



September, 2007

# The Bosun's Pipe

## *Passing the Word*

USS Frank E. Evans DD-754



Volume I Issue 3

AHOY Shipmates, Family Members & Friends,

The annual reunion of the Frank E. Evans is just around the corner. For those who are still thinking about attending, it isn't too late to make your hotel reservations. Our room block will be held until October 1<sup>st</sup> at the same rate of \$94.00 per night plus taxes. This year the room rate will include a hot breakfast for two.

The reunion will be held at The Elms Resort and Spa in Excelsior Springs, MO. The dates are Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup> thru Saturday, the 6<sup>th</sup>.

THE ELMS Toll Free Telephone Number is: 1-800-843-3567.

Since time is short, you may wait until you get to the hotel to register and select your meals. Your personal check or cash will be accepted.

For those of you driving and planning to use Mapquest for directions to the hotel the address is:

THE ELMS HOTEL

401 Regent Street

Excelsior Springs, MO 64024

The past 15 years, our reunions have been providing a place for EVANS shipmates to gather and reminisce about their lives on the high seas in a tin can. We are looking forward to another reunion and the good times yet to come.

Smooth Seas to One and All,

*J. C. Campbell*

## **Binnacle List?? What's That? And what does it have to do with a list of sick people?**

A member has asked why the names of the sick were put on a binnacle list. Many novice sailors, confusing the words 'binnacle' and barnacle, have wondered what their illnesses had to do with crusty growths found on the hull of a ship.

Their confusion is understandable. Binnacle is defined as the stand or housing for the ship's compass located on the bridge. The term binnacle list originated years ago when ship corpsmen placed a list of the sick on the binnacle stand. After long practice, it came to be called binnacle list.

## **Sick Bay**

Donna (Mrs. Steve) Kraus had major surgery on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Steve brought her home on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The surgery was successful and recovery is going well. Donna has adjusted her mind set and understands her type of surgery requires a longer period of recuperation. She is learning the importance of long naps and how to best use the quiet time. We send Donna our love, prayers for a complete recovery and best wishes for lots of patience during the coming weeks.

## Out of Sick Bay, but on Our Prayer List...

Tom Kearns (RM3 1968-69 S) sent us an email in July providing us their new address in Rochester, NY. His email remains unchanged. He also noted he has had a not-so-good year with cancer, followed by surgery and then radiation treatments. He recently returned to work after being out for almost six months. He has lost 50 pounds and still loosing so will be going back for more tests to make sure the doctors didn't miss anything.

Fern Kerr (Mom of SA James W. Kerr) called in August to tell us she was unable to attend this year's reunion or others in the future. Her health prevents traveling long distances --- especially on planes.

Gerry Hemphill (Sister of SA James W. Kerr) has been learning how to live with ALS the last several months. Gerry and Alan have made reservations to attend the Saturday evening dinner. She is looking forward to Vane Scott's program. On Sunday morning they will be traveling to Arkansas for a relaxing time in the mountains.

Russell Carver (Bt3 1950-54) recently finished another 6 months of chemo and the oncologist has said his cancer is in remission. He and Evelyn are looking forward to seeing friends and fellow shipmates in Excelsior Springs.

We will remember these shipmates & members in your prayers.

## Words of Thanks...

Connie Montana (daughter of our historian, Frank Jablonski) sends the following message to the membership.... "I am getting stronger every week. I want to thank everyone again for their notes, prayers, e-mails, cards, flowers, and phone call, which really helped keep me going. Things are back to semi-normal, good but easily exhausting. A follow-up CT scan of my lung showed it to be 'nothing'. I still have this weird feeling when I think to myself as a 'cancer survivor'. Sometimes it just pops into my head, 'YOU HAVE CANCER!' Thank you all. I pray that you are happy and healthy. Connie Montana"

## The USS Frank E. Evans's OFFICIAL SHIP STORE

We have recently been advised of merchandise bearing the name and/or logo of the F. E. Evans being advertised for sale on the internet. The Association has not given permission to anyone to prepare, produce, advertise or sell items bearing our name, logo or drawing of the destroyer.

Official Evans items may be purchased from the ship store during yearly reunions. Between reunions our members may order directly from the association by sending a written request, an email, or placing a telephone call to the home office. The item(s) will be shipped back to the member immediately, unless the item is out of stock.

Any and all profit from the Evans Ship Store goes back into our association. Therefore, each unauthorized item bought elsewhere, takes money from our ship store and our Memorial Fund.

We appreciate our members sending us a message each time they become aware of unauthorized items being sold.

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The human body is a machine that is full of wonder.

Scientists say the higher your I.Q. - the more you dream.

You use 200 muscles to take one step.

It takes the food seven seconds to get from your mouth to your stomach.

The average woman is 5 inches shorter than the average man. (Continued next month.)

## The Ultimate Cruise Book

*(Editor's note: After the reunion last fall, the association purchased the Frank E. Evans Muster Rolls which began the day the destroyer was put into service on February 3, 1945 and continues until June 3, 1969. The rolls were put on discs at The Vietnam Center in Lubbock, TX. Texas Tech University then sent copies to Frank Jablonski. Each disc had several hundred files that represented a page out of the Muster Rolls. After several months, Frank has completed the preliminary review of the Muster Rolls. To get all the names, ratings, dates of enlistment and places of enlistment has been a labor intensive task. He estimates the total crew member names to be close to 4,000, if not greater.*

*The following are the recent contributors who have responded with information for one or the other of the two books below. Thus far Frank's total responses have been around 100 out of the 4,000. Come on former Evans sailors, their wives, children, and friends: We need you to respond with information on your favorite sailor. Ask him for the information at the bottom of this page, jot it down and send the information for your husband, dad, brother, cousin, friend, grandfather, etc. Your loved one deserves to have his page in the history book. He served his country in one of the three wars the Frank E. Evans sailed the sea.*

### "The Ultimate Cruise

USS Frank E Evans (DD-754)

1945 - 1969"

Richard H. Crinnigan, S1c, 1946-47

Lester P. Davies, EM3, 1953-56

Eugene W. Garrity, FC3, 1950-51

George Vernon Godfrey, S1c, 1945-46

William J. Hollifield, MM3, 1950-54

Ron Koppang, RD3, 1965-67

George T. Lafferty, CQM, 1944-46

Dennis C. Makarainen, ENS, 1966-68

Earl W. **Marchbanks**, CS1, 11963-68

William V. Signer, SN, 1952-54

Charles Franklin Swinger, RD2, 1954-57

Charles Manahan, QM3, 1969 (USS KEARSARGE (CVS 33)

These two books will be about the crewmen who served on the EVANS. Each man (or family member of an Evans sailor) who sends in photos and stories, recollections, remembrances, or mini-biography will be included in the book. Frank is interested in photos of the destroyer, the sailor(s), and crew members with the names of the men and the location of the picture (if known). He would like the following information on each sailor: Name, Rate, Rank, Division, Years of Board, Date of Birth, Place of Birth, Eye Color, Hair Color, Place of Entry into the Navy, Date of Entry, Boot Camp Attended, College Attended/Graduated, Time of Evans, Story of Experience on Evans, Bio, Anecdote. Getting all this information on each sailor is ideal, but he will be happy with whatever information is or can be sent. Contacts for Frank Jablonski

Email: [fjab333@earthlink.net](mailto:fjab333@earthlink.net)

4027 Waterbridge Circle

Phone: 386 - 322 - 5523

Port Orange, FL 32129-9606

*(Editor's note: Frank will be sharing his work during the reunion. Members are encouraged to bring pictures and records to the reunion. He will be able to make copies of your pictures and/or letters, etc. and then give your originals right back. If the form that was mailed earlier this year has been lost or misplaced, we will email or "snail mail" another one to you upon request. Look on the last page of this publication for ways to contact us OR contact Frank at the address above or via Email. Remember he needs photos and will return them to you.)*

## Speaking of Photos....

Have you be wondering when the 2006 Reunion Picture Book will be mailed?

Answer: The members attending the reunion will find their photo book in the registration packet. The rest of the books will be mailed from Excelsior Springs. The books are being printed by a new printer this year and we are eagerly looking forward to seeing how the books turn out.

We recently learned our photographer, Bill Richardson, will be unable to attend the reunion this year. He started attending the reunions with Cal and Barbara Rankin (his sister). He has missed very few of the past 16 reunions. When we needed a photographer in 1998 in Alexandria, VA., Bill volunteered to help us. He has given freely of his time and money to provide the membership memories from coast to coast for the past seven years. Bill will be missed this year but we expect to see him next September, 2008, in Charleston, SC.

## Memories of "The Gray Ghost" during the Korean Conflict

The question was: "Does anyone know the name of the sailor who died just after the Korean armistice was signed?"

Answer: Fred Hicks was a 19 year young man from Tennessee. He had been aboard the EVANS since May 8, 1953. The question originally came from Doug Legg (Ltjg 1952-55).

After *The Bosun's Pipe* was sent out via email, a telephone call from Bill Hollifield (MM3 1950-54) came within two hours. A few days later Bill called again with additional information he had learned from phone conversations with shipmates B. J. Davis (MM3 1950-54) and Jack Sheehan (MM3 1952-55). Two weeks later a written statement was received from J. Henry Burnett (BT3 1950-54) with two pictures of Fred Hicks. On the night in question, Henry was standing watch with Fred Hicks and Alex Sanchez (FN 1951-54) in the aft fire room (blowing the boiler tubes). The official records show Fred's date of death to be November 10, 1953.

Between these five men additional details differ. Therefore, we will seek to confirm additional events using facts that can be substantiated. The rest of the story will be addressed in the next issue, hopefully.

## Do you have family member(s) serving in the military?

A few years ago Richard (Dick) Fritz, MM1 1969 S, noted he and Judy had family members serving in the military. During a recent email conversation with Dick, he brought us up to date on his oldest daughter, Monica, who is currently a chief and stationed in Hawaii at Kaneohe Bay. She has made the military her career and is due to retire in January, 2009. Monica's husband served 26 years in the Marine Corps and retired in June, 2007.

After we talked to Dick, we recalled hearing about the bombing of the COLE in 2000. A few days later we learned Mike & Diane Smith's son was serving on the COLE. Suddenly the reports we heard on the evening news became more personal and meaningful than before. As Pete Peters received updates from Mike or Diane, he would pass the news on to the rest of us.

The Question for Next Month: Do you have family members (children, a grandchild, brother or sister, or others serving in the military? We invite you to share your pride by sending us information on your family members serving our country: the branch and years of service, rate/rating, base stationed or ship, etc.

Until next month, keep our service men and women around the world in your daily thoughts and prayers. They are protecting our homeland and our way of life.

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The Bosun's Call – Passing the Word

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