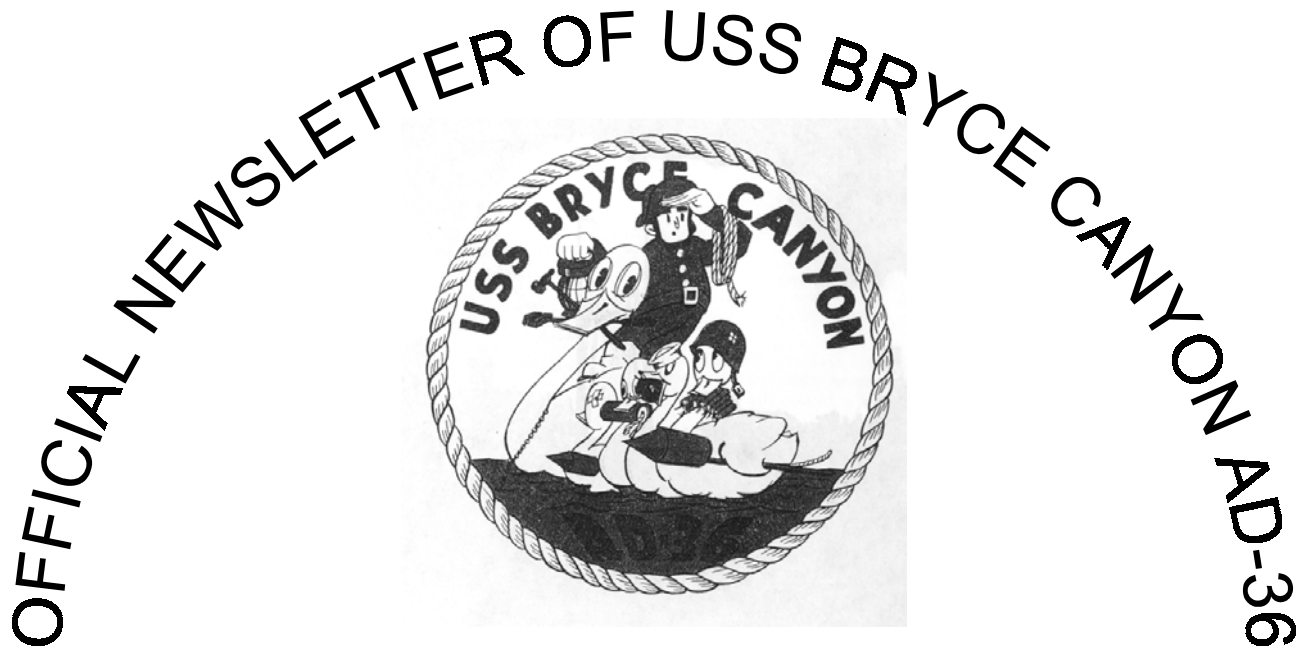


BRYCE CANYON UPDATE

Volume 8, Issue 1

January 2003



Points of Special Interest

- *If you missed the cruise, read about the fun that was had. Details are in the cover story.*
- *See who attended the reunion cruise. A list of attendees is on page two.*
- *We welcome six newly located shipmates on page three.*
- *Don Banks shares a moving letter and poem written by a teenager who read his account of the Barton Incident. Also a letter from a former Baron sailor. Don't miss these in MAIL CALL.*

2002 BRYCE CANYON REUNION CRUISE

The 2002 reunion of the USS Bryce Canyon took place on board the Royal Caribbean cruise ship, the "Sovereign of the Sea" on November 3-7. Twenty-seven former shipmates and thirty of their guests enjoyed the balmy Caribbean weather and the fabulous food and entertainment on board the ship.

The group departed on Sunday from Port Canaveral at 5:00 P.M. and were welcomed at a cocktail reception in the Viking Crown Lounge later that evening. Introductions were made and the "sea tales" began.

Monday morning, the ship docked at Coco Cay, Bahamas, the private island owned by RCCL. Here some chose to go swimming, others snorkeling, and some just enjoyed working on their tan in the sun. The day spent on the island was a relaxing and fun time for all. Dinner that night on board the ship was fabulous and the shows were spectacular each night. There was also music and dancing for those who loved to show off their skills on the dance floor.

The next day the ship arrived in Nassau and everyone was free to

chose their own tours in this beautiful city. The ship remained in Nassau until the next afternoon and set sail again for Port Canaveral. Again the dinner and entertainment was top-notch and enjoyed by everyone. There were even some good pay-offs at the slot machines in the casino on board for some lucky ones. Edward and Doris Boaz were crowned "King and Queen" of the Peppermint Twist Contest during the "Oldies Night", beating out fierce competition from others! Congratulations to them!

The attendees did take time out from all the fun to

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

hold a business meeting. At this meeting officers for the newly formed "USS Bryce Canyon Association" were chosen. They are as follows:

President	Charles Mullan
V. Pres.	Jack Bach
Treasurer	Roy Snyder
Secretary	Jarrard Collman
Asst. V.P.	Ken Sudweeks
Historian	Gary Wiles

The coordinator for next year's reunion will be Jack Bach and Dick Finn. New Orleans was chosen as the site for the 2003 reunion.

The following new crewmembers were recognized:

Robert Thomas
Edward Boaz
Gary Wiles
Cyril Buehler
Roy Hendricks

The "Sovereign of the Sea" arrived back in Port Canaveral on Thursday morning for debarkation. Everyone had a great time together and were sad that such a fun time was over too quickly. New Orleans is sure to be a marvelous site for the next reunion, but can it top this one? We sure will try!! See you in New Orleans.

NOTE FROM LYNN TO ATTENDEES

Hi Folks!

I had such a wonderful time with all of you on the cruise! I hope all of you have a wonderful holiday season and I hope to see all of you next year in New Orleans!

God Bless!
Lynn Love
Reunion Hostess, ML&RS

2002 REUNION ATTENDEES

Calvin & Margie Aitch
Jack & Dolores Bach
Harry & Wanda Bequette
Knut & Akemi Berland
Edward & Doris Boaz
Cyril & Mildred Buehler
Clarence & Beverly Buse
Jarrard Collman
Ruster & Mary Duhon
William & Gertrude Eubank
Richard & Patricia Finn
Donald & Susan Floyd
Norman & Shirley Gordon
Danny & Marlene Hardy
James & Judy Harris
Roy & Linda Hendricks
Jack Henry
Michael & Louise Homulak
Gregory Kruszka
Victor & Claire Levin
Charles & Alice Mullan
Clyde & Mary Lou Patrick
Kristy Smith & Todd Sevier
Dan & Valetta Smith
Billy Smith
Elroy & Onelda Snyder
Kenneth & Janie Sudweeks
Robert & Magdalene Thomas
John Tully
Gary & Joanna Wiles

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance from 010/02 issue
Minus \$102.53

Funds Received since 10/02
\$553.00

Funds Available for 01/03 issue
\$450.47

Funds Expended 01/03 issue
\$457.86

Balance Remaining for 04/03
Minus \$7.39

Thank you for your contributions for the Bryce Canyon Update. **Funds will be needed for the next issue.** Send contributions to ML&RS at the address on the right. Be sure to state it its for the Bryce Canyon Update.

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The UPDATE is the official publication of the USS BRYCE CANYON 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 BRYCE CANYON. 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.

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

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

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To all shipmates,

After a brief meeting on the cruise ship, results were that I become president of Bryce Canyon Association, which has yet to be organized. With everyone's participation, we will succeed. In future newsletters, our mission will be stated.

We had a great cruise with lots of activities, excellent food and service. Best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Hope to see all in New Orleans.

Charles (Moon) Mullan
mulwi@somtel.net



TAPS

The Bryce Canyon Update learned of the following shipmates' deaths since the last newsletter. Every member of the Association sends his heartfelt sympathy to the widows, families and friends of the deceased.

Anyone knowing of, or learning of, the death of a shipmate, please inform ML&RS so his name can be added to the Honor Roll and included in TAPS.

*Jack Christensen
(1950-54) Diesel Mechanic
Died July 2, 2002*

*Herman Fitzhugh
(1956) Commissary Officer
Died July 16, 2001*



WELCOME MAT

The USS BRYCE CANYON Association announces the following former crewmen have recently been located. Welcome aboard and we hope to see you at the next reunion.

*Stan Busath
1561 Navajo St
Salt Lake City, UT 84104-2910*

*Lawrence Kessler (1956-57)
62 Sweet Ridge Pl
Mountain Home, AR 72653-5491
714-968-6726
lkessler@infodash.com*

*Charles Jackson (1964-68) BT3
436 Clayton Dr
Malvern, AR 72104
501-865-4632
cbjackson@cei.net*

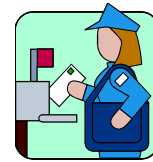
*Richard Labs
P O Box 1922
Muldraw, OK 74948
918-427-4624
s_labs@hotmail.com*

*Bill Taube
1005 Creek Hollow Dr
Keller, TX 76248
817-656-1008*

*Lee Burnett
1877 18th Ave
Olivehurst, CA 95961-4766
530-743-8342
burnett1877@aol.com*

HAPPY NEW YEAR

**FROM THE STAFF AT
ML&RS**



MAIL CALL

Dear ML&RS,

This is the obituary of our B.C. shipmate Herman "Pug" Fitzhugh.

Pug was our commissary officer aboard B.C. in 1956. I was a ship's serviceman, but we were all in Supply Division. Pug left the B.C. sometime in late '56 or '57 for another ship. The next time I saw Pug, 30 years later, was in a church we both attended. After all those years I still recognized him.

Pug's picture is in the 1956 Cruise Book, officer's section.

Thank you, ML&RS for letting everyone know.

Richard Pruitt
Mr. Fitzhugh's obituary follows:

HERMAN FITZHUGH

REDDING— Graveside services for Herman "Pug" Hess Fitzhugh, 79, of Redding will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Cottonwood District Cemetery in Cottonwood.

The Rev. John Rolland will officiate.

Visitation will be from 1 to 5 p.m. today at Allen & Dahl Funeral Chapel in Palo Cedro.

Mr. Fitzhugh died Monday, July 16, 2001, at his residence.

Born Feb. 28, 1922, in Malvern, Ark, he moved to Shasta County in 1994 from Tehama County. He had lived in Tehama County since 1961.

He was a 30-year U.S. Navy chief warrant officer of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, a member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, a member of the Masonic Lodge in Klamath Falls, Ore, and a member of the Cottonwood Baptist Church.

Survivors include wife Mary; son Michael of Oxnard; brother Hu

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Vaughen of Malvern, Ark; sisters Anne Morrison of Channelview, Texas, and Vanda Watson of Magnolia, Ark; and three grandchildren.

Dear Dina,

I thought you might like a copy of the picture the newspaper took for the article. *(about the Barton incident)* It is attached to this e-mail. I'm also sending two items from a young man, Tino Martinez. One is a letter from him, and the other is a poem he wrote after reading the article about the Barton. He is a 16-year old public school dropout. He writes poems and music, but didn't want to conform to school situations. I talked to his teacher, and then had a very long talk with him by phone, probably over an hour. I exposed a lot of my childhood past to him (it was pretty tough). He is convinced he is going to petition the school system for readmission next year. He has my phone number, and we are going to stay in contact. He is going to do it right this time.

Of course, I heard from many people, but this boy was something else. His poem really pulled my chain. You will see what I mean when you read the poem.

Respectfully,
Don Banks

Dear Mr. Donald Banks,

My name is Tino Martinez, a student at the Village School. I read the article about you on Veteran's Day and it inspired me to write this poem to share with you. I hope you enjoy it. Thanks for helping us have our freedom. I know how it feels to lose a fallen soldier because I have family members and friends who have died in the war of life or in gang wars. Keep you head up.

Sincerely yours,
Tino Martinez

FALLEN SOLDIER

By: Tino Martinez

I have bad memories I wish I could have ignored,
The USS Bryce Canyon needed my assistance so I went aboard.
From the years 1951 to the 1955's,
All I knew is that Herman Dahm and I left with our lives.
I made Herman a promise that still drives me to tears,
Even when I think about all the deaths in those horrible years.
There were thousands of deaths which I am glad I did not see,
I wish the number was zero, but that's just a thought from me.
For the past 50 years I've had these thoughts in my head,
Of some people injured and some already dead.
It gets worse and worse as I'm getting older,
To me my fallen friend is our country's fallen soldier.

Now, here is part of the newspaper article printed in the FORT COLLINS COLORADOAN on Veteran's Day.

VETERAN SHARES HEART-WRENCING ACCOUNT OF KOREA

Don Banks Shares a Story He Kept Secret for 50 Years

By David Persons

War claims its victims in many different ways.

Often, it's not by death or a debilitating wound.

For many veterans, the scars are emotional and psychological. However, make no mistake, they're just as painful.

That's why Veteran's Day can be a terribly difficult day for many of them.

Don Banks knows only too well.

For the past 50 years, Banks has honored a promise to shipmate Herman Dahm. The promise was not to talk to anyone about an incident that happened during the Korean War while they served aboard the USS

Bryce Canyon, a destroyer tender.

When Veteran's Day rolls around each year, Banks is once again reminded of that day in 1952, the promise he made and the horrible memory that drives him to tears before the day is over.

This year promises to be different though.

"I think it will be a lot easier," Banks, now 70, said as he folded and unfolded his hands.

Banks kept his promise to Dahm. Although they were great friends through the years and visited each other frequently, Banks never brought up the awful moment they shared.

Then Dahm died earlier this year.

With Dahm gone, and the horror of the incident eating away at him emotionally, Banks reluctantly responded to requests from former shipmates and their families to tell the story.

Banks sat down last summer and began writing an article that had been requested by the editor of the newsletter of former USS Bryce Canyon shipmates.

"It was hard, but I just wanted to get it over with," Banks said. "When I finished writing it, I didn't even check it for spelling. I just shoved it into an envelope, drove to the post office and mailed it."

Something happened to Banks almost immediately.

"I felt relieved," he said. "It was hard to do, to write about something that people should never see or know about. But, I've been feeling better ever since. That's why I think this (Veteran's) Day will be easier."

(Here the article goes on to recount the story of the Barton Incident that was printed in the October issue of the Update.)

"It's been hard all these years," Banks said, "But, my salvation has been the kids."

Banks was referring to students he taught in a woodshop class at Leshar Junior High from 1960 to 1987.

"I was able to teach a lot of life skills there, about success and fail-

(Continued on page 5)

ure," Banks said. "Nobody knew what I had seen. I was hurting, but I couldn't tell anyone about it.

"So I just tried to be nice and help the kids. They would sometimes say: 'Why did you do that, Mr. Banks?' I'd say: 'Because I love you, honey. That's all you need to know.'"

Through the years, Banks said he found the answer to dealing with his "memory" wasn't self-pity either.

"You can wallow inside or be busy as you can and constructive as you can. I chose to do that, to be thankful, and to realize that I've been blessed."

Dear Karen,

I am forwarding an e-mail to you that I received from Jim Deters. As you can see from the e-mail, he was on the USS Barton when it hit the mine. I found his letter to be greatly appreciated and welcome. Because those boys we took out of the boiler room now have names and are not forgotten. I found this personally to be of a great relief and I must admit I did sit down and have a little cry.

I gave Jim your web address and I feel certain he and his shipmates will be checking in and reading what I have written.

It is so very refreshing to know these five boys have not been forgotten by me or by their shipmates. God bless them.

Respectfully,
Don Banks

Dear Don,

As a 4-year enlistee, I served aboard BARTON from 1951 till Nov. 1954, when I was discharged as an SK1. I was recently given a copy of your article, remembering the BARTON mine hit on the night of Sept. 16, 1952, while positioned at the very rear of a screen and operating with Task Force 77 (a fast aircraft carrier group).

I remember the BRYCE CAN-

YON well, and appreciate what you , Herman Dahm, and our other shipmates did.

You may be interested in knowing the names of the 5 who were killed that night. They are as follows:

Russell J. Graf
Harold J. Savoie
Walter E. Thierfelder, Jr.
John L. Walton
John M. Sherry

The Black to whom you made reference, was John L. Walton. I'm not certain who had the Popeye tattoo.

We lost another shipmate, Dale Gray, on August 10, 1952, during a gun duel with shore installations in Wonsan Harbor, where the USS Pueblo was seized by North Korea. We have had them all enrolled at the Navy Memorial. See www.lonesailor.org for their rates, ranks, etc.

Back in 1966, I undertook the task of finding my former shipmates and having reunions. In 1996, after 30 years, I turned the reins over to others, but I still attend. Our latest was in Norfolk (Sept. 11-15, 2002) where we had 62 shipmates in attendance plus 42 spouses. Our next one is scheduled for September 17-21, 2003, at the Radisson hotel in Clearwater, FL. You're welcome to come and swap stories. The fellow in charge there is: Bill Kent, 1936 Barrington Dr. W, Clearwater, FL 34623, Phone (813) 443-6152.

Will appreciate your acknowledging receipt of this and advising me exactly where and when (Special Edition?) your article appeared.

Jim Deters
Edgewood, KY

SUBSCRIBE ON LINE

To subscribe to the BRYCE CANYON E-mail Roster please send an e-mail to SubscribeMLRS@aol.com, put the phrase SUBSCRIBE BRYCE CANYON in the Subject line and type your name and e-mail address in the body of your e-mail. You will be placed in the e-mail roster and only receive the Update on line, saving postage for the group.

NEW ORLEANS IN 2003

Although the dates have not yet been confirmed, we do know that the USS Bryce Canyon's 2003 reunion will be in New Orleans, LA. Dates will be announced in the April issue of the Update and registration packets will arrive approximately 90 days prior to the reunion. In order to whet your appetite for New Orleans, we will give you a brief history of the city and a summary of some of its attractions. We will then ask you to fill out the survey on page six and return it to us so we can plan your reunion according to your responses.

HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS

Once upon a time in 1718, in the new Louisiana Territory, a Creole Princess was born on the banks of the mighty Mississippi River. The small foundling on the waterfront was nurtured through many years of rich and diverse heritage, when Choctaw and Chickasaw settlements prevailed, swaggering pirates assailed her shores, Spaniards introduced flamboyant architectural splendors, and voodoo thrived as a religion. Then, in 1763 she warmly welcomed a group of French exiles from Canada, those charismatic Cajuns who blessed her with soul-stirring, foot-stomping music and intoxicating cuisine.

She was founded by the French, matured under the Spanish, and came to world prominence as America's second largest port city. Peoples of all colors and many nationalities have contributed to the wonderful mixture of sights, sounds, smells and tastes that are New Orleans.

New Orleans is a city rich in history, claiming many "oldest this" and "oldest thats." This is one of the reasons New Orleans is so much fun to explore. Being the second-largest port in the nation also has had a dramatic impact on New Orleans'

history.

But perhaps the most compelling cultural influence of all came from the cultivated Creoles, who were a product of the merging of French and Spanish settlers. Something of the Creole spirit still flourishes to this day. It exudes a fondness for having fun; a reverence for the aesthetic; a veneration of things vintage and traditional; a proclivity toward hospitality; and an unflappable attitude native to locals that most have to work furiously to attain.

Eventually acquiring the title, "European Queen of the Mississippi," New Orleans was able to preserve her "gumbo" of ethnic cultures and metamorphose from an actual place into a state of mind, with a style borne of romantic traditions and an admiration for all that is truly exotic. The French Quarter, a place of narrow cobblestone streets, international beauty, and antiquated buildings rich in character, is the perfect preamble to the sights and sounds of New Orleans. There are hundreds of restaurants, eminent establishments and modest cafes, legions of bars, and of course, "all that jazz."

The nightlife is notorious in the Big Easy. At sundown, raise your glasses and toast in the evening, as the fun unfolds! Have a Hurricane on Bourbon Street, discover Dixieland Jazz spilling out of an unlikely facade, or experience the legendary Creole curiosity about chance in the casinos, both river and land-based.

For the Romantic at heart, go gently into the night on an enchanting horse-drawn carriage ride, gaze at the stars on the Moonwalk promenade along the sultry Mississippi, dine in legendary restaurants, ramble down the River on a steamboat dinner-jazz cruise, or dream alongside the visionaries in any number of small French Quarter cafes, where the ambiance has inspired many a soul searcher.

If discovery is in your blood, uncover the mystery and enchant-

ment that lies beyond the French Quarter facades by peering through iron gateways into verdant courtyards lush with tropical plants, ferns, wisteria, butterfly lilies and banana trees. To foster a fascination for the historical, many intriguing facets of the Crescent City's rich history have been preserved in the Cabildo, Pontalba and Old U.S. Mint surrounding Jackson. Marvel at the graceful mansions and breathtakingly elegant antebellum homes with Spanish moss that line St. Charles Ave.

With its eclectic cultural history, you can be sure New Orleans offers the best, whether you wish to dance the night away in a cabaret; explore the mysterious, murky bayous with a Cajun guide; ease into the day with a steaming cup of cafe au lait and mouth-watering beignets; or experience the allure and adventure of the Mighty Mississippi. No matter what you are celebrating, or when you are celebrating it, there is always a party going on somewhere in the city that invented a good time!

ATTRACTIONS

The newest New Orleans attraction is the **National D-Day Museum**. Lest we forget, on D-Day, June 6, 1944 ordinary people were doing the extraordinary. Sacrifice is the only word that comes close to expressing what the men and women did on the morning of June 6, 1944.

More than a half century ago, after three years of war against Germany and Japan, the allied Nations - US, Great Britain and Canada—launched "Overlord", the largest military operation the world had ever seen. Although a beachhead was established in Normandy, and the successful landing was the first step in the destruction of Hitler's Third Reich, it was not without great human cost. The museum's exhibits tell the rest. The exhibits include displays depicting, War Clouds, America Goes to War, Preparing for the Invasion, Aid and Sea Assault, D-Day—The Beaches, Victory in Europe. This is a must see!

Experience the thrill of a **Louisiana Swamp**. It's more than just a boat ride. You will be entertained, educated and given a "visual encounter" (how's that for fancy words) that well may be the highlight of the three days. The Captain will talk about history, the Cajun way of life and the plants and animals along the way. You are reminded to stay under the boat's canopy so the snakes falling from the cypress trees don't land on you and to keep our hands out of the swamp water, the alligators love fingers.

The **Creole Plantation** "Laura" is where the first Tales of Be're Rabbit were first recorded. Relive 200 years of the charmed and tragic lives of slave, women and children who lived in Laura's slave quarters, manor houses and Creole Cottages.

NEW ORLEANS CITY TOUR INCLUDING MOST OF THE FOLLOWING:

New Orleans "proper" is filled with places to see and things to do. There is of course the **French Quarter** with all of its history and charm. Then there's **Jackson Square** (the oldest section of the city). The towering **St Louis Cathedral** will inspire you.

The infamous **Bourbon Street** has captivated tourists for years. Music great Louis Armstrong got his start here. Legend has it that if it can be placed in a bottle it can be sold in the street. That of course would not interest old sailors.

We're a bit hesitant to mention this area, the seductive colonial **Red Light District**, but there really is a lot of history here. Your guide may be able to tell you of some famous ladies who reportedly got their start in one of the houses of "commercial affection."

The **French Market** is a bustling place where even the most discriminate shopper can feel at home.

The **Creole Mansions** on Esplanade Ave will give you a feel for the Creole lifestyle of that day.

The **City of the Dead** will terrify you. Among the ancient tombs you will discover ones like Marie Laveau's (the famous voodoo priestess).

The **Garden District** features some of the most magnificent homes in New Orleans. View the former homes of Jefferson Davis and author Anne Rice as well as others.

The Pontalba Apartment Build-

ings are the oldest apartment complex in the United States.

Much history took place in New Orleans, not the least of which was the signing of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, giving the United States much of the land west of the Mississippi River that was not under Spanish control. See **Cabildo**, the place where the signing of this

historic document took place.

The Superdome, home of the NFL's New Orleans Saints

There are of course other attractions and your recommendations are most welcome. Just list them on the survey.

USS BRYCE CANYON 2003 SURVEY NEW ORLEANS, LA

In order to give you the best possible reunion at the best possible price, please help us by answering a few questions about the reunion format and activities.

1. Do you wish to continue the practice of breakfast each morning; yes No
2. Do you wish to continue having welcome receptions: yes no
3. Do you prefer to have the tours included in the option prices, yes no
OR keep the tours as an option registering for them separately, yes no
4. Would you like music for dancing after the banquet (realizing this will add several dollars per person to the banquet price) yes no
5. Would you prefer a more modestly priced hotel in nearby Metairie, with room prices of approximately \$79 per night (plus tax), free airport shuttle to the hotel and free hotel parking, but not within walking distance of the French Quarter OR
a hotel within walking distance of the French Quarter, but room rates of \$99 to \$139 per night (plus tax), \$20 shuttle service from the airport each way and \$20 per day parking fee at the hotel.

Please number chronologically your favorite tour choices. The "votes" will be tallied up and those attractions receiving the most "votes" will be included.

- | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National D-Day and Pacific Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana Swamp Cruise | Other suggestions: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creole Plantation | <input type="checkbox"/> French Quarter | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bourbon Street | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Light District | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French Market | <input type="checkbox"/> Creole Mansions | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of the Dead | <input type="checkbox"/> The Garden District | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Superdome | <input type="checkbox"/> Pontalba Apartments | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cabildo | | |

Mail survey to:
Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc
P O Drawer 11399
Hickory, NC 28603
 Or:
Fax: 828-256-6559