

THE PURDY REPORT

Volume 20 Issue 1

March 2010

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS PURDY DD-734



Special Points of Interest

- *The 2010 reunion will be coming up before you know it. In his President's message, Larry DiPasquale has some encouraging words about the reunion.*
- *Don't miss Chaplin Fred's column on page two. There's always a laugh or two intertwined in his message.*
- *Keith Yates shares his hitchhiking story with you on page three. You won't believe who gave him a ride!*
- *Did you ever meet someone you knew in a totally unexpected place? Read some of your shipmates stories about this starting on page three.*
- *For a little humor, read "My Favorite Things" on page five.*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

Hello again shipmates,

Purdy ladies and friends. By the time you receive this Purdy Report, it will be about four weeks until our Savannah reunion. Karen and I are looking forward to seeing many of you again, and hope we see many new faces this year. All should have received the reunion registration package a few weeks ago, and, if attending, you should have already sent your deposit to ML&RS. The balance due will need to be in to ML&RS by the end of March. This should be a great reunion. From reports I've received, our hotel is a very nice historic building, and is located in the historic downtown area. Even though we only have one tour, there is plenty to

do within walking distance of the hotel. There are also trolley and bus tours of the entire historic Savannah area. So, cash in some of those Social Security checks and plan on joining us at the reunion. Even though we will have plenty of free time at this reunion, don't forget the business meeting on Saturday afternoon, and give some thought about where you would like to see our next reunion located. This will be the main topic at that meeting.

I received a call from Chaplain Fred a few weeks ago, and we talked about all that happened since our Philly reunion and how much we are looking forward to the Savannah reunion. One thing I forgot to

mention to him though was that whenever he goes out in Savannah, he should be sure to wear a hat, and carry an umbrella too. I know for a fact that the crazed Kamikaze pigeon that bombed him in Philly has many relatives and seagull friends in Savannah. See you in Savannah Fred, and if we are out and about, please don't stand too close to Karen and me.

VP Bill Dow still has quality Purdy shirts, jackets and ball caps, and will have some of these with him at the reunion for those of you who may want to make a purchase. If you can't attend the reunion, and you want to

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place an order, give Bill a call at 860-426-1278.

I'm sure all of you are aware that are annual dues has increased to \$10.00 as of Jan.1, 2010. If you haven't paid yet, please send your check (made out to "Purdy Association") to Sec/Treas James Meechan, 145 Laura Dr, Gahanna, OH 43230-2140. Only those whose dues are paid will receive this Purdy Report. Jim will also be collecting dues at the reunion.

Karen and I wish all a happy Easter and Passover, and hope to see many of you in Savannah.

Sincerely,
Larry DiPasquale
President, Purdy Association

NEWSLETTER FINANCIAL REPORT

This Purdy Report is being sent to 187 dues paying members only. Please send your annual \$10.00 contribution (checks made out to "Purdy Association") to:

Jim Meechan
145 Laura Dr
Gahanna, OH 43230

The following dues have been received since the last newsletter:

Lenny DeVirgilio
Charles Danley
Gerald O'Neil
John Sanders
Carl Sansone

The cost of this issue is **\$313.93**

2010 REUNION

APRIL 21-25

SAVANNAH, GA

INN AT ELLIS SQUARE

CHAPLAIN FRED'S REPORT

Good Morning Shipmates,

Two months and we will be partying again. Been a long winter living on elk meat and love. Great combo. Talked to Chuck Gerardi yesterday. Eileen was outside shooting a squirrel for their breakfast. Hard to believe Donal & Doris Anderson won't be at the reunion. They have a 50th wedding anniversary. Congrat! Bill Arnold, you better be there. We have something for you. Ray Baker, bring us some of your wit. Maurice and Phyllis, bring sweet bread. Chuck and Roberta Danley, stop on your way back from FL. Joe DePce, bring your grampa Doug Harvey with you. Larry, I will buy the first one. Bill Dow, no Red Sox or Yankee talk. Hope the Doyle brothers are there. Hi, Uncle Art and Sweetie. George Houk, where is Durbin, WV? Bob Johnson and Pole Dancer, can't get in touch with Cletus? Joyce's and Kahapea. Sweet bread. Aloha Chubbie. The Petits from Neb. Told me if you look straight up you can see the top of the snow bank. Stewarts and Condrys are giving dancing lessons. Talked to Pat Kummerl and she says Dick is in the hospital. He needs our prayers. Talked to Lenny DeVirgilio. He won't make it this year.

I have a Yankee shirt size XXL if anyone wants it. Van!!

Start thinking about Albany, NY for 2011 reunion.

Chile had an 8.8 earthquake this morning. Big wave headed for HI. Chet, get to higher ground. Bob Wertz, I was in Meeker, CO last Oct. Is that close to you?

Here's today's wit: Sea Captains don't like crew cuts. If you don't pay your exorcist you get repossessed.

Trying to get in touch with Frank Wisner. No answer. Wayne Stewart, is there anyway you can get a number for Bill McCain? Isabella Strauss, we still hold you and Bob in our hearts. Bob Fuller and Gerry LaBrun, give me a call: 1-585-669-2877. We miss you. Howard & Liz Bruce, are you going to the reunion? Roger & Joan

Boisse are among the missing. Hi Audrey Crawshaw. Dick Eckert, give me a call. Because of you I'm now part of the reunion. Thank you! Just tried to call Lee Ely. No luck. Talked to Dominic Vella. He talked to Cletus. Cletus needs our prayers. Chet called and said they were fine. Chet says see us in Savannah. Where's Ray Long? Pray for Gerry VanGrevenhof. She is having a knee replacement. Maybe you should pray for Van. Lenny D and I just had a good laugh. We were talking about Mr. D throwing Mr. Carter's coffee cup over the side. We need to find Jim McDermont?? Yogi & Fonz, are you two coming? Lee & Carl Pumo, we will bring you some more relish. Annette and Lavette, make sure you bring those old guys with you. Steve Stout, bring your Good Conduct Medal with you. Most of us didn't get one. Hi, Russ & Bugs. Let's wear our green shirts on Friday.

Joke time. During WWII a kamikaze pilot landed on a US carrier. They got the pilot out of the plane and asked him if he knew he was supposed to die for his country. He said yes. They asked him his name and he said his name was Chicken Chow Mein.

I will close for now. See you all at the reunion.

Chaplain Fred & Judie the Cutie

May God hold you in his hands and never make a fist.

Editor's Note: We received an e-mail from Larry DiPasquale informing us that Chaplain Fred and Judie's son was killed in a fall at his job on Thursday, March 4th, two days after Chaplain Fred wrote this column. Space would not allow us to print the obituary, but we will bring a copy of it to the reunion. We here at ML&RS, Inc send our sincere sympathy to Fred and Judie. If you would like to send your condolences to them, their address is 7038 Ross Rd, Springwater, NY 14506 or e-mail fredharrington@frontiernet.net.

ANOTHER ADVENTURE IN HITCHHIKING

Keith Yates, Y3 (1946-48):

On 14 August 1947 after seven months and sixteen days of overseas duty, the USS Purdy dropped anchor at Newport, Rhode Island. At that time one third of the crew left for a two week leave, one third left for a special 72 hour liberty, with the balance of the crew pulling duty. My buddy, Frank A. (Sandy) Sinclair, QM3, and I were lucky enough to receive 72 hour passes. The weather was great, so we decided to take a hitch-hiking trip to Cape Cod, which we heard was both historic and beautiful.

We left early on a Friday morning from Newport, Rhode Island where we caught the liberty boat from the ship to the dock, then hitched a ride up Aquidneck Island with a fellow heading to work at Portsmouth Station. We had obtained an area map, so knew what roads to take. Next, we caught a ride to

Tiverton, skirted Fall River and rode toward Wareham.

We kept getting short rides from people who seemed more than glad to give a ride to two sailors in uniform. Finally, a handsome young man in a convertible (with the top down) stopped and asked where we were headed. We said, "Cape Cod". So, he said, "I'm headed to Hyannis Port, hop in". Neither of us knew where that was, but he had indicated that it was on or near Cape Cod, so it sounded good to us.

He introduced himself, but his name didn't mean anything to us at that time. He said that he had been in the Navy during WWII and was headed home from Washington, DC for a few days. He asked us about our service, but I can't remember that he told us much a b o u t h i s .

At Hyannis, he dropped us off in

the little town and we then got a ride to Barnstable where we stayed over night in a small hotel.

Years later, Sandy and I were talking about that trip and we both are certain that we had caught a ride with John F Kennedy who served as U.S. President from 1960 until he was assassinated on November 22, 1963. He was a Navy PT boat captain during World War II who helped his crew to safety when their PT boat was cut in half by a Japanese destroyer. From 1947 to 1953 he served in Congress. It was in August 1947 when we caught the ride with him. His folks summer place was at Hyannis Port where the family gathered. So, all things add up! Little did we know at that time that we were riding with a Navy hero and future President. That was one hitchhiking trip we have never forgotten.

AN UNEXPECTED ENCOUNTER!

Editor's Note: We sent out an e-mail request for stories about meeting someone at an unexpected, far off place—either someone from your hometown while you were in the Navy or someone from the Navy after your returned home. If you didn't get a story in for this newsletter, please send it for the next issue. Here are the responses we received:

Frank Ironside:

After I had retired in 1970, I went to work for a retail outlet something like a K Mart, only here in the Detroit area. One warm day while everything wasn't going right, our air conditioning system went out, so we called an air conditioning repair service. After the job was done, everything was back to normal. I wasn't around when they came, but after everything was done I met the repairman. He and I were on the USS Cascade AD 16 at the same time. He was outside repair; I was ships company. I was

on Cascade in 1966. The Purdy had repairs along side the Cascade.

Daniel Zavisza, Capt, USNR- (Ret) Purdy 1960-62:

I have a couple of instances where I met someone I knew very well, but in a far-off place. I received my Navy commission on graduating from Holy Cross College in 1960, having also been in the NROTC program. After I was active for over a year, my ship, the USS Purdy, came into Barcelona, Spain, for a few days of liberty. I was with some shipmates walking around the square when I ran into a fellow college alumnus and also a NROTC graduate in my class. He was in the same chemistry and NROTC program I was in. His ship, another DD from another squadron was also in. We ate lunch together, then parted.

Even more of a coincidence happened in 1984 at the Athens, Greece, airport. I was returning from 15 days of duty at the Naval Air Facility, Souda Bay, Crete. In the airport in Athens I went to the waiting area for TWA (remember TWA?) and someone spoke out my first name. It was my laboratory partner from Clark University graduate school, Worcester, MA, where I got a degree in organic chemistry in 1967. We were both on the same plane going home. He remembered my name, but I had to fake it for a while before I could remember his! He was returning from a business conference in Athens representing DuPont. We exchanged info about our work for part of the trip, then parted at home.

I have not seen either of these fellows since.

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V. M. Van Grevenhof, Fox Division & Purdyman 1956-59:

After we hit and sank a fishing trawler off England in '57 or '58, we went to Portsmouth, England, for repairs. Given liberty there, Jim Capelo, John Boston and I went looking for a spot to wet our whistle. Walking 3 abreast and chatting, we turned a corner and I collided with a SP and knocked him flat. When I reached out to help him up, we both stopped and looked at each other in amazement. He was a close classmate in high school and sat next to me at our graduation. As someone once said, "Behave yourself wherever you are, as you don't know who you will meet that you know."

Jack Winans:

When I returned to Japan from Navy Electronics' School at Great Lakes to rejoin my ship, the USS Purdy, a familiar face met me on the dock in Sasebo, where his submarine was being refitted. It was my second cousin, Wayne Winans, who I didn't even know had joined the Navy.

If you didn't get a chance to tell your story of an unexpected meeting, please send it in for the next issue.



PLAN OF THE DAY FOR APRIL 1, 1945
U.S.S. PURDY


PLAN OF THE DAY FOR SUNDAY 1 APRIL 1945.

- 0345 REVEILLE—ALL HAND.**
- 0400 GENERAL QUARTERS**
- 0830 FIRST WAVE WILL LAND ON THE BEACH**


NOTICE: BREAKFAST AND DINNER WILL BE SERVED AT BATTLE STATIONS. IF FEASIBLE SUPPER WILL BE SERVED IN THE MESS HALL.

I.J. DAVENPORT


This Plan of the Day was typed in 1945 by **Dale Synder**, whose profile from the Navy Memorial is seen below. If you recall, April 1, 1945, was the day of the Okinawa Invasion. It was Easter Sunday and was the main landing day on Okinawa (L-Day). It was supported by the heaviest concentration of naval gunfire ever expended to support an amphibious landing. The Navy and Coast Guard landed 16,000 troops in the first hour on Hagushi, west-facing beaches. By nightfall more than 60,000 were ashore.



DALE ROBERT SNYDER



SAN DIEGO, CA 1945




Rate / Rank
Y2

Service Branch
USNR

Service Dates
6/1943 - 5/1946

Born
6/7/1926
TOWER CITY, PA



SIGNIFICANT DUTY STATIONS

- NTS SAMPSON, NY
- NTS NEWPORT, RI
- NTS NORFOLK, VA
- USS PURDY DD-734

1944-1946 COMMISSIOING CREW BANK MEMBER

SIGNIFICANT AWARDS

- NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION
- AMERICAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL
- ASIATIC PACIFIC CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/STAR
- WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL



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.

Elmer Kyle

Died October 8, 2009

Robert Squire (1945)

Died February 12, 2010

Bill Haynes

(1965-72) SK1

Date of death not reported

Gerald Smith

(1959-62) MM2 M Div

Date of death not reported

Ivan Schmer

(1946-49) PNC

Date of death not reported

Maurice Asselin

Date of death not reported

Robert Graves

(1958-59) SCDR

Died October 9, 2009

David Plante

(1965-73) ETC OI Div

Died June 15, 2009

Robert Rowe, Jr

(1951-54) SO2 Sonar

Died September 27, 2009

John Knoska, Jr

Date of death not reported

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.

MY FAVORITE THINGS (REVISED)

Submitted by Chester Kahapea

To commemorate her 69th birthday, Julie Andrews, actress/vocalist, made a special appearance at Mahattan's Radio City Music Hall for the benefit of AARP. One of the musical numbers she performed was "My Favorite Things" from the legendary "Sound of Music." Here are the lyrics she used:

Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Cadillacs, cataracts, hearing aids, glasses,
Polident, Fixodent, false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
These are a few of my favorite things.

When the pipes leak,
When the bones creak,
When the knees go bad,
I simply remember my favorite things,
And then I don't feel so bad!

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Back pains, confused brains, and no need for "sinning,"
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is "thinning,"
And we won't mention our short, shrunken frames,
When we remember our favorite things.

When joints ache,
When hips break,
When the eyes grow dim,
Then I remember the great life I've had,
And then I don't feel do bad!

PURDY MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE

JACKETS- - - - - \$57.00
SWEATSHIRTS- - \$26.00
POLO SHIRTS- - - \$18.00
HATS- - - - - \$13.00
T-SHIRTS- - - - - \$13.00
PATCHES- - - - - \$3.00

All prices include shipping.

To place an order or for questions, call Bill Dow at (860) 426-1278, or e-mail at:

bdowusspurdy@sbcglobal.net

Mail checks to Bill Dow, 11 Riverside Dr., Southington, CT 06489.

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*Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc
PO Drawer 11399
Hickory, NC 28603*

*828-256-6008 (voice)
828-256-6559 (fax)*

dina@mlrsinc.com

karen@mlrsinc.com (editor)

www.mlrsinc.com/purdy

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

FROM ML&RS, INC

OK Guys, here it is! We have found an outstanding reunion site for you – Plano, Texas! Your first question is probably “Where the heck is Plano, Texas”? It is a suburb of Dallas in proximity to all of the major Dallas-Ft Worth attractions. Historic downtown Plano holds something for everyone....shopping, dining, nightlife, culture, etc. Unique and one-of-a-kind of stores and boutiques line the brick street. In addition to shopping you can stop for a bite to eat and one of the many eateries located downtown or a drink after a hard days touring or shopping.

You owe it to yourself to consider Plano for your next reunion; you'll never regret the decision to allow Plano to host your 2011 reunion. We here at ML & RS, Inc heartily endorse Plano!

As your reunion planner for many years, you know we have never so enthusiastically endorsed any reunion site. Since this is an endorsement of Plano, not of a specific hotel, all we'll say about accommodations you will be more than pleased.

Some groups have actually extended their reunion by a day just to take advantage of everything that is available. Let me tell you, in no particular order, just a few of the things that are waiting for you in and around Plano; how much you do depends on how long you stay in Plano.

Southfork Ranch, home to the Ewings is probably the most famous place in Plano and no visit to the area would be complete without Southfork on your agenda. You can tour the famed Ewing Mansion and re-live exciting moments from the series in the "Dallas Legends" exhibit, featuring an exciting array of memorabilia from the series. See the gun that shot J.R., Lucy's Wedding Dress, the "Dallas" Family Tree, and Jock's Lincoln Continental. Relax on a guided tour of the ranch grounds. Eat at Miss Ellie's Deli and shop in two themed retail stores, offering a diverse selection of clothing, accessories, gifts, and collectibles. You will want to plan in advance for the fa-

mous South Fork Chuck Wagon-style buffet followed by some cowboy music. This is a special event for groups, not to be confused with the dinner that is open to the public. Anyone who doesn't love a Southfork evening is un-Texan!

For a taste of Texas night-life there is “Billy Bob's Texas” the world's largest “Country Music Honky-Tonk” where you ride and shoot the bull. Food is excellent, and there really is live bull riding right in the club – and be sure to take advantage of the photo bull. Did I forget to mention the live entertainment?

For the cowboys in the group a visit to the Ft Worth Stockyard Historic District is a must. Here you can see a real cattle drive. For the drovers heading **longhorn cattle** up the **Chisholm Trail** to the railheads, Fort Worth was the last major stop for rest and supplies. Beyond Fort Worth they would have to deal with crossing the Red River into Indian Territory. Between 1866 and 1890 more than four million head of cattle were trailed through Fort Worth which was soon known as “Cowtown” and had its own disreputable entertainment district several blocks south of the Courthouse area that was known all over the West as “**Hell's Half Acre**”, Now the beautiful Fort Worth Water Gardens.

For the more serious minded, you'll want see Dealey Square, the site of President Kennedy's assassination. See where the President was gunned down, visit the building the fatal shots were fired from, see the Courthouse where Jack Ruby shot Lee Harvey Oswald. All things and more are awaiting you and the cost is no more than you've been paying. Give it a try!

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 dues to the Purdy Association by its members. 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.
