

A newsletter exclusively for former USS YANCEY SAILORS

YANCEY MEMORIES

Volume 11, Issue 3

October 2007

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS YANCEY AKA-93



Special Points of Interest

- **A review of the 2007 reunion is on the cover. It was a great time for all who attended. A list of attendees is on page two.**
- **George Clifton's Coordinator's Column, on page two, has news from the reunion also.**
- **Three newly located shipmates are in Welcome Mat on page three.**
- **Ken Groom, Yancey Historian, has some info on Boatswain's Mates that you will find interesting on page three.**
- **Seattle, Washington is showcased on page four. See what you would like to do for the 2008 reunion and let us know on the survey found on page five.**
- **You'll enjoy reading "I Am The American Sailor" on page six.**

WASHINGTON, DC REUNION WAS GREAT

Former sailors on the USS Yancey (AKA-93) met for their annual reunion in Washington, DC on October 11-14, 2007 at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel. Twenty-two members and fifteen guests attended the event.

The reunion got started on Thursday, Oct 11 with registration opening around noon. At the same time, the Hospitality Room opened with refreshments for everyone after they registered and checked into their rooms. Here everyone had a chance to see who else had arrived and to get started on those famous Navy "sea tales." Later in the afternoon, around 5:00 PM a Welcome Reception was held that got everyone together at one time. George Clifton, the group president, wel-

comed everyone to the reunion and made introductions. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks were served and everyone seemed happy to see one another, either from last year's reunion or from many years ago from the Yancey. No formal plans were made for the rest of the evening, giving all time to spend getting caught up with old friends, making new ones and dining together.

Because of the time of the wreath-laying ceremony at the Navy Memorial, a late breakfast was served on Friday morning, allowing for a little extra sleep for those who needed it. The US Navy Memorial Tour departed the hotel at 10:00 AM and arrived about 10:30 AM for the ceremony. The wreath-laying ceremony is a service to honor and remem-

ber all those USS Yancey shipmates who have passed away. The wreath, bearing the USS Yancey name, was laid in an impressive ceremony. Participating in the service from the USS Yancey were Paul Dunn, James Way, Ken Groom, Bob Smiley, and George Clifton. Participating from the Navy Memorial was Rear Adm. Richard A. Buchanan. Following the wreath-laying, the group moved into the building to view the IMAX movie "At Sea" in the Arleigh Burke Theater. Lunch was at the courtyard at the Navy Memorial and then the group went on to visit the US Navy Museum, located in the Navy Yard. Established in 1961 and opened to the public in 1963, the US Navy Museum is one of 14 Navy museums throughout

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

the country. It is the only one that presents an overview of US naval history with permanent and temporary exhibits that commemorate the Navy's wartime heroes and battles as well as its peacetime contributions in exploration, diplomacy, space flight, navigation and humanitarian service. This was one of the favorite parts of the whole reunion for many. Arriving back at the hotel about 5:00 PM, there was just enough time to freshen up before the 6:00 PM social hour. Then at 7:00 PM a nice buffet dinner was served, and then everyone had time to relax in the Hospitality Room or retire for the evening after a long a day of touring.

The first part of Saturday's tour was to Arlington Cemetery for a narrated, riding tour through the grounds, with stops at many of the famous spots in the cemetery including the Visitors Center/Women in Military Service for America Memorial, the Kennedy gravesites, Arlington House (the Robert E. Lee Memorial), and to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier where the group witnessed the Changing of the Guard. This impressive ceremony is one no one wanted to miss, so some of the other stops on the agenda had to be omitted. A stop for lunch was made at the Reagan Building and then the group was taken to the new World War II Memorial and a drive-by of some of the other sites. The WWII Memorial honors the 16,000,000 who served in the Armed Forces and the 400,000 who died. Again, it had been a busy, but wonderful day of sight-seeing.

Upon returning to the hotel, it was time for the annual business meeting where George Clifton was selected to remain as the reunion coordinator and Seattle, WA was chosen for the 2008 reunion site.

At 7:00 PM the group gathered again for the pre-dinner cocktail hour and, since everyone was wearing their "Sunday best" a photo session was scheduled for the Memory Book to be sent after the reunion.

Then at 8:00 PM the USS Yancey (AKA-93) banquet began with George Clifton again welcoming everyone. Each USS Yancey member introduced himself and his guests to the group and everyone enjoyed the meal with good friends. Some of the crew got up enough courage to share some of their stories and experiences while on board the Yancey. This was a favorite part of the evening! Everyone enjoyed their last evening together and lingered after the meal for good conversation and laughter.

Sunday morning's breakfast was the last chance to say good byes before everyone left for their home. 2008 will come quickly, so it won't seem long until everyone will be back together again in Seattle, WA. We hope to have all the 2007 attendees there, as well as many new ones.

2007 REUNION ATTENDEES

Richard & Beverley Amberg
 Norman & Connie Boyd
 Charles & Rose Ann Bradner
 Richey Brunskill
 Emerson Cave
 Kenneth & Connie Chester
 Richard & Jackie Chester
 George Clifton
 John & Althea Desmond
 Paul Dunn
 Elton & Ada Fauber
 Dale & Kathryn Fraher
 Walter & Toby Gillespie
 Kenneth Groom
 Jim & Gail Johnston
 Marshall & Mary Kay Lundberg
 Duane & Betty Malme
 John & Margaret Mauboules
 Henry (Hank) & Marian Prosser
 Robert Smiley
 Bill & Nancy Suchy
 James Way

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Total Members: | 22 |
| Guests: | 15 |
| GRAND TOTAL: | 37 |

COORDINATOR'S COLUMN

I just returned from this year's reunion in Washington, DC. We had 22 members and 15 guests in attendance and had a great time as usual. Although this was our second reunion in DC, there were several firsts for us. This year's visit to the US Navy Memorial included our memorial service and a wreath laying ceremony. We also visited the Navy Museum at the Navy Yard and the World War II Memorial which was very impressive.

One sad note at the reunion was learning that Chief Don Cox recently passed away on August 31st. Chief Cox was one of our regular attendees and will surely be missed by all. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

At our business meeting we voted to have next year's reunion in Seattle, Washington. We don't have the exact dates, but it will be in mid or early October. Keep reading the newsletter for further information and then mark your calendars. The 2009 reunion will be either San Antonio, Texas or Mobile, Alabama based on the voting at the 2008 reunion.

If anyone has any questions or concerns throughout the year, please feel free to contact me either by mail, e-mail or phone.

Have a great Holiday season and I look forward to seeing you in Seattle.

George Clifton
 9620 Mansfield Ave
 Oak Lawn, IL 60453-2813
 708-425-8531
 cliffs@ameritech.net

HAPPY THANKSGIVING





WELCOME MAT

The following shipmates have been located since the last newsletter. Welcome Aboard! We hope to see you at the next reunion. You are invited to become an active member of the association.

L.E. Franklin
 (1951-54) Pipefitter
 1113 Lee Roze Ln
 Grants Pass, OR 97527

Thomas "Pepi" Cloran
 (1961-62) RD2 OPS
 6068 Clay Cir
 Gulf Breeze, FL 32563
 850-932-5496
 daclor@bellsouth.net

Gordon "Gordy" Coleman
 (1946-47) Ensign Deck
 6307 W 126th Terrace
 Overland Park, KS 66209
 913-469-8862
 gordyandml@att.net



TAPS

The Yancey Memories was notified of the following shipmates' deaths. Our deepest sympathy is extended to the families of the deceased. Anyone who knows of a deceased shipmate, or learns of one, please notify ML & RS, Inc so their names can be included in TAPS and be added to the Honor Roll.

Alfred Houghton
 (1965-68) SN
 Date of death not reported

Donald Cox
 (1967-70) E8-E9 E Div
 Died August 31, 2007



MAIL CALL

Karen,

I enlisted in the Navy in February 1951. At that time there was no reserve obligation and it was later that they added a-1 to my USN designation. During my time I became aware that my rating of YN (yeoman) was different than reservists. Reservists had an additional letter on their rank such as YNT; I found out recently that the "T" was used for typist. Some YN reserves had a YNS for stenographer. When my wife passed away 2 years ago, my name was also placed with hers and my navy rank was erroneously shown as YNT2. I fussed about this for a while and was browsing the Naval Historical web site and noticed under "frequently asked questions" the subject above.

This listing contains all of the various ranks including the extension letters to all of the ranks. For example, there are 10 of these extensions for Bosunmates. The article doesn't explain the reasoning for these extension letters except to say that they have been used from time to time. I think they probably were used during enlisted expansion times such as WW2, Korean War and Vietnam War. Also, a lot of the reserves probably got their ratings extended reflecting civilian job experience. Here are some examples:

- BM(CBB) Boatswain's Mate (Construction Battalion) (Boatswain)
- BM(CBS) Boatswain's Mate (Construction Battalion) (Stevedore)
- BM (SRC) Boatswain's Mate (Ship Repair) (Crane Operator)
- BM (SRS) Boatswain's Mate (Ship Repair) (Canvasman)

The list goes on for 10 variations for Boatswain's Mate.

Some more examples:

- EM (Electrician's Mate):
- EM (CBC) Electrician's Mate (Construction Battalion) (Communication)
- EM (CBD) Electrician's Mate (Construction Battalion) (Draftsman)

Ken Groom, Yancey Historian, kdg345@comcast.net

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Balance after 07/07 | \$482.19 |
| Funds received since 07/07 | \$364.50 |
| Funds available for 10/07 | \$846.69 |
| Funds expended for 10/07 | \$154.70 |
| Balance for 01/08 | \$691.99 |

The newsletter is being mailed only to those who returned the coupon for USPS service. All others can access the newsletter on line at www.mlrsinc.com/yancey.

A NEWSLETTER EXCLUSIVELY FOR FORMER USS YANCEY SAILORS

Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc
 PO Drawer 11399
 Hickory, NC 28603

828-256-6008 (voice)
 828-256-6559 (Fax)

Dinamlrs@charterinternet.com
Karenmlrs@charterinternet.com

www.mlrsinc.com

"Our Reunions Work So You don't Have To"

VISIT SEATTLE, WASHINGTON IN 2008

Seattle is situated on the shores of two large lakes and Puget Sound. It is flanked by two major mountain ranges (Olympics and Cascades), with Mount Rainier in full view. Some of the major attractions will be described and you will be asked to choose from them for your reunion activities. After reading the descriptions, please take time to fill out the survey on page four of the newsletter. We will then design your reunion activities to your wishes.

If you have only one experience in Seattle, make it **Tillicum Village**. During the harbor cruise that takes you to the village, you will cross Puget Sound and view the magnificent scenery and perhaps encounter a sea lion, dolphin, or soaring eagle. Tillicum Village's "longhouse" is styled in the fashion of the ancient dwellings of the North Coast Indians. There you will savor delicious fresh Pacific salmon prepared on cedar stakes over alder fires, the traditional method. The entire island is part of Blake Island State Park and is accessible only by boat.

The **USS TURNER JOY**, a Forrest Sherman class destroyer, is now on display at the **Bremerton Historic Ships Association**. Most of the ship is open to the public, including the aft engine room and the fire room (boiler room). One of the compartments has been turned into a POW Memorial, an authentic prison cell replica from the infamous Hoa Lo Prison (nicknamed Hanoi Hilton) in Vietnam.

The **Naval Undersea Museum** represents the history of human enterprise under the sea. Among the most important undersea activities are the adventures of the U. S. Navy's undersea forces, which helped to bring victory in war and to maintain America strong in peace. The Navy's saga in the undersea is told through its exciting collection and interpretation of vintage objects.

The **Space Needle** stood as the centerpiece of the 1962 World's

Fair. Since then it has become one of the top attractions in Seattle. It's a 43-second view-filled ride in a 10-mph elevator to reach the observation deck. There, maps describe what you're seeing in each direction, and telescopes offer close-up views of Elliot Bay or of Mount Rainier 90 miles away. Just below the observation deck is the famous Space Needle Restaurant that makes a complete revolution every 55 minutes.

The **Pike Place Market** is known around the world. It has been featured in such movies as Sleepless in Seattle and is often seen on television for those airborne salmon hurled through the air by employees at the Pike Place Market Inc. There you will find florists, artisans, and craftsmen of jewelry and clothing, as well as the original Starbucks Coffee shop across the street. See fish from around the world, smell flowers from local farmers, hear street performers strumming guitars, sample honey, nuts and other foods from local vendors. With produce from over 100 farmers and wares from over 200 artists, there's plenty to take in.

The **International District** is known for its ethnic and cultural diversity, and is home to a concentration of Seattle's Asian shops, restaurants, businesses, and residences. Hing Hay Park is located here with its authentic Chinese pagoda. Although primarily Asian, the district is also home to many other nationalities, including Greeks, Italians, and Russians.

Ballard Locks are operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks provide a link for boats traveling between the salt water of Puget Sound and the Ship Canal, which connects to the fresh water of both Lake Washington and Lake Union. Here you will find two navigational locks, a fish ladder, a botanical garden, a regional visitor center and bookstore, and a spillway dam.

Mount Rainier is a 14,411 foot high dormant volcano, capped with

glaciers and can be seen for hundreds of miles on a clear day. See alpine meadows, cascading waterfalls, clear mountain lakes and spectacular canyons.

Mount St. Helens erupted violently on May 18, 1980, with the force of 20,000 atomic bombs. In the earthquake triggered landslide that followed, over 1,300 feet of the mountain's top flooded into the valley below. For 150,000 square miles from the impact zone, every living thing above ground was destroyed. In twenty years life has slowly returned to the area, but the devastation remaining will impact everyone who views this landscape.

Seattle's **Museum of Flight** tracks the history of aviation. Become a fighter pilot for a moment when you jump into the cockpit of an F/A-18, or pay your respects to space exploration at the Apollo exhibit and Rendezvous In Space. Visit Boeing's original plane, the B&W, in the awe-inspiring six-story steel and glass Great Gallery. Then, wrap up your tour with a lesson on the early days of aviation in the Red Barn, Boeing's original plant, and a walk through presidential history aboard the first Air Force One.

As you can see, there is a lot to see and do in Seattle. Hopefully this overview of some of the major attractions will help you decide what you most want to have on your reunion agenda. Make your wishes heard by filling out the survey and returning it promptly so plans can be finalized. See you in Seattle!

THIS ISSUE IS LATE

This issue of Yancey Memories is later than usual because it was decided to wait until after the reunion to publish it so we could include the information from the reunion.

USS YANCEY 2008 REUNION SURVEY

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey of the attractions in the Seattle area and return it to Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc. We will use the surveys to custom design your reunion to what you want to do.

Please check the attractions you would like to visit during the reunion.

Tillicum Village _____ International District _____
 USS Turner Joy _____ Naval Undersea Museum _____
 Space Needle _____ Mount Rainier National Park _____
 Pike Place Market _____ Mount St. Helens _____
 Ballard Locks _____ Museum of Flight _____

Would you like a Welcome Reception the first evening of the reunion?
 Yes _____ No _____

Do you prefer breakfast all four mornings _____ or only on Sunday? _____

Would you prefer dinner Friday night at the Tillicum Village _____
 or dinner at the hotel? _____

Do you want entertainment after the banquet? Yes _____ No _____

Other comments or suggestions _____

RETURN SURVEY BY JANUARY 1, 2008

Mail to:

**Military Locator & Reunion Service
 PO Drawer 11399
 Hickory, NC 28603**

Or Fax: 828-256-6559

**Or fill out the survey on line at:
www.mlrsinc.com/yancey**

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The YANCEY MEMORIES is the official publication of the USS YANCEY AKA-93 Association. From now on it will be published quarterly in January, April, July, and October, *subject to receiving sufficient funding*. The Newsletter is funded by voluntary contributions from the membership. All members are encouraged to support the voice of the YANCEY. A financial statement appears in each issue of the newsletter.

The newsletter is intended to be a vehicle for the members to express opinions, make suggestions and especially share experiences.

Unless otherwise stated, the views and opinions printed in the newsletter are those of the article's writer, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Association leadership or the Editor of the Newsletter.

All letters and stories submitted will be considered for publication, except unsigned letters will not be published. Letters requesting the writer's name be withheld will be honored, but published on a space available basis. Signed letters with no restrictions will be given priority.

Letters demeaning to another shipmate will not be printed; letters espousing a political position will not be printed.

ML&RS, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of article submitted for publication. It would be a monumental task to check each story. Therefore, we rely on the submitter to research each article.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters to conform to space and grammar limitations.

You are encouraged to actively participate in the newsletter family, by submitting your stories and suggestions.

I AM THE AMERICAN SAILOR

Hear my voice, America! Though I speak through the mist of 200 years, my shout for freedom will echo through liberty's halls for many centuries to come. Hear me speak, for my words are of truth, justice, and the rights of man. For those ideals I have spilled my blood upon the world's troubled waters. Listen well, for my time is eternal-yours but a moment. I am the spirit of heroes past and future.

I am the American Sailor. I was born upon the icy shores at Plymouth, rocked upon the waves of the Atlantic, and nursed in the wilderness of Virginia. I cut my teeth on New England codfish, and I was clothed in southern cotton. I built muscle at the halyards of New Bedford whalers, and I gained my sea legs high atop mizzen of Yankee clipper ships.

Yes, I am the American Sailor, one of the greatest seamen the world has ever known. The sea is my home and my words are tempered by the sound of paddle wheels on the Mississippi and the song of whales off Greenland's barren shore. My eyes have grown dim from the glare of sunshine on blue water, and my heart is full of star-strewn nights under the Southern Cross. My hands are raw from winter storms while sailing down round the Horn, and they are blistered from the heat of cannon broadside while defending our nation. I am the American Sailor, and I have seen the sunset of a thousand distant, lonely lands.

I am the American Sailor. It was I who stood tall beside John Paul Jones as he shouted, "I have not yet begun to fight!" I fought upon Lake Erie with Perry, and I rode with Stephen Decatur into Tripoli harbor to burn Philadelphia. I met Guerriere aboard Constitution, and I was lashed to the mast with Admiral Farragut at Mobile Bay. I have heard the clang of Confederate shot against the sides of Monitor. I have suffered the cold with Peary at the North Pole, and I responded when

Dewey said, "You may fire when ready Gridley," at Manila Bay. It was I who transported supplies through submarine infested waters when our soldiers were called "over there." I was there as Admiral Byrd crossed the South Pole. It was I who went down with the Arizona at Pearl Harbor, who supported our troops at Inchon, and patrolled dark, deadly waters of the Mekong Delta.

I am the American Sailor, and I wear many faces. I am a pilot soaring across God's blue canopy, and I am a Seabee atop a dusty bulldozer in the South Pacific. I am a corpsman nursing the wounded in the jungle, and I am a torpedoman in the Nautilus deep beneath the North Pole. I am hard, and I am strong. But it was my eyes that filled with tears when my brother went down with the Thresher, and it was my heart that rejoiced when Commander Shepherd rocketed into orbit above the earth. It was I who languished in a Viet Cong prison camp, and it was I who walked upon the moon. It was I who saved the Stark and the Samuel B. Roberts in the mine invested waters of the Persian Gulf. It was I who pulled my brothers from the smoke filled compartment of the Bonefish and wept when my shipmates died on the Iowa and White Plains. When called again, I was there, on the tip of the spear for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

I am the American Sailor. I am woman, I am man, I am white and black, yellow, red and brown. I am Jew, Muslim, Christian, and Buddhist. I am Irish, Filipino, African, French, Chinese, and Indian. And

my standard is the outstretched hand of Liberty. Today, I serve around the world; on land, in air, on and under the sea. I serve proudly, at peace once again, but with the fervent prayer that I need not be called again.

Tell your children of me. Tell them of my sacrifice, and how my spirit soars above their country. I have spread the mantle of my nation over the ocean, and I will guard her forever. I am her heritage and yours.

I AM THE AMERICAN SAILOR.

Taken from: "Navy Club of the United States of America", Spring 2001

OPERATION HIGHJUMP

Editor's Note: In the last issue of Yancey Memories, I asked for any information anyone had on Operation Highjump. I want to thank Ken Groom for sending me the movie "Secret Land" and some other videos of the operation, as well as a National Geographic magazine containing an article on the expedition. I really enjoyed them all.

No one else responded to my request, but I hope some of you looked up Operation Highjump on the internet and read some of the articles that have been written about it. If you haven't, I again encourage you to do so.

Karen Hoyle
Editor, ML&RS, Inc

