

NEWSLETTER

January 1996

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WM. "BUD" KAUTZ  
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Bowman/Richards Biographies  
Lowndes Lovelies Raffle Winners  
Comments - Eighth Reunion  
Deceased - 1995  
Seeking Shipmates  
Iwo Jima Addendum  
Roster - Notify me if any changes

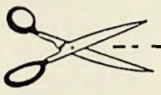
In the August 1995 News Letter Leo O'Brien posed the question of how many boats aboard the Lowndes can, at this date be named and the crews identified. Jack Hovey, Carmel Fesi, and Merrill Hart were members of Leo's LCVP. No. 12 LCVP Robert Lemmons - Coxswain, Orris A. Smith Signalman, Wm. Thomas - MoMM, Bow Hook - ?

GLENN W. FORGAY - San Dimas, CA - I would like to attend all the reunions, but don't think I can because of health problems. I was coxswain of LCVP 14 or 15 with Merrill Hart - Signalman, Martin Rezza - Deck Hand and Harry Ruether - MoMM. All good sailors and men. Harry was a good handyman sailor.

Is there anyone else able to jog their memories to help Leo out?

We still have a few U.S.S. Lowndes cookbooks available. All recipes have been submitted by crew members and their mates. \$7.00 postage included. Contact Bud Kautz.

Mike Michalski has a few hats for sale at a nominal cost of \$10.00 each. Prepaid.



CONTRIBUTION - 1996 U.S.S. LOWNDES REUNION GROUP

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE & ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSED IS MY CONTRIBUTION FOR: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

(Mail to Bud Kautz)

T A P S !

EDWARD BENSIE - Nov. 11, 1926 - Aug. 1995

Ed joined the Navy in 1944 at Johnstown, PA and left the Lowndes in 1946. He was a Pennsylvania coal miner until moving to Ohio where he worked as a foreman in a machine shop. He is survived by his wife, Agnes, 2 children and 1 grandchild. Agnes & Ed. would have been married 48 years on Aug. 30th.

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CLEMENT M. HOFFMAN - Passed away Feb. 18, 1995. His step-daughter writes that he loved the Navy more than life itself. Looked forward to the News Letters and talked about his 'ole' buddies quite frequently. Since he died I've been trying to go through all of his things, there are many items from his service days. Thank you for the Iwo Jima booklet.

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ROY E. ECHOLS - Feb. 21, 1995                      Arnold M. Matzen - May 23, 1995

HAYWOOD S. SMITH - July 26, 1995

LEE PETER DERUGA

HARVEY AYLER MCGOWAN

NORMAN WESLEY TREANOR

No further information - Condolences have been extended.

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MARLENE REZZA SCHADLER - Metairie, LA - I am the daughter of Martin J. Rezza and want to continue receiving the News Letters and any information regarding the Lowndes. I have purchased mugs, cookbooks and raffle tickets. We recently moved from our home of 33 years. In the process have come across a Small Treasure - a bottle filled with what looked like dirt that my father had given to me years ago. The label read "Reads Sands of Iwo Jima - Feb. 19, 1945" If anyone remembers my father I would love to hear from them.

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## BIOGRAPHIES

DONALD WILLIAM BOWMAN

Donald was born on February 13, 1919 in Horton, Kansas. His parents were William Franklin and Mabel Bowman. They lived in St. Joe, Missouri for four years before returning to western Kansas then moved to Pueblo, Colorado. He was 26 years old when he was KIA on Iwo Jima and held the rate as a Pharmacist First Class at that time. He was a member of the U.S.S. Lowndes Beach Party that hit the beach on the second day. Went to grade school in Horton, Kansas, Healy Middle School in Healy, Kansas and Central High in Pueblo, Colorado. He was also a very good whistler and had a tryout on radio one time for a contest. His favorite song was "Heartache". He was living in California and ran a boutique shop in Hollywood. He always hoped that some day he would become a doctor. Don used to love ice skating and often went horseback riding with his sister (Dorothy Haling) and shoot snakes in Kansas. Don was also interested in sport cars. Bill Haling (nephew) remembers Don coming home on leave to Pueblo in uniform. Mrs. Haling remembered that Don believed that if he couldn't say anything good about a person he just wouldn't say anything and she never heard anything to the contrary.

The above information supplied by Mrs. Dorothy Haling and Bill Haling.

## Note:

As a member of the Beach Party I had the privilege of assisting him in administering aid to the wounded and seeing that he showed no fear in performing his duties while under enemy fire.

Bud Kautz

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## NORMAN ROBERT RICHARDS

Norman was born on July 22, 1925 in Syracuse, Nebraska. He enlisted in the Navy August 1943 and entered the service October 8, 1943, he was only 18 years old when he left for his duty to his country. Word of his death came on March 10, 1945, word was slow then. Norman couldn't tell anyone where he was or going when he left the United States. He graduated from Syracuse Nebraska High School in May 1943. Had a paper route and also worked on a farm during the summer. Wallace (Norman's brother) relates a tale of the day when the 3 Richards brothers and neighborhood friends got into someone's watermelon patch. They tried to tie the watermelons on to the mules they were riding, with the leather halter straps. Didn't get out of the patch with a single watermelon, as there was no way to tie up 2 melons and try to balance them across the back of the mule. Many melons were broken in the attempt. (Don't think our parents ever knew about this Sunday afternoon affair).

The above information supplied by Mrs. Florence Richards and Wallace Richards.

NOTE: Donald & Norman were killed in action while performing their duties during the Iwo Jima campaign. A memorial plaque has been dedicated and placed in the Admiral Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas.

MRS. FLORENCE RICHARDS - Nebraska City, NE

So nice to meet Fred Brinkman and Bud in person. Everyone was so nice to us. When we left San Antonio we stopped in Burnet, Texas to Attend church. Stayed over night in Sherman, Texas and arrived home in Nebraska City at 8:30 PM Monday night, safe and sound. Wallace and Jackie stayed all night and left for Columbus Tuesday about noon. Weather was perfect all the while, so much to see and glad I was able to go to the reunion, see all the sights. Mike Michalski was so good to us. I was so stiff after riding. Thanks again. Keep sending the News Letters.

WALLACE & JACKIE RICHARDS - Columbus, NE -

Don't know how to say thank you LOUD ENOUGH for all of you at the reunion to hear how much we enjoyed our trip and stay with you. Mom just couldn't get over how nice all of you treated us. A special thank you to Mike and Jerry Michalski, Fred and Roberta Brinkman and Bud and Jean. We are sorry that we didn't go into San Antonio at the very first. We just didn't know how mom could handle a trip such as this. As it ended up, we participated in almost all activities anyway. I feel we made Mike a lot of extra work trying to accommodate us. Thanks again to all of you and "The Crew" for a wonderful time and memories we will not forget. God bless you all.

VIRGINIA DUNCAN - Nebraska City, NE - A big, thank you for all the News Letters that have been sent to us. Then for your invitation to join the USS Lowndes group in Texas. It was a memorable time as we met there at the Admiral Nimitz Museum to honor my brother (Norman Richards) and the two other men. I immensely enjoyed the trip and the tour to the LBJ ranch. It was a beautiful place. Having lived on a farm all but a few months of my married life I can see why President Johnson enjoyed the peace and serenity of the ranch. Some of the men came and told me how they respected Norman for his manner of life. One said Norman had given him a New Testament, another said he had dressed up for Norman. Fred Brinkman told how he had gone to church with Norman instead of to a place no Mother's son should go. Thank you again for the opportunity to be with all the wonderful people of the USS Lowndes. My parents put Norman in charge of me when we went to Drum & Bugle Corps. practice and were out after dark.

# Richards attend WWII reunion

Florence Richards, her daughter Virginia Duncan of Nebraska City, and son Wallace and his wife of Columbus went to Fredericksburg, Texas, to the 50th reunion of U.S.S. Lowndes APA 154 shipmates, who survived the Battle of Iwo Jima of W.W.II.

Only two boys lost their lives on this ship — Norman Richard, HA first class and Donald Bowman of Colorado.

Norman was the son of Florence and the late Stanley Richards. He helped rescue wounded and was killed the second day of the invasion.

At the 50th reunion a plaque was dedicated and unveiled in honor of their son.

The reunion was for four days and during that time they visited the LBJ Ranch, a day to San Antonio, Texas, a boat ride and trolley ride, and visited the Alamo.

There was a banquet and a program the last day. About 40 men and their wives were in attendance. Those who knew Norman spent time visiting with his mother.

One gentleman, Fred Brinkman, who has kept in touch with Norman's mother with letters and visits for 50 years was also in attendance.

The above article appeared in a local Nebraska City, NE newspaper.

SALLY CARY - Dalton, PA - I really enjoyed the reunion this year. Everything was fantastic. Our bus drivers were great and really informative. Also the other guides. My sister Becky Esola said she enjoyed herself and couldn't get over how everyone got along so well together. Said we were like one big happy family. I enjoyed helping out as did Becky. She said it was like being part of the Lowndes group. It took me a few days to get back to normal. I'm glad that dates for the next year's reunion have been set. It gives me more time to do another afghan.

The winners of the Lowndes Lovelies raffle are as follows:

- \* 1st. prize Afghan - Don & Joan Macpherson
  - 2nd. prize \$150.00 - Bud & Jean Kautz
  - 3rd. prize \$ 50.00 - John & Lebby Dyer
- Additional prizes:
- \*\* Flag picture - Jack & Evelyn Hovey
  - \*\* Navy watch - Charles Perdue
  - Navy clock - Walt & Jackie Umbarger
  - Iwo Jima clock - Earl Robertson
  - \*\*\* Special coin - Don & Joan Macpherson
  - \*\*\*\* Extended stay in Myrtle Beach - Clark Martin
- \* Sally Cary's handiwork \*\* Donated by Mike Michalski
- \*\*\*\* Compliments of Fred Brinkman

\*\* ATTENDEES AT 1995 REUNION IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS \*\*

Fred & Roberta Brinkman	John & Julia Jurica	Leo & Margaret O'Brien
Sally Cary & Becky Esola	Bud & Jean Kautz	Charles & Joyce Perdue
Howard & Lois Chappell	David & Joanne Long	Warren & Albena Proctor
James Chilcote	Don & Shirley Lorenzi	Arthur & Marjorie Rauseo
& Margaret McGrody	Don & Joan Macpherson	Mrs. Florence Richards
Pete & Ercila Cisneros	Clark Martin	Wally & Jackie Richards
James Davenport	Edwin McKellar	Earl & Frances Robertson
Orbie & Murrah Dickson	& Lora Moore	Joel & Mary Rodriguez
Stan Dunn	Mike & Jerry Michalski	James & Ina Ross
John & Lebby Dyer	Renee Michalski	Clifford & Mary Schaffer
Joe & Betty Erlandson	Francis & Frances Miller	Dallas & Lorene Stratton
Carmel J.F. & Evelyn Fesi	Don & Bonnie Moore	Bill & Amelia Taylor
James & Margaret Frieden	Roland & Becky Moore	George & Glenda Tuppan
Richard & Blanche Garza	Eileen Murray	Walt & Jackie Umbarger
Bill & Judy Haling	Nick & Joyce Natysyn	Dan Wisdom
Alonzo & Oniece Hodgson	Jack Nicholson	June Zinkgraf
Jack & Evelyn Hovey	& Helen Butler	& Vicky Duck
Dick Jones		
& Roseanna Pohl		

STATES REPRESENTED AT USS LOWNDES REUNION IN SAN ANTONIO

California	Illinois	Minnesota	South Carolina
Colorado	Indiana	Missouri	Texas
Florida	Louisiana	New York	Utah
Hawaii	Massachusetts	Pennsylvania	Virginia
Idaho			

Guess which state had the most shipmates in attendance? TEXAS (10)

CLIFF & MARY SCHAFFER - Limeport, PA - We want to thank Mike, Jerry and Renee Michalski for the wonderful job they did in making arrangements for the USS Lowndes reunion in San Antonio, Texas. Everything went along very smoothly. We enjoyed the tours of the city and LBJ's ranch. The boat ride through the city was interesting, The dedication of the plaque honoring Donald Bowman and Norman Richards was touching and our thanks to the USS Lowndes shipmates for allowing us to dedicate a plaque in honor of John Natysyn, Mary's brother. We stayed in San Antonio for a couple of more days and took in the River Walk in the evening, it looked real nice all lit up. Also had dinner in the revolving dining room atop the Tower of the Americas. The view was fantastic as were the steaks we had.

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GEORGE & GLENDA TUPPAN - LaHabra Heights, CA - Mike, Jerry and Renee did show us Texas hospitality. We wish to thank them for the wonderful hosting of our seventh annual reunion in San Antonio. Their planning of the two days of sight seeing shows that a lot of thought was given to these events. This I believe is the first time a whole family, father, mother and daughter all worked together to make our stay one to remember. A special thanks to Jerry for getting us on the river ride after missing the first one. She saw that all of us had good time and were on time. Going home on the plane a thought came to me and I started thinking back. Everyone who had hosted previous reunions was at our seventh reunion. Maybe this is some kind of a record, at least for ours. The Iwo Jima stamp pin was very much appreciated, it was one of the many highlights we enjoyed. It was wonderful that families of our shipmates could attend, especially a mother of 95 seeing her son honored.

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CARMEL & EVELYN FESI - Houma, LA - We had a great time at the reunion. It was so good to see all the USS Lowndes shipmates. Mike, Jerry and Renee Michalski: Thanks for your all-out efforts. You did a great job and made the reunion a big hit. We appreciated the special effort you made for Evelyn's diet. Thank you again for a wonderful time. Jack and Evelyn Hovey: Thanks for all the help at the airport with our luggage after our 3:00 PM flight on Continental was canceled and we were put on a 5:00 PM flight on Southwest. We arrived in New Orleans at 7:10 PM and pulled into Houma about 9:00 PM. We think about how we enjoyed being with all of the crew members that the problem we had at the airport can easily be forgotten. This was a great reunion. God willing, we will meet again at Myrtle Beach in 1996.

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JIM & MAGGIE FRIEDEN - Silver Lake, IN - Want to thank you Mike, Jerry for all you did for the ship's reunion. We sure enjoyed everything and could tell that you put a lot of work into it. You have a very gracious and sweet daughter and would have liked to visit with her more, but she was so busy keeping things organized. We should have stayed in San Antonio Sunday, got to the airport and our plane was to leave at 5:41 PM and the 3:00 PM plane had mechanical problems, by the time they got all of those people taken care of we had to get to Indianapolis via Houston, but that plane left before we got there. We were put up at a Holiday Inn, given supper and breakfast. Didn't get home to Silver Lake until almost 4:00 PM. But we would do it all over again. Thanks again! Guess everyone got home okay. Hope our paths cross again.

DONALD LORENZI - Des Plaines, IL - I'd like to put together a video tape covering all our reunions. Jim Frieden sent me what he had (Duluth, MN, Fort Wayne, IN and Harrisburg, PA). I'll put his together with mine (San Antonio, TX) and what other videos I can get, hopefully (St. Louis, MO and Boston, MA) and make the combined tape available to the crew at our next reunion. I will make copies and return the originals. Shirley and I Really enjoyed San Antonio - looking forward to Myrtle Beach.

Note: This can be a worthwhile venture Don is willing to undertake. Let's help him in this endeavor.

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FRANCIS MILLER - Kearns, UT - First of all Frances and I really enjoyed the reunion in San Antonio, we met the nicest people to be with. Received the cook book and the USS Lowndes history booklet. Thank you, Jean, for going the extra mile and getting the beef jerky at the mall for Frances. Received photos from the San Antonio reunion and we look a year older than we did in San Diego. Looked up Harley Workman in Salt Lake City and gave him hell for not making the reunion. Had a nice visit with him. Found out that he lived on the next street over from where we lived. Never knew that we were shipmates on the Lowndes until we saw our names and addresses on the roster list. Small world. The Texas reunion was great. Connie, Jerry and their daughter did a wonderful job. We honestly can not say which part of the reunion we enjoyed the most because it was all so good. Enjoyed the S.O.S. so much at the reunion that Frances makes it for breakfast at home. The name tags with home towns on them helped identify our shipmates. On the flight home on Delta airline we were ready to take off when the pilot announced that the flight to Salt Lake City was on hold due to a fire in the control tower at S.L.C. We sat on the plane in Texas for an hour 'till they cleared us for take off. Guess S.L.C. is a hot town. Looking forward to seeing all next year.

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LEO O'BRIEN - Malden, MA - It was a nice reunion and always a pleasure to see old friends again. Hope to see them in Myrtle Beach in 1996.

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JOHN & LEBBY DYER - Jupiter, FL - Want to thank Mike and Jerry for such a nice time in Texas. It was great. Were in Indiana for only 6 days before we started south. Stayed in the Smoky Mountains for 4 days. We are looking forward to next year in Myrtle Beach. Maybe we will have a chance to see a little more of each other.

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JACK B. HOVEY - Pasadena, CA - Things have finally shaped up, it's been hectic ever since we got home from the reunion. Want to give my thanks and a medal of commendation to the wonderful host and hostess, Mike and Jerry. Evelyn and myself enjoyed every minute of each day we were in San Antonio. We flew coach to Texas, but it was first class from the time we landed until we took off for California. To say thank you to the Michalski's doesn't seem enough, but I'm sure they will understand how we feel. And how do you say thank you to Sally Cary? Found some pictures in my camera when I got home. There's some very nice people in them that we met in San Antonio. I have so many letters to write to our shipmates to thank them for being in Texas.

JACK HOVEY (Cont'd) Received my most welcomed hand painted signal flag prize. It was so kind of you wonderful friends to do this for me and I sincerely appreciate it. It arrived in perfect shape. Our stay in Texas will always stay in a special place in our hearts forever. Mike, your itinerary was second to nothing we have ever been involved in, your continued Go, Go, Go was outstanding. Evelyn and myself feel the accommodations and continental breakfast every morning was excellent, the River Walk, Imax, LBJ ranch, farmer's market excursions were top drawer. The Nimitz Museum and the relatives of our two outstanding shipmates was both sad and inspiring. Thank you dear people for a wonderful reunion and I pray we are all together in South Carolina.

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JAMES J. BORN - Agoura Hills, CA - I am sorry we couldn't make it to the reunion this time. We had planned to go to San Antonio for my Submarine Division reunion (Sept. 18th thru 22nd) and stay over until the Lowndes reunion but things just didn't work out that way. Too many grandchildren (4) born this year. Then we got word that our daughter wanted to get married on our 51st anniversary (July 1st). She felt that day would also be lucky for her. Plus - our grand daughter informed us that she is getting married on October 8th. Please let us know when and where the next reunion will be.

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ALAN S. RUSSELL - 4 Napier Rd. Andover, MA 01810 - My dad was assigned to J. Shelton Scales' unit, the 3rd battalion of the 23rd Marines. He was aboard the Lowndes from Dec. 31, 1944 until the landing on Iwo. Dad died in 1991 and I have recently begun to look into his experiences on Iwo Jima. I would very much like to hear from any crew members who may have known my dad and also what it was like being aboard ship heading into battle. Please write or call if you can. (508)470-4712.

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CARMEL J. F. FESI - Houma, LA - Something that happened to me on the Lowndes, can't remember if it was at Okinawa or Saipan. I had to board the ship from an L.C.V.P. The ship was at anchor but the sea was rough. There was a chain ladder hanging over the side about at No. 4 hatch I think. Hovey was running the boat, I caught the ladder and started climbing up and got up high enough to catch the rail of the ship, what I didn't know was my right index finger was under the chain of the ladder when a big swell came up and the ladder got hung on a cleat on the boat and when the boat came down it broke the chain ladder one step below the one I was on. I pulled myself over the rail and onto the deck, looked at my finger and both ends of the broken bone with a little bit of flesh holding it on. I carried this finger and hand in my left hand and went to sick bay but couldn't find anyone there, it was evening chow. I went to the officers wardroom and said I hurt my finger, two of the doctors jumped up and carried me to sick bay. Heard one of the doctors say, "I think we should finish cutting it off". I thought they were talking about my shirt sleeve but it was my finger they were talking about. I had a shot of morphine, after that I didn't care if they cut my head off. They managed to save my finger but as expected it is still stiff in the middle joint.

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USS Cole DD-155  
 USS Hovey DMS-11 7 DD2-08  
 USS Murray DD/DDE-576

Why are products transported by car called a "shipment" and products transported by ship called "cargo"?



Thanks to Stan Dunn, he came through as always to grace our hospitality room with colorful flowers. You're a good kid, Stan.

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Let it be known that there were enough contributors to the Bowman/Richards Memorial fund to cover all expenses incurred in the dedication of the plaque and the Bowman/Richards family to attend the dedication and reunion. At the Harrisburg, PA reunion a motion was proffered and accepted that \$500.00 from the general fund would be available for this project. I'm happy to report that it was not necessary to take advantage of this money.

Would also extend a special thanks to several anonymous benefactors who unselfishly contributed to our successful reunion in San Antonio. They have requested to remain unheralded and we will honor that request. As difficult as it may be to do so.

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Sure glad that the U.S.S. Lowndes 1996 reunion will be held in South Carolina and not at the South Pole where the ice is 1½ miles thick and the weather there isn't so hot either.

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Regarding the reunion at Myrtle Beach any suggestions can be forwarded to Fred & Roberta Brinkman. Sure they will appreciate 'em. There is a theater near the hotel, Cane Patch Golf Course (short 9 holer) is three blocks away. Jean is not an avid golfer but did enjoy playing it. Opry House, Dixie Stampede (not familiar with it but Fred will supply details of the activities and sights to tour.

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While on the subject of activities, was anyone aware that Mary Schaffer has the distinction of being a terrific "One Arm Player" (slots)? Our very reliable snitch has so informed us.

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JACK W. LAIRD - Valparaiso, IN - I talked to Bill Davis a couple of times recently. Marilyn and I took a motor home trip to Florida last February to visit two brothers. While in Florida we contacted Gordon Buck in Palm Springs. He and his wife met us in Okeechobee and we had a very enjoyable visit. After 50 years we both agreed that we hadn't changed a lot!! After we got home, we called Bill Davis and his wife. They came over for coffee and. We had a very good time visiting. Bill has many photos that we enjoyed. We had one problem though. Bill is still trying to figure out how Peg and I got to be as old as we are and we don't like to fish. We missed the San Antonio reunion - medical matters (all non-"life threatening")

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We have another request for information from Kathy Krieg RR 1, Box 131B - Colesburg, IA 52035. My father and I attended the 50th Anniversary Tour of Iwo Jima and met Retired Col. Shelton Scales. My father, Elmer Rome, served with the 133rd SeaBees Battalion and was on the U.S.S. Lowndes - APA 154. He lost all of his photos, etc. he had from the war in a fire several years ago. Shelton thought that possibly crew members of the ship could send me some information regarding the reunion group. Would like to pass this information to two of his buddies that served with him.

At the business during the USS Lowndes reunion in San Antonio it was determined that the eighth Annual Reunion be held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on October 17th through 20th, 1996. Fred and Roberta Brinkman will host this get together. The Myrtle Beach Martinique Hotel will be the headquarters for this event. The room rate will be \$57.00 plus tax. All the rooms and efficiency units are oceanfront. Final details will be included in future News Letters as they become available. Mark your calendars now.

NOW HEAR THIS!

We are on the lookout for some energetic souls among our shipmates to consider hosting the Ninth Reunion in 1997. Location of their choice.

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FRED & ROBERTA BRINKMAN - Columbia, SC - We enjoyed attending the USS Lowndes Reunion at San Antonio and the ceremony at Fredericksburg in memory of the 50th Anniversary of the battle of Iwo Jima. Congratulations to Mike, Jerry and Renee for an outstanding and memorable USS Lowndes reunion. We appreciated the fine hospitality as well as the accommodations, functions, activities and tours of the interesting sites of the area you arranged to make this a most successful Reunion. Was pleased that Mrs. Florence Richards and her family members as well as Bill Haling and his wife could participate in the ceremony at Fredericksburg and other reunion activities in San Antonio.

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THE SEVENTH ANNUAL U.S.S. LOWNDES APA-154 REUNION

The weather in San Antonio and Fredericksburg, Texas was beautifulcool and crisp - but just warm enough to be enjoyable. Most everything went on schedule as planned, for all the activities - although some of the participants may have liked to have slept in a little later. When it came time for the banquet - the Mexican theme with the festive table cloths of different colors and a multi colored pinata perched on a serape in the middle of each table made a statement as to the area we were in. Basically, the Mexican people are happy and like to celebrate. However, the chicken and beef fajitas that the caterer served left a lot to be desired - besides, most of the dinner was barely warm - which was a big disappointment. We were striving to offer a taste of things that a lot of you may not have tried. We're sorry it didn't work! All I can say now is - if you have the opportunity to try fajitas again - try 'em! By the way - our contact that helped us make arrangements did have a super caterer recommended that we were going to use for our banquet - but at one of the meetings with the staff of the hotel informed me that I had to use the caterer that was approved by their organization. Other than this one occasion the Inn worked with me on all my requests and were very co-operative. We hope you found them that way too. My other disappointment was that time just didn't permit me to visit with all of you, as I would have liked to. In fact, there were some of you I never met. So - if you'll give me a second chance - I have a solution. Meet me in Myrtle Beach, SC next October at the reunion. We - Jerry, Renee and myself really appreciated all the great thank you cards and comments. Gratefully yours.

Mike Michalski

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BILL & AMELIA TAYLOR - Elizabethtown, PA - We enjoyed the reunion very much. Mike and Jerry did a great job in getting it all together. Our trip home from Texas was fine in every way.

(No Bill, I don't see Pochahontas on Hiawatha Trail)

HOWARD CHAPPELL - Wampum, PA & Plant City, FL - Sorry I didn't write sooner. Lois and I have been sick ever since coming home from San Antonio. We were home for about a week when our troubles started. I had to go into the hospital for surgery on my right leg, this is 3rd operation for a clogged artery on this leg. Operation went fine but awful slow healing up. Had to cut though lots of scar tissue. Everything appears OK now, but it's a slow process getting back into shape. Deer season is open in Pennsylvania, but I'm not up to hunting as yet. Tried for a few hours but just couldn't do it. Can't ever remember missing deer hunting since leaving the service. Lois has been having problems with her back. doctors say she has spinal syndrome and not much they can do for it. She goes for therapy 3 times a week, feels a little better. We had a great time in Texas even though we were hurting, just wish we could have stayed longer. Really enjoyed it. Also appreciated the hospitality of Mike, Jerry & daughter. Lord willing, we're going to Myrtle Beach for a full week next October. Thanks, Bud, for the photographs. Notice how photogenic the Pennsylvania gang is? Yes Howard I know what a great wife I have.

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WALT UMBARGER - Greenwood, IN & Naples, FL - Thanks for the pictures. The dates we are in Florida this year, October 15th thru April ?? We flew home for the holidays. Sure had a nice time in San Antonio. One of the best, we think, except for the banquet dinner. Our intentions for Myrtle Beach, continue to Florida after the reunion. Looks great.

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I have to stick my two cents in regarding the reunion in San Antonio. Jean and I want to compliment Mike, Jerry & Renee in the very efficient way that all the activities were handled for the Lowndes motley crew. I'm sure I can vouch for all who attended our seventh reunion that it was a great success. The dedication was long overdue and meeting and talking to the representatives of the Donald Bowman and Norman Richards families was, indeed a pleasure. Mike sure pulled a big surprise on me at the Admiral Nimitz museum - he had arranged, without my knowledge, to have Elmer Childress, a shipmate that I stood watch with in No. 1 fireroom on the U.S.S. Reid - DD369 (Destroyer) before boarding the Lowndes. Sure was an added highlight to experience in Fredericksburg. Thank you Mike. Looking forward to Myrtle Beach. Fred Brinkman is already hard at work getting it all in order.

*Bud*

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Had a phone call from Cliff Schaffer yesterday (1/11/96). They had 8 to 10" of snow on the ground and 30" more fell with expectation of 12 to 14" more on the 12th. Said all they can do is drink coffee, look out the window and make love.

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Received the following notices today:

Searching for family members of all Iwo Jima (living and deceased) that would be interested in a National Iwo Family Group. For more information Contact:

Iwo Jima Survivors Association of Texas  
 (A National Organization)  
 P. O. Box 1657  
 Bowie, Texas 76230

ADAMS, Sid M.	COWAN, Jesse D.	HADLOCK, James L.	LAWSON, Moyle	NELSON, John S.	ROOD, Herbert	STRODE, Dale
ALBERS, F. K.		HALL, Ivan L.	LAZENBY, Maurice D.	NISCO, Wm. L.	ROSEN, Phillip	STRUTTS, Hollis J.
ALBERT, Fremont E.	DALTON, Jack R.	HALL, Nelson D.	LEET, Robt. L.	NORTON, Wm. H.	ROSENBAUM, Geo. W.	SWAIN, Lester N.
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