



The Newsletter of the Gudgeon Base Prescott Valley

United State Submarine Veterans of Arizona

The Purpose of the United States Submarine Veterans

To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country, that their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

B U D D H A

Vol 2 Prescott Valley Arizona June 2019

Officers and staff

Base commander

Gary "Wink" Winkleman

Historian / Webmaster

John Dudas

Vice Base Commander

Dennis McCreight

Storekeeper

Jerome Larson

Chaplain / Treasurer

Thomas Warner

COB / Librarian

Kenneth Werner

Membership Officer

John Messersmith

Newsletter Editor

Wayne Thomas Nelson

Gudgeon Base meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of each month at the VFW Post at 2375 North 5th Street in Prescott Valley Arizona 86314. Door are open at 1pm for seas stories and memorabilia and the meeting starts at 2pm and last for about an hour.

Now Hear This !!

From the Editor

Welcome to the second issue of the BUDDHA. Somehow we got the first issue out. The quality certainly wasn't that great mainly because it was done old style using actual shooting boards with cut and paste and the photos went through copiers several times and the whole thing was scanned. So since then I have learned how to use WORD on my computer and I would like to thank "Stamps" the San Diego newsletter editor for his help. So I hope this one is much better.

My policy as editor:

I am always open to comments to improve the newsletter. Send you ideas or comments to my e-mail.

Nelson.spraypaintart@gmail.com or a letter to 3071 N. Majesty Drive Prescott Valley, Arizona 86314.

I will answer your mail within 24 hours except weekends.

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Always remembering the USS Gudgeon SS-211



Artwork by Greg Ciesielski

Arizona Gudgeon Base Honors Submarine Service 119th Birthday

By Wayne Thomas Nelson



Left to right: COB Ken Werner, Base Commander Wink Winkelman and Base Chaplain Tom Warner delivering the opening prayer. Wayne Nelson photo.

April 11, 1900 was the historic date that the United States Submarine Service was formed by then President of the United States Theodore Roosevelt. The USS Holland SS-1 was the first submarine in the newly formed service. On the occasion of the 119th birthday of the United States Submarine Service members of the Gudgeon Base located in Prescott Valley, Arizona gathered to publically pay their respects to those Submarines and brave crews lost with the “Tolling of the Boats” ceremony. The solemn event, which was open to the public, was performed next to the Veterans

Memorial on the beautiful grounds of the Prescott Valley Civic Center.

After the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer given by the Base Chaplain Tom Warner, Base Commander Wink Winkelman read the list of boats and crews lost from the first, the USS Skate (SS-23) in 1915 to the last, the USS Scorpion (SSN-589) in 1968. Commander Winkelman was assisted by Chief of the Boat Ken Werner who rang the bell for each lost Submarine as the audience sat and listened in silent respect.



COB Ken Werner and Base Commander Wink Winkelman “Toll the Boats” as guests watch on in solemn respect. Photo by Wayne Nelson

In closing the formal ceremonies the Gudgeon Base Commander Wink Winkelman extended to all a hope and desire that no more Submarines or crews should ever be lost and added to the list. This was followed by a closing prayer from the Base Chaplain.



Some crew and guests gathered for a final photo.

Following the ceremony the public and guests were invited to join the Gudgeon Base members at the local VFW for lunch and to see the Submarine memorabilia on display for the event.



Base Commander Wink Winkelman answering questions about the memorabilia on display at the VFW Hall. Photo by Wayne Nelson

At the VFW the Base Commander Wink Winkelman had some fun tricking the gullible un-educated on-lookers to touch the inside of a strange looking metal ball which was actually a flusher ball valve from a submarine toilet. Even we veterans didn't know what it was.



Flusher valve. Photo by Wayne Nelson

The VFW Post 10227 Commander Jose Rodriguez and staff made the base members and their guests happy and satisfied with delicious sandwiches and drinks.

It was a proud day for the Gudgeon Base Submarine Veterans and for their guests. An experience not soon to be forgotten.

Happy 119th Birthday
United States
Submarine Service!

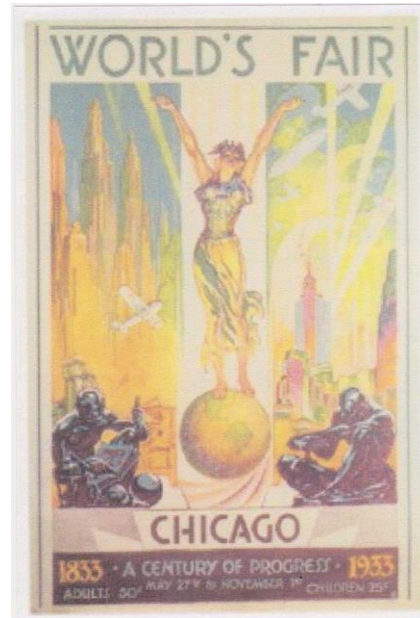
The Three Lives of the SUBMARINE S-49

By Wayne Thomas Nelson



The above photo shot in August 1934 is of the author's mother, Dorothy 3rd from the left and great aunt Helen far left, great grandmother Clara and great uncle Pete at the Chicago World's fair.

As a young boy my mother would tell my brother and I about a few of the good times she had as a young girl traveling



One of dozens of posters created for the fair. Note the price of 50cents for adults and 25cents for children. That was a lot of money during the great depression.

with her aunt and uncle. One trip she was very proud of was their journey to our Nation's capital, Washington D.C. Another, and the subject of this story, was when they traveled down the shore of Lake Michigan from Racine Wisconsin, a distance of about 60 miles, to Chicago and the World's Fair of 1933-34. They went in Aug 1934. My mother was just 11 1/2 years old and it was during the Great Depression. Her aunt was employed by Wisconsin Bell telephone Co. and had been for more than a decade. Where others were hard struck and looking for work, her job was secure and she could even afford a Ford Model A and it was in the rumble seat of that car that my mother rode to the fair in. She had such fond

memories of those rumble seat rides. She would just be so happy when she talk about those rides.



The submarine S-49 docked in the North Lagoon at the Chicago World's fair August 1934.

One of her stories of the fair was about seeing a submarine. Well just that word had me interested. She remembered going on board and that even as a child she felt was very confining. But my mother didn't know anything more than that.

When my great aunt died around 1975 or so she left her prized photos to my mother. In 1997 my mother died and she left her aunt's photos to my sister and brother and along about 2010 while on vacation I was looking through those old photos and found one of a submarine. Yes it was the one that my mother said was at the world's fair. But it took some research to confirm that. As the photo was blurry and the background hard to distinguish if it was the World's Fair. But I could

not find out what submarine it was. After blowing up the photo and sending copies to a couple of sub buddies I put the photo in my submarine archives.

During memorabilia time at a recent Submarine Veteran meeting at the Gudgeon Base I showed the photo to a couple of members and we looked it over. The photo was a bit blurred as I mentioned above but we decided the number near the bow was either S-45, 48 or 49.

Well now my interest in the mystery submarine was high and so I got on the internet to finally solve what started back in 1934 with the photo my great aunt took.

It didn't take long to find the information I was looking for. Kind of mixed up on a page for the S-48 was a sort of popup item titled, SUBMARINE S-49 AT THE 1933 WORLD'S FAIR. The little box when clicked produced a 9 second film of a couple of visitors crossing the gangplank onto the deck of the S-49. Well that sure solved the mystery for sure, now to find about the S-49.

After a bit more searching for the history I discovered some very

interesting information you should hear.



Aerial view of the fair grounds. Soldier Field is to the right and the north lagoon is in the middle. S-49 docked on the right side near the 23 street bridge that separated the 2 lagoons.

THE FIRST LIFE OF

SUBMARINE S-49

The boat was built by the Lake Torpedo Boat Company of Bridgeport Connecticut which is located just down the shore from New London. The S-49 was launched on 23 April 1921 and commissioned on 5 June 1922. The submarine was only known as S-49 and didn't have a fish name as did later submarines.

The ship for her time was state of the art and the biggest submarine in the world. But her price tag of \$2,500,000 was not well received by the critics of the US Submarine Force.

THE SPECIFICATIONS:

Length.....240 feet

Beam.....21 feet 10 inches

Draft.....13 feet 6 inches

Displacement...903 tons surfaced and 1,230 submerged.

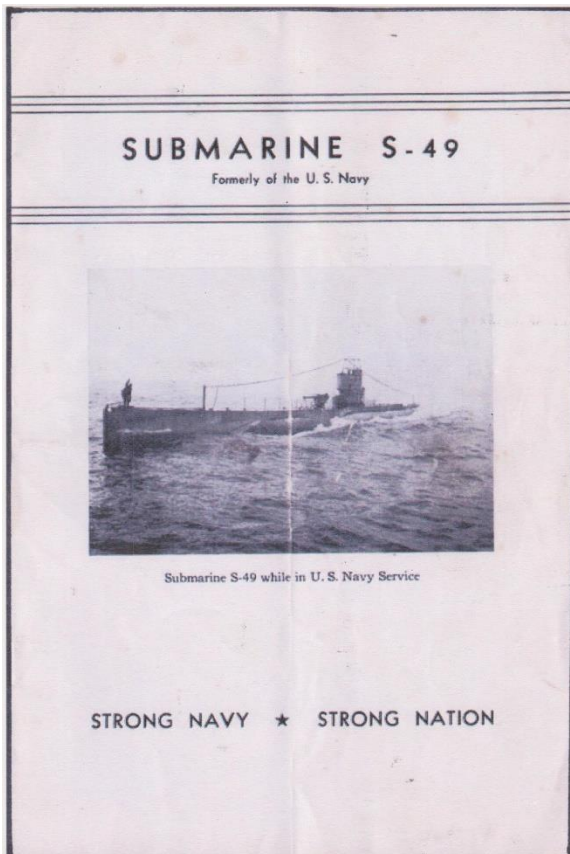
Crew: 4 officers 34 enlisted

Armament: 5 torpedo tubes and one 4inch deck gun.

Propulsion: Diesel-electric

From her commissioning in 1922 to 1927 the S-49 operated in the coastal waters up and down the Atlantic Coast. Her activities were basically drilling the crew and preparation for possible future war. On the second of August 1927 after just 5 brief years of service the S-49 was decommissioned and laid up in the Atlantic Reserve Fleet at League Island Pennsylvania. Pretty much forgotten about 4 years later on 21 March 1931 she was stricken from the Naval Register. The reason for this was because the US was complying with the London Treaty Accord which was eliminating certain ships worldwide and sadly the S-49 qualified and so the super expensive state of the art submarine found its way to the Boston Iron and Metal Company in Baltimore, Maryland for scrapping. Is this the sad end for the S-49?

The story began telling you about the S-49 making a visit to Chicago in 1933.....so there is more.



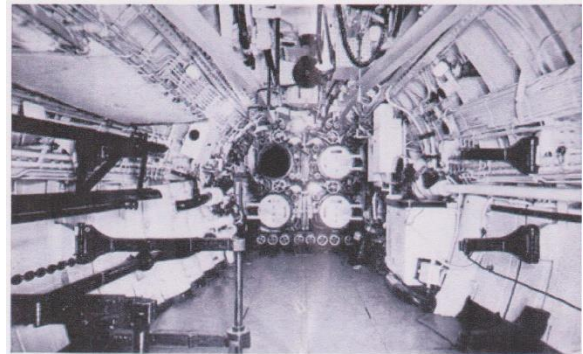
Cover of a booklet made for the S-49 after she was decommissioned and probably used when the boat was on exhibition dates.

LIFE NUMBER TWO

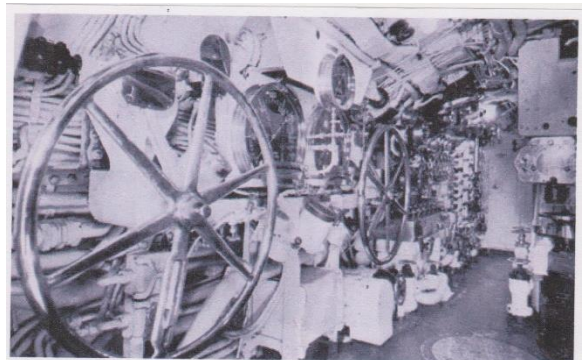
From 1931 for more than a year the once proud S-49 lay rusting away in the scrapyard. But before she was picked clean and just a pile of ribs an amusement company run by one Captain F.J. Chrestensen purchased the S-49 and she had a new life as a public exhibit to educate the general public about submarine operation and life. It was this new role that brought the S-49

to Chicago and a big attraction at the 1933-34 World's Fair.

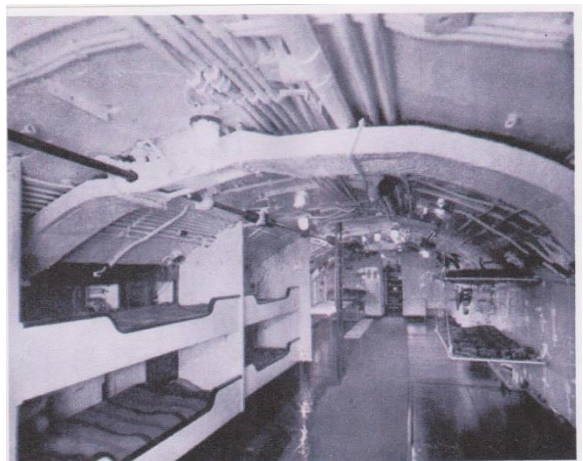
WHAT THE PUBLIC SAW BELOW



THE TORPEDO ROOM



THE CONTROL ROOM



THE BATTERY ROOM. Did they really have that much room? Certainly not my diesel boat.

THE THRID LIFE OF THE S-49

THE SS-160

The life of the S-49 takes a new turn when the Second World War breaks out. The Navy tracks down and acquires the old submarine and she is recommissioned as the SS-160. She was considered as “equipment” for work and towed to the United States Naval Mine Warfare Test Station at Solomons Maryland on the Chesapeake Bay. After a couple of years of service there on the 16th of December 1942 the SS-160 foundered just 500 yards off of Point Patience in the Patuxent River and sank in 102 feet of water. There was no report of loss of life in the material I read. I Google mapped the area and Point Patience is a narrow sliver of land that reaches about midway into the river near the mouth. From the map you can see that Point Patience creates a lot of water turbulence as it blocks the flow of the current and it was that turbulence that took the S-49 / SS-160 to a watery grave. The submarine was not raised and where she sank is her final resting place. On occasion scuba divers are said to visit the wreck of the SS-160 or S-49 if you prefer. Unlike a cat who has nine lives the S-49 only had three!

Gudgeon Base member Bill Anderson “Qualifies” for Holland Club Award



Gudgeon Base Chaplain Tom Warner reads the certificate as new Holland Club member Bill Anderson admires the club pin. Photo courtesy of Christine Anderson.

Oh so many years ago when we all first qualified in submarines and proudly wore our Dolphins, as many had done before us, did we have any idea, or thought to the future and that 50 years later we would be honored as we joined that exclusive and elite club.....The Holland Club?

Well for Bill Anderson that day occurred on April 20th 2019 at the Gudgeon Base of the United States Submarine Veterans in Prescott Valley, Arizona. Tom Warner the Base Chaplain presided over the ceremony as the newest Holland Club member was

given his certificate, patch, pin, hat and special coffee mug. Bill's wife Christine was in attendance and showed great pride and admiration for her husband's achievement and Bill was a proud man as he shook hands with Chaplain Warner. All in attendance showed their delight with applause and welcomed new member Bill Anderson into the club.

Below is a brief history of Bill's military service and life after written by the Holland Club member himself.

“When I joined the Navy I volunteered for submarines and wanted to be an engineman on a diesel boat. Four of

us were called in and asked to extend for 2 more years to go to Polaris Electronics "A" school. I didn't want to but was told that if I didn't I would be put on general detail in the fleet so I extended for two more years and went to PEA school. I graduated from "A" school "C" school and Sub school and was a 3rd Class ET before being assigned to the M.G. Vallejo out of Pearl Harbor. Her operating port was Guam. We completed 4 patrols in the Pacific and 3 in the Atlantic. We were told that she was going to the yards in Newport News for refit to Poseidon missiles. Not wanting to go to the yards, I asked to be transferred. What did I get? The Robert E. Lee SSBN 601 in the yards in Bremerton, Washington. Then I

tried to change rates to C.T. After taking a battery of tests the C.T. desk said okay. But the E.T. desk said my rate was too critical and wouldn't allow me to change rates. So I finished the yard period and got out of the Navy after 7 years. I spent the next 30 years as a California Highway Patrol officer. I am now retired and living in Wickenburg, Arizona".



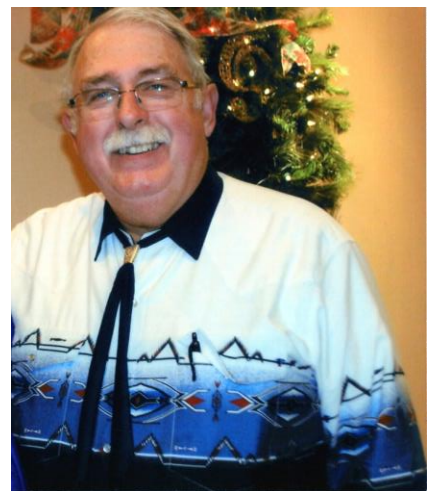
On Eternal Patrol
In the Memory of
FREDRICK BRADY

3 September 1943 to 16 March 2019

United States Submarine Veteran

Gudgeon Base Secretary

Friend, Shipmate and Loving Husband



We are off on patrol looking for new stories for the next issue of BUDDHA.



You may notice the MeTV logo in the corner. I shot the photo from the TV. Of all shows it was a Perry Mason episode. Hey! A submarine photo real or model is a submarine photo. Note the seaweed. Kind of like the kind in a fish aquarium.

See you in September with our next exciting issue of BUDDHA the Gudgeon Base Arizona Newsletter.