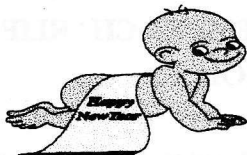


# McCaffery Newsletter



FEBRUARY 1999



**Ahoy Shipmates!.....**I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and everyone a healthy and happy New Year! I hope all of you enjoyed the holidays and are now looking forward to a bright new year. Thanks to all who sent cards and letters to me, since the last newsletter. It's always great hearing from you, so keep those letters coming. I've also received some donations towards the newsletter and believe me, this is a big help....."Thanks Guys"! I sent a "Mac placemat" to all who contributed, but could not attend the last reunion. Some sent me stories about their experiences on the Mac which I will try to include in this edition. If I miss anything, don't worry.....the "Ginkoba" hasn't kicked in yet!!!!!!.....

As we approach the end of this century, we will be looking at

what the year "2000" will bring! One of the questions that will be of utmost importance is; "what is planned for the next reunion of the USS McCaffery"? On page 7 there is a questionnaire, which will give us some idea of your preferences in regards to the cruise. Please complete the form and make every effort to get it back to me as soon as possible. We need an idea of just how many people are interested. We want this to be a success and we can't do it without you.



I would like to apologize for the delay in the newsletter. It was due out in January. My mother had a stroke on Thanksgiving and passed away Jan 31st. I've been quite busy handling her affairs, but am now back on a steady course with the newsletter.....

## Incredible!



The following article was sent to me by John Frech (OK).....**Attention Veterans: The President has recently signed into law a bill that affects all veterans. It states in effect that if a veteran has not registered at a VA Hospital since Oct 1, 1996, then on Oct 1, 1998 he or she will lose all medical benefits for life!!**

This article has appeared in many papers throughout the U.S. and is **totally false!!** Even Ann Landers found out that it was not so. All veterans (regardless of when you were in) are eligible for benefits. Bring your DD214 to your local VA office and it will take about 5 minutes to complete the form.

**Note: John, thanks for sharing this with us. Your intentions were good but I just wanted to set the record straight.**



### **Tales of the Migbty Mac**

I was transferred to the Mac at the age of 19 from a shore station in Orange, Texas, where I had served my country for two years as a lifeguard at the Naval Station pool. The base offered the finest in cuisine of fresh steaks and excellent table fair from the gulf, and many other amenities.

I was to report to the Mac in Boston where it was in drydock undergoing repairs. As I arrived in Boston the night before, I introduced myself to the Boston night spots.

The first memory I have of being on board the Mac, was when I awoke in a bunk, fully clothed in my dress blues, with holes in the knees, shoes that were shredded on the toes, and the palms of my hands were raw and bleeding.....

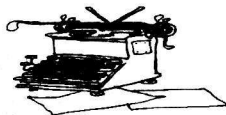
When I had awoken sufficiently, I was informed that the Shore Patrol had found me crawling down the sidewalk on my hands and knees from a local tavern. To my amazement, no disciplinary action was taken, and I needed no introductions to the present crew. The "scuttlebutt" had preceded me.....

Ralph Lowe - Elizabeth, Arkansas  
58-59

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### **AHOY!!!!.....**

A distinct Nautical hail that was the dreaded war cry of the Vikings.....



**Verona, Pa.....** A history of the Mac is still available. This is not a brief summary. It's a comprehensive, day to day history taken from the actual deck logs of the Mac, and is detailed in every aspect with many pictures. The cost is \$15.00 which includes mailing. Send requests to: Bill Maslak - 859 Hamill Rd., Verona, PA 15147-2925 or phone; (412)795-6709  
e-mail: usndd860@juno.com

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### **WELL, I'LL BE!!!!**

At our last reunion, I was approached by **Pete Kelley (MO)** who said that he had heard Bill Dillingham (PA) had passed away. With that, I turned around, walked 10 feet, and had him say "hello" to his old friend. Says Kelley: "that alone made my trip. One wonders how these things get started. Dill was my leading PO for a couple of years. He came aboard an FA and left after 4 years a FP1.....that says something about the guy"..

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### **FIRST AROUND THE WORLD**

The first United States War ship to circumnavigate the world, was the U.S.S. Vincennes,..she left New York Harbor on September 3, 1826 and returned on June 8, 1830

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

U.S. Navy destroyers, are directly descended from the torpedo boats built at the end of the last century?

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### **REMEMBER CHARLIE NOBLE?**

A Sailor's nautical term for a galley smokepipe. It was derived from the British Merchant Service by Captain Charlie Noble, who required a high polish on the galley funnel. The funnel of his galley, was made of copper and its brightness became well known in all the ports his ship visited.

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### **FIRST SHIP SUNK WAS A JAPANESE TRANSPORT ....**

The first Japanese transport ship sunk by a surface war ship of the U.S. Navy during WW -II, was in the 1942 battle of Makassar Straits. The ship engaged in this action, was the destroyer U.S.S. JOHN D. FORD (DD-228)

### **EDITOR NEEDS HELP!**

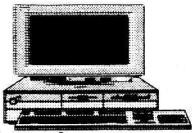
To keep this newsletter going, I will need articles, and/or stories of anything that you think would be interesting to our shipmates. See Editors name and Address on front page.



Here's some news from former shipmates that I thought I would share with you.....

**John Pierce (MA)** underwent quadruple by-pass surgery last March. John and his family enjoyed a much needed vacation after that, so they went to Disney World.....**Kenny Farrell (FL)** got hitched in October and his new bride's name is Eileen. May you enjoy many years of happiness together. I wonder if **they went** to DisneyWorld?.....**Leon & Sue Pilling (UT)** spent the Thanksgiving holidays with their son and his family in Santa Barbara, CA. Their youngest daughter Tammy got married last June.....**Emile & Doris Brugger (MA)** became the proud grandparents of identical twin boys on April 25. Gabriel weighed in at 6lb 1oz, while his brother Lyndon weighed 4lb 1oz. They are now 22 & 27 lbs respectively and 27" tall. Congratulations to the new parents Michael and Erin!.....**Ken & Mary Hawkes (ME)** recently had a surprise visit from an old shipmate. Tex Fulks and his lovely new wife Margie drove all the way from Texas. A good time was had by all from what I was told.....**Jerry & Goldie Kuhr (NY)** off on a cruise again this past fall. As usual, they both had a wonderful time. Jerry was in the hospital for about 10 days and is doing much better now. Jerry, hope '99 is a better year for you.....**Jerry Adcock (WA)** e-mailed me a picture of his barber shop taken from a cherry picker. Great shot quite an aerial view! Jerry mentioned that he's been in touch with Dan Pinto and Charley Mers (RMC), but would also like to contact some others.....**Russell Digati (NY)** writes that he was on board the Mac during the rescue operations of the Texas Tower Weather Station. He was hoping someone would forward the article from Life magazine so we could put it in the next n/l. We'll see what we can do, Russ!.....**Don & Connie McGlensey (NJ)** off globe trotting in South America. Visiting Costa Rica, Ecuador and Chile. Don is still trying to locate Vernon Howells who lives in Utah. If anyone has any info on the whereabouts of Vernon, lets hear from you.....**Nick & Lynn Donatiello (NJ)** Invited the Kuhr's, my wife June and myself down to their home in Bayville, this past summer. Nick took us out on his boat for over an hour to show us the sights. We all had a great time and ended the day with a dinner at a quaint Italian restaurant. Nick and his wife are now "snowbirds" at their Florida home for the winter.....**Ed & Jean Crowell (FL)** enjoying a cruise to the Caribbean, and this spring will be going to England/Ireland. In June, their off to Duluth, MN, and 10 days later will be out on Martha's Vineyard. Ed says that at this rate, he'll be broke by fall.....**John Scott (MA)** feels bad about missing our last reunion. He just finished building his new home, and said it was an enjoyable undertaking. He states: "we actually had a great time doing the project....it's the 3 hours to cut the lawn that kills me now.....but it's worth it"!.....(CONT)

**Lee Jassman's (WA)** wife, Marilyn, wrote to apologize for not knowing my first name.....not to worry, when we were in the Navy, we were all called by our last name. Seldom if ever, did I know someone's first name.....**Jack & Pattie Kern (TN)** motored to PA to see his mother in May, and while there had a great get-together with Paul & Helen Pankake. Helen had broken her ankle and while she was recuperating, her church had a fire. She is now reorganizing the church office where she works.....**BOB & JETTA DAVIS (TN)** went on a Western Caravan (30 other trailers). They parted their ways in Bryce Canyon, UT and extended their trip to include; California, Oregon, Washington State, Idaho, Montana, S.Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Okla, & Arkansas.....Wow, that was some trip!!!!



### McCaffery on the Internet:

We now have over 80 people on the Internet. However, we are finding that a lot of you are switching to new servers which makes our record keeping difficult to maintain. If you switch to a new service for whatever reason, please contact any one of the following people so we can make the change:

- Harold Faulkner - harolddef@flash.net
- Bill Maslak - usn860@juno.com
- Gordon Leiser - GLeiser860@aol.com

### TAPS.....

I have been asked to print the complete list of our deceased shipmates for this issue only. Any new one's will be included in future editions.....

- |                   |                    |                      |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Adamowicz, Lary   |                    |                      |
| Boor, Dwight      | Marotta, Alfred    | Thompson, James      |
| Bourdeau, Sylvio  | Marshall, Richard  | Turck, Alyn          |
| Capeilini, Ed     | McBride, Richard   | Vickers, Hirshel     |
| Clark, James      | McDowell, Ellis    | Wert, Albert         |
| Cope, Tom         | Merkle, Donald     | White, Ed            |
| Damiata, Victor   | Moore, Edwin       | Wilcox, Leroy        |
| Dispirito, Henry  | Nichols, Harry     | Willson, Frank       |
| Foote, George     | Okane, Paul        |                      |
| Franceour, Ray    | Olszewski, Bernard | Please remember them |
| Freitag, Fred     | Patrick, George    | in your prayers..... |
| Fyock, Frank      | Paul, Norman       |                      |
| Garrett, Chester  | Petty, Armond      |                      |
| Gaudette, Archie  | Pipkins, Carl      |                      |
| Gillaspie, Herman | Poudrier, Geo      |                      |
| Green, Guy        | Rand, Joel         |                      |
| Grief, John       | Reid, Kenneth      |                      |
| Hancock, Gene     | Reinert, Terry     |                      |
| Harrington, Kent  | Ridgeway, Joseph   |                      |
| Hewell, Ray       | Ridgeway, Richard  |                      |
| Keener, Lloyd     | Sarver, Ben        |                      |
| Kirtley, Jon      | Schramm, Roger     |                      |
| Klein, Geo        | Shirmer, Bill      |                      |
| Lanoway, Gene     | Skjoldager, Jack   |                      |
| Loomas, Bob       | Skjoldager, James  |                      |
| Maglioni, Rinaldo | Slade, Dewey       |                      |
| Maione, John      | Stutzman, Herb     |                      |

### " The Sailor"

We cruise upon a peaceful sea  
content in all its beauty,  
a Navy ship, a seafaring crew  
attending to our duty.

As clouds invade the clear blue sky  
and dim the light of day.  
the sea whips into frothy waves,  
and thereby slows our way.

By night the sky is black  
and towering waves surround us,  
with walls of water all around,  
that glow in eerie phosphorus.

The ship bursts through the tops of waves  
and swiftly plunge towards watery graves,  
the men are strong and work together  
to bring us safely through the weather.

Our hands are swollen, our knuckles bare  
as we hold the ship tightly and say a prayer  
through the unbelievable stormy night,  
we ride it out to save our plight.

As dawn appears, so gray and cold  
the sea subsides and tales unfold,  
about the storm whose wrath we braved  
of our seaworthy ship and lives she saved.

The clouds disperse, the sea lies still,  
the crew has done its duty,  
we cruise upon a peaceful sea,  
content in all its beauty.

by: Jim Bozer



## THE POWER OF RANK

### ADMIRAL

LEAPS TALL BUILDING WITH A SINGLE BOUND.  
MORE POWERFUL THAN A LOCOMOTIVE.  
FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET.  
WALKS ON WATER DURING STORMS.  
GIVES POLICY TO GOD.

### CAPTAIN

LEAPS SHORT BUILDINGS ON A SINGLE BOUND.  
MORE POWERFUL THAN A SWITCH ENGINE.  
JUST AS FAST AS A SPEEDING BULLET.  
WALKS ON WATER IF SEA IS CALM.

### COMMANDER

BARELY CLEARS QONSET HUTS, WITH A SMALL  
STEP LADDER.  
PLAYS TUG OF WAR WITH LOCOMOTIVE.  
FIRE A SPEEDING BULLET.  
HUMS WELL.  
OCCASIONALLY ADDRESSED BY GOD.

### LIEUTENANT

MAKES HIGH MARKS WHEN TRYING TO LEAP OVER  
BUILDINGS.  
IS RUN OVER BY LOCOMOTIVES.  
CAN SOMETIMES HANDLE A GUN WITHOUT  
INFLECTING SELF-INJURY.  
DOG PADDLES.  
TALKS TO ANIMALS.

### LIEUTENANT JG

RUNS INTO BUILDINGS.  
RECOGNIZES LOCOMOTIVES TWO OUT OF THREE  
TIMES.  
IS NOT ISSUED AMMUNITION.  
CAN STAY AFLOAT IF PROPERLY INSTRUC TED  
IN THE MAY WEST.  
TALKS TO WALLS.

### ENSIGN

FALLS OVER DOORSTEPS WHILE TRYING  
TO ENTER BUILDINGS.  
SAYS, LOOK AT THE CHOO CHOO.  
WETS HIMSELF.  
PLAYS IN MUD PUDDLES.  
MUMBLES TO HIMSELF.

### CHIEF PETTY OFFICER

LIFTS BUILDINGS AND WALKS UNDER THEM  
KICKS LOCOMOTIVES OFF OF THE TRACKS.  
CATCHES SPEEDINGS BULLETS IN HIS TEETH  
AND EATS THEM.  
FREEZES WATER WITH A SINGLE GLANCE.  
HE IS GOD!!!!!!

## IRONIC SHIP NAMES:

USS APHRODITE (SP-135) A World War 1  
patrol escort. Named after the mythological  
Greek goddess of love. Put's a spin on the  
phrase "Make Love, Not War"

USS PANSY: World War I - VIP yacht

USS CUTTLEFISH (SS-171) Named after a  
small ten armed creature that is a cousin to  
the squid.

USS SPADEFISH (SSN-668) A spadefish is a  
colorful, peaceful tropical fish that is found  
in oceans all over the world.



### MIGHTY MAC WEB SITE

Through the diligent efforts of Bill  
Maslak, the McCaffery now has it's  
own Web site. Bill has been working on this for quite  
awhile and it's finally become a reality. The address is:

**[www.angelfire.com/pe/usdd860](http://www.angelfire.com/pe/usdd860)**

If any of you are new to the Internet and want  
your name in the roster, just contact Bill at:

**[usdd860@juno.com](mailto:usdd860@juno.com)**

It's a great way to stay in touch with old shipmates....

### FROM THE LONE STAR STATE:

(That's Texas to all you Northerner's!)

Harold Faulkner writes that he wanted to make sure he  
thanked Ed Crowell for the beautiful plaque he was  
presented with at our last reunion. I believe it was put in  
a place of honor in his home.

Harold also wants to thank Bill Maslak for keeping  
him "honest" when it comes to the master list. He found  
a lot of mistakes and Harold has made all of the needed  
corrections.

## **For all those born before 1945, We are the true SURVIVORS!**

We were born before television, before penicillin, before polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, Frisbees, and the "Pill".

We were born before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams, and ball point pens, before pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes, and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together. In our time, closets were for clothes, not for "coming out of". Bunnies were small rabbits and rabbits were not Volkswagens. Designer Jeans were for scheming girls named Jean or Jeanne, and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with your cousins. We thought "fast foods" were something you ate for Lent.

We were before house husbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers, and commuter marriages. We were before day-care centers, senior centers, group therapy, and nursing homes. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt, and guys wearing earrings. For us, time-sharing meant togetherness - not computers or condominiums. A "chip" meant a piece of wood, hardware meant hardware, and software wasn't even a word!

In 1940, "made in Japan?" meant junk and the term "making out" referred to how we did on our exam. Pizza, "McDoanlds" and instant coffee were unheard of.

We hit the scene when there were 5 and 10 cent stores, where you bought things for 5 and 10 cents. For one nickel you could ride a street car, buy and ice cream cone, make a phone call, buy a Pepsi or enough stamps to mail one letter and two post cards. You could buy a new Chevy Coupe for \$600.00 but who could afford one; a pity too, because gas was 11 cents a gallon!

In our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was mowed, Coke was a cold drink, and pot was something you cooked food in. AIDS were helpers in the Principal's office. We made do with what we had, and we were the last generation that was so dumb as to think you needed a husband to have a baby!

We remember when FDR said "we will never be taxed on our Social Security", and John D. Rockefeller Sr said, "don't pay taxes on money you don't use. The initials "CD" stood for Diplomatic Corps, and saving money for a "rainy day" the old fashioned way was in fashion!

**But we SURVIVED!.....**

***What better reason to celebrate!***

## REUNION Y2K FORM

Shipmates,

As you might already know, we are going to see if we can gather enough interest to have a cruise for our next Reunion in the year "2000". For your general information, cruises cost approximately \$100. per day plus airfare if needed. This is per person based on two persons per room. Due to all that will be going on as the new century approaches, if we don't get an early commitment, we might lose out on the best selection. Bearing this in mind, please fill out this form to help us get started with planning. **Please fill it out even if you aren't sure of coming, but think you might be interested.** This cruise most likely will be in April. **REMEMBER**, we have to hear from the rank and file.....and that's YOU!

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR REUNION "2000" Place an X next to your choice.

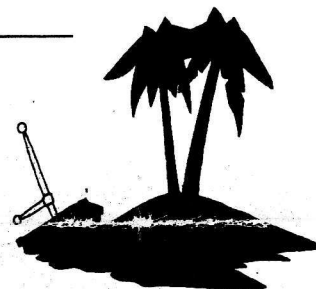
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Days: 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ Number of people \_\_\_\_\_

Place: South \_\_\_\_\_ East \_\_\_\_\_ West \_\_\_\_\_ Caribbean?? (From Miami)

Bermuda \_\_\_\_\_ (7 days from New York)

New England \_\_\_\_\_ (from New York 5 days)



**PLEASE FILL THIS IN AND MAIL IT BACK TO ME. IT'S MOST IMPORTANT THAT WE HEAR FROM YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SEND COMPLETED FORM TO:**

Gordon Leiser - 417 Adirondack Ave., Spotswood, New Jersey 08884

Well, that's it for another edition of the "Mighty Mac"! Before I go though, I'd like to personally thank all those who sent in a "donation" towards the newsletter. If you haven't sent something as yet, it's not too late. We want to keep this newsletter going, and we can't do it without your help. My "second in Command" has beckoned me, so I'm going to pick up my "liberty" card and shove off. Talk to all of you in the next letter. Till then.....

Calm Seas, and Smooth Sailing!

*Gordon*



**IF SO, PLEASE LET US KNOW!!!!**