

USS Plymouth Rock (LSD29)


Newsletter January - April 2013

Welcome to the USS Plymouth Rock Newsletter

Thirty-fourth Edition: The USS Plymouth Rock Newsletter is a publication issued every four months by the USS Plymouth Rock Ships Association. If you would like to contribute an article, a piece of Navy or Plymouth Rock history, photo, memory or anything that might be of interest to you or other shipmates, you can send it as an e-mail to:

Bill Provencal, Association Secretary/Newsletter Editor at:
billinp@metrocast.net

or regular mail at:
Bill Provencal
37 South Main Street
Pittsfield, NH 03263

 If you change **address** or **e-mail address** be sure to let me (Bill Provencal) know so we can update our **Crews List**. My e-mail is <mailto:billinp@worldpath.net>, my home address is listed above. We have been getting a lot of returns on our newsletter mailing to you guys who are paid dues members. Our ships website is found at <http://www.ussplymouthrock.com/>

Ships Officers

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tfwagner@wisincoh.com
812-539-9548

Vice President
Bill Haynie
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mailto:whhaynue@charter.new

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Bill Provencal
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603-435-8603

Ships Historian
Norm Jepson



★ ★ ★ Welcome Aboard ★ ★ ★

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rnjepson@aol.com

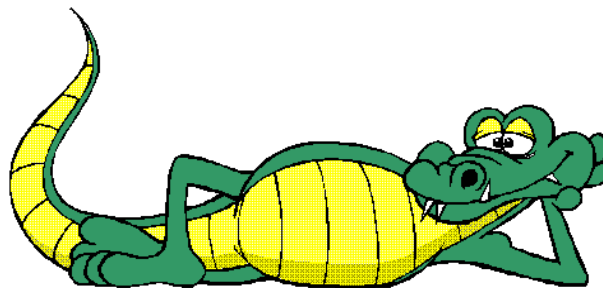
Ships Storekeeper
Dennis (Shorty) Cyr
shortybm3@yahoo.com
203-753-6220

Reunion Coordinators:
Bill and Lynn Haynie
864-934-2900
<mailto:whhaynue@charter.new>



Recently Located Shipmates
For complete information on any shipmate, go to the
Crews Muster List, found in the Ships Website

Ernest Sarosinski, SN, Donora, PA On board 52-56
Gabriel Hernandez, BT2, Donna, TX On board 8/71 - 12/74



Recent Address Changes to the Ships Muster List

James L. Lockwood, SN. New Address: 941 Lora Lee Drive, Marysville, OH 43040
Robert Warwick, MM2. New e-mail address: baldeagle@locall.net
Richard Hicks, MS3, New Address: 509 B Prospect St., Eden, NC 27288-1065
Andy Kulczinsky, GMG2. New Address: 398 Colross Cir., Stransbury, UT 84074-8166
CDR Robert Clark. New e-mail address: bbclark5@verizon.net
John Lauder, SK3. New e-mail address: jlauder44@yahoo.com
Chris Rose. HT2. New Address: 127 Valley Avenue, PeWee Valley, KY 40056, 502-909-9291
Mike Flanagan, QM2. New Phone #: 207-354-0854
Richard Cartwright, DK3. New e-mail address: richardcartwright@yahoo.com
Vito Ramondetta, BT2. New Address: 6156 Alexandria Circle, Fort Pierce, FL 34982.



Known Deceased Shipmates

For a complete listing of deceased shipmates, visit our Memorial Page in the ships website

Richard Bierce, Deceased 7 July 8, 2012	Lt. John J. Mullin
Solly McNeese, CWO Bosn	Mark D. Jacques, YNSN, Deceased December 2010
Willis E. Hempfer, CWO, Deceased November 12, 1990	
LCDR Gerald P. Shabe. Deceased August 12, 2010	



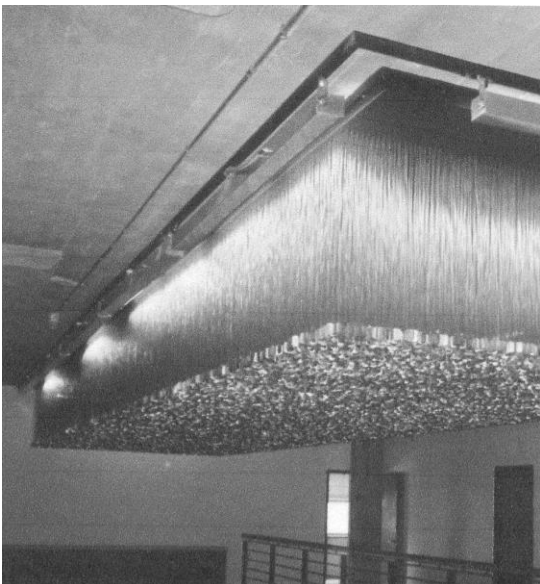
Thank You's

We would like to thank the following shipmates/friends for providing pictures, information and articles to the website, the Ships Association and newsletter.

CDR. Jerry Guertin	Randy Sibaugh	Bill Lydon, FTG1
Jim Novak, USAF, Ret.	Tom Wagner, YN3	Harry Andersen, BTC



The National Veterans Art Museum



When visitors first enter the museum, they will hear a sound like wind chimes coming from above them and their attention will be drawn upward 24 feet to the ceiling of the two-story atrium.

Dog tags of the more than 58,000 service men and women who died in the Vietnam War hang from the ceiling of the National Veterans Art Museum in Chicago on Veterans Day November 11, 2010. The 10 by 40 foot sculpture entitled Above & Beyond was designed by Ned Broderick and Richard Stein.

The tens of thousands of metal dog tags are suspended 24 feet in the air, 1 inch apart, from fine lines that allow them to move and chime with shifting air currents. Museum employees using a kiosk and laser pointer help visitors locate the exact dog tag with the imprinted name of their lost friend or relative.

Article contributed by Tom Wagner, YN3



Mail Call



✋ CDR Jerry Guertin, writes: "Bill, Your article on pg. 5 of the Sept-Dec '12 Newsletter asks if anyone has seen this type P-Rock plaque. Yes, that is the one I have hanging on my bulkhead, same design, probably metal, still on the wood backing. Thankfully to date, it is not YET part of my "Estate". All the best, Jerry Guertin, '75-'77"



Paid Association Members for 2013-14

As of April 22, 2013, we now have 129 paid members

Become a Member of the Ships Association

As you can imagine any group or association such as ours requires funds. The funds are used primarily for paying the costs of the Website (server fees, registration of our .com address), mailing out the newsletter to all paying dues members (printing, postage), general mailings up-front cost of upcoming reunion and postage. Our primary source of revenue are the bi-annual dues of **\$25.00**. To become a member of the USS Plymouth Rock Association complete the Application for Membership which can be found in the Ships Website on the Links Page or call/write/e-mail either my self or David Dortch and we will send you an application.

The 2013-2014 dues are now due, please send dues to David Dortch, Treasurer. Make checks payable to USS Plymouth Rock Association. Dues are payable on a bi-annual basis (every two years) at \$25.00 and are due on the year of the reunion (are due on an even year 2004, 2006, 2008, etc). *Should a member or prospective member pay at any other time, dues will be credited from the preceding even year.* All dues paying members receive the Newsletter three times a year by US Mail. David Dortch's address is 4009 Hickory Cove, Paragould, AK 72450

If your name does not appear on this list and you have paid your dues, please let David Dortch know as soon as possible. His e-mail address is tazrhondave@yahoo.com

Adam, Ian	Andersen, Harry	Anstett, William	Bali, Charles	Bell, Joe
Bena, Joe	Bentheimer, Glenn	Bergeron, Richard	Betts, Roger	Bierce, George
Bild, Bob	Brown, Alvin G.	Brusky, David	Brunton, Thomas	Buchanan, Richard
Buiak, Peter Jr.	Burch, Willard J.	Caldwell, Tim	Cartwright, Richard	Casillas. Greg
Clark, Nick	Clark, Robert	Comstock, Ed	Conboy, Bill	Conroy, Michael
Cooke, Charles	Crowl II, Martin C.	Cuffy, Arvell	Cummings, Steve	Cyr, Dennis
Czarnetski, Bruce	Czarnetski, Jon	Dailey, Ronald J.	Dalfonzo, Sam	DiFranco, Joseph.
Dortch, David	Dushane, David	Dussault, Andrew	Farneski, Robert	Edwards, Maurice
Eldridge, Marguerite	Fisher, Jack	Fisher, Jay	Fisher, Scott	Formaro, Frank
Forton, Mary	Freeman, James	Furman, Herbert III	Gee, James	Guertin, Jerry

Hall, Daniel	Hart, Ed.	Hartson, George	Haynie, Bill	Hernandez, Gabriel
Hernandez, Leo	Hickson, Thomas W., Sr	Hopper, Richard	Howland, John	Hyatt, Walter
Ishmael, Harry	Jennings, Seeley	Jepson, Norm	Joyce, Ed.	Kane, Thomas
Kaderka, Leonard	Kuhns, Jimmy	Kulczinsky, Andrew	Lamay, Roger	Larkin, Chuck
Larson, Jerry	Lavallee, Leo	Lillig, Bernie F	Luttrell, James	Macomber, Brandon
Malcolm, Kenneth	Miller, Ronald	Mohawk, Paul	Morton, Jack	Musella, Rocco
Neipert, Greg	Nichols, Bob	Nichols, Peter	Pawlak, Ervin	Perino, Paul
Pihl, Walter C.	Pratt, Richard	Provencal, Bill	Pyle, Ted	Ralston, Ronald
Ramondetta, Vic	Reed, John F.	Rhine, Don	Ringer, Joseph E.	Robertson, Allen
Robinson, Jim	Rook, Jack	Rose, Christopher	Safford, Richard	Schneider, Michael
Shanahan, Robert	Shewchuk, Richard	Shober, Robert	Short, Forrest	Sims, Bill
Smith, James	Smith, Larry E.	Stackhouse, Norman	Stark, Jr., Peter A.	Stull, John III
Swathwood, David	Swearingen, Ron	Terranova, Paul	Tesh, Sam	Thibodeau, Doug
Tunstall, Van	Viaene, Lois	Wagner, Thomas F.	Walker, Gerald M.	Walsh, Bill
Warwick, Robert	Watkins, Richard P.	Watson, Ernest	Watts, Richard A.	Wells, Andrew
Whitlock, Jerry S.	Whittle, David	Ziemba, James	Baldwin, Brad	



From the desk of Tom Wagner, Association President

Just want to let you all know, we have awoken from our winter hibernation. I spoke with Bill Haynie about a month ago. Bill is our new VP and Reunion Coordinator. He is moving forward with our 2014 Reunion which will be held in Norfolk, Va. I believe the last reunion in Norfolk was 2006 and it was a great success. Norm Jepson & Harry Andersen put a lot of hard work into that reunion. We had a great turnout in 2006.

For many of us, Norfolk/Little Creek is where our Naval lives began. Little Creek was out in the country, miles from Norfolk. The Main Gate at Little Creek was a far walk to the quay wall where the ROCK tied up. I remember many a night making that walk. In the winter, the temperatures could get very cold and there was always plenty of wind. I can still see some of the Underwater Demolition Teams (UDT) training. (UDT was the fore-runner of the Navy Seals) They were running all over the base carrying

a huge rubber boats or taking a swim in the pier area.

That was 1958/1960. The Little Creek base now is like a small city with many amenities for Navy personnel and their families. It is still home to the LSD's and Navy Seals. We got to see much of the base in 2006.

But Norfolk and the surrounding area is not all about Navy. In 2006, we had a wonderful Harbor Tour, a tour of the Gen. Douglas McArthur museum and a day long bus tour to Williamsburg, Va., which is about an hour away. And of course, a self conducted tour of what remains of East Main Street. Not much, but it did stir the memory.

I hope that I will see a great many of you at the 2014 Reunion. Norfolk is a special place for most of us, so take advantage of this opportunity.

May all your skies be red at night, Tom Wagner



Ships Store Items

The following items are offered for sale through the Ships Store. All orders are handled through Shorty Cyr, BM3, 119 Pinecrest Drive, Waterbury, CT 06708, Phone #203-753-6220, e-mail at: shortybm3@yahoo.com All orders must be accompanied by a check. Checks must be made out to the USS Plymouth Rock Association. *You can click on any image to obtain a larger view of the item.*

	<p>Through a donation from a shipmate, we were able to acquire a small number of ship patches (see left). We are selling these patches for \$15.00 each, and are limiting sales to one patch per person. All orders are handled through Shorty Cyr, BM3, 119 Pinecrest Drive, Waterbury, CT 06708, Phone #203-753-6220, e-mail at: shortybm3@yahoo.com Call him before sending money to insure that patches are available, since the number is limited (17). Orders are on a first come, first served basis.</p>
<p>Plymouth Rock Mug. Price is \$15.00 includes shipping and handling.</p>	<p>Bumper Stickers. Price is \$2.80 includes shipping and handling.</p>  
<p>Ships Patch. Price is \$8.75 includes shipping and handling.</p> 	<p>Plymouth Rock Cap. Price is \$15.00 this price includes shipping and handling.</p> 
<p>Short sleeve tee shirt. Price is \$22.00 which includes shipping and handling. The following sizes are available: Med./Lge./XL/XXL and XXXL.</p> 	<p>Personalized Commemorative Plaques. Price is dependent on size, 7x9 is \$15.00 + \$5.00 shipping, 8 x 10 is \$20.00 + \$5.00 shipping. To order contact Shorty Cyr, BM3, he will send you an order form.</p> 





Picture taken in 1974



WRITE AN ARTICLE!

We need your articles and letters to the newsletter editor for publication in our newsletter.

Photographs accompanying articles are much appreciated.

Send your articles to the editor at: billinp@metrocast.net





Post Mark, P Rock's first year of operations, one month prior to the ship leaving for it's first cruise to Frobisher Bay, in Labrador



**Somewhere
at sea!**

Junior
Officers,
recognize
anyone,
what year?



Navy Trivia

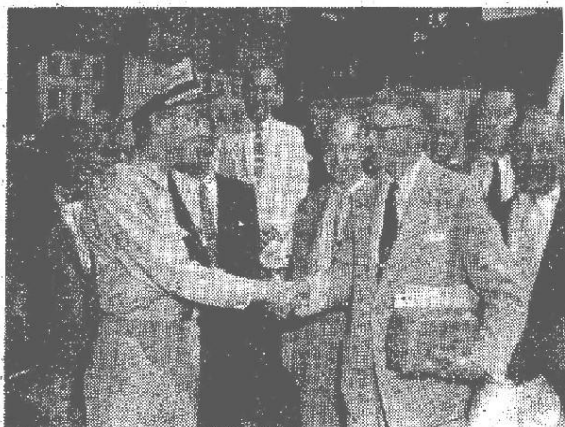
Battle Lantern: Battery powered, portable electric lights for emergency use.

Boats: Small open or decked-over craft propelled by oars, sails, or some type of engine. This term also applies to larger vessels built to navigate rivers and inland waters; calling a *ship* a boat is not good Navy talk.

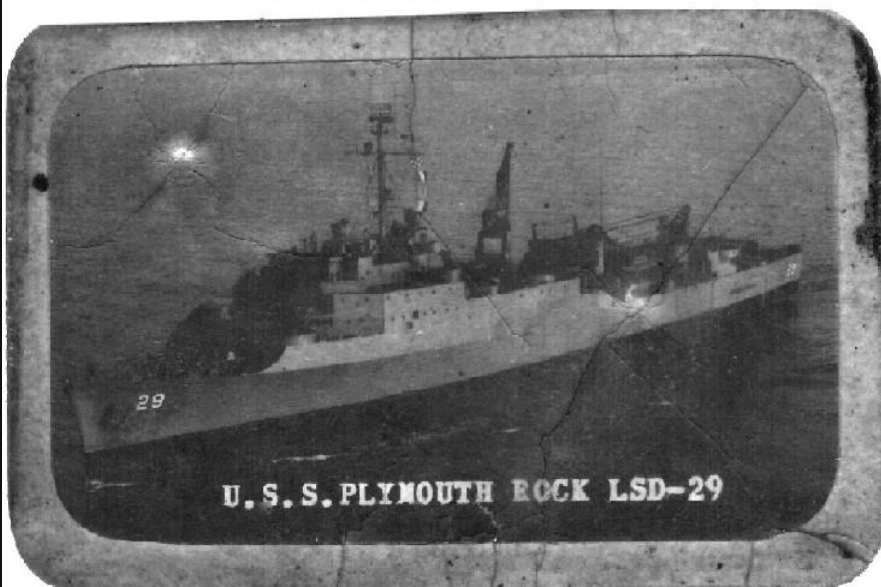
Bumboats: Small boats used in ports to sell merchandise.

Bright work: Bright work originally referred to polished metal objects, and bright woodwork to wood which was kept scraped and scrubbed, especially topside. Bright it should be and work it is.

Piping: Boatswains have been in charge of the deck force since the days of sail. Setting sails, heaving lines, and hosting anchors required coordinated team effort and boatswains used whistle signals to order the coordinated actions. When visitors were hoisted aboard or over the side, the pipe was used to order "Hoist Away" or "Avast heaving." In time, piping became a naval honor on shore as well as at sea.



PRESENTATIONS—Comdr. D. Bon-
tecou, C.O., Plymouth Rock (LSD
29) welcomes on board Mr. James
T. Frazier, Chairman of Selectmen
Plymouth, Mass., and other Select-
men of Plymouth, Mass. The Se-
lectmen gave the crew of the ship a
piece of the original Plymouth Rock
upon which the Pilgrims landed in
1620. A small statue of Massasoit,
the Indian who greeted the Pilgrims
on that historic occasion, was also
given to the ship by the Selectmen.
The ship reported that the items
would be mounted near the ship's
plaque.



Picture and article contributed by Randy Silbaugh, nephew of Ernest Saroniski, SN. Plank Owner. Article would be dated probably from 1956.

Two items on the right, also contributed by Randy, does anyone have any idea what it is? The number 424 was on back of the ship picture.





Photo of a British LCAC landing on the stern gate. We were doing NATO ops in August 1970. Picture contributed by Bill Lydon, FTG1



Tektite II



The attached photos show the lab we picked up in Philadelphia shipyard around May of 1970 and delivered it the St. Johns in the Virgin Islands. Plymouth Rock delivered Tektite II to the bay where it was submerged.

The United States Department of the Interior coordinated Tektite II, with part of the funding coming from NASA, which was interested in the psychological study of the scientific teams working in closed environments, similar to that of spacecraft.

The missions were carried out in 1970. Tektite II comprised ten missions lasting 10-20 days with four scientists and an engineer on each mission. Other scientists participating in the all-female mission included Renate True of Tulane, as well as Ann Hartline and Alina Szmant, graduate students at Scripps Institute of Oceanography. The fifth member of the crew was Margaret Ann Lucas, a Villanova engineering graduate, who served as Habitat Engineer. The Tektite II missions were the first

to undertake in-depth ecological studies.¹

Medical and human research oversight for Tektite II was well documented in a series of reports covering a project overview, saturation diving, lessons learned from Tektite I, application to Tektite II, medical responsibilities and psychological monitoring, medical supervision duties medical and biological objectives project logistics, lessons learned, excursions to deeper depths from storage pressure, decompression tables, general medical observations, psychological observations, blood changes and general program conclusions.

Article and photo contributed by Bill Lyndon, FTG1



Pirate Chasers



This Pirate chaser was running 43 knots at half throttle which is 49.5 Mph so running full throttle would mean almost 100 Mph. If those pirates are in the immediate area then this LCS-2 the USS Independence would probably catch them...

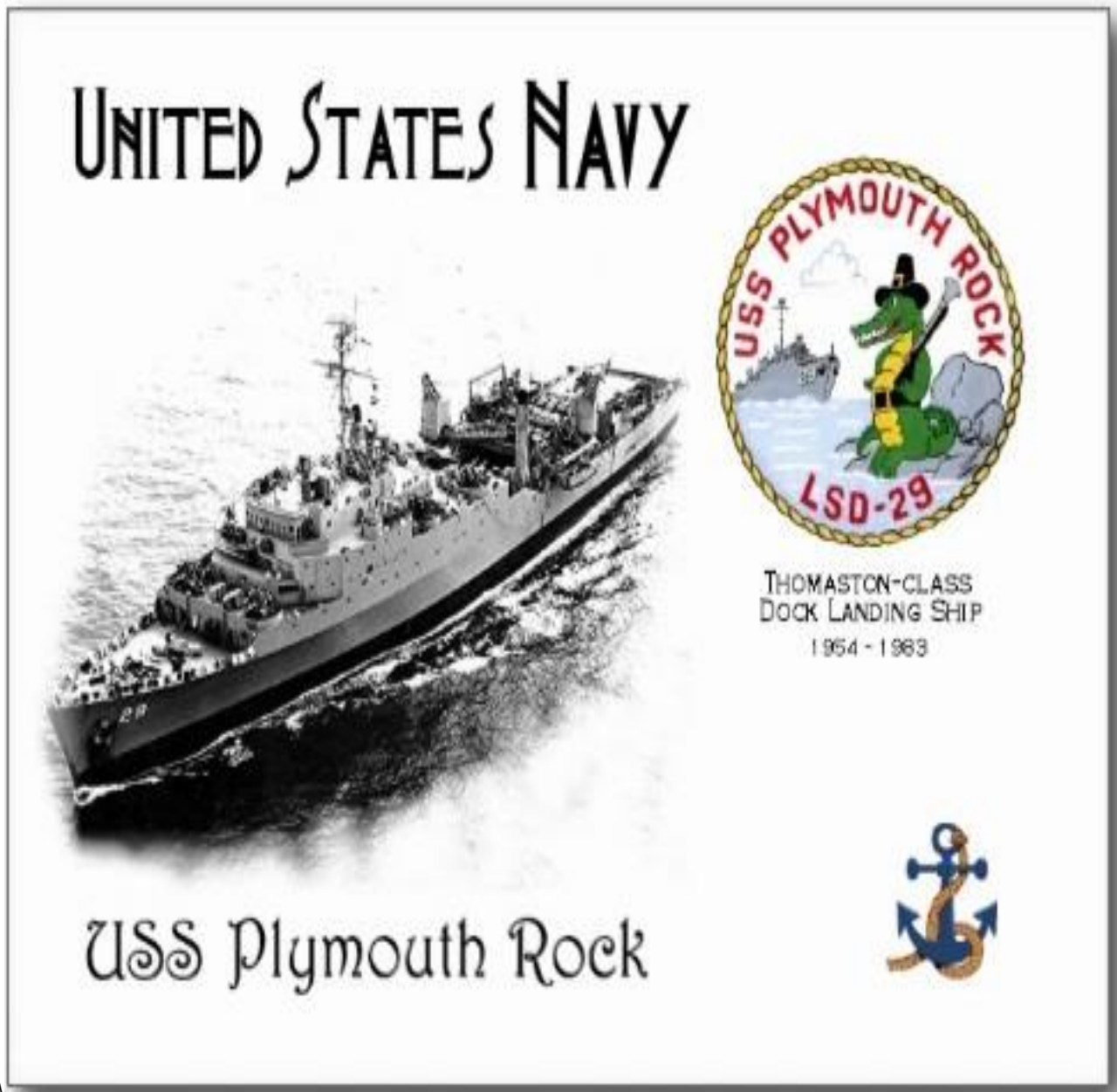
Note that there is very little spreading wake. In fact, it does not look like a wake at all, just foamy water from the water jets. Somehow, at 43 knots, you'd think there'd be more of a wake

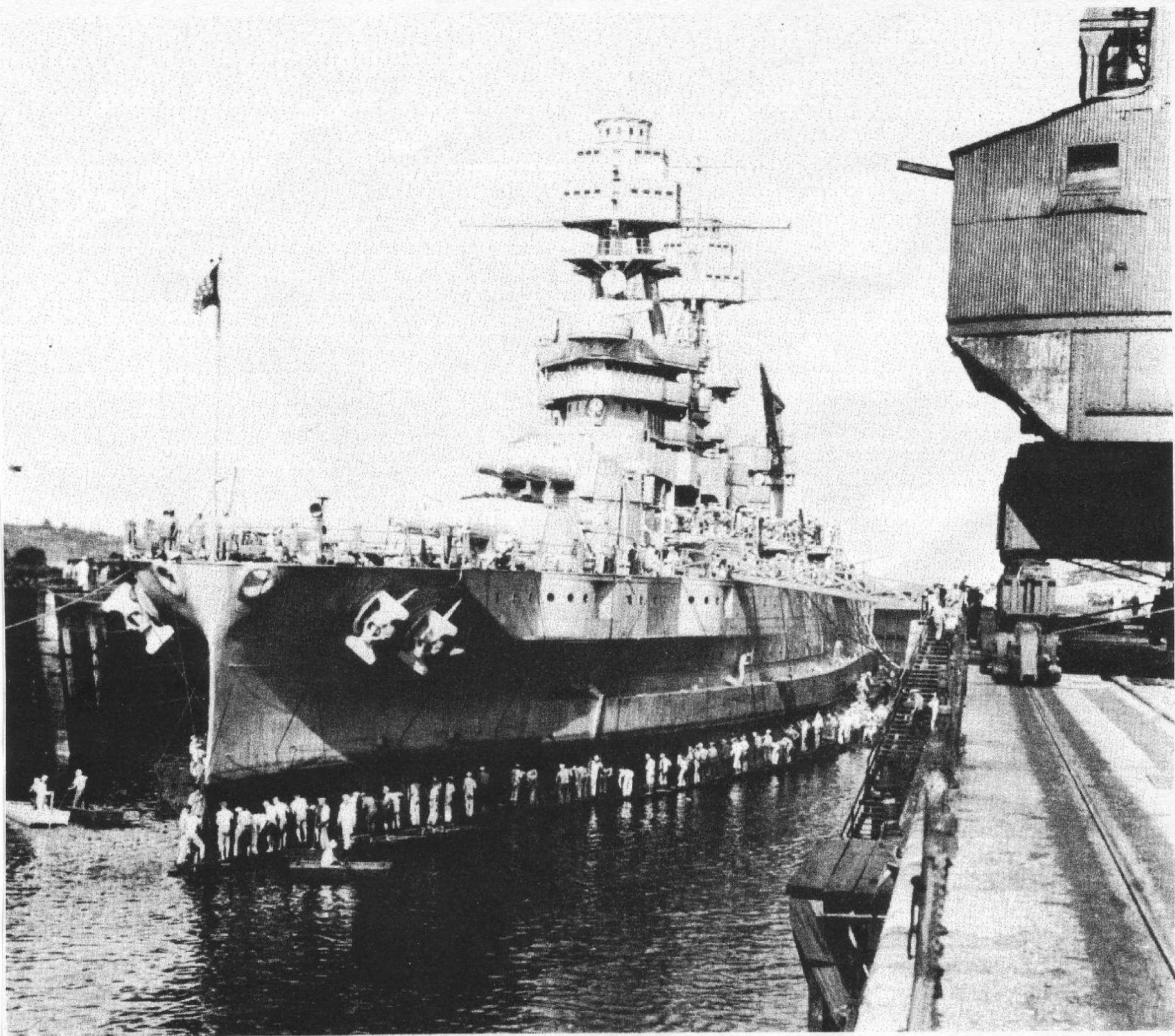
Here she is at sea trials running at only HALF- power at 43 knots! NOTE the absence of a bow wave.|

The U.S.S Independence was built by General Dynamics. It's called a "littoral combat ship" (LCS), and the tri-mararan can move its weapons around faster than any other ship in the Navy.

These ships are also relatively inexpensive. This one is a bargain at \$208 million, and the Navy plans to build 55 of them.

These pictures and information contributed by James Novak, USAF, Retired





The *Arizona* dwarfs the side cleaners scraping away at her underwater hull in a partially flooded dry dock at Pearl Harbor in 1934. Like other battleships of her generation, she was modernized with tripod masts replacing the cage masts seen in her massed-crew portrait taken in 1924. Atop the masts are the fire-control tops containing the lookout stations and the directors for the main and secondary batteries. The tops also held spotters, who observed the fall of the ship's projectiles. These multi-level structures contributed to the distinctive appearance of U.S. battleships between the World Wars.

USS Arizona picture contributed by Harry Andersen BTC



3 Navy Ships on Course for Longest Deployment in Years

NORFOLK -- Three Navy amphibious ships that left Norfolk ahead of schedule in March are set to stay at sea into February, which would make their cruise the longest ship deployment in decades. The amphibious assault ship Bataan, the amphibious transport dock Mesa Verde and the dock landing ship Whidbey Island left Norfolk Naval Station on March 23, three months earlier than planned because of the unrest in Libya.

The thousands of Sailors and Marines aboard the ships were recently told that their deployment will last about 10 1/2 months, Lt. Cmdr. Bill Urban, a spokesman with Naval Surface Force Atlantic, confirmed Monday. Navy officials said that would make the Bataan group's cruise the longest in decades. Typical deployments last six to seven months. After the Bataan group left Norfolk, it spent three weeks training in the Atlantic. The ships then steamed to the Mediterranean, where the Bataan relieved the amphibious assault ship Kearsarge, which was involved in early strikes into Libya. The Kearsarge spent 8 1/2 months at sea before coming home in May; it left Norfolk ahead of schedule to help flood victims in Pakistan. In August, the Bataan arrived in the Arabian Gulf for its planned deployment, replacing the West Coast based Boxer.

Since leaving Norfolk, each of the ships in the Bataan group has spent about a month in port in various cities. The Bataan has had four port visits, the Mesa Verde five, and the Whidbey Island six.



USS *Plymouth Rock* (LSD-29) probably in Hampton Roads, date unknown.

