Reunion of 1967--

Pittsburgh, PA

John Dean Jim Godlesky

Now came our year of truth! We had been enjoying, participating, encouraging and recruiting for the past 7 years. Now it was our turn to not just to be on the crew, but in the crew. It is not a matter of upstaging anyone, following a hard act or being the best. It is an opportunity to be of service to some very important people with whom our lives had been intertwined and at times entrusted to. This is the opportunity to commemorate our friendship of years standing.

Jim was very excited and decided to the task, and I by virtue of a job transfer had just been moved much closer to the scene which helped in working together on site searches, composing correspondence, etc.

Our major considerations were in getting the best we could for our people at a reasonable cost, getting facilities where children could be accomodated, and being near an airport and major traffic routes. We were able to secure a nights lodging, a luncheon, a banquet dinner and gratuities at Holiday Inn West, near the Pittsburgh airport, for a sum of \$25 - single or \$35 - a couple. Included was free transport from airport to motel. We thought this a modest sum for first class accomodations. Our negotiations were helped by the motel manager being a navy vet, and interested in what we were doing.

We wanted to contribute something distinctive to this and future reunions so in line with this we created a second "commissioning." Our eldest son, Jack, had a schoolmate, Roland Cook who had a flair for creating with a pen. He was kind enough to create a penned drawing of the PF 52 of a good size, with names of crew members who had attended past reunions.

The 1967 reunion holds many memories for Jim and I since we were so thoroughly immersed in this one. Some of those memories are: pre and post reunion visiting at the Godlesky home, replete with the Hull's camper on the lawn, poolside entertainment by Al & Betty Macelis, first timer "Red" Nichols stolen luggate (he set it down in the wrong room), my mother attending as a guest, Frank Pierce's "lemonade parade" with the kids and much more. Six of the 26 mates attending were first timers.

Dear Shipmates:

This is a belated re-cap of the 1967 USS Allentown Reunion and the initial reminder of the 1968 reunion to be held in Florida.

The reunion held in Pittsburgh in July was a great success in continuing the thread of friendship among the men of the Allentown. Six new men attended this year, adding their names and support to the list of those who have enjoyed this wonderful experience. To date, 63 shipmates have attended at least once.

In Pittsburgh, the following men were present and accounted for:

Joe Micklas
Tom Hull, family
Richard Kugele, family*
Tom Moseley, family
Frank Pierce, family
Homer Nichols*
George Holko
Jack Weinstein, family
Gene Tarquinio, family*
Garrett Van Eck
Robert Beall, family
Allen Emery
Stan Goryl, family*

Cooper Smith, family*
Ray Huhra, family*
Jim Godlesky, family
John Dean, family
Phil Garlington, family
Carl Fockler, family
Bill Lansley, family
Frank Morstatt, family
Don Miller, family
Russ Myers, family
Maynard Duvall, family
John Paulius, family
Al Stampone, family

Those names starred * were our first timers. Sam Pollard and his wife cancelled at the last moment due to a death in the family.

Activities at the reunion were confined mostly to the grounds of the Holiday Inn West, outside of Pittsburgh. Our group activities were a luncheon, dinner, and a business meeting. The balance of the day was centered around the swimming pool, updating friendships that have been maintained by some and renewing those that have lain dormant for twenty odd years.

The evening was topped off in the wee hours of Sunday morning by a fine demonstration of marching of our teen-agers led by the Mayor, Frank Pierce.

The earliest arrivals were Dot and Frank Pierce, (Wed.), last to leave, John Paulius (Tues.), longest distance traveled, Phil Garlington, (Calif.). Captains of all past reunions were present.

The location of the 1968 reunion will be in the vicinity of Fort Pierce, Fla. with Maynard Duvall as captain and Gene Tarquinio as exec.

Accompanying this letter is an up to date, revised list of crew members. The first list is of those who have attended past reunions or who have answered their correspondence. The second list is of men whose mail is not being answered but are believed to be in the area shown. Please review this list and if any up to date info is available, send it on to Cap't. Duvall.

We sincerely hope that the bonds of friendship among the men and families of the USS Allentown can be maintained through the years. Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and wonderful reunion in Florida in 1968.

JIM GODLESKY JOHN DEAN

Reunion of 1968--

YERO BEACH, FL

Maynard Duvall, Capt. Eugne Tarquinio, Exec.

Is July in Florida really warm? Yes it was, and so was the hospitality! An old North Carolina boy who had fared quite well in the Coast Guard y attaining the rank of Warrant Officer, was well deserved for keeping our engines intact to the Pacific and back if for no other reason. Maynard teamed up with Capt. Collins, star helmsman, to arrange accomodations and visitation at a very nice spot operated by Holiday Inn at Vero Beach, FL. My notes on this are sparse, but maybe I wasn't too coherent after a 25-hour drive straight through with my two sons.

The attendance was down for this gathering, but as is often the case, the loss was that of the people who didn't attend. Another loss we marked at this reunion was the note of the death of Frank M. Morstatt, who was the first reunion co-captain and founder.

I do remember quite clearly, the intervention of my "lawyer" John Paulius who came to the rescue at the check out desk where I had a discrepancy with the motel concerning my reservations. In a very brief and dramatic fashion, the discrepancy was resolved very decidely in my favor. These guys from the "A" sure get it done.

Children of the Captain and Co-Captain were guests, as was Ed and Norma Fretz, Uncle and Aunt of Ruth Godlesky.

Reunion of 1969--

Buffalo, NY

Tom Hull, Captain

It seems we have reached another milestone, or we are evolving into another phase in our style of reunions. We had been tailoring our gatherings to tie into family vacations where children could use supervised pools or watch TV while parents visited or pursued other activities close by. The young children are fast becoming young adults and pursuing interests of their own choosing or tapering off in attendance due to summer jobs or other interests.

Tom Hull was a no nonsense, get it done, straightforward type of guy, who got the job done and very well. They chose a site not far from their home in Orchard Park, NY with good facilities for adults and children.

Two unexpected shipmates who stopped in unexpectedly were Fred Todd, QM and Emil Benz, RM. A welcome newcomer was Bob Lincoln, LT.

We visited Tom and Shirley at their home before and after the reunion. It is very likely that any of us who had never seen Niagra Falls before did visit there at this reunion, as it was nearby.

Reunion of 1970--Joliet, IL Donald "Smokey" Miller, Captain

We had been north, south and east but not west as yet. One of the avowed purposes of the methodology we had discussed and implemented at our crew business meetings at annual reunions, was to endeavor to geographically diversify meeting areas, to help equalize traveling distances over the long-term, and to reach people in various areas who might be reluctant to travel far.

Don and Beverley had been consistent supporters of reunions and it was gratifying to have them act as hosts. They were also the parents to the youngest of a slowly disappearing group of reunion children, who had become an important part of our gatherings. Monica came to serve as the subject of many burned flash bulbs and the tugger of many heart strings.

Again, there were new faces and names to greet and visit with. Not having documentation, one that comes to mind is Ex-Quartermaster, Russell Kaufmann of the Peoria area. Perhaps, also Ray Schultz of the greater Chicago area, and a past-member of the Commodores staff.

One of the sidelights was a trip to Joliet State Prison for those who chose. Certainly some mixed feelings, and a reminder to count our blessings. I note with personal interest that the recap of the reunion was done by Emil Benz of St. Louis. Emil is another of our good crew members who we see all too rarely. Another happy weekend that in retrospect seem to unite and separate almost in one motion.

1400 St. Denis St. Florissant, Mo. 63033 August 13, 1970

Dear Allentown Shipmates,

On July 11th, the annual reunion of the old Allentown Crew was held in Joliet, Illinois. This year's reunion was captained by Don "Smokey" Miller and a fairly large group attended. We had a muster at lunch, then took a very interesting and enlightening trip through the Joliet State Prision Facilities. We all had dinner together and spent the evening getting acquainted again, swapping old tales.

There was a short business meeting and Bob Beal consented to be the "Captain" for next year's reunion, which will be held near Washington, D. C.

Enclosed, for your information, is a list of Allentown Crew Members with their current addresses. Perhaps, you will want to correspond with your old shipmates and plan to attend next year's reunion. "Captain" Bob Beal will be contacting you later in the year to fill you in on plans for next year's reunion.

Hoping to see you next year in Washington, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

Emil A. Benz

Acting Scribe

Reunion of 1971--Bethesda, MD Robert Beall, Captain

We employ the title "Captain" rather loosly, and quite honorarily in reunion parlance. In this case, however, Captain is not too far fetched, as Bob Beall held the rank of Lt. Commander and eventual Executive Officer of the Allentown. Bob was a practicing attorney in the D.C. area before and after his service time, and had been a consistent and ardent reunion supporter.

Bob had a particular brand of mirth that you came to recognize and appreciate more as you came to know him better. A case in point:

In the spring or early summer of 1945, while the Allentown was in dry dock at Bremerton, Washington, for some retro-fitting previous to delivery to Russia in the Lend/Lease Program, we sustained an unexpected loss.

The silverware used in the Officer's ward room had been presented by the City of Allentown. Despite war time ship yard security, the U.S.S Allentown and the Allentown silverware mysteriously parted company during one of the ship yard work shifts. All the silverware that is, with the exception of two forks.

I was on duty at the gang way on a late evening following this happening, when two men presented themselves at the gang way and gave identification as security men, and requested to see the Captain. The Captain not being aboard, and Mr. Beall being the Exec., I contacted Mr. Beall, who promptly appeared at the gang way. After introduction formalities, Mr. Beall turned and gestured toward the Ward Room with a very curt "Come on in and have a cup of coffee, it you don't mind stirring it with a fork."

Bob and Hadgie, of course, were excellent hosts having secured good accomodations and seen well to details. A very special first attender was our own favorite "Skipper", Captain Ed Cardwell. Having not seen the Captain since 1945, I was amazed at his recollections of details and of personal events.

We had a "Mystery Man" at the social hour on Saturday evening. Jack Weinstein who may have been bald from childhood, transformed himself with a hairpiece which defied description. Although we had been visiting together throughout the day and the previous evening, he was incognito and played it to the hilt. The ladies, of course, got to do some D.C. touring while crew members held their traditional afternoon business meeting. Good friends, good fun and great food made another memorable weekend.

Mr. Beall says he wrote President Nixon, asking permission for us to use the Presidential hideaway at Camp David, but the President referred his letter to a U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander, the camp commander, who gave me a polite "NO".

Besides Mr. Beall's wife, Hadgie, their son Peter attended, a young handsome fellow. Pete joined the Navy, and after discharge ended up in Laramie, Wyoming as an Orthopedic Surgeon. He was visited there by Jim and Mary Godlesky in 1986 and 1987. We hope he will revisit the reunion someday.

Reunion of 1972--

Oshkosh, WI

Jerry Panske, Captain

Ki Ni Island in Oshkosh sounds kind of fictional or pacifiky, but on a sailor's honor, its real, and bib overalls are far more predominate that grass skirts. Getting there was somewhat painful, but rewarding. The "pain" I refer to, was the ride from Chicago to Oshkosh aboard the scaled-down Spruce Goose, or whatever they were. At any rate, several of the ladies unaccustomed to flying props with unpressurized cabins experienced considerable ear discomfort, as we met and flew with several others arriving in Chicago from various destinations. Jerry and Jane may be a bit small in stature, but the certainly pull much more than their weight. They, along with their daughters, have been very regular attenders and participants at reunions. Always pleasant, reserved and quite diplomatic, they made our visit memorable by meeting, greeting, arranging and just being themselves. Besides swapping stories, etc., they had many innovative activities arranged, which included some favorite shopping areas, a boat ride on the lake, more shopping at a Lenox China around the lake, dining, dancing, etc.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Ex-Boatswain Mate, Stan Young of Tarrytown, NY in November 1971.

Thanks Jerry & Jane for a great time. We enjoyed it!

Reunion of 1973--

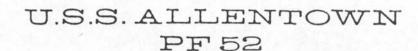
Chattanooga, TN Frank Pierce, Captain

Taking on a reunion of this type is no small chore, and it must be somewhat a tribute to a crew to know someone wants to host them again. It is much more a tribute to a host that they are willing, and even happy to do a re-run.

Since the inception of our annual events, when we met back-to-back in New York State, this has been the first repeat, and we looked forward to it fondly.

Frank and Dot landed us a gem this time. The old train station in Chattanooga was being converted by the Hilton chain, to plush rail car motels and large adjoining dining facilities, and we were practically helping to launch it. While that may be somewhat of an overstatement, it was quite new, quite nice, and as previously recounted, the hosts had lost none of their touch.

In addition to the fun at the Inn, Frank and Dot had now acquired a farm somewhat smaller than the "Ponderosa", but approaching its grandeur, and we had the privelege of visiting there.



1979



Avast, Ye Trusty Shellbacks! A two year update on your fellow shipmates of the Ancient Order of the Deep!

The 20th Annual Reunion was held at Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn in Maryland July 6th to 8th, 1979. The accommodations were everything that Ev and Al Stampone had promised — outstanding. The weather was great and the outdoor pool and adjoining patio food bar were put to good use, along with the whirlpool bath and sauna.

Attendance down somewhat due to the acute gas shortage. We were encouraged by the presence of two first timers -- Elmer Stiller and Don Landry. We were particularly pleased to see Don, who previously had been reported as deceased.

A follow up on the effort, initiated at Kalamazoo, to locate crew members "gone astray." Located during the year were Jack DuGan, Bob Elsasser, Leo Horner, Bernard Johnson, Bob Oakes, Ted Hug, Charlie Dragosavac, Joe Engelke and Vital Ortiz.

Bill and Barbara Bradley offered to host the 1982 reunion at Elkhart, Indiana.

It was voted to continue mailing reunion notices and news letters to wives of departed shipmates.

All hands gathered in the hospitality room for a happy hour prior to the banquet. Not to be outdone by the Hawaiian girl at Kalamazoo, Al had arranged entertainment in the form of a striptease by Ms. Poison Ivy, who made her(?) debut down the circular staircase.

The reunion formally concluded with the banquet. John Dean offered a prayer for the departed including those who had passed on during the year -- George Holko, Don Miller and Walt Radke.

A minor highlight was watching Al Macelis give his favorite actor, Broderick Crawford, the glad hand in the lobby on Sunday A.M.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

The 21st Reunion was held July 4th to 6th, 1980 at the Marriott Inn/Airport in Cleveland. Again, the accommodations were superb, thanks to Phyllis and Red Nichols.

SP 78 MARCE 79 MARCE 80

> Activities included a tour of PPG Industries automotive finishes plant, where Red is chief color coordinator. Their research and quality control effort was something to behold, as were the cleanliness and safety features of the plant.

Marvin Crumpler's offer to host the 1983 reunion at Clear Lake City (Houston?), Texas was accepted.

We missed Betty Macelis. She was a wonderful person. She and Al were prime contributors to this reunion bit. Betty had not missed one since it began, Al has yet to miss one.

Attendees over the past two years include

Leo Bienfang
Weill Bradley
Will Bradley
Will Bryant
Weill Finger
Will Bryant
Weill Fockler
Will Bryant
Will Bill Lansley
Will Bill Lansley
Will Bob Lincoln
Will Bill Ryder
Will Bryant
Wi

Reserve July 10th to 12th, 1981 for the 22nd "Annual." It will be held at the Hilton at Merrimack, New Hampshire -- Lafrance, Ryder and Lincoln hosting. Details will be forthcoming shortly. We will be expecting all you New Englanders, New Yorkers, New Jerseyites and Pennsylvanians -- along with you out in the boondocks.

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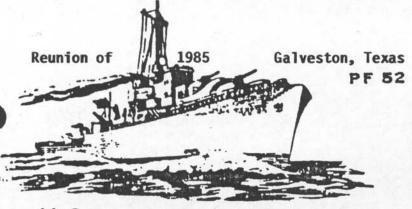
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U.S.S. ALLENTOWN

REPORT ON THE GALVESTON REUNION

The 25th Reunion of the crew of the USS ALLENTOWN was held at the Galvez Hotel in Galveston, Texas, September 27th to 29th, 1985. Marc Crumpler was Captain, ably assisted by his First Mate, Mildred. The first reunion was held in New York State in 1960 and there has been one every year since then, except for 1983 when the first planned reunion for Galveston was wiped out by Hurricane Alicia.

The Galvez had been completely refurbished since 1944 when it served as a barracks for the crew of the ALLENTOWN, prior to its commissioning in New Orleans. It had all the amenities that one would expect in a luxury hotel, including an indoor/outdoor pool and a commodious two story penthouse with a view of the entire city. The latter served as reunion headquarters and hospitality suite. The gardens were immaculate as they had been in 1944 under the care of Allentown steward mates, until the latter were successfully transferred to the galley for experience more in line with their designated ratings.

More and more, members of the crew are pulling in a day early and getting a headstart on the reunions. 1985 was no exception. Because of the distance, there had been concern about getting a good turnout. Including family members, attendance was close to fifty. Those attending were as follows:

Leo Bienfang
Bill Bradley
Marc & Mildred Crumpler & family
John Dean
Joe & Elsie Falkenheimer
Bill & Joyce Finger
Carl Fockler
Jim & Mary Godlesky
Stan & Helen Goryl & family
Paul Lafrance
Bill & Ginnie Lansley

Bob & Joan Lincoln
Tom & Pat Moseley
Ardis (Mrs. Everett) Olson & family
Jerry & Jane Panske (no family, for a change)
John Paulius
Frank & Betsy Pierce
Larry & Mim Radle
Bob Rodeghero
Bill & Sarah Ryder
Danny & Jean Shea
Bob Sivanich

The Sheas and Radles were first time attendees. Danny, who retired after thirty years in the Coast Guard, saw a notice about the reunion in one of the veterans' magazines. We had previously lost all contact with him. Russ Meyers' plans to attend were thwarted by Hurricane Gloria, which kept him holding down the fort at home.

It did not take the crew long to settle in and renew acquaintances. This time there were new yarns, such as where the duck was hidden during inspection in 1944 - in a bathtub or john. Friday night Mildred had arranged a delicious buffet, including a huge honey baked ham, in the hospitality suite. Saturday we took advantage of the nice weather for sightseeing in the area. The center of Galveston is undergoing an historical restoration. The old railroad station and yards are now a transportation museum. Other landmarks, which you might remember, have been torn down.

A brief business meeting was held Saturday afternoon. The main order of business was upcoming functions:

1986 - Pittsburgh vicinity - Stan Goryl hosting

1987 - Albany vicinity - Bill Lansley hosting

1988 - New York City/Long Island Area - Bill Finger hosting

Saturday night we enjoyed a scrumptious banquet of surf and turf in the ballroom of the Galvez - not at all reminiscent of our earlier messes there. The amateur photographers were in their glory.

Sunday morning Marc and Mildred treated all to a delightful group breakfast prior to departure. As souvenirs of the reunion, we all brought home attractive seashell candles, crafted by Marc's and Mildred's daughter in her New Mexico candle shop.

Our thanks to Marc and Mildred for a fine and memorable reunion!

I am sorry to report that since our last newsletter (Russ Meyers' in 1984), we have lost three of our active reunion members:

William "Doc" Davis Joseph J. Micklas Homer "Red" Nichols January 1, 1985 October, 1985 April 15, 1986

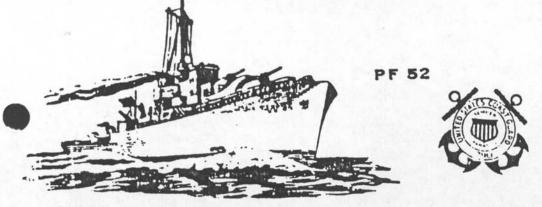
They had all attended "Williamsburg" in 1984. Their presence will be deeply missed in the future.

On a happier note, contact has been established, or re-established, with Joe Altomere, Charlie Beall and Bill Cunningham.

Jim Godlesky deserves much credit for his efforts in maintaining contact with crew members. In 1985, up until the time of the reunion, he had visited 14 members from Florida to Colorado. This year he attended a mini-reunion in Florida, the others present being Mike Miller, Tarquinio, Meyers, Radle, Duvall and Emery. More recently, Jim and Mary swung through New England in their camper and visited with Lane, Lincoln, LaFrance and Mountain, while also making contact with Bernie Johnson and Clyde Douglas.

Commendations are also in order for Jim and Russ Meyers for their planned undertaking to compile a book of stories about the "Amazing A" and its crew members. Help them out by writing down or taping your favorite stories and getting them to Jim.

By now you have all heard from Stan Goryl about the 1986 Reunion at Meadowlands in Washington, PA from September 26th to 28th. All reports indicate a big turnout, both among the "regulars" and those who have been unable to attend recently for whatever reason. GET YOUR RESERVATION IN, IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO!



U.S.S. ALLENTOWN

1987

This newsletter is dedicated to Crew-Mate Bob Lincoln. At the 1978 Kalamazoo Reunion Bob suggested the newsletter and took the job of Scrivener for several years. Our Beloved Crew Member departed for a greater reward in August of 1987.

The 27th Allentown Reunion was held Sept. 18th to 20th at the Turf Inn, Albany, New York. It was hosted by Ginny & Bill Lansley and Elsie & Joe Falkenheimer.

The weather was rainy all week end but we "made" our own sunshine. Upon arrival we were delightfully suprised to discover a tempting display of foods in the Hospitality room. Vegetables and dips, sandwich-fixings, fancy cheese hors d'oeuvre and various nut breads were available. BEST OF ALL the huge coffee pot was filled throughout our stay. A variety of alcoholic beverages were on hand too!

Another surprise was the plastic bag of "goodies" we were handed. It contained maps and sight-seeing events in the Albany area: a refrigerator-magnet butterfly and souvenir letter opener.

Our rooms, surrounding the indoor pool, were most luxurious. I thought I was on a Hollywood set! Tables were set for eight in the pool lobby. We gathered there for catch-up conversations. OVERHEARD: One table of wives were comparing the number of their grandchildren. The winner, hands down, was Evelyn Stampone with SEVENTEEN!

Friday night, Alice Davis, Bette Fockler and Ginny Lansley could be seen, still drinking coffee and talking at 2:20 A.M. Saturday morning the men held their business meeting at 10:30. Gene Tarquineo & Maynard Duvall will host the 1988 Reunion at Vero Beach, Florida mid to end September; Great Western Motel. In 1989 Bill Finger will host and John Jones of the Machais will assist at Long

Bill Ryder suggested that the 1990 reunion be held in Grand Haven, Michigan, where the Bicentennial of the Coast Guard will be celebrated. Bill Bradley, Carl Fockler, and Gare Van Eck to assist. Currently, motel rooms in the area are almost nonexistent and prices in the summer are prohibitive.

Other business was the sale of Allentown caps by John Paulius. generously donated the \$75 to the Reunion Fund. Saturday afternoon, the motel provided a bus and driver for a tour of the South Mall. The woman enjoyed this time of looking and shopping.

The Saturday night banquet was held pool side. Fresh flowers adorned each table. Ace Emory led us in prayer. The food was delicious and the portions were gigantic.

Sunday morning we were treated to a beautiful Brunch; a gift from our Hosts. Let's hear a round of applause for a magnificent Reunion planned for us by Ginny and Bill, Elsie and Joe!

Lansleys received a Mailgram from Harry Beecher, a former Radio Man First Class. He asks former shipmates to call collect Saturdays or write to him: 4516B Carlton, NW Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87107. We hope to see you in Florida.

Your One-Time News Reporter,

Bette Fockler, our retirement address: 4262 Joy Road - Shelbyville, MI 49344

Those attending besides our hosts:

Mr. & Mrs. Leo Bienfang Mr. & Mrs. John (Bill) Bradley

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bryant Mrs. "Doc" Alan Davis Mr. & Mrs. John Dean

(Daughter, son-in-law & baby)

Mr. & Mrs. Allen Druer (Sandusky)

Mr. & Mrs. Maynard DuVall Mr. & Mrs. Allan Emery Mr. & Mrs. William Finger Mr. & Mrs. Carl Fockler Mr. & Mrs. James Godlesky * Mr. Jerome Grisham

* Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Y. Hayden

Mr. & Mrs. Ned Horvell Mr. John Jones (Machias) Mr. & Mrs. Paul LaFrance

Mr. Albert Macelis

Mr. & Mrs. Russ Meyers Mr. & Mrs. Michael Miller

Mr. & Mrs. James Miltulski

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Mosley

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Panske

Mr. & Mrs. John Paulius

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Piazza Mr. & Mrs. Frank Pierce

Mr. Pitnoff (Sandusky)

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rodeghro Mr. & Mrs. William J. Ryder

Mr. Frank Seigle & Nephew

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sivanich

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Sperduto

Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Stampone Mr. & Mrs. Garrett Van Eck

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Verduin

*Newcomers from the "A" crew

Charles B. Beall, Chestertown, MD passed away February 18, 1987.