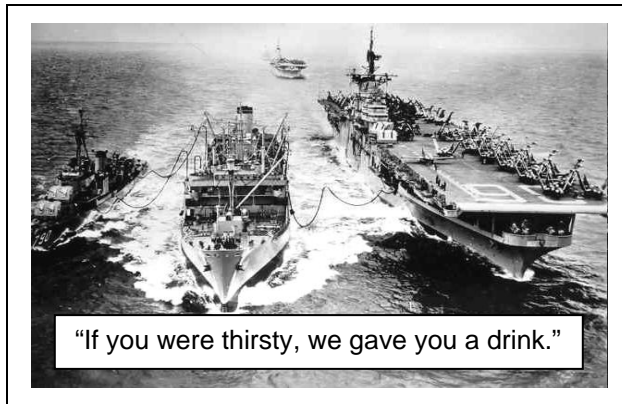




## “LEAKY T” News

The Newsletter

of the  
U. S. S. Tolovana AO-64  
“WE CARRY THE LOAD”



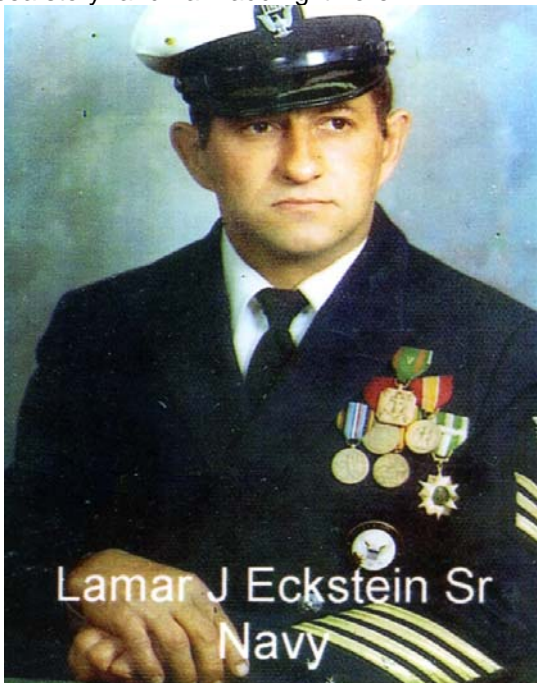
Dedicated to the deceased and living members of the best Fleet Oiler in the U. S. Navy.

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**BREMERTON, WA REUNION EDITION**

Received a relatively new edition to the roster from Alice Joseph, who, in turn, received it from Lamar J. Eckstein, Sr., PN1c. He sent along a “sea story” and I am adding it here.



“I received orders to the “T” while I was a supervisor at Service School Command, Great

Lakes. I had a wife and five children to relocate so I bought her a new “69 Chevy PU so she could navigate the winters and moved them to our 80 acre farm. I then flew to the West Coast and caught the “T.” The Admin Office was one big mess and I worked long and hard hours getting it caught up on our cruise to Vietnam.

I was made a part of the Master At Arms force because the officers believed there was a problem with dope aboard. When we pulled alongside a pier in Vietnam several of us watched for dope exchanges but saw nothing.

We headed back to the Philippines and, on the way, a shipmate came by the office and told me a lot of guys were in the forward hold with dope. He led me down and showed me the area and I went down the ladder and observed that there were at least 20 guys smoking marijuana (Mary Jane). I was grabbed and shoved in the wire room. I watched one sailor putting the marijuana into an overnight bag. I ran up the hatch after him and saw the bag tossed into the water. As he had not closed the bag, when it hit the water the marijuana floated out. I asked someone to get the XO and, when he arrived, I jumped in and retrieved the “evidence.” Nearby sailors put the floodlights on me and helped me back

aboard. All 26 sailors involved were searched and, when we got to Subic Bay they were marched to the brig. This, of course, made the ship short-handed when we got underway the next morning and I was back on port and starboard watches.

Alice Joseph was working on the roster and had reason to call William Parker of Fargo, ND. Back in 1951-1954 he was an EN2c. During the telephone conversation he mentioned that he knew Alice and remembered when, in April 1952 the "T" pulled into San Pedro and Leroy Joseph, SK1c, was so excited he rushed to the fence and got his first look at his daughter Laurie. He couldn't go further as Customs had locked the gate so he got his first kiss from Alice through the cyclone fencing. If any shipmate got a pic of this moment I can say for sure that Alice Joseph would give anything to get a copy of that pic. She was very impressed that someone had remembered the incident after 57 years.

An un-named FT tells of the time the "T" was operating off the shore of North Korea in the winter of 1951-1952 and the cold was causing a chronic problem with the Gun Director Gunsights. They had an oil-based damping fluid used to smooth the movement of the mirrors whenever they were moved in train and elevation to track a target. The fluid had to be heated to maintain a constant viscosity or else it would cause the sight to be inaccurate. The very cold weather off N. Korea would vaporize the fluid and then condense on the mirrors making it difficult to see through them to the target. They would periodically remove the covers (a definite no-no) and use cotton swabs and acetone cumshawed from the sick bay to clean the mirrors. After a while the mirrors got so out of whack they had to be taken out of service since they did not have the knowledge or tools to properly readjust them. With only two spares we were in a precarious situation and GMC Timm was very concerned when told of the situation and he told us to get them fixed as soon as we returned to Sasebo. On our return to Sasebo we took the two gunsights to the nearest repair ship and, as luck would have it, the FT in charge of the repair facility was a good friend and classmate from our hometown. When we gave him the sights he told us it would take a week before he could get to them. We told him we would only be in for two days and would then be gone for another 28 days tour on the line and would be without a spare during that time. He then proceeded to modify the paperwork by changing some serial numbers and gave us two already repaired sights. When we came up the gangway of the "T" with the two sights Chief Timm was upset and said "I told you to get them fixed." We told him we had and, when he asked

"how in hell did you do that" we told him "not to ask." He didn't.

There are some folks you have to watch constantly.

As of now I am taking over from Howard Hensley the Master Roster upkeep. Anyone with a shipmate's info, either a fill-in for a blank spot, completing an incomplete entry, correction of incorrect info, or brand new, please send it to me. Use my e-mail address shown below or send it to me at my snail mail address, 1401 Hardwood Trail, Cordova, TN 38016-8594.

Also, very important, please notify Alice Joseph, [aljo42@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aljo42@sbcglobal.net), or myself (see below) if you know of a shipmate becoming deceased. He needs to be placed in our Necrology.

I have a suggestion as regards the roster. There is a big need for others to pitch in and help., especially with the telephoning. Another need is to add to the "names only" portion of the roster. Switchboard.com, WhitePages.com and anywho.com, all good search engines on the internet to ferret out names, addresses and telephone numbers. Please consider volunteering to take a few pages of the "names only" portion and apply the search engines to those names. Let Alice Joseph or Howard Hensley know which portion of the roster you will handle. Thanks.



**USS Tolovana AO 64 Reunion**  
**Bremerton WA Sept 20-24, 2009**

The reunion hosted by Jerry and Mary Ann Peel was a great success and all hands had a good time catching up with past memories and sea stories. We had a good turn out of 27 shipmates and 23 spouses for a total of 50 in attendance.



Reunion hosts Jerry and Mary Ann Peel

The Hampton Inn meeting room was full of laughter and good cheer enhanced by plenty of snacks and sharing of photo's

The dinner and business meeting at the VFW was good. The Sea Cadets served with the help of several of the VFW staff. The Sea Cadets were an added touch to the festivities.



A plea for volunteers to help get contact information on the ~ 1710 shipmates in the roster without addresses/telephone/email was answered by John & Louise Sater, MN; Bruce & Sharon Berkey, CA; Ann Ruiz, TX; Mike & Carol Marcellus, KS; Earnest & Beth Brasseaux, LA; Paulette Whitmore, CA, and, Lester & Leanne Wood helping Alice with telephone calls. These volunteers will attempt to contact those "lost" shipmates in their States. Anyone else that is interested in finding shipmates or doing other roster work are asked to please contact Howard Hensley.

Volunteers to host the 2010 reunion were not forthcoming. Darrell Fowler suggested asking Fred and Rose Ann Husak if they would be interested since they had offered to host the reunion in Annapolis at the Reno reunion. A vote to hold the 2010 reunion in Annapolis, if the Husak's will do so, was approved. Darrell has subsequently reported that the Husak's will

consider hosting the reunion. Their decision will be given ASAP after notification.



A moving and thought provoking memorial service was held on September 23 on the USS Turner Joy. Merlyn Masters Called the Ships Company to order, the colors were presented, the Pledge of Allegiance was held, Galen Peel gave an opening prayer, followed by the singing of America the Beautiful. Jerry Peel welcomed the group with a thoughtful definition of what a Shipmate is: "we are closer than brothers from our experiences together". Galen Peel and Howard Hensley read the names of our departed Shipmates who have entered into eternal rest followed by singing of the Navy Hymn. Jerry Peel read the Alice Joseph's article from the Fleet Reserve Magazine explaining the History of the tolling of the Ship's bell - "the toll reminds us of the reverence we owe to our departed shipmates ----- let us who gather here not forget our obligations and in silence breathe a prayer for our absent shipmates". This was followed by tolling of the ships bell. A memorial wreath was placed in Puget Sound by George Johnson, the oldest Shipmate attending the reunion. The Honor guard gave a 21 gun salute followed by taps. Mr. Masters dismissed the Ships company. The memorial was a fitting end to the reunion.



There are a number of other pics I have received from Howard. If you want copies

Howard, Alice or myself can send them to you by e-mail. Just send the request by e-mail so that we will be sure to have the correct address.

Howard's is [howardhensley@cox.net](mailto:howardhensley@cox.net)

Alice's is [aljo42@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aljo42@sbcglobal.net)

and mine is just below.

**Skip Moore, F Div, 1951-1953**  
**[anchorman1@bellsouth.net](mailto:anchorman1@bellsouth.net)**