

The 820 Newsletter

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Quarterdeck

Humor and Inspiration... Overlooked Commodities In Our Country Today

Pick up a newspaper or magazine. Turn on the tube... it's the same thing everyday. Gloom and doom. An anemic economy, possible terrorist attacks, brink of war, taxes, education, healthcare on and on ad nauseum. On the brighter side for many, we are approaching the two major holidays that represent *gratitude* and *joy*... Thanksgiving and Christmas.

In this issue we'll make a slight departure from some of our normal content and provide some humor and inspiration, most of which has been submitted by our shipmates. And... needed by most of us. Should you find or read any mention of the term "geezers", please know there is no intention of disrespect. After all... yours truly is but weeks away from departing the 50's. Now I know what they mean when they say "hitting 60". I'm not officially a GEEZER yet. I believe at sixty, I become a GIT... that's a "Geezer In Training".

Incidentally, if you're on the Internet, there's a bunch at <http://www.geezer.org/geezer-jokes/>

My wish for this holiday season is health, wealth and happiness for you and your family and that you'll buy me a beer at the 2003 Rich Reunion.

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Just What Is A Geezer?

"Geezers" are easy to spot. It is slang for an old man.

At sporting events, during the playing of the National Anthem, "Geezers" hold their caps over their hearts and sing without embarrassment. They know the words and believe in them. "Geezers" remember the Depression, World War II, Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Normandy and Hitler. They remember the Atomic Age, the Korean War, the Cold War, the Jet Age and the Moon Landing, not to mention Vietnam.

If you bump into a "Geezer" on the sidewalk, he'll apologize. Pass a "Geezer" on the street, he'll nod, or tip his cap to a lady. "Geezers" trust strangers and are courtly to women. They hold the door for the next person and always when walking, make sure the lady is on the inside for protection. "Geezers" get embarrassed if someone curses in front of women and children and they don't like violence and filth on TV and in movies.

"Geezers" have moral courage. "Geezers" seldom brag unless it's about the grandchildren in Little League or music recitals.

This country needs "Geezers" with their decent values and common sense. We need them now more than ever. It's the "Geezers" who know our great country is protected, not by politicians or police, but by the young men and women in the military serving their country in foreign lands, just as they did, without a thought except to do a good job, the best you can and to get home to loved ones.

Thank heavens for.. "GEEZERS."

(Contributed by many)

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Zingers

Officer: "Soldier, do you have change for a dollar?"

Sailor: "Sure, buddy."

Officer: "That's no way to address an officer! Now let's try it again!"

Officer: "Sailor. Do you have change for a dollar?"

Sailor: "No, SIR!"

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Well," snarled the tough old Navy Chief to the bewildered Seaman. "I suppose after you get discharged from the Navy, you'll just be waiting for me to die so you can come and piss on my grave." "Not me, Chief!" the Seaman replied. "Once I get out of the Navy, I'm never going to stand in line again!"  
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An Arkansas hillbilly joined the Navy.

On his first day as an enlisted man he was given a comb.

On the second day a Navy barber sheared all of his hair off.

On the third day a Navy storekeeper gave him a tooth brush.

On the fourth day a Navy dentist yanked several of his teeth out.

On the fifth day a Navy storekeeper gave him a jock strap.

That afternoon, he went AWOL.
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Having just moved into his new office, a pompous, new lieutenant was sitting at his desk when a seaman knocked on the door. Conscious of his new position, the lieutenant quickly picked up the phone, told the seaman to enter, then said into the phone, "Yes Admiral, I'll be seeing him this afternoon and I'll pass along your message. In the meantime, thank you for your good wishes, sir." Feeling as though he had sufficiently impressed the young enlisted man, he asked, "What do you want?" "Nothing important, sir," the seaman replied, "I'm just here to hook up your telephone."
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## Troubles

I hired a plumber to help me restore an old farmhouse, and after he had just finished a rough first day on the job: a flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric drill quit and his ancient one ton truck refused to start.

While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands.

When opening the door he underwent an amazing transformation. His tanned face was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss.

Afterward he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier.

Oh, that's my trouble tree," he replied. "I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, those troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and the children. So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home and ask God to take care of them. Then in the morning I pick them up again." Funny thing is," he smiled", when I come out in the morning to pick 'em up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before."

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## The Ship's Store Is Open!

Our Online shipmates have been visiting our "remodeled" store since it re-opened in mid-June. Now everyone can visit! We'll stock the most popular items and make "special buys" from time to time. We welcome your suggestions! Please use this form to make your purchases. Also, let us know your interest of the item in the "Pre-Sell" box.



### PRE-SELL SURVEY

How many will you buy if they are offered?

**SHIP TO:**

**NAME**



ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

- Check
- Money Order
- No COD's
- Allow 3-4 weeks

Please...

**NO PHONE CALLS**

**Send this form and check to:**

Don Hogg  
USS Rich Ship's Store  
1801 N 9th Street  
DeQueen, AR 71832

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# Thanksgiving 1953 *Aboard* the RICH





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## Dedication Ceremonies Held

The USS RICH Memorial Plaque at the Nimitz Museum in Fredricksburg, Texas was formally dedicated in its permanent location on the "Memorial Wall to honor all who served."



Shipmates Jerry Dunnigan (BMSN, 65-67) of Columbus Grove, Ohio and Donald Hogg (BM3, 62-64) of DeQueen, Arkansas assist in the Dedication Ceremony.



Standing next to the plaque are:

Don Hogg, BM3, 62-64

Jerry Dunnigan, BMSN, 65-67

Charlie Wentway, FP2, 54-57

Johnny Skillen, SN, 64-66

Rick Smedley, LCDR, 70-71

John Windom, BT3, 48-49

Ray Oney, BTFN, 71-72



Attending were: Jerry & Deb Dunnigan, Don & Bonnie Hogg, Ray Oney, Johnny & Kay Skillen, Rick & Mary Ann Smedley, Charles & Pat Wentway and John & Tina Wisdom



Headquarters of the Nimitz National Museum of the Pacific War



Above: View of the "Wall Of Fame"

Left: RICH Association President Johnny Skillen delivers Opening Remarks at the dedication.

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# 12 Rules of Life

1. Never give yourself a haircut after three margaritas.
2. You need only two tools: WD-40 and duct tape. If it doesn't move and it should, use WD-40. If it moves and shouldn't, use the duct tape.
3. The five most essential words for a healthy, vital relationship are "I apologize" and "you are right."
4. Everyone seems normal until you get to know them.
5. Never pass up an opportunity to pee.
6. If he/she says that you are too good for him/her - believe them.
7. Learn to pick your battles; ask yourself, Will this matter one year from now? How about one month? One week? One day?"
8. When you make a mistake, make amends immediately. It's easier to eat crow while it's still warm.
9. If you woke up breathing, congratulations! You have another chance!
10. Living well really is the best revenge. Being miserable because of a bad or former relationship just might mean that the other person was right about you.
11. Work is good, but it's not that important. Money is nice, but you can't take it with you. Statistics show most people don't live to spend all they saved; some die even before they retire.
12. And finally... Be really good to your family and/or friends. You never know when you are going to need them to empty your bedpan.

## **If You Can...**

If you can start the day without caffeine or pep pills,  
If you can be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,  
If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,  
If you can eat the same food everyday and be grateful for it,  
If you can understand when loved ones are too busy to give you time,  
If you can overlook when people take things out on you when, through no fault of yours, something goes wrong,  
If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,  
If you can face the world without lies and deceit,  
If you can conquer tension without medical help,  
If you can relax without liquor,  
If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,  
If you can do all these things,  
Then you are probably the family dog.

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## The Fantail

Images of days gone by

Steaming a Flank speed



## Christmas 1968



Postcard commemorating the death of President Roosevelt.  
Note postmark and postage amount

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