

USS EVERETT F LARSON DD/DDR 830

SUMMER 2010 Official Publication of the U.S.S. Everett Larson Reunion Association
Newsletter Address: 83 Stonehedge Lane South, Guilford, CT 06437

WWW.USS-EVERETT-F-LARSON.COM

PRESIDENTS CORNER



Gene Maresca

This is the last newsletter before the Reunion in Portland, so right now, today, is the best time to get your reservations in to Max and Fran. If we can do this, they can finalize plans in good time and not have to do a costly scramble for an extra bus or whatever at the last minute.

Its going to be a great time! There are going to be some first timers there that you don't want to miss!

Congratulations to QMC Raleigh Brown, who won the bidding on the print of the Larson. He tells me that he already has it hanging in his condo in a place of honor, right next to his Plank Owners' Certificate from the Ark! This brought \$350 to our treasury, thanks to the generosity of shipmate (and former XO) CAPT Fred McCandless.

See you in Portland!



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drice@ctslabs.com





Chaplain Francis E. Juntunen

In Memoriam

Departed Shipmates (since last newsletter)

William H. Ruhlen 1952-56 (SK3)

Kenneth E. Hill 1947-50

Cecil O. Kidd 1947-50 (SM1)

Leonard F. Torres 1958-59 (SN)

James O. MacGowan, Jr 1945-46 (ENS)

Clyde G. Spradling 1948-52 (MMFN)

Edwin A. Torrey 1946 (F1C)

Thomas J. Andrea 1952-53 (SN)

John W. McIntyre 1962 (FN)

William J. Hasler 1946 (S2C)

Paul Gress Adams, Jr 1953-55 (CDR)

Dominic John Crispino 1952 (SO3)



Algiers Early 1950's, Gherardi DMS-30, Kenneth D. Baily DD-713 Maury DD-576, Benner DDR-807, E.F. Larson DDR-830

CURRENT EVENTS

We have been asked the question "Can you provide me with information on living shipmates?" We have a listing of over 1000 shipmates that we have located. We list them as Regular, Deceased or Not Current Address (no forwarding address). So unless we are notified of a shipmate passing, we assume they are still living.

To answer the question, please contact Doug Rice for a particular shipmate name, so a listing is available through Doug Rice's email: drice@ctslabs.com

We have an author in our Association, he is shipmate BILL FORBES a Radarman on board from 1958 to 1962. Bill's autobiography "AN ANCHOR IN THE PRAIRIE" is now published and available though www.amazon.com, www.barnesandnoble.com or www.BAMM.com. or order through your local bookstore. Cost is \$19.95. **Many of our shipmates are recognized in the book.**

"It's a nostalgic and fun journey from Middle America in the 1940's and 1950's, though 3 careers, and into retirement. Bill takes us from his hometown of Utica, IL, through 2 Navy enlistments, 20 years as a broadcast journalist, and 16 years as a civil servant in the nation's capital. Bill is the guy who burned a hole in Bill Clinton's brand new office carpet, walked beneath the Arkansas River, logged more than 1200 hours in a news helicopter, and survived the bureaucracy of Washington, DC. Bill was at our past Reunions in San Diego, CA, Dayton, OH, and Washington DC Reunions, and Myrtle Beach last year.

We have received some very interesting and personal emails and letters from those who served on the Larson, that you will find under the "Mail Call" heading.

There have to be hundreds of these stories. We would ask you to think back to those years on the Larson and email it or write it down and send it to drice@ctslabs.com or Doug Rice, 83 Stonehedge Lane South, Guilford, CT 06437.

Give us as much detail as possible, with dates, names and we will share it with the Larson crew in our next newsletter!

Larson hats, shirts and jackets will be available from EMBROIDERY CREATIONS, 5050 Nebraska Avenue, Ste. 8, HUBER HEIGHTS, OHIO. Phone: 937-235-0441. Fax: 937-235-0487. Contact Chuck Hertzman Website: www.embroiderycreations.com or info@embroiderycreations.com

LARSON PATCHES AVAILABLE - Vern Smith, 1855 E. Oakmont Ave., Fresno, CA 93720, (e-mail: yttim2@dslextreme.com) has Larson Patches available and the cost is \$4.00 which includes mailing cost.

If any of you have comments to pass on to our Shipmates, please e-mail me: geneMMaresca@aol.com and I will post in this column.

2011 Great Lakes, Illinois Reunion - October 5-9, 2011 at Embassy Suites, Deerfield, IL - \$95.00 per night plus tax includes full breakfast and nightly free activities include a Tour of Great Lakes Navel Training Center, including possible Graduation Ceremony, Navy Museum & Lunch, and Chicago Tour including Museum of Science and Industry, Tom & Peggy Nordquist are our hosts! Mark your calendars for this Great event!

Mail Call

Art Colson



I don't have a shipboard story but I did talk to a gentlemen today from Conn. that knew both Everett and Edith Larson and their family. He also had visited the grave of Everett when he was buried at Guadalcanal. This gentleman was Karl Fritz who also lived in Stamford, CT when he knew the Larson family, Mr. Fritz also served in the Navy but on AP's mostly. He told me several stories

(continued)

about his time in the service. He said he can't attend a Reunion because of a disability but was thrilled to talk to me and find out that Edith was still going to the reunions with Bob her husband.

- Art Colson

I just wanted to let you all know I am still alive, anyone from the 1970 crew wants to know. I'm having a hard time finding anyone from that era that went to Viet Nam.

Joe E. Stockton

STG-2 Sonar Technician
Warrensburg, MO 64093

Two of our members remitted "Life Membership" dues this week. Michael McGuire and Eugene D. Haas. Eugene was inspired by the 1951 Med Cruise notes in our newsletter. In fact he wrote notes all over his newsletter and returned it with his \$120.00 check. He started out as a DKSA in 1948 and left the Larson in 1952 as a DK2. He retired as a DKC in 1968 and has been unable to attend reunions since the first one in Cicero, NY.

It will not be possible for me to attend the Larson Reunion in September, but I would like for you to check with those that attend to see if any of them have any knowledge of the whereabouts of Bill Leight, Y2/C, on the Larson. He and I were a part of the nucleus crew and I lost track of him after I left the ship.

Charles Zeleny
801 Saddlebrook North
Bedford, TX 76021
zeleny10-1@tx.rr.com

Received a \$60.00 check from Capt Carl Qyanstrom, CO from 1963-64, to be used for a "round on the skipper". He sends his regrets regarding the Portland reunion due to a prior commitment.

Doug – I could tell that the newsletter was a labor of love...two years ago I was having a beer with friends in Narragansett, RI, where we go in the summer, somehow we got talking and my neighbor told me that his brother commanded a destroyer out of Newport named the Larson...the commander's name was Cahill. So I told him about Everett and my "brief" experience aboard! Receiving your newsletter brings back memories of when I was 5 years of age, being piped aboard with the family in Charlestown Navy Yard and being placed in one of the gun turrets....told my folks I was going to the Navy! Later passed the test for Navy OCS, but a chance to further my education intervened. My folks always told me that if I was as kind, compassionate and courageous as Everett, that I would be a success in life. Quite a model to live up to. Excellent newsletter, My very best regards, Richard Larson

I just checked out the latest Larson Newsletter online and it's terrific! The images of President, Chaplin and Art Colson look great. I'm glad to see Art Colson's "MAIL CALL" column. I hope that will be a regular feature of the newsletter. However, I know that getting shipmates to write a story and send it in is like pulling teeth.

I am co-editor of *Ramblin Rose*, the newsletter for the USS Montrose (APA 212) Association. I hear wonderful sea stories at each reunion as shipmates sit around the hospitality room. Some of them are even fit to print. Getting them to write them down and send them to us is another thing. Being a former TV reporter, I have even resorted to interviewing shipmates at reunions and writing the pieces myself just to get their stories (I always record the interview for accuracy). – Bill Forbes

I went on board the Larson as an HM3 in July 1952 and left April 1954 as a Second Class. I thought I was a pretty good Corpsman but I didn't really know s---. Thank God I never killed any of you guys. I did get a complement when I attended the Ashville reunion; I had a Machinist Mate tell me that I sewed up his eyebrow and didn't even leave a scar.

There were many WWII vets on the Larson when I went on board. Some were getting ready to retire and others had been recalled to active duty for the Korean War. These vets could tell some great stories about the old Navy and didn't hesitate to tell us how easy we had it in the new Navy of the fifties. They called it "The Kinder Garden Navy". In December of 52 I finally had to agree with them. An E-3 had been logged on board three days UA and his first stop was at sick bay. He gave me a letter from his mother addressed to the Captain that said: Dear Captain, please excuse my sons absence he had a bad cold and I wouldn't let him travel.

John McGready, MCPO, USNR
PO Box 8535
Orange Park, Fl 32006
mcpomac@bellsouth.net

I'm not sure who to send this to but figure you'll get it there if its of any value! I heard or read somewhere there is interest in things the Old Girl did and I havent seen this mentioned anywhere. So anyway, according to my memory, this was part of the US space program, some preliminary information gathering, but not much information was ever shared with us grunts. We steamed in circles on station somewhere near Hawaii for a few days, the first rocket fired was never located so a second was sent up, and when it was spotted the race was on between the Everett F and the Benner. We won the race and picked up the nose, then we immediately set course for the mainland making flank speed all the way. My part was at my normal station for GQ which was manning our fire control director. We zeroed in on the cone with optics but weren't allowed to lock on electronically for fear of damaging the electronics inside the cone. We were never told what was accomplished with the recovery, what info it had collected inside the cone. Typical military huh?

(con't)

But anyway, The Everett F, was involved in Americas space program, those of us on board had a few really good days floating around on a beautiful calm ocean, had swim call in the middle of nowhere and got the job done.

Also not mentioned anywhere I've looked is her cruise into the Bering Sea sometime prior to the FRAM II overhaul in '63. Anyway, we tried to make an ice breaker out of the old can. At one time we had turns rung up for 30 knots and were barely moving. It was a wild ride, the bow would ride up over the ice, break through, and then do it all over again. We started taking water forward which flooded the bosun locker which was a major catastrophe as that is where the toilet paper was stowed! We were told our mission was to "check out" Russian fishing boats, which we did, but later we learned we had another purpose being there which was to test Russia's resolve to enforce their claim to more miles to the ocean than what was set by international treaty. I have heard in recent years that Russia wasn't happy with us being there and had nearly launched a fighter squadron to remove us from what they claimed to be their waters. I don't know what sort of fire power the Russian planes carried but I'm assuming by the time they were in range of our 5" 38s, their missiles would have been on us. Actually, I'm glad I didn't know about it at that time.

One last thing, the FRAM II overhaul is mentioned but no reference given to the DASH help which was part of it. That was a fairly amazing weapon at that time and we were one of the very few cans to have it. We even carried a few air dale ratings on board as part of our crew. I do have a couple of stories about the darn thing, if you like I can write them up for you. If anyone wants to see one, there is one on display at the Pima Air Museum in Tucson.

- Bob Swanson, (FTG3) early 1961-July 1963

A neighbor of mine was kind enough to remind me of an anniversary 41 years ago. On June 2, 1969, I was a 26 year old Navy officer aboard the destroyer Everett F. Larson (DD830). While taking part in an anti-submarine warfare SEATO exercise from Manila to Bangkok, a tragic accident happened in the middle of the night as the task force was doing simulated zig zag operations at darken ship. As I remember that night, there was no moon. It was pitch black. I was off-watch and asleep when general quarters sounded....which I knew wasn't a good thing. We then found out that an Australian aircraft carrier had cut one of our squadron's destroyers in half (the Frank E. Evans, DD-754) and 74 sailors had died.

As the Supply Officer on the Larson, under Capt. Al Rilling, I was part of that boarding party. Thankfully, the sea was like glass that day. We (the Larson) ended up towing the aft section of the Evans back to Manila even though we were closer to Singapore, because the Navy base near Manila was more equipped to deal with what was left of the Evans.

We had one or two other at-sea accidents aboard the Larson while I was her Supply Officer, but none as awful as this. But for the grace of God go we. I am sure others have stories about this accident as well. Larson's Chief Engineer Lt. Jim Hough was in charge of the boarding party. He was a good friend of mine during my time on the Larson. I hope I can find him again to say hi.

- John Thielbahr

I am enjoying the Everett F Larson Newsletter and look forward to receiving it. This letter's contents may bring up long forgotten memories from shipmates and possibly more financial support for the association. Feel free to use whatever I've written to drum up more interest and financial support.

I served from 9-52 to 9-56. Boot camp and class A radio school in Bainbridge, MD. Went aboard the USS Block Island (CVE-160) in July of 53. My brother Ralph Pellegrini (RDI) was serving on the Larson and operating out of Newport, RI. The Block Island was being decommissioned and scraped so I wanted to get close to home (Keene, NH) and transferred to the E.F. Larson. It's funny because being on a carrier with a tin can screen, looking for Russian subs got to be boring. (cont)

(continued)

From the Block Island hanger deck, watching a tin can take water over the bridge and the screws coming out of the water turned me on! This instigated my transfer to the EF Larson.

I boarded in May of 1954 and left in Sept of 1956. It was a blast! Made two Med cruises, two Caribbean cruises, sailed many oceans, bays and straits, etc. The Tin Can Navy was all I expected and then some.

Remember Hurricane Carol? At sea trying to find safe harbor, The EF Larson took on 54 degree lists with a "No Sweat" attitude. It lasted three days and I Loved It! I never got seasick and the rougher it got the more I had to eat. 95% of the crew was seasick. Being an RM3 I had more info than a regular crew member. We were in DESDIV 115, DESRON 42. One division consisted of the Larson, Benner, Buckley and Fletcher. We operated with and in every fleet operating off the east coast. In November of 1955 the Larson left DESDIV 115 and joined the 7th Fleet operating out of Long Beach, California. I left the Navy on September 11, 1956. I spent 40 of 48 months on sea duty.

Now Hear This:

The radio gang consisted of;

Me - RM3 Gang Leader Frank Pellegrini, Keene, NH

Bill McMillan - Chicago, Ill

Bob Weber - Pasadena CA

Tim Murray - Boston, MA

Randy White - Walpole NH

NAME? - Providence, RI

Our Comm Office Lt. Cashman or Cushman - a Harvard grad. If any of you guys are still around give me a call at 203-267-5930, maybe we can meet at a future reunion.

MORE MEMORIES

The Larson pulled into Annapolis for a midshipman cruise. We challenged the US New Jersey to a baseball game and beat them. Our Captain was a new Commander, young, dynamic, etc. He brought his new wife to the game and cheered us on.

Later on we did a gulf cruise and pulled into Corpus Christi, TX. We were the first seagoing sailors the natives saw since 1945. The high school band was playing on the pier! Fantastic four days, Too Fantastic!! Our new young Captain, recognizing the crew's "good time" in Corpus Christi piped Taps for everybody except the underway watch.

On another cruise we pulled into Malaga, Spain. A bull fight was on the agenda. We had our own section in the stands, a sea of white making a lot of noise. We decided the bull was the underdog so we cheered for him. Needless to say they ushered us out prior to us starting a riot.

How about the shipboard "barter system"? As a radio man I controlled the P.A. system choice of music and could direct to an individual department. I would pipe country/western to the galley for bread. Half the bread would go to the laundry men for clean and pressed whites.

Enough for now I need to buy a Larson Baseball hat and the bulldog badge - can you call me with the name of who to contact.

Hang in there

Frank Pellegrini
563 Heritage Village
Southbury, CT 06488
203-267-5930

I have received some GREAT Larson stories and could not get all of them in this edition. Look for some great stories in the March 2011 newsletter and keep them coming. - Doug Rice

Attention on Deck!

Dues...You know the drill!

Please send your 2010 Dues. Fill out this form, send it and your check made payable to: USS Everett F. Larson DD-830 with a self addressed envelope to:

Frank Wyzywany, Treasurer
12 Ashleigh Court
Lansing, MI 48906

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/Town: _____
State: _____ ZipCode: _____
Tel #: _____
Email: _____
Please Check One:
<input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 per year Full Membership
<input type="checkbox"/> \$120.00 Lifetime Membership (w/ spouse)
<input type="checkbox"/> \$5.00 per year Associate Membership (no voting rights at meeting)
Years beng paid for: _____

Mailing Address:

Are you current? Take a moment to check to see if you need to update information.

*Send in the changes to Doug so you will receive your copy of the Larson Newsletter in a timely and cost efficient fashion.

Doug Rice
83 Stonehedge Lane South
Guilford, CT 06437

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/Town: _____
State: _____ Zipcode: _____
Tel #: _____
Email: _____
Rate & Years on Larson: _____
Spouse's Name: _____

THIS IS NOT A DRILL

Well, I found at least one guy who paid no attention to this dire warning last month: ME!

I'm just not used to printing things I get on e-mail, and you have to print it to cut out the renewal form! Hopefully this will serve as a reminder to anybody like me, if there are any.

Fortunately, we had two very generous donations since the last newsletter that are improving our finances, at least for this year.

Its still important to get dues paid and to get new members, though. We need to do both!

- Gene Maresca

DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Get Your Larson Association Newsletter Via Email

With every edition, your Association mails out 411 Newsletters and Emails 157 Newsletters to members.

Please let Doug Rice (drice@ctslabs.com) know if we can just provide you with the email version. With the rising costs of stamps, envelopes and printing, we would appreciate your help in cutting our costs.

Thank you for your help.

WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR SHIPMATES!

2010 Portland, Oregon Reunion Helpful Hints



1. Weather – In the Northwest as anywhere weather can be unpredictable. Normally in September it is warm during the day and somewhat cool at night.
2. Raffle – Everyone loves the raffle. This is one medium for fundraising for our Association. The raffle will be held Friday, September 17th at approximately 1930 (7:30pm). **Date & Time subject to change.** Price of tickets will be the same as last year (7 for \$5.00 or 15 for \$10.00). Let's make this raffle a huge success with many items to choose and lots of tickets sold. Bring something representing your state or anything of interest.
3. Lanyards – Many of you have lanyards from previous reunions. Bring them. Do not bring the Plastic name tag, you will have new ones. If you forget your lanyard, not to worry, we have some extras.

If this is your first reunion you will receive a lanyard & name tag.

4. If you are driving to Portland, the hotel is right off I-205, If you have a computer, get directions from MapQuest or have the hotel send you directions. The exit ramp can be a little confusing, so be on your toes.

5. I am requesting that everyone planning on attending this reunion to please have your Reservation Request form for the tours & events including payment to me no later then **September 1st.** We have to pay in advance for the tour bus(s) and food at the hotel, and Fran and I are leaving for Portland on Sept 13. Any payments arriving on the 13th or after will not be credited until we return home and we do not want any embarrassing moments. **REMINDER: The Hotel needs your room reservations made by midnight August 23rd.**

6. Those who are flying into Portland (PDX) – once you claim your luggage, go back down the hallway to your left. You will see a bank of phones on your right. Make sure you pick the phone for **HOLIDAY INN PORTLAND AIRPORT.** Request a Shuttle.

7. If you have cruise books or any Larson memorabilia please bring them.

Lets have a great reunion! Fran and I do look forward to seeing all of you in Portland. Call or email if you have any questions or need information.

Max & Fran Schwald, Your Reunion Hosts
541-459-2470
fnm4335@q.com
fran0213@gmail.com

September 15-19, 2010 Portland Oregon Reunion Reservation Request



A. Wednesday 9/15/10 Registration & Welcoming Reception
Registration - All day
Reception - Hospitality Room - Pizza affair - evening

Number of Persons _____ x \$7.00 each = \$ _____

B. Thursday 9/16/10 Evergreen Aviation Museums (Spruce Goose) &
Wine Tasting. Self - guided tours.
12 Wheelchairs available. Lunch on your own.

Number of persons: _____ x 38.00 each = \$ _____

**NEED A WHEELCHAIR FOR THE EVERGREEN MUSEUM

C. Friday 9/17/10 Columbia River Maritime Museum Self-guided tour.
ONLY 2 wheelchairs available. Memorial Service at Museum.
Lunch on the waterfront. Tour price includes lunch.

Number of Persons _____ x \$50.00 Each = \$ _____

**NEED A WHEELCHAIR FOR THE MARITIME MUSEUM

D. Saturday 9/18/10 Business meeting @0900. Free afternoon.
Evening - Buffet Banquet with no host bar. Dancing after dinner.

Number of Persons _____ x \$45.00 Each = \$ _____

E. Sunday 9/19/10 Farewell & Goodbyes.

Make Checks payable to: **Max Schwald**

Send this completed form and your check to: Max Schwald
155 Emerald Street
Sutherlin, OR 97479

Name Tag Information (Please Print)

Your Name : _____ Guest Name _____

Tel #: _____ Email: _____

Years Aboard the Larson: _____

ALL INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL!

PLEASE BRING YOUR LARSON LANYARD