



Date: July 1, 2002 Battleship New Jersey Docent/Volunteer Bulletin Vol. 1 Issue # 16



JULY 4, 2002

Miss USS New Jersey – 1953

On June 19th, Elaine Rader-McQuade visited the Battleship New Jersey for the first time since she was chosen as “Miss USS New Jersey” in 1953. She has graciously donated many photos of the event, and a February 28, 1953 issue of *The Jerseyman* declaring her the Miss USS New Jersey winner, to the BB62 archives. Elaine is originally from Glassboro, New Jersey, and recalls that the contest narrowed down to 3 finalists, with a final vote taken by the crew on February 17, 1953. She said she found out she had won with a phone call from her fiancé, Ralph R.



McQuade of the ship’s R-Div., who said: “Hello Miss USS New Jersey...” Miss USS New Jersey was flown to Norfolk, Va., and presented with a trophy, and other awards presented aboard the ship. “It was the thrill of my life, and



you just never want to forget something as special as this...” Elaine went on to win other beauty contests and was also declared second runner-up for “Miss New Jersey” in 1954. Elaine is retired, has 4 sons, and plans to visit “My ship” as often as she can.

Hull Armor Belts – USS New Jersey:

All Battleships of the Iowa class were fitted out with extensive Upper and Lower side hull armor belt protection. (Deck armor will be featured in a future issue of *The Jerseyman*.) Although a lot of information is available on the subject of battleship armor, we need to control our increasing and lengthy tour times! Docents are asked to avoid overly technical answers and providing too many details, such as depth of armor, thickness of armor etc... We suggest visitor questions be answered using very general terms.

Hull Upper Armor Belt: 464 feet in length from Frames 50 – 166. (Runs from just forward of Turret #1, back aft to forward of Turret #3.)

Hull Lower Armor Belt: 556 feet in length from Frames 50 – 189. (Runs from just forward of Turret #1, aft to mid-CPO spaces.) (Sources: *Iowa Class Battleships* by Malcolm Muir, and *Iowa Class Battleships...Design, weapons and Equipment* by Robert F. Sumrall)

Volunteer ID Cards:

The turnstile bar code scanner at the white gate entrance is now in operation. If your ID card has a bar code number beginning with the number “5”, your card is OK and can be read by the scanner to officially log you in for that day. However, if your number begins with numbers “05” – you will need to ask for a new card. Please inquire at the Visitor Center.

STAND DOWN 2002 -

This annual one-day local event serves as a helping hand to our homeless veterans and their families. Free services such as: Eye Care, VA Benefit Counseling, Legal Services, Addiction Services, Housing, Medical, Dental, Employment, Haircuts and clothing provisions are all available. Our Battleship New Jersey Volunteer Supervisor, Harry Ruhle, is the Chairman for this event, which is held at the Excelsior Scottish Rite Auditorium in West Collingswood, NJ. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!** Please help, and ask Harry Ruhle about volunteer registration!

“Overnight Encampments” by Paul Knox...

Encampments aboard the Battleship New Jersey are programs where groups of 50-75 children and their parents/chaperones sleep onboard overnight. The programs costs \$45 per person and includes two meals (dinner and breakfast), overnight accommodations, a souvenir encampment patch and tours of the battleship. Volunteer docent tour guides give tours, and the encampment program can always use additional support from any interested volunteers. If interested, please contact Doug McCray, or Paul Knox in the encampment office @ Ext. 203. You can also contact Dan Farrell or Pat Haines in the volunteer office @ Ext. 224.

The encampment program began entertaining visitors this past February. Since that time, we have had 22 sleepovers, and nearly 1,500 guests have slept overnight onboard the Battleship New Jersey. Response for this program has been exceptional and it is great fun for guests and guides alike.

Reminder: Please send e-mail addresses to Bruce Haegley - haegley@comcast.net, and bulletin comments or suggestions to Tom Helvig - THelvig@aol.com.