

# LST534 Newsletter

October/November/December 2006

Volume 9 , Issue 4

## On The Road Again...

It was a hot day in early August when Matthew and I boarded a flight from Kennedy Airport en route to Seattle, Washington. It was about nine years ago that the two of us flew to Seattle to videotape Harold Makinster, Sg2c, and Duncan Robey, Momm2c, for the LST 534 documentary. Here we were again headed west to visit shipmates.

Most of you know Matthew Wachsmann, honorary shipmate. Matthew was the Director of Photography for "Onto Rugged Shores: Voyage of LST534."

We had a lot of driving to do so we rented a little Mustang convertible. Our first stop was Harold and Rita Makinster. They live in Longview, Washington, which is about two hours south of Seattle. We arrived at their house mid-morning and spent some time catching up before we went to lunch.

Harold and Rita looked just the same as they did nine years ago. It was neat hearing all about the family, the house, the neighborhood. Harold and Rita were both very involved in the

Shriners Organization so we had a wonderful discussion about their travels and fun with the Shriners. After lunch, Harold toured us around Longview before we had to say our goodbyes. The visit was much too short, we all decided. But it was wonderful to see Harold and Rita Makinster again. Below is a picture with me, Harold and Rita.

We left Longview and headed for Yakima to visit Duncan and Carole Robey. The drive was three hours. Matthew put the top down on the Mustang and we drove in the most beautiful weather. It was a clear, warm

day.

We arrived at the Robey's just in time for dinner. Carole picked out the perfect local restaurant with home cooked food. Duncan has not been feeling too good so it was great seeing him enjoy the dinner. We did not stay out too late that night.

However, the next day, we were joined by Stan and Bev Primmer. Stan was Seaman on board the ship. They live in Rockford, Washington which is three to four hours northeast from Yakima.



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The six of us spent the entire day reminiscing about the old days and the present time. Stan Primmer remembers a lot about the crew. Matthew and I heard stories we had never heard before. Stan told one story about a guy named Pully from Virginia. I asked him where in Virginia and he said Newport News. Do you know that I went home and searched around and found Myron Pully?! So we found another shipmate from our conversation that day. (I will tell you about Mr. Pully in the next newsletter)

We went to the Appletree Resort for lunch. The girls: me, Carole and Bev took the convertible! I tell you, this area of our beautiful country is awesome. The air is crisp and clear and the sun shines boldly.

Unfortunately, Matthew and I had to say goodbye (again). After lots of conversation, looking at pictures, showing Carole how to search someone online, eating, chatting and

laughing, we hugged each other and drove away. It was another sad moment.

From Yakima back to Seattle is about three hours. It was a gorgeous ride. The pine trees reach to the sky and smell so good. And with the top down on our little Mustang convertible, we were able to smell the pine as if we were climbing in the trees.

Matthew and I both totally fell in love with the area. And thanks goes out to Harold and Rita Makinster for greeting us and being so gracious. And to Stan and Bev Primmer for making the drive over to Yakima (and back) and for all the crew stories. And many thanks to Duncan and Carole Robey for opening their home to us and loving us and welcoming us. You are all super and we miss you already! The picture below from left to right is Matthew Wachsmann, Duncan and Carole Robey, Stan and Bev Primmer and me.



## **LST Week In Evansville** **Sept 5-9, 2006**

For the first time in history, Evansville, Indiana hosted “LST Week.” And by all accounts, it was a huge success. Approximately 1,000 visitors enjoyed the events in the city. Evansville got high marks for their generosity and hospitality. Evansville pulled out all the stops to ensure a good time. Local sponsors that contributed to the festivities included the newspaper, local TV and radio, and local businesses. Thanks goes to each of the sponsors. Events included continuous tours on board LST 325, a cocktail reception on board when Evansville’s Honorable Mayor Jonathon Weinzapfel joined visitors. There were tours to the local museum which has a large LST exhibit. And tours to the site of the Evansville shipyard—they made 167 LSTs during the war. There were rides on the LCVP and the LVP (a land and water craft). The final banquet was a fun way to celebrate the conclusion of the first annual LST Week.

Preparation and plans are already underway for next year. Log onto [www.lstmemorial.org](http://www.lstmemorial.org) often to learn about dates and events.

### **Get Well Wishes:**

This issue we should send get well wishes to Duncan Robey. Please send cards and prayers.

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## In Memoriam



Calvin Hesse, F1c, passed away this September 11th of cancer. He is survived by his wife, Willodean, three sons, a stepdaughter, brother, 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. He valued being a part of the LST534 family and our family will miss him.

## News:



[www.lst534.com](http://www.lst534.com)

Well, well, well—if you have not logged onto LST534.com, you really are missing something. The entire site is the work of my brother-in-law, Reggie Arlantino. It is truly wonderful—from the graphics to the layout and the content changes all the time. We are adding news and new links weekly. I'm so excited about this re-design—you will be too!

## LST325 at Tall Stacks:

LST325 just finished another River trip. This October she left Evansville and sailed to Cincinnati, Ohio for the Tall Stacks exhibit. Mike Whicker writes, on the LST325 website:

Without a doubt or any argument to the contrary possible, the LST was the big surprise hit of Cincinnati's Tall Stacks 2006. Over the weekend, all of the Cincinnati television stations devoted more air time to

the LST than to any other boat or event associated with Tall Stacks. On the Saturday night news broadcasts, one Cincinnati television station called LST 325 "the biggest single draw of Tall Stacks." Another station reported Saturday night that "among all the famous riverboats and ships at Tall Stacks everyone is talking about an old World War II Navy Ship called an LST."

Over 8000 people took the walk-through tour of LST 325 over the weekend (Saturday & Sunday).

But don't take my word for it, see photos from Cincinnati at:

<http://www.network54.com/Forum/256293/message/1160273804/Photos+from+Tall+Stacks>

## HOLIDAYS:

### OCTOBER

9 Columbus Day Observed  
29 Daylight Savings Time Ends  
31 Halloween

### NOVEMBER

7 Election Day  
11 Veteran's Day  
23 Thanksgiving Day

### DECEMBER

7 National Pearl Harbor Day  
16 Hanukkah  
21 Winter Begins  
25 Christmas  
26 Kwanzaa  
31 New Year's Eve

## BIRTHDAYS:

### October 4

Leo Wilson  
5 Malvern Road  
Norwood, MA 02062

### October 27

Johnny Medeiros  
c/o Sheila Sexton  
1505 NE 55th Street  
Ocala, FL 34479

### October 31

Oscar Cress  
9701 E. Hasket Dr.  
Dayton, OH 45424-1615

### November 8

Fred Maddix  
7798 Forrest Circle  
Glen St. Mary, FL 32040

### November 11

Albert Straka  
643 Foothill Road  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

### November 27

George Popham  
6575 Juniper Drive  
Missoula, MT 59802

### December 5

Norris Long  
145 NE 31st St.  
Oak Island, NC 28465

### December 20

Wayne Jens  
4275 Owens Rd.  
Apt 136  
Evans, GA 30809

### December 25

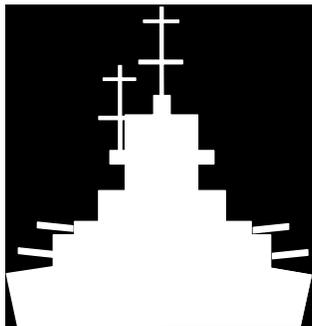
William Ayers  
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Jackson, TN 38301-4321



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**LST534**

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### Just for Fun

#### George Carlin's Views on Aging:

Do you realize that the only time in our lives we like to get old is when we're kids? Less than 10, you think in fractions. "I'm four and a half!" You're never thirty-six and a half.

In your teens, you jump to the next number, or even a few ahead. "I'm gonna be 16!" You could be 13, but hey, you're gonna be 16! And then the greatest day of your life... you BECOME 21.

But then you turn 30. Ooohh, makes you sound like bad milk! He TURNED; we had to throw him out. What's wrong? What's changed?

You BECOME 21, you TURN 30, then you're PUSHING 40. Before you know it, you REACH 50 and your dreams are gone. But wait!! You

MAKE it to 60! You didn't think you would!

So you BECOME 21, TURN 30, PUSH 40, REACH 50 and MAKE it to 60. You've built up so much speed that you HIT 70! After that it's a day-by-day thing; you HIT Wednesday!

In your 80s, every day is a complete cycle: you HIT lunch; TURN 4:30, REACH bedtime. And it doesn't end there. Into the 90s, you start going backwards: "I was JUST 92."

Then a strange thing happens. If you make it over 100, you become a little kid again. "I'm 100 and a half!"

May you all make it to a healthy 100 and a half!

**Editor and Comments:  
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