

USS HOLT (DE 706)
“HOLT HAPPENINGS”

A Newsletter for and about the crew and their families

Vol X No.1

JANUARY 2000

NEWS OF SHIPMATES AND THEIR FAMILIES

Phil DeFosses advises that his wife, Rita, had heart surgery last spring and back surgery in August. She is still recovering and they hope to be able to attend the reunion this May.

Ed Bouchard has been under the weather with a pinched nerve in his neck.. Ed is planning on making the reunion this year. It will be good to see him as the last time he attended was in Pennsylvania in 1994!

Dave Miller said he received an early Christmas present....a new hip.! It's working just fine and aside from missing a few months of golf, he is good as new and we expect to see him at the reunion.

Oak Ramsey has been recovering from a heart attack. We're hopeful that he will be able to come to the reunion, but it's questionable right now.

We were recently advised by Cynthia-Ambli Temple that her mother, Anna Mae Ambli, widow of Chief Yeoman Ambli, died in February, 1999.

Marion Gebert, wife of Bosun Marshall Gebert, had a heart attack on a plane en route from San Diego to Harry Helgeson came up with a couple of gems from the past....(1) Remember the pile of crushed and crumbled fruit cakes that were stacked on the after deck ? They were

Chicago. Fortunately, the plane was nearing Chicago, so an ambulance was on hand to take her to the hospital. Marshall had stayed home with a tricky back problem. Marion's planned two day visit with her daughter and granddaughter turned into a several week's stay.

A note from Joe Conti's sister says he enjoys receiving the Newsletter and any other mail from his shipmates. Joe had a stroke several years ago and is in a nursing home. He doesn't speak and is confined to a wheel chair. I'm sure he would appreciate hearing from his old shipmates. His address is c/o

[REDACTED]

We'll keep all these ill shipmates and their families in our prayers. If you know of others who are ill, please let us know so we can pass the word to all the shipmates.

Jim and Cate Dettling have had a busy year traveling...a Caribbean cruise, trips to Michigan and Virginia and an Alaskan Cruise with a west coast tour. They've had great fun.

sent by the good people of Bay City, MI, but unfortunately, the mail kept chasing after us and we did not get them until several months later. (2) The

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dark night at sea off Luzon when the enemy fleet was reportedly heading our way. Later, after battle stations was secured, someone muttering, "I'm going to write home and say, Yes Mom, it can be scared out of you!"

New address for Bob and Kathy Schieferstin is [REDACTED] Their telephone number is [REDACTED]

Edward J. Bresette has a new address: [REDACTED]. He moved from the cold weather of Nebraska to the warm climate of Arizona.....also to be near his son.

Olive Swift, widow of Gunners Mate Gilbert Swift, has a new address.... [REDACTED]. Please update your address rosters.

Mail to Mrs. Grace O. Brown, widow of Bob Brown was returned as "undeliverable." Efforts to find her have been unsuccessful. If anyone knows where she is, please let Bill Morgan know.

Don Fredette is spending the winter in Florida and says he plans on making the reunion on his way back to Vermont in the spring.

HOLT REUNION

Time flies by! In just a little over three months, we will be meeting in Hampton, Virginia. The reunion dates are May 3 - 6, 2000 at the Holiday Inn & Conference Center, Hampton, VA. Make your reservations by calling 1-800-842-9370 or 1-757-838-0200. Identify yourself as being with the USS HOLT (DE 706) reunion group to take advantage of the \$70.00 per night room rate (single or double). Taxes of 10% will be added. Your reservation must be guaranteed with a credit card or a one night deposit, refundable if canceled three days prior to the arrival date. The Holiday Inn's address is 1815 West Mercury Blvd, Hampton, VA 23666-3229 and their FAX number is 1-757-838-4964. If you wish to arrive early or stay late, this room rate is good for three days prior to the reunion and up to three days after the reunion. There are many things to do and see in the Tidewater area of Virginia surrounding Hampton.....Colonial
Saturday, May 6th - This is an open day. Spend it with your shipmates in the hospitality room or take in any of the many sights around the Hampton Roads

Williamsburg is just a short drive up the road as is Yorktown. Also, there are several very good nautical museums in the area and lots of other interesting sights.

The registration form is included with this newsletter. Please send the completed form with your check to Paul Pickett.

Register as soon as possible. Be sure and make your hotel reservations no later than April 2nd to get the reunion rate. After that date, reservations will be on a space available basis.

Tour times and other data will be in your registration packet that you pick up upon arrival at the hotel.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, May 3, 2000 - arrival Day. Hospitality Room will open about noon.

Thursday, May 4th - Visit the MacArthur Memorial in downtown Norfolk.....a short drive thru "Old Norfolk".....Board the "Spirit of Norfolk" for a two-hour luncheon cruise of Norfolk harbor.....re-board the bus for a short visit to the MacArthur Center (a new shopping mall) then return to the hotel. This tour runs from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Friday, May 5th - Today, we will take a motor coach tour of the Norfolk Naval Base and the Norfolk Naval air Station.....some 8000 acres of prime real estate adjacent to downtown Norfolk. This is the home port for about one third of the entire U. S. Fleet! Following the naval base tour, we will visit the Norfolk Botanical Gardens (consisting of 155 acres of flowers).....then to Fort Monroe for lunch at the Officer's Club and a tour of this historic Army post. This tour runs from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. (Note: Check your registration packet when you arrive for possible changes in times of these tours).

area. Around 5:00 pm, we plan on a photo session, with the banquet at 7:00 pm.

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The hospitality room will be open each day. We will have several drawings for door prizes. Also, we'll raffle off a 16 x 24 framed photo of the HOLT (\$150 value) and a brass plaque on a walnut base depicting the vital statistics of the HOLT. We had one at the last reunion and everyone seemed to like it.

In past reunions, the ladies have brought samples of their favorite recipes.....such as candy, cakes or cookies for folks to enjoy. We urge you to do so again this year. If you furnish a recipe, please bring several copies for distribution.

Airlines serving Norfolk, VA Airport include Northwest, Continental, United, US AIR and Delta.

GOLF: Anyone interested in playing golf, contact Doc Steinhauser at (954) 979-6724. We understand from the local folks in Hampton, that the golf courses rent clubs, so you won't have to hassle with bringing your own.

To date, we have 24 already registered, including first time attendees, Russell & Barbara Coates and Edith Sutherland (wife of Donald Sutherland, SoM2/c) and her son, Dr. Larry Sutherland.

OTHER STUFF

About a year ago, John and Mary Anne McGauley were visiting family in New Jersey. Russell Coates and his wife, Barbara, got the McGauleys, Bob DeAngelis, and Jay and Joan Decker together for an evening of fun. The group photo reflects a good time was had by all.

The U. S. fighter planes were rigged with cameras to record the airborne operations. Butch dove into the enemy and continued the attack, using all his ammunition. Then he would dive and try to clip a wing or tail off an enemy plane.....anything that would make the enemy planes unfit to fly. He did everything he could to keep the enemy from reaching the American fleet.

Know this fella? It's Oak Ramsey in 1945 and again in 1985. Oak has been a regular at all our reunions and we hope his health will allow him to attend this year.

AN INTERESTING STORY

During the course of World War II, many people gained fame in one way or another. One man was Butch O'Hare. He was a fighter pilot assigned to an aircraft carrier in the Pacific. One time his squadron was assigned to fly a particular mission. After he was airborne, he looked at his fuel gauge and realized that someone had forgotten to top off his fuel tank. Because of this, he would not have enough fuel to complete his mission and get back to his ship. His flight leader told him to leave the formation and return to the carrier. As he was returning, he spotted a flight of Japanese planes heading for the fleet. With all the fighter planes gone, the fleet was almost defenseless. His was the only opportunity to distract and divert the enemy planes. Single-handedly, he pressed home the attack on the enemy aircraft.

Finally, the Japanese squadron broke off the attack. Butch O'Hare and his plane, both badly shot up, successfully limped back to his carrier. He told his story, but not until the film from the camera on his plane was developed, did they realize the extent he went to, to protect the fleet.

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He was recognized as a hero and given the nation's highest military award. And, as you might know, Chicago's O'hare airport is named after him.

Prior to this time, in Chicago, there was a man named Easy Eddie. He worked for a man named Al Capone. Al Capone was not famous for anything heroic, but he was notorious for the murders he committed and the many illegal things he had done.

Easy Eddie was Al Capone's lawyer and he was very good at his profession. In fact, because of his skill, he was able to keep Capone out of prison. To show his appreciation, Al Capone paid him very well. He not only earned big money, he would get extra things, like a residence that covered a city block of Chicago. The house was surrounded by a fence and contained all the conveniences of the day, including a staff to maintain the place.

Easy Eddie had a son. He loved his son and gave him all the best things while the boy was growing up; clothes, cars and a good education. And because he loved his son, he tried to teach him right from wrong. But one thing he could not give his son was a good name.

Easy Eddie decided that this was more important than all the riches he had. So, he went to the authorities in order to rectify the wrong he had done. In order to tell the truth, it meant he would have to testify against Al Capone, and he knew that Capone would do his best to have him killed. But he wanted most of all to try to be an example and to do the best he could to give his son back a good name. So he testified against Capone. Within a year, he was shot and killed on a lonely Chicago street.

This sounds like two unrelated stories, but Butch O'Hare was Easy Eddie's son.

LADIES NOTE:

A new wrinkle for the ladies activities..... while the men are in their business meeting, the ladies will meet to exchange gifts in a unique way!! (Details at the reunion). For now, the ladies should plan to bring a small, wrapped gift, costing \$10.00 or less. It can be something unique to your state of residence, something funny, ridiculous or whatever you wish. The only criteria....the gift must be small,

wrapped and cost \$10.00 or less. This should be fun!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MAY 3 - 6, 2000

**HOLIDAY INN &
CONFERENCE CENTER**

HAMPTON, VIRGINIA

SEE YOU THERE!