

USS HOLT (DE 706).....

“HOLT HAPPENINGS”A Newsletter for and about the crew of the ship and their families.

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REFLECTING BACK

As the nation recovers from the surprise terrorist attacks of September 11th, I think back to the days of World War II and the kamikaze attacks on our naval vessels. Misguided idealists performed both. At least, in WW II, we had the capability of shooting back, while the innocent victims of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were taken completely by surprise. One cannot imagine the horror those on the airplanes felt as they were used as projectiles in these attacks.

The American citizens have had a new element introduced into their daily lives....fear. Hark back to the days of WW II when President Roosevelt told the nation, “We have nothing to fear but fear itself.” Today, our President is urging people to get on with their lives and not let fear be the controlling force behind our activities. If we succumb to fear, the objective of the terrorists will have been largely achieved.

To those of you who may have had relatives, friends or acquaintances killed or injured in these dastardly attacks, you have our deepest sympathy.

OUR SHIPMATES

Since the last newsletter in June, we have learned of the passing of several shipmates.

Vaughn Clarkson (Seaman) Died 8 February 1999

Art Loro (Radarman) Died 10 March 2001

Harold Mosher (Seaman) Died 20 May 2001

John Bandfield (Boilerman) Died 29 May 2001

Bayard Stout (Quartermaster) Died 14 June 2001

Bud Koehler (Radioman) Died 23 August 2001

Each of us have memories of these shipmates. My recollection places each of them in the category of "Good Shipmate." I especially remember Bayard Stout. When I reported to the bridge as a Quartermaster striker, he was very helpful in my training. Between the mentoring of Chief Manville and him, I made third class. Bayard and his wife, Ruth, attended every reunion the HOLT crew has had, including the two in the 1960's. They are the only ones to do so. He was a good friend over the years and will be greatly missed.

Harold Mosher and Vaughn Clarkson were two stalwarts in the Deck Division. Harold stayed in the navy and retired as a Boatswains Mate 1/c. John Bandfield being one of the smaller shipmates got assigned to some special tasks in restricted spaces of the fire room such as crawling through the narrow openings of the boilers when they needed re-bricking.

I admired Bud Koehler and Art Loro for their ability to stay inside small, cramped spaces to stand their watches with the heat and darkness of the radio shack and radar room. Neither of these places was hospitable when the ship was rolling and pitching.

We all join in expressing our condolences to the families of these departed shipmates.

Bayard Stout's wife, Ruth asked that we thank all of you for the cards and letters received from shipmates. She and the family appreciate your caring thoughtfulness.

ON THE BINNACLE LIST

Jerri Pickett, wife of **Paul Pickett** is undergoing chemotherapy for cancer. Paul expressed his appreciation for all the cards that you sent.

Ginny Manville, widow of Chief Quartermaster **Jack Manville** has a severe Asthma problem that limits her mobility.

Shortly after our last newsletter, **Russ Coates** two heart attacks, followed by quadruple by-pass surgery. This was further complicated by emphysema. With all the complications, Russ was hospitalized until just a couple of weeks ago. He is now at home, resting and wishes to thank all his shipmates for their cards, calls and prayers.

We have not heard from several shipmates who were reported on the Binnacle List in previous newsletters. Two who have been confined to nursing facilities for long periods of time are **Ralph Parks** and **Joe Conti**. I'm told they would like to hear from their old shipmates even though they may not be able to respond.

THE 2002 HOLT REUNION

Plans are complete for the reunion, **APRIL 24 – 28, 2002** at the **Jacksonville Marriott Hotel, 4670 Salisbury Road, Jacksonville, Florida.**

Briefly, the official day of arrival is the 24th although you may come earlier or stay later, as you desire (at the same room rate). On Thursday, April 25th, we have a tour of the Mayport Naval Base, including a visit aboard an active naval vessel (if one is in port and they are not loading missiles). We will have lunch at the club on the base. Then, on Friday, April 26th we will visit the old city of St. Augustine (lunch included). Our closing banquet is Saturday evening, April 27th.

This schedule leaves plenty of time for reminiscing in the hospitality room or exploring Jacksonville. You will enjoy Jacksonville. The Jacksonville Landing is a good place to shop, dine or sit along the river and watch the ship and boat traffic.

Enclosed with this newsletter are registration forms, hotel registration envelopes /forms and car rental information.

I urge you to make your hotel reservations early as we have commitments on the number of rooms. You can reserve your room with a one- night deposit (either check or credit card). Your hotel reservation prior to the end of this year would be appreciated, as it will give us a clearer understanding of attendance. Should you have to cancel, your deposit will be refunded (see the terms on the reservation envelope).

Let's make this the best reunion with the greatest turnout ever. Jacksonville is easily reached from all areas of the country, with many direct airline flights. Come and enjoy the hospitality of the Sunshine State.

OTHER

In the last newsletter, we mentioned the ladies project....a HOLT cookbook containing your favorite recipes. At that time we had hoped to have it ready for the reunion, however, response has been slow with just two of the ladies responding. It's on the back burner awaiting more input from you ladies. If you want to have a cookbook with great recipes from the HOLT please send your favorites to Lois Morgan

Lile Anderson, son of our Executive Officer and Captain, B. B. Anderson, has purchased a bottle of very old, very rare, and very expensive, scotch Glenmorange 1971, which is to be enjoyed by "The Last Man" survivor of the HOLT. (Lile will participate in the enjoyment too)! Lile will have the details, but

one of the criteria will be “The Last Man that he can find” (as you know, we have been unsuccessful in locating about 30 or so of the old crew).