

HUNTINGTON HERALD

Volume 14, Issue 2

February 2004

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS HUNTINGTON



Special Points of Interest

- *Gene Volcik has a message for you on page two under "Coordinator's Corner."*
- *We have two new members listed under "Welcome Mat" on page two. Let's find some more names for next time.*
- *Learn more about Nashville before the reunion. Read the facts and trivia on page three.*
- *Did you get a tattoo while in the Navy? See what some of your shipmates say about this. "Mail Call" is on page four.*
- *Do you recognize anyone in the picture of the Royal Court on page four?*

REUNION DATES ARE SEPT 30-OCT 3

The 2004 reunion for the USS Huntington is scheduled for **September 30** through **October 3** in **Nashville, TN**. The host facility for the reunion will be the Holiday Inn Select Opryland/Airport.

A great package of activities is being planned for your reunion. Because the Grand Ole Opry performance is only on Saturday night, the USS Huntington banquet will be held on Friday night, October 1st. For those of you who are planning to attend only the banquet, you will want to keep that in mind. Registration packets with the final details on the plans will be mailed out approximately 3 months prior to the reunion.

HISTORY OF THE GRAND OLE OPRY

The Grand Ole Opry was originally known as the WSM Barn Dance. Its first broadcast was made on November 28, 1925, with "Uncle" Jimmy Thompson as the initial performer. The cast also included Dr. Humphrey Bate and his daughter Alcyone, the Crook Brothers, and Kirk McGee. The announcer for the show was George D. Hay, who labeled himself "The Solom Old Judge." As Hay recalled it, his show followed an NBC network radio program on Saturday nights called "The Music Appreciation Hour." The night of the first broadcast of the

WSM Barn Dance, Hay announced, "For the past hour, we have been listening to music taken largely from Grand Opera, but now we will present 'The Grand Ole Opry.'" The name stuck, and as the Opry grew, it moved to a number of Nashville venues. It moved to the Ryman Auditorium in 1943, where it remained until 1974 when the Opry moved to the present site at the Grand Ole Opry House. With the opening of Opryland USA, and amusement park dedicated by President Nixon on March 16, 1974, the Opry moved into the \$15 million theatre, the largest

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broadcasting studio in the world, with a seating capacity of 4,400.

Thousands of people make pilgrimages every year to see the Opry live, and others tune in to the Opry magic via opry.com, 650 WSM, or "Grand Ole Opry Live" on CMT: Country Music Television. If you are not already a country music fan, why not tune in to the Opry between now and the reunion and become familiar with some of the stars and music you will hear on your visit during the reunion.

Visitors to the Opry today can expect to see the new stars, superstars and legends of country and bluegrass take the stage throughout an Opry performance, and they can also expect to see a live radio broadcast—commercials and all—unfold before their eyes. One of the Opry's priceless qualities continues to be the uniqueness of each show—guests never know who might strike up a rare duet or who might stop by for a surprise appearance. Even if you're not a country music fan, this is an all-American experience, one you won't soon forget.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance after 11/03 **\$350.30**

Funds received since 11/03 **\$292.25**

Funds available for 02/04 **\$642.55**

Funds expended 02/04 **\$211.05**

Ending Balance for 05/04 **\$431.50**

Contributors since 11/03

James Nelson	\$7.25
Robert Bond	\$50.00
Gerald Brooks	\$6.00
George King	\$24.00
Joseph Morgan	\$25.00
Sheldon Ferriss	\$20.00
Robert Patton	\$15.00
Robert Bolton	\$8.00
Cornelius Paulson	\$15.00
Eugene Volcik	\$25.00
Clifton Frost	\$7.00
William Cain	\$20.00
Harry Young	\$10.00
John Zappacosta	\$5.00
Richard Haswell	\$15.00
David Bayer	\$15.00
Ed McKenzie	\$20.00
Dan Curran	\$5.00
TOTAL:	\$292.25

Send contributions to ML&RS—address is on page four.

COORDINATOR'S CORNER

WHERE, WHAT AND WHO?

Where: Nashville, Tennessee

What: USS Huntington Annual Reunion

WHO: The ship's crew, their wives and friends

Nashville is unique because not only being the Country Music Capital, it also has other outstanding sights and activities. Did you realize our Huntington group is very unique also because it is amazing how much we care and enjoy each other's company, even though we meet only once a year. All of us can tell you about the fun we have, but only you can experience it. I am at wit's end to convince you of this.

We are an extended family and just as a family suffers pain of a loss or joy of happiness, we can relate with this. We are special people with a very common interest—the USS Huntington.

Our reunions are tailor made to our desires by the Military Locators. They custom make our reunions to satisfy the wishes of the majority.

So all I can say again, "Ya'll come."

Gene Volcik
Reunion Coordinator



TAPS

The Herald was informed of the death of the following former crew-member since the last newsletter. The entire crew extends our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the deceased.

*George Gyorek (1945-48) F1
Died January 5, 2004*

Anyone learning of the death of a former crewmember is requested to notify the Herald so their passing can be acknowledged in TAPS

and also on the Honor Roll at the reunion memorial service.

Many of you knew George and Joyce from the reunions. If you would like to send a card to Joyce, her address is as follows:

Joyce Fisher
5100 Washington St Apt 401
Hollywood, FL 33021

WELCOME MAT



The USS HUNTINGTON takes great pleasure in announcing that the following shipmates have recently been located. Welcome Aboard! We hope to see you at the next reunion and that you will become an active member of the association.

*Louis Lista
5432 Phelps Ln
Port Charles, FL 33981*

*Edward Almeida (1945-46)
20 Libby Ln Apt E-81
Warren, RI 02885*

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The Herald is the official publication of the USS HUNTINGTON Association. From now on it will be published quarterly in February, May, August and November, *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 HUNTINGTON. A financial statement appears in each issue of the newsletter. In the event there is insufficient funding for a regularly scheduled issue, all funds received will accumulate until the next regularly scheduled quarterly issue. Out of sequence issues will not be published merely to "catch-up."

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 and grammar.

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

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

NASHVILLE FACTS AND TRIVIA

- Nicknames: "Music City USA" and "Athens of the South."
- Nashville was named one of the 15 best U.S. cities for work and family by Fortune Magazine.
- Nashville has 54,890 jobs directly related to hospitality.
- Nashville hosted more than 10 million visitors in 1999, resulting in over \$2.7 billion in revenues for the city.
- Nashville has 32,699 hotel rooms in the city.
- Opryland Hotel is now the largest non-gaming hotel property in the U.S., with 2,884 rooms and 288,000 square feet of exhibit space.
- Andrew Jackson held every elective office at the local, state and federal level, including President of the United States. He was elected alderman, mayor, state representative, and state senator from Greenville. He served as governor and military governor of Tennessee and United States congressman, senator, and vice president, becoming President of the United States following the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.
- Iroquois, bred at Nashville's Belle Meade Plantation, was the first American winner of the English Derby in 1881. Such modern thoroughbreds as Secretariat trace their bloodlines to Iroquois.
- Tennessee won its nickname as The Volunteer State during the War of 1812 when volunteer soldiers from Tennessee displayed marked valor in the Battle of New Orleans.
- Grinders Switch, entertainer Minnie Pearl's fictitious hometown, is now an entertainment complex in her real hometown of Centerville.
- Nashville's Grand Ole Opry is the longest continuously running live radio program in the world. It has broadcast every Friday and Saturday night since 1925.
- Tennessee was the last state to secede from the Union during the Civil War and the first state to be readmitted after the war.
- A replica of The Parthenon, the famous ancient Greek building in Athens, Greece, stands in Nashville's Centennial Park.
- The name "Tennessee" originated from the old Yuchi Indian word, "Tana-see," meaning "The Meeting Place."
- Jubilee Singers of Fisk University in Nashville introduced to the world the plaintive beauty and tradition of the Negro spiritual, which became the basis for other genres of African-American music. It was because their successful tours to raise money for the university during the 1870s that Nashville first became known for its music.
- Tennessee ties with Missouri as the most neighborly state in the union. It is bordered by 8 states.
- Nashville was settled in 1779, became state capitol from 1812-1815, then permanently in 1843.
- The population of Nashville's Metropolitan Statistical Area is 1.23 million.
- Nashville typically enjoys a mild and pleasant climate with only a few days of the year having either very hot or very cold conditions. Most of the city's rain is confined to the spring months, but a shower throughout the year is not unusual.
- Nashville is headquarters of the following companies: Aladdin Industries, Bridgestone/Firestone USA, Cracker Barrel, CAN Insurance, Dollar General, Gaylord Entertainment Co., Genesco, and HCA.



MAIL CALL

Editor's note: Because we had no letters for Mail Call, we sent a question by e-mail to some of the subscribers and asked for stories or to answer this question: "Did you get a tattoo while you were in the Navy, and if so, when, where and why?" Here are the few responses we received:

George LeMere:

Happy to say, Retired with over 30 years active service and never had the slightest urge to get a tattoo.

Walter Shaffer:

Yes, I got two tattoos while in the Navy. One on each upper arm. I think I got them while we were in Philly. Why, I do not know. I guess it was a Navy-thing.

Edwin Folk:

No news, and no, I never got a tattoo. Stood by when a couple of guys got theirs. I'm glad that I didn't get one. I know several men who later regretted theirs. One of my four granddaughters has a tattoo. She says is it a butterfly, but she won't show me where it is.

Willard Winkley:

In reference to your request I did not get one tattoo. Although, three of us while visiting Malta on Hogans Goat (CL 107) got a British Marine tattooed!

George LaMere:

I do have something that could be included in the next USS Huntington newsletter. A picture I took on 30 September 1948 at Latitude 0000. The Royal Court. Any of those in the picture that would like a copy can let me know and I will print a copy for them. The original was a color slide which had faded over the years. I filed it as Black & White, the

color copy was very poor. Contact me at:

George LaMere
2333 Summerfield Rd
Winter Park, FL 32792
E-mail: geolamere@hotmail.com.

See picture below.

A big thanks to all who responded. We would love to hear from all of you about your tattoo or any other story you have about your time onboard the USS Huntington. We cannot have an interesting newsletter without news from YOU!!! Please send something for the next issue!

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



ROYAL COURT USS HUNTINGTON CL-107 30 SEPT 1948

**USS HUNTINGTON
2004 REUNION
SEPTEMBER 30—OCTOBER 3
NASHVILLE, TN
HOLIDAY INN SELECT
OPRYLAND/AIRPORT HOTEL**