

THE PURDY REPORT

Volume 17, Issue 4

March 2008

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS PURDY DD-734



Special Points of Interest

- **Larry DiPasquale hopes to see many of you at the reunion. See what he has to say in his cover article.**
- **Chaplain Fred takes you down memory lane in his article on page two.**
- **More stories on "How Did the Navy Benefit Your Life?" begin on page three.**
- **See the before and after shots of two of your shipmates on page six.**
- **Read about a free reunion listing service and a great website, both on page six.**

A MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

Hi again shipmates, Purdy friends and all you Purdy ladies too. By the time you receive this Purdy Report it will be only a few weeks until our Branson reunion. I hope that many of you are planning to attend. Karen and I are really looking forward to seeing many of our friends once again. You all should have received a reunion registration package by now, and I hope you filled it out and sent it in to ML&RS. If you haven't received a registration, call ML&RS at 828-256-6008 as soon as possible to request a package. Branson should be one of our best reunions. The tours that ML&RS have planned for

us sound great, and there will be some free time to take in some shows. The registration is due in to ML&RS by March 24, so please don't procrastinate and get it in as soon as possible. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you regular attendees again and hope to meet many first-timers this year. If you've never been to one of our reunions, plan to be at this one for a great time and a chance to see some shipmates you probably haven't seen for many years.

Those of you who have not paid your \$5.00 annual dues and are going to be at the reunion, look up our Sec/Treas.

James Meechan to pay your dues. If you want to, you can pay your dues for more than one year and Jim will give you a membership card indicating how many years are paid. If you aren't going to be at the reunion and have not yet paid this year's dues, send Jim a check made out to "Purdy Association" to his home address at: 145 Laura Dr., Gahanna, OH 43230.

VP Bill Dow can't attend this reunion, but he will have a representative there in his place to take orders for Purdy shirts, jackets and ball caps. If you haven't purchased any of these items yet, plan on doing so. These

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are top quality items. If you aren't going to be at the reunion and want to order anything from Bill, call him at 860-426-1278 for prices and shipping information.

See you in Branson, and to all planning to attend, have a safe trip.

Sincerely,
Larry DiPasquale
President, Purdy Association

CHAPLAIN FRED'S REPORT

Ahoy Shipmates,

Well, it has been quite a year. Three reunions, Conn., Maine and New York; all good times. I talked to some old shipmates, Wilson Holes, 57-59; Karl Sassone, 59-62 and Pat Fonzo (Fonzy) 59-62. We had our own Fonz before Happy Days. Pray for Fonzy; he lives in California and has a heart problem.

Bill D. and Vern V.; you are right, the Yankees suck. Wait until next year. Sorry about the Mets, Sweetie.

Chet says Aloha and will be in Branson.

Judy the Cutie got her first deer this year. It only took her 27 years. She will bring pictures.

Barb Mountjoy may not go to Branson; too many bugs there. Judy and I don't care where the reunion is, we are going. It's top priority of the things we like to do. Cletus will be there bringing some white lightning. Start thinking about the 2008 reunion.

We were asked what the Navy meant to us. I was bored with farm life and wanted to see the world. I was not a good sailor. I liked liberty too much. I liked the fact that we could do whatever we wanted and nobody could tell us any different. That's when we were off the ship. I didn't like all the rules and regulations. That's probably why I didn't get a Good Conduct Medal.

I like the Navy now a lot better than when I was in. I like the reunions. I liked the Deck Force. The work was easy and they were my kind of people. Dominick Vella and I had more fun than all the rest put together. Remember George Symanski? What a trip he was. I wonder if George still likes after shave and Coke. Remember big Lee Ely's fight in Palermo? He took on the Marine Corps. Remember Gingrich? He loved to do anything as long as it was wild. Magee and Patterson wanted to be b.m. Remember Frenchy and Dicky Spoon? Rest in peace. Joe Burke and Push Luck, Jimmy McDurmet and Glenn Daisy. What happened to these guys? Where are you? Someone must know. Get ready for Branson. Be sure to go on the Duck Ride. It is the best gig there. Dom will probably get sea sick.

I wish there was a way to get more shipmates involved, but I have no ideas. Maybe we could have an Anchor Pool.

God Bless,
Chaplain Fred and Judy the Cutie

PS Judy says now that she has shot a deer, she is not a girly girl now. She is one of the guys. Good looking guy.

NEWSLETTER FINANCIAL REPORT

This Purdy Report is being sent to 171 dues paying members only. Please send your annual \$5.00 contribution to:

Jim Meechan
145 Laura Dr
Gahanna, OH 43230

Contributors since the last newsletter:

Anonymous, James Cummings, Charles Gerardi, Richard Hammock, Lou Kava, Serge Krikorian, Robert Mersfelder, James Ruziska, Pete Sather, Frank Hendricks, Marcel Nicolas.

The cost of this issue is \$289.81.



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.

Thomas Parnell

Date of death not reported

Bob Elliot

(1964-65) MM3

Died 12/11/07

James Hadfield

(1961-64) RM1

Died November 28, 2006

SHCM Ralph Stevenson USN (Ret)

(1969-70) SH1

Died February 8, 2008

Robert Strauss

(1948-51) ME3

Died February 4, 2008

Don Hunter

(1944-46) GM3

Died October 11, 2007

Robert Whipple

(1944-45) CETM

Date of death not reported

CSCS Ralph Shook, USN (RET)

(1961-63) CSC

Died February 14, 2007

Laird Cormell

(1944-45) 3rd CL Commissary

Died September 2000

Larry Shull (1966-69)

Died February 6, 2007

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.



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.

Colquitt Brackett
(1968-70) LTjg Gunnery
PO Box 87
Natural Bridge, VA 24578
540-556-6701

David Pape (1968-69)
2271 Soapstone Dr
Staley, NC 27355



MAIL CALL

Purdy Shipmates,

Please pass the following information along. I know deaths of shipmates are always acknowledged, but thought perhaps Chaplain Fred might want to send a card as Dick and his wife attended several of the Purdy reunions (5337 Greenhurst Rd, Buffalo, NY 14221).

Ruth Thomas Eckert died December 14, 2007 after a valiant battle with cancer. She was the beloved wife of Richard, mother of two, and grandmother of five. She was a very special person who made everyone feel comfortable in her presence and will be deeply missed. Memorials may be made to The American Cancer Society.

Dick served aboard the Purdy with my husband Howard in the '50s. Thank you.

Liz Bruce

HOW DID THE NAVY BENEFIT YOUR LIFE?

Thank you to all of you who helped us continue the stories of how the Navy benefited your life. We received these answers since the last newsletter.

G. E. Houk, SN/57-58:

When I graduated from high school, I didn't have a clue with what I wanted to do for a living. I had joined the Naval Reserves and knew that I was going into the Navy after graduation. I was sent over to Washington, DC and was assigned to work in the Pentagon in a small print shop on the 3rd floor. At the time I didn't know one end of a printing press from the other. After one year I was sent to Newport, RI to a ship named Purdy. I was on the Deck Force, Second Division for my year on the Purdy. After my year on ship I got out of the Navy and went to work in a big old print ship. I then went to work at N.S.A. in their print shop, where I retired from 25 years later. I've been retired for 11 years, getting a decent pension. When I think back, I have to thank the Navy. It all started in that little print shop in the Pentagon.

Jim Parmiter, Commander USN (Ret):

In 1956, I was commissioned an Ensign under the Penn State "Regular" NROTC program with a major in English Literature. My plan was to put in my time and come back to Penn State to teach. I had opted for destroyer duty and received my orders to the PURDY.

I reported aboard and the XO assigned me to Engineering as the Electrical Officer. (I later learned that it was a standing Ward Room joke that the Electrical Officer was in charge of changing light bulbs!)

I didn't question my assignment to the Engineering Department because I expected to rotate among the various departments to broaden

my experience. However, when Charlie Hodges, the Engineer Officer, phased out, I was immediately promoted to Damage Control Assistant, the Number 2 Engineering Officer. I questioned Stu Warner, the new Chief Engineer, as to why a non-engineer was stuck in Engineering. He had no clue, and sent me to the XO.

LCDR Frank Horn was the XO. He was a Mustang with seventy consecutive months at sea in destroyers! He said he stayed at sea because every time he came ashore, his wife got pregnant. They had seven children. He said he couldn't afford to go ashore.

I asked him why I was stuck in Engineering.

His reply was simple: "Because you're an Engineer."

A cold shiver went down my spine. I said there must be a mistake. He flipped over my Personnel File and handed it to me. It said, "Ensign, United States Navy; major—Eng."

My life flashed before me. I stammered, "No! That's a mistake. My major was English Literature, not Engineering."

He looked at me calmly, I will never forget his voice. "Son, the Navy never makes a mistake. If it says you're an Engineer, then by God that's what you are. Dismissed."

The rest of the story; they sent me off to DESLANT Engineering School. I was in a class of fifteen men—fourteen engineers and me.

The first night of school we were assigned rooms in the BOQ. My roommate was a really nice guy, a Mechanical Engineer from MIT. Just my luck! We chatted for a while. He asked me if I really knew all about poetry and books and "that stuff." I assured him that I did, since I intended to return to Penn State some day and teach it.

Then suddenly the Sun broke

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through. He told me that he really enjoyed "that stuff," but MIT didn't allow much time for it. Would it be possible, he asked, for me to give him a crash course in English Literature? In return, he would carry me through the Engineering Course.

I finished the program Number 7 in my class. He, of course, was Number 1!

The rest of the story is pretty simple. I relieved Stu as Chief Engineer when he phased out. I managed to survive fourteen months in that job, with the help from the Skipper, Commander Tony "Mad Anthony" Venne and XO Bob Graves.

At the end of my tour, I planned to get a Master's Degree, so I asked for an Instructor assignment in the Philadelphia area (where Nancy was living with our two boys). BUPERS sent me to the Naval Damage Control Training Center at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard as Officer-in-Charge of the Officer's Training Department.

When I left active duty, I joined the Ready Reserve at the Fourth Naval District in Philadelphia. I was assigned to—you guessed it! Naval Reserve Engineering Company 4-1. I eventually commanded the unit, and then I finally retired as a Commander.

What a trip! And it all started aboard the PURDY.

Bob Espeseth, 1952-54:

My time on active duty in the Navy aboard the PURDY was one of the highlights of my life. I made lifelong friends aboard with whom I still keep in touch. Since the PURDY was a "sea going ship" it provided us with the opportunity to "see the world" and we literally did as I was on the second "round the world cruise" in 1953. As a result of that kickoff, I have visited over 60 countries in the intervening years. The responsibility placed on a young officer gave me a breadth of experience that I would never have received in civilian life in a compara-

ble time span. It also provided me with the incentive to continue on with a career in the Navy Reserves that culminated in 30 years of service to the Navy and a subsequent retirement. I always said when it no longer is fun I'll quit, but the Navy retired me first!!

Jack Winans:

The Navy gave me training as an Electronics Technician. The first half of my four-year hitch was spent in training and on a destroyer, the USS PRUDY. The second two years were served at the US Naval Facility, Eleuthera, BWI, where I worked with the Bell Telephone Laboratory, which was there to further develop what was to become the Sound SURveillance System (SOSUS) to provide deep-water long-range detection capability.

Great duty! Brought out my wife and infant twin sons and set up house off base at the top of a hill overlooking both the Atlantic and the Caribbean. Had a full-time maid-cook-baby sitter. Bought and reconditioned a pre-war Harley motorcycle to commute to the base. Used saddle bags for the twins and spent a lot of time with the wife on deserted beaches. All of the Navy staff was rated, so we had double duties. My second job was as base carpenter, and with the help of a Sears catalog and an open account, I ordered a Mark V and soon had built lawn furniture and screen doors and window for the Quonset huts that were used for offices and barracks.

My primary duty was occasionally manning one-man test stations spread throughout the Bahamas. We'd be flown out on small two-engine flying boats usually to a nearby Air Force station set up as part of the Patrick Air Force Base missile "down range" stations. The Air Force base would provide meals and entertainment. The Navy test station was otherwise self-sustaining with a diesel electric power plant in one small building and another separate building with a small bedroom section in a room full of electronic

gear. The "tests" usually lasted only a few days and the rest of the time could be spent on the beach with a small sailboat or at the Air Force bar.

The periods with not "testing" were spent at the Eleuthera base with a lot of free time. Like I said, "Great duty."

Anyway, when I left the Navy after my four-year hitch, I spent some time with the suits at IBM as a Customer Engineer getting grease on my white shirts and spending most of my time fixing pre-war mechanical punch-card tabulating machines. Not my cup of tea.

Gravitated to my folks and my growing up occupation, in the grocery business and ended up at a couple of chains in middle management. My Navy training turned into a hobby with a love of computers and soon when the first PCs came out, had my own and was training others in the company. Wrote a couple of programs, the first was to keep track of absenteeism and tardiness. This was in the day before electronic time keeping. The second program called "DIRTBAGS" tracked shoplifters and I put it on neighboring stores and updated it with floppies. My next interest was in Desk Top Publishing and started a monthly newsletter paid for with advertising, usually the local eateries and our hang-out-after-work bar.

After retiring, my hobby became my second vocation with a free computer center for kids and seniors, which I ran for 13 years before turning it over to the park district. My third vocation became another monthly 16 page newsletter with a distribution of 700 copies for my condo that eventually became a profit center.

So how did the Navy benefit my life? It gave me the tools to make not only my own life so much fuller, but to enable me to share that opportunity with so many others.

Al DePetro:

I think the Navy benefited my life

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by enjoying my teammates and learning how to get along with your peers and upper classmates. Being a young boy from Pittsburgh, PA, I grew up very fast aboard the USS PURDY. I was a DK and after leaving the Navy I went to work for DOD as an Accounting Tech and then became a manager and retired with 35 years government service. My retirement is exceptionally great and I would not have wanted another career.

Bill Dow:

As an 18-year old one week out of high school and living a somewhat sheltered life, it was a real world experience. From the moment we got to boot camp at 10 pm in the evening and didn't go to bed till 3 am, and then got up at 5:30 to start the day. You really grew up pretty fast. As a member of the PURDY and being a Petty Officer teaches you how to make the best of your time and also teaches you how to lead and get a project done. Leadership really helped in the working world. And we did it while enjoying the experience. Because I didn't go to college, I think the Navy was very good for me in growing up and also leadership skills. I also made some good friends that I wouldn't have otherwise.

Howard "Bud" Smith:

When World War II started, my family was sure that it would be over long before I was graduated from

high school in 1944. But we know that it lasted into August of 1945. I was not unhappy when I got my notice to appear for my physical. I was a farm boy who did not want to farm. I saw military service as a way to do something else. I was more interested in other occupations—especially journalism. I also had a secondary interest in the construction industry. My father had been a carpenter as a young man, but had turned to farming after a brief stint at putting up farm buildings in South Dakota.

During a session with a Navy counselor, I was told that I should apply to a service school and that I could choose any one that I wanted. Someone told me that Quartermaster was a "good rate." Had no idea what a quartermaster did, so that's what I wanted. So, after boot camp I was sent to the Naval Training Station at Gulfport, Mississippi. After four months of training and a month of cooling my heels in California waiting for an assignment to a ship, the war ended. But I caught my ship finally and worked as a quartermaster until I was discharged in August of 1946.

At that juncture, my career offered few choices and little qualification for a civilian career. One was to be captain of a tugboat. In Iowa? Fat chance. There was the Mississippi to the east and the Missouri on the West. I chose that Navy career when I could have had any service school the Navy offered. I could hardly fault the Navy because I chose quartermaster school.

But what the Navy did offer me was the opportunity to leave the farm. I enrolled in college under the GI Bill

and worked with a carpenter crew during the summer. Eventually, because of my college degree in Journalism and my experience in construction, I was employed as a text editor specializing in building trades. Upon my retirement I received a contract for periodic revision of a carpentry textbook. With the months spent in the Navy, I reached a most satisfying career goal.

Jack Herbein, 1962-63:

In my time in the Navy, 1956 to 1998, I had the honor and privilege of leading and seeking the advice of the finest sailors in the world. For that I'll be eternally grateful.

I received a multi-million dollar education about life and what's important beyond thermodynamics and calculus which I digested stubbornly, nickel by nickel as a young man.

All who served during the Cold War on ships got to see the world as it was, not as we wished it to be. In the end we won the Cold War and in some small way we were part of that victory. The long mid-watches, refueling at sea, rolling forever in rough seas and, the seemingly endless deployments away from our families, all counted toward that victory. God bless the USA.

Howard Platt:

The duty on board the USS PURDY taught me how to get along with all walks of life, a lesson that has bettered me for 81 years.

**USS PURDY (DD-734)
REUNION
APRIL 23-27, 2008
BRANSON, MO
RADISSON BRANSON HOTEL**

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"Our Reunions Work So You Don't Have

FREE REUNION LISTING

The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA) is providing the Military Reunion Listings as a FREE service to the veteran community. I search the internet looking for reunions and then send requests for the information to the listed POC, I sent 2,162 reunion organizations e-mails requesting information on their 2006 reunions, and 65% responded with information. We have 1,398 listings on the archived calendar year 2006 listing. With the last listing update, Dec. 3rd, we have 1,754 reunion listings for calendar years 2007, 08, 09, 10, and 2011.

Please take a look at our website www.trea.org, scroll down the left side and click on Reunions/Buddies, and this will bring up the reunion page. As reunions are completed, they are transferred to the Completed Listing at the end of the month. There, they will remain as a reference point for someone looking for a unit contact. My intention is that each calendar year reunions will be individually listed.

I appreciate any help you can provide in getting the word out to the Veterans.

“UNITED WE STAND.”

John H Moore SMStg, USAF Retired (1961-87)

BEFORE AND AFTER SHOTS



Frank A. (Sandy) Sinclair (on the right) is seen showing former shipmate Keith L. Yates (on the left) the model of the USS PURDY DD 734 that he had recently built. Sinclair and Yates served together on the PURDY from 1946 to 1948. Sinclair, a retired High School Counselor, lives in Olympia, WA. Yates, a retired Life Insurance executive, lives in Tigard, OR.

CHECK OUT THIS WEBSITE

You will find lots of interesting Navy history and a photo of the PURDY on this web site recommended by Larry DiPasquale:

http://bluejacket.com/index_navy.html

WILL I LIVE TO BE 80, DOC?

I recently chose a new primary care physician. After two visits and exhaustive lab tests, he said I was doing “fairly well” for my age.

A little concerned about that comment, I couldn’t resist asking him, “Do you think I’ll live to be 80?”

He asked, “Do you smoke tobacco or drink alcoholic beverages?” “No,” I replied. “I don’t do drugs either.” Then he asked, “Do you eat rib-eye steaks and barbecued ribs?” I said, “No, my other doctor said that all red meat is unhealthy!”

“Do you spend a lot of time in the sun, like playing golf, boating, fishing or relaxing on the beach?” “No, I don’t,” I said.

He asked me, “Do you gamble, drive fast cars?” “No,” I said, “I don’t do any of those things.”

Then he looked at me and asked, “Then why do you care?”