

# POWELL POST

Volume 10, Issue 2

March 2004

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS HALSEY POWELL



### Points of Special Interest

- Lots of news from Skipper Mike in his reports on pages one and two.
- No new names for "Mail Call" this time. Let's get busy and find some new members for the next issue.
- The story of our National Anthem continues on pages three and four.
- More jokes from Red Belden on page four.
- Mark your calendars for the 2004 reunion on Sept. 22-26 in Albuquerque, NM.

## SKIPPER MIKE'S REPORTS

### REUNION INFO

Not much to tell you at this time as things are in the works.

The dates are set as Sept. 22-26. We will be at the Best Western Rio Grande Inn. The hotel has a heated pool, not that it is important because one swims in wet water, temperature is an option needed by some, but not a necessity.

I'm confident that one tour will go to Acoma Pueblo.

The hotel is also on the edge of Old Town, so according to Felipe Salazar, there is lots to see and do

within a 15-20 minute walk. Also some fine eating in Old Town. Hotel also has an airport shuttle. (That may be 7:00 am —10:00 pm).

### NOW HEAR THIS

1. Our computer crashed. Spent \$90 to fix—no luck.
2. Purchased new computer—cheap, but works. It's old and slow—if it's on the market it's old and slow—technology advances so rapidly that the new stuff is old stuff. Fits me to a "T". I'm old, I'm slow, and don't ad-

vance rapidly.

3. Am beginning to work with ML&RS on reunion in Albuquerque. Remember, dates are Sept. 22-26.
4. Pat Miller, our ML&RS representative the past few years, is scheduled for hip and back surgery. Status for our reunion is a question.

### ON THE HOME FRONT

Ruth and I are doing fine and are really looking forward to spring. We aren't the only ones who live in the north woods, but I think we are the ones who

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hate it the most. Well, maybe Bubba hates it more. We don't have to make trips outside.

Reminds me of a funny story, funny now, not then. Camping in northern Wisconsin with Boy Scouts. Temperature well below zero. I stopped at outhouse and sat on metal toilet seat. Shouldn't have done that. Took whole bucket of hot water to get me off. Could have been much worse.

Talked to DeLa Cruz in Corpus Christi day before yesterday. Sunny and 70 degrees. The way some people live. It has to be great.

Talked to Trauts last Sunday and they say they feel good, but the weather gets to them also. They get up 3 days a week for early morning trip to medical clinic. Coldest part of day.

Things were warmer today -23 degrees and wind chill was up to 1 degree by noon. Last few days were 14/16 degree highs; 0/1 degree lows with wind chill -10/-15 degrees/

Son-in-law is big help. Keeps roof clear of snow and helps with driveway.

We bought a treadmill and while I do use it, I don't like it. Every time I walk a half mile, I find I'm right where I started. Besides, I always work up an appetite. Oh well, you need calories to stay warm.

Snow fall this year is about 4 1/2 feet. Most of it in January.

You all take care and maybe I'll see you in Albuquerque, if you come. I'll be there. It's down South and it's warm.

### **CORRECTIONS DEC. 03 ISSUE**

1. It was stated that David Parker was the last American sailor off the Halsey Powell in 1966. That actually occurred in 1968 when the Halsey Powell was transferred to the ROK.
2. It was also reported that the prize for traveling the furthest to the 1994 Norfolk reunion was shared by Jackie

Kimbrough and Dot Owen. I don't recall that, but I do know Alabama is further from Norfolk than N. Carolina. Also we owe the Mootry's from Roseburg, OR an apology.

3. Next, let's discuss the survival kit given away by Jackie Kimbrough. 1994 it was the ice storm. 2003 we had a hurricane to deal with. Dot and Chief Willard Owen live in Norfolk and it was Dot who presented a survival kit.
4. The door prize won by Dot Owen was not a door prize. Dot won the 50/50 raffle. This was our first 50/50 raffle and Dot won about \$250. The other 50% is in the ship's checking account. We had lots of door prizes brought by the attendees and just about everyone was a winner.
5. The "National Anthem Birth" a great and continuing article has to be credited to its author, L. Peter Wren. He sent it to me, and I mailed it to the ML&RS. L. Peter, I didn't mean to get credit for your article. Let's all give L. Peter Wren a big hoooo-rah for a great article. HOOOO-RAAAAH!

### **PRAYER COLUMN**

Please pray for our POWs and MIAs. Continue to pray for our nation and the men and women who serve us in our Armed Forces.

Pray also for our Halsey Powell shipmates, and family members who are sick, or suffer from any of many problems.

Pray especially for Ron Christensen, Richard Glaze, Joe and Jessie Chambliss, Duane and JoAn Traut, and Ray Parker.

This is a new column and I hope you will all notify the ML&RS when you know of someone from our crew or a family member that should be remembered in prayer. If you wish, you can notify me. Also, don't hesitate to include yourself if you need special prayers.

That is all.

Skipper Mike  
109 Dunton Ave  
Holland, MI 49424

### **STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION**

The POWELL POST is the official publication of the USS HALSEY POWELL Association. It is published quarterly in March, June, September and December, *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 Halsey Powell by sending contributions to Mike Baker USS Halsey Powell Association.

The newsletter is intended to be a vehicle for the members to express opinions, make suggestions and especially to 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. 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. Copyrighted material cannot be used without attribution to the author and publication. If you think an article printed in another publication would be of interest to your shipmates, send the entire article—do not paraphrase it and send it in your own words. Let the editor do that.

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

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



## TAPS

The Post was notified of the following shipmates' deaths since the last newsletter. Not all members died recently, but we just learned of their deaths. The entire crew sends our deepest sympathy to the widows, families and friends of the deceased. Please let ML&RS know if you learn of the death of a former shipmate so he can be recognized in here and on the Honor Roll at the reunion.

*Chester Brown (1944-45)  
Died December 13, 2003*

*Kenneth Kuespert  
(1943-45) Radioman 2 C Div  
Died December 5, 2003*

*Henry Dziejelski  
Died October 22, 2003*

Anyone knowing of, or learning of the death of a shipmate, please notify the Powell Post, at ML & RS, Inc. The date of death doesn't matter, we want to recognize the former crewman by listing his name in the Powell Post and by placing his name on the Halsey Powell Honor Roll.

### NOTE NEW E-MAIL ADDRESSES FOR ML&RS, INC

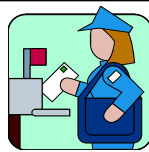
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**NEW E-MAIL ADDRESSES**  
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*"Our Reunions Work So You Don't  
Have To"*



## MAIL CALL

Powell Post,

I would like to let you know that my husband K. Clem Kuespert passed away Dec. 5, 2003 after a lengthy, courageous battle with cancer.

He was a radioman 2/c on the Halsey Powell from 1943—46.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Elfrieda; a daughter, Jill Anderson; a son Kenneth A.; and two granddaughters, Abby and Emily.

Mrs. K. C. Kuespert  
5910 Aberdeen Dr  
South Bend, IN 46614-6382

## THE NATIONAL ANTHEM'S BIRTH

By L. Peter Wren

*Continued from December 2003:*

This is the birth scene of our National Anthem. Now you need to learn of the four key people who played the major roll in the National Anthem's birth.

**DR. WILLIAM BEANES:** Dr. Beanes is the only physician in Upper Marlboro, Maryland which is near Washington, DC. Dr. Beanes has rendered medical service to the wounded Brits and the American patriots as they fought in Washington area. Dr. Beanes was taken captive because the Brits felt he had learned from the wounded their pending British war plans and would leak them to the Americans. Dr. Beanes is being held captive aboard a British War Vessel in the outer harbor of Baltimore. The people of Upper Marlboro, now without a doctor, seek the help of **FRANCIS SCOTT KEY** to have their doctor returned to their community.

**FRANCIS SCOTT KEY;** of Northern Virginia, is an attorney, an amateur poet and well respected by the British. After hearing the request from the people of Upper Marlboro on the great need for Dr. Beanes' medical services, he asks **COLONEL JOHN SKINNER** to assist him in procuring the release of Dr. Beanes.

**COLONEL JOHN SKINNER,** is the "Exchange Officer" whose job is to effect the exchange of British war prisoners for American war prisoners. Colonel Skinner is well known to the British Commands.

**MAJOR GEORGE ARMSTEAD:** is the commandant of Fort McHenry guarding the entrance to Baltimore inner harbor. Major Armstead has directed Mrs. Pickersgill, a "seamstress," to make him an American flag that is large enough for the British Admiral Cochrane to see it from a great distance.

The flag is produced and raised at Ft. McHenry as the British Fleet comes into sight. It has 8 red and 7 white stripes with 15 stars on a field of blue. Each stripe is 24 inches in height. The stripes measured 42 feet in length. There were 15 states in the Union at this time. The overall flag is 30 feet high by 42 feet long.

*As of this point you know the British attack plan and the players in the birth of the "Star Spangled Banner." Now the lyrics of the "Star Spangled Banner" begin to unfold and establish the "Traditions" we hold so dear.*

Francis Scott Key and Colonel Skinner, in a small craft in Baltimore Harbor and flying a white flag, sail out to the British Command Ship to procure the release of the doctor. The British are reluctant to release the doctor, but Key produces a packet of letters from the British soldiers stating

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how well they were treated by the doctor and encouraging his release. But since Dr. Beanes, and now Skinner with Key, seem to know the plans of war, the three are transferred to a neutral ship near the rear of the fleet. All they can do is watch and wait. If the flag on Ft. McHenry is lowered, it means the fort has fallen and America is no longer "The Home of the Brave and the Free."

For 25 hours the British Fleet cannonades the fort. At the "twilight's last gleaming" the three captives could still see the flag fluttering in the breeze. In the early dark hours of the morning, the cannonading stopped, and there was a long silence. So Keys and Skinner rushed to the open deck, climbed the starboard and port riggings trying to sight the American flag with those broad stripes and bright stars. Key calls to the Colonel, "Can you see it, John? Is it still there?" The Colonel answers, "No, there is too much morning mist and black powder smoke obscuring my view!" Then a gentle breeze parts the smoke and haze and by the "dawn's early light" they see the flag lazily streaming in that morning breeze. What a glorious sight, the flag is still at the peak of the mast. Fort McHenry has prevailed. Proudly the flag still billows over the land of the free and the home of the brave.

In August of 1814 the British Fleet withdrew and the war ended. Francis Scott Key had finished his poem describing the scene. He named the poem "The Defense of Fort McHenry" and had several copies printed and circulated around Baltimore. In 1822 Thomas Carr of Baltimore, a publisher of sheet music changed the title of Key's poem to read "The Star Spangled Banner," and the song was sung often in Baltimore. By 1825 there were repeated requests for the sheet music and "The Star Spangled Banner" received wide circulation.

## NEWLETTERS, E-MAIL, SPAM FOLDERS & YOU

We have tried diligently over the last 18-24 months to establish a method for distributing our printed material (newsletters, registration material, etc.) via the internet in order to save money. It seems like the electronic method should be a way to reduce costs associated with postage, paper, printing, envelopes and such. However, we keep running up against one stumbling block after another. The latest development is that a lot of people's software has automatic filters that block emails that are sent to multiple recipients. This means a lot of you are not getting the emails we have sent out with the newsletter or registration material (or whatever we happen to send) attached to it. Even MY OWN computer filters out mail I send to myself.

**Therefore, we are going back to mailing everything to everyone by US Postal mail.** We will still send out emails occasionally, so I encourage you to check in your filtered mail and see what's in there before you automatically delete everything in it. I have even noticed in mine there are emails from people who are not "bulk mailers". And if there is someone out there reading this who knows of a way to keep my email from ending up in the recipients' spam folder, please let me know! I can be reached at

[dinamlrs@charterinternet.com](mailto:dinamlrs@charterinternet.com)

Dina Coffey, ML&RS, Inc

**USS HALSEY POWELL  
2004 REUNION  
SEPT. 22-26  
BEST WESTERN  
RIO GRANDE  
ALBUQUERQUE,  
NM**

**NEWSLETTER FINANCIAL  
STATEMENT:**

The cost of this issue is \$295.95

## RED'S JOKE CORNER

A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter.

"What are you doing?" she asked.

"Hunting flies," he responded.

"Oh. Killing any?" she asked.

"Yep, 3 males and 2 females," he replied.

Intrigued, she asked, "How can you tell?"

He responded, "Three were on the beer can, two were on the phone."

Father O'Malley answers the phone: "Hello, is this Father O'Malley?"

"It is."

"This is the IRS. Can you help us?"

"I can."

"Do you know a Ted Houlihan?"

"I do."

"Is he a member of your congregation?"

"He is."

"Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?"

"He will."

Sarah, the church gossip and self-appointed supervisor of the church's morals, kept sticking her nose into other people's business. Several residents were unappreciative of her activities, but feared her enough to maintain their silence.

She made a mistake, however, when she accused George, a new member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his pickup truck parked in front of the town's only bar one afternoon.

She commented to George and others that everyone seeing it would know that he was an alcoholic.

George, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just walked away. He said nothing.

Later, that evening, George quietly parked his pickup in front of Sarah's house.....AND he left it there all night.