

MANLEYNOTES

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USS MANLEY (DD-940) ASSOCIATION

March 1, 2008

The Boot Camp Reunion

*Chicago, Chicago
That toddlin' town
Chicago, Chicago
I'll show you around.
Bet your bottom dollar
You'll lose the blues...*



Think of Chicago and Frank Sinatra comes to mind; think of Chicago and the Sears Tower, all 110 stories of it, pops in your head, and the images of Capone and gangstas and bootleggin' ignite your imagination. The Cubbies, the hot dogs, the pizzas and even days spent in boot camp are all part of the legend that makes Chicago a great reunion choice.

How can we plan a reunion in Chicagoland without including a trip to the Recruit Training Command at Great Lakes? The first recruit was welcomed in July 1911 and today the base is the Navy's only recruit training command and home to 19 service schools making it one of the largest training facilities.

Our tour party on Friday, April 24th will be met by a representative of the station and escorted to the drill hall to witness a graduation ceremony.

New Year Resolution

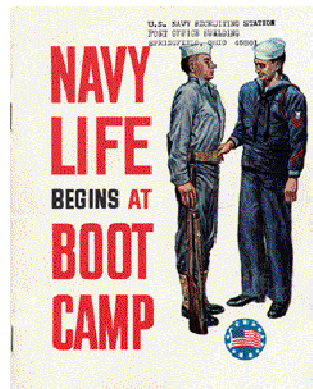
I hereby resolve to alter my ways and keep the USS Manley (DD-940) Association informed when I change my e-mail address or my snail mail address. I promise.

Following the ceremony, we will board our coaches for a windshield tour of the base on our way to lunch on the Port O' Call Officers' Club on the shores of Lake Michigan.

Before heading back to the hotel, the group will have an opportunity to visit the naval museum. A visit here will surely evoke memories - fond and not so fond but unforgettable.

The official name for Boot Camp is Recruit Training. It is designed to convert you from civilian to an apprentice Navyman in a relatively short time. What you learn about the United States Navy and about yourself, is largely up to you. Do you remember those days?

The haircut, remember? Truly devastating! And the first tray of chow? Repulsive! I couldn't get used to taking a shower with the entire company. How about that first day on the grinder? Would we ever shape up? It's much different today in all aspects and you will have a front row seat at a modern Boot Camp!



Saturday morning we will head into the City of Big Shoulders for an all-day sightseeing experience with our professional Chicago Tour Guide. We will see the historic and significant sights and learn why they refer to this great city as the "Windy City."

You will enjoy a cruise on the Chicago River to learn about the architecture of Chicago's awe-inspiring buildings. You will take in the new Memorial Water Wall, the veterans' memorial at Soldier Field and see the beautiful parks along the magnificent lakefront. You will see Navy Pier, a former navy training center and now a top attraction in Chicago. You will see the outdoor art, the Magnificent Mile, the stunning new Millennium Park, and the landmark Water Tower that survived the fire that caused the rebuilding of this wonderful city.

To cap off the day, you will be treated to a fantastic sit-down lunch at one of Chicago's most popular Italian restaurants.

Saturday evening will be open to individual options. A performance at the nearby Drury Lane Theater might be on your list or maybe you will want to try your luck at the casinos.

"The greatest thing about tomorrow is, I will be better than I am today. And that's how I look at my life. I will be better as a golfer, I will be better as a person, I will be better as a father, I will be a better husband, I will be better as a friend. That's the beauty of tomorrow. There is no such thing as a setback. The lessons I learn today I will apply tomorrow, and I will be better."

....Tiger Woods
at a recent press conference



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The Crew's Voice

E-mail dated December 7, 2007...

As I was flying back to Augusta, GA from Toronto this morning, I had a flashback revolving around December 7th. No, not the day in 1941 that lives in infamy, but rather the events of the day in 1965 when I joined the Navy. It was the first time I ever flew in a plane. I was so excited...until I got off the bus at Great Lakes Naval Training Center...boot camp!...and the coldest weather I had endured in my short 18 years!

We should also remember it was the day in 1966 when our 5"54 Mount 51 blew up for one of the hottest days in my life!

Remember those days? Though maybe not the best war to be a part of - we were all young - ten feet tall - and bullet proof. Now that I have made it to 61, I think of those days, not negatively, but positively. They were the best days of my life.

I just felt like sharing....

...Rod Ledford
 EMFN in '66



An Irishman and an American were sitting in the bar at Shannon Airport.

"I've come to meet my brother," said the Irishman. "He's due to fly in from America in an hour's time. It's his first trip home in forty years."

"Will you be able to recognize him?" asked the American.

"I'm sure I won't," said the Irishman, "after all, he's been away for a long time."

"I wonder if he'll recognize you?" said the Yank.

"Of course he will," said Paddy. "Sure, an' I haven't been away at all."

President's Corner



The holidays are behind us, and we are rushing full speed ahead into 2008 and reunion planning. The end of the

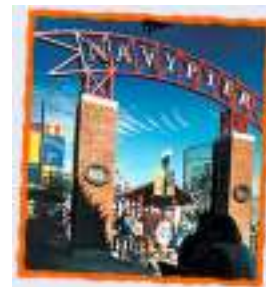
year brought my retirement at the plant, and I now plan to have more time to devote to the Association. I, like so many others, never truly grasp just how much work goes into keeping this organization sea worthy. It seems to be never ending.

Our 2008 membership year is ongoing and I thank all of you who have mailed in your dues. Simultaneously, I extend a personal invitation to those who have not yet "enlisted" in the Manley Association. Fifteen dollars a year is pretty cheap and for most, it wouldn't be missed.

I assure you that all dues and other revenues are spent in direct support of the group in general. This newsletter consumes paper, envelopes, ink, postage and time. All except the time cost us. So many of you enjoy and use the web site. It doesn't come without a cost. Most of what we do as an organization carries a cost.

If you can find it in your heart and wallet to join this great association, I will certainly appreciate the support you extend the crew. Thank you.

.....Tom Young



Entrance to Navy Pier

An Election Ear Break, Please Editorial

Our television alerts us; the morning newspaper spells it out; the radio in our cars tell us so. The year is 2008 and it is an election year. Some on the list have already been voted off the island, thank you. Ideas are emerging much clearer now, thank you. Change is coming, hmmm.

The common voice of the candidates and the media tells us this country is ready for change: change everywhere - in the Middle East; in health care; in social security, taxes; in the economy; change in our social attitudes, our immigration attitudes; in foreign policy; change, change, change.

I wouldn't dare predict the results in November but I will offer a bit of old sage cautionary advice: if it sounds too good to be true, it usually is.

If this country is to achieve all the changes clamored for, it will take more than a new president to make all of it happen. It will take a mostly new congress and a revisionary mind-set by all four of the key players: House, Senate, President, and us, the voters and taxpayers. I doubt that if any, let alone all, of the promises will materialize in any recognizable form in 2009 or any other year until we as a nation are prepared to adopt a new approach to most all we do.

If I come across as a cynic, I am, and deeply so when it comes to politics and politicians, but I am all for change. I am eternally suspicious though. Washington doesn't permit change easily; it does something to well-intended people. They change before it changes.

Over the past nine months of suffering through the pain of political rhetoric and debate, I have concluded that to achieve the change most of us crave, we need to give our election ear a rest

and think of creating new processes in our electoral system, at least as it pertains to the presidency.

The first issue to tackle would be to shorten the campaign season. I would not allow any aspiring presidential candidate to announce his or her intentions until the first day in the election year - January 1. If a candidate cannot get his or her message across to the voters in ten months, he or she shouldn't be a candidate. Besides, this would give all of us more time to watch more episodes of "The Big Loser."

Second, change the financial law of influence and eliminate all political contributions by corporations, lobbyists, and taxpayers. I would also forbid any candidate to spend out of pocket funds. I would call for the federal banker to financially underwrite the cost of campaigning by each and every candidate up to one million dollars. Deal or No Deal! If you can't get elected on that bankroll, you shouldn't be calling for financial constraint.

Next, throw out the confusing caucuses and the race to be first in primaries by the states. Have one national primary in April on the same day to narrow the field of candidates to a sane number before the national election in November. There would be less work for the pollsters. It could be structured along the lines of "The Amazing Race."

I would also streamline and update the way we cast our votes by constructing full-proof electronic voting at both the polling places and our homes. I am certain if it can be done for American Idol, it can be done to guarantee honest elections.

Speaking of honesty, I would also sit each candidate in a chair and throw the questions at him or her. The "Moment of Truth" mystical voice

would announce out of the dark: "lie" or "truth."

I have more radical ideas but they must wait for a future column. This is a good start though.

Payment of your annual dues are vital to the existence of the Manley Association. If you haven't sent in your 2008 dues, please make your check payable to the USS Manley (DD-940) Association in the amount of \$15.00 and mail to 905 Sea Duck Dr., Daytona Beach, FL 32119-8764.

In most cases, the 2008 membership card was mailed with the invoice in early January. In other cases, your membership card was mailed in early February. A big THANK YOU to all of you who support the Association with your payment.

Looking for software for a specific purpose? Cheap? Free? Take a look at www.tucows.com for shareware, trial offers, and a list of available software for download at prices next to nothing.

Government Issue

I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle.

....Winston Churchill

A government, which robs Peter to pay Paul, can always depend on the support of Paul.

....George Bernard Shaw

If you think health care is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it's free!

....P.J. O'Rourke

Navy TV Launches

Navy TV, a new online television network featuring Navy-related videos 24 hours a day on demand, was officially launched with a full array of content channels on November 1 at www.navytv.org. New videos and channels will be added on a daily basis.

Co-hosted by the Navy Memorial and EFX Media, Navy TV is dedicated to the men and women of the Navy - past, present and future - and to their families, friends, and all affiliated communities of the Navy. Navy TV lets viewers throughout the world know what the words "honor," "courage," and "commitment" mean to Navy men and women - past and present, who have served our nation.

Navy TV brings the entire Navy community - Sailors, families, veterans organizations, Navy educational and support groups and industry - together on a global platform that tells the full story of Navy men and women.

Check out the U.S. Navy section with channels on ships, naval aviation, submarines, the medical community, special warfare and the Navy Band. Search the Naval History section for channels on classic Navy films, historic Navy ships, naval museums and heroic Navy men and women who have made their place in history.

You can become a member of the United States Navy Memorial and register on The Navy Log by signing on at navymemorial.org or see the link on the Manley web site. Be sure to sign-up to receive the Navy Memorial newsletter - The Lone Sailor.

Reunion Primer

The substance of early inquiries into the upcoming reunion outside of Chicago point to a need for a do-over of reunion planning basics to clear the air of misunderstanding apparently flowing through the membership of the Association.

You must first accept the fact that an exhausting amount of energy goes into planning and executing each reunion and that no one is compensated in cash for their conscientious and dedicated work. It is for the most part a labor of love by a handful of people. What else is new?

The second fact demanding attention and comprehension is that third party vendors, suppliers, caterers, tour operators, entertainers, photographers, equipment providers and hoteliers are not in the business of altruism. In other words, these people demand money for their services.

Your third lesson is to accept that your, yes *your*, Association does not possess the fat-cat cash reserves some of you think we keep stashed away in a bank offshore somewhere. We operate if not daily then almost monthly on a shoestring.

With these three points out on the table, maybe we can rise to an even higher level of understanding. A successful reunion is an all-hands evolution, all working toward the same objective, a well organized team effort worthy of an "E." Anything less than that dings the structure of the event. Too many dings create missteps. Too many missteps create disharmony. Your planners do not like dings let alone disharmony.

Although the Association does not wrap the reunion into one neat package, keeping each function ala-carte, it encourages the

purchase of the package to guarantee financial success for the benefit of the group of attendees.

Reunion wannabes often fail to embrace the concept that "more is merrier." The more people who sign up for tours, the less the per person cost. An edge is gained by returning all comps to the Association. For instance, the Association may receive a comp for each 50 persons who sign-up and by applying the comps to the total cost of the group, the per person cost is reduced. You save!

A similar formula is true with catering. The planner is required to guarantee a minimum dollar amount for catered meals over the four days of the reunion to gain complimentary banquet space. Don't be naïve in believing that the hotel is giving away their spaces. The usual rent is blended into the cost of the meal but it is always less costly to the individual than if we paid rent.

By guaranteeing a minimum number of paid hotel rooms for each night of the reunion, the hotel will usually offer the Association discounted room rates, a no-cost hospitality room and other amenities to sweeten the deal.

Seasonal dates and weekdays selected for the reunion have an enormous impact upon the individual room rate and can spillover to other amenities. In most geographical areas, there are at least three hotel seasons: peak, shoulder, and off-season. The high rates of the peak months are unacceptable to our group; the off-season and very low rates are caused for a reason, usually unfair weather and too risky. Selection of week days is just as important as the selection of the season. A business-oriented hotel does not want a military reunion group in during their business-peak nights, usually Monday through

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Standing Tall

On a stifling July day in 1918, 18,000 officers and soldiers posed as Lady Liberty on the parade grounds of Camp Dodge, Iowa as a planned promotional campaign to sell war bonds during World War I. The picture is titled "Human Statue of Liberty."

According to a July 3, 1986 story in the Fort Dodge Messenger many men fainted - they were dressed in woolen uniforms - as the temperature neared 105° F. The photo, taken from the top of a specially constructed tower by a Chicago photographer studio, Mole & Thomas, was intended to help promote the sale of war bonds but was never used.

The design for the living picture was laid out at the drill ground situated in the beautiful valley of the Des Moines River. Thousands of yards of white tape were fastened to the ground and formed the outlines on which the men marched to their respective positions.

In this body of soldiers are any hundreds of men of foreign birth - born of parents whose first impression of the Land of Freedom and Promise was of the world's greatest colossus standing with beacon light at the portal of a nation of free people, holding aloft a torch symbolic of the light of liberty which the statue represents.

The day on which the photograph was taken was extremely hot and the heat was intensified by the mass formation of men. The dimensions of the plating for the picture seem astonishing. The camera was placed on a high tower. From the position nearest the camera occupied by Colonel Newman and his staff, to the last man at the top of the torch as platted on the ground was 1,235 feet, or approximately a quarter of a mile. Incredible as it may seem there are twice the number of men in the flame of the torch as in the whole remaining design, while there are eight times as many men in the arm, torch and flame as in all the rest of the figure. It will be noted that the right thumb is five feet longer than the left hand, while the right arm, torch and flame is eight times the length of the body.

Mole & Thomas traveled from one military camp to another, posing thousands of soldiers to form gigantic patriotic symbols that they photographed from above the ground. The formations depicted such images as the Liberty Bell, the Marine Corps emblem, a portrait of Woodrow Wilson, and more. Their "Human Liberty Bell" was composed from over 25,000 soldiers, arranged with characteristic attention to detail and even depicts the crack in the bell. Oftentimes it would take them weeks to plan the layouts.

This picture as well as additional photographs produced in the same style by Mole & Thomas and other photographers can be viewed at Chicago's Carl Hammer Gallery.

Lethal E-Mail

Rubbish drops into my inbox from a number of sources: Nigerian scam artists; porn masters who use search software to identify the "m-a-n" in Manley; and well-meaning members of the Manley Association who are quick to click the forward button on nearly anything they receive without a ounce of scrutiny on their part. They think they are spreading the word. None or very little thought is given to the veracity of the content that is usually rumor, character assassination, and just plain garbage.

Before you release that e-mail aunt Elsie sent you condemning Starbucks for not sharing their coffee with the troops, check out the factual basis of the message at www.snopes.com. If it is too much trouble for you to check the authenticity of your message, then don't forward it. Particularly do not forward what has been forwarded to you two or more times over. Don't contribute to the rumor mongering and the rubbish that goes 'round and 'round in cyberspace.

Some people are so naïve they believe all that comes to them at their computer terminal to be from a phantom authority figure who resides in space. Not true and dangerous.

(Continued from page 4)

Wednesday. On the other hand, a leisure-oriented hotel does not want a reunion in during their peak weekend nights when the tourists are in town.

The goal is to take advantage of the best deal by balancing what works best for the hotel and the reunion group. The Hampton Inns, La Quinta's and Holiday Inns Express usually do not have the banquet space needed. The Marriotts and Hyatts are usually not willing to lower the room rate to be attractive to our members. The best deal is usually found with a middle-luxury business-class hotel - Hilton, Wyndham, Crowne Plaza, and Holiday Inn.

The selection process is an act of promise, balance, and frustration that starts long before the reunion opening date, as early as 24 months. The planner is asked to guarantee the number of rooms to be set aside for each of the reunion nights; he will specify a minimum revenue to the hotel for all catered meals, and then sign his name to a contract that includes financial liability - his financial liability. The process is repeated with the tour operator and the maestro of entertainment - along with deposits.

There is an vast distinction between military reunions of 25 and 200 attendees. The larger number has advantages that attract amenities from nearly every vendor and disadvantages that can rattle the psyche like nothing else. The most frightening disadvantages are liability, liability and liability. Get an imbalance between real and promise and the result can be disaster.

Like it or not, the first priorities of the reunion planner is to sell the hotel rooms, fill the room block, and sell the group meals. Failing to meet its minimum obligations with the hotel may cause the Association to face stiff penalties that will assuredly

impact the reunion's future. Haphazard guesses must be avoided.

Although less dominant in the early process, the choice of a tour operator, and not all tour operators are equal even though their tour itineraries might be, can be as challenging as the hotel selection. The planner is looking for a history of company safety, professionalism, reliability, cleanliness and value, in that order. The Manley Association customarily has two tour days, Friday and Saturday. In addition to the day trips in Chicago, the planner intends to insert smaller group adventures during the evenings if the demand exists.

Your participation, however, is more critical to the success of this and all reunions than any of the functions. "Participation" means the total package - hotel, meals, and tours. One hinges on the other not only to assure overall success but for your enjoyment as well. You may save a buck by staying in a cheaper hotel or with relatives or friends but you will miss out on the reunion experience and that's priceless. You may decide tours and group meals are not for you but you may be pushing the delete button on future reunions.

As you gather that first day in the hospitality room and that first evening for the opening ceremonies, you will become acutely aware that you are a member of the USS Manley (DD-940) Association; that your sole qualification for membership is your service at one time aboard this fleet destroyer; that you are in the company of shipmates; and that you are enjoying once again a camaraderie more than likely absent from your life since the day you last walked off that gangway.

Don't miss out on a moment of this wonderful experience - participate.



"You should check your e-mails more often. I fired you over three weeks ago."

New In The Ship's Store

The Manley patch is now available. The original patch design has been duplicated and is available in the ship's store for \$8.00 including shipping.

Charlie Weymouth's version of the Manley breaking away from the USS Independence on the night of February 14, 1962 after rescuing two pilots from treacherous waters is available for \$60.00 excluding shipping.

Tees and golf shirts, including a specially designed golf shirt for the ladies, are also now available. Visit ussmanleydd940.org/shipstore.htm for more merchandise. Payment can be made using your credit card through the PayPal payment system.



Q. What do you call an Irishman who knows how to control a wife?

A. A bachelor.

