LAUNCHING
OF THE
S. S. WINFIELD S. STRATTON

August 15, 1943

MISS MARY BRUNING, SPONSOR

THE PERMANENT BETTES CORPORATION
STANDARD NUMBER ONE
RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA

From the collection of the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum

MISS LUCY A. LLOYD
MAID OF HONOR
Launching
S. S. WINFIELD S. STRATTON

KEEL LAIK JULY 20, 1943
LAUNCHED AUGUST 15, 1943

THE PERMANENTE METALS CORPORATION
SHIPYARD NUMBER ONE
From the collection of the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum

Richmond California
Launching
AN ANCIENT RITE

In the early days of exploration and settlement, the launching of a ship was a ritualistic event, a symbol of renewal and hope. The ceremony, replete with ceremony and ceremony, was a significant event in the lives of the early settlers. The procedure involved a series of steps that were carefully followed to ensure the safe passage of the ship.

The ceremony began with the gathering of the community. The leaders of the community would gather on the shore, and the ship would be brought to the shore. The ship would then be blessed by a priest or a representative of the community. The priest would recite a prayer, asking for the protection of the ship and its crew.

The next step was the preparation of the ship. The crew would work together to get the ship ready for the launch. They would check the rigging, the sails, and the hull of the ship to ensure that it was in good condition. The crew would also prepare the anchor and the oars, readying them for use in case of need.

Once the ship was ready, the community would gather around it. The priest would then deliver a sermon or a speech, emphasizing the importance of the event. The speech would be followed by a period of silence, during which the community would reflect on the significance of the event.

The actual launching of the ship was a dramatic event. The ship would be pulled by the crew, and then the anchor would be dropped into the water. The launching would be timed to coincide with the high tide, ensuring that the ship would glide smoothly into the water.

The ship would then be blessed by the priest, who would pour holy water over it, invoking the protection of the heavens. The community would watch as the ship glided into the water, a symbol of the community's journey into the unknown.

Launching was not just a ceremony; it was a ritual that symbolized the community's faith and determination. It was a time of hope and optimism, a reminder of the community's resilience and strength.

From the collection of the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum
“Transfer of double bottom section”
“Transfer of double bottom section”

From the collection of the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum
“Typical one-day construction”
“Typical five-day construction”
“Typical nine-day construction”
“Transfer of afterpeak assembly”
“Transfer of forecastle into position”
“Typical fourteen-day construction”
“Transfer of deck section”
"Transfer of deck section"
“Transfer of after deck section”

“Guests at Launching”
“Guests at Launching”

“Introduction by Mr. M.G. Vanderwende – assistant manager shipyard No. 1”
“It’s a Grand Old Flag” – by the Harmonettes

“Flowers for the sponsor
Miss Mary Bruening – Sponsor
Gale Teats – Flower Bearer”
“Flowers for the maid of honor.
Miss Lucy A. Lloyd – Maid of Honor
Gale Teats – Flower Bearer”
“We have our picture taken”
“The Harmonettes”

“Clarence Teats takes a bow”
“Sponsor Party”

“Out foes the shoring”
“Ready”

“I christen thee Winfield S. Stratton”
“Away!”
“There she goes!”

“Presentation of Sponsor’s Gift”
“Autographing the Ribbon”

From the collection of the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum
Launching

of the

SS Winfield S. Stratton

Sunday, Aug. 15, 1943
12:45 P.M. Recording.

12:47 MR. M. G. VANDERWENDE:

"Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. We are here to dedicate the new ship, 'The Winning Straton,' which will be launched today. This ship was designed and built by the Straton Shipyard, a company founded by my father, Mr. Straton. Today, we are celebrating the completion of this magnificent vessel, which will be a symbol of our company's commitment to excellence and innovation."

12:55 MR. VANDERWENDE:

"Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. I am pleased to introduce our new ship, the 'Winning Straton.' This ship was designed with the latest technology and materials, ensuring it is both durable and efficient. It is our hope that this vessel will serve our country well and contribute to its maritime heritage."

12:59 Program:

12:59 Flower Presentation:

"Ladies and gentlemen, we would like to present a bouquet of flowers to Mr. Vandersande." (Flowers presented to the audience.)

1:02 MR. VANDERWENDE:

"Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to remind everyone that today is not just about the launching of the ship. It is also a celebration of our company's history and the contributions of our workers. I am proud to be a part of such a dedicated team."
LAUNCHING

of the

SS WINFIELD S. STRATTON

Sunday, August 15,
1943

PROGRAM

12:45 P.M. - Recording

12:47 - Mr. M. G. Vanderwende

Good afternoon, honored guests and fellow workers:

Welcome to the launching of the SS WINFIELD S. STRATTON, the 116th ship to be launched from the seven ways of this shipyard and the 285 Liberty ship to be launched by the Permanente Metals Corporation.

If ever a man deserves to have a ship named in his honor, a ship destined to play a vital part in the winning of the war, it is the late Winfield Scott Stratton.

A great American humanitarian and
philanthropist, Stratton performed many benefactions during his lifetime and upon his death bequeathed almost his entire estate for the founding of the Myron Stratton Home in Colorado Springs as a memorial to his father.

This home was specifically established for the less fortunate, who by reason of youth, age, sickness or other infirmity are unable to earn a livelihood. For many years now, the home has been fulfilling Mr. Stratton's wishes, bringing up hundreds of children to become patriotic and useful citizens and giving aid and comfort to hundreds of aged and afflicted persons.

Because we are fighting for the preservation of the very thing that Winfield Scott Stratton had in mind, it is fitting that this ship be honored with his name. We feel it fitting also,
that we should have representatives of the
Byron Stratton Home at this launching. So
today, ladies and gentlemen, our sponsor is
a charming young lady of seven, the youngest
resident of the Home, and her name is Mary
Bruening. We will now ask Mary to stand
up on her specially built pedestal so that
our flower girls, Miss... [signature]
can present her with a lei.

Thank you Miss... [signature]

It is also fitting that we should
have as Mary's Maid of Honor, a lady whose
humane and efficient management as super-
intendent of the Home has contributed much
to its success. This lady's father, William
Lloyd was the late Winfield Scott Stratton's
secretary for two years prior to Stratton's
death and is now president of the Home. He
it was who encouraged the philanthropist to
go ahead with his plans. So will Miss... [signature]
present our Maid of Honor.

-3-
Miss Lucy A. Lloyd with a bouquet?

Thank you again.

12:49 P.M. - Flower presentation
(Fade music into background as photographs are taken)

12:52 - H. O. Vanderwende

The Myron Stratton Home has produced many fine citizens, and at least 62 of them are serving their country in the Armed Forces. Three of these are women, a chief nurse, a WAVE and a WAAC. To date, one of the men has been lost in action; another with the RCAF is missing; one was on the USS Maryland at Pearl Harbor; another was last reported in Africa; one is a prisoner of the Japs; another is on convoy duty and one is a Navy flyer. Yet another, ladies and gentlemen, is a production soldier in this shipyard and has worked on this very ship. He is here on the platform as our special guest. So we would like
to ask Clarence Tests of the Paint Shop
on Way One to take a bow. Thank you,
Clarence........

We will now have a song by "The
Harmonettes" under the direction of Jean
Hayden.

12:52½ P.M. - "The Harmonettes" singing "It's A Grand
Old Flag".

12:55½

Mr. Vanderwende

Thank you Jean Hayden and "Harmonettes".

Winfield Scott Stratton was born
July 22, 1848 in Jeffersonville, Indiana.
He learned the trade of carpentry from
his father, a shipbuilder, but while still
a young man he traveled to the West and
engaged in general contracting in Nebraska.
Later, he moved to Colorado Springs where
he built many of the principal buildings.

In 1874 he became interested in mining,
spending his summers for many years pros-
ppecting. After years of fruitless search
he struck gold on July 4th, 1891 and because of the date he named one of the claims "Independence." This claim proved very rich, and after operating it for about eight years he sold out to a London company in 1899 for ten million dollars.

Because Winfield Scott Stratton had a sincere love for and interest in his fellow-beings, he immediately began to use his fortune for humanitarian purposes. He contributed largely to the building up of Colorado Springs and gave large sums to individuals who were in difficulties.

He died on September 14, 1902, about 3½ years after obtaining his huge fortune. In his will he bequeathed most of his estate for the founding of the Myron Stratton Home. He stipulated that it was to be conducted for the maintenance of unfortunates, young and old alike, providing the care and kindness which prevails in the best
American homes. The institution was perpetually endowed according to the terms of his will.

Thus, this great humanitarian will not be forgotten for countless generations to come.

12:57 P.M. - Mr. Vanderwende

As the last minute launching preparations are being made we will have a little recorded music.

12:59 - Timing of the launching

1:30 - Launching of the SS WINFIELD S. STRATTON

1:00 - "The Harmonettes" sing "Anchors Aweigh".

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