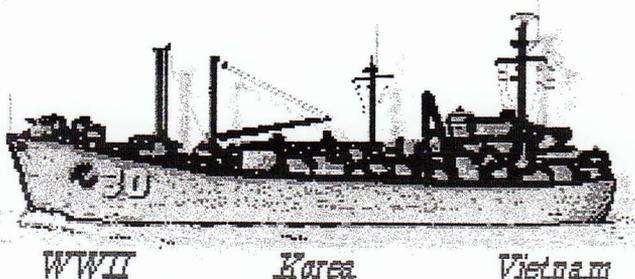


U.S.S. Askari Association

U.S.S. Askari Web Site
<http://arl30.vze.com>

November 2005 Issue



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A Message from President Max Hoover

What a great time we had at the reunion in Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky. To be with former shipmates of the Askari, renewing old acquaintances, and meeting new ones is such an awesome feeling. The sharing and swapping of sea stories was great too. Again this year, we welcomed aboard new members. They are William Powell (9/69-9/70) and Jim Renton (9/68-9/69) from the Askari and Brian Mahoney (10/68-11/69) and Don Reeder (6/67-4/69) from the Sphinx ARL 24. Welcome aboard guys. It was also fun to have wives and other family members there; it really made it feel like family. The pig roast, the guest speakers (The Donut Dolly was awesome), the memorial service, and the dance (how many balloons does it take to launch an empty beer can?) was just some of the fun we had. Also a group of us went into Cincinnati to the aquarium. I hope this report creates interest for new people and the old ones to join us next time in 2007. The scuttlebutt is we will be in Indianapolis, Indiana in 2007.

There were several things discussed at the business meeting. One was election of officers; the only change there was me being elected to succeed Ed Toth as president. I will do my best to live up to the standard he set for me. Please give him a big thank you for his years of guidance. It was agreed upon to keep Lee Daley as vice president, Merrill Davis as Secretary, and Al Wolfe as treasurer for another two years. It was also voted to lower the dues to \$10 per year beginning with the 2006 membership year.

We still need your stories and ideas for the newsletter. You don't have to write a book, just a little memory, good or bad, serious or funny. Do you remember watching a movie more than once because the LST only had movies we had already seen? Only being able to buy 2" x 3" photo mailers. You have things to share too. Send your stuff to Merrill Davis by mail to 3405 Ashwood Drive, Bloomington, Indiana or telephone him at 812-331-1641 or email him at mfdavis33@insightbb.com.

See you in Indy.

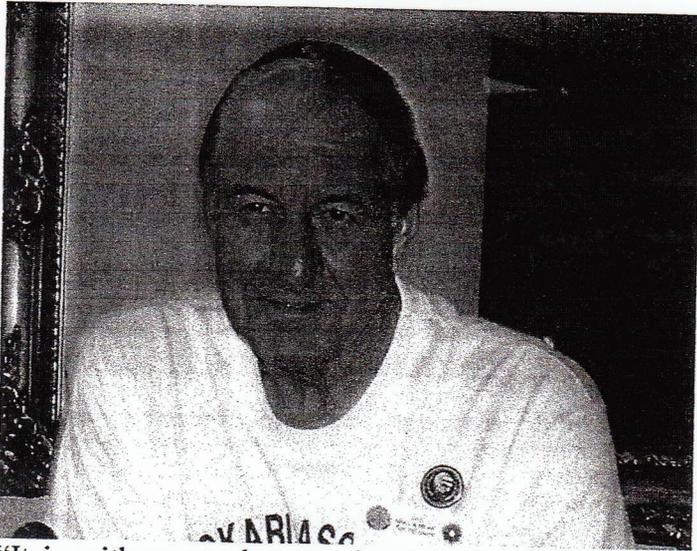
Marvin Marks Remembers



One of the special things about this reunion was the presence of Marvin Marks, one of our two World War II members. He said he had such a good time at the reunion that he plans to attend again in 2007.

Marvin shared this remembrance: In the spring of 1946, the Askari was flag ship for Admiral John Ford. Marvin said Ford did not serve on the ship and he does not know if he was ever aboard, but the Askari did fly his flag in San Diego. John Ford was the famous Hollywood director who directed the documentaries *The Battle of Midway* and *December 7th*, both Oscar-winners. He also won Oscars for *Grapes of Wrath*, *How Green Was My Valley*, and *The Quiet Man*.

Toth Appointed President Emeritas



“It is with great pleasure that I begin my term as President of the U.S.S. Askari ARL-30 Association by appointing Ed Toth as President Emeritas for his exceptional service to the Association,” Max Hoover reported to the newsletter. “Ed’s input and participation in future decisions will be greatly appreciated.”

We asked Ed to write an autobiographical sketch for the newsletter. Ed wrote:

It’s 1951 and I’m about to graduate from Macomber High School [Toledo, Ohio]. After graduating, I and two of my buddies got jobs working for the Toledo Edison Company. Back then, there were jobs aplenty.

The 3 of us would kind of stop at a local “watering hole” called Grandma’s Café for a “relaxing” time and discuss what we would be doing that evening. Also two of our other friends would meet us at Grandma’s Café that we also went to school with.

This routine continued on for several months until one of our fellow friends started talking about the KOREAN WAR. You see I said “WAR” and not a “Police Action” like our government called it. Well this conversation went on for quite some time. During the course of our lengthy social exchange of views and sentiments, plus a “FEW BEERS MORE,” all of us decided to do our patriotic duty for our country – the five good buddies made the decision that we should join the NAVY!!!

All of us took a day off from work on the first of December, 1951 and went down to the Navy Recruiting Station and joined up together. We did not all leave at the same time. Two of the fellows left before the holidays and the other three, including myself, left on January 4, 1952.

After basic training at Great Lakes in Chicago, the three of us went on our different paths. Two of them went on the U.S.S. Toledo, but as it turned out, I went on the U.S.S. ASKARI ARL-30. I was a little disappointed on not getting to go on the

U.S.S. TOLEDO being from Toledo, but as it turned out, I was on one of the best ships the Navy commissioned, and I still feel this way, on this day, and forever!!!

After leaving the ship in January 1955, I went back to civilian life and my job at the Toledo Edison Company (where I worked for 39 years). In February 1955, I met a wonderful girl named Virgene through my two good buddies that joined the Navy with me. We went together for three years and got married on June 21, 1958 (the first day of Spring). We had two children – Steve Edward born 10-5-61 and Christopher Edward born 8-15-64. Virgene and I lost Christopher to cancer on 5-18-96 in Denver, Colorado, where we go every year on his birthday to celebrate his life and where his ashes are scattered at the Maroon Bells in the White River National Park in the Rocky Mountains outside of Aspen, Colorado. I retired from the Toledo Edison Company on June 1, 1990 as a Maintenance Supervisor of our Bayshore plant in Oregon, Ohio.

I have been involved with our ASKARI ARL-30 ship’s reunion since our first get-together in Chattanooga, Tennessee in 1993 when we founded the U.S.S. ASKARI ARL-30 ASSOCIATION. It’s been a great experience being President of our great group of fellow Navy veterans of three wars for these many years. We started out with just a handful of members and have grown substantially since then. I was very fortunate to have good officers that served with me. We all had a very good time through the years getting together at reunions and several personal trips in between.

Today, I am retired, enjoying those “GOLDEN YEARS” as they say, trying to keep afloat managing three properties – the new house, old house, and the farm where I grew up with my mom and dad in Oregon, Ohio. I farmed with my dad till he passed away in 1961. I continued to farm until I quit in 1992. We are now in the process of moving from the old house into the new one since our fire on September 7, 2004.

I am a member of the VFW and the Conn-Weissenberger American Legion Post (of which I am very active and have held many offices.) Also, I am active in two car clubs (the PLACERS and the N.W. OHIO PONTIAC CLUB) where I show my 1965, all original, historical, navy blue with white interior Bonneville 2-door Pontiac. Virgene and I are very proud of this car and show it from April to October in car shows in N.W. Ohio and have won many awards.

In between all of this, we are busy helping our son Steve who was declared legally blind after 5 emergency retina detachment eye surgeries in both eyes in 2004. The 3 of us, including our daughter-in-law Cheryl and our grandson David, try to work together getting things taken care of (in between taking Virgene to therapy and the doctors with her rheumatoid arthritis and bronchial asthma) so we can enjoy those so-called “GOLDEN YEARS!”

I wish Max Hoover, our new President, and his family all the luck and success I had during my terms. Best wishes to the whole ASKARI ARL-3- ASSOCIATION board of officers and to the next reunion in Indianapolis, Indiana. Remember, I will always be here to help anyone in every way possible.

Attendees at 2005 Reunion

The U.S.S. Askari ARL-30 served during three wars, and we were happy to have representatives from each period of Askari service at the reunion.

World War II

Marvin Marks

Korea

Merrill Davis with wife Barbara

Norm Neuleib

Norma Taylor (widow of Paul Taylor)

Ed Toth with wife Virgene

Viet Nam

Bud Bessey

Lee Daley with wife Joan and daughter Patty

Paul Erasmus with wife Donna

Max Hoover with wife Marcia

Ken Kirkland with wife Carol

Steve Klosterman

Brian Mahoney with wife Audrey

Bob Pettit

Bill Powell with wife Joni

Don Reeder with wife Bonnie

Jim Renton

Welcome Back Marvin Wilsey

Marvin Wilsey was a member of the Association, but we lost touch when he moved. He visited the website guestbook and we were able to get in touch and welcome him back.

Tom Willoughby has a great website with Askari information. The address is <http://arl30.vze.com>. (Most internet addresses have www but this one does not so be sure to enter it just as shown.) The site contains great information including the guestbook. When people surf the internet looking for information about the Askari, they often find Tom's website and leave information in the guestbook. You might run into an old friend by reading the messages there.

Free Information for Veterans

Bob Pettit sent the following:

Go to www.myhealth.va.gov. This is a free program from the VA. It has a lot of information about your benefits and a lot about medicines. You can order medications online. Please check this out. I recommend you take the virtual tour; it is about 12 minutes long and it runs you through the whole program. You will have to register once you get to

The Baker's Corner by Lee Daley

Vice President Lee Daley's Navy years were spent as a cook and baker and he has agreed to provide us with a recipe for each newsletter.

Easy Caramel-Pecan Bars (Yield: 36 bars)

18 ounce roll refrigerated sugar cookie dough

¾ cup caramel ice cream topping

2 tablespoon all-purpose flour

1 cup pecan pieces

1 cup flaked coconut

1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

- Heat oven to 350° F. Spray 13" x 9" pan with nonstick cooking spray. Cut cookie dough into ½ inch thick slices. Arrange slices in bottom of sprayed pan. With floured fingers, press dough evenly to form crust.
- Bake 10-15 minutes or until light golden brown.
- Combine caramel topping with flour and blend until smooth.
- Remove pan from oven. Sprinkle partly baked crust with pecans, coconut, and chocolate chips. Drizzle with caramel mixture.
- Return pan to oven and bake 15-20 minutes or until topping is bubbly. Cool 1 ½ hours or until completely cool. Cut into bars. Enjoy!

Norm and Merrill remember

Norm Neuleib and Merrill Davis were chatting at the reunion and laughed as they remembered Mr. Thompson, the executive officer/navigator of the Askari. Mr. Thompson was a "mustang" whose background was not in navigation. He had great difficulty shooting the stars to take a fix, so Lt. Johnson got some stainless steel stars which were hung from the mast to give Mr. Thompson something to "shoot" with the sextant.

A Reminder of Veteran's Day



2005 Reunion Photos



Paul Erasmus, Bob Pettit, Ed Toth, Norm Neuleib, Lee Daley (back), Marvin Marks (front), Max Hoover, Ken Kirkland (black shirt), Merrill Davis (front), Bill Powell (back), Bud Bessey (on chair), Jim Renton. Association members attending and not pictured: Steve Klosterman, Brian Mahoney, & Don Reeder.



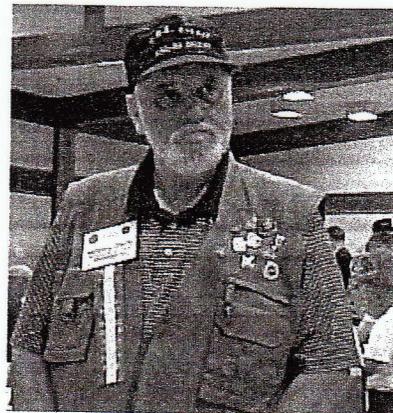
Ed Toth (Outgoing President)



Max Hoover (New President)



Lee Daley (Vice President)

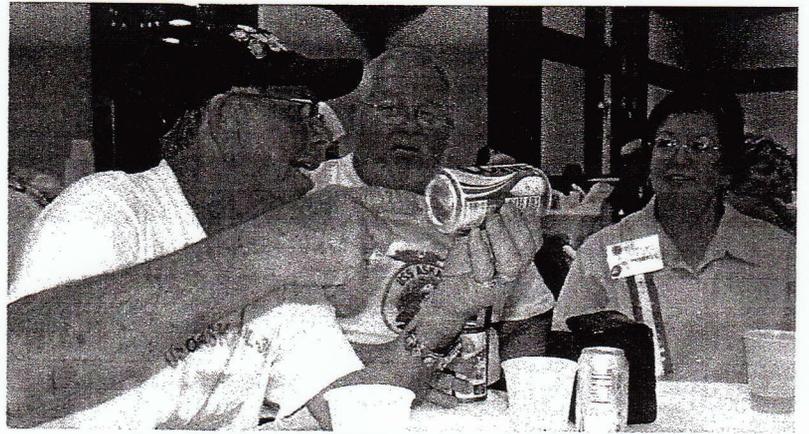


Merrill Davis (Secretary/Chaplain)

(Note: Treasurer Al Wolfe was not able to attend the reunion.)



Ken and Carol Kirkland with Donna Erasmus



Lee Daley with Bill and Joni Powell



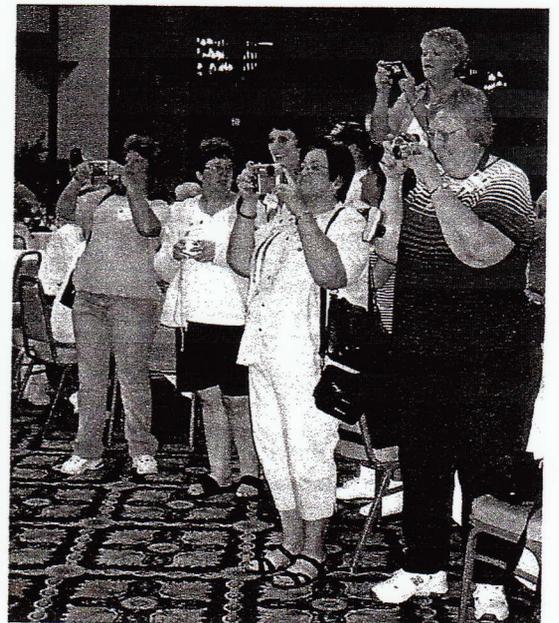
Patty, Joan, and Lee Daley



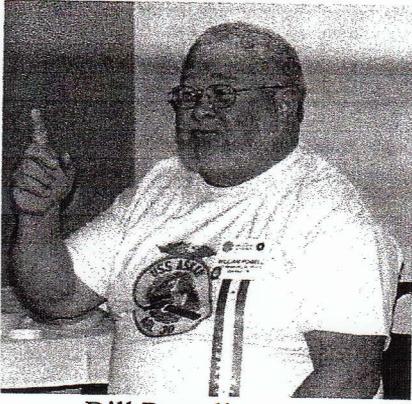
Bud Bessey, Bob Pettit, and Marvin Marks



Il Powell, Max Hoover, Bob Pettit, Marvin Marks, Paul Erasmus
Guest of Honor -- Hog



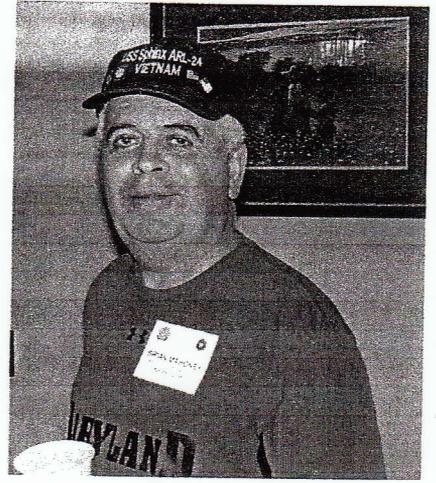
Patty Daley, Donna Erasmus, Carol Kirkland, Joni Powell, Marcia Hoover (on chair), Barb Davis



Bill Powell



Bob Pettit



Brian Mahoney



Audrey Mahoney, Bonnie, Reeder, Brian Mahoney, Barb Davis



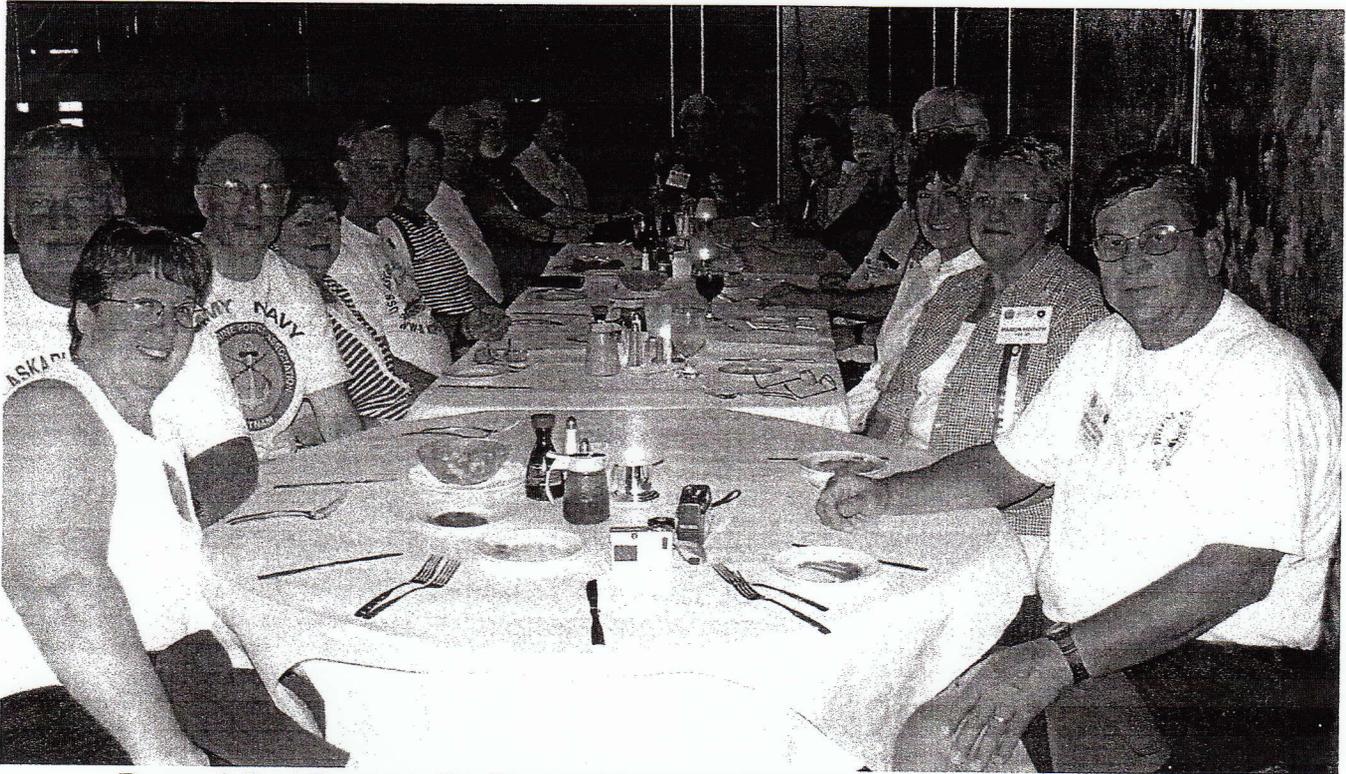
Virgene and Ed Toth



Paul Erasmus, Lee Daley (hidden), Max Hoover, Norm Neuleib
(Background: Ken Kirkland and Brian Mahoney)



Norma Taylor



Donna & Paul Erasmus, Jim Renton, Virgene & Ed Toth, Audrey & Brian Mahoney, Merrill Davis, Joni Powell, Norm Neulieb, Bill Powell, Carol & Ken Kirkland, Marvin Marks, Don & Bonnie Reeder, Marcia & Max Hoover



Carol & Ken Kirkland, Don Reeder, Max Hoover, Donna & Paul Erasmus, Jim Renton, Virgene & Ed Toth, Audrey & Brian Mahoney, Barb & Merrill Davis, Joni Powell, Norm Neuleib