

USS HOLT (DE 706)

“HOLT HAPPENINGS” - a Newsletter for and about the crew, their families and friends.

Vol XIII, No. 2

MAY 2003

CORRECTION - In the last newsletter, there was an error on the title page. We had the HOLT listed as DE 506. Surprisingly, no one called to correct my error. I did not realize it until getting ready to start the current edition. Makes you wonder who is reading the newsletter!

THE 2004 REUNION

As you know, we had originally planned to hold the 2004 reunion in Boston. However, we were unable to get a favorable hotel rate, plus the parking rates were prohibitive. Despite the fact that Sandy Oliver and Judy Mansur made a valiant effort to get something reasonable, everything was too expensive. In my conversations with the Boston Convention Bureau, I was told that there was no place in the downtown area that would meet our requirements. Add to this, the insistence of the hotels that we could not bring our own snacks or beverages into the hospitality room. This was the straw that broke the “camel’s” back. Many thanks to Sandy and Judy for the work they put into seeking a suitable site in Boston. We then shifted our attention to the second choice, San Antonio, TX and are happy to report that we have made arrangements for the reunion to be held **MAY 12 - 15, 2004**. Our hotel is the **FOUR POINTS SHERATON**. It is located on the San Antonio River and has water taxi service from the hotel to the Riverwalk area. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] All reservation requests require a credit card guarantee or advance deposit equal to one night’s room. The Four Points Sheraton Hotel’s address is 110 Lexington Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78205. Should you desire to

come a few days early or stay a few days after the reunion, the same [REDACTED] room rate will apply. Just tell the hotel when you make your reservations.

We are planning a little different approach to our reunion activities. One full day will be taken up with a bus trip to Fredericksburg, TX to visit the Museum of the Pacific War and the Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz Museum. Fredericksburg is Admiral Nimitz' birthplace. There are a host of things to see in the Museums, including a two man Japanese submarine captured on December 7, 1941 off the entrance to Pearl Harbor; a B-26 bomber like the one that took off from the deck of the aircraft carrier HORNET to bomb Japan on April 18, 1942; a PT Boat; a hatch off the battleship ARIZONA and the Japanese Memorial Garden which was built with funds raised by the school children of Japan after WWII. There are numerous other things to see. Fredericksburg is an old German settlement. The restaurants are very good and the quaint shops make for an interesting visit. More on this in a later edition. Our cost for this event will be \$32.00 per person, including transportation from our hotel. Lunch is on your own.

In Lieu of the traditional dress-up closing dinner, we are planning a visit to a nearby ranch for an outdoor barbeque. This is not a dude ranch, but a real working cattle ranch where you can wear your boots and jeans, relax and enjoy the food, drinks, a trick roper guaranteed to lasso your heart, six shooters and bull whip performances and featuring The Texas Swing Band. The cost for this event will be \$44.00 per person, including transportation from our hotel, food and entertainment.

We will have more details on these events as they evolve.

IN MEMORIAM

In the few months since our last communication, we have learned of the passing of several shipmates. We learned of the following four shipmates' death from the Veterans Administration.

CROSS, Robert A., Seaman 1/c, died 17 January 2001
DAVIS, Robert B., Stewards Mate 2/c, died 17 March 1983
PENDELTON, Homer H., Jr., Seaman 1/c, died 10 June 2002
WILLIAMS, Harry c., Chief Machinist Mate, died 7 September 1998

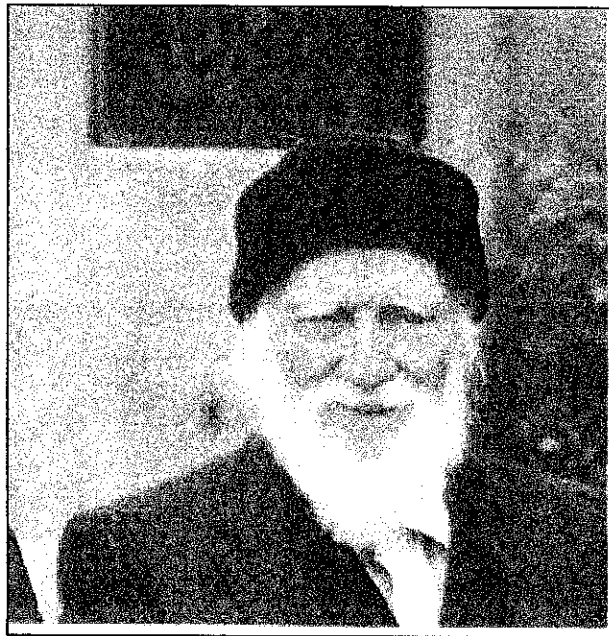
In a letter from his son, we were advised that Gordon M. Zerbe, Signalman 2/c passed away on 15 April 2003.

Lieutenant Delbert R. JEFFERS passed away 28 June 1951. This info from his daughter, He was aboard HOLT for a few weeks during the shakedown period to Bermuda.

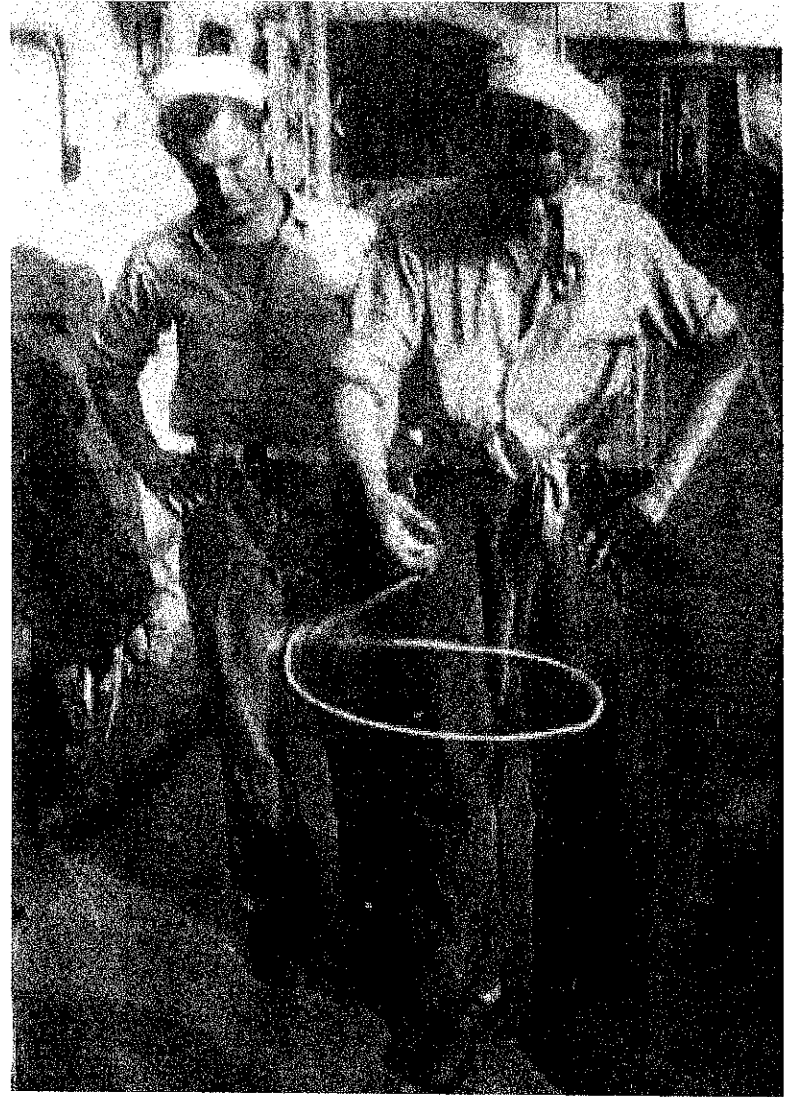
George REIMERS, Machinists Mate 2/c, passed away 12 March 2003. We had

talked with him in mid-February and he said he was "under the weather", but gave no hint of the seriousness of his ailment. He had asked to be sure and give all his shipmates his best regards. (Thanks to Ralph Parks and Oak Ramsey for giving me information on George's death.)

As a result of our latest polling of the VA for info on our shipmates, we received a letter from a friend of CRAFT, Charles W., Y3/c, who passed away 28 November 1999. In the letter, his friend advised that CRAFT was 84 years old when he died, was not married and had no family, seemed to only hold odd jobs and moved around quite a bit. In recent years, he had been in poor health. She sent the enclosed photo of Craft.



CHARLES W. CRAFT, YEOMAN 3/C



GEORGE REIMERS with his rope tricks. **Who** are the other shipmates? If you know, let us know.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Ralph Parks is seeking a "CATS EYE" sea shell of the type that was readily available from the islands we visited in the western pacific. He says this particular sea shell had a little trap door on the bottom side, was yellowish in color and was approximately the size of a quarter or a little smaller. If anyone has one of these sea shells, and would be willing to part with it, please get in touch with Ralph. He wants to make a gift out of it. Ralph's address is _____

Two new additions to your address list of relatives of the HOLT crew are George T. Burch, son of James M. Burch who was a Seaman 1/c aboard HOLT. His address is [REDACTED] The other is Sally Newberry, granddaughter of William H. Scott, Seaman 1/c. Sally writes "Regrettably, I did not know him very well before his death in 1990. In fact I did not know he was in WW II at all until after my grandmother's death two years ago, when I came across a journal he kept while on the USS HOLT. I'm very interested in contacting someone who knew my grandfather and could possibly tell me something about him." Anyone with information about William Scott please share that info with Sally, whose address is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] We would also like to know more about this shipmate to include in a future edition of this newsletter.



WILLIAM H. SCOTT

ON THE BINNACLE LIST

Shipmates in our prayers who are "under the weather" or recovering from surgery include Mary Ann McGauley, Jerri Pickett, Russ Coates, Ellen Hoover and Bob DeAngelis. If you know of others, please let us know.

HITHER AND YON WHILE TRYING TO COME UP WITH DATA FOR THIS NEWSLETTER

ETERNAL TRUTHS

"Junk is something you've kept for years and throw away three weeks before you need it"

"Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car."

"Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again."

"Bills travel thru the mail at twice the speed of checks."

"Everyone has a photographic memory. Some just don't have film."

"If you are too open-minded, your brains will fall out."

"Whatever hits the fan will not be evenly distributed."

KEEP THESE DATES IN MIND FOR THE HOLT REUNION.....

MAY 12 - 15, 2004