

May 2003-1

U. S. S. LOWNDES - APA 154

May 2003 Newsletter

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It is not too early to start thinking about where and when our 2004 reunion will take place. Please give it your consideration so that we may discuss it at our business meeting in Biloxi, MS. Any suggestions offered will be whole heartedly welcomed. To repeat, when making reservations at the Biloxi Beach Resort Inn be sure to mention – USS Lowndes Reunion Group. The room rate is \$63, plus tax of 10%, per night. The rate is good for 7 nights before and after the reunion dates, subject to availability. Make your reservations early. Biloxi Beach Resort Inn, 2736 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, MS, (2288)388-3310.

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Please see the many changes to the roster list noted on various pages of this issue of the newsletter.

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Possible Attendees for Biloxi Reunion:

David & Odessa Brinkman
Gordon Buck
Howard & Lois Chappell
Jim Chicote & M. McGrody
John & Leby Dyer
Ed. King & Lavada Boyer
Mary Gebhart
John & Marilyn Hess
Dick & Rosanna Jones

Bud & Jean Kautz
Herb Kears
David & Joanne Long
Clark Martin
Mike & Jerry Michalski
Becky Moore
Eileen Murray
Leo & Margaret O'Brien

Ed & Dolores Person
Warren & Albena Proctor
Arthur & Marjor Rauseo
Earl & Frances Robertson
Dee Rodgers
Dallas & Lorene Stratton
Bill & Amelia Tylor
Jan Trober

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AREA RESTAURANTS:

Walking distance (1 Block) to International House of Pancakes, Landry's Seafood Restaurant, Ryan's Steak House, Olive Garden (Italian Restaurant), Morrison's Cafeteria, Food Court at Edgewater Mall, Red Lobster.

SHOPPING:

Edgewater Mall and Edgewater Village (150 Stores) – Walking distance.

MEDICAL:

Adjacent to our hotel is Gulf Coast Medical Center. Just in case any of our recycled teenagers need any attention to their well being during their stay in Biloxi.

May 2003-2

SAVING VETERAN'S STORIES

We have memorials, books and films honoring our veterans, but we have not had a place to preserve their stories. Now we do: the Library of Congress' new Veteran's History Project. Co-sponsored by the AARP. The project has collected oral histories on audio and video, letters, photos and journals from veterans of World War I and II, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf War. For more information, visit www.loc.gov/vets or call 01-800-8300.

Jackie Richards

In August, we moved Wally's mother from assisted living to a rest home in Nebraska City where she could get better pain control and more intense physical therapy as she was having difficulty walking due to severe pain. As reported in the December newsletter she reached the ripe age of 102.

We certainly wish her the best.

Jim Chilcote

I'm now living in a retirement community in Boise. My new address and phone number is:

1130 North Allumbaugh – Apt. 157
Boise, ID 83704
()327-1157

Harriett Nedeau

Lyman is in a nursing home. He was packing our boxes to get ready to leave for Florida, but decided to go for one of his walks (4 miles a day, but did 2 miles twice a day). It was cold and it was icy in some spots. He fell and broke his hip. I called the ambulance and after his operation (about 1 week later) he went into the nursing home for therapy. He has gone down hill since then and now has Alzheimer. He will be 91 August 3rd. So that too is against him. I bought a house here in Ludington. I couldn't live in our cold cottage, so will sell that

and the one in Naples, FL and stay here near the nursing home. It doesn't appear that he be coming home. He's always been so active and wants to get up and do things, so they keep him under medication, so he sleeps a lot. They say I can't care for him, he's in a wheel chair. It sure has made a change in our lives. Very lonesome. Our home address is:

605 N. Emily St.
Ludington, MI 49431
(231)843-6993

Lyman's is:
1000 Tendercare Nursing Home
Ludington, MI 49431

We wish Lyman the best.

Ed. Finch

I was in the Beach Party on the beach at Iwo Jima D Day +2. I was acting corpsman with a corpsman that was killed. I believe there were 52 men in the party. I would like photographs of the Beach Party. I cannot attend the reunion, too old 92, last February 27th.

My new address is & phone Number is:
2205 Village Circle #714
Bedford, TX 76022
(817)545-5415

New address for Goldie Johnson:

27-700 Landau Blvd. #J140
Cathedral City, CA 92234

Returned mail:

Mrs. Slater Christian
Harley J. Hughes
Sherwood P. Johnson
Mrs. Walt Karson
Paul B. Lineback
Mrs. Billy Piercy

Does anyone in the reunion group have any information regarding the above 6 individuals?

May 2003-3

Lela(George) Kindle

Just a few lines to let everyone know I am still among the living, not too strong, but here. I am still in the mountains where we lived when George left, it will be 8 years. I was visiting his sister in the hospital and started home when I was hit by a small car that caused over a \$1,000.00 damage and they cancelled my insurance that I had kept for many years. Can't imagine what you have to go through at age 77 to get insurance coverage. I have to get papers signed by a doctor. Haven't had a regular doctor since George had a hundred and they still couldn't keep him here.

Ed note: Hey! Lela, just hang in there it's bound to get better, we'll pull for you.

Mildred Binney

Buell and I still live in the same "places". Buell has been in the Missouri Veterans Home in Cameron, MO since October 24, 2000. Can't do much for himself, but still knows us all and is in a wheel chair all the time. We are fortunate to have a nice facility available. A very nice place and he has everything he needs. His health is "steady" and he enjoys the family visiting him often. He has lots of nurses that try to keep him in a "jolly" mood. We celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary on September 6, 2002. I continue to live on Route Z, with the help of my kids. Have had lots of medical repairs this year. Thy have all gone well. Had carpel tunnel repaired in both hands last summer, have recovered from cataract surgery in November and December, vision is much brighter and improved and crocheted 3 afghans. Enjoy cooking, have 5 cats outside and my new inside friend, "Cash" the cat is quite spoiled.

Joyce Dubois

We do appreciate the correspondence about the Lowndes' activities. Even tho we no longer can attend, they make wonderful opportunities to reminisce with Frank.

Mary (Cliff) Schaffer

Hope to see everyone at the next reunion.

Sally (John) Cary

Hope everyone enjoyed the reunion in Indianapolis. One of these days I'll drop another line or two and hope to see you all this year.

Ed. Note: We certainly have missed these people at our reunions and want to give them our best.

Mike Michalski

If all works out with Jerry – she will have to stay in the hospital at least a month to try to gain strength in her legs to be able to stand.

Ed. Note: Post card was received March 11th. Indicating they plan to attend the reunion in Biloxi. We wish Jerry a speedy recovery from her surgery and look forward to seeing them again.

Leon Fougnyes

Our Grandson is being married October 2nd in Fort Worth so we will miss this year's reunion. Thanks for keeping me posted. Appreciate the newsletters.

Leo O'Brien

Thanks for the newsletter and the group pictures. That was a nice snapshot of you (Bud) and I at the podium. "You keep getting better looking as you age. By the time you reach 100 you should be a handsome devil. Received David Brinkman's CD.

Leo, you're just trying to get on the good side of me, but flattery will get you nowhere. I'm sure everyone will find this CD extremely interesting, certainly shows a lot of detail regarding the Lowndes and her shipmates. I would encourage others to obtain a copy. David has done an outstanding job on this project.

May 2003-4

Bill Fletcher(USMC)

Was glad to get the newsletter – the Lowndes was my best ship experience in WWII. It just occurred to me to ask why we had guard duty on the high seas on the ship. I can understand the need to guard the fruit storage area (remember my prior confession?) * But I always volunteered to man the forward point on the ship and much enjoyed the “ups” and “downs” of the experience at night. There was certainly no sleeping on that post but you guys have to know I afforded little protection for your safety. Best of luck to all your gatherings. If you ever meet in Texas I'll try to attend. Thanks for allowing me to be a member of your organization.

*Ed. Note: * See page 3 in August 2000 newsletter. Bill, Biloxi, MS can't be too far from Angleton, TX.*

David Long

Our annual family ski trip had to be cancelled as Joanne had a brain tumor, which had to be removed, was successful and it was benign, thank God. She also had a slight stroke after that, but that caused no problems and no after effects. We did go to Florida and had lots of fun. We visited a few close friends, traveled around and enjoyed the sun. May 30th I had a hip replacement and that screwed up my tennis and a few other planned events. It worked out very well and it's great to get rid of the pain. We celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary and renewed our vows. Our children had the most wonderful party for us at Andy's house on Conesus Lake. A great band under a big tent, wonderful food and of course, plenty of good liquid cheer and best of all about 190 guests. It was truly a fantastic event and the highlight of our years. In September we visited Yellowstone Park for 4 days and saw beautiful scenery, many animals, geysers, waterfalls and learned much about the park. The Grand Tetons are very impressive as was Grand Targee National Park. Of course the big event was watching Larry's Aerobatic performance in his Extra 300 Stunt plane It

was thrilling, but we would be pleased to see him give it up.

Walt Umbarger

Jackie had a fall returning from a CCM pot luck supper. Fell on her right shoulder and with help from friends got her up, but she complained of her right shoulder. Took her to the Naples Hospital emergency, x-rays showed a severe break in her upper right arm. Arrived at emergency at 9:00 PM. Got home at 12:00 PM. She had a fairly good night.

Ed, note: Sure wish Jackie a speedy recovery so we can have the honor of their appearance at our Biloxi reunion. You, take care kiddo.

Jim Bussard

My email, as you can tell, is: cabjwb2@earthlink.net. The next reunion in Biloxi sounds interesting. Although Carol and I have traveled in 5 countries and 40+ states, we've never been in Mississippi. I hope our health is good enough to attend.

In 1776 the Second Continental Congress ruled that the term “United States” officially replaced “United Colonies.”

Mary Fearing

Am sending our dues for last year and this year. We are not coming to the reunion as Dean won't fly and too far for us to drive. We are both well except for what goes with old age.

Frank Miller

I found out that not all chemicals are bad. Without hydrogen and oxygen, for example, there would be no way to make water, a vital ingredient in beer along with hops.

May 2003-5

W. Howard Riley

I received the announcement of the upcoming reunion and am sorry that I cannot attend. I am sorry to say that I have never managed to attend any reunions. My wife and I have had our handicapped granddaughter in our care for twenty-two years which has limited some of our activities. We don't complain because she has truly been a blessing in our lives. Our 5 children and twenty plus grandchildren are constantly asking me to tell them about my experiences during World War Two. I am probably the only seventy-seven year old who can't remember things, but it gets more difficult every year. I have been wondering if there is any way to obtain a copy of the history of the Lowndes? I worked in the office on board ship and at the end of the war I was able to have possession of many pictures, but I allowed a shipmate to borrow them several years ago and he never returned them. I appreciate receiving the newsletters and without any response from me. They do bring back memories of serving on the Lowndes with a lot of great guys. Have a great reunion, and thanks for everything. Please change my address to:

545 S. Valley View Dr #88
St. George, Utah 84770

Howard, your check will cover all cost of the USS Lowndes history booklet. You should receive it by the time you get this newsletter. Time permitting we may be able to send a few photos.

Renee Michalski

My mother, Jerry wants to convey her thanks for all the get well/cheer cards that have been coming her way from the Lowndes reunion group. There was another cute handmade one from Pam too. My Mother really appreciates everyone sending them and they brighten her day. The news is good. She is their star 'pupil'. I had a chance to see her 'in action' in rehab last Thursday morning. The therapists are impressed at how motivated she is and at her progress.

Although she gets around in the wheel chair most of the day, she can now walk 30 yards with a walker and can stand up by herself from the bed and do a pivot turn to get into the wheel chair. She has some hip pain from where they took bone for the fusion grafts, but that has not slowed her down.

Received the above e mail from Renee on April 17th. Hope all goes well and we can see her and Mike at the Biloxi reunion. Keep up the good work Jerry.

Mrs. Charles Seay

I am Lt. Meadows sister (88 years old). In going through old papers I found the enclosed, which I thought you might find interesting. He died 15-20 years ago. He never wanted to talk much about the war years having served in both the Atlantic and Pacific and was well past the age when he enlisted. Enjoy receiving the newsletters.

The following is an excerpt from the Feb. 22, 1970 San Angelo Standard-Times Texas Newspaper that Mrs. Seay sent me.

"We had to make three runs on the beach before we could get our landing craft to 'stick' on the steep slope long enough to unload troops." Said Lt. Claude W. Meadows, Jr., a Lt. Senior Grade and a Beach Party beachmaster for the invasion of Iwo Jima. "And all this time the shells and mortars were exploding all around us."

Lt. Meadows was the Executive Officer of the Lowndes Beach Party. Therein lies a story relating to your editor. When I was assigned to the Beach Party I was a MM2c. After a short time I asked the Lt. If I could go for a MM1c rating. He promptly told me "That there was no place for a MM in the Beach party and as of now, you are a MoMM." I did take the test and got the 1c rating.

How can you have a total of 30 cents with two coins and one coin is not a nickel?

May 2003-6

Some Facts About Our Flag

By Noble John Martin

A Military Funeral

When you see this, remember something special. Those whose bodies are laid to earthly rest will be honored by a tradition of folding the American Flag. This is not just a gesture, but has great meaning from our history – a history, which even terror, cannot overcome. And so, as the lumps in your throats, tears in your eyes, and struggle with bitterness, anger, and frustration, here is something to remember how special these people were.

Why is the Flag Folded 13 Times?

Have you ever noticed at a military funeral that the honor guard pays meticulous attention to folding the American Flag 13 times? I've known how the **21 gun salute** was determined (**adding the individual digits of 1776, 1+7+7+6=21**). The flag is folded 13 times (**13 Original Colonies and stripes on our Flag**). The Flag is folded 13 times when lowered or when presented to a widow at the burial of a veteran. When the Flag is folded completely (13 times) the stars are the only showing, it reminds us of our nations motto, "**In God We Trust.**" Also, "**In Peace and Serenity.**"

Ed. Note: Submitted by, my sister, Elsie Meisl.

On December 28, 1945 Congress officially recognized the "Pledge of Allegiance."

In 1931 "The Star-Spangled Banner" was formally designated the national anthem.

A special thanks to newly appointed Brigadier General Marty Umbarger for arranging for the Navy color guard to present the Colors on Saturday evening prior to our banquet and festivities.

David Brinkman

Just want to give everyone an update on the South Carolina State Museum exhibit. The exhibit opened on April 19th and will go until mid-September. The Lowndes ship model is still under construction and should be ready to join the exhibit in a few weeks. The model builders started over at one point because they thought it needed to be larger. The owner of the model business wants this to be a great looking model since it is being displayed in the State Museum (and also because I told him I would leave his name on the display plaque). The LCVP boats were also redone and the main deck was completely redone when they did not meet the owners expectations. On another, disappointing note, the Museum reviewed the exhibit with a Marine Corps consultant and he said the displaying of Dog-tags and photos of the Lowndes members that died on Iwo Jima (Don Bowman and Norman Richards) would not be appropriate, so these will not be in the exhibit. I'm very sorry about this. I have the Dog-tags now and will bring them to the reunion this fall to return them to the families. I will also have available, photos of the Lowndes model when it is complete and at the Museum.

Ed. Note: Must compliment David on doing a tremendous job on this project. He certainly has gone beyond the call of duty and I'm sure that the Lowndes crew, spouses and younger generation appreciate his efforts. Hope that many can have the opportunity to visit and view the exhibit in the Museum. Even though David has taken it upon himself to finance this project, several shipmates have made contributions to ease the burden. If anyone would like to participate in this worthwhile project send contributions to:

David Brinkman - 1074 Tarrytown Lane - West Columbia, SC 29170

TAPS



Herman E. Leick

He was very sick for over a year, suffering with emphysema and was on oxygen. Graduated from the University of Kentucky College where he received his Bachelor of Law degree in 1953 and in 1970 received a Juris Doctor degree. He held memberships in both the Kentucky State Bar Association and American Bar Associations. Survivors include his wife, Rebecca Parks Leick and son, Matthew H. Leick. A brother and two sisters.

No information regarding his Navy service or time and duties aboard the Lowndes is available other than that he was a PhM3c.