

The Pirate

Pride of Service Duty to God and Country Pride of Workmanship

Volume 9, Issue 1

December 2005

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS MISSISSIPPI EAG-128



Special Points of Interest

- There was lots to see and do at the 2005 reunion in Tucson. Relive it by reading the cover story.
- A list of reunion attendees is on page two. See who you missed seeing if you didn't attend.
- The President's Message is on page two. He shares some news about the reunion.
- Mail Call on page three has some responses to the question about President Carter from our last issue.
- Read some "Christmas Memories" on page four. Thanks to those who wrote in with their story.
- The 1950 Christmas Dinner menu is also on page four. Thanks to Herm Engel for sending it to the Pirate.

2005 TUCSON REUNION RECAP

Twenty former shipmates of the USS Mississippi (EAG-128) and fifteen of their guests met in Tucson, AZ at the Embassy Suites Hotel on November 3-6, 2005 for their annual reunion. Many people said it was one of, if not the best, reunion ever for the USS Mississippi! The weather was perfect and the company the best!

Registration began around noon on Thursday and coincided with the opening of the hospitality room. As usual, the hospitality room became the hub of activity for most of the reunion, and on that first day was the site of many of the "reunions" that took place when each new arrival came in to see who was there already. By 5:30 PM most of Thursday's arrivals had registered and the first official item on the reunion agenda took place. At that time everyone was invited to the Manager's Reception for complimentary beverages at Finnegan's Lounge. Then at 6:00 PM it was time to move to the Welcome Reception area for hors d'oeuvres and a welcome by USS

Mississippi coordinator, Jake Jacobs. Introductions were made and so began a relaxed evening of fun. Afterwards, some went to dinner in the hotel and moved back to the hospitality room for some reminiscing, while others tried out some of Tucson's Southwestern cuisine at a local restaurant.

Friday morning began with breakfast in the hotel restaurant and then for most, it was off for a tour to Pima Air and Space Museum/AMARC. Pima is home to the largest privately owned collection of historical aircraft in the country. It includes more than 5,200 aircraft from the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy. Lunch at Furr's Cafeteria was a real treat—everyone seemed to really enjoy this restaurant! After lunch the group visited the beautiful White Dove of the Desert, Mission San Xavier del Bac. It has been claimed as being one of the finest examples of mission architecture in the world. Located on the Tohono O'Odham reservation, this lovely

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church is still being used for daily mass by Native Americans. The tour also showcased Barrio Historico, the finest collection of adobe homes in the Southwest—El Tiradito Shrine, El Presidio Neighborhood and quaint La Casa Cordova, the oldest adobe home in Tucson. Finally the tour proceeded on to Snob Hollow and the University of Arizona. The day proved to be very informative and very enjoyable!

The tour returned to the hotel just in time for some quick refreshments from the hospitality room and then it was time for the business meeting at 3:30 PM. Jake Jacobs was again chosen to serve as group coordinator and Nashville, TN was selected for the 2006 reunion and Branson, MO for 2007. Jake Jacobs gave out some very special momentos—planks from the deck of the USS Mississippi. It was something that would be treasured by everyone. Thank you, Jake!

At 6:00 PM it was time to gather for the social hour and conversation about the day's events. Dinner at 7:00 PM was a buffet featuring favorite Southwest-style foods. No one went away hunger, that's for sure! Following dinner, entertainment was on the agenda. A musical game, a "Name That Tune" style competition was played. A small portion of a song was played and the players were to name the title of the song, its artist and the next line. Points were scored for correct answers. It was a lot of fun and everyone really enjoyed themselves. Prizes, which were gifts brought by the attendees representing something about their hometowns or home states, were awarded to the persons with the most points. Just seeing what the prizes were was fun even for those who didn't win! It was a great evening, topped off with more stories and jokes in the hospitality room.

On Saturday morning's agenda was the tour to Tombstone, the "town too tough to die." Tombstone was founded in 1879 and its original buildings and artifacts are still preserved. The group visited the OK Corral, where the famous gunfight took place; the old Tombstone Courthouse, filled with exhibits from the wild-west days;

Boothill Graveyard and the shops and saloons reminiscent of Wyatt Earp's days. Everyone was able to choose their own spot for lunch from among the many saloons/restaurants in town and to do some shopping for souvenirs. The tour returned to the hotel around 4:30 PM, with refreshments awaiting everyone in the hospitality room.

The evenings activities began again at 6:00 PM with the pre-dinner cocktail hour. Since there are always some shipmates who come in only for the banquet, this social hour gave everyone a chance to socialize with those members. At 7:00 PM the USS Mississippi banquet began with the playing of "Anchors Aweigh," the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance. Then Jake Jacobs welcomed everyone to the banquet and Bill McCall led the invocation. Following dinner, a memorial service to honor all the Mississippi shipmates who have passed away was held. The ceremony was led by Jake Jacobs and James Yoder. Names of the deceased were read and a bell was tolled in their memory. The evening turned out to be another memorable one, with lots of good fun and companionship.

Sunday morning brought a close to the 2005 reunion. A special area of the hotel restaurant was set aside for the USS Mississippi shipmates for a final meal and then good byes. This Tucson reunion was a great one, as someone said, maybe the best one ever! So now all thoughts are looking ahead to Nashville, TN for 2006 and the expectation of an even better reunion there!

NOTE TO REUNION ATTENDEES FROM PAT MILLER

Hope everyone had a safe trip back home. You ALL are lovely and caring people who enjoy the camaraderie of the USS Mississippi.

Pat Miller,
On-site Manager, ML&RS, Inc.

2005 REUNION ATTENDEES

Malcolm & Margaret Borden
Joel & Sandy Empie
Joe Ford
William & Ruth Garrett
Robert & Norma Hannahs
Irwin (Jake) & Ann Jacobs
Melvin Kaplan
Jim & Nancy Maloney
William & Annie McCall
Gene Medley & Ruby Elmore
Richard & Lois Parks
Vernon Parmerlee
Robert & Mandy Rodriguez
Vito Scurto
Rudolph & Kathy Slosek
Eugene & Ellen Smith
Jack & Doris Smith
Ron Ulreich
Ace & Elsa Warren
James & Patricia Yoder

Total Members:	20
Guests:	15
GRAND TOTAL:	35

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had a great reunion at Tucson this past November. The housing was great, including the amenities given us by Embassy Suites. The tour we had at the Pima Air and Space Museum was very informative, and walking through Boot Hill outside of Tombstone, we found inscriptions on grave markers that are unique to Boot Hill, especially "Les and his 44". Several first time attendees joined the "repeaters" and hopefully, they too will be "repeaters." They are Joel Empie and guest, William Garret and guest Jim Maloney and guest, Richard Parks and guest, and Vito Scurto. Along with the good news, we were sad to learn of the passing of Dorothy, wife of Bill Rodak. Our condolences go out to Bill and family.

Since we are not a dues paying

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group, at every reunion we make an appeal for donations to maintain our mailings of the Pirate. It is at this time that I'm making an appeal to those who aren't present, but are receiving the Pirate, to please consider mailing a contribution. To do so, just mail to: Military Locator & Reunion Service, PO Drawer 11399, Hickory, NC 28603. In the envelope, specify for the Pirate. Thanks.

Also at the reunion, we voted to go to Nashville TN, Oct. 5-8, 2006 (unconfirmed). (ML&RS, Inc. is negotiating with an Embassy Suites Hotel in Nashville.) I can see Gene Medley smiling now, and after attending one, he deserves to be in his own "backyard." At the reunion I requested to have an assistant President, since one never knows what could happen from one year to the next, so Jim Yoder was nominated and elected. Seems like old times having the team of Jacobs and Yoder back in circulation. Our selection for 2007 was Branson, MO on Oct 4-7 (unconfirmed).

In closing, I want to give a big thanks to Pat Miller, from all of us, for the great job she did acting as our guide and "Mother Hen" from ML&RS. Here's hoping she can be with us again. Pat, you're a 4.0.

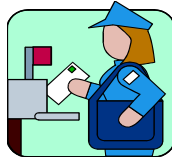
Hope that all you had a great Thanksgiving and hope that with God's blessings, a great Christmas, Chanukah and New Year will be had by all.

Jake Irwin

Financial Statement

Balance remaining after 09/05	\$539.64
Funds collected since 09/05	\$590.00
Funds available for 12/05	\$1129.64
Funds expended for 12/05	\$255.60
Balance remaining for 03/06	\$874.04

Send contributions to ML&RS, Inc.
at our address on page 4.



MAIL CALL

The following two responses were received regarding our question in the last issue about President Carter.

Hello Irwin:

After reading your question in the Pirate, I did some research and found an article at the Naval Historical Center that I believe provides part of your answer. From the article it appears Carter was aboard Mississippi from 23 July 1947 until 14 June 1948, at which time he was transferred to Sub school in New London. I was on Mississippi in 1955 as a MMFN, my first ship and fresh out of MM School.

Some years later I was in the Operating Control Station at the Nuclear Training Facility in Idaho when we had the honor/task of hosting the X-Lieutenant who was to later become president of our country.

You can search Google "president carter uss mississippi" for additional information.

Hope this helps.

Walt Miller,
Jamul, CA

Here is what Mr. Miller found in his research.

Department of the Navy—Naval Historical Center 805 Kidder Breese SE, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC 20374-5060.

Lieutenant James Earle Carter, Jr., USN James Earle (Jimmy) Carter, Jr., who in 1976 became the fifth consecutive President with prior Navy service, was born in Plains, Georgia on 1 October 1924, to Lillian Gordy and James Earle Carter. Carter grew up in a rural atmosphere and attended public

schools. Graduating from Plains High School in 1941, he attended Georgia Southwestern College in Americus, Georgia. After a year there, Carter transferred to Georgia Institute of Technology to study mathematics for a year in order to qualify for the U.S. Naval Academy. In 1943, Carter received an appointment to the academy and became a member of the Class of 1947.

After completing the accelerated wartime program, he graduated on 5 June 1946 with distinction and obtained his commission as ensign.

After he graduated, Carter was stationed at Norfolk and assigned to USS Wyoming (EAG-17), an older battleship that had been converted into a floating laboratory for testing new electronics and gunnery equipment. On Wyoming, Carter served as radar officer and CIC officer. Detached when Wyoming was decommissioned on 23 July 1947, he was assigned that day to another similarly used battleship, USS Mississippi (EAG-128) as Training and Education Officer. After completing two years of surface ship duty, Carter chose to apply for submarine duty. Accepted, he began the six-month course at the U.S. Navy Submarine School, Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut from 14 June to 17 December 1948.

Pirate,

Yes, I do know Jimmy Carter. I served on the Wyoming EAG-17 and the Miss with him. He came aboard the Wyoming in summer of '46. We decommissioned the Wyoming in July of '47 and most of the crew went to the Miss. Jimmy Carter was an Asst. 1st Lt on Wyoming. On the Miss he was in CIC. To my recollection, which may not be exact, he left the Mississippi in mid 1948 for Submarine duty. Myself, I went back into diving the same year. I ran into him again in 1955 in New London where he was working with Admiral Rickover.

D.W. Webb



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.

Jim Lyons
 2762 Grant Way
 The Villages, FL 32162
 jlyons1132@aol.com



TAPS

The Pirate has learned of the following shipmate's death since the last newsletter. The entire crew sends our deepest sympathy to the widow, family and friends of the deceased.

Gerald Phelps
 Date of death not reported

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



**HAPPY
 HOLIDAYS!**

MY CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

Editor's note: In an e-mail request we asked for your Christmas memories from your Navy days—especially those on board the Mississippi. Here are your responses:

I enjoyed the holiday routine and the meal. The food, as I remember, was very good. The holidays could be a sad time, but those of us aboard seemed to get by.

Ron Davis

The only Christmas I was on board for was in 1948. I got some leave and went to New York where I encountered a major snowstorm. About a 20" snowfall overnight. I made it back by New Year's and got transferred shortly afterwards. I think the ship was tied up in Portsmouth to have the Twin 6"—50 installed on the #1 barrette. I got my wish of going to Aviation.

James Terborg

I remember the Christmas of 1953. I reported to the Mississippi in November after FT School in

Bainbridge, MD. My wife and I were married October 3, 1953. I knew when I came aboard that I would not get Christmas leave because I had just reported to Fox Company. My wife had recently passed her RN exam for Pennsylvania and was just starting work in Woodbury, New Jersey. We had purchased an old Studebaker and I had driven it down to Norfolk and it was parked in forces afloat. Neither of us had much money after we bought the Studebaker. In fact, I didn't have any money. We had spent most of it on a one day honeymoon in Atlantic City. Captain Flynn was letting the crew use his gig to go in and out of Norfolk. We were out for the week of Christmas. Well, I guess a couple of guys misbehaved in Captain Flynn's gig and they lost their Christmas leave. I was told that I could get a 48 hour pass as a result. Problem was, I had no money. I phoned Woodbury. My wife sold a \$25.00 bond and wired the money to Norfolk, and I went home for Christmas. I always felt bad for those two guys that lost their leave, but it was nice to be with my new wife on Christmas 1953.

Frederick Rosse Hemeon, FT3



1950 CHRISTMAS DINNER MENU USS MISSISSIPPI (EAG-128)

K.V. DAWSON Captain, U.S. Navy Commanding Officer
 J.B. DENNY Commander, U.S. Navy Executive Officer

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Consomme'
 Soda Crackers
 Roast Young Turkey
 Oyster Dressing
 Cranberry Sauce
 Creamed Cauliflower

Bread-Butter
 Lettuce-Tomato Salad
 Mincemeat Pie
 Tangerines
 Cigars

Buttered Fresh Peas

Mixed Nuts

Coffee

Stuffed Olives
 Baked Virginia Ham
 Giblet Gravy
 Sweet Mixed Gherkins
 Candied Sweet Potatoes

Hot Parker House Rolls
 Mayonnaise Dressing
 Fruit Cake
 Apples
 Cigarettes

Submitted by Herm Engel