



Sun Ship Historical Society's Newsletter:

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Each of the pins are scanned, cataloged and placed in a clear zip-lock bag with card stock backing. SSSH: 011_02h



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

Thank You,

Dave Kavanagh
davekav@verizon.net
SSHS

1. SSSH Archives & Artifacts:

1.1: Sun Ship's Launching Pins:

We have acquired a collection of 108 of Sun Ship's WWII era *V-Victory launching pinbacks* (with duplicates). These pins were given to members of the 'Launching Party' on the day of the launching of the vessel(s). When Sun Ship launched two or three vessels on the same day, larger pins were made with the names of the vessels launched on that same day.

Samples of the pins:



This is a photo of the 108 pins acquired on 2020.11.02 by SSSH.

SSHS: 011_02



Our collection now encompasses a total of 199 pinbacks, which includes the collection from Lou Hunter (33-413) of 33I Dept. (Electrical Installation), donated to SSSH in 2007. These launching pins were collected by his father, Louis J. Hunter, who was also in 33 Dept. and was in charge of the electric wiring of the aft-quarters of ships built in the South Yard during WWII.

1.2 ECSAA Commemorative Coin:

We recently received a commemorative coin from the Escort Carrier Sailors & Airmen Association's Anthony Looney. Our thanks to both Anthony and Steve Rochford, fellow researcher, for his assistance in the acquisition of this significant artifact to our collection.

The following scans show both sides of the coin depicting the capture of the German U-boat **505** off the West Coast of Africa due to the efforts of the Escort Aircraft Carrier **Guadalcanal** CVE-60 and the Destroyer Escort **Pillsbury** DE-133, who were part of the 'Hunter-Killer' operations with Task Group 22.3. The heroic actions of the boarding party saved the sub from being scuttled and seized the coding machine known as the "Enigma" along with secret German code books.



Sun Ship's contribution to the Escort Carrier development played a significant roll in the establishment of future Escort Carriers, also known as 'Baby Flattops'. Sun Ship's **Mormacmail** (H-185) was converted into the first Escort Carrier **Long Island** (AVG-1, CVE-1) and followed by additional tankers and freighters of Sun Ship that were converted, by other shipyards, into Escort Carriers. Our current listing of eight Sun Ship vessels converted to escort carriers is as follows:

Hull: 173

Type: Tanker: T2 Class
 Orig. Name: **Seakay**
 Renamed: USS **Santee** AO-29, CVE-29

Hull: 174

Type: Tanker T2 Class
 Orig. Name: **Eso New Orleans**
 Renamed: USS **Chenango** AO-31, CVE-28

Hull: 184

Type: Freighter- C3 Class
 Orig. Name: **Mormaclang**
 Renamed: HMS **Archer**

Hull: 185

Type: Freighter- C3 Class
 Orig. Name: **Mormacmail**
 Renamed: USS **Long Island** AVG-1, CVE-1

Hull:186

Type: Freighter- C3 Class
 Orig. Name: **Rio Hudson**
 Renamed: HMS **Avenger** BAVG2

Hull:187

Type: C3
 Orig. Name: **Rio Parana**
 Renamed: HMS **Biter** BAVG-3, **Dixmude** A-609,

Hull: 188

Type: Freighter-C3 Class
 Orig. Name: **Rio de la Plata**
 Renamed: HMS **Charger** BAVG-4, USS **Charger** CVE-30

Hull: 189

Type: Freighter-C3 Class
 Orig. Name: **Rio de Janeiro**
 Renamed: HMS **Dasher** BAVG-5

Since the eight Sun Ship tankers and freighters were among the first commercial vessels to be converted into escort carriers, many changes and improvements needed to be addressed with the original design concepts. These improvements in the design and construction of future Escort Carriers, contributed significantly, in winning the war at sea in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters in WWII.

1.3 Sun Ship's S.S. Seven Pines (H-259) Launching Book.

SSHS is very fortunate to have the 'Launching Booklet' of Sun Ship's Hull 259, the S.S. **Seven Pines**, loaned to us for digitizing by Mrs. Margaret Adams. Margaret Adams is the granddaughter of the Sponsor at the launching of the **Seven Pines** on July 28, 1943, Mrs. Charlotte Kline Green. Mrs. Green was the wife of Samuel W. Green, representative of Sun Ship's North Chester Realty Division and has been employed by this organization for 25 years at the time of the launching.

Launching booklets typically contain photographs of the christening, launching and luncheon/dinner celebration. We were pleasantly surprised to find that in addition to the aforementioned photos, memorabilia consisting of newspaper clippings, correspondence from

Sun Ship to Mrs. Green, gate-passes, congratulatory cards from friends and family and other memorabilia was included. This additional information has greatly expanded our perception of what went on 'behind-the-scenes' of our earlier launchings at Sun Ship.

Typical Launching c:1940's: The sponsor and a few of her family and friends get their transportation paid to the launching site. She is given orchids and a wrist watch or brooch costing about \$250.00. She is guest of honor at a small dinner or cocktail party. After her return home, the sponsor receives a handsome booklet of photographs showing all her important moments from arrival, to bottle swinging and speech at the lunch/dinner event. The sponsor also receives a wooden enclosure with the top of the bottle and netting that is mounted on a plaque. sponsor.

Sample Launching Plaque: This plaque is from Sun Ship's first vessel, the S.S. **Chester Sun**, Hull 001, showing top of the champagne bottle and protective webbing mounted to a plaque. This plaque was given to Mrs. J. Howard Pew, the sponsor. The ship was launched on 10/30/1917
 Plaque Courtesy of SSHS
 SSHS: 500 001 003b



Photo from the **Seven Pines** 'Launching Booklet', showing Mrs. Green holding the christening bottle of champagne at the ship's bow with her husband S. Walter Green directly behind her. Note the 'Victory Launching Pins' being worn by the members of the 'Launching Party'.

SSHS: 500_259_02_004



Photo of the 'Victory Launching Pin' that was given to members of the launching party. SSHS recently acquired a duplicate pin for the **Seven Pines** and this will be given to Margaret Adams in gratitude for permitting us to digitize the 'Launching Booklet' for our archives.

SSHS: 011.259



2. SSHS Obituaries:

Sadly, we have additional obituaries to post:

2.1: David James McKee, passed away on Wednesday, September 9, 2020.

Dave worked in Plant Engineering (82 Dept.) during his time at the Yard where he was active in many projects including in the design and construction of our new North Yard ship fabrication facility (April, 1975). He was also active in; softball, basketball and participated in the United Way Fund Drives. During Dave's time with Penn Ship, he was promoted to Plant Engineer.

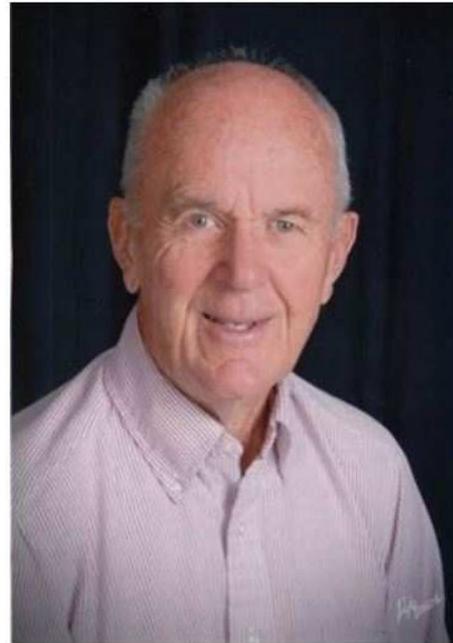
Dave also contributed his personal Sun Ship / Penn Ship archives to the Sun Ship Historical Society in 2007, for which we are extremely grateful. In addition, he would also periodically email us with information

pertinent to the plant engineering history of Sun Ship, one of which, was the history of the 'Ridley River' a name created for a small segment of the Ridley Creek due to the Yard expansion of 1920. More on this subject to follow.

Photograph of Dave McKee 7/8/1932 – 9/9/2020

Photo courtesy of Mary Lou McKee

SSHS: 40_mckee_david_82_01



Softball-Industrial Engineers-Tigers

Photo from Our Yard magazine August, 1963.

SSHS: 705_6308_020a

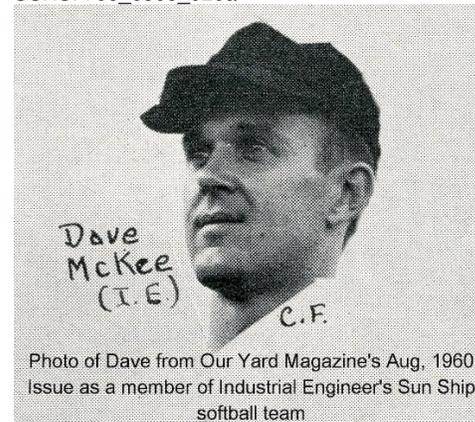


Photo of Dave from Our Yard Magazine's Aug. 1960 Issue as a member of Industrial Engineer's Sun Ship softball team

Softball-Industrial Engineers-Tigers

Photo from Our Yard magazine Sept. 1958.

SSHS: 705_5809_013a

I. E. TIGERS: Kneeling, left to right: Bob Galloway, Charles Newton, Leo DeJohn, Jim Cassidy, Dave McKee. Standing: Bill Walls, Jim Hunt, "Fireball" Bentley, Eloise Green (mascot), George Jose, Ed Setaro, Ted Denski, Willis Glenn—manager. MISSING from picture: Paul Atkinson, Fred Beebe, William Carter.



Basketball-Hull Drawing League Champions-1965

Front L/R: Robert Walls, Gabriel Moretti, Joseph Carantonio, Charles Smith.

Rear L/R: Sam Summa, Robert Filliben, David McKee John O'Brien.

Photo from Our Yard magazine February, 1965

SSHS: 705_6502_024a



Dave McKee's Transcribed Obituary:

David James McKee (7/8/1932-9/9/2020) Born in Media and raised in Rose Valley, Dave attended Penn State University for a year and a half before joining the US Navy for a 4-year stint, his helicopter squadron stationed out of Lakehurst, NJ. After the service he worked 32 years at Sun Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, Chester, in plant engineering. When that closed, he worked 4 years with Hudson Engineering in Camden, NJ.

Dave played tennis at Wallingford Swim & Racquet Club and Idle Hour Tennis Club. He served as an Indian Chief with Y Indian Guides, served on the Board of Middletown Free Library and as a Trustee of First United Methodist Church, Media. Enjoying kids, he coached soccer for 9-12 year-olds in the Wallingford Recreation League. Over his life time he enjoyed bridge, wood carving, fishing, water color painting and reading. After moving to Jenner's Pond, he took up pool and took some additional water color classes. There he also served on the Safety Committee and in the Wood Shop,

Vacations in the Poconos, enjoying the cabin he helped build were highlights when their children were small. Later he and Mary Lou enjoyed visiting the U.S. National parks.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Lou; their three children, Jamie, Chris and Sara; his daughters-in-law Kathy and Ginny; and his grandsons Riley and Kyle.

He was predeceased by his parents, James McKee, Jr. and Ethel May Yeatman McKee, and by his sister, Joanne McKee Malmsjo of Springfield.

He finished his course at home and rests with His Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

2.2: Edward R. Horn, passed away on Saturday, October 24, 2020.

During his time at Sun Ship, Ed was the Foreman of Paint Shop (69) Dept., Plant Engineering (82) Dept. and Night Shift Superintendent. I worked with Ed during his tenure as Paint Shop Foreman and Project Engineer in Plant Engineering.

Ed also contributed his personal Sun Ship / Penn Ship archives to the Sun Ship Historical Society in 2006, for which we are extremely grateful.

One of my great pleasures during the demolition of the Yard 2004-05, in making way for Harrah's Casino, was to take past Sun Ship employees on tours of the Yard. Early in the history of the Sun Ship Historical Society, I received a phone call from Richard Osman. His father, Harry Osman 38D, had a Sun Ship flag that was given to Richard when Harry passed-away. Richard donated the Sun Ship flag to the Sun Ship Historical Society in 2004, which you see in the photo below.

Yard Tour May 2, 2005

We arranged a Yard tour, but had to stop out front for a 'photo-op' before-hand. Attending this tour was; L/R: Dave Johnson 82D, Ed Logeman 33D, Ed Horn 69-82D, George Howarth 59D and Dave Kavanagh 33-79D. SSHS: 050221_012a



Here is a closeup of Ed Horn on the Yard tour.
SSHS: 050221_012a



Edward R. Horn's transcribed Obituary:

Edward R. Horn, Jr. 89 of Coatesville passed away Saturday October 24, 2020. He was born July 8, 1931 in Phoenixville, PA to the late Edward, Sr. & Helen (Kepp) Horn. He lived most of his childhood in Ardmore, PA. He raised his family for 47 years in Glen Mills, PA before moving to Coatesville, PA.

Edward worked at Sun Ship in Chester as a paint shop Manager, night shift Superintendent and Project Engineer. After the ship yard closed, he finished his career working for First State Chemical/Noramco as a Facility Maintenance Supervisor. Edward proudly served in the US Naval Reserves for 20 years.

He loved blue grass music, playing his banjo, wood working and restoring his beloved antique 1924 Brockway and 1931 AA US Mail truck. He was a proud member of the Historical Car Club of Pennsylvania and the Antique Automobile Club of America.

In addition to his parents, Edward was preceded in death by, Jane Horn McDonald.

Survivors include Cecilia (Buchy) Horn, wife of nearly 68 years, 5 children, 8 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren

Due to mandated restrictions, all family services will be private.

Donations in Edward's memory may be made for the new railings on the Altar steps to:

Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church
80 South 17th Ave.
Coatesville, Pa 19320

3. Ship's of Sun Ship-In our news:

1.1: **American Sun (H-648)**

We have acquired a model, by Boucher-Lewis, of Sun Ship's 80,00 DWT tanker **American Sun**, first of four of her class including; **Joseph D. Potts** (H-651), **Sohio Intrepid** (H-652) and **Sohio Resolute** (H-653).

The **America Sun** was launched on 1969.11.22. We will prepare the 'Ship's Record' to follow shortly.

Amazing coincidence, Ermanno M, the seller, attended the electrical apprenticeship program at Baren's Shipbuilding in Durban, South Africa in the same time window that I participated in the Sun Ship Electrical Apprenticeship program, 1964-1968

Photo of ship's model

SSHS: 500 648 05 01



1.2: **Kauai (H-678)-to be broken-up**

Photo courtesy of Dave Boone of our **Kauai** (678) arriving in Brownsville, TX to be broken-up.

SSHS: 500 678 004



1.3: **Adm. Wm. M. Callaghan (H-646) -2020.09.20**

Photo showing the Adm. Wm. M. Callaghan underway from Alameda, CA for "turbine-activation". Glad to see she is still in service. Photo courtesy of Dave Boone.



We hope you enjoyed another look into our Sun Ship history and, our condolences to the families of both Dave McKee and Ed Horn

Please stop by our website at www.sunship.org

Regards,
Dave Kavanagh
Sun Ship Historical Society