

# POWELL POST

Volume 8, Issue 1

December 2001

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS HALSEY POWELL



### Special Points of Interest

- Skipper Mike has association news for all. Read his column on pages one, two and five..
- The newsletter will be available on line. See details on page three.
- WELCOME MAT has eight newly located shipmates. Please encourage them to attend the next reunion.
- Twelve are remembered in TAPS on page three.
- Read about the Colorado Springs reunion and see who attended on page four.
- See what's available to do and see in Corpus Christi in the pre-view on pages five and six. Then fill out the survey on page six..

## NOW HEAR THIS-THIS IS YOUR SKIPPER SPEAKING

Dear Shipmates,

I have recently returned from Colorado Springs where the 8th USS Halsey Powell reunion was held. This was a great reunion. It wasn't our largest, or our smallest, but we had eight (8) first time attendees. It is always fun to renew old friendships and hear new stories.

Ruth and I arrived a few days early, and chased away the rain, wind, and snowy slush, and hail. When the reunion started we had great weather. Sunny, warm days, and

cool, very cool nights. I managed a swim every day even if a couple times it was a bit frosty.

The main purpose of this annual letter is to relay the main results of the business meeting. The three main issues are as follows.

1. All current officers were re-elected for another tour of duty.
2. Dues will remain at \$25.00.
3. Our 2002 reunion will be held in the sunny south where I have been promised plenty of sunshine.

We will be in Corpus Christi, TX in late September or early October.

Our dues remained at \$25.00 because while our financial condition improved, it was a slight improvement, and the expenses will continue to increase. Also we still have fewer than 20% of our mailing list that pay their due. This will have to improve this year to prevent our taking other actions. We still wish to send the Powell Post to all hands on a quarterly basis. We real-

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

ize that not everyone can pay their dues, but please gentlemen, if you can, or if you can send a little extra, please do so.

Also this year, due to the recent situation our country has found itself in, we are asking for everyone to send a special donation. The people of our nation have been very generous in helping those in need in New York and Washington. However, no one seems to be thinking of all our service men and women who are being deployed to serve us. Some of us may have received help at one time or another, and now it is our time, our duty to return what we may have received, or to give merely because there will be a need. Our goal is to send \$1,000.00 to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. I hope you will be a part of this successful effort.

Please indicate on all checks you send whether it is for dues, ship donations, or Relief Society donations. Make all checks payable to the USS Halsey Powell and send them directly to me so we can do this as a ship's crew.

I am unable, due to the length of this letter, tell all that we saw or did in Colorado Springs, and will only say that for those who attended, I think some of you could write some short articles for the Powell Post on what you thought of the reunion.

I will not be happy with the Powell Post until I have to tell someone I am sorry, but we didn't have room for all articles. Not all articles have to be about the days aboard ship. Ladies, you should feel free to write. I am not picking on Red Belden, but if he ever runs out of stories (jokes) we will have a pretty small newsletter. Come on, we can do it—you can do it.

New Idea! If anyone needs a copy of our mailing list, please contact me. If all those who have been to a reunion would contact an old buddy and encourage them to attend, or those who have yet to attend would contact an old buddy and make plans to attend, we

would be a very large group. I would like very much to fill a hotel some year.

In closing, I ask that we all say a prayer for our military personnel currently standing their watch. Also say a prayer for our POWs and MIAs. Our nation can also use prayers at this time and always.

Ruth and I wish to extend to all a "Very Merry Christmas" and "Happy New Year."

Hope to see everyone in Corpus Christi, TX.

Sincerely,  
Skipper Mike

In case you need to communicate with Skipper Mike, you can do so by using one of the following:

Skipper Mike  
109 Dunton Ave  
Holland, MI 49424

616-392-3547 (home phone)  
616-494-9991 (ship's phone)  
616-494-9991 (ship's fax)

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**  
*MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE  
FILLED WITH PEACE  
AND HAPPINESS, FAMILY  
AND FRIENDS.*

*FROM THE STAFF AT  
MILITARY LOCATOR &  
REUNION SERVICE, INC.*

***The Powell Post is Published By:***

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

## 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, President USS Halsey Powell Association.

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.

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.

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

## NEWSLETTER NOW AVAILABLE ON LINE

The Newsletter for the USS HALSEY POWELL reunion will be available soon to download from the Military Locator & Reunion Service Inc web site.

If you are able to visit our web site and download the Newsletter, and therefore do not need a paper copy mailed to you, please let us know.

Please visit our web site at [www.mlrsinc.com](http://www.mlrsinc.com), then follow the link labeled Reunions, then scroll down until you see the listing for the USS HALSEY POWELL. Click on the button labeled Newsletters, and in a few minutes the newsletter should appear on your screen. (As a side note - it took about 4 minutes on my computer). This will only work if you have Adobe Reader 4.0 or higher. You can also download this viewer for free from our web site.

If this works for you and you would like to receive all future mailings from us in this method, please send me an e-mail requesting to subscribe to the Halsey Powell E-mail Roster. Each time something new is available, we will send you an e-mail informing you something new is available on the web site.

**Please let us know if your e-mail address changes so you don't miss any important information.**

**To subscribe to the Halsey Powell E-mail Roster please send an e-mail to [SubscribeMLRS@aol.com](mailto:SubscribeMLRS@aol.com), put the phrase **SUBSCRIBE HALSEY POWELL** in the Subject line and type your name and e-mail address in the body of your e-mail. You will be placed in the e-mail roster.**

Your name and postal mailing address will remain in our computers and will appear on all mailing lists, etc distributed to other members of your group.

If you have any question regarding this, do not hesitate to ask!

Dina Coffey



## WELCOME MAT

The USS HALSEY POWELL Association welcomes the following recently located crewmembers. We hope to see you at our reunion in Colorado Springs, and trust that you will become an active member of the Association. Welcome Aboard!

*Ray Stikeleather*  
1172 Hidden Lakes  
Granite Falls, NC 28630

*Richard Stuber (1967-68) RM3*  
13201 Millrace St  
Sun Valley, CA 91352  
818-988-7165  
[indianmike@earthlink.net](mailto:indianmike@earthlink.net)

*Robert Rivas (1960-62) GM*  
2704 S "M" St  
Bakersfield, CA 93304  
661-836-0735  
[themick114@aol.com](mailto:themick114@aol.com)

*Raymond Brewer (1952-56)*  
BT1 E Div  
3521 SE 45th St  
Topeka, KS 66609  
785-862-2190

*Marion Graw*  
1033 S 4th St  
Lakeview, OR 97630  
[judykv@usa.net](mailto:judykv@usa.net)

*Eugene Karel (1959) GM2*  
18441 Valley Ridge Ct  
Prior Lake, MN 55372

*Pat Meyers*  
10314 Audrey Dr  
Sun City, AZ 85351 (Oct.-Mar)  
623-933-5113

*Cecil Sylvester*  
11108 Avenue A  
Cisco, TX 76437-3938  
254-442-3717

**Correction:**  
**Jack Barrett's e-mail should be:**  
[jackandconnie@erols.com](mailto:jackandconnie@erols.com)



## 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.

*Charles Helldoefer*  
KIA March 20, 1945

*Robert Bovie*  
Died March 20, 1945

*Melvin Ignatovig*  
KIA March 20, 1945

*Joseph Dennen*  
MIA March 20, 1945

*Harold Butler*  
MIA March 20, 1945

*Russell Sindelar (1952-53)*  
Date of death not known

*William Mings (1951)*  
YN2 to YN Adm Off  
Died March 10, 1996

*Richard Jones*  
Died 1997

*Joseph Grebenc (1960-62)*  
Died October 9, 2001

*Donald Armitage*  
Died April 20, 2001

*Lt. Don Hartley (1953-56)*  
Died 2001

*Fred Courtney*  
Died May 28, 2001

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.

## RECAP OF COLORADO SPRINGS 2001 REUNION

The Best Western Le Baron Hotel in Colorado Springs was the site of the 2001 reunion of the USS Halsey Powell. The reunion began on Wednesday, October 3 with registration at 12:00 noon and the memorial service at 5:30 PM. The memorial service was followed by a social hour and a picnic buffet. A hospital-ity room was available during the reunion for reminiscing, story telling, displaying of memorabilia and just getting acquainted again.

On Thursday the optional tour took the group to the Garden of the Gods which was a photographer's paradise! The scenery was absolutely magnificent! From there the group traveled to the Manitou Cliff Dwellings where the ancient Anasazi Indian culture had thrived. After a day of touring, everyone was ready for the Southwestern-style meal served by the hotel chef.

Friday's tour took those who chose to participate on a fantastically scenic drive to Cripple Creek, an old western gold mining town. There was much to choose from as far as activities in Cripple Creek—the historic district, old mines, riding on the narrow gauge railroad, and casinos. After returning to the hotel in mid-afternoon, it was soon time to depart for the Flying W Ranch. The working cattle ranch specializes in western food and entertainment and they did not disappoint! The Wranglers served up a scrumptious dinner and then put on a show filled with great music and laughter.

Saturday was a day of leisure to spend as one pleased. Many chose to take in some additional site-seeing, while others relaxed and enjoyed a day of reminiscing. Which-ever one chose, everyone was ready for the main event on Saturday night—the banquet. After a delicious dinner, the shipmates and guests were entertained by "Mountain of Sound," for listening and/or dancing enjoyment.

The hardest part of the reunion came Sunday morning after the breakfast buffet when everyone had

to say good-bye. As all prepared to return to their homes, everyone was already looking forward to being together again next year in Corpus Christi, TX. Hope to see everyone back and lots of new faces also.

### 2001 REUNION ATTENDEES

Anthony Areias & Ginny York  
Michael & Ruth Baker  
Richard & Sherry Bame  
Everett & Bonnie Boutz  
Raymond & Mickey Brewer  
Kenneth & Beverly Coggins  
Frank Costagliola  
Ralph Creech  
Luciano & Janie De La Cruz  
Alden & Emily Annette Deal  
Joseph Doughty  
Jerry & Colette Dywasuk  
Joseph & Mary Edmonston  
John Ewing  
Donald Flaherty & Etta Mae Smith  
Eugene (Bud) Gildea, Jr  
William & Wilma Godfrey  
Glen & Shirley Hanne  
Robert Jones  
Robert & Carolyn Sue Justis  
Miller & JoAnn Keplinger  
Jackie Kimbrough  
Brent & Debbie King  
Robert & Lani Lange  
Gilbert & Elvira Lege  
Harvey & Jane Lloyd  
Mike & Mildred McCartney  
Otto & Bonnie Meyer  
Ralph & Judy Miller  
Robert Miller  
Gary & Phyllis Mootry  
Marvin & Doris Muck  
Stewart & Arlene Nephew  
Willard & Dot Owen  
Cecil & Shirley Parker  
Raymond Parker & John Beck  
Gerard & Romaine Pistor  
Felipe & Celina Salazar  
Duane & Joan Traut  
Roy & Rose Wagner  
Sanford & Dorothy Whitehurst  
James & Joyce Wyatt

**Total Members: 43**  
**Guests: 34**  
**Grand Total: 77**

## NOW HEAR THIS

I am pleased to announce that the 2002 reunion will be in Corpus Christi, TX. Tentative dates are Oct. 2– Oct. 6, 2002. We will be at the Radisson Hotel, on the beach, next to the USS Lexington. Final contract still needs to be signed and that should occur shortly.

Next, dues and donations to Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society. Simply put, "SLOW." I will just figure it's a slow economy and busy time of year. I know things will work out as they always do with this crew. I thank those who have already responded and look forward to my daily trips to the mail box. Please respond ASAP, as we need to get a check to the Relief Society and know if we need to alter our budget or change any plans regarding newsletter or budget.

Also, look elsewhere in this issue for a letter I received from Judith Vaughn. If any of you WWII vets remember him, maybe you could contact him. He'd love it.

On the home front, my yard is a mess. Just can't do it this year. I'll get to it in the spring. I will go into the hospital November 30 for surgery on my back. Never thought I would look forward to something like this, but I'm ready.

Let's all remember to say a prayer for our military personnel and one for POWs and MIAs.

That is all,  
Skipper Mike

## ATTENTION

Reunion 2002 will be in Corpus Christi. Problems exist, but the ML&RS and myself will get through them.

In the future, if anyone has a site they want considered for the 2003 reunion to be held in the eastern U. S., contact me and I will, along with the ML&RS, gather information on your site request.

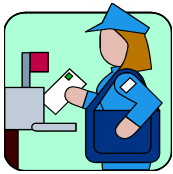
Do not, I repeat, "DO NOT con-

*(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4)

tact any C & VBs, hotels or any other organizations requesting they send info to me. Contact me and I will contact the ML&RS and we will have information at the Corpus Christi reunion to review before making any decisions. It must be done this way.

Thank you,  
Skipper Mike



## MAIL CALL

To Halsey Powell Reunion,

I am writing for my dad, Marion Graw, who was on the Halsey Powell during WWII. He is not physically well enough to attend, but would very much like to hear about anyone and everyone who might have been on the ship with him. He lived in La-

porte, Indiana, at the time and was a quartermaster, I believe. I know he made some close friends on the ship, but didn't keep track of them over all the years. If you take photos or life stories or histories, I'm sure he would be interested. He can be contacted at: Marion Graw, 1033 4th St., Lakeview, OR 97630, or anyone could e-mail me at: judykv@usa.net and I could print out letters for him.

For anyone who is interested in my dad's life since the war: He worked at Studebaker's in South Bend, IN until the mid-50s. Then he and my mom bought an A & W in Ludington, MI and operated it until 1974. They spent winters fishing in Florida and moved to Florida in 1974. In 1980 they moved to Lakeview, OR, to be near me and my daughters. My mom passed away in January 2000, and he continues to live in Lakeview. He walks with a cane and can't do a whole lot physically. I tried to convince him he could manage getting to the reunion with me going along, but he just doesn't have the energy. Anyone who was his friend, please write. Please contact me about any photos or written material about the group that can be purchased. Thank you.

Judy Vaughn

## ANOTHER MEMORABLE CHARACTER

One other memorable character during my cruise with Halsey Powell to Korea in 1951-52 was coxswain John Ewing. John had the helm of my whaleboat as we took "a boat ride along the North Korean coast and found time for a picnic ashore."

He was a superb, professional, and a fearless sailor, and I am proud to have had him as a shipmate in a tight spot.

Jim Winnefeld  
26 Chesapeake Lndg  
Annapolis, MD 21403-2615

## TRADITIONS

In Great Britain, boxes were traditionally put out for donations to the poor and for tips for servants—resulting in the Boxing Day holiday.

The tradition of serving latkes—delicious potato pancakes—during the eight days of Hanukkah began in Poland early in the 1900s.

## PREVIEW OF ATTRACTIONS AT CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

In order to let you have input in what you would like at your reunion, a preview of some of the attractions in Corpus Christi will be described and you will then be asked to choose which ones you would like to see on the agenda of your reunion. Read the descriptions and then fill out the survey and return it to Military Locator & Reunion Service and we will use your choices to make up the reunion packages. Here are some things you might like to know about Corpus Christi:

Corpus Christi, TX is a major deep-water port and one of Texas' most popular seacoast playground cities. The city began as a frontier trading post in 1839. Its population today is approximately 275,000. The city features a seawall, with steps to

the water, that was built in the late 1930s as part of a major landfill that created Shoreline Boulevard and the popular "T" head docks for pleasure boats. Corpus Christi's Water Garden at Bayfront Arts and Science Park sparkles for visitors who see, hear, and touch the garden's water. Some 150 fountains form the nucleus of the park, which is lighted at night.

**TEXAS STATE AQUARIUM:** Enter through a cascade of water above a glass-enclosed tunnel. See close-up views of the wonders of the Gulf of Mexico, the "Wonderful World of Sherman's Lagoon," a variety of water turtles, river otters and the only albino alligator in captivity.

**CORPUS CHRISTI BOTANICAL GARDENS:** This is a 180-acre site along the Oso Creek and features Orchid House, Exhibit House, exotic Plumeria collection, a sensory garden, shaded butterfly and bird trail, a wetlands trail, and Palapa Grande on Gator Lake.

**CORPUS CHRISTI GREYHOUND RACE TRACK:** There is year-round racing here on a 60-acre facility, as well as simulcast races from other tracks. Visitors can see greyhounds in their handling pens in 18 on-premises kennels.

**PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE:** 110 mile-long Padre Island offers one of the last natural seashores in the nation. Each end of

the narrow sand island is developed with parks and resorts, but in between lies the 80-mile stretch of unblemished seashore. Beachcombers may collect seashells, driftwood, and many other interesting items washed ashore by the tides.

**U.S. NAVAL AIR STATION:** Located on the peninsula at the southeastern edge of the city, this is the home of the U.S. Navy's Air Training Command.

**USS LEXINGTON MUSEUM:** The USS Lexington was commissioned in 1943 and served longer and set more records than any carrier in the U.S. Navy. During WWII she saw action from Tarawa to Tokyo and was the first U.S. carrier to enter Tokyo Bay after the treaty was signed with Japan in 1945. This floating naval museum features tours of the hangar deck, foc'sle, commanding officer/ admiral quarters, sick bay, galley, flight deck, bridge, and much more.

**KING RANCH:** Founded in 1853 by Capt. Richard King, this 825,000 acre ranch is larger than the state of Rhode Island. A tour of the ranch will include a guide from the ranch and lunch served in the Cowboy Camphouse.

**CORPUS CHRISTI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND HISTORY:** A treasure house of collections that preserve the natural and cultural history of the area. On display are artifacts, pictures, documents, weapons and memorabilia the colorful past of South Texas.

\_\_\_\_\_

**NEWSLETTER FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

The cost of the December issue of the Powell Post is \$297.74

# USS HALSEY POWELL SURVEY FOR CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 2002

*Please take a few minutes to complete the survey of the attractions in the Corpus Christ area and return it to Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc. We will use the surveys to custom design your reunion to what you want to do. Registration packets will be mailed approximately ninety days prior to the reunion.*

*Please check the attractions you would like to visit during the reunion.*

**Texas State Aquarium** \_\_\_\_\_

**Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens** \_\_\_\_\_

**Corpus Christi Greyhound Race Track** \_\_\_\_\_

**Padre Island National Seashore** \_\_\_\_\_

**U.S. Naval Air Station** \_\_\_\_\_

**USS Lexington Museum** \_\_\_\_\_

**King Ranch** \_\_\_\_\_

**Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History** \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like a Welcome Reception the first evening of the reunion?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, would you prefer only an hor d'oeuvre platter \_\_\_\_\_  
or a hamburger/hot dog or soup & sandwich type dinner? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you prefer dinner together as a group at the hotel on Friday evening \_\_\_\_\_  
or have the evening free to dine on your own? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you prefer breakfast all three mornings \_\_\_\_\_ or only on Sunday? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want entertainment after the banquet? (Keeping in mind this will increase the banquet cost to pay for the music) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Other comments and suggestions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Return to:

Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc.  
PO Drawer 11399  
Hickory, NC 28603