and the dial is covered with the handset when it is in the cradle. There are two brass ringers on top of the body and the entire unit is very robust, and as you would expect, heavy. What I would like to know is where on the ship did this phone come from. My only clue is the number on the dial is 636.

Received via e-mail from Ric Mutascio

FROM THE DESK OF YOUR TREASURER

I cannot believe that my good intentions have gotten so far off course. I had planned to write this not more than a week after Corpus. Paula Jean and I got home after a few "Must Stops," both being Malls in San Antonio and Austin. PJ is a Master Shopper. She will shop till she almost drops. She is a good girl and I plan on her being around for a long time. All of you have heard that married couples who get along best are those where the husband goes along with everything the wife wants to do. That is the way it is in the Finley Household. I will not lie to you.

I think anyone who did not think our new President, John Bennett did an excellent job of overseeing the reunion just was not there. It was fun and I have gained a few pounds and was well worth the trouble of trying to get them off again. I really liked being on the deck of the Lexington CV-16. Brought back a few memories of a 19 year old kid when I was aboard the Mighty "K". I went aboard the "K" in August of 1945 in Newport, Rhode Island. This next reunion will be like going home again. Paula has never been to New England, so she is really looking forward to our reunion in 2000. She is ordering things to read about Rhode Island and New England and may keep us there a month.

A couple of things about the money. As of June 30, 1998 The USS Kearsarge Association will close out of its book and that will be the end of our fiscal year. That will put us on the same footing as any group who has funds to make reports on to the organization. I chose June 30,

1998 since we have never closed the books for a year end so far as I am aware. Anyone having any questions about the funds can contact John Bennett or me.

Sincerely,

Contributed by Robert (Bob) Finley, Jr.

Treasurer

(Bob Finley passed away on Aug. 9, 1998, but had submitted this letter for publication in the Kearsaga after the Corpus Christi Reunion. More information is in the Taps section of this Kearsaga.)

TAPS

Robert (Bob) Finley Jr., Kearsarge Association Treasurer died August 9, 1998 at the age of 71. After suffering an accident and being hospitalized several other complications were found leading to his death. Bob was a Plankowner on the USS Kearsarge CV-33 (8/45-7/46) in E Division and headed up the Plankowners group. Bob also was Treasurer of our association and did a wonderful job of membership renewals and keeping track of expenditures. He attended the 1998 Corpus Christi Reunion with his wife Paula and had accepted the treasurer position for two more years. Bob will be missed by his many friends in the Kearsarge Association

Donald A. Cavell, age 64 died July 27, 1998 after a long bout with cancer. Don was a member of the Marine Detachment aboard the USS Kearsarge CVA-33. Don also had done duty in the Korean War before coming aboard the Kearsarge. Don and his wife Gayle attended the Corpus Christi reunion.

James Patrick Kennedy. My father was on the Kearsarge in the early 50's. His name was James Patrick Kennedy, was a member of your association and attended one or two of your reunions. I just moved back to Maryland after being stationed in Hawaii with my Marine husband and found that the association was never informed of my fathers passing. He died in January of 1996. He suffered a very unexpected heart attack and we still miss him dearly. He was a retired DC Homicide detective and was also head of security for the Oliver T. Carr Company in D.C., then went on to be a Code Enforcement Officer with the city of Bowie, Maryland. He is survived by myself (Kristine), my husband Fred, my brother Michael, and his wife Karen and their son Ryan. He and my mother Marian had just reconciled after 15 years or so. He single handed raised us kids after differences with Mom and I think he did a pretty great job! We would love to be contacted by anyone who may have served with him aboard the ship. You may contact my brother or me at the following address:

Kristine Kennedy Dodd

12662 Heming Lane

Bowie, MD 20716

Phone (301) 262-3539

Thank you,

Kris

Marvin Schultz. This is to inform you that Marvin (Fritz) Schultz passed away June 15, 1997.

Fritz was a member of the Marine Detachment aboard the USS Kearsarge CV-33 from 1947-1948. We met in England in 1947 and I remember going on board the Kearsarge when she was in Weymouth, England. Had his health improved we would have come to the Corpus Christi reunion but it was not to be.

Sincerely,
Daphne M. Schultz

Raymond Camitsch. Please inform our shipmates that Raymond Camitsch passed away on 1/13/98 after a short illness. Ray was one of my best friends (we met aboard in 1967) and a was a great shipmate. Ray was S1 Division ('56-'68) and was on the Kearsarge baseball team with Art Killian.

Shipmate Brian Blakeney

Richard R. Hons, Endeavor, Wisconsin died unexpectedly Sunday, May 17 after suffering a fatal brain aneurism. Richard was born on September 22, 1935 in Platteville to Raymond and Gertrude Hons. He joined the U.S. Marines and was on active duty during the Korean Conflict. He was especially proud of his service on the USS Kearsarge CVA-33.

Norman J. Evans died Feb. 3, 1997 six months after having open heart. Norman was aboard USS Kearsarge CVA-33 in 1954-1955 in the V4 Division.

SHIPS STORE

Blue Watch Caps	CV, CVA, CVS 33	\$12.00
USS Kearsarge Hats, White	CV, CVA, CVS 33	\$14.00
USS Kearsarge Hats, Blue	CV, CVA, CVS 33	\$14.00
USS Kearsarge Hats, Blue with "The Mighty Kay"	CV, CVA, CVS 33	\$14.00
USS Kearsarge Hats, with "50th Anniversary"	CV 33	\$14.00
USS Kearsarge Hats, Red with "Marines"		\$14.00
USS Kearsarge Hats, Blue with Gater and Ship	LHD 3	\$14.00
USS Kearsarge Hats, Blue with Ship	LHD 3	\$14.00
USS Kearsarge Hats, Blue with Ship Crest	LHD 3	\$14.00
Coffee Mugs with CV33 and LHD3 Crest		\$13.50
Magnetic Ships Crest 3" (for you refrigerator, etc.)	CV, CVA, CVS 33	\$03.00
Ships Crest Patches, Cloth, 4 1/2"	CV, CVA, CVS 33	\$05.00
USS Kearsarge Tie Bars		\$10.00
Ships Lighters (Zippo) 3 color, straight and round design		\$21.00
USS Kearsarge Golf Shirt, White, M-L-XL	CV, CVA, CVS 33	\$29.00
USS Kearsarge Golf Shirt, Navy Blue, M-L-XL	CV, CVA, CVS 33	\$29.00
USS Kearsarge Sweat Shirt, White, M-L-XL	CV, CVA, CVS 33	\$35.00
USS Kearsarge Sweat Shirt, Navy Blue, M-L-XL	CV, CVA, CVS 33	\$35.00

All prices include shipping and handling

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

A CHALLENGE

A challenge, for each of you! The next reunion is in two years and there are a good many shipmates who have never heard of the Kearsarge Association. I found out about the association quite by accident, a shipmate happened to walk by wearing a USS Kearsarge hat, and I was fortunate enough to attend the 50th Anniversary and the Corpus Christi reunion because of it. Let's all try to find the many unlocated shipmates out there and get them to the next reunion. Every one of our members have a local newspaper in or near your town. There are many major newspapers in the state you live in. Most of them have a Community Bulletin Board, and are willing to print the information you send them. Add a brief history of the Kearsarge, it can be found in front of the cruise books, and give them the address of the Kearsarge Association. Call or write your local Radio and TV Stations as they also have Community Bulletin Boards. Think about the coverage this would have and the number of shipmates it could reach. Give it a try as it only costs a stamp, a little time or a phone call. You have two years to do this but don't put it off. Try putting information on 3 x 5 index cards and putting them in grocery stores and Laundromats as they usually have bulletin boards for the cards. Those of you on-line can use the electronic bulletin boards for finding shipmates. I located a few just buy using a chat room and asking if anyone knew anyone who served aboard the Kay. Try it, it works! It works! I sent out twenty letters for the Corpus Christi reunion. Contacts were made but if only one had been found it would have been worth the time and effort I spent on it. If everyone who attended the reunion would send out ten letters or post ten cards think of the possibilities we would have nationwide. It would be a couple of thousand chances of reaching someone you haven't seen for many years.

I give each of you this CHALLENGE. Give it a try and think how big the reunion at Rhode Island will be. WILL YOU ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE????

Cal Waterbury, AT3, VF 112, 1954-1955

DUES

You may pay your dues by sending a check made payable to The Kearsarge Association and mail to John Bennett, 815 Savannah Drive, Columbus, OH 43228-2944

NOEL BINDER

Noel Binder has been in and out of the hospital since the reunion. Drop him a line at 2900 Earl Drive, Meraux, LA 70075-2259 or call him at 504-279-0721. He would enjoy hearing from you.

NEXT KEAR SAGA

The next Kear Saga will be along shortly and wouldn't be as late as this one.

KEAR SAGA^{II}

The Newsletter of the Kearsarge Association

USS Kearsarge Association
815 Savannah Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43228

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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 John Bennett, address below

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

FIND A NEW MEMBER FOR THE 2000 REUNION

John Bennett, President, Kear Saga Editor, 815 Savannah Dr., Columbus, OH 43228-2944 614-272-6842
TW Smith, V-President, 1172 DeLeon Court, Clarkston, GA 30021 404-296-3317
Bruce Covington, Consultant, 4928 Admiration Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23464 757-467-1668
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)