

TENTH ANNUAL REUNION

HOSTS - STAN & MONA DUNN

* SEPTEMBER 23- 26, 1998

OUTRIGGER WAIKIKI TOWER

200 LEWRES STREET

HONOLULU, HAWAII

800-325-7171

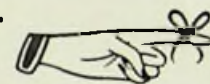
Fax 808-923-7437

Wm. "Bud" Kautz - 34782 Hiawatha Trail - McHenry, IL - 60050
(815)344-6326

* Early bird check in Sept. 21st - 22nd. Check in 3:00PM
Check out 12:00PM

See enclosed reservation form, special group rates will apply 3 days
prior to and after reunion dates.

Please fill out the enclosed stamped and addressed post card to Stan Dunn. Shouldn't
be too difficult to drop it into the mail boxes provided by Uncle Sam.



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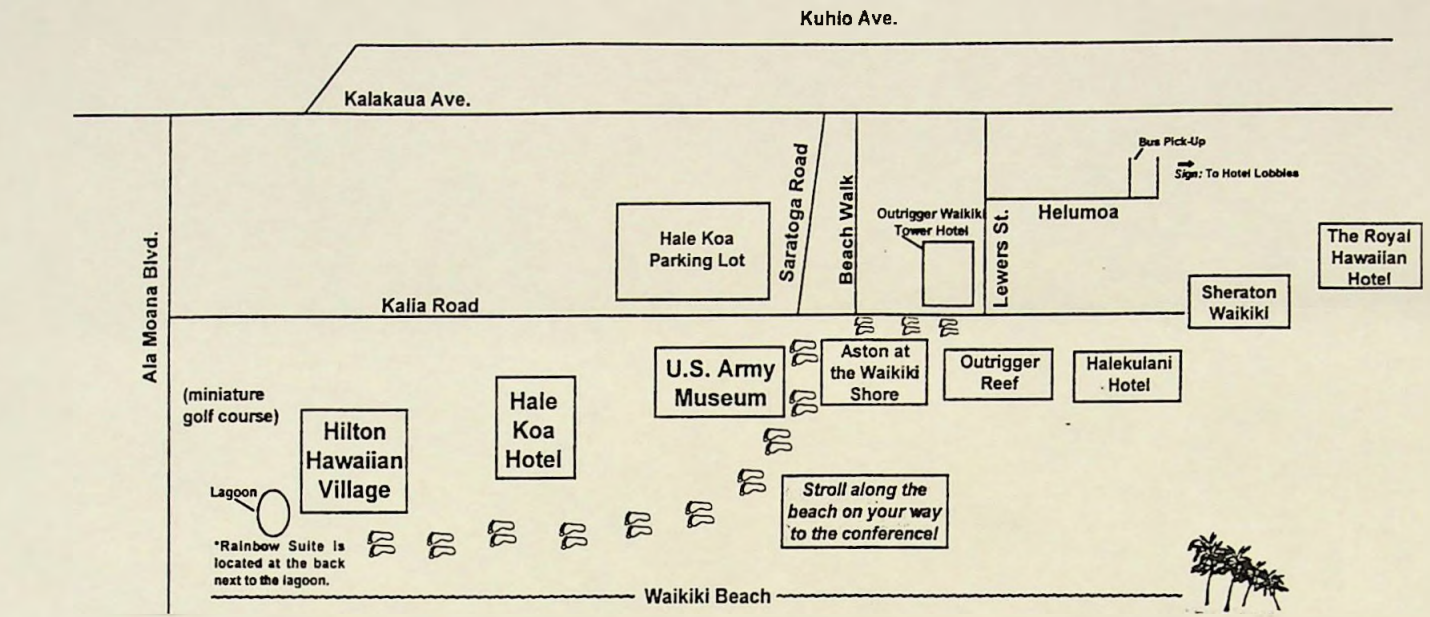
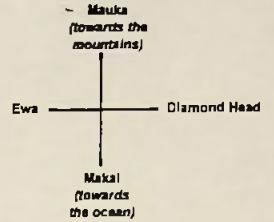
A belated thank you to Stan Dunn for the flowers and fish snacks
he provided at our last reunion in Florida.

An updated list of attendees to our 9th reunion in Florida:

David & Modesta Brinkman	Mike, Jo Ellen & Meridith Dyer	Eileen Murray
Roberta Brinkman	Pamela Hennessey (Kautz)	Leo & Margaret O'Brien
Gordon & Thelma Buck	Dick & Roseanna Jones	Arthur & Marjorie Rausedo
Sally Cary	Bud & Jean Kautz	Cliff & Mary Schaffer
Howard & Lois Chappell	Don & Shirley Lorenzi	Dallas & Lorene Stratton
Jim Chilcote	Don & Joan Macpherson	Bill & Amelia Taylor
E. Max Cole	Margaret McGrody	Walt & Jackie Umbarger
Frank & Joyce DuBois	Mike & Jerry Michalski	John & Sally Vernale
Stan & Mona Dunn	Jackie Minaghan (Kautz)	Dorothy Weaver
John & Lebbly Dyer		

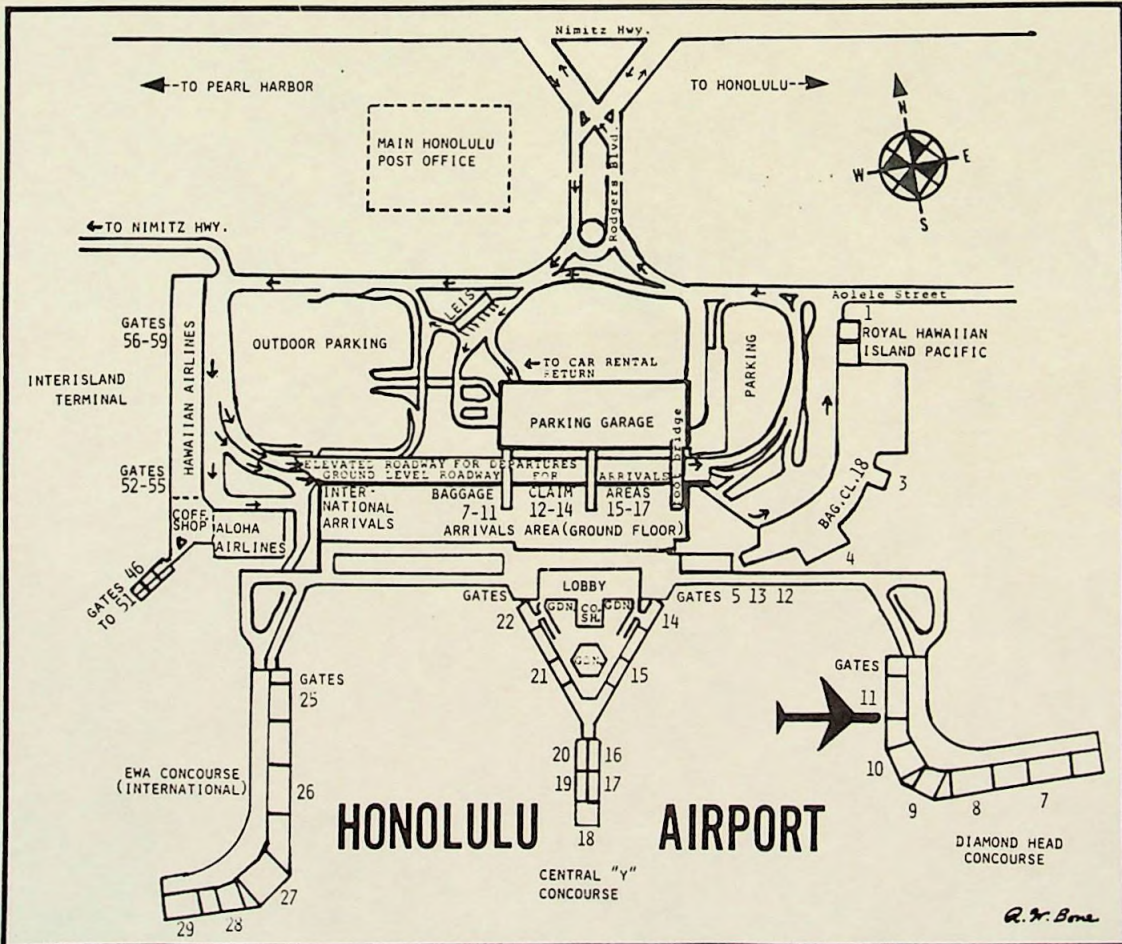
The following have contributed to the USS Lowndes Reunion Group for 1998:

Phil Angelotti	Joe Erlandson	Don Lorenzi	Jim Ross
Lavada Boyer	Sterling Hornsby	Bill Markus	Harry Ruether
Jim Bussard	Reuben Johnson	Mike Michalski	Mrs. Chas. Seay
Mitch Chasteen	Walt Karson	Frank Miller	Dallas Stratton
Jim Chilcote	Ed. King	Bill Ramsey	Bill Thomas
Bill Davis	Jack Laird	Bill Ross	Bernard Tracz
			Frank Wanits



*Rainbow Suite is located at the back next to the lagoon.

*Map is not drawn exactly to scale, but hopefully it will provide a general idea to show that most activities are within walking distance.



R. W. Bone

4/98-3

USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park

Just a line to let you know what I have lined up for the Reunion this year. We will be staying at the Outrigger Waikiki Tower, 200 Lewers Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815-6424. Telephone (808) 922-2621. I am enclosing a copy of their reservation form. Toll free No. 1-800-325-7171. The special group rates will apply three(3) days prior to and three(3) days after the main dates of the reunion.

As I said in West Palm Beach, the prices here are a little high. We recently hosted a reunion of WWII crew members of USS Bowfin and a convention for the Historical Naval Ships Association at this hotel and everyone seemed to be happy. Check in will be on Wednesday 23rd September with "early birds" on 21st or 22nd.

I am planning on a tour Thursday 24 September, to the Pineapple Museum, Schofield Barracks through the Kolekole pass and then out to Leeward Coast with a stop at the Army Rest Camp at Poki Bay. At that time we will have an hour on the beach and a buffet lunch after which we will return to the hotel.

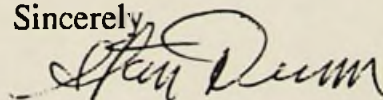
Friday the 25th will be free time until about 3PM. At this time a tour bus will pick everyone up at the hotel for a trip to the Arizona Memorial for a special after hours tour of Pearl Harbor by boat followed by a visit to the Memorial and a special showing in the theater. We will then walk to Bowfin Park (across the parking lot) where the Submarine and Museum will be open for 1½ hours. At 1800 an open bar will be available and a picture session. The business meeting will be held followed by dinner and dancing. The buses will depart for the hotel about 9:45PM

There will be a breakfast buffet at the Hale Koa Hotel on Saturday morning with the rest of the day free.

There will be no charges except for transportation and for the breakfast and lunch at the beach. Charges will be firmed up when a contract has been signed. A sign up form will be forwarded when the prices are firmed up.

Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Sincerely,



FRANK WANITS - Schroon Lake, NY - We are glad that everyone had a good time at the reunion in West Palm Beach, Florida. The outline of activities planned for the next reunion in Honolulu, Hawaii by Stan Dunn sounds fantastic and we wish that Stan and all those that attend will have a great time. I am sorry to say that Alice and I will not be able to attend. I hope we will be able to attend the reunion in 1999, we would like to see everyone again. In the past year we've had many medical problems. Alice has had several operations for her skin cancer and is now going through another series of operations. Our family is sure growing - five grand children (two more coming up). We have been pretty lucky this winter as far as the weather is concerned, much milder than usual and we were not affected by the ice storms that tied up areas to our west, north and east. Some folks lost power for a period of five to six weeks in rural areas. Dairy farmers lost cows because they couldn't be milked. We live near I 87 and for weeks on end we saw convoys of National Guard trucks, utility trucks from around the state, and double tractor trailers bringing food supplies, generators, utility poles, etc to those areas. We have to feel sorry for the people who lost their homes, property and friends to landslides on the west coast, floods and tornadoes throughout the country.

JOE ERLANDSON - Rush City, MN - In answer to the question - What is a bum boat? It's a canoe type boat with outriggers on it. By the way Blackie Guzman was a Boatswain mate and taught me how to use the whistle.

Note: The natives came out to the ship to buy whatever crew members had to sell - mattress covers, pillow slips and articles of clothing. American cigarettes were very much in demand on the islands - however, they preferred Lucky strikes and would not accept Chesterfields or Old Golds and sent them back up.

FRANK MILLER - Kearns, UT - Sure glad to get the News Letter and find out where our next reunion will be. Looking forward to Hawaii, I will sharpen my lawn mower in the hopes the girls still wear grass skirts. Just thinking of that warm weather is making me feel warmer already. Frances said she is tired of doing all the snow shoveling and wants me to do it. Here I thought I had her trained. Frances and I are sure going to try to make it - God willing. I wrote Max Cole and took him up on his offer of a cassette tape of the sounds and words of the battle of Iwo Jima. It seems when you are there you really don't know what is going on 'til you read about it later.

HOWARD CHAPPELL - Wampum, PA - Both Lois and I seem to be doing pretty good, Lois had back surgery and I had a couple of foot surgeries. Lois is running around just as she always did, wish I had her energy. Doc says I'm doing OK but just have to be patient, scars should heal up in about three weeks. I am able to walk around in the house and in the yard without a cane or walker. Hope to play golf pretty soon, at least, try to play. We didn't go to Florida this year, guess we didn't miss much. Cliff Schaffer called and said Mary stepped off a ladder and tore her leg up pretty good. We're going on a two week fishing trip in May. Also in June. Our oldest grand daughter is getting married in Washington, DC. May invite Bill Clinton if he isn't tied up. Lord willing we'll see you all in Hawaii.

When in Hawaii try the new drink that's out - it's called the Pearl Harbor cocktail - one drink and you're bombed out.

WALT KARSON - Elk River, MN - Started to write this letter a couple of weeks ago and put it off 'til the next day, and you know how it goes, and the next day, and the next day, and the next day never comes. Then you forget what you're writing about. Then a little light goes on in your head and you kinda remember something that went on a couple of weeks ago. Oh yes! I was going to mention something about the heavy snow fall. The last few months have been hectic in this Minnesota household. Fran's health has not been too good, she has been under a doctor's care. We had to get the doc's permission to travel to our daughter's for the Holidays. It took us 2 days to go 550 miles. (I'm no speed demon, but we made it.) We have been staying close to home and the hospital. "Golden Years?" Age is giving me a hard time, can't drive on long trips and night driving is out. All I have is a rockin' chair, but no fireplace. Have one ray of sunshine, The U.S.S. Lowndes News Letters. Looking forward to the next issue. Can't make the reunions, but it is good to hear that you young EX SHIPMATES must be having a good time. (Don't you feel that there is a little bit of jealousy in there?) Till we meet again. On Dec. 26th I called Jack Laird in Valparasio, IN, found him at home and how to get there and paid him a visit. After making many wrong turns on unfamiliar highways found his house. Had a very pleasant visit with him and his wife, Marilyn. I had never met Jack while on the Lowndes, and we finally met, over a half century later. He showed me several souvenirs he had picked up in Aomori, Japan. One thing had been on my mind since I left the Lowndes - who performed surgery on me the morning we anchored in a bay in the Philippines. It was Jack's recollection that it was Dr. Dunbar. He also remembered working with Dr. Dunbar during the Iwo and Okinawa campaigns. Said he kept his knives sharp at all times. No wonder I don't have any scars on me. We laughed 'til we cried about that one. I did a lot of reading of back issues of the News Letters to find that there was a Dr. Dunbar who was special O.O.D. when we crossed the Equator. After researching all the back copies it wore me out. Will write again.

LYMAN NEDEAU - Naples, FL - Just a short note to apologize for not getting to the reunion in West Palm Beach, it was so close. My intention was to come over for a day at a time, but my Chick-a-dee didn't feel up to it. We didn't arrive in Florida until the 18th and it was a mess. And as usual took time to get organized.

JAMES V. ROSS - Sherman, TX - I was on LCVP No. 12 with Lemmons, Smith and Thomas. It was my impression we had it made. We could get off the ship to get mail and supplies. I think our crew made the run into Iwo Jima. After being in the Navy and Air Force for 20 years you get to thinking, am I dreaming this or what. Seems like we all can tell the same stories though. On 20 Feb. '98 the Iwo Jima Survivors Association had a reunion in Wichita Falls, Texas for 4 days. It is only a 2 hour drive so we did attend. Last year was an exciting year - I had a heart attack in June, then in August Ina, our daughter and I went to Europe for 3 weeks to visit our son and daughter-in-law. We were on a trip - 7 hours from Charles' home and he had a ruptured appendix and was hospitalized for 10 days while we stayed in a hotel. We did enjoy the trip after all.

MARGARET FRIEDEN - Silver Lake, IN - We are hoping that Jim can work out his schedule so we can make the reunion in Hawaii in 1998.

MITCHELL CHASTEEN - Florissant, MO - Sorry we couldn't make the '97 reunion in Florida. Chances don't look good for Hawaii in '98 either. If the '99 reunion is in Las Vegas we're going to make every effort to attend that one. Would sure enjoy seeing my old shipmates again, especially those radio operators. Enjoy the News Letters, keep them coming. God bless everyone.

REUBEN JOHNSON, Dodgeville, WI - Received another News Letter with results of the U.S.S. Lowndes Ninth reunion in West Palm Beach, FL. Time really goes on, to be sure. It would be a great experience to join in one time to re-associate with everyone again. Very heartening to learn that younger family members are interested and adding a great deal also...suggesting the "U.S.S. Lowndes Family" will continue into the "Millinium" that we hear so much about these days, eh? Most encouraging to note the large number of active members attending the reunions. Speaks well for the hosts of the reunions. In reading of the activities and happenings of our mates and their families, our hearts go out to those in the loss of loved ones and those confronted with illness and or surgeries. We keep them in our thoughts and prayers. Have another great one in Honolulu and bless you, "Hosts Stan and Mona Dunn.

HARRY RUETHER - Jefferson City, MO - Sorry we can't attend the reunions, Agnes has asthma and is on oxygen all the time. I also have trouble with my breathing. Really did enjoy our 1st one in St. Louis, MO. While I was on the U.S.S. Lowndes I was an MAA - was in boat crew No. 16 with Coxswain Glenn Forgay. I really did enjoy being a carpenter, wish I had kept track of all the buildings that I built Did lots of work over the years in the Missouri State Capital and the Governors mansion. Enjoying the retired life and the News Letters.

JACK W. LAIRD - Valparaiso, IN - During the Christmas holiday I had a call from Walt Karson, who was visiting his daughter. He drove over and we had quite an enjoyable visit with him. While he was here I tried to phone Bill Davis but he must have "left town" for the Holidays. Sorry we missed you Bill. Marilyn and I decided to stay at home this winter, for two reasons. She doesn't feel well and because of "El Nino". Looks as though it was the right way to go when we saw how much rain they have had across the South. Lots of rain isn't good when you are "cooped up" in a 26 foot motor home.

It is 15,134,310,000 inches from the earth to the moon.

MIKE MICHALSKI - Austin, TX - Bud & Jean: We really enjoyed the company of your daughters, Pamela and Jackie. I hope they and others can do it again. I don't know how the Dyers came out financially on their tours. I hope OK - if not put my Flagler refund into the general fund or where ever it is needed.

Note from your editor: I want to take this opportunity to thank all my shipmates and their spouses for the many photographs of our West Palm Beach reunion that they sent to me. They will be included in our reunion albums. There will be just the WPB album in Honolulu. To send all items will make a package too large to handle.

HERBERT S. KEARS - Covina, CA - After 50+ years my memories are pretty much fragmented..but here goes. aboard ship I remember the coffee we used to make in the QM shack in back of the navigation bridge. We had a two burner hot plate in the hut which was so small we had to back into it to come out frontwards. We had a Silex coffee maker with a glass bottom and stainless steel top. Put water in the glass bottom, pour in a half pound of coffee grounds and put it on the hot plate. It usually took about 45 minutes to get the water up into the top and once it got there about 30 minutes to come down, due to too much coffee grounds. About half the time general quarters would sound and nobody would turn off the hot plate, The upshot was, the glass bottom would run dry and explode. Every time this happened we would go to small stores and requisition another. One day they ran out of glass bottoms. No more coffee in the QM shack! Seeing that we had a whole bunch of stainless steel tops, somebody took one down to the ship fitters to see if they could come up with anything. They took one and cut off the long tube and welded a stainless steel bottom on and lo and behold we had a coffee pot. It was a little hard to clean but so what? Also enclosing a photo with Tommy Lewis, Derral Easter and myself. Easter was with us in the Beach Party from the start. I believe he was wounded at Iwo Jima and confined to a wheel chair. Will write more when the fog clears from my mind. Looking forward to Hawaii in September.

Note: Yes, Derral Easter was wounded on Iwo, I remember Don Bowman injecting some morphine into his arm and seeing Derral's eyes with a glassy look. I'll never forget that image, seeing what dope can really do to a person besides relieving pain.

Changes on the January 1998 roster listings:

Delete Howard Chappell's winter address.

Change area codes as follows:

Howard Chappell	- (724)
Joe Erlandson	- (320)
Ed. King	- (530)
Wm. B. Thomas	- (530)
Herbert Kears	- (818)

Sally Cary sent us a photograph of herself pointing to a street sign "Lowndes Sq." it is located in Casselbury, Florida.

LORENE STRATTON - Belleview, FL - Sending a couple of photos of Dallas in his baseball uniform. Dallas is still knockin' 'em out, went four-for-five, six RBI's and a grand slam home run. Atta boy Dallas! Sorry we will not be able to attend the reunion in Hawaii. The 75 plus men's World Series is to be in Palm Springs, CA on September 26 - 28. He loves to play ball so that is where we will be. Trust all is well with everyone.

U.S.S. Lowndes reunion group members indicating attending the Hawaii reunion:

Lavada Boyer

Sally Cary

Howard & Lois Chappell

Stan & Mona Dunn

Bud & Jean Kautz

Herbert Kears

Ed. King

Don & Shirley Lorenzi

Frank & Frances Miller

Eileen Murray

Cliff & Mary Schaffer

Glenda Tuppen & Randy Vadrak

ED. KING - Cool, CA - Bud, I finally found the original photo of the Lowndes that you wanted to borrow. After my wife, Doris passed away in 1996 - after 40 years of marriage I took on a project and worked on it for over a year. It consists of history of the Lowndes and the Iwo Jima booklets. I added a biography of my family. If it weren't for all the information in the two booklets and the News Letters my 6 children and 25 grand children and great grand children they wouldn't have really known me. I covered my life from the time I was 4 years old. When we mention Iwo Jima or Okinawa it's like talking about the Boar War to our children. Like where is Iwo Jima? I firmly believe that everybody should put together an autobiography for the younger generation.

Note: This book that Ed sent me consists of 152 pages and I'm sure it was a time consuming endeavor.

The above tale brings to mind a request that I have for shipmates of the Lowndes: I would like to have stories of crew members experiences involving their tour in the Navy - even those they had while on other ships or bases. Toward this end Don Macpherson and I will start the ball rolling with an account of our trials and times of stress while wearing of the blue. They will be on another page or pages of this News Letter. Send these items to me (Bud). The heading for this category will be "How the War was Won."

LAVADA BOYER - 2509 Westville Trails - Cool, CA - 95614 - My husband, Jim Boyer was a member of the 8th Battalion Navy SeaBees and made the invasion of Iwo Jima from an APA (Amphibious Personnel Attack) ship along with the 4th Division Marines. After reading the "Iwo Jima" & Ed. King's biography books a lot of things came back to me & it sounds & seems like it was the USS Lowndes - APA 154. Jim was on Iwo Jima from start to finish until WWII ended. His battalion worked on the air strips & because he was a sharp shooter he was kept on watch a lot. He passed away Nov. 20, 1993. I am going through many of his papers & sending 24 photos taken on Iwo. Is it possible to become an honorary member of the "Lowndes Lovelies?" I would also like to be placed on the mailing list. Please let me know what the yearly dues are & information on the reunion in Honolulu. If it's possible I would like to make the trip with Ed. King. My telephone is (530) 885-7338.

Note: Above photos will be available at the reunion.

Not known to many of our shipmates, but the Lowndes can be considered to be host to several celebrities, as the following will indicate.

Don Macpherson appeared in the film "Knute Rockne All-American" as a football player along with Ronald Reagan, a future president of the United States.

Lt. Edgar L. Hinton (Errol Flynn's double) had a role in the movie "I Led Three Lives".

Ed. King was in "Escape From Alcatraz" starring Clint Eastwood.

Any more crew members deserving of celebrity ranking? Let's hear from them.

***** HOW THE WAR WAS WON *****

DON MACPHERSON - In 1937 I entered UCLA as a freshman & decided to make engineering my major. I went out for football & made the team. I later learned that UCLA did not give four years of engineering & I didn't want to transfer to U.C. Berkley so I changed my major to geology. UCLA inaugurated a Naval ROTC course when I was a sophomore & I decided to take that rather than the mandatory Army ROTC course which was required for the first two years. I think the two reasons for changing to the Navy were that the uniforms looked better & it was necessary to march only once a week instead of twice a week as required by the Army. Football players were able to get jobs as extras in the movies. At that time extras were paid \$10.50 per day & \$25.00 if you got a line, which seemed like a fortune. As an extra I played in a number of movies including "Knut Rockne All-American". Ronald Reagan was the Gipper in the movie, & of course became President of the United States. I remember playing a part in raiding Mrs. Rockne's icebox, and another scene in which we practiced in Rockne's backyard with chairs, developing what came to be known as the "Rockne Shift". This movie is still shown in the early morning hours. After I graduated in the fall of 1942. I received a commission of Ensign in the Navy by mistake sent to a school on Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay. The school was designed to train young businessmen going into the Navy in 90 days. They called these officers "90-Day Wonders". Since I had taken ROTC courses for four years I was the star in school. I knew the communications, navigation & was a platoon leader in marching. I was over in Frisco almost every night having a good time. This went on for about 4 to 6 weeks until my desire to get into the war overcame all these benefits. I finally confessed to the CO that I was put there by mistake. He wired Washington & orders came back for me to report to the USS Chicago, a heavy cruiser. It was in dry dock at Mare Island & did not have a bow. Her bow had been knocked off in the initial landing of Guadalcanal. She received a temporary bow in Australia & came back to Mare Island to get a permanent one. Once I saw it I began to wonder if it had been a good idea to inform the CO about the mistake. Went aboard uncertain as to what lay ahead. We left San Francisco for the South Pacific between Christmas & New Year's of 1942. My feelings of doubt continued as we left the Golden Gate behind. About halfway to our destination, Noumea, New Caladonia, we had gunnery practice. My station was in Turret Two officer's compartment. There was only room for one person but two of us crammed inside. The Lt. in charge didn't seem too interested in transmitting any information to me. I looked out of the periscope most of the time we were in training. One day I arrived at Turret Two only to find that the Lt. had the flu. I sat in his seat looked at the knobs & dials in complete confusion. With earphones I was connected with the Captain, gunnery officer & the director station below where the guns were controlled. The order came to train 090. I had no idea what to do. All the 20 & 40-mm guns & the 3 8-in. guns of Turret One went to the right, but the 3 8in. guns of Turret Two went to the left. Never heard so much yelling and screaming over the earphones directed towards me, Ensign Macpherson. I cracked the hatch to see what Turret One was doing & did the same thing from then on. It was a bad thing for the Navy but a good thing for me. That was the only time my name was brought to the attention of the senior officers. In general, they favored the Annapolis guys whenever job assignments were issued. (About 2 weeks later we were sunk off of Guadalcanal). Considering all options, I was certain I was getting nowhere on the Chicago. We went down to Noumea, New Caladonia & joined 5 other cruisers. Together within a circle of destroyers went up the west side of Guadalcanal. About that time the Japs decided to take their troops off Guadalcanal. They were headed south & our purpose was to intercept them when they tried to return to the north. I was junior officer of the deck & my station was in the Conning Tower. My one duty was to sound the alarm when general quarters were called. I was so unimportant that I didn't even have to wait to be relieved. The reason for the GQ was a group of Japanese planes were coming dropping torpedoes on us from the east.

(To be continued.)

4/98-10

***** HOW THE WAR WAS WON *****

BUD KAUTZ -

"NINE DAYS IN THE PACIFIC"

Sept 14, 1943 - 2200 GQ 6 bogeys but nothing came of it, this time. Just heard scuttlebutt that the Reid was a sacrifice at the invasion of Lae, we were not expected to survive. The Perkins had orders to stand by. They were surprised to see us when we tied up to the tanker to refuel. Word was out that we had been sunk 40 miles off the coast at Red Beach, New Guinea.

Sept 15, 1943 - Water getting low, no water all day. Took a salt water shower. Might just as well not taken any. Hit the sack & slept until 1330 when Jugbut woke me to turn to clean the engineering compartment. That went with the 4 to 8 watch. Jug has been working all night putting in a new front on No. 2 boiler. Pulled into Pullock Bay, Stubby Miller tried his hand at fishing - for a shark using a pilot fish for bait, had all the necessary gear but not the necessary luck. All quiet for awhile until a few Japs came over, fired at 'em but missed. 0100 GQ, Torpedo planes came in on us but were chased away. Decided to sleep topside tonight but found out rain can be very wet.

Sept. 16, 1943 - Left Pullock Bay with 4 other cans trying to locate Jap subs attempting to evacuate troops from Lae but made no contact. Guess we've Lae pretty well under control. At 2030 a bogey came over, we didn't get him but came puh-lenty close. Swiped a can of jam to go with our nightly ration of bread, so hungry I ate 3/4 loaf of bread. 2100 arrived at Red Beach, secured. Lost valuable sack time today.

Sept 17, 1943 - Got off the 4 to 8 watch this morning and moseyed up to the radio shack for a press news. One of our PT boats was hung up on a reef, they managed to get free before we got there. No luck hunting subs today, Highlight - mail was delivered.

Sept 18, 1943 - Water situation real bad, trouble with the evaporators, that & high speeds didn't help matters. Handing out court-martials to anyone bringing water topside. Pulled into port with 6 LSI's. We had turkey for dinner, personally it must have been one the Pilgrims shot and forgot to bury. More mail, received several copies of the Chicago Daily Times. They make the rounds - news from home. Had a bucket of water setting in the head for a quick wash job after watch, the bucket was still there but some..... swiped the water. Watched a movie, "Riders of the Purple Sage". Not bad.

Sept 19, 1943 - (Milne Bay) Turned to today in No. 2 fire room, washed down the bilges (Oh Joy). Joe Driscoll looked over boiler No. 3 & decided it was in good shape. (Thanks Joe). Left the bay with a bunch of landing barges after we took on ammunition, figured we needed all we could get. With Lae under control, our next move was to Finschhafen, New Guinea. Might be a little excitement for the Reid this time. Drinking water a little salty today, someone caulking off, turned on for 15 minutes and line up of guys with their buckets. So crowded in the head that you were afraid to try to wash for fear that you'd be doing someone else's back?

(To be continued.)

William R. Davis was born on January 11, 1924 in Clinton, IN. He joined the Navy December 1942 in Chicago, IL. Boarded the U.S.S. Lowndes in Bremerton, WA in 1944 as a RM3c. His watch and GQ stations were in the radio shack. He left the Lowndes in 1945 as a RM1c. Spent some time at Bremerton, WA and Astoria, OR. Later sent to Great Lakes Naval Station in Illinois where he received an honorable discharge on the point system after 35 months service. Served aboard a small sized carrier - U.S.S. Midway which was sunk in the Philippines. In civilian life, returned to U.S. Steel mills as a motor inspector on overhead cranes at No. 4 open hearth and pitside. Later attended Coyne Electrical School, 500 S. Paulina St. in Chicago under the GI bill. 1 year on TV and radio repair. Employed 34 years by Sears, Roebuck & Co., Gary, IN as a TV technician. Retired December 1984 from Sears. 1 year as security driver for the company, picked up checks and bonds from banks. 1 year as a plumber helper installing plumbing in new homes. Then just fished a lot. A fresh water fisherman, he kept a fishing diary with notes on weather conditions and lures used to catch crappie, bass blue gill and perch. Bill was also a radio ham operator and a member of a local ham radio club. He and his wife Lillian had been married over 54 years. He is survived by his wife, three children, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

BILL DAVIS - Portage, IN - Do appreciate getting the News Letters and up dates, etc. on the events and people we served with aboard the U.S.S. Lowndes. I keep in touch quite a lot with several shipmates, namely Frank DuBois, Bernard Tracz, Mitchell Chasteen, Vince Halbauer, Jack Laird and Walt Umbarger. Vince Halbauer is not in the best condition, had both knees operated on. Thanks for the News Letters keeping all of us up to date on the Lowndes crews and Ladies.

Note: The above letter from Bill was received January 26, 1998. Sorry to report that Bill passed away February 17, 1998

BERNARD TRACZ - Campbell, OH - I talked to Bill's wife Lil and she said they went shopping and whatever and he seemed to be OK. She found him in the living room and he was already gone. He bought a small cottage in Rome, IN and was selling the trailer home so that he would be able to be near the water longer. He was a nice friend and will be missed.

Dan Wisdom has informed us that Arvil Sefers passed away on February 25, 1998 due to cancer.

No details available.

Just received word that Mrs. Leo Winter has passed away

No details available.

Condolences have been sent.