

Subject: Some Upsetting Information

Date: Tue, 8 Dec 2020

From: Nick Nichols, Webmaster 655 <655webmaster@ssbn655.org>

Hello all Stimsonites (i.e., Stimson Shipmates),

I pray this email finds you and your family safe and healthy and preparing for a Blessed Christmas season.

This is a lengthy and detailed email and I'm asking you read it all please.

As noted in the subject line I must share some upsetting information with you. As most of you know the Association Memorabilia Custodian is Larry Knutson, MMCS(SS) B 79-81, Assoc. Life Member, USSVI Charleston Base and Holland Club member. For the last several years, Larry has maintained the boxes of Stimson artifacts at his home in SC, just like Lorre Riggs, MM2(SS) G 66-69 Plank Owner, Assoc. Life Member, USSVI USS Springfield Base and Holland Club member, did when he was the custodian.

In **February 2020**, Larry obtained a secure storage building in one of our local storage units. The facility is totally climate controlled. He moved our Pelican cases, another light duty box, the ship's chronometer (read clock) and our banners into the storage unit along with some of his household items and his daughter's photography equipment. He was in and out of the unit over the summer.

On **13 November 2020**, he was in the unit and all was OK.

On **28 November**, he went by the unit and noticed a new lock, not his, on the unit. He cut the lock off with a grinder and when he entered the unit the 4 Pelican cases were gone. He immediately called me to let me know and then he called the local police to make an initial report.

On **30 November**, he was at the rental facility when it opened and talked to the Manager. The section of the facility housing his unit has three ways to enter/exit and all are covered by a camera. Unfortunately there is not a camera on the inside. The manager told him she would begin reviewing the tapes from 13 Nov to 28 Nov to see if anyone took the cases out of the facility.

On **3 December**, Larry talked to the police again but they had not checked any further on the theft. He also talked to the manager and she said her first viewing of the tapes did not show any sign of the cases being moved out of the facility. However, she is continuing to review the tapes and will be viewing the tapes from 28 Nov until present and also paying close attention to the daily tapes to see if the cases are moved from the facility. It is possible that whoever took them has a unit in the same section and is just waiting to remove the cases at some point.

As of today's (**7 December**) discussion with the police, Larry gave them the padlock he cut off the unit so they can try to lift some prints that aren't his. He also supplied the police and storage facility manager with an itemized inventory sheet along with pictures of some of the items. He was allowed in the unit and was able to verify that the light duty box with several small items and paperwork, the ship's chronometer (read clock), the plywood drydock plaque and our banners are still there.

Larry has spent a great deal of time checking out the large local flea market (where he knows a lot of the veterans who sell out of there), checking on Craig's list and on EBay to see if any Stimson items are being sold there.

The police have the theory, which I'm afraid we agree with, that someone saw the cases when Larry was in the unit at some point. Usually these type of cases are used to protect things of value, plus the cases are also valuable. It is highly likely that once the thief opened the cases and saw what they had

the items inside were thrown away and the cases either sold or pawned. Larry plans on checking out the local pawn shops in hopes of finding them there.

This leads me to ask all of you to be watching on all social media platforms and buy/sell websites and if you see anything being sold that is Stimson related please let Larry (lknut60907@comcast.net) or me (655webmaster@ssbn655.org) know about it. Also, if you frequent flea markets where military artifacts are sold please keep an eye out there.

At one time most, if not all, of us have rented and used a storage unit. We rented them expecting a reasonable amount of security. In Larry's case he used a heavy duty combination padlock to further ensure security. The unit held not only the Stimson artifacts but a lot of his and his daughter's personal items, some of it expensive. I believe Larry did all within his power to keep our Stimson memorabilia safe and secure.

Attached are some pictures of what you might see being offered. I know that I didn't have pictures of everything.



WARNING AFT BUOY
THE OTHER END OF THE CABLE ATTACHED TO THIS BUOY IS SECURED TO A DOWNER SUBMARINE, USS HENRY L. STIMPSON. DO NOT PULL ON THIS CABLE WITH A FORCE GREATER THAN 5,000 POUNDS. KEEP THE CABLE TO THE SUBMARINE TIGHT AT ALL TIMES TO PREVENT FOUING. DO NOT MOOR TO THIS BUOY.

ATTENTION BOUEE ARRIERE
L'AUTRE EXTREMITÉ DU CABLE ATTACHÉ À CETTE BOUEE EST RELIÉE À UN SOUS-MARIN COULÉ, USS HENRY L. STIMPSON. NE PAS TIRER SUR CE CABLE AVEC UNE FORCE SUPÉRIEURE À 2.268 KILOGRAMMES. GARDER LE CABLE TOUJOURS TENDU AU SOUS-MARIN POUR ÉVITER SON ENGAGEMENT. NE PAS S'AMARRER SUR CETTE BOUEE.

