



Merry Christmas

T H E

BRIGHT PENNY

December 1995

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE USS BERKELEY (DDG-15) ASSOCIATION

★ 1995 Reunion a Success ★

Our reunion in Arlington, Virginia was very successful with a good turnout. Attendees included nine plankowners, two former C.O.'s and numerous people who served aboard through the years. The planning group did a superb job with all the arrangements and the hospitality room was a comfortable place for people to gather during the weekend with plenty of refreshments.



Videos of the past and old cruise books brought back lots of memories. The sale of ball caps, ship's photos and other items added about \$300 to our treasury.



The Saturday night banquet was held on the penthouse floor overlooking the Potomac River with the lights of Washington D.C. in the background. Attending the dinner was our special guest, Mrs. Mary Harper, wife of the commissioning C.O., Captain Wyatt E. Harper, Jr., their daughter Wendy and her husband, Marvin. Following dinner the podium was open to a period of sea stories that refreshed our memories of the good times. Several people stayed beyond the weekend to take in the sights and the weather was perfect in the mid 70's all week.

A brief business meeting was held to discuss the next reunion. The consensus was no sooner than two years, but three would probably be best. The plan is to mail out sometime in the first part of 1996 a questionnaire to solicit suggestions for a location and type of facility such as a hotel, resort, etc. Current plans are to hold the next reunion in the midwest, but that is not firm. Member response will be the final determination. We will also be looking for reunion planners so if you are interested, be thinking of some place we can meet that can offer a full weekend of activity.



SKIPPER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Rear Admiral Thomas M. Ward, Jr. served as the fourth Commanding Officer of BERKELEY from August 1967 to August 1969. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1951 and reported to his first duty assignment aboard the USS ENGLISH (DD-696). On detachment in the fall of 1953 he reported to the USS TOWHEE (AM-388) as Executive Officer. In August 1954 LT(jg) Ward received orders to the USS CARDINAL (AMS-4) as Commanding Officer.

In July 1955 he reported to Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey for a course of study in the Ordnance curriculum receiving a BS degree in electrical engineering and was selected for a third year of postgraduate education at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After receiving a Master of Science Degree he reported to the USS GYATT (DDG-1) as Weapons Officer in August 1958.

In November of 1960 he received orders to the Naval Missile Facility at Point Arguello, California as a missile flight safety officer for Vandenberg Air Force Base. In 1962 he was sent to Johnson Island to support Joint Task Force 8 as the missile flight safety officer for live nuclear weapons testing. In the spring of 1963 he reported to the USS BUCHANAN (DDG-14) as the Executive Officer. A tour as a student at the Naval War College followed in August 1964 with subsequent assignment to duty as an instructor in the weapons department at the U.S. Naval Academy in summer of 1965. Following detachment in the summer of 1967 he reported to the USS BERKELEY (DDG-15) and served as the Commanding Officer.

Following his tour in BERKELEY he again attended the Naval War College and participated in a pilot Sea Grant program at the University of Rhode Island receiving a Masters of Marine Affairs degree in the fall of 1970. On reporting to the Naval Ordnance Systems Command in September 1970 he was assigned



RADM Thomas M. Ward, Jr.

as the Project Manager of the NATO Seasparrow Surface Missile Systems Project during the period of development, operational testing, obtaining service approval and entering first production.

In August 1974 he assumed command of Destroyer Squadron Seven. On detachment in August 1976 he reported to the Naval Ordnance Systems Command as Director, Surface Warfare Systems Group. On selection to flag officer he was transferred to OpNav as Director, Combat Systems Division (OP-35). He subsequently served as Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific and as Deputy Director for Surface Combatant Ships, Naval Sea Systems Command.

Since retirement in the summer of 1982 he worked for various defense contractors with offices in the tidewater Virginia area. He fully retired in 1991 and resides with Peggy, his wife of 44 years, in Virginia Beach. Their five children have blessed them with ten grandchildren.



ENGINEERS FROM THE SIXTIES - Paul Pimentel, Brian Young, Dave Schroeder, Tim French and Bob McGuire.

(Photo by ICC Dale Nielsen, Ret. (62-66))



TAPS

CDR THEODORE J. EHLERS

CDR Ted Ehlers passed away on the 29th of July, 1995 from cancer. He served as Missiles Officer from August 1964 to January 1966.

SKI TERRENCE W. MERONEK

Terry Meronek passed away on the 22nd of October, 1988 from muscular dystrophy. He served in Berkeley from 1971 to 1977. His wife, Patty, would like to hear from his friends (see roster).

THE BRIGHT PENNY

The voice of the Association and the former call sign of our ship. Correspondence may be sent to:

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Lou & Pat Clark



Larry & Linda Kilander



Robert & Helen Exel



Harry & Dora Henry



Dennis & Delores Langer

Some of the Faces in the Crowd

Photos by GMMI Lou Clark, Ret. (62-65)

Berkeley History

DECEMBER

30 Years Ago

Enroute from Long Beach to second WestPac deployment. Arrived in Subic Bay, PI on 13 Dec. Departed Subic 24 Dec. and arrived in the Tonkin Gulf on Christmas day. A standdown began upon arrival and the ship steamed off North Vietnam with no activity for the next 30 days. CDR Michael D. Ricinak is the Commanding Officer

20 Years Ago

1-16 Dec Inport San Diego. 17-19 sea trials for testing combat systems. 20-31 inport San Diego making final preparations for January deployment. CDR Clifford F. Homan is the Commanding Officer.

10 Years Ago

1 Dec. upkeep San Diego. 2-6 type training SoCal OpAreas. 7-11 inport San Diego and anchorage training. 12-15 Upkeep San Diego. 16-31 Holiday upkeep period. CDR Richard K. Farrell is the Commanding Officer.



David & Jennifer Gray



Victor & Carol Ann Wihera



Duane & Jean LeDoux



Jim & Eddy Barrett



Ellis Jones



Art Desrosiers



Bob & Dorothy McGuire



Dave & Gay Schroeder

1996-97 DUES
 We are now receiving dues for our next reunion planning period. Your \$10.00 will help the association to grow as we continue our aggressive search for past crewmembers. Make check payable to the USS BERKELEY ASSOCIATION.



Earl Edwards



Dale Nielsen



Brian & Barbara Young