

# THE PURDY REPORT

Volume 13, Issue 3

December 2003

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS PURDY DD-734



### Special Points of Interest

- *President DiPasquale has some interesting and informative news for you in his message on pages one and two.*
- *We have some new members this time! We welcome six newly located shipmates in WELCOME MAT on page two.*
- *MAIL CALL on page three has two letters of praise for Capt. Tony Venne.*
- *Paul Gilday writes a funny story about a dress inspection. He learned a "life lesson" from this incident. See page three.*
- *If you were a snipe, or knew one, you'll enjoy the poem on page four.*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

Hi again Purdy guys and girls.

Guess I don't need to tell those of you in the northern part of this good ole US of A that ole man winter is letting us know that he has returned (Please, no chuckles from you folks down south). Whenever I start thinking that this northern PA winter is really miserable, all I do is to remember back to the winters I spent on Purdy in Newport, RI. Now those were miserable winters. Seems that the coldest, most blustery days in Newport were always early Monday mornings when I was driving back to the ship after a 72 hour weekend.

I would back my car into a parking lot space up on the hill overlooking the ships so that the wind coming off the bay wouldn't freeze my radiator. All the Destroyers nested at the piers looked pretty (or is that Purdy) with their holiday med-moore lights strung, but it was one heck-of-a-cold walk down off that hill to the ship. Thank God for that steam heat to thaw me out once aboard !!!

Well, that's enough reminiscing for now. In a little over four months, our 14th Annual Reunion will take place in Niagara Falls, NY (April 28th- May 2, 04), and I hope that many of you are planning

to attend. I know that ML&RS will have another outstanding reunion planned for us, and the hotel we will be staying in is within walking distance of the falls. Don't forget to bring two forms of photo ID's or a birth certificate to get into and out of Canada. I don't need to tell those of you who have attended past reunions about the great times we've had, but those of you who haven't been to a reunion, consider joining us in 04 for a really good time, and meet some of your shipmates who you probably haven't seen in thirty or more years.

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

I received a phone call about a month ago from 89 year-old Katie Peters from Pocahantas, Arkansas. She is her family's historian, and was inquiring about our ship's namesake, Frederick Warren Purdy. I sent her information on Cdr. Purdy and the history of the Purdy, and it turns out that she is a distant relative of Cdr. Purdy. That was good enough for me, so I added her to our mailing list so that she will receive our Purdy Report. Welcome aboard, Katie.

I also received some good news about shipmate Harold Cadie who has been at many, if not all, past reunions. He is recovering and doing well after heart surgery, and is looking forward to coming to the Niagara Falls reunion. We are all looking forward to seeing you in Niagara, Harold.

If you enjoy receiving this Purdy Report, want to kept informed about reunions and want to remain on our association mailing list, don't forget that our annual \$5.00 dues is due in January. Send your dues check made out to "Purdy Association" to Sec./Treas. James Meechan, 145 Laura Dr., Gahanna, OH 43230-2104. You can also pay dues in advance if you want by sending Jim a check for as many years as you want to pay for. Jim will send you a membership card indicating the amount of years you paid.

Vice-Prez Bill Dow has 3" embroidered Purdy patches, Purdy license-plate frames, and now, Purdy ball-caps for sale. Bill will have all these items for sale at the reunion, but if you can't be there, give Bill a call at 860-841-4213 or by e-mail at:

[janetbilldow@wmconnect.com](mailto:janetbilldow@wmconnect.com)

for prices and to place orders.

I hope all of you had a nice Thanksgiving, and I wish all a great holiday season, and a happy, healthy New Year. Hoping to see many of you in Niagara Falls at the reunion.

Larry DiPasquale  
President, Purdy Association

## CHECK OUT THE PURDY WEB SITE

We want everyone to be aware of the Purdy web site that was created and is being maintained by Morris Plummer. The address is <http://www.destroyers.org/uss-purdy>. A Chat Line has been added for you to exchange ideas and memories with other Purdy shipmates. If you need to contact Morris Plummer, his e-mail address is: [usspurdy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:usspurdy@sbcglobal.net)

Keep up with what's going on with your old buddies by visiting the web site often. You might want to send Morris a thank you for all his work on the site also. I'm sure he would appreciate it.

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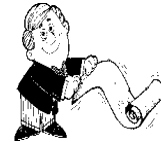
**'Our Reunions Work So You Don't Have To'**

### NEWSLETTER FINANCIAL REPORT

Cost of this issue **\$207.58**

**Thank you to the following contributors: Raymond Duval, Andrew Lindner, Barbara Jacobsen, and Frank Wiser.**

**USS PURDY  
2004 REUNION  
NIAGARA FALLS, NY  
APRIL 20-MAY 2  
COMFORT INN  
"THE POINTE"**



## WELCOME MAT

The USS PURDY family proudly welcomes the following recently located shipmates. We hope to see you at the next reunion. You are invited to become an active member of the association.

Jim Ellis (1956-58) GMSN  
3783 Friendship Rd Apt 7  
Wooster, OH 44691  
330-345-5965  
[jpellwstr@copper.net](mailto:jpellwstr@copper.net)

Thomas Link (1966-68) YN3 Office  
910 East River Rd  
Grand Island, NY 14072  
716-773-5668

Fred Woodcock (1957)  
84 Ruritan Ridge Ln  
Scottsville, VA 24590  
[fredw@amsny.com](mailto:fredw@amsny.com)

Peter Toohey (1951-55) FT2  
2378 John R Rd Apt 206  
Troy, MI 48083  
248-743-4207  
[petetoohey@peoplepc.com](mailto:petetoohey@peoplepc.com)

Paul Bowen  
9394 SW 101st St Ln  
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2190 Allwood Dr  
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610-867-1245  
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## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM THE STAFF OF  
MILITARY LOCATOR &  
REUNION SERVICE, INC



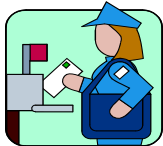
## TAPS

We regret to announce the PURDY REPORT was notified of the following shipmates' deaths. The entire crew extends the hand of sympathy to the families and friends of the deceased.

*Eugene Bryant (1952-54)  
Date of death not known*

*Edward Casler (1952-55) SN  
Died September 17, 2003*

Anyone who knows of, or becomes aware of, the death of a shipmate, please notify the editor so that shipmate can be recognized in the newsletter and his name added to the Honor Roll.



## MAIL CALL

Larry DiPasquale,

I saw the letter recognizing Capt. Tony Venne in the last issue of the Purdy Report. I served as his XO in USS Passumpsic (AO 107) during her 1963 cruise to WestPac. He was a fine CO, and as mentioned in the letter, a very good ship handler. I reported on board in Subic Bay, and my first duty was to get the ship underway when we left Subic. I must have done all right because he kept me as his XO. He was probably as good on Purdy as when I worked for him as XO. I can vouch for him as a CO. He was one of the best.

Jim Beates, CDR USN (Ret)

Dear ML&RS,

Just wanted to say that I received the September issue of the Purdy newsletter today and enjoyed it so much. It is good to hear from and about Purdy people. I have so many good memories of "our" time on the USS Purdy, a very special time for both Clint and me.

Clint had served on six other ships before going to the Purdy and loved them all, but the Purdy was his first command and always held a special place in his affections.

The letter from Cdr Kitko was very interesting to me as he spoke of Cdr Venne (later Captain Venne). Clint relieved Cdr Venne as CO of the Purdy in 1959 in Newport, RI. These are known as "ancient memories" now with Cdr Venne and Clint both gone, but it still makes me happy to have been a part of that time.

I was glad to get to read the final installment of the Purdy history—a ship to be proud of.

I haven't made any plans for 2004 yet; I'm still trying to adjust to life without Clint. I would like very much to join the group in Niagara Falls for the reunion and will be thinking about it. And, again, many thanks to all for the newsletter.

With best regards,  
Lou Holley  
3906 Annandale Rd  
Annandale, VA 22003

## A FUNNY "GETS THE WHITE OUT" STORY

*By: Paul E. Gilday, Jr.*

A long, long time ago in a past world, I was a sailor on the USS Purdy—DD 734. This was in the early 60s and I prefer to be coined a seaman. Anyways, we were out in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean for some obscure reason, crashing about and were having an inspection. I recall dress whites and positioned with my division on the star-

board side on the bow. I recall pleading with the cloistered laundry men to clean and press out my dress whites which they did at the last minute. I also recall this was all on a Saturday morning.

Standing at attention proudly at inspection, knowing that even the ledge between the heel and sole of my shoes was polished to a high luster, I noticed the inspecting officer stopping and standing behind me writing things down. Then he mentioned that he was "gigging me" much to my surprise. The longer he stayed there, the more he continued writing. After what seemed like forever, he finally moved on.

After being dismissed, I looked at the back of my jumper and pants, as the front sides all seemed in order. With a furrowed brow, I saw holes, small holes with frayed edges growing! This is what he observed also. Impossible to correct, I discarded the set.

In conclusion, I was then aware of the power of bleach used in excessive amounts, and have never touched a drop since.

Paul E. Gilday, Jr. (1960-62) TM2

## IF I HAD MY LIFE TO LIVE OVER

*By Erma Bombeck (Written after she found out she was dying from cancer.) Submitted by Larry DiPasquale*

I would have gone to bed when I was sick instead of pretending the earth would go into a holding pattern if I weren't there for the day.

I would have burned the pink candle sculpted like a rose before it melted in storage.

I would have talked less and listened more.

I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained, or the sofa faded.

*(Continued from page 3)*

I would have eaten popcorn in the "good" living room and worried much less about the dirt when someone wanted to light a fire in the fireplace.

I would have taken the time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth.

I would have shared more of the responsibility carried by my husband.

I would never have insisted the car windows be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had just been teased and sprayed.

I would have cried and laughed less while watching television and more while watching life.

I would never have bought anything just because it was practical, wouldn't show soil, or was guaranteed to last a lifetime.

Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy, I'd have cherished every moment and realized that the wonderment growing inside me was the only chance in life to assist God in a miracle.

When my kids kissed me impetuously, I would never have said, "Later. Now go get washed up for dinner." There would have been more "I love you's." More "I'm sorry's."

But mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute... look at it and really see it... live it, and never give it back. Stop sweating the small stuff.

Don't worry about who doesn't like you, who has more, or who's doing what.

Instead, let's cherish the relationships we have with those who do love us.

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## THE SNIPES LAMENT

*Copied from a plaque presented to Larry DiPasquale*

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 a book, or heard a lusty tale, about the men who sail these ships, through lightning, wind, and hail. But there's a place within each ship, that legend fails to teach.

It's down below the waterline, it takes a living toll...A hot metal living hell, that sailors call the "Hole." It houses engines run by steam, that makes the shaft go round, A place of fire, noise and heat, that beats your spirits down. Where boilers like a hellish heart, with blood of angry steam, Are molded Gods without remorse, are nightmares in a dream.

Whose threat that from the fires roar, is like a living doubt that any minute would with 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 night, and 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 useless shell.

When ships converge to have a war, upon an angry sea, The men below just grimly smile, at what their fate might be. They're locked in below like men fore doomed, who hear no battlecry, It's well assumed that if they're hit, the men below will die. For every day's war down there, when the gauges all read red, twelve hundred pounds of heated steam, can kill you mighty dead.

So if you ever write their sons, or try to tell their tale, the very words would make you hear, a fired furnace's wail. And people as a general rule, don't hear of men or steel, 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 hardened life of men down there, cause one of them is me.

I've seen these sweat soaked hero's fight, in superheated air, to keep their ship alive and right, though no one knows they're there, and thus they'll fight for ages on, till warships sail no more, amid the boiler's might heat, and the turbine's hellish roar, so when you see a ship pull out, to meet a warlike foe, remember family if you can, "The men who sail below."

Submitted by Larry DiPasquale

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## ORIGIN OF THE TERM "STARBOARD"

The Vikings called the side of their ship its board, and they placed the steering oar, the "star" on the right side of the ship, thus that side became known as the "star board." It's been that way ever since. And, because the oar was in the right side, the ship was tied to the dock at the left side. This was known as the loading side or "larboard." Later, it was decided that "larboard" and "starboard" were too similar, especially when trying to be heard over the roar of a heavy sea, so the phrase became the "side at which you tied up to in port" or the "port" side.

## OUR VIEW

*Larry H Eckard, President, ML & RS, Inc*

We truly appreciate the support and loyalty the members of the USS Purdy have shown to Brenda and me and the staff of ML & RS, Inc. We intend to keep providing you with the first class service that you deserve and expect at reasonable prices and hopefully maintain your loyalty and support.

Ten years ago or less, we were in a so-called "buyer's market". Hotels competed for our business by offering excellent rates and amenities, but by the late 90's, this was changing. Hotels still competed for our business, but almost as if by collusion, the rates began to creep up. Even though we still were able to get bargain rates compared to "rack rates" or individual planners, the rates were (and remain) higher. With the downturn in the economy, everyone thought that we'd see the market swing back to where it had been in the early to mid 90's. Not so. Surprisingly the hotels did not buy into that theory. At the risk of losing business, rates were kept high, and that is where we are today. There are still some good rates out there (compared to today's average prices) but they are becoming harder to find, and certainly will not be found in major cities, especially in downtown hotels. Food prices have increased, but not to the extent that room rates have.

All you have to do is drive by the gas pump or look at your gas credit card and you'll see how fuel prices have increased. It's easy to see why tour costs have risen significantly.

With that brief background, this would be a good time to review exactly how using our services benefit your organization. Once you fully understand just what is included in your reunion price, you'll find it is actually a bargain. Just to refresh your memory:

- We started, and are continuing to this day, assisting you

in locating members of your ship, unit, organization, etc.

- We place reunion announcements (using the reunion coordinator's name as contact person) in over 400 newspapers throughout the country and forty veterans publications. Dozens of your members have been found this way.
- For those who want us to, we maintain your database. Even though a member of the group may duplicate our efforts (and there is no real reason for someone to do this), we have the most up-to-date roster of members.
- We subscribe to a postal service that tracks change of addresses provided the member leaves a forwarding address with the post office. That is not a free service; it costs \$.70 per change of address.
- We also subscribe to a label printing service, updated quarterly by the postal service, that automatically corrects address, adds the last four digits of the zip code, and prints the bar code which is required for discounted postage rates.
- The two subscriptions referred to above allows us to maintain a postal permit for "automation" which lowers the postage from \$.37 to \$.219.
- Once the city has been selected, we take it from there. Our experienced negotiators get the best possible prices, rates that you as an individual planner cannot get.
- We know how to negotiate, what to ask for, and just as important, what not to ask for.
- We get lower rates by not accepting or giving anything complimentary to anyone, so everyone pays the same price.
- We get lower rates by reserving a block of rooms on your behalf instead of each individual calling the hotel freeing up the hotel's reservations staff to handle their face-to-face customers. This is especially significant at check out time. If you don't have any incidental charges, turn in your key and walk out – bill paid. You can't do that with an individual reservation.
- Hotels, tour companies, entertainers, and other vendors see us as repeat business, they see an individual planner as a one-time deal. Who gets the best deal consistently? We do!
- We prepare, print and mail all reservation material.
- We pay all the deposits (and unless you have a treasury this is significant)
- We receive all reservations from members
- We make all reservations with the hotel
- We are able to accept VISA and MASTERCARD
- We are on site to manage the reunion, freeing up your members to enjoy the reunion
- We act as liaison between the hotel and the group
- We create and print banquet and memorial service programs
- We provide each member with a memorabilia item commemorating the reunion
- We arrange for entertainment, guest speakers, Color Guards
- We have a host of first quality memorabilia items (caps, T-shirts, sweat shirts, etc)
- There is absolutely no cost to the coordinator or the association. (We are compensated by charging a registration fee to everyone who

*(Continued on page 6)*

- attends the reunion)
- At the end of the reunion, we start over again.
- We truly care about your reunion. We want it to succeed just as much as you do.

Let's make it clear from the onset, there are some reunion groups that do successfully plan and manage their own reunions. Let me make it equally clear, doing your own reunion is not less expensive and it is a heck of a lot more trouble and work. We know, there is an organization or two out there that charges you to attend special seminars they call FamTours (which by the way are sponsored and funded by the host city's Convention & Visitor's Bureau, so they actually are free). Hmmmmm! If you Reunion Chairmen are really interested in visiting a city, tell us and the next time they have a FamTour, we'll make arrangements for you to attend—free. (You'll still have to provide your own transportation.) Many Chairmen of our groups have gone free—and many more have been invited—to Fam's in Norfolk, Buffalo, Colorado Springs, Albuquerque, Asheville, Jacksonville, Virginia Beach, just to name a few, so you know first hand it can be done.

These seminars claim to "teach you how" to plan your own reunion by giving you a few common sense pointers and then trying to sell you liability insurance. You may learn something at one of these seminars that you don't know, but I challenge you to discover something that we are not already doing. My point is, if you pay to go to one of their planner events, (and I am sure some of you have); don't be fooled by how easy they make it sound. Planning and managing a reunion from start to finish is not nearly as easy as the classroom instruction would have you believe. Remember the old adage, "Them that can do – Them that can't teach." We don't mean this to be critical because some of things they are now

"teaching" are things we've been doing for years; but other things being taught are downright foolish.

Make no mistake, experienced hotel Sales Directors can spot an inexperienced individual planner a mile away. Unless you know how to negotiate, you won't get the best available deals, you'll get what the hotel wants to have. So, if the subject "doing it our selves" ever comes up, ask yourself one question. Am I (me, personally, not one of the other guys) willing to accept total responsibility for all of the items we have listed above, plus the unforeseen things that will happen. If you are not willing to do it, why would you pass it off to a buddy?

With the increased use of the Internet, a lot of "fare saver" businesses, such as Expedia, Priceline, Travelocity, Orbitz, to name a few have emerged. Often you can get what seems to be a good room rate (sometimes even at the reunion hotel) from one of these services. Getting a room through one of these services may save you a couple of dollars (but we can document a couple instances when the reunion rate is less than the fare saver rate. But in the long run, it hurts the rest of your friends. The hospitality room, and banquet rooms are provided without cost, based on the number of guest rooms that are occupied by members of the group and reserved through ML & RS, Inc. Why do you think the first question you are asked is, "How many rooms will you require"? Then the next step is for the sales director to ask the past couple of reunion hotels to confirm your room history. Therefore, each person who gets his/her own room, either through one of these services, or even at another hotel, does not pay their fair share of hospitality and banquet room charges, passing this cost instead to those who stay in the hotel.

This is a serious matter, and unless we nip it in the bud, I can foresee the time when it will be necessary to charge folks not staying in the hotel a sur charge to cover their share of the rooms in question. Folks, there ain't nothing free.

## STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The PURDY REPORT is the official publication of the USS PURDY DD-734 Association. It is published quarterly in June, September, December, and March *subject to receiving sufficient funding*. The Newsletter is funded by voluntary contributions from the membership. All members are encouraged to support the newsletter by sending their contributions to the Association Treasurer.

The Purdy Report 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 an impossible 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 space limitations and grammar.

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

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