



## Sun Ship Historical Society's Newsletter:

Site: [www.sunship.org](http://www.sunship.org)

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Hello Everyone,  
Hope you enjoy this latest newsletter format.  
As always, if you have any additional information, suggestions or corrections, please let me know.

Thank You,

Dave Kavanagh  
davekav@verizon.net  
SSHS

### 1. Sun Ships Afloat:

Note: This 'Sun Ships Afloat' section has been posted on the website but will not appear in future newsletters unless a change in status of these ships occur. To access this information from our site's 'Welcome' page, click on the 'Ships of Sun Ship' icon.

#### Ships Still Afloat

- Sun Ship Hull: 155  
Name: Pan-Amoco  
Re-Named: J.A.W. Iglehart  
Delivered: 10.14.36  
Gov't Number: 5139179  
Type: Tanker  
Rev. Date: 2018.05.21
- Sun Ship Hull: 646  
Name: Adm. William M. Callaghan  
Re-Named: N/A  
Delivered: 67.12.19  
Gov't Number: 6801664  
Type: RO/RO  
Rev. Date: 2017.12.23
- Sun Ship Hull: 664  
Name: Matsonia  
Re-Named: N/A  
Delivered: 73.12.11  
Gov't Number: 7334204  
Type: RO/RO  
Rev. Date: 2018.03.26

- Sun Ship Hull: 669  
Name: Kenai  
Re-Named: Seakay Spirit  
Delivered: 79.01.09<sup>3</sup>  
Gov't Number: 7408093  
Type: Tanker  
Rev. Date: 2018.03.26

- Sun Ship Hull: 678  
Name: Kauai  
Re-Named: N/A  
Delivered: 80.08.27<sup>4,5</sup>  
Gov't Number:  
Type: Container  
Rev. Date: 2018.03.26

Note 3: Ship built in two sections-transferred; Stern: 78.02.01 (A-Slab to 4DD-A Section), Bow: 78.02.23 (B-Slab to 4DD-B Section)

Note 4: Date ship transferred from A-Slab. Christened 79.11.12

Note 5: Date from Tim Colton's Website

### 2. 'El Faro' (Sun Ship's ex-"Puerto Rico" Hull 670):

The story of our 'El Faro' Continues:

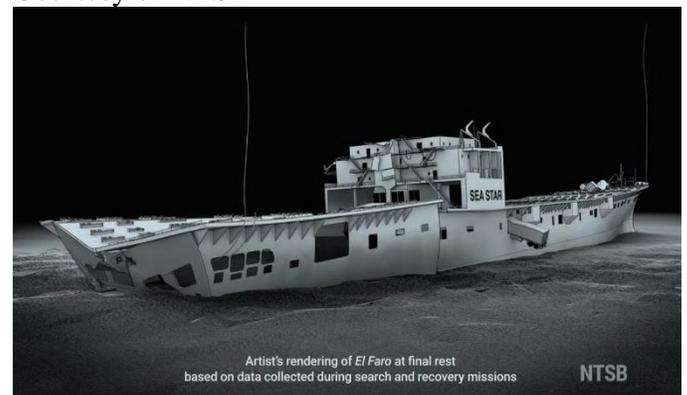
The following hyperlink to this NTSB (National Transportation Safety Board) article was forwarded to SSHS by Dave Boone and the following is the text from his email to SSHS:

"In this report is an artist's rendition of the ship on the bottom with 3.5 tons of pressure per square inch. Seeing the ship almost intact says a lot about how well she was built." (D.Boone)

Note: If you get chance, stop by Dave's 'Delaware River Shipping' facebook group.

SSHS ID: 500\_670\_009\_001a

Courtesy of NTSB



<https://www.nts.gov/investigations/AccidentReports/Reports/SPC1801.pdf>

"This digest of the National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB's) Marine Accident Report NTSB/MAR-17/01 contains a description of the accident and safety issues, and summarizes some of the safety recommendations intended to prevent such an accident from happening again. The full report and docket can be found at [www.nts.gov](http://www.nts.gov).

### 3. SSSH Obituaries:

Sadly we have another obituary to post:

3.1: We have attached the obituary of Ruth F. Schorsch, wife of Gene Schorsch (VP of Engineering at Sun Ship).

, "Ruth F. Schorsch, wife of Gene Schorsch, a VP of Sun Ship, passed away in their Denver home on 5/15/18 after a long and courageous struggle with Parkinson's Disease. She was a long time member of the Sun Ship family. She is survived by Gene, their three married children, six married grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Contributions in her memory may be made to Webb Institute, 298 Crescent Beach Rd., Glen Cove, NY 11542."

### 4. SSSH Artifact/Archive Update:

We are constantly on the 'lookout' for artifacts and archival material that will enhance the history of Sun Ship and we were fortunate in acquiring the following items:

Joel Chanitz has once again donated some of his memorabilia to the SSSH Archives. His first donation was a significant amount of documentation from the Sun Ship Computer Department (91) in Dec. 2017.

Note: Always embarrassing when I see a date relating to a project that is still waiting to be processed. My apologies to Joel for this delay-dmk

FYI: 91 Department handled some of the following tasks including; payroll, job cards, piece work, time cards and benefits. Joel worked in the Yard from 1963 to 1979 and was present during the transition to from hand-

written documentation to digital computer technology.

Our thanks to Joel for the following:

#: 429\_10\_001

Here is Joel's Sun Ship badge



#: 429\_10\_001

Afraid I didn't ask Joel's permission to post his photo ☺



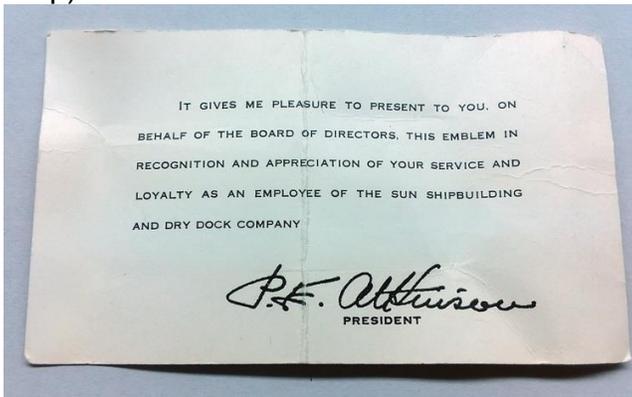
#429\_09\_001a

Joe's 10 Service Award



#429\_09\_002

Card that came with the service award with Paul Atkinson's signature (President of Sun Ship).



### 5. Ships started at, but not delivered by Sun Ship or contracts transferred to other shipyards.

We've received a few questions on ships that either started their construction under Sun Ship but were not delivered until after the acquisition of the Yard by Penn Ship or our contracts that were transferred to other shipyards. Both of these categories are now listed on the website as previously mentioned.

5.1: Ships started at Sun Ship but were not delivered by Sun Ship were not included as being "a Sun Ship vessel" and therefore are not included in the listing of our ships still afloat and they are:

- a: Hull 679: Transferred as "John B. Waterman" by Penn Ship
- b: Hull 680: Transferred as "Thomas Heyward" by Penn Ship

Note: These ships were not 'launched' in the typical manner familiar to many but were 'transferred' hydraulically from a flat building slap onto our No.4 drydock. There are pictures, representative, of a 'transfer' on the website from 'Ships of Sun Ship' / 'Hulls 651 thru 683' / Hull 668 'Tonsina'

5.2: Sun Ship contracts that were transferred to other yards:

- a: Hull 681: Dredge "Essyons" built by Bath Iron Works
- b: Hull 682: RO/RO Container "Charles Carroll" built by General Dynamics-Quincy

c: Hull 683" Sugar Barge "HSTC-1" built by Bath Iron Works.

### 6. Memorial Day Memories

An interesting set of circumstances led to the addition of "Memorial Day Memories" to this newsletter. Joel Chanitz was going to stop over and drop off his Sun Ship artifacts on Saturday since he would be in the area. He made a phone call that Saturday morning to let me know that due to a change in the schedule of St. James Alumni Choir's participation in the Brookhaven, PA Memorial Day Ceremony, he would be late for our meeting. I did not know that Joel was a member of the St. James Alumni Choir and decided to attend the ceremony to hear my High School Alma Mater sing at the ceremony.

It was a very moving experience with the choir, scouts, veterans, Guest speakers, members of an Army ROTC, honor guard and the playing of taps.

Now, I have heard the choir twice. The first time was at the funeral of Bill Lynn, who was a member of the St. James Alumni Choir and the uncle of my great friend Ray Hefton (a fellow; 'Sun Village boy', St. Michael's and St. James graduate and an ex-employee of Sun Ship)

This photo of Bill, also a St. James graduate and ex-Sun Ship employee, was from Our Yard's May, 1945 edition.

#705\_4505\_007b



**PRIVATE BILL LYNN**, formerly of 89 Dept., paid us a visit on February 26th. Bill entered the service on October 13th and underwent training at Camp Blanding, Florida. He is now serving overseas. His brother James, also formerly of 89 Dept., is now serving with the 23rd Fighter Command in China.

This Brookhaven ceremony led to the removing another item from my Sun Ship's "To Do List" and that was to get a photo of the WWII memorial in Sun Village (Chester, PA). You may know that both Sun Village and Sun Hull were built to house Sun Ship employees during WWI. These homes/apartments were managed by the North Chester Realty Company, a subsidiary of Sun Ship. Also, I was raised in Sun Village, 2 blocks from the Memorial, so there are memories of ceremonies there during the mid-1950's, all resulting in significant ties to the "Village" as we called it.



The addition of the S.V. Memorial to my to do list, was the result of the following 'Other Times' by Colin Answorth of the Daily Times, to whom I am always grateful for his finding and posting Sun Ship 'tidbits' that keep me digging deeper in the Yard's history.

#330\_19430526

Pub: 2018.05.26  
 Cat: 330\_19430526  
 KW: Memorial Day, WWII

**Other Times**

**100 Years Ago – 1918:** Edward Dickerson, the First Ward contractor, is providing stable room for a number of horses and mules which belong the United States government and are used by soldiers who are guarding the shipyard plants in Chester. The stock is quartered in the Dickerson stables at 23rd and Potter streets.

**50 Years Ago – 1968:** A Chester soldier, who received a medical discharge from the Marine Corps in 1964 and later was drafted into the Army, has been reported killed in Vietnam. He was identified as Army Pfc. Leonard David McGinnis, 22, who married the former Joyce Schrum, 507 W. Seventh St., while home on leave in March. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1964 while a senior at Chester High School. Three months after he received a

medical discharge because of a shoulder condition, McGinnis tried unsuccessfully to re-enlist on several occasions and was drafted into the Army in October 1967.

**25 Years Ago – 1993:** A Trainer man pleaded guilty to a charge he torched his parent's home while on a PCP binge and had to be rescued after he twice ran back into the burning house. The 29-year-old told the court that he's "finally straight" and off drugs after he entered the plea to arson and was sentenced to 18 to 36 months incarceration. At the time of the fire, the man struggled with police in a rescue attempt while asking them to let go so he could "finish the job."

**10 Years Ago – 2008:** Yeaton Borough Police are now on board with the use of tasers, nonlethal weapons that subdue dangerous subjects through electro-muscular disruption. The borough plans to purchase three X26 tasers at about \$1,100 each. They will be issued only to the sergeant on each shift, Police Chief Donald Molineux said, adding that more tasers may be added later on. Mayor Jacqueline Mosley said having tasers could have prevented harm to officers recently injured on duty.

– COLIN AINSWORTH

The memorial is located at the intersection of; McDowell Ave, 11<sup>th</sup> St. and Morton Ave.  
 #192.02\_002a

## 7. SSSH Newsletters

I am currently working on converting our past SSSH Emails into a newsletter format and have posted some of those converted emails on the website. Hopefully, I will get the balance of them converted and posted to the site, in the near future, so they will be available to any visitor to the website.

You can get to them from the 'Welcome/Selection' page by clicking on the 'Newsletters' Sun Ship icon.

Please stop by our website at [www.sunship.org](http://www.sunship.org)

Regards,

Dave Kavanagh  
 Sun Ship Historical Society