



U.S.S.
U.S.C.G.C.

FINCH



DE 328 – WDE 428 – DER 328

*Distinguished Service Through Three Decades and Three Wars
World War II, Korea, and Vietnam*

Twenty-Fourth Year No. 2

April 2011

OLD MAN RIVER, JUST KEEPS ROLLING ALONG.....

When I think of Memphis and the Mighty Mississippi River it conjures up images of Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer. Mark Twain managed to paint in my mind an indelible image of a time that was filled with adventure and a spirit that reflected the America of which we all wanted to be a part. Unfortunately when I was a kid and dreaming of being involved with Tom in one of his many adventures someone always woke me up or broke my spell and returned me to reality. This upcoming reunion presents us with the opportunity to return to the world of Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer with many of our activities on or near the Mississippi River and not have to worry that it is all a dream. We can and will live these adventures.

Call the hotel today and make your reservation now to ensure you have space on Tom's (Thomas Tabors) raft for an exciting and fun time in Memphis this fall. The dates for this year's reunion are 21-25 September and it will be held not far from the Mighty Mississippi in the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Hotel located in downtown Memphis.

In the last issue we discussed the many activities and dining opportunities Thomas has planned for us this year. The good news is that he has been able to firm up most of these activities and we can now move forward to make our firm commitments to ensure that we get our reservations made in time.



Finch In Memphis

The 2011 Finch Reunion finds us on the river in downtown Memphis. This year's reunion is being hosted by Thomas Tabor '61 at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Memphis. Thomas has negotiated a room rate of \$99 a night for a first-class hotel with great rooms and a very convenient location not far off



the mighty Mississippi. Call (901) 525-1800 today and be sure to mention the Finch reunion to get

this great rate! The Crowne Plaza Hotel offers airport shuttle service.

Plan to come early and stay a couple of extra days to see the myriad of things that we will not be able to fit into the agenda in our short 3-4 day schedule. Page two has several internet sites that provide insight into the Memphis attractions.

We have a very busy schedule planned for our time together. We will not only sample the many delicacies of Memphis, but will also enjoy a short trip to the casinos at Tunica, tour Elvis' home at Graceland, and enjoy a ride down the mighty Mississippi.

Have you heard of the "Stroll of the Peabody Hotel Ducks?" Well hang onto your hat, we are going to see these strolling ducks. They've been featured on several national TV shows and we will have a great time with these quacky characters. Be sure to

bring your camera because your friends at home won't believe your story if you don't get some good pictures of these characters.

These adventures will leave you with many memorable moments, but you have to list the major memory maker at this year's reunion as the Memphis rub style barbeque at the Rendezvous. Thomas has spent his entire life sampling the numerous world famous rib and barbeque houses that have made Memphis the barbeque capital of America. We will enjoy what Thomas believes is the finest barbeque Memphis has to offer. This culinary experience alone is worth the cost and effort to travel to this years reunion.

**Book Your Room Today
(800) 2CROWNE**

Blues, Ribs, Riverboats, Jazz, Home of Rock & Roll & More!

The Plan of the Day

Wednesday will be registration day with the hospitality room opening around noon and remaining open throughout the day until taps is piped around 10 pm. Thomas has made arrangements for snacks and beverages, but once again the call goes out for cookies!! Bake a lot and bring them all along to share with your shipmates and guests!

Wednesday evening will be your chance to enjoy Memphis' nightlife and to listen to some of the finest Jazz anywhere in America. Beale Street is to jazz as what Memphis is to barbeque. So bring your glad rags and let your hair down for the evening and join us for a trip through the music of Magical Memphis.



Thursday we will visit the home of the "King of Rock & Roll". That's right we are going to Graceland and enjoy the magic that is Elvis! Not only will we tour his home, we will also get to see his pink Cadillac and private airplane. Included is one of the neatest gift shops you will ever visit. If you want Elvis souvenirs, this is the place to shop - a must on your visit!



After Graceland we will return to the hotel for a few hours of free time before we go to the Rendezvous for an unbelievable treat. Memphis' finest barbeque, rib, chicken, pulled pork, and brisket all done in the finest tradition that makes Memphis the barbeque capital of America. We have great barbeque in North Carolina, but I can hardly wait to sink my teeth into the local favorites at Rendezvous. It's a world renown restaurant that features not only outstanding barbeque, but is as famous for it's atmosphere. This is truly one of the crown jewels of Memphis and like Graceland is a must on any visit to Memphis.

When we finish dinner we will stroll along Beale Street and enjoy the music that put Memphis on the map. Some of America's finest musicians call Beale Street home. Save some energy because this will be one of the memories you'll take back home from the reunion.

Friday finds us strolling over to the Peabody Hotel to enjoy the "Strolling Ducks." These ducks have been featured on most of the morning talk shows and other national TV programs. They live in the hotel and actually take the elevator from the top floor to the lobby to enjoy the hotel's lobby fountain. It's been rumored that

these ducks live better than most people. This will be a fun trip and will be a great photo opportunity that will produce some really unique pictures.

From the Peabody we will head to the "Mighty Mississippi" for a riverboat ride that will give us a unique view of Memphis and the opportunity to see some river traffic up close. With a little luck we might even see Tom Sawyer and his friends rafting down river.

Friday Evening we will have our Traditional Spaghetti Dinner at the hotel and since there is no hassle getting to the dinner and back to your room you can have that extra bottle of wine! In addition to spaghetti we will also have a low carb dinner option for our friends that can't eat spaghetti.

Saturday morning finds us having a short (?) business meeting that will enable us to solve most of the worlds' problems and a couple that are unique to the Finch. Upon conclusion of the business meeting, we will board a bus and head to mid-America's gambling Mecca - Tunica, Mississippi. This is a short bus ride from Memphis and we will get there in time to enjoy the excellent cuisine and allow adequate time for the gamblers to clean out the vaults of the six fabulous casinos that are the hub of Tunica.



Saturday evening we will enjoy our traditional formal banquet and enjoy some of the hotel's culinary specialties. Thomas has put together a diverse menu with something for everyone.

What does all this mean? It means an outstanding reunion with lots to do, a great hospitality suite and lots of opportunities to share your Finch adventures with your shipmates and to make new friends. It's simple, take out the registration form, pick your activities and meal choices and send it to Kent so he can gather the necessary funds, pay the bills and then let the good times roll.

Memphis Internet Sites

Memphis is a renown destination and there are a myriad of websites that will provide you with additional insight into the attractions and dining opportunities:

www.vacationsmadeeasy.com

www.memphistravel.com/visitors/ ←(this is a great site)

www.tripadvisor.com/Tourism-g55197-Memphis

These are just a few of the sites that can help you plan your vacation - put Google to work and let the good times flow!



Editor's Corner

TAPS

Charles L. Herr RM2 DE'43 Plank Owner



Charles L. Herr, 87, passed away Wednesday, January 12, 2011,

He was born August 28, 1923, and served as a Ra-

dioman 2nd Class on the Finch during WWII. He was one of the original Plank Owners. He was married to his wife Lucille for 61 years. He is survived by five children and eight granddaughters.

Paul Johnson. AG3, DER' 61

Paul is survived by wife Brigid, son Jimmy and daughter Carla. Paul suffered many years from cancer that was thought to be the result of the bomb testing we did in the South Pacific in '61. His name and email are on the ships roster if you would like to wish Brigid condolences. He was a member of the American Legion in Rancho Mirage, California.

Hoyt O. Perry Jr. Lt, DE'43 Plank Owner

Hoyt passed away October 11, 2009. A graduate of Yale University, he served as Executive Officer of the destroyer escort U.S.S. Finch in the European, Pacific and Asiatic Theaters. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Janet Holsten Perry, five children, and nine grandchildren.

Time to Man-Up

The Finch Reunion Association is in need of a few good men and it's time for you to man-up. I know we were taught never to volunteer for

anything while we were in the service, but we desperately need some help. Kent Overholser has been our Treasurer for seven years and it is time to get him some help. Kent has ask to be replaced for the past three years and it is time we honor his request. Please feel free to call Kent and talk with him concerning the Treasurer's duties and he will be glad to discuss them with you. He is also willing to help you transition into the position.

Please seriously consider doing this and helping Kent, either as an assistant or really be a nice guy and fully assume the duties. Think about it!

Richard Resnick serves as our Membership Chairman and as our webmaster. His duties include maintaing our master roster and publishing the labels for the newsletter. This includes keeping up with change of address and other information concerning the status of our shipmates. He also designed and maintains our website.

We also need to get some help for Richard. Like Kent, Richard has been doing these jobs for many years and he would like to have some help. If you would be interested in either of these jobs please call Richard and discuss these positions with him. He will help transition you into these positions or gracefully step aside and let you fully assume responsibility. Remember, the first step is to give them a call. You can reach Kent at (847) 362-0659 and Richard at (310) 391-6919.

Missing Shipmates

Chuck Lee continues to conduct "Search and Rescue" drills for some of our missing shipmates.



We have run this drill several times before and this one is similar to last year's exercise except that the names of the missing shipmates has changed. If you have any information concerning any of these individuals please let Chuck Lee know and he will work hard to include them in our next muster.

Robert J. Pavlik 1961-62

Cary Chriss-1961-62

Larry Dean Tice-1961-62

Robert C. Hoover-1961-62

Thomas Soper-1961-62

Billy M. Tate-1961-62

Timothy A. Bridges-1962

You can reach Chuck at cclee@eastex.net. Chuck would appreciate any information you may have concerning these individuals, such as address (current or previous), hometown, phone number, email or any other information that could be of help in locating these individuals.

Finch Cups 4-Sale

It's been 10 years since we had Finch Mugs for sale, but we now have them again! However, you must attend the reunion to buy them. They will be for sale at this year's reunion or until they are gone. If you were undecided about attending, remember, this will be the only opportunity to obtain one of these collector mugs. They are \$5.00 each and you can guarantee your mugs by sending your money in with your registration.

Other Finch Goodies

Finch apparel including golf shirts, hats, sweats, coats and a variety of other items are available online from soldiercity.com. They have several items that can be embroidered with USS Finch or USCGC Finch logo that includes the appropriate ships silhouette. See the flyer on the back of the registration form to check out some of the items that are available.

Finch Reunion Association

2011 Reunion Chairmen

Thomas Tabor (DER '61)
Email: thomastabor@att.net

Executive Board Chairman

Robert Buck (DER '59)
KarolynBob@aol.com

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Gene Somann (DER '57)
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Membership Chairman

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Chaplain

Gordon Shilling (DER '60)
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FINCH REUNION "2011"

Richard S. Resnick (WDE '51)
3175 Coolidge Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90066

Return Service Requested

We're on the web!
ussfinch.com

Old Memories of a Young Sailor..... Gilbert (Gib) Barbee EM2 WDE '52

At sea on the Finch on maneuvers with an admiral on the bridge. It might seem hard to believe but it happened nearly 60 years ago in 1952 off San Diego. Somewhere in the mid echelons of the military a decision was made to dispatch the Finch to the Destroyer Base in San Diego for a couple of weeks to undergo training. Many crew members were sent to various schools particularly fire fighting and damage control. For the rest of us it was lots of liberty, sunshine, sandy beaches, and Tijuana. We were tied up to the quay in San Diego where we could just walk off the ship and cross a four lane street to be downtown.

At the finish of training we were scheduled to have a day at sea on maneuvers with several Navy vessels. Why the Navy admiral decided to grace the Coast Guard by his presence is totally unknown to me but it caused great consternation in the Finch wardroom. From the moment it was known the crew from the exec down was subjected to a tremendous amount of work. It was clean that, paint this, put a better polish on that, don't even try to sleep. Every drill and exercise known to mankind including repel boarders had to be practiced to near perfection. About ten hours before the momentous day arrived the skipper, LDCR

Leland Bainbridge stated "Secure from battle stations and give the topside a good washdown". He failed to tell the telephone talkers on the bridge, indeed on the whole topside to screw the covers down on the sound powered telephones before the hosing down process was started. Much of the system was rendered kaput by an infusion of salt water. We are supposed to take the admiral of the San Diego Destroyer Base out to sea in a few hours and no phones.

I was not hopeful when I saw the extent of the damage. Each box that had water inside had to be opened up and the wiring bathed with copious amounts of fresh water to get the salt out and then dried before being buttoned back up. It was an all night job for the electricians. I remember thinking I don't care if the officers are embarrassed it's their fault but I kept working and we got the system working by dawn. I guess I didn't want Curt Jurgens, our exec officer and a really nice guy embarrassed.

As we were departing the harbor that morning flying the admiral's flag one of our large air craft carriers was coming in and they gave the Finch the honors. It looked like thousands of men all dressed in their whites up on deck saluting us as we passed.

FINCH 2011 REUNION RESERVATIONS

September 21-25, 2011

Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, Downtown
Memphis, Tennessee

Name: _____	Guest: _____
Spouse: _____	Guest: _____
Arrival Date: _____	Departure: Date _____
Will arrive by car or will be using a rental car at the reunion:	Yes _____ No _____
My (our) reservations are to stay at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza: :	Yes _____ No _____
If my (our) answer was no, I (we) will be staying at: _____	

Thursday, September 22

9:00am - 3:00pm Trip to Graceland (Elvis Pressley Home and Museum)
Includes bus transportation /Lunch is on your own
Number Attending _____ x \$46.00 per person \$ _____

6:00pm - 9:30pm Dinner at Rendezvous Rib House and Beale Street Stroll
Includes bus transportation
Number Attending _____ x \$34.50 per person \$ _____

Friday, September 23

11:00am - 4:30pm Peabody Hotel Duck Stroll and Riverboat Ride
Includes bus transportation
Number Attending _____ x \$37.00 per person \$ _____

6:00pm - 9:30pm Annual Spaghetti Dinner at Crowne Plaza
Number of dinners _____ x \$27.50 per person \$ _____

Saturday, September 24

11:00 am - 3:00pm Casino Tour to Tunica Number Attending _____ x \$20.00 \$ _____
Includes bus transportation /Lunch is on your own

6:30pm - 9:00pm Annual Banquet at Crowne Plaza

Prime Rib Dinner (10oz)
Number of dinners ____ x \$39.50 per person \$ _____

Grilled Salmon Dinner
Number of dinners ____ x \$39.50 per person \$ _____

Chicken Marsala
Number of dinners ____ x \$39.50 per person \$ _____

Registration, administration, and miscellaneous expenses
Number attending reunion _____ x \$10.00 per person \$ _____

Finch Cups Number of Cups _____ X \$5 \$ _____

TOTAL SUBMITTED: \$ _____

**Please Submit Your Reservations
To Kent Overholser
So They Are Received by August 10, 2011**

Make checks to:
USS Finch Reunion
c/o Kent Overholser
20 Warrington Road
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

Finch Apparel Available Through *Soldier City*

Soldiercity.com has several Finch items available for sale. Check out their website and read the flyer below. Call 1 (877) 765-2489 to find the many different items and colors that are available. Show your Finch Pride!

We have your USS FINCH and USCGC Finch items here!!



Get your own custom embroidered ship shirt, cap or jacket!

Some of our most popular items are pictured below. Additional colors, sizes and styles available at www.soldiercity.com/RW.



Cotton Pique Preshrunk Polo Shirt
Ship Design
Item # CL315-SH
S-XL: \$35.99
XXL: \$39.99; 3XL: \$43.99



5 Panel Wool Cap
Ship Design
Item # CL230-SH
\$29.99
One Size Fits All



3 Season Nylon Weatherproof Jacket
Ship Design
Item # CL550-SH
S-XL: \$74.99
XXL: \$78.99; 3XL: \$82.99

**When ordering, please be sure to include your ship information:
USS Finch DE-328, USS Finch DER-328, OR USCGC Finch WDE-428.**



Cotton Pique Preshrunk T-shirt
Ship Design
Item # CL305-SH
S-XL: \$25.99; XXL: \$28.99
3XL: \$30.99; 4XL: \$32.99



Washed Cotton Polo Cap
Ship Design
Item # CL215-SH
\$24.99
One Size Fits All



Heavyweight Fleece Sweatshirt
Ship Design
Item # CL310-SH
S-XL: \$33.99
XXL: \$37.99; 3XL: \$41.99

Call Toll Free: 1-877-765-2489

OR send your check/money order to:

SoldierCity, Inc., Attn: RW, 1001 Lower Landing Rd., Unit 407, Blackwood, NJ 08012.
Please include \$4.95 shipping and handling for first item; add \$1 for each additional item.

Visit our website to see our full line of custom embroidered clothing and over 11,000 items!

www.soldiercity.com/RW

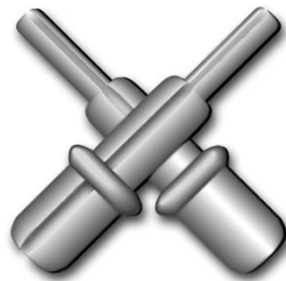
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841 THOMAS RD., POMONA KS 66076

A 501(C) 3 CHARITY CORPORATION

www.edsallclassveterans.org

WANTED!



GUNNERS MATES

Gunnery Mates are needed to work on the 3" 50's and 40mm guns on the historic WW2 ship USS Stewart DE-238 in Galveston TX. GM's unique skills are needed to repair these guns to the point that they can be trained and elevated manually.

The guns of the USS Stewart are of great interest to the thousands of people who tour her each year. The ability to "man" these weapons and cause them to move will add greatly to their experience aboard Stewart, which is a "symbol of our service".

Your travel, food and lodging expenses (if needed) are deductible as a charitable expense on your federal income tax each year you volunteer.

WILL YOU HELP US?

Contact: Mac Christy ENC USN (RET)

785-255-4368

machief@hughes.net