

# GRIGGS-GRUNDY NEWS

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 2

June 2003

## THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS GRIGGS AND GRUNDY



### Special Points of Interest

- *Charles Forshee explains why the reunion is to be in Asheville instead of Gatlinburg in his "Coordinator's Comment" in the cover story.*
- *We welcome Dale Green to the group. See Welcome Mat on page two for his address if you would like to contact him.*
- *The history of the USS Griggs from the last issue brought back some fond memories for the widow of one of your shipmates. See her letter in MAIL CALL on page three.*
- *"How to Simulate Being a Sailor" will bring a smile to your face! See page four.*

## COORDINATOR'S COMMENTS

To the Griggs & Grundy reunion group,

You probably noted from the newsletter the change to Asheville, NC for the next reunion. This was done because of foreseeable transportation problems for those who fly. There are flights from Charlotte and Knoxville to Asheville and none that we know of into Gatlinburg. This would have been a problem for some to get to the reunion. I would encourage all the members of the Griggs & Grundy crewmembers to attend for all of us are not getting any younger. For some, it could be the last time the members see each other. The last newsletter listed several crew members who had

passed away.

I would also encourage to submit to the newsletter, any articles that you remember that would be of interest to the other crewmembers for both ships.

Daniel Brown was supposed to have knee or hip replacement this spring, but I haven't heard anything from him or Claire whether the operation took place. Others who have had this type of operation have done well in this area and were walking in no time.

You know it is fast approaching the time for the next reunion, only five months away. Daniel has turned over the chairmanship to me and I reluctantly will try to do what I can do for this year, so don't ex-

pect any long winded speeches. Since I had a small stroke Easter a year ago, my speech has been somewhat impaired; so I will have to call on somebody else to make the speeches or take the speaking parts.

Well, we are looking forward to getting together and hope to see you in **Asheville on October 13-16, 2003.**

One of your shipmates,

Charles E. Forshee  
USS Griggs, SM1/c  
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## STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The GRIGGS-GRUNDY NEWS is the official publication of the USS GRIGGS-GRUNDY Association. From now on it will be published quarterly in March, June, Sept., and Dec. *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 NEWS. 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 articles 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.**



## WELCOME MAT

The USS GRIGGS-GRUNDY family welcomes the most recently located shipmate. We hope to see you at the next reunion and ask you to take an active part in our Association.

*Dale Green (USS Grundy)  
Comm-Decomm  
517 Tharp Rd  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404-9039  
319-848-4812*

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance after 03/03 issue  
**\$503.12**

Funds received since 03/03 issue  
**\$15.00**

Funds available for 06/03 issue  
**\$518.12**

Funds expended for 06/03 issue  
**\$123.10**

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**SEND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER TO ML&RS. ADDRESS BELOW.**

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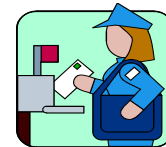


## TAPS

The death of the following shipmates have been learned of since the last newsletter. The entire crew extends our sympathy to family and friends. If anyone knows of a deceased shipmate, please inform the NEWS so he can be recognized in TAPS and also be listed on the honor roll at the next reunion memorial service.

*Santo "Sandy" Comella  
(USS Griggs) S1/c 1st Div  
Comm-Decomm.  
Died March 26, 2003*

*Richard Carlson  
(USS Griggs)  
Died March 14, 2003*



## MAIL CALL

Dear Sir:

This is to inform you of the death of Richard Carlson, March 14, 2003. He served aboard the USS Griggs in the Pacific Theater.

He was my husband for more than 50 years, and I have to admit it brought a smile to my face when I read the mention of the "beer in the brig" in the USS Griggs history.

He used to delight his family with the story of how he and his shipmates kept stealing the beer, and how it got so bad that they finally released the prisoners in the brig and locked up the beer.

It was so funny that we often wondered if it was really true. Thanks for a precious memory.

Sincerely,  
Yvonne Carlson  
1775 S Lakeshore Dr  
Ludington, MI 49431

*Forwarded from Daniel Brown:*

Mr. & Mrs. Brown,

Received newsletter and read that you and Claire not feeling well.

We missed all the great reunions, but Sandy wasn't up to going. We kept on saying we would go just one more time. Nice knowing you all. Both of you take care of your health. You both did a great job.

Sorry to bring bad news. Sandy passed away in March.

Take care & God bless,

Eleanor Comella

31 Rosemont Ave

Johnston, RI 02919

### **Santo S. Camella**

Santo S. Camella, 76, of Johnston, died Wednesday, March 26 at Our Lady of Fatima Hospital in North Providence. He was the husband of Eleanor G. (Palumbo) Comella.

Born in Providence, he was a son of the late Joseph and Sarah (Amato) Comella. He was a resident of Johnston for 34 years.

Mr. Comella was a chef at the former Smith's Restaurant in Providence for 25 years before retiring in 1991.

He was a Navy veteran of World War II and a member of the VFW Post 10011, Lymanville. He was a life member of the Della DiFesa Society.

Besides his wife, he leaves one daughter, Sandra Gabaree and three sons, Joseph, Michael, and Steven Comella, all of Johnston; two sisters, Dee Lombardi of Johnston and Marie Timpani of Providence; and nine grandchildren. He was the brother of the late J.C. and Gus Camella.

His funeral was held Saturday, March 29 from the Elliott M. Robbins Chapel, North Providence, with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated by the Reverend Douglas Spina in Our Lady of Grace Church, Johnston. Burial, with military honors, was in St. Ann Cemetery, Cranston.

Pallbearers were Steve Russo, Joseph Lombardi, John Perkins, Paul Macedonio, Robert Danella, and Richard Integlia.

## **ASHEVILLE-THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE IT**

Downtown Asheville is one of those cities where you feel comfortable walking around. With one of the best collections of art deco architecture in the country, antique stores galore, art galleries and boutiques, you'll never want to leave. Asheville has a downtown with a board character and its architecture sets a romantic European mood that you won't find anywhere else in the state. The sparkling, stylized details found in Asheville's early art deco and gothic buildings echo the pre-depression heyday of the 1920s. While enjoying the views and architecture in downtown Asheville, don't forget to visit one of the 100 retail shops where you can buy local goods and crafts as well as unique treasures from around the world.

There is something for everyone to do in Asheville. Visit the home of one of Asheville's famous sons, writer Thomas Wolfe, or browse through an art gallery on Biltmore Avenue. Have a look inside the historic St. Lawrence Basilica with one of the few self-supporting domes in the country—the doors are always open. Or, have an espresso and watch the city pass by until evening falls. If you plan on staying a few days after the reunion, you can head down to the Community Theater or Diana Wortham Theater for a play, a symphony or a modern dance performance. If you're into old time blues or rock'n roll check out one of downtown's many clubs or bars. Don't forget the Craft Fair or the poetry reading at the bookstore.

In the center of town is Pack Square, the heart of Asheville's historic downtown. It's a bustling center of commerce and culture with several restaurants, second-hand stores, cigar store and many small businesses and corporate offices. A central landmark to Pack Square is the Vance Monument,

an obelisk that honors the memory of Zebulon B. Vance, an outstanding North Carolina statesman. At Pack Square you can see the contrast between the modern glass Biltmore building which looks like a ship out of water, surrounded by sturdy structures built during the early 1900s.

One of Pack Square's most amazing pieces of architecture is the 15 story Jackson Building, Asheville's first skyscraper. Built in 1925 by L.B. Jackson, the building is a strange adaptation of Gothic character and details.

From Pack Square, you can view the beautiful city building, built by Douglas Ellington at City County Plaza. The fortress-like design formed especially for mountainous Asheville, is reminiscent of an Indian headdress. If you are interested in more of downtown Asheville's history, the Urban Trail ( a local non-profit effort) has placed 27 markers at historic points of interest throughout the downtown area.

Lexington Avenue has the feel of a side street you might find in a big city. Its cafes are the meeting place of intelligent minds of all ages and its antique and thrift stores add even more of a rich flavor, along with several boutiques and one of the best shoe stores in Western North Carolina (Topps for Shoes).

You'll find many delights on Biltmore Avenue, a street rich in art, cuisine and cultural diversity. Across from Pack Place art and science center, you'll find several restaurants on the square that offer indoor and outdoor dining. If you head down the hill on Biltmore, you'll come to a block that is a combination of art galleries, thrift stores and a top-notch European Bakery, with a food co-op at the bottom.

Battery Park Avenue is a combination of offices, retail shops, a European coffee house and a very cozy café/restaurant. Some of the

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

buildings of interest are the Miles Building, the Flat Iron Building and the Grove Arcade, a unique piece of architecture that was never completed. The Grove Arcade is one of the first indoor malls in the nation and is slated for a 12 million dollar restoration project to begin shortly. This will restore it to its original condition.

We hope that this look at downtown Asheville will give you something to look forward to as you make your plans to attend the reunion. Asheville is large enough to offer many amenities, yet small enough to retain its small town friendliness and charm. We hope you will see for yourself why so many people fall in love with the Asheville area of North Carolina when you attend the **2003 USS Griggs/USS Grundy Reunion on October 13-16.**

## HOW TO SIMULATE BEING A SAILOR

1. Buy a steel dumpster, paint it gray inside and out, and live in it for six months.
2. Run all the pipes and wires in your house exposed on the walls.
3. Repaint you entire house every month.
4. Renovate your bathroom. Build a wall across the middle of he bathtub and move the shower head to chest level. When you take showers, make sure you turn off the water while you soap down.
5. Put lube oil in your humidifier and set it on high.
6. Once a week, blow compressed air up your chimney, making sure the wind carries the soot onto your neighbor's house. Ignore his complaints.
7. Raise the thresholds and lower the headers of your front and back doors so that you either trip or bang your head every time you pass through them.
8. Once a month, take all major appliances apart and then reassemble them.
9. Disassemble and inspect your lawn mower every week.
10. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, turn your water heater temperature up to 200 degrees. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, turn the water heater off. On Saturdays and Sundays tell your family they used too much water during the week, so no bathing will be allowed.
11. Raise your bed to within 6 inches of the ceiling, so you can't turn over without getting out and then getting back in.
12. Sleep on the shelf in your closet. Replace the closet door with a curtain. Have your spouse whip open the curtain about 3 hours after you go to sleep, shine a flashlight in your eyes, and say, "Sorry, wrong rack."
13. Make your family qualify to operate each appliance in your house-dishwasher operator, blender technician, etc.
14. Have you neighbor come over each day at 5 am, blow a whistle so loud Helen Keller could hear it, and shout, "Reveille!"
15. Have your mother-in-law write down everything she's going to do the following day, then have her make you stand in your backyard at 6 am while she reads it to you.
16. Submit a request chit to your father-in-law requesting permission to leave your house before 3 pm.
17. Empty all the garbage bins in your house and sweep the driveway three times a day, whether it needs it or not.
18. Have your neighbor collect all your mail for a month, read your magazines, and randomly lose every 5th item before delivering it to you.
19. Watch no TV except for movies played in the middle of the night. Have your family vote on which movie to watch, then show a different one.
20. When your children are in bed, run into their room with a megaphone shouting that your home is under attack and ordering them to their battle stations.
21. Make your family menu ahead of time without consulting the pantry or refrigerator.
22. Post a menu on the kitchen door informing your family that they are having steak for dinner. Then make them wait in line for an hour. When they finally get to the kitchen, tell them you are out of steak, but they can have dried ham or hot dogs. Repeat daily until they ignore the menu and just ask for hot dogs.
23. Bake a cake. Prop up one side of the pan so the cake bakes unevenly. Spread icing real thick to level it off.
24. Get up every night around midnight and have a peanut butter and jelly sandwich on stale bread.
25. Set your alarm clock to go off at random during the night. At the alarm, jump up and dress as fast as you can, making sure to button your top shirt button and tuck your pants into your socks. Run out into the backyard and uncoil the garden hose.
26. Every week or so, throw your cat or dog in the pool and shout, "Man overboard port side!" Rate your family members on how fast they respond.
27. Put the headphones from your stereo on your head, but don't plug them in. Hang an paper cup around your neck on a string. Stand in front of the stove, and speak into the paper cup, "Stove manned and ready." After an hour or so, speak into the cup again, "Stove secured." Roll up the headphones and paper cup and stow them in a shoebox.
28. Place a podium at the end of your driveway. Have your family stand watches at the podium, rotating at 4 hour intervals. This is best done when the weather is worst. January is a good time.
29. When there is a thunderstorm in your area, get a wobbly rocking chair, sit in it and rock as hard as you can until you become nauseous. Make sure to have a supply of stale crackers in your shirt pocket.
30. For former engineers: bring your lawn mower into the living room, and run it all day long.
31. Make coffee using eighteen scoops of budget priced coffee grounds per pot, and allow the pot to simmer for 5 hours before drinking.
32. Have someone under the age of ten give you a haircut with sheep shears.
33. Sew the back pockets of your jeans on the front.
34. Every couple of weeks, dress up in your best clothes and go to the scummiest part of town. Find the most run down, trashiest bar, and drink beer until you are hammered. Then walk all the way home.
35. Lock yourself and your family in the house for six weeks. Tell them that at the end of the 6th week you are going to take them to Disney World for "liberty." At the end of the 6th week, inform them the trip to Disney World has been canceled because they need to get ready for inspection, and it will be another week before they can leave the house.

**2003 REUNION  
OCT. 13-16  
RAMADA PLAZA  
HOTEL  
ASHEVILLE, NC**