



# USS Noxubee AOG56

## Shipmates Association Newsletter

ussnoxubee.org March2011 editor Dick Barber [dicbarber@aol.com](mailto:dicbarber@aol.com)

### **Association Officers**

President; Gary Hall: Treasurer; Bob Ahlersmeyer: Secretary; DickBarber:

### **Board of Directors**

Dick Bland, Pat Francione, Jim Gabrisch, Paul Gryniewicz, "Moose" Haviland, Bill Holton, Howard Justice, Bob Mitchell, Tom Mize and Jan Scott

### **Reunion 2011 information From Pat and Mikki**

We have definite plans to do a windshield tour of Naval Training Center, Great Lakes and a guided tour of their museum. We also have lunch plans. For the second day we are looking into visiting one of the many museums along the lake front (Science & Industry, Aquarium, Natural History) Opening and closing dinner will possibly be at the Famous Harry Carey's (Sox & Cubs) restaurant.

Rooms have been blocked, you may contact the hotel Holiday Inn, Chicago Mart Plaza any time before 14 July 2011. To make reservations call 312-836-5000 between 0700 and 1700 Central Time. You must also reference USS Noxubee Shipmates Assoc. at the time you make your reservation

**Bob Cooley 1948-1952** has been in contact with a couple Shipmates. Due to he and his Wife's illness they cannot travel to the reunion but they are located only 40 miles from Chicago. Anyone wishing to stop by to visit, contact Bob.

### **Shipmate News**

#### **Shipmates crossed the Quarterdeck**

Plank Owner, Andrew Williams s1C 1945-1946  
04-08-2010  
Arthur D Parker SN 1969-1970 08-21-2010

### **Newly Located Shipmates**

Willie Gatchalian TN 08-08-1966 to 03-01-1968  
William S (Bud) Howard FN 11-22-56 to 07-31-58  
James H Vann Jr FN 03-21-69 to 1971  
Robert R Perkins EMFN 1952 to 1954  
Check the Shipmates Directory for locations and changes of address or contact me for more information.

### **Agent Orange news**

**The Veterans Administration has updated the list of Ships operating in Vietnam waters** go to [www.fra.org/agentorange](http://www.fra.org/agentorange)

USS Noxubee is on this list. If you are still having trouble getting medical assistance for exposure to Agent Orange while aboard Noxubee this should open the door for you. Spouse or Dependents of former Noxubee Veteran's should also find it easier to get the needed documentation going now. VA offices **should** help get your claims filed or re-filed.

### **Agent Orange Presumption Expanded for Korea Vets**

Veterans exposed to herbicides while serving along the demilitarized zone (DMZ) in Korea will have easier access to health care and other benefits under a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) final regulation. The regulation, published in the Federal Register and available online at <http://www.ofr.gov/>, will expand the dates when illnesses caused by herbicide exposure can be presumed to be related to Agent Orange. The VA will now presume herbicide exposure for any veteran who served between April 1, 1968, and Aug 31, 1971, in a unit determined to have operated in an area in or near the Korean DMZ in which herbicides were applied. Previously, the VA presumed service-connection for veterans who served in certain units along the Korean DMZ between April 1968 and July 1969. Eligible veterans who meet this service criteria and have specific herbicide-related illnesses do not have to prove an association between their illness and their military service. This "presumption" simplifies and speeds up the application process for benefits. To learn more about filing a claim for presumptive conditions related to herbicide exposure, visit <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/AO/claimherbicide.htm>. Additional information about Agent Orange and VA's services for veterans exposed to the chemical is available [www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange).

### **Important Notice**

An organization called **Veterans Affairs Services (VAS)** is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans. This organization is not affiliated with VA in any way. Websites with the name "VA services" immediately after the "www" ARE NOT part of the Department of Veterans Affairs; the real VA website ends in.gov. If approached or called, do not offer them any information concerning yourself or data on other veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs does not randomly call veterans, nor does it ask veterans for information which it does not already have. If you have not dealt with the VA previously and in person, then you receive a call from someone saying they are with the VA or something similar sounding, hang up the phone. Do not respond to emails which suggest that they are from the VA. The VA never conducts official business nor asks for personal information by email. VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. NGB Legal Counsel has requested that the NGB Provost Marshal Office coordinate with DoD to inform military installations, particularly mobilization sites, of this group and their lack of affiliation or endorsement by VA to provide any services.

### **From our Noxubee Cowboy Poet "Andy" Address"**

#### **THE COWBOY'S HEARING PROBLEM came from an unknown Lady in Elco, Nevada**

The day was cold and stormy But t'was nice and warm inside

Only one chair in that doctor's waiting room was occupied.

Settin' waiting quietly and patiently

As most ol' cow punchers do. Lookin' straight down at his boot toes was a cinchy buckaroo.

The day had been quite hectic the receptionists was vexed. She stuck her head out through the door and said

"OK you're next". The old man looked up briefly and in an offhand sorta way, And in a loud piercing voice he answered, "What did you say?" "You gotta speak right up, mam.

Or at least I wish ya would One of my problems, ya see, is I just don't hear too good".

"Like I said this hadn't been her day her patience had been tried

She merely cocked her finger "Follow me" she then replied When the doctor asked what's his problem?

She snapped, I think the most that's wrong with this old codger is he's deafer than a post.

So the Doc said Mr. Johnson in his patronizing way please tell me sir what is it I can do for you today.

Is it your heart or liver, please won't you tell me sir? The old man looked him in the eye and plainly answered. HER!

If you're asking what's my problem, I'm telling you right here

Somehow I've gotten something jammed down deep inside my ear. All though pain is not a factor

I've tried everything I had I can't dig it out, the darn thing's about to drive me mad. So turning up the old man's head with his tweezers and his light

The Doctor started fishing in the old man's ear that night.

He gently pushed and probed and squeezed And then a shout

Something went pop. The Doc said there I got the darn thing out.

Geedoc that feels terrific, The old man loudly stated

It didn't feel that good the last time I came unconstipated.

Please tell me doc what was in there? Come on let's have the story

Doc held up his hand and there behold a large suppository.

A look of panic crossed his face Then the old man spoke, Please tell me Doc it wasn't that

This ain't no time to joke.

What are you so upset about he said? As the old man begin to curse

So it's a suppository could have been a whole lot worse.

Quit raven so about the expense It isn't that bad Shucks this is just an office visit

It's only \$50 bucks.

What ya mean \$50 bucks he said As he jumped out of his chair

You know you'll get a check for that from the folks at Medicare.

The thing that got my pressure up Now Dock I'm afraid

Now I know exactly where I stuck my hearing aid.