

The Dashpot

Winter/Spring 1992

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN

MINE WARFARE GETS NEW COMMANDER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Murphy's Law is always just around the corner. I had called our Editor a while back to check on the publication of our next newsletter and to get some words of wisdom into my little duty column. At that juncture, publication was indicated within two weeks. Well Murphy apparently got into the computer works right after my call and has caused us much delay in getting the newsletter year started.

This should remind all of us, however, that we never really know what is going to happen - or when. Who predicted the crash of the Soviet Union and the significant impact that stet has had, and is going to continue to have on the world - and,indeed - our lives?

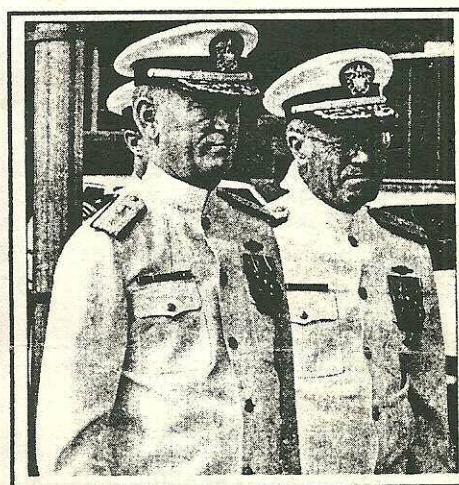
We are already seeing our own Mine Warfare profession affected by the military spending cuts, roll-back from the 600 ship Navy, and amalgamation and relocations that are taking place. I suppose we will also see the renewed (almost annual) campaign to do away with the Mineman rate and consolidate the functions with another rating. Some of our retired members can really empathize with that struggle over the last decade, since they were successful in staving off the wolves when they tried (several times) to combine the MN rate with AO, GM and TM ratings into a single Weaponsman (WP) rate.



RADM John D. Pearson and Cheif of Naval Operations ADM Frank B. Kelso II during the Change of Command ceremony.

"The past is prologue to the future. We learn from lessons in the past. I look forward to challenging and exciting times. It is an honor to assume command at this time in the history of Mine Warfare."

- RADM Pearson



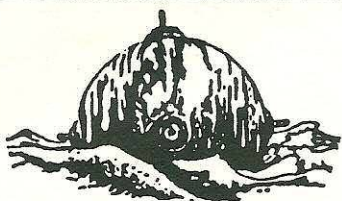
I only hope our current active duty personnel can continue to keep the door barred on any future attempts.

I hope that Murphy has been kind to all of you since the last newsletter and that he will allow for early planning for our reunion in Charleston this year. Some interesting preliminary planning is already under way which could make this a banner year. Local Charleston members, please lend a hand by calling Toby Horn and volunteering to help. Several members doing just a little can accomplish so much more than one or two people trying to do the whole thing. A little help today, keeps Murphy away!!!

- Jim Coffman

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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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SECRETARY'S CORNER ...

Much of what I would have said here had already been covered on the REUNION section.

We now have converted our mail list over to a new system and computer, thanks to Curtis Christian's generosity in providing us the software and teaching us how to use it. One of the new features is the ability to include phone numbers and the complete nine digit zip code. When you are sending in your dues, please include your complete zip code, it will help reduce the price of mailing if we can sort the newsletter by the nine digit zip code. Your phone number will be appreciated and will only be used if we need to contact you or another member wants to contact you. We will not publish the phone numbers, only maintain them in the computer listing. I apologize for having to mark up your letters of inquiry, etc. and returning them to you, but it does cut down on the workload. Letters received requiring a formal reply will of course be answered that way.

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Seems like the hurried'r I go, the behinder I get sometimes, but I guess we all feel like we're in that predicament on occasion. I hardly had started on this first edition of the newsletter for 1992 before my computer went on the fritz. Actually, it appears to have been the interface with my printer - and, thanks to one of our shipmates, Curtis Christian, I am finally back on line.

To get things started for the year, it seems appropriate to do what a lot of the tabloids do at the beginning of a new year; evaluate the good and the bad of the old year to kind'a make a clean sweep of things so we can get on with our today's and tomorrows. I have tried to reflect back over the old year with the A.O.M. - our activities, business and fun - to sort out the good and not so good, 'cause we need to get on with some rather important happenings this year.

On the down side of things in 1991, the death of many of our shipmates created a void for all of us, both personally and professionally. We also lost almost 500 names from our roles due to long term non-payment of dues. We had poor attendance of local and regional members at the reunion in Long Beach - the seat of our largest membership block. We have had to slip our schedule for the MN History book. The Mount Pinatubo eruption and Philippine politics appear to have sealed the fate of our MOMAG presence in that part of the world, and our continuing source of carved mine models. Military cut-backs, reorganizations and politics influenced the decision to amalgamate Naval Mine Warfare Engineering Activity and to relocate much of our Mine Force. Very little volunteer time for our museum on board the USS Yorktown. Many promises of help and involvement, but we don't seem to get it when and where we need it.

On the up-swing, however, we have seen some major changes and accomplishments. We have a new COMINEWARCOM to guide our profession's near-future destiny. We awarded our first association scholarships - ever - as detailed in the Secretary's report in this issue. We have been adding new names and faces to our roles, from around the country. We broke the record for auction proceeds at the L.B. reunion picnic. And, our reader enthusiasm for the Dashpot newsletter appears to be continuing as evidenced by all the interesting letters from our faithful readers.

And what does the crystal ball show for the New Year? Well - let's look. I see that our reunion will be in Charleston this year, and the month has been moved back to August. I see the need for volunteers to help make arrangements for various activities and many of our members are even now rushing to their phones to offer assistance? I see the election of A.O.M. officers for President, and two for Board of Directors - ah, the faces are not quite clear - could it be - yes, yes - it's - it's YOU!!! Whew!!! This seance is draining my strength.

What else, you ask? Let me see! I see happy people, renewing old and lasting friendships, making new friends. I see laughing children at a picnic - hot dogs, cold beer. And what's this - could it be a bunch of crazy adults tossing eggs - or is it balloons full of water? Ah - the horse shoe tournament - another ringer by the Charleston team to bring the cup back East. The mist is swirling - I see some new, new members and some new old members - it gets kinda mixed up here. I see new year promotions for some of our active duty shipmates and members. A new COMOMAG!!! Talk about Powers!!! Whew!!! My strength is giving out. I see some of our shipmates in a classroom - they are training in a ...

... Editor's Column continued

new language - what's that written on the blackboard - why it's TEXAN. Everything is getting faint now. One last try - I'll ask how we can make the A.O.M. better this year. What's that - it's faint - very faint - a sign - it reads "THERE AIN'T NO SUCH THING AS A FREE LUNCH"!!!. What does that mean??? Please keep the letters coming - and, oh yes - the promises, too???

B. ARNACLEBUTTS COLUMN ...



This column is used to field any written or vocal questions, ideas or suggestions you may have. Constructive criticism is welcome regarding newsletter or Association matters. We would ask that if a member addresses a foreseen problem or issue that they also propose a reasonable solution which your AOM officers and other members can act on.

Dear Butts:

I read with interest your response to Dick Rhoderick's question regarding the fate of Naval Mine Warfare Engineering Activity during the "Great Amalgamation". There are a lot of us out here in Retireeville who find it hard to keep up with the apparently vast changes taking place in the Navy's organization; particularly as it applies to R&D, production management and in-service engineering of our mine systems. Can you shed any light on how, where and who these responsibilities are now portioned. Also, has the question of the COMINEWARCOM move to Texas been decided yet. Maybe we missed all this since we only get the news in here on mule-train every three months? Don DeCrona, Reno NV.

Dear Don,

A great question, the response to which we'll be glad to publish in an article in this newsletter if we can get the Navy to settle down long enough to find out. The newspaper here in Charleston isn't much better at reporting this than the North end of one of your South-bound mules. I'm told the AOM Secretary has an inside track (a questionable friend of an unreliable guy who knows an impeachable source) on getting this info for us. I hope to be able to provide this for you by next mule-train. Butts.

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS

Our Secretary's lady, Doreen Stryker, has had a running bout with here-and-there cancer which now seems to be under control. She has been a real trooper throughout the ordeal of doctors and more doctors, tests, on-again-off-again surgery, and kemo and resultant after-effects. As always, she has been a real inspiration to her husband and, indeed, to all of us - always cheerful, encouraging and optimistic - and we are happy to report a progressive recovery and great prognosis.

We have a report of CAPT Don Hihn, USN (RET) suddenly with a visual acuity problem. I have tried several times to call to see if we can be of any assistance, but can't get an answer.

SPECIAL THANKS

We received a nice thank-you note to all of us from Ms. Rachel E. McWherter, one of our AOM Scholarship recipients. She wrote: "Thank you very much for your scholarship assistance towards my college education. I appreciate it a lot. Thanks again, [REM]."

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

I guess you should consider this a sort of "State of the Membership" address? What do you want first? Let's try the bad news first, then the good news.

It saddens me to report that we have lost over 600 names to our rolls during the recent purge of "members" who have been in arrears of dues for 3 years or over (mostly over). I am also saddened to say that there are approximately 50 more that are on the "cutting edge" and will be included as of July if their dues are not updated by then. What saddens me even more is that some of these 50 names include some of our previously staunch, faithful supporters.

I know that some of this is due to plain forgetfulness combined with a little procrastination, but we can't run an association and newsletter on good intentions. I ask everyone to please tie a yellow ribbon around "whatever" and get your dues updated. I do not know of any other organization where, for such minimal dues, you can stay tuned to your professional colleagues, support a scholarship program, support a museum project that reflects your past and current commitment to our country, support committees to set up an annual reunion

you can be proud to attend, and provide a forum where you can cuss, discuss or otherwise state your opinions on association matters. If you know of one, let me know, 'cause I want to join!!!

On the high side of things, I am happy to report that we are getting new members every month. Since our last newsletter, we are happy to welcome the following new or reinstalled members: Bill Spearman, Summerville SC - Jim Minor, Salinas CA - Dave Burns, Columbia MD - Carroll Delaney, O'Fallon MO - George Kondas, Lakeland FL - Ken Friday, Garden Grove CA - Ron Willis, Moore OK - "Bud" Wood, Arlington VA - Joe Kramer, III, Greensboro NC - Billy Traweek, Corpus Cristi TX - Arthur Cook, Punta Gorda FL - Donald Anderson, Poulbo WA - John Danyo, Lawrenceville NJ - Paul Henry, Costa Mesa CA - John Hallstrom, Jacksonville FL, David Pendley, Pensacola FL - Les Short, Derby KS - George Roberts, Windsor CT - Robert Gormley, MOMAG Unit 9 Subic Bay - Joseph Hardiman, MOMAG Unit 9 Subic Bay - William Hunter, Kingsland GA - James Box, Leland MS - Ronald Airhart, Warwick RI - David Yates, London AR - Joseph McCullough, East Province RI - Kenneth Braam, Rochester MN - John Nahra, MOMAG Unit 11 Charleston - and William Evers, Steven Morrow, Robert Wohr, Thomas Mazza, and Daniel Cleveland, all from NRMOMAG DET 302, Albany NY. We hope all these new or reinstalled members will take an active part in our organization. We will look forward to a long and continuous friendship and professional association with each of them.

PLEASE NOTE: Our new address record system also provides a means where we can record a member's phone number, and we would like to do this in case we need to get in touch with you rapidly for some reason or another (you never know). Please provide your phone number in any future correspondence or dues update. We promise that we will safeguard this information except where some of you hype-types indicate that obscene phone calls are welcome???

REUNION '92

CHARLESTON,
SOUTH CAROLINA

AUGUST

21 - 23

Don't miss it!

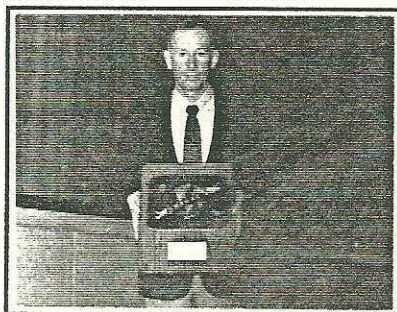
MINEMEN OF THE YEAR

The active duty and reserve Minemen Of The Year (MOY) were announced at the annual reunion in Long Beach, California September 1991. The calendar year 1991 active duty MOY is MN1 Jeffery L. Holt, USN, stationed at MOMAG Unit Eleven here in Charleston, South Carolina. MN1 Holt was singled out from his contemporaries for his dedication, zeal, superior professional performance, leadership, resourcefulness and integrity. He constantly projects unwavering professionalism, exemplary conduct and immense personal pride in being a Mineman. The reserve MOY is MN1 John Zimmerman, USNR from Naval Reserve Momag 2218 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He was also cited for his professionalism and dedication to duty and active participation in his unit on weekends and annual deployments to active duty sites. Radm Pearson presented the awards at the Annual Mine Conference dinner November 23, 1991 here in Charleston. MN1 Holt's charming wife was present for the award. CWO2 James Griffiths, USNR, Commanding Officer of MN1 Zimmerman's Unit was also present. MN1 Zimmerman noted that his first CO (Lyal Stryker) and current CO were both present for his award. Both the active duty and reserve CO's were present along with Captain Nash, USN, COMOMAG and many of his staff. The Association of Minemen CONGRATULATE both Minemen of the Year and wish them success in the future! We were proud to have sponsored MN1 and Mrs. Holt and MN1 Zimmerman for the dinner.

M AWARDS

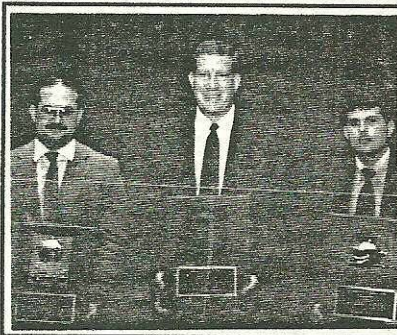
Each year the M Award is presented to the best active duty and reserve Momag site. The 1991 active duty M award

went to MOMAG Det Ten, Okinawa and was presented to Lcdr Ed Hutsell, OINC of Det Ten, at the Annual Mine Conference dinner November 1991. Ed is another strong supporter of our Association of Minemen. The 1991 reserve M award went to Momag Unit 101 in Quincy, Massachusetts and was presented to Lt Diana Evans, USNR, Commanding Officer of the unit at the dinner. CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH UNITS.



HONORARY MINEMAN

Captain Mike Nash, USN, COMOMAG was voted an honorary Mineman at the last reunion as noted elsewhere in this issue of the Dashpot. He was presented his plaque by our Mineman "Grey Eagle" Lcdr Will Dixon, USN. Captain Nash is a strong supporter of the Association of Minemen.



have RADM Pearson as their guest and principal speaker at the reunion - perhaps to give us a "State of the Mineman" address. I have heard him speak on several occasions and he appears to be a forceful, caring and dedicated spokesman for our profession and personnel - active, reserve and retired. We all wish him well and pray that he be granted the strength and perseverance to meet the challenges that we know will confront him during the next several years of expected military paring.

Speaking of paring, I see by an article in Navy Times that 18 of our MN2s were to be eligible for the "exit bonus" - the buyout to leave the service short of their retirement???

I have two lists from Navy Times regarding advancement to MN2 and MN3, no other specifics, and there may be some redundancy with info in the site reports. To MN2: Randal Childers, Gary Christmas, Patrick Haley, Timothy Hickman, Tracey Kunkel, Stev McLaughlin, Rhonda Orrick, Stacy Ostrom, Nicholas Silver, and Corey Vetter. To MN3: Step Brodzinski, Charles Browder, James Brown, Susan Buchanan, Douglas Collins, Brady Cox, Travis Davis, Darren Ellis, Joseph Hardiman, Rickey Holland, Alicia Hoog, Kimberly Kramer, Susan Kreidler, Jeffrey Leonard, Kenneth Maney, Jonathan Marr, Heath McPherson and Otis Spell. A great showing for our young men and women. The AOM extends our congratulations to each of them as they advance along the road of leadership and responsibility.

We congratulate MNC Joe V. Johnson, COMOMAG Reserve Affairs Office, on his reenlistment. ENS Michelle Jackson administered the oath of reenlistment during a ceremony last October. Other COMOMAG honors reported include award of the Navy Achievement Medal to MNCM Leo Smith, MNC David Houston, MN1 Jeffery Holt and MN2 Gregory Wisniewski; Good Conduct Medals to MN1 Mark Demery, MN1 Kevin Kine (2nd), SK1 Milton Tyus (3rd), and MN3 Nedra Jones; the Humanitarian Service Medal to MN2 William Lowery, MN3 Rhond Bello and MNSN James Grant; Letters of Commendation to MN1 Kevin King and MN2 Archie Mosely; Letters of Appreciation to RM2 Larry Anderson and MN3 Nedra Jones; and People of the Quarter recognition for YN2 Ronald Mize and MN3 James Lanfair. MN2 Archie Mosely was also selected as COMOMAG's Sailor of the Quarter for... "his exemplary performance and superior abilities as LPO of the X Division".

Congrats to reservists N. Bartolome, G. Baourgouin, T. Ferguson, G. Musshorn and D. Price for their promotion earlier this year to MN1. Also received a nice note from MNC(SS) Bill Evers of NRMOMAG DET 302 who drills at the Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center, Albany NY - he sent in dues for a whole crew (see MEMBERSHIP) and news that they had held their annual awards banquet earlier this year. They had almost 100% unit attendance plus several past unit

continued

ACTIVE AND RESERVE NEWS

Wow!!! Lots and lots to catch up with here. Hardly know where to begin. We, of course, have a new COMINEWARCOM at our profession's helm - RADM John D. Pearson, USN. He has been directing our course since last August and will celebrate his first year with the Mine Force at just about the time we have the AOM reunion here in Charleston. The AOM is hoping to

members and retired members. The Unit CO, LCDR M. Drzonse presented unit 302 members with the National Defense Ribbon. Bill also reports that there were three retirements due to high year tenure, MN1 Frank Colvin (29 years), MNC Richard Haight (27 years), and himself with 26 years. Congratulations to all the 302 members, and we wish Frank, Richard and Bill continuing success in all their endeavors.

We have the following releasable information from site reports. It is somewhat old, but the latest I have received to date.

UNIT ONE, Long Beach: S.A. Garvin was advanced to SK2 and R.L. Sconiers was advanced to MN3; MN1 K.E. Friday and MN3 S.L. Southern received a LOC for selection as Sailor of the Quarter; MN2 R.E. Thomas, MN2 D.M. Epton, MN3 A.A. Krieger and MN3 P.M. Ramirez received LOAs for their nominations as Sailor of the Quarter; MN3 W.C. Hemmings participated in the Senior Meals Service at Rossmoor Community Center; LT T.W. Patton, MN1 R. Gutierrez, MN2 R.A. Davies and SK2 S.A. Garvin participated in a local golf tournament, but we have no results on who was the biggest liar; and MN2 R.A. Davies, MN2 D.C. Terhorst, MN2 D.E. Sharp and MN3 K.A. Rich participated in the Long Beach Invitational Softball Tournament, but again I have no results.

DET TWO, Machrihanish: No report received.

UNIT THREE, Earle: MN2 J.G. Osborne was presented the Navy Achievement Medal from Commander Great Lakes Training Center for superior performance of duties; A.R. Zabala was advanced to MN3; W.B. Jordon, J.M. Junek, T.M. Passalacqua, R.A. Stelmach, F.G. Vargas, A.R. Zabala and E. Zendejas were frocked as MN3; MN2 J. Rivera, MN2 J.S. Doudna, MN3 E.T. Barna, MN3 P.M. Moore and MN3 C.A. Dombroski received LOCs for superior performance of duty; MN2 D.M. Smith and MN3 A.R. Zabala received LOCs for selection as Senior and Junior Sailor of the Quarter, respectively; MN2 M.R. Stultz and MN3 D.E. Smith received LOAs for selection as runner-ups for Senior and Junior Sailor of the Quarter, respectively; MN3 E.T. Barna, MN3 F.G. Vargas, MN3 R.A. Snow, MN1 S.A. Maynard, MN3 J.M. Junek, MNSA C.S. Jones, MN2 S.L. Bridgeford, MN3 T.R. Stultz, MN3 E.W. Elliott and MN3 W.K. Franklin received Letters of Recognition for outstanding performance on the most recent Navy Physical Readiness Test.

DET FOUR, Glen Douglas: Scott A. Caswell was advanced to MNC; Carolyn A. Freeman, Valarie J. Whitford, and Donna M. McCutcheon were advanced to MN3; Troy R. Elliott was frocked for MN3; all command personnel received LOCs for their efforts during the most recent MRCI; MN2 Dennis J. Doerr and MN3 Carolyn A. Freeman received LOCs for selection as Senior and Junior Sailors of the Quarter, respectively; MN1 Robbie L. Frunz, MN2 Katherine Frunz, MN3 Keith D. Dixon and MN3 Troy R. Elliott received LOCs for outstanding PFT; MN1 Calvin J. Robertson and MN3 Donna M. McCutcheon received LOAs for excellent PFT; and YN1 Louise S. Maahs received a Letter of Recognition for PFT improvement.

UNIT FIVE, Sigonella: This report copy was extremely hard to read, so please excuse any mistakes in names, etc. MN2 Turner and MN3 Waite were advanced to their present rank; MNC Snyder and MNC Morris (TAD from DET SIX for Chief's initiation) were frocked to their present rank; MN2 Michael Ward was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal for professional achievement and sustained superior performance of his duties, including those aboard the USS Detroit (AGE-3) during Desert Storm; MN2 Darrien Ward was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal for meritorious achievement and superior performance of her duties while serving as Kardex Petty Officer; MN1 Kaiser, MN3 Joyce, MN3 Holle, MNSN Herrera and MNSN Camo were awarded the Humanitarian Service Medal by the Secretary of the Navy for their participation in Hurricane Hugo recovery efforts; MN1 Snyder, MN1 Kaiser, MN1 Willey, MN2 Ward, MN2 Turner, MN2 Nelson, MN2 Goodman, MN3 Joyce, and MN3 Holle were awarded the Southwest Asia Service Medal for participation in Desert Storm; Good Conduct Medals were received by MN1 Rossenbaum (4th), MN1 Snyder (2nd), MN2 Barton (2nd), MN3 Chitwood, MN3 Joyce, and MN3 Del Rio; MN2 Nelson, MN2 Kaiser, MN2 Willey, MN2 Goodman, MN2 Ward, MN3 Holle, MN3 Hendrickson, MN3 Joyce, and MN3 Turner were presented Flag LOCs for professional achievement and superior performance of duty while serving aboard the USS Seattle (AGE-4) and the USS Detroit (AGE-3) during Desert Storm; all Unit 5 personnel received a LOA for their efforts during the MRCI; MN2 Brown received a LOC for his selection as Sailor of the Quarter; MN3 Rogers received a LOC for his selection as Junior Sailor of the Quarter; MN1 Rossenbaum, YN1 Evans and MN2 Darrien Ward were presented the Outstanding Sponsor Award by the CO, NAS; MN3 Holle received a LOA for exceptional performance of duties throughout his tour of duty at Unit 5; YN1 Evans received a LOA from OINC Naval Hospital for his contribution to the blood donation program; MN1 Snyder received a LOA from CO, NAS for his support of the Navy Relief Society Fund Drive; MNSA Andresen and MNSA Hinton were each presented a LOA for their contribution to a very successful Victorious Fourth of July Festival at NAS Sigonella.

DET SIX, Souda Bay: CWO2 Ronald DuBois relieved CWO3 Marcus Roberts as OINC DET SIX; MNC Randall Morris was frocked to his present rank; CWO3 Marcus Roberts received the Navy Commendation Medal (2nd award); Good Conduct Medals were awarded to MN1 Russell Brown (4th), MN3 Nikki Etheridge and MN3 Dean Venczel; Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbons were awarded to MN2 Calvin Winbush (3rd) and MN2 Patrick Stockman; MN1 Russel Brown was nominated for Mineman of the Year; MN1 Randall Morris was selected as Senior Sailor of the Quarter; MN3 Patrick Haley was selected as Junior Sailor of the Quarter; MNSN Rickey Holland, MN3 Andrew Nudelman and MN3 Michael were selected as Blue Jacket of the Month for respective months of the quarter; YN1 Adams, MN1 Gordon and MN2 Winbush were recognized as active organizers for the base Fourth of July Festival held at Namfi Beach.

DET SEVEN, Barbers Point: MN2 B. Elmhurst and MN3 A. Miller received their advancement certificates; MNC R. McGinn, MNC J. Thornton and MN1 J. Lauffenburger were frocked to their present rank; Good Conduct Medals were awarded to YN1 K. Aldeguer (3rd) and MN1 T. Dunne (2nd); MN1 J. Lauffenburger was selected as Senior Sailor of the Quarter; MN3 L. Fairsheets was selected as Junior Sailor of the Quarter; YN1 K. Aldeguer received a TQM/TQL LOC; MNC J. Thornton, MNC R. McGinn and MN3 K. Demoruelle each received a LOA for their participation in the Keep Hawaii Beautiful campaign; MNC J. Thornton received a LOA for outstanding PRT; the DET SEVEN command received a Certificate of Appreciation from the State of Hawaii Governor's Advisory Committee for participation in the State's Litter Bugs Me clean-up campaign - responsible participants included MNCS Juan Delgado and family, MN1 David Lauffenburger, MN2 Jerry Weller and family, MN3 Michael Agenbroad and MN3 Lori Fairsheets; MNC Joseph Thornton and son, MNC Richard McGinn and MN3 Karen Demoruelle each received a LOA for their participation in the Keep America Beautiful Day campaign; and MN2 B. Elmhurst and MNSN D. Ellis reenlisted on board.

UNIT EIGHT, Guam: MN2 John Witorowski was advanced to his present rank; MNC Joseph Baker and MNC Jerry Williams were frocked to their present rank; Good Conduct Medals were awarded to MNCS Clinton Chacanaca (3rd), YN1 Kerry Lawrence (3rd), MN2 Robert Morrison (2nd), MN3 Nicholas Silver (2nd), and MN3 Sharlene Walker; MNCS Clinton Chacanaca; MNC Jerry

continued on page 7



Lots of letters and news to catch up on - some dating from back to last year at reunion time. A postcard from Don Moody indicating he has moved to Satellite Beach FL...Don and LaVon DeCrona, and Ray and Ann Cobis from Reno NV, both reporting on plans already in the mill regarding reunion in Reno for 1993, send their regards to everyone and said we all need to start warming up our cranking arms for the one-armed bandits, jackpots bigger than ever... Don and LaVon also sending me (Editor) extremely useful info which saved me tons of work and research to get local architecture committee off to sound start, can't thank them enough (Editor's note: There are so many of our members out there who have a wide range of valuable expertise who I think would like to help anyone in a pinch - it's called the "buddy system". Try using the Barnaclebutts column if you have a question or request someone might be able to help you with? You may be surprised?)...our faithful Jorgen Lorenzen from Denmark with successive letters, wrote about preparation for his visit to Hawaii in recognition of the anniversary of Pearl Harbor, the Danish Veterans planned participation with the Pearl Harbor Survivors in a ceremony at the USS Arizona Memorial, the finish of one of his "life-chapters" describing his experiences as a freedom fighter and the loss of his youth when a boy became a man in such a short time during those years, expected travel to the Caribbean, Germany and France, and lovely wife Elin recovering from medical problems with her arm...a nice long letter from Arthur Cook (LCDR, USN(T),RET) in Punta Gorda FL who wants to get back in touch with old friends he has lost track of, reports he attended the 3rd class for mines at Mine Warfare School, Yorktown during Spring 1940, after Pearl Harbor was GM3 on USS Aylwin (DD-355) and was wounded during strafing, went back to Yorktown to teach mines while awaiting operation at Portsmouth Hospital and afterward during recovery, was promoted to Ensign and assigned to USS Salem (CM-11 then located at Mine Depot, Yorktown) as Mining and Gunnery Officer, later transferred to mining billets at West Loch, ADCOMINEPAC Staff, Waipio Point Harbor Defence Unit, USS Shannon (DM-25), Piney Point MD Test Range for MK 27 tests, Harbor Defence Unit Sandy Hook, asks old friends to please write...also a nice long letter from

one of our new members, Carroll Delaney of O'Fallon MO, saying she enjoyed reading the Dashpot and that it brought back a lot of memories of guys like Hynd, Tapscott, Smoot, Siegle and George Swan (who voluntarily took his place for transfer to the USS Hobson and was killed during the ramming with the USS Wasp), was discharged in 1955 while at Hawthorne Depot and worked as federal employee at mine facility there until 1962, then in subsequent billets as inspector and QA Specialist which had him moving all over the place, now retired and enjoying fishing, restoring old cars and trying to keep pace with two teenage boys (lots of luck)...a note from Don Lozen, Charleston SC who is now operating a mobile food vending business on routes throughout the tri-county area...two letters, one remarking on super job we are doing with our newsletter (except for meeting quarterly deadline) and the other forwarding the always breath-taking LoonamGram which tracks the John and Bobbie Loonam family (Gloucester VA and the World)) through one disaster after another, visits, weddings, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, anniversaries, pet news, John and Bobbie both with some medical problems but are holding up (Ed's Note: I think they ought to change the name to the "Loonam Chronicles")...a nice note and advertisement application from our new member Jim Minor, Salinas CA aboard the USS Fidelity (AM-96) and who is National Vice President of the Naval Minewarfare Association, wants to support our organization and contribute to its continued growth and success...two nice newsy letters from our photobugs, Rudy and Lois Schuetzler, Davidsonville, MD, one being a sort of year-end report of happenings, class reunion planning and work, Elderhostel photo programs, a Fall photography session in the Smokies, a report of Lois' awards in the WLIF radio station (Baltimore) photo calendar contest and in the Kodak International Newspaper Snapshot Awards contest (being one of 257 winners out of over 500,000 entries), a bit of ironic comment regarding our Quartermaster's (Dick Rhoderick) continuing procurement problems, and another letter catching up on some news of kids, 'ol-timers Henry Halfpap, Revis Buchanan, John and Dotty Harris, Annie Oliver (of NMEF/NMWEA fame), Lois' sauerbraten dinner (uuummmm) at Christmas time, and Rudy finally acquiescing on the worth of computers (I almost fainted)... a note and information as promised from Francis "Mac" McCarthy, Norfolk VA regarding the possibility of C.I. Travel handling

our "group" airline ticket arrangements for our reunion this year in Charleston (please see Reunion Committee Report)...a postcard from Dick Spoffard, San Antonio TX, saying that at age 83 he is slowing down a bit on trying to attend all the reunions around the country, wants to send his regards to all the Mineman that are vintage 1939-1947 of Minecraft Battle Force, Camp 8-Ball West Loch, Naval Mine Warfare Test Station, MINERON ONE and Terror, MINEPAC, Korean War 1950-1953, and also a suggestion for another name ("The Antenna") for the newsletter (sorry, Dick, the newsletter name was won through a contest and we can only change it now by popular demand) ...a great letter from Bob "Red" Greene of Peace Dale RI, picking up on news from way back, saying that it really hadn't been procrastination on his part about getting his bio into the history book - only that he didn't think of his career as anything out of the ordinary, went where he was sent, did the best he could while there, moved on when the time came, looked back with pride on some personal accomplishments, had a few regrets, and would do some things differently knowing what he knows now - but finally conceded and sent his bio after Lyal sent him a card asking "how many Red Greenes are there?", also sent his appreciation for all the people who are helping to keep the association going for guys like him out there in the mainstream where the association and newsletter keep him in touch with people and places he knew, the pleasure he feels to read of some of the "kids" he knew now holding senior enlisted and commissioned ranks as well as those of his vintage still making a contribution to society - suggested the association consider developing an oral history file, brought to mind as he was examining old photos - recalls Al Boreen getting on his case each year to get out of his rut and attend a reunion (yeah, Bob, and Al is getting in the same rut these days) - and says he has finally found his level after all his years of experience and education, is now teaching 5th graders in reading, writing and computer skills... Josh Keeran, now of Redmond OR, sent in his bio after we threatened him with producing our own version (it would have been a classic), called us pains in the "you know what" about paperwork, commented on how all the old mineman used to really hang in there and get the job done in the face of big odds, and have fun during the intermissions - said he and Lynda had been drifting around a bit, panning for gold, plans for a Guadalajaura stay up through May of this year and an eye towards spending half the year there

Williams, MN2 Vicki Williams, MN2 Michelle Wiktorowski and MN3 Peter Beville were awarded the Secretary of the Navy Humanitarian Service Medal for their previous efforts in Hurricane Hugo recovery efforts; MN2 Randall Mims received a LOC for selection as Sailor of the Quarter; MN3 Gerald Snyder received a LOC for selection as Junior Sailor of the Quarter; MN1 Richard Rollins, YN1 Christina Daniel, MN2 David Wofford and MN3 Corey Vetter each received a LOC for outstanding performance during the quarter; MN3 James East and MN3 Steven Pierce each received a COMNAVMAR LOC for their participation on the NAVSTA Color Guard and Burial Detail; MNCS Robert Bainbridge received a COMNAVMAR LOC for participation in the Adopt A School Program; and a COMNAVMAR LOC for Desert Storm operations support was presented to MNCS Bainbridge - MNC's Billock and Baker - MN1's Anderson, Delaporte, Ellis and Guerrero - MN2's Higgs, Lackey, Lewis, Morrison, Reyes, Simpson, Taylor, Vail, Watkins, J. Wiktorowski, and M. Wiktorowski - MN3's Adorney, Barber, Blackwood, Childer, Collins, East, Elliott, Hurlbut, Major, Martin, Pierce, Piner, Snyder, Vanhouten, Vetter, Walker and Whitehurst - and MNSA Etsitty; MN1 Richard Rollins received a LOA for outstanding performance as the Navy Relief Fund coordinator; MN3 James Vanhouten received a LOA for outstanding performance during the quarter; MN2 David Watkins received a LOA for his performance throughout his tour; and MNCS Robert Bainbridge and MN1 Manuel Guerrero of NRMOMAG Unit 1813, Great Lakes received LOAs for their outstanding preparation and performance during training with the unit.

UNIT NINE, Subic: Reports state that "they have risen from the ash" but still have some residual problems from the volcanic dust; MN2 M.P. Despres was advanced to his present rank; MNC D.J. Badger, MN1 C.J. Asaro, MN1 L.J. Badje, MN3 C. Traynor, MN3 D.S. Stalcup, and MN3 J.E. Wirth were frocked to their present rank; MN2 M.G. Cleave and MN3 J.N. Lamadrid received Good Conduct Medals; LOCs (no details on for what) were presented to MN1 W.R. Delaporte, MN1 D.J. Badger and MN3 C. Traynor; LOAs (no details on for what) were presented to MN1 D.D. Mack, MN1 W.R. Delaporte, YN2 F.H. Knobloch, MN3 J.M. McBride, MN3 L.Z. Burroughs, MN3 C.L. Barber, MNSN S.W. Brodzinski; and a LOA for all hands (no details); a parcel of rifle expert, sharpshooter and marksman awards were earned by unit personnel; MN1 P.L. Mocalis retired from service; and our great contributor MNCS Maurice Radke, as well as MNCS A.B. Hill and MN1 D.J. Badger re-upped on board.

DET TEN, Kadena: MNC Larry Witt and MNC Glen Worm were frocked to their present rank; MN1 Madeline Liggett was selected as Mineman of the Year for the DET; MN1 Louis Godeaux was selected as Senior Sailor of the Quarter; MN3 Stephen McDonald was selected as Junior Sailor of the Quarter; MN1 Madeline Liggett received a LOA for her outstanding performance as the Division Safety Petty Officer; MN2 Mark Kueckelhan received a LOA for his outstanding leadership and resourcefulness during an operational exercise; MN3 Dennis Carter received a LOA from Unit ELEVEN for his contributions toward the retirement ceremony for Petty Officer Gainous; MNCS Gary Riggins, MNC Larry Walker, MNC Larry Witt, MNC Glen Worm, and MN3 Robert Wagner each received a LOA from CO EODMOBUNIT FIVE for their outstanding support; MNC Larry Walker received a Certificate of Completion for the EDM Class; MN1 Madeline Liggett received a Letter of Recognition for achieving the University of Maryland 90-91 Dean's List.

UNIT ELEVEN, Charleston: MNCS Kenneth Empie, MNC John Edgin, and MN3 Michelle Hein were advanced to their present rank; MNC John Nagra, MNC David Houston, MN3 Rhonda Bello, MN3 James Lanfair, and MN3 Pamele Smith were frocked to their present rank; the Navy Achievement Medal was awarded to MNCM Leo Smith (2nd award) and to MNC David Houston, both for professional achievement; Good Conduct Medals were awarded to MN1 Mark Demery (3rd), MN3 Susan Kern and MN3 Joan Braham; Humanitarian Service Medals were awarded (no details for what) to MN2 William Lowery, MN3 Rhonda Bello, and MNSN James Grant; MN2 Richard Sample received a LOC for selection as Sailor of the Quarter; MN3 Rhonda Bello received a LOC for selection as Junior Sailor of the Quarter; MNC David Houston received a LOC for performance of duty in support of shallow water mine evaluation; MNC Rodney Nedbrow and MN2 Richard Sample received a COMINEWARCOM LOA for assistance to the American Defense Preparedness Association; MNCM Leo Smith, MN1 Terry Stratton, MN2 William Lowery, MN3 Michael Brandenburg and MNSN Anthony Price received a LOA for assistance provided to our Association of Minemen (our many thanks also to the crew for their help and the CO [LT Simmons] for the letters); MNC John Edgin and MN2 Dennis Mills received a LOA for their support to NRMOMAG Unit 1410; MN3 Christopher Standley received a LOA for his assistance during MN1 Gainous' retirement (our AOM thanks to you also, Chris, for your help for a guy who was always ready to pitch in and help move material for the museum on the USS Yorktown); MN3 Michael Brandenburg and MN3 James Sullivan each received a LOA for their outstanding performance and contributions; MNC David Houston received a COMINESQDRN TWO LOA (no details); and MNC John Edgin reenlisted on board.

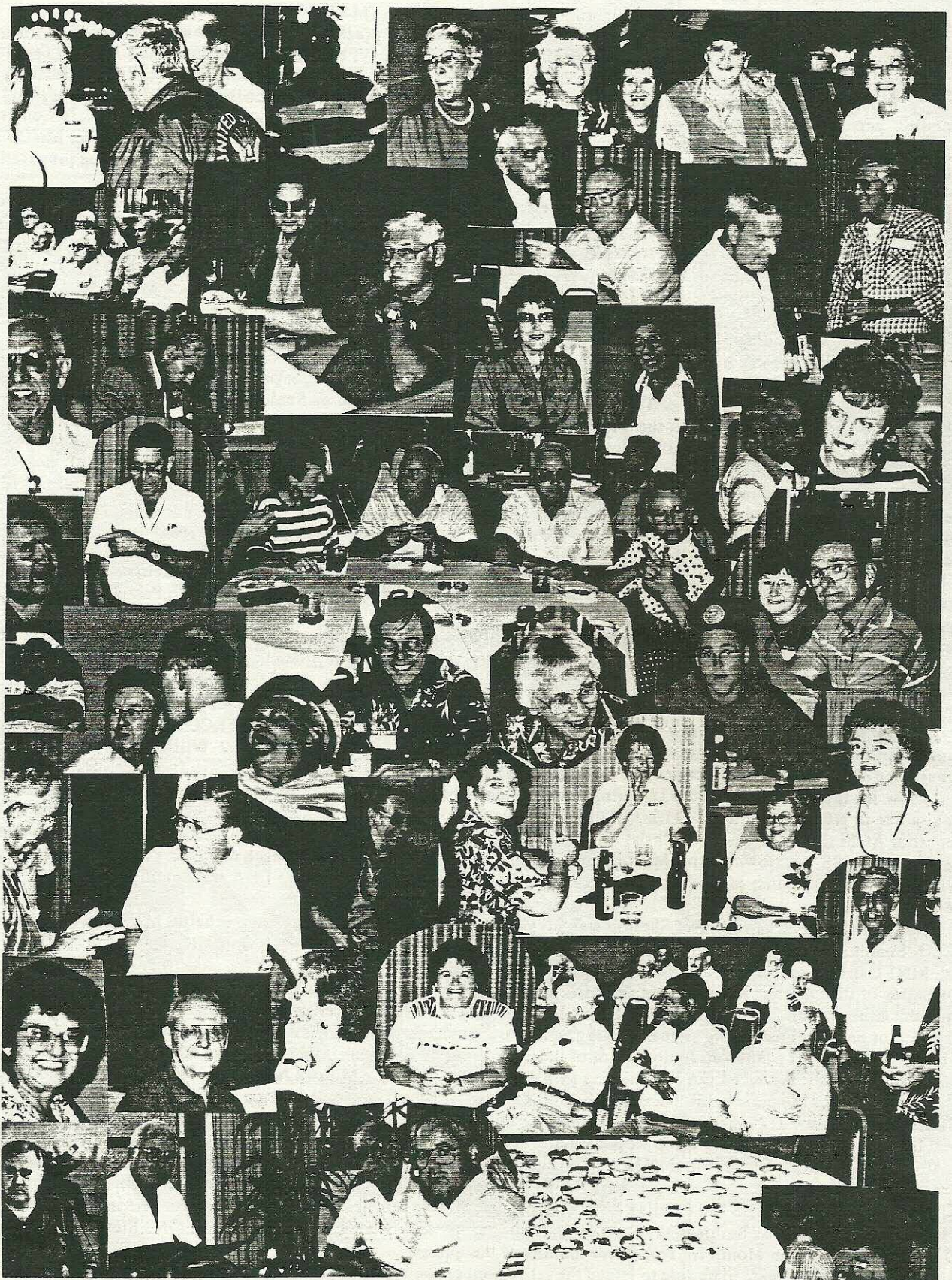
UNIT TWELVE, Misawa: MN1 Shelton was advanced to his present rank; MNC Thanscheidt, MN1 Powell, MN3 Merzier and MN3 G. Sumpter were frocked to their present rank; Good Conduct Medals were awarded to MN2 Anderson (3rd) and MN3 T. Sumpter; MN1 Ostrom received a LOC for selection as Senior Sailor of the Quarter; MNSN Browder received a LOC for selection as Junior Sailor of the Quarter; MN1 Ostrom and MN2 Whitmore both received a LOC for outstanding efforts in coordinating and organizing the mine exhibit for the Misawa Air Show; MN2 Whitmore received a Letter of Appreciation from CO NRMOMAG Unit 2622 for superior performance during annual training; MN1 Powell received a LOA for runner-up Senior Sailor of the Quarter; MN3 Ostrom received a LOA for runner-up Junior Sailor of the Quarter; MN2 Williams, MN3 Hickman, MN3 Hormann, MNSN Browder and MNSN Collins each received a LOA for assisting with the mine exhibit at the Misawa Air Show; MN1 Powell and MNSN Browder each received a LOA for the mine exhibit at the Yokota Friendship Day Festival; PN2 Abad received a LOA for outstanding support during NRMOMAG Unit 2622's annual training; and some of the crew (names unknown) participated in the Annual Boat Regatta sponsored by NAF Misawa, in which the Unit placed 3rd.

UNIT FOURTEEN, Yorktown: MN1 David Fritz, MN1 Kenneth Willingham and MN3 Susan Grant were advanced to their present rank; MN2 Marian Noonan was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal (no details); MN3 Lucinda Whitehurst received a LOC from COMNAVFOR MARIANAS (no details); MN1 Darvey Hargett was selected as the nomination for Mineman of the Year; MN2 Marian Noonan was selected as Sailor of the Quarter; MN3 Robert Hillerich, MN3 Ollie Collins and MN3 Steven McLaughlin were selected as Bluejacket of the Month for respective months of the quarter.

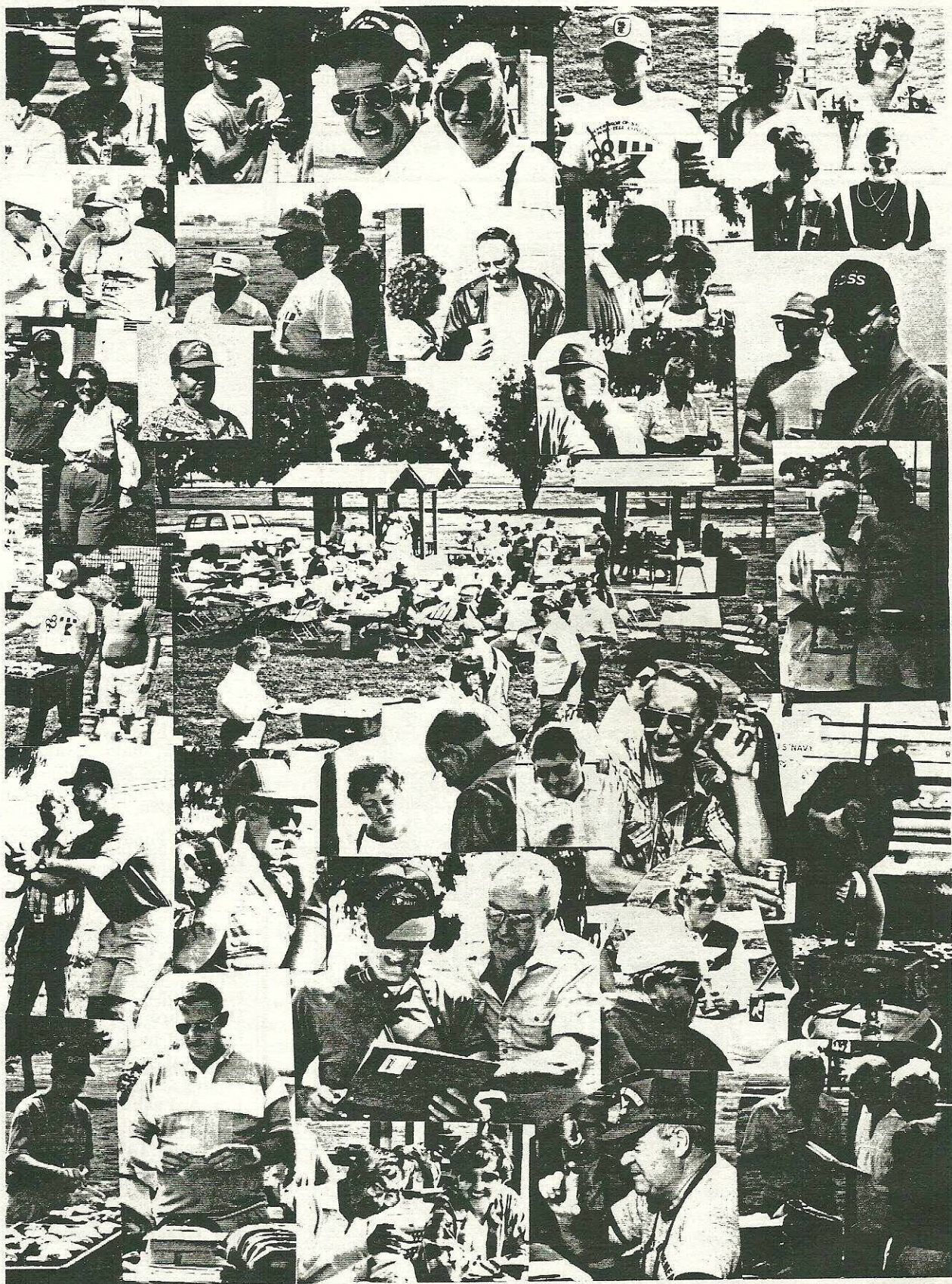
Several of us were also fortunate to be able to attend the retirement ceremony for LCDR Bill Fortner, one of our Mineman LDOs who finished up his thirty years at the Charleston Navy Consolidated Brig (we always said he's end up behind bars) where he was alternately the Head of the Restoration and Discharge Departments. He prefaced his farewell remarks by saying..."30 years ago I

continued on page 12

EARLY BIRD AND BUSINESS MEETING



PICNIC



NOW HEAR THIS! THIS IS YOUR EDITOR SPEAKING!

I was having a conversation with a friend regarding his participation in an organization he belonged to. he looked at me and said, "as you know, there are only ten percent who really do the work and keep an organization going." I was astounded. Our association is *trying* to do it with less than one percent! Get the message?

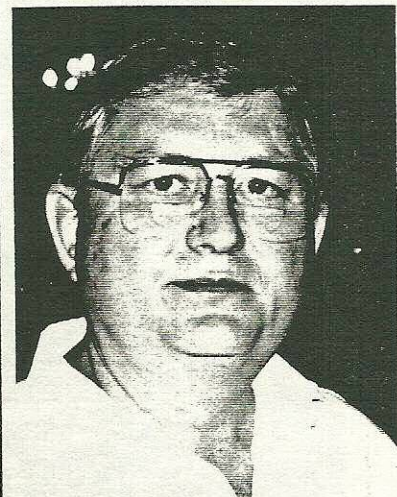
DINNER MEETING



See Who You Know!

MEMBER PROFILE

We will occasionally try to profile one of our members, with your cooperation, of course. Please participate!!! Send in a photo and your response to the questions listed, or feel free to add a few of your own.



Name: John F. Ponting
Born: Parkview (Cleveland), Ohio - 1932
Current Occupation: Ford Motor Co., Lima, Ohio
Family: Married to wife Ethel for 32 years, have daughter Joni (30) and son John (23)
Favorite Place: Cocoa Beach, Florida
Favorite Food: Steak and seafood
Favorite Drink: Classic Coke
Favorite Movie: The Hunt For Red October
Favorite Book: Holy Bible
Hobbies: Fishing, traveling
Ideal Way To Relax: Watching professional sports
One Word To Describe Myself: Independent
My Best Asset Is: Interest in helping others
I'm A Pushover For: Helping friends, neighbors with projects
If I Could Take A Snapshot With Anyone, I'd Choose: (no response)
If I Could Change One Thing About Myself: To be 6 feet tall
My Greatest Accomplishment: Raising my family and childrens education
Best Advice To A Younger Person: Get a good education.

in the future (will let us know how it works out)...Ron Gentry of DeBary FL sent a note saying he would be ordering a history book and suggested a feature for the newsletter which would profile a member each month (good idea, Ron, we are trying one this edition and hope to continue in the future if we can get people to cooperate)...Robert Craig of Lemont Furnace PA sent in his dues and a note that he met Harry Coker at the USS Batfish reunion last May and both will try their best to make our reunion this year in Charleston...a nice long letter from Hal Elston out in Guthrie OK relating information on MDAUs and MOMATs, forwarded some photos, asked about Jack Tripp, Len Siluk and Richard Martin, doted on his grandchildren, passed on that he liked the newsletter format and remarked that we are a long way from the early days of the AOM, seems in some ways like yesterday that he retired but a long time when he thinks of all the friends he hasn't been able to visit (the reunion is a good time to catch up, Hal)...a note from Paul Henry, a retired MNMCM of EOD fame currently residing in Costa Mesa CA saying he read about our association in a VA magazine, asked for information about reunions and membership...and Charlie Dean, new resident of Lacovia NH, wrote to dig our Quartermaster a little, asked about Jim Myrick and Don Hihn, and stated as how he loved wearing his hat and jacket with the MN logo on them, they generated a lot of interest and comment from people who have no idea of what underwater mines are or the role they played in our major wars, when he tells them they all look at him like he's a little nuts (which he admits), asks to be remembered to everyone...Pete Mirich from Youngstown Oh-Acha-Ten (that's Ohio, folks) wanted info on the coming reunion in Charleston, plans to be here and asked to be remembered to everyone...our own Moose Wheelock of Chimacum WA, doing great with his recovery from his bout with Lymphoma, ready for all comers in arm wrestling...and Roy Schardin of Alexandria VA proudly announcing his grandson Jeremy Dawson's graduation (magna cum laude) from William and Mary College, degree in Government and his future plans for law school (oh no, another lawyer), and Roy said he is planning on reunion with everyone in Charleston...a card with sad news from Don Branan, Austell GA, saying he was sorry to have missed Long Beach, had to go back into hospital for angioplasty (has been in and out several times), says

wife Kay is not doing well and may have to go into nursing home sometime this year if conditions don't get better...a nice letter from Agnes Manzie, Williamsburg VA, forwarding Fred's bio for the history book and a donation to the museum, said the DASHPOT makes very interesting reading and she is delighted that there is an Association to honor Minemen and bring them recognition, that Minemen have done a job worthy of the respect and admiration of the nation, says Fred retired with 50 years combined Navy and Navy Civil Service. Thanks for all your letters, notes, comments and constructive criticism, folks. Hope I haven't missed anyone. If I have, let me know. Keep the news coming. Be well!!! Be happy!!!

EDITOR APOLOGY IN ADVANCE

The sudden death of Ralph Padgett (see Taps) came as a shock to all of us. We have lost a wonderful friend and great supporter. I was able to edit the Mail Call section which acknowledged news that the Padgett family sent, but the photo collage of reunion events showing Ralph and LaVern were impossible to rearrange. I apologize for any hurt, sadness or discomfort this might cause the family. Rather, I would hope, it will help us all remember the happy times we all shared together.

MILI AMPS BRIEFS

Some nice Lady's News to report. Annalyn Link, wife of MN2 Jeffrey Link and Salve Kent, wife of MN2 Frank Kent, both of MOMAG UNIT FOURTEEN, received Letters of Appreciation from the Commanding Officer, Naval Weapons Station Yorktown for their outstanding efforts in support of SpringFest 1991 at the station. Our thanks, ladies, for contributing your valuable time in support of local Navy programs. Your presence follows a long tradition of our Minemen wives providing caring and meaningful support to civic, medical-assistance and charitable organizations.



**DUES ARE DUE
FOR '92**



TAPS



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.

Aviation Electricians Mate First Class Johnny L. Caulder, Jr., - 7/15/91 - son of MNCS John Caulder, USN (RET) of Charleston. AE1 Caulder was lost at sea when the H-46 helicopter he was on crashed in the Pacific Ocean about 100 miles east of Wake Island. The helicopter was replenishing ships operating with carrier Nimitz. No one was recovered from the helicopter. A memorial service was held at the Eternal Father of the Sea Chapel on the Charleston Naval Base.

Kenneth J. Fister - 8/6/91 - retired Head of the Test and Evaluation Department at the Naval Mine Warfare Engineering Activity, Yorktown. He apparently died from a heart attack at home. A memorial service was held September 8, 1991 at Bucktrout Funeral Home in Williamsburg. Ken was a member and had visited many of the mine sites during his time at NMWEA. Many of you remember him, we are sure.

Ed Carlson - 11/30/91 - was killed in a vehicle accident in Western Virginia. He was a member, retired and served at various commands connected to Mine Warfare, like the Inspection Group. He had worked for Dynamic Systems that had contracts supporting mine warfare agencies.

MN2 Tom Cassidy, USNR - 12/4/91 - killed in a vehicle accident in New York state. He had served on active duty and then went into the reserves. He was a member of Momag Reserve Unit 504, Perth Amboy and lived on Staten Island. He was a much decorated New York policeman and was given a police inspectors honor funeral.

MNC Landon L. (Red) Long, USN (RET) - 1/31/91 - of a massive heart attack in Clifton Forge, Virginia where he was teaching school. Dick Martin wrote us with the information noting that he and "Red" had been friends since serving at NAS Atsugi in 1955, their first duty station.

LCDR Ralph W. Padgett, USN (RET), suddenly - 3/15/92, of causes attributed to arterial disease. He is survived by his wife LaVerne and two daughters, Melinda and Jeanette. Ralph was a real pace-setter during his active duty days, and an early member, innovative contributor and staunch Taps

continued on page 12

came into the Navy, naked, in a room full of men. I am delighted to be leaving fully clothed." He praised his friends and credited his success to all his many colleagues; said he considered himself extremely fortunate and that for years he did not know there was any other part of the Navy except the Mine Force, believing that the first verse in Genesis read..."In the beginning, God created the Mine Force...and God looked down upon the Mine Force and said, this is good, I will create a Navy to support it...". Bill said Master Chief Freddy Reid said that's the way it was, so that's the way it was. We believe so, too, Bill - good luck in your retirement.

The Association sends our congratulations for all the well deserved promotions, awards and personal achievements. We also thank you for your many important community contributions and participation which go towards fostering a sense of good will, friendship and caring. Well done, shipmates. We will be watching with pride as you move onward and upward in your Navy career.

CHARLESTON REUNION COMMITTEE

All one of us (at this time) would like to report that we are looking into two basic options for your reunion here in Charleston this August 21-23 (my apologies to those I told that it was the previous weekend). Both options will have our usual "early bird" and business meeting (places still to be determined) as well as the picnic at Short Stay Recreation Center which we have always enjoyed in the past. Option ONE provides for our member-guest dinner meeting aboard the USS Yorktown, fully catered sit-down dinner on the Hanger Deck and a two hour open bar - we supply any music or entertainment. This will carry a price tag of approximately \$30.00 per person, based on basic food selection (the price goes up as the food gets fancy). Option TWO provides for our member-guest dinner at the Naval Base Sports Bar Ballroom (very nice - don't let the name fool you), fully catered, discount cash bar, and high-tech disk jockey services featuring fog, special lighting effects and Karaoke for exhibitionists such as Joyce Bright, Gracie Daugherty, John Iwaniec, Joe Hernandez, Mili Reed, Joe Balderrama and my wife Jane (who does a great

rendition of Yankee Doodle Dandy). Approximate cost for this will be about \$18.00 - \$20.00 per person with a rather nice food selection. We have had a lot of comment about the high costs associated with our last few dinner meetings, so Option TWO has the edge where cost is concerned. If we want nostalgia, we'll have to pay for it. So far our local poll runs about 50-50, so if any of you out there in Oz have an opinion, please let me know ASAP so I can inform the rest of the committee??? I also need to know if there is an interest in tours of Charleston historical places or golf outings. IF I DON'T HEAR FROM YOU, I ASSUME YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED!!!

TAPS continued from page 11

supporter of our AOM. He and LaVerne most recently created the famous "Ralph's Rocks" to commemorate attendees at each reunion and contribute funds to our scholarship program. The family has asked that any memorial contributions be made to the Heart Fund.

THANKS FROM THE 504TH

Fiske Hanley, Historian of the 504th Bomb Group, wrote us from Fort Worth TX to thank our AOM Historian, Lyal Stryker, for coming to their reunion in San Antonio..."and presenting your vital information on the Naval Mines that our group played a key role in accurately placing in Japan's waterways." Further excerpts include ..."all 504th people I saw expressed their thanks for your briefing ... General [Glen] Martin was particularly impressed...we are all pleased that the World War II Navy and Air Force units are tightening our relations via activities like [we] have arranged... we helped each other win the war...if the 504th can help your history work or reunions, please let us know...looking forward to a long and fruitful relationship".

The 504th Bomb Group flew B-29 Superfortress planes based on Tinian Island in the Pacific and were a major force in planting mines for Operation Starvation. They made history on August 14th, 1945 when Captain George Jennings' aircrew dropped the last weapon of World War II - a mine.

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QUARTERMASTER'S CORNER

We have run head on into supply side-economics, AOM version. The continuing evolvement of military cutbacks and new Philippine political doctrine has hit us where it hurts - our sole source supplier of mine models. It appears that this supply source will dissolve as soon as our loyal MOMAG is forced to withdraw from the area, and they can only guarantee receipt of one last order if it is placed without further delay. We are doing just that and will have a "limited stockpile" for awhile, pending development of a second source" (a pox on you Rudy Schuetzler - yes, we do have procurement problems!).

So here it is. If any of you have delayed ordering these superb mine models, all hand made of virgin materials (what?) by loving artisans, you are fast closing in on your last chance. We will place our final order in May, so get your pre-stockpile order in ASAP or risk higher costs later on for second-source production (non-virgin material?) models. You gotta have a model of what you worked on to show the uneducated out there who still think mines are only a figment of late nite movies!!!

We are also having to revise a few of our prices on some of the other items we have for sale. In some cases, we discovered we were actually losing money based on how we were amortizing logo print costs on bulk purchases for inventory. Keep the faith, baby!!! We are almost there!!!

IT'S SOME OF YOUR BUSINESS

The below spaces have purchased by AOM members or commercial entities to advertise their business venture or solicit your participation or expertise. A business card size 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 name out there!



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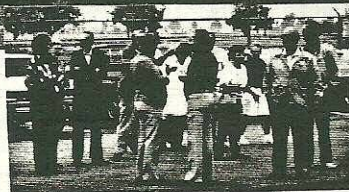
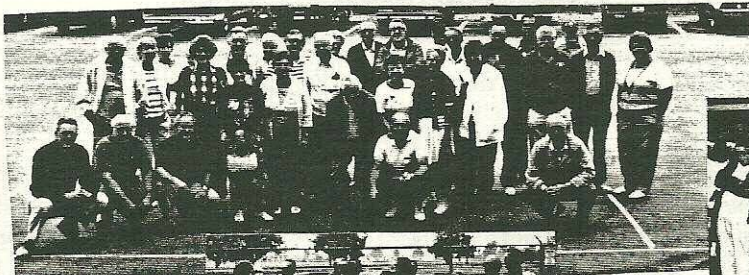
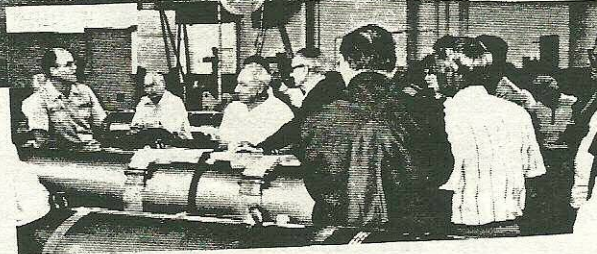
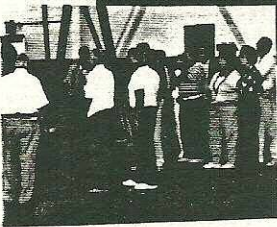
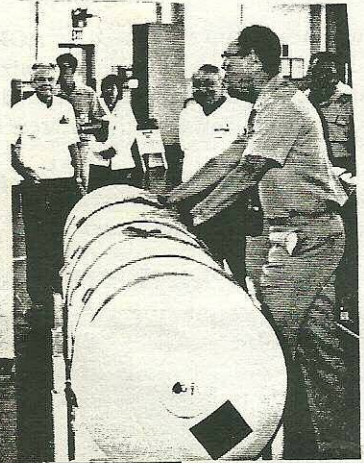
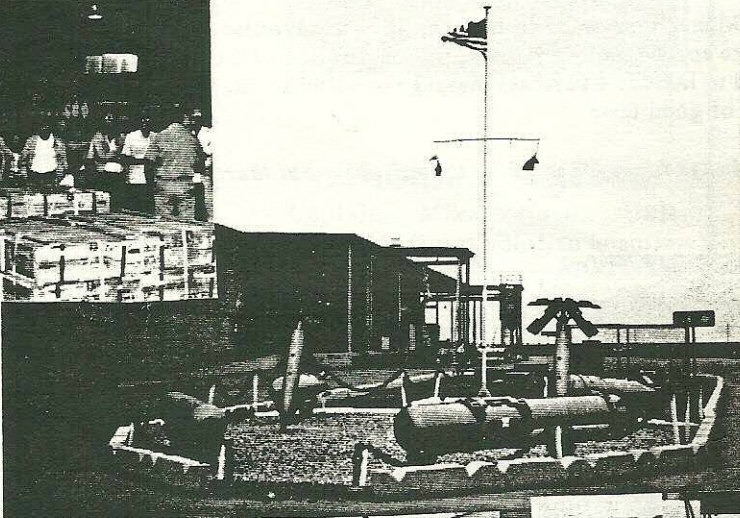
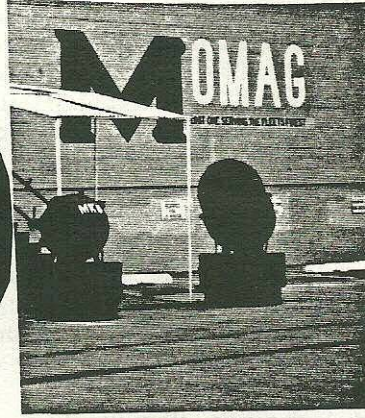
JIM MINOR, CQM
USS FIDELITY AM-96
USS YMS 407

224 ANGELUS DRIVE
SALINAS, CA 93906



(408) 449-5352

SITE VISIT TO MOMAG





ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN

P.O. BOX 71835, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29415



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

NAME _____

RATE/RANK _____ TELEPHONE # _____

ADDRESS _____

ZIP _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

NOTICE: To maintain membership, dues of \$10.00 must be paid by 1 January annually.

Please return this portion of sheet with your order.

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)

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, Eagle Gray,
Gold, Kelly, Maroon, Navy, Oxford,
Purple, Royal, Scarlet, White

Youth/Adult	S	M	L	XL	XXL

(Select color; insert quantity in size)

COACHES SHIRTS

Two button w/ pocket

	S	M	L	XL	XXL

(Select color; insert quantity in size)

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

Several old style (Cotton/Poly) Heather
color T-Shirts available @ \$7.00.

JACKETS

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

(Personalization available, see note below)

HATS

Adjustable band

Red	
White	
Blue	

TIE-TACS

Gold Tone	
Silver Tone	

MINE MODELS

MK6	\$10.00 x		=	
MK18	7.00 x		=	
MK25	7.00 x		=	
MK52	7.00 x		=	
MK56	7.00 x		=	
MK60	10.00 x		=	
MK65	7.00 x		=	
MK67	7.00 x		=	
DST	10.00 x		=	
KEG	10.00 x		=	

Sub Total \$

S & H (\$2.00 each Mine)

Total \$

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 jackets(up to 25 characters) per price list below. Print personalization on separate piece of paper and include with order.

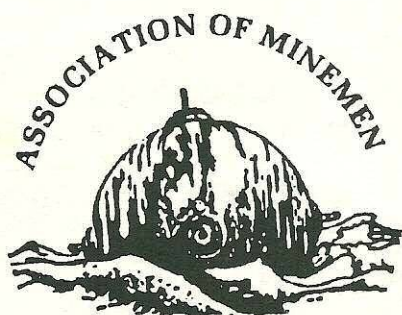
Item	Price	Qty Ordered	Extended
Adult T-Shirts	6.00	x	
Childrens T-Shirts	5.00	x	
Coaches Shirt	14.00	x	
Unlined Jacket	18.00	x	
Lined Jacket	21.00	x	
Hats	5.00	x	
G/S Tone Tie Tacs	5.50	x	
Jacket Lg. Logo (Back)	5.00	x	
Personalization	5.00	x	
Sub Total			
S & H Cost: 10%			
Scholarship Contribution			
Mine Museum Donation			
Mine Models total			
Mailing List x 3.00			
Annual Dues x 10.00			
Total			

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Mail with remittance to: Association of Minemen, P.O. Box 71835, Charleston, SC 29415

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
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CHARLESTON,
SC
PERMIT
NO. 270



REMINDER:

REUNION

1992

**AUGUST
21-23**

CHARLESTON S.C.

*Don't Miss
a Great Time!!*

ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN COMMEMORATIVE HISTORY

3 _____

§

3 _____

Total \$


Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

[illegible]

Name to be stamped on cover as written above, not to exceed 21 characters/spaces

Note: For multiple orders, please photocopy this order form or request additional order forms from your association. Please carefully review the above and mail this order form, along with your biography, photographs, and payment to:

ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN HISTORY



ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN HISTORY

P.O. Box 71835

Charleston, SC 29415

Check One: ☐ Check ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card holder's name (as it appears on your card) _____

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date ____/____/____

Signature _____

NO CASH PLEASE! If paying by check, please make payable to MINEMEN HISTORY BOOK.