

The



Pirate

Pride of Service

Duty to God and Country

Pride of Workmanship

Volume 8, Issue 2

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS MISSISSIPPI EAG-128



Special Points of Interest

- *Changes in plans for the reunion are announced in the cover story. Read all about Tucson, AZ.*
- *Your president, Irwin "Jake" Jacobs, has his news on page two. He explains a new feature in the newsletter which we hope you will support.*
- *Please take a few minutes to fill out and return the Tucson survey on page three so we can get your reunion planned.*
- *If you have noticed that the USS Mississippi has two different numbers, you'll want to read the information in Mail Call on page four.*
- *The new feature begins on page four. Scuttlebutt is a way to share your news.*

2005 REUNION IN TUCSON, AZ, NOV 3-6

ABOUT THE CITY OF TUCSON

Originally an Indian village, Tucson is one of the oldest towns in the United States. In 1775, Hugo O'Connor established the Tucson Presidio and Spanish settlers arrived in the area in 1776. Tucson officially became part of the United States with the Gadsden Purchase of 1854. Tucson served as the capital of the Arizona Territory from 1867 to 1877.

Tucson boasts the best of both worlds... the progress and innovation of a metropolitan community and the friendly, caring atmosphere of a small town. Tucson's rich cultural heritage centers around a unique blend of Native American, Spanish, Mexican and Anglo-American influences. Blessed with the natural beauty of the Sonoran Desert and an unsurpassed climate of 360 sunny days a year, Tucsonans embrace a rare lifestyle and are committed to preserving that quality of life.

Tucson's climate varies from the 2400 foot desert basin to the 9100 foot forests of the Santa Catalina Mountains. The

city's dry desert air and winter sunshine make it a popular health and winter resort.

The Tucson metropolitan area supports over 750,000 residents and continues to grow by nearly 2,000 new residents each month.

ATTRACTIONS IN THE AREA

PIMA AIR & SPACE MUSEUM:

Explore aviation history at the Pima Air & Space Museum. It is home to the largest privately owned collection of historical aircraft in the country. See everything from a full-scale model of the Wright Brothers' 1903 Wright Flyer, to a mock-up of the world's fastest aircraft, the X-15. More than 130 military and civilian aircraft are here on display, along with engines, flight simulators, uniforms and other aviation memorabilia. You can step right into Douglas DC-6 used by both Presidents Kennedy and Johnson during their terms of office. Some of the aircraft at the Pima Air & Space Museum are on loan from the Smithsonian, the Navy and Air Force Museum, all of them

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significant from both engineering and historical perspectives. This museum is sure to interest everyone.

Titan Missile Museum:

In May 1986 the Pima Air Museum opened the Titan Missile Museum, located in Green Valley, AZ. It consists of a former Titan II Missile in its underground silo. Guided tours through the complex make it possible for the public to view it exactly as it looked when it was being operated by the Air Force 390th Strategic Missile Wing. All fifty-four Titan Missile sites have been destroyed except for this site, which has been preserved as a museum. It stands today, as it stood on alert for 19 years, accurate in every detail except for the empty booster and re-entry vehicle in the silo.

San Xavier Mission:

Celebrating its 208th birthday in 2005, the beautiful "White Dove of the Desert", Mission San Xavier del Bac, has been claimed as being one of the finest examples of mission architecture in the world. It is a graceful blending of Moorish, Byzantine and late Mexican Renaissance styles. Mission San Xavier del Bac is situated on an elevation in the Santa Cruz Valley, nine miles south of the city of Tucson. From the earliest times, the Native American settlement in which the Mission is located was called Bac, "place where the water appears" because the Santa Cruz River, which ran underground for some distance, reappeared on the surface nearby. The celebrated Jesuit missionary and explorer, Father Eusebio Francisco Kino, first visited Bac in 1692. Eight years later in 1700, Father Kino laid the foundations of the first church, some two miles north of the present mission. Father Kino named the mission in honor of his chosen patron, St. Francis Xavier, the illustrious Jesuit "Apostle of the Indies."

Saguaro National Park:

This unique desert is home to the most recognizable cactus in the world, the majestic saguaro. Visitors of all ages are fascinated and enchanted by these desert giants, especially their many interesting and complex interrelationships with other desert life. Saguaro cacti provide their sweet fruits to hungry desert animals. They also provide homes to a

variety of birds, such as the Harris' hawk, Gila woodpecker and the tiny elf owl. Yet, the saguaro requires other desert plants for its very survival. During the first few years of a very long life, a young saguaro need the shade and protection of a nurse plant such as the palo verde tree. With an average life span of 150 years, a mature saguaro may grow to a height of 50 feet and weigh over 10 tons. You may choose either a leisurely drive on one of the scenic loops, or explore the park on one of the many walking trails.

Kitt Peak National Observatory:

Kitt Peak is the home of research facilities for two divisions of the National Optical Astronomy Observatories. The site supports the most diverse collection of astronomical observatories on Earth for nighttime optical and infrared astronomy and daytime study of the Sun. Founded in 1958, KPNO operates three major nighttime telescopes, shares site responsibilities with the National Solar Observatory and hosts the facilities of consortia which operate 19 optical telescopes and two radio telescopes.

Tombstone, Arizona:

While visiting Tombstone, tourists will find themselves stepping back into the past as they witness re-enactments at the O.K. Corral or take a stroll along the boardwalks on Allen Street where they might want to unwind and relax in the Bird Cage Theater, Big Nose Kate's or The Crystal Palace, some of Tombstone's best known tourist attractions and saloons. More of Tombstone's western heritage can be appreciated in its historic buildings, such as the Tombstone Courthouse, built in 1882, which is now a state park. Visit the Rose Tree Inn, where the world's largest rose tree lives or Boot Hill Graveyard where you can read some very interesting epitaphs.

Tubac, Arizona:

Explore the art colony and historical site known as the Village of Tubac! Founded in 1752, Tubac is the first European settlement in the region that later became Arizona. The area is rich in history, with the Tubac Presidio State Historic Park and the nearby Tumacacori National Historical Park providing visitors a glimpse into the ancient roots. Today the community is known as a haven for artists and craftspersons, and the village offers over 80 shops, studios and galler-

ies. In addition, the Tubac Center of Arts features year-around exhibits of some of the southwest's finest art.

Davis-Monthan Air Force Base:

Aerospace Maintenance & Regeneration Center, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base supports customer's storage, regeneration, reclamation and disposal needs in war and peace. Today AMARC is where the U.S. Air Force mothballs planes until they either need them again or it's time to salvage them for parts. Whenever the U. S. sells surplus planes to foreign governments part of the sales pitch is that there will always be a ready supply of spare parts. Some are turned into pilotless drones and used for missile target practice. You can think of it as a huge warehouse for all types of spare parts which saves taxpayers millions of dollars every year. There are over 4,500 planes in storage, most now from the Vietnam era. Almost 70 different types of aircraft are currently stored at AMARC, ranging from U. S. Army and Navy helicopters to the Air Force's Vietnam War era F-4s.

Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum:

Opened in 1952, the museum consists of six areas representing the Sonora's different climate zones. The interpretive displays are alive and the animals live in their natural desert setting. There are almost 2 miles of trails in 21 acres of exquisite Sonoran Desert. Along the way, there are docents to answer your many questions about the museum itself and the wildlife that abounds in this part of the Southwest. The museum is divided into sections, so you can easily head for your favorite animals or plants.

Some of the divisions include the Cactus Garden, the Hummingbird Aviary, the Cat Canyon, the Bighorn Sheep, a Walk-in Aviary, Reptiles and Invertebrates, Life Underground, Caves and Minerals, Riparian Corridor, Desert Garden, Desert Grassland, Arizona Upland, Mountain Woodland, and the Overlook with a breath-taking view of the Sonora Desert. There's something that everyone will enjoy.

Nogales, Mexico

Nogales is a mecca for shoppers, with a host of colorful markets and shops featuring leather goods, ceramic-

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ics, tin ware, fabrics, lacquered wood, tile, silverware, sculpture and paintings, and brass and copper line crowded streets. The streets ring with the sound of vendors competing for trade and bargains being made. Prices at the shops are not fixed, so enjoy the bargaining. Business is done in English, and American currency is preferred. Also for Mexican-food fans, Nogales is a feast. It is filled with dining experiences and the restaurants are clean and safe.

Now that you have read of some of the many sites to see in the Tucson area, take a few minutes to **complete the survey on the right of this page** and return it to us so we can plan activities that you will enjoy.

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

Financial Statement

Balance remaining after 12/04
\$1123.56
Funds collected since 12/04
\$65.25
Funds available for 03/05
\$1188.81
Funds expended for 03/05
\$215.55
Balance remaining for 06/05
\$973.26

In the last Financial Report we should have thanked all the reunion attendees for their contributions to the Pirate. Of the \$510.00 in reported contributions, \$445.00 was donated by the attendees at the reunion. Thank you!

Send contributions to ML&RS, Inc.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, I guess by now you're aware that Las Vegas is out for 2005. Fortunately for us, ML&RS was on top of the situation, that was nipped in the bud, what with their experience in the field of reunion arrangements. So now, it's off to **Tucson, Arizona, on Nov 3-6**. In so far as climate is concerned, it's comfortable, and lots to see and do. So, it should work out well.

We're going to have a new feature in the Pirate, beginning with this edition, and I'm sure it will move along. It's titled "Scuttlebutt." I'm sure that shipmates would like to learn of the goings on with the group, such as special events, anniversaries, and other happenings. All we ask is that it be limited to a short note. Let's contribute to it by contacting Karen at KARENMLRS@charterinternet.com or me at Jakeann@juno.com. When you send something, give your name and the division you were in on the Missy. If you don't have e-mail, just drop Karen a line at the MLRS address at the bottom right of this page.

We recently learned of the passing of Robert Barna, EMCM. Wheelchair and all, he never failed to show up at the reunion.

Hopefully soon, the blizzards and rain storms leading up to floods and mud slides will be history for this part of the year. I'm certain that we all had a share of the rough weather, but alas, it too shall pass. Have a great Spring season, and think Tucson!!!

Irwin Jacobs

FUN FACTS

The most popular name for a boat is *Obsession*.

Honey is the only food that doesn't spoil.

USS MISSISSIPPI 2005 REUNION SURVEY

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey of the attractions in the Tucson area. We will use the surveys to custom design your reunion to what you want to do. Please let us know your wishes about the following:

Reunion format:

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

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

Do you want entertainment after the banquet? Yes _____ No _____

Please check any attractions you would be interested in visiting:

- ___ Pima Air & Space Museum
- ___ Titan Missile Museum
- ___ San Xavier Mission
- ___ Saguaro National Park
- ___ Kitt Peak National Observatory
- ___ Tombstone, AZ
- ___ Tubac, AZ
- ___ Davis-Monthan Air Force Base
- ___ Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
- ___ Nogales, Mexico

Mail Surveys by June 6, 2005 to:

Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc.
P. O. Drawer 11399
Hickory, NC 28603
Or Fax:
828-256-6559



WELCOME MAT

The USS MISSISSIPPI Association cordially welcomes the following shipmate who has been located since the last newsletter.

We hope to see you at the next reunion, and we hope you will take an active part in the association.

*George Rathbun
3016 Patton St
Eau Claire, WI 54701*



TAPS

The Pirate has learned of the following shipmates' deaths since the last newsletter. The entire crew sends our deepest sympathy to the widow, families and friends of the deceased.

*Thomas Horton
Died September 2004*

*Robert "Bob" Barna
(1950-56) EMC E Div
Died May 2004*

*Donald Decker
Died February 15, 2002*

*Edward Wlodyka
(1950-52) BT1/c B Div
March 16, 2003*

YOU KNOW YOU'RE LIVING IN 2005 WHEN:

- You haven't played Solitaire with real cards in years.
- Your reason for not staying in touch with family and friends is that they don't have e-mail.
- Every commercial on TV has a website at the bottom of the screen.



MAIL CALL

Dina,

I have seen the USS Mississippi listed as both EAG-128 and AG-128. What is the official legal identifying number? On a commendation to me from Marine Hdqtrs in June '49, it was identified as AG-128. Copies of it were sent to Commanding Officer, USS Mississippi AG-128, CO MarDet. USS Mississippi AG-128. A bit confusing to say the least. Would you please weigh on this. Thanks.

Joe Connell Mar/Det
01/'48—03/'50

To: Joe Connell
Re: Official numbering of ship

I couldn't find a great deal of info either, but here is what I did find (from two different web sites that list ship's histories.) This would probably be a good topic for the newsletter!

1.) After the announced surrender of Japan, Mississippi steamed to Sagami Wan, Honshu, arriving 27 August as part of the support occupation force. She anchored in Tokyo Bay, witnessed the signing of the surrender documents, and steamed for home on 6 September. She arrived 27 November at Norfolk, where she underwent conversion to AG-128, effective 15 February 1946. As part of the development force, she spent the last 10 years of her career carrying out investigations of gunnery problems and testing new weapons, while based at Norfolk. She helped launch the Navy into the age of the guided-missile warship when she successfully test fired the Terrier missile on 28 January 1953 off Cape Cod. She also assisted in the final evaluation of the Petrel, a radar-homing missile in February 1956.

2.) After the war, the ship was converted to AG 128, and later to EAG 128. The USS Mississippi was de-

commissioned as EAG 128 on September 17, 1956 and later sold for scrap to Bethlehem Steel. The USS Mississippi was awarded eight battle stars for service in World War II.

Dina, ML&RS, Inc.

Editor's Note: If any of you know more about the numbering of the USS Mississippi, let us know.



SCUTTLEBUTT

Spoke with Roger Moscone the other day, and he's coming along fine.

Ann and I will be celebrating our 55th wedding anniversary on 25 February. Going on a cruise in May to Alaska to celebrate.

"Jake" Jacobs
(1951-52) EX Division

Richard & Katherine Noel celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary on February 26th. They were married in 1949 and have been blessed with three children and nine grandchildren.

Richard Noel (1944-47) C Div

We are celebrating my wife's birthday the 25th of February and also our 12th and 13th great-grandchildren. We have 12 grandchildren also.

Frank and Lucille Iannetti
(1951-54) S-2 Div