

# USS ROCHESTER (CA-124)



Association



## News Letter

Vol. II, No. 34

May 2013

### Sailing Up The River Walk

*From Secondary Conn  
Garry Phillips*

Selecting San Antonio's famous River Walk was a stroke of genius. The San Antonio River has been converted into one of the most charming and restful commercial respites I have ever seen. A pathway winding along the river passes by numerous restaurants, gift shops, park benches, and the like. Water taxis ply the waterways and families stroll along its paths. Very restful, peaceful, and safe. Bring your walking shoes.

The reunion committee, headed by the intrepid Ed Willis, selected the Crowne Plaza Riverwalk Hotel for our 2014 ROCHESTER reunion. And for this reunion, we are trying something different in using a professional reunion-planning group, Military Reunion Planners of Grapevine, TX, to run interference for us. So far, it's been a good working relationship.

My wife and I spent two nights at the hotel a few weeks ago while visiting friends and doing reconnaissance for the reunion. The rooms are large and well appointed. We loved the hotel and the service was great.

I would like to thank the 2014 Reunion committee – Ed, Joe Hill, and Pete Russell – for their hard work and attention to detail. Pete has very ably taken up the reins of leadership since Ed had to attend to other commitments. Gordon Cargill, 1st VP, has been a great sounding board, in that he was a principal player in last year's San Diego reunion. In addition to meetings, the committee has conducted conference calls, exchanged myriad emails, telephone calls, and notes, made reports, reviewed contracts, and prepared perk charts. They have been careful to control costs, but not at the expense of quality. The reunion is in good hands.

The Crowne Plaza Hotel, while more modern, is less expensive than some we have used in the past. The hotel is located on the River Walk, with handicapped access, but comfortably removed from the noise of late night partiers. Refrigerators are available in the rooms upon request. Our contract allows us free breakfast for two for each room rented. The dining room is convenient and very nice. We have also negotiated a reduced parking fee at the hotel.

We are planning a tour of the Alamo and the downtown area of San Antonio (Great shopping!). We are also planning a visit to the Admiral Nimitz National Museum of the Pacific War, along with a ROCHESTER plaque dedication ceremony, in nearby Fredericksburg. Some of you will remember Fleet Admiral Nimitz coming aboard ROCHESTER in San Francisco harbor to review the fleet in 1958. FADM Nimitz is from Fredericksburg, TX, and his modest home is still standing.

We will do a special rodeo tour where we can satisfy our cowboy and cowgirl dreams and ambitions! Ever want to rope a steer or ride a buckin' bronco? My understanding is that Dick Becker is going to give a bull-riding exhibition. I can't wait to see this! It's going to be fun.

So, gang – talk it up. We want a huge turnout for San Antonio. Call your old shipmates and get them excited. We're going to have a great time! More to follow.



## Chaplain's Corner

### LITTLE THINGS

Taking care of "little things" in detail is what kept the "Roc" doing the job that it was designed and built for. Things as small as washing silverware by hand after we had fried eggs because the dishwasher would not clean them, to keeping all the divisions trained and prepared to accomplish their mission. Caring for little things in our daily lives is easy to overlook but really is very important. An old saying illustrates the point:

For want of a nail, the shoe was lost;  
For want of the shoe, the horse was lost;  
For want of the horse, the rider was lost;  
For want of the rider, the battle was lost;  
For want of the battle, the kingdom was lost;  
All for the want of a horseshoe nail.

Solomon was aware of the concept when he stated it was "the little foxes that spoil the vines." Little things were often mentioned in the Bible, such as the little boy with little cakes or a tongue is a little member but boast great things. I want to encourage all our shipmates to plan and care for the little things in life that we were designed and built for.

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

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### Association Dues

The 2013 dues were due on January 1, 2013. So far folks have been pretty good about sending in their renewals, but we still have some outstanding. PLEASE look at the mailing label and slightly to the right of your name is the Year in which dues were last credited. If there is a 2012 after your name, please send in your 2013 dues to stay current.

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### Change of Addresses, Emails and Phone Numbers

To keep the mail flowing to your in box, please file change of addresses both mail and email, and/or phone numbers with Joe Hill. With things being equal and current there should not be an interruption in service.

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## The Ship's Store

Hi everyone! Well the Ship's Store is open again and we are back home from the Winter. The only problem is that winter isn't gone yet. Lots of snow and dang cold. God I love this country.

As for the store items, the inventory is down a little from the reunion, and will probably wait for awhile before we order again, so either CALL OR EMAIL to make sure we have what you want before you order anything. Missing a few sizes (sorry about that). Also, please use the new Order Form in this Newsletter, as the shipping prices and are different from the old forms. Everyone take care, and will talk to you again soon.

*Dick Becker*  
Storekeeper  
715-263-3452

[Windyridge@cltcomm.net](mailto:Windyridge@cltcomm.net) OR  
[rochesterkid@hotmail.com](mailto:rochesterkid@hotmail.com)

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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.

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>Yr</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>OnBd</u>
CDR Edward H. Cahill	VA	2013	B	46-50*
Edmund Schultz, Jr	MN	2013	5th/R	51-56
Albert F. Wehner	MI	2013	3 <sup>rd</sup>	51-54

\* *PLANK OWNER*

### Honorary Member

Mary Jane Hubbard 2012 Wife of Jeff Hubbard  
5th & 7th Div. 50-54



## Donations Received

The Association wishes to thank the following for their generous donations:

Pete Parnagian donated \$50.00 with extra \$35.00 check stuck to first check. Pete donated both checks for a total of \$85.00. Thanks again Pete!

Carl E. Lee donated \$50.00 Memorial - Don Wright Fox Div 50-54.

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## New Members

We wish to welcome aboard (again) the new USS Rochester Association members:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>OnBd</u>
Harry P. McIntyre	OR	58-61
Crawford F. Nicholson	PVT USMC	

And we wish to welcome aboard (again) previous members who have **rejoined** the Association:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>OnBd</u>
Dr. William R. Corcoran	E,X & Fox	59-60

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## 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 like to submit an item of information or a story to the newsletter, mail it to the address above or email it to: [scotsmann31@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scotsmann31@sbcglobal.net).

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## Association Officers

Garry L. Phillips, President	Ed Willis, Executive VP
Gordon W. Cargill, 1 <sup>st</sup> VP	Pete Russell, 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP
Joseph S. Hill, Secy/Treasurer	Frank West, Chaplain
William W. Berkley, MAA	Richard D. Becker, Storekeeper
Frank Dayak, Director	Merlin A. Scheller, Director
Charles L. Chipley, Jr., Director	Donald K. Moon, Director

Association website:

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

Rochester Museum and Science Center

[www.rmssc.org](http://www.rmssc.org)

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## Walking Canes

The Walking Canes that shipmate Stanley Muci donated to the Association were quickly purchased by our members. At the present time, there are only three canes left with the following engraving: USS ROCHESTER CA124, SAN DIEGO REUNION, OCTOBER 2012

These can be purchased from Gordon Cargill, 858-592-9366 for the cost of \$35.00 (\$25.00 for the cane and \$10.00 shipping).

If you would like to order a different cane, or possibly a special order cane, please contact Stanley Muci directly at 562-691-6666. His address is 9431 Canfield Drive, La Habra, CA 90631. Each cane is individually made and unique in that there are no other canes on the market like them. He has canes with the engraved USS Rochester (CA-124), Task Force 77 in stock. The canes are not only for shipmates, there are a number of Honorary Members and spouses that might want one of these nostalgic reminders of earlier days. Judy Hill recently ordered a cane for herself and is very proud of it and is a big help in her mobility.

The cost of engraving has increased so the canes are now \$40.00 (\$30.00 for the cane and \$10.00 shipping). Talk to Stanley if you have any special requests for engraving. If possible, he will accommodate your requests.

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## From The Members...

Thanks for the welcome! Nearly 52 years ashore, but sea breezes still find the pages of my writing. I've been needing to come back aboard and touch the memories that were home. I thought a good place to get reacquainted, and up to speed, would be to read all of the Newsletters posted. With that done, time to unpack and get squared away.

*Regards, Harry McIntyre, OR Div, 58-61*

### *Storm Tack*

Dark clouds running lift up waves to tempest serve, adding strength on strength from all in their path consumed. Turning from the storm will place ever greater distance between you and the calm. You must lie to helmsman, for the sea to rise and break on bow with spray, anointing mast and deck with promise of deliverance, as it rolls to the depths the passing storm.



E-mail from Joe Ryan, T Div. 51-54.  
*Edited for clarification and readability.*

Late December 1952, out of the blue, the R (Rochester) was ordered to Saigon.

Across the China Sea, there was terrible weather, mess tables were not set up. Ate our meals sitting on the deck. Division mate, Neil Hall says he heard we ruptured the main spar.

It was an interesting and tricky trek up the Saigon River.

In Saigon, met many legionaries, great guys, quick comrades who got gin mill prices cut to a quarter of what we were paying in the local establishments.

Back to affairs, Korean.

Years later, I think in the 70's, I read a small blurb in an Eisenhower History telling of how, BEFORE HIS INAUGURATION, he, with Truman's approval, dispatched the R to Saigon for an on sight recommendation on joining French against the communists.

The advice, history tells us was NO.

Ike quickly shut down Korea and avoided earlier involvement saving God knows how many innocent American lives. Our ship, we men, were a part of making that decision.

Does any one else remember this history?

Numerous searches on the web have failed to regenerate any confirmation on this story. If true, this would to me, rank this ROCHESTER accomplishment, and resultant life saving actions, right up there above the Hungnam evacuation.

*Respectfully, Joe Ryan*

He lives at 13300 E. Via Linda Unit 1039,  
Scottsdale, AZ 85259-4346; phone 480-284-6940.  
[nryan55440@aol.com](mailto:nryan55440@aol.com)



## If My Body Were A Car...

*Submitted by Joe Hill*

If my body were a car, this is the time I would be thinking about trading it in for a newer model. I've got bumps and dents and scratches on my finish and my paint job is getting a little dull, but that's not the worst of it.

My headlights are out of focus and it's especially hard to see things up close. My traction is not as graceful at it once was. I slip and slide and skid and bump into things, even in the best weather.

My whitewalls are stained with varicose veins. It takes me hours to reach my maximum speed. My fuel rate burns inefficiently. But here's the worst of it...

Almost every time I sneeze, cough or laugh either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires.



## Seniors...

*Submitted by Gordon Cargill*

I feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But, by the time I got my leotards on, the class was over.

I've sure gotten old! I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees. Fought prostate cancer and diabetes. I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts. Have bouts with dementia. Have poor circulation; hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends. But, thank God, I still have my driver's license.

THE SENILITY PRAYER: Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

Remember:... You don't stop laughing because you grow old, you grow old because you stop laughing.



## Membership

An ongoing problem has caused concern with the dwindling membership in the Association. Everyone is getting older and TAPS plays a part in membership. Shipmate Bill Robinson (47-49) read the comments about prior members no longer signing up for another year prompted some ideas and shared some of his thoughts about keeping up interest in the Rochester Association.

There are many stories shipmates would love to remember, all it takes is for someone to write them down, and forward them to me to be included in future News Letters. I look forward to having shipmates continue with the idea of submitting experiences while aboard the Rochester to be submitted into News Letters.

*Gordon Cargill*



## Remembrances

*Submitted by Bill Robinson YNI*

“The News Letter is quite well done although somewhat lacking in excitement and doesn’t contain reasons why I should look forward to the next one. It needs some kind of punch. I suggest a column entitled Remembrances. This could cover some of the shipmate’s experiences and goofy things that took place during the many cruises and/or shore leaves in strange places.

I’ll kick it off with an article about some of my experiences during the Rochester’s early life – from late 1946, just after commissioning, to the shake-down cruise to the Caribbean and the 3-month cruise to the Mediterranean as the Flagship of the Sixth Fleet. I’m sure there are a couple of “plank owners” still around who could also shed some light on these early years.

I was an 18 year-old “wet-behind-the-ears” Seaman Recruit just out of boot camp, when I first spied the USS Rochester in the South Boston Naval Yard in early January 1947, just after she had been commissioned. WOW! Was she big and beautiful.

It wasn’t long after that first winter in Boston that we put to sea for her shake-down cruise to the

Caribbean. That was one hell of a first time sea voyage. We hit a hurricane just off “Hurricane Alley” Cape Hatteras, NC and wallowed for a couple of days. Some damage tho’. At that time, the Rochester carried two Kingfisher recon planes on her two catapults on the fan tail. While they were not swamped overboard, a lot of the gasoline barrels stored there broke loose and rolled about smashing whatever was in the way, including the movie shack. Wonderful time? There were a few “sickies,” believe me.

At this period in time, the ship was used for reservist cruises in and out of Philly or Boston every two or three weeks in the sun and hit all the islands, Jamaica, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Haiti, Bermuda, etc. Even went to Panama once. This went on for two years or more. Great sights and fun, including gunnery practice with the big eight-inchers.

Once, one of the Kingfishers was out flying and decided to land in the ship’s wake. It was little rough water and the plane’s main pontoon hit a wave and it was “a” over tea kettle and promptly sank out of sight. The pilot, a young jg, was rescued and did he look sheepish when he was hauled aboard dripping wet. I learned later that this might have been his second plane loss. I often wondered about his naval career prospects after that one.

Does anyone remember the fiasco of going over the side to take a swim at the mouth of Delaware Bay? I guess the Skipper felt we all needed some R&R and allowed the jumping off of the ship (or climb down the cargo net). The Rochester was anchored and it seemed like a good idea...until we hit the water and found the current so strong it became almost impossible to reach the ship and we had to be hauled in my motor launches before we ended up in the Atlantic. Some fun! If anyone had been lost, it would have been a career-ender for the Skipper.

During 1947, the Rochester visited Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland following at-sea gunnery practice in the frozen north off Greenland. In 1948, the Rochester set sail for three months in the Mediterranean as the Flagship of the Sixth Fleet visiting such ports as the Gibraltar, Malta, Athens, Trieste, Sfax, Algiers, Naples, Corfu and Nice, France. This trip was quite an experience for a young sailor and I think, for most of the crew.

I transferred from the Rochester in December 1949 for a two-year tour of duty in Ankara, Turkey with the US Military Mission for Aid to Turkey, under the Truman Doctrine to save Greece, Italy, and Turkey from Russian domination. The Korean War was on and we were sending Turks to fight the Chinese. We had a Navy Lt. (Pilot) who arrived later in my tour who had been on MacArthur's staff in Tokyo and was told to grab a rifle and report to the front lines in Korea with the Turkish Brigade since he was the only member of the staff who spoke Turkish. Needless to say, he was delighted to move later to Turkey as liaison to the Turkish headquarters as a member of the Mission. Sending Turks on MSTs ships was a moving experience for those poor US Navy seamen...believe me. All the soldiers had never been on a ship before, did not know what a bathroom was and used their helmets, for one thing. Excitement reigned!!!

After two years there and a wonderful vacation trip (30 days) throughout the Middle East (Syria, Jordan, Cyprus, Egypt, etc.) I was transferred back to the best job in the Navy as a senior non-commissioned aid to four-star Admiral Duncan, Vice Chief of Naval Operation at the Pentagon. The War was still on and I read the daily battle reports from general Ridgeway on the progress of the War. It was heady stuff for a young kid. I had been promoted to YN1 at this juncture, but decided after eight years that it was time to leave the Navy.

I left in 1954, joining the IBM Corporation, and again traveled the world in many marketing roles during my 17 years. I had a great career, but left to start my own business in 1972, eventually morphing into 35 years as a stockbroker and financial planner, retiring in 2005.

I wrote a book about IBM, published in 2008 and became a consultant to small and medium-sized businesses writing business plans and prospectuses to raise public capital. It's been a great ride for a youngster who is now 85!

If there are still a few around who remember this Rochester era, each could write a paragraph or two about some of the fun things that took place...such as the After-Engine Room poker and crap games during the nights and the beer parties with before and after pictures. I have a large scrapbook of Rochester events, from early 1947 through December 1949 with

many pictures that could be used for some future articles, if you think they would be of interest to the latter-day crews of the Rochester. I even have the first Rochester Register Newsletter."

### U.S.S. ROCHESTER ARRIVES TODAY

The U.S.S. Rochester, flagship of Vice-Admiral Forrest P. Sherman, commanding United States naval forces in the Mediterranean, is expected to enter the Grand Harbour at 9 a.m. today, berthing in Bighi Bay.

Vice-Admiral Sherman will be calling on Admiral Sir Arthur Power.

The United States aircraft-carrier Philippine Sea, accompanied by the destroyers "Brownson", "J.P. Kennedy", "R.H. McCard", "Fiske", "Meredith" and "O'Hare", are expected to anchor at Marsaxlokk tomorrow.

FROM: MALTA TIMES

16 June 1948:

Commended by Commander SIXTH Task Fleet upon detachment of U.S.S. ROCHESTER from the SIXTH Task Fleet:

"During her three months duty as my flagship, the officers and men of the ROCHESTER by consistently loyal and energetic cooperation contributed greatly to the overall efficiency of our naval forces in the Mediterranean. The ROCHESTER has become a smart and efficient fighting unit and was a worthy representative of our country in the many ports in which she has shown the flag of the United States. Well Done."

*G. Crosby*

G. J. CROSBY,  
Captain, U.S. Navy,  
Commanding.

## Local Naval Reservists Set For Cruise To Tropical Seas

Atlantic City Naval Reservists are preparing for a cruise which will take them into tropical waters next month.

A group of local men are expected to take part in the two-week training trip of the U.S.S. Rochester, which will leave the Philadelphia Navy Yard on Sept. 12, according to Lt. Edmund R. Baron, new com-

manding those wanting to make the trip to apply at once.

Maj. Anthony Turnello of the 157th Field Artillery, National Guard of this city said last night that word had been received re-opening enlistments to bring the local units up to full strength. Recruiting was halted by government order just after the passage of the draft act.