



USS Caliente Association



USS CALIENTE AO 53

PIPELINE

December 2007

Hello Shipmates. Here is another "Post Reunion" issue of the Pipeline with the latest information about the reunion and some information about the next one. The next reunion will be in San Antonio, Texas in October 2008. In this issue there is a financial report, news about the reunion, the minutes of the business meeting and some member news.

Reunion Charleston South Carolina October 18-21, 2007



Front Row: McCormick, Hanrahan, French, Creedon, Benziger, LeGacy, Duncan, Fordyce
Second Row: Niquette, Hurton, Matyas, Jacob, Froscheiser, Ludemann, Erickson, Street, Martin, Hightower
Back Row: Skokan, Dorsey, Banks, Hughes, Lawler, Rogers, Howard. Not Pictured Ed Tyte

Charleston Reunion 2007



Bill Hightower Before and After



Rusty Pickett



I would like to thank everyone that attended the reunion and made and made it a success. I want to thank **Norm Street** and his crew for his work in getting the new members and for his work in an effort to improve the Association. Thanks to **Patrick Hurton** for the big job he does in keeping our finances straight and sending welcome packages to our new members. I would also like to thank **Joe Benziger** and **Patrick Hurton** for their help in recording the minutes of the business meeting. Now we start on the San Antonio Texas reunion for October 2008. I want to thank the Association for your trust in me.

2007 USS Caliente Association Business Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order, at 9:00AM, October 20, 2007 at the Holiday Inn, Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, by Association President **Bob Howard**

Opening remarks welcoming everyone, especially first time attendees, were made by Bob with mention that he recently had been informed of the passing of two of our shipmates, **Jim Welch** and **John Shinkle**. As is our practice the widows will be offered the sincere condolences of the Association and offer will be made to make a donation, to the charity of their choice, in the name of the deceased.

John Creedon then asked to be recognized by the chair to give a brief history of the Association. John stated that the Association was formed, in 1989, by USS Caliente shipmates who had served on the ship in WWII. John stated that the Association was formed to promote the social gathering of former crewmates of the USS Caliente, primarily through attendance at periodic reunions. He stated that the Association had always been a very harmonious one and hoped that the tradition of goodwill and cooperation would carry on with the addition of newer members. In addition to John, two members, who are present here today, **Bob LeGacy** and **Joe Benziger**, were also present at the first USS Caliente reunion, held in New York City in 1989

Bob then presented an overview of the organization and the reunions subsequent to his election as president at the Las Vegas reunion in 2002. Bob noted that the Association had been without by-laws until they were adopted at the San Francisco reunion in 2003. He also outlined the process he established in organizing the four reunions he has been responsible for and noted that, with the continuing improvements in communication, primarily the Internet, information regarding reunion sites, hotel and facilities availability and cost, and other local attractions to be seen, can be fairly easily analyzed without the necessity to ask for large amounts of volunteers. **Joe Benziger** also commented regarding the relative ease today versus when the Association was first started in the late 1980's.

Pat Hurton gave the attached treasurer's report.

Bob opened the floor to general discussion and recognized **Norm Street**. Bob wanted it recognized that Norm has been performing an excellent job of recruiting new members since he assumed the task at the Philadelphia reunion in 2005 and that he hoped that Norm would continue to undertake to lead this very time consuming task in the upcoming year.

Norm presented several ideas he had regarding potential improvements to the Association. In summary he suggested:

1. That a Board of Directors be established to provide overall guidance with regard to the direction of the organization and lend their knowledge and experience to the current officers.
2. The organization add appointed positions covering a storekeeper, newsletter editor, webmaster and shipmate search person.
3. That a reunion committee be established that would outline potential reunion sites for the upcoming five years.
4. That the Association allow the shipmate search person be allowed to advertise the potential reunion sites to enhance the recruiting of new members.
5. That the Association be allowed to gather individual contributions from shipmates, who wish to make them, into a single annual donation to the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society in the name of the U.S.S. Caliente. Donations would not be solicited but the Association would allow for shipmates to make donations, of any size and throughout the year, that would be held donated annually in the name of the Association

Discussion was held regarding the several suggestions and it was decided that all shipmates present think about the suggestions and offer comments throughout the coming year with the idea of reviewing them at the next reunion. These suggestions will be voted on at the next business meeting in San Antonio, TX

Norm also presented a prototype of a few sympathy cards to be sent to those who suffered losses, illnesses or like concerns. This function is to be performed by the Chaplain. This proposal was approved.

Bob then recognized **Pat Hurton** who asked to comment further on the suggestions made by Norm. Pat suggested that it might help Norm's recruiting if he could show suggested future reunion sites to potential new members. There was no objection to this approach as long as they were presented as "potential" sites and that the actual location, of the next reunion, would be decided in accordance with the Association By-Laws at the business meeting of the appropriate reunion.

Pat also suggested that, if we could find persons to fill the positions, the Association could benefit from the addition of volunteer persons in the roles of Storekeeper, Webmaster and Newsletter editor. There was no objection to filling the appointed roles of Storekeeper and Webmaster.

Specific discussion was then held regarding the newsletter. It was noted that the current by-laws of the Association call for the Secretary/Editor to be the person responsible for the newsletter. **John Creedon** commended Bob on the quality of the

newsletters. It was noted that Bob has been filling role of President and Secretary/Editor since his election as president in 2002. Bob acknowledged that he would welcome any assistance that is available regarding the newsletter. If a person wanted to assume the role of newsletter editor, as an appointed position under the secretary/editor, we could do that without changing the by-laws. Pat noted that any changes to the by-laws would have to be approved at the appropriate business meeting.

Bob again asked if there were any other topics that members wished to discuss. There being none the meeting moved on to the election of officers and the selection of the site of the next reunion. Because the President is the person responsible for organizing the next reunion discussion involved both the site and the election of the President. **Norm Street** proposed San Antonio, Texas in October 2008 to be the site and date of the next reunion. No other suggestions were made so discussion regarding the President ensued. **John Creedon** asked Bob if he would have any objection to being President again and would he organize the San Antonio reunion. Bob stated he had no objection. It was then proposed and seconded that Bob Howard be elected President. No other person was proposed so a vote was called for. **Bob Howard** was re-elected President.

A vote was then taken on the location of the next reunion. San Antonio, in October 2008, was proposed and seconded as the next reunion site and date. There being no other proposals a vote was taken and San Antonio, in October 2008, was selected as the next reunion site.

The next order of business was to elect a Vice President. **Bryan Skokan** was nominated for the position of Vice President. Bryan regretfully declined the nomination due to the press of current personal and business activities. He stated that he will probably be willing to serve the Association in the future as time permits. No other person was nominated so the position was left vacant.

The next order of business was to elect a Secretary/Editor. Bob Howard was nominated and seconded for the position. No other person was proposed so a vote was called for. Bob was re-elected Secretary/Editor.

The next order of business was to elect a Treasurer. **Pat Hurton** was nominated and seconded for the position. No other person was proposed so a vote was called for. Pat was re-elected Treasurer.

The next order of business was to elect a Chaplain. **Norm Street** nominated **Chuck Howell** for the position. Chuck was not present at the reunion, but Norm assured us that he had talked to Chuck and he was willing to accept that responsibility. The nomination was seconded. No other person was proposed for the position so a vote was called for. **Chuck Howell** was elected Chaplain.

Prior to adjournment there were two other items to be noted;

- 1) The by-laws need revising to reflect the date of January 15th (vs. September 1st) of each year as the date that dues are due and payable. This will be accomplished and the by-laws will be reprinted
- 2) Bob Howard will discontinue his website. Norm Street's web site at: <http://www.usscalienteao-53.com> is the official website for the USS Caliente Association.

There being no other business Bob asked for a motion to adjourn. It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 11:00 AM.

USS Caliente Association Elected Officers USS Caliente Association Appointed Officers

President:	Bob Howard	Membership Chairman:	Norm Street
Vice President:	Vacant	Webmaster:	Norm Street
Treasurer:	Pat Hurton		
Secretary/Editor:	Bob Howard		
Chaplain:	Chuck Howell		

There may be an error or two in these minutes. If any of you that attended the business meeting have any corrections or additions, please let me know. Bob Howard

**USS Caliente Association Treasurer's
Report October 15, 2007**

Charleston Reunion Attendees

Category	Expenses	Receipts	Balance
Opening Balance			\$9,927.24
8/12/2006			
<u>Expenses</u>			
Treasurer's Expenses	\$ 136.95		
2006 Reunion Exp.	\$ 513.05		
2006 Reunion Balance		\$645.34	
Life Member Certificates.	\$ 450.45		
Pipeline Expenses	\$1,050.37		
Donations	\$ 200.00		

USS Caliente Memorabilia

T-shirts(including mailing)	\$1,168.72
Hats	\$ 500.00
Patches	\$ 450.50
Rockers	<u>\$ 216.50</u>
Sub Total Memorabilia	\$2,335.72

USS Caliente Rosters \$ 455.00

Income

Donations	\$ 460.00
Membership Renewals	\$1,310.00
Returning Members	\$ 210.00
New Members	\$1,200.00
Sales of Memorabilia	\$ 68.00
Interest on CD's	\$ 203.87

Total Exp/Income \$5,141.54 \$4,097.59 \$8,883.29

Balance on Hand Detail

Cash	\$1,434.01
CD#1 – Renewal 9/22/08	\$4,412.31
CD#2 – Renewal 11/01/07	<u>\$3,036.97</u>
Total Balance	\$8,883.29

Note: The \$500.00 for the Hats, will be returned to the Association Treasury when enough of the hats are sold.

There will be a slight profit from the sales of the hats. That money will be sent to the Treasurer when the hats are sold.

B.H.

Reunion Expense Report.

The monies for the reunion were collected by **Rusty Pickett**. He made all the arrangements according to my direction. He paid all the bills with the money he received from reunion sign-ups. He did not charge us for this service. He was paid by the vendors. The agreement was that if there was money left over, he would give it to the Association and if it cost more than he had received from the attendees, we would reimburse him. We went over \$77.41

Morris and Joanne Banks
 Joe and Jo Benziger
 John and Diane Creedon
 Herb Dorsey
 John and Joyce Duncan
 Lou and Mary Erickson
 Ed and Karen Fordyce
 Robert and Barbara French
 Warren Froscheiser and Bobbie McGee
 John and Elena Hanrahan
 Bill and Manda Hightower
 Bob and Sherris Howard
 Jack and Barbara Hughes
 Patrick and Charleen Hurton
 Paul and Carolyn Jacob
 Bill and Nancy Lawler
 Bob and NanC LeGacy
 David Ludemann
 Brady and Irene Martin
 Bob Matyas
 Mac and Connie McCormick / Wayne Clayton
 Ann Murphy
 Jim and June Niquette
 John and Cheryl Rogers
 Bryan and Bonnie Skokan
 Norm and Susan Street
 Ed Tyte

Association Dues

Remember to pay your 2008 Association dues. They are due by January 15, 2008. A good time to pay them, if you haven't already done so, would be now.

Send your dues to:
 Patrick Hurton
 14075 Kelsey Drive
 Chico, CA 95973-9262

New Members

Richard Barbosa, BT2, 1968 to 1970. He lives in Nederland, TX.

Robert L. Reinhard, SN, 1959 to 1962. He lives with his wife Darlene in Epson, NH.

Phillip Deprato, 1952 to 1954. He lives with his wife Mae in Anza, CA.

Isidoro Chavez, EM3, 1959 to 1962. He lives with his wife Rita in Albuquerque, NM.

Charles J. Wright, MM2, 1959 to 1962. He lives in Silver Springs, FL in the Winter and Vienna, VA in the Summer (Tough life).

Ball Caps

We still have about 25 Caliente ball caps left to sell. If you would like a Caliente Ball Cap, send me \$15.00 and I will send you one. Make your checks out to Robert (or Bob) Howard and send it to me at 2674 Buena Vista Ave., Walnut Creek, CA 94597-2547. I will send you your cap.

Member News

I received word of the following deaths:

Received Sept 30 from **Joann Welch**

Jim Welch

Yes Bob we did get the Pipeline and was able to open it. I'm sorry I didn't get back to you right away but I wanted to reply and also let you know that Jim passed away on Sept.16. His funeral was on Sept. 20th. I can't tell you how much he enjoyed getting the Pipeline and reading about the fellows involved on it although there weren't too many members that were on the ship at the same time he was. He was always proud to say he served in the Navy. Joann Welch (wife).

Sept 30 from **Pat Shinkle**

John(Jack) Shinkle

I received word this evening that Jack died on July 3. I called his wife Pat and talked to her for a while. He had blood circulation problems and was in the hospital for surgery. He had a heart attack. She said he also had cancer. She said cancer runs in the family. Donation: American Cancer Society.

Received from **Margaret Crisp**

Raymond (Ray) Crisp

Mr. Howard, I thought you might want to read Ray's obituary. I will have to get Ray's service papers to find out his rank and I am not sure when he was on the Caliente. Mr. **Milan Nikceovich** might remember when Ray was on the Caliente. Thank you so much for sending me The Pipeline and I look forward to reading it and passing it on to my son. If you have further questions, please let me know. Margaret Crisp Greenville, SC

Raymond Carlos "Ray" Crisp, 74, of 2 Zelma Drive, died at his home on Saturday, June 25, 2005. Born in Hendersonville, N.C., he was a son of the late Jesse Gordon and Nancy Isabel Green Crisp. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who set a Christian example for all. Ray served his country in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War, was a graduate of Parker High School and the University of South Carolina.

Our condolences go to all the families. Joann, Pat and Margaret are Honorary Life Members and will continue to receive the Pipeline and invites to our reunions.

Received from **Albert Viola Jr.** 10/06/07

USS Caliente Association

Please note that my mother, **Diana Viola**, wife of **Albert Viola**, passed on, back in May 2007.

On behalf of both my mom & dad, I would like to say thank you for keeping them informed. Keep up the good work!

Best Regards,

Albert Viola Jr.

11107 Dulcet Ave.

Northridge, CA 91326

Good News

I received the following from **Trudy Lynch** shortly after I published the September Pipeline. After our reunion in Charleston, my wife Sherris and I went with **Bob and NanC LeGacy** to see Bud and Trudy Lynch at Hilton Head Island, SC. Trudy Lynch is one Classy Lady. We had a nice visit with her and Bud.

Dear Bob:

I have received the Pipeline and found it very interesting. With so much sad news in the beginning, I have to report that **Lcdr. Hector (Bud) Lynch**, the first Supply and Disbursing Officer aboard the Caliente (in 1943) is now 90 years old and still remembers where he slept on the Ship, that his room-mate was Dr. Paul Bradford, (many, if not all!) of the specifics of the ship as well as the fact that he had his appendix removed by Dr. Roger Graves (Chief of Surgery at Mayo Clinic in private life!!!) aboard the USS Solace. Paul Bradford (who had not wanted to perform the surgery, was asked to "assist" which slighted him. Bud, of course expected to recuperate with the attention of "beautiful nurses, but, unfortunately the Solace was ordered to Guadalcanal and Bud was transferred over rough seas back to the Caliente.

Bud now resides in the Preston Health Center at The Cypress of Hilton Head. and he is in a wheel chair. He is usually "with it", but no promises! His spirits are good and he always has a smile.

Have a wonderful reunion! Say "hello" to everyone for us. We'll be thinking of you all.

Trudy Lynch

Received from **Ann Murphy** November 18

Dear Sherris and Bob

This letter is long overdue, and I apologize. I had a grand time at the reunion, thanks in no small part to you two making me welcome and feeling so at home.

It was good to see the returnees and those who had missed a few reunions, and to greet the first-timers. Hopefully, those on the internet will pass the word and more will join to take up the slack. And I'm betting the former shipmate who was so pleased to meet up with us at Patriot's Point will do his best to make it to San Antonio.

The CALIENTE had to be very special to anyone who served aboard it, and the men whom I've met over the years seem to bear that out. At every reunion I have enjoyed every hello, smile, hug, every gabfest. If I could send a message to the women of the men who have passed away it would be this: "I encourage you to either try to attend a reunion, or to send a note now and then to just let others know that you're thinking of them."

I'm looking forward to San Antonio. My son, Tim, who lives in Houston, will probably join me. My granddaughter, Jennifer, teaches Sports Training and is a sports trainer in the Edinburg, TX, school system. Come to think of it, it might turn into a mini Murphy reunion.

Wishing you both, and everyone else a Thanksgiving of peace, happiness, and nice memories.

Slainte ! Ann Murphy (Ann is second from left, front row in the group photo, page 2)

BOB...I RECEIVED THE PIPELINE....THANKS....ALSO, THE PICTURE OF THE CAL REFUELING WAS IN LIFE MAGAZINE, OCT 4, 1954 AND THE STORY LINE WAS ABOUT THE 7TH FLEET OPERATIONS AS REGARDED THE AMOY, QUEMOY AND MATSU ISLAND SQUABBLE BETWEEN THE FORMOSAN CHINESE AND THE MAINLAND CHINESE...I HAVE A COPY OF THE LIFE MAGAZINE...THE CRUISER WAS THE USS SAINT PAUL CA73...I DON'T KNOW THE DESTROYERS NAME BUT HER SISTER SHIP WAS THE SIGOURNEY DD643... ALSO, THE FLEET COMMANDER WAS ADMIRAL ALFRED M PRIDE
P.S... I ALSO HAVE A GLOSSY PRINT THAT WAS SENT TO THE CALIENTE BY THE LIFE MAGAZINE PHOTOGRAPHER....HE SENT A BUNCH OF COPIES.....**MILAN Nikcevich**
I forwarded the above message to **Don Hall**

Bob, I only know that I got the picture sometime in 1953, I don't know the date it was taken but it was taken by a photographer by the name of "Howard Sochurek", and as I said that when I asked for a copy of the photo I was sent the one that you have now. I also can send a copy of the backside of the photo that shows who the photographer was and some other information if you need it. It might be a good time to ask Mr. Nilcevich what info is on the reverse side of his photo also, thanks. **Don Hall**
Forwarded to Milan

Letter from **Jack Nelson** when he ordered his ball cap.(I missed putting this in the last Pipeline)
6 Sept 2007
Hi Bob

Just got email from **Norm Street** yesterday about website and found the newsletter on it and decided I needed one of those hats if you have any left. You will notice that my check is from California but I retired from the post office in June so will now split our time between Calif. and Wisconsin so we will be here until the end of October so you can mail the hat to the Wisconsin address.

I got orders to the Caliente in July of 1973 when we were decommissioning the USS Ticonderoga (CVS-14) and the Caliente was over in Westpac so I had to go to Travis AFB and fly to Clark AFB in P.I. with stops in Hawaii and Guam so when I got to Clark they put me on a bus to Subic Bay and I went to transit there and they told me that I would be there until the ship pulled in the following week or so. I was there for about 10 days which was damn good liberty so wasn't complaining and then they told me the ship wouldn't be coming in there as they were going to Guam instead so they sent me back to Clark and I had been to Guam before and knew I didn't care for the place so I was able to give up my seat for several days and stay at Clark the whole weekend but then got into Guam on a Monday and had to sit in transit there all week until the 53 pulled in on Sunday and then I reported aboard and asked what the schedule was and they told me they would be leaving for Long Beach the next morning. I could hardly believe that good fortune but the only drawback was that we had to escort some Minesweepers back to Long Beach and we had to go at their speed so it took a few weeks to get back but it ended up being a good deal for me as I won over a grand playing poker on the way back and then when we got back, I think we found out around the first or second day back that we were going to be decommissioned so that trip back to the states was my only sea time onboard there. I looked over the roster yesterday and had to get way down toward the end when I noticed Robert Waterman from Maine and he was one I remembered well as he had been aboard there for three years and was real familiar with the E-Div and I had came aboard as the lead petty officer in E Div and the Chief had left the day I came aboard and Waterman was the next senior guy in the division so relied on him to brief me in. Our E Div. Officer was Ensign Jensen and his name was on the roster yesterday but only his last name and no address or anything but I remember him as a great guy and I even had him and his wife out to my home in Orange county for Thanksgiving dinner and boy was he hung over the next day, we didn't have Thanksgiving Friday off in the Navy. We only had a couple weeks to go after that and we had the ship's last party on the Princess Louise down at Terminal Island.

I enjoyed talking with Waterman out in Maine last night. He is Supt. of the Municipal Water Dept. out in Portland, ME now. Well that is my little story as I probably had as short a tour as anyone ever had aboard the Caliente and it was the second ship that I was the last man to come aboard before decommissioning as in 1969 I reported aboard the USS Arlington (AGMR-2) in San Diego on Saturday night and we started decommissioning it on Monday morning so I never spent one day at sea on that one....take care, Jack (Nelson)

Received from **Don Hall** Sept 29

Bob Milan called me yesterday from Florida, we had quite a talk about the picture, among other things and so help me I can't remember him, said he came aboard ship in 1952. He said the cruiser that the Caliente was refueling in the picture was the USS Saint Paul, aboard the Caliente it was called the USS St Paulina, (they had problems with guys sleeping together get my meaning.) Right after they gave several sailors discharges for b behavior unbecoming to sailors habits I had to go aboard her for two weeks TAD, and I made dam sure I was the only one in my bunk. We used to call the USS Los Angeles the USS Pershing Square for the same reason, got us in to some trouble but it was OK, we healed easy. Tell all the ones at the meeting that were aboard ship during the 1949 to 1953 era hello for me, and to all the rest also, sorry I can't get there but with three things I now should attend, this get together, my family reunion in August and the police get together, can't make them all, as my wife has some serious medical problems, liver and kidney type, so I have to choose carefully which one (s) I attend. Be sure to call me when you pass thru Madera. Don

Received from **Jack Nelson** 9/29

Hi,

Yesterday I made a 27 mile walk from Moorhead to Hendrum ,Minn.. and there will be a feature cover story in the online edition of www.thefmextra.com so if you want to use that in your pipeline you are welcome. It was something I did to mark the first anniversary of my brain surgery for two blood clots on the brain last Sept. 28th. I was lucky to get a tail wind from the south instead of having to buck a north wind and I averaged 18 minutes for the 27.3 miles doing it in 7 hours and 50 minutes of walking . I am 72 1/2 years old so I figure I did pretty well for an old man that had not tried anything like that before...take care, keep up the good work, I was hoping to get the Caliente hat I ordered in time for the walk so I could have picture taken in it.. as ever<Jack

10-7-07 From **Lloyd Oliver**

Bob, I wonder how many men remember the Typhoon in March of 1952? If I can dig out the pictures of that event, I will send them to you. That storm put us in drydock in Japan for a few weeks. Sorry I will not make the reunion, my health is going South.

Lloyd

10/29

From **Elston Paul Butner**

I received your Pipeline about what was going on. Our friend (**Nolan**) **Brouillette** had 5 bypasses and is not doing well, but he is going to make it.

Received from **Clyde and Lori Goodhue**

Greetings One and All

Well here we go with winter. So far 12-18" of the white stuff is predicted. It is so pretty UNTIL you have to be out in the stuff. We came home early today and I was glad we did as the roads were as slippery as greased lightning. One misstep and you would be in the ditch. (And I only had 4 miles to travel)

Well guys Clyde has asked me to send you all on a "Who is it" to see if the following two guys are remembered by anyone.

1. **Thomas Martin LaFrance SN-0032-72**, 2. **Lon Ryan Smith. CD-5758-72**

These Mates reported for duty Jan 26 1954 along with Clyde who was responsible for their records.

Question #2:

On the forward deck where Oil rigs are on, is there any possibility that a case of 20 or 40 MM Shell container (a full metal Container) accidentally fell over onto the lower deck when at sea? He was looking at some of his papers today and found the names. Also Jess Kubal is not listed on the alumni list and if there is a fee to put him on Clyde would like to do it as a memorial to his memory. Hope someone may remember these guys. Thanks for your help
Clyde and Lori

USS Caliente History

For those that have Internet access, go to www.history.navy.mil click on search, then type USS Caliente. There is a very good history of the ship.

A "Thank you" symbol/greeting for our troops

<http://www.gratitudecampaign.org/fullmovie.php>

Harry Riley, COL, USA, Ret

A Little Humor

A very shy man was in a bar with some friends.

There was music for dancing. The man noticed some young ladies in a booth and after a drink or two, he got up enough courage to go over and ask one of the ladies to dance.

He approached one and said "Excuse me, would you like to dance?"

She jumped up and said in, a loud voice "BUY YOU A HAMBURGER??"

He was very embarrassed and went back to the bar.

A little while later, the girl decided that she needed to apologize, so she went over to the man and said "I'm sorry I embarrassed you".

The man jumped up and said, in a loud voice "FIFTY DOLLARS??"

A Schoolteacher asking her students

"Tell me Patrick, what do you do on Christmas Eve?" she asked.

Patrick addressed the class. "Well Miss, me and my twelve brothers and sisters go to midnight Mass and we sing hymns, then we come home very late and we put mince pies by the back door and hang up our stockings. Then all excited we go to bed and wait for Father Christmas to come with all our toys."

"Very nice Patrick, now Jimmy, what do you do?"

"Well Miss, me and my sister go to Church with Mum and Dad and we sing carols and we get home ever so late. We put cookies and milk by the chimney and we hang up our stockings. We hardly sleep waiting for Santa Claus to bring our presents."

Remembering there was a Jewish boy in the class and not wanting to leave him out of the discussion, she asked, "Now Isaac, what do you do on Christmas Eve?"

"Well Miss, it's the same old thing every year. Dad comes home from the office. We all pile into the Rolls and drive to his toy factory. When we get inside we look at all the empty shelves and sing

"What a friend we have in Jesus". Then we go to the Bahamas.

That's it for this edition. I hope you all have a Merry Christmas (or Happy Holidays if you prefer) and a healthy and Prosperous New Year. Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

The next Pipeline will be published in March, 2008. I hope to have all the information for our next reunion at San Antonio, TX, October 2008.

If you have any questions, comments or information you would like published in the Pipeline, please let me know. Bob Howard, 2674 Buena Vista Ave., Walnut Creek, CA 94597-2547, 925-939-3662.