

# USS ROCHESTER (CA-124)



Association



Vol. II, No. 21

## NewsLetter

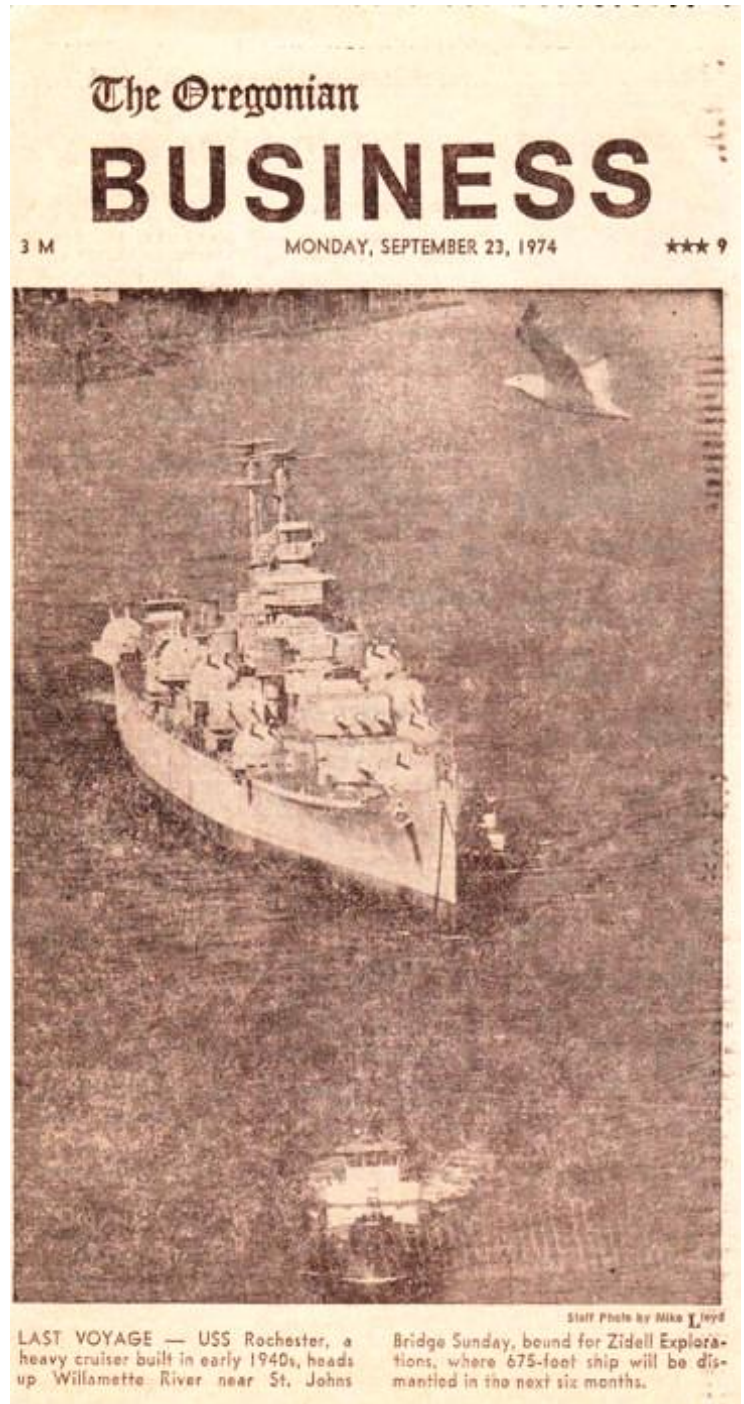
February 2010

### Last Voyage of the USS Rochester – CA124

Monday, September 23, 1974

I was looking over some old newspaper clippings and I came across the picture of the USS Rochester on its way to be dismantled. It reminded me of the time I contacted Zidell to see if there were any items that I could buy. They said it had been stripped but they had a name board (this used to be on the quarterdeck)... with the USS ROCHESTER in brass letters. I bought it and it was freighted to me in San Antonio. Much later I was in contact with Bart Bartholomew and with one of his relatives in between, the name board ended up in the Rochester Museum in Rochester, NY. I received a nice letter from the museum and after their processing, it was accepted for display. I paid \$50 for the sign, and the workman who delivered it to my Dad said "Your son must be awful rich or awful sentimental"...how about that I must have been on board 1953-1955 with Bart because I saw his picture in the cruise book.

*Your shipmate,  
Walter N Johnson.  
Vancouver, WA*



LAST VOYAGE — USS Rochester, a heavy cruiser built in early 1940s, heads up Willamette River near St. Johns

Bridge Sunday, bound for Zidell Explorations, where 675-foot ship will be dismantled in the next six months.

**Reunion 2010**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin**  
**September 23- 27, 2010**

Greetings from the "MILWAUKEE/CHICAGO FROZEN TUNDRA".

Unbelievably, the year 2010 has arrived and the time has come to make reunion plans. As the weather and temperatures in Milwaukee/Chicago at this time of the year can be quite brutal, many businesses follow seasonal closings of their operations and will not reopen until Spring. At that time, the planning committee will begin signing transportation and river cruise contracts.

At this writing, other than the contract with the Wyndham hotel, all plans are tentative and most will be finalized at the next committee meeting. I plan to meet with the Wyndham people to develop some kind of computer link to facilitate registration. I urge everyone to check for updates on the Rochester web site [www.usrochester.org](http://www.usrochester.org).

It is my hope that the following brief descriptions of the tours will encourage you to make the trip to Milwaukee. Let's renew old acquaintances and perhaps make new ones and exchange memories that were made on our beloved ship The Rochester.

**City tour of Milwaukee:** This tour will include many of Milwaukee's famous areas. You will travel past the Milwaukee Art Museum, Bradford Beach and the Milwaukee skyline, the War Memorial Wisconsin, see the historic mansions along Lake Michigan shore, and stop at "Old World Third Street" originally a German neighborhood, among many boutiques and specialty shops. At this stop, you will be able to purchase world-famous Usinger's Sausage or rare spices found at The Spice House.

Tour time: 3-4 hours

**MillerCoors Brewery and Pabst Mansion:** Milwaukee's main brewery since 1855, visit the Girl in the Moon Gift Shop. (Walking and stairs involved) The guided tour includes a theater presentation, a visit to the packaging and shipping centers, the brew house, and historic Caves Museum. You may enjoy samples in the Bavarian style Miller Inn. The Pabst Mansion is a Flemish Renaissance Revival mansion built during the late-19<sup>th</sup> Century once belonged to Milwaukee's own king of beer Captain Frederick Pabst. Sold a few years after his death in 1904, the mansion also housed five Archbishops during its ownership by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. In 1978, the Captain Frederick Pabst Mansion, Inc. purchased the property (saving it from demolition) and has worked to restore and preserve the home and it's legacy ever since.

Tour time: 4 hours

**Harley-Davidson Museum:** 150 years in the making, 130,000 square feet of museum houses motorcycles and artifacts that tells the story of the Company's rich history. There are four restaurants and gift shop housed in the museum's three buildings.

Tour time: 3 hours

**Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory (The Domes) and the Milwaukee Market Place:** A trio of 85-foot, beehive-shaped domes makes up the Conservatory. Plants from around the world are cultivated in naturalistic settings. Two of the glass domes have distinct climates that feature plant life specific to their environment. **The Tropical Dome** replicates a small-scale rain forest, complete with birds and iguanas in addition to a large collection of lush plants. **The Arid Dome** is home to a large variety of vegetation found in the hot, dry regions of North and South America. Most notable is the collection of plant life from Madagascar, one of the largest collections in the country.

Not to be missed is the **Floral Show Dome** is a true inspiration for any gardener, featuring rotating themes with a historical motif. **(A must see tour)**

Tour time: 4 hours

**The Edelweiss Scenic Dinner River Cruise:** This is Milwaukee's most informative tour based off of John Gurda's "Making of Milwaukee" series. The narration focuses on Milwaukee's historical development, great views of Milwaukee's lakefront and downtown. Expect to learn of Milwaukee's Brewing History, German heritage and the City's manufacturing contributions.

Note: Because the cruise boats do not operate during the winter, the length of the tour cannot be determined at this time.

**The Great Lakes Naval Training Center Tour:** In the mid 1950's I went for my basic training here and after graduation, I was assigned aboard the Rochester. At that time, I thought Great Lakes was such a far away place. Little did I know that, a few years after my discharge I would come to live, establish a successful business, and raise a family only three miles from Great Lakes. I'm quite sure that many of our shipmates were trained at San Diego, and Pensacola as well as Great lakes. Over the years, both of the above bases were closed and Great Lakes remained as the only Naval Training Center in the United States. Billions have been spent to renovate, expand, and renovate the facility. Fridays are graduation days, I know because the bars, restaurants, and hotels count on the patronage of the graduated sailors. I'm certain that this tour will bring back memories for many of us.

Tour time: TBA

**Potawatomi Bingo Casino:** Wisconsin's largest tourist destination (so they say) offering bingo, slots and Las Vegas style table games and world class live entertainment. Whether you go with your companion or not, don't forget those sweet words "Here's Some Money Honey".

Details: TBA

**Ladies Shopping Trip to the Mayfair Mall-Wawatosa:** If you chose to go to the casino, the ladies will gladly take your winnings and put them to good use.

Details: TBA

**OKTOBERFEST:** This is the year's "BIG BASH" sponsored by the United German Societies of Milwaukee at Old Heidelberg Park. This authentic annual fall festival features brass bands, Bavarian folk dancers, yodelers, music and dancing for everyone. German food and beer are available. This would be a good venue to kick up your heels and have lots of fun.

Duration? TBA or until no one is left standing? (Too much beer?)

A link to the Wyndham Hotel has been set up for the ease off registration.

[http://www.wyndham.com/groupeventsnew/mkeap\\_ussrochester/main.wnt](http://www.wyndham.com/groupeventsnew/mkeap_ussrochester/main.wnt)

At this writing I cannot wish anyone warm wishes, as my teeth are chattering from the cold.

May the new year bring you good health and happiness.

See You in Milwaukee.

*John Rigoni*

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## The Moment

Author unknown

I may never see tomorrow; there's no written guarantee, and things that happened yesterday, belong to history. I cannot predict the future, I cannot change the past. I have just the present moment, I must treat it as my last. I must use this moment wisely, for it soon will pass away, And be lost to me forever, as part of yesterday. I must exercise compassion, help the fallen to their feet. Be a friend unto the friendless, make an empty life complete. The unkind things I do today, may never be undone, And friendships that I fail to win may nevermore be won. I may not have another chance on bended knee to pray, And thank God with humble heart for giving me this day".

*Submitted by Joe Hill*

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## Fox Division Report

Fifteen Fox Division shipmates and wives spent an informative and exciting afternoon Sept. 19, 2009 aboard the USS Salem, CA-139, berthed in Quincy, Mass.

The Salem is nearly identical to the Rochester, so we were able to relive the good old days of life aboard a warship. The wives expressed amazement over our ability to live under "those conditions".

The in-depth ship's tour included all fire control equipment and facilities. As shipmate Chuck Newsham reflected, "Even though I had been on modern Navy ships and subs, that was the 1st time since July 1953 that I had been on an old gunship like the Rochester. Going into the plotting rooms with the MK1 computers, the MK 37 directors and the MK 56 control rooms, brought back a lot of memories."

Our tour of the Salem concluded on board with a spaghetti and meatballs dinner, definitely an improvement over the Navy chow we all remembered.

The Salem visit was the highlight of our reunion weekend, which included Boston area attractions, a Boston Harbor catamaran cruise, and of course all topped off with a typical New England seafood restaurant experience.

The reunion group consists of Fox Division personnel, principally from the Korean era, who have hung together with bi-annual reunions since 1995. Our numbers have naturally declined over the years, but we still get great enjoyment from our get-togethers and the camaraderie and close fellowship that has developed. Other Fox Div. shipmates are welcome to join us. When we meet in Milwaukee in 2010 for the Rochester reunion we'll decide on our destination for the Fox 2011 reunion.

Roland "Moose" Schneider  
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989-652-2086

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## Chaplain's Corner

### CONNECTIONS

It is often stated, "Who you know rather than what you know is very important in life". In reflecting on this concept, it was connections that influenced me to join the Navy. Aboard ship it was a connection that helped me transfer to the "R" division. Connections helped me gain additional education aboard ship. While in Damage Control school at Treasure Island it was a connection that introduced me to a wife. While you read this, it is a connection that makes it possible for me to be vacationing in New Zealand & Australia.

The most important connection for me while aboard the Rochester was making a connection with Jesus Christ as Saviour. This is a connection that was very important to me to not only modify a lifestyle but has been a great source of help and comfort over many years.

I am often reminded of the invitation of Jesus in Matthew 11:28-30, "Come unto me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest, Take my yoke upon you and learn from me. For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light".

As we progress through the winter season of our lives there are burdens and we become weary. It is helpful to maintain old connections and make new ones. The Reunion is a great time for connections. I will be looking forward to meeting you in Milwaukee!

*Frank West, Chaplain*  
[fawest@jps.net](mailto:fawest@jps.net)

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## Association Officers

Garry L. Phillips, President	Richard Becker, Executive VP
Gordon W. Cargill, 1 <sup>st</sup> VP	Donald Schnirel, 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP
Joseph S. Hill, Sec./Treasurer	Frank West, Chaplain
Jimmy Young, MAA	Larry Stone, Storekeeper
Louis DiRusso, Director	Merlin A. Scheller, Director

Association website:  
[www.USSRochester.org](http://www.USSRochester.org)

Rochester Museum and Science Center  
[www.rmsc.org](http://www.rmsc.org)

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## Membership & Mailing Information

### DUES FOR 2010 ARE NOW DUE

Cookeville, TN -Dues for 2010 should have been mailed soon after January 1st. Hopefully those who are behind will mail their dues in soon. If you are unsure of your status, check the address mailing label of your News Letter. An example: Pete Smith 09 would indicate your dues have been paid up for the year 2009. If you Joe Hill will be glad to verify your membership status. Joe can be reached at 4011 Ditty Road, Cookeville , TN 38506-7663. Phone Number 931-432-4848. E-Mail: [NiteCrawl@twlakes.net](mailto:NiteCrawl@twlakes.net)

Please send in your dues now so that you will continue being a member of the Rochester Association, and receive all newsletters. The association operates on membership dues.

THESE ARE DIFFICULT TIMES AND IF A SHIPMATE HAS DIFFICULTY PAYING THEIR DUES, LET JOE HILL KNOW. THE OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION HAVE PREVIOUSLY VOTED TO GRANT AND WAIVE DUES REQUIREMENTS. NO ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO INVESTIGATE.

SNOW BIRDS SNOW BIRDS SNOW BIRDS

CHANGE OF ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS, AND E-MAIL ADDRESS ESPECIALLY YOU SNOW BIRDS WHO MOVE WITH THE WEATHER SHOULD SEND THESE CHANGES TO JOE HILL. A REMINDER VIA E-MAIL TO JOE OR A NOTE WILL DO.

Notification of changes will keep the mail following on a steady course.

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## USS ROCHESTER (CA124) ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is published quarterly by the USS ROCHESTER Association. The Association's officers encourage questions and comments. You may contact the Editor by writing Gordon Cargill, 11485 Luz Place, San Diego, CA 92127-1229. If you would to submit an item of information or a story to the newsletter, mail it to the address above or send it to [scotsmann31@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scotsmann31@sbcglobal.net).

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## TAPS

The following shipmates were reported to have passed away recently. If anyone has additional or different information, please let us know.

Name	ST	Yr	Div	OnBd
C. Wayne Assen	ND	2009	S-2	56-58
Raymond W. Bogan*	PA	2009	4 <sup>th</sup>	46-48
Thomas A. Peirson	KS	2007	Fox	50-52
Donald R. Shortreed	CA	2007	Fox	50-54
Elven Zahner	MO	2009	R	51-55

\*Plank Owner

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## Crew News

USS ROCHESTER CA-124  
Division U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corp.

The cadets have been very busy. We enjoyed our trip to NYC to see the USS New York. She is a beautiful ship. They also visited the Intrepid, Ground Zero, rode the Staten Island ferry and saw the Statue of Liberty. We spent some time at Central Park, visiting the museum of Natural History and were able to get on the set of Good Morning America, where they had their pictures taken with Diane Sawyer and Robin Roberts. They looked extremely sharp marching around NYC in their dress blues. We took the train from Rochester to Penn Station and back which the cadets truly enjoyed.

We are now preparing for our annual inspection and Cadet of the Year awards.

*Respectfully, Mary Roat, LTJG USNSCC*

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## A Shipmates Input

I served on the Rochester from 1948-1952. I became 80 as of July 31 2009. I retired from my part time job after seventeen years. Now I am enjoying my new life with wife and family. Looking forward to seeing shipmates at the reunion in Milwaukee Wisconsin, September 2010.

Harold Ford, GM3 4<sup>th</sup> Div  
18 Stockton Street, Brentwood NY 11717

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