



Volume I Issue 2

# The Bo'sun Call

## Passing the Word

USS Frank E. Evans DD-754



June/July 2007

## Ahoy Shipmates,

Within the last 2-3 weeks, most of you should have received the 2007 Excelsior Springs, Missouri reunion packet via "snail mail". There are many details and steps in the development of the packet. Our special thanks go to Donna Kraus for her hours of time-consuming work in the preparation of the packet. After the information and forms are checked and double checked; the packet is taken by "gopher" Steve Kraus, to the print shop. Enter Michael Kraus, 2<sup>nd</sup> watch member, who does the printing for the association. This year Ben Alcoser (1967-68) volunteered to do the folding, stuffing, stamping and then delivered the several hundred envelopes to the post office.

Thanks to each of you for your work. You are keeping the propellers of the association turning.

A great "three week" team effort! Bravo Zulu to all, from the bridge.

## Sailing with the Fleet

This year's reunion promises to be outstanding. Maybe, the Best Reunion Yet! On Thursday evening we will be hosting the men who served aboard the USS Caldwell, DD 605. We will share our evening meal and program with the Caldwell group. They, in turn, will share their entertainment with our group.

On Saturday evening, we will be privileged to have as our guest, Vane Scott, President of the USS Radford, DD 446) Association. He will present an entertaining program on the "Many Faces of Old Glory". During his program he will describe the evolution of our current American Flag and provide an overview of American history with an emphasis on the early years.

Vane has appeared across America before groups of all ages and backgrounds for 30 years. He has been a professional supper club entertainer and a big band vocalist. His program should leave all of us with a patriotic feeling, proud to be an American and with a great deal more respect for our Flag.

## New Member Piped Aboard

WELCOME to Wade H. Gillespie (Sept. 1963 - Jan. 1966) of Anaheim, CA.

He found the association via the internet. We are looking forward to meeting him at a reunion.

## Chief Riedberger's Memories of the Night of June 3, 1969

*Editor's note: The Campbell family received the following handwritten letter from Chief Warren I. (Reed) Riedberger (1965-69 S) on June 7, 2001. He wrote about the night of 3 June, 1969 and gave his permission for his letter to be published in our newsletter.*

"I reported aboard in Nov. 1965. I was chief sonarman. At the time the Evans sank, I believe I had been aboard longer than anyone. Looking at the 1966 cruise book only two others were still on board in June, 1969 and they were Chief Malilay and Chief Foust but they were both first class in 1966.

"I would like to go back to June 3, 1969 if I may. We were in an ASW operation with the other navies. At 15 minutes to 2:00 a. m. we went silent. I was in the sonar shack and stepped out on the bridge. The XO (Mc Michael) said "Chief looks quiet for the rest of the night" so I went back into the sonar shack and told them I was going to hit the sack. It was the last time I ever saw any of them alive.

"When the Melbourne hit us I was thrown out of the sack into lockers. My first thought was that we had been torpedoed. All the chiefs were there except for Chief Macayan who was on watch in the boiler room.

"We made it up to the chief's mess hall. I believe we were all disoriented. It was dark and Chief Cannington said he had a flashlight. Chief King found the hatch that was open and we all filed thru it. I was behind Chief Foust and Chief Malilay was right behind me.

"When I hit the water I had to swim up to get to the surface. I swam as fast as I could. I glanced over my shoulder and saw the 754 just disappearing. I thought the whole ship had sunk. I looked around and I was by myself. I saw a big blob in the water and swam to it. It was a life raft (uninflated) and there was 4 or 5 young radarmen on it. They yelled to me and I made it to the raft.

"About 5 or 10 minutes later a lifeboat came by and we told them we were okay and try to find more people. After about 10 more minutes a boat

*Editor's Post Script: Chief Reed sent two cruise books from 1966 & 1967-68. We made copies of each and returned them to Reed. Chief Reed attended the 1997 reunion in San Diego, CA. He passed away on Easter Sunday, April 11, 2004. His wife, Sharon, is a member of our association.*

picked us up.

"When I got into the boat Captain McLemore was in it. He was at one end of the boat and I was at the other end. A minute two later we came across a body and pulled him into the boat. It was my best friend Chief Proctor. He was unconscious but he came out of it OK.

"They took us to the Melbourne to the Chiefs mess hall and here were all the Evans men in dungarees and told me what had happened. One thing I'll always remember. I looked around and there were no chiefs. They had all been taken to the Chief's quarters.

"When we flew back, I was the senior person aboard, so I was the first one off the plane. I had to talk to reporters and my brother told me we would be on the NBC News that night.

"I had my 20 years in. I had just made E-8 so I turned it down and retired Oct. 8, 1969. Shortly after we got back to the States Chief Malilay through a party and all the Chiefs were there. In June 1984 (15 years) we got together again but only five chiefs were there, Chief Malilay, Chief Macayan, chief Reilly, Chief Foust and me.

"Sincerely,

"Reed

"From the '66 cruise there were only four men (Chiefs) left when the ship sank. Larry Malilay (then 1<sup>st</sup> Class); Paul Foust (then 1<sup>st</sup> Class); Reed Riedberger (me) and Gary Hodgson (2<sup>nd</sup> Class). He left the ship due to a car accident - then returned. He was lost when the ship sunk in 69."

## MAIL CALL

### Via Letters...

Pueblo, CO

June 14, 2007

Hi: Campbell Clan,

Here are some old newspapers articles and a magazine (*Sea Classics*) that has some very interesting sea stories about US Navy War Ships. Also the magazine prints ships reunions (page 36) as a free public service for ship organizations, just like the VFW magazine does. Some day I sure would like to see the (*Sea Classics*) do a story about the USS Frank E. Evans when our Historian Frank Jablonski gets all the information he needs to complete the Historic part for the Association.

An Old Sea Salt,

Donald L. Pisarczyk (BM 1950-54)

*(We are sending the newspaper articles and magazine to Frank. We will be sending the 2007 reunion info to Sea Classics magazine.)*

### Via Invitations...

From Dale Mann (Mrs. Joe Bob - 1969 S) we received an invitation to Dale's party celebrating her retirement from teaching in the public schools in Friona, TX. *(Sorry we weren't able to attend, but the Texas distance prevented us from "dropping in" on the celebration.)*

### Via Telephone...

Dave Hicks called from the Denver Airport with his packed seabag. He was on his way to the west coast for instruction & review. After a couple of weeks he was to fly to Iraq to work with the Marines for 120 days. (May 24<sup>th</sup>)

### Via Emails re: *The Bo'sun Call*...

Bill Garner, "Received your message and think it's a great idea." (May 17<sup>th</sup>)

Bill Sullivan, "Thank you for the re-send on the newsletter. I received it and was very impressed.

Thanks for the good news. Glad to see 2 of my old shipmates recently joined the association." (May 18<sup>th</sup>)

Emmett Tidd, "The newsletter opened perfectly and quickly on Microsoft Word. Providing optimal means for Opening each issue is an excellent idea, and much appreciated. Both PDF & Word files opened immediately, clean & clear!" (May 19<sup>th</sup>)

Ron Baker, "The bulletin was very informative and interesting...well done!" (May 19<sup>th</sup>)

And last, but not least, one Anonymous Messenger gave us "permission for a 48 Hour Liberty and said it was our turn to be in the very first Liberty Party going ashore in the boat, leaving in 15 minutes!!!"

## Former Shipmates Find the Frank E. Evans Association

We have received calls from the following former shipmates who learned of the FEE Association thru reunion notices in magazines.

Jettie Mallette Westbrook (1952)  
Knoxville, TN

Marvin C. Mendenhall (TAD 1964) Parachute Rigger  
Van Buren, AR

(Editor's note:: Information has been sent to each. Marvin and his wife, Connie, are discussing the possibility of attending our reunion in Excelsior Springs. They lived in nearby Liberty, MO for 28 years and have relatives there. Marvin was active in the veterans groups in Kansas City and instrumental in raising ¾ of a million dollars over 8 years to build the Clay County Veterans Memorial in Gorman Park in Kansas City. He has offered his help if we need a Color Guard for our reunion.) We look forward to meeting and learning more about these two shipmates.

## Prayers and Concerns for Our Members

### Rest in Peace:

We had a call earlier this week from Helene Corcoran to say her husband, Thomas (Tom) Corcoran passed away on October 4, 2006. He was the father of SA Patrick Michael Corcoran, lost in Evans accident in 1969. When Tom and Helene came to Las Vegas in 1994, they were the first family members of the lost 74 to attend. They had been active members until ill health prevented their regular attendance. We have missed them the last three or four reunions. We send our prayers and love to Helene. Tom is also survived by a second son who was ten years old at the time of the accident.

### Sick Bay:

Connie (Jablonski) Montana: In the *Jablonski Family Newsletter* Connie writes, "I have received, as of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 13/25 rounds of radiation, and 2/5 rounds of chemotherapy. All and all, a breeze until the weekend of June 9<sup>th</sup>. The radiation doctor did an internal exam and the tumor is definitely shrinking. She gave me a pill or something for every little pain I have." Connie closes with the following, "Cancer isn't the worst thing that can happen. A life without God first, and Family right there to hold you up, is no life at all." *Editor's note: Connie is 38 years old and lives in Batavia, IL, a suburb outside of Chicago, with her husband and two children. Her parents, Frank & Terri Jablonski, live in Florida; however, they are with Connie until she completes her chemo and radiation treatments. See page 6 for Connie's address.*

Gerry Hemphill: May 25<sup>th</sup>, Alan writes, "The good news is Gerry's lung capacity is about 95% of expected. The not-so-good news is that she stops breathing (apnea) 22 times/per hour during sleep. The pulmonary doctor wants her on oxygen at night until a second "sleep study" can be repeated. The doctor also gave her two inhalers -- one for maintenance, one for rescue (shortness of breath), because she has a mild component of "asthma-like" response on the PFT." Alan notes these are new things to get used to, so please pray for patience and strength. He also thanks everyone for their concern and prayers.

C. David Rose: David was diagnosed with breast cancer several years ago and since February he has had several set backs and surgery once again. David, like Connie and Gerry, has a strong faith and keeps a positive outlook.

Tom ("Charlie") Nobles (QM2 1951-54): Last fall, we placed a call to Tom in Ocala, FL. Cathy took our call and told us Tom was having a hard time remembering things. Please keep Tom and Cathy in your prayers.

## The Ultimate Cruise Book

In an update from our Historian, Frank Jablonski we have learned the following:

1. The response to the call for information for the Ultimate Cruise Book has increased dramatically during May.
2. Fifty shipmates have sent in their personal information. That is a small percentage of our membership!
3. A very special "Thank You" to LTJG/CDR/Professor Doug Legg. He has been a tremendous resource for information in the 1952-1955 era. Bravo Zulu.
- 4... Special thanks to Stan Edwards and Tom Rodman for submitting cruise books which have been scanned and returned to their rightful owners. We now have cruise books from 1958, 1962, 1963-64, 1966 and 1967-68.
5. We are especially grateful for the participation of two members of the USS Kearsarge CVS-33 who "were there" on 3 June, 1969. (1) Thanks to Randy Slaughter for the photo and copy of the ship's paper, "Kearsaga" and his account of the events of 3 June. (2) George Murphy and his wife, Linda: Author(s) of "The Turn".

6. All shipmates are encouraged to submit YOUR data sheets, stories and photos to Frank. Please identify your photos: who, when, where, (if possible). Your pictures will be returned, upon your request.
7. The most efficient way to get your information to Frank is via email: [fjab333@earthlink.net](mailto:fjab333@earthlink.net). His home address is: Frank Jablonski

4027 North Waterbridge Circle  
Port Orange, FL 32129-9609

**Remember: This was YOUR ship. This is YOUR story. We need YOUR help. Send YOUR info.**

## **“The Lucky Evans”**

**“What decade did the Evans get the name “The Lucky Evans”?** *Editor’s comments: The following answer came from Carl Lenz, Jr. (MM3 1950-53) in an email to J.C. dated January, 2005. When asked where “The Grey Ghost” name came from, Carl contacted Bob Hacker (MM3 1951-55) who consulted his copy of the ship’s history. Carl sent the following message back.*

**“Like their ship, the crew was mostly reserves, over 95% of them recalled to active duty when war broke out in Asia. Despite her long period of inactivity and that of her crew, she sailed for Japan on 2 January 1951.**

**“During the formative months of our naval blockade, the Evans left the comparative safety of the many ships in Task Force 77 and started a cruise along the enemy coast that was to earn her the nickname of “The Grey Ghost” and “The Lucky Evans”. She steamed into enemy-held Wonson Harbor on the east coast in company with a cruiser and three other destroyers, to inaugurate a day-and-night siege and bombardment that was lifted only at the time of the Korean Armistice. On the fifth day of the siege, enemy shore batteries took the Evans under fire from three sides for nearly ninety minutes before the destroyer’s five inch guns could silence the Communist shore artillery. This encounter, during which water from the projectile splashes covered the decks, was the first of thirteen running duels with the Communist shore batteries. Carl Lenz” (Thanks, Carl and Bob.)**

## **Question of the Month**

**This question is for those shipmates who were serving on the USS Frank E. Evans at the end of the Korean Conflict.**

**Does anyone know the name of the sailor who died just after the Korean armistice was signed? He was a 19 year old FN and suffered a massive cerebral hemorrhage.**

**The question has been asked of J.C. in hopes he would be able to furnish the information. J. C. left the Evans in the fall of 1953. We would appreciate hearing via email, telephone or snail mail from anyone who may have any information relating to the young shipmate.**

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