

JAMES JOHN HENRY, JR.

I went through Subs School with Jim Henry in 1962. He was one of the brightest guys I ever met - a complete slash. During that time we both received orders to the USS THRESHER (SSN-593). For some reason - never known to me - my orders were changed just before we graduated from Sub School and I was sent instead to USS PERMIT (SSN-594). Jim, of course, went to THRESHER and was among those lost when the ship went down with all hands during sea trials in April 1963. I have often wondered what fate decided our assignments and have had a special place in my memories for Jim.

Dave Parkinson, 11th Co

In April 1963, I picked up a copy of the New York News and there on the front page was a picture of Jim Henry and Ron Babcock who were listed as officers of the ill-fated USS THRESHER. It seemed rather ironic as I reflected over the years past and my reflections of Jim. Jim Henry, Ron Babcock and I met in the summer of 1956 when we were on the "Sub Squad" together because we did not know how to swim. As Plebes, he and I were close friends. If we had a few precious free minutes on the weekend we would take in a movie together or go to see what was docked at the pier. I had a great love for submarines and never missed the opportunity to tour one. On more than one occasion, I asked Jim to go with me to visit on the subs, and he declined, saying that he did not really care for subs. I think it must have been Jim's great intellectual interest in physics that swayed him to volunteer for sub service.

*Anonymous, 4th Co
30th Year Book*