

LST 534 Newsletter

October, November, December 2013

Volume 17, Issue 4

Luther Lyles visits World War II Memorial

Luther Lyles, S2C, took his first airplane trip this past May, 2013 at the ripe old age of 86. And he flew First Class, no less.

The Hardee County Rotary Club sponsored nine local Veterans to go to Washington, DC to visit the national World War II Memorial. They worked with a sister club and the Southwest Honor Flight Program to make the all-expense paid journey possible.



Departing Fort Myers International Airport on the wee hours of one Saturday morning, the veterans were greeted by military representatives honoring them by waving American flags and clapping. Each Veteran was accompanied by a Rotary escort.

Luther's escort was Bryan Birge. Thank you Bryan for watching over Luther as he experienced the joy of a lifetime.



The Rotary Club organization has this program, Honor Flight, to honor our World War II Veterans.

If you know of any veteran who has not had the opportunity to visit the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC, contact your local Rotary Club to see if he or she is a candidate for making a journey of a lifetime.

Photos Permission/The Herald-Advocate, Wauchula, FL

NEWS

Brickmania is a company from Minneapolis, Minnesota that makes and sells custom LEGO sets. They recently built a 10 foot long LEGO LST diorama depicting a battle in WWII. The model is on display in Evansville, IN at the Evansville Museum of Transportation Center.



Depicted was a mock landing at the Battle of Peleliu. LEGO tanks and LEGO American soldiers deployed forward on the model LST, storming the plastic beach of miniature Peleliu Island, now called Palau. LEGO ambulances and supply trucks filled the deck. Farther up the beach, LEGO Japanese soldiers wielded tiny replicas of World War II-era weapons and stood in plastic bunkers.

More than half a million bricks comprised the diorama, which

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cost over \$30,000. The designer of the diorama is Dan Siskind. He said all the little pieces fit into plastic totes and weighs more than 300 pounds. Several totes were filled with tiny blue LEGO bricks that were poured in a pile around the LST to resemble the ocean.



In addition to the replica Jeeps, trucks, and tanks, LEGO Marines climbed down a Jacobs's ladder in to an LCVP. Tiny LEGO valves accentuated the pulleys that operated cranes.

Siskind said the diorama is meant to be an educational experience. Thank you Dan Siskind for bringing the LST Battle at Peleliu to LEGO Land.

Courtesy Evansville Courier and Press, July 10, 2013.

ERIE CANAL

The Erie Canal is famous in song and story. Proposed in 1808 and completed in 1825, the canal links the waters of Lake Erie in the west to the Hudson River in the east. An engineering marvel when it was built, some called it the Eighth Wonder of the World.

It was under construction from 1817 to 1825 when it officially opened on October 26, 1825. In a time when bulk goods were limited to pack animals, and there were no steamships or railways, water was the most cost effective way to ship bulk goods or significant tonnages of any kind going back to the earliest days of recorded history.

The canal was the first transportation system between the eastern seaboard (New York City) and the western interior (Great Lakes) of the United States that did not require portage. It was faster and cut transport costs by about 95%. The canal fostered a population surge in western New York State, opened regions farther west to settlement, and helped New York City become the chief US port.

In order to keep pace with the growing demands of traffic, the Erie Canal was enlarged between 1836 and 1862. The "Enlarged Erie" was 70 feet wide and 7 feet deep, and could handle boats carrying 240 tons. The number of locks

was reduced to 72. Most of the remaining traces of the Old Erie Canal are from the Enlarged Erie era.

In 1903, the State again decided to enlarge the canal by the construction of what was termed the "Barge Canal", consisting of the Erie Canal and the three chief branches of the State system -- the Champlain, the Oswego, and the Cayuga and Seneca Canals. The resulting canal was completed in 1918, and is 12 to 14 feet deep, 120 to 200 feet wide, and 363 miles long, from Albany to Buffalo. 57 locks were built to handle barges carrying up to 3,000 tons of cargo, with lifts of 6 to 40 feet. This is the Erie Canal which today is utilized largely by recreational boats rather than cargo-carrying barges.

Today's canal has 34 Locks and is at least 120 feet wide and 12 feet deep. It has a vertical clearance of 21 feet between Waterford and Three Rivers (Oswego Canal junction), and 15.5 feet between the Three Rivers and Lake Erie. The locks are significantly larger than those of 175 years ago at 328 feet long and 45 feet wide, large enough for almost all recreational cruisers as well as large commercial barges to pass through. The largest vessels can be as large as 300 feet long by 43.5 feet wide.

The construction of the Erie Canal required many feats in

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its day. The first feat was that there were no engineers in New York at the time. Rather intelligent people stepped up and using creativity and natural intelligence sorted out problems as they arose. Constructing the canal required enormous man power in areas that had yet to be settled. The first years of construction saw little progress, removing trees and stumps created an enormous challenge in those days. Creativity overcame these obstacles and trees were pulled over rather than cut down. A rope was thrown over the high branches of the tree and then mules pulled it over. Removal of the stump required a mule-powered leverage mechanism to lift the stumps out.

Construction on the prism was done by first removing the trees, then loading soil into mule-drawn carts which was then transferred to the lower band to ensure the canal would not breach. Extra soil was also used for the tow path used by the mules. One interesting feature of the canal that is often overlooked today is that the towpath only was on one side of the canal. Towing from the opposite side was not allowed. This has a few advantages, primarily because it required less construction time, and later maintenance would be less. The tow path was generally on the northern shore of the canal

which allowed the sun to hit the path and keep it drier than it would on the southern shore.

Even with these streamlined building processes, thousands of laborers were needed. Irish immigrants from Northern Ireland made up the majority of the workforce and work began to steadily progress. Unfortunately crossing the Montezuma Marsh would put these workers into peril and over 1,000 workers died of swamp fever and this caused construction to stop in the area for the season and resumed in the winter.

The greatest engineering feat of its time, the Erie Canal changed the American landscape.

HOLIDAYS AND IMPORTANT DATES

October

National Breast Cancer Month



14 Columbus Day (Observed)

31 Happy Halloween

November

3 Daylight Savings Time Ends

11 Veterans Day



27 Hanukkah Begins

28 Happy Thanksgiving

December

7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

21 First Day of Winter

25 MERRY CHRISTMAS

26 First day of Kwanza

31 HAPPY NEW YEAR



October 27

Johnny Medeiros
C/o Sheila Sexton
1505 NE 55th Street
Ocala, FL 34479

October 31

Oscar Cress
9701 E. Hasket Dr.
Dayton, OH 45424

November 11

Albert Straka
643 Foothill Road
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

November 27

George Popham
6375 Juniper Drive
Missoula, MT 59802

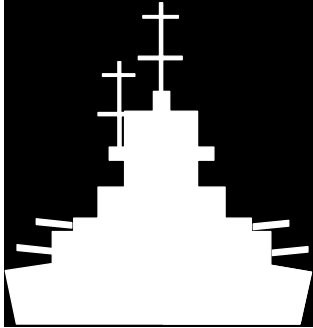
December 20

Wayne Jens
4275 Owens Road Spt. 136
Evans, GA 30809

December 25

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221 Westwood Avenue
Jackson, TN 38301-4321

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Just for Fun



A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took baby Jesus with them to Jerusalem.

A small child in the back replied, "Because they could not find a babysitter."

At Sunday School, they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny was especially interested when the teacher explained how Eve was made from one of Adams ribs. Later in the week, Johnny was lying down not feeling well. When his mother asked him what was wrong, he said, "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

Nautical Terms



Smoking Lamp Lit - Smoking is permitted on board.

Smoking Lamp Out - No smoking anywhere. Often used when loading fuel or ammunition.

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