



SHARON LAMIEUX/MIH PHOTOGRAPHER

Jack Curd of Farmington recalls his days on the aircraft carrier USS Hornet, which carried the first offensive strike against the Japanese on April 18, 1942. Curd was aboard the famed Gen. Jimmy Doolittle and 16 B52s on the

Farmington man recalls surviving bombing raid

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"We thought they were enemy warships. I think they were fishing boats," Curd said.

The planes ran out of gas. All but one — which landed in Russia — crashed and survivors were taken prisoner in Japanese-occupied China. "It is my understanding the actual pilots held their 50th anniversary in South Carolina," Curd said.

Militarily, the bombing mission was a rias. No doubt, Curd said, it boosted the American war effort.

"The morale it built up was unbelievable. It was our first offensive strike. It was done as a psychological raid. It stirred up the American imagination and sold a lot of war bonds," Curd said.

He hasn't forgotten the war or his experiences in it. In fact, Curd was quoted in a 1943 edition of the Detroit Times.

A photo of Curd and his bride Arlene — better known as Barney — also appeared with his description of the bombing of the Hornet months after Doolittle's raid. The photo was titled "Hornet Survivor's Big Date." It still rests comfortably on a wall after 49 years of marriage.

CURD REMEMBERS the battle that destroyed the Hornet. The Battle of Santa Cruz began at 10 a.m. and continued through late afternoon. "The Hornet took armor piercing bombs, torpedoes and two kamikazes," he said.

He also recalls being given whiskey for the pain — he had been hit with shrapnel — and laid down on what was left of the ship before being transported to a destroyer over a breeches-bow.

"I was 19 years old. I was scared to death; everyone was. But you wore your uniform. You were proud of it. And it got you a lot of attention," said Curd, who enlisted in the Navy before Pearl Harbor.

In the middle of the war, Jan. 13, 1943, to be exact, Curd married Barney. "I was then assigned to another carrier," he said. "But I got off before it got sunk."

As in many wartime marriages and romances, Curd wasn't at home when his first child was born. "The Red Cross found me on the islands to tell me, 'You are a father.'"

By 1944, Curd was assigned as a teacher to the Hampton Institute, an all-black school in Virginia. By that time in the war, officials decided that blacks should be allowed to do more than serve in the mess halls. Following a two-week crash course, Curd began teaching Navy finances.

"They were educated. Many of them were PhDs. Most knew more about finance than I did. So I tried to teach human interest. They wanted to hear the stories of what it was like (in battle and on the ships). To me (the war) was fantastic. I lived through it."

The 50th anniversary celebration at the Farmington Elks was filled with tears and stories. To brighten the memories, music of the 1940s filled the hall.

"We had crazy songs in our era, too," Curd said.

Each of the former Hornet shipmates "gave a little dissertation on life" that Saturday night.

"As you get older you can become a silly romanticist. You look back. You wouldn't do it again. But then you wouldn't take \$1-million not to have done it either," Curd said. "The basic thread was that we were all brothers. We went through something in an era we'll never see again in this country."

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Wayne County Health Department had cited CSI three times for excessive odor.

The residents' filed suit under the Michigan Environmental Protection Act asking that the nuisance be abated, and then listed each plaintiff and individual requests for damages, Donohue said.

Whatever the outcome of the case,

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city managers from the two local governments don't expect costs to go up for the cities.

"This case should not have any adverse impact on us," said Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman.

"Like most of these things, they (composting sites) have to be well-managed and not be put up against a residential area."

Deadman said the only cost variable could come if finding composting sites becomes a problem. "Once there's a problem in one location it becomes more difficult to find another place," he said. "If you limit the availability of a facility, the cost will go up."

FARMINGTON HILLS City Manager William Costick said he would eventually like to see community

composting brought closer to home, so residents here could use the rich soil by-product for their own gardens. But, he added, composting and recycling have to be an accepted way of life first.

"We all want to clean up the environment, but we all seem to have the NIMBY (not in my back yard) attitude," he said.

City officials remain unconcerned with the future of composting here, because they are taking action to ensure the program remains viable.

Deadman said the regional recycling authority which serves nine communities, including Farmington and Farmington Hills, has accepted a 10-year bid from Browning Ferris Industries which has property with

both landfill and composting capability.

Donohue said with more recycling and composting being done, new legal concerns are arising for everyone. "The biggest concern I hear among the environmental lawyers is that there is no control over what goes into the back of the (garbage) truck," he said. Garbage haulers, cities and others involved in these programs have no way of knowing what chemicals are being used on laws which, in turn, could remain in the clippings, he said.

Compost facilities are considered one way that communities can reduce the amount of waste going to limited landfill space. By 1993, yard waste won't be allowed in state landfills.

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