

The Pirate

Pride of Service Duty to God and Country Pride of Workmanship

Volume 8, Issue 4

September 2005

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS MISSISSIPPI EAG-128



Special Points of Interest

- *If you were ever in the "Hole," you'll appreciate the poem on the cover page. If you weren't ever there, be glad!*
- *Irwin "Jake" Jacobs has some thoughts on the Tucson reunion in his column on page two.*
- *Welcome Mat on page three has four new names for the roster. Welcome aboard!*
- *Letters to the Pirate are printed in Mail Call on page three. Also, a question is posed to you on the same page. Hope someone knows the answer.*
- *With reunion costs rising, Larry Eckard has some ways to curb your costs in his article on page four.*

THE ENGINEER'S LAMENT

Now each of us from time to time, has
gazed upon the sea
And watched the warships pulling out, to
keep this country free.
And most of us have read the book, or
heard the lusty tale
About the men who sail these ships,
through lightning, wind and hail.
But there's a place within each ship, that
stories never reach.
And there's a special breed of men, that
legends rarely teach.
It's down below the waterline, it takes a
living toll...
A hot metallic hell, that Sailors call the
"Hole."
It houses engines run by steam, that
make the shafts go 'round,
A place of fire, noise and heat, that beat
your spirit down.
Where boilers, like a hellish heart, with
blood of angry steam
Are armored gods without remorse; are
nightmares in a dream.
Whose threat that from the fires roar, is
like a living doubt.

That any minute would scorn, escape
and crush you out.
Where turbines scream like tortured
souls, alone and lost in hell
As ordered from above somewhere, they
answer every bell.
The men who keep the fires lit, and
make the engines run
Are strangers to the world of light, rarely
see the sun.
They have no time for man or god, no
tolerance for fear.
Their aspect pays no living thing, the
tribute of a tear
For there's not much that men can do,
that these men haven't done
Beneath the decks, deep in the hole, to
make the engines run.
And every hour of every day, they keep
the watch in hell,
For if the fires ever fail, their ship's a use-
less shell.
When ships converge to have a war,
upon an angry sea,
The men below just grimly smile at what

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

their fate might be.
 They're locked below like men fore-
 doomed, who hear no battle cry.
 It's well assumed that if they're hit, the
 men below will die.
 There's not much difference down be-
 low, that every war may bring,
 For threat of ugly violent death, down
 there's a common thing
 For every day's a war down there,
 when the gauges all read red.
 Twelve-hundred pounds of heated
 steam can kill you mighty dead.
 So every man down in the hole has
 learned to hate so well,
 That when you speak to them of fear,
 their laughter's heard in hell.
 The men below are fools who watch
 their spirits slowly die;
 Who often can't remember how a
 cloud looks in the sky.
 So if you ever wrote their song, or
 tried to tell their tale
 The very words would make you hear
 a desperate spirit's wail.
 And people, as a general rule, don't
 hear a dying soul.
 So little's heard about the place that
 Sailors call the "Hole."
 But I can sing about this place and try
 to make you see
 The hopeless life of men down there,
 "cause one of them is me."
 And I've been down there for so long
 now, that part of me has died.
 The part that lives on without a fight,
 to be a lost hope's guide.
 I've seen these sweat-soaked heroes
 fight, in superheated air
 To keep their ship alive and right,
 though no one knows they're there.
 So when you see a ship pull out to
 meet a war-like foe,
 Remember faintly, if you can, the men
 who sail below!

USS MISSISSIPPI REUNION

NOV. 3-6, 2005

TUCSON, AZ

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Where did the summer go? It seems that time goes by a lot faster each year. Just the "other day" we were celebrating Memorial Day and then Independence Day. Before we know it, November 3rd will be upon us and it's reunion time again. This year's reunion in Tucson, Arizona should be a good one, as just about all of them in the past have been. Ann and I were in Tucson several years ago, and we really enjoyed it. We're looking forward to returning. There's a lot of history there, referring to the "Old West," mainly the shoot out at the OK Corral and Tombstone, where many a victim of a gun fight rests. To read some of the inscriptions on the grave markers is nowhere else to be found. The town itself is typical of Old West.

Also of interest is the Pima Air and Space Museum. There are aircraft on display, that when I was there last, never knew they existed. And they are in good condition. So, all in all, it's one great place of interest. But, mainly, to get together again with shipmates is about the best reason for attending the reunion. "See Ya in Tucson."

Jake

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

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The PIRATE is the official publication of the USS MISSISSIPPI Association. From now on it will be 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 MISSISSIPPI. A financial statement appears in each issue of the newsletter.

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.

Military Locator & Reunion Service, 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 submitter to research each article.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters to conform to grammar, and/or space limitations.

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



WELCOME MAT

The USS MISSISSIPPI Association cordially welcomes the following shipmates who have 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.

Dominick Malinaro

Trlr 87 500 South 7th St
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

William Garrett (1948) ET3

202 Crystal Ln
Meadow Vista, CA 95722

Dale Musser (1949-52) EM3 E Div

2724 Sycamore Ln
Stockport, OH 43787
740-559-2099

Michael Malone

3660 Thom Blvd
Las Vegas, NV 89130
702-889-8055
mikemalone@prodigy.net



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.

Willard Rogers

EMC E Div(1947-53)
Died May 21, 2005

Ralph Vinciguerra

Died December 22, 2004

Arthur Brooks

Date of death not reported



MAIL CALL

Dear Karen,

I am regretfully writing to you to tell you of the death of my husband, Willard D. Rogers, EMC on May 21, 2005. He was aboard "The Missy" from 1947 to 1953 in "E" Division. According to the way he spoke, "The Mississippi" was his favorite duty station. We were unable to attend the reunions, but always waited anxiously to hear about the reunions in the Pirate. Thank you for all the work you do in keeping us all informed.

Sincerely,
Margaret Rogers

Dear Mississippi Pirate,

My husband, Ralph Vinciguerra, was very proud to be a Marine, who served on the USS Mississippi in 1953 for a year and a half before serving in Korea.

He talked so much about attending reunions, but for the last 11 years, cancer made his life different.

He always worried about everyone else and never complained. He succumbed December 22, 2004.

God Bless All of You. So proud to be

Mrs. Mary Vinciguerra
Semper Fi

Mississippi Pirate,

My very 1st issue of "The Pirate" came in the mail. Many thanks. Because of it, I was contacted by a shipmate. We were parted 62 years ago.

Thank you,
Bill Chan

Mississippi Shipmates,
I was given this address by Irwin

Jacobs, as the place to obtain further information about the ship reunion planned for the USS Mississippi EAG 128, to be held in Tucson, Arizona in early November.

I was a crew member of the Miss in the spring of 1948—don't recall the exact dates. I was transferred from another ship that was due to leave for the Mediterranean and was a short timer. My time on the Miss was even shorter as I contacted mumps from a young cousin and spent the balance of my Navy career in the Norfolk Naval Hospital in Norfolk, VA!

I was an Electronic Technician. My name of Navy pay logs would have shown as: Garrett, William B. ET3.

Thanks,
Bill Garrett

QUESTION POSED TO SHIPMATES

Does anyone know what dates President Carter served aboard the Mississippi?

If so, please contact either the newsletter at our address on page two, or Irwin Jacobs at 6115 Village 6, Camarillo, CA 93012 or e-mail at jakeann@juno.com.

If we receive an answer from anyone, we will give it to you in the December issue.

Any stories would also be appreciated.

Financial Statement

Balance remaining after 06/05

\$778.24

Funds collected since 06/05

\$20.00

Funds available for 09/05

\$798.24

Funds expended for 09/05

\$258.60

Balance remaining for 12/05

\$539.64

Send contributions to ML&RS, Inc.

RISING REUNION COSTS

Larry H Eckard, President, ML & RS, Inc

Anyone paying attention to the reunion costs have seen a sharp rise in past two years, and you're probably concerned about them. We are just as concerned as you are because it does no good to plan a wonderful reunion and price it so high that people can't afford to attend.

First let me make it very clear that we (ML&RS, Inc) have not increased our fees. The rising costs are 100% due to the increased cost of hotels, food & beverage, tours, entertainment, etc. We cannot control those costs, but we still get the best possible rates – better than you can get for your self – and pass them on to you.

Although prices have increased all across the country, some areas are still more expensive than others. Our on site representative has a ton of information about potential reunion sites so take advantage of it; let our representative answer questions about locations in your meeting when it's time to discuss reunion sites.

Also, in every hospitality room you will find a blue three-ring binder notebook full of information about potential reunion sites. The book gives you suggestions for tours and/or activities, information about at least one hotel, an itinerary and cost sheet from a recent reunion if one has been held in that city. Look over that book.

Here is some other information that you may find helpful. Option A (arriving on Thursday and departing on Sunday) for a couple is used as the standard for the prices that are cited below. There are of course some exceptions to the prices, depending upon the time of year and the other activities going on in the city at the same time.

In any of the following cities (and this is not a complete list) you can expect to pay a minimum of \$740.00 and as much as \$800.00: Baltimore/ Washington, DC; Charleston, SC; Savannah, GA; Boston, MA; Newport, RI; Charleston, SC; San Antonio, TX; San Francisco or San Diego, CA; Seattle, WA; Portland, OR; Chicago, IL; New York, NY; Dallas, TX; Nashville, TN; Minneapolis/St Paul.

If you choose a city like one of these, you're going to pay top dollar, expect it and don't be surprised when it happens. Room rates are going to

be near \$100.00 plus tax.

In the following cities you can expect to pay a minimum of \$665.00 upward to \$725.00: Myrtle Beach, SC; Norfolk, VA; St Louis, Mo, Tucson, AZ; Albuquerque, NM; Colorado Springs, CO; Milwaukee, WI; Harrisburg/Lancaster, PA; New Orleans, LA; Pensacola, FL; Reno, NV; Branson, MO; Columbus OH; Pittsburgh, PA; Omaha, NE; Cincinnati, OH/Northern KY; Buffalo, NY; Corpus Christi, TX.

Room rates will range between \$75.00-90.00 plus tax.

In the following cities you can expect to pay a minimum of \$625.00 upward to \$675.00: Biloxi, MS; Asheville, NC; Fargo, ND.

Room rates will probably be below \$75.00 plus tax.

For the past several years, Jacksonville, FL is the least expensive reunion city in the country with room rates in the \$60's and total package around \$600.00. If you haven't been there and cost is a concern, you should give Jacksonville strong consideration.

In any city no downtown hotels ever have complimentary airport shuttle service, and many have daily parking fees of \$12.00 and more. Hotels nearer the airport usually do not have parking fees and generally have complimentary airport shuttle service.

Here are some other points you may wish to consider. There are hundreds of military reunions held every year. The vast majority are held in April and May or September or October. *They don't have to be!* Passover, Palm Sunday, and Easter usually (but not always) fall in April; Mother's Day and Memorial Day weekends are in May. So with these holidays, the reunions are crammed into the remaining available weeks – and do you think for an instant that hotels don't know this and price accordingly? Labor Day weekend, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are in September or October and it's the same thing. You can move your reunion forward to mid-late March (depending upon the location) and you'll get a better deal; the same with early November. Also, some groups ask for specific dates, without ever knowing what else is going on at the same time in your city of choice. We can help you best when there is a two or three week window to work in.

If you take this information into account when you make the decision on where to hold your next reunion, you won't be nearly as surprised when you see the prices.

NEW PAGES ADDED TO ML&RS WEBSITE

Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc is pleased to announce a few enhancements to our web site. We invite you to take a look at a couple of new pages we have recently added. The page titled Sentimental Journal gives a detailed explanation of the great reunion book we publish after each reunion. (An order form is mailed to everyone on the mailing list a few weeks after the reunion for the SJ and other memorabilia items). There are links to sample pages to give you a better understanding of what is contained in the SJ. Also new is an on-line version of the questionnaire we send out when a new person is added to the mailing list. Many of you have never filled out this form and submitted your photos for the *Sentimental Journal!* Here is a great way to remedy this!!! You can access this form from the page titled Reunions (link is on the left side of our home page). Please take a few minutes and check out our updated web page, and please, if you haven't already, fill out and submit the questionnaire! Your buddies would love to know what happened to you since you left the Mississippi.

CHECK US OUT AT **WWW.M L R S I N C.COM** (please note, spaces and caps for clarity!!!)

Dina Coffey
Office Manager, ML&RS, Inc.

MARINE BUMPER STICKERS

- **Heaven won't take us and hell's afraid we'll take over.**
- **USMC: When it absolutely, positively must be destroyed overnight.**
- **To err is human, to forgive is divine; however, neither is Marine Corps policy.**
- **It's not an attitude problem, we are that good.**