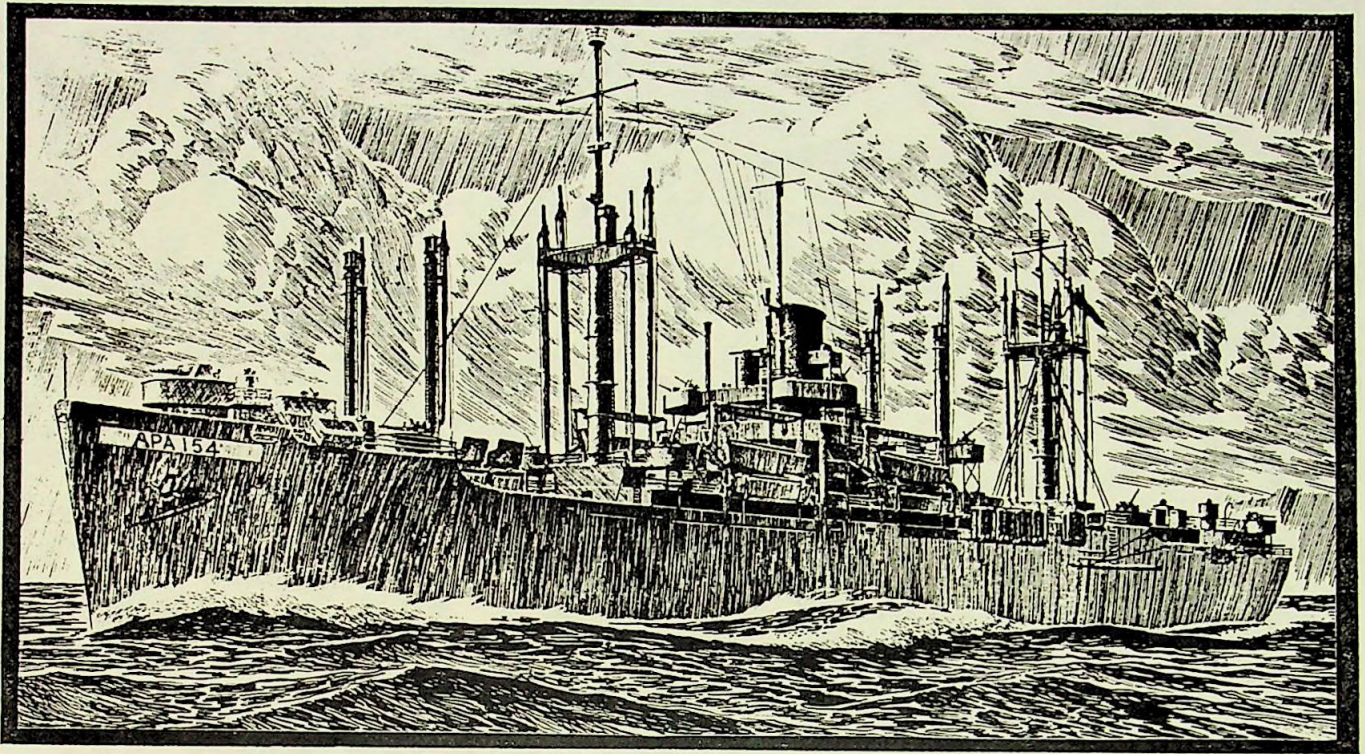


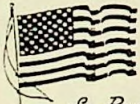
# USS LOWNDES APA-154



Vol. 4 No. 2

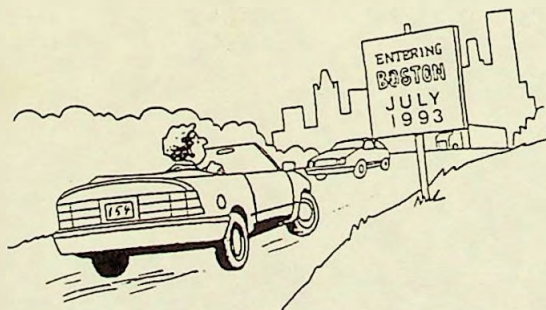
MARCH 1993

BUD KAUTZ EDITOR

 USS LOWNDES - APA 154  
Wm. "Bud" Kautz  
34782 Hawatha Trail  
McHenry, IL 60050

*So Proudly  
We Sail*

## FIRST CLASS



REPORT ON THE BENSIE'S TOUR OF AUSTRALIA

(1) Now for fun! We left for "Down Under" on Aug. 12th. Took 28 hours total before we arrived in Cairns (pronounced Cannes). Weather tropical 80's. Spent 4 days there. Had an opportunity to see the Aborigines, took the special railway up to & visited a butterfly sanctuary where we saw royal blue butterflies, saw the marble mines, shopped, I cuddled a live Koala Bear. Also went to Great Barrier Reef.

(2) Went to Sidney where we spent 4 days. Weather sunny & in 60's. Saw the famous Opera House, cruised Sidney Harbor, visited Canberra, the capital & saw kangaroos in the wild.

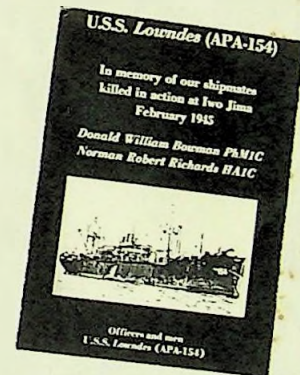
(3) Weather mixed & in the 50's. Melbourne for 3 days, toured the city. Saw the famous fairy penguins come out of the ocean at dusk by the thousands.

(4) Weather rainy & in high 40's & 50's. Flew to Auckland, New Zealand for 4 days. Went to Rototuna, saw a lot of air geysers, visited a Kiwi farm & had a steak barbecue, went to a sheep ranch & saw them shear sheep, watched a sheep dog do his thing.

I'm sure I've forgotten many things about the trip, it was positively wonderful. We'd like to go back in a couple of years & visit the other side of Australia. The people were the friendliest we have ever met & the huge buffets we had were delicious. Thank goodness for cam-corders! It took us 42 hours, with delays, before arriving home. Our plane almost ditched in Lake Erie on our last lap from Chicago so we had to return to Chi. & get another plane. All in all the trip wasn't as exhausting as we expected.

John Jurica - Got a 4 point buck last year, do you suppose between he and Dallas Stratton they could furnish venison steak at the next reunion? Can't count on Cliff Schaffer- He watched a 10 point buck roam the fields behind his house all fall and was ready for him come huntin' season - BUT - no luck, that's when the buck got smart and disappeared. Too bad Cliff, you could have help from John & Dallas. He also reports talking to Erle Niemi and being informed that all going as it has he may attend the Boston reunion. Cliff still has souvenir cups available as I have cookbooks.

Thanks to Connie & Jerry Michalski for the photo of the Bowman/Richards Memorial Plaque that has been placed on the wall of the Admiral Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas awaiting the dedication ceremony. Dan Wisdom has offered to donate the pennant that flew over the Lowndes, it will be incorporated in the dedication. Date has not been determined at this writing. There will be notification in a future News Letter.



Anyone having group photos of the Lowndes Lovelies & Uglies and need captions. Please let me know and I'll send one to you.

Frank Wanits - It appears we missed a nice reunion in Harrisburg, but it looks as if the way is clear to go to the next one. We moved into our new home December 1991 and did some work on it the 1st 7 months of '92 & finally received our Certificate of Occupancy.

WARREN PROCTOR - Was good to receive all the information. Really enjoy it. Wish I could make one of the reunions. I was in the amphibious group in charge of 1 of the LCMs. There were 2, Ricks was in charge of the other. We hauled all of the supplies and men on R & R, what little we had. The News Letters bring back a lot of memories. 75 years old last November, retired and enjoying life.

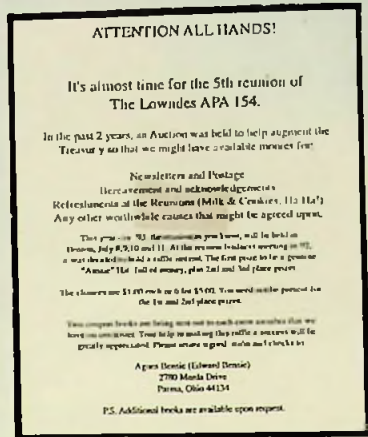
By this time, the raffle books have been mailed to all the Lowndes shipmates on our mailing list. Let's all get behind this Lowndes Lovelies endeavor and make it a success. Agnes Bensie (probably had some help from her shipmate, Ed) has worked her tail off on this venture. We won't let you down Agnes. So com'on fellows, get those stubs and checks in the mail.

Listen- You can't learn when you're talking.

George Tuppan - Most citizens know something about the Pacific island, Iwo Jima, but few know are aware that it has risen 25 feet since 1945 and has been pushing up about a foot a year lately. It sits atop an old volcano that hasn't shivered in 2,500 years, but it could blow again according to watchers who make a study of these conditions.

I appreciate all the news items received from shipmates. Keep it coming, it is welcome and will be used.

What did the ocean say to the ship?  
Nothing it just waved.



\*\*\*\*\*

FINANCIAL STATEMENT - DEC. 31, 1992

Balance July 31, 1992		\$2070.98
Income		
Contributions - Aug.- Dec. 1992	\$100.00	
Interest	28.88	
Bowman/Richards Memorial Fund	30.00	
Cookbooks	56.00	
Autobiographies	6.00	\$220.88
		<hr/>
		\$2291.86
Expenses		
Printing	\$243.52	
Postage	197.82	
Ship Photos	7.50	
Printing supplies	31.27	
Raffle Tickets & Prizes	91.46	\$571.57
Another error - Aug. 15 WD		.10
		<hr/>
Savings Account Balance - Dec. 31, 1992		\$1720.39

Number of contributors July thru Dec. (13 - less than 10% of Shipmates). This figure includes sale of cookbooks, souvenir cups & memorials.

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After a \$6,000,000.00 study, government experts determined that the cities with the largest population, are those with the most people.

TAPS

Day is done, gone the sun  
from the lake, from the hill  
from the sky.  
All is well, safely rest. God is nigh.

Thanks and praise for our days  
'neath the sun, 'neath the stars.  
'neath the sky.  
As we go, this we know. God is nigh.

GENE ENGLE (SHELBYVILLE, MO)

Gene died on January 4, 1993. He was born August 26, 1925. Served as mayor of Shelbyville, MO for 26 years. Joined the Navy May 1943 and was discharged in April 1946. Married Virgie November 1947. (Virgie's hobby is writing poetry, she composed the poem for our first reunion book in St. Louis). Gene had just returned from a visit with his family when he suffered a massive heart attack.

As a civilian he owned and operated several automobile agencies in Shelbyville and Macon, MO. Survived by his wife, 2 children and 2 grandchildren.

BILLY H. PIERCY (LUBBOCK, TX)

Billy passed away January 1993. He graduated from Texas Tech University and was a member of Delta Sigma Pi fraternity. Married Jackie October 1949. He was a 32nd degree Mason, Shriner & past president of the Lubbock Soil and Water Conservation District, where he was the 1979 Outstanding Conservation Farmer of the Year. He also held a private pilot's license. Survivors include his wife, 2 sons, 2 daughters and 5 grandchildren. The family suggests memorials sent to American Cancer Society or Hospice of Lubbock.

ROY D. COLLINS (NAMPA, ID)

Roy passed away on November 28, 1992. No information available.

SAMUEL KRAUSE - Dan Wisdom talked to Sam's son (David) and was informed that Sam passed away some time ago. He was a member of the amphibious group aboard the Lowndes. No other information available.

WESLEY E. FOLLETT (OCONTO, WI) - Fred Brinkman has received the following information from Joanne M. Derry, daughter of Wesley. The first part of May our dad went to Milwaukee Veteran's Hospital. My sister, Nancy and I stayed with him for the 2 weeks he was there. He went through so many hard tests, even after knowing it was cancer. My brother Wes, Nancy and I took care of dad at his house up until the last 17 hours of his life. Dad died at 6:50 on August 20th in the Marinette Bay Area Hospital. Wes was a PhM in the Beach Party.

DOROTHY HALING - Sorry I haven't written sooner, but was in the hospital and didn't do much. Have had real bad weather here in Pueblo, CO lately. Had a nice card from Bud & Jean. Also enjoy receiving the News Letters. You will never know how much it has meant to know about Don and I can't thank you enough. (Note: Dorothy always had doubts about the circumstances surrounding her brother's (Don Bowman) death on Iwo Jima.

CHANGES & ADDITIONS TO ROSTER

We have recently located shipmates, sometimes in a very odd way.

**Jim Davenport** - I spent 10 days in the hospital (double hernia). Got to talking to the fellow sharing my room about the Navy and he asked me what ship I served on, when I told him the **USS LOWNDES - APA 154** he had an odd look on his face, that was the ship he was on, in the boat gang. **Richard C. Garza**. Small world, eh what?

**Richard C. Garza S1c**  
P. O. Box 521  
Somerset, TX 78069  
(512)429-3557

**Lyman W. Nedeau CMM**  
R. R. 2 Box 2587  
Baldwin, MI 49304  
(616)745-3874

**David Krause (Sam's son)**  
3816 Cherry Brook Dr.  
Randallstown, MD 21133  
(410)922-3882

Oct. to May  
Winter Address  
20 Oregon Trail  
Naples, FL 33962  
(813)793-1218

Shipmates & Spouses with intentions of attending the 5th USS Lowndes Reunion:

**Stanley Dunn** has the honor of being the first one to register with Leo and the Park Plaza hotel.

**Fred & Roberta Brinkman**  
**Sally Cary & Son Robert**  
**ztuak naeJ & duB**  
**Henry & Dolores McNamee**  
**Connie & Jerry Michalski**  
**Leo & Margaret O'Brien**

**Art & Marjorie Rauseo**  
**Cliff & Mary Schaffer**  
**Bill & Amelia Taylor**  
**Geo. & Glenda Tuppan**  
**John & Sally Vernale**



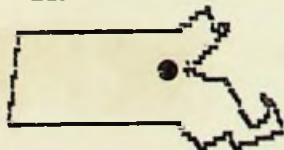
Anyone out there in these **United States** planning on making the long trek to **Boston**, please notify **Leo** by sending a letter, post card or a short note wrapped around a rock and heaved through his second floor bedroom window. It will help the committee formulate plans for a pleasant and enjoyable visit.

Enjoyable visit? Yes, **Jean & I** had one with **Fred & Roberta Brinkman** at **Myrtle Beach, SC**. **Fred & Roberta** helped us celebrate our (?) anniversary the latter part of February. **John & Sally Vernale** were scheduled to meet with us but **Sally** had surgery in February and their plans had to be changed. Last report from **John** is that **Sally** is coming along just fine. **John** thought he had a patsy lined up for golf. Boy! He doesn't know how lucky I was that he didn't show up.

This weekend was afforded us through the generosity of **Fred**. A donation will be made to the **Bowman/Richards Memorial Fund**.

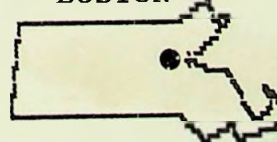
I wonder if the **O'Breins** know that the name of **Boston** originally was **Trimountane**?

TRIMOUNTANE



OR

BOSTON



THE FOLLOWING REPRODUCTION OF AN ARTICLE PRECEEDING OUR HARRISBURG REUNION  
 APPEARING IN THE INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL, LANCASTER, PA  
 WILL BRING NON-ATTENDEES UP TO DATE ON THE BEGINNING OF OUR REUNIONS &  
 A BIT OF HISTORY OF THE USS LOWNDES - APA 154 DURING THE INVASION OF IWO JIMA

B-4 THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 1992 \* \* \*

LANCASTER COUNTY CITY/WEST ZONE NEWS

INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL, LANCASTER, PA.

## E-town man steers reunion for WWII crew of Navy transport

### Iwo Jima, Okinawa battle tales recalled

Susan Grubb Roof  
Intelligencer Journal Correspondent

Navy veteran William Taylor recalled seeing bursts of flames and feeling concern for American soldiers taking Iwo Jima and Okinawa from the Japanese during World War II.

Now a resident of Elizabethtown, Taylor, 69, will host the

crew with ties to the USS Lowndes (APA 154), an attack transport ship that carried troops into battle during World War II.

Taylor said he expects more than 50 of his former mates to attend the crew's fourth annual reunion, a four-day event starting at the Harrisburg Marriot on Thursday, June 25.

While aboard the Lowndes, Taylor worked in the engine room as a machinist mate second class. His served in the Navy

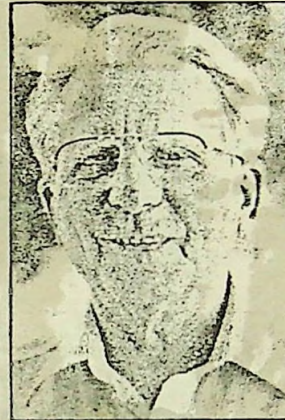
from March 1943 to March 1945. He moved to Lancaster County in 1964, when he was employed as a manufacturing engineer at the AMP plant in Elizabethtown.

Recalling his view of World War II, Taylor said, "I saw flame throwers throwing flames into caves where the Japanese were holed up. You couldn't see the men, but saw the puffs of flame and knew what was going on. You also wondered about the men you had on board just 24 hours ago — whether they were making it or not."

Taylor said he felt relatively safe on the ship, even with kamikazes overhead, because he felt the planes would go after tankers rather than a ship that already had discharged its troops.

Before battle, he said, he remembered some troops gambling for high stakes, others in Bible study groups — and loners. "The ship crew pretty much respected these guy's privacy. You didn't poke your nose in on them," he said.

Manned by a crew of 600, the Lowndes could transport at least 1,400 troops and their equipment. During her service, the ship received two battle stars and sailed from Sept. 14, 1944, to April 17, 1946. It was sold in Spain for scrap on Jan. 16, 1984.



WILLIAM TAYLOR

Next year's reunion will be held in the Boston area. Past reunions were held in St. Louis, Mo.; Duluth, Minn.; and Fort Wayne, Ind.

Prior to the first reunion in 1989, Taylor had seen only two of his former crew members in more than 40 years.

"The thing that was really surprising and amusing was people that I remembered vividly did

not even remember me, and people I didn't remember would come up and talk about what a good time we had," Taylor said.

After talking with each other, Taylor and other crewmembers gradually recalled each other and the times on ship. Taylor's wife, Amelia, added that the women who were married at the time enjoyed sharing stories about how they coped when their men were in the service. (The Taylors were not married at the time.)

Taylor gave credit for starting the reunions to honorary crewmember Dan Wisdom, of Terrell, Texas, a son-in-law of the late Gordon Russell Holley, of Jefferson, Texas.

Holley, who was a coxswain and drove a landing craft, frequently talked to Wisdom about his times on board and how proud he was of the ship and crew and

their war record. Holley had a fatal heart attack in 1984.

"He had been telling me all these stories about the landings he made in Iwo Jima and in Okinawa and how bad they were," Wisdom said. "I didn't really pay much attention when he was alive, but later got interested and wondered if any of these fellows were still alive. I originally didn't have any idea of a reunion, I just wanted to get in touch with some of these guys who knew my father-in-law, learn a little about the ship and find out what happened to the ship."

Wisdom said he thinks ships like the USS Lowndes no longer exist. "Those fellows that were on that ship are a special breed, an elite group. I've really enjoyed doing this and have made a lot of good friends through these fellows."

Just received word from Agnes Bensie with the latest on the Lowndes Lovelies raffle. there have been 49 responses. Only 113 more to be heard from. Seems to be going very well, thanks to the Bensie's efforts.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

\*MARCH\*

Bill Robinson  
Dallas Stratton

\*APRIL\*

Jim Bussard  
John Dyer  
Bob Henkels  
Dave Long  
Chuck Munson  
George Tuppan

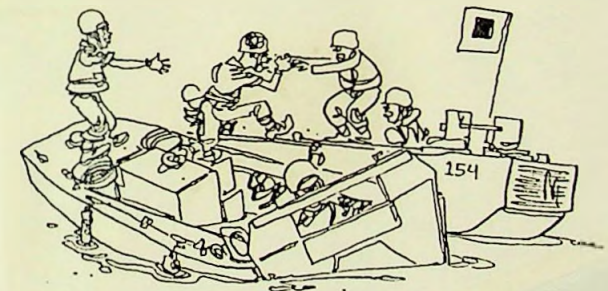
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

\*MARCH\*

John Morrissey's

\*APRIL\*

Frank & Alice Wanits  
Connie & Jerry Michalski



oops!