



# SS Poet vanishes at sea

**TURN BACK THE CHRONOMETER**  
TO 1980 FROM *The American Marine Engineer*

No trace of the SS POET was ever found after she vanished at sea in late October of 1980. The 522-foot ship was loaded up with corn and sailing for Port Said, Egypt. The vessel, owned by Hawaiian Eugenia Corp., was last reported in Cape Henlopen, DE on October 24th of that year before it disappeared. Five MEBA members were lost with the ship. This article is from the December 1980 issue of the *American Marine Engineer*.

## 34 missing including five MEBA engineers

The MEBA-contracted SS *Poet* disappeared with all hands between late October and early November in the North Atlantic while on route from Philadelphia to Port Said, Egypt.

There were 34 crew members, including five D1-PCD, MEBA engineers, aboard

when the 12,000-ton vessel vanished without a trace—without an SOS—after last reporting her position on October 24 when she sailed past Cape Henlopen, Delaware.

Five Coast Guard, Navy and Air Force planes, aided initially by Canadian aircraft, had searched the area from the coast of Delaware to the Straits of Gibraltar without success.

After five days of fruitless search over 200,000 square miles of the Atlantic, the U.S. Coast Guard announced that it would abandon its search at day's end November 12.

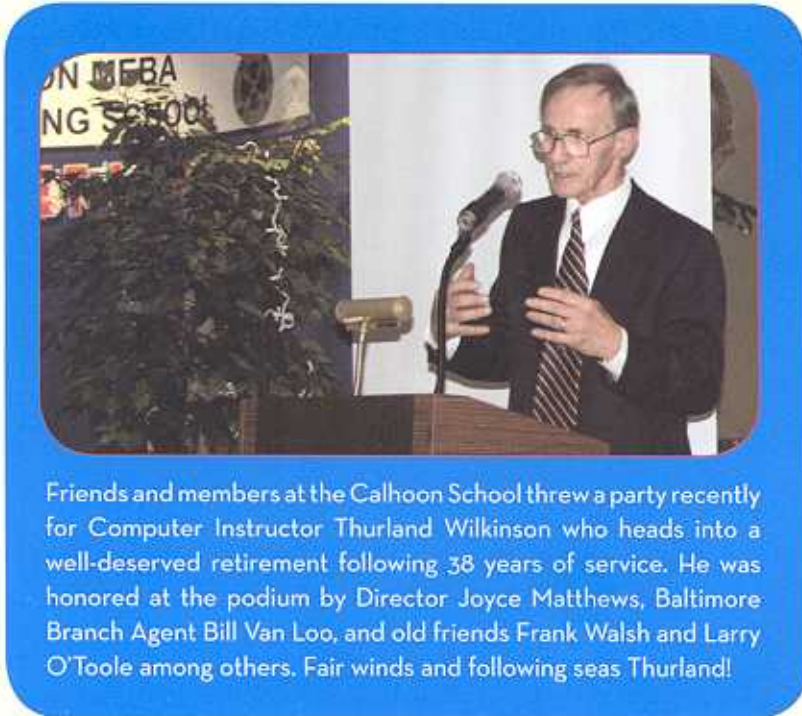
The agency, however, decided to continue the search for the missing freighter for three additional days following a telephone call by National MEBA President Jesse M. Calhoun to Rep. Mario Biaggi, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Navigation. But this extended search, too, failed to produce any clue to the fate of the SS *Poet*.

The 34 men aboard the vessel ranged in age from 20 to 60. The five missing Engineers were Chief Engineer Lloyd Thayer, 60, of Brodbeck, Pennsylvania; First Assistant Engineer Michael Canfield, 31, of Jacksonville, Florida; Second Assistant Engineer Christopher Carrino, 24, of Clifton, New Jersey; Third Assistant Engineers Mark Henthorne, 24, and Anthony Bourbonnais, 32, respectively from Barrington, Rhode Island and Newark, Delaware.

John B. McNaney, the ship's permanent chief engineer, missed the trip to stay with his wife who was recovering from surgery.

*The Poet* (ex *General Omar Bunday*, ex *Portmar*, ex *Port*), a 522-foot-long converted World War II troop carrier, left Philadelphia on October 24 with a cargo of 13,500 tons of corn. She was under charter to the Egyptian government and had been scheduled to arrive in Port Said on November 9.

Inexplicably, the vessel was not reported missing by her owners, Hawaiian Eugenia Corporation of New York, until November 3—ten days after the company had received what was to be the *Poet's* first and last radio message.



Friends and members at the Calhoun School threw a party recently for Computer Instructor Thurland Wilkinson who heads into a well-deserved retirement following 38 years of service. He was honored at the podium by Director Joyce Matthews, Baltimore Branch Agent Bill Van Loo, and old friends Frank Walsh and Larry O'Toole among others. Fair winds and following seas Thurland!

### RECENT RETIREES

Robert W. Ahaesy  
Sharon R. Barber  
Alan T. Baxter  
Eric G. Bisson  
Marty J. Broussard  
Bryan A. Brown  
Terry W. Cannon Jr.  
Donald J. Carnley  
Paul B. Cass  
Charles A. Cesari  
Joseph F. Davis  
Augustine A. DelValle Jr.  
Louis G. Dolph  
Leon T. Dunnam  
Jon A. Eaton  
Michael J. Fanning  
James Fernandez

John R. Fulcher  
Eugene H. Gordy  
Robert H. Graff  
Thomas J. Hansbury  
Frederick A. Heppard Jr.  
John W. Hickman  
Robert J. Hill  
Henry L. Holzberg  
Flemming Hornsyld  
Lee A. Kincaid  
Leopold Klatt  
Frank V. Kuchne  
Robert A. Lesniak  
Glen R. Loeber  
Rodney J. Loosley  
Mark Lulley  
John R. Martin

Gregory M. Maurer  
Stephen P. McBride  
Andrew McDowell  
Michael R. McGeehan  
Michael D. McRoberts  
Peter Migliorini  
George N. Miller  
Steven C. Moll  
John D. Mooney  
Dennis J. Moore  
Paul R. Nelson  
Robert J. Nelson  
Paul E. Nicholson  
John A. O'Brien  
Edouard B. Perry  
William L. Picchi  
Donnie J. Rikard

James F. Robertello  
Peter D. Starcevic  
Edward W. Tesson  
John H. Thomas Jr.  
Gary C. Thompson  
William R. Vaughan  
Robert A. Vint  
Arthur W. Voldstad  
John W. Wagenseil  
James C. Wallie  
Mark H. Watson  
Enoch Webster Jr.  
Thurland T. Wilkinson Jr.  
Carl D. Williams  
Ronald K. Willoughby  
David M. Winter