



PIPELINE

Dec 2013

Acting President's message

By Pat Hurton

I want to express my deep concern for any of our shipmates that were affected by the recent tornadoes in the Midwest. I hope none of you lost anyone or were affected by the tornadoes. If you were, you have my sincere sympathy for your loss. Although the press made a “big deal” out of a football game being suspended until the storm passed, I’m sure those that lost their homes and loved ones weren’t worried about whether the Bears beat the Packers or vice versa.

Family is an important part of our lives and I hope you all had the opportunity to spend Thanksgiving with as many of yours as possible. The holiday season is officially here and spending time with friends and family, enjoying each other’s company and hearing family stories is a great pastime. As I get older I constantly “kick myself in the butt” for not asking more questions of my parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles who are now gone. I just wonder about things in their lives and am sorry I didn’t ask more questions when I had them present. I hope the holiday season gives only secondary consideration to the new iPad, tablet, iPhone etc. that now overwhelm some of us. I do remember the days when I didn’t



This picture of the Cal replenishing the USS Tripoli (LPH-10) comes from the files of Capt. Donald A. McGinness. It was probably taken in 1972.

have to worry about whether I should tweet, facebook or email a message to my sons instead of just picking up the phone. By the way I just got a new tablet to replace my laptop so now I have another device I'll never figure out how to fully use.

The phone was a marvelous invention that allowed one to use it when necessary and didn't follow us around. I don't know how I made it through my elementary school years without having a cell phone. Mom and dad must have been worried sick that they couldn't take time out from their working day to tell me that we were having fish and chips for dinner. Seems like I also made it through 32 years of a business career without having to call my boss, or wife, and tell him/her I'm on the runway about to take off, or I just landed and am on the way to the hotel. I still can't figure out how he or she made it without my constant input. Or, maybe, they were better off without it. I never did have to reply to some inane note on my "communication device" in the middle of dinner or especially in the middle of a so-called conversation. Today must be wonderful for those with an attention span shorter than a mayfly.

We are presently planning a reunion, in New Orleans, for the second week of September or the second week of October. A commitment has to be given to a hotel by the end of the first quarter of 2014. After the holidays, we would like preliminary commitments from those of you who planning to attend. I did get some feedback that more were planning to attend the Baltimore reunion, but unless we have "actual cash in hand" it is hard to continue with a commitment. We are not asking for a final commitment (cash) until the end of February or early March but would like inputs to allow for preliminary planning.

It looks like the hotel may cost around \$140.00 a night in the French Quarter. To make a commitment we will need to have 40 or 50 persons attend. That would equate to a little more than 20 rooms. We have had a lot of persons indicate they would attend a reunion in New Orleans, so we will try and make that happen. Remember once we make a commitment to a hotel it costs us money to back out. We understand that an illness can force a change of plans, so if you make a commitment please don't "back out" just because "something better came up." As you have all heard many, many times it takes some effort to plan a reunion and that effort mostly happens well in advance of the reunion. My email is gigandpat26@att.net and Norm's is normstreet@sbcglobal.net.

We are still hoping that someone will step forward and take the roles of President and Vice President. Most of our members indicate that they wish the Association to continue to exist but it can't without help. Norm Street, Karl Seitz and I will help anyone who takes the positions and we will be with the Association until we are no longer able.

I hope you all have a great holiday season and get to spend time with your family and friends and (if you can figure out how) twitter, email etc. from you iPhone, iPad or tablet your intentions regarding New Orleans or your willingness to be an officer in the Association. Just kidding about the tweet or twitter — don't have a smart phone. I'm only able to handle email or (if anyone remembers) snail mail.

Taps

We have belatedly learned of the death of Capt. Melvin R. Etheridge, who commanded the Caliente from July 1964 to July 1965. Born Jan. 6, 1923, in Birmingham, AL, Etheridge died May 18, 2010, in Simsbury, CT. A submariner during World War II, he became a naval aviator

after the war. In addition to the Cal, Etheridge commanded the USS Wasp (CVS18) and the Naval Weapons Center in China Lake, CA. He is survived by his wife Anne, children Maggie (Wolfgang) Schilder and Melvin R. (Linda) Etheridge Jr. and four grandchildren.

Steven J. Cowdry Sr. of Tucson, AZ, died Sept. 5, 2013. Steve served on the Cal as a SN from 1960 to 1964. Steve was born in Lansing, MI and resided most of his life in Yucca Valley, CA. Steve's ashes were scattered at sea after leaving from San Pedro, the port from which he went to sea for the first time. Steve is survived by significant other Nancy Heinzer, sister Shirley, brother Tom, children Steven Jr., Michael, Sara and Greg; 10 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Stephan J. Muras, 71, of Plymouth, MN, died Sept 8, 2013. Stephan served on the Cal as a RD3 from 1964 to 1966. He later taught for 40 years at Gatewood Elementary School in Hopkins, MN. He was buried at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis. Stephan is survived by his wife of 43 years, Linda, children Christopher, Eric, Sarah and Jennifer and four grandchildren.

Editor's message

By Karl Seitz

This Pipeline was especially pleasant to put together. Not only did I have plenty of material, but it was diverse content. This was possible because the contributors thought readers would enjoy what they had to share. You, too, probably have a story or photograph that your shipmates would enjoy. So share by sending them to me at one of the addresses found below.



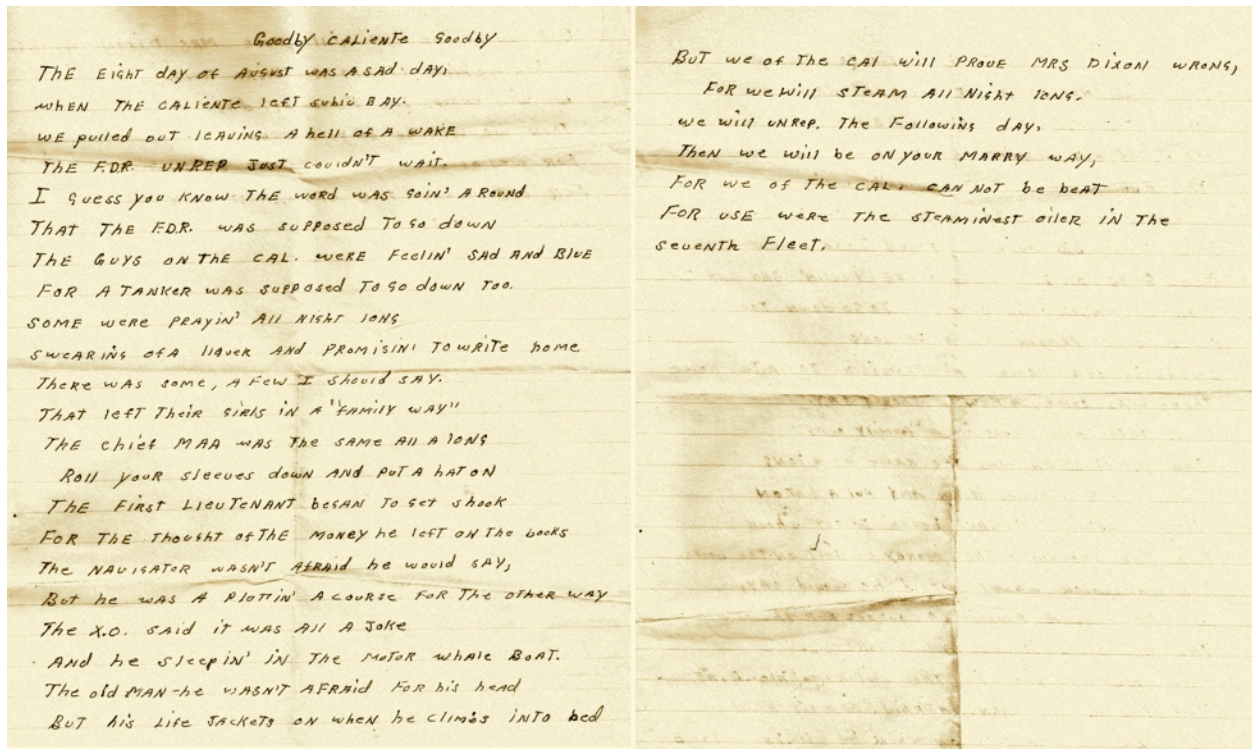
USS Caliente Association
President: Vacant
Vice President: vacant
Treasurer: Pat Hurton
Pipeline Editor: Karl Seitz



The Pipeline is the official quarterly newsletter of the USS Caliente Association. It is a place to share your memories and pictures. Please send them via e-mail to seitzao53@gmail.com or by regular mail to Karl Seitz, 1212 30th St. South, Birmingham, AL 35205-1910.

Association dues are \$10 per year due Jan. 1, payable by Jan. 15. Checks should be made out to The USS Caliente Association and mailed to treasurer Pat Hurton, 156 Greenfield Drive, Chico, CA 95973-0185.

Masthead picture of USS Caliente (AO-53) used with permission of Dan Davis.



A mystery: Who is Caliente poet?

Randy Weaver of Mountain Home, Ark., found the above poem during his work at a waste management company. It was with some old cartoon post cards from the World War II era that caught his eye, but that may be a coincidence considering when the poem was probably written.

The poem was obviously written when the Cal was operating out of Subic Bay, Phillipines. The USS Franklin D. Roosevelt (CVA-42) spent most of its commissioned life in the Atlantic and Mediterranean. According to Wikipedia, the Roosevelt's only deployment to Southeast Asia was between August 1966 and January 1967.

Therefore, the poem's reference to the eighth of August is undoubtedly 8 Aug 1966.

Crew members during that era can probably identify the various Caliente officers mentioned and may know whether the poem is factual about their actions.

The Mrs. Dixon mentioned on page two is probably Jeanne Dixon, a popular psychic at the time. It appears she made or was thought to have made a prediction involving the USS Roosevelt. The editor has not been able to find any reference to such a prophecy, but she made a lot of predictions over the years. A few may even have come true.

Does anybody know the name of the Cal's mysterious poet? If so, please let the editor know at one of the addresses on page 3 so he can share the information in a future Pipeline.



A reminder if you are on Facebook, Jack Hughes has created a Facebook group for former crew members of the USS Caliente (AO-53) and their families.

Shipmate Spotlight

LTJG Greg Perett (1969-1972)

What influenced your decision to join the military?

Like many shipmates at the time, I was dealing with the Vietnam War and the draft. I started graduate school at Stanford in autumn 1967, planning to become a history professor. I knew that I had a student (II-S) deferment until the summer of 1968, but also that grad school deferments would end permanently at that time. This was before the Lottery; local boards made the decisions, which were unpredictable.

Thus I had the option of: (a) holding on and hoping my local board wouldn't call me, or (b) finding a preferable way to do military service. I was torn, and I'll never know what would have happened if I had risked staying at Stanford. I had to borrow funds for that first year, but then was awarded an attractive fellowship for the second year. I also didn't know whether I could get back into Stanford, since I would be leaving voluntarily.

The only recruiting station that I visited was the Navy one. I have always been fascinated by naval history and the sea, and all of my historical research concerned sea power in one way or another. My experience at the recruiting station was a good example of the weirdness of U.S. government rules that I was to encounter many more times in the future. The recruiting officer was interested in me, but when he learned about my poor vision (20/400), he said OCS was impossible. (Of course I passed my *draft* physical with flying colors.) Then he said, "Supply Corps officers don't have the same vision requirement. But no, your vision is too poor even for that. I could get you a waiver, if only you had a Master's degree." Me: "I'm about to get a Master's degree!" (In History, of course. What does that have to do with the issue? Go figure.) On that basis I was accepted for NAVOCS, beginning autumn 1968.

It was a life-changing move, and all for the better. I am *very* glad that I took this path.

What was your service career path? Which of your ship or duty assignments created the fondest memories?

I combined those questions because of the peculiarities of the Supply Corps. I went to NAVOCS in Newport, RI in autumn 1968, completed the course and was commissioned in March 1969. Our service commitment was three years from that point. Line officers typically did two tours during that period. But I, like all other Supply types, went to Supply Corps School for six months of specialized training (in Athens, GA, far from the sea, where, without a ship in



sight, we all prepared for our shipboard assignments). After that, with only two and a half years left, we usually had just one long assignment.

Mine was USS Caliente. Thus, my Navy experience and Caliente experience are really one and the same. I actually stayed longer than the two and a half years. Due out in March 1972, I extended until June. Graduate school would start in September, so March was an awkward time to make the transition. Besides, the Caliente was on deployment (my second aboard her). By extending until June, I could ride the ship back to Long Beach, instead of the bother of flying back without all my belongings. As my shipmates will recall, that already long deployment got extended, and so I flew back after all.

This so-called "fleet up" billet was great for a Supply type. You were supposed to be the assistant for the first half of your tour, and then become department head (aka the Supply Officer) for the last half, while a new officer replaced you in the assistant's billet. The timing got skewed in my case, because my first boss transferred early. I was therefore Disbursing Officer/Assistant Supply Officer for only eight months, and then department head for two years.

Which individual from your service stands out as having the biggest impact on you, and why?

There are two, and I hoped in vain to meet them at one of our reunions. Captain Oberg, the first of my three skippers, was a great combination of impressive, even flamboyant leadership and warm, friendly personality. He was partly the flashy airedale but at the same time thoroughly likable and kind. He was the kind of leader whom you read about and wonder whether you will ever meet. He intervened and helped me through a tough episode that does not belong in this narrative.

The second was SKC Marcus Bolton, a simply superb natural leader. After all these years, some of them filled with my own leadership challenges, I still marvel at the way he projected utter self-confidence. He just *knew* his men would accept his leadership. And by golly, they did.

What profession did you follow after the service and what are you doing now?

I returned to Stanford in September 1972, and got a PhD in Modern European History in early 1977. The job market for history professors was terrible, so I had to find something else. I entered the Foreign (i.e. diplomatic) Service in October 1977 and pursued that career until October 2006. I still do part-time work at the State Department, but was also lucky to get to teach history after all. I am a part-time professor at George Washington University, teaching 20th Century European History. Otherwise, I focus on travel, wine appreciation and folk music; I never got over the Kingston Trio. Those of you who have attended reunions have seen Jeff Sturgis and me recreate our cargo deck singing group from those Navy days. (Back in the day, Rich Nyquist also sang with us.)

How has military service influenced the way you have approached your life and career?

The opportunity to learn about management and leadership proved immensely valuable in the Foreign Service, which does little to train you for leadership until suddenly you become, as I did, Deputy Chief of Mission (very much like an XO) in an embassy. I also worked closely with the military on national security issues during my diplomatic career. My naval service really helped me find common ground with my military counterparts. And my historical studies on sea power have profited from my hands-on experience at sea.

Late in my diplomatic career, 2002-2005, I was able to come full circle in a remarkable way. I served as Foreign Policy Advisor to the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Vern Clark. All of a sudden I was back in the Navy, so to speak, and this time surrounded by admirals. I'm not sure I ever saw an admiral during my nearly four years of naval service; I certainly never interacted with one. Now here I was, talking with admirals every day, and observing how the Navy operates at the top level. I even, for protocol purposes, held two-star rank myself. Quite a thrill, and quite a change from my JG days.



Following the cancellation of the national Caliente reunion, a group of association members from the Midwest decided to hold their own reunion. Their report starts below. This picture from Marilou Casey, wife of Ray Nutter, was taken by a waitress outside a restaurant where several of them ate one evening. From left to right are Ray Nutter, Marilou Casey, Norm Street, Susan Street, Bob French, Barbara French, Nancy Lawler, Bill Lawler, Lois Henson, Roy Henson, Susan Ecker, Bob Ecker, Karen Fordyce and Ed Fordyce.

Crew gathers for first Midwest regional reunion

By Sue Ecker

The festivities started on Friday night, Sept. 13, 2013, at the Hilton Hotel in Springfield, IL. Norm Street from Indianapolis organized the event that brought 10 former Cal servicemen and their wives together for a weekend of relaxation, memories and history. Those who came were John and Zelda Coleman (MM3, 1960-64), Bob and Sue Ecker (YN3, 1966-67), Ed and Karen Fordyce (PN3, 1960-62), Bob and Barbara French (RM3, 1956-59), Roy and Lois Henson (BM3, 1960-64), Bill and Nancy Lawler (LTJG, 1968-70), Ray Nutter and Marilou Casey (SN, 1960-62), Cosmas and Diane Raimondi (BM3, 1965-68), Norm and Susan Street (RD2, 1960-62), and Larry and Nan Wallace (PC3, 1969-71).

Springfield is the city where Abraham Lincoln lived for 25 years, started his legal career and ran for president of the United States. Surrounded by historical places, the Cal Crew had lively discussions, great food and great fun. We spent most of Saturday at the Lincoln Presidential Library. Then we split off to visit The Lincoln Home, the Old Capitol Building, Lincoln's Law Office and/ or the Lincoln Tomb as our time permitted over the weekend.

There were four couples who were first time attendees to a reunion. Ray and Marilou Nutter, Cosmas and Diane Raimondi, Larry and Nan Wallace and us — Bob and Sue Ecker. I can tell you first hand, that we had a wonderful time. Norm and Susan Street kept their suite stocked with wine, drinks and goodies. Their door was always open for dropping in before or after any activity.

Friday night started with dinner at Bennigans, which was connected to the Hilton. Afterwards up to the suite to talk and look at old pictures and memorabilia. Some of the pictures were awesome. The "boys" shared what they remembered of the ship and could demonstrate or confirm their memories with some of the pictures. Due to an equipment problem in Bennigan's kitchen, we had to move our Saturday night dinner to Saputo's Italian Restaurant. They were so accommodating when 18 people showed up without a reservation. They were busy and not sure they could fit us in. But they managed, and it was a good night for their business and our fun.

The weather was delightful every day. The food was good, the company even better. We left with new memories, new friends and some new knowledge of history. It could not have been better.

We look forward to the next USS Caliente Reunion for the Midwest. Sites currently being considered are Branson, MO, Holland, MI, Traverse City, MI, Manitowoc, WI and Chicago, IL. We hope to see you all again there. Be well.

Sue Ecker is the wife of Bob Ecker, YN3, 1966-67



Shipmates (from left) Bob French, Ed Fordyce, Ray Nutter, Norm Street, John Coleman and Bob Ecker visit the Lincoln family.

BILL OF FARE FOR THE GENERAL MESS

CALIENTE AO-53		20 FEBRUARY 1956	
	BREAKFAST	DINNER	SUPPER
MONDAY	CHILLED FRESH GRAPEFRUIT CHILLED TOMATO JUICE ASSTD READY TO EAT CEREALS COLD FRESH MILK SOFT SCRAMBLED EGGS CRISP BACON HOT TOAST JELLY BREAD BUTTER COFFEE	CREAM OF ASPARAGUS SOUP GRILLED HAM STEAKS CREAM GRAVY BAKED BROWN POTATOES BUTTERED BRUSSEL SPROUTS F.F. LETTUCE AND TOMATO SALAD SALAD DRESSING CHOCOLATE CREAM PIE K-23 WHIPPED CREAM ICED LEMONADE W-WHEAT BREAD BUTTER COFFEE	P-18 GRAES - SOUP OF THE DAY FRIED CHICKEN 1-9 GIBLET GRAVY MASHED POTATOES GREEN BEANS W/BACON MACRONI VEGETABLE SALAD M-58 CABBAGE AND PINEAPPLE SALAD SOU CREAM DRESSING M-40 OLD FASHION RAISIN CAKE D-45 PEANUT BUTTER BREAD BUTTER COLD FRESH MILK COFFEE
TUESDAY	CHILLED FRESH GRAPES HOT OATMEAL W/RAISINS COLD FRESH MILK CREAMED DICED BEEF ON TOAST HOME FRIED POTATONS Q-70 SMALL COFFEE CAKES C-6-3 JELLY BREAD BUTTER COFFEE	CHICKEN RICE SOUP P-17 GRAES OVEN ROAST VEAL J-28 NATURAL GRAVY MASHED POTATOES HOLLANDAISE BROCCOLI Q-49 CHEFS SALAD M-24 SALAD DRESSING PEACH MERINGUE CAKE D-5 ICED ORANGEADE HOT FRENCH BREAD BUTTER COFFEE	SOUP OF THE DAY SALISBURY STEAKS J-29 ONION GRAVY FRENCH FRIED POTATOES SAVORY PEAS AND RICE Q-68 BEATRICE SALAD M-54 GREEN ONIONS SALAD DRESSING ORY BABY COOKIES D-51 ICE CREAM JAM BREAD BUTTER COFFEE
WEDNESDAY	CHILLED FRESH APPLES ASSTD READY TO EAT CEREALS COLD FRESH MILK PAN BAKED BEANS CRISP BACON CATSUP ICED CINNOMAN ROLLS C-27 BREAD BUTTER COFFEE	BAKED BEAN SOUP P-31 GRAES MARYLAND STYLE CHICKEN L-4 BROWN GRAVY MASHED POTATOES BUTTERED CAULIFLOWER F.F. SLICED CUCUMBERS SLICED TOMATOES SALAD DRESSING APRICOT PIE K-12 HOT PARKER HOUSE ROLLS ICED TEA BREAD BUTTER COFFEE	SOUP OF THE DAY BARBECURED SPARERIES J-3 BARBECUE SAUCE Q-26 FRANCONIA POTATOES BUTTERED CREAM STYLE CORN LETTUCE AND TOMATO SALAD RIPE OLIVES SALAD DRESSING JELLY ROLL - APPLESAUCE COLD FRESH MILK BREAD BUTTER COFFEE
THURSDAY	CHILLED FRESH ORANGES ASSTD READY TO EAT CEREALS COLD FRESH MILK EGGS TO ORDER GRILLED LUNCHEON MEAT HOT TOAST JELLY GLAZED CAKE DONUTS C-20 BREAD BUTTER COFFEE	CORN CHONDER P-5 GRAES ROAST FORT LION J-27 BROWN GRAVY MASHED POTATOES FRENCH GREEN BEANS TOSSED GREEN SALAD SALAD DRESSING APPLESAUCE LEMON COCONUT CAKE D-45 HOT FRENCH BREAD ICED LEMONADE BREAD BUTTER COFFEE	SOUP OF THE DAY BAKED BEEF LOAF J-1 TOMATO GRAVY COTTAGE FRIED POTATOES Q-70 STRAINED SPINASH FF W/CHOPPED EGG BOILED NAVY BEANS W/HAM BONES COMBINATION SALAD M-44 BEST ONION SALAD SALAD DRESSING FRUIT BARS D-9 PEANUT BUTTER BREAD BUTTER COLD FRESH MILK COFFEE
FRIDAY	CHILLED FRESH GRAPEFRUIT CHILLED PINEAPPLE JUICE HOT FARINA COLD FRESH MILK HOT CRIDOLE CAKE HOT MAPLE SIRUP BROILED PORK SAUSAGE LINKS BREAD BUTTER COFFEE	TOMATO RICE BOUILLON P-30 GRAES FRIED FILLET OF SOLE B-10 BAKED VEAL LOAF J-1 TARTER SAUCE AU GRATIN POTATOES Q-12 BUTTERED PEAS F.F. STUFFED CELERY STICKS M-45 GREEN ONIONS LEMON WEDGES QUARTERED LETTUCE SPICE CAKE SALAD DRESSING ICED GRAPEADE BREAD BUTTER COFFEE	SOUP OF THE DAY BRAISED BEEF CHUNKS J-43 BROWN GRAVY BUTTERED NOODLES BUTTERED LIMA BEANS F.F. TOSSED GREEN SALAD HOT ROLLS ICE CREAM JAM COLD FRESH MILK BREAD BUTTER COFFEE
	CHILLED FRESH GRAPES	VEGETABLE SOUP P-8 GRAES	SOUP OF THE DAY

Andrew Santoriello, FT3, 1953-56 sent along a Caliente menu from 1956.

Cables, Cables and Cables

by René Pellet, ET2, 1956

It's been a long time since I was on the Caliente

Any of you reading this will think that's a dumb statement since it was a long time ago when the Caliente went to wherever dead ships are sent.

When the Caliente was my home, the cables and ropes were just part of my home. I didn't pay much attention to them.

During fueling operations I was never directly involved. I was the leading ET, and during fueling operations all I was supposed to do was let radar, the radio shack and the bridge know where I would be. In nice weather my chosen spot was the flying bridge. Thus I didn't handle various cables and such.

I was looking through pictures on my hard drive and I suddenly was aware of the large number of cables and such in some of the pictures.

To the right are three pictures that emphasize the cables.

Picture #1 is obviously looking forward.

Picture #2 was taken aft as we went under the Golden Gate Bridge.

Picture #3 was taken through the porthole in the radio shack. I think this one emphasizes cables and hoses more than the other two do.

