

MILITARY SEA SERVICES MUSEUM, INC.



SEA SERVICES SCUTTLEBUTT

June 2012



Tony La Morte

A message from the President

As mentioned last year, we try to improve the Museum during the summer months. This year we did it with a BANG!

Not only did we improve the inside displays, our Museum has a new look outside. Something that everyone can see. The north side of the building (Kenilworth Blvd. side) now has a mural (see pictures below). The artist, Denise Manara McCabe from Altamonte Springs, FL, donated her time and talent in painting the mural. Denise arrived in Sebring on Thursday evening, 7 June 2012 and immediately started work on the mural. Early Friday morning the painting began. Despite some inclement weather, the mural was completed late afternoon on Saturday. As the painting progressed, cars would slow down to have a "look see." Several people stopped and gave Denise compliments on the work. We are very thankful

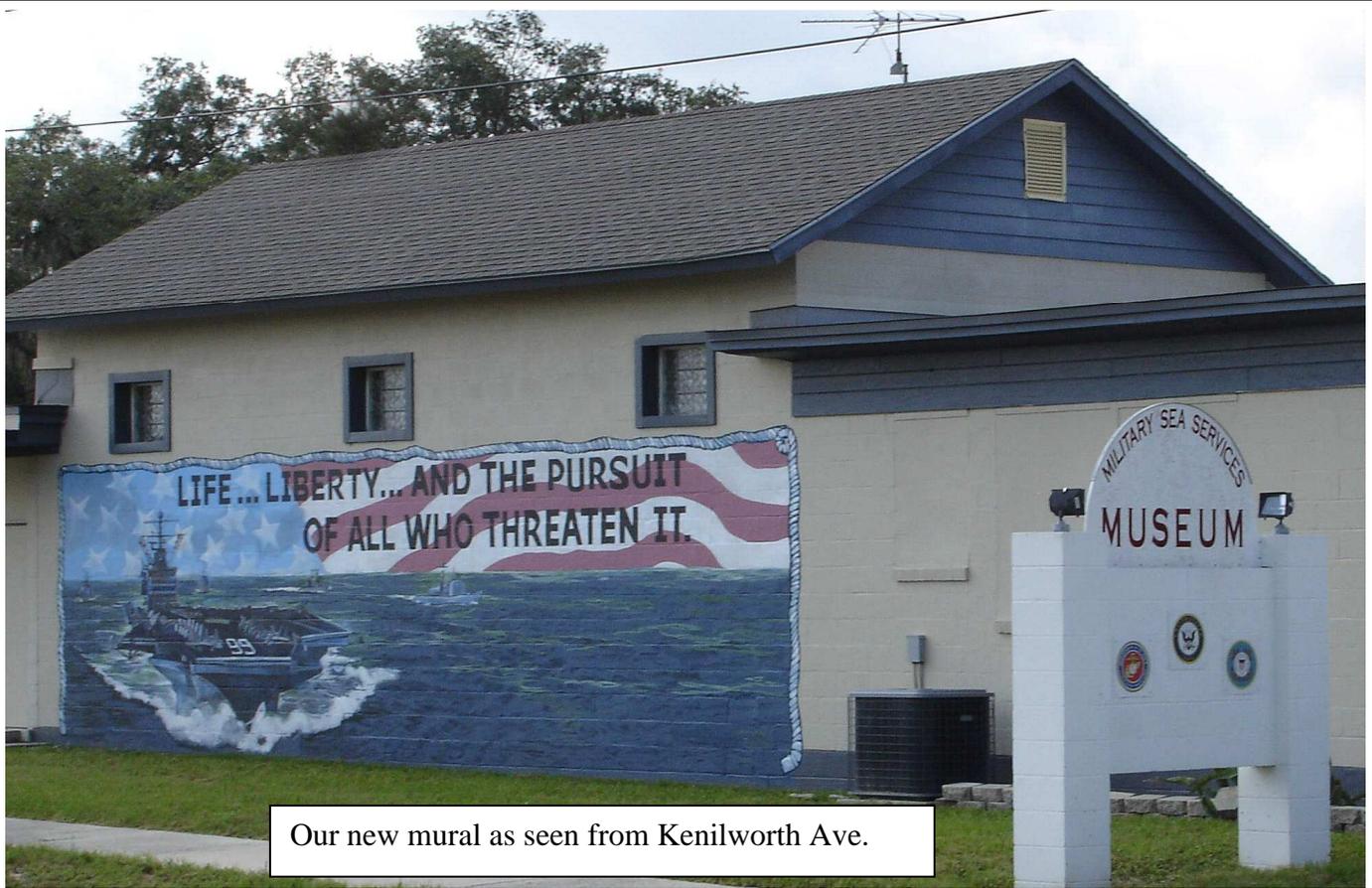
For the great job Denise has done on the mural. The mural not only greatly improves the appearance of the outside of the building, but it gives the Museum some additional publicity. Denise expressed her willingness to return to add additional murals in the future. We are definitely looking forward to her return visit. A very hearty thank you to Denise for a job well done!

We also have been busy pressure washing, caulking, and painting the building exterior. Caladium bulbs have been planted, and now that the mural is completed, more will be planted. We have copied all the minutes from the Board of Directors monthly meetings onto CDs, and the library information is now on CDs and a flash drive, reducing paper files and bringing the Museum forward in the twenty first century. We also placed the Admiral's uniform on a new full size mannequin. He looks much younger than an Admiral, but he looks damn good. The Museum is shaping up and looking good.

That's it---that's enough. Until next time, enjoy the summer.
Tony

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E-Mail: navmargrd@gmail.com

Hours of Operation
Open: Thursday through Saturday Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Web site: www.milseasvcmuseum.org



Our new mural as seen from Kenilworth Ave.

Denise The Artist

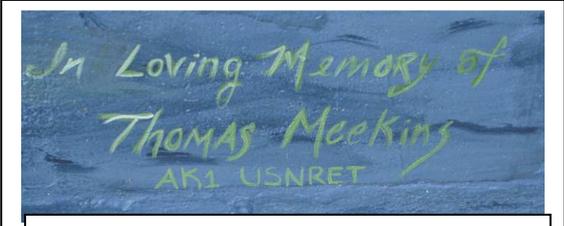
Denise has been painting for twenty years. She painted interior and exterior murals on many private homes, as well as many restaurants. Denise is a wife and mother. A free spirited soul with much talent. Denise published a book called "Graveyard Fairies." The book is a poem about a little boy who was dared by friends to go into a graveyard at night. The moon befriends the boy and invites him to meet the graveyard fairies. The book is full of Denise's fairy paintings and designs. Her biography is in the book and reads as follows:

"Denise Manara McCabe races cars, she breeds horses as well. In fact, she trains world class athletes, scuba dives, goes skydiving, mountain climbing, runs with bulls, fights with pirates, and has a starship pilot's license. She has been doing all of these wondrous things for years through the magic of a paint brush.

She graduated Parsons School of Design in New York, applying her talents to sharing art with anyone who asked.

She currently resides in Florida with her equally colorful family and walks with fairies as often as possible."

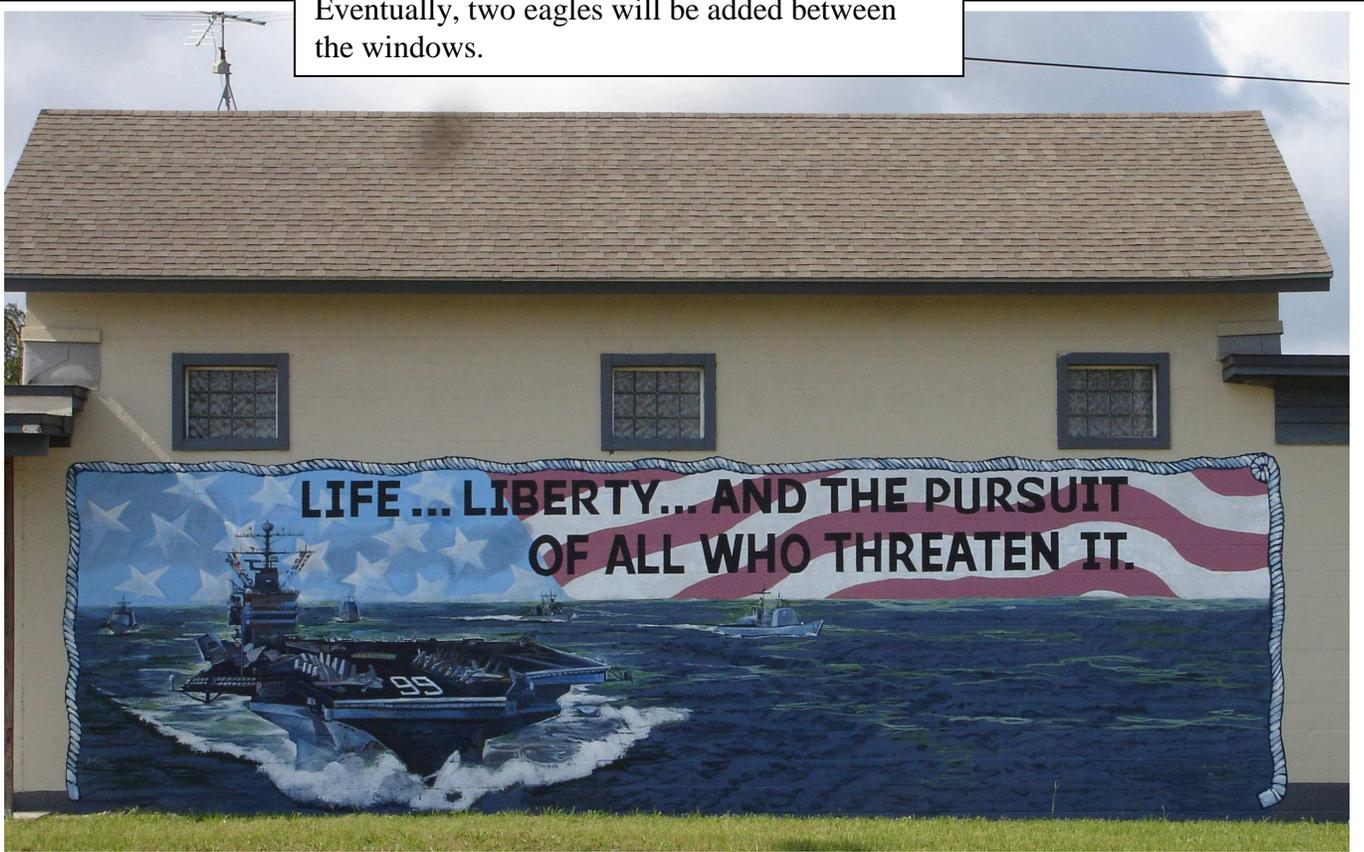
Denise is the sister of Darlene Meekins. Darlene is the wife of Michael Meekins. The Military Sea Services Museum wishes to thank Michael and Darlene for their generosity in donating the paint for the mural and the gas for Denise's trip here to paint the mural.



This tribute appears on the bottom right hand corner of the mural.

We at the Museum send Michael and Darlene a hearty thank you.

Eventually, two eagles will be added between the windows.



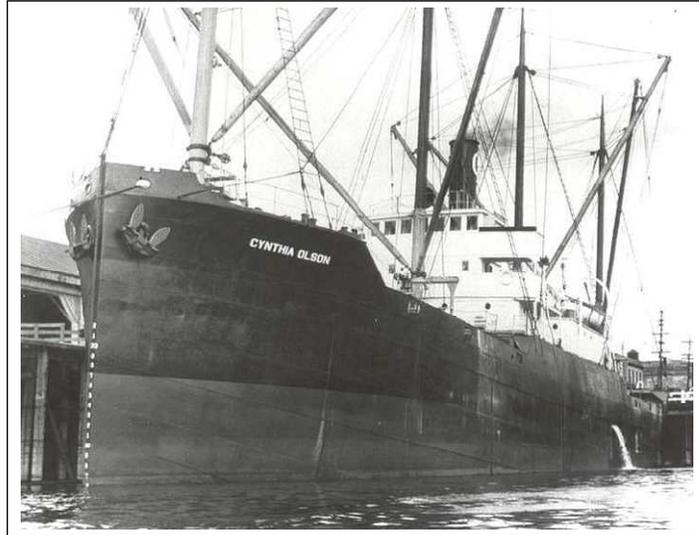
The Bald Eagle

We thought some trivia questions about our National Bird, The Bald Eagle might be interesting and informative.

1. How many species of Bald Eagles are there in the world?
2. What is the average number of eggs laid per Bald Eagle nest?
3. How many years does it take for a Bald Eagle to reach adulthood?
4. What percentage of Bald Eagles actually survive to adulthood?
5. What's the depth, in feet, of a large Bald Eagle nest?
6. How many years have Bald Eagles used a single nest?
7. What percentage of Bald Eagle's diet is typically fish?
8. In what year was the Bald Eagle pronounced the national bird of the United States?

Answers can be found on page 6.

Loss of the SS *Cynthia Olson*



(The first Merchant ship sunk by a Japanese submarine in WWII)

7 December, 1941 0800 hours –

At the dawn of a new day the aged freighter, seemingly alone in the vast expanse of the Pacific, slogged her way at a leisurely 10 knots. The SS *Cynthia Olson* in a previous life had been a lumber carrier operating on the West Coast of the United States. At the moment she was under charter to the US Army, MSTS and was en route from Tacoma to Honolulu with a cargo of Army supplies. Her crew of 33 men was host to two U.S. Army passengers.

Now, with San Francisco three hundred miles astern and Honolulu some thousand miles distant, the crew at this early hour had settled down to daily housekeeping tasks, with the two passengers enjoying a leisurely cruise. No one had any suspicion that before this day was done the SS *Cynthia Olson* and all on board would be reduced to a mere footnote in the bloody annals of war in the Pacific.

6 December, 1941 ---

This date found the Japanese submarine *I - 26* on patrol off the West Coast of the United States. This patrol was a bit different than previous assignments in that the Commanding Officer had specific instructions as to future conduct of the boat. On the following day, 7 December, if an attack was launched against American installations at Pearl Harbor any vessels *I -26* encountered would be attacked.

Late in the day the SS *Cynthia Olson* was spotted 300 miles off San Francisco. *I -26* submerged and shadowed the vessel, establishing her route and speed and plotted the course to intersect the following day.

7 December, 1941 ---

Exactly as projected, at the appointed hour, *I -26* met the *SS Cynthia Olson* at the projected time and place. *I -26* surfaced and from her 140 mm deck gun fires a shot across the bow of the helpless freighter. The crew sends a frantic SOS and all hands and the two passengers abandon ship and take to the two available lifeboats, never to be heard from again.

I- 26 pumps 18 rounds into the still steaming victim. To finish its kill the sub launches a torpedo which misses the still moving ship. Surfacing once more the sub fires an additional 29 rounds to finish the job. Twenty minutes later *I -26* received the signal "Tora, Tora, Tora". Pearl Harbor was under attack!

Normally this incident would have been a major event. At the time however with the attack on Pearl Harbor and other Japanese activities in the Pacific, this action was completely obscured. *SS Cynthia Olson* was simply the first American merchant ship sunk by a Japanese submarine in WWII.

As for *I - 26*, she served through much of WW II. The sub fired, on 13 November 1942, the torpedo that hit the badly damaged Cruiser USS *Juneau* (CL-52) cutting her in two. There were 10 survivors of the 650 man crew. The five Sullivan brothers were not among the survivors.

On 25 October 1944 American Destroyer Escorts trapped *I-26* and sent her to the bottom. At that time the sub ranked third on the list of Japanese submarines in terms of Allied tonnage sunk.

(Contributed by Allie Ryan)

Welcome Aboard New Members

No new members to announce.

Binnacle List

The Binnacle List contains reports of our members who are under the weather and could use the prayers of those of us that pray. They might also like a bit of cheering up.

No members reported.

If you are aware of any of our members who should be included in the Binnacle List, please send us an email at navmargrd@gmail.com or mail the information to the Museum at 1402 Roseland Ave., Sebring, FL 33870.

Quotable Quotes

"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their Nation."

George Washington

Mail Recipients of Scuttlebutt

If you are receiving the Scuttlebutt by mail and have an email address, please provide us your email address. You will not only save the Museum postage, but you will be able to see any color photos in color. Unfortunately, the Museum cannot afford the printer ink required to print 40 some copies of the Scuttlebutt for mailing. We copy them on our copy machine which only reproduces in black and white. You can send your email address to any of the following: navmargrd@gmail.com , marieryan@cox.net , Lamorte@vistanet.net , or genekissner@yahoo.com . Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

*The current issue of Scuttlebutt will be posted on line at: www.navseasvcmuseum.org
1scuttlebutt@att.net*



July 4, 2012



Happy 236th Birthday United States of America!

Answers to Bald Eagle Trivia Quiz

1. Only one species of Bald Eagle
2. Two eggs per nest on average.
3. Five years to reach adulthood.
4. Ten percent. Most succumb to starvation as immatures.
5. Twelve. Bald Eagles build the largest nests in the world that are made by a single pair of birds. Some nests weigh more than a thousand pounds.
6. Thirty-five. Once established, Bald Eagle nests are frequently used perennially.
7. Eighty percent of their diet is fish.
8. Pronounced the national bird of the United States in 1782.