

# Ice cream barges helped supply WW II troops

The writers’ group I meet with each week was discussing various aspects of WWII. I don’t recall how the subject came up, but feeding GIs during battle became a topic of discussion. That’s when I told the group that our troops never had to worry about having ice cream. “Ice cream?” they asked. Indeed.

Except for one lady in her early 70s, I’m at least 20 years older than anyone else in the group. That’s an advantage when it comes to WWII. The first battle in history on the high seas between hostile fleets out of sight of each other was the Battle of the Coral Sea in the Southern Pacific during May 1942. The U.S. Navy lost the aircraft carrier Lexington. The Japanese claimed victory though it proved a strategic



Walt Mack

American win. Their own air and ship losses never let Japan attempt the plan again. As the Lexington slowly filled with seawater, hundreds of American sailors lined up waiting their turn to abandon ship - except for a group of enterprising personnel. These mariners decided to raid the ship’s freezer and filled their helmets with ice cream before joining the abandonment. No need to let

the stuff go to waste, they felt, at the bottom of the sea. The story became a legend yet one based on fact. It all began in 1914. Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels, a confirmed prohibitionist, banned alcoholic beverages on all U.S. naval vessels, bases and shipyards. That ban preceded prohibition laws by several years. Liquor aboard ship had become a growing problem as it had across the land. To give sailors a healthful alternative, the Navy turned to ice cream. Before the experiment with prohibition, U.S. citizens consumed twice as much alcohol prior to the laws as since their repeal. Who said prohibition was a failure? Films of the wild west portray the earlier American romance with alcohol quite accurately.

Most large U.S. Navy combat ships built since have had a snack bar that included lots of ice cream. At the same time, drug stores, dime stores and teenage hangouts across the land put in lunch counters, booths and tables where you could entertain yourself and meet your friends with soda and ice cream. World War II brought rationing of foodstuffs to keep our fighting men and women supplied with a proper diet. Many G.I.s ate better in the military services than they ever had at home during the Depression years of the 1930s and early 1940s. The home scene was helped during those years with liquor industries which turned to making ice cream in the Prohibition era. From the Army, the Navy secured a BRL (Barge, Refrigerated,

Large). It was equipped to freeze and haul hundreds of tons of meat to feed troops in combat. Refrigeration to keep eggs, vegetables and other foodstuff made up more cooling ability. Ice cream had become so popular with sailors and Marines that capacity to make five tons every 24 hours made it the vessel of choice for personnel between battles. Advanced and anchored in atolls across the Pacific, it supplied ice cream for ships too old or too small to have their own machine. The Navy was so committed to the morale of its men and women that it spent more than one million war-time dollars to equip it. The single drawback to the BRL was its lack of mobility. As a barge, it had to be towed from one location to the next.

The ice cream barge’s success led the U.S. Army to build three of them to keep on the shores of Normandy and other English Channel ports. The problem here became the inability to keep up with the advancing Allied forces. To keep tanks and armor and supplies moving forward took so much fuel that little could be spared to advance ice cream for engaged troops. Facilities for making ice cream became a priority once Germany’s borders were crossed. The unique appeal of the ice cream barge to boost the morale of U.S. and Allied service personnel proved the Armed Services commitment to the well-being of each servicemember. *Walt Mack is a life-long historian and lives in Leavenworth.*

Public Notices

Lien: \$49,790.96  
Costs: \$2,275.62

Cause of Action No. 20  
Owner of Record: OLD CANAL FINANCIAL  
CAMA No. 077-25-0-32-13-008.00-0  
Tax ID No. 1-01870  
Legal Description: Lot 21, Block 41, in Leavenworth City Proper, in Leavenworth County, Kansas.

Public Notices

Parcel Address: 323 OSAGE ST, LEAVENWORTH 66048  
Lien: \$66,053.04  
Costs: \$3,106.77

Cause of Action No. 21  
Owner of Record: REHBERG, JOHN R & WILMA K  
CAMA No. 078-27-0-10-13-001.00-0  
Tax ID No. 1-06369  
Legal Description: A tract

Public Notices

beginning at the Northeast corner of a Tract bounded on the North by Dakota Street, and on the East by 16th Street, thence West 115 feet, thence South 100 feet, thence East 115 feet, thence North to the point of beginning, in the City of Leavenworth, Leavenworth County, Kansas. From 4 1/2 acres in Rees Tract, bounded on the South by North Line Budd Tract, on the North by Dakota Street, and on the East by 16th Street, and on the West by 17th Street, in the City of Leavenworth, Leavenworth County, Kansas. Parcel Address: 817 N 16TH ST, LEAVENWORTH 66048  
Lien: \$10,626.45  
Costs: \$477.35

Cause of Action No. 22  
Owner of Record: KREUZBURG, KAVIN D & LINDA  
CAMA No. 077-26-0-43-13-003.00-0  
Tax ID No. 1-03493  
Legal Description: Lot 15, Block 17, Ewing Roelofson & Co's Subdivision, City of Leavenworth, Leavenworth County, Kansas. Parcel Address: 00000 SEN-ECA ST, LEAVENWORTH 66048  
Lien: \$299.37  
Costs: \$13.54

Cause of Action No. 23  
Owner of Record: GARNER, RHONDA  
CAMA No. 078-34-0-10-24-010.00-0  
Tax ID No. 1-07340  
Legal Description: Lot 2, Block 3, Stilling's Second Subdivision, City of Leavenworth, Leavenworth County, Kansas. Parcel Address: 00000 HIGH ST, LEAVENWORTH 66048  
Lien: \$381.94  
Costs: \$17.51

The above-described real property is taken as property of the respective defendants designated herein as the owner thereof and is to be sold and will be sold without appraisalment to satisfy said Order of Sale and the respective adjudged liens thereon. The above-listed lien amounts are with interest calculated as of March 31, 2025. Bidder registration is required to participate in the sale.

WITNESS my hand at Leavenworth, Kansas, this 15th day of April, 2025.

Andrew D. Dedeke  
Sheriff of Leavenworth County, Kansas

Roger L. Marrs  
300 Walnut St.  
Leavenworth, KS 66048  
PH: 913-364-5785  
rmarrs@leavenworthcounty.gov  
Attorney for Plaintiff

Tax Sale information available at: [www.leavenworthcounty.gov/information/tax\\_sale/](http://www.leavenworthcounty.gov/information/tax_sale/)

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## FIRE STATION CONSTRUCTION



Construction continues on a new fire station at 2nd and Limit streets in Leavenworth. *Jim Baskas*



The Leavenworth Police Department has released this image of a man they say is a suspect in the investigation of thefts of home security cameras. *Courtesy of the Leavenworth Police Department*

## Police release suspect photo in theft case

John Richmeier  
*Leavenworth Times*

The Leavenworth Police Department has released a photo of a man who has allegedly been stealing home security cameras. Thefts of cameras occurred April 16 and 18 and again Wednesday night. All three thefts were reported in the 700 block of Shawnee Street.

Police released an image of the person they believe is responsible on Thursday afternoon. Leavenworth Police Chief Pat Kitchens said Friday morning that investigators believe they have made significant progress in identifying the suspect since releasing the picture. The man in the picture is a white man with short brown hair. He was

wearing a blue T-shirt, blue shorts with white stripes and gray tennis shoes. People with information about the thefts or the suspect can call Detective Sarah Brummer at 913-364-5838. They can also provide information anonymously by calling the Leavenworth Police Department's clue hotline, 913-682-2583.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-15

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS DECLARING THE NEW BOUNDARIES OF RURAL FIRE DISTRICT NO.1 OF LEAVENWORTH COUNTY, KANSAS.

WHEREAS, Rural Fire District No. 1 of Leavenworth County, Kansas ("Fire District No. 1") was formed in 2003 by the Board of County Commissioners of Leavenworth County, Kansas ("County") under K.S.A. 19-3601 et. seq, the Fire Protection Act; and

WHEREAS, The Fire District No. 1 was comprised of the City of Lansing, Delaware Township, and High Prairie Township; and

WHEREAS, the County, the City of Lansing, Delaware Township and High Prairie Township all entered into an Interlocal Agreement under K.S.A. 12-2901, et. seq., the Interlocal Cooperation Act; and

WHEREAS, the County delegated all of the governing powers of Fire District No. 1 to a board of trustees in the Interlocal Agreement under K.S.A. 12-3612a, and the Interlocal Agreement set forth the terms and conditions governing the joint operation and management of the Fire District; and

WHEREAS, the Interlocal Agreement was terminated on December 31, 2024, and the County became and constituted the governing body of Fire District No. 1 under K.S.A. 19-3601 on January 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, K.S.A. 19-3604(b) sets forth the process for the alteration of a fire district and;

WHEREAS, the City of Lansing was detached from Fire District No. 1 on March 12, and; 2025 and new boundaries of Fire District No. 1 were declared on April 23, 2023 to include only Delaware Township and High Prairie Township; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2025 the County received a petition from the Delaware Township pursuant to K.S.A. 19-3604(b) for the alteration of Fire District No. 1, and seeking the exclusion of Delaware Township from Fire District No. 1; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 2025-11 on March 19, 2025, detaching Delaware Township from Fire District No. 1 and finding that the petition submitted by Delaware Township was sufficient and conformed as near as may be possible to the petition required for the organization of the fire district; and

WHEREAS, the Resolution 2025-11 was published in the Leavenworth Times for two consecutive weeks on March 22, 2025 and March 29, 2025 as required by K.S.A. 19-3604 and the 30-day period for a protest petition has passed with no such petition being filed.

NOW THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEAVENWORTH COUNTY, KANSAS SITTING IN REGULAR SESSION DOES HEREBY RESOLVE:

1. That the Delaware Township is detached and removed from the boundaries of Fire District No. 1; and

2. That the new boundaries of Fire District No. 1 consist only of High Prairie Township and are coextensive with the boundary of High Prairie Township; and

3. That this Resolution and the attached map of the new boundaries shall be published in the manner proscribed by K.S.A. 19-3604.

Staff is authorized and directed to prepare and publish the statutory notices and prepare all other necessary and appropriate documentation to accomplish the alteration and declaration of the new boundaries of Fire District No. 1.

ADOPTED the 30th day of April, 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEAVENWORTH COUNTY, KANSAS

Mike Smith, CHAIR

Jeff Clifton, MEMBER

Vanessa Reid, MEMBER

Willie Dove, MEMBER

Mike Stieben, MEMBER

ATTEST:

Fran Keppler, CLERK

Published in the Leavenworth Times, May 3, 2025.