

**FANTAIL
GAZETTE II**

JULY 2011



USS MURRAY

DD/DDE 576

PRESIDENT'S LETTER (by Neil DenBleyker)

Attention all hands and family: it's reunion time. This year's reunion will be held in Charleston, South Carolina.

It was going to be hosted by Larry Smalley, however it is my sad duty to inform crew members and family that Larry passed away on May 28th 2011. I know that all crew members who knew Larry will miss him dearly as he was a great friend and shipmate. Larry was really looking forward to this reunion. He had everything in place so that this reunion would be one to remember. Let's have a good turnout in Larry's memory. Even though Larry won't be there in person, I know that he will be watching over us.

Mark down the dates and information as this is the only reminder that you will receive. Charleston is the port where the Murray was re-commissioned on Nov. 15, 1951, so a lot of you crew members were aboard at that time.

The dates for the reunion are: **September 14, 2011--September 18, 2011**

The Hotel is: **Radisson Charleston Airport Hotel, 5591 River Ave., North Charleston S.C., 29420 Phone # 843-744-2501**

The room rate is \$ 79.00 per night, plus room tax of 12.5 % (Baggage handling is 3.00 per bag.) Be sure to mention the USS Murray to get the special rate. The hotel will honor the rate 3 days prior to and 3 days following the reunion dates. The cutoff date is Aug.15, 2011 for both hotel reservations and for registration/banquet monies to be sent to John Tawney.

There is much to do in Charleston: there are walking tours of historic Charleston; Patriots Point has the USS Yorktown, USS Laffey, and submarines. Civil War historical site Fort Sumter is nearby so there should be something that all can enjoy. Most important it is time to get reacquainted with old shipmates, so mark your calendar and make plans to attend. For those of you who are interested in playing golf please let me know so arrangements can be made. Also if you belong to the Tin Can Sailors your membership will gain entrance to the Military Parks. If you have the federal Golden Passport, a lot of Federal Parks in Charleston will honor this.

The itinerary is :

- Wednesday, Sept 14: arrival/registration
- Thursday, Sept 15: late registration, open day
- Friday, Sept 16: open day, golf
- Saturday, Sept 17: 9:00 business meeting, 5:00 pictures, 6:00 banquet

All monies for the reunion registration and banquet should be sent with the enclosed registration form to John Tawney. The cost is \$10.00 per person for registration, \$44.00 per person for the banquet.

The banquet menu:

- Fresh garden salad, cucumber & tomato salad
- Southern fried chicken
- Filet of fish (baked or fried)
- Sliced London broil
- Green beans almandine, vegetable medley, roasted new red potatoes, macaroni & cheese
- Desert: Chef's choice

Billy Houston has informed me that Jim Rasenberger has written a book: The Brilliant Disaster. It is about the Bay of Pigs. I understand that there are interviews with crew members of the USS Murray so this should be interesting reading. (Ed note: <http://www.jimrasenberger.com/> or check your local library/bookstore). Also Tim Shaffer has volunteered to host the 2012 reunion in Norfolk Va.

Hope to see you in Charleston! Get busy and call the hotel for your reservations and return the registration form and money to John Tawney. If you have any questions, feel free to call or E-mail me.

Neil DenBleyker
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Syracuse, NY 13215
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DE MEMORIAN/NEW FUNDS

(Since the December 2010 issue)

DEPARTED SHIPMATES: BENNETT, Ray 2009; BRIGGS, Ira 2002; DARVEAU, Raymond 2011; DUGGINS, Julius 2004; ELB, John 2006; FARHAT, Abraham 1978; HERRING, Richard 2010; HILL, Milton, 2005; ROSE, Leslie Jack; SMALLEY, Larry, 2011; STATES, Don 2007; THOMAS, Solomon 2006; TORIN, Richard 2011; WATKINS, Phillip, 2011 WEINMANN, John 2010

DEPARTED FUNDS: GREENE, Arnold R, Jackson, GA; PEREZ, Manny, Moyock NC; SHIELDS, Eugene, Walworth NY; ZERR, Dennis, Hondo TX

As always, thanks to shipmate Billy D Houston for compiling this information! Contact Billy or the editor for more information about any of the above names. Do you have a former unlisted shipmate that you would like to contact? Write, call, or email Billy at: 319 E Farming St, Marion OH, 43302-2501; Telephone: (740) 382-1474; email: Tincanman61@aol.com with as much information as possible about the person you are trying to locate. Please include – if known – full name, age, home of record at enlistment/commission and any other information that might help Billy locate an individual.

EDITOR'S NOTES



- CHANGE OF ADDRESS
- DECLINING THE FANTAIL GAZETTE II
- RECEIVING THE GAZETTE VIA EMAIL
- BACK ISSUES

As always, please send all changes of address to: ussmurray@gmail.com or via US Postal Service mail to:

USS Murray, PO Box 20159, Albuquerque, NM 87156-0159

(PLEASE NOTE THE ABOVE CHANGE OF POSTAL MAILING ADDRESS)

It has been noted that some *Fantail Gazette II* recipients do not wish to receive the newsletter (due to incapacitation, no longer interested, passing of the crew member, etc.). If you no longer wish to receive the printed newsletter, please contact me to be removed from our mailing list. The *Fantail Gazette II* can also be received as a PDF (preferred) or an MS Word document attached to an email *instead* of the printed version. Please notify me by email if you wish to receive an electronic newsletter. As with USPS mailing addresses, email address must be kept current to receive the *Gazette*.

A complete list of all known shipmates living and departed is available from the association. Cost for this list – which includes contact information – is \$5.00 per copy, postpaid. Back issues of the *Fantail Gazette II* published since November 2007 are also available for \$5.00 postpaid for all six. Please contact me for copies.

Checks for these items and/or donations to the MURRAY mailing fund should be made out to: John Tawney.

Member input for the *GAZETTE* is always welcome: I'm still looking for pictures of the Murray and crew members, anecdotes and stories, or what have you. I will print them as space permits! Please assist in making our newsletter more interesting!

The **USS MURRAY** is on **facebook!**

Go to www.facebook.com and type in *uss murray* in the search bar.

Thanks to John Connelly for hosting our facebook site as well as the USS Murray website: www.ussmurray.com

MURRAY MEMORIES by Tim Shaffer



USS Murray, probably in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, 1953
(Photo courtesy of Glenn Stimets, son of Wendell Stimets. Wendell has a collection of over naval 450 photos taken while serving as DesDiv 22 Medical Officer 1952-55)

<-----Remember yard periods and:

- The "yardbirds" gathering at the gangway and their mad dash "ashore" when the quitting whistle blew;
- How eerily quiet the Murray became when the yardbirds stowed their tools and went home for the evening;
- A multitude of power cables and air hoses snaking across every deck;
- Grit clouds hanging in the air from the hull being sandblasted;
- The overpowering stench of paint as the ship – especially the hull – was totally spray painted;
- Liberty in Portsmouth (new bars and tattoo parlors, new route to drive home for the married personnel);
- Real beds to sleep in, huge lockers, and unlimited shower water in the enlisted barracks.

Remember Liberty Call and :----->

- Drawing some portion of our pay beforehand and getting it changed into local currency (does anyone remember how and where this was done – was it on the mess decks? Did we have a "pay officer"?)
- Putting on the dress uniform in the narrow confines of the Murray's First Division way forward in the fo'c's'le (or any enlisted berthing areas for that matter).
- Saluting the quarterdeck and the ensign both departing and boarding the ship.



(Photo courtesy of Ralph Bouma, above left)

RADISSON HOTEL CHARLESTON AIRPORT

September 14, 2011 - September 18, 2011

5591 Rivers Avenue

North Charleston, SC 29420

Reservations: 843-744-2501

Cut off date: 15 August 2011

TO: John F. Tawney, 4611 Chandler Ridge Circle, Raleigh, NC 27603

Phone: 919-779-4523 e-mail: johntawney@mindspring.com

Please make checks payable to: USS MURRAY REUNION FUND

CUT AND SEND WITH CHECK OR MONEY ORDER BEFORE 15 AUGUST 2011

_____	_____
Crew Member	Guest's Name
Registration: _____ x \$10.00 \$ _____	Banquet: _____ x \$44.00 \$ _____
	TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____
Years on Board _____	Rank/Rate _____