



FIREBALL!

USS OZBOURN DD 846 "the Happy Ship"

Vol. 7 No. 1 January, 1998

FROM THE BRIDGE

With our third annual reunion behind us, it is already embark of beginning arrangements for the next one in 1999! One of the suggested locations is Las Vegas, which, Armed Forces tells me, may take some lead time. So please take a few minutes to answer the enclosed query and return it to Paul Logan before January 31st if at all possible.

Over 100 shipmates, wives, sweethearts, etc., including three former Commanding Officers attended our gathering in San Diego. Unfortunately, it was marred by the premature sailing for the final home port of some of our folks, especially for me, John Hadley and Tut Fargo. I think the hearts of all of us go out to Bill Fargo and Ruth Hadley in their grief. There were a few snafus "for which yours truly is the responsible party. It soon became obvious that we should have had a "Welcome Aboard," and we should have had a professional photographer as at previous reunions. That said, Sally and I had a great time. Someone said at the reunion that he wanted a plain bill hat, that he didn't rate "scrambled eggs." My answer was that every Ozbourn sailor rates "scrambled eggs."

All hands are to be complimented on our expeditious action in completing all business on time on Tuesday morning so we could be off for the harbor cruise. No "sea lawyers" were in evidence. Our treasurer, Paul Hecht, reported about \$6,500 on hand as of 30 September, which puts us in excellent financial shape. "WD" Minter and his associates have done an outstanding job in producing the Ozbourn web page, and it gets better all the time. Bravo Zulu to them, in NATO phonetic lingo.

We also held elections at the business meeting. Curt Anderson, Paul Hecht and Paul Logan were reelected Vice President, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary, respectively. However, we do need a President and a Recording Secretary (the last held in an "acting" capacity by Paul Logan for the past four years). Having been

at the job for six years, I have run out of ideas and

believe it is time for a shipmate to "take the helm." In the meantime I will continue to serve as Acting President to keep the bridge fully manned!

We established two committees, one to aid in site selection for the next reunion and a second to nominate shipmates for the two vacant offices.

Site Committee: Paul Logan, chairman; Charlie Akers, Elmo Crowe, and Bob Sommer.

Nominating Committee: Curt Anderson, Charlie Akers, "WD" Minter, and Bill Ellis.

Finally, I still have over a dozen coffee cups left for sale: \$4.00 plus shipping.

The very best wishes to all shipmates and their families for 1998.

Bob Whitten, Acting President

SAN DIEGO REUNION - BIG TURNOUT

The San Diego Reunion was the greatest attended reunion to date. A total of 112 attended. Saturday afternoon started out with registration and the opening of the reception room. Shipmates started to gather and display photos albums and swap stories of their tour aboard the Ozbourn.

Sunday everyone enjoyed a bus tour of Coronado, a visit to the Hotel Del Coronado (a class, expensive hotel) and a trip through Balboa Park. In the park we visited a very impressive Veterans Memorial and were given an excellent tour by one of the curators. The Memorial was full of memorabilia from all the branches of the armed forces and the various engagements and battles fought.

Lunch was on our own at the beautiful revamped "fleet landing" called Seaport Village. A far cry from
(cont. page 2)

REUNION (cont. from page 1)

the old fleet landing where we hopped a water taxi back to the ship. Oh how the years can change things. They had 75 shops and 13 restaurants. (I remember just one sandwich shop at fleet landing where you would grab a sub to take aboard)

The afternoon took us to the Navy Yard and aboard one of the Navy's new fighting ships. Too many ladders and not enough elevators. Nothing like a couple of levels on the Ozbourn. Another surprise was the JG on deck wearing a skirt. (we didn't get to see the nursery). Back to the real (navy) world the hospitality room.

Monday found us aboard a bus for Tijuana. (we brought our own women this time) The ladies had a great day. Tijuana is now a great shopping mecca with as many stores and vendors as they use to have "ladies of the night." The wives just couldn't get enough of the good buys, while the shipmates kept pulling out the plastic cards. (if they only had more time) Tijuana has changed, but it still costs you a lot of bucks.

Tuesday morning we had our business meeting followed by a cruise of San Diego Harbor. (It seemed like we had cruised this harbor before) In the afternoon we took a trip to "Old Town" to cram in a little extra shopping. (credit cards were not quite maxed out).

Tuesday evening was the big banquet. This is always a smashing affair. The ladies were all decked out in their finery and a lot of the shipmates wished they were back in the dungaree navy.

Bob Whitten addressed the body and hinted this may be his last whack at MC. Bob presented beautiful plaques to Paul Hecht and Paul Logan in recognition of their work for the Association. A scrumptious dinner was served followed by a melody of old time favorite songs by the group "Four on the Floor." It was a very enjoyable evening as all shipmates were able to socialize with former shipmates and members.

Wednesday brought a sad farewell breakfast to a very enjoyable reunion. This reunion met with the great success of our previous ones. Every shipmate, and their lady friend, had a great time and experience. The credit for the successes goes to our (Acting) President, Bob Whitten. Bob has done a fantastic job of organizing these past three reunions and steering our



Plank owners George Fink (l) and Peter Athanas (r) enjoying the show.

organization to the success it enjoys today. In the words of our present navy a B - - - Z - - - Bob! (and a Well Done from your shipmates!)

SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

The membership allocated an additional \$550.00 to the Search Committee for further research of former shipmates. After the first of the year the "Committee" will be re-activated for additional research.

The Committee's next project will be to research crew members on the 1946-1952 Muster Lists.

WATCH CAPS

Anyone desiring a "watch cap" with an emblem of the Ozbourn and "USS Ozbourn DD-846" printed in gold lettering please send \$9.00 to:

Paul G. Logan,
165 Pilgrim Road, Braintree, MA 02184

If we can get 36 orders we can have them mailed to you for \$9.00 total. These are great wool watch caps. (not recommended for Florida weather)

MAIL BAG

From Mel B. Mayer, (50-53), BM3- Suprised and happy to know of our Association. Looked up two former shipmates. Denton Anderson BM2 and Robert Barrow who he discovered died in July 1995. Mel is retired from the Calif. Highway Patrol. Welcome Aboard, Mel!

Marilyn Lanchbury , from Cody, WY wrote that her husband Don died May 30, 1996. She said Don would have been thrilled with news of our Association. She had heard a lot about the Ozbourn. Don was on the search committee's list.

Richard L. McCarthy E-mailed (discovered our home page on the web). Richard was a Midshipman on the OZ in the summer of 1949 and had a most memorable cruise. He was commissioned Ensign and went to Korea aboard the USS Chevalier in July 1950. Recalled the OZ "out there" many times. Richard is a retired Captain.

WD Minter informed us of the death of former shipmate Hoyet E. Poole (52-55) BT3 in 1955. "WD" received a call from Jim Franklin of above notification.

Jack L. Kitchens (53) wrote us that he contacted Walter Martes in Red Bluff, CA. He is working on locating Art Neeley and Albert Torem. We met up with Jack Kitchens at the reunion
C. Motley wrote in to let us know that his twin brother Roy, who served aboard the OZ with him , died in September 1995. Both brothers were GM3's and went aboard the OZ in June of 1950. The next day the



Charlie and Becky Akers enjoying the banquet. Someone stole Charlie's dancing shoes and castanets.

OZ escorted the USS Mount Carmire, an ammo ship, to Pusan, Korea. It was the first Ammo ship to arrive.

Richard Mosca (57-61) wrote that he was retired after "20" and spend some great years on the Ozbourn. He served with a fine group of individuals he will never forget. He served on many ships and duty stations and ranked the Ozbourn one of the "highest".

Paul Hecht writes that his 2 hour video of the San Diego reunion is available for \$25.00. His address is on page 4.

NEW ADDRESS FOR HOMEPAGE

The Ozbourn's homepage on the Internet has a new address: <http://home1.gte.net/wdminter/ozbourn.html> (note: after "home" is number one-after "htm" is letter lower case "i")

DECOMMISSIONING CEREMONY

Decommissioning Ceremony programs were available at the reunion. The ceremony took place on 30 May 1975. The program included a list of officers and enlisted men on board.

A short ship's history was contained and the last paragraph read:" In July of 1973 Ozbourn's homeport was changed to Portland, Oregon, where she joined Destroyer Squadron 37 as a member of the Naval Reserve Force. While operating as a Reserve Training Ship Ozbourn participated in training cruises to Hawaii, Alaska and Canada prior to being readied for decommissioning at pier 91, Seattle, Washington, culminating a 29 year career marked by excellence and preparedness to serve the national interest.

COMPUTER VIRUSES

Mike Randrup (Email: digital@thesocket.com) writes to tell us that you cannot infect your computer through a plain Email message, so forwarding these warning messages to others is a waste of time. He also states to beware of software attached to Email messages, you can receive a virus through these.

FROM THE EDITORS DESK

Here is your Editor back for another "tour of duty". I thought for sure that we would have had another volunteer elected at the Reunion, I guess you are stuck with me for another term. This will be my last term though as its time for some new blood and ideas. My first edition was July of 1994 and this will be my 15th edition. I have enjoyed publishing the "Fireball!" mainly because shipmates have been very responsive in sending in material for me to organize into a somewhat organized format.

The Reunion was a great success as you can see from other columns in the *Fireball!*

It is the major event in the life of our Association and each Reunion the attendance increases. Those that miss it miss out on a memorable event.

The next major event is the articles in the *Fireball!*. This is where all shipmates can contribute and share their experiences on the Ozbourn for all to enjoy. Keep that info and articles coming. They are appreciated by "all hands."



Paul Hecht, racking up the film for the reunion video.

Next are the shipmates on committee assignments. These shipmates have accomplished invaluable work to help our Association prosper. They are the do'ers that make things happen.

Our Association is rapidly growing and becoming more successful as the months roll by. Thanks to our founder "Bob Whitten", with the strong support and guidance of "Charlie Akers" we have grown to an organization worthy of the USS Ozbourn. Her memory will live on through us as our experiences aboard her are relived.

TREASURERS REPORT

Paul Hecht reported at the reunion the Association's treasury is alive and well. Total income since Paul has taken over the books (3/94) was \$10,686.28 with \$6,469.16 spent to date leaving a present balance of \$6,469.16.

Well Done Paul!

ANNUAL DUES ——— NEW PROCEDURE

A new procedure is in effect starting with this issue. Your 1997/98 dues was due July 1, 1997. Starting with the October issue of the *Fireball!* each year, members who have not paid their current dues will be notified by a form in their copy of *Fireball!* If you receive a notice it means your dues are overdue. This yearly notice will be the only dues notice you will receive. If dues are not paid **before** the following (January) issue you will be dropped from the *Fireball!* mailing list until the next "reunion notification" issue.

Starting with this issue the latest year that your dues is "paid up" will be indicated at the bottom of your "Fireball!" address mailing label.

Send dues to: **Paul Hecht, Treasurer, P.O. Box 3534, Portsmouth, VA 23701-0534**

Make check payable to USS OZBOURN Association.

OZBOURN HATS, JACKETS, & SHIRTS

Hats can be ordered with or without scrambled eggs. In addition you can order a windbreaker or golf shirt.

Hats (with scramble eggs) \$20.00

Hats (no eggs) \$16.00

Add \$4.00 per order for shipping charge.

You can add at **no charge**: your last name, WWII, Vietnam, Korea or Plank Owner.

Call or write Joe Mollica at Artistic Co, 10613 Lawson River Ave., Fountain Valley, CA. 92708. Tel. 714-963-6800. (Pacific Time)

Questionnaire for the Next Reunion

1. Suggestions for improvement

Include a "welcome aboard" event.

Again use a professional Photographer instead of the "amateurs" at the San Diego reunion.

2. Additional suggestions:

3. Proposed sites for reunion in 1999:

Las Vegas. Armed Forces Reunions tells us that we need to start on this one in very early 1998 if we are to get hotel bookings at reasonable rates.

Gulf Coast. The suggestion was Gulf Port or Biloxi, Mississippi. However, Armed Forces Reunions tells us that there are no good deals at either place, but there are at Mobile, Alabama.

Nashville, Tennessee. Country music "Capital." Charlie Akers' USS Hobby recently held a very successful reunion there.

4. Your preference:

Las Vegas _____

Gulf Coast (Mobile) _____

Nashville _____

Rate the above 1,2 or 3. 1 is first choice, 2 second choice, 3 third choice.

Return to Paul Logan, Chairman of the Reunion Site Committee
165 Pilgrim Road
Braintree, MA 02184

by January 31st, 1998

A roster of all Association members is available to any member.

Please

indicate if you would like one sent to you. Yes _____ No _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

