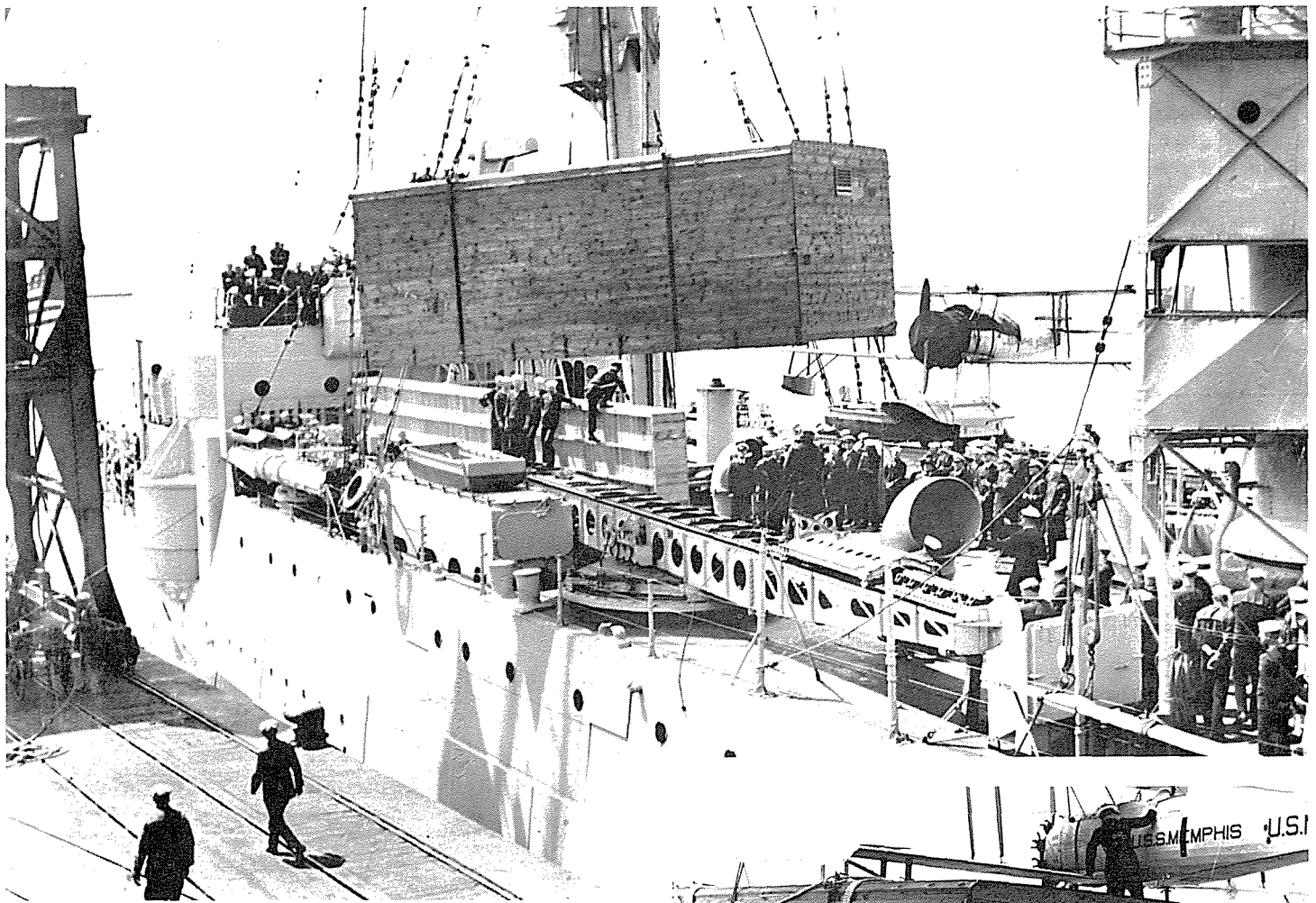




THE LINDBERGH CRATE

by Tom Emmert

In the jubilation following Charles A. Lindbergh's historic transatlantic flight, souvenirs and trivia depicting the Spirit of St. Louis abounded; it was Vice Admiral Guy H. Burrage, however, who got the biggest souvenir of all—the crate used to ship the famous plane back to Washington. And today, that crate is for sale by his grandson.

The USS Memphis, flagship cruiser commanded by Capt. Henry Ellis Lackey, was dispatched to France by President Coolidge to bring Lindbergh and his Ryan back to the U.S. The famous plane was disassembled at Cherbourg, crated and placed upon the deck of the Memphis; it sailed for the U.S. on June 4, 1927. During the weeklong voyage, Burrage asked Lindbergh if he could have the crate. The aviator agreed.

After arriving at Washington June 11, the plane and the crate parted company; the plane for a continent-wide victory tour, and the crate for Burrage's farm near Concord, New Hampshire. There Burrage converted the crate to a cottage by setting it on a foundation, cutting doors and windows, and adding a roof and siding. There it survives today.

The first two photos, supplied by Holt (now of Carmel, Calif.) and reproduced courtesy of Robt. Ganley, show Lindbergh and the crate on board the Memphis. The third photo, by Ganley, depicts the cottage (nee crate) as it exists today in Contoocook, N.H.

