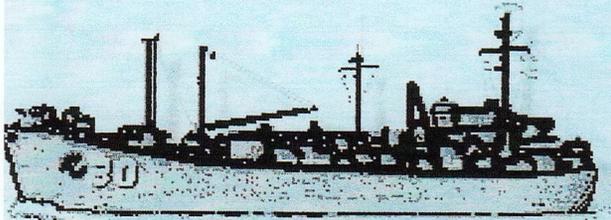


U.S.S. Askari Association

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

December 2006



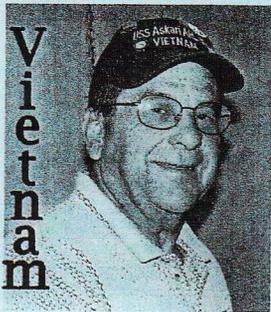
WWII Korea Vietnam

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Message from President Max Hoover



We had a wonderful time at the get-together in Branson. It is always great to get together with old Askari shipmates whether they were on board with you or not. We had two personal reunions while there when Marvin Marks and Hans

Fredericks got together after not seeing each other for 60 years and Ed Toth and Joe (B.J.) Hayes also got together after not seeing each other for several years.

I was fascinated with the stories from WW2 and Korea. Hearing Hans Fredericks tell about bringing her down the Mississippi from Illinois still designated as an LST made her history so much more real to me. Hans had some of the first pictures taken of the ship and crew and listening to him and Marvin talk about them made them come to life.

Some of the stories from Ed and Joe during the Korean era were almost unbelievable until Norm Neuleib confirmed them to be the truth.

K
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Joe



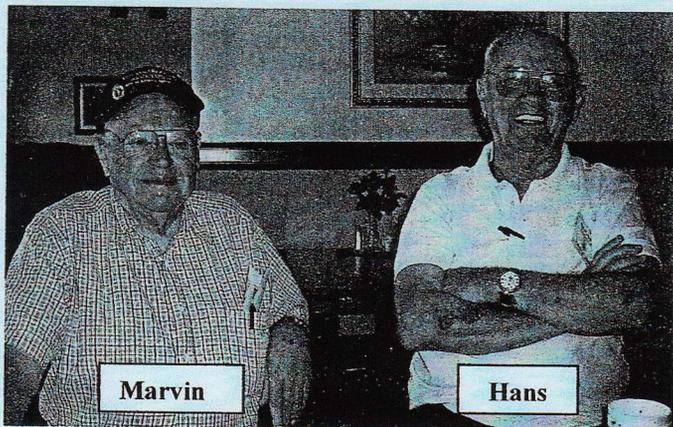
Ed



Norm

I was the only one there to tell the Viet Nam era stories. Luckily I had pictures to back up the ones I told.

On the first morning we toured the area with several highlights -- the first being The College of the Ozarks. The students work at various jobs for the college for their tuition. You'll have to ask Marvin how the fruit cake was. He won the drawing in the kitchen where they make them by the hundreds to sell. Where we ate lunch the table had an interesting feature but I'll keep it secret just in case you ever eat at one of the round tables at McFarland's restaurant. That evening we went to Charlie's Steakhouse and had what they called The Feast (salad, BBQ ribs, pork and brisket, and baked potato followed by apple pie). Then we sat through



Marvin

Hans

WORLD WAR II

The shows were great. We had a surprise at the Lost in the Fifties shown – it was a dual show with the Platters. After the show, the entire cast came to the lobby for photos and autographs. When we went to the showboat *Branson Belle*, they had a memorial service for our departed shipmates that was very moving and much appreciated. After an awesome meal, walking the deck of a ship underway and visiting with shipmates felt really good. The banks of Table Rock Lake were green with foliage and no nappa palm in sight. We were called back in for a show of singing and dancing, a pair of Russian dancers, and the ventriloquist Todd Oliver and his dog Irving. Todd and Irving had everyone in stitches and wiping tears from their eyes.

Free time had us visiting and telling sea stories, going to car shows, shopping, and trying to take in all the sights and sounds of Branson. The topic at several of the visiting sessions was to come back to Branson in 2008. The tentative dates will be September 4th to September 7th. We hope to see you there!

This year has gone by so fast it is just unbelievable that Christmas is right around the corner. With that I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a great New Year.

Next up in 2007 we will have our Askari reunion along with the MRFA reunion in Indianapolis, IN. Mark your calendar so you can join us there Thursday, August 30th to Sunday, September 2nd.



Ed and Virgene Toth, Marcia and Max Hoover, Hans Fredericks, Norm Neuleib, Marvin Marx, and Joe and Betty Hayes gather before boarding the *Branson Belle* for a memorial service for departed Askari shipmates.