

HUNTINGTON HERALD

Volume 13, Issue 3

May 2003

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS HUNTINGTON



Special Points of Interest

- *Read more about Albuquerque in the cover story and make plans to attend the reunion there.*
- *Gene Volcik encourages you to attend the reunion in his remarks on page two.*
- *WELCOME MAT on page three has five newly located shipmates. Please get in touch if you see a familiar name.*
- *MAIL CALL on page three has an article about an unusual hobby by one of your shipmates. Read about what Bob Bond collects.*
- *Two letters espousing opinions on the war in Iraq are on page four. With whom do you agree?*

ALL ABOUT ALBUQUERQUE, NM

Albuquerque, the Duke City, is your destination for the **September 11-14, 2003** USS Huntington reunion. In 1706 the ambitious provisional governor don Francisco Cuervo Y Valdez petitioned the crown for permission to establish the Bosque as a formal villa. But the government required a minimum of 30 families to establish a villa, and the area had only 18. Cuervo had a plan - he claimed the presence of 35 families, thinking that 30 would look suspicious. And to cement the deal, he proposed to name the settlement in honor of the Viceroy Francisco de la Cueva, the Duke of Alburquerque, who had been responsible for

preliminary approval of his application. Thus, the city of Alburquerque was born. *(The first "r" in the name was eventually dropped).* The town sprung up around what is today known as Old Town. Around the plaza the streets are lined with 300 year-old adobe structures that stand as a testament to the early settlers. The city's first church, San Felipe De Neri continues to serve the Catholic community as it has for 300 years. You can see the early life of the settlers in the wonderful exhibits in the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History and at Casa San Ysidro. Also, the old west is alive and well in New Mexico.

Nearby is Kirtland Air Force Base and it's National Atomic Museum. Here you can view the concert of events that led to the development of the Manhattan Project. Within driving distance is Los Alamos and the Trinity Site - where the first Atomic explosion took place in 1945. Indian crafts and jewelry abound. If you like dinosaurs and fossils, you'll love the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science. A ride on the Sandia Peak Tram puts you on top of the Sandia Mountains, where on a clear day, you can look out over 15,000 square

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miles of magical landscape. To the west, the Rio Grande shines its way through the cotton-wood lined valley and silhouettes of dormant volcanoes are seen against fiery red sunsets. Albuquerque is full of exciting attractions and events, from Historical Old Town where the city was founded in 1706, to the Kodak Albuquerque International Balloon fiesta, the most popular ballooning event in the world. The city blends America's prehistory with its future.

For a relaxed slow paced reunion, you can't beat this location, so come join your friends at the Best Western Hotel on September 11-14, 2003 in Albuquerque, NM.

Remember, family members are also welcome. Make it a family vacation and bring the whole clan. Introduce your family to your old buddies and share those unforgettable experiences with them. It will be a time for all of you to cherish.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance and after 02/03 **\$609.75**
 Funds received since 02/03 **\$120.00**
 Funds available for 05/03 **\$729.75**
 Funds expended 05/03 **\$211.05**
 Ending Balance for 08/03 **\$518.70**

Contributors since last issue

Lowell Roe	\$50.00
E.E. Hogg	\$25.00
David Bayer	\$25.00
Robert Opferduck	\$20.00

TOTAL \$120.00

We need more stories from you for our next issue. Please submit your memories of your favorite liberty port.

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 re-search each article.

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

COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Some important days to circle on your calendar are September 11th to 14th, because there is going to be a gala reunion in Albuquerque, New Mexico for some very special people—the sailors, spouses and friends of the USS Huntington.

Many of us have been lucky enough to be able to attend all of our reunions, not having any conflicts of schedules and illnesses. So we know all the joy we've had being with our Huntington family. If you have never attended one of our reunions, then you'll never know what you have been missing. We all want you to come and share your Huntington experiences with us because you may help us remember some other things that happened during our stay on the Huntington. It seems that during the short period of time we are together we forget our aches, pain and troubles and just live it up as if there is no tomorrow. You know it is nice to reminisce because it seems that our age—we do this best and it doesn't hurt anyone and we are pros at reminiscing.

The city of Albuquerque is really extending their arms in welcoming us to their city which should indicate that a great time is in store for us. "YA'LL COME!"

Published by

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Our Reunions Work So You Don't Have To.

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.

*Edwin Folk (1947-48) AerM3
1807 Planters Walk
Greenville, NC 27858
252-756-8841
olded27858@yahoo.com*

*William Clussman RM 2/c CR-1
N2454 Alpine Dr
Wautoma, WI 54982
920-787-2869
clussman@vbe.com*

*Bob Hailey (Comm-Decomm) 2nd Div
PO Box 102
Acton, ME 04001
207-636-1505*

*Robert McDoucal
171 Hanson's Ridge Rd
Springvale, ME 04083*

*Walter Shaffer
(1948-Decomm) Fireman B Div
55 Lawrence Ave
New Windsor, NY 12553
waltshaf@msm.com*



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.

*Joseph Sinclair
Died December 2, 2002*

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.



MAIL CALL

ML&RS, Inc,

Enclosed find my completed choice of sights in Albuquerque. Also find an article about my hobby and it being exhibited in December and January.

The Huntington Herald receives few personal news articles and I am a guilty one.

I did exhibit bells at the first Huntington reunion in Lancaster, PA. Select and use what I have sent if you like.

Bob Bond

Here is the article about Mr. Bond's bell collection.

THE SEASON FOR SLEIGH BELLS

Vineland man's collection on display at Millville Library

By Joyce Vanaman

MILLVILLE—"Sleigh bells ring... are you listening?"

Robert Bond of Vineland has been listening to, and collecting, sleigh bells for many years. Some of the bells in his extensive collection are on display now through Jan. 1 at the Millville Public Library, 210 Buck St.

Bond, 82, is a retired Vineland elementary school teacher.

"My brother and I grew up on a farm, and the family had a horse," he said. "As a youth, I would do plowing, harrowing and planting and would do custom work in chicken yards and gardens in Vineland. The large bells picked up the rock and roll vibrations of the horse."

"My dad owned the horse," Bond added. "My brother used it to court the girls, including Miss Vineland, and I used the horse to work."

His interest in bells goes back to 1934 when a set of graduated sleigh bells was given to his family. In 1956 he had to remount the bells on a leather strap because the old strap was dried out.

The bells on display at the library are from the 1800s and include two sets made by William Barton between 1808 and 1826, as well as bells made by Hiram Barton, his son, and William E. Barton, his grandson. The initials of the makers are cast on the bells, Bond explained.

"I bought the bells individually, one, two or three at a time, and had them put together on leather by a professional, but some I was able to do," Bond said.

The bells are brass with a cast-iron pellet inside.

Some of the sleigh bells have a design of flower petals or horse-shoes and some depict a running horse.

The largest sleigh bell in his collection is 3 3/4 inches in diameter.

One of the most festive looking sets has decorated red felt over the leather strap with nickel plating over the brass bells.

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USS HUNTINGTON

2003 REUNION

ALBUQUERQUE, NM

SEPT. 11-14

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Bond's collection includes sleigh bells, saddle chimes, carriage bells and shaft times.

"I have bells from all of the historically known makers, about 10 different makers," Bond said. He bought most of them at auctions in Pennsylvania.

A member of the American Bell Association, Bond has done extensive research on bells.

He said most of the early bells served as safety devices, warning pedestrians and drivers when horse-drawn carriages and sleighs were the major means of transportation.

Bond said colonial towns had statutes that made driving a horse and sleigh without having a horse "belled" a violation of the law.

In northern states, road traffic increased substantially in the winter because a horse was able to pull more weight over slippery snow-covered roads.

Bond gets a lot of enjoyment from his bell collection and said he hopes library visitors will enjoy seeing them.

ML&RS, Inc sent out an e-mail to all who have e-mail asking for news from family members who may be in the armed forces in Iraq, or to just share their thoughts about the war.

(The war was not over at the time of the request.) Here are the two letters we received.

Editor,

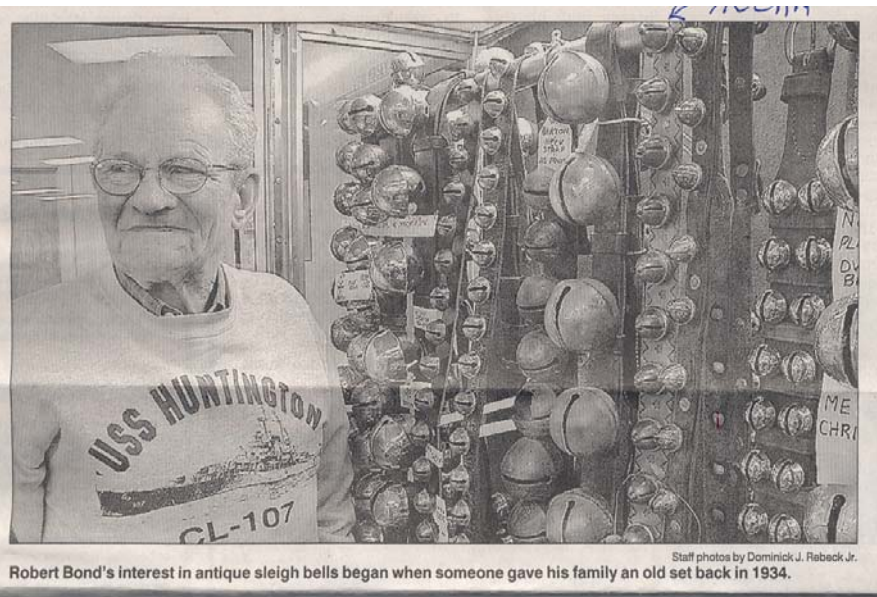
I support the troops (You ALWAYS support the troops.), but not the abject idiocy that put them there. Iraq could do nothing to anyone while the inspectors were there without bringing the whole world down on them. If we do not find weapons of mass destruction, I expect several resignations (ha ha ha). I am glad Saddam is out, but I wish it could have been done with less destruction and fewer lives lost. We now have those who furnished the expended munitions and lost weapons waiting to get rich replenishing the supply and trying to get contracts to rebuild what they destroyed. In most cases I think our troops performed admirably. Let's hope they are not sent into yet another country seeking weapons of mass destructions. Saddam can't show his face in any country. He had a chance to leave with impunity and refused to take it. Any country that shelters him now is at great risk with the world—not just us. That's my own personal thoughts on the subject.

Carl S. Walker

ML&RS, Inc.,

I must confess that I was leery of starting a war with Iraq to find their weapons of mass destruction. I was fearful that our inexperienced troops would be subjected to chemical or biological weapons by a vengeful Saddam. Fortunately, our men and women performed their duties admirably. It is a tribute to their training and professionalism. I am impressed that our casualty figures have been kept to a minimum. My heart goes out to the families and friends of those who gave the supreme sacrifice. At this point in time, no weapons of mass destruction have been found. But the fact that Saddam has been deposed is reason enough to cheer. I hope that Iraq will finally get a government that will represent all their factions. The initial beginning yesterday of an attempt to start the process was met with many stumbling blocks. Let us pray that things will go forward in a more orderly way and our troops do not stay there forever, as in South Korea.

Robert Opferkuch



Staff photos by Dominick J. Rebeck Jr.
 Robert Bond's interest in antique sleigh bells began when someone gave his family an old set back in 1934.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Happy 50th Anniversary to your reunion coordinator and wife, Gene and Vi Volcik. As this issue is being prepared, they are celebrating their anniversary with a trip to the Czech Republic. They will be staying for one month and while there will be visiting with some relatives. If you wish to drop them a card, their home address is as follows:

Gene & Vi Volcik
 6311 Walnut Hills Dr
 Austin, TX 78723