



YAGRGRAM #74 - SPRING 2016

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Upcoming 21st Annual YAGR's Reunion - 2016 - Branson MO

-The 2016 reunion will be at the **Radisson Hotel Branson**
-Address: 120 South Wildwood Dr., Branson, MO 65616
-Phone: 417-335-5767 and 888-566-5290
-Web: radison.com/bransonmo
-Dates are Thursday May 19 - Saturday May 21
-The YAGR rate is \$100/night plus 11.6% room tax
-Hotel registration includes complimentary breakfast buffet



Ladies Breakfast

Time flies and it will soon be time for our reunion in Branson!!! A few reminders.....

1. Country Western Contest. 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place trophies will be awarded. Dress up as a cowboy, Native American, saloon girl, or decorate a glitzy pair of boots, or stick horse, or jacket, or vest and compete in the contest!!! Your choice!!! Go Crazy!!!! It is a lot of fun!!!!
2. We have a Penny Auction every year so bring a small inexpensive gift to exchange. Hand made items and crafts are always a big hit.
3. It has become a Yagr Ladies tradition to take up a collection, for a charity, at our Breakfast Festivities on Saturday morning. The Ladies favorite has been Veteran Facilities., and so it will be for 2016. For the ladies who like to shop, things requested are full size toiletries, razors with at least 4 blades, small gift cards(of no more than \$20 each), to places like McDonalds, Walmart, CVS, etc., white T-Shirts and socks, underwear, (not tighty whities) , lounge pants, slippers & zippered hoodies In assorted sizes.. ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW. Don't forget the women Vets also. Cash and checks will be great also. I will tell you who to make out the checks to at breakfast. Lourdes St Mark of the GUARDIAN has volunteered to be our auctioneer this year. Thank you GUARDIAN!!!

Pat Reichling
PAREichling@aol.com
843-545-0642



ship's coordinators - Ship's coordinators maintain an email list that is used to forward memos from the chair and advance notices of reunion plans to crew members. If you wish to be included, send an email to your ship's coordinator.

AGR-1 Frank St Mark smarks117@hotmail.com
AGR-2 Ralph Rappuhun rrappuhn@aol.com
AGR-3 Chuck Parker chuckparker@gmail.com
AGR-4 Steve Mierzejewski smjm@bex.net
AGR-5 Bob Werstler rdwerst@sbcglobal.net
AGR-6 Lee Doolittle tleedoo@u.washington.edu
AGR-7
AGR-8 Ron Stasiak ronstasiak@rocketmail.com

AGR-9 Frank Mahaffey bnf@att.net
AGR-10 Paul Langenus plangenus@cox.net
AGR-11 George Sleeper gsleeper@roadrunner.com
AGR-12 Jesse Germany jgermany31@gmail.com
AGR-13
AGR-14 Joe Jackson jacksonj@pldi.net
AGR-15 Lee Doyel mldoyel@cox.net
AGR-16 Frank McNamara ec2sc1@comcast.net

Dues Payment - Mel Harder, secretary

dues are \$17/year - make checks out to YAGRS ASSOCIATION

mail to Armand Lamarche, Treasurer, 3 Finnway St., North Billerica MA 01862

The current membership year ends May 31, 2016. The highlighted date on your address label is the date your current membership is good through. If that date is **5/31/15** or earlier, please update your membership by making a dues payment. Upon dues payment, you will receive an updated membership card and crew list. Please complete the information below and send with dues payment. You may pay for more than one year.

Name: _____ Ship: _____

Address: _____

amount enclosed: _____ Phone: _____ email: _____

YAGR Books Available - from Joe Maurer, USS Vigil

YAGR'S BOOK ORDER

Joe will have books to sell at the reunion. The cost will be \$14.00 each. Mail order is \$20.00 each, that includes postage.

No. Ordered _____ Total Amt. Due _____

Name _____

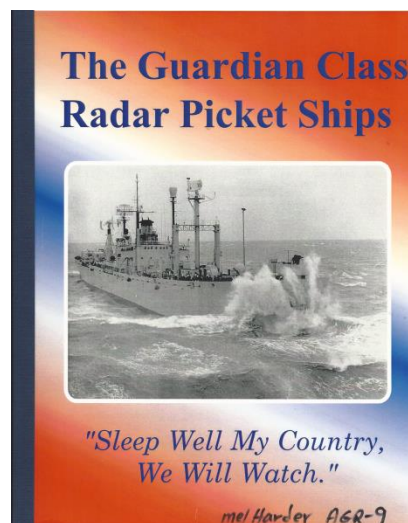
Address _____

Phone _____ email _____

Detach and keep for receipt:

Paid to: Joe Maurer, 2127 S. Bristol Drive, Marblehead, Ohio 43440

E-mail: runinmuck@yahoo.com



2017 Reunion, Chesapeake VA

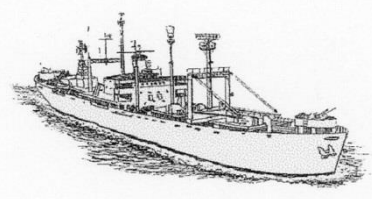
We have a contract for the 2017 reunion with the Sheraton Waterside Hotel in Norfolk, VA for 2 May to 6 May 2017. Dates include pre-reunion tours. Room rate is \$109.00 plus 14% room tax and a \$2.00 a night city tax. I looked at 4 different hotels in the Chesapeake/Norfolk area (also known as the Tidewater area) and this one was the better of the four. All had the same room and tax rates. The hotel is downtown on the river and has a better ambiance than the airport hotels we have been using in the past. The ladies are really going to like this one. Details (address, web site, parking, shuttle, phone number, etc.) will be in YAGRGRAM #75." So mark your calendars.



Sea Stories

Please send your sea stories to mel.harder@snet.net.

The sea story below is from the YAGRS website.



Andrew M. Guglielmo - USS SEARCHER AGR-4 (The engine room fire on November 13, 1955)

I, as well as BMC Joseph Dymerski and CM3 Bob Henry, drove from the SEVEREN RIVER COMMAND at Annapolis, MD. to Charleston S.C. to become proud plank owners of a YAGR. No one knew what YAGR meant including Joe Dymerski. The ship was commissioned on April 3, 1955 and I believe we had a severe snow storm in the east two days prior. The commanding officer was LT. CMDR. James Paulick. When we had the engine room fire on November 13, 1955, I was bunked on the port side forward of the #3 hold which had been used during WW2 for armed guard personnel. I recall we were all Petty Officers assigned to the supply division. When the general alarm sounded, we got to our feet and there was a strong odor of smoke and oil. A great guy, CM2 Bodkins, would always have a cigarette the first thing even before getting out of the bunk. Two of us said "Hey Bodkins put that butt out". When he replied in his southern accent, "I ain't smoking", we knew we had a severe problem. As I left the cabin, the passageway was full of black smoke and the EXEC approached me and asked, "Do you have a watch"? I replied I do, so he assigned me to the Chief Corpsman. I believe his name was Loftus. The Chief assigned me to give injections and note the time and date on a tag attached to the severely injured shipmates. I noticed a German ship off to the port which had a sign indicating she was loaded with gasoline, and according to the Quarter Master, she was approaching to assist us but was asked to stand down. Then the US Coast Guard Cutter, I believe INGHAM, came up to the stern and ran two large fully charged fire lines to extinguish the fire. The ship was now listing. Injured personnel were air lifted from the ship via helicopter. I don't recall if it was the same day or the next day when we heard the USS CAPRICORNUS - AKA 57 was approaching to tow us to the Brooklyn Navy Yard. When she approached our port side, she struck our port Gunwhale and caused same to sustain damage. We then were towed to Brooklyn backwards and faster than we had ever gone forward under our own speed (top speed was about 11 knots for a Picket ship). We were met at the shipyard with all types of medical assistance and buses and were transported to the barracks on Flatbush Avenue. That night we had a fire in the barracks and had to evacuate same. The ship was tied up alongside the BB WISCONSIN. She was having new barrels installed. I lived in New Jersey at the time and life was great. Went home on the subway to moms cooking and handling the laundry. And one day it came to an end. The scuttle butt was we were going to take the ship to Boston, MA. to have her refitted. Not being Admiral material I suggested, "Hey why not bring the plans down here from Boston and fix her here, nah that makes too much sense, I will go get the plans now at my own expense". Several days passed. I chided the deck force and snipes - they should have a great trip being towed to Boston from Brooklyn in a carcass of a ship with no heat, no water, nothing typical Navy. They made remarks about me and my heritage but we all laughed, except three days before the movement of the ship to Boston I was notified that I would be part of the skeleton crew, the only member of the supply division. They took us out past the AMBROSE LIGHTSHIP which is no longer there. Then a sea going tug took us in tow on the trek to Boston, MA., no heat, no lights, no food, and no beds, and during the night the cable either broke or came loose and there we were on the round bottom of the SEARCHER rolling and pitching and listing until they connected us again. Boston was cold and damp and the people were hostile and we lived in the Fargo Building which I now hear is a high end condo. I made one last patrol with the SEARCHER and was transferred to OGU in Newport, RI and was discharged on 9/5/56. The men I met in the Navy were good people and loyal Americans. I thank god for them and I really thank god for our youth of today being in the forefront for our nation. The only thing I can't square away is when I see the reunion pics, who the hell are these old folks? The guys I was with were tough and ready guys. Again, thanks to Ski and Harry and the rest of you for taking the time and effort and expense to keep the tradition going. In conclusion, I would add that I had one or two conversations with ENG 1 Buzbee (he was one that was killed in the fire) in the mess hall, and he was preparing for retirement prior to that horrific day of Nov 13, 1955. He was a gentleman and a loyal American, and told me when he retired he just wanted to sit on the porch and have the mailman put the check in his pocket.



On Nov 7, 2015 Ron Berlier (uss Interpreter)

berlier@jps.net> wrote:

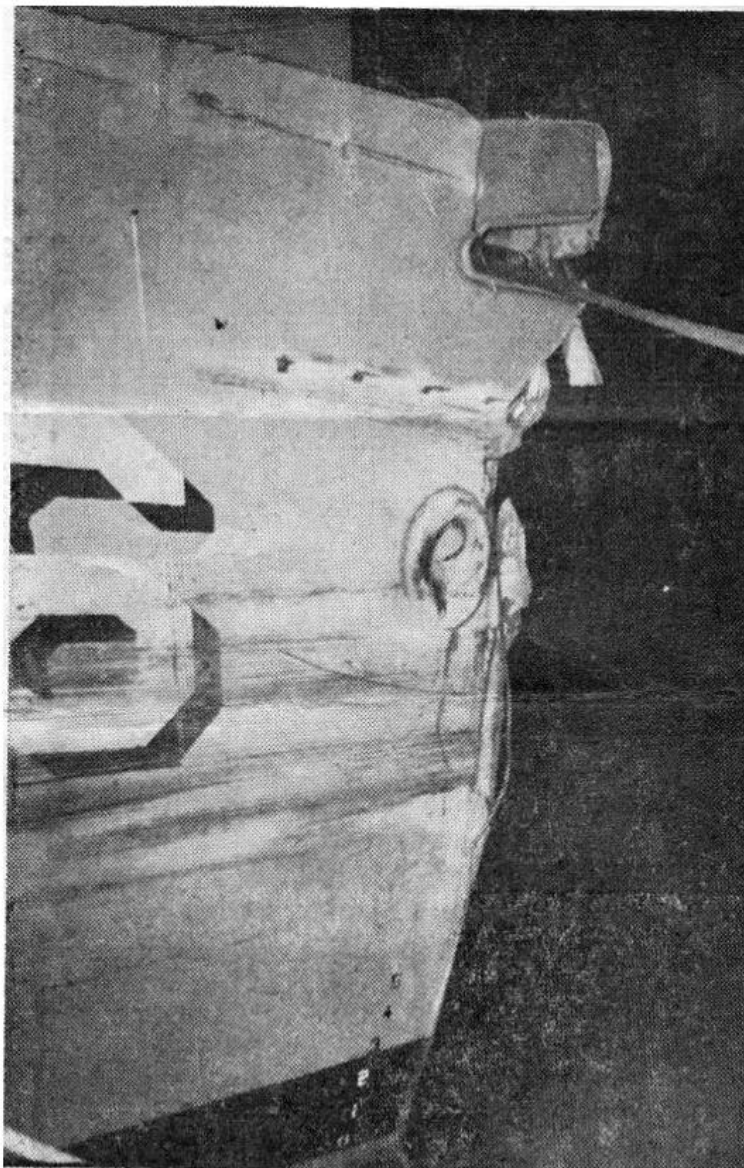
Hi Lee, I was going through some old boxes and came across this newspaper article regarding the Locator's mishap. Unfortunately, there is no date with it and, so far, I have found no references on the web. But I'm sure it was between 1962 and 1965. If you would like it for the historical display I would be happy to mail it to you the original. Just let me know.

Ron



Lee Callahan

Online research found reports of this incident in several Bay area newspapers on the dates of January 16 & 17, 1965 - Mel Harder, Secretary



NAVY SHIP DAMAGED IN BRIDGE COLLISION
USS Locator hit Richmond-San Rafael span

Navy Radar Ship Crashes Into Pier

The Navy radar picket ship USS Locator, enroute down the Bay after having fueled at Ft. Molate, crashed into a pier of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge late yesterday afternoon.

The Locator suffered damage to her starboard bow and port quarter in the fog-enshrouded mishap.

The bridge was struck on the upstream fender of the second pier west of Main Channel No. 1, then struck again at the middle pier on the west end of the Channel. Timber fenders on both piers were damaged& along with part of the concrete structure on the main pier.

It was not necessary to close the bridge to traffic, however.

No one was hurt in the accident.

The Locator limped back, partly under her own power and aided by tugs, to Treasure Island. The Navy plans a full investigation of the matter.

Divers were to go down as soon as practical to further check the Locator's hull.

Navy officials said the Locator, with civilian Bay pilot P. L. Stiltz at the helm, cut its engines upon passing under the bridge. An unusually strong ebb tide pulled the ship into the pier.

At about the same time, another ship, a tanker flying the Liberian flag, apparently struck a channel buoy on the south side of the bridge after leaving the Standard Oil Co. long wharf.

Sight of this tanker, the William F. Allen, was believed to have prompted the Locator to cut its engines.

The Locator is a converted Liberty ship, one of 16 ex-cargo vessels transformed into a sea-going radar net. It was enroute to its ocean station off Seattle, where it is scheduled to relieve a sister ship, the USS Interpreter.

Officials said the Interpreter now would stay on station until another relief could be sent.



From: vonnie448@comcast.net

Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2015 9:47 AM

Subject: Re: Photograph request

This a photo taken at the 13th YAGR reunion in 2008. It shows two--3" 50mm shells on either side of memorial plaque. I do not have any photos of individual shells.
Rolond Cote

From: [Ron Berlier \(USS Interpreter\)](#)

Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 1:03 PM

Subject: Photograph request

Greetings

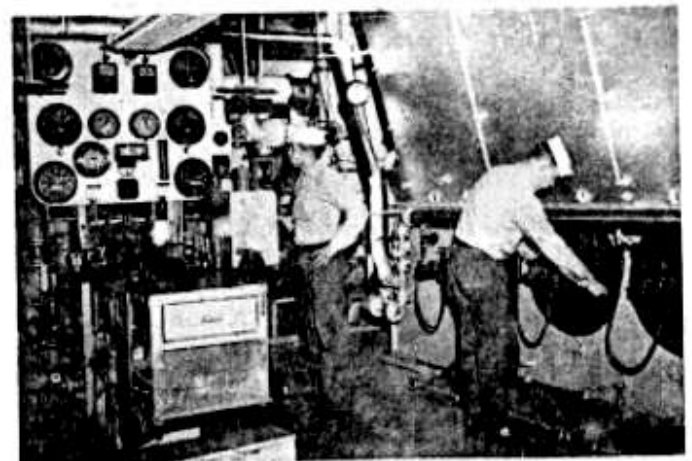
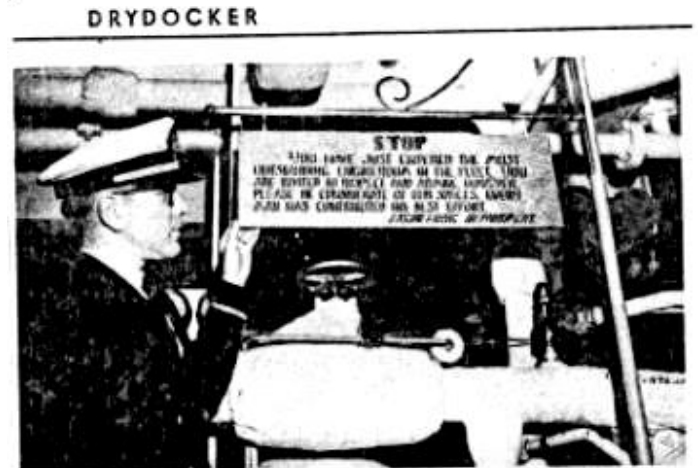
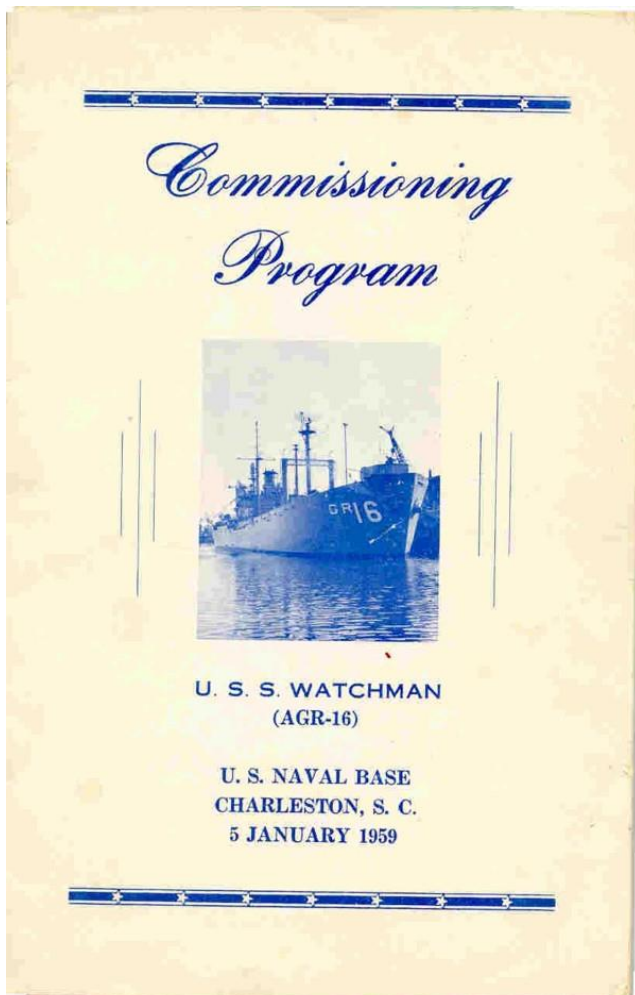
As you know the AGRs had 3" 50mm guns fore and aft. I recall a photo/article from YAGRs a long time ago about a shell being acquired for the YAGRs museum/display. By any chance do you have or know where I can locate a photo of one of the complete shells?

I have the end of a shell casing that I acquired from a target practice that took place while aboard the AGR14 and would like to mount it in a shadow box with a photo of the complete shell.

Ron Berlier, EM3
AGR14

NOW HEAR THIS: There is now a Facebook page YAGR'S ASSOCIATION for former YAGR shipmates, family and friends to post pictures, tell sea stories, re-connect with old buddies. It was set up by Frank Pulaski. Please give it a look and consider joining. You won't be disappointed.
Ken Wehr DK3 USS Skywatcher (AGR3)

**From the USS Watchman
link on YAGRS website**



Engineroom Where You Wipe Your Feet Before Entering is proud boast of USS Watchman (AGR-16). Engineer Officer Ens. (now Lt(jg)) Jim Arbogast admires sign lauding engineroom. Below in Fire Room W. F. Mertes, FN, adjusts air register on No. 1 Boiler while B. E. Evans, FA, checks the boiler control gauges.

Outstanding!

Watchman Claims 'Cleanest Engine Room in the Fleet'

"We have the cleanest and most outstanding engineroom in the Fleet," is the proud boast of the officers and men of USS Watchman (AGR-16), currently here for a quickie availability of three weeks for radar antenna overhaul.

She is due to rejoin the Fleet on Thursday 18 January.

Watchman's claim to fame is substantiated by former Commander of the Western Sea Frontier VAdm. F. S. Kivette, who visited the ship last summer.

Branson pre-eunion and reunion shows

Since there is such a variety of shows at Branson it was hard to select which ones to offer. However I have selected 7 for the pre reunion tours, shown on the enclosure to right. They range in type, price and times. You can elect to attend all 7 or just the number you want. The enclosure also lists the times of departure from the hotel which must be strictly adhered to. Copies of the enclosure will be in the hospitality room. Because of the number of pre tours, the hours of the registration and hospitality room will be different from the standard as in past reunions. Hours will be posted at the room entrance. Because of the different hours I will need some volunteers who won't be attending some of the tours to assist in keeping the room open while others go to a show. The normal Saturday schedule, men's business meeting, ladies breakfast, cash bar, banquet, etc., will be the same.

Branson 2016 Reunion Shirts

Order form for shirts on registration page.

7 CLR ON RIGHT SIDE OF SHIRT



WHITE INK OVER POCKET

Branson 2016



TUESDAY MAY 17	WEDNESDAY MAY 18	THURSDAY MAY 19	FRIDAY MAY 20
 <p>3:00 p.m. AMAZING ACROBATS Of SHANGHAI \$40.00 per person</p> <p>Leave hotel at 2:15 p.m.</p>  <p>8:00 p.m. IT SHOW At Hughes Celebrity Theatre \$40.00 per person</p> <p>Leave hotel at 7:15 p.m.</p>	 <p>10:00 a.m. THE BRETT'S SHOW \$40.00 per person</p> <p>Leave hotel at 9:15 a.m.</p>  <p>3:30 p.m. MOSES at Sight and Sound Theatre \$65.00 per person</p> <p>Leave hotel at 2:30 p.m.</p>  <p>8:00 p.m. THE RICK THOMAS SHOW \$45.00 per person</p> <p>Leave hotel at 7:30 p.m.</p>	 <p>2:00 p.m. #1 HITS OF THE 60'S MATINEE \$40.00 per person</p> <p>Leave hotel at 1:15 p.m.</p>  <p>5:30 p.m. Dolly Parton's DIXIE STAMPEDE DINNER AND SHOW \$65.00 per person</p> <p>Leave hotel at 4:15 p.m.</p>	<p>5:15 p.m. DINNER at Montana Mike's Followed by</p>  <p>THE CLAY COOPER SHOW</p> <p>Leave hotel at 5:00 p.m.</p> <p>COST IS IN REGISTRATION FEE</p>

Challenge Coin - Lee Doyel

All orders for the challenge coins have been filled and shipped and you should have received them by now. The response was more than I expected or planned for so I will be taking additional orders at the Branson Reunion. If you ordered a coin and I missed you please notify me.



SHIP'S STORE - Lee Doyel

There has been a delay (naturally) with the ship's patches. The lady I have been dealing with has left the vendor which has required me to deal with new personalities. The transition appears to be on rack but completing the 16 ship and RADRON 1 & 2 patches has been slowed. I have a list of all those that have ordered patches and will ship when the vendor makes them. Will keep you advised.

Registration Form

YAGR'S 21st Annual Reunion - Branson MO

May 19 - May 21, 2016

Return completed registration and check as soon as possible **but no later than April 17, 2016**. Make checks out to YAGR'S. Mail to YAGR'S treasurer Armand Lamarche, 3 Finnway St., North Billerica MA 01862. Print exactly as you want your name to appear on your name tag. Also, indicate your choice of meat, chicken or fish for the Saturday evening banquet.

Name: _____

banquet choice: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

banquet choice: _____

Additional Guest(s) _____

banquet choice: _____

Ship: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Reunion Registration: Thurs. May 19 - Sat. May 21, 2016			
Includes Fri. May 20 tour & Sat. eve banquet	cost/person	# of people	total
dues paying member, spouse or one guest	\$90.00		\$
non-dues paying member	\$107.00		\$
Additional Guest (s)	\$107.00		\$
pre-reunion tour - Tues. May 17	cost/person	# of people	total
Amazing Acrobats of Shanghai	\$40.00		\$
IT Show	\$40.00		
pre-reunion tour - Wed. May 18	cost/person	# of people	total
The Brett's Show	\$40.00		\$
Moses	\$65.00		
The Rick Thomas Show	\$45.00		
pre-reunion tour - Thurs. May 19			
#1 Hits of the 60's	\$40.00		
Dixie Stampede	\$65.00		
names of people on tour			
total amount due			\$

staying in hotel: yes no

sharing room: yes no

if yes, with whom: _____

use a walker: yes no

use a wheelchair: yes no

powered chair: yes no

Hotel room confirmation #: _____

email address: _____

special dietary needs: _____

REUNION SHIRTS	# of shirts	X cost/shirt
small @ \$20 each		
medium @ \$20 each		
large @ \$20 each		
X- large @ \$20 each		
XX- large @ \$22 each		
If not attending reunion, add \$5 for shipping		
total for all shirts		