

The USS Samuel B. Roberts Survivors' Association NEWSLETTER



Dedicated to the memory of our shipmate and friend, Whit Felt.

August 2002

Volume 12, Number 2

Biloxi Reunion Near

Oct. 22 through Oct. 27 is when you should be planning to be in Biloxi for the combined reunions of the USS Samuel B. Roberts Survivors' Association and the USS Johnston/Hoel Association.

You will find a registration form on page 7. Please complete it and send to Bill Mercer along with your check. Please don't wait until the last minute. Your input is needed for bus trips, memorial service and meals.

Be sure to make your reservations for the hotel. We do have an excellent rate of \$52.00 + 10% tax. That should mean that the rate is \$57.20. Bill Mercer says that the rate will be good for a few days before and after the reunion. **The number is 800 843-7737.** Mention Johnston-Hoel-Samuel B Roberts Reunion when reserving.

SCHEDULE

Tues., October 22
Arrival and check-in.

Weds., October 23
Breakfast, followed by a Business Meeting.
Speaker Cajun Humorist Ed Taylor.

Thur., October 24
Bus trip to New Orleans to visit National D-Day Museum.
Luncheon on own.

Fri., October 25
Bus trip to Mobile AL. Visit Battleship USS ALABAMA for Memorial Service at 11:00 a.m. Luncheon to follow in Officers' Ward Room. Also visit USS DRUM and Aircraft Museum.

Sat., October 26
Free day until 6:00 p.m.
Banquet followed by door prize drawings.

Sun., October 27
Farewell breakfast at 8:00 a.m. for Samuel B. Roberts Ass'n. Brief business meeting.

Checkout & departure. See you next year. Be the Good Lord willing.

Harriet Copeland Dies

Sadly I must report that the wife of our Captain Copeland passed away on June 7, 2002 in Gig Harbor, Washington. She had been ill for quite a while. We extend our sympathies to daughter Suzanne, son Bob and all the family.

Officers & Directors

Bob LeClercq - Chairman
Dudley Moylan - Director
Sam Stewart - Director
Don Young - Director
Vince Goodrich - Co-Treasurer
Mel Harden - Co-Treasurer
Dick Rohde - Newsletter Editor

Navy Memorial

We received a nice letter from Admiral McKinney, President & CEO of the United States Navy Memorial Foundation.

He says, "On behalf of the officers and directors of the U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation as well as myself, thank you for your generous gift of \$900.00 to the Navy Memorial and Naval Heritage Center, received May 30, 2002. We truly appreciate your support for our continuing effort to honor, preserve and celebrate America's enduring naval heritage.

Our effort is focused first and foremost through an ambitious and expanding educational program. True to our founding charter, the Navy Memorial Foundation is every inch an educational institution -- one that honors the men and women of the naval services and perpetuates their values. We are aggressively working on programs designed to highlight the stories, histories and values of our sea service veterans and our maritime nation. In this way we do more than honor the memories of those who served -- we perpetuate the important lessons to be learned from them."

He mentioned their historical displays, ceremonies and special events, their library, book and manuscript collections, and photographic collection. He indicated that our \$900.00 donation will be used to support their "Lost at Sea Log" in honoring those lost aboard USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS, DE-413.

Maxine Sinclair

Maxine called me last month to let me know that she is planning to be with us in Biloxi and to share with me her excitement on having a wonderful story printed on the front page of her newspaper, "The Meridian Star" on July 4, 2002.

You will recall that Maxine was married to our shipmate Fred Strehle. Fred was Ships Cook 1/C and I can attest that he was first class. Some of you may remember that he was the "Royal Devil" when we had our ceremony crossing the equator. To quote from Adm. Copeland's book, "He really made a handsome devil. He was dark and swarthy and had a veritable doormat of chest hair and a generous assortment of bulging muscles. They got him rigged up in a skin tight costume of red bunting with bare chest exposed. A pair of real looking horns had been built in and a long forked tail had been added."

The above story may help us to understand that in the story in the newspaper, Maxine describes just how they met back in 1943. It was a spring day in New Orleans in her hotel and a young sailor was running up the stairs and he stopped her and asked whether she had change for a quarter. That old routine worked because they spent the night touring the sights of New Orleans and walked around the French Quarter for over four hours. The next day, they each had to go their separate ways. A year later, they were married in Meridian on Feb. 24, 1944. He then left to join the Samuel B. Roberts. They kept in touch and visited when they could but 8 months later, on October 24th she heard on the radio that her husband's ship had been bombed. She was six months pregnant at the time. She did not officially learn of Fred's death until Dec. 1, 1944. Their son, Fred Albert Strehle III was born on January 16, 1945.

Marilyn remarried two years later to another sailor, Bill Sinclair. They were married for 38 years until he died of a heart attack in 1983.

The story is accompanied with a beautiful picture of Marilyn with pictures of Fred, his decorations and newspaper articles. There is also a picture of Fred and Marilyn together, the only one she has, taken when she was three months pregnant.

Thank you for sharing your memories with us Marilyn. See you in October.



What's The Latest Scuttlebutt?

Here's a bit of this and that from here and there.



George Bray is doing very well with his new knee but is now having some problems with dizziness. Doctors are trying to find out the reason. He will be with us in Biloxi. Incidentally, George is on his fourth pacemaker.

Don Young, our youngest shipmate (75), is still battling the problem with cancer. One of the cancers is gone thanks to lengthy chemotherapy but there is one in his chest which may require surgery. They might have to open his chest to get at it. I'm sure that Don would appreciate your prayers and cards. His address is PO Box 104, Los Alamos, CA 93440.

Jack Yusen reports that he is keeping very busy working on the Bob Hope Memorial project. He travels throughout the country seeking support. Jack reported that Harriet Copeland died and said that he was at the funeral along with Bud and Lil Comet. Jack expressed sympathies to the family on behalf of our Ass'n. Ruth is on an exercise program to help strengthen her heart. Keep it up Ruth.

Joe Fortier was also present for the funeral service. Joe recounted the story of how he and four other sailors tried to get a transfer to the Sammy B while at Manus Island. They had all sailed with Captain Copeland previously. Their captain refused their request and so they did not join us.

They learned a few weeks later that our ship had been sunk. Joe says that the five of them went to see their captain and thanked him for probably saving their lives.

Joe keeps busy with volunteer work and spends all his time available with wife Marie. She is still in poor health and in a nursing facility. Prayers are with you two.

Helen and I are planning our first trip back to Michigan and then on to Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Washington D.C., North Carolina and then back to Ocala. We plan on leaving on Aug. 11 and returning around September 3rd. We plan on seeing the Goodrichs and the Stevensons as we go through Pennsylvania. I had better get going on this NEWSLETTER if we want to leave next week.

Billie and Bob LeClercq seem to have things under control in San Antonio. He may have let the weather get a bit out of control for a while but all is fine now. Bob wants to urge everyone to attend the reunion and is looking forward to seeing all of you there.

Dudley Moylan keeps in touch regularly. He too is looking forward to the reunion and will be there unless the stock market goes completely crazy and he has to go to work giving elocution lessons to the Minnesota natives. All right then, you betcha. Dudley spends his time moving from Minneapolis to Miami to New Russia, NY.

Sam Blue is a faithful correspondent via e-mail. His homespun humor, stories and uplifting spiritual comments are always welcome. Sam too plans to make the trip to Biloxi. "Walk with God", Sam.

Lou Gould is also always good for some good stories. Lou, if you're listening, we hope that you and Barbara join us. Isn't the honeymoon over yet?



Here's Additional Information on the Reunion

Please remember the Drawing for prizes at Saturday's Banquet. Last year, almost \$1,100 in tickets were sold. All of that money is being used this year to reduce the cost of the bus trips etc. Please plan to bring items for the drawing.



The Hospitality Room is "Ships Island Room"



The host hotel site is
PRESIDENT BROADWATER TOWER RESORT AND CASINO.
 The hotel address is 2110 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, MS 39531.
 It is both a hotel and a casino.
 The Casino, however, is located across the street and built over the ocean.
 The Hotel is across the street and in close proximity to the ocean but not over it as is the Casino.
 The hotel maintains shuttle service to the Casino and all one has to do is board at the Hotel and the shuttle will deliver you to the Casino, and return you to the Hotel.

Continental Breakfast
 will be served from 6 to 9
 free each morning except Wed

The Casino has very good
 Restaurants
 and Buffet Service at
 Reasonable Prices

100 Years Ago

<< The year is 1902, only 100 years ago. What a difference a century makes!

Here are the U.S. statistics for 1902.

The average life expectancy in the US was forty-seven (47).

Only 14 Percent of the homes in the US had a bathtub.

Only 8 % of the homes had a telephone. A 3-minute call from Denver to New York City cost \$11.00.

There were only 8,000 cars in the US and only 144 miles of paved roads. The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California. With a mere 1.4 million residents, California was only the 21st most populous state in the Union.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.

The average wage in the US was 22 cents an hour.

The average US worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year. A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, a dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.

More than 95 % of all births in the US took place at home.

90 % percent of all US physicians had no college education. Instead, they attended medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and by the government as "substandard."

Sugar cost 4 cents a pound. Eggs were 14 cents a dozen. Coffee cost fifteen cents a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a month and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

Canada passed a law prohibiting poor people from entering the country for any reason.

The five leading causes of death in the US were:

1. Pneumonia and influenza
2. Tuberculosis
3. Diarrhea
4. Heart disease
5. Stroke

The American flag had 45 stars. Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii and Alaska hadn't been admitted to the Union yet.

The population of Las Vegas, Nevada was 30.

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented.

There was neither Mother's Day nor Father's Day.

One in ten US adults couldn't read or write. Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at corner drugstores. According to one pharmacist, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and the bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health."

18 % of households in the US had at least one full-time servant or domestic.

There were only about 230 reported murders in the entire US.

(I wonder what it will be like 100 years from now.)

Marshall Richards Reports

Marshall Richards continues to write away. He has traveled through forty-three states, driven over 25,000 miles and flown an estimated 12,000 miles during the past nineteen months. Close to seventy interviews have been conducted. Because of time restraints, most of the remaining interviews will be conducted via phone. As Marshall puts it, "Each interview is like a piece of a puzzle. Each section is as significant as the next. If that puzzle were the United States, and each state represented a piece, Rhode Island would be as significant as Texas."

He says that it has been and continues to be an honor and a privilege to work on this project. We look forward to seeing Marshall and Julie in October.



A Word About Dues

As most of you will remember, when we were handling the registrations for our reunion, we included a line for payment of dues. Since this is no longer done, it is necessary that I remind you that the time for payment of dues is at hand. Survivors pay \$15.00 per year and family pay \$10.00. If you are not able to pay the dues, don't worry about it. We have never dropped anyone and do not intend to start now. You may send the dues directly to Co-Treasurer Vince Goodrich at 7 Brown Avenue, Bradford, PA, 16701 or better yet, send them to me along with some news for the next issue of the NEWSLETTER.

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Retirements

In the last issue of the NEWSLETTER, I reported that Captain Ned Bagley was to retire at a ceremony held at the Navy Memorial. At the ceremony, he was very complimentary in his remarks toward our shipmate Paul Henry Carr and to the crew of the USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS, DE 413.

I also received word that Captain William A. Rogers, Jr. also retired on June 7, 2002. We all remember the wonderful address he gave at our banquet in Norfolk. Capt. Rogers is the great nephew of our shipmate James A. Gregory.

Will and Dee, we wish you both every happiness in your new life outside the Navy. **Please** keep in touch.

Change of Command

I received an announcement from USS CARR (FFG 52) that Commander Darrel M. Morben was relieved by Commander Brian T. Donegan on Thursday June 28, 2001 in Gibraltar, United Kingdom.

CDR Morben's next assignment is Joint Task Force Exercise Planner Commander, Striking Fleet Atlantic, Norfolk, Virginia.

Congratulations and best wishes to both of you in your new assignments.

**Don't forget to check
Our Website
www.de413.org
23451 hits so far**

Guess I'm getting near the end of this Newsletter and the next time we speak it will be in person in Biloxi. I wish that more of you would keep in touch with me, and through the NEWSLETTER with everyone. Haven't heard anything from the Carr family for a while. Hope all is well out Oklahoma and Texas way. We miss you.

I did have a letter and telephone call from Audrey McMullen. She has been a bit under the weather but things are brighter now. She will be with us in Biloxi. Audrey is quite proud of the fact that her son Bob was named High School Principal of the year for state of Washington. You should be proud.



The Navy is looking for a few good men!

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Name: _____
 Telephone # _____

NAME HOME TOWN

Please make our Name Tags as printed below:

Make Check Payable to USS JOHNSTON/HOEL ASSN
 Send to Bill Mercer at 707 Clebud Drive
 Euless TX 76040



	Total Enclosed	\$ _____
6.	Sun. Oct 27 Farewell Breakfast _____ people @ \$12.00	\$ _____
5.	Sat. Oct 26 Closing Banquet & door prize drawing Beef and Chicken Dinner. _____ people @ \$24.95	\$ _____
4.	Fri. Oct 25 Bus trip to Mobile to visit USS ALBAMA for Memorial Service Luncheon is included. _____ people @ \$18.00	\$ _____
3.	Thu. Oct 24 Bus trip to New Orleans, D-Day Museum _____ people @ \$15.00	\$ _____
2.	Wed. Oct 23 Breakfast Buffet and Business Mtg. _____ people @ \$12.00	\$ _____
1.	Registration Fee _____ people @ \$10.00	\$ _____

I (we) plan to attend the 2002 Reunion in Biloxi and will attend the following functions.

SAMUEL B. ROBERTS SURVIVORS' ASS'N.

REUNION REGISTRATION