



U.S.S. MAGOFFIN APA 199 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

#23

MAGOFFIN MESSENGER

Sam Rubin, Editor

Fall 2003

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Presidents Corner

Greeting Shipmates. When you receive this newsletter we will be less than one year from our upcoming reunion in Milwaukee. Our host Tom Tessar is doing a wonderful job with lining up the accommodations and the tours. More information regarding the reunion is located in this newsletter.

I recently received my tape and newspaper from the Magoffin County Public Schools, and I know all of you who attended the Kentucky reunion once again relived that marvelous experience.

I know that our members who attended their book camp at Great Lakes will enjoy the tour of that facility that Tom has arranged. I remember the tour of the old naval training facility at Faragut, Idaho and how much our WW2 shipmates who had done their boot training there enjoyed revisiting their past.

For those shipmates like myself that attended book camp at San Diego, we will not be able to revisit our past as the naval training center has been closed for some years, and deeded to the City of San Diego. They are currently building condos and homes on the site which is now called "Liberty Station." The neighborhoods are called, "Anchor Cove", "Beacon Point", and "Admiralty Row". You might be interested to know that the home prices run from \$400,000 to \$700,000. At those prices we call all agree that the accommodations now are much nicer than what we young "white hats" were accustomed to.

I'm pleased to report that our membership has grown over the last few months because of ex-shipmates locating the association at our web-page ussmagoffin.org. If you have not yet visited the site, please do so as our web guy Terry Little keeps it constantly updated.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Milwaukee reunion. We will keep you advised as the details are finalized

Mike Stein

An easy way to get to our new web site is to put in your favorites file the word Magoffin. Terry Little has done a wonderful job with it. Adding things of interest as well.

11th. Reunion

September 15 –18, 2004

Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel
375 South Moorland Rd.
Brookfield, WI 53005
Phone: 800 325 3535

Hosts: Tom and Donna Tessar

The Sheraton Hotel is a completely renovated hotel featuring 389 guestrooms. Tom has negotiated a room rate of \$79.00 plus applicable taxes. Currently there is a 13.1 % sales tax applicable to the room rate. Extra (third) person charge is \$15.00 per night. Children under 18 may stay free in their parents room. A king Suite rate is \$175.00 per night.

When you call to make a reservation, on the 800 number, ask to stay at the Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield and say that you are part of the USS Magoffin Reunion and you will receive the special \$79.00 room rate.

Reservations must be made by August 15, 2004.

As usual we will have our Hospitality Room open each day but this time, beverages will be available in room. The schedule of events and Tours will be forthcoming in a later newsletter.

See Sheraton information sheet on next page.

Reunion Video Tapes

Tom Haglage was able to receive the videos from the Lexington TV station. He has the first 3 minutes of the video, aired in Lexington as well as all the video taken while at Salyersville and has put it all together into a very organized way. He will be very happy to send it to anyone for a fee of five dollars to cover the cost of the tape and shipping. He put a lot of effort into this and it is a worthwhile visual souvenir of the Reunion. The tape totals about 52 minutes.

Toms' address is 108 Mallard Dr.
Richmond, KY 40475

Sheraton
Milwaukee Brookfield
HOTEL



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Visit our WEBSITE at www.sheratonbrkfld.com

Active Membership

As of Sept. 15, 2003 the following members have paid their dues for 2003:

Aguilar*, Alexander, Andress, Anson*, Anderson, Arnold*, Ayers, Balta*, Barrick*, Beals, Berglin, Bellin*, Beninato, Betz***, Bidingner**, Blomgren, Brady, Bryant*, Calvert, Carey*, Carper, Charlton**, Cheely***, Christy**, Church, Clifton, Culpepper*, Curry*, Dejarnette**, Dickenson***, Drugan, Duncan**, Durham, Dutterer, Eagon*, Earven**, Engleman*, Fitzpatrick, Flanagan**, Flanagan**, Ford*, Foster, Frank, French, Furlow, Gaskill, Gehrlich***, Gideon***, Gillivan***, Goguen, Griffith**, Guido, Hagg**, Haglage**, Hammond*, Hancock, Heiken, Hellman****, Henderson****, Hogard, Horner, Hummel, Jennings*, Guy Johnson, JL Johnson, Jones Roy, Jordan, Joslin, Kennon, Kershner**, Key*, King**, Kopczynski, Krebs, Kuklinski*, Kyle*, Lackner, Langlo, Latham*, Little*, Lopez, Lowther, Lukensow, Lutz*, MacConnel**, Macioce, Mackey*, Marcus*, Maroney*, Masters*, McCants*, Melsha, Muhlbach*, Miller*, Morris, Mozis*, Montgomery*, Mullen*, Munger, Nass**, Noll**, O'Brien*, Ogburn*, Olivera*, Olson*, Paquette, Patterson, Pearce*, Phares*, Phipps, Poortvliet*, Pope, Raich, Railey*, Reece, Renfro**, Rhodes*, Riley***, Ring*, Rogers, Roth*, Rubeling**, Rubin*, Saeugling, Sakers**, Savage, Scadlock*, Schaefer*, Schulz, Schirmer, Sharp, Showler*, Shropshire**, Shultz, Simpson**, Skow, Sluka*, Small, Snodgrass*, Sons*, Spiese***, Stein***, Stevens****, Stutzman**, Swanson*, Swary**, Tellefsen*, Tessar*, Transou*, Truxillo**, Tull, Tyson, Unertl. Vandewouwer, Vernoy, Walker, Wall, Ward, Whiteley*, Wilhelm**, Williamson, Wilkinson*, Wilson, Jim Wilson, Wood*, Woodall Wright, and Youngs.

Paid 2003 dues. 169 have paid 2003 dues.

* Paid 2004 dues.

**Paid 2005 dues.

***Paid 2006 dues.

****Paid 2007 dues

(If I accidentally missed you or made a mistake, let me know and it will be in the next newsletter.)

Miscellaneous

Tom Haglage recently purchased some uniform articles from the Navy and Marine Corps Uniform Support Center at 1545 Crossways Blvd, Suite 200. Chesapeake, VA 23320, 800-368-4088. He said it was an excellent place to make purchases but your DD214 will be required to place an order.

If you change your home or email address, be sure to notify Joe Beninato of those changes. We find it time consuming to try to track you down after the fact, for newsletter delivery or information via email.

We have a large stock of t-shirts sizes from small to 3XL. They would make great Christmas present to family members, etc. and they are very reasonably priced. Lapel pins and hats are also available in stock.

All Hands Alert

I have been informed that our shipmate Junior Carey has been in the hospital for a month. He has had a colon operation and both kidneys removed and is now on dialysis 3 times a day. He is in St. Johns Regional Hospital, 1235 E. Cherokee, Springfield MO. 65804. His wife Carol, said that he would appreciate any cards or letters from friends and shipmates.

Also received an email from Mac Christy that he is going in for a heart bypass operation on Oct. 21,2003.

Editor

Financial Statement

Bank Reconciliation

Year to Date

Beginning Cash Balance 1/1/03	\$ 9,585.00
Cash Receipts	21,904.39
Check Disbursements	(22,161.73)
Deposits in Transit	
Outstanding Checks	
Deposits in transit	(197.50)
Ending Bank Balance 8/31/03	\$ 9,130.16
Less Outstanding Checks	0.00
Ending Bank Balance	\$ 9,130.16
Education Fund Beginning Balance	\$3,172.11
Disbursement	(500.00)
Receipts Reunion	1,600.00
Donations July-Dec	50.00
Education Ending Balance YTD	\$ 4,327.11
Net Operating Account Balance 08/31/03	\$ 4,753.05

*Respectfully submitted by:
Joe Beninato, Treasurer*

USS Magoffin Veterans Association



APA 199

TSHIRT LOGO

Additional Ship Store Items



Ball Cap \$13.00



Lapel Pin \$4.50

Notice

There will be no Rogues Gallery in this issue of the Messenger due to lack of photos, Only two shipmates sent in entries.

Don't be shy, send either photos by mail or pictures via email.

Is there anyone who would like to take over the job as Editor of the Newsletter? I need a rest from all my activities and also plan on doing some extended traveling next year. I would turn over all the tools I have available and help as much as I could. The program Microsoft Publisher would be suggested.

Editor

Ships History 1954

During mid August 1954 our ship took part in a little known but important part of the history of Viet Nam. Over the years, French Indo China had been a colony of France. This ended on May 7, 1954 with the fall of Dien Bien Phu, and an agreement with the state on June 3, to grant independence to the state of Vietnam and the partition of the country into North and South Viet Nam. As part of the agreement reached, those persons living in the north of the country (controlled by the Communist Viet Cong) were given a chance to move to the southern (democratic) part of the country.

In the summer of 1954 we left our homeport of San Diego and headed into the Western Pacific. We had been over there in 1952, taking part in the fighting in Korea, and visiting ports in Japan, but a truce had been signed in 1953 and we didn't think we were going there. I do not remember what we were told exactly what we would be doing when we got near Viet Nam, but then, that is the way of the Navy! Our ship was built in 1944 for use as an attack transport, carrying soldiers or marines into the beaches during amphibious attacks. So we had 26 boats of various sizes, mostly 36 foot Lcvp's (landing craft, vehicles & personnel). We were built to carry, feed provision, and land 1400 combat troops. We got to Touraine Indo China, (later to be called Da Nang) and met up with some

French troops, who loaded a large amount of rice and cans of fish sauce (you could not get near the fish sauce when the can was open!) aboard ship. We steamed up to the port of Haiphong, which is just a short way from Hanoi and prepared to board the refugees that were going south to freedom. We were certainly unprepared to see so many people, and see them in such dire need. They were brought out to our ship which lay at anchor in the outer harbor, in LCU's (landing craft utility, that could carry four tanks and land them on the beaches) and you could hardly see the LCU for the people. We later estimated that they were carrying from 500 to 750 people. They were of all ages, including children and old folks, but all were very thin and of course dressed in the traditional "black pajamas" and thatch hats. Many brought only their bedding over their shoulder, and perhaps a few pots and pans to cook with when they got where they were going. Many were infested with parasites because they had been waiting in camps for our arrival. A remarkable fact is that the vast majority were Christians, as French Catholic Priests had led them out of the North.

My memory was that there were anywhere from 2,000 to 4,000 of these refugees aboard ship during the trips. They filled up the troop quarters, cargo holds and then we began to load them out on the open deck! The crew marked out passages along the deck so that we could walk around and do our job, but it was very crowded. Most folks would gather into little family circles with their belongings in the middle. When the refugees first came aboard, they would not eat the rice that our cooks made for them, because the Viet Cong had told them the American Sailors would poison them! So the cooks took about six of the male refugees in the shower and scrubbed them down, so they could cook the rice in the galley with our ships cooks! It worked, and twice a day the ships loudspeaker would blare; "com tuuuie" which had to be, "come and get it"! The rice was served in new, clean, galvanized trash cans (we called them GI cans) and each family would get a pot of it for their group, or if they did not have a large enough pot, they carried it in their hats! They would then open the cans of rancid fish oil and salt and put that on the rice. But, that food was better than what they had been getting, and pretty soon the refugees started to get happy and confident that they were going to escape to the south so they could be free.

During the trips to the south, several babies were born on board. One of these I remember was named Hope Faith Charity Magoffin Nu. This little girl was the first born on the ship, and we all had a sense of fatherhood for her.

Sanitation on these trips was somewhat of a problem! When the mothers first went into the heads (bathrooms) with their babies, they wanted to wash their babies and their clothes in the troughs that were used to carry excrement out of the head and over the side. They were quickly retrained and even though they couldn't figure out why we used so much water, they got on to it. We gave them soap to wash with, and had to train them as to what it was for. Many of the refugees were from the interior, and had never seen soap. They used fine sand that was in the village creek to wash their bodies and clothes. Most had never seen a white person, or any other except their own kind. I don't remember how many total trips we made but the first trip ended back in Touraine, and the next trip took us down to the mouth of the Saigon River, then the 40 miles up to the city of Saigon, where the refugees were unloaded and sent to settlement camps.

The operation was called "Passage to Freedom", and carried over 310,000 refugees from the North to the then free South. The U. S. Navy contributed over 113 ship of various types to this operation.

Little did I dream that we would be caught up in the conflict there and I would be back in 1964 and 1965 on another ship at places called Qui Nhon, Cam Ranh Bay and Nha Trang.

This account of a little bit of my history is dedicated to my Granddaughter Corrie Lee Christy.

Mac Christy, Chief Engineman, USN (RET).

To fit the space available, portions were deleted. Editor

DUES POLICY: A notice to pay dues is not sent because of the cost involved. There are four (4) issues of the *Magoffin Newsletter* published each year. After we have mailed an individual two (2) issues, we determine if he has paid dues for the current year. If NOT, one more issue will be mailed. If dues have not been received by this time, we assume that the individual is not interested in the Association. The name will be eliminated from the mailing list.

Order Form

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Nr _____ Email _____

Item name	Quantity	Subtotal
Magoffin ball caps	\$13.00 ea	
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Magoffin t-shirts	\$15.00 ea	
S M L XL XXL XXXL		

Circle the sizes and show amounts

Prices include shipping costs Total _____

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MY 2004 DUES (\$10.00) ARE ENCLOSED ()

MY 2005 DUES (\$10.00) ARE ENCLOSED ()

My 2006 DUES (\$10.00) ARE ENCLOSED ()

If you have previously filled out this form completely, just your name and address would be required to re-register unless something has changed otherwise.

MAIL DUES TO;
USS MAGOFFIN ASSOCIATION
Joe Beninato, Treasurer

