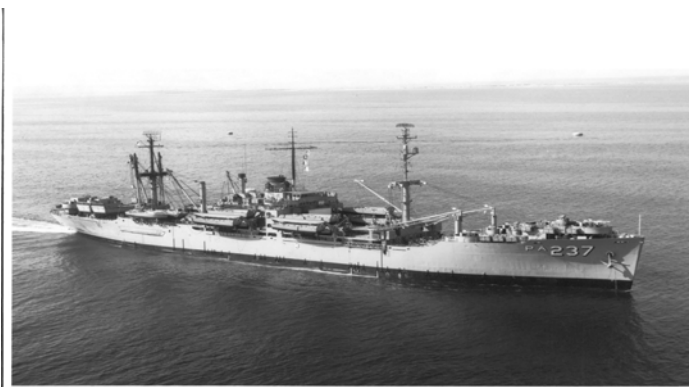


The BEXAR BROWN

Volume 10 Issue 1

October 2003

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS BEXAR APA-237



Items of Special Interest

- *A very special ceremony took place at this year's Bexar Reunion. Read about it in the cover story and on page four.*
- *See a list of reunion attendees on page two. Come be a part of them next year.*
- *On page three are stories heard at the reunion. If you have stories also, share them with the newsletter.*
- *WELCOME MAT on page four has nineteen new names to add to the roster. Hope you see an old friend.*
- *Read all about the Seattle/Tacoma area on page seven and fill out the survey on page eight.*

GREAT REUNION IN SAN ANTONIO 2003

San Antonio, TX had ninety-one very special guests on October 2-5, 2003, as the former sailors of the USS Bexar APA 237 held their reunion in the city. Forty-nine former crewmen and forty-two of their guests attended the reunion at the Sheraton Four Points River Walk North Hotel. San Antonio was chosen because it is located in the County of Bexar, for which the ship was named.

The hospitality room and registration opened at noon on Thursday, and the first formal event being the welcome reception at 5:00 PM that evening. Introductions were made and everyone had

a chance to see who had arrived. Friendships were rekindled over drinks and hors d'oeuvres as everyone made their way around the room to become acquainted. The rest of the evening was free to begin the reminiscing that is so vital to reunions.

Friday was an exceptionally special day. The group tour today included the reason for coming to San Antonio—presenting the Bronze plaque from the USS Bexar APA 237 to the Bexar County Courthouse. The plaque had been located on the superstructure on the 01 level between the Capt. and XO cabins. (See the related story on page 4.) After a wonderful tour of the Alamo, the

group was taken to the Courthouse for the plaque ceremony. Four members of the crew, James Fiorello, plankowner, 1945; Edward Poenicke, 1947-48; Bob Eskren, 1952-1956; and Marvin Tabor, 1961-63 represented the years in Naval service for the Bexar and presented the plaque to be placed on the Courthouse wall. The plaque reads: "The USS Bexar continuing in the gallant traditions reflected in the glowing history of San Antonio and Bexar County Texas." Judge Nelson Wolf and Commissioner Tommy Adkisson of Precinct A accepted the plaque and will place it in a place of honor. He spoke of the ship's his-

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

tory, accomplishments, the group's visit to San Antonio and his delight to be with the crew. Local TV and newspapers documented the event. Special thanks to Monique Vernon, Asst. to Judge Nelson, who, with other workers at the Courthouse, coordinated the special event. Following the ceremony, the tour continued as planned. It included a riding tour of historic Fort Sam Houston, where lunch was served in the Officer's Club. Closing out the day was a visit to the beautiful Sunken Gardens. After returning to the hotel, as requested, the rest of the day and evening was free to explore San Antonio on one's own. Most people chose to stroll the River Walk and find the perfect place to dine and be entertained for the evening.

The annual USS Bexar business was held on Saturday morning at 10:00 AM. Although Jim Redding was not able to attend the reunion, he was reconfirmed as the coordinator again for next year. The Seattle/Tacoma, WA area was chosen for the 2004 reunion site. Jon Mullarky spoke to the group on the opportunity to put a Bexar plaque on the wall in the Naval Heritage Center in Washington, DC. The plaque shows an outline of the ship and can be placed there for a donation by the group of \$2500. Jon volunteered to be in charge of the fund. A motion was made and approved to start the fund. It was discussed that the reunion would go East in two years, and if they are financially successful with the plaque fund, to go to DC in 2005 for the dedication. There was also a request for estimates on a Reunion Banner for the group, and the Hughes volunteered to do that.

Beginning at 12:30 PM was a tour that was especially fun for the ladies in the group who love to shop (and what lady doesn't!). This was called Shopping San Antonio Style Day. The first stop was at the San Antonio Shoe Factory and 1910 General Store. In addition to their famous shoes, the general store features items you thought were no

longer available, Cokes for a dime, popcorn for a nickel and much more. The next stop was at the San Antonio Mexican Market "El Mercado," the largest Mexican Market outside of Mexico. Then it was off to "La Villita" (Little Village). This original San Antonio village site is a beautifully landscaped historic district that offers a unique arts and crafts community with shops with everything from jewelry to hand woven clothing. This was certainly a "shop till you drop" day!

The Saturday evening festivities began with a pre-dinner cocktail hour and photo session at 6:30 PM, followed by the USS Bexar banquet at 7:30 PM. Special recognitions and announcements were made after the dinner meal. Three plankowners were present, at least 15 newcomers to the reunion and three shipmates and wives who have been to all nine reunions. Thomas Whiteley announced the engagement of his son Jason to Kelli Shoup, who were attending with him and his wife Carolyn. At the completion of the banquet, the memorial service was held to remember those who have died since the last reunion. Two members will be particularly missed because of their contributions of stories to the newsletter. Virgil Bell and Ivan Klatt both passed away in the past year. Art Henderson served as emcee, with Marvin Tabor as Chaplain. Larry Griggs read the role call and Don Grant pealed the bell. Katherine Hughes led the music. Next the Bexar Growl raffle was held, with items donated or made by the attendees. The money received from the raffle will go to the Bexar Growl Newsletter fund. It was a great evening, full of fun and laughter, one not soon forgotten.

Good-byes were said on Sunday morning as the reunion wound to a close. The 2003 USS Bexar reunion was over, but the good times will be remembered for a long time. More good times are in store for next year in Seattle/Tacoma, WA. Please come be a part of those good times too.

2003 REUNION ATTENDEES

Robert & Helen Askren
 Richard & Grace Beckley
 John & Sandra Beeler
 Glade & Lois Bigler
 Celedonio & Clariza Blancaflor
 Waynard & Johanne Bowling
 Sam & Celina Brito
 Ray Butler
 Eugene & Audrey Carr
 Robert & Katherine Cunningham
 George & Carol DeWald
 James & DeEtta Engelken
 Ray Fanguy
 James & Barbara Fiorello
 Joseph & Vicki Fisher
 Pablo & Angie Garcia
 Donald & Josephine Grant
 Eldon & Barbara Grater
 Jay & Diana Greenspan
 Larry & Janie Griggs
 Ronald Harris & Wanda Sparks
 Arthur & Valerie Henderson
 Martin & Katherine Hughes
 Toshio Kimura
 Edward & Marianne Lefebvre
 Jack London
 Walter (Steve) Malloy
 Urshal & Pat Moore
 Wayne & Joy Moreland
 Jon Mullarky
 William & Sally Patton
 Edward & Janet Poenicke
 James & Rita Register
 Travis & Jerry Riley
 James & Jacqueline Rome
 Neilon & Lorna Rowan
 Robert & Lynette Schultz
 Mel & Judy Schweitzer
 John & Ginny Shaffran
 Cary & Beverly Shore
 Michael & Juanita Steinbach
 Marvin & Dolly Tabor
 Joe & Melba Talbott
 Jed & Karen Weidell
 Robert & Fumiko Weiss
 Jason Whiteley & Kelli Shoup
 Thomas & Carolyn Whiteley
 Robert Williams
 Fred & Marie Zoeller
Total Members: 49
Total Guests: 42
GRAND TOTAL: 91

Not-For-Profit *Ship's Store*

Through the efforts of some of your shipmates this enterprise has come to fruition. For items indicated, necessary minimum purchases all have been made and sold to obtain these low prices. Now you all may individually order direct.

BUMPER STICKER (4" by 11")



Cost: \$4.00 (includes shipping)
Check or M/O payable to:
Photovision, Inc.
and notated USS BEXAR
Mail to:
Photovision, Inc.
P.O. Box 313
Riverton, N. J. 08077

EMBROIDERED PATCH (3")



Cost: \$3.25 (includes shipping)
Check or M/O payable to:
John Flynn
And notated USS BEXAR
Mail to:
John Flynn
P.O. Box 23518
Washington, D.C. 20026

STORIES FROM THE REUNION

Lois Nangle has been the ML&RS site representative for the Bexar Reunion for seven out of the nine reunions, but this one she will certainly remember. Lois had the unfortunate experience of having laryngitis for the entire reunion. And for those of you who know Lois, you can imagine how hard that was on her! She filled up a yellow legal pad with her notes to everyone! However, voice or no voice, Lois was able to bring back stories she heard from some of the attendees. Here are some of those tales.

Jim Engelken, RM 2 (56-58) had been looking for other Radiomen of that era, and this was the banner year! Urshal Moore, Jed Weidell, Mel Schweitzer, Fred Zoeller and Martin Hughes were all there from that time span. They had a wonderful time getting reacquainted.

Another reunion within the reunion was among Wayne Bowling, HM3; James Register, HN; Joseph Talbott, MM3; and Joseph Fisher, MM3. These men became medically acquainted on August 9th, 1959 when a typhoon hit between Yokosuka and Okinawa. Fisher and Talbott were enjoying fresh air and sunny weather topside as there were 1200 Marines on board, mostly sick, below deck, and they needed air. Suddenly the weather changed. A big trough of water hit the ship broadside and threw them into the life raft stand. Talbott sustained 2 broken legs, a broken collar bone, a fractured skull and was out cold. Fisher was in a coma and given last rites. Bowling and Register did their best to keep them stable as the ship returned to Yokosuka. They spent three months in the hospital before they were physically able to be sent stateside for further operations and hospitalization. Operations included 2 sets of hips, broken knee fixed, partial hand paralysis and possibly more that

they did not tell. As delighted as we were to have them at the 2003 reunion, they said, "We're just happy to be here!"

Larry Griggs checked the Sentimental Journal's master mailing list and got the current telephone number for Eldon Surratt. He called him and was delighted to say, "He's alive and well!"

During banquet conversations Sam Brito HM3 (53-54) related that he made extra money by doing laundry for others. Seems there were guys who didn't do laundry!



TAPS

The Growl was notified of the following shipmates' deaths since the last newsletter was published. Our deepest sympathy goes to the widow, family and friends of the deceased.

Al Flanigan
Died January 12, 2003

Ivan Klatt
(1953-55) LT Supply
Died June 26, 2003

Erwin Koellermier
Died July 2002

BEXAR HAT REQUEST

Some at the reunion requested that the Bexar hats that will be for sale have the silhouette of the Bexar, as well as the name and hull number. These can be made available, but only if an order of at least 36 hats is received. If less than 36 orders are received, the hat will have only the ship name and hull number. Order forms will be sent out in November.



WELCOME MAT

The following shipmates were located since the last newsletter was published. Welcome Aboard! We hope to see you at the next reunion. You are invited to become an active member of the association.

If you think you recognize a former shipmate and wish to make contact, please contact your association Membership Secretary for additional information. His contact information is indicated page 5, last column of this newsletter.

Nelson Aguillard
 Charles Hunnicutt
 Warren Willis (1967-68) ETN2 OEDiv
 Pablo Garcia (1961-63) EN3/EN2 A Div
 Edward Martin (1954-55) ENFN A Div
 Bill Foster
 Marvin Worthy
 Jerome Wilkinson (1952-54) SN1st
 Cesaro Emano
 Thomas Whiteley (1968-69) BT3 B Div
 Ray Fanguy (1966-69) SM
 Kenneth Dillinger (1960-61) BMS Boat
 Dennis Helms (1966-67) SK3 Sup.
 Ewald Schreiber (60-63) FN, EN3, EN2 A Div
 John McKinley (1951-54) QM2 N Div
 Sam Brito (1953-54) HM3 H Div
 Richard Head (1965-67) SN 1st/ Ops
 B. L. Heckathorn (1953-54) BM3 Deck
 Gene Santee

YOUR STORIES NEEDED

With the Bexar newsletter only going out to those who have sent in their \$5.00 dues, we have seen a decrease in letters for MAIL CALL. (None this issue.) We need your help more than ever to send us your tales from your days on board. Some ideas:

- Crossing the equator
- A favorite liberty
- First day on board
- Favorite or worst memory

VETERAN'S DAY

In 1918, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month, the world rejoiced and celebrated. After four years of bitter war, the Allied powers signed a cease-fire agreement (an armistice) with Germany at Rethondes, France on November 11, 1918, bringing World War I to a close. The "war to end all wars" was over.

November 11, 1919 was set aside as Armistice Day in the United States, to remember the sacrifices that men and women made during World War I in order to ensure a lasting peace. On Armistice Day, soldiers who survived the war marched in a parade through their home towns. Politicians and veteran officers gave speeches and held ceremonies of thanks for the peace they had won.

Armistice Day officially received its name in the United States in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later. Congress voted Armistice Day a federal holiday in 1938, 20 years after the war ended. But Americans realized that the previous war would not be the last one. World War II began the following year and nations great and small again participated in a bloody struggle. After the Second World War, Armistice Day continued to be observed on November 11.

In 1953 townspeople in Emporia, Kansas called the holiday Veteran's Day in gratitude to the veterans in their town. Soon after, Congress passed a bill introduced by a Kansas congressman renaming the federal holiday to Veteran's Day. Beginning in 1954, the United States designated November 11 as Veteran's Day to honor veterans of all U.S. wars. In 1971 President Nixon declared it a federal holiday on the second Monday in November.

BRONZE PLAQUE MAKES ITS WAY TO SAN ANTONIO

The story of how the Bronze plaque from the USS Bexar APA 237 finally found its way to the Bexar County Courthouse is a long and sometimes frustrating story. It began in 1968 with a visit by Eugene Szolga to the Bexar, which was being decommissioned. There is his story as reported in the February 1998 issue of the Bexar Bulletin.

I left the Navy in 1956 to return in 1957. At this time I was living in St. Louis, MO and had lost my job with Frisco Railroad. When I re-enlisted, I requested to be granted duty on the East Coast, but instead I was sent back to San Diego where I started my Navy career.

I received orders to report on the Bexar, where I served in the 2nd Division and remained for about a year and a half. I left the ship in '58 to put the USS Paul Revere in commission.

Well, to make a long story short, I reported back on board in 1960 or 1961 in "E" Division. (While I was on Paul Revere I had made third class electrician.)

When I left for the last time, I went to North Island Naval Air Station for two years shore duty. In 1968 I went on shore duty again to PAC RES Fleet 32nd St Naval Station. During this time, the Navy decided to put the Bexar out of commission. One day I went on board and asked the yard birds for a small momento of the ship. To my surprise one of the workers came back and gave me the Bronze plaque that was on the superstructure on the 01 level between the Capt. & XO cabins. I have been the unofficial custodian of it.

I have been carrying it everywhere I go and I would like to present it to the Bexar association some day if they ever have a mu-

(Continued on page 5)

BRONZE PLAQUE

(Continued from page 4)
 seum. I would hate to see it lost after all these years of having it in my possession for some 30 years (give or take a year).

Yours in the Naval Tradition
 Eugene N Szolga, EM2 (Ret)

That was five and a half years ago. Now to catch you up on the happenings since then.

Mr. Szolga sent the plaque to James Redding, who in turn sent it to the Bexar County Courthouse. The plaque was now in the hands of the public information officer at the Courthouse, although the Bexar Association did not know who at the Courthouse had possession of it. As the reunion time grew nearer, it took several frantic phone calls to actually locate the plaque. After several false leads, it was finally found, and now it will have a permanent place of honor in the Bexar County Courthouse.

THANKS FROM LOIS

Hi there Bexar Reunionites!

Thanks for being so patient with voiceless Lois. After doing your reunion 7 of the 9 years, it was great renewing old acquaintances. I couldn't have done it without you—especially Art Henderson, the ,Askrens, Grants, and Hughes to mention a few. Looking forward to Seattle, with a voice!

Fondly,
 Lois Nangle
 ML&RS Site Manager

PICITURES FOUND

Pictures from the Bexar reunion were found in the hospitality room by the hotel staff and sent to ML&RS. If they belong to you, please contact us. Our address is to the right.

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The BEXAR GROWL is the official publication of the USS BEXAR Association. From now on it will be published quarterly in January, April, July, and October, *subject to receiving sufficient funding.* The Newsletter is currently funded by annual subscription of \$5.00 per annum, per member and all other monies raised/donated are added to this fund. 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.

ML&RS, Inc is not responsible for the accuracy of articles submitted for publication. It would be a monumental 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.

It should be understood that this newsletter is for the participation in, by and for the enjoyment of all Bexar shipmates. That it is also recognized that many shipmates for reasons of health, distance/travel, etc. are not able to attend reunions and may feel left out is a concern. To address this, we urge these folks, most especially, to write in letters and articles that reflect on memorable experiences/incidents/shipmates. You may be surprised that such may provoke a former shipmate to seek you out, via phone, regular mail or e-mail to reminisce and get reacquainted . That is the main reason for maintaining and disseminating the mailing list... to provide "contact" information. Don't pass up the experience.

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

From now on, only those who have paid the \$5.00 dues will be receiving the *Bexar Growl*. The new subscription year begins when the memorabilia order forms are sent out after each reunion. Please encourage any of your former shipmates that you are still in contact with to make their dues payment so they can receive the newsletter. We also highly recommend (O.K.—beg) that you write a letter or article describing any memorable event or your general experience while on board the BEXAR. Send in your stories to Military Locator & Reunion Service at our address below. Let's have a newsletter filled with *your* stories from now on.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Funds available after 07/03 issue
\$1712.56
 Funds received since 07/03 issue
\$310.00
 Total available for 10/03 issue
\$2022.56
 Funds expended for 10/03 issue
\$147.89
Bal remaining for 01/04 issue
\$1874.67

The Bexar Growl will be sent only to those who have paid the **\$5.00** annual subscription from now on.

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"Our Reunions work So You don't have To"

USS BEXAR REUNION ASSOCIATION

Membership Secretary
Robert 'Bob' Weiss
 631-399-1717 or
ussbexar@surfbest.net

YOUR HEALTH AND YOU

The latest on various health issues of concern to members and their loved ones
Submitted by Bob Weiss

Screening and Diagnosing of Prostate Cancer

What is the best way to screen for prostate cancer?

Prostate cancer screening recommendations vary widely. Some organizations believe that prostate cancer screening has not been proven to reduce the number of overall deaths attributed to the disease. Other organizations, like the American Cancer Society and the American Urological Association, believe that the majority of evidence supports the view that prostate cancer screening can save lives. Your health care provider can assist you in making a decision about which screening tests are right for you.

Digital rectal examination (DRE)

A digital rectal examination can be performed to screen for prostate cancer as part of an annual physical exam in men age 50 or older (and in younger men who are at increased risk). During this test, a doctor inserts a gloved and lubricated finger into the rectum to feel for any abnormally firm or irregularly shaped area of the prostate that might be cancer. The prostate gland is located near the rectum and many prostate tumors begin in an area that can be felt on rectal examination. While the rectal exam may be a bit unpleasant, it can be performed quickly.

Prostate specific antigen (PSA) test

The PSA test is a blood test, which measures a protein that is manufactured by prostate gland cells. The American Cancer Society recommends that this test be offered each year to men 50 and older with a life expectancy of at least 10

years, and to younger men with higher prostate cancer risk.

The PSA test results are reported as nanograms per milliliter or ng/ml. Results under 4ng/ml are usually considered normal. Results above 10ng/ml are high and values between 4 and 10 are considered borderline. The greater the PSA level, the greater the chance that prostate cancer exists.

It is important to realize that the PSA is a screening tool and not a diagnostic indicator for prostate cancer; PSA is used to estimate the likelihood of prostate cancer. The level can be elevated in benign conditions of the prostate and at times it may appear normal when prostate cancer is present.

PSA levels are also useful in monitoring men who have had prostate cancer. Often a rising PSA level can provide an early warning sign that the prostate cancer is returning, and early intervention can then be instituted.

Transrectal ultrasound

Transrectal ultrasound (TRUS) may be suggested if the digital rectal exam or PSA levels are abnormal. The test involves the insertion of a probe into the rectum. Pictures are then recorded using sound waves that create an image of the prostate gland.

During the TRUS, a biopsy may be obtained if a suspicious area of the prostate is identified. The test is generally performed in a doctor's office or outpatient setting. It usually takes less than 30 minutes to perform.

How is the diagnosis of prostate cancer confirmed?

Since most early cases of prostate cancer produce no symptoms, it may first be suspected after one of the screening tools is implemented.

Other signs may include difficulty in starting or maintaining a flow of urine, increase in the urge to urinate or blood in the urine. Symptoms of advanced prostate cancer can include pain in the pelvis, hips, spine or ribs, weight loss, weakness, and swelling of the lymph nodes in the groin.

Once the suspicion of prostate cancer exists, a biopsy will be needed to confirm the diagnosis and plan the best course of treatment. A biopsy can be performed via the TRUS, whereby a selection of tissue is removed from several areas of the prostate gland to get an adequate sampling and determine how invasive the disease has become. The biopsy can be performed in a doctor's office or outpatient setting.

After a biopsy is obtained, the tissue is sent to a laboratory and examined by a pathologist. A report will be available in about one week. If the biopsy is positive, meaning that cancer cells have been identified, a grading system will be used to estimate the aggressiveness of the tumor cells and the likelihood that the cancer will proliferate.

If the biopsy report indicates the presence of cancer, additional testing will be needed to find out if the disease has spread beyond the prostate gland to surrounding organs. This is referred to as staging. The stage of cancer is the most important factor in determining treatment options.

Tests that may be necessary to determine the stage of prostate cancer include a computed tomography (CAT) scan, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan, bone scan, and lymph node biopsy.

We have received word that **Delmar Ayre** is recovering from heart surgery. If you would like to send him get well wishes, you may do so at: 1207 McAdams Rd, Salina, KS 67401.

VISIT THE SEATTLE/TACOMA AREA FOR 2004

Beautiful Washington state, in particular the Seattle/Tacoma area, has been chosen as the site for the 2004 Bexar reunion. We will tempt you with all the great things about the area in the descriptions below, and hope you will choose to come to see for yourself all Seattle had to offer. More information about the dates and hotel site will be published in the newsletter as plans are made. But for now, just enjoy reading about the area you have chosen for the next reunion.

Seattle is situated on the shores of two large lakes and Puget Sound. It is flanked by two major mountain ranges (Olympics and Cascades), with Mount Rainier in full view. Some of the major attractions will be described and you will be asked to choose from them for your reunion activities. After reading the descriptions, please take time to fill out the survey on page four of the newsletter. We will then design your reunion activities to your wishes.

If you have only one experience in Seattle, make it **Tillicum Village**. During the harbor cruise that takes you to the village, you will cross Puget Sound and view the magnificent scenery and perhaps encounter a sea lion, dolphin, or soaring eagle. Tillicum Village's "longhouse" is styled in the fashion of the ancient dwellings of the North Coast Indians. There you will savor delicious fresh Pacific salmon prepared on cedar stakes over alder fires, the traditional method. The entire island is part of Blake Island State Park and is accessible only by boat.

The **USS TURNER JOY**, a Forrest Sherman class destroyer, is now on display at the **Bremerton Historic Ships Association**. Most of the ship is open to the public, including the aft engine room and the fire room (boiler room). One of

the compartments has been turned into a POW Memorial, an authentic prison cell replica from the infamous Hoa Lo Prison (nicknamed Hanoi Hilton) in Vietnam.

The **Naval Undersea Museum** represents the history of human enterprise under the sea. Among the most important undersea activities are the adventures of the U. S. Navy's undersea forces, which helped to bring victory in war and to maintain America strong in peace. The Navy's saga in the undersea is told through its exciting collection and interpretation of vintage objects.

The **Space Needle** stood as the centerpiece of the 1962 World's Fair. Since then it has become one of the top attractions in Seattle. It's a 43-second view-filled ride in a 10-mph elevator to reach the observation deck. There, maps describe what you're seeing in each direction, and telescopes offer close-up views of Elliot Bay or of Mount Rainier 90 miles away. Just below the observation deck is the famous Space Needle Restaurant that makes a complete revolution every 55 minutes.

The **Pike Place Market** is known around the world. It has been featured in such movies as *Sleepless in Seattle* and is often seen on television for those airborne salmon hurled through the air by employees at the Pike Place Market Inc. There you will find florists, artisans, and craftsmen of jewelry and clothing, as well as the original Starbucks Coffee shop across the street. See fish from around the world, smell flowers from local farmers, hear street performers strumming guitars, sample honey, nuts and other foods from local vendors. With produce from over 100 farmers and wares from over 200 artists, there's plenty to take in.

The **International District** is known for its ethnic and cultural diversity, and is home to a concentra-

tion of Seattle's Asian shops, restaurants, businesses, and residences. Hing Hay Park is located here with its authentic Chinese pagoda. Although primarily Asian, the district is also home to many other nationalities, including Greeks, Italians, and Russians.

Ballard Locks are operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks provide a link for boats traveling between the salt water of Puget Sound and the Ship Canal, which connects to the fresh water of both Lake Washington and Lake Union. Here you will find two navigational locks, a fish ladder, a botanical garden, a regional visitor center and bookstore, and a spillway dam.

Mount Rainier is a 14,411 foot high dormant volcano, capped with glaciers and can be seen for hundreds of miles on a clear day. See alpine meadows, cascading waterfalls, clear mountain lakes and spectacular canyons.

Mount St. Helens erupted violently on May 18, 1980, with the force of 20,000 atomic bombs. In the earthquake triggered landslide that followed, over 1,300 feet of the mountain's top flooded into the valley below. For 150,000 square miles from the impact zone, every living thing above ground was destroyed. In twenty years life has slowly returned to the area, but the devastation remaining will impact everyone who views this landscape.

Seattle's **Museum of Flight** tracks the history of aviation. Become a fighter pilot for a moment when you jump into the cockpit of an F/A-18, or pay your respects to space exploration at the Apollo exhibit and Rendezvous In Space. Visit Boeing's original plane, the B&W, in the awe-inspiring six-story

(Continued from page 7)

steel and glass Great Gallery. Then, wrap up your tour with a lesson on the early days of aviation in the Red Barn, Boeing's original plant, and a walk through presidential history aboard the first Air Force One.

As you can see, there is a lot to see and do in Seattle. Hopefully this overview of some of the major attractions will help you decide what you most want to have on your reunion agenda. Make your wishes heard by filling out the survey and returning it promptly so plans can be finalized. See you in Seattle!

MANAGEMENT LESSON

The boy rode on the donkey and the old man walked. As they went along, they passed some people who remarked, "It was a shame the old man was walking and the boy was riding." The man and boy thought maybe the critics were right, so they changed positions.

Later, they passed some people that remarked, "What a shame, he makes the little boy walk." They decided they both would walk!

Soon they passed some more people who thought they were stupid to walk when they had a decent donkey to ride. So they both rode the donkey!

Now they passed some people that shamed them by saying, "How awful to put such a load on a poor donkey." The boy and man said they were probably right so they decided to carry the donkey. As they crossed the bridge, they lost their grip on the animal and he fell into the river and drowned.

MANAGEMENT LESSON: *If you try to please everyone, you will eventually lose your ass.*

**2004 USS BEXAR REUNION SURVEY
SEATTLE/TACOMA, WA AREA**

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey of the attractions in the Seattle area and return it to Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc. We will use the surveys to custom design your reunion to what you want to do.

Please check the attractions you would like to visit during the reunion.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Tillicum Village _____ | International District _____ |
| USS Turner Joy _____ | Naval Undersea Museum _____ |
| Space Needle _____ | Mount Rainier National Park _____ |
| Pike Place Market _____ | Mount St. Helens _____ |
| Ballard Locks _____ | Museum of Flight _____ |

Would you like a Welcome Reception the first evening of the reunion?
Yes _____ No _____

Do you prefer breakfast all three mornings _____
or only on Sunday? _____

Would you prefer dinner Friday night at the Tillicum Village _____
or dinner at the hotel? _____

Do you want entertainment after the banquet? Yes _____ No _____

Other comments or suggestions _____

Return to:

**Military Locator & Reunion Service
PO Drawer 11399
Hickory, NC 28603
or
Fax: 828-256-6559**

Return surveys by:

December 19, 2003