



USS HOUSTON CA-30 BLUE BONNET
"The Galloping Ghost of the Java Coast"
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FROM THE SURVIVORS

Once again one of our crew has joined his shipmates still standing watch in Sunda Strait

ROBERT KALINOWSKY May 23, 2002 Congestive heart failure
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FROM THE SURVIVORS

BACK PAY FOR PROMOTIONS PROGRAM – The Back Pay for Promotions Program” is going along well, as most of us have received our checks. The word we received is the new Senator McCain adjustment to the 2003 Defense Authorization Bill S2564 looks like a sure thing. As reported in the last BB, passage of this bill would adjust our pay to reflect cost of living, and pay us in 2002 dollars.

You were asked to contact your Congressmen and Senators to support this legislation, I hve received no feed back from any of you and I houpe you are not ignoring our request and letting the “other guy” do it.

Congress will be on vacation until September, at which time it is expected they will work on the above legislation. IT IS IMPERATIVE that we get word to our legislators asking their support. It is IMPORTANT that we all get as many people as possible to write letters. The bill is S2564, Defense Authorization Bill.

If anyone has not received their checks, they can call the following and you will be told the status of your claim:

Navy: Cdr. DeNicola 800 762-8567
Marine: Mjr. Sokoly 703 614-4981

We have already sent letters of commendation and thanks for the wonderful work these officers are doing for us.

We have done a good job in locating all the survivors, and many of the widows. But I am fearful that we are missing widows who have not kept in touch with us, and who might not get the word. If any of you know the whereabouts of any widows, please get in touch with them and determine if they are aware of the program and have filed claims. It is our desire not to miss a single person entitled to this benefit.

SALES PITCH, USS HOUSTON STYLE: I am doing this without Val's knowledge, and I hope she doesn't get teed off at me.

Way back in 1949, when I first started this association, some of you thought I ought to charge some sort of dues. I spurned the suggestion, indicating that all financial help would have to be on a voluntary basis. This worked well all those years, and in a short period of time, I no longer had to use my own funds.

Val has continued that tradition, but the organization has grown tremendously. The cost of conducting the business has grown also. Most of you have been most generous over the years, but some have not done their share.

This continues to be the finest association of its kind that I know of. It would be my dream that this continues long after the last survivor has gone on watch in Sunda Strait.

This can happen if WE ALL support it. I therefore ask that everyone, WHO CAN, make our association part of your annual giving. Those of us who are receiving those "windfall" back pay checks might consider sharing some of it to keep our Houston Family strong long into the future. Keeping the memory of our ship alive is the best way I know of to pay honor to our shipmates or loved one.

BITS & PIECES - Lin & Ron are working hard on getting us the best possible deal on a nice hotel for the March reunion. During the last conversation they said they were sure that they were close to making their choice... **Harry Kelley** and Audrey just returned from a two month 8,500 mile trip to Alaska. I hope they caught enough salmon to make it worthwhile. Val has been invited to speak to an Austin Lions Club. She has clued me in as to the theme of her talk and it's terrific. This opens up a whole new way to perpetuate the memory of the Houston and her crew. How about more of you NOK's and NG's making yourselves available to do the same.... Trudy and I recently enjoyed having lunch with **HOWARD BROOKS** and Sylvia, and NOK's Jack and Pat Mintzer. We look forward to these get-to-gethers... Old faithful **DUTCH KOOPER** never misses sending a greeting for birthdays and holidays. **DUTCH** has had more than his share of medical problems lately. I suggest that he could use a cheerful card from us (1681 Sunset Blvd, San Diego, CA 92107-3323).... Young Kathy Fort also never misses sending cards on birthdays. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree, for she gets her kindness from her grandparents, **CECIL CHAMBLISS** and Hester.... A generous article in the Cruiser Sailors Newsletter about our March Reunion.... Former HOUSTON crew member, Roy Coats, who did such a great job of rehab on the port hole we brought back from Australia, has sent some teak wood removed from the ship to David Falton (the diver who recently lead the dive on HOUSTON)... Transplanted Dutchman, Johan VanLeer, sends some declassified Dutch Naval messages regarding warnings about the Japs being in Bantam Bay. These messages obviously never reached us. The Dutch historian who sent the material to Johan says that at no time did the Dutch pilot send a message that there were no Japs in our path, and that Sunda was clear. That may be true, as according to **ADMIRAL BOB FULTON**, that information was given to our Captain when he came ashore and had a meeting at the Dutch Naval Headquarters just before we left Batavia.... A new book has been sent to me from Australia from a David Milne. This one would be of interest to the serious collector of books about POW camps. It is not a POW story, but instead a comprehensive bibliography of 1200 POW books. Unfortunately he did not quote a price but the book can be obtained by contacting:

David Milne
2/14 Garden Ave.
East Melbourne
Victoria 3002
Australia

There has been little to report about since the last BB. Trudy and I hope you had an enjoyable summer.

A Line from Lin

Or how to start the process to attend the 2003 reunion

WHO - All of you: USS Houston, 131st, family and friends

WHAT - USS HOUSTON Memorial Service / Reunion

WHEN - Friday and Saturday, February 28 and March 1, 2003

WHERE - Westchase Hilton* - \$77 (handicapped, single, double, king with upgrades to Tower Level for additional \$20, Executive Suites for an additional \$20, Tower Level Suites for an additional \$40).

To make your reservations, please call **1-713-974-1000** or **1-800-HILTONS (by February 11, 2003)** and identify yourself as a member of the USS HOUSTON group to receive the group rates as listed above. The rates will be available for those who want to arrive early.

Attention Survivor or someone this pertains to – if you have difficulty walking ask the hotel for a room near the elevators!!!!

* - this is not the same Hilton as this past year - this hotel is located on the West side on Westheimer near the Tollroad (Galleria is about 5 miles to the East) - the UH Library will be under renovation and we will not be going to the UH campus.

WHY - The Memorial Service - To remember the ones who did not make it ashore that fateful night of February 28-March 1, 1942 - To remember the ones who passed away in the POW camps - To remember the ones who have passed away since returning home - and To honor the ones still with us.

The reunion - The camaraderie is FANTASTIC - usually new ones can find someone who remembers something about their departed. Please come - everyone always has a good time at the reunion.

Mark your calendars - next year - February 28 - March 1, 2003 - with the Memorial Service being on March 1 at 11 a.m. We hope to see you there.

FROM THE NEXT GENERATION

MODEL OF THE HOUSTON - The model of the HOUSTON that once resided on the battleship TEXAS has been located and plans are in the works to get it back in tip top shape & ship it to the LEXINGTON for display per Otto (after he sent me his editorial section). After the March 2003 reunion, I will be presenting the curator at the LEXINGTON the porthole retrieved by Brian Gift this past spring along with a proclamation & the flag that was attached to the HOUSTON by David Falton on the 60th anniversary of the sinking of the CA-30. Last April, the great grandsons of **VALDON ROBERTS**, along with their Boy Scout troop, presented them with a framed copy of Pres. Bush's Asiatic Fleet Proclamation. We are slowly supplying the LEXINGTON with artifacts that will provide them with a major CA-30 exhibit.

BAD, SAD NEWS – My computer crashed and I was not able to retrieve a single thing. The good news is that it was under warranty. The new hard drive has some changes and I am learning its new quirks. I lost a lot & will have to start scanning and building folders all over again. I had just completed some training & set up my files to download but I had to run to the post office to change our bulk rate permit from Austin to Georgetown (to save me from a 100 mile round trip each quarter). When I got home, I returned a few phone calls and sat down to my computer to

download..... nothing would happen! My September newsletter was complete except for just a couple of additions. It was GONE!! If you are familiar with the PINK PANTHER movies, I had the same twitch in my eye as the Inspector's boss! I've had to start all over again – my apologies for not adding the mailbag section as I simply can not remember who all had corresponded over the last 3 months. I am most embarrassed about losing those of you who had donated this past quarter as you deserve special thanks. If you would be so kind as to remind me that you had donated, I will surely add it to the next issue.

IN SEARCH OF – (I had more names, but lost them when the computer crashed, I immediately emailed them asking for specific information but only heard from one via email)

OLEN CECIL MINTON – contact Cecilia Minton (daughter) 8230 Henshaw Cir, Buena Park, CA 90621 (714 523-3028) email: ernurse@sbcglobal.net

H.W. Bill Sublett (was a Marine that was transferred off the HOUSTON just days before she was sunk) - contact address: Bill Sublett % H.R. Luster, 208 E. Robinson Rd, Big Spring, TX 79720

LEROY W MARSH – contact (sister) Norma Harger, 7360 Ulmerton Rd #3-B, Largo, FL 33771 727 531-5033 email: normaharger@webtv.net

FOR SALE - Caps \$15, Monument and Bell pins \$2 each, "Death Becomes the Ghost" videos \$15, Avenge the Houston posters \$10, schematic of the HOUSTON \$5 for small, \$10 for large, 60th Anniversary Memorial aboard the USS Blue Ridge video \$15. We are out of bumper stickers and shirts – I am pricing different businesses for the best deal before re-ordering.

MILITARY RECORDS –

To order your medals, write to:
Bureau of Naval Personnel
Liaison Office Room 5409
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

To order your personnel records, write to:
National Personnel Records Center
Military Personnel Records
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

You will need to provide: full name, service /or social security number, branch of service, date & place of birth, grade/rank at time of retirement/separation. If the veteran is deceased, you will need to provide date of death and note you are related (i.e.: wife, son, etc). You should also note: Requesting a full and complete copy of all military service records. Do NOT abstract.

CREW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – Unfortunately, no one has submitted any bio. Survivors – If I am to continue this after the last man is gone --- I need your bio!!! What if 10 years down the line a great nephew or someone inquires about you? I can't tell them if I don't know. NG's – you have the same responsibility to provide a bio of your crew member. Boy! I'm sounding like a broken record.....

NAVAL TERMS

Boot camp - During the Spanish-American War, Sailors wore leggings called boots, which came to mean a Navy (or Marine) recruit. These recruits trained in "boot" camps.

Coxswain – A coxswain or cockswain was at first the swain (boy servant) in charge of the small cock or cockboat that was kept aboard for the ship's captain and which was used to row him to and from the ship. The term has been in use in England dating back to at least 1463. With the passing of time the coxswain became the helmsman of any boat, regardless of size.

Scuttlebutt -The cask of drinking water on ships was called a scuttlebutt and since Sailors exchanged gossip when they gathered at the scuttlebutt for a drink of water, scuttlebutt became U.S. Navy slang for gossip or rumors. A butt was a wooden cask which held water or other liquids; to scuttle is to drill a hole, as for tapping a cask.

LETTER FROM DAVID FALTOT (Diver on the HOUSTON on the 60th anniversary)

Dear Val,

I thought you might have an interest in publishing this in your USS Houston newsletter. I originally became involved in the story for the Houston because . . . in a way, in addition to my love of adventure, it was a way of honoring my own father. He was a Marine during WWII and was with the 1st Marine Division. He saw combat on Okinawa and later in China. He is now in marginal health living in Dallas, Texas. When I became involved in diving on the Houston and seeking to preserve the memory of the sacrifices of those men, it was an emotional contact point for me with WWII and my own father's involvement. So my visit to mainland China, as related below, became particularly meaningful to me and, I think, is also meaningful to other sailors and soldiers from WWII.

The company I have been working with, as a management consultant, was bought by a national Chinese oil company headquartered in Beijing. The oil company executive I reported to and I had been invited to Beijing on business to meet with some Chinese oil company executives working in their technology department. It seemed very strange to me, after a long military career, to be preparing to visit the heart of Communist China.

I stayed in the JinJian hotel, downtown Beijing. It wasn't a great place to reside but is near the work. Beijing was full of bicycles and cars that don't give pedestrians a break. Lots of red banners and Chinese Communist flags around the city but surprisingly westernized. Advertisements for name brand cosmetics, jeans, etc were all over the place. My father was in Beijing during WWII with the 1st Marine Division. It was a very different time. The Japanese would shell Beijing during the day and then the Marine combat patrols would hunt them out and night and either kill or capture them. At that time in 1945 the Chinese had very little military force to protect Beijing, which is sacred to the Chinese since it was the capital and traditional home of the emperor. This is where the emperor's palace and the Forbidden City were located. So the protection of Beijing was very important to the Chinese. It is also important to understand that the Japanese had a reputation of committing horrible atrocities among the civilian populace of cities they would occupy. Nanking is a prime example.

I told my Chinese hosts on the first day of my visit about my father's involvement there during WWII. One old gentleman responded and said, "Your father fought the Japanese?" I said yes. He responded, "Then you and your father are friends of the Chinese!" Then he and the other older gentlemen shook my hand. Later that evening they took us out for a wonderful dinner (gag) of snake skin, fish heads, chicken feet and a number of other Chinese delicacies I could not identify. It was a very expensive restaurant and evidently was quite a high end dinner. Had to hold my breath, smile, and swallow quickly. After all, I didn't want to offend anyone.

The next day they told me they were going to provide me with a car, driver and interpreter to take me to the Great Wall and Forbidden City. I told my Chinese host that I didn't want to be a bother but they insisted. Again, I didn't want to appear impolite so I accepted their offer. Later in the day I told Mau, a young Chinese woman who was acting as my escort, that I didn't want to cause them any inconvenience. She told me in her broken English, "You must understand the Chinese way . . . it is to express appreciation . . . for your father."

Finally the time arrived for my guided tour. I received a call from the lobby and a young woman told me she was waiting for me and would be my guide. I had put on my hiking boots and was equipped with water and a camera. I had planned to do a serious hike along the Great Wall. Upon arriving downstairs I found a beautiful young Chinese girl of 24 waiting for me. She also had on hiking shoes, had a smile on her face and was ready to go. We got into the car and began the journey to the Great Wall which was located north of Beijing in the mountains. On the way I told her I wanted to see the old parts of the city so I could photograph them and take the pictures home to my father. She was very helpful and was also very interested that my father

was one of the American soldiers stationed there during the war. She told me that the Chinese all regard them as heroes since they protected Beijing from the Japanese. She went on to say that Japanese, even today, are not welcome in China. As it turned out, her father was a Major General in the Peoples Republic of China Army. I found all this very interesting.

We arrived at and hiked the Great Wall. We hiked several miles but in no way could we meet my 20 mile goal. It was all up and down . . . very steep and difficult to walk. We actually did 5 miles at the most before deciding to call it a day. She was extremely helpful and polite and would not allow me to pay for anything. We then took the car and went back to Beijing. We toured Tienamen Square which is located to the South of the Forbidden City and is surrounded by Government buildings and the tomb of Mau Tse Tung. I was able to get photos of everything. While visiting the square I noticed that it seems a favorite pastime to fly a wide variety of brightly colored kites right in the middle of the square.

The next day my guide picked me up and we visited the Empowers Summer Palace. There I received a gift for my father, toured and took plenty of pictures. Then it was on to the Forbidden City. We entered through the North Gate. This was the home of the Emperor and his family. It consisted of 9,999 rooms, all adorned with beautiful carvings and paintings. We toured the throne rooms, living quarters and gardens that, in the past, no one had ever been allowed to see. Today the Chinese people can view their heritage and its wondrous artwork.

During my time in China I was treated with the utmost courtesy and politeness. Out of respect for what my father did they did not allow me to pay for anything. The Chinese have not forgotten the sacrifices made by the men of my parents generation and even today Chinese schoolchildren are taught about the "American Heroes" that helped protect Beijing from the Japanese during WWII. I found all this to be another example, although a foreign one, of the appreciation felt by people today of sacrifices made 60 years ago. It seems the memory of the war is still very recent in China. Perhaps because of what the people there suffered at the hands of the Japanese. I found it meaningful and I wanted to pass on to WWII veterans today that people have not forgotten the sacrifices of their generation.

AUGUST REUNION - For those of you that didn't attend, you missed a grand ole time! The NG's provided the Saturday evening entertainment this year to the theme of SOUTH PACIFIC. We did renditions of Bali Hi, I'm Gonna Wash That Man Outta' My Hair, There Ain't Nothin' Like a Dame and Honey Bun, topping it off with God Bless America and I'll Follow the Old Man. Four of our male NG's dressed in hula skirts, grass wigs and make up for Honey Bun and brought the house down.... Next year the survivors and spouses will have NG as officers for the first time (now the inmates will be running the asylum). Not to say that Jody and Pat Cadenhead won't do a great job. The first thing they have accomplished is to have the next reunion at the Omini Hotel in Dallas (Park West) for the same prices for rooms and meals as what we've been paying at the Holiday Inn! KUDO'S to you and Becky & Mike Frietes! Mark your 2003 calender for August 13 – 17. Attending were: one hundred 160 NG's, thirty 131st survivors, special friends George & Margaret Duffy, Imogene Christian, Tom Sledge and ten USS Houston survivors: **FELIZ, HANLEY, FLYNN, WILLEY, PAPISH, CHARLES, SCHILPEROORT, MCCONE, PARHAM AND KENNEDY.**

OVER THERE – Our friend Fred Seiker is slowly mending from surgery. He and Liz constructed a replica of how the POW's processed drinking water and a stretcher for the national museum there in England.

FROM DOWN UNDER – "Snow" Dicker sent laminated copies of a news article that I will bring to the next reunion to share.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (report provided by Chairman, **NED GALLAGHER**)

The following is a brief description of our Scholarship Program and is intended to inform everyone of its current status and future prospects.

Phase I was our Committee planning phase and resulted in a good program developed principally by John Schwarz, son of Otto. The plan was distributed to all our members who attended our memorial Reunion in March ' 01, as well as by mail to those who were unable to attend the reunion.

Phase II of our program was devoted to soliciting contributions from all of our members and friends in order to develop a Fund to provide for scholarships. the fund drive was guided and controlled principally by Susan Krug, our Committee Treasurer, with help and assistance from Val and the Bluebonnet. Their fine efforts and the generosity of our members and friends resulted in a Fund of \$10,000 by the time of our Memorial Reunion in March ' 02.

At that time the Committee perceived that because of a diminishing base of survivors and organization members, and a widely dispersed base of individual contributors, whom we solicited only through our quarterly Bluebonnet publication, that a renewed additional source of revenue was needed.

It was therefore decided that the Committee would ask for much needed help from the Texas Commandery of the naval Order of the United States. You will remember that this organization was responsible for the planning, execution and building of our USS Houston Monument in Sam Houston Park.

This new and additional direction for soliciting funds constitutes Phase III of our program and we hope its success will enable us to establish a substantial Fund by which we will be able to support our annual Scholarship award.

LAST MINUTE NEWS – I was sad to receive a report that Marguerite Rogers, widow of the late **CAPT. LEON ROGERS**, died of heart failure August 21st. If you want an autographed copy of **THE SAGA OF SAILOR JACK**, write to Marie Feliz, 2110 Southridge Dr, Palm Springs, CA 92264. Max and I had been invited to represent the USS Houston, 131st and the United States at a special presentation to the National Memorial Arboretum at Airewas, England. It would have been an honor and a thrill to meet some of the Royal family, however, the cost and my back problem prohibited us.

DECLASSIFIED:

SUBJECT: Action Report of the USS Houston CA-30 in defense of convoy air attacks by horizontal bombers by Arthur Maher.

BRIEF SUMMARY: On 16 February 1942, a convoy of four transports loaded with US and Australian troops and escorted by the USS Houston, USS Peary and two Australian corvettes was attacked by 45 Japanese bombers in the Timor Sea between Darwin, Australia and Koepang, Timor. The planes were successfully driven off with a loss of one soldier wounded by a near-miss. The convoy departed from Darwin on the night of 14 February. At about noon on the 15th, a Japanese four engined flying boat sighted the convoy and trailed it for several hours. When the flying boat was first sighted, the HOUSTON requested a fighter escort from Darwin. After about two hours one P-40 arrived. Because of the cumulus clouds, the fighter was unable to locate the flying boat which had been trailing well out of gun range. The 5-inch battery fired single salvos in the direction of the flying boat in an attempt to locate it for the fighter. This was unsuccessful. The flying boat made one approach on the ship but turned away as soon as the flash of the 5-inch guns was observed. Later a definite bombing approach was made at an altitude of about 10,000 feet, but the plane gradually changed course, throwing the bursts slightly off in deflection. The plane passed ahead of the ship and continued in the direction of its base after having released its bomb load which landed about 1000 yards from the ship. At this time the

P-40 was not in sight. A few minutes after the flying boat had disappeared, a large flash was observed on the horizon and much smoke. It is unknown what the source of this explosion was. Questions to survivors of the HOUSTON by the Japanese Naval officers indicated that the flyboat never reached its base. The convoy continued on its course toward Koepang. No additional enemy planes were sighted until about 1130 on the 16th.

The HOUSTON was the target for all attacks until near the end of the action. One group of 5 flying boats made its final attack on the convoy and obtained a near-miss which resulted in the death of one man. Throughout the action Captain Rooks kept the ship in the vicinity of the convoy which remained in formation and was attempting to lay its own smoke screen. The PEARY had only 30-caliber machine guns and was unable to be of any assistance. The two Australian corvettes had small caliber anti-aircraft guns, type unknown, and they both expended all but about a dozen rounds of ammunition. At the departure of the planes, the convoy reformed and proceeded toward Koepang. A few hours later an order was received to return to Darwin.

In order to avoid attacks the next day the Captain headed the convoy south then east to southwestern entrance of the large bay off Darwin and skirted the coast until he reached Darwin. Fighter protection provided was one Hudson bomber.

PERFORMANCE OF OWN ORDNANCE MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT:

Ammunition expended:

The 5-inch guns expended about 930 rounds. The ammunition expenditures of the 1.1's and 50-caliber guns are unknown.

Fire discipline, gunnery communications and fire control methods:

The location of the HOUSTON's anti-aircraft directors was such that many blind areas existed. That, and the fact that simultaneous attacks were being made from more than one direction, made it necessary to make frequent shifts of guns from one director to the other. The general policy was to put the forward guns on the forward director and the after guns on the after director. When an attack would develop, the director first sighting the attack would be given control of all the guns of the side from which the attack was developing. The switchboard operators had been trained to shift switches from the following setups: the forward director controlling the starboard battery and the after director controlling the port battery and visa versa, as well as the initial setup as described above. During the 58 minutes of this attack, two operators were on the switchboard, and so many shifts and so many shifts were made expeditiously, and no confusion resulted either in shifting the fire control circuits or the telephone circuits.

The 5-inch crews had been trained in local control for all types of air attacks. A large table was painted on the splinter shield of each gun giving the fuse and sight settings for various altitudes and speeds. The gun captains had been trained to keep themselves informed as to the average altitude and average speed of the groups making the attacks. Several times a gun was ordered into local control to cover a third attack which developed at the same time that the two directors were engaged.

The ammunition replacement party, consisting of the off-watch crews of the 5-inch guns plus additional personnel, was able to keep the guns constantly supplied with ammunition. This party consisted of 120 men. The ammunition was taken from the tanks and the fuse caps removed on the berth deck. This work was so strenuous during this engagement, that many men had to be treated for heat exhaustion. Only one of the eight first loaders was able to continue to load throughout the attack. Reliefs were obtained from the other watch.

Effectiveness of gunnery:

The effectiveness of the 5-inch and 1.1 fire is unknown. Several planes were seen to fall out of position in formation, but these were able to rejoin their formation before the next attack. The first tow-engine bomber attacks were at an altitude of 11,000 feet which later worked up to 18,000. Since the planes were obtaining no hits, it is naturally supposed that the AA fire was forcing them up. The altitude at which the bombing was conducted gave the ship sufficient time in which to take avoiding action. One four-engine flying boat was hit by 1.1 which caused a distinct flash. The two range-finder operators reported that the fuse range was good throughout, and many bursts were placed among the groups.

The percentage of duds was small. It was the first time the ammunition obtained from the U.S.S. BOISE had been used by the ship. There was a marked difference in the number of duds observed this date and the number observed on 4 February when the defective ammunition was used.

On two or three occasions with only one group attacking, all guns were placed on one director and fired at the same time, the off side battery firing over the ship until the safety cut-outs stopped them.

**** to be continued in the December issue

RATIONING DURING WWII – Rationing was a vital part of our country's war effort. Any attempt to violate the rules was an effort to deny someone his share and would create hardship and help the enemy. The ration book was the Government's assurance of your right to buy your fair share of certain goods which were made scarce by the war. Price ceilings were placed on the goods so that the dealers could not overcharge. American's were asked to ration and conserve vital goods. There was also a "Golden Rule". "If you don't need it, Don't Buy It."

IT'S GETTING EMBARRASING: For the past reunions, we have asked our speakers to pay their own way in travel and meals. This past year, Max and I picked up the tab on several meals. It's embarrassing. I am still asking for input from you readers how we can deal with this.... Yet, no response. We need your participation – your input!! Should we up the registration fee so we can at least feed these people? We're a first class organization! Let's work on this, okay?

FINANCIAL REPORT

DEBITS

Postage newsletter:	97.98
Printing newsletter	334.07
Computer training	375.00
Otto's kitty	200.00
Bulk Rate Permit & Renewal	300.00
Postage	139.21
Telephone	187.87
Supplies	815.35
TOTAL	2449.48

CREDITS

Old balance	3169.30
Donations & Sales	1945.00
TOTAL	5114.30

NEW BALANCE \$2664.82

IN CONCLUSION – Please remember that donations received after August 15th will appear in the next edition.... I haven't overlooked you. This quarter has been hectic for both the Poss & Drees couples. Ron has enrolled at the University of Texas to get another Master's degree. Lin's mom has been in and out of the hospital in Louisiana. She is also preparing for a new school year. I'm surprised she got anything accomplished in the preparations for the next reunion. Max has had his hands full with me. I had two back procedures in 2 months. Then, the week after my last procedure, our daughter (with the 4 boys) had emergency surgery. We are on the mend & feeling better each day. I will be doing a balancing act getting details on my end taken care of for the reunion and starting my scanning all over again. As always, it's always an honor and privilege to do this work.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The following words were spoken by the late Red Skelton on his television program as he related the story of his teacher, Mr. Laswell, who felt his students had come to think of the Pledge of Allegiance as merely something to recite in class each day. Now, more than ever, listen to the meaning of these words.

"I've been listening to you boys and girls recite the Pledge of Allegiance all semester and it seems as though it is becoming monotonous to you. If I may, may I recite it and try to explain to you the meaning of each word?"

I - me, an individual, a committee of one.

Pledge - dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self pity.

Allegiance - my love and my devotion.

To the flag - our standard, Old Glory, a symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves, there's respect because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts freedom is everybody's job! United that means that we have all come together.

States - individual communities that have united into 48 great states. Forty-eight individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose; all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that's love for country.

And to the republic - a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

For which it stands, one nation - one nation, meaning "so blessed by God"

Indivisible - incapable of being divided.

With liberty - which is freedom -- the right of power to live one's own life without threats, fear or some sort of retaliation.

And Justice - the principle or quality of dealing fairly with others.

For all - which means, boys and girls, it's as much your country as it is mine.

Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country and two words have been added to the pledge of Allegiance... UNDER GOD

Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said that is a prayer and that would be eliminated from schools too?

God Bless America!

Note: For the audio of this go to <http://home.att.net/~poofcatt/july.html>

WARNING

if you see a red @ next to your name, this is the last newsletter you will receive.