



Radar Picket Ships

YAGRGRAM #52

WINTER 2008

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YAGR'S 14th Reunion

Town and Country Resort and Convention Center

500 Hotel Circle North

San Diego, CA 92108

Room rate \$123.00 per night

Parking rate \$1.00 per day.

This rate is good for three (3) days before and 3 days after the reunion dates of May 21 - May 23,

To make your room reservations, call 1-800-772-8527

**Mention that you are with YAGR'S when you call to get the
re room rate.**

It is very important that you reserve your room as soon as possible. The hotel has been very good about adding rooms to our room block. I hope they will keep this up, but one never knows. I have asked the hotel to keep me posted so that if there is a problem we can work it out as soon as possible.

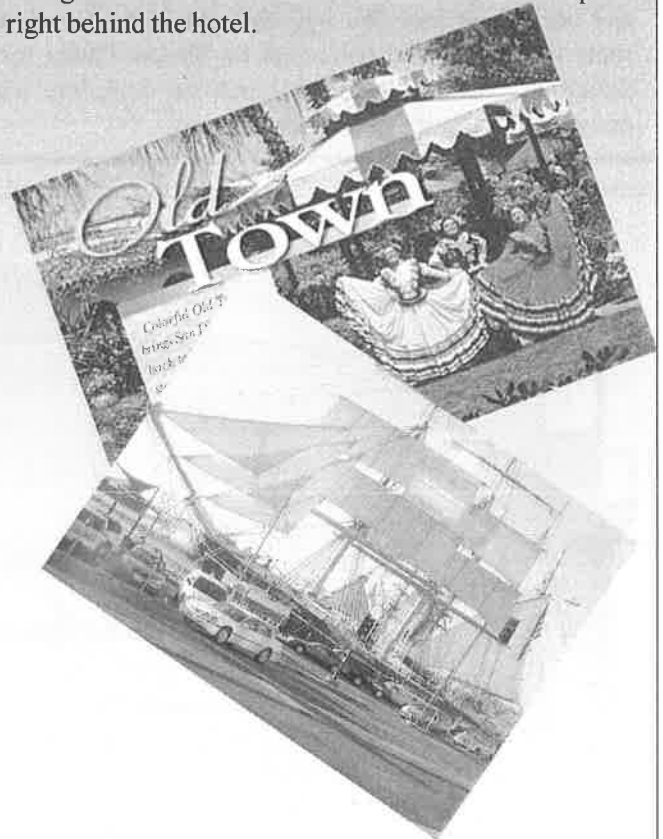
The Town and Country has a few different room types in different buildings. You can go on line to view the hotel's web page at www.towncountry.com



The Town and Country covers 30 acres with numerous landscaped walking paths to take you from one location to another. It has 5 restaurants, 3 cocktail lounges and 4 pools.

Sightseers

For those of you who plan to do some extra sightseeing, you can hop on the trolley right behind the hotel and you are on your way to Old Town, downtown San Diego, the seaport area or the gaslight district. Also a large mall with numerous restaurants and shops is right behind the hotel.



Important Cut off Dates To Remember

If you are ordering reunion shirts by: April 10, 2009
YAGR'S Registration must be received by: April 15, 2009
Hotel room reservation must be made by: April 27, 2009

Reunion Registration

The reunion registration cost this year will be \$105.00 per person for dues paying members and their spouse/guest and \$122.00 per person for nondues paying members and their spouse/guest.

A dues paying member is one whose dues have been paid for this year. If in doubt, look on the envelope mailing label this YAGRGRAM came in. If above your name a date 5/31/09 or later is on it, you are a dues paying member. If there is no date, then you have not paid your dues. If you feel you have paid your

dues and it is not indicated as such on the mailing label, please get in touch with me.

The registration cost covers the hospitality room and tender, group tour with lunch, Saturday evening banquet, spouse's breakfast, name badges, pins and printing costs associated with the actual reunion.

As always, the reunion registration refund policy is, "if YAGRS doesn't have to pay for it, neither do you."

San Diego, CA Optional Pre-Reunion Tours

The optional pre-reunion tours have proven to be very popular so we have set up two great tours.

Tuesday May 19, 2009

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

CITY TOUR & LUNCHEON: \$45.00 per person

Enjoy the best of San Diego - this tour includes the beauty of Coronado, the history of Balboa Park and the modern elegance of the Gaslight Quarter with its renovated buildings from the late 1800's. A one-hour stop at beautiful Seaport Village provides us with an opportunity to explore and browse on foot. We will then proceed on a scenic route to the Bali Hai restaurant on Shelter Island for a delicious harbor-side buffet luncheon complete with dessert, coffee and a million dollar view.

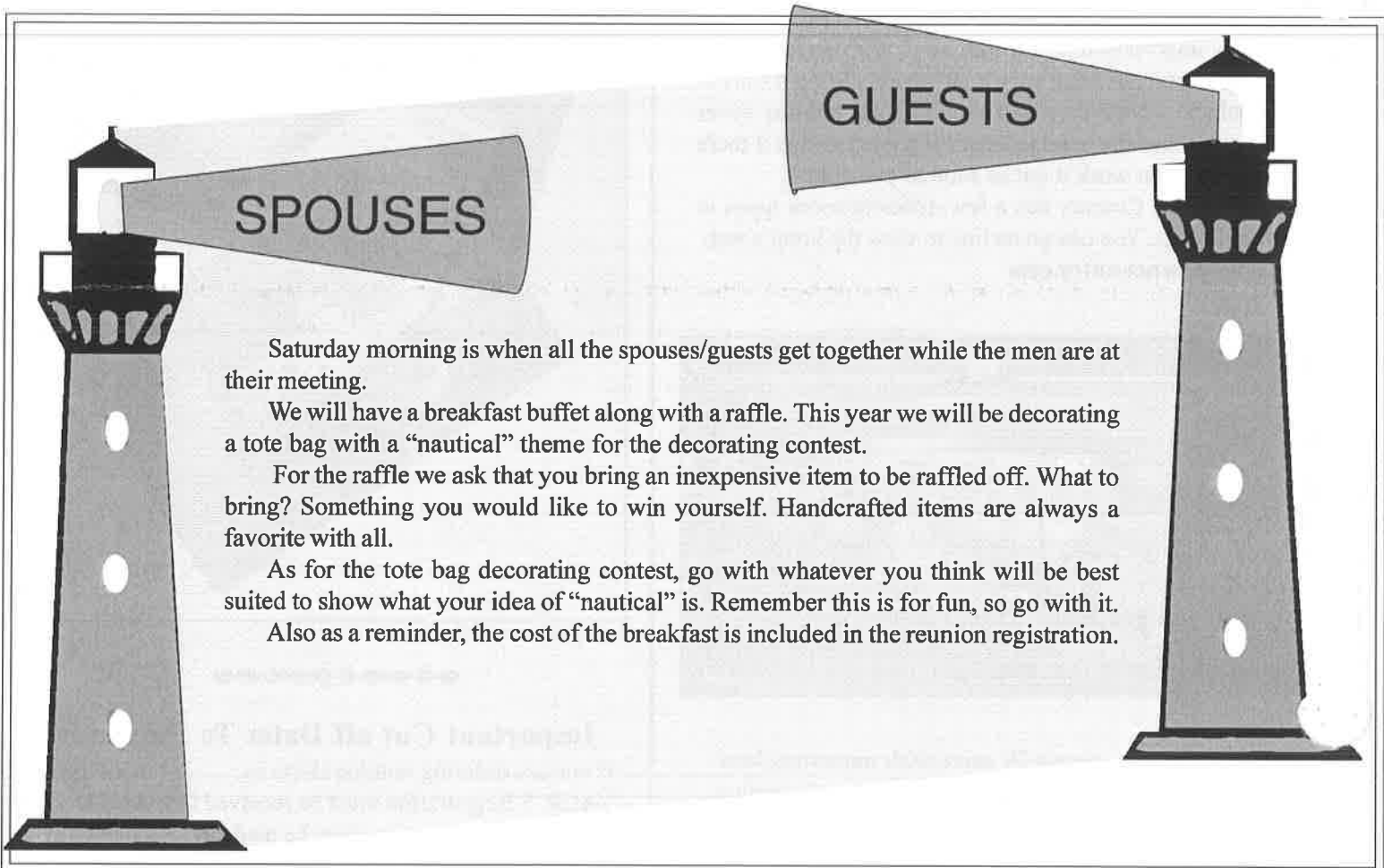
Wednesday May 20, 2009

6:00 PM to 10:30 PM

SAN DIEGO EVENING HARBOR DINNER

CRUISE: \$79.00 PER PERSON

This fun evening consists of a 2-1/2 hour dinner cruise! The meal includes a duet of steak and chicken, salad, rice pilaf, sauteed vegetables, rolls and butter, followed by a decadent dessert and coffee. Following dinner, enjoy music with dancing or stroll under the stars on the top deck. Also a cash bar is available on board.



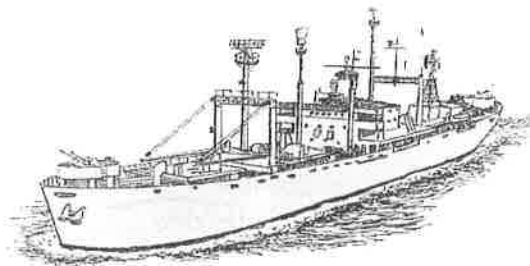
Shuttle Service

The Town and Country does not offer shuttle service from the airport to the hotel. For those of you who will need transportation, the hotel recommends EXPRESS Shuttle (1-800-900-7433). The cost for this shuttle is \$11.00 per person one way. You can go on-line at www.expressshuttle.com and get information about them. Also there is a link to print a coupon for a dollar off.

Proposed Schedule of Events

The format will be the same as past reunions. We will have pre-reunion tours on **Tuesday** (May 19th) and **Wednesday** (May 20th). On **Thursday**, (May 21st) we will open the hospitality room at noon where you will pick up your reunion packets and reunion shirts if you order one. **Friday** (May 22nd) we will all go on our group tour with the hospitality room opening on our return. **Saturday** (May 23rd) the mens meeting, spouses/guests function will be held in the morning. The hospitality room will open afterwards and finally the evening banquet will be held on Saturday night.

UFOs and a Radar Picket Ship



I received a couple of e-mail messages from a former Air Force guy. He asked me if I had any information on a UFO incident that involved a west coast AGR. **Below are the 2 messages (as received) from him.**

If you any information or remember any such incident, please get back to me.

Message 1

I am curious if any of your folks have ever discussed a bizarre encounter with 3 objects off the coast of Oregon in 1963 or 64. I really think it was 63. I am told that nearly everybody on that AGR, which was doing picket duty for the Portland Air Defense sector, saw the things. Specifically, the ship was off the coast of Oregon, south west of the Columbia river, and on station. The 3 objects were declared unknowns. The AGR lost all power. We lost all communication with the ship as the objects approached them at low altitude. We, the USAF, launched two fighters toward the AGR, which was out 200 miles. I know it sounds like I might have had too much tomato juice but the memory is still pretty vivid. Please advise if you have ever heard of this event.

Message 2

You should be aware that this was a time in the USAF ADC when some apparently strange things were going on, and many of us were admonished to not even discuss it with fellow crew members. For instance, Beale AFB was part of POADS, the home of U-2s, YF-12's, etc.

This was/is about however many were on that AGR, 2 aircrews flying "anteaters" (F-89s), and about 25 guys working the shift at POADS. The official report talks about one bright object flying by...when there were 3. They didn't exactly fly by the AGR. They parked out about 1500-2000 yards from the ship. They didn't leave until the F-89's had them lit up with radar. The AGR had been without any power for 30 minutes or so at the time. Somebody on that ship was surely having a litter of cats about then. George

RADAR PICKET SQUADRON TWO

USS Vigil AGR-12

Shipboard Life

I will include this feature of pictures from the various ships showing onboard daily activities/life in future YAGRGRAMS as space allows.

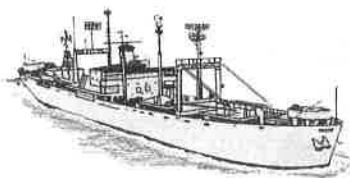
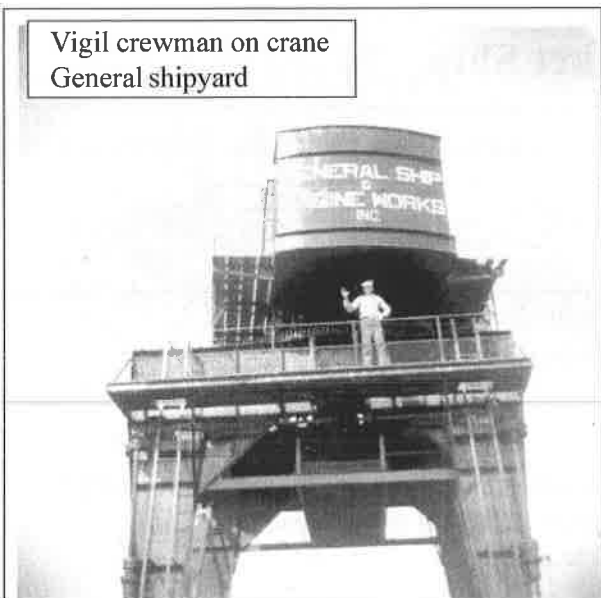
We want more pictures. When you send me pictures, if at all possible list those people that are shown in the picture. I know this is asking a lot after all these years, but if you have a good memory!!!!

Pictures sent by Charles "Chuck" Brewster (USS Vigil AGR-12)

William Moriarty



Vigil crewman on crane
General shipyard



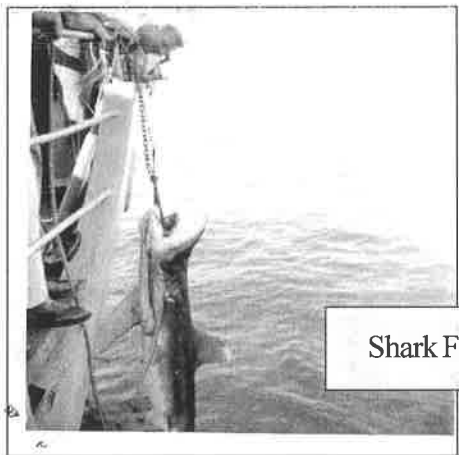
Charles Brewster loading gun
other crewman, unknown



Unkown crewmen



Shark Fishing





YAGR'S Exhibit

Battleship Massachusetts

The New England weather and work being done in the "Women Protecting US" exhibit by the Battleship's workers has caused havoc with our work schedule. Snow storms have caused us to cancel out our workdays and also not being able to access our work space forced us to move to the ship's machine shop to do what we could do to accomplish anything,

We moved the engine order telegraph, binnacle and ship's helm pedestal to the shop to start the refurbishing of these items. Our plans are to strip the paint off all 3 pieces and also to make needed repairs to all the units. Even working in the machine shop has not helped as hoped. As anyone who has stripped paint knows, the temperature is very critical. We are doing what little we can do.



Roland Cote (AGR-10) kneeling and one of the Battleship's volunteers, Paul Gosslen, stripping paint. Paul and I (Harry Miller) both served on the USS Norris DD 859



Dave Terry (AGR-10) and John Hemminger (AGR-2) working on the ship's helm pedestal

Special Projects

Battleship Massachusetts

Our work on the "Women Protecting US" exhibit is nearing completion. We had a work weekend in February to have a final big push to have it done for the scheduled unveiling which is slated for March 27, 2009.

We had the following men working the weekend: Don Batty (AGR-9), Roland Cote (AGR-10), Jack Floyd (AGR-11, YR-65), Tom Giardina (AGR-3), Henry MacKay (AGR-12), Harry Miller (AGR-11, YR-65), Jim Spiegel (AGR-12), Dave Terry (AGR-10) and Frank Dragon (a friend of Don Batty's).

We finished work on display panels, installed a couple of display cases and primed a few display panels. Also, a new display was added at the last minute, which we were able to get done.



Harry looking through panel at ongoing work



Henry and Frank working on side trim for a display panel.



Don priming a panel for the video display.



Dave, Jack, Roland, Tom and Henry at opening that was cut for a new display.



Wanted

I received a letter from Dave Spriggs (AGR-14) along with a few pictures of the flag the USS Interpreter AGR-14 flew when she captured the record for most fish caught in 1963.

He, along with the CO of the Interpreter at the time, Ray West, would like to know if the flag still exists today! If so, we would like to know who has it and to see if they would like to donate it to the YAGR'S Exhibit on the Battleship Massachusetts.

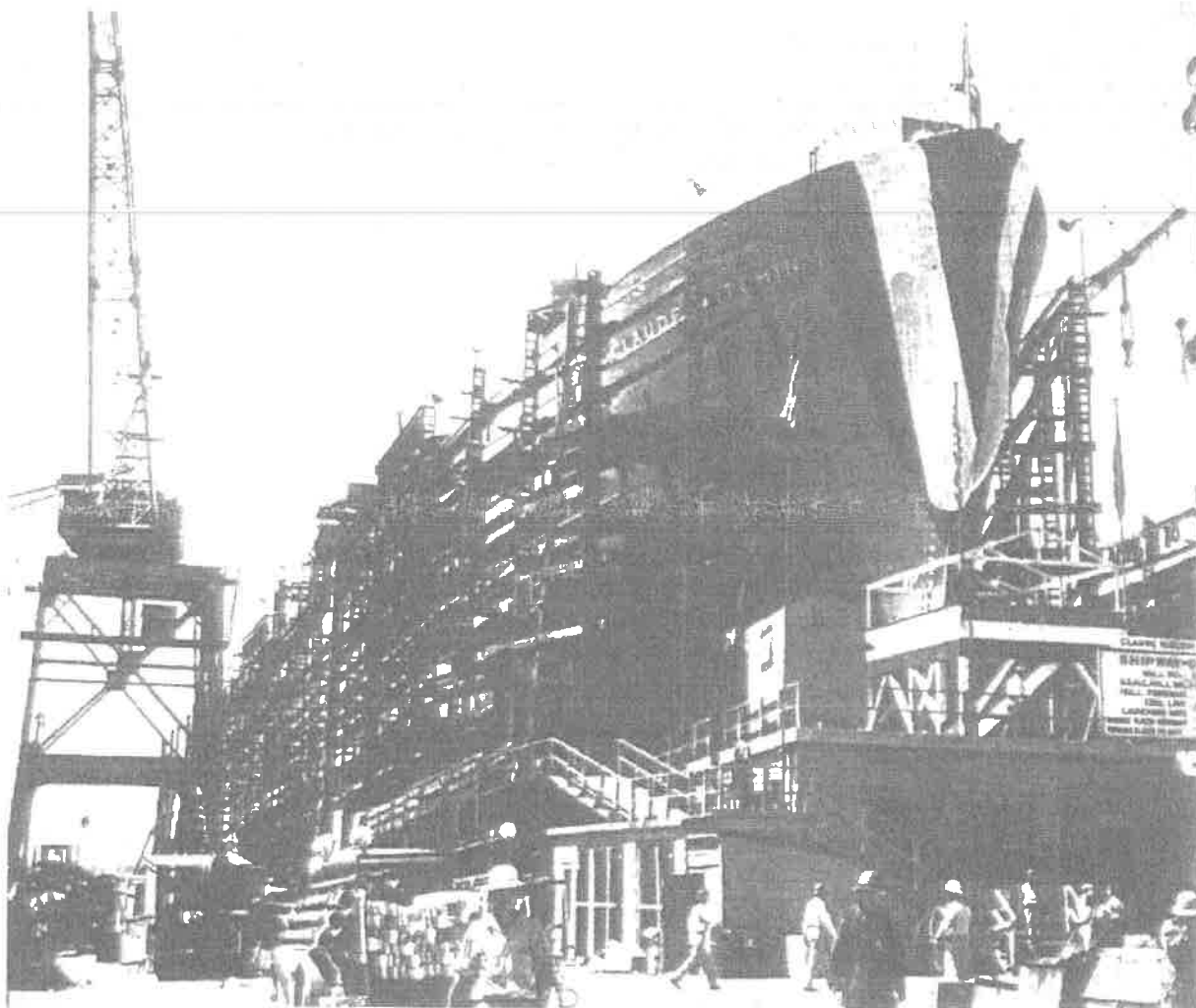
So, if you have it or know what happened to it, please get in touch with me.

Launching of the SS Claude Kitchin USS Lookout AGR-2

PAGE SIX

THE WAINWRIGHT LIBERATOR

JUNE 2, 1945



THE GOOD SHIP SS CLAUDE KITCHEN READY FOR THE CHRISTENING AND THE LAUNCHING INTO THE COOL WATERS OF ST ANDREWS BAY.

Mrs. F. D. Burge Sponsors SS CLAUDE KITCHIN

J. A. Jones Construction Company, Inc., launched the SS CLAUDE KITCHIN, Airplane Transport Cargo Ship, May 24th. This was the 95th ship built by the Jones Company.

Rev. Adolph Bedsole, of the Baptist Church of Millville, Fla., gave the opening invocation. Mrs. Burge's co-sponsor was Mrs. Ray Lang, of Atlanta, Georgia. The Flower Girl was Miss Juanita Heflin, an employee in the Jones Company and also a contestant for "Miss Wainwright." Dave Greene praised the workers for their splendid record in purchasing War Bonds and introduced Mrs. Hilda Smith, in charge of the Bond Department.

Mrs. Smith spoke of the workers being very a patriotic group of people being in the War Work, the workers wanted to do everything possible to help win the war and bring our boys back home. And too, that the workmen are intelligent people who like to save their money and certainly want to put it where it will be safe and where it will bring the best possible returns.

Mrs. Smith spoke of the importance of personal thrift here at Wainwright Yard and she desired any other industrial plant in the country to surpass. In closing, Mrs. Smith said with all of us working shoulder to shoulder as we have done in the past and we certainly are doing now. "I for one certainly believe we shall chalk up a finer record this time

than we have ever made before."

Mr. Tom A. Tyus, Badge 2421, a shipfitter in the Jones Yard since September, 1942, and who has bought in the Seventh War Loan Drive \$7,500.00 in Bonds was introduced and he gave a short talk to the workmen that we all must help win the war by not only building ships, but by buying War Bonds.

Mrs. Raymond A. Jones, wife of the Vice-President of the Jones Company, presented Mrs. F. D. Burge, the sponsor, with a gift from the company.

A brief biography of Claude Kitchin follows:

"1869-1923—Born near Scotland Neck, N. C. He studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1890, began practice, and was quickly successful. In 1900 he was elected to Congress and served until his death. In Congress he won recognition as a speaker, and in course of time, the reputation of being the most powerful debater in the House. In 1916 he became chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, and majority leader, a position at that time perhaps second only to the presidency in power and influence. Was an earnest supporter of President Wilson, and after aiding in the preparation of the two great war revenue bills, directed their passage through the House. His active career ended on April 9, 1920, after making a speech against making peace with Germany by joint resolution."

IBM (Lowdown)

By Pinky

Everybody was feeling pretty low Monday—could it be they all went fishing and forgot to bait their lines?

Speaking of fishing Mr. Pratt went fishing last weekend, and didn't forget to bait his line—he says he caught a five-foot Blonde. Did you bait your own hook, Mr. Pratt?

Mildred, we sure are sorry to hear that Joe is leaving. We wish him luck at his new field, and we will miss you when you go. Maxine is back on the beam again—Jack's coming back to town. Linda is expecting her husband home soon on his last leave before going overseas.

I asked Katharine Allen why she was so happy, she said Bill would be here any day now. What is this, a new romance?

Sarah Faye is very proud to say that she bought the first BOND in this yard "Commemorating THE COLAPSE OF GERMANY."

The ex-employees of IBM have formed an Ex-IBM Club. They met Thursday morning at Emma Neal Hall's house. Do our ears burn!

Bernice's Mother is visiting her from Mississippi for a few days.

Wonder who will service the

machines down at the Banks now that Mr. Thornton is leaving?

Here's a parody of "Sing a Song of Sixpence" found in Tampa Sunday Tribune—that we think is pretty good.

Sing a song of spending,
Dollars piled up high,
Fourteen million more of them
Baked in postwar pie.
When the pile is opened
The dollars fly away—
Isn't that a pretty bill
For all of us to pay?

The Miss Wainwright contest has brought forth many beautiful Blondes from various parts of the Yard, but IBM's Nelson is the most beautiful of all. We think so, and would like for you to vote for her.

WAINWRIGHT SENIOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE

June 5, 6 p. m.—Pipe Welders vs. Fab Shop, EMBA Field, Millville.

June 7, 6 p. m.—Welders vs. Shipfitter, EMBA Field, Millville.
League Standings
May 22, 1945

	W	L
Welders	2	0
Shipfitters	1	1
Fab Shop	1	1
Pipe Welders	0	2

Note: The Pipe Welders are replacing the Engineers and are starting out under a handicap. Come out and support your Softball Team.



YAGR'S Book

I had hoped to have a couple of copies of the finished book to show at the San Diego reunion but a new source of information has come to light.

This information encompasses drawings which will need a great deal of reworking to be suitable for publishing.

While I will try to have it ready for the reunion, I am not very hopeful due to the scope of work involved.

Last Call For Your 6/1/08 to 5/31/09 Dues

If you have not paid your dues for this year, please send them right in. As you know, your dues are what keeps YAGR'S running.

YAGRGRAM

In an effort to keep the cost of the YAGRGRAMS down, I have removed another group of men from our mailing list since the last YAGRGRAM went out. Most of the cuts are people who have not responded to my request to return the information form that was sent to them.

Others that were cut are men who returned the request form years ago, but we have not heard from them again.

If you have received a request form with this YAGRGRAM, PLEASE RETURN IT!!!

YAGR'S

14th Annual Reunion

San Diego, CA

May 21, 22, 23 2009

This information will be used for your name tag. Use the name you want printed on your name tag

Please return As Soon As Possible, But No Later Than April 15, 2009.

NAME _____

NAME OF SPOUSE/GUEST _____

SHIP SERVED ON _____ DATE ON BOARD _____ RATE _____

SHIP SERVED ON _____ DATE ON BOARD _____ RATE _____

Reunion Registration	Please Print
San Diego, CA	May 21 - May 23, 2009

	Cost per person	X	Number of People	=	Sub Total
EXAMPLE	\$105.00	X	2	=	\$210.00
Dues paying members, spouses/guests	\$105.00	X		=	\$
Non dues paying members, spouses/guests	\$122.00	X		=	\$

Pre-Reunion Tours	Please Print
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City Tour With Lunch					
Tuesday May 19, 2009					
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM					
Names of People going on tour					
	\$45.00	X	1	=	\$
	\$45.00	X	1	=	\$
	\$45.00	X	1	=	\$
Dinner Cruise					
Wednesday May 20, 2009					
6:00 PM to 10:30 PM					
Names of people going on tour					
	\$79.00	X	1	=	\$
	\$79.00	X	1	=	\$
	\$79.00	X	1	=	\$

Reunion Shirts					
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\$18.00 each	Small	Medium	Large	X LARGE	
Number of each, times \$18.00					=\$
\$20.00 each				XX- Large	
Number of each, times \$20.00					=\$
				Total	\$

2010 YAGR'S REUNION CRUISE

**6 day cruise on the Carnival Freedom.
Carnival web site, www.carnival.com**

**Leaves from Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Sunday May 2, 2010 to Saturday May 8, 2010**



Day	Port of Call	Arrive	Depart
Sunday, May 02	Ft. Lauderdale, FL		4:00pm
Monday, May 03	Key West, FL	8:00am	5:00pm
Tuesday, May 04	Fun Day At Sea		
Wednesday, May 05	Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands	7:00am	4:00pm
Thursday, May 06	Ocho Rios, Jamaica	7:30am	3:30pm
Friday, May 07	Fun Day At Sea		
Saturday, May 08	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	8:00am	

Cost: Inside cabin from \$546 per person, Oceanview cabin from \$646 per person, Balcony cabin from \$786 per person.
This includes all taxes, port charges and government fees.

TIPS NOT INCLUDED. They will be added to your shipboard account, \$10 per day per person.

We have set aside 75 cabins at these prices. If we find we need more early enough, we can add more. But, remember the longer you wait the less chance you will have for our rates and functions. I would suggest you book now, as you will have a better selection of your cabin location. **EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM!!!!**

A \$500 deposit per cabin is due @ the time of booking your cabin (deposit is fully refundable up until final payment). Final payment is February 1, 2010. Non-refundable after February 1, 2010.

For those of you who will be coming in early, you can book a room at the Courtyard by Marriott Ft. Lauderdale/Airport & Cruiseport
400 Gulf Stream Way

Dania Beach, FL 33004 Phone number Direct (954-342-8333), Central Reservations (800-321-2211)
Room Rte \$109.00 per night (this rate is good 2 days before and after the cruise).

This rate includes airport shuttle, cruiseport shuttle and complementary parking for YAGR'S people that are driving in. You can make your reservations at the hotel after May 31, 2009. When you do, tell them you are with the YAGR'S group.

Brian Forrester of Holiday Cruises and Tours (1-800-998-1228) will be taking our reservations for the cruise. He will also assist you with your air arrangements if you cannot book online or do not have a friend or family member to help you. He will also answer any questions you might have. When calling remember he is on PST time zone. Travel Insurance is highly recommended- call Brian for details.

While on the Carnival Freedom YAGR'S will have;
Hospitality room (on sea days), \$25.00 shipboard credit per cabin, a one hour cocktail party and group dining.

We are **trying** to set up a special bridge tour of the ship for the first 15 crewmen who sign up for the cruise. This tour is not available to the passengers.

ONLY THOSE WHO BOOK WITH BRIAN WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE YAGR'S GROUP FUNCTIONS.

CHECK ON THE LATEST PASSPORT REGULATIONS TO SEE WHETHER YOU NEED ONE.

Reunion Registration

YAGR'S Registration Form

Date May 02 - 08/2010 Carnival Freedom sailing from Ft.Lauderdale

Passenger 1 _____ Passenger 2 _____
 Date of Birth _____ Date of Birth _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Home # _____ Cell # _____
 Work # _____ E-mail (important) _____
 3rd person _____ 4th person _____

"LEGAL NAMES ARE REQUIRED ON ALL DOCUMENTATION"

(i.e. ROBERT not BOB, ELIZABETH not LIZ)

***** PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING *****

Interior cabins from \$546 p/p _____ Oceanview cabins from \$646 p/p _____
 Balcony cabins from \$786 p/p _____ For single or 3rd/4th person rates call Brian @ 800-998-1228

***Above pricing includes all applicable taxes, gov't fees, port fees, onboard meals and all nightly entertainment. Prices are cruise only, per person, based on double occupancy and subject to change based on availability. A fuel surcharge may apply if implemented by the Cruise Line.**

Travel Care Insurance is highly recommended. Cost per person is \$60.50

YES @ deposit _____ @ final payment _____ NO _____

***If you have any pre-existing medical conditions, you are advised to purchase your Travel Care Insurance at the time of your deposit. Call Brian @ 800 998 1228 with any questions.**

If paying by check, make checks payable to: Holiday Cruises and Tours

Mailing Address: 6969 E. Shea Boulevard, Suite #101, Scottsdale, AZ 85254

Credit card payments: Amex ___ Visa ___ MC ___ Discover ___
 Account # _____ Exp. _____
 Name as it appears on the card _____

Auto charge final payment to this card Yes _____ No _____

A deposit of \$250 per person is due @ time of booking to secure your cabin choice. **Your deposit is fully refundable up until time of final payment which is February 1 / 2010.**

I authorize Holiday Cruises and Tours to charge my credit card in the amount of \$ _____

Signature _____ Date _____

CHECK ON THE LATEST PASSPORT REGULATIONS TO SEE WHETHER YOU NEED ONE.

Please sign and return by mail or fax to 480-998-3849