

# The 820 Newsletter

The Official Publication of the USS Rich Association  
Volume 19, Number 1



On the Internet: [www.ussrich.org](http://www.ussrich.org)  
February, 2012

## Richfield On The Horizon!

First, the good news...

Bill and Ann Gross has worked diligently through the past summer and fall making arrangements and events guaranteed to please. Nearly everything and everybody is ready and waiting for the excitement (and warmer weather) to begin.

The pages inside this issue contain the necessary Registration and Emergency Medical Information forms. You will also find copies online at [www.ussrich.org](http://www.ussrich.org) where you may either download/print/complete and mail with your check or simply register online with a debit/credit card.

For your room reservation you may call the hotel directly or reserve your room online with a debit/credit card. Please note that registrations and/or reservations without payment are *automatically* dropped from the system. Also, **DO NOT** use the Days Inn Online Reservation System. Please use the Room Reservation feature on the RICH website. All may be found online in the 2012 Reunion area accessible from the Quarterdeck.

And then there is the *less-than-good* news...

On Saturday, January 21st, Bill's wife Ann suffered a serious in-home accident resulting in a fractured left ankle and a broken right collar bone. As if this wasn't enough, days later Ann suffered a mild stroke apparently brought on by the trauma of injury.

The better news is that Ann is receiving excellent care and is responding well. The current prognosis indicates a full and complete recovery. Please don't inundate Bill with phone calls. If you like, send a card to this address:

**Ann Gross · 10001 W Pleasant Valley Rd · Parma OH 44130**

More importantly, hold Ann in your thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery.

This incident will have minimal effect on the reunion because of all the work Bill and Ann have done. As always, our shipmates and their wives stand by ready to do what needs to be done to benefit all.

Our message to Ann: "Get better soon. We've got the whole crew ready to help you!"



## Alternate Email Available

We have received reports of difficulty in getting email to and from the Ship's Office. Most likely this is the result of anti-SPAM action by many Internet Service Providers (ISPs) such as AOL, Comcast, ATT & others.

The USS RICH Association uses a relay server for email. Relay servers, unlike ISP servers, are often the source of SPAM due to the relative low cost of use and minimal restrictions. While we have taken appropriate steps to "legitimize" our email there are nevertheless services which block all such relay server email.

*shipsoffice@gmail.com*

The email address above may be used as an alternate to our main address ([shipsoffice@ussrich.org](mailto:shipsoffice@ussrich.org)) if you experience problems getting mail through. Additionally you may utilize the "Return Receipt" feature found in many email clients (programs) which notifies you when an email has been received by the addressee.

Finally, if you send email to the Ship's Office which you expect a reply, you should receive a reply within 96 hours. If you do not receive the reply within that time frame please re-send the email.



# Psssst... Wanna SKYPE?

Technology and the Internet are continually providing new ways to communicate with one another around the globe. Many of these methods are free. The Ship's Office regularly receives requests from one shipmate searching for another. Wouldn't it be terrific if in addition to speaking with the shipmate you could actually see him on your computer screen? Yes it would and you can do it with SKYPE. Of course your contacts are not limited to shipmates. Think of family and friends that you can communicate...see and speak to, all over the world.

SKYPE is a free Internet service. The RICH Association is fortunate to have its very own SKYPE guru, shipmate Larry Ingham (RM3 68-68) of Sparks, MD. Larry has created a step-by-step tutorial to get you started. Soon we will publish a database of USS RICH SKYPE users and "SKYPING" has become a regular activity at our annual reunions.

## USS RICH Association SKYPE Sign-up Procedure

In order to communicate over the internet from one computer to another, a service called "SKYPE" has been available for several years. It is free to the users as long as the connection stays on the internet and doesn't connect to the PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network). It has become the best way to both talk to and look at family members, friends, business associates, and of course, association members.

If you are interested in contacting your shipmates in this fashion, just follow these simple instructions to get started.

You will need to make sure that your computer has a video camera and a microphone that are either built into the computer or you have to add them to your system. The Logitech Webcam with Video HD (High Definition) works well. This is not an expensive addition to your system. Most technology salespeople will easily guide you to the products you need. Also, you are like to find that most recently manufactured laptop computers have the microphone and camera built in to the system.

Make sure that your computer has the necessary software version, memory capacity, and disk space to operate the webcam and microphone software provided by the manufacturer. Follow the installation instructions provided by the manufacturer.

### 1. Establishing a SKYPE account on your computer:

- If you already have a SKYPE account, go to step 3.
- Go to [skype.com](http://skype.com).
- Left click on **Join Now**.
- Fill in the blank areas on the form.
- Left click on **I Agree**.
- Download SKYPE

### 2. When you are ready, double left click on the SKYPE icon on your desktop.

- Look at the various fill in options and get your information typed into the account page.
- You are now ready to start "SKYPING".

Send your USS Rich Association SKYPE account information, including your name, rate/rank, tour dates on RICH, your "SKYPE" name, and your email address to Larry Ingham at [ingham.larry@gmail.com](mailto:ingham.larry@gmail.com) and we will add your information to the USS Rich Association SKYPE database. The database will be available on the RICH website for your use.

We will set up a room at the next reunion for SKYPE use by reunion attendees. Dates and times for "SKYPING" will be published in the newsletter prior to the reunion. We are looking forward to seeing and talking to all of you at the next reunion in Richfield.

## The 820 Newsletter



The 820 Newsletter is the official publication of the USS Rich Association, Inc. It is published quarterly in the first week of February, May, August and November.

The newsletter is included in the membership dues and is sent to a member's home via First Class mail if requested. Non-member subscriptions are available.

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You may contact us on the Internet at [shipsoffice@ussrich.org](mailto:shipsoffice@ussrich.org) or snail mail to 8926 Phylliss Avenue, Sarasota, Florida 34231-7722.

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# Service Officer's Notes

from Chuck Weber, Association VSO



## Jan 2012—Catch-up items

Shipmates:

A couple of you contacted me about eligibility for the Navy's Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (SSDR) and whether you were authorized this award for your service in USS RICH.

I've researched this and found the eligibility criteria in SECNAVINST 1650.35 of 26 January 1981. (Go to : <http://usmilitary.about.com/library/milinfo/navawards/blseaservice.htm>). The eligibility criteria are long and confusing as the years go on, but for the purposes of RICH sailors, only the following is relevant:

12 months continuous sea duty with at least 90 consecutive days of deployment is required for award of the SSDR.

The award was made retroactive only to 15 August 1974. So unless your 12 months qualifying sea duty on RICH began on or after that date, you are not eligible

Only one award of the SSDR can be earned between 15 August 1974 and 1 January 1979 regardless of years of sea duty or numbers of deployments.

Rich's last deployment ended in late July 1976 on return to homeport after the collision.

Regarding Agent Orange related health claims for those who went on RICH's Vietnam cruise, both the US House and US Senate have bills introduced to include so-called "Blue Water" Vietnam Veterans to be included in consideration for AO related disability compensation claims.

HR 3612 Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2011 and S. 1629 Agent Orange Equity Act are companion bills that were introduced into Congress just before their Christmas recess. Congress returns on January 17, 2012 and will consider these bills. Please contact both your US Representative and your 2 US Senators and ask them to support these bills. This will correct a long overdue inequity for Navy Vietnam Veterans.

Tidbits – did you know:

As of 22 Dec 2011 all 152 VA Medical Centers nationwide are on Facebook?

A chronic residual from an illness or injury that happened to the veteran while that veteran was on active duty may qualify as a service-connected (SC) condition?

The 2012 National Defense Authorization Act includes the chief of the National Guard Bureau as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff?

Veteran's Miracle Network, Project Foot, Operation Walk America are all bogus veterans' charities? Don't give to them.

That's all for now,

Chuck Weber



# 2012 Reunion Events and Activities

## Monday, May 14, 2012

- + Travel Day- No Planned Activities
- + Shipmates arriving throughout the day.
- + Hospitality Suite will be open sometime after mid-day
- + All Meals on your own. *(Hotel guests: Free Full Breakfast + 10% off other meals)*
- + 0000 Hospitality Suite secures.

## Tuesday, May 15, 2012

- + Breakfast & Lunch on your own. *(Hotel guests: Free Full Breakfast + 10% off other meals)*
- + 1030 Bus departs for river/lake lunch cruise aboard Nautica Queen. **Cost \$33.00/person**
- + 1600 Bus returns from cruise
- + 1800 Spaghetti dinner in Banquet Room. *(Cost included in your registration)* Cash Bar.
- + 1900 Bingo and Texas Hold 'Em Tourney in Hospitality Suite.
- + 0000 Hospitality Suite secures.

## Wednesday, May 16, 2012

- + Breakfast on your own. *(Hotel guests: Free Full Breakfast + 10% off other meals)*
- + 1030 Bus departs for Thistledown Racetrack for Thoroughbred horse racing. Lunch included. Those not on the trip, lunch is on your own. **Cost \$28.00/person**
- + 1830 Bus returns from racetrack
- + 1900 Light dinner in Banquet Room. *(Cost included in your registration)* Cash Bar.
- + 2000 Annual Auction in Hospitality Suite
- + 0000 Hospitality Suite secures.

## Thursday, May 17, 2012

- + Breakfast & Lunch on your own. *(Hotel guests: Free Full Breakfast + 10% off other meals)*
- + 1000 Annual Business Meeting
- + 1700 Cocktail Hour Cash Bar.
- + 1800 Banquet & Dance *(Cost included in your registration)* Cash Bar.
- + 0000 Hospitality Suite secures.

## Friday, May 18, 2012

- + Travel Day—No Planned Activities
- + Shipmates departing throughout the day.
- + Hospitality Suite secures at 1300
- + All meals on your own. *(Hotel guests: Free Full Breakfast + 10% off other meals)*

## **HOTEL and RESERVATIONS INFORMATION**

Days Inn Suites Richfield

4742 Brecksville Road · Richfield OH 44286 · 330-659-6151

**Our group rate is \$75.<sup>00</sup>/night + tax** (Use Group Code **USS RICH DD-DDE 820**)

Reserve online at: <http://ussrich.org/reunion/12/reservations.html>

**DO NOT USE THE DAYS INN ONLINE RESERVATION SYSTEM**



# USS RICH ASSOCIATION 2012 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

RATE/RANK WHILE ABOARD: \_\_\_\_\_ TOUR DATES: \_\_\_\_\_

A	<b><u>REGISTRATION FEE(S) FOR CURRENT PAID*</u></b> ASSOCIATION MEMBERS (Please Print)	
	NAME _____	1 @\$65= _____
	GUEST _____	1 @\$65= _____
	GUEST _____	1 @\$65= _____
*Including Plank Owners and Life Members		Sub Total _____

B	<b><u>REGISTRATION FEE(S) FOR NON-MEMBERS*</u></b> (Please Print)	
	NAME _____	1 @\$85= _____
	GUEST _____	1 @\$85= _____
	GUEST _____	1 @\$85= _____
*Persons who are not paid-up members		Sub Total _____

C	<b><u>OPTIONAL EVENTS</u></b>	
	Riverboat Cruise and Lunch (Transportation/meal included)	_____ @\$33/ea= _____
	Horse Racing and Lunch at the track (Transportation/meal included)	_____ @\$28/ea = _____
	Sub Total _____	

S U M M A R Y	>>>>> Mail your check and this form to <<<<<<	Sub Total "A" _____
	Donald Hogg, Treasurer	Sub Total "B" _____
	USS Rich Association	Sub Total "C" _____
	1801 N 9th Street	
	DeQueen, AR 71832	
You may also register online with your credit/debit card!		Total Amount Enclosed _____

**CUT OFF DATE FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS AND TOURS:  
Midnight, April 13, 2012**  
(Better to make reservations and cancel if necessary)

[Back of registration form]

**USS RICH • DD/DDE-820**



## Emergency Medical Information Sheet

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (month/day/year) \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

### **Emergency Contacts**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

### **Physician(s)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Does your physician need to be notified immediately if you are transported to the hospital?  Yes  No

Does your insurance require you to go to a specific hospital in non-life threatening emergencies?  Yes  No

Allergies to medication \_\_\_\_\_

### **Major Medical history, operations, current problems, illnesses, etc.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

[ ] More on reverse side

### **Medications**

Name of Medication	Dosage	Frequency
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### **Other medical information**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



[Back of medical form]

**USS RICH • DD/DDE-820**



# Why A Emergency Medical Form?

First of all, let's get the legal stuff out of the way. An Emergency Medical form requested from each attendee of our activities is *strictly voluntary for each individual*. No submission is required unless individuals wish to do so.

The idea is an outgrowth from times when *RICH* crew members were participating in Field Days aboard the museum ship USS *LAFLEY* in Patriots Point, SC.

Given the typical age of our shipmates and the probability of medical issues, consideration was given to the "what if" possibility. "What if" our shipmate was injured or had another medical emergency during which he was unable to speak for himself and/or remember crucial information regarding his health? Obviously such information could be critical in determining a treatment plan for first responders and emergency services.

If, for example, someone is taking a blood thinner or is a Diabetic, or is taking heart medications, who would know? This is particularly true if the person is not accompanied by someone, such as a spouse or adult child, who is intimately knowledgeable concerning your conditions. (My wife and I carry identical computer "thumb drives" which contain such information.)

You should be able to see how important this issue is and how it became extended to all our activities.

The form should be completed as fully as possible, placed in a #10 business-size envelope, sealed and your signature placed over the edge of the flap. This is to maintain privacy. Present the envelope(s) at the Activity Registration Desk upon your arrival for safekeeping and accessibility..

Upon departure you should claim your envelope(s). Un-claimed envelopes will be shredded without being opened.

# Formal Shipmate Search Underway

Within our association there is a fair amount of effort expended on locating our former shipmates. Typically our members lack the time and skill to navigate through the mountain of resources available which contain the information necessary to locate former crew members.

Many of us have spent time scouring the dozens of military websites where there are partial crewlists created by the sailors signing themselves up on a number of sites. Of course this is only for those who have Internet access which leaves a lot of guys "out of the loop." Clearly, this type of search needs a professional.

If you read the August, 2011 edition of the *820 Newsletter* you'll recall in the article "Business Meeting", the membership authorized \$500 to undertake a such a project on a trial basis.

Tin Can Sailors has a highly successful program in finding long-lost sailor anchored by ace researcher Jerry Tardif of Milford, MA who has an enviable record in finding the guys. Truly the professional.

Our focus will be on finding guys from 1964. The 60's provide the most attractive demographic group for membership in that: 1) Most are [presumably] still living; 2) Many are of retirement age making their daily life schedule flexible and; 3) Most should still be able to travel making reunion venues attractive.

From this point we intend on moving upward in one year increments until we have searched every year up to 1977. This is of course, contingent on the availability of funds. We may be fortunate enough to find a shipmate who is willing to underwrite one or more years of the project. Could that be you, shipmate?



# Historic Fleet Update

## USS LAFFEY Returns!

Wednesday, 25 JAN 2012 was a cool, crisp, clear day in Charleston, SC. A good day to welcome a heroine home. As the sun was rising over the Atlantic you could see her coming down river. As she drew closer you could see how beautiful a ship can be... all painted out and being true to her moniker "*The ship that wouldn't die.*"



The USS LAFFEY (DD724) is gently guided into her new permanent berth.

A group of nearly a hundred people comprised of former crew members, visiting destroyer sailors and other military as well as Patriots Point staff and a media press corps gathered on the flight deck of the carrier Yorktown for the homecoming.

As LAFFEY crossed the bow of YORKTOWN enroute to her new permanent berth there were sounds of dozens of tiny air horns noisily saluting her return. This was followed by the pop of a cork and a champagne toast to the lady of the hour.

There were teary eyes around, particularly among the former crew members who are endeared to their ship which gallantly served our country through World War II , Korea and Vietnam.

## Other Destroyer Museums

Perhaps your travel plans won't take you to the Charleston, SC area. Don't fret... there are a variety of other destroyer museums scatter throughout the country. Listed alphabetically:

- USS Barry DD 933  
Washington, DC
- USS Cassin Young DD 793  
Boston, Massachusetts
- USS Edson DD 946  
New York, New York
- USS Joseph P. Kennedy DD 850  
Fall River, Massachusetts
- USS Kidd DD 661  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- USS Laffey DD 724  
Charleston, South Carolina
- USS Orleck DD 886  
Lake Charles, Louisiana
- USS Slater DE 766  
New York, New York
- USS Stewart DE 238  
Galveston, Texas
- USS The Sullivans DD 537  
Buffalo, New York
- USS Turner Joy DD 951  
Bremerton Washington

You're sure to find time spent on these ships enjoyable and in many cases a bit emotional as those memories of younger days flood over you.

Don't forget to take your USS RICH Association Membership Card with you to this or any other military venue. You're likely to be pleasantly surprised to find how special you'll be treated. Be sure to ask about benefits available to you as a member or especially Navy veterans.



# Anatomy of a [Reunion] Auction

If you have attended a USS RICH reunion you will recall that one of the events during the week is our very own auction.

Auctions aren't for everyone despite the fact that they have become quite popular on cable reality television. Auction Kings, Auction Hunters and Storage Wars rank right up there at the top of the list. Auctions of abandoned storage units seem to offer the most excitement in that the bidder hasn't any idea of what her or she is really bidding on for the contents of the unit may not be extensively viewed prior to the start of the auction. The bidder could be buying valuable items or someone's forfeited garbage.

Almost from the beginning of RICH reunions an auction has been a must as a means to provide a supplemental source of income to hold the reunion registration fees to an cost affordable to every shipmate. As you may be aware, a fixed fee of \$65 per person for paid members and their guests has been the standard for many years. This fee pays the expenses of producing the reunions which generally include three evening meals as well as beverages and snacks for the duration of the reunion.

Items for auction are furnished by the reunion attendees. Some items are purchased and others are made by shipmates, their spouses and family.

Professional-grade wood items arrive from the work-



This beautiful Prayer Bench, an extraordinary piece of handmade furniture, was custom made for auction by Gary Snyder (BT2 63-67)



Auctioneer James Carroll holds an article for auction while stimulating the audience to open their wallets to the benefit of both the buyer and the association.

shop of Dixon, Compher, Snyder and others while handmade articles such as quilts, banners, flags, clocks and a variety of Navy-themed items are available. Seldom are there duplicates.

Quality purchased items such as clocks, anchors, picture frames and an expansive array of articles grace the auction table in anticipation of finding a new home. This merchandise is not what you will find at a dollar store but rather something each and every shipmate would be proud to display in their home.

So get yourself a front row seat and prepare to take home a unique treasure... IF you're the highest bidder. Okay, now who'll give me five, five, five-fifty, six?

## Let's Talk About Raffles

In the early days we sold inexpensive tickets, called out numbers and gave out inexpensive prizes. We're over that.

Today we sell tickets. Lots of them, hopefully. Then we call out a number. One number. The holder of that number receives 50% of the sales for that raffle. (That's why they call it a "50/50"). The winner folds his/her prize, tucks it in a wallet or purse and we all have a nice day.

We do this several times during the reunion. On the bus, in the Hospitality Suite, wherever. Simple huh?



# Personnel Changes



## Crew Reporting Aboard

Jan	Crew	Walter	EM3	61-62	Media PA
Jan	Scherwindt	Carl	MM2	61-65	Blaine ME



## Piped Ashore—Deceased

Dec	Moyer	Charles	Assoc		Father of Dennis Moyer SF2 63-67
Dec	Coons	Charles	SKCS	67-70	Oct '11
Nov	Kinzel	Rudy	SO2	49-51	Aug '11
Nov	Goggans	Wayne	RD2	58-61	
Nov	Cox	Florian	FTSN	56-68	
Nov	Burbridge	John Jr	BT3	52-53	Apr '11
Nov	Evans	Ted	RM2	65-67	Nov '10 from ALS
Nov	Mawyer	Albert	EN1	46-50	Planker Owner
Nov	Coons	Charles	SKCS	67-70	Oct '11

## Condolences

Wentway, Charles (FP2 54-57) & family on the passing of his wife, Pat, a regular attendee of our annual reunions.

Moyer, Dennis (SF2 63-67) & family on the passing of this father Charles who was a Rich Association Associate Member

To the Parsons family on the death of Vicki Parsons, widow of Ray Parsons, RMC (68-69)

## ON THE MEND

8-week old grandson of Jerry Dunnigan (BMSN 65-67) Recovering from infant health issues.

Ann Gross, wife of Bill Gross (BT3 65-67) Recovering from an in-home accident and mild stroke.

Weber, Chuck, (LTjg 76-77)

Roggenbuck, Ed (FM2 46-48) Recovering from surgery.

Morelli, Angelo (SN 68-70) Recovering from a stroke.

## No Longer Traveling

Some of our shipmates no longer travel away from home due to health and/or other reasons. These men still want to maintain contact with shipmates. Their email address is posted on the USS Rich website or you may obtain their postal address from the Ships Office.

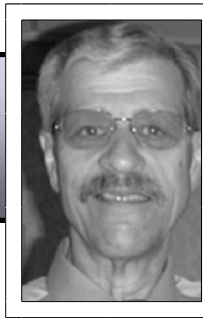
Beebe James	BM3 67-68	Floral City	FL
Brown Raymond	S1c 46-48	St James City	FL
Companion Ronald	MM350-51	Clairemont	NH
Cowperwait Chas	MM3 49-52	Pennsville	NJ
Duclos Armand	ET1 56-59	Nashua	NH
Hill Robert E	LTjg 50-51	Sun City Center	FL
Schwartz John E	BMSN61-63	Fairmont	WV
Wilson Henry L	SO2 50-53	Richmond	KS
Zimmerman Ray	MM3 54-59	Mechanicsburg	PA

Although not traveling, these shipmates may not be opposed to visitors. If you happen to be in the area and would like to stop in, by all means **telephone ahead for approval**. In doing so you'll find the visit considerably more fulfilling.



# Dunnigan's Corner

"Where the old sailors come for a good laugh"



After being married for 50 years, I took a careful look at my wife one day and said .... "Fifty" years ago we had a cheap house, a junk car, slept on a sofa bed and watched a 10-inch black and white TV, but I got to sleep every night with a hot 18-year-old girl.

Now .. I have a \$500,000.00 home, a \$35,000.00 car, a nice big bed and a large screen TV, but I'm sleeping with a 68-year-old woman. It seems to me that you're not holding up your side of things."

My wife is a very reasonable woman. She told me to go out and find a hot 18-year-old girl and she would make sure that I would once again be living in a cheap house, driving a junk car, sleeping on a sofa bed and watching a 10-inch black and white TV.

Aren't older women great? They really know how to solve an old guy's problems.



A distinguished young woman on a flight from Ireland asked the Priest beside her, "Father, may I ask a favor?"

"Of course child, What may I do for you?"

"Well, I bought an expensive woman's electronic hair dryer for my Mother's birthday that is unopened and well over the Customs limits, and I'm afraid they'll confiscate it. Is there any way you could carry it through customs for me? Under your robes perhaps?"

"I would love to help you, dear, but I must warn you: I will not lie."

"With your honest face, Father, no one will question you."

When they got to Customs, she let the priest go ahead of her. The official asked, "Father, do you have anything to declare?"

"From the top of my head down to my waist, I have nothing to declare."

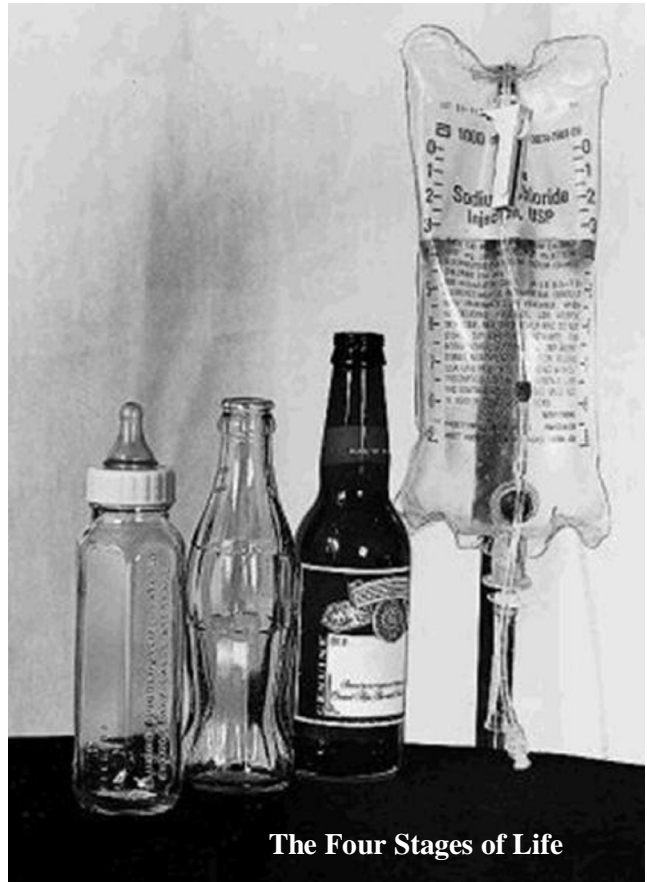
The official thought this answer strange, so asked, "And what do you have to declare from your waist to the floor?"

"I have a marvelous instrument designed to be used on a woman, but which is, to date, unused."

Roaring with laughter, the official said, "Go ahead, Father. Next!"

While creating wives, God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the world.

And then He made the earth round.



The Four Stages of Life



GREAT TRUTHS...

In my many years I have come to a conclusion that one useless man is a shame, two is a law firm and three or more is a congress.  
-- John Adams

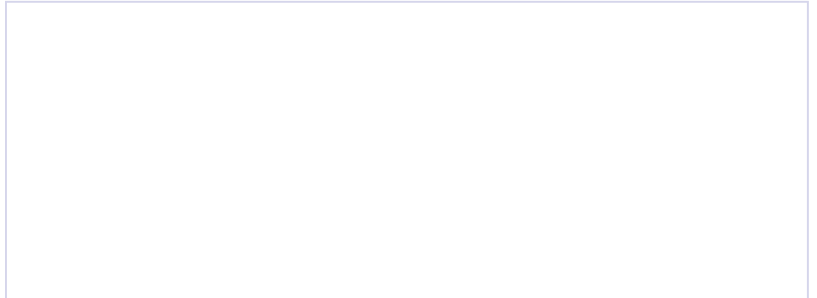
If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed, if you do read the newspaper you are misinformed.  
-- Mark Twain

Suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress. But then I repeat myself.  
-- Mark Twain





8926 Phylliss Ave—Sarasota FL 34231



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"Bridge-Fog Lookout! Tincan dead ahead!"