# CALUERSION SAR Paga

#### OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MEN OF THE U.S.S. CALVERT APA 32

"The Ship and Men of Distinction"

Published and Compiled by John L. Cole 506 Red Wing Ave. Kenyon, Minnesota 55946 Telephone 507-789-6344

VOL. NO. 34, 1996



#### Comments from the Commander

In a few months it will be time for our big reunion in Oklahoma City. J.B. and Hillie have worked very hard to get this one done in a years time. This is great as most of you know it takes time and a lot of leg work. Be sure to send in your registration, no later than September 1, and also you must make your own Hotel reservations. This should be another great time.....When I first started puting out the newsletter in the 70's, I addresed all of them by hand. When the list got longer I would zerox the address from the master list and cut them off and hand pasts them to the newsletter. Then my good friend at the local paper talked me into putting the list on computer. He in turn would supply me with lables with sticky backs that I would peal off and place on the newsletter. I also had to bundle the newsletters in bundles according to states to qualify for a lower postage rate. Now- we have new rules!!! the bundles must be according to Area Distributes Centers and must also have a bar code on the lable. The change will go into efect on July 1 and I Just found out a couple days ago. Since my friend cannot do this on his computer I am looking at another person to do it. These people are Direct Mail Specialists and tomarrow I will be meeting with them to see what needs to be done. It is also the day the newsletter goes to the printer. I leave this page to the last in case something comes up. Hopefully the mail will go out the second week of July, that is if they dont make any more changes...... Got a letter I'rom Norma Strahm and she wanted me to thank everyone who sent Porkey cards when he was in the hospital. He really appricated them. He is still not on calm water, but as Norma says, "He's a righter."..... In the letter that Hal Winter wrote, He said that I got the summary of the Calvert log from hin and made that correction. Well you guys know that I dont make mistakes (only in spelling) but he is only half right. I got two copys of the summary, one from Hal and one from Mel Waite. Thank you both .... The last time I sent notices to the Service Mags, with a notice of the Calvert reunion I really got a good responce. I got about 15 new address. If each guy in the Association would put a notice in their newspaper about the reunion we just might pick up a few more. Most papers will do it for free if you let them put it in when they have space. One time I wrote to a local radio person and he read my letter over the air and a mother of a Calvert man heard him and told her son. I work as many ways as possible to get the Calvert name in front of the general public.....j.l.cole

## mail call



U. S. S. CALVERT (APA-32)

c/o fleet post office

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



After many years of searching for any information I could find on Calvert reunions, I finally hit paydirt.

I stumbled on the name of an old shipmate of mine while scanning through a computer phone-list program.

Of course, I called immediately and was thrilled to hear a voice I hadn't heard in almost 40 years. He told me that there is a reunion this year in Oklahoma City. I have already called and made reservations for my wife and myself and am now eagerly looking forward to seeing some long lost shipmates.

I served aboard the U.S.S. Calvert from December 1953 until early 1956. During that period I enjoyed two Far East cruises. My first cruise included the Calvert's participation in Operation "Passage to Freedom," in which thousands of Vietnamese refugees were evacuated and transported from Haiphong to Saigon.

My rate was RM2 and I was assigned to "C" Division.

After my separation from the Navy in 1956, I moved to Florida and have been working at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. I am currently employed by Computer Sciences/Raytheon, an Air Force contractor. My position is "Production Engineer/Supervisor.

In November of 1979, after a 23 year break in service, I affiliated with the Naval Reserves. I switched rates to CT (Cryptologic Technician) and only recently retired in July of 1995. Now I enjoy receiving my retirement checks the 1st of each month.

Don Bergstrom

What a fantastic job you, Lila and your children did for the Calvert Crew!!!! The location was perfect for the shoppers, the food was good and the activities were fun -- we had a great time!!

Am sending along a couple of pictures for you. Please tell Lila and the family how much we appreciate all they did to make the reunion a success -- it was a lot of fun. Thanks for all you do during the year to keep the group together and informed.

Thank you for sending Calversion to me. Although my husband, Louis S. Lund, who was a Chief Warrant Officer aboard the Calvert from 1943 to 1945 has been gone now for ten years, I still recognize some of the names in the last issue. We attended the reunion in Atlanta and among others I thoroughly enjoyed the company of Marietta Holmes. Adeline Simon was the wife of "Simon" who shared quarters aboard ship with my husband Louie and "O'B" (Ed O'Brien).

I still correspond with the O'Briens and during the past year Mary suffered a stroke. She is recovering well and is now recuperating at home.

Recently I came across these photos taken aboard ship. I am not able to identify any of the characters other than the dog, the little mascot called "FUBAR" (for "fouled up beyond all recognition"). How they did love that pup! Perhaps O'B or some other shipmate at that time can identify some of those in the photos. Please keep them with the other Calvert memorabilia.

Mrs. Louis S. Lund

from the Chesapeake maneuvers March, April and May of 1943 to Sicily, repairs in Erie Basin (New York), passing through Panama Canal, liberty in San Francisco, the MAKIN invasion, KWAJALETN invasion, SATPAN, LEYTE I and the murder in Number Four hold, then the invasion of LINGAYEN. I left out the Movie Mutiny because I did not take notes on it as it was Therefore T don't know exactly where it belongs happening. in the diary account.

As I went through those years (1942-1945), I met guys who said that when this war was over they were going to write a book exposing the Mavy. My book is not like that. personal story, but not a one-man show. There are other shipmates who share the spotlight.

From time to time you have asked the membership to send in material you can put into the newsletter. I shall go through

my stuff to see what is worthy.

I am glad to see you subscribe to REMINISCE magazine. Last year they published a diary entry of think it's great. mine concerning one of my visits to the Stage Door Canteen in The entry appeared in a hard-cover edition New York City. - Hal Winter called "We Palled Together... and Won!"

Kiss from Film Star a 'Hedy' Experience

By Hal Winter, Schenevits, New York

NO SERVICEMAN who ever visited il 2 Stage Door Canteen could forget

it -certainly not me'

It opened in March 1942 in the basement of a former New York City nightelub as an entertaining refuge for anyone in uniform. It proved so popular that critic Brooks Atkinson called it "the biggest hit Broadway has had for weeks"

Stage and screen celebrities rolled up their sleeves to take turns serving behind a food-laden counter. No alcohol was served, but who needed it? Having Tallulah Bankhead or Ethel Merman offer you pie and coffee was intoxicat-

ing enough!

Tables and chairs hugged the walls an I bordered a dance floor, with a small stage at one end. Big-time bands and top stars appeared on alternate Saturday nights. There were plenty of swelllooking girls eager to dance with you. but dating them was taboo.

One night was especially memolrable. It was a Saturday in September 1942-my 20th birthday. I had no special plans, so I sauntered into the Stage

Door Canteen.

The place was jammed, and every table was taken. When I elbowed my way to the dance floor, I found it tilled with servicemen sitting cross-legged on

Suddenly the lights dimmed, Silence spread over the packed house, On stage,

a pale pink spotlight hit an empty chair. Then, out of the darkness walked.



HEDY LAMARR was one entertainer who served coffee, sandwiches and soft drinks—all free—to soldiers at the Stage Door and Hollywood Canteens. She greeted this man from behind the snack bar in 1942.

Hedy Lamarr. The greeting she received could have cracked the plaster on the walls!

As the noise trailed off, she beckoned the men in front to come up and gather around her. I expected a stampede, but the guys were timid.

"Come on, boys," she said, waving them onstage, "I won't bite,"

When they settled in, Miss Lamarr began telling us stories about her film career, then took questions from the audience until closing time approached.

But before she left, she did one thing that endeared her to us for life. She came down among us, and gave every man who was celebrating a birthday a kiss!

As she drew near me, all I could think was: Be still, my heart! I don't remember when I came down to earth, but it was a long time before I washed the spot where Hedy Lamarr kissed me.

### the old crew

U. S. S. CALVERT (APA-32)

## Harold waves back

## Giant flag at park honors husband, all veterans



#### By LORETTA ROBINSON

Chronicle staff writer

Don't be surprised if you see Arlene Love of North Muskegon waving back to the 12-by-18-foot flag flying high at Veterans Memorial Park along the Muskegon Causeway this Memorial Day.

She's not crazy.

She's waving to her husband, the late Harold Love, who had a passion for the American flag but was never satisfied with the size of the original 5-by-8-foot flags posted at the park.

Harold vowed one day to replace it with a larger one.

"He wanted everyone to see it,"
Arlene said.

After his death in 1993 at age 70, she decided to "fulfill his wishes."

With city approval, the 70-yearold great-grandmother purchased a 12-by-18-foot flag for the pole and dedicated it to honor her husband and other American veterans.

Every six months, she replaces the weathered flag with a new one at a cost of \$300.

"People will say, 'Well, that costs a lot of money,' but I feel like I never worked outside the home, it's spending his Social Security money from his job, so that's his money paying for his flag,"

"I love the flag, especially at night." Arlene said. "People say they drive by and when it's flying, it's just something there that takes you other places."

It transports her back to another time, closer to Harold, who had signed up for the Navy at age 21 during World War II.

Gazing at the flag, Arlene relives those struggles of war with a husband fighting overseas while she raised two of their three children in Muskegon solely on his Navy benefits. Harold Love was a retired CWC Textron worker with a reputation for being one of the "friendliest guys in town." He greeted his Northside neighbors with a special smile and wave.

Friends often told Arlene how much they missed Harold and his wave, so when she dedicated the flag to the park, she says she began telling them to "go past the Causeway, look at the flag, and he's waving at you.

"People call me and say he waved at them," Arlene said. "It gives me a chill." And a thrill.

Harold was a military man who celebrated each veterans' holiday with special tributes, including one ritual that still makes Arlene laugh each time she talks of his bugle-blowing days.

She remembers the months worrying about him, waiting for a word about what was happening to him.

Arlene can recount his many war stories. He told about when his ship was stationed in a Japanese harbor just miles from the Hiroshima bombing, and the time his ship was hit by a missile and had to be towed into a safe harbor at Seattle, Wash., just weeks before his scheduled honorable discharge from the Navy.

She'll never forget his arrival home in Muskegon at the Muskegon Heights train station, his arms around her, their kiss, tears and sweet words of love and welcome that they whispered into each other's ear.

That flag. It stirs these memories for Arlene. It saddens but also comforts her.

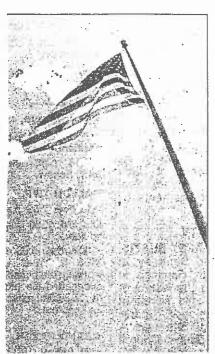
"I'd rather not eat if I had to go without it," Arlene said.

It also keeps her on her toes, thanks to the help of her son, Dan. Muskegon city parks workers and the Muskegon Awning Co. They make sure that flag flies high and "pretty" all year in memory of her husband, of all American veterans and for anyone who shares a love of country.

"He had a bugle that someone gave him and could blow it until he got cancer," Arlene said. "Anyway, every time he blew it, people would stand at attention. They wanted to laugh but didn't done. You see, he had a squeak when it should have been a tune."

It's these memories that comfort her now during these special holidays.

She spends the day with family and friends who often drive her to or around the park to see the flag; she's unable to drive herself because of failing eyesight.



Ariene Love stands by the 12-by-18-foot flag she had Veterans Memorial Park in memory of her deceased husband. Harold Love. and all veterans. Harold Love had a passion for the flag but was never satisfied with the size of the original 5-by-8-foot flags at the park.





8:00 A.M. on October 23, the first ships of Admiral Kent Hewitt's Western Task Force stood out of Hampton Roads, near Norfolk, Virginia. The convoy crossing 3,000 miles of rough Atlantic Ocean would be commanded by Hewitt from his flagship, the specially equipped cruiser Augusta. With Hewitt was General George Patton, who stood before a mirror in his tiny cabin and practiced a fierce scowl that he called his "battle face."

On the second day at sea. General Ernie Harmon, the scrappy leader of the 2nd Armored Division, was standing on the bridge of a troop transport, taking in the spectacle of the more than 100 ships. Suddenly Harmon saw something unsettling. In the distance was the transport Calvert crammed with the light tanks he had to have for his assault on the port of Safi (south of Casablanca), being towed back toward Hampton Roads by a tug.

Harmon made hurried inquiries and learned that the Calvert's boilers were considered unsafe and that tanks, soldiers and crew would have to be reloaded onto another vessel which would try to rejoin the convoy at sea. (Five days later General Harmon would be relieved to see the Titania join the armada with the Calvert's tanks and men.)

The American soldiers were still being trained while sailing to battle. Just prior to shoving off from Hampton Roads, shipments of late-model weapons were received, still in crates and cartons. The assault troops are fascinated by the bazooka, a long tube that fired a rocket and was bosed to knock out enemy tanks. No one on board had ever seen a stem tanks had before, much less fired one. The Americans could only hope

en the shooting erupted, the bazookas would work.

455 CALVERT PORTUGAL PA-32 from U.K Glbraltar Algiera Centre Task Western Task Arzew Force Oran SPANISH Force from U.S. MOROCCO Port Lyauley Rabat Casablanca **ALGERIA** Sell Operation Torch points of attack.

SPAIN

435

PA-17

PA-10

HARRY LEE

Operations in North African Waters

TASK FORCE 34

Rear Admiral H. Kent Hewitt, Commander, in Augusta

WESTERN NAVAL TASK FORCE,
Admiral Hewlit

Embarking Western Task Force United States Army, Major General George S. Patton Jr. USA TG 34.10 SOUTHERN ATTACK GROUP, Rear Admiral Lyal A. Davidson in Philadelphia

Embarking 47th Regimental Combat Team, 9th Infantry Division; 3rd and elements of 2nd Battalion 67th Armored Regiment 2nd Armored Division, and special, units; Major General E. N. Harmon USA, Commander. 6,413 officers and men, 54 light and 54 medium tanks.

Southern Attack Group Transports, Captain Wallace B. Phillips

AP 8 AP 65 - AK 55 AP 67 AP 71 AP 49	HARRIS (ex-President Grant) CALVERT (ex-Delorleans) TITANIA (ex-Harry Culbreath) DOROTHEA L. DIX (ex-Exemplar) LYON (ex-Mormactide) LAKEHURST (ex-Sentrain New	Capt. O. M. Forster Capt. J. W. Whitfield Cdr. V. C. Barringer Jr. Cdr. L. B. Schulten Capt. M. J. Gillan Jr. Cdr. H. J. McNulty
	lersev)	,

When reading Mr. William B. Breuer book, Operation Torch, I descovered that he made a great error and I had to correct him. This is a copy of the book, page 84, Operation Torch, Invasion of North Africa, where he states that the Calvert was pulled back to port when it should have been the Harry Lee. I think that I convenced him that I was on the Calvert at that time. He wrote me a letter where he stated, "one has to rely in many cases of records made at the time or on memories often dimmed with the passage of time."

Jerald Benjamin

THE ONLY unusual thing about this photo is Hal Winter (front row, second from left) of Schethe old crew Amphibious Base, Virglnia, everyone but Hal was named Wilson! "I went through boot camp with a few of the Wilsons" Hal save "But hal was named Wilson! "I went through boot camp with a few of the Wilsons," Hal says. "But by the time we got to Little Creek, they seemed to have multiplied like rabbits!" The photo was taken after the Saturday inspection and parade.

U. S. S. CALVERT (APA-32)

TEL WESTERS CAN HAZELAS



It was great to get your letter in this morning's mail. I am so glad you got a kick out of the 'Wilson' picture with only one Winter in it. I sent that photo to REMINISCE two years ago and I'm glad to see that they used it - at last! The only guy I think was a Calvert man is Tom Wilson, fourth from left, back row with cigarette in his left hand. Tom was my LCVP's after boat hook in the Chesapeake, March to May 1943, at Sicily, July 1943, and at the Makin Invasion, Nov. 1943. I was the forward bow hook and I can tell you even now, my memory is darn good about that experience. We had a coxsun who should not have been in charge of the boat. But I don't want to linger on unpleasant memories. All that is water under the bridge, and today we look back on the ugliness and thank the Lord we survived.

We had begun small boat training at Little Creek on Friday, 20 November 1942. We then went to Fort Pierce, Florida on Wednesday, 17 February 1943 returning to NOB Norfolk to board USS Calvert Friday, 12 March 1943. As far as I can remember, the others in that picture were sent off to other ships at that time.

Over the years, I have saved my copies of the CALVERSION since Volume 16, 1986. I like going back to them every once in a while and reading your first-page news and shipmates' letters that follow. I came across Volume 30, 1994 in which you state that Mel Waite sent a 12-page summary of the Calvert log. I'd like to make a correction: It was I who sent you the summary. Yes, it was too long for inclusion in the newsletter. I sent it so that you could add it to your collection of Calvert memorabilia. If you are in charge of such a collection, I would like to add to it from time to time. I have a huge chart of the Pacific Ocean showing Calvert's voyages. It measures 3 feet by 4 feet. It has turned brown with age and is very brittle. Mel Waite asked me to start this chart back in 1945. I left the ship for discharge in June 1945. I think the chart must have been passed on to a later Quartermaster to add to it because there are voyages lined in that I did not participate in. Chief Waite sent me the chart just a few years ago and I've made sure it has not gotten damaged.

A few years ago, I began unearthing my WW II diary notes and I've been putting them together in readable form hoping for publication. And so I'm putting out a call for a publisher. The story is primarily about a young man growing up in the WW II Amphibious Force. The story of the Calvert's first crossing of the equator which you included in a 1990 newsletter is part of my diary. In the finished work, I have traced my experiences before boarding Calvert. I have also traced Calvert's movements We always enjoy receiving <u>CALVERSION</u>. I particularly enjoyed the most recent issue because
of the letter from Yeoman Shanks. I remember him as an exceptionally capable Petty Officer
who served Captain Peterson very well as his writer.

A few years ago, I felt a need to form an organization linking Pharmacist Mates and Hospital Corpsmen who have served or are currently serving in the U. S. Navy. Our organization is named The American Association of Navy Hospital Corpsmen (AAONHC).

The purpose of this letter is two-fold, 1) to ask you to notify Pharmacist Mates/Corpsmen who served with your unit that we have our own organization and where to seek information about meetings and membership and 2) to invite your reunion group to consider a future meeting in Memphis, Little Rock or Hot Springs, Arkansas area.

Would you please place me on your mailing list to receive your newsletters and if space permits, tell your members about the American Association of Navy Hospital Corpsmen and reunion offer?

Mr. Joe B. Havens 6322 Northampton Dr. Memphis, TN 38134-3632



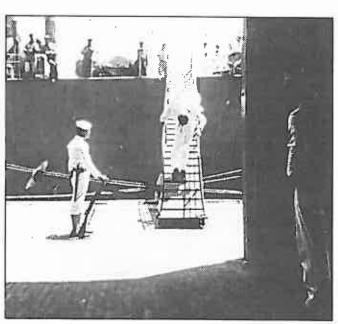
iom Tompkins 1964

Calvert- 1959. Only one identified in ball cap, Everett McGuire BM1

### **Many Thanks**

To the following persons who are helping with newsletter expences. Thank you very much....

Carl Talbert10.00
George Mackey25.00
Vincent Stewart10.00
Clayton Lyons25.00
Erick Sopp25.00
Manford Hanson20.00
R.W.Glasco25.00
Virginia Lund20.00
Stephen Shuster20.00
Floyd Milligan10.00
R.J.McClusky50.00
Harold Lee10.00
Richard Emminger50.00
Richard T. Ruel10.00
Cyrus Tompkins25.00
Robert McClellan25.00
John Paul Jones25.00
Jiggs Bowdoin10.00
Don Reader25.00
Joe Moffett10.00
Leslie Knight30.00



Liberty at Panama Canal. Sailor being helped aboard. June 1946



401 SOUTH MERIDIAN AVENUE . OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73108

CHECK-IN TIME 3:00 CHECK-OUT TIME 12:00 NC

Name of Meeting: USS CALVERT REUNI	ame of Meeting: USS CALVERT REUNION				
Name of Group: USS CALVERT REUNI	ARRIVAL DATE: 00 DEPARTURE DATE:				
Official Dates: 10/02-06/96					
Last day reservations may be	Number		PLEASE CHECK TYPE OF ROOM DESIRE		
accepted at special group rate: 9/19/96			SINGLE-1 PERSON		
PLEASE PRINT	Expiration <b>Date</b>		DOUBLE-2 PERSONS 56.00		
Name	Signature		TRIPLE-3 PERSONS 56.00		
Address	Check or Money	order enclosed	QUAD-4 PERSON	s	
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Firm:	Amount \$		ROLLAWAYBEDINROOM	EASE CALL THE HOTEL DIKE \$10.00 PER NIGHT, CRIBS-FR DREN 16 AND UNDER ARE FF	
Please Indicate: Home Business			IN SAME ROOM WITH PAI		
Phone #: ()	<u> </u>	PLEASE LIST NAMES OF THOS	E SHARING ROOM:		
SPECIAL REQUESTS:		1	Arrive	Depart	
		3.	Arrive		
in time is 3:00PM All reservation re reservations:  Please notify us if you require any st CALL: 405	Popular reservations as	FOR: 1996 USS CALVERT REU OCTOBER 3RD -5TH, 19 RADISSON INN OKC, O	days for confirmation of your  ONLY)  DETACH AND RETURN  NION 96		
Address			_		
CityState		ZIp			
WELCOME RECEPTION:		ALL EVENTS TOTAL PER PE	Door		
PRICE: \$15.00 NUMBER	TOTAL \$	PRIME RIB	KSON:		
PER PERSON	<del>_</del>	PER PERSON		83.00	
OKC TOUR: PRICE: \$36.00		GRILLED CHICKEN PER PERSON		78.00	
PER PERSON			TOTAL ALL		
BANQUET: PRICE:		MAIL TO:			
PRIME RIB \$32.00 PER PERSON		J. B. STOKER 1039 W. BRO			
GRILLED CHICKEN \$27.00 PER PERSON		ARDMORE, O			
TOTAL ALL		405-226-1650 405-223-2044	Day after 6:00 p.m.		



Picture taken in mid-50"s of Radiomen alongside Calvert. Man at far right is Gene Shaffer. Do you know the others?

## All Hands On Deck For Oklahoma City, OK.

## U.S.S. CALVERT

**National Crew Reunion** 

**EVENT:** 

1996 USS CALVERT REUNION

PLACE:

Radisson Inn

I-40 at South Meredian Oklahoma City, Ok 73108

DATES:

October 3rd - 5th, 1996

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Registration:

Date: Thursday, Oct 3, 1996

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Place: Hospitality Room- AM404

Welcome Reception: Cold Cut Buffet / Cash Bar

Date: Thursday, Oct, 3, 1996 Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Place: Cumberland/Shanadoah Rooms

Cost: \$15.00 Per Person

Buffet includes sliced ham, turkey, roast beef Potato salad, fresh fruit and melon salads, cheese, assorted breads, coffee, and tea.

Tour: Old and New Oklahoma City Tour

Date: Friday, Oct 4, 1996 Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Place: (See attached Copy) Cost: \$36,00 Per Person

Includes lunch at County Line Bar-B-Q.

Friday: Night Free

The Hospitality Room Open.

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

Lots of nice restaurants and night spots near hotel.

Saturday: October 5, 1996

Morning free for individual activities.

Business Meeting:

Date: Saturday, Oct, 5, 1996 Time: 3:00p.m.- 4:00p.m. Place: Quarter Horse Room

Memorial Service:

Date: Saturday, Oct, 5, 1996 Time: 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Place: Gazebo / Swimming Pool Area

Banquet:

Date: Saturday, Oct 5, 1996

Time: Visitation 6:30 p.m. / Dinner: 7:30 p.m.

Dance: After Dinner

Cost: Prime Rib \$32.00 or Grilled Chicken \$27.00

Cash Bar till midnight.

TOTAL FOR ALL THREE DAYS - ALL EVENTS

PRICE: Prime Rib- \$83.00 per person.
Grilled Chicken- \$75.00 per person.



#### **CALVERT ASSOCIATES**

506 Red Wing Ave. Kenyon, MN 55946

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

3rd CLASS PERMIT NO. 10



Indianilian dalah dalah dalah dalah STERLING FUNCK BM1 42 208 N ENOLA DR ENOLA PA 17025-2247



### WE MOURN THE PASSING OF THESE SHIPMATES

Hinton McClellen HM2 42-45 October 1942 Charles Francher CEM 42-45 February 26 1996 Shanks McEachern ETC 48-61 May 17 1987