

PAWCATUCK PILOT

Volume 11 Issue 2

September 2002

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS PAWCATUCK AO-108



Special Points of Interest

- Find out what you missed if you didn't make it to the Phoenix reunion. David Willis gives his account in pages one, two and three.
- If you're wondering who attended the reunion, wonder no more. A list of attendees is on page three.
- WELCOME MAT begins on page three with the names of 27 newly located shipmate.
- MAIL CALL has one man's 'Memories of the Pawcatuck.' Do you remember when..?
- Return the survey on page 8 and make plans for Hickory next year.

PHOENIX REUNION ENJOYED BY ALL

Shipmates,

Hello from sunny Arizona. Yes, the sun is still shining and it is still warm. Or, as some of you who were at this year's reunion would say, it is HOT.

I would like to thank all of you who came to this year's reunion and I hope each of you had a good time. For some of you it was a long trip as we only had four couples who flew into Phoenix and, as promised, were picked up at the airport. I would like to take you back to June and here is what happened as each day started.

On Tuesday I work at

the airport as a volunteer. One of the new shipmates and his wife came in on Tuesday and they arrived just after I got off work at 1300 hours. They were Roger and Janice Narkie. He served on the ship back in 1957-1961. I took them to the hotel and headed back to the airport to pick up Karen Lane, who was our hostess for this year's reunion. This was her first reunion as she is new with ML&RS.

On Wednesday a neighbor went with me to the airport to pick up Joe Huyer and his wife Carol and Donald Wilson. He

took them to the hotel and then I picked up Billy Horton and his wife Ann. Many had arrived by that time and were getting to know each other. This year we had five new couples who had not been to any reunions. The time had come to welcome everybody, so at 1700 hours we started with the playing of "God Bless America," which was sung by the one and only, Kate Smith. Then we were honored to have Councilman Doug Lingner welcome everyone on behalf of the mayor and the city of Phoenix. This is the first

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time we have had this happen, and he was glad that we picked Phoenix to have our reunion. I had met Councilman Lingner when I worked at Maryvale Police as a police aide. After Councilman Lingner left, we then went over the schedule. Karen greeted everyone on behalf of MLRS.

Joe Nicastro, my assistant, did not arrive until Thursday, so Mark McPherson and Paul Houston helped in passing out a packet that I had made up for everybody. They also sold tickets for the raffle since I had received a gift certificate from Black Angus Steak House. Clement and Betty Millette won that one. We were honored to have Winston Ramsdell and his wife come for the welcome part of the reunion. His health is not too good, so he could not make the rest of the reunion. He was on the ship back in 1947-1948 as a YN3. Everybody was on their own for supper and then on Thursday we headed for Sedona, Arizona.

It is called "Red Rock Country." The bus driver we had was the best one we have had in all the tours we have had over the years. When arriving in Sedona, we had three hours to walk around to see the shops and of course to eat. At 1500 hours we headed back to Phoenix and on the way down we could see the smoke from the forest fires over in the eastern part of the state. It was the biggest and worst we have had in many years. Many homes were destroyed before it was contained about two weeks later. When we got back to Phoenix, again everyone was on their own for the evening meal. Since many had driven, they could go on their own and see and shop as they wished.

On Friday we had free time. This gave many a time to relax and drive around the valley to see Phoenix on their own.

On Saturday morning I met just about everybody at the Capitol complex to take their pictures in front of the Arizona Anchor. Then

they went over to the Capitol and had the tour through the Capitol, which is now a museum. At 1530 hours we started the meeting and many things were taken into consideration. I had sent a letter out to those who were in Charleston, SC, last year and asked if they still wanted to have Colorado Springs as the reunion site for 2003. The vote was no, and to pick a new site. So we started all over again and we picked Baltimore, MD, with Hickory, NC coming in second with a vote of 16 to 14. We also picked a committee of four to make decisions if need be during the year. They are shipmates Talmage Hamilton, Paul Houston, Ralph Jordan, and Howard Reed. We also have a new assistant reunion coordinator. That is Mark McPherson. Joe Nicastro, who had held that job, asked to be relieved of the duties and Mark agreed to take the job as the new assistant reunion coordinator. We picked eight cities for 2004, but we will not vote until next year. Our main purpose this year was to see if we can cut costs and this way to get more to come to the reunion. It was decided that to get more at the reunions, we have to have them back in the eastern part of the country. Over 80% of those on the mailing roster live east of the Mississippi. So from now on, we will have the reunions in that part of the good old US of A. So you can plan from now on for most of you, it will be within driving distance. We closed the meeting and then went to have our memorial service, which was very nice. We were honored to have a lady I met two years ago to sing our National Anthem for us and then the Navy Jr. ROTC from Independence High School do the colors for us. The memorial service was concluded by the playing of "Taps." We then went over to get ready for our banquet.

During the summer, the city of Glendale has a community band who have concerts during June and July. I was able to have them play "Anchors Away" and I made a video and played that to start the banquet.

On Saturday we had a Capt. Honour and his wife Bobbie Sue join us for the last day. He was the Captain who took the ship from the shipyards in Lorain, OH back in 1966 after the conversion. There were seven other shipmates who served with him. Derooy Hanson was the XO the same time, so it was a great reunion for those who served with Capt. Honour. This is what reunions are all about. When you see shipmates get together who have not seen each other for many years, it is worth the trip regardless of how far we travel. The reunion ended on Sunday morning with the farewell breakfast.

Over all, I feel we had a good reunion. We did not have the amount that we wanted, but as everybody knows many things happened since our reunion in Charleston, SC and this year. I hope next year it will go over the 100 mark for attendance.

Yes, we voted on Baltimore, MD, but some things have happened since our meeting on the 22nd of June. Upon checking prices for hotels, the cost for three days for Baltimore would be right around the same as it was for four days here in Phoenix. So since the vote was 16 to 14 and 14 being for Hickory, NC, I put it to the committee as to what we should do. I did not vote, and the vote came back to go to Hickory, NC for the next year. The cost should be a lot less. For those who were in Charleston, remember you voted for a four day, not a three day, as it was in the past. The dates will be in the newsletter.

For all of you I ask this question. When is the best time and what is too far? Now, as I close this, I would like to ask each of you to do the following. I think most of you know we survive on donations to help in printing the newsletter and postage so that all of us get the newsletter four times a year. It costs over eight hundred dollars a year to do the newsletters. This year we collected \$430.00. As you can see, this \$430.00 will not cover the cost for the year. The winner of our 50/50 raffle put his share back in the pot. We cannot survive on just a

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few. We need everybody to help to make sure the newsletter keeps coming. So I am asking that each one of us send in five dollars—that is \$5.00. This would amount to over twenty-two hundred dollars. You see we do not have an association like many groups have. I hope I can have your cooperation in this matter because as we grow as we have, we need the help from every former shipmate to keep these reunions going year after year. We have grown from just over two hundred six years ago, to just over 500. So make your checks out to MLRS and at the bottom of the check, please signify by putting USS PAWCATUCK, so we are sure that it goes to our account. The Locator will not know this as they have many reunion groups they take care of. So it is up to each one of you to contribute. Yes, every time we look around, somebody is asking for money. I am asking for just one time a year for \$5.00. Thanks for your help.

I thank all of you who did come this year, and for all the help you gave me in making this our tenth reunion one to remember. I wish all of you the very best in the next year and again, we will see you in Hickory, NC.

A big thank you to Joe Nicastro for being my assistant coordinator for the last three years. He held that job for a long time and his advice and help is appreciated. To you, Joe and your wife, I thank you and the rest of the Pawcatuck family thanks you for a job well done.

Yours,
David Willis, Reunion Coordinator for USS PAWCATUCK AO-108

MESSAGE TO 2003 REUNION ATTENDEES

Ralph Jordan suggested everyone photo copy a picture of "the way you were onboard ship," and wear it with your nametag at the next reunion. Some of you have changed a little bit, and this would make you easier to recognize and remember!

2002 REUNION ATTENDEES

William & Gladys Caldwell
Elmer Dieter & Viola Jones
Joseph & Dot Goss
Roland & Kathy Hamilton
Talmage & Dawn Hamilton
Deroy & Dianne Hanson
Capt. Walter & Bobbie Sue Honour
Billy & Ann Horton
Paul & Loretta Houston
Harold & Patricia Huxman
Joe & Carol Huyer
Ralph & Elizabeth Jordan
Mark & Shirley McPherson
Clement & Betty Millette
Roger & Janice Narkie
Joseph & Gloria Nicastro
Charles & Betty Queener
Howard & Margaret Reed
Joseph & Judy Roades
Travis & Ann Robertson
James & Margaret Roskoph
Herbert & Jane Strickland
Robert Tomlin
Thomas & Joan Webb
David Willis & Jan Cox
Donald Wilson

Total Members: 26
Guests: 24

GRAND TOTAL: 50

WELCOME MAT



The following shipmates have been located recently. Welcome aboard. We hope to see you at the reunion and that you will take an active part in the association. We welcome:

Joseph Devinney ETCA (1950-52)
121 Orange Ave #91
Chula Vista, CA 91911
619-422-0913

Ronald Shaffer
RR #4 Box 4235
Dunshore, PA 18614
570-928-8085

Floy Sutherland
1350 35th St E
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-745-8482

Archie Harr
1-17 Gushurst St
Lead, SD 57754
rolly@rushmore.com

Trent Benton
283 Redoak Dr
Hot Springs, AR 71913
501-262-3170

Joseph Goss MM2 A Div (1952-55)
12388 Delphey Ave
Chino, CA 91710
909-627-4596

Terry Massey (1970-74)
2448 E 5th #6
Tulsa, OK 74104
918-599-7303

Paul McDaniel MM E (1972-74)
3114 Beech Rd
Johnstown, OH 43031-9545

Wayne Heideman (1986-87)
10 Greenfield Dr
Allentown, NJ 08501
wheideman@msn.com

Neal Dallman EM3 (1970-72)
524 Pine Ave
Kenai, AK 99611
907-283-6125
dallman@kpbsd.k12.ak.us

John Layman –Supply Officer
1955 Forest Shores Dr. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546-6436
616-949-6231

Douglas Reid
996 Morganford Rd
Front Royal, VA 22630
540-533-2322
darsr42@earthlink.net

Kent Ryden (1961-62)

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4574 Riding Club Ct
Hayward, CA 94542-2238
510-727-0637
kryryden@aol.com

Frederick Hirtle, SN (1960-61)
16 A Main St
East Rochester, NH 03868
603-332-3808
larmed@s-way.com

Kenneth Blackwood, BMC (1948-51)
1081 Valleybranch Dr
Arlington, TX 76001
817-557-4325

Mike Szafran (1974-75)
101 Wall Creek Dr
Rolesville, NC 27571
mike.szafran@mail.sprint.com

William Houff, ET2 Mil Dept
(1986-87)
174 Tanyard Path
Afton, VA 22920
540-456-6934
whh01@yahoo.com

Arthur Johnston, SN (1964-65)
25 Roosevelt Dr
Brick Township, NJ 08724
732-899-7744
AJohn72966@aol.com

J.W. Bagley, PO2 (1967-68)
3301 Lorie St
Valdosta, GA 31605-4717
229-244-3606
jbagley@peoplec.com

George Grohs (1963)
79 Webster Rd
West Yarmouth, MA 02673

Walter Brown (1956-58)
PO Box 555
West Ossipee, NH 03890
603-539-4091

Lyle Whitson
525 Riverside St
Portland, ME 04013

Robert Collins (1952-53)
7439 Rt 20
Madison, NY 13402
threekings13402@yahoo.com

Calvin Densmore (1946-48)
2625 Southview Pl
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
205-823-1903

Daniel Turner, SN/BM3 2nd Div
(1966-68)
21 Stewart Ave
Glen Falls, NY 12801-4226
518-798-3104

James Duross
110 Lyons Ct
Pleasantville, NJ 08232

Henry Schneider RM2 (1968-70)
3518 Longwood
Pasadena, TX 77503-2219
713-473-0097

ADDRESS CHANGES

David Willis
New e-mail address for Pawcatuck
business only
oiler108@cox.net
Still has oiler18@aol.com also.

Ernie Clem
Choochoo32847@hotmail.com

Ted Hill
P.O.Box 1373
Austell, GA 30168



TAPS

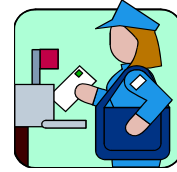
The Pawcatuck Pilot has learned of the following deaths since the last newsletter. Our deepest sympathy goes to the widows, families and friends of the deceased. Anyone who knows or learns of a shipmate's death, you are requested to notify the newsletter so that person can be listed in TAPS and also on the Honor Roll at the next reunion.

Norman Conklin
Died March 15, 2001

Leonard Lanteigne
Died January 25, 2002

Rodney Mears
Died 1968

Sherman Stamps QMC
Date of death not known



MAIL CALL

Mr. Willis,

Although I will not be able to attend the reunion, I am interested in seeing what happened with our ship after she came out of the yards.

I came aboard July 1964 until Sept. 1965; SN: transferred to USS Allagash (AO-97) which was on a Med cruise and I met her in Naples. I completed Reserve duty until 1969 and was assigned to a minesweeper at Bayonne Naval Base. Would you help my memory and let me know if USS PAWCATUCK (AO-108) went to Santo Domingo during the Dominican Crisis? Looking forward to the newsletter and most grateful that you took on this task of keeping our ship's memory going!

Regards,
Art Johnston (address in Welcome Mat)

Pawcatuck Pilot,

I joined the Navy June 26, 1946, and went on board Pawcatuck Oct. 1946, until Jan. 1948. Enclosed are copies of ports visited, plan of the day, fueling stations, history of ship, specs, open house day in October, 1946 and a list of men that I remember. Since 1948 discharge I visited Ralph Bouchard, Al Cusick, Harry Gantt and Tom Wilingham in the 1950s.

I think Martin Toohy had a record player and a 78 RPM "Choo Choo to Boogie."

I went aboard PAWCATUCK in 1981 at Jackson Engineering Staten

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Island, NY. I was permitted to walk through every part of the ship. It had been expanded around 1966-67 and was a lot different than 1946. In 1992 I received permission to board PAWCATUCK off Fort Eustis, VA on the James River. I could only walk on the decks because all doors were secured, either padlocked or welded shut.

Does anyone know of the USS ELDRIDGE DE 143 being made invisible at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard in Oct. 1943? Was this true? Perhaps Tom Blood could remember the story. Would like to hear from anyone.

Earl Scott, Jr.
9 Thomas Place
Smithtown, NY 11787
631-724-2068

The items Mr. Scott enclosed will be put in the 2002 Sentimental Journal.

If anyone knows the story mentioned above, please send us your version of it. This would be great for the next newsletter!

MEMORIES OF THE PAWCATUCK

By Calvin Densmore RM3
USS PAWCATUCK

I finished boot camp at Bainbridge, Maryland in July 1946. Several hundred of us fresh new Navy recruits were put on a train and sent to Cape Charles, Virginia (which was the end of the train line). All of us boarded a ferry and sailed across the Chesapeake Bay (approximately three hours) to Norfolk, Virginia. We were assigned to various ships and stations in the area.

I was scheduled to be assigned to the Pawcatuck, but when I got there, she had left on a shakedown cruise to correct any bugs that might develop. So I was assigned to the ladies' chow hall until my ship returned four or five days later. The scuttlebutt

on the ship was that the navigator had gotten lost and the skipper was so angry he had him transferred off the ship. I never knew if that was true or not.

The navigator on the Pawcatuck while I was on board from July 1946 to April 1948 was LCDR Lyburg. We went to Goose Bay, Labrador and anchored in the harbor at Cunningham Cove for, I believe, two weeks. We were met in the harbor by the USS Noxubee AOG-56 which was a much smaller tanker. The Pawcatuck was too large to get to the base. We transferred diesel oil to this ship which, in turn, traveled ninety miles down river to the base at Goose Bay. This continued several times, unloading until we were empty.

A few interesting things we observed while we were anchored were an Eskimo family living nearby and a whale that stayed with our ship the entire time we were there (probably eating scraps of food from the ship). We had recreation parties on the shore, played softball and fought off the invading mosquitoes that were ever present. We traded some of our personal items to the Eskimos for seal hats which they had made. Many of us traded for one, but soon wished we hadn't. After we got underway again, something started to smell really badly. We soon discovered that it was the seal hats, which obviously had not been tanned correctly. The captain made us all get rid of them, so we lost whatever of value we had traded for them.

We also cruised the Suez Canal, Saudi Arabia and Greece. At that time, the Communists were trying to take over Greece, and the United States had promised to help the Greeks by giving them some PT boats to use to fight the Communists. We picked up Greek sailors in Piraeus, Greece and took them to Norfolk where they picked up the PT boats to take back to Greece.

We cruised the northern Atlantic and encountered some icebergs

and bad storms. The water was so rough at times it bent a propeller shaft. We limped into Argentia, Newfoundland. A part was flown in from Norfolk, Virginia. Repairs were made and we headed to Norfolk. Once in Norfolk, a convoy was assembled to go to Europe. I was temporarily assigned to the USS Whitley, a communication ship.

After leaving port and in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, we received a message that the Pawcatuck had been dispatched to San Juan, Puerto Rico, and I was to report back to the Pawcatuck. Both ships were at sea, so I had to be transferred back to the Pawcatuck by a boatswain chair. A line was shot from one ship to the other, with me in a bucket attached to the line. I was swung along the line in the bucket, sometimes dangerously close to the water, and other times, high above the water. It was a scary ride and one I will always remember!

Calvin Densmore RM3
2625 Southview PI
Vestavia, AL 35216
205-823-1903

Editor's note: I want to thank Mr. Densmore for his story and hope many more of you will follow his lead and write your memories of the Pawcatuck. I enjoyed speaking with Mr. Densmore on the phone about his story and would encourage you all to keep your memories alive for future generations to enjoy.

GRAVEYARD OF THE PATRIOTS

By Thomas M. Blood

I have several routes I can take on my way from home to town (Port Orchard, WA), but the one I favor takes me through a nicely shaded street and by a graveyard of Patriots.

There are a number of old VA graveyards in the area, I suppose because of this coast and the Puget Sound in the early days of our coun-

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try, was concerned about invasions of our sparsely populated west. It makes one think of all the Veterans' Cemeteries throughout our country, from East to West, and in foreign countries where our young men fell and there was no way to return them to their native soil, not to mention those lost at sea. There are those who chose to be buried in family plots, not as visible, but Patriots none the less. How many millions of graves there are, no one dares to count, for the cost of keeping our freedom would be staggering beyond comprehension and the numbers would numb the brain of any reasoning. It is only when this is a family member, friend or associate that this loss comes home.

When I pass by these graveyards I give them a silent salute and pay homage the only way I can, for if it was not for them, I would not be where I am today, and indeed might not be here today at all. These graveyards are a great comfort and source of pride to me. All of us owe our liberty to these Patriots.

It matters not why they were in the service, whether it was a job, taken when nothing else was available, whether they just liked the military, whether they were drafted and called to protect our country for us in time of need, or out of pure patriotism. It matters not if they never saw a war or fired a shot, or if they were a ranking officer or a recruit. But what does matter is that they were there for us when the country needed them and without them we today would be subjects of another form of government. Our forefathers fought and died trying to prevent that form of government. These are the true patriots, the unsung heroes of our past.

The true Patriots, the silent ones, now lie there, mute testimony they gave all they had to give. There are those that have escaped paying the ultimate price and are among us today. Some have gone forward with knowledge and experience that can be gained no other way to help make our government a better one

and indeed the world a little better. But by far, the vast majority are the silent ones, the unsung heroes, for that is the way they wish it. Your loved ones, your neighbor and the ones you pass on the street may be among them. These are the same people if asked "Why?" if they answer at all, would look at you in some disbelief and answer, "Why wouldn't I, wouldn't you?"

However, there are some that will get up before the populace and sing the accolades and deeds of our Patriots never having been part of or in the military if for no other reason than to attach themselves to those that serve and to get themselves exposure before the public.

Hear the muffled sound of the drums, see the macabre dance of soul-less person of no conscience or shame. Will they look down or up? No, they only look straight ahead, for to look either down or up is to incur denial and damnation or swift repudiation.

They dance on the grave of those that served us, they dance on the grave of those that served.

Thomas Blood 05/06/2002

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The PAWCAUCK PILOT is the official publication of the USS PAWCATUCK AO-108 Association. 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 PAWCATUCK. 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.

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

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

Financial Statement

Balance after 03/02 issue
Minus \$71.93

Funds received since 03/02
\$\$\$681.50 (Including \$430 from re-union)

Funds available for 09/02
\$609.57

Funds used for 09/02 issue
\$360.15

Balance remaining **\$249.42**

PLEASE CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER. YOUR \$5.00 CAN KEEP IT COMING EACH QUARTER.

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

HICKORY, NC TO HOST 2003 REUNION APRIL 24-27

Military Locator & Reunion Service is proud to announce that our hometown of **Hickory, NC**, has been chosen to be the site of the 2003 reunion of the USS Pawcatuck AO-108. The former shipmates will meet **April 24-27, 2003** at the **Park Inn Hotel** for the three day reunion.

We think Hickory has a lot to offer as a reunion site, and we are proud to show off our area of the country. Hickory is located between Charlotte and Asheville on I-40 in the foothills of the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. It has a population of around 38,000, but within the metropolitan area, the population soars to 350,000. Hickory has historically been famous for its furniture and hosiery industries. In fact, some 60% of the nation's furniture is produced within a 200-mile radius of Hickory. More than 150 manufacturers of furniture are located in the Hickory/Catawba County area, with two huge furniture marts showcasing the products of world famous furniture manufacturers. Thousands of people travel to Hickory each year just to shop for furniture in Hickory Furniture Mart and Catawba Furniture Mall.

As usual, we will give you a brief description of some of the attractions in the area that you may wish to include on your agenda for the reunion. After reading through all the options, please complete the survey at the end and return it to ML&RS so we can begin the plans for the reunion. Your input, along with that of your coordinator's, will be used to make up your reunion agenda.

TOUR OF THE LOCAL AREA:

Start your day with a tour of the **Murray's Mill Historic Site** near the town of Catawba. This restored complex consists of a

grist mill (first built in the 1880s and later restored in 1913) powered by a huge overshot waterwheel, the 1890's Murray-Mingus Country Store where you can buy local crafts and items found in old-fashioned general stores, an 1880's wheat house, and the miller's residence, first built in 1913 and later restored in 1935.

Move on to the **Ball's Creek Campground**, a truly Southern tradition dating back to the 1800s. At that time there were no resident ministers and families lived on farms that were great distances from each other. A group of Methodist families decided to have a campground meeting for two weeks and invite people of all faiths to attend. Due to the popularity of the camp meeting, many of the folks built their own permanent wooden tents to house their families. A wooden arbor, located in the center of the campground, was built for religious services. The camp meeting is still held today in August of each year, with many of the descendants of the original families in attendance. After touring the campgrounds, have a real Southern meal prepared by the best cooks you will ever encounter—women of the Center United Methodist Church—served on the grounds of the church. This meal is one that you will never forget! Other groups who have eaten here are still talking about the delicious food.

After lunch the tour will visit the **Catawba County Historical Museum**, located in Newton, NC. Here you will see an extensive collection of artifacts dating back to a rare British Revolution red coat. Other interesting displays include a 1930's racing car and a fine collection of locally crafted furniture. The museum includes eight galleries, a museum store, a law and government gallery, including an old jail cell.

BILTMORE ESTATE:

Travel to the beautiful city of Asheville, NC, to tour the Biltmore House, "America's Largest Home." Built by George Vanderbilt III, the house was christened in 1895 and is filled with art,

furniture and rare heirlooms from around the world. The 250-room French Renaissance chateau sits high on a mountain with breath-taking views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It was built with all the amenities of the day—central heating, indoor bathrooms, an indoor gymnasium, bowling alley and swimming pool. The estate consists of 8,000 acres of forest, farmland, pleasure gardens and the most visited winery in America. At the time of your visit, the gardens should be in full spring bloom—this alone is worth the trip! Lunch will be on your own at one of several restaurants on the estate.

ASHE COUNTY FRESCOS:

Board a motor coach for an unforgettable experience in the Ashe County mountains. See the inspiring frescoes painted by Ben Long in two tiny country churches and hear the heartwarming story of how these paintings have touched the lives of thousands of people. Since they were completed, hundreds of thousands have come to view the frescoes at both of the two Episcopal Parish churches, Holy Trinity and St. Mary's. The frescoes have received national newspaper, magazine and television coverage, and the story of Father Hodge, under whose leadership the frescoes were painted, is an amazing tale in itself. Lunch at Greenfield Restaurant featuring a country buffet amidst the beautiful scenery of the surrounding mountains. Relax on the ride back to Hickory and enjoy some of the most gorgeous scenery anywhere in the world.

VISIT THE OFFICE OF ML&RS:

At some point during your reunion, we want to invite you to visit the office of Military Locator & Reunion Service. See where all the plans are made and meet all the people who work behind the scenes—Dina, Lynette, Karen and Elaine. We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to Hickory!

USS PAWCATUCK REUNION SURVEY

HICKORY, NC—APRIL 24-27, 2003

In order to provide the kind of reunion you want, not what we “think” you’d like, please take a few minutes to look over, complete and return this survey to ML&RS, Inc. right away. The reunion agenda will be created from the responses and the coordinator’s input. Let your voice be heard, return the survey to:

Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc.
P O Drawer 11399
Hickory, NC 28603-6402

Reunion format:

Do you want a welcome reception the first evening? Yes ____ No ____
 If yes, would you prefer only an hors d’oeuvre platter ____
 or a hamburger/hot dog or soup/salad type dinner ____

Do you prefer breakfast all three mornings ____
 or just a farewell breakfast on Sunday? ____

Do you prefer dinner in the hotel on Friday night? ____
 or a country barbecue with Bluegrass music off site? ____

Do you want a band or DJ after the Saturday night banquet? Yes ____ No ____

Please indicate your choice of activities by checking the attractions you would like to visit.

____ **Tour of the local area**

____ **Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC**

____ **Frescoes of Ashe County**

Your suggestions and comments are welcome: _____



ML&RS hostess, Karen Lane, gets “arrested” during the 2002 reunion in Phoenix. Guess that’s her first **and** last reunion!

USS PAWCATUCK REUNION

APRIL 24-27, 2003

HICKORY, NC

PARK INN HOTEL