

BRYCE CANYON UPDATE

Volume 13, Issue 3

July 2008

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS BRYCE CANYON AD 36



Points of Special Interest

- *Mike Nesbit goes over some important information to keep in mind before heading out for the Oct reunion. See his Coordinator's Column on the cover for details.*
- *Someone has been hard at work finding new ship-mates! See Welcome Mat for all the new names added since the last newsletter.*
- *Do you remember eating a LOT of parmesan cheese while on the BC? Glen Olson tells you why in Swabbie Stories on page three.*
- *Robert Sharpe shares his thoughts and some of his life after the BC, also under Swabbie Stories.*

COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

AHOY, Bryce Canyon Sailors. We're getting close to another Ship Reunion which will be held October 9-12 in Portland, Oregon. The Holiday Inn, Portland Airport will be the host Hotel. We have a lot of great things to see and do while in Portland. Friday, after breakfast we will be heading out for our first tour, which winds along the scenic Columbia River towards the historic city of Astoria. We will be visiting the Columbia River Maritime Museum which has a fine display of nautical artifacts and ship models. We will also be going through the beach community of Seaside. Friday night will be our social

hour and dinner buffet. Saturday after breakfast we will head out to the Evergreen Aviation Museum and Portland City Tour. One of our main attractions will be Howard Hughes Flying Boat called the "Spruce Goose." If you haven't seen this enormous airplane, you're in for a surprise. After this we will head for the Willamette Valley Wine Country known for some of the finest wines in the country. After that we will head back to downtown Portland to see more of the city sites including the City of Roses' Tour. After we get back to the hotel we will have our business meeting to discuss where

our 2010 Ship Reunion will be. Remember, the 2009 reunion will be held in Norfolk, Virginia which promises to be a great reunion because we'll be in "Navy Country." Tours of an active warship will be a priority. The Saturday night banquet will host our annual gift exchange. Buy something in the \$25 - \$30 range that you would like to have and let the "Trading, Fighting and Bickering Begin." The nicer the gift, the more trading we'll have. After that we'll have our annual "Raffle." We will raffle off another "Coveted" Framed 16 X 22 picture of the Bryce Canyon. Please bring BC pictures, Harry

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Heppler Videos (Thanks Harry), quilts or anything you treasure that we would like to have. Last year, we raffled 23 gifts and made a lot of money for our Association. It's all Good and it's all Fun. Please don't forget to send in your Annual \$20 Bryce Canyon Association Dues to the Military Locator & Reunion Service, PO Box 11399 Hickory, NC 28603, Hi-Lighted for the BC Association. This will help to keep this "Great Newsletter" coming to your home. Please inform the Military Locator or me if you change your address or phone number, that way your Shipmates can still get a hold of you. Also send in any fond memories on the BC to "Swabbie Stories" or if you want to find someone, send them the name of you buddy, years on the BC, Division to "Where's My Shipmate" and someone will know where he is. Thanks again for your participation, and I look forward to seeing you at our reunion in Portland or any of our future reunions. I'm Michael Nesbit (69-71) your Bryce Canyon Reunion Coordinator and Association President. e-mail, thenezz@cox.net (619) 562-5690. Thanks for being there.



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.

William Laucks (1952-55) 7th LI2 Div
140 Captain Thomas Blvd Suite 02
West Haven, CT 06516
203-931-0289
moebil@comcast.net

Theo Nielsen (1976-77) DN Dental
919 S 700 W
Brigham City, UT 84302
801-723-8054
sprockethead177@hotmail.com

John Beltrano (1963-64)
8715 Dufferin Ave
Riverside, CA 92504
951-352-1829

Donald Procknow
(1978-81) TMT2 Weapons
PO Box 374
Sweet Home, OR 97386
541-367-6503
don720@comcast.net

Angelo Caminiti
(1952-54) EM3 Electrical
1079 Benz Ave
Cincinnati, OH 45238
513-251-3554

Larry Barrett (1960-63)
522 Tazewood Rd
Metamora, IL 61548

Chuck Murphy (1956-60)
207 W Dalke Ave
Spokane, WA 99205
509-487-8873

Mike Blais (1959-60)
18506 E Bow Ave
Spokane, WA 99016
509-927-8981

William Stroyan
(1956-60) SK3 S1 & S3
307 W Arrow Ln

Spokane, WA 99208
509-464-0505
billfarol@msn.com

Robert Kobetsky (1963-66) EM2
40580 State Highway 32 SW
Fertile, MN 56540
kobrdlk@gvtel.com

George Suhr (1951-53) SK3 Supply
7068 Jeannie Ln
Cincinnati, OH 45230
513-231-1704
gsuhr1111@aol.com

Alfred Huber (1968) CSC
3221 Via Tonga
San Diego, CA 92154
619-690-2159

Richard Madsen
(1953-54) SK3 Supply
98-1082 Kaamilo St
Aiea, HI 96701
808-488-1792
madsenhi@clearwire.net

Joe Parker
(1958-63) MR3 Machine Shop
PO Box 60390
Fairbanks, AK 99706

Rodger Witkowski (1972-74)
1502 4th Ave
St. Joseph, MO 64505

Chuck Schnaible
206 Vanderbilt Blvd
St. Peters, MO 63376

Roberto Belis
11922 Rotherham Dr
Austin, TX 79853

Milt Merritt CMDR
6215 El Comino Rd
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

Julian Leet
32511 Duncan Rd
Franklinton, LA 70438

Robert Sharpe (1950-53) HM1 H Div
4014 Claret Ln
Morrisville, NC 27560
919-460-5997
bsharpe200@bellsouth.net

(Continued on page 3)

2008 USS BRYCE CANYON REUNION

OCT. 9—12

PORTLAND, OR

HOLIDAY INN AIRPORT

(Continued from page 2)

Hubert Mertes
(1960-63) EM3 Rewind Shop
31 Valley Rd
Hillsborough, NJ 08844
908-359-8912
mertes2@comcast.net

William Floyd (1966-68) CWO
1510 Saint Charles Pl
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
615-867-3378
nortf@bellsouth.net

David Hunter (1975-77) TM2 W1 Div
13534 W Nogales Dr
Sun City West, AZ 85375
623-581-9472
dhunter7@cox.net

Alan Zeller (1972) ET1
PO Box 166
West Peterborough, NH 03468
603-924-5258
alanzeller@msn.com

Tom Martino (1961-64) QM2 OPS
5750 Whitman St
Washoe Valley, NV 89704
775-882-9393
tomartino@yahoo.com

Richard MacLellan (1968-69)
2134 North Sawmill St
Cedar City, UT 84720
435-865-5720
maclellanpainting@yahoo.com

Ambrose Marquez (1960-61)
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Brighton, CO 80603
303-659-1259

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



SWABBIE STORIES

I'm Glen Olson. I served on the Bryce from '66 to '68 departing as a 3rd Class Petty Officer, designate Store Keeper. While readying for a WesPac cruise out of Long Beach, I was leaning on the portside rail along with my 1st Class supervisor and our Lieutenant JG in charge of Commissary, watching food being fork lifted off trucks and placed on the dock. But something a bit odd was taking place as the fork lift kept unloading pallet after pallet of Kraft Parmesan cheese. Enough cheese to probably supply the entire fleet, no less the BC. The Lieutenant asked my supervisor what was going on. My supervisor then turned to me with the same question. Why ask me? Simple, I was in charge of placing the orders for food for the cruise. I was nineteen years old, green as a pea, and fresh out of a small town in northern Wisconsin. And boy was I in trouble—at least I thought I was. What happened? Someone misread my order for cheese. Instead of 48 large **cans** they sent me 48 **cases!** Well, you know what hit the fan at that point, but it was too late to send the cheese back. We were sailing the next morning. It was a real life scene out of McHale's Navy, and what a mess we were in. So we signed for the cheese and took it aboard and we set sail. What happened to the cheese you are wondering? Not a problem. If any of you reading this were on that cruise in 1967/68 you may remember for a time having parmesan cheese for breakfast, lunch, dinner. Oh, don't forget midrats. I remember the storm of complaints and questions as to why we were serving parmesan cheese with steaks, eggs, cereal, toast, burgers, pancakes, you name it. Parmesan was always available in the mess hall. And we did our best to convince everyone parmesan cheese goes great with everything! Most didn't try

it, but boy did we laugh it up in private over beers. Hope you have had a good laugh reading this as well. By the way, the Destroyers that we tended in Subic, and then Formosa, got more than their fair share of parmesan cheese. Waste not, want not!

Glen Olson
SK3 (1966-68)

I served aboard the BC 36 from Oct '62 to Jan. '67. I came aboard CS1 and made E7 CSC in May 1964. I started the picnics at Mole Park in Long Beach once a month on Wednesday afternoons—beer and steaks—these were for the crew and their families—a great morale builder.

In 1966 on our way to PI for a six month deployment, we had a lay over in Pearl Harbor. Worked with the Chief Engineer Officer and Deck Officer took over the pier Saturday afternoon and had a beer and steak cookout.

In PI our ship, the Bryce Canyon, was brought along side the Oniskney to repair the damage caused by a dropped plane. Repair Department under command of Lt Knonenburger did an outstanding job getting the carrier underway on its own power to San Francisco for overhaul.

Four of my best years in the Navy.

Alfred Huber

Mike, thank you so very much for sending me the Bryce Canyon Update, the news about the last reunion and the upcoming reunion. I found the Bryce Canyon Update so informative. The stories of my shipmates who after all of these years have matured, married, if they were not already married, have gone on to academic and professional achievements in their own areas of expertise. The Swab-

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bie Stories were funny and brought laughs from my wife as well as myself. The article "Where's My Shipmate?"— a question I have asked so often through the years and wondered where they are, if they are still living and if so, what are they doing, what they look like after all of these years. I remember John Bodenhamer listed under TAPS and felt sad because John was a good sailor and a good person. The article that really got my attention was "How did being in the Navy benefit your life?" The folding of the American Flag which I never knew was outstanding. Those were heart-warming stories and I have to admit that I was a bit emotional. Now at age 83 and looking back, I too am grateful to have had an opportunity to meet and know the men and officers on the Bryce Canyon and I too have my story. I was very active on the BC in many ways.

Responding to Dina's request for photos etc., I have taken a lot of time, went to storage and tried to come up with as much as I could. I sincerely hope there will be something among the material that you can use. *(See some of Mr. Sharpe's material on pages 5 & 6. We'll use more in later issues.)*

I am a Bryce Canyon Plank Owner, so I have been with her from the beginning. A little over two years ago I heard from O'Brien, another corpsman on the BC, and I have tried to reach him at a later date, but never did. I now regret I did not because I was going through some health issues.

After leaving the Navy in 1955, I earned a BBA degree in Business Administration, a Masters Degree in Public Health Administration, a second Masters Degree in Public Health and finally a PHD in Public Health. Trying to use the GI Bill was such a disappointment for many reasons, but I managed to get all of my education and when I completed my PHD I did not owe anyone anything, no loans, no grants. I did it on my own, working 2-3 jobs and with many sacrifices and with no one to help me along the way. Now I am a retired University Profes-

sor having taught Public Health Education for 38 years at colleges and universities in California and North Carolina.

I entered the Navy after graduating from high school in 1944. Received basic training at Bainbridge, Maryland. In the article in the Bryce Canyon Update "The Cruise of the Bryce Canyon," I was along for the ride. Out of high school into the Navy, traveling around the world, seeing the rest of the world and its peoples contributed to my orientation about people, places and things. I learned more about people. I learned that "service to humanity" is the best work of life. This is one of the reasons I was involved working with Chaplain Ditmer in setting up the International Christian University in Japan. Boxing became a part of my life as a result of exposure and influence of the Captain's Steward Chief Aligo, who happened to be from the Philippines.

**Robert Sharpe, HM
USS Bryce Canyon AS 36 1950-53**

Editor's Note: The following letters are correspondence between Bill Stroyan and Barbara Bushor.

Hi Mr. Stroyan,

My name is Barbara Bushor and I just received your letter today. Henry or Bud as he is better known is my father. Unfortunately I'm very sad to inform you that my dad passed away 11 years ago on July 16, 1997. He had surgery to remove some blockages in the heart, and shortly after surgery he went into cardiac arrest and never recovered. It was quite a shock to all of us when this happened. All his medical care was through the VA hospital in Detroit and Ann Arbor, Michigan, and I would like to let you know that they were just wonderful. I don't know the last time you may have spoken to my dad, but he and my mom were married 33 years when he passed away. There is myself who is 42, my brother Doug who is

41, and my sister Carolyn who is 29. We lived in Detroit for many years, but our neighborhood was getting bad and my mother had a stroke that has left her wheelchair bound. A few months after my dad died we moved to Clinton Twp, a suburb of Detroit. We now live closer to our brother. I'm sure my dad would have been thrilled to hear from you and really would have looked forward to talking about old times.

Sincerely,
Barbara Bushor

Hi Barbara,

Thanks for getting back. I am so sad to hear about your dad. We were such good Navy buddies when we were stationed on the Bryce Canyon AD 36 from 1956 to 1960. Henry and I went on liberty a lot together. I remember going to the Catholic church in Long Beach, CA for Mass on Sundays with him. (We were both raised strict Catholic.) The last time I heard from your dad was in the mid 1980s. One of my daughter's friends looked him up in the phone book when she went to Detroit and she gave him my address. We stayed in touch for a while, then lost contact. I think of your dad a lot. The last I heard he worked for a chemical company in or around Detroit. Also sorry to hear that your mom is having health problems. We will pray for both your mom and dad.

My wife Farol and I will be married 48 years in December. We have three daughters, Marcie 46, and twins Jody and Jill 44 and 8 grandchildren ages 4 to 21.

Bill (Stroyan)

BEING THANKFUL

A Rabbi said to a precocious six-year-old boy, "So you mother says your prayers for you each night? That's very commendable. What does she say?"

The little boy replied, "Thank God he's in bed!"



TAPS

The Bryce Canyon Update learned of the following shipmate's death since the last newsletter. Every member of the Association sends his heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of the deceased.

Henry Bushor (1956-60)
 Died July 16, 1997



Right to left: Henry Bushor, A.B. Garcia, Bill Stroyan
 Submitted by Bill Stroyan

***CORRECTED FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 04/08 ISSUE**

Balance from 01/08 issue **\$2027.26***
 Funds received since 01/08 \$2895.00
 Funds available for 04/08 issue **\$4922.26***
 Funds expended 04/08 issue \$813.70
(6 pages/780 copies)
 Postage: \$323.70
 Paper: \$ 99.60
 Envelopes: \$ 49.80
 Copies: \$265.60
 Labor: \$ 75.00
 TOTAL: \$813.70

Balance Remaining for 07/08
\$4108.56*

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 07/08 ISSUE

Balance from 04/08 issue **\$4108.56**
 Received since 04/08 **\$ 570.00**
 Available for 07/08 issue **\$4678.56**
 Expended 07/08 issue **\$1039.68**
(4 pages/826 copies)
 Postage: \$335.60
 Paper: \$151.02
 Envelopes: \$ 50.34
 Copies: \$402.72
 Labor: \$100.00
 TOTAL: \$1039.68

Balance Remaining for 10/08
\$3638.88

Dues of \$20.00 are due in January of each year. If you have not already sent your dues, mail them to ML&RS at the address on page three. Be sure to indicate that it is for the Bryce Canyon Update.

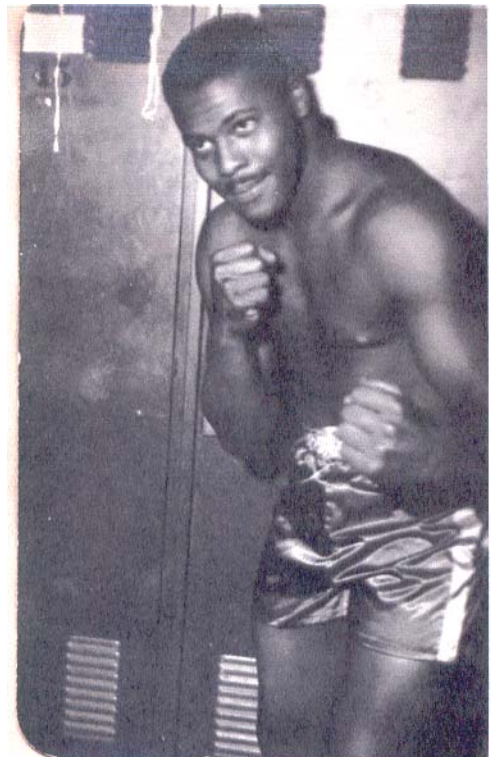
FROM THE FILES OF ROBERT (BOB) SHARPE

SPORT SCOPE

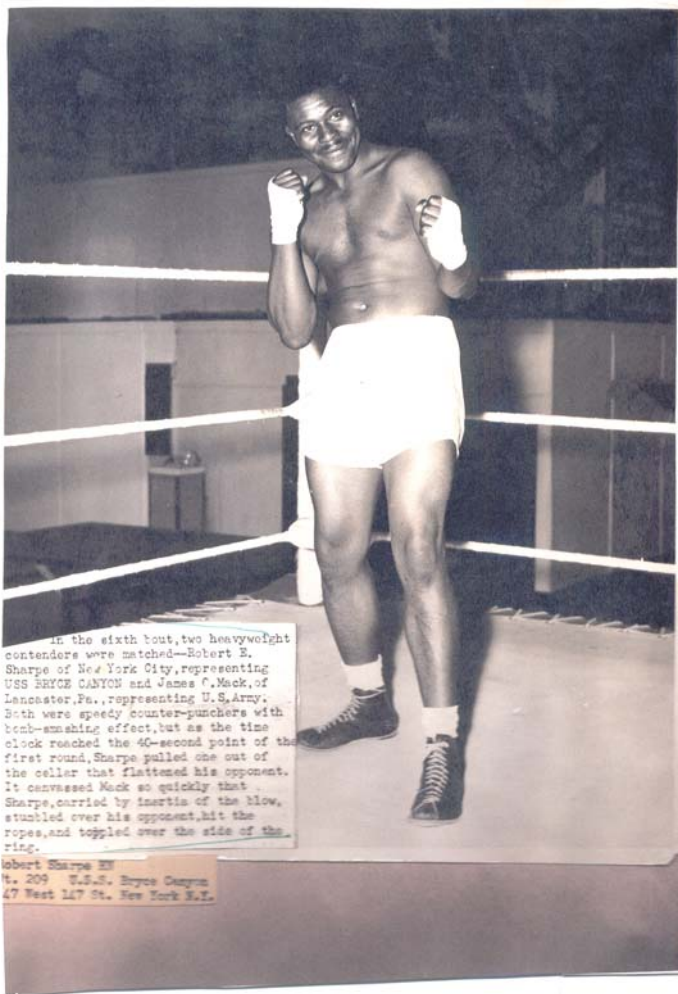
HIGHLIGHTS IN BOXING

Since last year, when SHARPE copped individual laurels, Boxing has hit a snag. At North Island, San Diego Coliseum, Yokosuka and finally at Tokyo, he fought the best in the Armed Forces Tournament. Tokyo officials gave him a trophy for outstanding skill, conduct and sportsmanship. Also the heavy-weight runner-up plaque. This year he answered the call again. The team chose him their captain. Under the guidance of Chiefs ALIGO and CONROY training was started just prior to our arrival in the Far East.

The team is composed of many weights. WATKINS—middleweight, ROBERTS—lightweight, SAUER—lightweight, JARNAGHAN—middleweight. PARR—light-heavyweight, F.BROWN and SHARPE—heavyweights.



Taken from The Call of the Bryce Canyon 1952.



In the sixth bout, two heavyweight contenders were matched—Robert E. Sharpe of New York City, representing USS BRYCE CANYON and James F. Mack, of Lancaster, Pa., representing U.S. Army. Both were speedy counter-punchers with bomb-smashing effect, but as the time clock reached the 46-second point of the first round, Sharpe pulled one out of the cellar that flattened his opponent. It canvassed Mack so quickly that Sharpe, carried by inertia of the blow, stumbled over his opponent, hit the ropes, and toppled over the side of the ring.

Robert Sharpe 22
 Ft. 209 U.S.S. Bryce Canyon
 47 West 147 St. New York N.Y.

ROBERT SHARPE REPRESENTING USS BRYCE CANYON



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.
