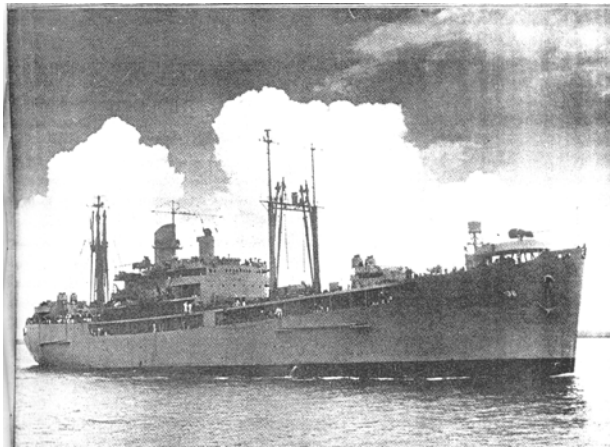


BRYCE CANYON UPDATE

Volume 12, Issue 2

April 2007

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS BRYCE CANYON AD 36



Points of Special Interest

- *News about the annual dues and the reunion are in the Coordinator's Message in the cover story.*
- *See the Financial Report on page two for a report on collected dues money.*
- *"Swabbie Stories," beginning on page three, is a new section to share your life experiences while on the BC. Please submit your stories!*
- *Learn more about San Antonio by reading the facts on page four.*

COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

Ahoy Bryce Canyon Sailors:

First off, I want to thank all those Sailors for sending in their \$20.00 annual Bryce Canyon Association dues to the Military Locator & Reunion Service, c/o Bryce Canyon Newsletter. The response has been great. We have a large mailing list of BC sailors and we're always having problems when it comes to the mailing of these 4 newsletters. This will help to keep the mail on schedule and keep you informed and up-dated on our annual reunions, financial reports, Welcome Mat, Mail Call and Swabbie Stories. I'm also looking into using some of the money

to offset tours and annual dinners at the reunions. This will make it possible for more people to afford to come to the reunions. After all, the goal here is to get Bryce Canyon Sailors and their wives to come to these reunions and see just what fun you're missing and to reunite people with their former crew mates, new and old. We know you can't make every reunion, but we'd like you to make some of them, so remember, this Bryce Canyon Association is for YOU, enjoy it, read about it and live the memories of the past. Our 2007 Reunion will be held October 18-21 in San Antonio, Texas.

We have a lot planned and your suggestions are always welcome. We'll be staying at the beautiful Holiday Inn at River Walk, spending one day in the city visiting the famous River Walk, Alamo and shopping sites, boating in the canal and eating dinner there. Saturday, we'll have our Cowboy/Cowgirl dinner at the hotel, with prizes for the best outfits and also the 2nd annual Gift Exchange. Buy a nice gift for \$20-25 that you would like to have and let the trading begin. Last year was a lot of fun. Also, if you have any pictures or memorabilia from the BC you would like to donate for the raffle,

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please bring them. Harry Heppler, you owe me. We'll also be going to Fredericksburg on Saturday for a great tour. The 2008 reunion will be in Portland, Oregon. We'll be voting on a site for 2009, so put your thinking cap on. Thanks again for your support. My name is **Michael Nesbit** and I'm your **Association President and Reunion Coordinator** for the Bryce Canyon ('69-71) Contact me at **619-562-5690** or **thenezz@cox.net**.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance from 01/07 issue **\$144.16**
 Funds received since 01/07
\$2970.00
 Funds available for 04/07 issue
\$3114.16
 Funds expended 04/07 issue
\$668.48 (5 pages/788 copies)

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Postage: | \$260.04 |
| Paper: | \$106.38 |
| Envelopes: | \$ 35.46 |
| Copies: | \$197.00 |
| Labor: | \$69.60 |
| TOTAL: | \$668.48 |

Balance Remaining for 07/07
\$2445.68

Dues of \$20.00 are due in January of each year. Contact ML&RS, Inc if you don't remember if you have paid. Send dues to ML&RS at address to right. Be sure to indicate that it is for the Bryce Canyon Update.

A BIG THANK YOU!

Your generous support of the Bryce Canyon Update through your \$20.00 dues will help keep the newsletter coming on time for all members. Your contributions totaling **\$2970.00** since the last newsletter are greatly appreciated. If you haven't already mailed in your dues, you can still do so. See the flyer included in this newsletter.



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.

Jim Hight

Date of death not reported

Michael Vaughn

(1960-61) YNC

Died February 2, 2005

R. Duane Ledin

(1955-56) SK3 S Div

Died September 2006

Frank David Ward

(1959-62)

Died March 2007

2007 USS BRYCE CANYON REUNION

OCT 18-21

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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/**
brycecanyon

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

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.

ML&RS, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of article submitted for publication. It would be impossible to check each story. Therefore, we rely on the submitter to research each article.

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.

This newsletter can also be accessed at the web site **www.mlrsinc.com/brycecanyon**.



SWABBIE STORIES

I was chaplain from May of 1969 until June of 1971 and have many fond memories. I guess the greatest lesson I learned was the more people you get involved in something the better it turns out. The first Christmas Eve we had a sparsely attended candlelight service, but the second year I did some planning. Since the DASH hanger was no longer used, I suggested that we use it for the candlelight service. The signalmen heard of this and lined the inside of the hanger with signal flags with the church pennant right behind the podium. The mess deck felt it would be appropriate to serve coffee and cake and that drew more of the crew. Of course the deck crew had to assemble the chairs and another crew had to set up a sound system. That Christmas Eve the DASH hanger was full and it was surely a joy to see all those at the service, including dependants.

Best to you all,
LCDR Garee M Harrison
710 SE 40 Ave
Ocala, FL 34471
gareemiha@earthlink.net

I'm J.N. Henderson, I went aboard the Bryce Canyon after spending some time at the sub station in San Diego, Calif after having our boat training cut short. I was issued orders to board when she arrived and was stationed in the R Division, where I stayed during the tour of duty in Japan and went up the coast of Korea at one time. I remember a typhoon hit in 1951 while at anchor in Sasebo Bay. The

wind broke us loose and we were just like a piece of paper moving around. We hit one of the Japanese cranes on a barge. We could not get out to sea because of the mine fields.

After the destroyer Walke was hit and she left our side to go to dry dock, I was one of the first to go in and recover the bodies, body parts and debris. It was a task! I was 17 years old, but was a grown man when I got back to the states. I also got my lungs damaged while moored at Sasebo, Japan from the boilers' tubes being blown out. I inhaled the soot and so forth that came out. I am on heavy medication for it now.

I was on board until a medical discharge from the U.S. Navy in March 1952.

J. N. Henderson
1157 Bowen Est. Rd
Russellville, AR 72802
479-967-7395

It was in the fall of 1966 and we had just left Hong Kong after five days of RR, and we were on our way to Yokosuka, Japan. I was a commissary man third class working in the galley; it was 5:45 AM. The chow line opened at 6:00 AM. Willie Williams CSSN from Chicago was the other cook. Both of us cracked two cases of eggs into a 30 gallon mixing bowl. I asked Willie to go to the storeroom to get some line so we could secure it to the legs of the grill. I continued to cook the hot cereal in the large copper pot. In the mean time, the ship took a roll and the mixing bowl tipped over and the eggs were all over the deck. What a slippery mess! We had ten minutes to clean it up. We cracked two more cases of eggs and the chow line opened at 6:00 AM. I look back now 40 years later and it's funny, but at the time it wasn't. Willie and I successfully served breakfast without any hold up.

John Leppert (CS3 1966-67)

MEMORIES OF LIFE WHILE ON THE BC

I had acquired a Navy surplus 1963 Plymouth sedan and after renovating the engine and making some other repairs, it was ready to be painted. I wanted something other than black and white at the Navy hobby shop at Pearl Harbor, I found they had a gallon of paint someone had ordered but didn't take. Being a low budget enlisted man, a bargain is good. The color name sounded like it would be all right. After arranging for the car to be painted and seeing the finished process, I was rather pleased and proud of the result. Then one day I had the car parked on base and as I approached it I saw that a Marine truck was parked next to it and that was when I had an "ah ha, oh! crap" realization. The color was a glossy version of olive drab. Well, that's when I knew why the person who had originally had the paint made didn't take it.

Well, I continued to enjoy the use of that car while I was on the BC and ported at Pearl Harbor in spite of its color.

Stephen Tews
904 West Chestnut
Bloomfield, IA 52537

P.S. Do you have any knowledge of an Naval Air Station that operated in the 1940s at Ottumwa, Iowa?

Editor's note: The only reference I could find to this was that Richard Nixon was stationed at the Ottumwa Naval Reserve Aviation Base in 1942. If anyone else knows anything about it, let us know.

COMMENTS TAKEN FROM DUES FLYER

LCDR Warren W Broome, USN (Ret)

"Thirty years in the Navy and when you get to be 85 years old you forget some things. My stay on Bryce Canyon was a good tour. Six months in

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Long Beach and six months in Pearl. We did that during my stay on board several times.”

Robert Reed: “Commander Van Sant, head of supply, a great officer for the white hat sailor. A good man.

Forget what rank Cuntarery was—just below the captain. He was a great officer for the white hats.

I ran the ship store and clothing store. Lt JC White was in charge. We did a complete inventory every 2 weeks. Oh, Boy!

We had a great crew. They all got along well. It was a great ship to serve on.

Been married to Carol Tooley Reed for 50 years, Oct 27th, 2007—married Oct 27th, 1957.”

Richard Lamermayer: “Looking for crew that was aboard between 9/53 to 6/55. *dicdonlam@comcast.net*”

“SWABBIE STORIES”

All of you have your stories—please share them with others by sending them to ML&RS, Inc. for printing in the newsletter.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY FROM TONY BLAIR

In case we find ourselves starting to believe all the anti-American sentiment and negativity, we should remember England’s Prime Minister Tony Blair’s words during a recent interview. When asked by one of his parliament members why he believes so much in America he said, “A simple way to take measure of a country is to look at how many want in and how many want out. Only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you:

1. Jesus Christ
2. The American G.I.

One died for your soul, the other for your freedom.”

SAN ANTONIO FACTS

- San Antonio is the seat of Bexar (pronounced “Bear”) County.
- Total population for the city of San Antonio is 1,198,093, making it one of the top ten most populous cities in the U.S.
- Lackland Air Force Base is the largest public employer in San Antonio.
- San Antonio received 21.3 million visitors in 2004.
- Four military installations are located in San Antonio—Fort Sam Houston, Brooks Air Force Base, Lackland Air Force Base and Randolph Air Force Base.
- The average temperature in October (your reunion month) is 68.84° F.
- San Antonio is the home of three time NBA Champions San Antonio Spurs professional basketball team.
- The Hertzberg Circus Museum in San Antonio contains one of the largest assortments of circuses in the world.
- The Alamo is considered the cradle of Texas liberty and is the state’s most popular site.
- Chili was proclaimed the Texas state dish in 1977.
- The San Antonio River Walk is 20 feet below street level and is known in Spanish as the Paseo del Rio.
- Market Square (El Mercado) is patterned after an authentic Mexican market, with 80 specialty shops.
- What looks like a giant “red enchilada” in the city’s skyline is really the San Antonio library.
- Alamodome is a 160,000 sq-ft building for basketball (San Antonio Spurs), football, concerts and other events.
- Original colonists of San Antonio were Spanish Canary Islanders.

SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR THE MARINES

An old Navy Chief and an old Marine Gunny were sitting at the VFW arguing about who’d had the tougher career.

“I did 30 years in the Corps,” the Marine declared proudly, “and fought in three of my country’s wars. Fresh out of boot camp I hit the beach at Okinawa, clawed my way up the blood-soaked sand, and eventually took out an entire enemy machine gun nest with a single grenade.

As a sergeant, I fought in Korea alongside General MacArthur. We pushed the enemy inch by bloody inch all the way up to the Chinese border, always under a barrage of artillery and small arms fire.

Finally, as a gunny sergeant, I did three consecutive combat tours in Vietnam. We humped through the mud and razor grass for 14 hours a day, plagued by rain and mosquitoes, ducking under sniper fire by day and mortar fire all night. In a firefight, we’d fire until our arms ached and our guns were empty, then we charge the enemy with bayonets.”

“Ah,” said the Sailor with a dismissive wave of his hand. “Lucky bastard. All shore duty, huh?”

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation’s service. It was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the General Army of the Republic and was first observed on May 30, 1868. Flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. Moina Michael conceived the idea of wearing red poppies on Memorial Day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war.