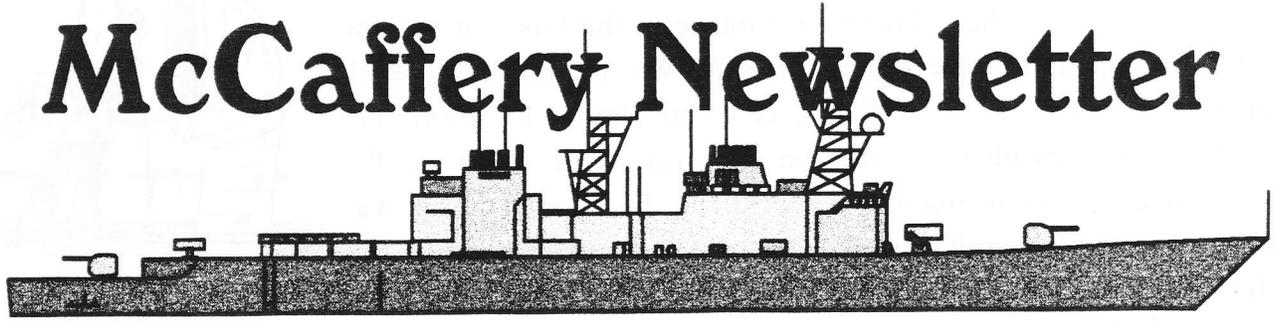


# McCaffery Newsletter



July 1998

## **Baton Rouge Reunion: "A real Blast!!!"**

### **BATON ROUGE, LA.**

Ahoy Shipmates!!! Well, I'm back again writing the "Mac" newsletter to keep you abreast of all the news and happenings of the McCaffery. Let me start by saying that our 7th reunion in Baton Rouge was great. Registration was on Thursday and Ed and Jean Crowell greeted all those upon arrival. After stowing our belongings, everyone gathered in the hospitality room for snacks and refreshments. This gave everyone the opportunity to spend some time with former shipmates. It was nice to see so many new faces and get to know them. Many of us enjoyed looking through the memorabilia and reminisce about our good old Navy days.

On Thurs evening, we were entertained in the hospitality room by Fran Paris, (an old Cajun woman in her 80's) who's comedic act was hilarious. On Friday morning we boarded buses and headed for a tour of the USS KIDD. For many, it was a moving experience walking on the decks of a destroyer once again. It was an experience that brought back many memories. Without losing much time, later that afternoon, we were off again. This time into deep cajun country heading for a guided swamp tour. Although we didn't get to see any "gators", it was fun. A cajun dinner was served, followed by "cajun" music and dancers.

The hospitality shown to us was extraordinary..... Saturday during the day some of us chose to go to the "Baton Rouge Belle"... (a riverboat casino) and of course this pleased many of the girls to no end! Last I heard, one of our guys hit for \$2,000. Way to go!!! The highlight of our reunion was the banquet  
*(cont'd)*



which was held on Saturday night. Prior to the dinner, individual pictures were taken for our "memory book". The food was excellent, and everyone enjoyed dancing to the music played by a terrific band. The tables were set in a Patriotic theme which included ceramic mugs of the McCaffery and laminated place mats showing 3 versions of the Mac. This was a keepsake for everyone attending.

Our host, Ed Crowell, presented plaques to Bill Maslak and Harold Faulkner. These two guys have given countless hours to keep the Mighty Mac reunions alive. Bill has found many former shipmates and forwards the info to Harold, who constantly keeps updating the master list. These are two key men in our group. Afterwards, I presented to Ed and his lovely wife Jean a card which included a gift of appreciation from the group for a job....."Well Done". Running a reunion is a big undertaking, and I just want Ed to know how much we all appreciate what he has done for all of us.



On Sunday, quite a few took advantage of the bus tour to New Orleans. We toured the French Quarter and found Bourbon St. to be like no other street in the world. The food and music was fantastic. Of course, the trip wouldn't be complete unless you've stopped at the Cafe Monde for laite and beignets. After returning to Baton Rouge, everyone headed for their own ports of call.....

**From Ed Crowell:** I would like to mention that we have refunded all deposits to everyone who had intended to come, but couldn't and had to cancel at the last minute. Also, all orders for shirts, hats, or jackets have been mailed out.

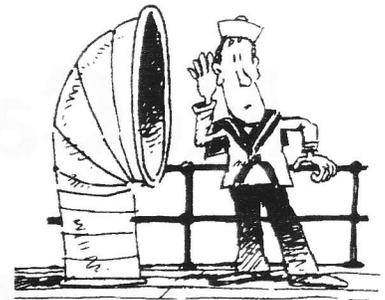


### McCaffery on the Internet

Through the efforts of Jerry Kuhr, we now have 66 former Mac people listed on the Internet. For those of you who have computers, (like me), go to the following address and you just might find an old shipmate you served with:

**[www.inetworld.net/txo/dd-860.htm](http://www.inetworld.net/txo/dd-860.htm)**

Give it a try.....it's great exchanging sea stories!



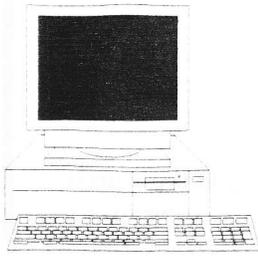
### "Sea Stories"

by Bill Maslak

A compilation of Sea Stories as experienced by McCaffery sailors are now available. The stories, sent to Bill, are not fiction but actual incidents experienced by Mac sailors while serving on the McCaffery. The cost is \$4.00 which is the cost of printing and mailing. THIS IS A ONE TIME OFFER. Send request and check to: Bill Maslak - 859 Hamill Rd., Verona, PA 15154-2925 Also, if anyone would like to find a particular shipmate, he will try to help locate them. Send him the name and years on board. Middle initial and rate would be helpful.

#### PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

If you are moving, or plan to in the near future, let us know. We now have found over 650 former shipmates and it can get to be quite expensive when it's returned.....



I would like to share some excerpts from an e-mail letter I received.....

Hi Guys,.....I had the privilege of going to the McCaffery reunion in Baton Rouge, and let me tell you, it was one of the finest moments in my life. I would like to say that the crewmen who did not attend, missed out on a great week-end. To keep the name of the McCaffery alive, you have to attend these reunions. We need you, and we need each other, so in the year "2000", try to make the reunion. You will come home like I did....a different guy. I feel I did something I should have done years ago. **THIS WAS MY FIRST REUNION**, and I'm sorry it took me so long to realize what I had been missing out on.

How does one put into words, the emotions felt when I attended my first reunion after 42 years? I considered the years aboard the Mac, as some of the best of my life. We shared not only quarters, but our fears, our joys, our tears and all of the experiences afforded young naval men in the prime of their lives. When I again came in contact with these same wonderful, warm, friendly and loving comrades, it took me back to 1955. The stories were still there.....the nights up on deck....the ports visited,...the drinking, and the APC pills that were used for every medical emergency, especially after a night on the town with the "WOMEN"!

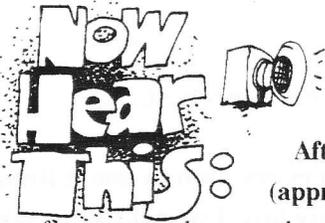
Our visit to the USS KIDD and their magnificent museum, topped off this wonderful week-end and took many of us back in time. It was a very emotional experience for me visiting this Heroic Vessel which was attacked by a Kamikaze, and being forced to bury 38 of her heroes at sea. The museum contained artifacts from the time the ship was hit and restored. We read medal of honor, silver star, and purple heart stories about the brave men who fought for our country, and about the ones who lost their lives protecting our shores. Walking on the decks of the KIDD, I felt I was back on the "Mighty Mac." I could hear the noises, smell the sea, see my office, the bridge, my battle station, the barbershop, laundry, galley, and of course the sleeping quarters.

At this time, I would like to personally thank Emmet Reed, Bill Maslak, Harold Faulkner, Gordon Leiser and Ed Crowell for making me feel so welcomed. Even though I had never met these guys before, we have become good buddies on the Internet. I feel like I know them all a long time. These men are the **KEEPERS OF THE FLAME OF THE McCAFFERY**. They have kept her alive for all of us over the years. **THESE MEN HAVE PAID THEIR DUES!** A special thanks to Ed Crowell and his lovely wife Jean, for doing an outstanding job with this reunion. Those of us in attendance realize how hard they both worked to make this reunion a success. They succeeded.....**JOB WELL DONE!**

My wife and I considered it a privilege and an honor to spend the week-end with all of you. Thanks.

Jerry Kuhr  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

(Editors note).....THIS LETTER SAYS IT ALL!!!



## " RE-UNION 2000"

After having a meeting at the Holiday Inn in Baton Rouge, a majority of those present (approx 65) voted to have our next re-union at sea.....in other words.....A CRUISE!

Three of our guys volunteered to check various destinations and get the best prices. This would be a 4 day 3 night cruise in May or June. Once I have the information, I will get it out to all of you. I know it's a little different from what we've been doing at the previous re-unions, but after all, this will be the 21st century and sailors belong on the sea, right?

### HELP NEEDED.....in finding

anyone who knew Richard Harold Beckerman, CS1, who served on the Mac in '65. He died in '68 and his son Richard Jr. thought we might be able to help locate someone who knew him or has a picture of him. He was abandoned by his mother and has no pictures of him. If anyone can help in this matter, please contact his son at:

Richard H. Beckerman  
8530 Burkhill St.  
Jacksonville, FL 32211  
(904) 721-9119  
e-mail: jerri43@juno.com

### PICTURES FOR MEMORY BOOK

I have received the kit to put the memory book together, and am in the process of doing so. Please be patient .....it will be coming out in August. If anyone didn't order one, you can contact: Reunions, Inc., 2098 Sprint Blvd., Apopka, FL 32703 The price is \$15.00



"Thank you!" from Ed & Jean.....  
"please relay our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all the guys for their gift to us at the reunion. We hope everyone had a good time, and look forward to seeing all of you at the next one."

### THE LONE SAILOR

He was just a lonely sailor  
Staring out to sea,  
Waiting for another ship  
Wondering where he'd be.

The vastness of the ocean's span  
Was preying on his mind.  
He stood in thoughtful silence,  
Knowing what he'd find.

He'd find contentment far at sea  
With the dawning of each day,  
And the rolling motion of his ship  
While it was underway.

He'd find each worldly Port O'Call  
A different place to see  
But knowing well his peace of mind  
Was found far out to sea.

For a man whose mistress is the sea  
Can have no shore-bound love,  
His love is dancing on the waves,  
Caressed by skie above.

One day he'll have to leave his love  
For age does take its toll,  
But his heart will always be at sea,  
When the Bo'sun calls the roll.

Composed by a Navy Memorial Plankowner during his visit to the Navy Memorial and while seated near the Lone Sailor statue.

### AHOY!!!!

Through the pitch-black night, the captain sees a light dead ahead on a collision course with his ship. He sends a signal: "Change your course, ten degrees East."

The light signals back "Change your course ten degrees West."

Angrily, the captain sends: "I'm a Navy captain! Change your course, sir!"

"I'm a seaman, second class," comes the reply. Change your course, sir. Now the captain is furious: "I'm a battleship.....I'm not changing course:"

To that, there's one last reply. "I'm a lighthouse. Your call.".....

### TAPS

It is my sad duty to report that we have lost three shipmates:

Larry Adamowicz (Ct) BT2 - 1951-55

Kenneth Reid (Ct) SO2 - 1950-51

Jack Rogers (Fl) SO3 - 1952

Please remember them in your prayers....

### SICK CALL

Jim Twilley (NJ)....recovering from knee surgery

Ken Hawkes (ME)....Recovering from recent surgery

Speedy recovery to you both.....



Ken and Mary Hawkes (ME) just recently returned from a vacation in Iowa. They spent a week with Bob and Elaine Goodwin and really enjoyed seeing each other.....Ed and Jean Crowell (FL) had a much deserved restful vacation in the Bahamas's.....Emmet Reed's, wife Beverlee (CA) seems to be enjoying her retirement.....she joined a few of her friends and ventured off to Russia on a 10 day vacation, and from what I hear, she now makes a pretty good pot of borscht! Heard from Anthony & Jeanne Urbano (AL).....after the recent tornadoes this past April, Anthony said they were not affected by the storms and consider themselves very fortunate.....Ken & Flo Steimle (NJ) just became proud grandparents of their first grandson. After four granddaughters, he's considered the little "king"! Congratulations to all.....

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: Be advised that the "PLANKOWNERS" group pictures taken at the reunion in Baton Rouge are available from Reunions Inc. ,2098 Sprint Blvd., Apopka, FL 32703**

### **Att: ALL HANDS!**

The one thing that keeps a newsletter interesting, is of course, news! And that's where you come in..... I know most guys don't like to write letters, but many of the wives have graciously done it in the past, so I'm asking if they wouldn't mind doing it again. This is your newsletter, so send me whatever news you feel might be of interest. **I NEED YOUR HELP!** My name and address is on the last page of this newsletter..... (right behind the picture of the Mac).....this way you won't throw it away by accident. This newsletter will be mailed to 645 former shipmates we have found to date. Because of the cost involved, this will be a one time mailing of the entire roster. I'm asking for a donation to keep the newsletters going. If you don't respond, we can't send it.....it's as simple as that. So as I mentioned before, the cost is so great, that I would have to take it out of my kids inheritance to cover it! (and there's only \$29.95 left in there).....so won't you please help?

Just a quick note.....Bill Maslak asked me to remind those who received a postcard from him requesting information about years on board the Mac, to please respond if you haven't done so already.

Before I pick up my liberty card and go ashore, I want each and everyone of you to think about this.....Wouldn't it be great to see an old shipmate again? If so....think "2000", the year of our next reunion. That's it for now, so until I hear from you.....

Smooth Sailing and Calm Seas,

Gordon Leiser  
e-mail: GLeiser860@aol.com



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