

SECRETARY'S REPORT ON DISPOSITION OF NMA HISTORY/LIBRARY:

One of the paramount issues discussed at the New Orleans Convention Business Meeting was the disposition of our Library lovingly collected originally by Historian Dr. Joe Schreiber and cataloged by our present Historian LCDR Rick Hannum. Having explored interest of a number of possible repositories, the Stockton Maritime Museum (SMM) in Stockton, California, a city with a ship-building past and a museum group currently working to restore a former Ocean Minesweeper to be its afloat centerpiece, seemed a perfect match for the marriage of an afloat museum minesweeper and our Library. There were, however, a number of unanswered questions, e.g., ownership of an ex-Navy war ship hull; progress of its restoration; future ability to finish and maintain upkeep—people and funds; how our Library would be utilized and maintained. First things first, the ship itself.

A proud Ocean Minesweeper of the latter half of the Twentieth Century, the USS LUCID MSO-458 was finally decommissioned and sold. After passing through a number of ownerships, like a once beautiful thoroughbred racer that ended up pulling a cart, she found herself stripped of all her finery and relegated to being an empty wooden storage hulk. One organization envisioned restoring her, a cause to which your Secretary and a number of other MSO members of NMA contributed; however, the effort failed, interest waned and was almost forgotten until the SMM acquired sole rights to the empty shell and began their feats of magic. Other than the ship, of course, there were those other questions.

Attending Convention member Senior Chief Electrician's Mate Paul Abelquist of Long Beach, California, who was recently sworn in by President Clark as a Trustee on the NMA Board, volunteered to travel to Stockton to conduct an in depth investigation, which he accomplished 26-28 June 2018 in minute detail as you will read in his report below. Once you read it, you will understand fully the following remarks that bring you up to date regarding our Library:

1. Based upon knowledge available at the time of the Business Meeting, attendees voted unanimously to place our Library with the SMM, if they agreed—they have, we will and turnover is tentatively set for October 2018 time frame.
2. The SMM owns the ship and has plans in place to finish the restoration and move her to her permanent site in approximately four years. Since there is a bridge under which she must pass, her mast will not be reattached to its stub until after the move.
3. Our Library will be stowed ashore until the LUCID is ready to move; however, its contents will be available to interested parties through SMM Curator CDR Gary Howells (PhD and NMA member) as well as will be LUCID for arranged tours while still under restoration.
4. While LUCID was originally thought to be saved to represent MSO's only, it is now being considered to represent all the mine warfare community and the various ships that have plied the trade of being the first in harm's way. She is refitting as a minesweeper in every respect from pigs and kites on the fantail to black balls on the mast (only when sweeping, of course). And, finally,
5. Money and Manpower! Volunteers to help are welcome and needed. Although access to some equipment is available for free from other decommissioned ships, transportation and equipment to dismantle and haul away the loot is expensive, as is paint and a host of other supplies that must be purchased. Donations are tax deductible! Plaques and other germane memorabilia you may want to preserve would also be welcome. Contact CDR Howells at lawshrink@mac.com or by cell 209-603-5609 or other references in Trustee Abelquist's detailed report which now follows:

“I arrived at 3100 Monte Diablo Ave, Stockton, California 95215, the former USS Lucid’s moored address, at 0800, 26 June 2018, and took multiple pictures of the ship’s exterior while waiting for the volunteer crew to arrive. At 0845 I went aboard to meet President Dave Rajkovich, Curator Gary Howells as well as the ship’s photographer, the electrician, and some other very capable craftsmen.



Lucid photo in restored crew’s mess

After brief introductions, Dave took me on a compartment-by-compartment tour of the ship while explaining in detail their “before” conditions compared to what I was now seeing. The photographer took numerous pictures as we went along. The following areas were finished: CPO quarters, galley, wardroom, ship’s office, crew’s mess, crew’s head, sickbay, captain’s cabin, CIC, radio room, and pilot house. Spaces where work is still in progress are: Deck berthing, some officer staterooms, CPO head, and engineering berthing. All major structural damage to the hull and deck openings caused by the former owners has been restored to their original water tight condition. Keep in mind that there was not one piece of metal material on board, not even a porthole! All electrical

fixtures, fuse panels, wiring, and other equipment had been removed and sold for scrap value. The ship as received was just an empty hull! With organization, volunteers, time and money, miracles happen!



In the beginning...

Volunteers at work

A miracle wrought

The Stockton Maritime Museum Association was created seven years ago specifically to take ownership of the former Lucid. They acquired her from some party guy up in San Francisco, who had modified the ship to his needs and had even stored all his trash in the engine room; there was debris everywhere and decay from exposure to the elements due to no maintenance was clearly evident.

The museum folks are very resourceful and have been steadily acquiring original communications and electrical equipment, galley equipment--you name it-- from decommissioned carriers, oilers, frigates, etc. They are constantly looking for OEM equipment such as winches, anchors and, of course, minesweeping equipment. They do not intend to restore the engine room to OEM condition since the ship will not be operational; however, they do have two Packard engines for display. Because a reel is not available, the magnetic tail cable compartment is currently used as a workshop and will remain so.

Work has not started on the reefer deck, anchor windlass room, D. C. locker and several other spaces, but complete, detailed ship's drawings and archival pictures have been obtained from the Navy and are being meticulously followed. I was blown away by the displayed perfection in every compartment's restoration. When you view the pictures I have attached you will see the determination of this group of volunteer artisans to replicate the original period in time with old manual typewriters in the ship's office, the period khaki and blues uniforms hanging in the captain's cabin, and the old pipe and canvas bunks in the crew's quarters. Skilled volunteers come aboard every day to work, while on weekends fifteen or so student volunteers come aboard to do scraping, painting and shining tasks—much more cheerfully than did their Sailor counterparts in years past! Views of some finished spaces follow:



Galley ready for service



Wardroom ready, too



Captain's Cabin



CIC—Nav & Plot



The "Doc's" Den



Wheelhouse

The Association is able to raise approximately \$100k per year through various agencies and has done an amazing amount of work with those funds. They have not done any notable fund raising events due to their present location and current work in progress; however, that location is a county-owned, free of charge one. When the interior and exposed exterior work nears completion, Lucid will be dry docked to preserve her hull before moving to a permanent berth downtown at Weber Point Events Center.

Until that time, any archival materials that NMA will give to them will be stored at their mail address location at 4290 Cherokee Road, Stockton California 95215, an environmentally controlled space. Given the sensitive nature of aged documents, I was assured the museum is keen to the issue of long-term preservation and is affiliated with other agencies that can provide guidance in all areas of proper storage as well as display and dissemination of the material to the public. During her active life, Lucid was modified to handle the VDS (Variable Depth Sonar) and a large room was added on to the back of CIC to accommodate its function, that room now empty. Current thinking is that space will be the future location of a mine history room, one possible location for NMA's library.

Lucid is destined to be a major star in the star-studded downtown attraction known as Weber Point Events Center, the site of year-round festivals, concerts, community celebrations, play area for children and promenade to stroll and enjoy the panoramic view of the Delta. Her very presence in that location

will be imposing while guided tours throughout the ship will bring the history of mine warfare alive for her visitors.

In summary, the work accomplished to date by all the people involved with the Stockton Maritime Museum is a testament to their desire to return Lucid to her former glory and present her to the public as a lasting tribute to the gallant men and ships who were part of naval mine warfare in past wars and conflicts. I wholeheartedly recommend that the NMA Executive Board approve transfer of its library to this dedicated organization. Further, when a delivery date has been decided, I would be delighted to help defray the expense by picking up the documents and delivering them to the museum.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Abelquist
NMA Trustee
paul.abelquist@charter.net , (562) 227-8014”