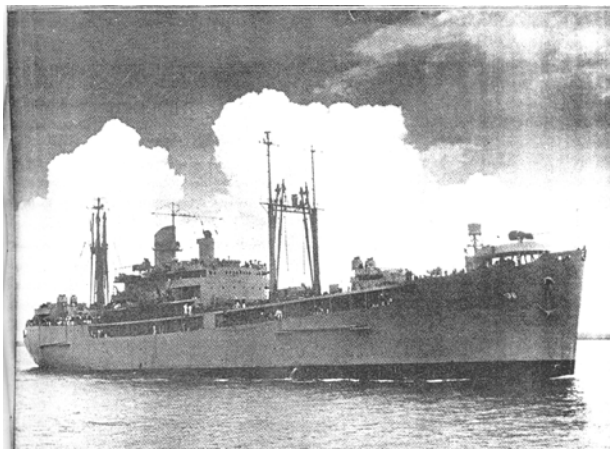


BRYCE CANYON UPDATE

Volume 11, Issue 1

January 2006

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS BRYCE CANYON AD 36



Points of Special Interest

- *If you ever spent a Christmas away from home during your time in the Navy, you can relate to the stories in pages 1-3.*
- *Dates for the 2006 reunion are found on page three. Mark your calendars now and plan on attending.*
- *Mail Call on pages four and five has some great letters. We hope to hear from YOU in the future.*
- *Some very important news from ML&RS is on page six. Please read it carefully.*

MEMORIES OF CHRISTMASSES PAST

*Editor's note: We sent out an e-mail requesting memories about Christmas spent on board the Bryce Canyon. The following stories were sent in, and we say a **big thank you** to all who contributed to this issue.*

There's nothing like celebrating the holidays in the Philippines, especially Christmas. We all know how hot it is there, even in December. The Christmas trees were brought out of the "reefers" in the morning, looking very green and smelling very good and piney. By early afternoon the trees were brown and DEAD, not even the pine smell remained...But it was

a very important time of the year to get the MAIL CALL from home. We were part of the OPERATIONS TEAM that went ashore to bring back mail from home. We almost felt like Santa Claus's helpers.

Don Chinery
RD2 Operations

My wife, mom and friends would send me care packages for Christmas—home made cookies for me and the guys in my Weapons Division. My wife even sent me a Christmas tree for my desk, ornaments, tinsel, and little presents to put

under it. Man did I get ribbed. But, to tell the truth, they loved it and were jealous. I was yeoman for the Division and had room on my desk for the goodies. When you're out at sea, away from home, this really meant a GREAT DEAL TO ME!!!

Stephen Templeton

One Christmas I remember aboard the Bryce Canyon was one we spent in Pearl Harbor. The Chaplain had a Christmas carol sing-along get-together on the aft deck. Being from Minnesota, it didn't seem much like Christmas, being

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

that we were in fair weather. Back home it was probably somewhere around 0 degrees and up to 2 feet of snow on the ground. The Chaplain tried to make it festive, but, for a northerner the atmosphere just wasn't there.

Jim Erickson

SK 3 S 1 Div Jan 1964-July 1966

I spent Christmas of 1966 on the Bryce Canyon. We were on a West-Pac cruise and in the Philippines. It was 105 degrees! We left shortly after and went on to Japan. It was about 20 degrees there!!! We like to froze, but I enjoyed the Bryce Canyon.

Thomas Price

I remember the first Christmas ever on the Bryce Canyon very well—December 1950. My wife and I were married in November 1950—she was only 16 and I was 20. I had just re-enlisted in the Navy due to the Korean War and was assigned to the Bryce Canyon in August 1950, Plank owner. The Bryce Canyon left Charleston via Norfolk, VA thru the Panama Canal to San Diego with me aboard. My wife took a Greyhound bus and we met at the Grand Hotel downtown San Diego. We could not afford the rates at the hotel, so we rented a one room apartment on Broadway. I remember a few of the guys in the Supply Dept from Missouri. They had their wives come to San Diego. I ran the Small Stores aboard the ship. I guess you could say this was our Honeymoon. We had Christmas dinner aboard the Bryce Canyon December 1950.

My wife and I have been married for 55 years and reside in Casselberry, FL, just outside of Orlando. I was a storekeeper aboard the Bryce Canyon from Aug. 1950 to Oct. 1953.

Charles Brown

I spent Christmas Eve in the receiving station in San Diego in 1950. The next day being Christmas Day I went aboard the BC. Boy, what a shock that was! The only ones at the quarter deck was the OFD and the Quartermaster. It seemed like the whole ship's company was on liberty. I felt like a lost puppy. I was told to go forward to the Deck Division. I finally found somebody who was really nice and helped me get squared away. But that was one of many Christmases away from home, and for a green hick from Wisconsin, that sure was a change. I was on the BC until Oct. of 1952. From there I went to Kodiak, Alaska for the rest of my tour. All in all, it was a great experience. One I never will forget.

Don Radloff

The first Christmas I spent aboard the BC away from home was in 1966. I reported aboard directly out of the Air Force school at Lowery AFB, Colorado where I studied electronic equipment standards and calibration of test equipment used by the ET, EM, IC, FT and GM ratings.

I flew in from Travis AFB to Clarke AFB outside Angeles, PI and bussed down to Subic Bay on a Navy bus over roads I still have nightmares about.

There wasn't much in the way of Christmas cheer aboard the ship when I arrived. However, the Philipinos in Olongapo and on the base were very much into the season with decorations and festivities everywhere.

We didn't stand down from our mission of tending ships during the holidays however, as the ships alongside us for their tender availabilities were generally fresh off the lines of Vietnam and would be returning when we finished their work orders.

I don't remember the ships in the harbor at Subic Bay displaying much in the way of lights or trees. I know that we didn't have any deco-

rations to speak of in the R-4 Division spaces. The best deal for sailors on the Bryce Canyon during that time was the MARS radio station which was operated by ETCM Register, using his personal amateur radio equipment. Master Chief Register spent virtually all of his spare time setting up with ARRL operators stateside to enable crew members to make "Phone patches" to their loved ones back home. I was able to speak with my wife and kids twice during that time and was very grateful for the opportunity.

The ship had holiday routine on Christmas Day, but we worked Christmas Eve and the day after. For many of the crew at that time, work was a friendly anesthetic and substitute for too many beers in too many bars in Olongapo City. Christmas in 1966 was a bittersweet experience in that most of us were pretty melancholy about being away from home, but also realized that we were doing an important job in supporting the Vietnam War effort.

Gerald G. Ryals, ETCS, USN Retired
Served on Bryce Canyon as an ETR3, ETR2 and ET1 before being transferred to Norfolk, VA in 1970.

I will attempt to recall some things about the Christmas Eve party we had for little Japanese orphan children on the USS Bryce Canyon.

I was on Bryce Canyon from January '52 to June '55. I think it was on our first trip to Japan and the Far East when we had the party for the children.

Some of the highlights I remember: We were told that many children from the orphanage would be coming aboard ship for the entire afternoon. We were asked to sign up to take care of one, two or three children.

I remember when the liberty boats started bringing the children to the ship. I don't have any idea how many there were, but there were sure a lot of little guys and girls. They spoke no English and communicating was kind of tough, but we got along quite well.

(Continued on page 3)

(There was a lot of guessing going on.) They had just a few nuns with them who also did not speak English.

It was really funny to see big, salty sailors carrying around a little Japanese child or have one hanging from their finger as they walked them down the passageways of the ship. These little people were all eyeballs. They wanted to see and experience most everything on the ship.

There were some emergencies. I remember we were walking down one passageway when a little girl was kind of crying and the big, salty sailor she was with said, "I don't know what's wrong. I think she needs to go to the bathroom. Now what do I do?" He was standing right by the head and another sailor said, "Well, take her." The first sailor said, "I can't take her, that's a men's head." The second sailor picked up the little girl and said, "Oh, my gosh, let's get it done." (He had children of his own at home.) It was only a few minutes later that he came back with the little girl. It was obvious that the problem had been taken care of. She was just fine and ready to explore more of the ship.

We were, at some point, notified via the PA system, that it was time to bring the children down to the mess hall for their dinner. I can still remember the amazed look of these children as we filled their trays for them. They looked as though they couldn't imagine that much food on one tray. Those little folks sat down with us and ate everything they could possibly eat off the tray. Their little tummies were packed and their eyes weren't nearly as big as they were before they sat down for dinner. We had noticed that they had a little towel in their hands that held a plastic box. We now found out what that was for. When they finished eating all they could possibly eat, they unwrapped the box, took off the lid and put all the left-over food into that little plastic box. It was amazing how carefully they packed everything they could put into that little box, wrapped it up and tied it so that they had a handle to carry it back to the orphanage.

After dinner, we all went up to the main deck and found that Santa Claus

was there. The little children were then handed little jump suits, blue ones for the boys and red for the girls. They were now ready to leave the ship. They had their little jump suits, their tummies full and their eyes had been taking in all they could for the entire time they were on the ship. They looked pretty tired but happy when they left the ship to return to the orphanage.

From what I saw and what I experienced, I know this was a very exciting and eventful time for the children. But I must tell you, it sure left a mark on my heart. That's probably one of the best Christmases I ever had. We were very blessed to have had this Christmas experience with the orphan children.

Don Banks, MM2
Outside Repair 5th Division



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 families and friends of the deceased.

Rich Wash
(1966-68) DCFN R Div
Died October 18, 2004

John Yates
(1950-52) CS-2 S Div
Died October 7, 2005

Norman Swatzell
Date of death not reported



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.

Roy Adams
1485 Underpass Rd
Advance, NC 27006
336-998-5522
rockettoo@juno.com

John Grauberger
3547 Lake Shore Dr
Longmont, CO 80503

Ken Iliff
2120 Meander Rd
Windsor, CO 80550

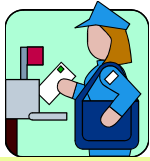
Dave Lindell
108 Spanish Oak Cir
Georgetown, TX 78628

Lorraine Torres (1973-74)
PO Box 2105
Downey, CA 90242

Greg Emanoff (E-7)
307 S Central Ave
Fairborn, OH 45424
937-878-6287
beckley5@sbcglobal.net

Don Dempsey
2508 N Keystone St
Burbank, CA 91504
818-843-5430

USS BRYCE CANYON 2006 REUNION
OCTOBER 12—15
BALTIMORE/ANNAPOLIS AREA
HOLIDAY INN BWI



MAIL CALL

Dear Dina,

While I was having lunch today with a couple of my friends, there were three ladies that came and sat down next to our table. One of the ladies said to me, "I like your hat." Well, I was wearing my US Navy Veteran hat. Later I found out that Lorraine Torres, was in the Navy also. In her conversation she made the remark that she was on the USS Bryce Canyon in Hawaii. As we continued to talk with her, she told me she was a Medic. Then I began to tell her about the reunions that we had had in the past. I asked her to give me her name and address and the years she served on the Bryce Canyon and of course she did. I am passing that information on to you so that she can be put on our mailing list for information for the upcoming events and reunion information in the future.

Please add her to our list so she can receive our newsletters. (See *Welcome Mat.*)

Thanking you in advance,
John Manley,
Chaplain, USS Bryce Canyon AD-36

Hi Karen,

Here's a possible story idea. When I served on the Bryce Canyon in 66-68, me and some of the other crewmates made a shipwreck movie on Monkey Island. We are killed off one by one by a madman on the island. The area was a recreation island in Subic Bay. With the new computer video editing technology, I added sound to the movie and we had a reunion BBQ movie party a few months ago. We hadn't seen each other for 35 years. I have before and after photos. Just a thought.

Rodney Baker

Karen,

In 1957 I was being transferred from the Bryce Canyon to shore duty in Beeville, Texas and I was saying goodbye to my shipmates that I had played music with on board ship. We called our group of musicians "The Bryce Canyon Troubadours." We had become the official "ship's band" and played almost every night on deck. As I was saying goodbye to the bass player, Smokey, and Pee Wee Garrison, the fiddle player, they said, "Next time we see you will be on the Grand Ole Opry." I laughed at the absurdity of that remark and left the ship for the last time. Ten years later, in 1967, I was on stage of the old Ryman Auditorium, singing my songs on the Grand Ole Opry and I glanced down into one of the front row pews and there was Smoky and Pee Wee, and they were jumping up and shouting out, "WE TOLD YOU! WE TOLD YOU!" We had a grand old reunion of shipmates after the show.

I came on board the Bryce Canyon in December 1954 and left in March of 1957 for shore duty. Good memories all.

Stan Hitchcock

(Stan was featured in an article in the October 2005 issue of Bryce Canyon Update.)

AN OUTLINE OF MY KOREAN WAR SERVICE ABOARD THE USS BRYCE CANYON DURING HER FIRST TOUR OF DUTY

During WWII I served aboard the USS Bailey DD-492 and was discharged on 4 May 1946. The same day I re-enlisted in the naval reserve and was placed on an inactive status. In 1949 I transferred to the active reserve at the Navy Training Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan. By this time I was married and we had two daughters.

On 27 July 1950, I was called to active duty and was to report for duty 12 August 1950. I left for the U.S. Navy Recruiting Station in Detroit, along with 35 other reservists from West Michigan, including 12 of us from Grand Rapids.

From induction in Detroit we were transported to Great Lakes Naval Training Center to await further assignment. I was on a draft of five men that was assigned to the USS Bryce Canyon AD-36, birthed in Charleston, SC. The five of us left by railroad, traveled all night, and arrived in Charleston the following morning.

The Bryce Canyon was commissioned on 15 September 1950 at the Charleston Naval Shipyard, Charleston, SC, and went to sea for the first time on 3 October 1950 for a shake down cruise and returned to port on 4 October 1950. Many of you readers will remember that we were towed by tug back to port because of a bearing problem in the main reduction gear housing.

On 16 November 1950, she reported for duty to the Chief of Naval Operations and to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Atlantic Fleet and sailed to Norfolk, VA. On 30 November 1950, the ship sailed from Norfolk through the Panama Canal to San Diego, CA, and reported to the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet for duty. We were in port in San Diego while the yard was making some minor design adjustments.

While the ship was in San Diego, I had shore leave to see my wife and third newborn daughter. As you can guess, this wasn't going to be one of our best years for family life together, however, the Navy had control over the situation, not us.

On the plus side, life aboard the Bryce Canyon was like living in a luxury hotel by comparison to life on the BAILEY during WWII. Among the good things I remember was Christmas Dinner. I still have a copy of the menu which read as follows:

**U.S.S. BRYCE CANYON (AD-36)
Christmas Day 1950**

(Continued on page five)

M.R. Gerin, Captain, USN, Commanding Officer—F.W. Hawes, CDR, USN, Executive Officer—O.R. Garrett, LCDR, SC, USN, Supply Officer—H.H. Paschal, PCLK, USNR, Commissary Officer—V.P. Burek, CSC, USN, Chief Commissaryman—Y Division Personnel

Menu

Tomato Juice Cocktail, Chicken Rice Soup, Crisp Crackers, Roast Young Tom Turkey, Baked Bread Dressing, Baked Ham, Pineapple Glaze, Giblet Gravy, Whipped Sweet Potatoes, Buttered Fresh Succotash, Heart of Lettuce, Thousand Island Dressing, Assorted Pickles and Olives, Celery and Carrot Sticks, Mince Pie, Ice Cream, Hot Rolls, Butter, Cranberry Sauce, Hot Coffee, Candy, Nuts.

I think that you will agree that if you must be away from home on Christmas, a dinner like this is certainly second best. I still remember that dinner and others nearly as good after 55 years.

The Bryce Canyon sailed on 28 March 1951 for over seas service in the Far East to take her part as an operating unit of the Fleet. On 5 April 1951, the Bryce Canyon crossed the International Date Line and all hands received the Order of the Golden Dragon. She arrived at her Far East Station, Yokosuka, Japan on 12 April 1951, and relieved another Tender on duty there. While at Yokosuka, the ship's crew had the opportunity to tour this city and also Tokyo.

Later the Bryce Canyon steamed to Sasebo, Japan where we continued the same duties, except were much closer to the War Zone. While there, we serviced ships returning from the War Zone. Also while at southern Japan, the Bryce Canyon made tours of duty into the Korean War Zone.

Duty at Sasebo wasn't all work. We also had some time for touring and recreation. Besides touring the city of Sasebo, we had the opportunity to take day trips to Nagasaki,

Unzen and Karatsu.

On 19 July 1951, orders for my release from the Navy came aboard. This was while we were still in Sasebo, Japan. This came about because of hardships at home and the fact that my enlistment had expired. I stayed aboard until the ship returned to Yokosuka to simplify my transportation from Sasebo to Yokosuka. I left the Bryce Canyon AD 36 on 15 July 1951 and awaited transportation to the United States. I boarded the USS LST 822 on 19 July 1951 as a working passenger, and we arrived in San Diego, CA on 9 August 1951. I was discharged from the Navy at

the United States Navy Reserve Station at San Diego, California on 15 August 1951.

For my service during the Korean War, I was awarded the following medals: Navy Occupation Service—Japan; National Defense Service, United Nations Korean Service, Korean Service, The Presidential Unit Citation—Republic of Korea and the Korean War Medal, which was awarded by the Republic of Korea on 25 June 2000.

Jay L Shook, MM2/c WWII and Korean Veteran



Kids Go To Sea For Yule Party

One hundred Palama Settlement children attended a ship-board party Saturday on the USS Bryce Canyon (AD-36) at Pearl Harbor.

Escorted by "duty daddies," they toured the ship, watched cartoons, ate cake and ice cream and finally were visited by Santa.

Captain O.D. Compton, on behalf of the ship and its men, wound things up by presenting the children a movie projector.

From Honolulu Advertiser, Wednesday, Dec. 25, 1963.

Submitted by Fel Cespedes, pictured above on far right.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance from 10/05	\$524.17
Received since 10/05	\$373.50
Available for 01/06	\$897.67
Expended 01/06	\$699.56
Postage:	\$228.52
Paper:	\$106.38
Envelopes:	\$35.46
Copies:	\$236.40
Labor:	\$92.80
TOTAL:	\$669.56

Balance Remaining for 04/06
\$198.11

Send contributions to ML&RS
PO Drawer 11399, Hickory NC
28603. Be sure to state it is for
the Bryce Canyon Update.

Published By:

Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc
PO Box 11399
Hickory, NC 28603
828-256-6008 (voice)
828-256-6559 (fax)
dinamlrs@charterinternet.com
karenmlrs@charterinternet.com
Web site: www.mlrsinc.com

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

From: Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc

The information contained in this letter is very important! Please read it very carefully and respond as necessary! **You must respond as indicated in this message to continue receiving information about your reunion through the US Postal mail!**

Big changes are going on here at ML&RS, Inc! They're not going to happen overnight, but the process has begun. As you are certainly aware, rising costs for hotel rooms, meal prices and fuel for autos and tour buses makes for a more expensive reunion! We are doing everything we can to keep our costs to a minimum. However, prices continue to rise, including postage (which has gone up again the first of this year). In an effort to offer you and your fellow attendees the lowest possible cost, we are going to make some changes to the way things have been done in the past. We hope you will work with us to implement these changes as smoothly as possible!

Due to the multitude of requests we have received over the last few years, we are going to now upgrade our web site to include a variety of information pertaining to your reunion. There will be a small web site within our company's web site for each of the reunion groups we work with. The main page for each group will contain basic information about the upcoming reunion, as well as links to several other pages, including but not limited to lists of those who have signed up, the actual registration packet as a web page, a link to the profiles that were previously printed in the Sentimental Journal, newsletters, and after the reunion a link that can be used to order copies of the memory books that will now be included as part of the reunion package. Also, we will not duplicate anything your group already has on their web page. We will do our best to keep personal information secure. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published. Email addresses will only be published with permission.

Beginning with the 2006 reunions, we will be discontinuing our memorabilia sales, including the Sentimental Journal. There are so many web sites out there now where hats, t-shirts, etc can be ordered, and the turn-around time is just a matter of days. When we first started this business, this was not the case. We

began offering these items as a service to the reunion groups who didn't know where else to order items. Due to the increased availability of memorabilia, our sales have declined over the last few years, and it is no longer cost effective for us to continue offering these items. Also, there are a lot of groups who prefer to sell the items themselves as a fund raiser for the association. We certainly do not wish to compete with your association sales!

In place of the Sentimental Journal, we will begin including a 2006 Memory Book as the memorabilia item given away at the reunion. This will replace the note cards, clocks, pens, etc that have been given in the past. However, they will not be given at the reunion, they will be sent to each attendee (who signs up for one of the Option Packages or orders one as part of their Individual Option) following the reunion. The 2006 Memory Book will contain photos from the reunion and "then and now" photos that have been submitted prior to the reunion each year. The very popular profiles will now be accessible from the web site.

The web sites will be developed and published in the order the reunions are held this year. The USS PURDY reunion will be the first one, in case you want to see an example of the new web site format. Go to www.mlrsinc.com/purdy. At some point in the near future, we plan to add on-line registration capabilities to each group's web site. That probably won't happen this year, but I do foresee it happening soon. That is another feature we got a lot of requests for.

Once the group's web site is up and running we will discontinue the majority of the paper mailings we send out. Newsletters, Surveys, Introductory Letters and Questionnaires, and the Regis-

tration Material will all be available on the web site. We do realize that there are still some people who do not have or do not want internet access. Because of this, **we will continue paper mailings to those who let us know they want their info via the postal mail.**

You must return the "coupon" on page four of this newsletter if you wish to continue receiving paper copies of the various material we send out - newsletters, registration material, surveys, etc. If you do not mail in this coupon, we are assuming you have internet access and can obtain all the necessary reunion information off your group's web site.

Your group's web site will be www.mlrsinc.com/brycecanyon. It may not be up and running when you get this letter, but it will be soon. I have already assigned the web addresses to each group, so I could let you know in this message what the address will be. Be sure to visit the site frequently and take advantage of the information that will be/is available there. If your profile is not listed in the Crew Profiles, then be sure to submit yours via www.mlrsinc.com/questionnaire.htm!

As we strive to provide you and your reunion group with the best possible value for your reunion dollar, it is sometimes necessary to change the way some things are done. Our ultimate goal is to offer each and every reunion attendee a great reunion at a reasonable price. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, comments or suggestions!

Respectfully,
Dina Coffey
Office Manager
M L&RS, Inc

Return this coupon if you want to receive all future mailings from us on paper via US Postal Mail:

Reunion Group: _____
(ship or unit name)

Your name: _____

Your mailing address: _____

Your phone number: _____

Return this coupon to:
ML&RS, INC
PO DRAWER 11399
HICKORY, NC 28603