



Good Day Club Members and friends. Welcome to August and your monthly edition of Tattler.

This month sees the return of our "Spotlight on", rugby snippets, a look at the Goliath Tigerfish, violins in rock music, an update on the progress of the SAS ASSEGAAI as it transitions to a museum, naval stories on superstitions, ghosts and hauntings as well as our normal bits on "this month in history". Enjoy the laughs and give the guitarist anagrams and quiz questions a go.

We trust you will find parts, if not all of it, to your liking.

Happy Birthday to those making a new milestone this month and welcome to a new member, Schoeman Van Lille.

As always we remind readers that we welcome constructive comments, feedback and contributions. These can be sent to us (jonathanagolding@gmail.com and/or colettepatience@gmail.com)

To those of you in the Cape, we hope that this month is not as wet as July and that you all are warm, dry and healthy!

Editorial

Tattler – We promised to acknowledge other entries to our photo competition and will continue to do so. Here we have a pic submitted by Bill Rice.



Attached is a photo of the bulk carrier CAPE AFRICA (77 096 grt) and the tug SMIT AMANDLA in False Bay in 2004. It was taken by Sheila from our house in Murdock Valley.

Rugby - Did you know?



Did you know that Springbok local rugby sensation, Sasha Feinberg-Mngomezulu, a Bishop's boy, was eligible to play rugby for England through his father, Nick Feinberg?

Tattler - Thank goodness they didn't know and/or act!

Published in mid-July by Rugby Dump

Tattler - Not bad.....

RUGBY DUMP'S SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE LIONS



- 1.) OX NCHÉ - SOUTH AFRICA
- 2.) MALCOLM MARX - SOUTH AFRICA
- 3.) TYRELL LOMAX - NEW ZEALAND
- 4.) EBEN ETZEBETH - SOUTH AFRICA
- 5.) SCOTT BARRETT - NEW ZEALAND
- 6.) ROB VALETINI - AUSTRALIA
- 7.) PIETER-STEPH DU TOIT - SOUTH AFRICA
- 8.) ARDIE SAVEA - NEW ZEALAND
- 9.) GRANT WILLIAMS - SOUTH AFRICA
- 10.) SANTIAGO CARRERAS - ARGENTINA
- 11.) MARK TELE'A - NEW ZEALAND
- 12.) HUNTER PAISAMI - AUSTRALIA
- 13.) JESSE KRIEL - SOUTH AFRICA
- 14.) FILIPO DAUGUNU - AUSTRALIA
- 15.) BEAUDEN BARRETT - NEW ZEALAND

RUGBY DUMP

You are what you eat?

Tattler found the following in the Business Maverick

Food faddists and scientists, including the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization have long tried to get consumers to "worm up" to the idea of eating insects.

The Singapore Food Agency has now given the green light to allow imports of 16 insect species as food for both people and animals. Crickets, locusts and grasshoppers could soon be hopping (or flying) onto supermarket shelves as part of a grand plan to reduce reliance and to become more self-sufficient by 2030.

Insects are already a popular snack in many parts of the world, and the UN touts them as a nutritious and eco-friendly food source.

Insect farming for animal feed and human consumption is rapidly expanding across Africa too. This surge in farming presents a significant opportunity for the continent. Insects possess the remarkable ability to transform organic waste into a multitude of high-value market products, including protein, oils, chitin/chitosan, and even frass (insect feedstock and manure) fertiliser.

It offers a highly profitable avenue for people of all ages and income levels, helping to alleviate food insecurity, fostering job creation, and improving livelihoods.

More than 1,900 edible insects are already a global delicacy, packed with protein and – apparently – kinder to the planet.



A Wee Scottish Tale

A golfer is cupping his hand to scoop water from a burn on the St Andrews course.

A groundskeeper shouts: 'Dinnae drink tha waater! Et's foo ae coo's shite an pish!'

The golfer replies: 'My Good fellow, I'm from England. Could you repeat that for me, in English!?''

The keeper replies: 'I said, use two hands - you'll spill less that way



Did you know?

It is estimated that there are 400 million? 4 billion? 40 billion trees in the Amazon?

Nope - It is estimated that there are 400 billion trees in the Amazon!

Did you know?

Last year, American 🎮 gamers blew \$57.2-billion on video games, totalling roughly what was spent at the US box office over the past seven years. The gaming industry earned more than six times more than the film industry in the US alone.

Tattler - Is this healthy? Do "gamers" ever go outdoors?

So, violins are for classical music?

Tattler - Indeed, they are, but these days some mighty impressive rock music springs forth! Click on the images to listen.

Some Pink Floyd?



Or a bit of Michael Jackson's "Beat it"?



Hotel California must have a lead guitar..
...or maybe not?



Rearrange the letters to find the names of famous guitarists. Some are easy, some are hard... can you get them all!

Plectra Icon
Carnal Sonatas
Rich kid's heart
Ok, cut Brian
Epic beer's n' grunts
Ogreish groaner
Buck her cry

Answers on the last page



Heard of a "mondegreen"?

No? Chances are you've had at least one instance in your life where you've misheard what, particularly, a singer is saying.

There's actually a word for this: mondegreen, which is defined as a misheard word or phrase that makes sense in your head, but is, in fact, incorrect. The term was coined in a November 1954 Harper's Bazaar piece, where the author, Sylvia Wright, recalled a childhood mishearing. According to the author, when she was young her mother would read to her from a book called "Reliques of Ancient Verse." Her favourite poem from the 1765 book went like this: "Ye Highland and Ye Lowlands / Oh where have you been? / They have slain the Earl O'Moray / And laid him on the green." Wright, however, heard the last line as "And Lady Mondegreen."

A mondegreen actually takes place between auditory perception (the physical act of hearing) and meaning-making (when our brains imbibe the noises with significance). This is essentially what happens in the childhood game of "telephone" or "whispers". As one friend whispers a word or phrase into another's ear, it can become wildly distorted, and a totally different word or phrase can come out the other side. The acoustic information that's received and the interpretation a brain comes up with simply don't match up. It's not exactly entirely clear why this happens, we just know that it does.

So, there you have it. Who remembers dancing with someone who sings along but gets a few words wrong? A "mondergreener"?

Here are a few examples of mondegreens (also known as oronyms)

"Every time you go away/you take a piece of meat with you" (for " ... take a piece of me with you," from the Paul Young song "Every Time You Go Away");

"I led the pigeons to the flag" (for "I pledge allegiance to the flag");

"There's a bathroom on the right" (for "There's a bad moon on the rise" in "Bad Moon Rising" by Creedence Clearwater Revival);

"Excuse me while I kiss this guy" (for the Jimi Hendrix lyric "Excuse me while I kiss the sky");

"The ants are my friends" (for "The answer, my friend" in "Blowing in the Wind" by Bob Dylan);

"I'll never leave your pizza burning" (for "I'll never be your beast of burden" by the Rolling Stones);

"The girl with colitis goes by" (for "the girl with kaleidoscope eyes" in "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" by the Beatles);

"Dr. Laura, you pickled man-thief" (for the Tom Waits lyric "doctor, lawyer, beggar-man, thief");

"the bright blessed day and the dog said goodnight" (for "the bright blessed day, the dark sacred night" in "What a Wonderful World" by Louis Armstrong);

"The girl from Emphysema goes walking" (for "The girl from Ipanema goes walking" in "The Girl from Ipanema," as performed by Astrud Gilberto);

"America! America! God is Chef Boyardee" (for "God shed His grace on thee" in "America, the Beautiful");

"You're the cheese to my pizza mine" (for "You're the key to my peace of mind" from Carol King's "Natural Woman").

A Nun sent me a piece of her dress on Saturday and another piece on Sunday and Monday I thought ...this is becoming a habit.

David Niven

Tattler - Your editor is a long-time admirer of this gentleman (now deceased).

His two books ("The Moon's a Balloon" and "Bring on the Empty Horses") were great reads. If you want a real belly laugh and have never read them, do so! I pinched the following from something I found published by "The Fab Four". I do not vouch for its 100% accuracy but found it intriguing.



Born in 1910 London, England into a military family. His father served in World War I and died at Gallipoli when David was 5 years old. His maternal grandfather was an officer killed by the Zulus in the Battle of Isandlwana in 1879.

Niven attended a strict private school as a child. Being an incorrigible prankster, he faced frequent corporal punishment and was eventually expelled. He eventually enrolled at the Royal Military College at Sandhurst. After Sandhurst, he joined the British Army and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Highland Light Infantry.

He was made a lieutenant in 1933 but considered his career to be a dead end in the peacetime army. The last straw for him was mandatory attendance at a lecture on machine guns, which interfered with his plans for dinner with a young lady. When the general holding the lecture asked if there were any questions, Niven asked "Could you tell me the time, sir? I have to catch a train." The insubordination earned him an immediate arrest, which led to him and the officer guarding him downing a bottle of whisky. This, in turn, allowed him to escape with help from the same guard and Niven boarded a ship headed for America, resigning his commission by telegraph.

When World War II broke out, he returned home to serve. He was the only British actor in Hollywood to do so and ignored the Embassy's advice to stay.

Back in Britain, Niven received commando training and became the commander of 'A' Squadron in the misleadingly named GHQ Liaison Regiment, better known as Phantom, where he reached the rank of lieutenant-colonel by the war's end.

Phantom was a unit born as No 3 British Air Mission during the Battle of France. Its job was to stay in forward positions and send back information about the movements of "bomb lines," areas devoid of Allied troops and thus safe to bomb. The task was later expanded: patrols of up to 11 men stayed at the front (and sometimes behind enemy lines) monitoring troop movements and listening in on Allied tank radio communications. They then used small, specially-made radios to report back to Corps HQ, giving them clear and up-to-date information on the battle faster than the information could filter through any other line of command.

Over the course of the war, Phantom patrols served in Africa, Italy, Southeast Europe and, of course, France. In Normandy, some jumped with the other paratroopers the night before, while the rest landed on D+1 to move around and report back on the location of all British, Canadian and American troops after the chaos of the night jumps and the first day.

Phantom was also present in other significant battles. During Operation Market Garden, Phantom officers were the only line of communication between the trapped British airborne at Arnhem and the XXX Corps unsuccessfully trying to relieve them. It was these same officers who brought Major General Urquhart's

famous, desperate message from the besieged forces: "... unless physical contact is made with us early 25 Sept...consider it unlikely we can hold out long enough ..."

Phantom patrols were responsible for giving first news on many other events during the war. They were the first to report on the closing of the Falaise Gap, they provided some of the first information on concentration camps and they tracked the movement of German armour during the Battle of the Bulge. In fact, when American and Soviet troops linked up for the first time at the Elbe River on April 25, 1945, a Phantom patrol attached to the U.S. 1st Army was sent to the planned location in advance, witnessing and reporting on the historic moment.

David Niven's exploits in Phantom are little-known, as the actor remained tight-lipped about his wartime experience for the rest of his life. There is an anecdote about him, saying that on one occasion, just before a fight that was likely to result in heavy casualties, he cheered up his men with a quip: "Look, you chaps only have to do this once. But I'll have to do it all over again in Hollywood with Errol Flynn!"

He shunned the limelight given to celebrities who served and scorned journalists who covered the war with florid prose. He once said "Anyone who says a bullet sings past, hums past, flies, pings, or whines past, has never heard one – they go crack!" He once explained the reason behind his silence and humility: "I will, however, tell you just one thing about the war, my first story and my last. I was asked by some American friends to search for the grave of their son near Bastogne. I found it where they told me I would, but it was among 27,000 others, and I told myself that here, Niven, were 27,000 reasons why you should keep your mouth shut after the war.

Tattler - so you know all about the vicious but tiny, piranha

How about its cousin, the Goliath Tigerfish?

Goliath Tigerfish

The *Hydrocynus Goliath*, more commonly known as the **goliath tigerfish**, or giant tigerfish, is a vicious predatory fish found lurking in the waters of large rivers and lakes in central Africa.

They are found predominantly in the Congo River basin and Lake Tanganyika. This giant predator is one of the largest of the order of characids, which also include tetras, and piranhas.

They are thought to be one of, if not the most dangerous freshwater fish in the world.

Adult goliath tigerfish can reach up to 5 feet in **length** and can weigh up to 110lbs. They have a mouth full of vicious, razor sharp teeth. The teeth interlock when the jaw is closed and protrude outward slightly from the jaw, giving a fearsome appearance. Goliath tigerfish are feared for a reason: they are the only freshwater fish in Africa with documented attacks on humans.



Jeremy Wade with a goliath tigerfish.
Image Credit: DCL | Discovery

They are usually an olive brown moving to a pale grey in colour; with red or orange fins and a black dorsal fin. The name tigerfish refers to the black stripes that are often found running the length of the creature's sides, as well as to its ferocious nature.

They are extremely strong swimmers due to their preference for fast moving waters, and are therefore able to snatch their prey even in the most turbulent of water. They are piscivores, and known to prey on fish up to 40% of their body length in size.



They have few known predators, due to their size and ferocity. Their only real threat is the crocodile. However, they are a widely-prized game fish and are therefore hunted by humans.

Their upper jaw contains 12-20 teeth, while the lower jaw 8-14. The teeth interlock into matching indents onto the opposite jawline, and protrude slightly from the mouth. The teeth are slightly conical in shape and can be up to 2.5cm (1 inch) in length. To put this into perspective, they are a similar size to a great white shark. Goliath tigerfish have been known to snap their prey in half with a single bite.

Although relatively little study has been carried out on these elusive creatures, a study by Gagiano et al (1996) observed that captive tigerfish would replace all their teeth simultaneously within a period of 5 days, with no replacement having been observed previously!

Tigerfish are solitary and have generally been observed alone, rather than hunting in schools or groups like their smaller cousin the piranha.

Goliath tigerfish are willing to 'take chunks out' of other large fish, large animals, and even each other in order to survive, although generally they only turn to cannibalism if food sources are scarce.

They are the "greatest freshwater gamefish in the world". At least, according to Bill Hansford-Steele in his 'African Fly-Fishing Handbook', as well as extreme angler Andy Coetzee.

Due to its size – and fearsome reputation – the goliath tigerfish has lured many a fisherman to attempt to catch the elusive beast.

A successful catch could feed many hungry mouths, especially in the rural parts of Africa where they live. The flesh of a tigerfish is said to be somewhat similar to Tilapia.

It is the only freshwater fish in Africa that is claimed to take lumps out of crocodiles that consider pursuing them, and even humans.

A person on the show River Monsters reported that a goliath tigerfish was responsible for jumping out of the water and biting a man on his neck, killing him instantly.

Tattler - Not something to swim with then?

The Miraculous flying and hunting skills of the "Forest Ghosts"

Click on the image to watch these super Hawks in action.



Now, onto a "shitty" subject!

Tattler - Just how clean is the Thames river? Not great, but they are certainly addressing the problem! Click on the image to watch this story.



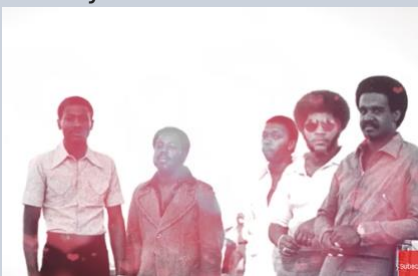
Tattler – What was on your turntable 50 years ago?

Click on the images to play.

Was it possibly the slightly strange Bay City Rollers?



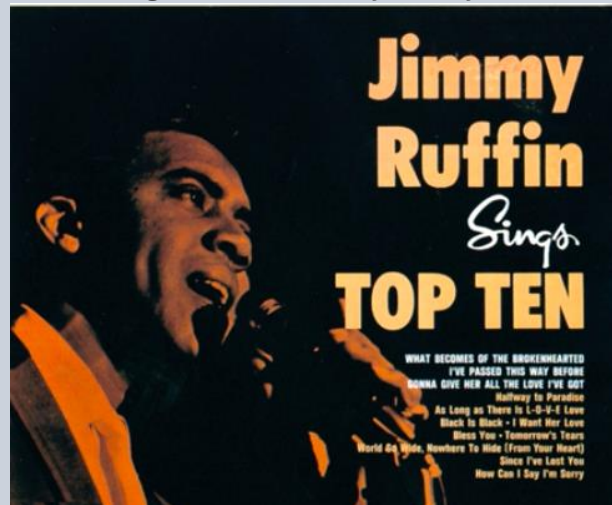
The Stylistics?



Or some rock by the Rolling Stones?



Something more mellow by Jimmy Ruffin?



Possibly a bit of Eric Clapton?



Club Matters

Club Manager's Report

Congratulations to our July winners 100 Club Draw

Capt. P.R. Le Roux (Ret) – R300

Mrs C. Law-Brown – R300

Mr T. Van Zyl – R300

Mr T. Wilkinson – R1000

We wish the following members a very Happy Birthday. May the year ahead be filled with good health and happiness. For our usual bit of fun, we note some historic events and dates.

Birthdays August 2024

Capt. P.R. Le Roux (Ret) – 03 August.

Hoping to find a westward route to India, Christopher Columbus on this day in 1492 set sail on his first transatlantic voyage, departing from Palos, Spain, with three small ships—the Niña, Pinta, and Santa María.

Cdr P.R.C. O'Hanlon (Ret) – 03 August.

In 1958, the U.S. atomic submarine Nautilus passed beneath the thick ice cap of the North Pole, an unprecedented feat.

Mrs E. Uys – 06 August.

Gertrude Ederle, age 19, of New York became the first woman to swim the English Channel, breaking the men's record by nearly two hours in 1926.

Mr B. Duncan – 07 August.

The first of the murders committed by Jack the Ripper took place in London's East End in 1888.

Mr S.F. Haselum – 08 August.

Armed robbers stole £2.6 million from the Glasgow-London Royal Mail Train near Bridego Bridge, north of London, in the Great Train Robbery in 1963.

Capt. K.E. Packer (Ret) – 13 August.

Sir Alfred Hitchcock, English American director and Master of suspense born, 1899 London, England.

Mrs P. Standley – 13 August.

American cooking expert Julia Child—who brought the art of French cooking to a vast number of Americans through her books and, especially, her programs on public television, where she became known for her humour and hearty voice—died at age 91 in 2004.

Mr S. London – 20 August.

Leon Trotsky was assassinated by a Stalinist agent in Mexico in 1940.

Lt Cdr K. Farrell – 22 August.

The first America's Cup was won by the American yacht America in a race around the Isle of Wight in 1851.

Mrs N. Green – 25 August.

Sean Connery (born August 25, 1930, died October 31, 2020, Nassau, Bahamas) was a Scottish-born actor whose popularity in James Bond spy thrillers led to a successful, decades-long film career.

Mr J. Winter – 27 August.

Emile Christian Hansen, Danish Botanist - May 8, 1842 – Died August 27, 1909. Emile revolutionized the brewing industry by his discovery of a new method of cultivating pure strains of yeast.

Mr M.E. Bagley – 28 August.

Shania Twain, Canadian Musician born 1965 - became one of the most popular crossover artists of the mid-1990s.

Mr J.H. Smit – 28 August.

The fall of the Western Roman Empire was completed as Emperor Romulus Augustulus was deposed by the German warrior Odoacer.

Mr R.C. Mc Gowan – 30 August.

Max Factor, American Makeup Designer, 1877 – Died August 30, 1938. He was the dean of Hollywood makeup experts. He was a pioneer in developing makeup specifically for motion-picture actors.

New Members – We welcome a new member to our club

Mr Schoeman Van Lille and partner Jill Dennis reside in Stellenbosch. Schoeman who is an ex SA Navy Diver is Self-employed. He is an active member of various Clubs in the area including Stellenbosch Club which has reciprocal arrangements with the Seven Seas Club. Schoeman enjoys deep sea tuna fishing and all matters aviation.

Aye,

Glen

The Monthly Seven Seas Quiz Night – July

It was a dark and stormy night.....

Despite the awful weather (the quiz was held during the multiple cold front storms) two gallant teams were present to do battle.

In a very closely run contest (the teams were level after five of the seven rounds), the winners emerged. Well done to "Sod's Law"

Well done to all concerned. Thanks for braving the cold, wind and rain.





Tattler - Next month's quiz will be held @ 19h00 on 9 August which, I believe, is women's day. We look forward to seeing all our regular participants and possibly, a few new faces?

Sample set of questions (from the July quiz)

Movies with a colour in their title

- 1) In the Victorian period, two children are shipwrecked on a tropical island in the South Pacific. With no adults to guide them, the two make a simple life together, unaware that sexual maturity will eventually intervene. Name the Movie.
- 2) Name the title of the tale set on death row, where gentle giant John Coffey possesses the mysterious power to heal people's ailments. When the lead guard, Paul Edgecombe, recognizes John's gift, he tries to help stave off the condemned man's execution.
- 3) Astronauts, and their robotic dog AMEE (Autonomous Mapping Evaluation and Evasion), search for solutions to save a dying Earth by searching on Mars, only to have the mission go terribly awry. Name the movie.
- 4) A large bird in this title - Nina is a talented but unstable ballerina on the verge of stardom. Pushed to the breaking point by her artistic director and a seductive rival, Nina's grip on reality slips, plunging her into a waking nightmare.
- 5) Directed by Kubrick and starring Malcolm MacDowell, Alex DeLarge and his droogs barbarize in a decaying near-future. Name the 1971 cult movie.
- 6) Starring (The artist formerly known as) Prince - A young musician, tormented by an abusive situation at home, must contend with a rival singer, a burgeoning romance, and his own dissatisfied band, as his star begins to rise.
- 7) The bumbling Inspector Clouseau travels to Rome to catch a notorious jewel thief known as "The Phantom" before he conducts his most daring heist yet: a princess' priceless diamond with one slight imperfection, known as (the movie title).
- 8) Supply the title of this movie starring Pierce Brosnan - When a powerful secret defence system is stolen, James Bond is assigned to stop a Russian crime syndicate from using it.
- 9) None of you watched the movie with this title! Literature student Anastasia Steele's life changes forever when she meets handsome, yet tormented, billionaire Christian Grey.

10) This war movie stars George Peppard, James Mason and Ursula Andress. A young pilot in the German air force of 1918, disliked as lower-class and unchivalrous, tries ambitiously to earn the medal offered for 20 kills. (A colour with a name)

Spotlight On - This column returns!

Tattler - After taking leave of absence for a few years we have decided to give it another chance. This month we feature the ever-jovial and popular **Planks van Aswegen**.

Planks was born in Johannesburg on the 9th of September 1942. He tells us that he lived in Boksburg for most of his earlier life. He also lived with a Great Aunt and Uncle in Potchefstroom and later in Bloemfontein. His Great Uncle was a Military man and was a father figure to him and sparked an interest in military life in him.

After leaving school in 1959 Planks joined the SAR&H as a clerk at the Goods Depot, Kaserne in Johannesburg'. In 1961 he enlisted in the SA Navy Citizen Force at SAS Rand in Johannesburg.

So where did this unusual nick-name originate? He tells Tattler that during his basic training at SAS Unities in Cape Town his Drill instructor gave him the name Planks! Evidently he was much thinner in those days. The instructor took one look at him and said: "Planks, you must swing those splinters of yours Boy". The name obviously stuck! I wonder how many of his friends know that his first name is actually Hendrik. Tattler actually had to coax this out of him!



He told us that he did the following three week stints: 1962 Leading Seaman's course, 1963 on SAS Transvaal Capex, 1964 on SAS Simon v d Stel. He remained in the Citizen Force up until 1974.

He married his first wife Yvonne in 1965. Their daughter Marcelle was born in 1971 and twin son and daughter Keith and Karen in 1974.

The pull of the Navy got to him and he enlisted in the SA Navy Permanent Force as a Warrant Officer Class 1. He spent 3 1/2 years in Malawi, training recruits for their Naval Service on Lake Malawi. Some may not know of the land-locked Malawi's navy. Planks tells us that it was a wonderful experience. The lake is huge - 500 KM long and between 15 and 80 Km wide, It contains almost a 1000 species of fish. Their small Navy consisted of 2 Patrol Boats and 3 Namacura type of boats. He was responsible for conducting Basic and Gunnery training.

In 1977 he returned to RSA and served at Simons Town at the Signal School as the regulating WO. He tells us that he had "many a hairy ride down the mountain" after having spent a couple of hours after work in the WO's and Snr Ratings Mess.

In 1980 he was appointed to Naval HQ in Pretoria where he was employed in the Personnel Division doing the appointment of Warrant Officers in the fleet. He enjoyed his time at NHQ and living at the Naval Mess in Pretoria.

He was divorced in 1981 and married his second wife Patricia. Below is a photograph of Planks and Patricia taken at their home in Simons Town in 2016.

In 1988 Planks was appointed as assistant to the Military Attaché in Lisbon Portugal. In the next three years besides learning the language Planks travelled to several countries in Europe and the UK. "The Portuguese people are very friendly and the food is fantastic."

In 1991 he returned to RSA and was appointed as Master at Arms at SAS Immortelle. Later, in 1995 he was appointed as Base MAA at Naval Logistics Base in Simons Town. "It was wonderful to be back in Simon's Town and to be at the sea again". As the Base MAA he regularly visited a number of Logistic Units in the Cape area and also in Durban.



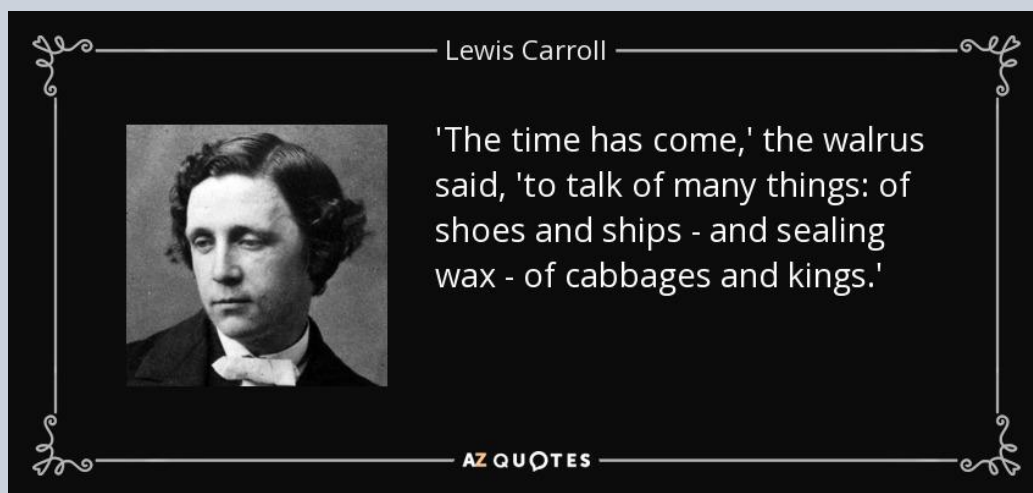
He retired from the navy in 2000. When asked about his retirement, Planks tells us that he has enjoyed his retirement and keeps busy as a member of the retired Naval Members monthly Braai and Luncheon group. He is also an active member of the Moths at the Snoekie Shellhole in Simon's Town.

Planks was the first retired Warrant Officer to Join the Seven Seas Club which he did in 2018. His dear wife passed away in 2018 at the age of 89 and he tells us that they had 35 wonderful years together. Since 2018 he has visited Portugal twice and also his children who are all resident in the UK. A highlight was a 2018 visit to Delville Wood in France with Alan Green.

Planks is also a faithful regular at the monthly club quiz.

Planks is, indubitably, an interesting character with a great sense of humour. A quote from Henry V (by Shakespeare) he has been heard saying more than once is: "Once more into the breach dear friends", possibly sums up his approach to life.

And to close. Those who know this most likeable man will relate -



Maritime and Naval / Military - Stories, News and Sport

Move of the SAS ASSEGAAI

Sources: Article submitted by Digby Thomson

Tattler requested Digby Thomson for info on the submarine move.

He has obliged with a very thorough article on the initial dream, the planning and the execution of the move of SAS ASSEGAAI. To whet your appetite, we include the following excerpts. The full article can be accessed by clicking on the image below.

(From the intro)

"When I was commanding the SAS ASSEGAAI in 2000, the idea of retaining a SAN Daphne Class submarine as a museum piece was first mooted. At the time SAS SPEAR (formerly SAS MARIA VAN RIEBEECK) had been decommissioned after her 5th Commission and was already looking in a sorry state of neglect but was the preferred option to be retained as a museum, being South Africa's first submarine! It was argued however that the submarine which was in the best condition should be preserved as a museum. The SAS ASSEGAAI had recently completed her fourth refit and had just begun her 5th Commission and was in very good condition"

(The team)

"In early 2021 R Adm Arné Söderlund put together a new Project Team operating on behalf of the NHT under the Chairmanship of R Adm Hanno Teuteberg, with myself as co-chair, Capt John Lamont as secretary, R Adm Kevin Watson as Project Engineer, himself and WO1 André Wessels (all retired) as members from the NHT and Mr Neil MacQuilken as a representative of STADCO. The OIC of the SAN Museum, Cdr Leon Steyn, was also integral to this team along with various other members co-opted from time to time."

(From the "move")

"The move itself was complicated by the lifting frames buckling slightly owing to the uneven load applied to them when lifting the submarine initially and again when starting the move the following day owing to the dynamic forces caused by uneven ground, the Vanguard equipment not being optimal for the complexities of this particular move and the lifting frames not having a sufficient safety factor built in. These complications required the project to acquire close to 40m of massive steel I-Beam, a team of extra welders and significant extra work (and overtime) by Armscor Dockyard, overnight, in order to get the job done whilst Vanguard was still available, failing which, the project would have had to get Vanguard back at a later date, which would have entailed paying for their services twice."

(From "the next steps")

"The next steps include completion of the entry and exit portals, staircases and railings up to the entry and exit portals, the provision of electrical supply and lighting. The installation of a ventilation fan and modification of the ventilation system will follow. At the same time, the museum website, mobile app guide (tour of the boat), ticketing system and other systems will be developed."

So, click on the picture to get all of the facts, from one of the people who made it happen!

P.S. You can also download a copy of the PDF from the link

Well done to Digby, Arne and the rest of the team



Carrier USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S latest upgrade dials up crew comfort!

Source: Maritime News / Article by Gidget Fuentes July 11, 2024

Tattler came across the following thanks to Arne Soderland's "Maritime news"

To our ex-Navy guys - Is this a good thing? Would it have made the crew happier? Softer?



Updated library aboard USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN-72) on July 8, 2024. USNI News Photo

NAVAL AIR STATION NORTH ISLAND, Calif. – When the aircraft carrier USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN-72) pulls away from its California berth for its upcoming deployment, the crew will embark with some homey creature comforts.

Comforts like cushy club chairs by an electric fireplace, reliable WIFI, a gaming room, a stadium-seating movie theatre. There are also phones, a pair of teal-blue rotary dial phones, plain old telephone system lines tucked into two enclosed, sound-proofed booths.

Those amenities are features of the new fully renovated library and lounge, courtesy of the USO, that have taken over three spaces of Lincoln's command religious ministries department. Each space is softened by teal bulkheads, wood laminated flooring, wood accents and artificial plants with steam punk-styled and contemporary artwork of the former Abraham Lincoln dress the walls.

The newly named USO Centre is the fifth to open aboard a Navy aircraft carrier, officials said, and similar redo's of library and lounge spaces aboard four more carriers are planned this year.

"What the Abraham Lincoln USO Centre offers is a peaceful and modern respite for our sailors and Marines to rest and recharge and to reach their families while using WIFI while at sea, to watch movies in legitimate movie theatre seating, and play video games in a purposefully designed video game room," Capt. Pete Riebe, Lincoln's commander, said during a Monday ceremony on the carrier's flight deck.

Each renovation is intended with comfort and a healthier work-life in mind for the sailors and Marines who live and work every day while at sea. "We ask a lot of our sailors and Marines. We ask them to uphold the values of our nation. We ask them to sacrifice time away from their families, loved ones and friends," Riebe said. "For their sacrifices, it's absolutely fitting that we provide our ABRAHAM LINCOLN sailors and Marines a suitable space to truly unwind."

LINCOLN ship's company is preparing to take on its carrier air wing for a planned overseas deployment later this month.

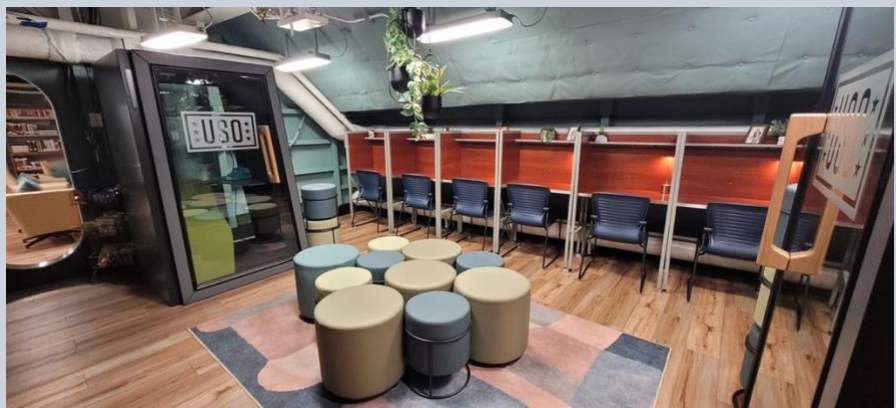
"This is critically important... This is what gets after quality of service, because this combines quality of life and quality of work," said Vice Adm. Daniel Cheever, commander of Naval Air Forces and Naval Air Force Pacific.

The 5,500 members of the Lincoln's crew and embarked air wing will see better WIFI connections, which on ships and at sea can be sporadic.

The ship's advanced communications systems and additional satellite links and internet service providers provide for unclassified web-surfing and will let the crew call home in a more private environment, which "unless you're one of the few people aboard, that is a hard thing to do," Riebe said. "Generally, we are using widely available, unclass bandwidth systems that are available to the general public," he said, and hardware installations are part of the Navy's broader effort to increase bandwidth and make WIFI more available on the carrier.



Sailors play video games aboard USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN-72) on July 8, 2024. USNI News Photo



Phone booths aboard USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN-72) on July 8, 2024. USNI News Photo

"The same WIFI rules and access applies to ship's company as well as embarked sailors and Marines, including the air wing and Marine F-35C fighter squadron. The access will enable them to read a story to their children in real-time or send texts and instant messages to their teenagers.

"Now for those with toddlers, you can Facetime, and they can see mom or dad's face thousands of miles away," Riebe said.

Before the renovation, the spaces' modern décor changes what was something of an antiquated, sterile, plain environment to something that "is sort of a demilitarized zone," he said. "It just screams homey comfort, not warship... It feels like a space to relax in."

It also appeals to Lincoln's crew, which 60 percent are under 24. "I think we can all appreciate the importance of recharging our own personal batteries, whether that's a video game, or surfing some social media or writing a letter or journaling... the USO Centre is going to support that," he added, "and that is good for my crew. That is good for our sailors and our Marines to make them ready when it's their time to work hard."

Naval Superstitions, Ghosts and Hauntings

Sources: www.military.com, Britannica, <https://realcleardefense.com>, Wikipedia / Article by Colette

The sea has always held a mystique that inspires fear and fascination. Over centuries, sailors have developed superstitions to navigate their perilous journeys. These beliefs, steeped in tradition and lore, often reveal the hopes and fears of those who spend their lives at sea.

Seafaring is one of humanity's oldest professions, and it comes with inherent dangers. Before modern navigation and weather forecasting, sailors relied on their instincts and shared wisdom. Superstitions provided a sense of control and comfort amidst the unpredictable forces of nature.

The albatross is considered a symbol of good luck and protection. This belief gained prominence with Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner," where killing an albatross brought misfortune to a ship and its crew. Sailors believe that these birds carry the souls of lost sailors, and harming one invites disaster.

Whistling on a ship is thought to bring about strong winds and storms. The phrase "whistling up a storm" originates from this belief. Sailors would avoid whistling to prevent provoking the sea's wrath, fearing that the winds might be too strong to control.

Changing a ship's name is considered extremely unlucky. The belief is that ships develop a soul of their own, and renaming them confuses their spirits, leading to potential disaster. If a name change is unavoidable, a ritual must be performed to pacify the sea gods.

Historically, having women aboard was thought to bring bad luck. This superstition was rooted in the belief that women distracted sailors and angered the sea gods. However, women were also seen as protective figures, and figureheads of women were often placed on the ship's bow to calm rough seas.

Starting a voyage on a Friday is considered unlucky, linked to the day of Jesus's crucifixion. Many sailors preferred to begin their journeys on Sundays, for divine protection. Even today, some seafarers avoid setting sail on Fridays.

Cats are believed to bring good luck on ships. They are excellent pest controllers, keeping rats at bay, which protects food supplies and prevents disease. Black cats, in particular, are seen as especially lucky, and their presence is thought to ensure a safe return.

Christening a ship with a bottle of champagne is a ritual intended to bring good fortune. If the bottle doesn't break, it's considered a bad omen. This ceremony marks the ship's readiness for a safe voyage.

Placing a coin under the ship's mast during construction is a tradition meant to ensure prosperity and protection. This practice dates back to ancient times and continues in modern shipbuilding.

While technology has diminished "reliance" on superstitions, many modern sailors still observe these age-old practices out of respect for tradition.

Perhaps the most famous ghost ship, the Flying Dutchman, is said to sail the seas eternally. Legends claim it's doomed never to make port, with sightings considered bad omens.

Discovered adrift in 1872 with no crew aboard, the Mary Celeste remains one of the greatest maritime mysteries. Theories range from mutiny to supernatural intervention.

The QUEEN MARY - Now a hotel in Long Beach, California, the QUEEN MARY is reputedly haunted by numerous spirits, including a "lady in white" and the ghost of a sailor who died in an engine room accident.

This ghost ship SS OURANG MEDAN was reportedly found in the late 1940s with all crew members dead, their faces frozen in terror. The cause remains a mystery, sparking tales of paranormal activity.

The LADY LOVIBOND** - According to legend, The LADY LOVIBOND, wrecked off the coast of England on February 13, 1748. It is said to reappear every 50 years as a ghost ship, seen by sailors as an eerie apparition.

In Japanese folklore, ships can be haunted by spirits, who might protect or curse a vessel. The Umibozu is a sea spirit known for capsizing ships and terrorizing sailors.

In Norse mythology, draugr are undead beings that protect their treasures, sometimes appearing on ships. They symbolize the spirits of those who died at sea.

Whether rooted in historical events or pure legend, these stories remind us of the sea's unimaginable depths and our enduring fascination with the supernatural.

****The story of the LADY LOVIBOND - the ghost ship that reappears every 50 years**

In the mid-1700s superstitions were quickly spread and easily believed. One such superstition referred to sailing ships. It was believed that it was bad luck for a woman to be on a ship as it sailed.

There is a tale that some believe supports this credence.

On February 13, 1748, a three mast schooner called the LADY LOVIBOND left port for a leisurely sail along the Thames River near Kent, England with the final destination of Oporto, Portugal.

The captain, Simon Reed, had just been married and brought his new wife, Annetta, with him for a honeymoon voyage.

The crew were below decks celebrating with the new bride and groom except for the Bosun and First Mate, John Rivers. Although Rivers had served his captain as best man at the wedding, he was also in love with the beautiful bride.

The more he thought of her, the more jealous he became until finally, unable to bear his anger any longer he decided to take action.

The ship was passing a notorious stretch of the English Channel called the Goodwin Sands.

The Goodwin Sands is a nine-mile stretch between Kingsdown, Kent and Pegwell Bay and is still one of the most dangerous passages of the English Channel.

The conditions change so quickly it can be observed as the tides change and sediment moves around as the water passes through the Straits of Dover. Some believe it was once an island, but there has been no geological evidence to support this theory.

During low tide, as much as a tenth of the total area can be exposed and one can walk on the sediment. There have even been cricket matches played on the Goodwin Sands.

Over one thousand wrecks have been recorded in this area since 1298, and the area has become a virtual ship's graveyard.

Frequently when ships attempt to sail through at high tide, the sediment quickly moves about and sucks the ship down into the Sands with the stern only partially supported. This leads to the ship's back being broken and unable to sail once the tide comes back in. The entire ship is engulfed with great loss of life.



Two specific shipwrecks can be sighted at low tide – the “NORTH EASTERN VICTORY” and the “LURAY VICTORY”, two American cargo ships that were wrecked in 1946.

As the LADY LOVIBOND passed through the area Rivers attacked the Bosun and took over the ship. He intentionally steered the ship onto the Goodwin Sands destroying the ship and killing everyone aboard.

Exactly fifty years to the day after the LADY LOVIBOND was destroyed the captain of the ship “EDENBRIDGE” recorded in his log that he had almost collided with a schooner with three masts.

He reported sounds of a celebration coming from the ship as it broke up. A rescue team was dispatched but could find no sign of the ship or its passengers.

Another fifty years passed and again on the 13th of February locals saw a three masted schooner head toward the Sands. Again, no evidence of wreckage was found.

In 1848 the same ship was reported to have been seen breaking up in the very same area with no shipwreck in sight.

The last report was filed in 1948 by Captain Bull Preswick. He was convinced he saw an actual ship that was described as the LADY LOVIBOND but was surrounded by a green glow as it entered the Sands.

The folktales of the ghost ship created so much attention that many curious onlookers made their way to the Sands in 1998 to catch a glimpse of the legendary ship but were all disappointed when no ship appeared.

Were the tales made up or were the reports made by people who actually believed they saw the LADY LOVIBOND? **We have only twenty four years to wait before we can be sure!**

The Truth about the Bermuda Triangle?

Source: www.marineinsight.com, Britannica.com, <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov>

The Bermuda Triangle (Devil’s Triangle), a region in the western part of the North Atlantic Ocean, vertices are generally considered to be Miami, Bermuda, and Puerto Rico. It is infamous for alleged mysterious disappearances of ships and aircraft. Stories about the Bermuda Triangle often involve unexplained disappearances and strange phenomena, fuelling speculation about supernatural forces, alien activity, and underwater cities like Atlantis. Here’s a look at the facts:

Weather Patterns: The area is prone to hurricanes, storms, and sudden weather changes.

Magnetic Anomalies: Some claim compass malfunctions due to magnetic variations, although these are not unique to the area.

Gulf Stream: Strong ocean currents can swiftly erase evidence of a disaster.

Human Error / Navigational mistakes and mechanical failures are common in a busy maritime region.

Studies have shown that the rate of incidents in the Bermuda Triangle is not significantly higher than in other heavily travelled regions.

While the Bermuda Triangle is intriguing, the evidence points to natural and human causes rather than supernatural explanations. The legend persists largely due to its captivating mystery and cultural fascination.

This month in History - August 1974

50 years ago

General

1 August - Former astronaut Alan Shepard, the first American in space and fifth man on the Moon, retired from the United States Navy after 30 years at the rank of Rear Admiral.

7 August - French high-wire artist Philippe Petit conducted an unauthorized walk on a tightrope between the Twin Towers of the World Trade Centre in New York City, crossing a 131-foot (40 m) cable at a height of 1,350 feet (410 m). Members of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Department arrested Petit for disorderly conduct and criminal trespass, but Richard Kuh, the New York County District Attorney, ordered the charges dropped in exchange for Petit giving a free performance for the children of New York City. Kuh suggested at a news conference that Port Authority security was insufficiently "keen".



8 August - Richard Nixon became the first (and, as of 2024, the only) U.S. President to announce his resignation. Earlier in the week, Nixon had admitted his coverup of the Watergate scandal. In a televised address to the nation, Nixon said, "I have never been a quitter. To leave office before my term is completed is opposed to every instinct in my body. But as President I must put the interests of America first."

9 August - U.S. Vice President Gerald Ford was sworn in as the 38th President of the United States upon Nixon's resignation. In a speech after being sworn in, President Ford said, "My fellow Americans, our long national nightmare is over."

17 August - Petronas (Petroliam Nasional), the government-owned oil and natural gas company of Malaysia, was incorporated.

25 August - In Auckland, New Zealand, politician Robert Muldoon, leader of the New Zealand National Party, punched demonstrators at a protest outside a meeting of landlords and property investors after a sack of flour struck him in the back.

28 August - Rhodesia announced the selection of the "Ode to Joy" from Ludwig van Beethoven's Ninth Symphony as its new national anthem. Lyrics for the anthem would be chosen through a nationwide competition.

30 August - The Soviet Kashin-class destroyer Otvazhny sank after a defective anti-aircraft missile launched during Black Sea Fleet drills ignited a fire which resulted in the explosion of the ship magazines.

Sport

4 August - Swiss driver Clay Regazzoni won the 1974 German Grand Prix at the Nürburgring.

13 August - England versus Pakistan second cricket test ends in a draw. Derek Underwood takes 13 wickets.

18 August - Austrian R1 Grand Prix won by Carlos Reuteman.

25 August - Belgian racer Eddy Merckx won the Men's Individual Road Race at the UCI Road World Championships in Montreal.

27 August - England versus Pakistan (3rd test) ends in a draw. Zaheer Abbas scores 240 (first innings), Dennis Amiss gets 183.

Music



Movies



Burt Reynolds

Burt Reynolds was an iconic American actor known for his charismatic screen presence and diverse roles. Burt was born on February 11, 1936, in Lansing, Michigan.

He attended Florida State University on a football scholarship but shifted to acting after an injury.

The early roles on TV in the late 1950s, included parts in "Gunsmoke" and "Dan August."



His breakthrough roles came with "Deliverance" (1972), showcasing his dramatic talents. This was followed by "Smokey and the Bandit" (1977), "The Longest Yard" (1974), and "Cannonball Run" (1981) which set his up as a leading box office star.



Married twice, including to actress Loni Anderson, Burt was also known for high-profile relationships, including with Sally Field.

Despite career success he faced financial struggles but made a comeback with "Boogie Nights" (1997), earning an Oscar nomination.

Burt passed away on September 6, 2018 from a heart attack, while reading lines for a new movie.

And, a century ago - August 1924

6 August - Con artist Charles Ponzi, known for the "Ponzi scheme", was released from prison in Plymouth, Massachusetts after serving less than four years of a five year federal sentence. He then reported to the District Attorney in Boston, where he faced 10 indictments by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and was arrested again. A benefactor from West Roxbury put up his bond of \$14,000 and Ponzi was freed until a trial date could be set.

16 August - The body of Italian opposition leader Giacomo Matteotti, who had been kidnapped on June 10 after making speeches against Fascist Prime Minister Benito Mussolini, was found in a shallow ditch about 14 miles (23 km) outside of Rome.

27 August - Built for the U.S. Navy, paid for by the German government and constructed by the Zeppelin Company as part of World War I reparations, the dirigible USS Los Angeles made its first flight.



31 August - Paavo Nurmi set a new world record for the 10,000 metre race, running a time of 30:06.2. Finnish officials had not allowed Nurmi to compete in the 10,000m in the Paris Olympics in July, due to fears for his health.



Tattler – Laughs



Video Humour - Some Classic Michael McIntyre - Click the image to enjoy!



July Quiz answers

- 1) Blue Lagoon
- 2) The Green Mile
- 3) Red Planet
- 4) Black Swan
- 5) A Clockwork Orange
- 6) Purple Rain
- 7) The Pink Panther
- 8) Golden Eye
- 9) Fifty Shades of Grey
- 10) The Blue Max

Guitarist Anagrams

- 1) Eric Clapton
- 2) Carlos Santana
- 3) Keith Richards
- 4) Curt Cobain
- 5) Bruce Springsteen
- 6) George Harrison
- 7) Chuck Berry

The Quotes of Steven Wright:

- 1 - I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.
- 2 - Borrow money from pessimists -- they don't expect it back.
- 3 - Half the people you know are below average.
- 4 - 99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
- 5 - 82.7% of all statistics are made up on the spot.
- 6 - A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.
- 7 - A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- 8 - If you want the rainbow, you got to put up with the rain.
- 9 - All those who believe in psychokinesis, raise my hand.
- 10 - The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.



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That's it for this month folks!