



U.S.S.
U.S.C.G.C.

FINCH



DE 328 – WDE 428 – DER 328

*Distinguished Service Through Three Decades and Three Wars
World War II, Korea, and Vietnam*

Twentieth Year No. 1

October - December 2006

Junior Officers Assume Helm

“Mission accomplished!”

Laughlin saw 109 shipmates and guests register and attend this year’s reunion. Scuttlebutt has it this was one of the best reunions we ever had. We are really pleased by the response and everyone had a lot of fun in a goofy way (what else with E.Z. and Ives at the helm?). Stidham may never return to a reunion again!

If you were unable or opted not to attend, we are sorry you missed it. Unnamed sources tell me it was some of the best food we have ever had and *we did not run out of meat balls at the spaghetti dinner!* Of course everyone enjoyed the gambling. The Riverside Casino was a great place to hold the reunion. In addition to the good food, the trips and activities were fun. See page two and three of the newsletter and the Finch web site (ussfinch.com) for pictures of this year’s reunion.

We owe a special thanks to ‘EZ’ Earl Griener and Ivan Kerr for assuming responsibility for the reunion after Elmer Hinton’s death. Earl and Ivan agreed to continue with the plans presented by Elmer at last year’s reunion. Margaret Hinton was a big help plus we still had Elmer helping us from above. The weather broke from triple-digit heat the weekend before we arrived and held in the low 90’s until the week after the reunion when it returned to triple-digits. Thanks, Elmer.

EZ Earl reports that the key to the reunion was a couple of charming ladies; his wife Nancy, and Margaret Hinton. They not only kept the hospitality room jumping, they also added a little class to the event!

This year’s business meeting was as exciting as usual! Major business was confirming Rochester, NY as the 2007 reunion site and Colorado Springs, CO as the location in 2008. A discussion was held concerning life membership in the USS Finch organization. Carroll Clingan will research what would be a reasonable fee to consider for life membership. The 50/50 raffle raised \$345 for the treasury. Thanks to Kent and Elaine Overholser for another great effort!! They have raised thousands of dollars over the past several years from the raffles.

2007 Membership Dues Are Due!!

Your dues are essential to the Association. Please make a special effort to pay your 2007 dues. Without them, we can not publish the Newsletter and help underwrite the costs of our reunions. If there is not an anchor ⚓ by your name please send your 2007 annual dues of \$10 to Kent Overholser, 20 Warrington Rd., Vernon Hills, IL 60061.

Finch Shifts Home Port to

Rochester, NY in September 2007

As good as Laughlin was, it is time to head east and enjoy the Fall season in the city of Rochester in the western region of upstate New York. Our hosts, Jim and Vivian Wachob (DER 56), have firmed up plans for the upcoming reunion to be held September 19-22. Rochester offers a wide range of activities and of course some cooler weather! It is a historic port city on Lake Ontario that became prominent as a commercial center after the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825.

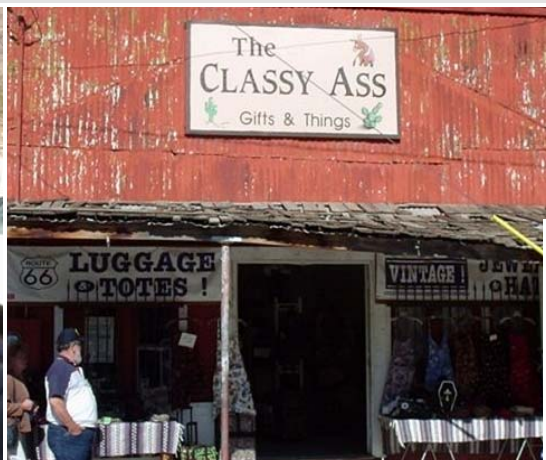
Rochester sits to the north of the Finger Lakes Region of New York, about 65 miles east of Buffalo. The Rochester area and neighboring Finger Lakes abound with quaint villages, dairy farms, orchards, vineyards, and sparkling deep lakes that make for quiet days and excellent sight seeing opportunities. Upstate New York also offers visitors award winning wineries, historic military sites dating back to the French and Indian War days, and such natural wonders as the great and powerful waterfalls at Niagara.



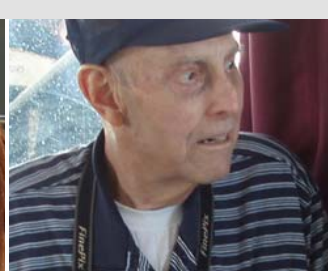
Our meeting home will be the Strathallan Hotel located on East Avenue, a residential street in downtown Rochester. Jim has obtained a \$129 daily room rate. You can check out the hotel at its website www.strathallan.com. Reservations may be made by calling the hotel at (800) 678-7284. Be sure to mention the USS FINCH, and also remember to mark your 2007 calendar for the reunion dates. Plans have been set for a day trip to Niagara Falls, and if you didn’t lose all of your money at Laughlin, you will have an opportunity to help lessen your load at the Finger Lakes Gaming and Race Track. There are also several museums and other attractions within walking distance of the hotel. Check out the Rochester Tourism website for more information at www.rochestertourism.com. Read more in future editions of the newsletter about our upcoming reunion plans and the many things to do and see in the upstate New York Area.



A special thanks to Ralph Randow for his services as our San Antonio host in 2002 and three years on our Executive Board, serving as Chairman this past year.



2007 Hosts
Jim and Vivan Wachob

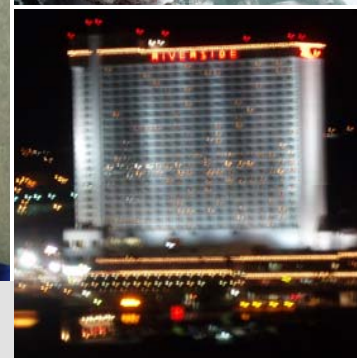


'EZ' Earl & Nancy Greiner

USS / WDE Finch 19th Annual Reunion Laughlin, NV September 20-24, 2006 Hosts 'EZ' Earl Greiner, Ivan Kerr & Margaret Hinton



Ivan Kerr & Margaret Hinton



Finch Reunion Association

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Return Service Requested

Editors Note: I need stories from shipmates that I can use on the back page. As you can see, I had to use a story from a DE sailor other than a Finch shipmate for this issue.

You can email me your story or send it to my regular mail address.

Thanks, Bob Bumbulucz

We're on the web!
ussfinch.com

Old Memories of a Young Sailor...Excerpts from Ernie Pyle's "Short Cruise on a D-E"

In the Western Pacific (1945) -- Ernie Pyle

So now I'm a D-E sailor. Full-fledged one. Drenched from head to foot with salt water. Sleep with a leg crooked around your rack so you won't fall out. Put wet bread under your dinner tray to keep it from sliding. Even got my Jesus-shoes ordered.

And you don't know what a D-E sailor is? You don't know the D-E Navy? Better not let one of them hear you say that. They are 50,000 strong out here. And they pride themselves on their rough life at sea. So better be careful.

A D-E, my friends, is a destroyer-escort. It's a ship, long and narrow and sleek, along the lines of a destroyer. But it's much smaller. It's a baby destroyer. It's the Ameri-

can version of the British corvette.

It is the answer to the problems of colossal amounts of convoying; amounts so huge that we simply hadn't the time to build full-fledged destroyers to escort them all. The D-E was the result. It is a wartime product, and it has done very valiantly.

They are rough and tumble little ships. Their after decks are laden with depth charges. They can turn in half the space of a destroyer. Their forward guns can seldom be used because waves are breaking over them.

They roll and they plunge. They buck and they twist. They shudder and they fall through space. Their sailors say they should have flight pay and sub pay both --

they're in the air half the time, under the water the other half. Their men are accustomed to being wet and think nothing of it.

I came back from the northern waters on a D-E. When a wave comes over and you get soaked a sailor laughs and says, 'Now you're a D-E sailor,' it makes you feel kind of proud. And I did not get seasick! I better have my stomach examined.

My ship formed part of the escort of a tiny convoy retuning to a southern base island for more planes and supplies, to be hurried back north to the battle.

We mothered ships that were big and slow. We were tiny in comparison. We ran way out ahead, and to the side. We and D-E's like us formed the

"screen" and there was nothing bigger than us in it. We felt like strutting.

We felt like the little boy of the plains left at home for the first time to protect his mother from the Indians -- the only man on the place.

The boys toss off angles of rolling that are incredible. They tell of times when the ships rolled all the way from 65 to 85 degrees, which is lying flat on the side. In a typhoon, the boys say "All you can do is put on your Jesus-shoes and hope." In other words, be prepared to walk on water.

When you're talking to a D-E sailor on deck, you'll notice his eyes unconsciously following and judging the waves, to sense when one is big enough to come over.

See the DESA website (www.desausa.org) to read the entire article.