

# YANCEY MEMORIES

Volume 15, Issue 4

October 2011



## 2011 USS YANCEY REUNION RECAP

New Orleans, Louisiana was the location for the 2011 USS Yancey reunion. Fourteen former shipmates from the Yancey and 8 of their guests enjoyed the four day/three night event on October 6-9 at the Crown Plaza Airport Hotel. Everyone began arriving on Thursday, October 6, and the first thing most of them did after registration was to go into the hospitality room to see who else had arrived. At 5:00 PM the Welcome Reception brought everyone together for the first time and the reunion was officially underway. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks were served during the reception as everyone made the rounds to see and greet old friends. Henry Diebel, who served aboard from 1957 - 1958, was the only new attendee this year and was quickly welcomed into the group. The remainder of the evening was spent reminiscing and catching up on what happened since the last reunion.

Friday morning provided perfect weather for our first tour of the weekend. At 9:30 the group departed the hotel for the World War II Museum. The first thing on the agenda when the group arrived was watch the Tom Hanks film "Beyond All Boundaries" in the Victory Theater. This film is beyond description and we would recommend it to anyone that visits the museum. After the film there was a brief introduction by a museum volunteer who thanked all for their service and provided the group with information on how the museum started and what they could expect to see. The group was then free to explore the museum at their own pace. The second floor contained exhibits from the War in Europe and the third floor was dedicated to the war in the Pacific. The visit to the museum was a day well spent and many in the group said it was better than they expected.

At 6:00 PM the social hour began and everyone enjoyed a New Orleans style dinner buffet. After dinner George Clifton officially greeted everyone and started the round of introductions. Although most of the group knew one another, there is usually something new to learn during introductions. After the introductions, four of our reunion couples were brave enough to engage in the newlywed game. There were a lot of laughs and we don't think anyone ended up sleeping on the floor. The winning couple was Duane and Bette Malme, with the Suchys, Boyds and Gillespies close behind.

Saturday morning started with the Annual Business Meeting. George Clifton brought up the possibility of joint reunions in the future due to the small numbers. He was contacted by the USS Muliphen and USS Rankin regarding interest in joint reunions with

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### French Quarter in New Orleans



PUBLISHED BY:  
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  
[www.mlrsinc.com/yancey](http://www.mlrsinc.com/yancey)

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

*(Continued from page 1)*

other AKAs. These reunions intend to have separate hospitality rooms and banquets. Additionally, MLRS is organizing a reunion for small groups that will be in Chattanooga, Tennessee next September. So far a destroyer and light cruise have signed up. Since the Yancey is a better fit with the AKA group, George will contact them to get more information. The vote was taken to determine the location for the 2012 reunion, and San Diego beat out Salt Lake City by a vote of 9 to 3. Next the group decided that Norfolk, Virginia or Washington DC would be the location of the 2014 reunion.

Next the group was off for a luncheon cruise aboard the steamboat Natchez. By 11:30 the attendees were underway for a cruise of the Mississippi that included lunch and a Dixieland band. Although the day was exceptionally windy, most stayed on deck after lunch to enjoy the fresh air and the sights of the Mississippi. The cruise ended at 1:30 and after disembarking the Natchez everyone was on their own to shop and explore the French Quarter. We hear some even ventured down Bourbon Street.

At 6:00 it was time to have individuals and couples pictures taken for the memory book and enjoy some cocktails followed by a Prime Rib dinner. Since the reunion was in "their neck of the woods" so to speak, Norm and Connie Boyd invited their son and daughter along with their spouses to join everyone for dinner. After dinner there was time for some group pictures and more conversation.

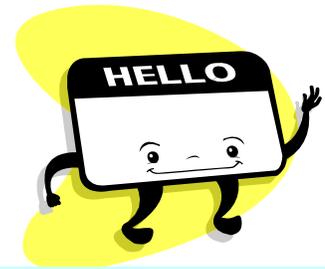
Sunday morning brought the end of the reunion. After a buffet breakfast it was time for the Memorial Service to remember those USS Yancey shipmates who had passed away, especially those since the last reunion. Paul Smith, John Karlis and Bill Welfare led the service. As the names from the Honor Roll were read, a bell was tolled in their memory followed by Taps and a hand salute. It was now time to

bring the reunion to a close and there were many hugs and handshakes before leaving. Reunions bring up old memories and old feelings that are sometimes hard to let them go, but there will be next year. See you in San Diego.

## A Word from Your Coordinator

I just returned from a great reunion in New Orleans. As stated in the business meeting section of the reunion recap; we likely will have to participate in a joint reunion in the future due to the shrinking number of attendees. The reality is that our membership is not getting any younger or healthier, and the Yancey was decommissioned in 1971 resulting in no new shipmates. I will be glad to share any new information regarding joint reunions before the quarterly newsletters. Anyone that would like this information should provide me with their email address. We were unsure about this past reunion because most waited until the last minute to sign up. Since we can't wait until September to determine if we can have our own reunion it was suggested that anyone who is planning on attending next year let us know now. This will be a great help in planning the next reunion. At our meeting in New Orleans nine shipmates committed to the 2012 reunion in San Diego. Obviously no one will be held to this if circumstance won't allow them to attend after they commit. Hopefully many of you will contact MLRS and add to that number so we can be assured of having our own reunion. However I will continue to communicate with the AKA groups as most agree a joint reunion is better than no reunion. If anyone has any other ideas or thoughts, please feel free to share them. I hope you all have a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**George Clifton**



## 2011 REUNION ATTENDEES

Norman, Connie, Robert & Melinda Boyd  
 Marc & Betty Britt  
 George Clifton  
 Henry Diebel & James Gordon  
 Elton & Ada Fauber  
 Eugene Foss & Christy Mantecna  
 Walter & Toby Gillespie  
 Kenneth Groom  
 John Karlis  
 Duane & Betty Malme  
 Dick & Nadine McIntosh  
 Jay & Betty Lee Schwall  
 Paul Smith, Jr.  
 William & Nancy Suchy  
 William Welfare

<b>Total Members:</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Guests:</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>23</b>

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT



Balance after 07/11	<b>\$432.74</b>
Funds received since 07/11	<b>\$ 80.00</b>
Funds available for 10/11	<b>\$512.74</b>
Funds expended for 10/11	<b>\$177.06</b>
Balance for 01/12	<b>\$335.68</b>

The newsletter is being mailed only to those who returned the coupon for USPS service. All others can access the newsletter on line at [www.mlrsinc.com/yancey](http://www.mlrsinc.com/yancey).

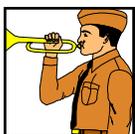
Thank you to all who helped support the newsletter with your contributions. We greatly appreciate your support.



## WELCOME MAT

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

**Edward Roelke**  
(1963-65) YN3  
871 Brookside Dr  
Toms River, NJ 08753  
732-818-9434  
eroelke@comcast.net



## TAPS

The Yancey Memories was notified of the following shipmates' deaths. Our deepest sympathy is extended to the families of the deceased. Anyone who knows of a deceased shipmate, or learns of one, please notify ML & RS, Inc so their names can be included in TAPS and be added to the Honor Roll.

**John Dorr** (1967) EM1  
Died August 9, 1982

**John Sweat** (1965-67) EM1  
Died October 20, 2007

**Richard "Dutch" Gehrlich**  
(1946-50) EN2 Eng  
Died October 26, 2010

**Henry "Hank" Pohlmann**  
(1951-55) MM1 M Div  
Died July 6, 2011

## YANCEY HISTORY

Continued from July 2011 issue: Submitted by Henry Diebel

Her sojourn in reserve, however, proved short. On 17 November 1961, as part of President John F. Kennedy's bid to build up the United States Navy, Yancey was recommissioned at Portland, Oreg., Capt, Gordon R. Keating in command.

Soon to join the Atlantic Fleet, Yancey departed San Diego on 12 January 1962 and reached Norfolk, her new assigned home port, on 2 February, there becoming the newest member of Amphibious Squadron (PhibRon) 12. Over the ensuing months, Yancey took part in a varied slate of exercises and maneuvers.

Yancey participated in Operation "Phiblex" in the spring of 1962, operating off Roosevelt Roads and Vieques, Puerto Rico. She later paid a port call at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands before she returned to Roosevelt Roads and reloaded equipment and embarked marines slated to return to Morehead City, NC. Subsequently returning to Norfolk on 2 May, Yancey touched briefly at Charleston, SC, to take on additional landing craft before returning to the Tidewater region to spend the remainder of May.

Subsequently visiting Boston, Mass., and Rockland, Maine, Yancey participated in amphibious boat exercises at Provincetown, Mass., before she got underway on 24 July for Davisville, RI. There she loaded a Seabee unit and their equipment and headed eastward, bound for Rota, Spain.

Offloading one Seabee unit and onloading another, Yancey then paused briefly at Gibraltar before touching at Lisbon on the return leg of her voyage to the United States. Disembarking the Seabees and unloading their equipment at Davisville, Yancey headed back to Norfolk reaching her home port on 18 August 1962.

On 17 October, Yancey again sailed from Norfolk and proceeded to Morehead City, NC to load marines and equipment for Operation "PhiBrigLex" (Amphibious Birgade Exercises) slated for Vieques, Puerto Rico. Upon arrival, the attach cargo ship loaded immediately and set out to join the rest of the ships in the squadron. She soon was fighting her way through Hurricane "Ella" which caused her to alter her course to avoid the most severe part of the storm.

Meanwhile, a crisis was brewing in the Caribbean. American reconnaissance had disclosed the presence of Soviet offensive missiles on Cuban soil. Accordingly, on 23 October 1962, President Kennedy ordered a naval quarantine of Cuba to make sure that no more offensive weapons were taken to that island. Yancey supported the ensuing naval operations in waters near Cuba as the United States and the Soviet Union stood, in Secretary of State Dean Rusk's words, "eyeball to eyeball."

After the removal of the offensive missiles, tension relaxed, and Yancey resumed her former routine of operations along the eastern seaboard and into the Caribbean. Over the next eight years, Yancey deployed regularly to the Mediterranean, where she joined in multilateral NATO exercises and supported the United States 6th Fleet's presence in that area of the world.

*To be continued in January 2012 issue*



## MAIL CALL

Hi Dina,

Just a suggestion for a future reunion. We located where the

Yancey is sunk as a reef off the coast of North Carolina. Why not plan a reunion where you can rent boats and take the guys out. I did do some inquiry several years ago for my husband who was on the Yancey.

**Karin Ordway Frederickson**

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

Karen Hoyle, Editor, ML&RS, Inc,

Thank you for the information you forwarded on the USS Ebony YN-10.

I served on board this ship from May '42 till 1-2-43. I was RM1C and had a RM1C and a RM3C to make up the radio gang.

We sailed from San Francisco May 1942 to Fiji Islands where we installed battleship moorings in the anchorage between the barrier reef and the west coast of Fiji.

Later en route to Auckland, NZ we went through a typhoon. It was one time I had everything on familiar terms with the Lord.

In Auckland, I was assigned duty with ComSoPac Radio station. Later duty on Tulagi BSI and return to the USA for transfer to the commissioning of the USS Yancey.

Thanks again for your information.

Walden Danielson

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## LOSING A SHIPMATE

*Editor's Note: An e-mail was sent out asking for your memory of losing a shipmate. The following response was received:*

From **William Tenseth:**

I was stationed in Bremerton, Washington at the Mothball Fleet. A good friend of mine and another sailor decided to go duck hunting on New Years Day 1961. The two found a spot and hunkered down waiting for some ducks. One of the two happened to shoot a duck. Mind you now, they didn't have a boat to retrieve the duck. My friend decided to swim out to retrieve the duck. He got out to the duck but had a problem getting back. His hunting friend threw an old oil barrel out to him for flotation. However the drum kept spinning so he couldn't get a grip on it, as a result the man drowned.

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## SAN DIEGO FOR 2012 REUNION

San Diego is a great location to host a reunion. The history of modern San Diego begins with Alonzo Horton, the former New Englander. In 1867, he purchased nearly 1,000 jackrabbit-infested acres (for about 27 cents each) along the harbor, initially giving away lots to anyone who would agree to build on them. By the turn of the century, "New Town" contained more than 300 buildings and had replaced Old Town as the center of San Diego commerce.

As we explore the downtown you will see Horton's legacy lives on in the unique citadel of shopping and dining that bears his name, **Horton Plaza**, located in Gaslamp Quarter where Horton's development first began.

The 16-block **Gaslamp Quarter** has become the hottest place since the development of Horton Plaza in 1985 and the creation of San Diego Convention Center. Also, there are round-the-clock activities in the area with shops, galleries, coffee houses, theatre spaces and dozens of restaurants.

On the waterfront is the **San Diego Maritime Museum** showcasing San Diego's rich maritime past. It consists of the century-old windjammer *Star of India*, the steam ferry *Berkeley* and the luxury yacht *Medea*.

We have established a really good relationship with the Public Affairs Office on the Naval Base, and barring alerts, or some other special occasion, we can normally arrange a guided tour on an active duty ship. We of course have no control over the type of ship. One reunion we hosted in San Diego got a 3 1/2 hour tour of USS VALLEY FORGE and were treated like VIPs. It was the highlight of the

(Continued on page 5)

## STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The YANCEY MEMORIES is the official publication of the USS YANCEY AKA-93 Association. From now on it will be published quarterly in January, April, July, and October, *subject to receiving sufficient funding*. The Newsletter is funded by voluntary contributions from the membership. All members are encouraged to support the voice of the YANCEY. 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 article 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 and grammar limitations.

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

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reunion for many of the men.

Along the Embarcadero toward the Convention Center you'll find not only the city's working tuna fleet but also part of the US Navy's Pacific Fleet. The city's maritime history is actively commemorated in Seaport Village, a 14-acre waterfront shopping and dining complex that recalls the days when cargo ships would make the dangerous journey from New England around Cape Horn.

Downtown San Diego encompasses much more than the harbor area. The most famous attraction is **Balboa Park**, another reminder of Alonzo Horton's civic vision. Just north of the central business district, the park covers 1,200 lush acres and contains some of the most fantastic architecture ever assembled in one place:

- 13 Museums**
- Art Galleries**
- Reuben H Fleet Space Theater and Science Center**
- Simon Edison Centre for the Performing Arts**
- San Diego Junior Theatre**
- Starlight Bowl**
- California Tower** (with its working 100-bell carillon)

Balboa Park is also the home of the world-famous **San Diego Zoo**, which houses 800 different species in the enclosures carefully designed to resemble the animals' natural habitat. The entire Zoo is designed as a 100-acre tropical garden and can be visited on foot and on a special three-mile guided bus tour.

Just across the harbor from downtown San Diego lies the quaint village of **Coronado** which is



Hotel del Coronado

accessible by the four-lane, two mile long San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge. It is also connected to the mainland on the south by a long, narrow sandbar known as the **Silver Strand**. The jewel in the Crown City is the historic and fascinating **Hotel del Coronado**, which has attracted the rich and famous since its opening in 1888.

The north end of Coronado is occupied by **North Island Naval Air Station**, and the east is the headquarters for the Naval Amphibious Base.

The **USS Midway Museum** is located on San Diego Bay in downtown San Diego at Navy Pier. Take a look back at the history of America's longest serving Aircraft Carrier. Here you will gain an appreciation for naval aviation as you experience and share in the 47 year odyssey that began in 1945 when Midway was commissioned as the largest ship in the world, and ended in 1992 with the liberation of Kuwait. Features of the tour include: more than 35 exhibits and displays; access to the mess deck, berthing spaces, hangar deck, flight deck and island superstructure; Mach Combat F-8 and F-4 phantom flight simulators and flight stations; interactive, story-telling docents, many of them Midway veterans; 7 restored aircraft, with more on the way; displays and exhibits including machine shops, post office, bomb assembly area, galley, bridge and primary flight control and others.

Now, fill out the survey to the right and return it to us as soon as possible.

\_\_\_\_\_



USS Midway

## 2012 USS Yancey Survey

Please take a few minutes to look over, complete and return this survey to ML&RS, Inc. right away. The reunion agenda will be created from the responses and the Chairman's input. Let your voice be heard. Mail surveys to:

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

**Or fax:**  
**828-256-6559**

### Reunion format:

Do you prefer breakfast all three mornings as a group \_\_\_\_\_ or just a farewell breakfast on Sunday \_\_\_\_\_?

Do you want an entertainment after the Saturday night banquet?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

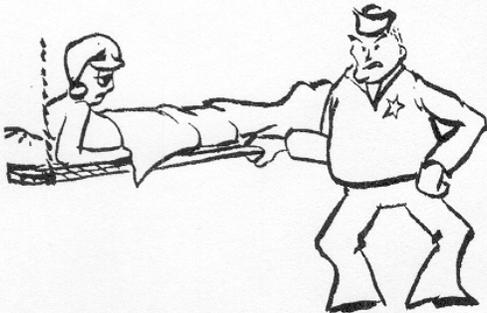
### Please indicate which activities you would like to see on your reunion agenda :

- \_\_\_\_\_ Gaslamp Quarter
- \_\_\_\_\_ San Diego Zoo
- \_\_\_\_\_ San Diego Maritime Museum
- \_\_\_\_\_ Coronado
- \_\_\_\_\_ Naval Air Station & Amphibious Base
- \_\_\_\_\_ Point Loma
- \_\_\_\_\_ Embarcadero
- \_\_\_\_\_ Seaport Village
- \_\_\_\_\_ Horton Plaza
- \_\_\_\_\_ Balboa Park
- \_\_\_\_\_ Old Town
- \_\_\_\_\_ USS Midway Museum

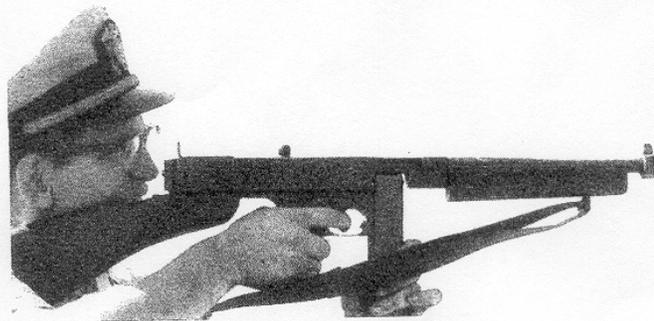
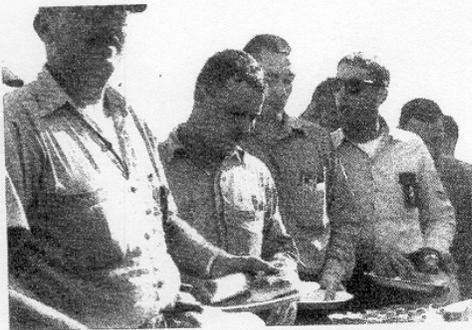
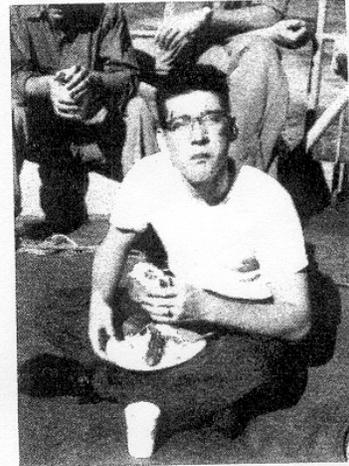
**Return surveys by December 19, 2011**

FROM THE USS YANCEY AKA 93 MED CRUISE 1962

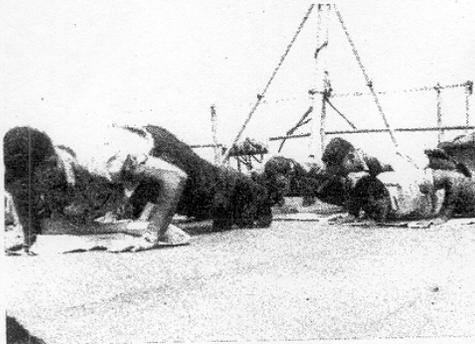
Submitted by Phil Messer EN2 Then, Retired 1979 as ENCM



"MOTHER SAID I COULD SLEEP  
TILL NOON!"



## SHIPBOARD LIFE



More in the next issue.