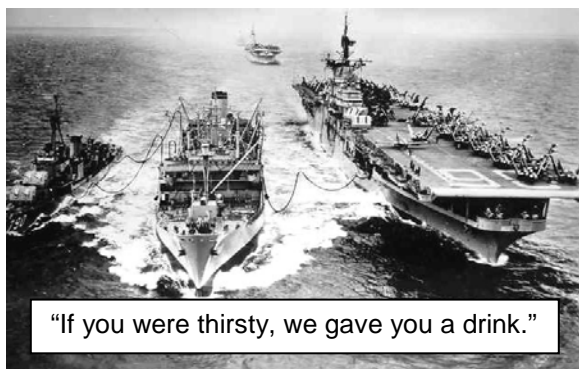




# **"LEAKY T" NEWS THE NEWSLETTER OF THE U. S. S. TOLOVANA AO-64 "WE CARRY THE LOAD"**



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

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## **2015 LONG BEACH REUNION**

### **ATTENDEES**

LINDA & TONY MANN  
FRANK & GINNY BRENNAN  
GARY LOHRER  
ROBERT KEMP  
LARRY & ANN LADWIG  
LELAND & KATHY HASKELL  
DON & KAREN FAHEY  
MICHEAL & CAROL MARCELLUS  
GENE & PAT JOHNSTON  
JON & ELIZABETH RUMPLE  
DOUGLAS & EVELYN LUNDELL  
MERLYN & Ann MASTERS  
WALLY & LINDY BENSEN  
LESTER & LEANNE WOOD  
WAYNE & MAVIS SCHULTZ  
DARRELL & JOANNE FOWLER  
ROBERT HENSLEY  
ALAN BARNT  
HAROLD STEVENS, 1951 BOS:N VISITED TUESDAY  
Bob & Peggy Sanders – co-hosts  
Joe & Bodil Moore – co-hosts

Everyone had a great reunion. Twenty 21 sailors and 16 wives attended the reunion in Long Beach.

Joe Moore and Bob Sanders report that the raffle tickets sales were very successful as the reunion kitty now has a **record \$1,450.00**. Way to go Tolovana sailors!

**The 2016 reunion will be hosted by Howard 'Bo' Besharse, BM2 1965-69, and his wife Genia in Shreveport LA on September 26, 27 & 28, 2016.**

More information about the reunion and agenda will be sent in the next newsletter.



2016 Long Beach reunion sailors in Pt Fermin park.



Peggy & Bob Sanders



Darrell Fowler & Joe Moore



2016 Long beach reunion Taco dinner



2016 long Beach reunion women on the USS Iowa



Pier 9 is where the T tied up.



2016 Long Beach reunion - Gary Lohrer, Wally Benson & Joe Moore

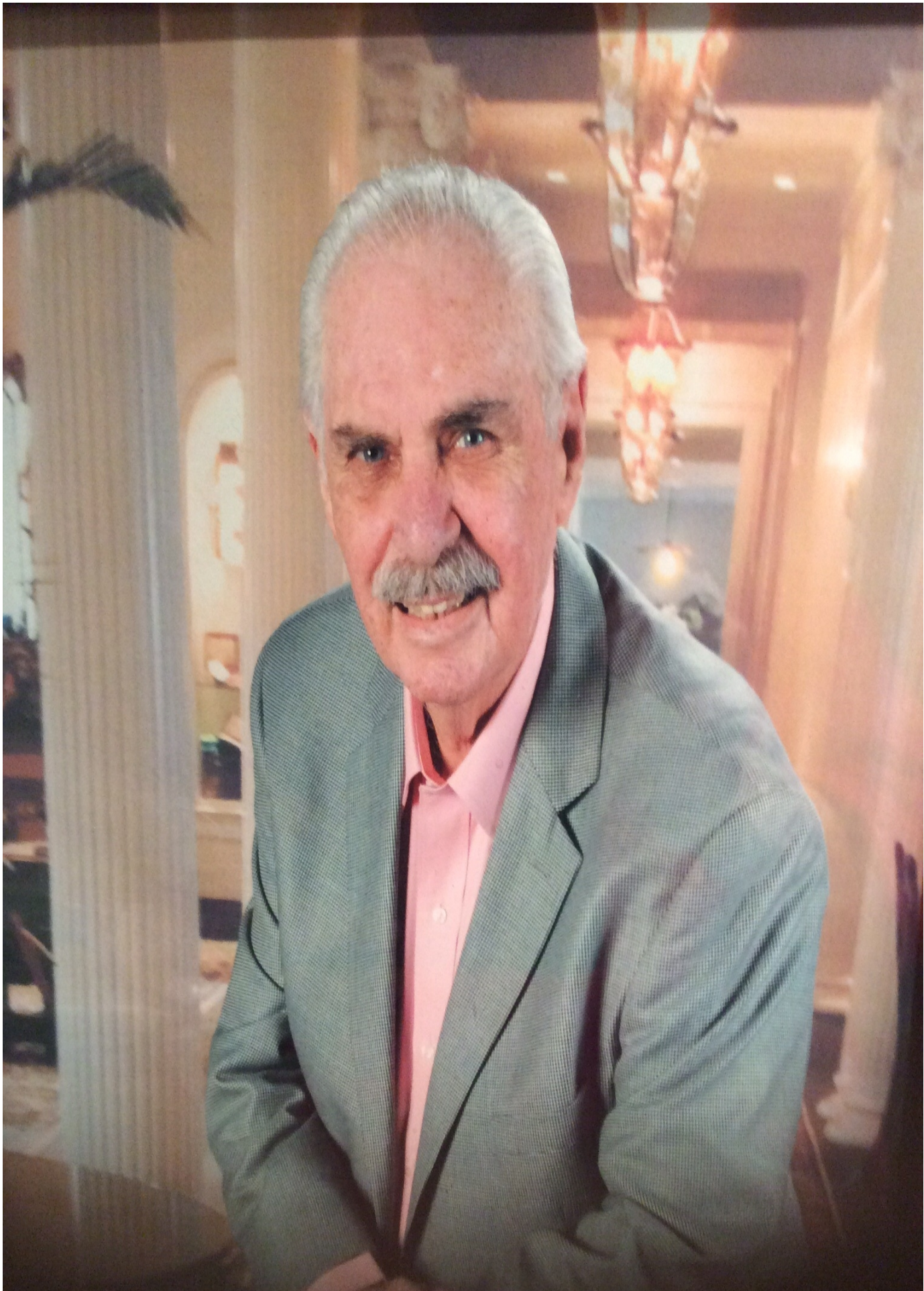


2016 Long Beach reunion group



It is with a sad heart that I report the death of Linda Barnes, wife of shipmate Bob Barnes, BMC 1962-65, Saturday November 21, 2015 in Alvord TX.

Linda was the one who made and donated the USS Tolovana quilt with photos of Tolovana sailors that was raffled in the 2014 reunion which added greatly to our reunion kitty. Linda was always a very cheerful and helpful reunion attendee at our reunions and we will miss her. Bob and Linda were married 49 years



Al Shear QM2 1952-55

We met March 2 1952 on the troop train going from downtown Los Angeles to San Diego for boot camp. As the old train chugged and rocked along at about 20-25 mph I talked to my seatmate who was Al Shear.

We became fast friends and vowed to stick together in boot camp if we could. We got to the barracks sometime after midnight and at 0400 the trash can alarm sounded and we fell in muster for the first time. I marched behind Al all through boot, knew the back of his head better than he did, and we kept each others back so to speak, if one needed clean skivvies or shaving soap we gave it to each other.

When boot was finished and we got our orders; we both were sent to the Tolovana AO 64 as Seaman Deuce assigned to the deck force. We knew we didn't want to spend the next 4 years as deck apes (no offense to you good Boson's) and looked for a way out.

Al saw a list of openings for strikers outside the ships office and told me lets try for one of these. He asked for Quartermaster striker and I asked for Radar (I had no idea what Radar involved but desperate people do desperate things huh?). We both made it and for the next 3+ years Al and I were on the bridge on the T.

We racked out in the starboard aft compartment a few feet apart and had many liberties together. On one liberty Al wanted to get a tattoo, but I didn't, after he got his he said OK it's your turn, I said I wouldn't get one unless he paid for it, I thought he wouldn't pay as we had limited Naval pay, but he did! So I was stuck, I got the tattoo and Al Paid \$7 as I remember. 47 years later we met for the first time since the leaky T in Muskogee OK for lunch. Al told his son he didn't know if we would recognize each other after all that time and his son said just show each other your tattoos. The next and last time I saw Al was at the 2011 Long Beach reunion.

Al liked jazz and Stan Kenton was his favorite and he played his records on a small record player he had in his locker so we went to see him in person. Another liberty we went to see his favorite light opera the Student Prince. All this was a big deal to a country music loving Okie farm boy.

Al had a successful career in Insurance in the Los Angeles area. Al was a good artist and he made what he called silly art neckties and was successful in selling his more serious art pieces.

I'm sad to report that Alan Shear passed away on October 18, 2015 after a long series of health issues. May God bless your soul my old shipmate and friend!

HOWARD HENSLEY

RD1 1952-56

