

# USS HOLT (DE 706)

A Periodic newsletter for and about  
the ship, its crew and their families

## REUNION COMMITTEE

"Frenchy" Cournoyer  
Bob DeAngelis  
Judy Johnson Mansur - Ladies Activities  
Bill Morgan -Chairman  
Karl Nease  
Ralph Parks  
Paul Pickett - Treasurer  
"Doc" Steinhauser - Golf Committee Chairman

## "HOLT HAPPENINGS"

MARCH 1997

Vol VII - No. 1

### 1998 REUNION

Although it has taken somewhat longer than expected, we have nearly finalized plans for the 1998 reunion. It will be **April 25 - 29, 1998** in **MOBILE, ALABAMA**. The reunion hotel is the **Radisson Admiral Semmes**. We selected a Saturday arrival with a Wednesday departure as most airlines have a Saturday night stay as a condition to qualify for the best air fares. The room rate at the Radisson is \$59.00 per night plus tax, single or double occupancy. The Radisson Admiral Semmes Hotel is an historic landmark, conveniently located in the heart of Mobile. For those of you who plan on driving your RV, the convention center, located within a block of the hotel, has parking and complete hookup services at a reasonable cost. The enclosed flyer will give you some data about the hotel.

Yet to be completed are the tour activities. We contemplate a visit to Pensacola, FL for a tour of the National Naval Air Museum located on the historic Pensacola Naval Air Station. A tour of the World War II Battleship, USS ALABAMA, which is berthed just a few minutes away from our hotel is in the planning stage. The ladies will enjoy a tour of Bellingrath Gardens & Home which has some 65 landscaped acres in a 906 acre wooded setting that serves as a wildlife sanctuary (they will enjoy the antiques and the world's largest public display of porcelain works by Edward Marshall Boehm). A fun-type Florida scramble golf outing for men and women is being planned by our ex-Pharmacists Mate, Doc Steinhauser. This golf outing is for all, regardless of your handicap .....whether you are an accomplished golfer or just a duffer like most of us! Doc has requested that you get in touch with him if you want to play golf. He needs to get some rough idea of how many are interested. So please drop Doc a note or give him a call. Doc can be reached as follows. His address is [REDACTED]

We will let you know the tour schedules and costs as soon as they are completed. The closing banquet will be Tuesday evening April 29, 1998. Hotel reservation cards will be included in the next newsletter. **Mark your calendar and make plans for a good time in Mobile!**

### **NEWS OF SHIPMATES AND THEIR FAMILIES**

Several shipmates who were on the "binnacle" list are reported improving. Bob Kent and Jim Dettling are making progress with asbestosis. Oak Ramsey is recovering from his surgery. He says he is feeling much better. Fred Davis continues to show improvement with his chemo treatments. (Fred and Edna spent the month of December visiting their son who is stationed in Hawaii with the Army). Paul Pickett had surgery on his shoulder and is recovering nicely. Bob DeAngelis advises that Pete Conti (Water Tender 2/c) is still in the nursing home in Niles, Ohio. His niece looks after his affairs. She says he would appreciate hearing from his old shipmates. Pete's address is: Joseph P. Conti, c/o Shepherd of The Valley Rest Home, [REDACTED] We regret to report that Gloria Fredette, wife of Don Fredette (Gunners Mate) died on December 15, 1996. She attended the last reunion in Charleston, even though she was not well at the time. Our deepest sympathy to Don and his family.

Our search for additional shipmates is stalled completely. Seems like every avenue leads nowhere, but we're still trying. If anyone can help, please do.

New Address for G. H. Noie (Quartermaster) is [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

John Coward (Seaman), Fairton, NJ would like to hear from fellow ham radio operators. His call is KB2IED and he can also be reached on the internet at [REDACTED]

### **OTHER**

The USS SLATER, the destroyer escort that was salvaged from the Greek Navy by the Destroyer Escort Sailors Association a couple of years ago needs a new home. According to a recent New York Times article, the INTREPID Museum in New York City can no longer afford to provide berthing space and services for the SLATER due to budgetary considerations and DESA is looking for a new home port for the ship. This is probably the only remaining DE available as a museum ship and it serves to show the current generation just what it was that we manned during WW II. Hopefully, a new home port will be found soon.

Bill & Lois Morgan recently visited the Admiral Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, TX. The USS HOLT plaque is prominently displayed on the Victory Wall. One end of the long stone wall is called the Victory Wall honoring ships, units and individuals who served in the Pacific during WW II. The other end is called the Memorial Wall and it honors individual, ships and units that were lost in action in the Pacific War. The Nimitz Museum (the birthplace of Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz) and the town of Fredericksburg are both interesting places to visit.

Fredericksburg has several good German restaurants and is loaded with a variety of quaint shops.

If you have an opportunity to visit Fredericksburg we think you will enjoy it.

Under the auspices of the Destroyer Escort Sailors Association (DESA), a project is underway to put together a book on **each** of the 476 former destroyer escorts. Included in each volume would be the ships history, action reports, war diaries, a complete listing of the officers and crew, a biography of the person the ship was named for, tour of duty of the ship from commissioning to decommissioning and **first person accounts of shipmates**. This is where **YOU** come in---we have all the data on the HOLT except your story. Why not take some time and put in writing your memory of the HOLT, what you did, what you liked, what you disliked, events that happened as seen through your eyes and your memory. It does not have to be lengthy. It can be a few paragraphs, a few pages or as long as you like. Don't be concerned about grammatical correctness as this can be edited. Send this story to Bill Morgan. He will pull them all together and see that the total package is forwarded. All 476 destroyer escort books will eventually be deposited with the Naval Historical Library of East Carolina University (part of the University of North Carolina) where they will be available for researchers in the future long after the WW II participants are gone. **Lets make the HOLT book the best.**

### **REMEMBRANCE**

Remember when a Seaman Recruit made \$21.00 a month? They now make that in about 16 hours

Do you recall? .....August 26, 1945, the HOLT used its motor whaleboat to remove about 30 army soldiers from the SS ALICE RICE, a liberty ship that ran aground off the coast of Luzon near Subic Bay. We stood by for nearly two days before removing the troops. When the sea began to freshen, it was time to get them off.

Do you recall?...The weather patrol the HOLT made in the Philippine Sea a couple hundred miles east of Samar in late November- early December, 1945 (our last assignment before returning to the States). We steamed on an east-west line, reversing course every couple hours for two solid weeks and made radio weather reports every four hours. The top brass did not want a surprise typhoon like the fleet encountered the prior year. Too bad we did not have the sophisticated weather forecasting systems back then!

**Remember - reserve April 25 - 29, 1998 for our next reunion.**

Until next time, FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS.