



Radar Picket Ships

YAGRGRAM #19

Winter 2000

January 5, 2001

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YAGR'S Reunion

YAGR'S will be holding its 6th reunion in San Diego, CA on June 14, 15, 16, 2001.

Our host hotel will be the Town & Country Resort and Convention Center, 500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108. To make your reservations phone 1-800-772-8527. **Our room rate will be \$90.00 per night.** When you call the hotel to make your room reservations, let them know that you are with the YAGR'S group. You must make your room reservations by May 25, 2001 to guarantee that you receive this special rate, but more important that a room will be available for you. The Town & Country will extend the \$90.00 rate for 3 days before and 3 days after the reunion dates. If you have any problems making your reservations, get in touch with me. A note to smokers: Make sure you inform the hotel that you want a smoking room.

The Town and Country is the largest hotel by far that we have held our reunion in. It covers an area of over 40 acres of gardens and grounds. It also offers 5 restaurants - everything from a deli and food court to fine dining. While this is a large complex, all of our function rooms will be close to one another.

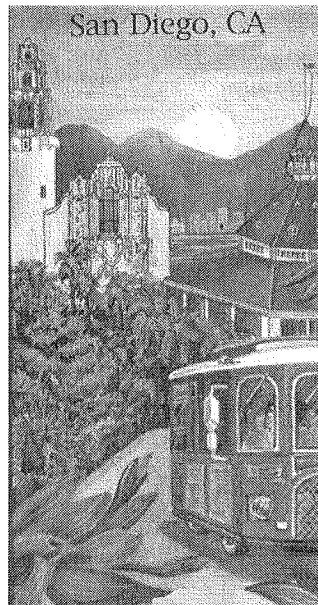
For those of you who will not have a car, the San Diego trolley stops adjacent to the hotel (a 2 minute walk). This will get you to most of the area attractions and downtown San Diego; and if you walk for another minute, you will be at the Fashion Valley Mall.

If you are arriving by car, parking will cost \$6.00 per night (all of the local hotels charge for parking). You will be within a 10 or 15 minute drive of the area's attractions. RV's are able to park on site, parking only.

You can view the hotel's web page at
<http://www.towncountry.com>

Reservations and Hotel rooms

It is strongly recommended that you make your hotel reservations as early as possible. YAGR'S has set aside 100 rooms



at the Town and Country. As I talk to people, I am getting the feeling that we will need to arrange for more rooms. But until I start to see how many reservations are made, I will have no idea of how many more rooms we might need. We do not want the same problem we had in Minneapolis when some people waited too long to make their reservations and were not able to get a room at the hotel.

Reunion Registration

You will notice that we have changed the registration fee format this year. The new format is as follows:

Dues paying members and their spouses/guests - the cost will be \$75.00 per person

Non dues paying members and their spouses/guests - the cost will be \$85.00 per person

A dues paying member is anyone who has paid his dues for the YAGR'S year of June 1, 2000 to May 31, 2001. To determine whether you have paid your dues, look on the mailing label on the envelope that this YAGRGRAM came in. If there is a date above your name, you have paid your dues. If there is no date above your name, your dues are now due.

If you have paid your dues and a date is not above your name, get in touch with me so we can straighten it out. Also if you have any questions in regards to this, please get in touch with me.

Reunion Schedule

The reunion format will be the same as the past 5 reunions. The hospitality room will be kept open as much as possible. **Wednesday the 13th of June** is our pre-reunion tour San Diego Harbor Dinner Cruise. Time 6:30pm to 10:30 pm **(optional)** **Thursday the 14th of June** will be for checking in at the hotel and our hospitality room to pick up your reunion packet. **Friday the 15th of June** we will go on our group tour. At this time the tour has not been finalized due to a couple of possibilities we are looking at.

Saturday the 16th of June in the morning the men will hold their meeting. At the same time the spouses/guests will be holding their penny social/breakfast. Saturday evening will be the banquet for all.

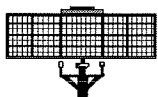
Sunday the 17th of June check out of hotel. Reunion comes to a close.

Pre-Reunion Tour

This year's pre-reunion tour will be a San Diego Harbor Dinner Cruise. The tour will be held on June 13, 2001. We will depart the hotel at 6:30pm and return 10:30pm. The cost will be \$58.00 per person (actual cost). This includes bus transportation. The following information was taken out of the tour company's brochure.

"This fun evening consists of a 2 1/2 hour dinner cruise! The scrumptious menu consists of a double entree including filet mignon and chicken cordon bleu, salad, rice pilaf, fresh vegetables, rolls, dessert and coffee. After dinner, take advantage of the music and dance floor, or enjoy a stroll under the stars on the top deck of the ship."

You will notice that the tour is in the evening. We decided to do this as quite a few people will be arriving later in the day on Wednesday. This gives more people the opportunity to go on the tour. Plus it will be a enjoyable evening!



BREAKFAST **FOR THE LADIES** **TEE SHIRT CONTEST**
PENNY SOCIAL

Again this year we will have our penny social following the Saturday morning breakfast. We are asking each of the spouses/guests to bring an inexpensive item to be raffled off. Homemade craft items are certainly most welcome.

Just a reminder that we will have a tee shirt contest after the Saturday morning breakfast. Decorate a tee shirt that somehow (no matter how loosely) relates to your home state. You have 6 months to come up with a good idea. Let your imagination run wild.

Send Out A Reunion Notice

If your local newspaper has a column that features reunions and events, or if you belong to any organization that sends magazines or newsletters, please send them a notice that we will be holding our reunion. Here is a sample of what you might send: **Feel free to change this as you deem necessary.** RADAR PICKET SHIPS (YAGR'S) USS Guardian AGR-1, Lookout AGR-2, Skywatcher AGR-3, Searcher AGR-4, Scanner AGR-5, Locator AGR-6, Picket AGR-7, Interceptor AGR-8, Investigator AGR-9, Outpost AGR-10, Protector AGR-11, Vigil AGR-12, Interdictor AGR-13, Interpreter AGR-14, Tracer AGR-15, Watchman AGR-16, USS YR-23 and USS YR-65 while attached to RADRON TWO, and staff will be holding their 6th reunion in San Diego, CA on June 14, 15 and 16, 2001. For more information, contact Harry Miller, 230 W. Forest Ave, Pawtucket, RI 02860 (401) 724-7278 e-mail yagr@msn.com

YAGR'S

1,435 Located

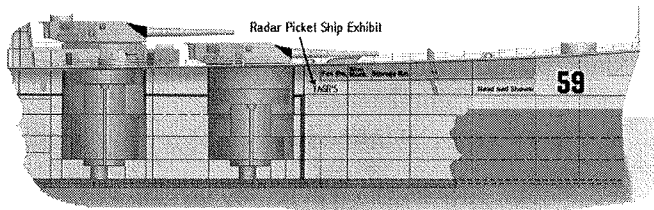
If you have any information on any former crewmen, please get it to me and I'll try to locate them. If you know of someone, get in touch with them and let them know that an organization has been formed for the Radar Picket Ship.

A thanks goes to Lee Doyel (AGR-15, 1960-62) for his help in finding over 45 men who have served on the Tracer.

Recipe's

Do you have a favorite recipe? Each part of the country has its own unique style of cooking. This year we would like each of the ladies to write down 1 or 2 of their favorite recipes and bring them to the reunion. We will assemble them into a cookbook and

make them available to our members. Be certain they can be easily read and that all ingredients and instructions are accurate. Include your name, which will be included in the recipe book. Also include your phone number (will not be published).



Drawing courtesy of Battleship Massachusetts

Radar Picket Ship Exhibit

USS Massachusetts

Work onboard

Roland Cote, AGR-10, 1960-62) and Harry Miller, (AGR-11, 1962-64, YR-65 1964-65) have been working onboard the Massachusetts to build and erect the wooden bulkheads that will be used to display the signs for the 16 ships and that will house a model of a ship that was built for our exhibit.

They were joined by a group of former crewmen on board the ship on the 21st and 22nd of October. This group included John Hemminger (AGR-2, 1960-61), Tom Giardina (AGR-3, 1961-63), Bill Hinman (AGR-4, 1955-57), Tom Manning (AGR-4, 1955-57), and Al Nannini (AGR-15, 1960-62).

When they departed the ship on Sunday the wooden bulkheads were just about completed and a platform that is over 21 feet had been built. The platform will be used for a large display depicting history of radar that the Battleship Massachusetts has onboard and in storage because it did not fit in with any of their existing exhibits.

Roland and Harry have since gone aboard to finish up the bulkheads and to make and install brackets for the lighting, model, and ship's wheel (helm).

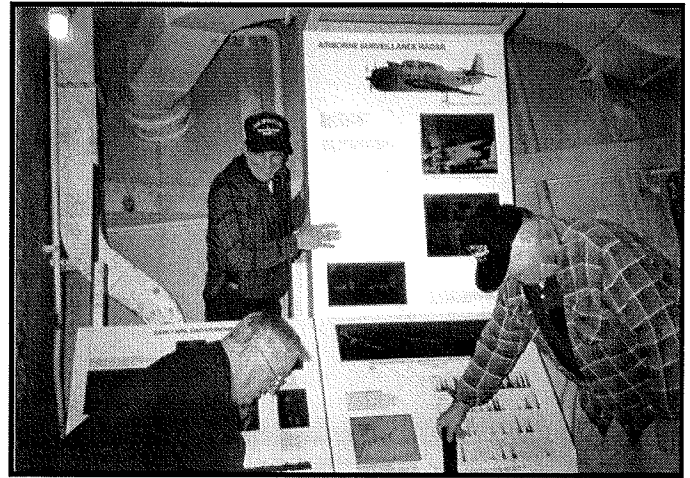
The cleaning and preparation of the compartment has also started. Once this is done the painting of the compartment will get started. This work is being done by others as per the vote taken at the Minneapolis reunion.

The Exhibit

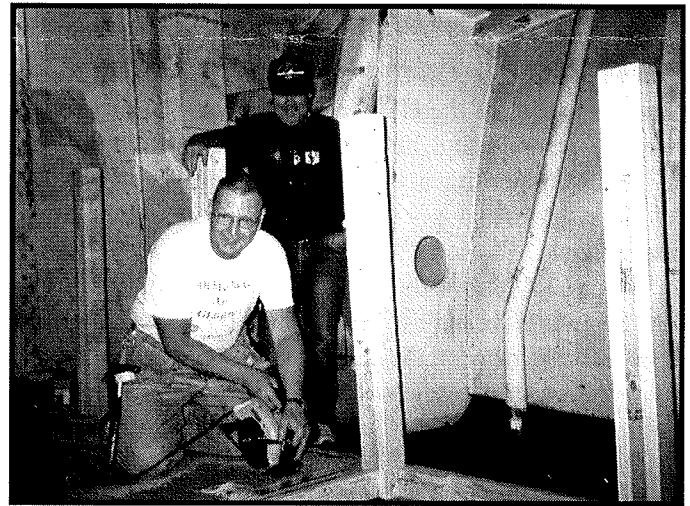
We have not yet reached our goal of \$10,000 for the Radar Picket Ship Exhibit. We now have \$8,435.35, which is \$1,564.65 short of the money we need.

We will once again have a 50/50 raffle to help us meet our funding goal. As you know we sold \$1,638.00 worth of raffle tickets last year with \$819.00 as the winner's half of the proceeds. Last year's winner was Mike Smith (AGR-12, 1961-63).

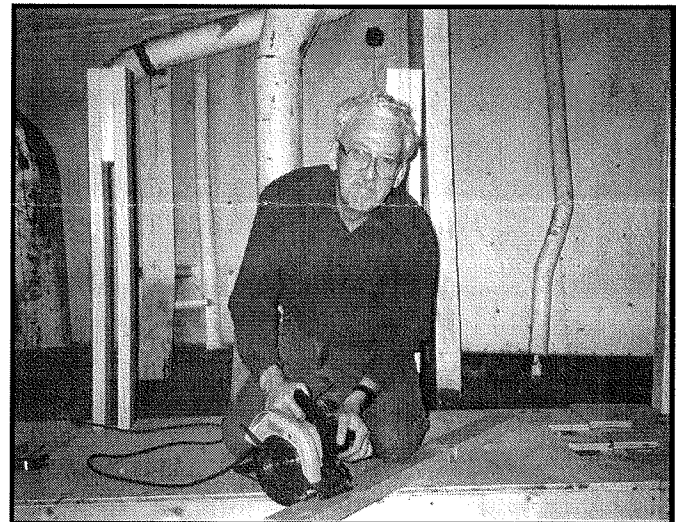
A book of six tickets is enclosed. The tickets are \$1.00 each or \$5.00 for the book of six. Please return the tickets stubs (this is the section with the name and address) along with your check to me by May 18, 2001. Make checks payable to YAGR'S. Also I would appreciate your returning any unused tickets so I can pass them along to others who would like more than one book of tickets. The winning ticket will be drawn in San Diego, CA at the crew meeting. The winner does not have to be present to win.



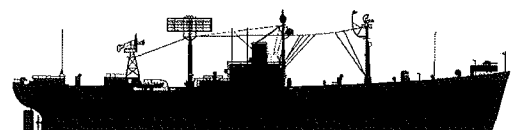
Bill Hinman (on the left) Tom Manning and Tom Giardina (in background) test fitting radar display on platform base

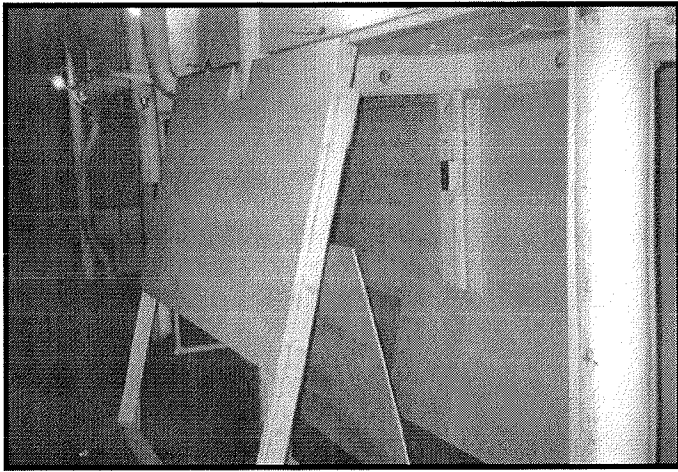


John Hemminger (in foreground) and Roland Cote



Al Nannini working on platform



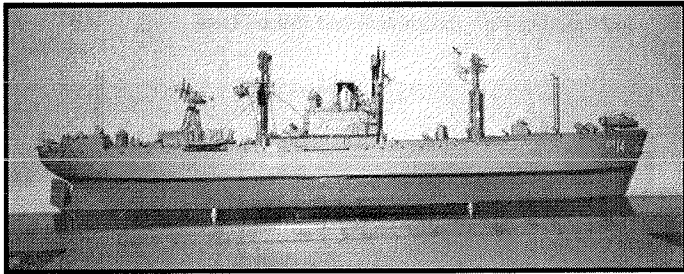


Wooden bulkheads shown before completion.

USS Interpreter AGR-14

Joe Biron (XO AGR-9, 1959-60, CO AGR-14, 1964-65) has donated a model of the USS Interpreter AGR-14 to our exhibit. Joe built this model and, before passing it along to us, he entered it in a model competition at a local county fair. It won a blue ribbon. Well done Joe! Also our thanks for your donation of your blue ribbon model.

The model shows the large 17 radar mounted aft. As you know the model we have of the USS Guardian AGR-1 shows this radar mounted forward. With both of these models, the viewing public will be able to see how some of the ships differed.



Ships Wheel

Charlie Williams (AGR-4, 1955, AGR-3, 1956-57, YR-23, YR-65, 1957-63) has donated a Ship's wheel (helm) that he gained possession of off of a Liberty Ship while he was stationed on the YR-23. He was sent down to the reserve

fleet to get spare parts for the ships of RADRON TWO. While he was there he managed to get a ship's wheel for himself. Thankfully he did, for after these long years it will find itself in our exhibit for the ships.

Needed For Exhibit

At this time we are still looking for the following items for the exhibit on the Massachusetts.

Shoulder Patches (Ship Names)

Picket Interdictor
Vigil Tracer

Cigarette Lighters

AGR 1, 5, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 16.

YAGR 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15

Pictures that show the ships in rough seas or covered with ice

Time is running short so please check to see if you have any of the above items so that we can include them in our exhibit.

Information Wanted

We would like to get information on the radar systems that were in use onboard the ships. What is especially needed is technical manuals, course books, schematics, etc. Anything you send will be returned to you. **It is very important that we get this information as soon as possible!**

Off Site Work Going On

YR-65 Model

Bill Simcox (AGR-4, 1960-61) has started work on the YR-65 that will be put on display on the Massachusetts.

Ship Plaques

Lee Doyel (AGR-15, 1960-62) is refurbishing the ships emblems that we have collected. He has cleaned the emblems and has drilled and tapped holes in them for mounting to the wood plaques.

Plastic Cover For Model

Howard Wood (AGR-10, 1964-65, YR-65, 1965) of The Wood Shed located in Sioux Fall, SD is making a new lexan (plexiglass) cover for the Guardian model. After talking with the ship's curator we decided we needed a heavy duty cover for protection to avoid any damage to the model.

Custom Signs

Jeff Cahill (AGR-1, 1964-65) of Quality Signs & Designs located in Colorado Springs, CO will be manufacturing additional signs for the exhibit. As if by luck Jeff was planning to visit his son in Boston, MA when I called him to ask about some signs. We made arrangements to meet onboard the battleship to go over our needs.

YAGR'S Web Page

<http://members.tripod.com/~YAGRS/index.html>

Note: when you go to access the web site, the Letters YAGRS are in capital letters.

Pre-reunion Tour

Names of people going on dinner cruise

Wednesday June 13, 2001

Diego Dinner Cruise

\$58.00 per person

6:30 pm to 10:30 pm

NOTE: If you are going on the tour, please include the tour fee with your reunion registration.

Number of people _____ X \$58.00= \$ _____

6th Annual Reunion

San Diego, CA

June 14, 15, 16, 2001

Reunion Registration

\$75.00 Per Person (Dues Paying Member And Spouse/Guest)

\$85.00 Per Person (Non Dues Paying Member And Spouse/Guest)

Please Return As Soon As Possible, But No Later Than May 18, 2001

Please Print Clearly

Name _____

Name Of Spouse/Guest _____

Ship Served On _____ Date On Board _____ Rate _____

Ship Served On _____ Date On Board _____ Rate _____

Number Of People Attending _____ X \$75.00 = \$ _____ Enclosed \$ _____

Dues Paying Member

Number Of People Attending _____ X \$85.00 = \$ _____ Enclosed \$ _____

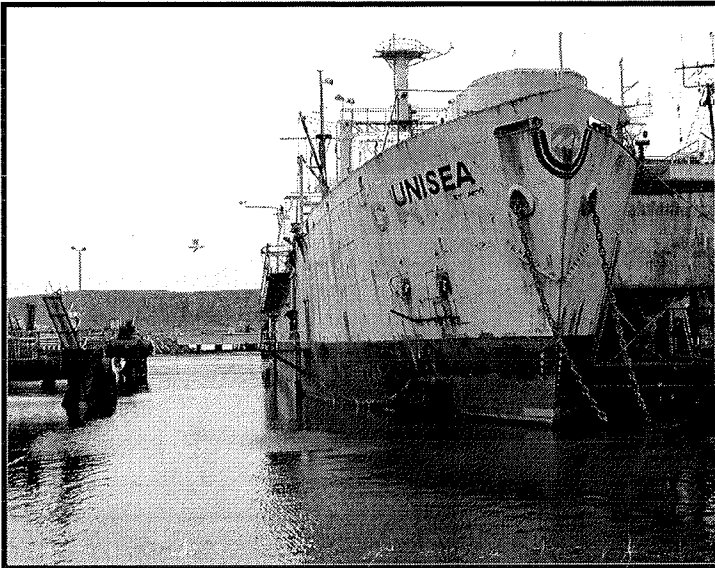
Non Dues Paying Member

For Officers: What Rank Did You Retire At _____

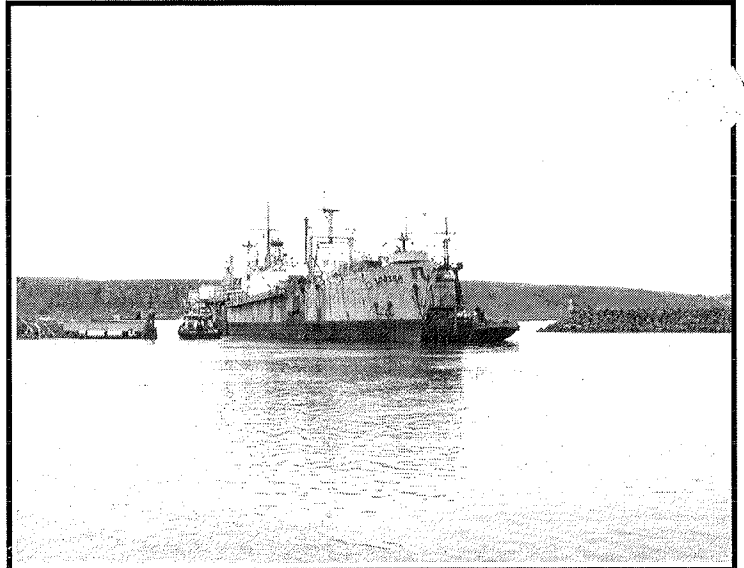
Make All Checks Payable To YAGR'S

This information will be used for your name tags. Use the name you want printed on your name tag

USS Tracer AGR-15



Tracer being readied for tow to China



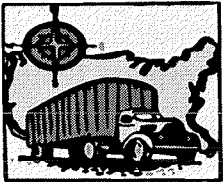
Tracer being turned into channel

In YAGRGRAM #17 it was reported that the Tracer was taken in tow for transit to Shanghai, China to be scrapped.

The pictures above were sent to me by Al Mendoza who works for Unisea, the owners of the Tracer (or as she is now named the Unisea Barge.)

If I receive more information, I will pass it along.

Are You Moving ?



If you are planning to move or have just recently moved, remember to tell us. This way we will not lose track of one another. Also remember to send along your new phone number.

Dues

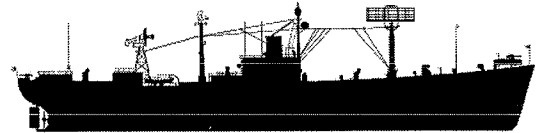
YAGR'S year for dues purposes runs from June 1, 2000 to May 31, 2001.

If you have paid your dues and have not received your membership card, the latest crew list from your ship/ships or you do not see a date on the mailing label, get in touch with me so we can correct it.

Dues are \$17.00 the first year you pay and \$15.00 per year after.

Sea Stories

If you have any sea stories that you would like to pass along, send them in to me and I will try to include them in one of the YAGRGRAM's.



RADAR PICKET SHIP FACTS

The Ships Carried

Fuel Oil:	443,646 gallons
Fresh Water:	15,083 gallons
Feed Water:	35,710 gallons
Diesel Oil:	68,267 gallons

Received from Charles Brewster (AGR-12, 1960-63)

The steaming radius at 7.3 knots was 16,800 miles (7.3 knots was the most economical speed).

The approximate diameter turning circle at 10 knots was 1,200 yards.

It took 15 - 30 seconds for the rudder to move from full left to full right at 10 knots.

The maximum speed on one boiler, 7.7 knots (47 rpm)

Received from Don Baldwin (AGR-4, 1961-63)

