



Sun Ship Historical Society's Ships History Page

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Name: SS *American Astronaut* Hull No: 649

Hope you enjoy this 'Ship's History Page'. As always, if you have any additional information, suggestions or corrections, please let me know.

While due diligence has been applied in the research of information herein, responsibility for any errors is the ultimate responsibility of the end-user.

Thank You,
Dave Kavanagh
SSHS
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1. Ship's Information:

Sun Ship Data ^[1]

Hull No:	649
Name Orig:	<i>American Astronaut</i>
Sailing Port:	New York, NY
Shipway:	CY-2
Contract:	1968.05.01
Keel Laying:	1968.05.20
Launching:	1969.04.19
Date Delivery:	1969.06.10
Time on Way:	10m-30d
Time in Wetdock:	1m-22d
Time total Building:	12m-22d
LBP-Beam-Depth:	670'-90' - 50'6"
Draft:	27'9"
DWT:	20,484
Gross Tons:	18,877
Net Tons:	Pending
Type:	Containership
Propulsion:	GE Steam Turbine ^[9]
Propeller(s):	1 at xx'y" diameter
SHP:	32,000
Boilers(s):	2 Babcock & Wilcox Boilers ^[9]
Speed:	21.5 Service/Trial Trip 25+ ^[9]
Complement:	43 Crew/4 Passengers ^[9]
Classification:	A.B.S.
Sponsor:	Mrs. Marilyn Lovell

Owner: U.S. Lines
Operator: U.S. Lines
Capacity-Containers: 1,210^[9]

Shipway Designations:

SY: South Yard 9 thru 12
CY: Central Yard 1 thru 8
NY: North Yard 13 thru 20
4Y: No.4 Yard 21 thru 28

Maritime Commission Data ^[3]

Contract Design: C7-S-68e^[4]
ID Number: 6916861^[4]
MA Hull No: 251^[6]
Cost: \$15,750,000^[9]

2. Ship's Ownership Transition: ^[4]

-1969: Name- *American Astronaut*
-1988: Name: *Guayma*
-2002: Name: *Yama*

3. Disposition ^[4]

-Broke Up: Alang, beached 2002.08.23
(Bansal Ship Breakers)

4. Sources:

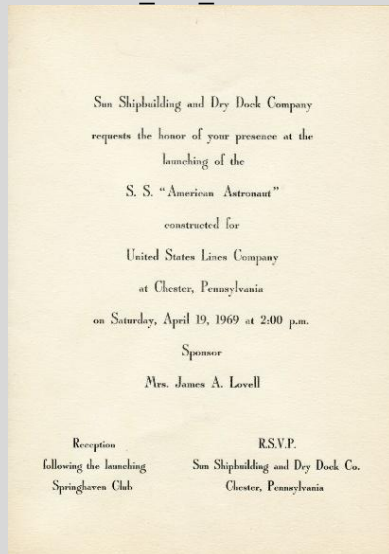
1. SSHS Archives and Specifications
2. Independence Seaport Museum
3. Hagley Museum and Library
4. Miramarshipindex
5. Maritime Commission Hull List
6. Wikipedia
7. National Archives
8. Dictionary of American Fighting Ships
9. Marine Engineering Log

5. Artifacts:^[1]

5.1 Ships 'Launching Invitation'

Courtesy of the Robert Martin Collection (Supt. 2nd Shift)

SSHS: 500_649_005



5.2 'Family Day Pass' for; Open House, christening of a section of #4 Dry Dock, Pre-Launch Activities and Launching of the S.S. 'American Astronaut'

Pass was signed by Astronaut James A. Lovell to "Joanne". Note: Joanne Italiano is the daughter of Joseph De Gregorio Asst. Foreman of 33M 'Electronics Dept. Sadly, Joe passed away on December 27, 2020

SSHS: 500_649_010



5.3 Pre-Launch photo-1969.04.19.

This signed photograph was mailed to all Sun Ship employees with a letter with the following text:

"Although the launching of the '**American Astronaut**' and our family day happened a few weeks ago, we thought the enclosed photograph would be a nice memento of the occasion". Signed by William Acton, Manager of Industrial Relations

This photograph is from the 'Joseph A. Golla Sr. Collection', along with other photographs and artifacts. Joseph Golla was a former Sun Ship employee and member of Lodge 804 from the late 1950's to 1974. We wish to thank Arlene Maroli, Joseph's daughter, and the family of Joseph A Golla, Sr., for the donation of his collection.

SSHS: 731_01_81_02r



5.4 Framed drawing of Astronaut James A. Lovell and signed pre-launch photograph of the **S.S. American Astronaut**.
SSHS: 500 649 001^[1]



5.5 Framed photograph of the 'American Astronaut' "A fully automated 'Lancer' Class containerliner of the United States Lines."
Courtesy of the 'John Glanfield' Collection
SSHS: 500 649 001

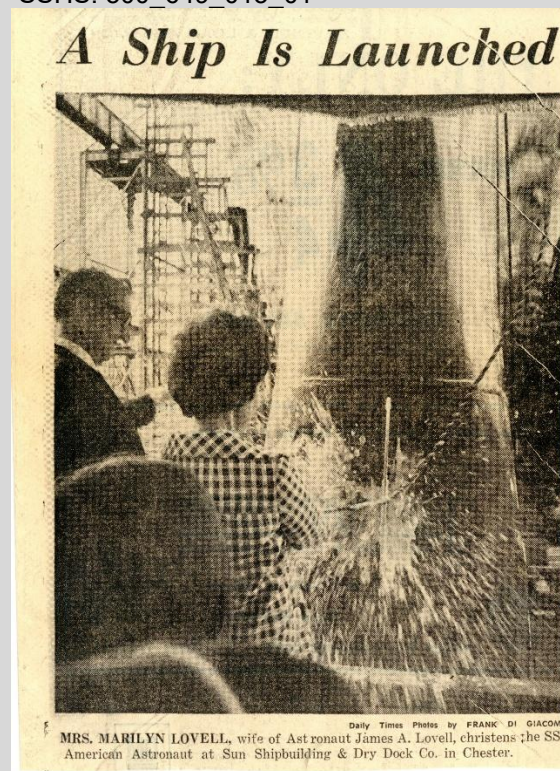


6. Photos:

6.1: Keel-laying of Hull 649 on Central Yard Shipway No. 2
HML: 649_743192134^[3]



6.2: Photo from the April 21, 1969 issue of the Delaware County Daily Times.
SSHS: 500_649_015_01



6.3: Photograph showing the ship's moving down the two sliding ways, on which the ship transitions from the shipway to the Delaware River.
HML: 649_743192135^[3]



6.4: The first time that the 'American Astronaut' is afloat. Photo courtesy of Dave Boone
SSHS:326_50_007-2_db



6.5: The ship's house had to be built in two sections due to lack of clearance on the shipway No.2's 'Bridge' cranes. The section with the ship's stack (left side) is the upper deck section that will later be lifted into place at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. Photo courtesy of Dave Boone
SSHS:326_50_009_db



6.6: The 'Upper Deck' section of the ship's 'House' is being lifted into place by the Philadelphia Navy Yard's crane. Photo courtesy of Dave Boone.
SSHS: 326_50_002_db



6.7: The 'American Astronaut' container ship underway. Note the two vertical 'columns' aft of the 'house', these are the actual ship's 'smokestacks'. Photo courtesy of Dave Boone
SSHS: 453_47_035a^[10]

