

# PIPELINE



## of the USS CALIENTE ASSOCIATION

Late Winter Issue

March 2007



Hello Shipmates

I hope you are all making it through the Winter weather without too much difficulty. For those of you that receive this through email, please respond and let me know as soon as you receive it. That way I won't send you a hard copy and we can save a little money. If you have an email address and have received a hard copy, it is because I either don't have your correct email address, or you didn't respond to the email I sent. Please help us reduce mailing costs.

The T-shirts were ordered and sent to those of you that sent me your size. You should have them by now, or very shortly. For those of you that didn't send your size, maybe next time.

The dues were due on January 15<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't sent your 2007 dues, please do.

**Norm Street** and the membership committee have been working real hard to increase our membership. They have done a terrific job, as you can see by the new members we have listed below. The committee: **John Coleman, Glen Edgemon, Don Hall, Larry Holcombe, Charles Martin, Pete Stafford, Larry Underwood** and **George Bateman**. Thank you for all you have done.

### **New Members, WELCOME ABOARD**

**Don Hall**, BM3, 1949 to 1953. He lives with his wife Frieda in Madera, CA

**Frederick Degott**, GMSN, 1952 to 1955. He lives in Jeffersonville, IN.

**Karl Seitz**, PN2, 1961 to 1964. He lives with his wife Pat in Birmingham, AL.

**Franklin Marshall**, GM3, 1955 to 1958. He lives in Watkinsville, GA.

**William Lawler**, Ltjg, 1969 to 1970. He lives with his wife Nancy in Indianapolis, IN.

**Leland (Denny) Nielssen**, BM3, 1963 to 1965. He lives with his wife Gale in Battle Ground, WA.

**Gregory Adkins**, BMSN, 1972 to 1973. He lives in Versailles, KY.

**Stephen Helbig**, EM2, 1967 to 1969. He lives with his wife Mary Ann in Prospect, ME.

**John Purdy**, RD3, 1963. He lives in Griffin, GA.

**David Wommack**, DC3, 1961 to 1962. He lives with his wife Darla in Chester, SD.

**Larry Wallace**, PC3, 1968 to 1969. He lives with his wife Nan in Moweaqua, IL

**Albert Anderson**, BT2, 1959 to 1962. He lives with his wife Jane in Champaign, IL.

**A.B. Brown**, EM1, 1960 to 1962. He lives with his wife Jan in Virginia Beach, VA.

**Dewey L. Grove**, EM2, 1968 to 1972. He lives with his wife Judy in Brandon, MN.

**Ronald B. Tipton**, BT3, 1961 to 1962. He lives with his wife Sheryl in Keosauqua, IA.

**Syd Wright**, SK3, 1958 to 1962. He lives with his wife Carol in Sacramento, CA.

## Returning Members, WELCOME BACK

**Clyde Jack**, LM, S1, 1943 to 1945. He lives with his wife Patricia in Ridgway, PA.

**Miles Kuhn**, HM3, 1958 to 1960. He lives with his wife Gail in Tustin, CA.

**John Rogers**, DC3, 1965 to 1967. He lives with his wife Cherryl in Lake Havasu City, AZ.

**James Stephenson**, PC3, 1961 to 1962. He lives with his wife Jimmie Sue in Orchard Park, NY.

**John Nelssen**, EM2, 1967 to 1969. He lives in Kingman, AZ

**James (Jim) Marston**, EM2, 1963 to 1966. He lives with his wife Sherry in Medford, OR.

**Ernest Cauchon**, YN1, 1961 to 1963. He lives with his wife Mary in Spring Hill, FL.

**Don Hanawalt**, SHSN, 1958 to 1961. He lives with his wife Phyllis in Canton, IL.

## Member News

**Phelps, Henry Edward** Nov. 27, 1922-Feb. 7, 2007

Henry Edward Phelps, Capt. USN. Born November 27, 1922 in Hackensack, NJ. Graduated USNA June '45, joined submarine force February '48, became Captain of submarine USS Raton and later of tanker USS Caliente. Capt. Phelps also served in the Anti-Submarine Warfare program in Pearl Harbor from 1964-1968. He completed his 30-year career as an Intelligence Officer at the Pentagon, retiring in 1975. He married San Diego resident, Eleanor Forward, on February 14, 1948. Capt. and Mrs. Phelps had four children, Michele, Nan, Anne and Matthew. Mrs. Phelps predeceased Capt. Phelps on March 12, 2000 and is buried at the Julian Cemetery. Capt. Phelps will be joining her there on February 14, 2007. There will be two funerals. The first one will be at Sacred Hearts Church in Coronado, California on February 12, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. hosted by Diane Gregerson, Capt. Phelps' loving companion and caregiver. The second will be on February 14, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Elizabeth's Church in Julian, CA, hosted by Nan Phelps and family. There will be a reception at American Legion Post 468 afterwards. If you wish to make a donation, please give to your favorite Catholic charity in Capt. Phelps' name. Published in the San Diego Union-Tribune on 2/11/2007.

Hank was a Life Member of the USS Caliente Association and my Commanding Officer when I reported aboard. After his wife Eleanore died, Hank suffered another disaster. His home burned to the ground a few years ago in the forest fire in Julian, CA. He lost everything. He was a shipmate and a friend. He will be missed.

---

**Pat Hurton** received word that **Art Manzy's** wife Arlene passed away in 2005.

February 6, 2007

DEAR PAT,

THANK YOU FOR LETTER REGARDING MY MEMBERSHIP AND YOUR SYMPATHY OF MY DARLING WIFE ARLENE. WE HAD 48 YEARS OF A WONDERFUL MARRIAGE. YOU ALSO MENTION A DONATION TO OUR CHOICE AND THAT WOULD BE THE CHARITY OF ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL, PO BOX 50, MEMPHIS, TN. 38101-9929. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONCERN, YOUR SHIPMATE ART MANZY

(Pat sent a donation in the Association's Name)

---

We received word from **John Creedon** that **Herb Crouch**, a former member, passed away on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Herb served on the Caliente from 1943 to 1945. John also sent a \$10.00 donation to the Association.

Thank you John.

---

I spoke with **Lou Erickson** and he said he is being treated for Myeloma which is cancer of the bone marrow. He said that, thanks to some expensive drugs, things have turned around and he is on the road to remission.

---

From **Phil Hankins**

Hi again Bob

Ok, I guess you got me inspired once again, and now that I have a bit of time I'll really get busy on it. At one time you ask me to put together a list for you. Well I'm still in the process but I do have the list of officers. This list is for the last

cruise of the Caliente, 1973. The following is the officers with first names that I could find.

Commanding Officer- CDR Donald A. McGuinness, Executive Officer- LCDR James M. Haffey, Lt. Dennis Murphy (already a member), Lt. Cordell, Lt. Keaton, LTjg Fujimoto, LTjg Locke(already a member), LTjg Hornyak, LTjg Martin, LTjg Al Schwartz, ENS Bishop, ENS Jensen, ENS Terry Mayhan(already a member),ENS Doug Hartman, CWO2 Verhasselt. I'm still working on the crew list and will have it for you shortly. I was thinking that if we got the list together and published it. Maybe those that read might remember someone and where they was from. From there, maybe use the internet and locate them. I'd be happy to help with locating anyone. Let me know your thoughts.

**Phil Hankins**

---

Email received from **Robert Bateman**

Hello from **Robert G. Bateman** BT2 1963-67 , have been instant messaging with **Norm Street** when he on line . Since **Robert L. Anderson** Lives over the hill from me and we served almost the same years , I see you now have his correct rate as Boilertender 3rd Class instead of Boswain Mate 3rd Class but the years served are still wrong 1963 - November 1965 he stated he had made 2nd class but his inlistment on active duty was over and must of had reserve duty so received his 2nd class then . Robert L. Anderson retired from the Jamestown Police Force in Jamestown New York . Norm suggested that I send you article for the Pipeline ? What Kind of articles are you interested in printing ? I received my draft notice in 1963 for the Army and didn't know for sure if I really had a choice and had to enter the Army and be a foot soldier but since my step father was in World War II in the Navy when they bombed Pearl Harbor so went to the Naval recruiter in Reno Nevada to check out joining the navy . Well quickly found out if i could pass they're tests the navy was my new profession for 4 years , next was headed by bus to Oakland California to Naval Induction Center but agin faced another set back as they were concerned that the Corneal Transplant and a cyst removed out patient may cost the navy extra money so back on the bus to Reno Nevada to get doctor's validation all was okay ? Then return for the final inspection to be considered as Navy Material and flown to San Diego California Training Center and since joined in November of 1963 this would require extra time at the Training Center as they shut down for Christmas and I wanted to use my leave to visit family in Reno Nevada before reporting aboard the Caliente , was assigned to a special Company for Christmas so graduated after first of year 1964 and reported aboard the Caliente 28 February 1964 while she was being over hauled in Portland Oregon , you're always placed in X- Divison when you first report unless you're disignated a certain Rate from a school , what seemed a very few weeks I was introduced to the chief Boilertender since my test results fom the Naval Training Center felt I would fit well into one of the Enginering rates and the Boiler Divison was the shortest for man power . Shortley after that asignment was approached by the Chief again and told I would be sent to 5 weeks of fuel testing in San Pedro California and 2 weeks water testing at the Long Beach Naval Ship Yard and this was his statement " You probably won't pass the courses but we have to send someone " so began my duties of the Caliente Ships Oil - Water King responseable for testing all fuels transfered to the fleet if needed and our propulsion fuel for our boilers , test all feed - boiler water and add compounds to control limits of the 4 boilers , daily blow downs that a boiler tender understand completely for advancement , keep all records pertaining to the boilers , bring aboard the potable water before each deployment on our 25 -30 days refueling the 7th fleet , with this duty also came the task of keeping water useage per man and when the crew became over wasteful and potable water became at certain limits I was also the Bad Boy who was required to chain and lock out the valves that supplied the heads in each Department . The other side of the story was I was required to supply Potable water to the small coastal ships , they're shopping list was 3 items Ice Cream , Potable Water , fuel , we even had Carriers come along side and request water but with 4 Engine Rooms that meant they had 4 set of evaporaters we only had 2 sets and again as a Boilertender we know feed water comes 1st meaning if our evaporaters were making good feed water and all tanks were full , we made potable water for the ship use . I hope this extra long e-mail hasn't put you to sleep but I thought if shipmates that served in my years would remember me it would be because they had to go without showers sometimes " One bad apple spoils the barrel " Have a great day **Robert G. Bateman** 1963 - 1967

---

Letter from **Wayne Riner**(55-58)

I received this letter from Wayne in September. I missed it when I wrote the December Pipeline. My brother says my "Piling System" is more extensive than his. I'm working on it.

Sept 14, 2006

Hello Bob

I feel as though "We know you" for some time, although we've never met. You'll find this a messy letter, there is a reason for that. I suffered a "light stroke" in September '03 which affected my speech and my writing. I went to Therapy for 3 months but to no avail. Bob, I tried to no avail to try and locate someone from the Cal and had no luck until I visited **Donald McClure** who was aboard ship with me. He asked me if I had any information from the Caliente Reunion. He explained to me that he had gotten a letter or two from Norm someone, he could not think of his last name. When I got home, I got a letter from Norm with an application in it.

I filled my application and sent it in. I'm really looking forward to the next reunion in Charleston, SC. My oldest brother lives in Charleston.

When I finished boot camp in San Diego there were 7 of us out of the same Company that went aboard the USS Caliente, 5 from the state of Alabama. Bob, I had a friend from Mobile, AL who was aboard with me and I lost contact with him. Is there any way I could get some names of the people aboard the Cal from 1955-1959? We had a wonderful group of men when I was aboard. According to History of the Cal they had a great group of men from start to finish of it. I've written about all my arm will let me and thanks for accepting this mess. I wish I had a computer and email. It would be a lot easier to send and to read. Just like to see you at the next reunion. Sincerely **Winford (Wayne) Riner**.

---

Email received from **Jim Davis**

Bob

Hope you and your family had a good Christmas.

You once said that you were looking for articles for the Pipeline. A few days ago I got an e-mail from **Norm Street** looking for e-mail addresses (You probably got the same one) and the first name on the list was Bernie Buscher which reminded me of an article that I seen posted on the Internet that was published in the November 1966 issue of the ALL HANDS magazine and it was written by Mr Buscher.

The article was about a boat race that was held in Kaohsiung Taiwan in 1958. The link to the article is:

[www.tfl16.org/magazine/allhands32.html](http://www.tfl16.org/magazine/allhands32.html)

It makes good reading and the crew of the Caliente would be interested in it. I can remember the race and the pride and joy of the crew when we won. Not to many of the crew was allow to attend the race, I was not one that got to attend. And as I recall it was the first time that anyone other the Chinese Army had won the race.

Look up the article and see if you can use it in a future Pipeline.

**Jim Davis** 56-58

Here is the article. I have edited it a bit and did not get permission to use it, so please don't try to sell it.

I was not able to get the pictures. They were of the USS Dixie boat crew.



This is a direct reproduction of the original November 1966 ALL HANDS magazine.

©All Hands Magazine, Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction by permission only.

Here They Are: All-Navy Dragon Boat Champs.

SIR: I recently read that a 25-man crew from USS Dixie (AD 14) rowed to victory in the annual Dragon Boat Festival races on the River of Love in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. The article went on to say it was the second time a

Navy crew had entered the race. The first was a crew from Headquarters Support Activity Detachment Five.

The time has come to set the record straight. Although I won't claim a first, I will say that USS Caliente (AO 53) entered a team and won the race in June 1958.

Here's what happened. The captain of our ship, while making a courtesy call on local port officials, heard about the annual races. Since Caliente was to be in port for three weeks as station ship, he thought it would be a good idea for the U. S. Navy to be represented. The word from local officials was that no Americans had ever competed in the race before.

I was, unfortunately, assigned the collateral duty of ship's athletic office at the time, so the captain called me up to his cabin and broke the good news about our ship entering a crew in a "Dragon Boat Race."

I thought at first the captain had been in the sun too long. When I tried recruiting a team from the ship's company, the consensus was that I, too, was suffering from sunstroke. All my efforts to collect 25 men failed.

At last, the captain dropped a hint that special liberty might be arranged for volunteers. Also, if restricted men would join the team (and the team won), it was very probable that all restrictions would be canceled. We had a dragon team!

After only two practice sessions, the big day arrived. With the captain's promise of liberty ringing in their ears, they were off. Our crew was an unusually husky lot so nobody was much surprised when we came in about four boat lengths ahead of our closest competitor.

The winning crew went on liberty and the ship got a beautiful flag from the race officials which, for all I know, is still hanging in the ship's mess deck.

COMSERVPAC even went so far as to make up a special rating badge for "Dragon Boat Crewmen."

Please don't misunderstand me. I heartily congratulate HSA Detachment Five and Dixie on their respective victories. However, I want them and the world to know that old Caliente was there ahead of them.-B. A. Buscher, LCDR, SC, USN.

Thanks for your very interesting letter, sir. We think you can now consider the record set straight. We might say, at this point, that Dixie sent us an account of this year's events at Kaohsiung which did NOT include the claim that she was the second U. S. Navy victor in the history of Dragon Boat racing. For those who are not up on dragons, here's some more information to round out the story. In September 1965, ALL HANDS carried the news that Detachment Five of the Headquarters Support activity at Kaohsiung had won the Dragon Boat Race. The team really didn't expect it to turn out that way. They had only four short practices during which they learned that a dragon is not easily moved. Although Detachment Five's practice performances were unimpressive and one of their competitors was a City Hall team (everbody knows you can't beat City Hall ), the Navy team played the role of Dragon Boat Racers to the hilt. For the occasion, they donned blue coolie hats decorated with gold spangles and stenciled Seadragon (in Chinese characters) across the back of their shirts.

Detachment apparently as surprised as anybody when they not only finished the course at a race pace for the first time, but also won in their category.

The Dixie team, taking their cue from last year's winners, also dressed for the occasion. They wore tasseled beanies tied firmly to their heads and red rowing shirts with Dixie Dragons boldly lettered (in English) across the back. The accompanying photos will give you an idea of what a dragon boat race is like. Obviously, a good

time was had by all.-ED.

---

Email from **John Hamlett**

Bob,

Was it really almost fifty years ago that I reported aboard the Caliente when it was in the shipyard at San Pedro? **CAPT C.B.** (Charlie Bravo as we called him) **Carroll** was the CO at the time. I was newly married and the first thing I really remember about him was that he wanted to be RFS a month early and had the entire crew report aboard at 0700 each day and depart at 2300 Monday through Saturday!!. Hardly ever got to see my wife. He was replaced by one of the finest men I ever served under, CAPT (Later RADM) **Tom Davies** who flew the Truclulent Turtle from Perth, Australia, to Columbus, Ohio, in 1946 and set a non-stop distance record. Carried a kangaroo that was presented to the zoo. That plane sat at Ward's Corner near NOB Norfolk for years and is now at the Naval Air Museum in Pensacola. He is written up in Bowditch's Navigation as an expert on polar navigation. Made three WestPac cruises aboard. Still hear from a couple of my old shipmates.

Best, John Hamlett

---

## **The Reunion**

I had hoped to be able to say "I went to Charleston and looked the place over". I haven't been able to go. I do know that **Rusty Pickett** is doing a good job and this will be a very good reunion. I am hoping that a lot of the newer members will join us there. For those with internet access, go to the web address listed below to get the latest news about the reunion and to sign-up. For those of you that don't have internet access, I have attached the information and sign-up sheet. If you have any questions, you can call Rusty, or get in touch with me. Bob Howard, 2674 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA 94597-2547, 925-939-3662, 925-708-5065 Cell.

<http://www.shellbackcruises.com/caliente.htm>

---

A Little Humor

From **Bob Jackson**

## **Subject: Words of famous people**

I had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalog: "No good in a bed, but fine against a wall." -- **Eleanor Roosevelt**

Last week, I stated this woman was the ugliest woman I had ever seen. I have since been visited by her sister, and now wish to withdraw that statement. -- **Mark Twain**

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible. -- **George Burns**

Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year. -- **Victor Borge**

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint. -- **Mark Twain**

By all means, marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher. -- **Socrates**

I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury. -- **Groucho Marx**

My wife has a slight impediment in her speech. Every now and then she stops to breathe. -- **Jimmy Durante**

I have never hated a man enough to give his diamonds back. -- **Zsa Gabor**

Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar and fat. -- **Alex Levine**

Money can't buy you happiness .. but it does bring you a more pleasant form of misery. -- **Spike Milligan**

I am opposed to millionaires... but it would be dangerous to offer me the position. -- **Mark Twain**

Until I was thirteen, I thought my name was SHUT UP. -- **Joe Namath**

I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap. -- **Bob Hope**

I never drink water because of the disgusting things fish do in it. -- **W.C. Fields**

We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way through Congress. -- **Will Rogers**

Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you. -- **Winston Churchill**

Maybe it's true that life begins at fifty ... but everything else starts to wear out, fall out, or spread out. -- **Phyllis Diller**

By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere. -- **Billy Crystal**

The cardiologist's diet: If it tastes good, spit it out.

---

An 80-year-old man went to his doctor for his quarterly check-up. The doctor asked him how he was feeling and the 80-year-old said, "Things are great and I've never felt better. I now have a 20 year old bride who is pregnant with my child. So what do you think about that?"

The doctor considered his question for a minute and then began, "I have an older friend, much like you, who is an avid hunter and never misses a season. One day when he was setting off to go hunting, he was in a bit of a hurry and accidentally picked up his walking cane instead of his gun.

As he neared a lake he came across a very large male beaver drinking at the water's edge. He realized he'd left his gun at home and so he couldn't shoot the magnificent creature but out of habit he raised his cane, aimed it at the animal as if it were his favorite hunting rifle and went 'BANG, BANG'. Miraculously, two shots rang out and the beaver fell over dead.

Now, what do you think of that?" asked the doctor.

The 80-year-old said, "If you ask me, I'd say somebody else pumped a couple of rounds into that beaver.."

The doctor replied, "My point exactly."

---

The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.

George Washington, 1789