

YOUR PRESIDENT SPEAKS

TWO NEW PRESIDENTS BOTH SEEK HELP

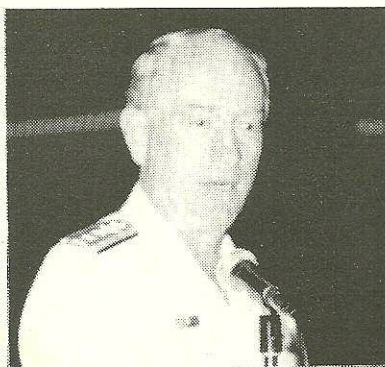
This issue of your Dashpot finds you with not just one, but two new Presidents. President Bill Clinton has been elected to steer your country, and I have been elected to steer your Association. There are many similarities in that which we seek for our respective sphere of influence. Clinton is asking Congress, Cabinet and Country for help in obtaining all the goals he set forth in his campaign promises. Whereas I didn't make any campaign promises to get elected, I nonetheless am asking for your help to obtain some of the goals I am setting for our Association. Clinton has four years to obtain his goals or he'll be back on the streets. I only have three. He is going to need a lot of help. I only need a little. Here are my objectives:



1. We need to increase our membership base. We need each and every member to make an effort to recruit one new member over the next three years. I am certain you know at least one buddy, friend or shipmate that has our same beliefs, interests and need for solidarity. Sign 'em up!!!

2. We need to revitalize these beliefs, interests and Association concerns into a vocal creed we can readily espouse to others. *What do we stand for? Why am I a member? What can I do to help my Association and shipmates? How can the Association help me???* I had the pleasure of addressing the CO's and the

(see PRESIDENT, page 2)



RADM John D. Pearson, COMINEWARCOM, speaking at Charleston Reunion, applauds MN accomplishments (see Reunion Report)

LATEST NAVY REPORT WILL MOVE COMINEWARCOM

The latest report issued by the Navy in mid-January upholds the decision of the Navy to move COMINEWARCOM and a majority of the Navy's mine countermeasures capability to Ingleside, Texas. The announcement was made even in the face of a GAO report that calls such a move extremely costly, and growing concern and opposition mounted by Navy officials and many retired and private sector individuals who claim the move unconscionable and politically motivated. Many veterans, scholars and tactician planners of mine warfare label the move as foolish and detrimental to our national defense in terms of rapid response mine countermeasures capability. The new administration could halt such a move in view of the mounting costs projected to overcome other identified Ingleside area deficiencies such as housing, support facilities, and future training costs that would be required to provide realistic operational training. The GAO is continuing to study the move.

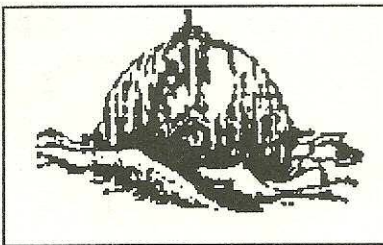
SECRETARY'S CORNER

New Dues Date Voted For

Among other business matters and information that I have to pass along is our new arrangement for paying your annual dues. A motion was made and favorably voted on at our general business meeting for changing our required dues payment date to the month of August, concurrent with our reunion and annual meeting. Floor discussions held that this would be a better time than at the first of the year for several reasons: (1) A large portion of our membership would be signing the registration forms for the reunion and could easily make payment at the time, (2) Christmas and New Year's Gala expenses would be well out of the way, (3) Tax time would be behind everyone and (see SECRETARY, page 3)

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ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN

**DEDICATED TO SERVING
THE
U.S. NAVY MINE FORCE**

The Dashpot, published quarterly, is the newsletter of the Association of Minemen, a non-profit organization incorporated in the State of South Carolina ... to perpetuate a knowledge of undersea mine warfare, necessary to America's first line of defense.

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DASHPOT

PRESIDENT...from page 1

XO's of all the Reserve MOMAG Units/Dets here last November to explain this. I think it came across. Ask them. Ask yourselves. Revisit what we're trying to do.

3. Our history - your history - is a part of what is taking place with the publication of our history book and what needs to be accomplished with our museum on the USS Yorktown. Be a part of both projects. They are dedicated to you. They are about you. I want you to help where you can. We need to do a major revamp with our museum to make it a place of which you will always be proud.

4. Contribute 15 minutes of your time and 19 cents of your money to drop us a post card and give us your full zip code (*nine digits*), your telephone number (*with area code, please*) and some news of you. This will help us obtain lower postal rates, update our membership list, and give us some news to pass along in the Mailbag column of our newsletter. There *are* people out there who would like to hear a little about you, folks.

5. I want to enhance our liaison with our military commands involved in mine warfare. We need to keep tuned more to our younger men and women on active duty. In the face of military drawdowns and consolidations, our Mineman rating is faced with new challenges of survival. Radical changes (as we 'ol timers would view it) are planned and we must *all* keep abreast of what is happening in our professional arena. I need the help of our active duty members and commands in this regard. Please help where you can!!!

6. We *will* file for tax exempt non-profit status while I have the helm. I have appointed a Parliamentarian (Don DeCrona) who is already hard at work getting our Constitution & By-Laws in order and who is keeping me on the straight and narrow regarding changes I submitted last August. The membership approved the changes without exception and I take this as a mandate to get things going. In this regard, there will be some minor word

changes and even some sentence insertion and structure changes that will have to take place, according to Don. I intend to accomplish this without having to go back to the membership for approval of every "dotted eye" and "crossed tee". Any changes will be submitted to the BOD for their approval and affirmation that we have maintained the "intent" of the changes you voted on. If anyone has a problem with this, speak now!!!

7. I want to revitalize the idea of our Chapters throughout the country and the world. Those we have appear to be in name only. We will take steps to re-certify the existence and legality (in accordance with our new C&BL articles as approved) of those Chapters previously established, and set up procedures whereby new Chapter petitions can be rapidly processed and approved.

Although this appears to be a fairly extensive agenda, I think that with your help we can either achieve or surpass these goals. This is *your* organization. Please help us wherever and however you can!

Toby Horn

EDITOR'S COLUMN AND EDITORIALS

Newsletter Now Entirely Our Own

Well, we finally made it - or maybe I should caveat this remark by saying "almost". Except for our printing and photo screening processes, this newsletter marks our first where we have completely accomplished our own story-board fab, layout, typesetting, cropping, and final camera-ready art processing. This has been a six month effort of trial and error involving computer template making, matching printer drivers, installing additional printer RAM and learning our new Publisher computer program. We still have some "matching" problems which your careful scrutiny will pick out here and there. We found out late in our

(see EDITOR, page 4.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Plans For Reno Ahead of Sked

REUNION COMMITTEE

Toby Horn, Past Reunion

Last August we had a very successful reunion in Charleston with only a few malfunctions and added lessons learned. We are *slowly* putting a guide together that will help our future reunion coordinators with their planning - the biggest key to it all being "start early". The Secretary's Column will give you a break-down on all the business happenings, our elections, etc. The early bird at Sigi's was a huge success - our largest ever - and all following events there drew a crowd. As a follow-on, we had intended to make Sigi's our perpetual Charleston meeting place, but I am sad to report that the owners sold the business due to ill health of Sigi, and they have returned to Germany. Our search has already started for a new place that we can take to heart like Sigi's. Our photo coverage that we hired turned into a real bag of worms. I think many of you received a letter of offer for photos that were salvaged from cameras that didn't work or were sadly out of focus. They were a reputable company, everything went wrong, and it was clearly something we could not control. A montage of what we could salvage is included with this issue. Otherwise, I think everyone had a good time. Our Florida folks were very anxious as we watched the hurricane move in, and we did happen to lose some of them early at the Sunday picnic as they raced back to watch over and protect property. The Uni-Sex (that's *both* sexes, guys) golf outing was well received and attended as hosted by our great COMOMAG crew. The alligator on the tee at the 18th gave a scare to several people but I fed him several golf balls and he finally moved off. The problem was that the rest of the golfers charged me a stroke

(see COMMITTEE, page 4)

SECRETARY...from page 1

and it would be a less hectic time to make payment. So the motion was passed and August will now be our magic month. At this point the Board of Directors are reviewing how best to implement the new dues date. They will also consider the change required in changing our fiscal year from calendar to the new fiscal year as it applies to our annual reporting to the state and the IRS. My apologies to those of you that have not received replies to your letters, questions, etc. I am now "back in battery" and should catch up on my correspondence shortly. Please do not hesitate to gig me if you don't hear from me. As noted elsewhere in this issue, PLEASE include your COMPLETE NINE DIGIT ZIP CODE and telephone number when you renew your annual dues. If we have ALL our addresses with the nine digit zip code we can get a reduced mailing rate. Received a copy of the PARAVANE, the newsletter of the Yorktown, VA U.S. Naval Mine Warfare School Veterans. They celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the school with a reunion in Lansing MI September 24-27, 1992. Next reunion is August 19-22, 1993 on the Eastern Shore at the Kent Narrows Inn, Route 301/50 Kent Island, MD. For more information contact Edward G. Smith, P.O. Box 369, Centreville, MD 21617, phone (410) 758-1659. Unfortunately this clashes with our reunion in Reno August 20-22 this year. Maybe we can get them to join us in 94 here in Charleston which will be August 19-21, 1994. Received a letter from LaVern Padgett thanking all for their cards of sympathy and kind words for Ralph. Said she was sorry she could not make the reunion but hopes to see everyone in Reno along with the Kellys and LaFluers. She also sent us the pictures from the 1992 reunion, each mounted on a round wooden circle with a piece of magnetic tape on the back. My grandchildren have mine mounted on my refrigerator. We will have those remaining along with the "rocks" in Reno for those of you that missed getting yours earlier. BUSINESS

MEETING was held Saturday 22 August 1992 at Sigi's resaurant with the following results; Elections saw Toby Horn elected as President for the next three years, Joe Balderrama as Vice President for three years and Don Decrona and Warren Savage Board of Directors. Please see the newsletter masthead, page 2, for a listing of all your officers. Approved 1994 reunion for Charleston August 19-21, 1994. Panama City was second choice. Announced there would be three \$500.00 scholarship assistance awards made, to be announced at the dinner meeting that evening. The Mineman of the Year would also be announced at the dinner. There were no recommendations for Honorary Mineman. Approved a \$200.00 donation to the L. Mendel Rivers Boyhood Home and Museum. Also approved a one time use of our mail list to send the members a soloicitation to support this effort. Watch your mail for something soon. The revised Constitution and By Laws were approved and copies will be available following some minor corrections and a thorough review by our newly appointed Parliamentarian, Don DeCrona. Approved an expenditure not to exceed \$1,000.00 to purchase a laser printer for our newsletter the Dashpot (Note: Our Quartermaster purchased a laser printer for his own use and we have paid \$241.70 to increase the buffer size to take care of all of our needs for the time being). The Treasurers report showed \$4871.21 in checking, \$750.00 in savings and \$127..0 cash for a total of \$5,748.21 on hand. Scholarships and pending 1992 reunion bills will reduce that to around \$3,500.00 after the reunion. DINNER MEETING was Saturday evening August 22, 1993 at the Charleston Naval Base Sports Bar where we were given a preview of the picnic by eating with plastic utensils. Our Guest of Honor and Principal Speaker was Radm John Pearson, Commander Mine Warfare Command. He was accompanied by his lovely wife Georgeanne. Captain Danny Powers, Commander Mobile Mine Assembly

(see SECRETARY, page 8)

process that we had some gutter margin and dither problems, and we expect that to be corrected by the time we lay up the next issue. Needless to say, this has cost us some time in getting this issue to you, but we will save a lot of money in typesetting and layout costs each new issue. We estimate, based on previous costs, that we will be saving about \$400 per issue. We may be able to save even more as we explore other printing establishments where we do not have to be tied to their typesetting requirements. This should also mean that we can now produce our Dashpot on time and also provide bulletin postings as required. For those of you who are computer buffs, our system is set up in a Windows environment using Microsoft Publisher. We can import text from most word processing systems and graphics that are in the TIF, PCX or BITMAP format. I do have a scanner that will reproduce line art and really sharp photos, but resolution is limited. So, if you are interested in sending something along on a computer disk that we can use, please do so. I ask only that you provide a hard copy so that I can make sure I have what you intended to send me. I am also on the Prodigy Service line (ID CFXT02A) so you can send me computer mail that way if you choose. I check the service about every two days. Please send us your comments and constructive criticism, news of you and your family, or any articles you think our members need to be aware of. Here's looking to a new era in our newsletter publishing.

COMMITTEE...from page 3

for each ball and that's the reason why I lost the golf match. I still haven't heard anything from my protest filed with CAPT Danny Powers, COMOMAG (my playing partner) or LT John Iwaniec who coordinated the event. I made up for it at the picnic, though. Yours truly (suave, creative, sophisticated, polished, daring) and that other guy - what's his name - oh yeah, Mac McCarthy - we won the HorseShoe Doubles Championship and returned the trophy back to the East Coast. The Mixed Doubles champs were W. Loya and L. Sample, and L.

Sample went on to win the Women's Singles HorseShoe title. These women are getting tough, guys! The gals also went on to win the Water-Balloon toss (sorry, I don't have the names to post here - please let me know and we'll recognize these champs in the next issue) and the Egg Toss (Grace Daugherty). The ladies are really taking over the competitions. We are going to start recording the distances so we can set up East and West Coast records for men/women (*Ed's Note*: I have a real challenge for the ladies - please see Milli Amps Briefs article this page). Our highlight of the weekend was the address made by RADM John Pearson at our dinner meeting where he talked about some of the ramifications of all the military unit consolidations and closures. He spoke of new initiatives to cross-train our MNs for sea duties that would make the rating less vulnerable to cut-backs (or even outright extinction) and integrate them with crews for our new MCM and MHC class of minesweepers. RADM Pearson promised his continuing support in protecting MN rating manpower requirements and promised to keep us posted.

NOTE: See late-breaking article written by Ron Swart, now on COMINEWARCOM staff.

All in all, I think everyone had a good time throughout the weekend, catching up on friendships, contacts with some old shipmates - some of which we will never see again (see Taps). Please, everyone, make your plans early for this year's reunion. Hope to see you there.

*Don Decrona and Ray Cobis
Reno Reunion 1993*

The planning for our Reno Reunion this year is well ahead of schedule. There are some last minute details to work out concerning our offers for a Lake Tahoe cruise, shopping adventures for the ladies, picnic paperwork requirements, floor show opportunities, a golf outing, meeting rooms and, of course, the gaming availability. We are back at the Sands Regency Hotel-Casino again and I don't think we'll have any mix-

MILLIAMPS BRIEFS

Challenge Seeks Lady Columnist

Wonder of wonders, the ladies have been silent for the past six months. No news at all to report to you of their many accomplishments. Is it because I am a male and intimidate them as a MCP figure? Is it the name of the column (how about "Witch Hazel's Brew" or "Nanno's Seconds" to catch up with the computer world)? I'm just not sure, but we can't have the ladies remaining silent - it's just *not natural*. So, I'm throwing out this challenge, for some wonderful lady to take over the column and act as point of contact for all the women's news and to write it up and send it in for publication each quarter. Let me hear from you!!!

ups like we did last time. We have a block of rooms, but they will go on a first come basis at \$52.00 (plus tax) per day. Events will start on Friday morning, the 20th and continue throughout the weekend. Our business meeting and banquet dinner will be on Saturday, 21st. An excellent menu is planned and we are trying to maintain the cost at about \$20.00 per person for the affair. Our picnic (we're trying for ribs and BBQ) will be held on Sunday, 22nd, at Rancho San Rafael - a short distance from the hotel. We will include a flyer with the next Dashpot with all the particulars. Please let me know *well in advance* if you golfers want an outing, and anyone needing additional information or other accommodations they would like to inquire about - call me (Don) at (702) 826-3081. Everyone, please reserve your rooms *early* by calling the Sands at 1-800-233-4939. We think that Reno this year will be one of the best times *ever*, so mark your calendar now and start your planning. We are working on plans to have a travel agency get everyone a group air fare rate, no matter where you may be flying in from. Start checking on airline prices *now*, (see COMMITTEE, page 5

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO CHARLIE ???

Richard Sovcik, one of our newer members, wrote us (see Mailbag) and asked the whereabouts of some of his old shipmates: Tommy Bohanon who had an accident body surfing and his best friend Bob Lacky (goes back to 1977); also Senior Chief Linwood Ivy, Dan "Thumper" Skillman, Jack Cooly, Bob Mauer, Bill Fritchly, Will Dixon and Captain "Fritz" Weber. Richard can be reached at 409 N. Yale, Arlington Heights, IL 60005.

Jim Box, of 915 Deer Creek Drive, N.W. G-7, LeLand, MS 38756 would like to know of Donald Ray Jones if he is out there somewhere???

COMMITTEE...from page 4

and we'll keep you posted on our best pricing arrangement as it takes shape.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Toby Horn

We need someone to take over this membership committee responsibility. It will only require about an hour or so of your time each month to keep our records up to date (a computer with space on a hard drive for our listing would be an asset, but not necessary). With our quest for new tax exempt status, membership application review and approval is an essential element the IRS must see. Our membership is still growing, and that's a healthy sign, but we need further expansion in order to achieve our historical repository, museum and scholarship support goals. We will also need a membership tally each quarter and a few of your own words for this column. I'll be glad to help anyone who feels they can give a hand in this area. Our membership now stands at 688. Please, everyone, get on the band wagon and sign up a new member. If anyone out there has a membership drive idea, let me know.

PARLIMENTARIAN

Don Decrona

I have reviewed the essence of the

C&BL changes as voted for by our general membership at the meeting in August and have forwarded my recommended additions, deletions and word-structuring that I think will help us meet IRS requirements. I think our new C&BLs will bridge some of the trouble areas that might face the Association. I also received a copy of Roberts Rules of Order and a P.D. to be used as a guideline for Parliamentary duties. The parliamentary rules of order is a subject that takes years of learning and practice, but I have committed to our President to make the best possible interpretations that I can to serve our Association interests. We may make some mistakes along the way, but we'll make a good showing. Copies of our new C&BLs soon will be available via mail order from our Secretary (\$2.00 to cover costs of printing and mailing and this includes a \$1.00 donation to the scholarship fund). We will also have copies available for those attending the Reno reunion this year. In closing, let me say that I like the projects and agenda as outlined by our President. They are important and needed. I hope everyone will offer their assistance, wherever and however they can. There is a lot of work to be done.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Volunteers Needed

No specific news. As usual, every year, we will vote for two new members to the Board of Directors at the meeting in Reno. Start thinking about candidates now. Geographic location does not matter as long as the person consents to the nomination and can be contacted by phone. Please provide your Secretary or any BOD member with any suggestions. Stand up and be counted. Volunteer!!! The pay is lousy, but you'll have a good time.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Lyal Stryker

We have received quite a few inquiries about the History Book and sincerely regret the delay. All the individual biographies have been sent to the publisher and we have proofed most of them with only minor typo errors to be

corrected. **THE BOOK WILL BE PUBLISHED.** At this point we are hoping to finish it up prior to the Reno reunion, if all goes well. We literally have a mountain of historical material to go through and even received some significant items at the last reunion here in Charleston. *Anyone* in the Charleston area that would like to give us a hand sorting through the remainder of the documents, please call Toby Horn or Lyal Stryker. Thanks to Moose Wheelock for a unique addition to our museum collection. It is a wooden model of a French mine that was in the US Navy inventory during the early 1900's. Mounted on the base of the model is the brass nameplate from the mine and reads "USN N.D. Mine Mark IV, Mod (blank), Serial No. 2218, Norfolk Navy Yard, VA A.W.R. 4 29 16". According to literature we have, these were called Naval Defense Mines. Moose also gave us a wooden replica of a Japanese mine chemical horn that washed up at Astoria, Oregon 7/12/65. The actual brass base is part of the replica. John Muessig then gave us a complete horn of the same type along with a translation of the information stamped on the brass base. Jorgen Lorenzen gave us his old electricity book from the old Mine Warfare School in Yorktown. Swede Carlsen gave us a bunch of newspaper clippings and magazines with various information about Mine Warfare. Of interest was a copy of the magazine Dolphin Log, the magazine of the Cousteau Society, that contained an article celebrating the 50th birthday of the Calypso. Seems the Calypso was built in Seattle, Washington during WWII as a minesweeper. She was known as the J-826 and was assigned to the Mediterranean. We recently took an empty Mark 52 and 55 case over to the USS Yorktown that had been at the school. Our friends at Momag Unit Eleven here in Charleston made it available to us rather than scrap it. Next step is to get an instrument rack for the one that is a cutaway.

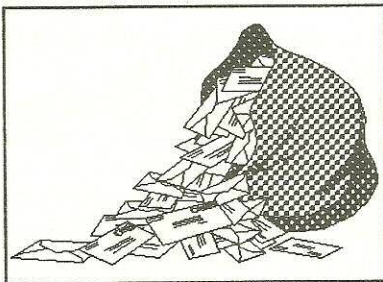
SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Lyal Stryker

As noted in the Secretary's news, we were able to grant three \$500.00 scholarship assistance

(see SCHOLARSHIP, page 8)

MAIL BAG

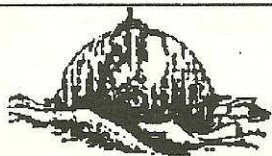


We have a long standing list of "heard froms", notes and postcards to pass along. Hopefully, now that we are on our own production basis, we can now stay tuned with your news out there and pass it along in a more timely fashion. First and foremost, I want to thank everyone who called in, and those I was able to call, regarding the loss to all of us of Doreen Stryker, wife of our Secretary/Treasurer, Lyl Stryker. Doreen was a staunch supporter of our Association in many, many ways - not only with the wonderful items she always managed to make for us for our reunion auctions, graciously opening up her home for meetings we held, cheerfully answering the phone hundreds of times regarding our business and member inquiries, but - most importantly - the thousands of hours she spent behind the scenes in support of her husband as he carried out the daily business of our Association. On behalf of all of our members, the Association sent a lovely spray of flowers in memory and in tribute to this wonderful lady. We will all miss her.

I'm not even going to try to put the rest of things into chronological order: Bill Landers from Tullahoma, TN sent along some photos he had taken at our museum on the Yorktown, asking for identification and explosive load data on some of the mines (Ed's Note: since vandals ripped off most of our display plaques, getting our displays re-identified is a top priority for us)...he called again a wee bit back and asked about the progress and some other info regarding explosive loads in some of the older weapons, says to pass his regards on to everyone... William Decker, Argyl, PA called and wanted info on joining, said he was on the USS

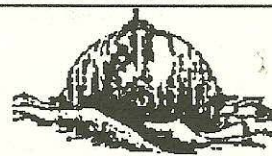
Bold during '56-58 timeframe and would like to hear from anyone serving on her during that period (Bill is at 815 Grand Central Road, zip 18072)...Roy Schardin, Alexandria, VA checked in with us way back and had passed on his regrets at not making the Charleston reunion, wanted all his friends to know he was anxious to catch up with them one of these days, seems some family crisis always comes up just about reunion time...Ron Gentry of DeBary, FL sent along a card saying how much he enjoyed the reunion in Charleston and that he hopes to see all at our next one in Reno, if not then for sure in Charleston in '94...Bob and Connie Hart, our 'ol faithfuls from Newport, PA wrote and passed along some news on son Patrick who had enlisted in the Navy back in '86 and became a CT(M) after many qualifying schools, earned his Aviation Warfare wings while at NAS Jax, as CTM2(AW) reported to the Spruance class USS Fife (DD991) in July '91 as part of the USS Independence battle group and deployed to the Persian Gulf back in April '92, back now and battling the low quota in rate for First Class but plans on a Navy career and a shot at the LDO program (keep at it Patrick)...an Army Warrant Officer, CW2 Dave Collar wrote us regarding an article he is preparing for the American Society of Military Insignia Collectors (ASMIC) concerning shoulder sleeve insignia worn by Navy personnel during WWII, says he knows mine warfare sailors went through at least 3 different insignie during the war - a striker type insignia showing a circle and a diamond type device (?); a red/white/blue circular device (Minesweeper?); and finally the shoulder patch that was authorized late in the war (11 DEC 44?) - was wondering if these were ever really circulated and worn, were others worn, who designed them, etc., asks for any help or info anyone can give (Address to PSC #03 Box 1594, APO AA34003)...our BOD member John Loonam, Gloucester VA wrote and sent in material for the History Book, some anecdotes on things remembered

during his tours of duty which he hopes others have sent in to flavor the book, says he remembers (among other things) drill mine plants where mooring cable was 700' and everyone standing around waiting for cases which failed to surface until they checked and found 1100' water depth, bottom drill mine cases which floated and they discovered someone goofed and gave them un-filled shop mines, says he knows there are hundreds of stories out there like those and they should be included in the book (we think so too, John, but try to get a Mineman to write something???)...Jack Tripp called, said he was doing well and dabbling in ham radio, getting all his licenses and having a great time chatting around the world, says he and his wife celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 19th of August '92 just before our reunion, says to pass along his regards to everyone ...and on international scale, Jorgen Lorenzen from Denmark wrote, sending along his thanks for a well planned and executed reunion, facetiously said we could have done with a little snow at the dinner meeting (air conditioner was stuck and it was freezing), gave an account of his flight back where the stewardess "was having one of her bad days" - dumped his dinner all over him, carried out a "big cleaning detail", gave him new dinner and poured him a glass of wine in glass with no bottom, new dinner and wine, then as she collected his neighbor's tray she dropped that in his lap, more cleaning and said he gave the stewardess his card and told her to forget that day - requested a list of our honorary members, including those who have passed away, said he thought that a reunion in Denmark as proposed by Admiral Pearson at the dinner was a good idea and wondered if there was genuine interest (let him know), said the year would have to be 1994 if he were still alive?...our LaVern Padgett, Glendale, AZ had written and sent along reunion paraphernalia for sale for our scholarship fund, said she would try to make the reunion in Reno this year (saw LaVern at Doreen Stryker memorial service and she asked to be



Mineman Rating Expansion

by LCDR Ron Swart
COMINEWARCOM, Mine Readiness



Many of you have heard rumors about the elimination of the Mineman rating or perhaps that Minemen would soon go to sea as minesweep Boatswains Mates. Threats to our rating existence seem to crop up every fiscal year and we have been very fortunate to have had strong support from every COMINEWARCOM Admiral to fight off the attack. However, several things have happened over the past year that impact directly upon the Mineman rating.

Last year, our Navy's mine stockpile requirements were assessed for fiscal year 1994 and beyond. This corresponded with the fall of the Soviet Union and a warming relationship with the country who had represented the primary threat to our way of life. As it became more difficult to define our potential threat, it became more difficult to justify our large mine stockpile to Congress. Along with mandated reductions in our mine stocks, came a corresponding reduction in forces; mine shops were closed in Souda Bay, Crete (Det 6) and Glen Douglas, Scotland (Det 4). MOMAG Unit 9, Subic Bay, The Philippines, closed when base negotiations failed. We may eventually experience the further losses of MOMAG Det 7, Hawaii and MOMAG Det 2, Machrihanish, but the jury isn't out on that just yet. By 1996, Navy-wide Mineman billets will be reduced from about 650 to around 350. Some of these billets were absorbed in the reorganization of the Mine Warfare Forces, but most were lost to the Mineman rating. As we begin the fiscal year 1996 review this Spring, the picture doesn't appear much brighter.

Most of you know about the recent reorganization and consolidation of mine countermeasures under COMINEWARCOM. We now have operational control of surface and

airborne mine countermeasures forces (including EOD MCM Detachments). Now, after two years of research and investigation, the Navy has directed the Mine Warfare Forces to consolidate at Ingleside, Texas to form a "Center of Excellence" where training and readiness should improve for all. This Summer, COMINEWARCOM is scheduled to move from Charleston to Corpus Christi, Texas, to be followed by the remaining MCM Forces who have not yet moved to Ingleside. The plan calls for a MOMAG Unit (15) to stand up to support MCM Forces on the Gulf Coast. Commander, Mobile Mine Assembly Group (COMOMAG) is scheduled to remain in Charleston, along with MOMAG Unit 11.

With all of the downsizing, reorganizing and searching for a "Peace Dividend" going on, it's no wonder there are so many rumors about

for him to advance to Petty Officer First Class or Chief because MCM jobs represent less than 1% of his rating, Navy-wide. BUPERS will not approve "closed-loop" detailing for people with MCM specialty codes (or any other specialties throughout the Navy, for that matter), so the Mine Force loses its best and brightest people because they want to advance.

The COMINEWARCOM proposed solution to this readiness crippling problem, is to expand the current Mineman rating to include those MCM specialty jobs that are being done by the ST, OS, BM AND GM ratings. This provides the MCM side of Mine Warfare with a motivated, highly technical and RE-ASSIGNABLE sailor, who will grow to become a Mine Warfare Specialist of the highest order. Both the CNO Staff and BUPERS have stated that all sailors in this rating shall be called "MINEMEN". Those in the ST, OS, BM AND GM ratings who wish to stay in Mine Warfare will be allowed to convert to Mineman (there is good reason to believe that

many will convert voluntarily). One can argue that this could dilute expertise on the mine shop deck, but this expansion won't happen over night. There will be a transition period where "old" Minemen will remain to provide continuity in the MOMAG community and those with MCM expertise will do likewise. Let's face it, mines are becoming less labor intensive to maintain and much easier to assemble and it is becoming increasingly more difficult for the manpower people to justify having Minemen at all. As we "grow our own" through a modified Mineman Class "A" School, Minemen will go to sea on MCM (Avenger Class) and MHC (Osprey Class) ships and will do their shore duty at a MOMAG Unit or an Shore

Late Breaking News!!!

A Charleston Post and Courier article on February 17th, by Steve Piacente, reported that the GAO has recommended that the COMINEWARCOM move be halted. Plans to move to Ingleside were considered "faulty" and "not the best alternative".

the future of the Minemen. Many ratings like Torpedoman (TM) and Weapons Technician (WT) are in worse shape than we are and may be absorbed by other ratings or eliminated altogether. We have a proposal that will allow the Mineman rating to grow and become an essential part of tomorrow's downsized Navy.

The surface mine countermeasures force has a critical retention problem. They can't keep qualified Sonar Technician (ST), Operations Specialist (OS) and Boatswains Mate (BM) personnel with MCM specialty codes in the Mine Force. As soon as a "hot running" sailor in one of these ratings becomes qualified and experienced enough to be effective at his job, it's time for him to roll out of the MCM Navy. There is little chance

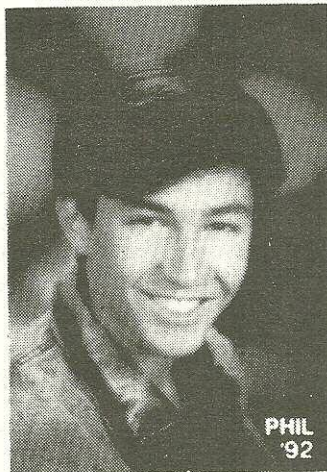
(see EXPANSION, page 10)

SECRETARY...from page 3

Group and his lovely wife Karen were also present. Capt. Powers accepted the Mineman of the Year plaque on behalf of MN1 Donald K. Kiper USN, from Momag Unit Three at Earle New Jersey. The plaque and certificate was presented to MN1 Kiper at a ceremony at Unit Three. PICNIC Another great Sunday afternoon at Short Stay. All had a great time and we raised \$900.00 from the auction. It is the generosity of you *members* that attend the auctions and send in contributions that make it possible each year for *us* to financially help these young people. Our sincere thanks to all of you that donated items to auction, without you also we could not raise these funds. THANKS!!!

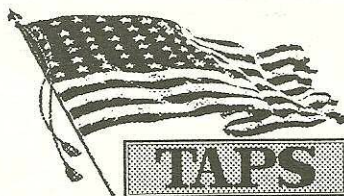
SCHOLARSHIPS...from page 5

awards at our last reunion. Two Charleston area students received the awards. One went to Phillip Simmons, son of LT and Mrs. Ed Simmons here in Charleston and another to Christopher Adams, son of MNCM and Mrs. Roger Adams, also here in Charleston. Both young men are enrolled at the University of South Carolina in Columbia.



Mr. Phillip Simmons

Our third recipient was Ms. Rachael McWherter, daughter of LCDR and Mrs. Irving McWherter, USNR. She is in her second year at Radford University in Virginia. We received nice thank-you notes from all three along with their photos which we are happy to publish here for all to see. We wish these young people every success in their academic endeavors and hope to meet them in person some



We dedicate this column as
a tribute to our colleagues and loved ones

Since our last newsletter, we have learned of the following members and friends that have passed away. The membership of the Association of Minemen wish to express their sympathy to the families of those departed loved ones who now reside with our Most Supreme Commander.

MNC **Frank Thompson**, USN (RET) - April 22, 1992 at the Naval Hospital

Bremerton from a heart attack. He was a WWII and Korea veteran; retired from Keyport in 1985 as a quality assurance inspector.

Audrey Hernstrom, October 10, 1992, Norwich, England of lung cancer; wife of Robert (Bob) Hernstrom residing in Moline, IL.

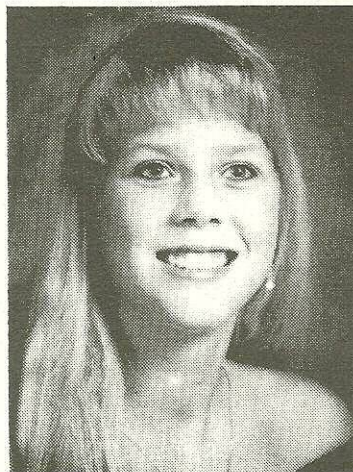
Doreen Shirley Stryker, November 24, 1992, North Charleston, SC; beloved wife of our AOM Secretary/Treasurer, Lyal Stryker; died at home after a long battle with lung cancer; cremains internment and dispersal at Riverview Memorial Park Charleston and her birthplace in Toronto, Canada.

Elizabeth (Betty) Mudd, November 28, 1992, Lady Lake, FL of lung cancer. Widow of LT Tom Mudd.

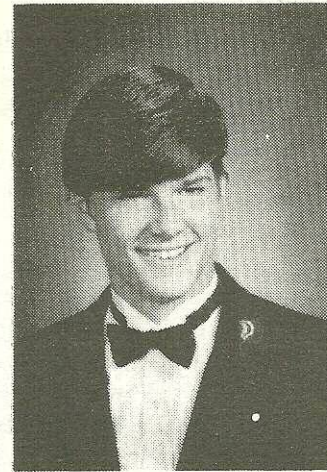
James H. (Jim) Brannon, December 3, 1992, Wooster, AR; of cancer; buried on Pearl Harbor Day; survived by wife Shirley.

LCDR Benjamin W. Randle, USN (RET), December 17, 1992, San Antonio, TX; of cancer; internment in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery; survived by wife Vi, who wrote telling us that Ben was only diagnosed with cancer the previous October. Ben was a Gunners Mate during WWII, attended Bomb Disposal School, later changing his rate to MN. He was at West Loch around the late 40's and early 50's, making MNC there along with Fred Reid. He retired in the late 60's as AOIC of the Naval Mine Engineering Facility (NMEF).

MNCM **John Joseph "J.J." Sbei**, USN (RET), February 7, 1993, Charleston, SC, after a long battle with cancer; memorial service at MENRIV All Saints Chapel attended by many active and retired Minemen; moving eulogies given by CDR Will Dixon and Robert Gochnauer; full military honors internment at Whispering Pines Memorial Gardens. At the time of his retirement, "J.J." was the Force Master Chief at COMINEWARCOM. Memorials may be made to his wife, Mitsuko M. Sbei, 204 Mulberry Drive, Summerville, SC 29483.



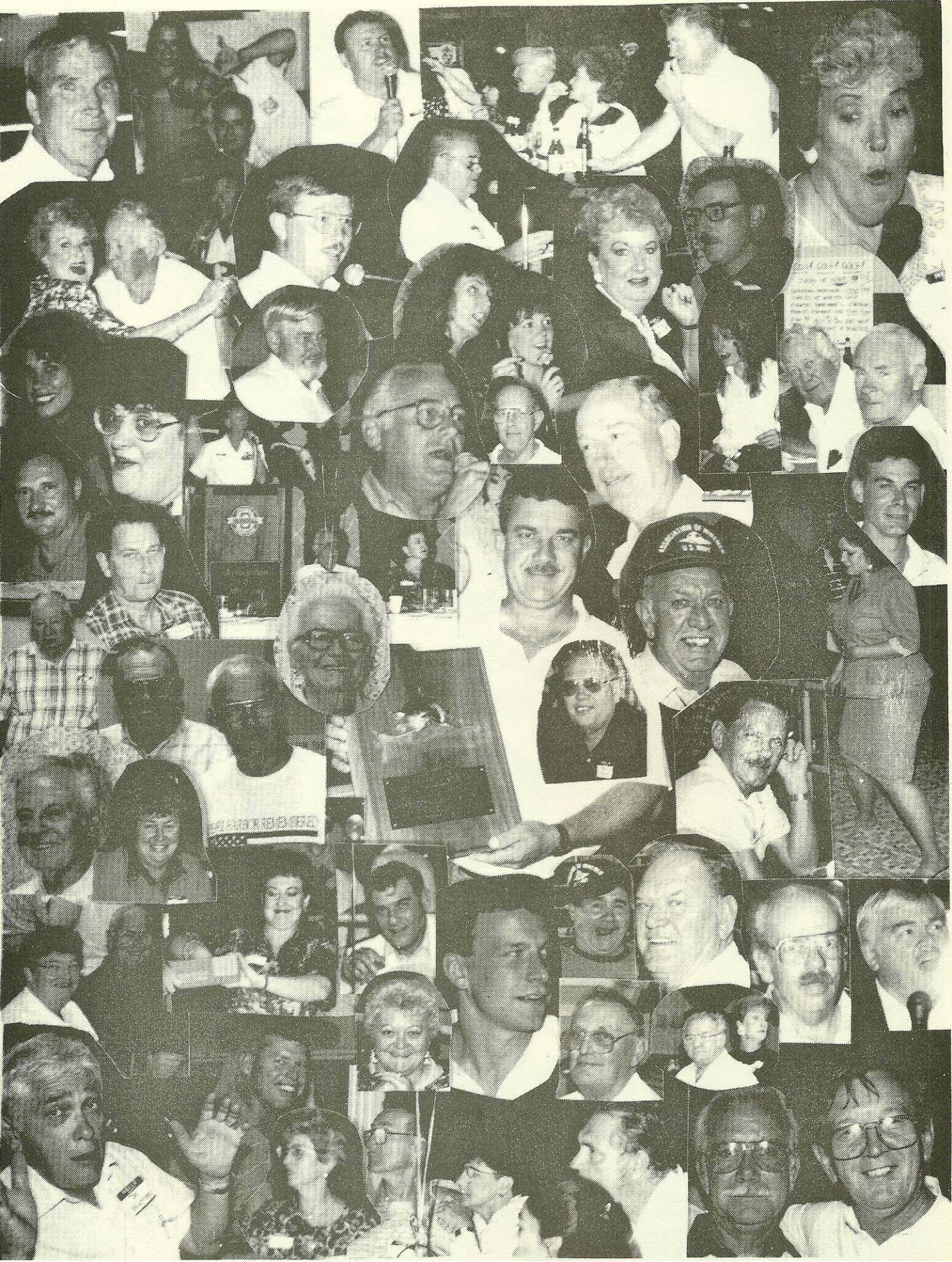
Ms. Rachael McWherter

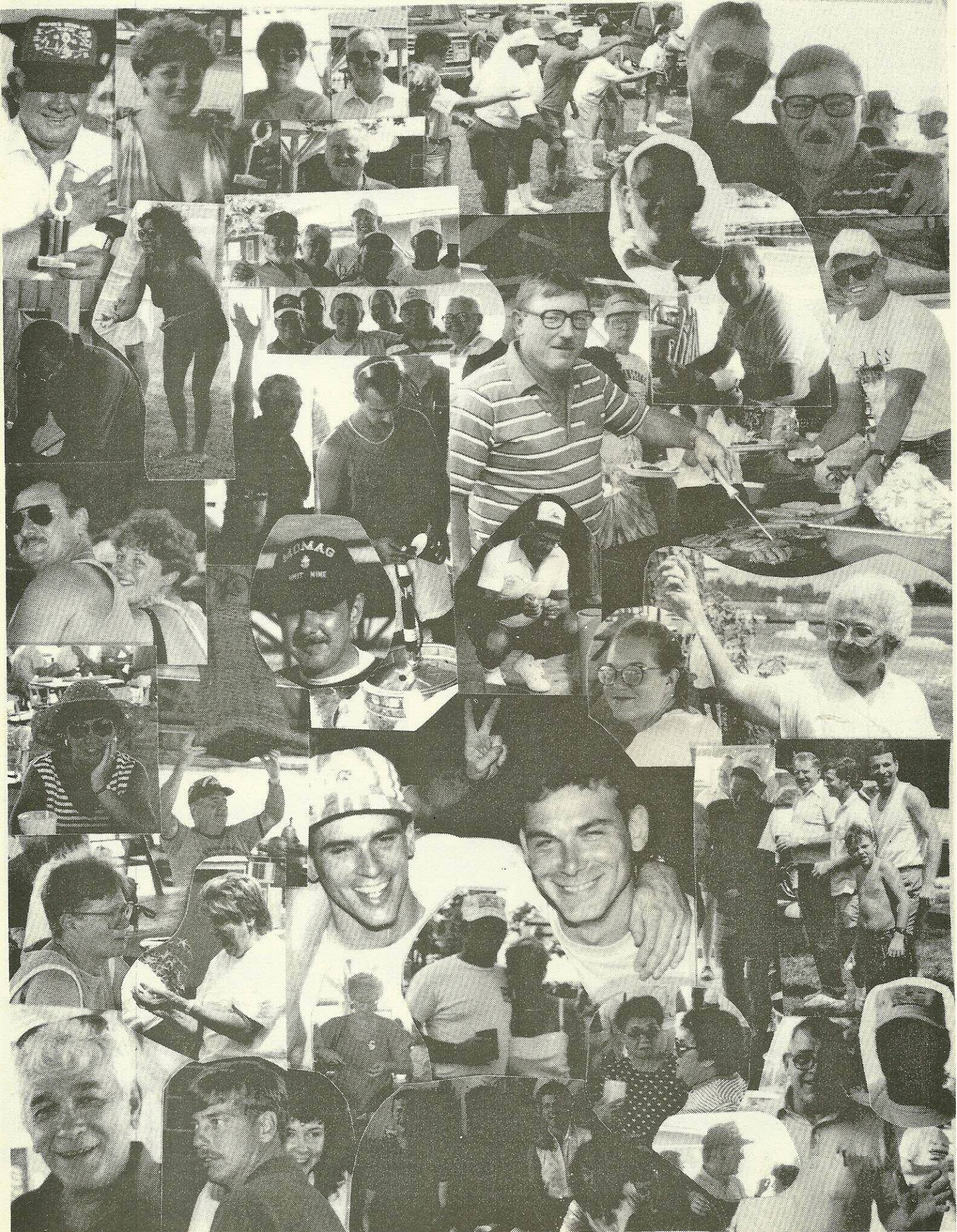


Mr. Christopher Adams

day. You can all be proud of this civic service and assistance to children of our members; made possible by your kind generosity. Note: Applications for 1993 awards must be received by 1 May

1993. Request all forms, qualification and eligibility information from your AOM Secretary. Again, *thank you, thank you*, you wonderful members, for your support of this valuable program.





CIVIC INFORMATION

April Memorial Scheduled

We are scheduled again this year to co-sponsor the the annual Hobson Memorial Service held in Charleston on April 25, 1993. The service is held on The Battery at the monument. This year will mark the 41st year since the USS Hobson, DMS-26 was sunk by the USS Wasp from a collision on April 26, 1952. The local Fleet Reserve Branch hosts the event every year and the American Legion and VFW also participate. COMOMAG has provided honor guards and standard bearers in the past and we hope that tradition will continue if they are not removed to another location. The ceremony will be held at 1330 on April 25, 1993. Plan on coming to help us remember and honor

those who lost their lives in this tragic accident. A reception at the Fleet Reserve Home follows the ceremony.

A note of interest: on February 28, 1991, the USNS Saturn (T-AFS 10) dipped her colors to salute the 176 men of the USS Hobson who lost their lives nearly 39 years earlier. As the Saturn crossed the Atlantic in the vicinity of 42 degrees 21 minutes North and 44 degrees 13 minutes West, the Master of the Saturn (S.M. Aspiotis) had the ship's ensign dipped in memory of those men who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

New subject: At our August AOM membership business meeting, a donation of \$200.00 was approved for the L. Mendel Rivers Boyhood Home and Museum. In addition, they authorized a one-time use of our mail list to offer the members an opportunity to contribute to this worthy cause. Watch you mail in the near future for this special mailing that will contain detailed information.

PAST PRESIDENT'S REVIEW

Remarks Tell Of Progress

Last August, Jim Hoffman gave over the helm as President of our Association after serving three very active years guiding our business and civic matters. In his address to the members gathered at the dinner meeting, where he introduced the newly installed officers, Jim reflected on the Association accomplishments during his tenure. "My three years as your President has come to a close," he said. "...but for the Association of Minemen, this time frame has see many firsts.

The most important - fulfilling the challenge of RADM Tobin, who was COMINEWARCOM at the time, to publish a comprehensive history of the Mineman rating, of U.S. Navy mines and of the people and bases involved.

We also got our first look at our new newsletter, The Dashpot, in February 1991, and everyone has been most pleased. This was accomplished with the purchase of a desktop publishing program, and each edition sees the publication getting better and better.

We increased our dues for the first time since our organization began, to help us keep up with costs that were necessary to keep our membership active and informed.

We changed our membership requirements and deleted the "associate member" category so that they became a vital, active part of our total membership base.

We streamlined our mail list and files to reflect only those active and paid members who care and share our Association objectives. In this regard, our cost savings has helped us expand in other support areas.

Our first Association scholarships were awarded. Two in 1991, and this tradition will continue as long as we have wonderful members like you"

Jim went on to thank all the officers and The Dashpot for a job well done.

*The following article is a reproduction of an official U.S. Navy Directive (Note)
issued on 6 June 1944*

Mine Warfare Note OPNAV 30-3 M-A, No. 3-44 6 June 1944

Bupers Circular Letter 205-43, Navy Department Semi-Monthly Bulletin of 15 October 1943, directed that, effective upon publication of "Mineman" qualifications, the rating of Gunners Mate (M) be abolished and replaced by the rating of "Mineman".

These qualifications have been published as Enclosure (A) of BUPERS Manual Circular Letter 18-44, Navy Department Semi-Monthly Bulletin of 29 February 1944, and will be added to Part D, Chapter 5, Section 2, of the Bureau of Naval Personnel Manual following Article D-5252.

Commanding Officers are authorized to change the ratings of men performing certain types of duties in connection with mines and mining to the rate of "Mineman", provided such men can qualify in accordance with requirements stated in the above circular letter. The specialty mark for "Mineman", recently approved by the Secretary of the Navy, is shown in Figure 20 (not in our copy).

Petty Officers qualified in minesweeping only are not to be changed to "Mineman" ratings.

**REUNION 1993
RENO, NEVADA - AUGUST 20 - 22
Plan Now !!!**

EXPANSION...from page 7

Intermediate Level Maintenance Activity (SIMA). At the Journeyman and Master level (E-5 to E-9), Minemen will provide senior leadership and technical expertise both at sea and ashore on squadron staffs and in the mine shop. Our rating will grow to around 1000 billets, a size that can be easily managed and yet will provide upward mobility for our sailors in the future. Furthermore, we will closely mirror our allies with this approach by maintaining a single Mine Force.

This proposal goes up the chain of command this February for approval by CINCLANTFLT, BUPERS and OPNAV. The Surface Warfare Training Requirements Review Committee has stated that the Chief of Naval Education and Training can train to the proposal (a key step) and therefore recommends approval. We're optimistic that we can gain final approval from the CNO this year. I'm sure that none of us want the Mineman rating to fade into history and if it means changing and expanding to meet the future needs of our Navy, I can't think of a group of professionals more qualified or with more potential than today's Minemen. Our future couldn't be brighter than it has been in years. I'll keep you posted.

WELCOME ABOARD

As with any organization, we are a product of our membership. Each member is a precious resource of ideas, enthusiasm and dedication to purpose.

We'd like to welcome the following new members who have joined our Association. This list is compiled as of the first week in January - some others having joined since, who we will welcome next issue. We extend our welcome to: Paul F. Saunders, Joseph M. Regan, Dale D. Kelley, Richard J. Sovcik, Charles T. Bird, Mathew L. Ringrose, George A. Hipp, Andrew W. Beck, Colleen M. Sabel, Kenneth W. Redman, Thomas R. Stokes, Leroy A. Taylor, Ellie Burns, Roland F. Anderson and Andrew J. Hume.

Welcome aboard. We hope you will individually and collectively help our Association in all it's endeavours.

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS

Heard that Ted Newton has been under the weather with a bad stomach. Also heard that Harry Coker had back surgery and is better now. Moose Wheelock was here for the reunion and looks good. See note in Museum column about rare item he has donated. John "Opie" Opensensky was at the reunion with a broken ankle but his wife Kitty made sure he got where he needed to be. Frank Whipple's wife had a stroke a while back but is over it and doing well. We were happy to see Edna and Frenchy Lemieux at the dinner and Edna was delighted to see so many old friends. Don Branan thanked us for the note we ran in the last newsletter about his wife now being in a nursing home. Unfortunately Don said that they did not receive any cards as had been requested. He also noted her room number has changed and here is the address; Kay Branan, RM 112C, Brian Center Nursing Care, 2130 Anderson Mill Road, Austell, GA 30001. Kay loves cards with pretty scenery and flowers but does not like animals. Please take a minute now to send her a card to let her and the family know we have not forgotten her. Ted Pstrak has been in a Charleston hospital recovering from a blood circulation problem. Frank Martin called to report that Don Costa lost a leg a few weeks ago when in Kuwait on a commercial explosive disposal job and he stepped on an undiscovered land mine. We wish all those experiencing sickness or distress a speedy recovery. Please let us know if there is a way we can help?



Thanks to Francis McCarthy (who has reminded me constantly of his best airline price to Reno last time we were there), we have made some arrangements with a Norfolk-based travel agency to supply us a group-reunion airline travel rate for getting to Reno this year. **C.I. Travel**, a division of Cruise International, has shopped around and negotiated the lowest reunion rate to be found - all things considered. U.S. Airlines will give us an additional **5% off** of their lowest rate *from any departure point* that is serviced by USAIR in the U.S. All reservations and arrangements must be made through the C.I. Travel office, however, to obtain this low rate. You must call 1-800-222-3577 and ask for **the Ward's Corner Office**, then for Ms. Jeanne Rabinowitz. Identify yourself as being with the Association of Minemen, and Jeanne will take all your reservation information. The rate allows you to travel up to 3 days before the 19th of August and 3 days after the 21st, but stop-overs are not allowed. Tickets and reservations secured by credit card will hasten the process. Please call during C.I.'s weekday hours, Monday - Friday between 9:00AM and 5:30PM. The 5% lower rate is based on the rate in effect at the time of your reservation. No particulars yet as to alternatives if fares drop lower after you have applied. I'll keep you posted.

REUNION 1993
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MAILBAG...from page 6 remembered to everyone)... Alfred Bauer from nearby Goose Creek, SC sent in his recommendation for a rubber stamp we could use to answer membership inquiries, had 5 block areas that could be checked off, went something like this -1 Sorry, we screwed up, your dues are paid; 2 We screwed up, but we really, really need the money; 3 God did it!!!; 4 Curtis Christian did it (same as #3); 5 Other (fill in the blank) - (thanks, Al, we may try a variation of this idea)...Arthur Cook of Punta Gorda, FL wrote and sent in dues and question regarding timing of payment (we have this as a BOD action - to resolve payment differential when a new member joins us mid-term or later), sent an interesting history of his mine warfare involvement dating back to 1940, harbor defense, classes (the 3rd class) and subsequent teaching at Yorktown at the old school, tours on the Coral Sea (CVA-43) and Salem (CM-11) and Shannon (DM-25), post Navy stints working on government contracts, and recommended Panama City, FL as future site for reunion...Jim Box, LeLand, MS wrote and said he had received his copy of the Dashpot and it was great hearing about some of the 'ol MN's he remembered, inquired about John Tapscott, said he was definitely planning on the Reno reunion, made an inquiry about anyone stationed in Hawthorne in 1954 who developed any kind of cancer (contact him at 915 Deer Creek Dr NW G-7, zip 38756) (further note - we published an ALERT from Carroll Delaney in our last issue regarding this), Jim also asked about an old shipmate (see Charlie column) and asked about an address list of members (we do have one, Jim, and it can be ordered on our material order form on inside back cover), sends his regards to everyone...Henry "Willy" Williams of Lithonia, GA sent his money and business card along for publication to help publication costs (thanks, Willy)...a WWII disabled vet, C.L. Brown of Salt Lake City, UT sent a card stating he was a collector of military memorabilia (patches, crests,

badges, medals, ribbons, etc.) and would appreciate any help he can get (please identify and send to 1396 Vintry Ln, zip 84121)...Billy C. Owen, down in Atlanta, TX sent along a post card to give us his correct address (you forgot the last four on your zip, Billy) and phone number, sends his best wishes to everyone...Jack and Terry Shreve of Kensington, MD piped aboard and said it was good to hear news about a lot of the gang in the last newsletter, said number of grandkids was up to 5 now (that's an epidemic, Jack), and sent his full stats on zip and phone numbers for our list, sends their best to everyone...MNC(SS) Rick Williams of MOMAG 404 and hailing from York, PA read our last Dashpot and my plea for a more appropriate name for our active and reserve news, provided us with the name we are now going with (see new title and column "Full Force News") to take off on the total force concept, said that MOMAG 404 was in process of disbanding and there was much anxiety, they had a visit from Frank Colvin and Chiefs Height and Evers (said they couldn't stay away), recalled to us that MNCS Russ Schruers had retired back in June last year (sorry, Rick, we didn't get the news), suggested dues expiration date on mailing label (please see Membership Committee news)...received a nice letter from Mike Nash, Pinehurst, NC, who retired last year as COMOMAG; said he had read his last Dashpot cover to cover and it reminded him of what a fine four years he had completed with our minemen and minewomen, said he was very busy and extremely in his retired role, would be working for the NCOA there in the Fort Bragg/Pope area and also preparing to enter the world of insurance peddler, all this after the 5 days each week of golf (maybe 6, but he definitely rests on the 7th), says he wants to stay in touch via the Dashpot and please to send his regards to all their friends and shipmates...a call from Harmon Maddocks up in Booth Bay, ME, just checking in on the state of things, said he had been going round and round with some health problems

but was coming up on the power curve, wanted to be remembered to everyone...a brief note from Dick and Jo Anderson out in Vista, CA who had been packing up to come back East to work in the D.C. area in support of a government contract on mine countermeasures (understand they have had to put the move on hold for now?), sent their best wishes to everyone and they hope to make Reno if things stabilize by then...Tom Shipley, now XO of the NUWC (NUSC) laboratory up in Newport, RI sent along dues, wrote that the Dashpot helped keep him in touch, said he was sure we were following the Navy's consolidation efforts (we are more confused than ever, Tom), said it was difficult for many involved to comprehend as well - especially for the continuing saga regarding mine warfare - sent regrets about not making Charleston...Richard Sovcik, Arlington Heights, IL had written back before the reunion, was happy to catch up with the Dashpot and finding that part of his past was not just pushed out there into memoryland, had said he didn't recognize a lot of the names, wrote about a real trial he's had with Crohn's Disease which he had apparently picked up through something he ate at the chow hall and now will be a lifetime problem with his intestine system, asked about a lot of people he had known (see Charlie), and said he wanted to attend the Charleston reunion but was skeptical about knowing anyone (Richard did come to the reunion, joined the festivities, and I think he had a good time and will keep in touch)...and last but not least, "Mac" McCarthy from Norfolk, VA and my 'ol time horseshoe pitching buddy (see AOM Champions and Hall of Fame), had written to cuss me out for not using a contact he had for us regarding airline travel to and from the reunion, and sent an answer to a question regarding the Mk 19 mine (I have no idea why?)...Tom and Marion Roberts from Plantation, FL called, Tom's health much better, and news of their 50th wedding anniversary, they want to be back in touch with everyone...Francis "X" Martin of Panama City, FL

■ FULL FORCE NEWS

DoD Revamp Affects All

Our new title was submitted by Reservist MNC(SS) Rick Williams, formerly of Unit 404 in PA (now being disbanded). It was selected to promote the full force concept that is rapidly evolving as the standard for our Navy today, in the face of all of the military draw-downs, amalgamations, re-locations, re-organizations and aggregate manpower reductions affecting almost every active site and reserve augmentation unit. I don't have a huge backlog to report on here. I was promised some "current" reserve news support from one of our stalwart members (no names) who is very active in that arena, but I haven't received a data dump yet. Also, the last site reports I received go back to July last year, so we're a little skinny on our active and reserve news. I'll try to improvise from notes 'n stuff.

Some of the bad reserve news given me at the reunion in Charleston was the severity of changes in the Reserve Mine Unit structure. Of 27 units, only 9 are slated to survive (504, 1107, 1207, 1310, 1410, 1511, 1711, 2318 and 2419). The other 18, and associated personnel, will be (or already have been) moved into central drill sites. After all the years of hard work to break our Mineman reservists out of the diluted rate-training that central sites provided in the past - well, it's enough to make those of us that were involved cry!!!

I was very fortunate and privileged to be able to address the congress of Reserve COs and XO's who were here in Charleston for their NR Mine Workshop last November. It was early on a Sunday morning so I don't think I put anyone to sleep, and the pouring down rain provided me a captured audience - no place else to go. I think that I did our Association justice in trying to impart all the things we stood for, things we were doing, and things

that I thought we could do for all the reserve and active duty personnel with whom we share a profession. With all the changes that are taking place nowadays, I hope that we can provide a "root" that our reserve men and women can bond with and feel comfortable with - particularly those that are being dumped back into central training sites.

I am told that our active duty people are also in for some rather revolutionary changes in rating performance factors. RADM Pearson hinted at this during his address to members at the reunion dinner meeting. Our MN rating is planned to go through a significant training/qualification shift with added emphasis on sea-going billets and/or skills that support our new MCM and MHC class ships. From some of what I have heard, some of our old timers will be pleased, because our MNs will have to be skilled in all the trades we were accustomed to back in the DM, MDAU, Mine Project and J-11-D days; rigging, welding, carpentry, ship machinery and equipment operation/repair, and seamanship (lookout, helmsman, refuel, unrep, coxswain, plotting, etc.). I am told that this is a do or die situation - either it's done this way or our MN rate will be in extremis - ripe for the axe.

Our format for reporting site news is also going to change a bit. I asked for comments on the column at our reunion. Many said it was a bit cumbersome with all the SSOQ, JSOQ, LOC and LOA comments and that the full page spread was hard to follow. So, we will try keeping our site reports to news of promotions, awards and specialty items involving professional performance and community affairs; and stay with a 3-column newsletter layout.

UNIT ONE, Seal Beach: MN3 D. B. Ellis, MN2 C.V. Vetter and MN1 D.W. Kirker were advanced to their respective grades; MN3 W.C. Hemmings III was awarded his 2nd Good Conduct Medal; MNC W.M. Snyder was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for services performed at NAS Sigonella; LT T.W.P. Patton, MN3 W.M. Willis, MN3 T.H. Wark. MN3 S.A. Banks,

MN3 K. Traynor and MNSN B. A. Loza received recognition for participation at the McGaugh School Read Aloud Program. One Unit LOA and two performance LOAs were received.

UNIT THREE, Earle: MN3 A. R. Zabala was awarded his 1st Good Conduct Medal; MNSA E.W. Hubble was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Ribbon; MN1 D.K. Kiper was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal by COMINSEWARCOM for selection as the unit's Sailor of the Year 1991; MN1 S.A. Maynard was awarded her 2nd Good Conduct Award; MN3 B.A. Holle was awarded the Kuwait Liberation Medal for services during Desert Storm; MNCS R.W. Schreurs was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal from COMINSEWARCOM for superior performance of duty and was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for meritorious service from 4/89 thru 12/90; MN3 S.W. Brodzinski, MN3 J.E. Brown and MN3 J.R. Marr were advanced to their present grade; MNCS D.R. Healer was promoted to his present grade; MN1 J. Weller was promoted to his present grade. Five LOCs and four LOAs were received by Unit personnel. Remarks by CO, M.P. Sportelli clearly indicate his pride in a dedicated and hard-working crew.

DET SIX, Souda Bay (maybe their last report): MNSNs Michael S. Weekley and Adam Strickland both received their (see *FORCE NEWS*, page 13)

NAVAL MINEWARFARE ASSOCIATION REUNIONS

Jim Minor, President of the NMWA asked us to announce that their Annual 1993 National Convention will take place in Scottsdale, AR, September 7-12 at Marriott's Mountain Shadow. There will be two concurrent reunions of the USS YMS-407 and the USS Fidelity AM-96. If you are interested in attending and want further information, please contact him at 224 Angelus Drive, Salinas, CA 93906 or call (408) 449-5352.

FORCE NEWS...from page 12

1st award of the Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon. Four LOAs were received by site personnel.

DET SEVEN, Barbers Point: CWO4 W.L. Keith was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal by CINCLANTFLT; MNC R.J. McGinn was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal by CINCPACFLT; MN1 J.M. Bray was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal by COMINEWARCOM; MN1 S.L. Frederick was frocked to his present grade. The Det is sponsoring a Little League Team which is being coached by MN3 Scott Tullock. Three LOCs and twenty-two LOAs were received by site personnel.

UNIT EIGHT, Guam: MNC Jerry L. Williams received the Navy Commendation Medal and Kuwait Liberation Medal from SECNAV; MN1 Richard L. Rollins was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal from COMOMAG for Unit Sailor of the Year; MN2 Wilfred W. Heppner received the Navy Achievement Medal from Unit Eight; MN3 James L. East received the Navy Achievement Medal from COMOMAG for selection as COMOMAG Junior Sailor of the Year; MN1 Anthony B. Morganti and MN2 Stanley G. King both received their 2nd Good Conduct Award; MNCM Walter K. Bynum, MN1 David L. Wofford, MN2 Nicholas C. Silver, MN2 Randall A. Childers, MN3 Rickey Holland Jr., MN3 Otis Spell, MNSA James W. Anderson and MNSA Gerald L. Crain were advanced to their present grade. The Unit had Military Spouse Appreciation Day in which thirty-five "first lady" LOAs were awarded; fifty-five other LOAs were awarded to Unit personnel for individual MRCI efforts. MN2 Rita J. Nicely, MN3 Jody N. Wilbanks, MN3 Ricky Holland Jr., and MNSA Gerald L. Crain were recognized for individual efforts during Armed Forces Day. MNC Randall O. Morris and MN2 Stanley G. King were recognized for their individual efforts during the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society Fund Drive. Command personnel also were involved in the

local JAL Marathon/Ekiden Relay, and they participated in a FOD Walk-Down on Earth Day. Good work gang.

UNIT ELEVEN, Charleston: MN1 David A. Hartje received the Navy Achievement Medal while he was tad at the Unit, from COMINEWARCOM for superior performance as Production Department Head at Det TWO; MN1 Jeffrey L. Holt received the Navy Achievement Medal (2nd award) from COMINEWARCOM for selection as the Unit's Sailor of the Year; MN2 Randall G. Lauderdale received the Navy Achievement Medal from Fleet Air Mediterranean for superior performance while he was attached to Det 6 and TAD to Sigonella in support of Desert Storm; MN1 William R. Delaporte received the Navy Achievement Medal (2nd award) from COMINEWARCOM for superior performance as Component Test Supervisor and selection as Unit 9 Sailor of the Year; MN1 Terry L. Stratton received the Navy Achievement Medal for superior performance as the Unit's Logistics Department Transportation Supervisor; MNCS James T. McGoldrick, MN3 Elizabeth M. Britain, MN3 Vincent V. Tata and MNSN Elaine L. Camp each received the Meritorious Unit Commendation from SECNAV for support services provided during Desert Shield/Storm operations while attached to Unit 5; MN1 Sidney E. Coats (2nd), MN2 Kevin J. Lane (2nd), MN3 Lisa V. Farr, MN3 Raymond M. Farr and MN3 Michael D. Mullins were awarded Good Conduct Medals. Six LOCs were awarded and seven LOAs. MN1 Sidney E. Coats was awarded an Associate of Arts degree from Limestone College; MN1 Mark A. Demery is coaching little league baseball; MN1 Lori j. Badje completed her CPR recertification; and MNSN H. Lavake was accepted into the Nursing Program at Trident Technical College.

UNIT TWELVE, Misawa: LCDR Ron Swart (now at MINEWARCOM) received the Navy Commendation Medal (3rd award) for meritorious service as CO; LT McAdams received the Navy Commendation Medal (2nd

award) for meritorious service as COMOMAG E&T Officer and MOMAG Unit 11 XO; MNCM Benton received the Navy Commendation Medal for meritorious service as MOMAG Unit 12 Mine Assembly Officer; MN3 Burks received the Good Conduct Medal; SKI Brusky, MN1 Gonzales, MN2 Hickman, MN2 Hormann and MNSA Bolin were advanced to their present grade; MNCM Benton was frocked to his present grade. One LOC was presented. MN1 Parison, MN1 Gonzales, MN2 Hickman, MN3 Edwards, MN3 Bello, MN3 Stultz, MN3 Williams, MNSN Pratt and MNSA Bolin supported the Naval Air Association (NAA) bazaars and American Day festival fund raisers. Command personnel are actively participating in the local Hirosaki and Nagawa Spring Cherry Festivals, including 15 dependent children who participated in a gift/friendship exchange with Japanese children of the same age. MNCM Benton, MN1 Ostrom, MN1 Parison, MN2 Hickman, MN3 Merzier and MN3 Williams participated in the annual Misawa "Miss Veedol" plane pulling contest (the team of Ostrom/Williams placed third).

UNIT FOURTEEN, Yorktown: MN2 Wallace W. Turner received the Meritorious Unit Commendation from Fleet Air Mediterranean and the Kuwait Liberation Medal from Unit 14 for his participation in Operation Desert Storm/Shield; MN2 Jeffrey A. Link received the Navy Achievement Medal from COMINEWARCOM (no details) and his third Good Conduct Medal; MN3 Leonard W. Rambo received his first Good Conduct Medal; MN1 Terry L. Honshul was advanced to his present grade. Three LOCs and two LOAs were awarded to Unit personnel.

MAILBAG...from page 11

called about a shipmate's death (which we knew about) and another's accident (see SICKNESS). Well, that's your stamps worth for this issue, folks. Keep the cards, letters and phone calls coming. Be well!!! Be happy!!!

QUARTERMASTER'S CORNER

Richard "Dick" Rhoderick, 30 Forde Row, Charleston SC 29412 (803) 762 - 4749

I think it has become apparent that an explanation is in order as to why some extraordinary (?) delays have occurred in shipment of your orders. So here goes!!! With T-shirts and coaches shirts, it is impractical for us to maintain an on-hand stock of the large variety of sizes and colors required to fill your orders. We don't have the storage space or the money in our coffers. Thus, when we receive a member's order for a single item, it may be necessary to delay placing the order to our supplier until a minimum of six items has been accumulated to get the reduced prices we receive for

bulk orders. Sometimes this amounts to several months until other orders have been received. Our mine models situation is even worse. We lost our Philippine source and have been totally unsuccessful in locating a replacement (please recall we appealed to you for help in locating another source or having a handyman member take on the job). The shortage is further aggravated by damage sustained to our last shipment. Remember back in the old days how you scavenged several NRFI mines to obtain parts to complete a quantity of RFI units? Well, we have been doing that for months with our

models in order to fill some back orders. We also have to report as of this issue that three other models beside the MK 6 models are no longer available. Please see these others as noted on our material order blank on the inside of the back page.

This is not a pleasant mess to report. We are trying to locate a supplier who will take small orders and fill them promptly, and we will continue to try to find a model-maker who will fabricate our models for us at reasonable cost. So, please keep those orders coming, but be patient regarding receipt of your material.

BUSINESS CARDS

The below spaces have been purchased by AOM members or commercial entities to advertise their business venture or solicit your participation or expertise. A business card space requires \$10.00 for a single issue of the newsletter or \$30.00 for four issues. Multiples of this size space may be purchased to include a business message or solicitation. The Editor and Publisher reserve the right to refuse or edit material in the interest of good taste.

THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR MORE! GET YOUR CARD IN HERE!



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15

I wish to join the Association of Minemen and include payment of \$10.00 membership fee (plus \$5.00 initiation fee).

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NOTICE !!! To maintain membership, dues of \$10.00 must be paid annually in the month of August.

To help avoid mistakes, please fill out and return this order sheet (1-93) with your order. All previous order sheets are void.

T-SHIRTS

50/50 Cotton Polyester

Childrens Sizes: 6-8S; 10-12M; 14-16L

Youth/Adult: 34-36S; 38-40M; 42-44L;

46-48XL; 50XXL

Ringer T-Shirts: White w/collar & cuff colors shown (Insert quantity in size)

Colors shown (insert quantity in size)				
Children	S	M	L	
w / Kelly				
w / Navy				
w / Royal				
w / Scarlet				
Adult/Youth	S	M	L	XL
w / Kelly				
w / Navy				
w / Royal				
w / Scarlet				

Basic T-Shirts

Solid colors: Burnt Orange, Cardinal, Columbia Blue, Dark Green, Gold, Kelly, Maroon, Oxford, Navy, Purple, Royal, Scarlet, White

Youth/Adult	S	M	L	XL	XXL

(select color; insert quantity in size)

COACHES SHIRTS

Two button w/pocket

Colors: Cardinal, Columbia Blue, Gold, Eagle Gray, Navy, Royal, Scarlet & White, Kelly

	S	M	L	XL	XXL

(select color; insert quantity in size)

TIE - TACS

Style _____ Qty _____

Gold Tone	
Silver Tone	

JACKETS

Lined	S	M	L	XL
Navy Blue				
Red				
Royal Blue				
Gold				
Unlined	S	M	L	XL
Navy Blue				
Red				
Royal Blue				

Personalization available. See note below

HATS

Adjustable band hats with AOM logo on front are available in Red, Green, Gray, White, Black, Columbia Blue, Orange and Navy Blue. Enter color and your quantity in the form below.

Note: All T-Shirts include large logo on front. All hats include logo on front. All coaches shirts and jackets include small logo on right breast. Large logo on back of jacket and personalization on the jacket (up to 25 characters) per price list below. Print personalization desired on separate paper.

MINE MODELS

Mk 6	\$10.00	X	SOLD OUT
Mk18	7.00	X	SOLD OUT
Mk25	7.00	X	=
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Mk60	10.00	X	SOLD OUT
Mk65	10.00	X	=
Mk67	7.00	X	=
DST	10.00	X	SOLD OUT
KEG	10.00	X	=
Model Total \$			
S/H (\$2.00 ea Model) \$			
Sub Total \$			
(enter sub total below)			

Item	Price	Qty	Extended
Adult T-Shirts	7.50	X	
Childrens T-Shirts	7.00	X	
Coaches Shirt	16.50	X	
Unlined Jacket	19.00	X	
Lined Jacket	24.00	X	
Hats (Color: _____)	5.00	X	
Tie Tacs	5.50	X	
Large Logo on Back of Jacket	5.50	X	
Personalization	5.00	X	
Mailing List	3.00	X	
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