



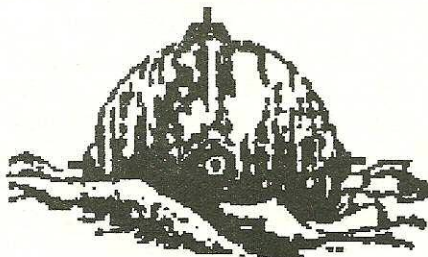
FROM THE PRESIDENT

As promised last issue, I want to devote this issue's words of wisdom to the upcoming election we will have this August at the business meeting in Reno. There are some of you who have been clamoring for change, and this will be your opportunity. We will be electing a new President, Vice President, and two members for the Board of Directors. This represents a significant ensemble of members of the association's officers who can press for the changes they want to pursue. I wish them luck.

I will be looking for an impressive slate of candidates for consideration for these officer positions as gathered by the Board of Directors and/or their appointed Nominating Committee. I would also like to have everyone in the organization to (drum roll, please) volunteer for one of our three standing committees; Membership, Scholarship, and History/Museum. The two special committees for Nomination and Reunion are made up and/or appointed each respective year, but will, nonetheless, need volunteers on a progressive basis.

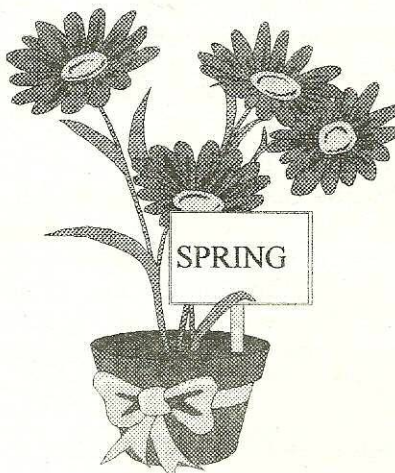
Along these lines, our Parliamentarian, **Don DeCrona** and I have been working on documenting the duties and responsibilities of the individual officer positions as well as the several standing and special committees of the association. We think these will serve as some good

Please see **President** page 2



DROPPED FROM THE ROLLS?

Are you one of the past members that was dropped for not paying your dues? We all have reasons for joining, renewing or dropping membership in the association. Could be that you got so far behind that it would cost you a bundle to pay dues in arrears. Not to worry, If you want to re-join just fill out the application and send in the \$15. and you will start over as a 1995 member. If you want to retain your old membership number like Joe Sapien with Number 1, then you must pay for delinquent years to maintain continuity. Renew or sign up whatever the case and help support this great organization of professional Minemen.



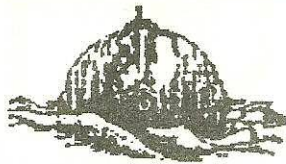
Reno '95 AUG 11-13

West Coast reunion chairman **Don DeCrona** provided the Reno Reunion information and order blank on pages 5, 7 and 8. Congratulations to the Reno Reunion Committee on providing such an extensive and informative package. Please order early to help the Secretary/Treasurer from being snowed under at the last minute.



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**ASSOCIATION OF
MINEMEN
DEDICATED SERVING
THE
U.S. 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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President. Continued from page 1

guidelines that will help the respective officers and the chairpersons and members of the committees.

I have asked our Dashpot Editor, **John Loonam**, who is also a Director on our Board of Directors, to take the lead in formalizing the Nominating Committee. As a focal point for receiving all the news for our newsletter, he is in a position where he can also receive any candidate recommendations you members may want to make. Remember, however, the recommendation/nomination must be with the nominee's full knowledge and consent. Also remember that a candidate does not have to be present at the business meeting in order to be nominated or elected. The whole profile of our organization is "members from everywhere", and I think it is healthy to have an officer profile the same way.

I do have two recommendations for consideration by the new President. Our Secretary/Treasurer and our Parliamentarian are both appointed by the President. I can personally attest that both of the incumbents in these positions have made vital contributions to the organization over the past several years, and I strongly recommend they be re-instated in these positions.

Lyal Stryker as Secretary/Treasurer has served in this capacity for as long as I can remember, and he has done a superb job. The total of our business baseline is located in South Carolina - incorporation, museum, bank accounts, et al -and **Lyal** having residence and proximity here makes the job a lot easier for any President, no matter where he or she may be located. **Lyal's** continuance, if he

**Address changes to the
Secretary/Treasurer**
Please provide 9 digit ZIP

**WOMEN IN THE
MINEMAN RATE**

Some time back the Dashpot asked our lady Minemen to bring the community up to speed on when they joined in the rating of MN. **LT Mac Intosh**, CO MOMAG Unit 1, LDO ascension from the Mineman rate responds:

"To answer the mailbag question about when the women came in I can offer the following: It had to be late 1975 or early 1976. I was the third female Mineman and I came in the navy August, 1976. I know **Shirley Robinson** was the second, someone named Jane was the fourth, **MNC Carly Wallick-Meyers**, was the fifth and **Mary Noonan** was the sixth. **Carol Ball** was officially the first female Mineman but I never met her and do not know when she graduated. The school may still have records.

I lost touch with **Shirley Robinson**, I believe she only stayed for one enlistment, but me, Carly and Mary are still hanging around. Boy oh Boy, twenty years is a long time to remember! I'm surprised I did this well.

C. L. Mac Intosh"

**Panama City
Florida '96
AUG 9-11**



Please see President Page 3

Committee Reports

Membership

by Toby Horn

Regrettably, a number of members have been purged from our mailing list because we have not heard from them for some time. A list will appear in the Summer Issue.

I know, just as sure as I'm making this column up, that there are some of these members who have lost touch because they have moved or transferred and we did not get a forwarding address for them to receive our news. **How about helping us out?** Please check the list over and see if you can locate a long lost shipmate that is listed here. Your Christmas card list is a good place to start. We can also provide you a last known address if that is any help (call me or your Secretary/Treasurer, or drop us a post card).

My reminder in the last newsletter about the one-time \$15.00 dues fee that was due last August prompted many to send in their extra "fiver". I hope you others will either follow suit, or make the proper restitution this coming August. Remember, all you paid up members, this August your dues were back to \$10.00.

I'd like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all our AOM members, to welcome aboard new members since our last issue. (Ed note: names not available at press time).

On behalf of our Association, Welcome Aboard! We hope that your affiliation with us is a long and rewarding one. For the rest of you out there in membership land, get in touch with an old shipmate and sign 'em up so we can keep in touch. Thanks.

Where are the Members?

Last September there were 711 members of the Association including official mailings.(about 78) Some current, some a little past due and some way past due. The president's article talked about dropping members in arrears as approved at the Charleston business meeting in August 1994. Just for trivia sake, we thought you may be interested in where all the mailings have been going. Here's the list by state:

South Carolina	128
California	84
Virginia	82
Florida	43
Forces Pacific	35
Texas	30
Washington	29
New Jersey	25
New York	19
Maryland	17
Pennsylvania	17
North Carolina	15
Nevada	14
Michigan	13
Tennessee	13
Illinois	11
Massachusetts	11
Ohio	10
Georgia	9

Less than 9

AL AZ AR CT DE D.C. HI ID IN

IA KS KT ME MN MS MO MT NE

NH NM ND OK OR RI UT WV WI WY

Forces Europe Guam Denmark Japan

No members:

AK CO LA SD VT

Time for Elections



President.

Continued from page 2

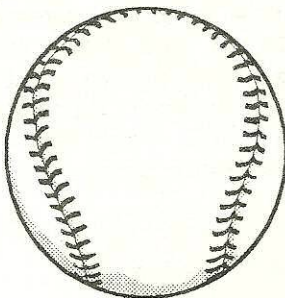
volunteers, will mean minimum disruption to any business at hand.

Don Decrona, as Parliamentarian, has also provided valuable input, standardization and continuity for the revisions to our charter, constitution and other documentation governing our association, as well as that created to help our officers and committee groups. I feel his continuance as a counsel to the President is important, should he chose to volunteer.

Both of these loyal and hard-working members have my highest praise. They have the most complete understanding of our business world and procedures, and I feel their continuance is in the best interest of the Association and it's officers.

As a private member, I will be forwarding my nominations for the new officer positions to John Loonam, in his capacity as the lead for gathering the Nominating Committee recommendations. I urge everyone else to do the same as soon as you can make contact with those you would like to see in office, and you have their permission to place them before the Nominating Committee.

I'll have the opportunity to address you one last time in the next issue before Reno. In the mean time, I've already started my packing list. Can't wait for Reno to see what **Grace Daugherty** is going to do next??? 'Hope to see ya there!



Editors Column

by John Ioonam

My apology to those members that have tried to reach the Association President using the phone number listed on page 2 of the past couple of Dashpots. I must have been thinking I should be president! as the phone number is mine. I really must be trying to move up as I did the same thing with **Joe Balderrama's** phone number! You will find the correct number listed in this issue. Sorry for the expense incurred reaching me instead of Toby.

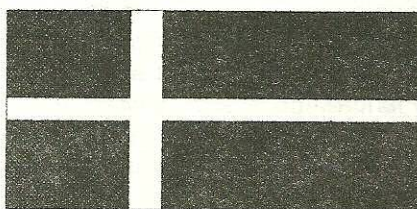
We have been reading about the merger of shipboard billets and associated transfers to and from the Countermeasures vessels. Are there any billets on board these ships for our lady Minemen?

Fleet inputs to the Newsletter have increased as you can see in this issue. It would be great if all sites would take the time to drop us a note or lists of personnel kudos, ins and outs etc. We will write the story or put it in some kind of format. If your not up on composition, listen, I barely passed high school english and here I am putting out a Newsletter. If your evaluating this as a piece of journalism, you know by now I didn't take journalism. My aim is information and timeliness. Let the Fleet hear from you. None of our overseas Sites have responded.

We heard complaints concerning the lack of advance particulars concerning the annual reunions. We will provide a place/date and point of contact near-by for each reunion as the information becomes available. Reno '95 information has been and will continue to be disseminated and Panama City '96 started last issue. Talk them up with your old Minemen buddies and plan to attend one to renew old friendships. At each reunion we see one or two new one-hitch Mineman that heard about the association and decided to attend.

1995 Dues are coming due in August. Use the order blank on page 5 to renew or a new membership application on page 12 to join or re-join. Dues notices are not mailed to members

CDR LORENZEN TO VISIT U.S.



CDR Jorgen Strange Lorenzen, Danish Navy, known to many Minemen from the "older" days concerning U.S. mines in Denmark and attendee at many of our Association Reunions as an Honorary member is also a Veteran of World War 2. About the time you are reading this Newsletter, CDR Lorenzen will join 90 of his fellow Veterans of the Danish Underground Movement here in preparation for 9-18 May commemorative ceremonies. The Planned program includes a visit to Arlington National Cemetery where a memorial grave stone will be placed bearing the inscription "In memorial for all U.S. Aircrews shot down over Denmark during the last war and buried on Danish Churchyards and to those that drowned in the Danish waters". In addition three Danish oak trees will be planted. The Danish Royal Family is expected to participate in official ceremonies in Washington and New York. Cdr Lorenzen asks if anyone out there is a stamp enthusiast? He needs help in getting the U.S. World War II 50 year commemorative stamp sets for 1991 to 1995.

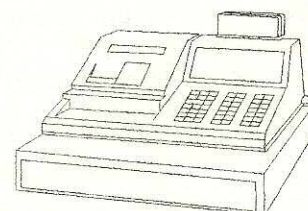
Contact the editor for additional information/address etc.

JOBS AT MONCK'S CORNER S.C.

We read lots of stories about all the military closing's in Charleston, SC and the effects on local communities. Well for those retired in the Moncks Corner area, jobs will be on the increase due to a steel mill locating there. A recent Daily Press newspaper article in Newport News, Virginia stated that South Carolina won out over Virginia for the building of a \$500 million Nucor steel mill. The mill will manufacture flat rolled sheet steel for cars and appliances. Virginia's loss was contributed to the lack of deep water (for barges) at the property in West Point, Virginia (head of the York River). The influx of 1200 construction and 600 mill worker jobs should bolster the Goose Creek economy. Steel worker salary will average \$55,000 a year. The plant is expected to be in operation in 1997. Another article datelined Charleston indicated that base closing's going on there have not caused the depression-era ghost town forecast two years ago. About 20,000 government jobs were eliminated but thousands more have been initiated. The article described the turnaround in jobs. "While economic growth slowed, a robust tourist economy, a real estate market boosted by retirees flocking to the coast and a generally strong national economy have helped.

So have thousands of new government jobs.

An expanded naval engineering center, an Army logistics base, a defense accounting center and several smaller operations will provide almost 2,900 replacement jobs and an estimated 7000 civilian contract jobs within four years".



ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN
P.O. BOX 71835
CHARLESTON, SC 29415

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL MINEMEN REUNION/MEETING

Please return this reservation form as soon as possible to the address above to expedite your registration for reunion events. Your tickets will be made available at the Early Bird, General Business Meeting, Dinner, and Picnic.

NAME: _____ MEMBER # _____

ADDRESS: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

DINNER TICKETS @ \$23.50 EACH _____ X \$23.50 \$ _____

PICNIC TICKETS @ \$7.50 EACH _____ X \$7.50 \$ _____
(13 years and up)

PICNIC TICKETS @ \$4.50 EACH _____ X \$4.50 \$ _____
(8 to 12 years -- 7 or under are free)

ANNUAL DUES (\$10.00 as applicable to update) \$ _____

USS YORKTOWN MINE MUSEUM DONATION \$ _____

SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATION \$ _____

NUMBER OF CHILDREN 7 OR UNDER _____ AT PICNIC

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please indicate number of children 7 or under so we can plan picnic details. We must guarantee numbers for dinner no later than the morning of 9 August therefore no refunds after 10 August 1995.

The picnic will be BBQ ribs and special seasoned chicken, smoked and pre-cooked, along with drinks, potato salad, chili, and chips.

The Sands has established a cut off date of 11 July 1995 for rooms reserved for the Association. **MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW.** Rooms in Reno and Sparks are at a premium during the summer. Call the Sands toll free at 1-800-648-3553. Refer to Group Control No. MIN-811. Rooms rate \$56.00 + 9 % room tax. Each additional \$7.00 + tax.

To help avoid mistakes, please fill out and return this order sheet (1-94) with your order. All previous order sheets are void.

T-SHIRTS

50/50 Cotton Polyester

Children's 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, 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	

JACKETS

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

MINE MEDALLIONS

Gold	\$15.00 x ____ = ____
Silver	15.00 x ____ = ____
Bronze	15.00 x ____ = ____
Sub Total \$ ____ (enter sub total 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.

Item	Price	Qty	Extended
Adult T-Shirts	7.50	X	
Children's 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	
Sub Total			
S & H Cost of Items: 10%			
Mine Medallions Total From Above			
Scholarship Contribution			
Mine Museum Contribution			
Annual Dues (\$10.00 Per Year For Maximum 5 Years)			
Total			

Print Your Name Here



GENERAL INFORMATION FOR RENO REUNION August 11 - 13, 1995

The Sands Regency Hotel/Casino, 345 N. Arlington, Reno. Reservations toll free 1-800-648-3553; Group Control No. MIN-811. Room rate \$56.00 + 9% room tax, each additional person is \$7.00 + tax. Within state telephone number (702) 348-2200 - Within state reservations (702) 348-2264. If you plan to arrive before the 11th or depart after the 13th, request additional days at the group rate. **The Sands has established a cut off date of 11 July 1995 for rooms reserved for the Association. MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!**

The Reno/Sparks Convention & Visitors Authority maintains a 24 hour service that provides information on availability of hotels, motels, and RV parks, including prices. Call 1-800-FOR-RENO (1-800-367-7366).

Reno RV Parks: *Reno Hilton Camperland*, 2500 E 2nd St., 452 sites, 800-648-5080 or 702-789-2129; *Keystone*, 1455 W. 4th St, 104 sites, 702-324-5000; *Reno*, 735 Mill St., 46 sites, 800-445-3381 or 702-323-3381; *Shamrock*, 260 Parr Blvd, 121 sites, 800-322-8248 or 702-329-5222; *Chism Trailer Park*, 1300 W 2nd St., 50 sites, 800-638-2281 or 702-322-2281; *Tiki Village Trailer Park*, 4055 S. Virginia St., 66 sites, 702-825-1507. **Sparks RV Parks:** *River's Edge*, 1405 S. Rock Blvd, 164 sites, 702-358-8533; *Victorian*, 205 Nickels Blvd, 91 sites, 702-355-4040. **Verdi:** *Boomtown*, I-80 & Garson Rd., 203 sites, 800-648-3790 or 702-345-6000.

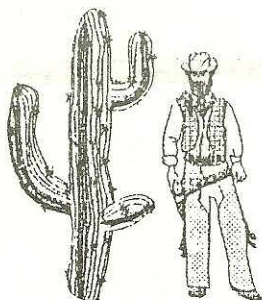
SCHEDULE:

Sands Hotel:

Friday, August 11 Early Bird (no food served, no-host bar) 1830 - 2100.
Saturday, August 12 Board Meeting. Time to be announced at the reunion.
Saturday, August 12 General Business Meeting 1330 - 1500.
Saturday, August 12 No-host cocktail hour 1800 - 1900. Banquet 1900 - 2100.

Rancho San Rafael:

Sunday, August 13 Picnic 1100 - 1700. Peavine Pavilion is our picnic area, the same location as our 1993 reunion.



WHAT'S NEW IN RENO IN 1995

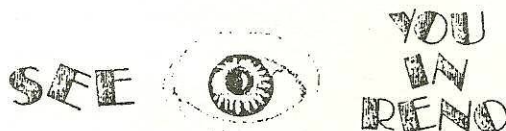
Silver Legacy Hotel: They are building a new "Theme Hotel" in Reno with 1,720 rooms that will be as fabulous as those in Las Vegas. This new hotel will have an *Old West* theme with mining rigs and ore cars. Housed under a dome 180 feet in diameter, a 120-foot-tall mining derrick will be fitted with platforms for musical and stunt performances. The structure will also include a 30-foot high water wheel and an elevator to transport guests from the casino to the mezzanine. The restaurants and show rooms designed to take you back in time! The project is planned to be completed by August. It is located 2 blocks from the Sands between the Eldorado & Circus Circus.

Harrah's: New & exciting "Planet Hollywood," a restaurant with lots of *Movie Memorabilia*. New adult revue "Playboy Ecstasy" that has all the gorgeous girls you'd ever want to see.

Reno Hilton: A new production show called "Splash." This is an extravaganza in the tradition of Hello Hollywood Hello, with lots of girls, water and great entertainment.

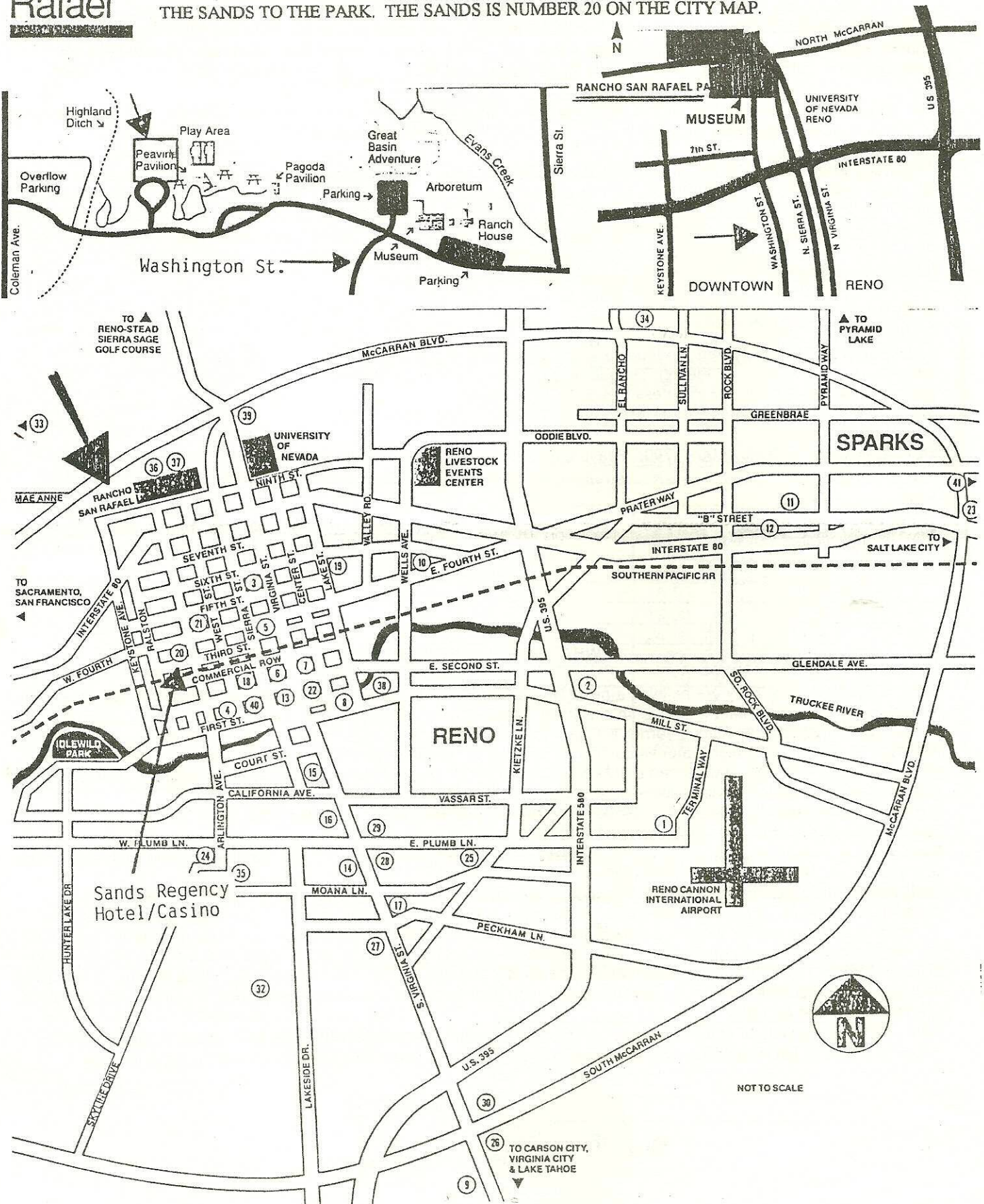
National Bowling Stadium: A new centerpiece for downtown is the new bowling stadium which was built to host national tournaments. It has the state of the art 80 lanes, with all the beautiful amenities you could imagine. Such as, grandstand seats up to 800 and offers full view of competition; giant 16X21-foot screen gives tournament updates; 440-foot long screen gives individual scores and is capable to projecting multiple 8-foot images or one that is 440 feet long. In March they will open the Omnimax theater in the facility that has a wrap around screen & seating for 300. They also have a 1940's diner called *Ruby's* which should take you back to one of your fonder memories; if you are old enough or can remember that far back.

Additional: Along with all of this, we have an enlarged Clarion Casino/Hotel with great food and atmosphere. A TGI Friday and Red Robin restaurants. So save your money and make your plans NOW to join us this year in Reno.

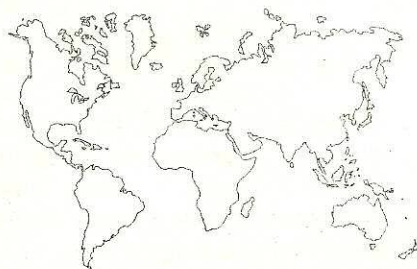


Rancho San Rafael

TO GET TO RANCHO SAN RAFAEL FROM THE SANDS GO TWO (2) BLOCKS WEST TO WASHINGTON ST., THEN TURN RIGHT (NORTH) AND THEN STAY ON THIS STREET UNTIL YOU ENTER THE PARK. THEN TURN LEFT TO THE PAVILION. IT IS TWO (2) MILES FROM THE SANDS TO THE PARK. THE SANDS IS NUMBER 20 ON THE CITY MAP.



■ FULL FORCE NEWS



HOW GOES IT? FROM MOMAG UNIT 1

xcerpts from "The Pinger", a quarterly newsletter by **Kathleen Nahra**, Ombudsman, MOMAG Unit 1:

In January, the Unit underwent their ADMAT Inspection and received an overall satisfactory. "We have shown major improvements in the past two years. Now on to the Tech Assist Visit scheduled for July" says LT **Mac Intosh**. All hands enjoyed a Christmas party put together by MN1 **Kirker**, MN1 **Harvey**, MN2 **Chandler**, MN3 **Burroughs**, MN3 **Guidry**, MN3 **Thomas** and MN3 **Andersen**. MNCS(SW) **Zinnel**, Command Leading Chief, "describes himself as a "recent refugee from the hunting side of Mine Warfare"

says I want to thank Senior Chief **Jerry Williams**, Chief **John Nahra** and the rest of the crew here at MOMAG Unit 1 for their patience and help in keeping my head above ignorance, as I learn about this Nobel profession I am now a part of".

KUDOS:

Sailor of the Year:

MN1 Harvey & MN3 Weekley

Sailor of 4th Quarter:

MN2 Vetter & MN3 Weekley

COMINEWARCOM Letter of Commendation:

MN1 Harvey & MN1 Nicely

Outstanding Physical readiness:

MN3 Thomas

Unit 1 Letter of Appreciation:

SK1(SW) Townsend

NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach Letter of Appreciation/Commendation:

MN3 Moxley MN3 Hindman MN3 Bowerman MN3 Marcos YNSA

Racer

COMRESPATWINGPAC Letter of Appreciation:

MN1 Kirker MN3 Merzier MN3 Hindman MN3 Bowerman

Frocked for promotion:

MN1 Nicely MN2 Sedillo MN3 Marcos MN3 Bowerman

Welcome Aboard:

MN3 Kevin Herrington MN3 Joseph Baney MNSA Rachel Richardson MNSR Wanda Pitts MNSR Dawn Whittle MN3 Jeb Diehl

Farewell:

MN1 David Fritz to recruiting duty Boston **MN2 Edward Tobias** to Fleet Reserve 20 + years **Dennis Moxley** to Pre Commissioning Unit USS Robin

ESTABLISHING A SITE

MOMAG Unit 15 comes alive! Lt **Tim Patton** arrived at Naval Air Station, Kingsville, Texas on 16 August 1993 to initiate and become the first Commanding Officer of MOMAG Unit 15. Working out of his BOQ room the first few weeks, his story follows.

Having only a spiral notebook and an ink-pen I began putting together a command.

I was the only MOMAGGER down here at the time. That arrangement was fine. However, I knew there was no way I was going to fit 30 people in that tiny room so my first priority was to find office space. This actually proved to be pretty easy thanks to the outstanding support of the Naval Air Station. I was assigned an office in then station headquarters building, spent two months there and was finally given the second deck of an old enlisted barracks. I thought this would be more than enough space to convert for office and storage use. Boy was I wrong! With the receipt of shop equipment and furniture in addition to Minemen being pack rats



that they are, we managed to fill almost every room. I had absolutely no idea what was involved in setting up a MOMAG from ground zero. All to often we take for granted what's already at a command when we check-in, things like computers, desks, chairs, filing cabinets and safes, office supplies, directives and publications, telephones, command vehicles and handling equipment, tools, etc... When I volunteered to come down here, I really didn't have a clue what I was in for, hell I needed to borrow a requisition to order requisitions. we've come a long way since 16 August 1993 (notice I switched to the word we not I). There are currently thirty of us down here now, one officer and 29 enlisted with two more on the way. This cadre' of outstanding professionals make up the commissioning crew of MOMAG Unit 15 and are the real reason why we have made so much progress in the past 16 Months. The POA&M is 155 items long and still growing, 72% completed to date and the rest to be completed by the time our World War II era aircraft hangar is converted to an Underwater Mines Facility on 8 May 1995. Design for the building was started April 1994 and completed in August of that year. Construction funds in the amount of \$826,000. were provided in October 1994 and construction started in

November. The project is well underway and when finished will make a beautiful "new old building". The \$826K is just for renovating the interior. The exterior of the building is scheduled for a face lift starting in April 1995 to the tune of \$500,000. I'll be honest with you its been a struggle all the way especially the money part of the project. The term "pulling hens teeth" was created just for this project. However, I will say this having had the opportunity to come here and do what we've managed to get done has definitely

Please see **Unit 15** Page 10

Unit 15 from Page 9

made me a better person. At 38 years of age I've learned more about patience than I ever thought I could. It has also given me a heightened sense of appreciation for the true worth of a crew. No single individual could have accomplished something of this magnitude, but thirty individuals working as one sure can accomplish a lot.

South Texas or Northern Mexico whichever you prefer is absolutely great. Summers are hot, humid and dusty and the winters are damp and mild, perfect Minemen weather. Kingsville NAS adjoins the world famous King Ranch, the birthplace of cattle-ranching in this country. Its 825,000 acres (slightly smaller than Rhode Island) of some of the most pristine wide open cowboy outback, the likes you've never seen. Abundant with wildlife including deer, antelope, wild boar, coyotes, puma, and an assortment of wild game birds

and plenty of rattle snakes. This ain't no city livin mister, well that's not necessarily true. Just around the corner from Kingsville is Corpus Christi. Dadgumshoot, 55 miles in Texas is just a stone throw over yonder you know?

Mission wise we support COMINELWARCOM at Ingelside, Texas. That's 67 miles north of here. The price was a bargain here to put us in business by renovation (\$1.4 million) versus building a new facility at Ingelside (\$8. million). Construction at Ingelside is still the ultimate goal but that's years off.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to my role models that I worked for and with over my career that provided me with the background and determination to get the job done especially **Ron Swart, Bill Fortner, Joe Balderamma, J. B. Orr**, the Editor and many others. We are haunted by our past and thank God for it. Take care and may the yellow rose of Texas blossom in your garden.

Mine Familiarizer Cont.

Needless to say, the extensive use of these weapons with ship counters and arming-delay devices placed an immense burden upon the mine countermeasures forces of both the Allied and Axis powers.

One of the classic examples of the use of influence mines was a multi-phased mining campaign called Operation Starvation, carried out by the U.S. against the Japanese during the final stages of the war in the Pacific. U.S. aircraft laid over 12,000 mines in Japanese shipping routes and harbor approaches, sinking 650 Japanese ships and totally disrupting all maritime shipping. Japan was unprepared to cope with these influence mines which saturated her home waters; and those ships not sunk by mines were either forced to stay in closed ports or divert to a few overcrowded ports where they were prey to submarine and aircraft attack. Virtual collapse of Japan's seaborne transportation and heavy industry resulted.

A new family of mines called "Destructors," a bomb type mine, first came into use in 1967 during the Viet Nam Conflict. Apparently the term "destructor" was employed to circumvent any political implications resulting from the use of the term "mine." The destructors contained highly sophisticated (solid-state circuitry) firing mechanisms which were inserted into the fuze cavities of general purpose bombs. Early mods of the mechanisms were entirely magnetic, but by the end of the mining campaign destructors also incorporated a seismic sensitivity.

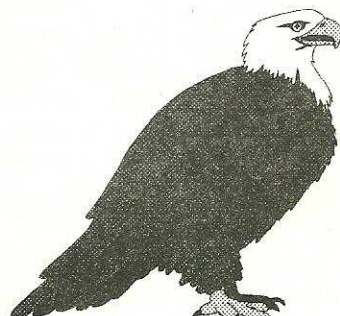
Clearly, the mine of today has come a long way since Bushnell's keg of 1777. Not only

The outstanding crew that makes this all possible:

MNCS Juan Delgado

MNC Joe Johnson
MN1 Paul Wintjen
MN1 Michael Ward
SK1 Andre' Meeks
MN2 James Cernick
MN2 Tzaradell Williams
MN2 Darrien Ward
MN2 Gary Christmas
MN2 Stephen McDonald
MN2 Claudia Kowalski
MN3 Alicia Hoog
MN3 Wayne Hinton
MN3 Sheena Kaneer

MNC Wade Sigstedt
MN1 Louis Godeaux
YN1 Robin Wood
MN1 Stanley King
MN2 Michael Slater
MN2 Melvin Bostic
MN2 Larry Thetford
MN2 James East
MN2 Timothy Hickman
MN3 Tommy Boyles
MN3 Christopher Elsbury
MN3 Joseph Karpenske
YN3 Collie Coleman



Continued next issue

Moose Wheelock reports Association Diirector, Ralph Shaw, is doing well and responding to treatment with his bout with colon cancer.

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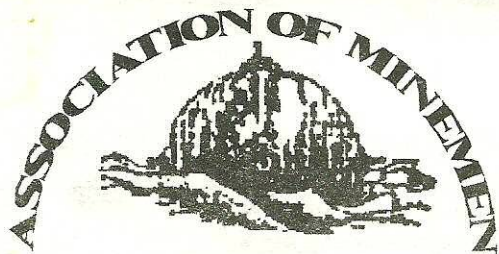
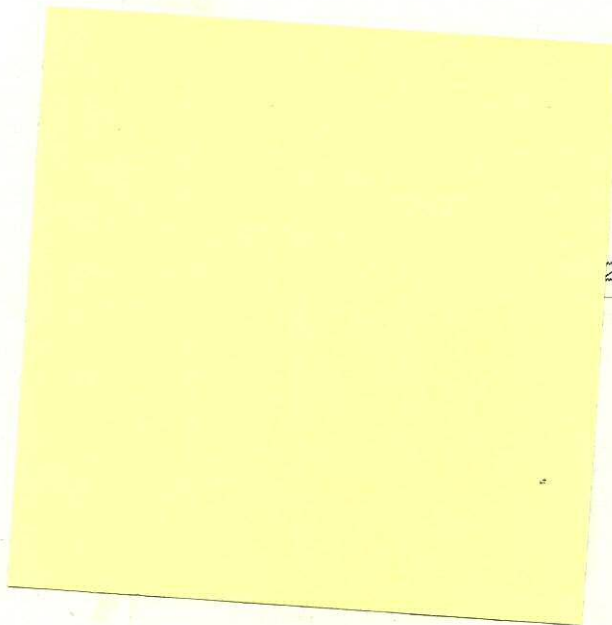
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