

# YANCEY MEMORIES

Volume 12, Issue 3

October 2008

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS YANCEY AKA-93



### Special Points of Interest

- **Read about the 2008 USS Yancey Reunion in Seattle, WA in the cover story.**
- **George Clifton talks about future reunions in his column on page 2.**
- **Eight new names for the Yancey roster are on page three under Welcome Mat. See if you remember any of them.**
- **Win Bryson tells the story of trying to locate the Yancey Ship's Bell and Builder's Plate. See Mail Call on page 3.**
- **Read about Mobile, Alabama's attractions for the 2009 reunion on page four. Then return the survey to ML&RS.**
- **An order form for a Yancey plaque is included. This would make a great Christmas present.**

## 2008 USS YANCEY REUNION REVIEW

The USS Yancey (AKA-93) held its annual reunion on October 2-5, 2008 at the Clarion Seatac Hotel in Seattle, WA. Thirteen of the ship's former crewmen attended along with eleven of their guests.

The reunion started at midday on Thursday, Oct. 2 with the opening of the registration desk and Hospitality Room. The Hospitality Room was the main scene of the reunion, giving a place for everyone to gather and share their stories and memorabilia and to partake of the refreshments that were available throughout each day. Most of the attendees spent the afternoon in the Hospitality Room after getting settled into their rooms and the day passed quickly. Soon it was time for the first offi-

cial activity of the reunion—the Welcome Reception at 5:00 PM. George Clifton, group coordinator, welcomed everyone to the reunion and then hors d'oeuvres and drinks were served as everyone got acquainted with anyone whom they hadn't met in the Hospitality Room. The remainder of the evening was free to have dinner in the hotel, go into Seattle for some nightlife, or just relax in the Hospitality Room sharing memories with others.

After a hearty breakfast on Friday morning, those who signed up for the Bremerton tour loaded the motor coach to the ferry for a 60 minute ride from Seattle to Bremerton. After the ride across Puget Sound there was a short walk to the museum ship, USS Turner Joy DD-951, the famed Navy destroyer from

the Vietnam War. The ship is now maintained and administered by the Bremerton Historic Ships Association and honors not only the men and women of our modern US Navy, but also recognizes the accomplishments of those who helped build and maintain the Navy's ships as well. After the visit to the USS Turner Joy the group was free to have lunch at any of the near-by restaurants in the area. After the tour returned to the hotel, the remainder of the afternoon was free to relax and visit with friends. Planned activities began again at 6:00 PM with the social hour where favorite beverages could be enjoyed before the dinner buffet at 7:00 PM. After dinner there was again free time to enjoy spending with old shipmates and new friends.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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Saturday's optional tour to take in the sites of Seattle began at 9:00 AM. One of the stops on the tour was the famous Space Needle, whose observation deck gives one a spectacular view of Seattle's beauty. From the Space Needle the tour went on to Pike Place Market, a public market overlooking Elliott Bay. The market opened in 1907 and is one of the oldest continually-operated public farmer's market in the United States. It is a place of business for many small farmers, craftspeople and merchants. It is also Seattle's most popular tourist destination. The Market is also home to nearly 500 low income residents who live in 8 different buildings throughout the Market. The Market is run by the quai-government Pike Place Market Preservation and Development Authority. Throughout the Market were many places to choose for lunch, so if anyone went away hungry, it was not because of lack of choice of places to eat. After lunch the tour continued on to the Museum of Flight at Boeing Field, the largest aviation museum on the west coast. This was one of the favorite tours of the reunion, especially for the men. The tour returned to the hotel in time for the 3:30 business meeting, where the 2009 reunion site was selected to be Mobile, Alabama. The 2010 reunion will be either Wilmington, NC or Boston, MA. George Clifton was again elected to serve as the Association President/Coordinator. After the business meeting, most people retreated to their room to get ready for the evening's big event—the USS Yancey (AKA-93) banquet. The pre-dinner cocktail hour and photo session began at 6:00 PM. Everyone was dressed in a more formal manner for this event, so it was a good time to get photos made for the post reunion Memory Book. Individual, couple and group pictures were taken and then it was time for dinner. The USS Yancey (AKA-93) banquet began with the playing of the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance. George Clifton wel-

comed everyone and then a delicious dinner was served. It was a pleasant evening filled with laughter and good conversation.

Sunday morning's Memorial Service to remember all USS Yancey shipmates who have passed away was held after breakfast. Ed McLaughlin and George Clifton led the service, reading the names of those being remembered—James Riles and Richard Vincent—and ringing the bell as the names were read. With the closing of the Memorial Service, the 2008 reunion came to a close. Good byes, hugs and plans to meet in Mobile in 2009 were seen and heard from every corner of the room. We hope all those in attendance this year can be back next year and encourage more of Yancey crew to attend.

## 2008 REUNION ATTENDEES

Norman & Connie Boyd  
 Richey Brunskill  
 Kenneth & Connie Chester  
 Richard & Jackie Chester  
 George & Sharon Clifton  
 Walter & Toby Gillespie  
 Jerry Goforth  
 Kenneth, David & James Groom  
 Duane & Betty Malme  
 Edmund & Jeannette McLaughlin  
 Henry & Marian Prosser  
 William & Nancy Suchy  
 Genevieve Vincent  
 Ellen Mueller  
 Victoria Waldrep

**Total Members: 13**  
**Guests: 11**  
**GRAND TOTAL: 24**

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance after 07/08 **\$444.17**  
 Funds received since 07/08 **\$35.00**  
 Funds available for 10/08 **\$479.17**  
 Funds expended for 10/08 **\$135.30**  
 Balance for 01/09 **\$343.87**

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](http://www.mlrsinc.com/yancey). Please send contributions to the newsletter to ML&RS, Inc at the address on page 4.

## COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

I just returned from our 2008 reunion in Seattle. As usual we had a great time even though the turnout was small and the weather a little rainy. Friday morning we took a ferry ride across Puget Sound to Bremerton for a tour of the destroyer USS Turner Joy. Saturday morning our timing was perfect for our visit to the Space Needle, we had a great view and the clouds didn't roll in until it was time to leave.

The vote at our business meeting was in favor of having our 2009 reunion in Mobile, Alabama the first or second weekend in October. I think it is a good choice as there is much to see around Mobile including the WWII battleship USS Alabama.

The two cities we will vote on next year for the 2010 reunion are Boston, MA and Wilmington, NC. Boston was chosen because of its history and it's the home port of the USS Constitution (Old Ironsides). Wilmington was chosen because it is the final resting place of the USS Yancey. For those that are not aware she was sold to the State of North Carolina and unceremoniously sunk in 160 feet of water off the coast of Wilmington in 1990 as an artificial reef. We are hoping it can be arranged to take a boat trip to the Yancey site for a memorial service.

There were a lot of "regulars" missing from this years reunion for various reasons, we had the economy against us and flying isn't what it used to be, but I hope we get a bigger turnout in Mobile and at future reunions. Several people requested a list of shipmates that they can call prior to next years reunion in an effort to boost the attendance. I think it is a great idea and would be glad to get a list to anyone that wants one. Let's work on getting a record attendance in Mobile. I hope to see you all there.

George Clifton



## 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.

**Phil Messer (E-5)**

10361 Dolecetto Dr  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
916-362-0431

**Charles McClure (1949-50) SN**

206 Logan Dr  
Portsmouth, VA 23701  
757-488-0129

**Ted Sabados (1965-69) LT(jg)**

155 Yeago Ln  
Middlebrook, VA 24459  
540-885-5769

**Joe Heimerman (1946-47) QM2**

32339 109th PI SE Apt 206  
Auburn, WA 98092  
253-876-6426

**Joe Bruno (1956-59)**

1073 N Highway 174  
Rio Vista, TX 76093  
817-373-2619

**Paul Gerdes**

(1961-64) SK3 1st Div Supply  
PO Box 3334  
Livermore, CA 94551  
925-373-0319  
pablogerd@sbcglobal.net

**Gene Lazzari**

(1968-69) BM2 1st Div  
PO Box 416  
Burbank, WA 99323  
509-545-0333  
pairofngns@aol.com

**Manilo Loconte**

(1962-64) LT(jg) OPS  
6 Angler Rd  
Lexington, MA 02420  
787-186-3803  
Darkduke@aol.com



## 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

**James Riles**

(1950-53) & (1961-63) SMC  
Died February 21, 2008



## MAIL CALL

### USS Yancey (AKA-93) Locating the Ship's Bell and Builder's Plates

Today's story is the continuing mystery of: "Where are the USS Yancey Ship's Bell and Builder's Plate?" It begins several years ago when I spoke to the North Carolina Wreck Diving Webmaster about how great his "AR302" photos were. We chatted about where (on the Yancey) his photos viewed (and corrected a 'vent' caption showing the main deck access to the Mess Deck, fwd., port-side, #3 hold), and I asked if the Ship's Bell or Builder's Plates were still there, on-board and underwater.

He didn't recall, so I described them and where they were located. The Ship's Bell, in the forecandle (not the small bright-plated quarterdeck bell) and two Builder's plates—one on the 01-level outside the forward Wardroom bulkhead, and the other on the forward Engine room bulkhead above the watch station & board. I had stared at the Engine room Builder's Plate forever: Brass, with

black-painted engraved text "Hull 280, Moore Drydock, Oakland, Calif., launched July 8, 1944"- or words to that effect. But, again, he didn't recall, but thought not.

Time marched on, and last year about this time, while surfing the Washington Navy Yard web-site, I read that when U.S. Navy ships are scrapped, their Ship's Bell and Builder's Plates are archived at the Washington Navy Yard Archives. Too late to organize any visit during the Yancey Reunion in Washington, I wrote the MLRS anyway, suggesting a visit. Didn't happen...And for the best...Nothing was there.

Time marched on some more, to this summer, and after e-mail exchanges and speaking with the Washington Navy Yard Archiver curator, I learned that:

- The bright-plated quarterdeck bell was never received (and perhaps 'liberated' by the last Captain or at a last Shipyard)
- 'Ditto for the Builder's Plates—there's no record they were ever received by the Archives; but
- The Ship's Bell is presently on loan, as the Archives does, sometimes to the Naval Technical Training Center in Meridian, Mississippi. The curator sent a photo of presently located and rigged Bell

So, to all "Sherlock Holmes" types among the Yancey Crewmen:

- Does anyone live in Meridian, Mississippi that could take a photo, video and/or audio (striking 8 bells) of the Yancey Bell?
- Does anyone know any contact information for the last USS Yancey CO (to contact about the quarterdeck bell and plates—for photos of)?
- Does anyone know the contact information for "Yancey County, NC" or "last shipyard"?

Inquiring minds want to know (and try to gather audio-visual Bell and Plates records for crewmen).

Elementary...

**Win Bryson**

## MOBILE, AL IN 2009

The 2009 USS Yancey reunion will be held in Mobile, Alabama and we need your help in choosing the attractions you would like to see on your agenda. Please read the descriptions of the attractions and then fill out and return the survey to ML&RS, Inc and we'll get started on the plans for your reunion.

### ATTRACTIONS

**Cathedral of Immaculate Conception**—Located in downtown Mobile, this cathedral was built between 1835-1849, and is listed as one of Mobile's oldest churches. It occupies the site used by Mobile's first settlers as a burial ground. Beautiful stained-glass windows and polished marble designs decorate the basilica.

**Fort Conde**—Mobile's welcome center was built in the early 1700s as a French fort. Reconstructed and furnished as it appeared in 1702, the fort features facsimiles of 18th century artillery demonstrated by costumed tour guides. Museum rooms detail past Mardi Gras celebrations and the origins of the city.

**The Estuarium at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab**—This beautiful aquarium, with exciting visual displays and engaging interactive activities, will give you a first-hand view of the ecosystems of the Mobile Bay area. From the swamps of the Delta to the waters of Mobile Bay, from the sands of the Barrier Islands to the reefs of the Gulf of Mexico, the Estuarium offers a lively educational experience for everybody. Other exhibits include the Living Marsh Boardwalk, the Miss May May, the Weather Station and much, much more.

**Bragg-Mitchell Mansion**— This beautifully restored pre-Civil War mansion demonstrates both Greek Revival and Italianate influence. Fifteen-foot ceilings and a dramatic curved staircase contribute to the sense of splendor.

**Mobile Greyhound Park**— Alabama's oldest Greyhound park

features both dog and horse racing. You can watch the races from the tracks or the grandstand.

**Bellingrath Gardens and Home**—Coca-Cola bottling founder Walter Bellingrath and his wife, Bessie, opened their private garden estate in 1932 and the result has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in the South. The Gardens cover 65 acres and feature a year-round blooming schedule of tulips, azaleas, roses, mums, poinsettias and so much more. It has been chosen as one of the top three gardens by readers of *Southern Living* magazine. The Bellingrath Home is the first Alabama home to be featured on A&E's "American Castles".

**River Cruise Aboard the Southern Belle**—The 150-passenger Southern Belle offers fun, scenic 45-minute cruises on Fowl River from Bellingrath Gardens landing.

**Battleship Memorial Park**—Voyage through time and revisit an era of adventure and bravery as you tour the many exhibits. Visit **USS ALABAMA**, the recipient of nine World War II Battle Stars. Her crew of 2,500 saw action in the Atlantic for a year before joining the Pacific Fleet in mid-1943. She fought at such key locations as Leyte, the Gilbert Islands, and Okinawa, and then led the American Fleet into Tokyo Bay in September 1945.

Also at the park is the submarine **USS DRUM**, "Calamity Jane", a B-52 Stratofortress that served with SAC and the A-12 "Blackbird" spyplane. In the Aircraft Pavilion you'll see a gull-winged Corsair and the P51-D Mustang Redtail, the plane flown by the valiant Tuskegee Airmen. Then inspect other aircraft from Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm. The park also includes a rose garden, gift shop, flight simulator and much more.

**Pensacola National Museum of Naval Aviation**- The premier Naval Aviation Museum in the country. If you have any interest at all in aviation this is a must see. There is

also an IMAX movie theater where aviation or navy related (usually) are shown.

**Fort Barrancas**- Also located in Pensacola, this is a very interesting old fort dating back to the Civil War. As you walk in the underground revetments you can imagine being an infantryman defending against a ground assault, with the primary objective of keeping enemy (Union) ships out of the harbor.

### USS YANCEY 2009 SURVEY

Return surveys by **Dec. 15, 2008** to:

**Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc.**  
P O Box 11399  
Hickory, NC 28603-6402

Or Fax:  
828-256-6559

Or on web site:  
[www.mlrsinc.com/yancey](http://www.mlrsinc.com/yancey)

Reunion format:

Do you prefer breakfast all three mornings \_\_\_\_\_  
or just on Sunday \_\_\_\_\_?

Do you want entertainment after the banquet \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no?

**Please indicate which activities you would like to see on your reunion agenda :**

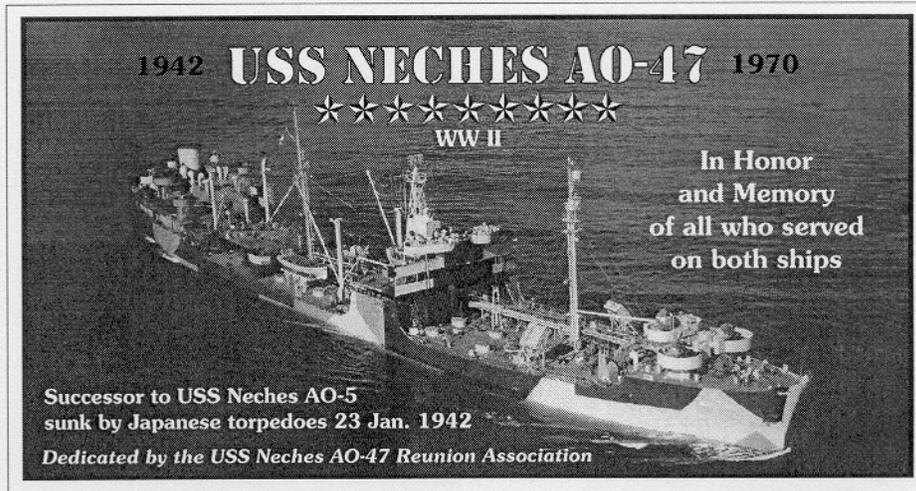
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cathedral of Immaculate Conception  
\_\_\_\_\_ Fort Conde  
\_\_\_\_\_ The Estuarium at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab  
\_\_\_\_\_ Bragg-Mitchell Mansion  
\_\_\_\_\_ Bellingrath Gardens and House  
\_\_\_\_\_ River Cruise  
\_\_\_\_\_ Battleship Memorial Park  
\_\_\_\_\_ Pensacola National Museum of Naval Aviation  
\_\_\_\_\_ Fort Barrancas



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(Please sign order form)