

"Newseyletter" Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

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Mid-June 2011

Deposit Balance \$ _____

USS Jarrett FFG-33 Decommissioning ceremony and Last Day in Commission

Correspondence with the last mail clerk aboard the USS Jarrett indicated they would have a decommissioning ceremony on April 21 and their last day in commission would be May 27. Since the mail clerk said he had two postmarks aboard, I asked if one could be used on one date and the second on the other date. Covers went out and the returns were not so great. The older style 2n(USN) postmark was used on the date of her deactivation, and her current cancel (apparently a self inker) was used on the second date. The deactivation covers show a completely worn out cancel which must be fifteen to twenty years old. The second cancel seems to have been over-inked, showing wear also. But, at least we have both dates to note the end of the life of *USS Jarrett FFG-33*.

Navy adds names for four more LCS ships

The Secretary of the Navy has added future names for more Littoral Control Ships. Currently four are named; *USS Freedom LCS 1*, *USS Independence LCS 2*, *USS Forth Worth LCS 3* and *USS Coronado LCS 4*. But the Sec-Nav has named four more: *USS Jackson LCS 5*, *USS Montgomery LCS 6*, *USS Milwaukee LCS 7* and *USS Detroit LCS 8*. Certainly a departure from past practices of cities names being used for submarines, amphibious ships and cruisers.

Frederick L. Karcher artifacts

While looking through my collection for covers produced by



Frederick L. Karcher, I came across numerous index cards with strikes of ships postmarks on. These cards were purchased from the liquidators of Karcher's estate many years ago during a Nathan Hale Coverfest in the Groton/New London area. The strikes were welcome additions to my collection and sat quietly for many years. As I am working on a list of all Karcher covers I can find, including the "FREE" franked covers and first day of issue covers for various postage stamps, I started to wonder about these strikes.



Perhaps they were his files for reference, when he was creating and backdating covers? I have no first hand knowledge of why he created them, just speculation. Four of the cards are scanned in. I have others and they will be featured in the work I am still researching.



The *USS Plymouth Rock* was an error cancel, written over in red ink. It was LSD-25, with a "9" over the "5" in red pen.

Check out the naval items on eBay. Proceeds go to Decatur Chapter. Seller: CGCOVERGUY

Feel free to send any information that you think may be of interest to other collectors.

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Visit the Universal Ship Cancellation Society web site at: www.uscs.org/