



# NEWSLETTER

Of the USS REID Reunion Group

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## NEW ORLEANS REUNION

Reid Senter and his wife Karen were our hosts in New Orleans. For those with faltering memories, Capt. Senter was the last skipper of the USS REID FFG30.

Reid now is project leader for the construction of the USS San Diego at the local shipyard. He arranged for a tour of the shipyard where his ship is on the ways and the sister ship New York is nearing completion. An interesting feature of the USS New York is the blending into the bow stem of the ship 7 tons of steel reclaimed from the destruction of the World Trade Center.

Security measures did not allow us to go aboard any of the ships, but these new ships would be strangers to

most of us old WWII sailors. That is especially true of the comfortable crews quarters and appointments.

The publicity brochure labels the ships being built in New Orleans as Landing Platform Docks, or LPDs. They are big - 684 feet and 105 feet in the beam. There is hardly anything to do on the outside decks except toss over the mooring lines. Most everything goes on inside or is disgorged through the stern. The ship supports aircraft, missiles, guns, tanks, troops and a variety of other vehicles that can be carried to shore in high speed, air cushioned landing craft. Its angular construction is intended to confuse radar detection.



Three of the LPDs are named to memorialize the 9/11 crash sites - New York for the Trade Center, Arlington for the Pentagon crash site and Somerset for the crash site in Pennsylvania.

**[Reunion continued]**

The reunion was a success by all measures. Our hosts, Karen and Reid Senter, were most generous and considerate in their activities agenda. The dinner for us at their lovely home in New Orleans capped two days of perfect weather, camaraderie and interesting activities in a city still not fully recovered from the devastation of the hurricane.



**Doris Gardner, Emma Pickeral, Joanne Frazel, Frenchie Manckia enjoy comforts of the Senters' home**



**Karen & Reid Senter at home**

Who came? 25 of us came from nine different states: Arizona, California, Florida, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, Texas, Virginia and Washington.

- Dave Burke & sons Paul and Steve
- Dee Barber & Sol Rubin
- Frenchie Manckia & daughter Joanne Frazel
- Jesse & Emma Pickeral
- Bill & Marcia Pennington
- Len & June Olson, with daughters Carol Olmon & Lois Brink & Granddaughter Carol Olmon
- Dick Woll & son-in-law Mike Searson
- Lois Childress (Elmer) & daughter Nancy Erickson & grandson Gene Butler
- Len & Doris Gardner
- Leo & Shirley Allard

The Wyndham Riverfront hotel was luxurious and the price was right, only \$69 a night. Just as the name says, the river was just across the street, but about six feet higher up!! Parking was expensive, but only a couple of us had cars. One night we all walked to a nice restaurant for dinner in the French Quarter and walked back. That included one stalwart at 94 years and a number others of us in our mid to upper 80's. The night was balmy. The tour of the WWII Museum was the highlight one day. Shopping along the RiverWalk and touring the city were other options.



**Dick Woll & Leo Allard swap stories**



**Shipyard briefing**



**Olson family**



**Joanne Frazel, Nancy Erickson, Dee Barber & Lois Childress at the Senters' home**



**Heading out to shop at the RiverWalk  
Len & June Olson, Marcia Pennington in the lead, Olson's daughter & Doris Gardner following, with Bill Pennington bringing up the rear.**



**The Gardners, Dick Woll, Dee Barber and Sol Rubin head out to dinner in the French Quarter on a warm evening.**



**FrenchQuarter dining**

# News of Shipmates & Their Ladies

## John Gallup

Edwards, MO

From daughter Leah Gallup: Dad has had a rough year this year. Starting from October last year, he has fallen twice and fortunately did not break anything, but he hurt his back on the last fall. We are down in Florida again and this is where he and mom will be spending winter.

Dad is on oxygen now at night and that makes it more difficult to travel.



**John and Leah in Canada 2005**

## Bill Terry

White Oak, TX



**Bill & Marlina at 2006 reunion**

I have changed my Internet service provider to PeoplePC Online and have a new e-mail address. My new e-mail address is: <bmterry@peoplepc.com>

We won't make the New Orleans reunion. I have just had cataract surgery and am not able to do much yet. Tell everyone hello for us and hope to see you at the next one.

## Walter Fox

Ft Pierce, FL

We have finally entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century. You can now reach Walt and Katie at our new email address: <Foxfortpierce@aol.com>

*[Walt & Katie were on an extended tour of the south seas in November and couldn't make the New Orleans reunion.]*

## Harold Steed

Maxon, NC

From son, Jim Steed:

I am desperately trying to find pictures of my father during his time on the Reid. He is now 86 and not doing very well. My mother died in June and he asked me to pull up some information on the Reid.

I discovered your [web]site and thought you may be able to help. Thank you very much.

*[Your editor sent along greetings to Harold and the 3 pictures he has, all fairly recent, and asked for a wartime picture of Harold. Don't have it yet.]*

## Gil Girdauskas

Edisto Island, SC

Our president has a new email address in his winter quarters.

<girdauskasg@bellsouth.net>

As I wrote to you a while ago, I have had a lot of health issues and cannot attend the New Orleans Reid Reunion, as much as I would like to. Even going south to our home in Edisto Island will be a bit of an ordeal. Give my best always to all the Reiders in attendance.



**Gil & Terry w/1916 Cadillac**

## Rodney Hickman

San Diego, CA

Rodney's nephew John Hickman in McKinney, Texas writes:

My uncle Rodney L. Hickman served on the Reid during WWII. I have recently found your website and newsletter. Along with my father we have gone back and read every archived newsletter. We have some photos that Rodney has sent to us over the years

including the photo taken after the bombing and pick up on December 1944. Do you know if there might be some photos of Rodney on the Reid that we



**Rodney Hickman 1942**

might not have seen or do you know of anyone who might be able to help me find any photos?

My father and I have discussed trying to take my uncle to New Orleans for your reunion but we cannot get him there this year.

I have been to the D-Day Memorial in New Orleans and I would recommend it to everyone. I especially recommend it to anyone who does not understand the

sacrifice your generation made for someone like me and my generation. The European and Pacific Theaters can easily take a day each to tour at the museum.

Thank you for having your site. I hope the families of your shipmates are as excited as I about reading stories you and you shipmates have passed along about the history of the USS Reid.

[In a later email, John Hickman wrote: I am making plans for next year. I plan to do everything I can to get my uncle to your reunion next year.]

### Raymond Giunta Farmington, CT

I have taken up your challenge to identify unknown shipmates in the last newsletter.

- #16 John E. Durichek, Chief Yeoman
- #19 Lou Horvath, Chief Machinist Mate
- #44 Robert E. Smith, Chief Torpedoman

Smitty and I were the first strikers in the torpedo gang and the first to make 3<sup>rd</sup> class. We were good friends aboard and ashore, spending many good liberties together. I remember Horvath, but I didn't know him very well.



**Ray Giunta in 1937**

Great newsletter.

[Ray Giunta was a plank owner on the Reid and was transferred in Panama in 1939. He retired after 20 years as a CWO3. He went back home to Hartford, CT and to work with United Technologies, retiring again in 1982. We have no information on the above three chiefs after they left the Reid.]

### Joe Gallaway

Stuart, FL

I called Joe Gallaway to see how he is doing and whether he would make it

to New Orleans. He said he would have to pass this year. He had a back operation and can't walk far. Traveling would be a problem.

Maybe next year, if we can organize a reunion.



**Joe in the 1990s**

### Leta Driscoll (Joe) Ramona, CA

I won't be attending the reunion this year. I have been moving and the expenses are terrible. [Even so, she sent along a check. Thank you Leta.]

I love receiving the paper and appreciate all the work that goes into it.

My new address is 1212 H Street, SP 167, Ramona, CA 92065. Tel: 760-789-0486.



**Leta & Joe Driscoll 1998**

# Unknowns Identified!! - At least some

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**Unknown #1 - John (JV) Strand**



**Unknown #4 - Doug Salmon**



**Unknown #12 - Chester Wheeler**



**Unknown #16 - John Durichek**

Frenchie identified Unknown #1 as JV Strand. He enlisted in October 1940, came aboard the Reid in October 1941 and was transferred July 1944 as a TM1/c

Frenchie identified Unknown #4 as Doug Salmon, Chief Storekeeper. Doug was born in 1918, joined the Navy in 1936, came aboard the Reid in December 1941 and transferred in 1943. He stayed on in the Navy, was commissioned and retired in 1966 as Cmdr (SC).

Unknown #12 was identified as Chester Wheeler by Walter Fox. Wheeler joined the Navy in 1936, came aboard the Reid in 1938 as a WT2/c, made Chief and was commissioned Ensign just before the



**Unknown #14 - Walter Norman**

Reid was sunk. Wheeler went down with the ship.

Unknowns #14 & #31 were identified by his daughter Carol as Walter Norman. Norman was born in 1919, joined the Navy in January 1942, came aboard the Reid in February 1942. He swam away from the ship as it went down in 1944 as an Electricians Mate 1/c. He left the Navy as a CEM, continuing in that trade for another 35 years.

Unknown #16 was identified by both Ray Giunta & Frenchie as John Durichek. Durichek was a plank owner, coming aboard in 1936 as Chief Yeoman and transferring in 1943.



**Unknown #17 - Jack Goodrich**



**Unknown #19 - Lou Horvath**



**Unknown #23 - Martin Morgan?**

**Bill Pennington identified Unknown #17 Jack Goodrich.** Goodrich was born in 1919 in Iowa, joined the Navy in February 1942. He came aboard the Reid in November 1942 as an Ensign and left the Reid as a JG in New Guinea in February 1944. As a civilian he pursued a career in dentistry, retiring in 1985.

**Unknown #19 was identified by both Ray Giunta & Frenchie as Lou Horvath.** Horvath was a plankowner on the Reid, coming aboard as a Machinist Mate 2/c. He made Chief and transferred in 1943.

**Frenchie believes that Unknown #23 is Martin Morgan.**

Morgan joined the Navy in November 1940, came aboard in January 1941 and transferred as Fireman 2/c in 1943.

**Unknown #25 was identified as James Banks by Frenchie.** Banks was a plankowner, coming aboard in 1936 as a Fireman 1/c. He transferred in July 1944 as a Chief Machinists Mate.

**Unknown #44 was identified by Ray Giunta and several others as Robert Smith.** Smith joined the Navy in 1932 and came aboard as a plankowner in 1936 as a Seaman 1/c. He transferred in 1943 as a Chief Torpedoman.



**Unknown #25 - James Banks**



**Unknown #44 - Robert Smith**

## Marion Nelson (Swede) Asotin, WA

*Marion Nelson called one day in October. Following a very pleasant conversation, Marion disclosed she has written a family history and agreed to send excerpts to me for the newsletter.*

Bill (Swede) Nelson was born October 24, 1920 in Menominee, Michigan. He died December 4, 1991, of a massive heart attack. He was buried December 7, 1991, the 50th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor. After his death, his eyes were donated to the Lions Club eye bank. More than 400 people attended his funeral.

He was a active member of the Masonic Lodge. He was a Past Master of his Lodge and District Deputy to



Marion & Bill (Swede) on their wedding day in July 1944

the Grand Master. He also was a life member of the Elks Lodge and Moose Lodge.

Swede went to work for the Washington State Department of Highways here in Asotin County and later was promoted to Superintendent over 4 counties in Southeastern Washington.

We were parents of 4 very successful children, 3 boys and one girl. We have 10 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren with another on the way.

When the kids were growing up we did a lot of swimming, hunting, fishing and basketball and they were all in 4-H.

We did a lot of traveling after the kids were grown up. We took many fishing trips to the Oregon coast with 5 other couples. We always got our limits of salmon (and maybe a few more). We also owned a cabin on the beach at Williams Lake near Spokane. It was a meeting place for all the kids and their families. Our life was very family oriented.

Swede loved his life on the Reid. We didn't know about the reunion group until years later. We only got to one - in San Diego. So many of his old buddies were still alive and well then. I'm glad he had that time with them. Swede was on board until he was sent to Advanced Fire Control School in April of 1944 at Anacostia, MD. It was there that we met. I was working for the O.S.S. in Washington D.C. We were married July 9, 1944 and had 47 happy years before he died.

I live alone now in our home in Asotin. I worked for a dentist until he retired, later at a pharmacy and gift shop. Then I took on the job as Bailiff at the District Court until I was 80.

After Swede left the Reid, he was assigned to the USS Henry A. Wiley and participated in the battles at Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He made Chief while he was on the Wiley but the war ended and he never got to wear the Chief's uniform

The Reid was the only ship he acknowledged.



Bill at 1989 reunion



## Bud Kautz

McHenry, IL

Bud Kautz had hoped to come to New Orleans.

However, he cannot travel alone because of his back problems. His son could not get away to come with him this year.

He did send in a sea story for future use. Did you know that Bud is the editor of a newsletter for the veterans of another ship, an attack transport that landed troops at Iwo Jima? He was the engineer on one of the landing craft that ferried troops and equipment to that bloody beach.



**Bud Kautz as the Japanese saw him heading for the beach.**

*[Marion also sent in a copy of a letter she received in 1994 from Swede's friend from boot camp, who was rescued by the Reid when the USS Henley went down off New Guinea in 1943. Here is a passage from his letter.]*

After we were picked up by the Reid, we threw all our oily clothes away, cleaned up and had a shower. I was sitting on the stern deck when Bill found me. I didn't have any clothes on and Bill took me to his locker and gave me a pair of dungarees and a T-shirt. . . . Someone at our [Henley] reunion mentioned that Bill [Swede] saved his life. . . . I am very familiar with what Bill did. The Reid completed the pick-up and was ready to get underway when a lone man was spotted some distance from the ship, too exhausted to make it on his own. The way I remember the incident, Bill jumped overboard with a line. He tied it to the man and assisted him aboard.

*Bill Nelson was a Norwegian boy. Why he was called "Swede" is a mystery. Perhaps his shipmates gave him that nickname to needle him when he first came aboard.*

**Swede (tall sailor in rear) with friends on liberty in San Francisco - 1943 . Finn Askildsen on left**



## Len (Tack) Gardner

Palmyra, VA

Doris and I left New Orleans for the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. We watched the "cattle drive" in old town Ft. Worth, played a little golf and went on to Branson, MO for a couple of shows. The people in the mid-west are openly and sincerely patriotic. It was Veterans Day weekend and veterans were honored everywhere.

We moved on to Memphis to visit Graceland. Doris is an Elvis fan. I was surprised to find it a very interesting tour.

A friend had recommended a visit to the Jack Daniels Distillery in Tennessee. It was another pleasant stop on our way home.

*In the last issue there were pictures of 45 unidentified shipmates taken from a group picture of the ship's dance in November 1942. Quite a few of you wrote or called to identify one or more. Here are some more from that November 1942 dance. Can you put names on them?*



**Unknown #46**



**Unknown #47**



**Unknown #48**



**Unknown #49**



**Unknown #50**



**Unknown #51**



**Unknown #52**



**Unknown #53**



**Unknown #54**



**Unknown #55**



**Unknown #56**



**Unknown #58**

Picture was taken in San Francisco July 1943. He is a Ship's Cook 2/c. There were only 2 second class on the roster at the time - Ralph Howell and Malcolm Tigner. Is he either of them?



**Unknown #57**

# Remembering

# Newsletters returned

## ELMER FAULKNER

Albany, OR

*[Daughter Marsha Holly writes,]*

I am writing to inform you of the passing of my father, Elmer Raymond Faulkner, on April 20, 2007. Dad was 89 at the time of his death from kidney cancer and age related illness.

He served aboard the USS Reid DD369 and was onboard on the day of the sinking. His rank was Ship's Cook 3rd class, but his battle station placed him on deck that day.

His eulogy included the details of that day, Dec. 11, 1944, and all who attended were greatly moved. His service to our country shaped his entire life and he passed his stories and experiences down to us, although we cannot begin to imagine the bravery and horror of that day.

He really enjoyed receiving the newsletters of the reunion group and if you would be so kind as to enter my name on your mailing list, I would like to continue getting his copy. You can send via regular mail to:

Marsha Holly PO Box  
118 Fossil, OR 97830

or by email:  
randyholly@centurytel.net

Thank you for keeping this newsletter. And if you could include a note about Dad's passing, I would appreciate it.



**Elmer Faulkner -1945**



**Dr. Richard Caddick in Alaska**

## Richard P. Caddick

Reston, VA

The last newsletter to Richard Caddick was returned without explanation. I can find no information on the internet.

Caddick was born in 1915, entered the Navy in the Medical Corps in 1941 and came aboard the Reid in February, 1942. He transferred to other duty in July 1943 and left the Navy at the end of the war as a LtCmdr. As a civilian, he entered general surgery practice in the Chicago area.

## Ralph L. LeCocq

Bruceville, IN

The newsletter for Ralph LeCocq was returned as undeliverable. His listed telephone has been disconnected.

LeCocq was born in 1914, entered the Navy in 1942 and came aboard the Reid in January 1943 as a fireman. He left the Reid in August 1944 and left the Navy at the end of the war as a Machinist Mate first class.

As a civilian, he owned his own grocery store for a time and later worked for Sears until he retired to Florida.



Leo Allard - 1940s



Hostess Karen Senter pulls the cork from another bottle of wine. USS REID guests stand by.

Congratulations to **Walter and Katie Fox** on their courageous crossing into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a computer and email. This should encourage some of you hold outs to try the waters also. Talk to Walter and Katie on <foxftpiece@aol.com>

**Tony Fieri** had planned to come to New Orleans, but he needs to travel with someone and it didn't work out.

**Rufe Porter's** spirits were willing, but the body just couldn't make it.

**Ed Vance** was planning to come to his first USS Reid reunion, but as the date drew near, health problems interfered.

## **Leo Allard** Pacific Beach, WA

Leo has been a loyal attendee at our reunions for many years, but we never have had a picture of him in his prime. Now we have, thanks to Shirley.

Now I discover we have no bio on Leo. Shirley, here's another favor we hope you will do for us. Have Leo write up, or you write it for him, a bio sketch. The usual things: Where, when born, schools, why he joined the Navy, what he did as a civilian.

## **Odds & Ends**

In one of our interesting conversations in the hospitality room, we discovered that just about all the old folks in the gathering were dancers - and still dancing! Is there a message there?

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c/o Len Gardner  
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