The article below was submitted to me by Gary Green, member 691, he found it while checking out amphibious operations in WWII and Korea. I don’t know it’s origin so I can’t give credit where due, but I thought this was worth passing along. Thanks Gary for sharing it with us.

“Land the Landing Force”

Just after midnight on Day 15 September, the Advance Attack Group and the bombardment group formed into an 18-ship column and entered the Fish Channel. Two hours later, closeouts in the lead ships noticed a rhythmic flashing light in the darkness ahead of them. The rotating beacon atop the Palmi Do lighthouse guided each ship safely through the narrow passage. Lieutenant Clark who had activated the light, shivered in his lofty perch not only from the chilly night air but from the thrill of seeing the fleet steaming into Inchon.

At 0508, Mount McKinley dropped anchor in the channel and the gunfire support ships and amphibious vessels moved to their assigned positions. At 0520, Doyle hoisted the traditional signal that had preceded many amphibious assaults in naval history: “Land the landing force.”

Marines in Horace A. Bass, Ditchenko (APD 123) and Wansuck (APD 125) charged into the LCVPs that would carry them to shore. Fort Marion (LSD 22) prepared to disgorging three utility landing ships carrying tanks and equipment. At 0540, the cruisers and destroyers inaugurated the third day of shelling Wolmi Do and other targets in and around Inchon.

Soon after first light, Marine Corsairs launched from...
DONATIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION

Thanks to these members for their donations to the USS Mount McKinley Association during the last quarter.

Richard Baldwin, Robert Kurland, Ralph Langley, Thomas Ochoa, Thomas Fitzpatrick, and Charles Warner
A special Thank You to Thomas Fitzpatrick and Tommy Ochoa
For their combined donation of $214.00

Total Donations $228.00

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**USS Mount McKinley Association**

**Statement of Financial Condition**

*As of June 30, 2003*

**Income:**

- Ship's Store Sales: 940.00
- Less Cost of Goods Sold: 615.33
- Gain on Ship's Store Sales: 324.67
- Advertisement: 50.00
- Dues: 5003.00
- Donations: 739.00
- Interest: 42.32

Total Income: 6158.99

**Expenses:**

- Newsletter: 966.42
- Postage: 11.40
- Ships Store Shipping & Supplies: 100.00
- Supplies: 224.49
- Telephone: 10.00
- Bank Charges: 2.70
- Web Service: 105.95
- Reunion Deposits: 500.00

Total Expenses: 1920.96

Total Income Year to Date: 4238.03

Cash January 1, 2003: 13263.48
Ships Store Inventory January 1, 2003: 4287.41
Add Income as of June 30, 2003: 4238.03
Total: 21788.92

Cash-Bank Of America: 6935.87
Cash-Zurich Money Market: 10929.26
Total Cash June 30, 2003: 17865.13
Ships Store Inventory, June 30, 2003: 3923.79
Total Assets: 21788.92

Submitted By: William K. Ellis, Treasurer

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Visit us @

www.ussmtmckinley.com
Shipmates and ladies, as I sit and ponder about writing my last message as President - its TOUGH. There is a part of me that says "I'm glad its over" but there is a bigger part that says "I have enjoyed it and its been a wonderful experience to represent such a great Association."

When you try to recognize someone or a group the first thing that comes to my mind is our Charter Members. They had the vision and are responsible for getting us started. For the most part they are veterans of either World War II or the Korean War. To you shipmates, A BIG THANKS! I joined in 1994 and attended my first reunion in Philadelphia. It was outstanding and I knew I was hooked and that I wanted to have an active part. With our fantastic web site, managed by Ken Oxenrider, we continue to grow and that is very important for us to be able to sustain or even improve. With additional members it allows us always to look to them for new vision and solid leadership. Without a real commitment from all of us it could stymie our growth.

It seems every quarter we have several shipmates that have made donations either for something specific or to the general fund. Those donations are very much appreciated - THANKS.

The Ships Store is a very important part of our association. We have a huge inventory and items that make great gifts for our children or grandchildren. Steve and Connie Schermerhorn have done a terrific job in trying to add new items to the inventory. Included in this Masthead is our registration form and much information regarding our 2003 Reunion. Dennis "Pops" Pilny has really put together a package for us to enjoy. Please make your reservation now and join us for another one of those wonderful reunions, come to share the fun and fellowship we all enjoy!

This year we have another very important election - we are electing three Officers and three Directors. I ask each of you to give them the support you have given me.

I want to thank all of our Officers, Directors, Special Appointees and the General Membership for all of your support these last three years. Without your commitment we could not have remained a strong Association. Everyone of you have had a part in getting us where we are today. The USS Mount McKinley Association must rank as one of the best Naval Associations in the Country.

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

See Ya,

Les Mayer

My grandfather, Johnnie Dudding served aboard the Mckinley from June 1944 to December 1945. He was a Baker, Third Class. I have a picture taken aboard the ship of him and two other sailors, Paul Graham and Vincent Virdiglione. I was wondering if anyone remembered these two sailors or my grandfather, Johnnie Dudding. Scott Lambert slamb10@aol.com

My father was aboard the McKinley in from 1953 to 1957. He was a yeoman to the admiral. His name is Donald Fornwalt. If you have any information or remember my father, please contact me! This would be such a wonderful surprise for him. Thanks! Cindy Stephens Stephens80@comcast.net

I have been recently researching my Grandfather`s USN career. His name is CDR. William J. Montgomery. I believe he was on the McKinley early 1950s. If anyone remembers him I would like to hear from you. Thank you! Annette Rossman gxtree@iglou.com

I believe my grandfather, Antoine Austin Viator was on this vessel in the 1940's. If anyone remembers him please e-mail me. He is doing well, and would like to get in contact with some of his former shipmates. Robert Forrester, West Monroe, LA - USA, Email: ashes1802@aol.com
To register: The registry is accessible on the National World War II Memorial website, www.WWIIregistry.com or by calling the commission toll-free at 1-800-639-4WW2

Russell L. Weidman

WWII Registry

You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.

Americans who served in WWII can now add their names to an online registry. Organized by the American Battle Monuments Commission, the web based list is an effort to extend recognition to as many as 16 million Americans who served in uniform during the Second World War. It is being launched almost a year before the dedication of the first national monument to World War II veterans, slated for May 29, 2004 -- Memorial Day weekend -- on the National Mall.

To register: The registry is accessible on the National World War II Memorial website, www.WWIIregistry.com or by calling the commission toll-free at 1-800-639-4WW2. Anyone can submit names, and registration is free. Unlike the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the World War II memorial will not bear any veterans names.
The Editor's Corner

by Dennis (Pops) Pilny

Masthead@USSMTMcKinley.com

Well! At least I know there are people out there who actually read what I'm writing. As I mentioned in the article, A Simple Salute, in the last newsletter, I was very hesitant to include anything that even hinted at being political. The response I got was 2 for the article, and 2 against it.

Retired Wyoming State Representative, Dick Sadler made the best comment, and the one that I am certainly going to adhere to. He said, "Please, no more politics in the Masthead". Good words of advise! Thanks to all of you who mailed me with your comments, I do appreciate the response.

The post reunion cruise has attracted 34 members and spouses, and has now been closed out. It should be an enjoyable and relaxing experience. Darlene and I are already looking into something for the Branson Reunion next year.

Something else that I am excited about, is that I now have both the Branson, MO and the Charleston, S.C. reunion hotels under contract. Both reunions will be Radisson hotels, and they both gave us great rates that are guaranteed. More about them when the time comes.

Something new I just added today is a new web site that will feature news updates about the reunions we have planned. You can access this site through Ken's official Mt Mac site or go directly to http://home.wideopenwest.com/~pops222/

Hopefully this will make it a little easier for some of you to plan your reunion vacations. I will try to keep the site updated with the latest news concerning our reunions & any other news that is breaking.

With less then two months left before reunion, it seems like this year is really flying by. Hopefully the weather will straighten out and we'll finish the year a little better then it's been so far. I look forward to seeing a lot of new faces in California at our reunion.

New Membership Rosters.....

Shortly after the reunion, I will be publishing the new edition of our membership roster. The roster along with the anticipated revised constitution, and updated Lending Library list will be mailed to you sometime around October. Keep an eye out for it!

Post & Pre-Reunion Tours

I have been working with Bill Kim from California Tours to set up our reunion tours. Bill has been very helpful and easy to work with. One thing Bill told me about, was some additional tours that he can make available to us on an individual basis.

These tours would have to be booked right through Bill and are not a part of our reunion package. This is just something for those who are planning on spending a few extra days in California. For those of you on-line, you can view the information by going to http://www.california-tour.com/USSMTKINLEY/WC.gif for the Wine country tour. This is a one day tour. Or go to http://www.california-tour.com/USSMTKINLEY/YO.gif to view the Yosemite Tour. This tour takes two days.

By contacting Bill Kim, you can get a brochure with additional information. Call, write or e-mail to:

Bill Kim
California Tours
2015 Center Street
Berkeley, California 94704
(510) 549-4214
Billk@california-tour.com
Www.california-tour.com

Something else that I am excited about, is that I now have both the Branson, MO and the Charleston, S.C. reunion hotels under contract. Both reunions will be Radisson hotels, and they both gave us great rates.

Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once!
The following was submitted with his application for membership, by Gene A Witherspoon 953.
In May 1950, the USS Mt McKinley AGC-7, the USS Union and the USS Cavalier departed the United States in route to Japan to perform peacetime amphibious operations off Camp McGill n Japan with the First Calvery. On June 25, the North Koreans crossed the 38th parallel. Our ship had the First Calvery on board. We pulled into Tokyo and took on full compliment of fuel, food and ammunition. The three ships departed Japan and we performed the first amphibious landing at Pohang on the southeast coast of Korea. Afterwards, we departed and went back to Japan until the Incheon invasion. General MacArthur was on the USS Mt McKinley for the Incheon invasion. During the invasion, the USS Rochester blew a Yak 9 out of the air. I was in the LCVI that picked up the one floating tire and shock. A metal tag was on the wheel assembly that read "made in Russia 1950". The wheel and tire was immediately flown to Washington, thus proving that the Russians were backing the North Koreans in the war. After Incheon, we returned to Japan and later performed the Wonsan amphibious landing. In December, we were involved in picking up what was left of the First Marine Division at Hungnam. The USS Mt McKinley returned to the States in July 1951. Our ship carried a Homeward Bound Pennant of 1300 feet.
Gene also wrote the following about his favorite memories. In December 1950, we were in Hungnam to evacuate the First Marine Division. A group of us were in the gun shack because the temperature outside was about zero. The hatch opened and a redheaded man with a heavy red beard stuck his head in and asked if there was a Witherspoon in the gun shack. He turned out to be Red Cleckler from my hometown Roscoe, Texas. Red was in the reserves and had been called to duty because of the Korean conflict. The USS Mt McKinley was acting as a receiving ship for all ships in the area. He had ridden a L.S.M. from the states to Pusan. Then, he traveled on a train to Hungnam. Along the way, the North Koreans disabled the train. Walking became the reserves mode of transportation and they had been walking for weeks to reach Hungnam. Needless to say, we had a long conversation and warm coffee. Returning home from Korea, we stopped in Hawaii and received fresh milk. I had missed having fresh milk during the previous thirteen months.

Don’t cry because it’s over, smile because it happened.
### New Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Address Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ernest Bunn</td>
<td>SN-2, Supply Div., 1946 6800 Strand Ave. #370 Yuma, AZ 85364-9729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gene A Witherspoon</td>
<td>FC-3, F Div., 49 – 51 18 Worstead lane Bella Vista, AZ 72714-6112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddy Powers</td>
<td>LI-1, OA Div., 1964 2403 W Rosewood Spokane, WA 99208-4450</td>
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**San Francisco City Tour**

Our Thursday tour leaves the hotel at 9:30 am and is approximately 6 hours long. We should be returning to the hotel about 3:30 pm. We will be traveling in private air-conditioned coaches with certified professional tour guides in each coach. The fee includes all taxes, tolls and parking charges.

This enjoyable introduction to a fabulous city includes sights as varied as the Financial District with its many glass and marble high rises; the Civic Center with its classical architecture; Chinatown with its exotic sights and sounds; North Beach, the “Little Italy of the West” with its coffee shops and evening entertainment; Fisherman’s Warf and Pier 39 with an assortment of diverse restaurants, shops and waterfront views.

The tour is highlighted with a drive over San Francisco’s most famous landmark, the Golden Gate Bridge, where the tour will stop at the North vista point to get a spectacular view of the Bay and San Francisco’s unique skyline. This encompassing city tour provides a taste for further exploration of San Francisco on your own.

**Stops:** Twin Peaks, Golden Gate Bridge, Civic Center, Treasure Island and Golden Gate Park.

**Drive bys:** Union Square, Chinatown, North Beach and Embarcadero.

**Cost per person:** $20.00

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*How long a minute is depends on which side of the bathroom door your on.*
Cannery and Ghirardelli Square are also within an easy walk for some great shopping treats. For those of you who would like, the USS Pampanito, a fully restored submarine, and the SS O'Brien, a fully operational World War Two Liberty Ship, are both docked within easy walking distance.

Our bus will be leaving the Wharf District at 3:45 pm and should arrive at the Villa Hotel at 4:45 pm. The $37.00 per person pricing for this tour includes admission to the USS Hornet with hot lunch, Blue and Gold Ferry tickets, all transportation on private air-conditioned coaches and any tolls or parking charges.
The following constitutional revisions have been reviewed and approved by the officers and our Parliamentarian, Joe Malinski. They were also made available to the directors for their review. These revisions will be presented, discussed and voted upon at the upcoming reunion. If you are unable to attend the reunion, you have a comment to make regarding this proposed change, please write to Les Mayer. The driving force in this revision is our plan to offer a life Membership with a one time dues payment. The amount of dues will depend upon the age of the member. We have used the American Legion age break and percent of post dues to calculate the life time dues amount. A sample of the dues are: Age 65-69 $146, Age 70-74 $120, Age 75-79 $97. We have dues amount from age 30 to 85 and over.

Our plans also call for issuing a Life Membership Card. The first area of change is to redefine Associate members. Now, the proposed changes to the constitution.

Article III Section B (2) Associate Currently reads: (a) Any United States Citizen of good moral character over the age of 21 who supports the objectives of the Association may be granted Associate Membership if such application is sponsored by a regular member and the required dues paid. We do not believe this section is still required and will remove it and move the remaining sections up one number.

Section B (2) (b) currently reads: Men who served on any sister AGC ship may be an associate until his ship's group sends 20 members in attendance at the reunion for two consecutive years or more, they will be asked by mutual consent to establish their own organization. The above section will be renumbered to B (2) (a) and will read: Men who served on any sister AGC ship may be an Associate Member.

Section (c) which reads: Widows of regular members may be granted associate status. This will be renumbered to Section B (2) (b) and will read: Widows, children and siblings of Regular and Associate members or of a man who served aboard the USS Mount McKinley are eligible for Associate Membership. (This change is to prevent non-related people with no connection to the USS Mount McKinley from being associate members.)

The last section B (2)(d) will be renumbered to B (2)(c).

It reads as follows: An Associate member is entitled to all the privileges of a Regular Member, except they may not hold office. There is no change in the wording of this section.

Article III, Section B (3) is titled Life Membership.

There is no change to section (a) Section (b) currently reads: The President may grant up to five Life Memberships to any paid-up member whose health is such that active participation in the Association is no longer possible.

The suggested change is to add the words "During his two year term" between Memberships and to. Section (c) currently reads: Regular members who desire Life membership must make application for such to the Board of Directors and pay a one-time fee to be set by the Board of Directors. In this case three years, continuous, active membership shall be a requirement for Life Membership.

The change is (c) Regular and Associate members who desire Paid Up Life membership may make application for such and pay a one time fee as set by the Board of Directors.

Under Article IV Dues--we have two changes, one minor and one to reflect what we are currently doing.

In section A which currently reads "Dues for membership shall be established by the Board-----etc" we have changed to read "Dues for Regular and Associate Membership shall be established by the Board etc."

Section C currently reads Dues for each 12 month period shall be due and payable on January 1st. Failure to pay dues thirty days from that time will result in forfeiture of membership.

We propose the change the last sentence above to read, "Failure to pay dues by August 1st will result in forfeiture of membership".

And finally under Article VIII-Ladies Auxiliary, We suggest adding the word Associate.

Thus the Article would read, Nothing shall prevent spouses of Regular and Associate members from organizing-----

If these proposed changes to the Constitution are approved, a new Constitution and By-Laws will be mailed to all members in October. The application and procedures to apply for Paid up Life Membership will be distributed at the same time.

Happiness comes through doors you didn’t even know you left open.
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<td></td>
<td>1 Mount McKinley Golf Shirt – Blue, White Short-Sleeve w or w/o Pocket</td>
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<td>2 Mount McKinley Baseball Caps – White w/wars on Back</td>
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<td>3 Mount McKinley Baseball Caps – Blue or White, plain back</td>
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<td>4 Mount McKinley T-Shirts – Navy Blue or White, w/Blue, White or Gold, Screenprint Lettering on Shirt Front</td>
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<td>6 Mount McKinley Ship’s Patches</td>
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<td>8 Ship’s Photos 8 x 10’s (specify with/without helo deck)</td>
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<td>15 Master Rosters: (listing of all years) Red 1944-70</td>
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<td>16 Ship’s Bell</td>
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<td>17 Laser Engraved Plaque</td>
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Due to reduction of stock on t-shirts & golf shirts a substitute color will be supplied if your selection is no longer available in your size.

Please include a “ship-to” mailing address
Make check payable to:
USS Mount McKinley Association & mail to:
Steve Schermerhorn
69272 County Rd 23, New Paris, IN 46553

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San Francisco Reunion Sept. 10th to 14th, 2003

Danang Harbor, 1969
This picture was taken from a helicopter returning to its ship. While in Vietnam, the Mount McKinley spent many days anchored in this bay. The area just below the rotor blade is China Beach.

USSMTMCKINLEY.COM
Visit our web site, it's quite an experience!

"IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO SERVED"

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WORREL EXPLORATION, INC.
OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION GEOLOGICAL CONSULTATION
WORREL EXPLORATION INC.
P.O. BOX 6786
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78209-6786
(210) 822-7171

"Come and help us enjoy the bright lights of Frisco. Dick & Viv Armstrong".

REUNION INFORMATION:
http://home.wideopenwest.com/~pops222/