

Leger Lines



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President's Message

Greetings to all of you. We had a simply marvelous time in Louisville! This was, by far, the largest and most successful reunion yet. As each reunion goes by, we are able to streamline the schedule for an efficient, rewarding, and fun-filled event that everyone enjoys.

I'd like to thank Kim Holl for driving all the way to and from Louisville with me (while our wives flew). His keen eye is so important in seeing that all problems are taken care of before they happen. His assistance is invaluable to me. Also, his wife Debby Holl receives kudos for her hard work in the registration room. This is probably the most arduous job at these reunions, and Deb and Cecil perform these monumental tasks with zero discrepancies. As I go down the list of workers, I can't help but think what a great group of people has assembled to make this event so successful: Wayne and Karen Smith in the small stores, Ambrose O'Donnell as the equipment manager, Wilbur Smith and Terry Chesson with rehearsal coordination, Melanie Leketa and Carol Niehoff for the spouses' trip, Sherry Church for the great pictures, Marshall Hawkins for his archives work, the various rehearsal conductors, David Blakely with the NMA web site, Bill Sterck for assisting with legal issues, Bill Allen editing and publishing "Leger Lines", and, last but certainly not least, Merv Allen for running the 50-50 raffle for us. My heartfelt thanks to all of you and to everyone who just pitches in to grab a piece of gear and help move it or put it away.

There is some great news. We have received a request from a member to run for president. This is very important to the association in the fact we can split the two most difficult jobs between two people versus one. If any member desires to run for office, please notify Kim Holl, who is head of the nomination committee, and the committee will put the slate together for the next reunion's elections.

Speaking of which, the NMA's 2007 reunion will be back in Norfolk VA, from 25 to 28 April 2007 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center on Greenwich Road in Virginia Beach, Virginia. This will be the last April reunion. In the future, all reunions will be held in late June or early July.

Be on the lookout for reunion information in the Winter *Leger Lines*. Early registration makes the work much easier.

See you all in Virginia Beach!

Bob Leketa

TAPS

MUC Jimmie Howard, Ret

MUCS Charles D Chase, Ret

MUC Joseph P Mokry, Ret

From David Blakeley, Webmaster

Be sure to check out the Photo of the Month on the NMA Website! Members are invited to submit their own suggestions for Photo of the Month. Just keep it legal, please.

Members who are new to web browsing may not be aware of a basic feature of the site. If a member's name is in gold text in the roster, that member's e-mail address has been encoded as a hyperlink. The address should be visible in the status bar at the bottom of your browser (for most members, Internet Explorer) window. If you click on one of those names, your e-mail program should start up a new message form with the member's e-mail address filled in.

Speaking of e-mail addresses, please don't forget to keep yours up-to-date by sending an e-mail to the Webmaster at admin@navvmusicians.org.

And, finally, please feel free at any time to send in questions or suggestions to the Webmaster.

Attention, Members

Check out NMA member Frank Mullen's blog: <http://navyvres.blogspot.com/>. Frank is the unofficial, unauthorized, unusual, unspecified, untied, undistinguished, yet not undone NMA recruiter and I am certain you will all enjoy what he has to say.

Terry Chesson

Editor's Note

Please keep in mind the O L McMillan Scholarship Fund as we approach the year's end. The NMA helps deserving students gain an education.

Also, keep in mind the Travel Fund which helps NMA members who would not be able to attend a reunion.

I need pictures, stories, something for next issue since I am running low. Thanks to all of you

Bill Allen



Elise Wood, Karen Smith, and Debby Holl at the reunion in Louisville.
Their message is "WE MISSED YOU"



Dance Band 2-4 A, Anacostia (1952)

Left Front: Gene Huddleston, Leader and Tenor Sax
Other Personnel: Alto Sax: Crandall and DeMattieis; Tenors: Glasgow and Richards; Bari: Harris; Trumpets: Robson, Prospero, Corcoran, and Hartman
Trombones: Bendett, Pavone, Sanders, and Thaxton; Piano: Alfred; Bass: Rack; Drums: Ferraro *(Thanks to Ted Thaxton and John Edmunds)*

Navy Unit Band Trinidad, British West Indies

By: Terry Chesson

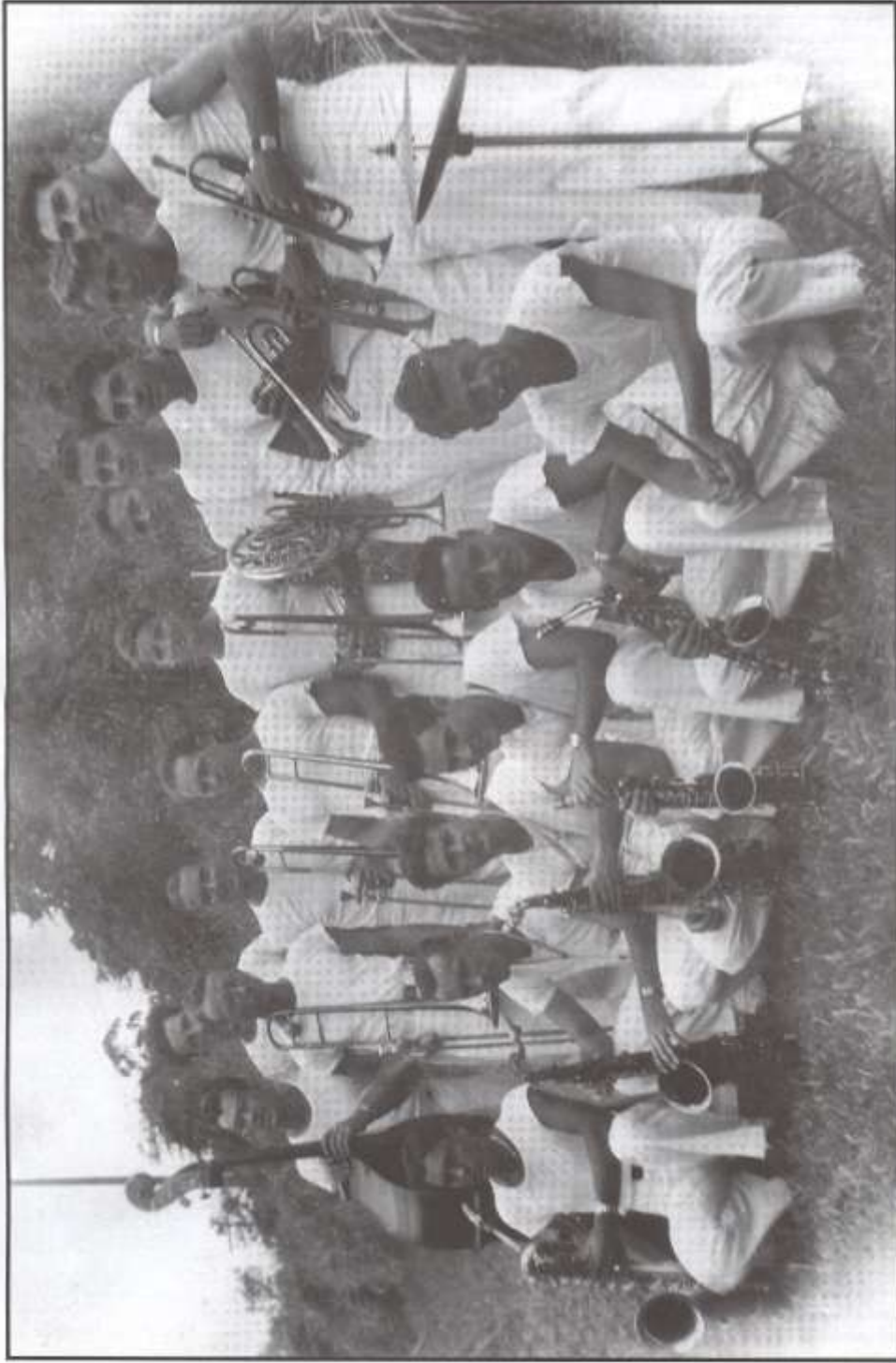
Clarence Ogilvie was 17 years old when he joined the U S Navy as a musician in 1944. He spent four weeks at the Navy School of Music, Anacostia, in Washington, DC, and shipped out with his unit band for duty in Trinidad in early 1945 where he served until he mustered out in July 1946.

The band played as a ceremonial band performing morning colors daily, as a concert band, and less often as a dance band. Clarence, as a French horn musician played third trombone parts in the dance band for occasional dances at the Officers' Club. There wasn't a heck of a lot of work for the band and plenty of time to leave the Naval Operations Base and visit the locals. There were also many activities for the sailors including softball, volleyball, swimming, boating, and a zoo on the base. Yes! A zoo! In fact, the band had a mascot inherited from the previous band: a monkey named Skippy.

While stationed in Trinidad, the band performed on the occasion of Trinidad's Carnival, a pre-Lenten celebration. According to the base newsletter HI SAILOR, dated 8 March 1946, the float on which they played for the parade won first prize. To quote the article: "our own Navy Band, on a unique float glistening with paint whitened palms played lustily and in their usual classy style as they led the parade from the Savannah". Clarence remembers the infancy of the steel drum bands as rhythmic in nature playing no particular melodies yet having a hypnotic effect on the occasion. Further quoting the HI SAILOR article: "... from the most varied assortment of discarded junk-oil drums, wash tubs, brake bands, came the magic of the Carnival".

Clarence Ogilvie was brought into the NMA by his daughter Diana Ogilvie who Googled our organization and purchased a membership for her dad as a gift. Diana is on active duty with the U S Navy Band in Washington, DC, where she has served as a French horn instrumentalist and is currently the Master Chief of the Command. They both attended our reunion in June and were a most welcome addition to the NMA concert band. Clarence and Diana are the French horn players in the picture below.





NAVY BAND TRINIDAD (1946)

Front Row: Gloor, Keith, Calavitti, Kramer, Torres, Link

Back Row: Bills, Schmidt, Brsloy, Cofield, Henson, Menditch, Ogbvie, Rojowski, Zimmerman, MacKinny, Tsachak *(Picture courtesy of Terry Chesson)*

THE NAVY STEEL BAND

By: Dennis M. Jansson

Steel Bands came into being during World War II when the United States Military moved into the West Indies, particularly Trinidad. The people soon began forming discarded gasoline barrels into crude steel drums. The Navy Steel Band began in 1957-58 when Rear Admiral Dan Gallery formed it while Commandant of the 10th Naval District in Puerto Rico. It was affectionately called "Admiral Dan's Pandemoniacs". (Off the subject, but of interest, Admiral Gallery was the only person to capture a Japanese submarine without firing a single shot.) The band traveled extensively through the Caribbean, the United States, and also performed at the World's Fair in Brussels during the early 1960s. The first leader was MUC Charles Roeper, followed by MUC Franz Grissom.



<NAVY STEEL BAND New Orleans, LA (1978)

Personnel:

L to R: Bherman "Buddah" Baker
Glen "Bugsy" Edwards
Harvey Lloyd
Craig Decker
Lou Brown
Denny Jansson
Doug Davis
John Hester (behind D Davis)
Greg Nevil, Leader
Ed Helm
Lyle "Zoot" Sacry

NAVY STEEL BAND> New Orleans, LA (1981)

Personnel:

Kneeling:
J D Hyatt
Ted Beverage
Ed Helm, Leader

Standing:
Dana Silver
Wayne Lumpkin
Dennis Jansson
Harvey Lloyd
B Buddah Baker
Anita Dalpe Hammonds
Tom Wholley
Stan Berry



The steel band moved to the 8th Naval District in New Orleans in or around 1974. I became a member of this fine band after "A" School in 1978 and stayed in the band until 1982. There were two leaders of the Navy Band New Orleans during that time: CWO Jerry Clements and CWO Gary Blalock. We traveled a lot during those days, usually with Navy recruiting or with the Blue Angels. The "cosmic god of per diem" had deep pockets back then.

NAVY STEEL BAND continued



<Captain Noah TV Show
Philadelphia, PA (ca 1980)

Personnel:

Bottom
J D Hyatt
Ed Helm, Leader
B Buddah Baker
Bob Angotti (kneeling)
Tom Wholley, standing behind
Dennis Jansson
Wayne "Lumpy" Lumpkin

Top
Stan Barry
Ted Beverage
Anita Dalpe
Eric Shanks

I returned to the Steel Band for a second tour in 1988 and remained with them for about another four years. The leadership of the Navy Band, New Orleans, at that time was CWO Wilbur "Smitty" Smith and I believe that Bill "Uncle Bill" Hocke was the assistant director. CWO Smith retired and Ens Rick Osial became the next leader along with Bill Hocke for awhile and then MUCM J J Crabtree became the A D. We still traveled a lot, but not nearly as much as before due to budget cuts and restraints.

Finally in the summer of 1999, the Steel Band closed up shop for good due to budget problems. The old band room has been torn down.

The duty rumor now is that the Steel Band may again be reborn either with the Navy or with another branch of the armed forces. Let's hope so! This was a wonderful band and I as well as many past members of the Steel Band have great memories of it.



<New Orleans, LA (1988)

Personnel:

Center: Greg Nevil, Leader

Left to Right: George Barcus
Roland Lawes
Rob ?
Dennis Jansson
Chip Armstrong
Wilbert Vincent (behind Chip)
John Reynolds
Greg Boyd (behind J Reynolds)
Scott Gloede
Bruce Smith
Art Brockmeyer



REUNION SHOTS

Beginning at top right, working down and around:

Lyle Kossman and Gary Lowry

Arnie Carruthers

Tex Waldron and Doyle Church

The Board of Directors:

L to R: Bill Allen, Bill Sterck, Bob Leketa, Ambrose O'Donnell, Smitty Smith, Doyle Church, Kim Holl, David Blakeley, Cecil Strange

Prez Leketa and Veep Holl

Lenny Childs, Norman Hedges and John Branam





**MINUTES OF THE 12TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
OF THE NAVY MUSICIANS ASSOCIATION
JUNE 24, 2006**

Opening

The 12th annual reunion was held at the Holiday Inn Louisville-North, 505 Marriott Drive, Clarksville, Indiana June 21-25, 2006. The annual business meeting was held at 1000 on Saturday, June 24, 2006. Eighty-three members signed in at the meeting. Minutes from the 2005 annual business meeting and the treasurer's report were posted prior to the meeting.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Officers' roll call. All officers present.

President Bob Leketa announced that notice of the meeting had been previously published in *Leger Lines*.

He announced the posting of the minutes of the last meeting, and the membership voted to accept the minutes as posted.

President's Report

- The next reunion will be held in Virginia Beach, Virginia, the last week in April 2007 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center, the next Annual Business Meeting would be on April 28, 2007

Discussion: The April time frame (in the odd numbered years) was chosen to coincide with the annual School of Music Clinic. The Clinic is no longer being held. Therefore, after 2007, the NMA could elect to hold the reunion in Virginia Beach at a more attractive date. *Note: We have already committed to this date for 2007.*

- ◆ Members were cautioned not to leave their personal instruments in the rehearsal rooms for security reasons.
- Many members commented on the instruments purchased since last year, and that these were being put to very good use at this year's reunion. He noted that NMA was looking to purchase the following instruments: bass drum, concert cymbal, concert snare drum, and orchestra bells. He asked everyone to be on the lookout for those instruments for next year.
- The membership was reminded to donate to the McMillan Fund.
- Questions were asked about pre-registration vs. on-site registration fees. The five dollar savings for pre-registration accomplishes a number of things. First, it reduces the amount of cash we have to keep on hand at the reunion. Also, it saves the member money. Additionally, it saves time when registering. All members were encouraged to take advantage of the pre-registration savings.
- The 2008 reunion will be in the North Eastern United States. Mention had been made of New England as a desirable area, but prices in that region would be cost prohibitive. The president will investigate several locations in the North East and make a recommendation within the next year
- He called for all hands to assist moving gear after the banquet.

The motion was made and seconded to accept the president's report. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Cecil Strange reemphasized that the treasurer's report was posted for all to see, and had already been accepted. He reported that the organization was in good financial shape, but that many members were negligent about paying their dues. He stressed the importance of paying dues on time.

He announced plans to initiate a letter to the membership requesting donations for the O.L. McMillan Fund.

Committee Reports

Wilbur Smith reported on the McMillan Scholarship Fund and that committee's activities. He noted that the committee had been chaired by the late Earl Bengel, then taken over by Scott Friend. Two scholarships were awarded to Ian Richard (Piano/Tuba), and Lauretta Noller (Marimba). He emphasized the work of the committee was time consuming, and that the procedures previously set in place by the past chairmen would be followed for the next year, but that the selection of awardees after that would be done at the

(MINUTES OF THE 12TH ANNUAL NMA BUSINESS MEETING continued)

reunion by an appointed committee.

Wilbur also reported on the Travel Assistance Fund. There were two awardees for that program for 2006. However, the fund has now run out of money. There was a motion to dispense with the fund altogether, and the motion was seconded. During the discussion, a point of order was called, stating the whole motion and discussion should be under New Business. Therefore, the discussion was shelved and the motion to dispense was withdrawn.

Archives

Marshall Hawkins said that the room provided for the archives display was much better than before, and that people were visiting and enjoying the pictures and videos. He indicated that perhaps the sign could be improved to attract more attention, but that members were coming by in small numbers. He said there were lots of pictures and some quality videos which he considered a must-see. He encouraged the membership to identify time on their schedule to visit the archives room and watch the 1-2 hour videos. He indicated that the whole collection (so far) is a vital part of the history of the Navy Music Program, and that it should be supported. Archives should be an item on the annual budget if it is to be successful. The display of items collected so far is just the "tip of the iceberg" and that more will be collected in the future. He called for help from the membership for pictures, stories, videos, etc.

Equipment Manager's Report

Ambrose O'Donnell thanked everyone for all their help moving, setting up, and tearing down gear at this reunion. He said the cooperation had been great. He reported that one problem area was with the renting of unique types of instruments, i.e. guitars, drums, etc. We have had players request us to rent these instruments for use during the reunion. We rent them for the whole week, only to have the player show up late on Thursday or Friday to play them. So we waste money renting instruments for no one to play for several days. So, if you request us to rent an instrument, at least come early in the week so we don't waste money needlessly. Ambrose mentioned that he had a lead on the purchase of a baritone saxophone for \$300, but that it did not work out. He said that we are still looking for opportunities to purchase certain instruments and the membership is asked to keep your eyes open. If you find an opportunity, contact Ambrose either by e-mail or telephone so he can pursue it. He asked for further help with stands after happy hour the night of the banquet.

There was a question regarding the purchase of these instruments via eBay. Ambrose said it was a possibility and that we should all keep our eyes open.

There was a motion to accept the Equipment Manager's report. The motion was seconded. There being no opposition, the motion carried.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Kim Holl mentioned the volunteers who help out with each reunion, mostly unheralded. He said that we could all help them feel appreciated by offering a "thank you" whenever possible. He also said that one more way to thank them was to offer them an award for their help. He announced plans to present the most outstanding volunteer an award named for the late Earl Bengé, to be called the "Earl Bengé Volunteer of the Year Award", the first of which to be awarded tonight at the banquet. Kim also announced that he had invited members of the American Legion chapter who were also in the hotel to come by after dinner for the dance and to listen to the music.

There was a motion to accept the vice president's report and it was seconded. The motion carried.

Old Business

President Leketa announced that he would not be running for President next year. He also informed the membership that he would divide the responsibilities of the President and that of a Reunion Coordinator, and that he would remain in place as the reunion coordinator. He called for the membership to begin thinking of someone to replace him as President, which will be up for vote the next reunion.

New Business

- Don Junker will hold a brass clinic at 1300 today.
- The question regarding the travel assistance fund was brought up again (see Committee Reports). President Bob Leketa gave a brief history of the fund, explaining that it started with a \$5K donation several years ago. Since the Association cannot fund the program out of the general fund, it must be supported by donations if it is to survive. Leketa noted that if the membership wanted to support the program, it would need a chairman. There was a discussion about the program, what it is, what it does, how much does it cost, etc. Basically, it is a program to help a needy member attend a reunion by providing money for travel and hotel. The member

(MINUTES OF THE 12TH ANNUAL NMA BUSINESS MEETING continued)

provides his/her own meals and other expenses. Wilbur Smith volunteered to chair the program if Ben McHorney would help. Ben agreed that he would. Again, there was a long discussion resulting in a motion to maintain the fund with Wilbur Smith as chairman. The motion was seconded and carried.

- The question was raised as to what the Association does to notify new retirees about NMA. The answer by President Leketa was that we notify them by active members, magazines, e-mail, and regular mail.
- Terry Chesson addressed the membership regarding recruiting new members, and explained that it is the responsibility of each and every member.
- The President called for a moment of silence for our fallen members.

There was a motion to close the meeting. There was a second. So carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 1110.

Doyle Church, Secretary

Program Notes

Current official information concerning the Navy Music Program is available in Program Notes, a quarterly publication by the U S Navy Music Program of the U S Navy Personnel Command in Millington, Tennessee 38055-6400. Information is available online at: <http://ww.bupers.navy.mil/navymusic>.

Fill out the entire form (or write information on paper) and mail with a check for \$25 to:

Cecil Strange, Treasurer of NMA
P. O. Box 2294
Plant City, FL 33564-2294.

Dues are for 1 January—31 December 2006 and are \$25.00.

Make checks payable to NMA . (No cash, please)

NMA APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name _____ Spouse _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone (____) _____ E-mail _____

Dates served as MU _____ to _____ Instruments _____

Comments: _____

Thank you



Mr Arthur Fiedler, Conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra, chats with Commander John D McDonald, Commanding Officer, School of Music. Mr Fiedler arrived at Norfolk Municipal Airport at 1640 Saturday, 24 October 1964, to participate in Dedication Ceremonies for the School of Music, aboard the Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Va, Sunday, 25 October 1964.

Also pictured are Lt(jg) Richard Larson, piano soloist and Director of the First Naval District Band, Boston, MA, and Mrs. Gloria Szlaga, wife of Master Chief Musician Andrew Szlaga, Assistant Head, Training Department, School of Music.

(Picture courtesy of B A Waltrip)

COM 6TH FLEET BAND (after 52 years)

By: Charlie Niehoff /Norris Durrell

I learned of the first NMA reunion through a small notice placed in an airline flight magazine late in 1994. I attended the first reunion and nearly all of them since then. Even prior to the first reunion, I had been trying to locate any of the 21 musicians who were sent to the Mediterranean in April 1952. We were the replacement band for Unit Band 171, headed by Chief Dutch Albert (Com 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean). The 21 of us had all graduated from the Navy School of Music (Anacostia) on the same day: February 27, 1952. We were from four classes #131, 132, 138, and 139 that graduated that day, and included Dick Talbot, Dave Ault, Bill Bryant, Jim Cutler, John Flynn, Jim Spratt, Charlie Niehoff, Don Phillips, Bob Buschmann, Sam Calio, Bud Cappuccio, Bruno D'Ambrogi, Norris Durrell, Tom Klimko, Dick Layman, Stuart Dubbs, Larry Goldstein, Fred Koettgen, John Linscott, John Lanni, and Marvin Rinker.

We reported aboard the USS Salem on April 15, 1952, in Boston Navy Yard and departed for the Med on about April 22. We arrived in the port of Algiers on April 28 and visited Algiers for tours and dinner while the flag was transferred from the USS Newport News to the USS Salem. Our one and a half year tour of duty was typical of Com 6th Fleet bands in the Med. We were told what "hot clubs" were and learned that these clubs were very receptive to American Jazz musicians jamming with their local players. We visited Gibraltar, Oran, Cagliari, Villefranche (home port), Naples, Trieste, Venice, Athens, Malta, Toranto, Palma, Barcelona, Messina, Beirut, Istanbul, Lisbon etc. Our musical duties were Colors, Honors, cocktail parties, gun tub band, deck concerts, dances for local military bases, local radio spots, local park concerts, parades, marching in local bullfight arenas, playing for other sporting events. Our duties at sea were standing regular radar watches in Flag Plot. Our Musician Chief was George Merrinac, a wonderful leader.

Norris Durrell and I had kept in touch with several of the guys through the years, so we had a small nucleus to begin with. Through Norris's computer searching, we found a lot of names and telephone numbers and just started calling and talking to people. Most of these people had no idea what or who we were talking about. But, every once in awhile, we scored a hit. Eventually, due to a lot of hard work and more luck (actually several of the people found us), we were able to produce a list that contained information on 16 of the original 21 musicians. Unfortunately, illness has taken three of those friends away from us before they could experience the fellowship of an NMA reunion. This year (2006) we had six members attending — Marvin Rinker, Don Phillips, John Linscott, Bob Buschmann, Sam Calio and Charlie Niehoff and we all had a wonderful time. Norris Durrell would have been there but a last minute family illness changed his plans.

COM 6TH FLEET
BAND MEMBERS
at the 2006 REUNION

Members:

Bob Buschmann

Don Phillips

John Linscott

Charlie Niehoff

Marvin Rinker

Sam Calio

Two of this years participants were there for the first time (Marvin Rinker and Don Phillips) but both have made it known that they will be back in Virginia Beach. Don played this year and Marvin will be bringing his tuba next year. This was the largest group of our Com 6th Fleet Band to attend any of our reunions. We enjoy playing with the different bands but more important is the opportunity to visit with old friends and make new ones. All of us who have gotten together since our Navy days have indicated that our experience was a positive and important time in our lives. We grew and prepared ourselves for the future a lot more than any of us knew.



John Polites at the reunion (the smile says it all!)



Jeri Gamble at Churchill Downs