

# TUSCANIA

**Bongers, Martin Dewey**  
**1898 WI – 1967 PA**

BONGERS MARTIN DEWEY		<i>1-13-67 or</i>	
Corp Co D 107 Sup Trn		<i>X c-21-180-547</i>	
1839 No 8th St Sheboygan Wis		K	
Ssn 2 51181	Died <i>1-6-67</i>	A 2 157 572	
Born 8/17/98		T 4 713 331 F	
Enl 7/15/17	Dis 5/29/19	R	
		Ct. 3 02 983	
U. S. VETERANS BUREAU MAIL AND RECORDS Form 7202—Rev. Sept., 1955		I	
INDEX CARD		GPO	2-12962

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS1Q-27SN-S?view=index&personArk=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQPZM-VJQQ&action=view>

HVS-20144 REV. 4/60  
LOCAL REG. NO. 7  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
VITAL STATISTICS  
6333

PRIMARY DIST. NO. 43803-407 CORONER'S CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1. DEATH OCCURRED IN: a. County Mercer b. City or borough Greenville

2. DECEASED'S MAILING ADDRESS: a. Street address, R.D., or Box Number 160 Clinton St. b. Post Office, Zone, and State Greenville Penna.

3. VETERAN Yes ☒ No ☐ a. Which War WWII b. Serial No. 251181

4. NAME OF DECEASED (Type or print): a. (First) Martin b. (Middle) Dewey c. (Last) Bongers d. Full Name of Hospital or Institution (If not in hospital, give street address) 160 Clinton St.

5. DATE OF DEATH (Month) Jan (Day) 6 (Year) 1967

6. WHERE DID DECEASED ACTUALLY LIVE? a. State Penna. b. County Mercer c. Did deceased live in a township? ☐ Yes, deceased lived in \_\_\_\_\_ township. ☒ No, deceased lived within actual limits of Greenville city or borough.

7. SEX M 8. COLOR OR RACE W 9. MARRIED ☐ NEVER MARRIED ☐ WIDOWED ☒ DIVORCED ☐ 10. DATE OF BIRTH Aug 17, 1898 11. AGE (In years last birthday) 68 If under 1 year: Months \_\_\_\_\_ Days \_\_\_\_\_ Hours \_\_\_\_\_ Min. \_\_\_\_\_

12. USUAL OCCUPATION (even if retired) Glebe Steel Car Co. 13. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 391-03-3977 14. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) Mattoon Wis 15. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? U.S.A.

16. FULL NAME OF SPOUSE Lulu Moody 17. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Fanny (Vakaw) Bongers

18. FATHER'S NAME Martin Bongers 19. INFORMANT'S NAME AND ADDRESS Martin Bongers Jr. Shelbygan, Wis.

20. CAUSE OF DEATH: Enter only one cause per line for (a), (b) & (c).  
PART I. Death was caused by:  
IMMEDIATE CAUSE (a) Acute Myocardial Infarction  
Conditions, if any, which gave rise to above cause (a) stating the underlying cause last. DUE TO (b) \_\_\_\_\_ DUE TO (c) \_\_\_\_\_  
PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS: contributing to death but not related to the terminal disease given in Part I (a).  
21. WAS AUTOPSY PERFORMED? Yes ☐ No ☒ INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH: 5-10 min.

22. a. ACCIDENT ☐ SUICIDE ☐ HOMICIDE ☐ 22. b. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED \_\_\_\_\_ 22. c. TIME OF INJURY \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_ Min. \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. \_\_\_\_\_  
22. d. INJURY OCCURRED While at ☐ Not while at work ☐ 22. e. PLACE OF INJURY (e.g., home, farm, factory, street, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ 22. f. CITY, BOROUGH, TOWNSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

23. I hereby certify that investigation of the death of the above named deceased resulted in the findings here stated, and that time of death is estimated as 1:30 A.M. E.S.T. on the date stated above.  
a. Signature of coroner John McWhorter b. Address Traverse, Pa. c. Date signed 1-6-67

24. a. BURIAL ☒ CREMATION ☐ REMOVAL ☐ 24. b. DATE 1-12-67 24. c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY Arlington National 24. d. LOCATION (City, Town, Twp., & County) (State) Arlington Co., Va.

25. DATE REC'D BY REG. Jan 7, 1967 26. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE Lulu Beil 27. SIGNATURE AND ADDRESS OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR John R. Longfellow 340 Main St. Greenville Penna.

[https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/15068805:5164?tid=&pid=&queryId=7ca9967b-3ce5-42c3-bac3-db8693f3497a&\\_phsrc=cPx16529&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/15068805:5164?tid=&pid=&queryId=7ca9967b-3ce5-42c3-bac3-db8693f3497a&_phsrc=cPx16529&_phstart=successSource)

Life:

Martin and George Bongers of the Mattoon schools enrolled this week in the 2nd and 6th grades respectively, also Gertrude and Jennie Slowe of Carter in the 3rd and 7th grades.

"North Wisconsin Advertiser" (Wabeno WI) Thursday 26 Nov 1908 p 2

3rd Grade	
Martin Bongers	Pearl Monette
Isabelle Dupuis	Myrtle Willett
Olive Dupuis	Percy Mollette
4th Grade	
Margaret Ashbeck	Fayette Marsh
Elizabeth Bongers	Antone Piontek
Orland Burley	Irene Tatro
Theresia Glassl	Claude Chinnock
Mildred Johnson	Julia Carlson

Martin & sister Elizabeth – “North Wisconsin Advertiser” (Wabeno WI) Friday 1 Apr 1910 p 2

**Others Near Here**

Who the victims were will not be known for several days. With 111 soldiers killed or drowned out of approximately 2,200, each soldier aboard may be estimated to have had a 20 to 1 chance to escape.

Men from other nearby points believed to have been aboard, the list being far from complete, were:

New London—Ralph A. Mayo, George E. Doman, Elmer A. Hebbe, Clifford Norths, Byron E. Christian, Laurel J. Conat, William B. Spencer, Frank I. Davis, Charles Foley, Archibald Beaudoin, Martin D. Bongers, Leonard T. Meshke.

Manawa—Martin T. Evenson.

Mellen—Joe Kramer, Carl J. Gonja.

Westboro—George C. Nelson.

Colby—Tracey C. Greene.

Marshfield—Lieutenant Fred J. Braem, Sergeant Columbus Vannedom, Corporal Ray Anderson.

Abbotsford—Melvin Arneson, Owen R. Thompson.

Iola—George Danley.

“Stevens Point (WI) Journal” Friday 8 Feb 1918 p 1

## WISCONSIN SURVIVORS ON TUSCANIA

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—Seventy-nine Wisconsin men who were on the transport Tuscania sunk by a torpedo are known to have been saved, the war department announced today.

Dispatches are being received from across the Atlantic checking up the lists so that a complete list of the missing will soon be known. Wisconsin survivors are:

Melvin Aarensen, Abbottsford, Wis.	Eugene Claison Hart, Racine, Wis.	John Budziszewski, 1063 Garden st., Milwaukee, Wis.
Ray Anderson, 409 South Cherry St., Marshfield, Wis.	Harry Hanson, 667 Mason street, Rhinelander, Wis.	Lyman P. Byse, Wautoma, Wis. ,
Clarence C. Andrew, 104 James street, Waukesha, Wis.	William D. S. Horne, Red Granite, Wis.	Vernon A. Caflisch, R. F. D. No. 6, Baraboo, Wis.
Guide Frederick Buth, Waterloo, Wis.	Arthur J. Hantschel, Appleton, Wis.	George L. Gunderson, Wautoma, Wis.
Joseph Bauer, Wautoma, Wis.	Barney Kujawski, 24 Center St., Milwaukee, Wis.	Archur L. Hanson, Kennedy, Wis.
Oliver B. Bendixen, Wautoma, Wis.	Alfred Russell Kost, Lorraine, Wis.	Raymond C. Harrison, Cottage Grove, Wis.
Warren J. Berry, Wautoma, Wis.	Earl William Knight, R. F. D., No. 2, Spooner, Wis.	Adam Wisniewski, Milwaukee, Wis.
Martin D. Bongers, 319 Quincy St., New London, Wis.	Vernon Kelly, 737 First street, Milwaukee, Wis.	Adam J. Zielke, Red Granite, Wis.
Arthur E. Bidney, Independence, Wis.	Albert Harold Anderson, R. F. D.	Clyde P. Diggles, Hancock, Wis.
		Milton A. Doege, Stanley, Wis.

List continues – “Madison (WI) Capital Times” Saturday 9 Feb 1918 p 1

## **Tuscania Passengers Back in United States**

**107th Supply Train with Appleton and New London  
Men Is Back—Attract Attention on Account of  
Sturdy and Husky Appearance—Will Remain  
in Camp Hill for Few Days—19 New London  
and 6 Appleton Men with Command**

**ARE GIVEN A GREAT OVATION**

(Special to the Crescent)

NEWPORT NEWS, Va.—The 107th Supply train arrived at this port late Tuesday afternoon aboard the battleship Virginia after two weeks sailing from Brest. Other units aboard were the 107th Sanitary Train, 107th Train Headquarters and 126 casualties, totalling 1,359 men.

They were quartered last night at Camp Hill to remain several days before being sent to western camps. In command of the troops was Colonel Peter Plasecki of Milwaukee. Most of the troops in the several organizations were from Wisconsin and Michigan and as they marched from the streets here on their way to camp they were greeted with cheers from thousands of people who lined the "way of triumph." The streets had been profusely decorated and scattered with flowers for Virginia troops who arrived earlier in the day and the Wisconsin men shared in the reception. They drew attention because of their sturdy and husky appearance.

Several of the men who landed were passengers on the ill-fated Tuscania when she was torpedoed. They demonstrated wonderful discipline at that time. Capt. Pettigrew formed his company on deck and held the men there for nearly two hours instead of risking the life boats. When a destroyer ran up to the side of the sinking transport the men of Pettigrew's company stepped from one boat to the other. Among the Appleton men on the Tuscania who returned yesterday were Capt. Pettigrew, Jacob Schneider, Arthur Hantchel and Irwin Meidam.

Following is a list of names of New London and Appleton men who arrived on the ship:

### **NEW LONDON**

Francis Barlow, 19 Wolf River.  
Ralph Mayo, South Pearl Street.  
Leland T. Meany.  
George E. Dotman.  
Louis W. F. Hoffman, Avon Street.  
Harvey J. Travers, Cook Street.  
Laurel J. Conant, 1121 Shilston St.  
Geo. C. Grawdunder, 338 Smith St.  
Herman W. Resbels.  
Arthur H. Ziemer.  
Leonard Meshke, E. Washington St.  
Leo A. Krueger, 317 West Pine St.  
Ohren R. Huntley, 1009 S. Pearl St.  
David H. Van, N. Devere.  
Paul D. Rohany.  
Martin D. Bongers, Quincy Street.  
George H. Bouyers, Quincy Street.  
Byron E. Christian.  
Frank J. Herres.

### **APPLETON**

Capt. Henry J. Pettigrew.  
Sergt. Charles C. Baker, 670 Drew.  
John J. Haug, Jr., 690 Lincoln St.  
Jacob F. Schneider, 929 Richmond.  
Arthur J. Hantchel, 929 S. Division.  
Irwin Meidam, 426 Eldorado Street.

NEW YORK—The transport Sierra, bringing 1,511 men, mostly from the 82nd division, including Major General George B. Duncan, picked her way through a heavy fog that delayed several arriving transports and docked here today. Close behind her came the Valacia, with the 119th Machine Gun Battalion, company K and M and the Medical detachment of the 126th Infantry and Casuals.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Bongers returned last night from a week's fishing trip in the northern part of the state. They made the trip by motor and stopped at Tigerton and Post Lake, near Crandon, and report the finishing in that territory excellent. They made their home at 902 Swift avenue.

"Sheboygan (WI) Press" Tuesday 4 Sep 1923 p 10



## DECADE HAS PASSED SINCE THE TUSCANIA SANK NEAR IRELAND

### New London Survivors Give Disaster Details on Tenth Anniversary

Special to Post-Crescent

New London—With the passing of the tenth year since the sinking of the Tuscania, survivors of that ocean tragedy Sunday recalled the event in which about twenty five men of this city were directly involved, as members of the expeditionary force enroute to France. In that disaster died Corporal Clifford Norris and Corporal William Spencer, in memory of whom the local chapter of the American legion was named. Surviving relatives are Mrs. Louis Kurszeveski, John Spencer, Oscar Norris, Mrs. John Norris, and Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Norris, Sr.

Grief of the relatives of Corporal Spencer, who received the news officially Feb. 18, was unsoftened by details which reached the parents in a majority of the cases surrounding the 209 deaths, due to the fact that no details surrounding the manner in which the young soldier met death were ever given. Even the manner in which he died has never been determined and the body was never found. The body of Clifford Spencer, however, was re-

turned to his home here, and buried in the family lot at Manawa. It has annually been decorated by members of the Norris-Spencer Post.

Commander H. A. Borchard of the Legion post stated Sunday that the post colors would fly at half mast on Monday in memory of the heroes, who were first of this community to die in the service of their country during the war.

Memories of the tragic night of Feb. 5, 1919, were reviewed by veterans who were on the ill fated boat at the time it was sunk by a torpedo from the German submarine, UB-77, at 6:45 p. m. Byron Christian, a member of the contingent of Wisconsin men, was perhaps the last person to talk with the two men. According to Mr. Christian, both Norris and Spencer were on life boat duty on an upper deck, thus removed from the remainder of the New London boys. He had been with the two not more than fifteen minutes before the vessel was torpedoed, and recalled the conversation which took place at that time. The two, always pals, had been relating to Mr. Christian, a hunting and trapping trip in the northern woods on which they had become lost. Norris concluded the talk thus:

"Well, Bill, we got out of that scrape together, and if the old ship sinks we'll both go down the same way."

It was shortly after this that with the Scottish coast appearing in a long gray mass, to the port side, and with the welcome sight of land after the long days at sea, that the two torpedoes from the UB-77 were fired. Immediately the vessel began to list; decks and hatchways were crowded with men, lights were extinguished, and there was a chill of fright in the silence. Life boats were launched, but through wreckage and mismanagement, many of them were wrecked in launching. The sea was soon filled

with drowning or swimming men, some on rafts, others with or without lifebelts. In boats half filled with water, men sat long weary hours, and it was from exposure that many deaths occurred.

In the village of Buncrana, Scotland, men were billeted in peasant homes, and also in Scotland. Forty-nine men were laid side by side in one grave in Scotland, and a flag was made by four Scottish women of a village that the colors of their own nation might drape the coffins of the dead Americans.

Survivors of the tragedy from this city or community are: Com. Henry J. Pettigrew, Jacob Schneider, Leland T. Meany, Arthur J. Hanschel, Ralph A. Mayo, Francis Barlow, Laurel J. Conate, Charles P. Foley, Elmer Hebb, Arthur Otto, John Allen, Archibald Beaudoin, Martin D. Bongers, Byron E. Christian, Harry B. Collar, Frank J. Davis, George Doman, Leonard T. Meshke, George Schoenrock, Arthur L. Steffen, Harvey J. Travers, Martin Winter, Gustave Rollefson, Arthur Gantwell and George Grawvunder.

"Appleton (WI) Post-Crescent" Monday 6 Feb 1928 p 13



## Two Legion Posts Named After Tuscania Victims

Memories of the World war that recall the death of three men in this district who have been honored by having American legion posts named after them, will be brought back Monday, Feb. 5, when the National Tuscania Survivors' association meets at Kenosha.

The three men are Corporal Clifford Norris and William B. Spencer, after whom the New London legion post is named, and Sgt. James P. Hawley after whom the Neenah post is named. The three lost their lives in the sinking of the *Tuscania*.

Only two of the Appleton men on the ship, McKinley Robinson and Arthur J. Hantschel, still live in the city. Others who were residents of Appleton when they went into service and who survived the incident are Eric Galpin, Jacob Schneider, Irwin H. Meldam, Theodore Briggs, Worth Bushey and Paul Van Wyck. Several of the survivors have moved from the city and one or two are dead.

Among other men from this vicinity listed as on the *Tuscania* in dispatches received a few days after the sinking were Ralph Mayo, New London; Harry B. Collar, Hortonville; George E. Doman, New London; Hilding Fagerdahl, Hortonville; Elmer A. Hebbe, New London; Arthur Steffen and Alexander Stewart, Hortonville; Martin Winter, Clintonville; William A. Ruechel, Leeman; Byron E. Christian, Laurel J. Conat, Frank I. Davis, Charles Foley, Archibald Beaudoin, Martin D. Bongers, and Leonard T. Meshke, all of New London; Martin T. Evenson, Manawa, and John C. Barth, Clintonville.

### Will Honor Jones

One of the features of this year's meeting of the veterans will be honoring John Newton Jones, now a resident of New York, formerly of the British navy who helped

commander of the destroyer, ordered Petty Officer Jones to take charge of the lifeboats lowered from the Pigeon davits. Men were clamoring for help from the tilting deck of the *Tuscania* and hundreds more were afloat in the water, clutching anything they could hold. The lifeboat in which Jones was lowered rapidly filled with men picked up from the water, and with the shrieking cries of men asking to be saved, the officer looked around for his ship.

### Left Alone at Dusk

It was gone, due to menace of another torpedo from the enemy submarine.

Seeing several other lifeboats nearby Jones ordered the boat to the vicinity of the others and organized rescue work. Every boat that could pick up another man was soon filled, and Jones found 11 lifeboats filled. He shouted encouragement to the men at the oars and with the boats joined in a single chain they pulled away from the scene to avoid being sucked in as the *Tuscania* finally lifted its stern into the air and with a groan sank under the surface, taking with it scores of men who could not swim away fast enough.

The exploits of Jones were not at once recognized. Of a retiring nature himself, the officer merely submitted a report later that he had led 210 survivors in 11 lifeboats to safety.

But the men in those lifeboats, many of them Wisconsin war veterans who were saved to go further into the war, did not forget.

The medal to be given Jones at the reunion of the *Tuscania* survivors in Kenosha Monday night is the fourth such award to come out of that exploit, and the first to be given by the association of survivors.

of the British navy who helped rescue a great number of the survivors.

Attached to the Pigeon, British destroyer, Jones was a chief petty officer on Feb. 5, 1918. The Pigeon was part of the escort of the Tuscania as it neared the Irish coast just as day was ending. The torpedo that seemed to come from out of nowhere rising from the depths of the sea dealt its deadly blow to the troop ship and the panic was on.

The Pigeon was one of the first of the escorting squadron to arrive on the scene. Capt. John Eddis,

"Appleton (WI) Post-Crescent" Saturday 3 Feb 1934 p 2

## Martin Bongers Also Survivor Of The Tuscania

In an article telling about the Tuscania disaster and its survivors, The Sheboygan Press inadvertently omitted the name of Martin Bongers, 1230 Michigan avenue who sustained painful injuries in making his escape from the ill-fated torpedoed convoy.

Mr. Bongers fractured his knee when he jumped from the sinking ship to that of a destroyer and landed on his knee.

The wound was bound up and he was taken ashore on the coast of Ireland and later he was taken to England and then to France where he spent three months in a French hospital.

"Sheboygan (WI) Press" Wednesday 7 Feb 1934 p 8

## Survivor Of The Tuscania Disaster To Attend Reunion

Fred Duxbury of this city, one of the survivors of the Tuscania, American transport, which was torpedoed and sunk off the north coast of Ireland on Feb. 5, 1918, plans to attend a reunion of the Tuscania Survivors association, which will be held in Baraboo, Feb. 5.

While at the convention, Mr. Duxbury will issue an invitation to the association to hold its next gathering in Sheboygan.

Mr. Duxbury and Martin Bongers, 1230 Michigan avenue, are the only Sheboygan men who are Tuscania survivors.

The Baraboo convention will be opened at 3 o'clock in the afternoon with a business session. Memorial exercises for those who perished when the vessel was sunk and others who have passed away since are scheduled for 6:30 p. m., and a banquet will be held at 7 p. m. Governor LaFollette will be the speaker at the banquet. Another entertainment is to take place at 9 p. m.

"Sheboygan (WI) Press" Thursday 31 Jan 1935 p 3

# Survivors Of Tuscania Will Meet In Sheboygan

## Three Local Survivors

Sheboygan has the distinction of having three residents who are survivors of the tragedy, and in the selection of this city for the next convention and Mr. Duxbury as the new president of the organization, Sheboygan is signally honored. Other local survivors are Martin Bongers and Theodore L. Briggs, the latter being out of the city at the present time.

Mr. Duxbury was still out of the city at the present time.

"Sheboygan (WI) Press" Wednesday 6 Feb 1935 p 2

## M. Bongers Was Aboard Sunken Ship

Today Martin D. Bongers and Fred A. Duxbury are the only members of the Tuscania Survivors' Association still living in Sheboygan.

Mr. Bongers, who fractured his knee when he jumped from the sinking ship to a destroyer, was born August 17, 1898, at Mattoon, Shawano county, Wisconsin. At the age of 17 he moved to New London, Wis., and enlisted there on May 5, 1917, in the 6th Wisconsin Infantry until it was merged with the 32nd Division.

He was stationed at Camp Douglas, Wis., for a while, then was transferred to Camp McArthur at Waco, Texas, and from there went to Camp Merritt, New Jersey. He boarded the Tuscania at Hoboken, and after he sustained his fractured knee in his jump from the ship, an infection set in, and he was confined to a hospital in France for three months.

three months.

Martin served on four fronts—the Aisne-Marne, the Meuse-Argonne, the Oise-Aisne, and the Defensive Sector in Alsace. Later he was with the army of occupation near Coblenz, Germany, and he returned to America on board the U. S. S. Virginia and landed on May 8, 1919, at Newport News.

He was discharged from the service May 29, 1919, at Camp Grant, Ill.

He was a charter member of the Morris-Spencer Post of the American Legion at New London. Martin moved to Sheboygan May 16, 1922.

# Tuscania Reunioners Arrive Despite Snow

Huge snow drifts and bitter cold did not keep members of the National Tuscania Survivors' association from coming to Sheboygan today for their 18th annual reunion.

By noon about 25 reunioners had arrived, and it was expected that this number would be considerably increased by late this afternoon. Reports were received here that about 11 survivors bound for the reunion were stalled in the snow drifts at Green Bay, but delegates, who left Baraboo Tuesday, arrived this morning.

Despite the bad road conditions those who were here at 10:30 o'clock this morning went to Kohler for a tour of the village and the plant. They were guests of the Kohler company for luncheon at noon.

The business meeting of the association is being held this afternoon at the reunion headquarters in the American Legion home, and memorial services are being held at the lake front after the meeting.

Tonight at 6:30 o'clock the annual banquet will be held at the Foeste hotel to which business men and others of the city are welcome. Other details regarding the program and speakers will be found in the special Tuscania section of this newspaper published today.

Names of those survivors who had arrived here this morning follow:

Captain Oakley Parkhill, Fort Lincoln, N. D.; M. W. Collins, 2735 N. Bartlett avenue, Milwaukee; John Mitchell, 6828 Twenty-eighth avenue, Kenosha; Joe Bartol, 520 S. Genesee street, Waukegan, Ill.;

Francis E. Anderson, 904 Jackson, Waukegan, Ill.; Dell E. Rogers, 813 E. Wells street, Milwaukee; William H. Seltrecht, 160 S. Hawley Road, Milwaukee; Henry C. Hansen, Rhinelander, Wis.; Fred Scholey, Kenosha, Wis.; Stanley E. Hult, 1049 Berwyn avenue, Chicago; Hans Anderson, Kenosha; John J. Young, 913 De Koven avenue, Racine; Ray Stephenson, 1916 Fiftieth street, Kenosha; Otto Arndt, Edward Coughlin, James F. Bray and Paul L. Stewart, all of Baraboo; D. F. Nicolazzo, 2723 S. Austin street, Milwaukee; Martin D. Bongers and Fred A. Duxbury, Sheboygan.



## Legion Observes 17th Anniversary With Celebration

### Elaborate Program Marks Event at New London

**New London** — An elaborate memorial service, a review of its history, and a varied program of entertainment at the American Legion clubhouse here Sunday evening marked the observance of the seventeenth anniversary of the Norris-Spencer post. The celebration was planned and presented by the auxiliary.

At 9:30 this evening New London Legionnaires will join with comrades throughout the nation in a national radio broadcast commemorating the eighteenth anniversary of the American Legion.

Sunday's program ended with the memorial service. Tribute was paid to deceased comrades with presentation of flowers in memory of each. The Rev. Ralph R. Holliday recited the prayer and the song, "My Buddy," was sung by Carolyn Calef and Polly Hartquist accompanied by Maud Brown. Taps was sounded by Burton Quant and Mrs. Richard Gehrke solemnly read the declamation, "The Mother of the Unknown Soldier."

the legion.

#### Charter Members

The Norris-Spencer post was organized April 30, 1920, with the following charter members: Giles H. Putnam, F. S. Loss, D. B. Egan, H. B. Cristy, D. N. Vandever, L. J. Hofman, Al Van Alstine, Frank J. Herres, Harvey Travers, Martin D. Bongers, Martin Kubisiak, Arthur Handschke, J. Barney Vincent, Elmer Hebbe and W. J. Sage.

Excerpts — "Appleton (WI) Post-Crescent" Tuesday 16 Mar 1937 p 11

Harold Johann to Martin D. Bongers, Sr., lot 8 and part lot 7, block 8, Lake View Park, Subd., Sheboygan, \$1.

"Sheboygan (WI) Press" Thursday 16 Apr 1942 p 14

the

**bill  
knutson**

column



## *The Tuscania?*

Remember the Tuscania?

McKinley Robinson of Appleton does. So does Archie Beaudoin of New London.

Robinson and Beaudoin and numerous other Fox Valley soldiers bound for European duty were aboard the Tuscania when the big British transport steamer was torpedoed by a German submarine off the Irish coast about supertime on Feb. 5, 1918.

The Tuscania stayed afloat for about two hours, enough time for most of the more than 2,000 British and American troops to abandon ship safely. But more than 200 of them died, including James P. Hawley of Neenah and Clifford Norris and W.B. Spencer of New London.

"All Appleton Boys Saved," screamed the banner headline across the top of the front page of the Appleton Evening Crescent on Feb. 11. One who was saved was Arthur Hantschel. He's dead now, but his brother, Erwin, of Appleton, came to the office recently with a fragile, yellowed newspaper front page dated Feb. 10, 1918 that listed the names of all Wisconsin soldiers who survived the disaster.

Many of them are no longer living. I found two who are, and asked them what they remembered about the day the Tuscania was torpedoed.

Beaudoin was 20 years old — "I still had my mother's apron string in my hands." The soldiers were supposed to land in Liverpool the night of Feb. 5.

There was an uneasiness on the Tuscania, because everyone knew there were German U-boats in the area. Against regulations, Beaudoin and a buddy went up to the third deck, thinking it would be safer there. "I looked straight ahead and could see a light flashing," probably from shore, seconds before the torpedo hit, Beaudoin said.

There was no warning it was coming. No sighting. No sound. "But, so help me God, I felt it coming," Beaudoin said.

"The whole boat sort of shivered" when it was struck, he recalled. A second torpedo missed its mark. The first one hit the coal bin. That, Beaudoin said, was fortunate, because the pumps could be used for a while as the men escaped.

Beaudoin saw men disappear when they leaped into the water or when they couldn't make the leap from the listing Tuscania to the destroyer that pulled alongside for the rescue. Beaudoin made the leap, when the Tuscania was "about 45 degrees down."

The Tuscania survivors used to hold reunions. Now there is seldom even any talk about that cold night off the Northern Ireland coast 60 years ago, Beaudoin said.

Robinson also was 20 years old on Feb. 5, 1918. He had left his homeland in Waco, Texas, a member of the 127th Medical Company.

He doesn't recall just where he was on the Tuscania when she was torpedoed, "but I probably was under cover somewhere, because it was cold out."

"There was a lot of screaming and hollering" where he was, Robinson recalled. He said he "nearly drowned" before being rescued from a lifeboat. Robinson escaped the Tuscania with soaked clothes, nine cents and a pouch of Durham chewing tobacco.

According to The Crescent, there were many tense days in Appleton as families and friends waited for the War Department to release the names of Tuscania casualties and survivors. The Crescent of Feb. 8, 1918, stated, "Mothers who could scarcely restrain sobs, fathers whose voices trembled and sisters and sweethearts vainly besieged newspaper offices by telephone and in person to learn the fate of a boy thought aboard the Tuscania."

On Feb. 11, The Crescent published the pictures of the Appleton survivors and the names of other area soldiers who were safe in Scotland and Ireland.

Survivors from Appleton were Robinson, Hantschel, Eric Galpin, Theodore Briggs, Henry J. Pettigrew, Jacob F. Schneider, Irwin H. Meidam, Worth L. Bushey and Paul VanWyk. New London soldiers who were saved were Beaudoin, Byron E. Christian, Frank I. Davis, George E. Doman, Martin D. Bongers, Charles Foley, Leonard Meshke, Elmer A. Hebbe and R.A. Mayo.

Others from the area who survived were Laurel Conant, Harry B. Collier and Arthur L. Steffen of Hortonville; Alexander Steward Jr., Martin C.W. Winter, John C. Barth and Hilding Fagerdahl of Clintonville; W.A. Reichel of Leeman; George D. Danley of Iola; Martin T. Evenson of Manawa and A.E. Steffenhagen of Neenah.

## NINE NEW MEMBERS ACCEPTED BY V. F. W.

Nine new members were accepted last night at a regular meeting of James O. Jordan Post 3374 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

They are Robert P. Keyes, Martin D. Bongers, Cecil O. Williams, Michael Zaremko, Robert D. Conn, Paul L. Henry, William E. Hart, Richard C. Shorts and Carl R. Olsen.

Members reinstated were Charles E. Lyons, John B. Baskin and Richard Goblinger.

The post now has a paid membership of 455, considered an excellent record, it was announced.

A moment of silence was observed at the meeting in tribute to Howard Cooper, the post's service officer, who died Sunday.

Commander Robert Henderson presided at the meeting.

"Greenville (PA) Record-Argus" Wednesday 6 Feb 1957 p 16

Wife:

## Mrs. Bongers Is Summoned Today; Rites On Monday

Lulu B. Bongers, wife of Martin Bongers, route 3, town of Wilson, passed away this morning at the family residence one-half mile south of Sheboygan, following a lengthy illness.

Born at New London, Wis., Aug. 17, 1903, the daughter of Henry and Anna Moody, the deceased lived on the west coast with her family until 1917, when she returned to New London. She attended the Waupaca County Normal school, and later was an instructor at the Ogdensburg rural school for several years.

On May 7, 1922, she was united in marriage with Martin Bongers at Waupaca, and the couple have resided in Sheboygan for the past 23 years. The deceased was a member of the First Baptist church, the Veterans of Foreign Wars' auxiliary, and the Spanish American War Veterans' auxiliary.

Survivors include her husband; one son, Martin, Jr., and three sisters, Mrs. Alva Custer, Portland, Ore.; Mrs. Hazel E. Taylor, Oakland, Calif., and Mrs. Henry Fisher, Dublin, Ga.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a. m. Monday at the Ballhorn Funeral chapels with the Rev. Wiley Young, pastor of First Baptist church, officiating. Burial rites will be conducted at the graveside in Floral cemetery, New London, at 2:30 p. m., Monday.

The body will lie in state at the funeral home from Saturday evening until the hour of services.

"Sheboygan (WI) Press" Friday 21 Sep 1945 p 6

## Auxiliary Will Hold Memorial

Auxiliary 19, Sons of Union Veterans, will hold memorial services for Mrs. Lulu Bongers at 7:30 o'clock this evening at the Ballhorn Funeral chapel. All officers are requested to dress in white.

"Sheboygan (WI) Press" Saturday 22 Sep 1945 p 8

ing best wishes to him and his bride.  
 Miss Lulu Moody of this city and  
 Martin Bongers, Sheboygan were  
 married this week at Waupaca and de-  
 parted on a wedding visit. Mr. and  
 Mrs. Bongers will reside at Sheboygan.  
 The bride is a daughter of Mr. H.  
 Moody of this city.

“Green Bay (WI) Press-Gazette” Monday 22 May 1922 p 4

## Martin Bongers

in the Wisconsin, U.S., Marriage Records, 1820-2004



### Detail Source

Name	Martin Bongers
Marriage Date	15 May 1922
Marriage County	Waupaca, Wisconsin, USA
Spouse	Lulu Moody

[https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1057496:61484?tid=&pid=&queryId=b096652d-0a7c-4cde-9e9c-b3a24ea89b85&\\_phsrc=cPx16533&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1057496:61484?tid=&pid=&queryId=b096652d-0a7c-4cde-9e9c-b3a24ea89b85&_phsrc=cPx16533&_phstart=successSource)

Son:





**Martin R. Bongers Jr.**

Martin R. Bongers Jr., 71, of Lakeshore Road, Sheboygan died Thursday morning, May 17, 2001, at Sheboygan Memorial Medical Center. He suffered an apparent heart attack earlier at his home.

Martin was born in Sheboygan Sept. 14, 1929 to Martin R. Sr. and LuLu Bongers. He attended local schools.

Marty served his country in the U.S. Navy on the USS Orion, in the Atlantic.

On June 7, 1949, he was united in marriage to Joyce M. Dittrich. Mrs. Bongers preceded him in death on Dec. 7, 2000.

A long time member of the Local 400 Steamfitter Union, Marty was employed at the Sheboygan Refinery, R.P. Honold Co. and Gabes Construction.

He and his wife worshiped at St. John's United Church of Christ.

Marty was a member of the Sheboygan Masonic Lodge #11 F. & A.M., the Sheboygan Co. Youth Benevolent Association, Tripoli Temple of Milwaukee, served as an officer of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite and marched as "Chilly Willy" with the Tripoli Animals. He was also a member of the Clan #50 Hillbilly Degree, the Tall Cedars of Lebanon and the International Association of Turtles. Marty also volunteered his time at Road America with the Sheboygan Co. Deputy Sheriff's Association, and was a constable in Town Mosel.

Survivors include two daughters, Cindi Bongers of Sheboygan and Sue Bailey of Aurora, Colo. In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by his son David Bongers.

Funeral services will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Ballhorn Funeral Chapels. Rev. Gregory S. Whelton, pastor of St. John's United Church of Christ will officiate. Burial will take place in Wildwood Cemetery.

A time of visitation and support will be held at Ballhorns on Tuesday from 5 p.m. until the time of service. The service will begin with Masonic Memorial rites.

Memorial rites.

Contributions in Martin's memory can be made to the Shriner's Hospital - Chicago, Donations Dept., 2211 N. Oak Park Ave., Chicago, Ill., 60707.

Marty will always be remembered as a loving husband, father and for his smile and sense of humor.

The Sheboygan Press  
May 19, 2001

"Sheboygan (WI) Press" Saturday 19 May 2001 p 2

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Bongers,  
1230 South Nineteenth street, an-  
nounce the birth of a son, Martin  
Ronald, who was born to them Sat-  
urday, September 14.

"Sheboygan (WI) Press" Thursday 19 Sep 1929 p 10

Father:

# MARTIN BONGERS, A MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE, DIES AT HOSPITAL

Martin Bongers, 67, of 1839 N. Eighth street, died at 11 a. m. today at St. Nicholas hospital after a long illness.

Mr. Bongers was born on April 7, 1857, at Little Chute, and came to this city from New London four and a half years ago. He has been employed by the city in the street department.

Deceased is survived by a wife and six children, Martin, Jr., George, Robert, Stella, Beatrice and Loretta, and a brother, Henry, of Little Chute.

The funeral will be held Thursday at 9 a. m. from Holy Name church. Burial will be made in North Side Catholic cemetery.

"Sheboygan (WI) Press" Monday 25 Aug 1924 p 11

## FLAG AT HALF MAST FOR MARTIN BONGERS; FUNERAL THURSDAY

The flag on the city hall is at half mast today out of respect for the late Martin Bongers, who died at St. Nicholas hospital Monday after a week's illness. He was an employee of the city, having been engaged in work in the construction department for about three years.

Mr. Bongers' death was caused by blood poisoning emanating from a sliver from a concrete covered plank that he was helping to move while working as a member of the city paving crew on S. Thirteenth street a week before his death. The sliver was immediately removed, but that night he was subjected to chills and fever, and he died Monday.

Funeral services are to be conducted at Holly Name church at 9 a. m. Thursday by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. D. F. Thill, and burial will be made in North Side Catholic cemetery.

cemetery.

Numerous floral tributes have been sent to the Bongers' home, 1839 N. Eighth street, by the many friends and admirers of Mr. Bongers. Among these were beautiful contributions from city of Sheboygan construction crew, employees of city toolhouse No. 1, employees of city toolhouse No. 3, and the Kuhlmann grocery store.

The following relatives and friends are here or expect to be here today to attend the funeral: Mr. and Mrs. Max Brouillard and son, Edward, of Appleton, Henry Bongers and son, Arnold, of Little Chute, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Fischer of New London, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Eggink of New London, Henry Moody of New London.

"Sheboygan (WI) Press" Wednesday 27 Aug 1924 p 12

## REMAINS OF MARTIN BONGERS ARE LAID TO REST TODAY

Funeral services for the late Martin Bongers, who died Monday after a week's suffering from blood poisoning caused by a sliver which pierced his finger, were conducted at Holy Name church this morning by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. D. F. Thill. Interment was made in North Side Catholic cemetery. A number of relatives and friends from out of town were here to attend the funeral.

Mr. Bongers came here four and a half years ago, and had been engaged in construction work during that time. He was working as a member of the city construction crew on S. Thirteenth street when the sliver from a concrete covered plank he was moving entered his finger. He finished the day's work, but became feverish that evening, and he grew worse until his death.

"Sheboygan (WI) Press" Thursday 28 Aug 1924 p 7

Martin Bongers and family have moved into the Scory residence, recently purchased by J. B. Mallow.

"North Wisconsin Advertiser" (Wabeno WI) Friday 11 Feb 1910 p 1

Mother:



### **Mrs. Fannie Bongers**

Funeral services were held recently for Mrs. Fannie Bongers, 76, former resident of this city who passed away Oct. 30 at her home in Long Beach, Cal.

Mrs. Bongers was born in Little Chute, Wis., and for many years resided at 627 End court, this city. She left Sheboygan last July to make her home in California. Services were held at St. Athanasius Catholic church with the Rev. Father Joseph Feehan officiating and burial was made there.

Survivors are three sons, Marton and Robert of Sheboygan and George of West Point, Wis.; two sisters, Mrs. Rose Schienenberger of Sheboygan and Mrs. Arnold Eggink of New London, Wis.; one brother, Max Brouillard of Appleton; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Note this obituary omits the names of her daughters - "Sheboygan (WI) Press" Friday 18 Nov 1949 p 6

### **Mrs. Fannie Bongers**

Funeral services for Mrs. Fannie Bongers, 76, former resident of Sheboygan, were held recently. She died at her home in Long Beach, Calif.

Among the survivors were: three daughters, Loretta, Stella and Beatrice, of Long Beach and with whom Mrs. Bongers made her home; three sons; two sisters, one brother, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Now the daughters are named but not the sons - "Sheboygan (WI) Press" Saturday 19 Nov 1918 p 8

On Tuesday, Mrs. Fannie Bong-  
ers, Judith, Beatrice, Loretta and  
Stella, 627 Euclid avenue, left for  
Long Beach, Calif., where they  
will reside.

Fannie moves to CA four months before her death – “Sheboygan (WI) Press” Wednesday  
13 Jul 1949 p 6

**Siblings:**

**Mrs. James Kane**

Mrs. James Kane, about 67, the former Alba Wakefield Bongers, one-time Sheboygan resident, died at her home in Long Beach, Calif., Monday night of a long illness.

A daughter of the late Clem and Alice Wakefield, she was born in Waupaca County and came to Sheboygan as a young woman.

She later lived in New York State and was married to Mr. Kane there. The couple moved to Long Beach about 15 years ago.

Surviving are her husband; one son, Donald Bongers, both of Long Beach; and three grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by three brothers, Leslie and Jeff Wakefield, both of Sheboygan, and Ray of Waupaca.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday at the Dil- day Funeral Home, 1242 Pacific Ave., Long Beach. Burial will also be there.

Ex-wife of brother George Henry Bongers (1893-1963) – “Sheboygan (WI) Press”  
Wednesday 19 Nov 1958 p 12

**Wisconsin, Births and Christenings Index, 1801-1928**

[View record](#)

Name	George Joseph Bongers
Gender	Male
Birth Date	6 Mar 1893
Birth Place	Shawano, Wisconsin
Father	Martin Bongers
Mother	Fannie Bromlland
FHL Film Number	1305587

Born George Joseph - <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/75880625/person/79007380745/facts>

## Theresa Bongors

Wisconsin, Death Records, 1867-1907

Name:	Theresa Bongors
Sex:	Female
Death Date:	1900
Death Place:	Mattoon, Shawano, Wisconsin
Father's Name:	<a href="#">Martin Bongors</a>
Mother's Name:	<a href="#">Fanny Brownlhaid</a>

## Theresa Bangars

Wisconsin Death Index, 1820-1907

Name:	Theresa Bangars
Death Date:	31 May 1900
Death Place:	Shawano, Wisconsin
Page:	0254

Sister Theresa (Tressa) Bongers (1894-1900) – Find A Grave 70777043

## Wisconsin, Births and Christenings Index, 1801-1928

View record

Name Mary Elisabeth Bongers  
 Gender Female  
 Birth Date 15 Jul 1896  
 Birth Place Shawano, Wisconsin  
 Father Martin Bongers  
 Mother Fanny Bromlard  
 FHL Film Number 1305587

Sister Mary Elizabeth Bongers (1896 - ) - <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/75880625/person/79007380740/facts>

BIRTHS.	
No. 152 00259	
1. FULL NAME OF CHILD	Mary Elisabeth
2. COLOR	white
3. SEX	female
4. NAMES OF OTHER ISSUE LIVING	Georg Therese
5. FULL NAME OF FATHER	Martin Bongers
6. OCCUPATION	fireman
7. FULL MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER	Fanny Bromlard
8. DATE OF BIRTH	July 15, 1896
9. PLACE OF BIRTH	Mattoon Wis
10. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER	Little Chute Wis
11. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER	Little Chute Wis
12. NAME: ATTENDANT SIGNING CERTIF	Rev. P. Vollbrecht
13. RESIDENCE OF SUCH PERSON	Arivia Wis
14. DATE OF CERTIFICATE	August 11, 1896
15. DATE OF REGISTRATION	August 12, 1896
16. ANY ADDITIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES	

[https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/35812719:61482?tid=75880625&pid=79007380740&queryId=05aac6c6-08aa-48ca-bf6b-5f78d970e240&\\_phsrc=cPx16472&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/35812719:61482?tid=75880625&pid=79007380740&queryId=05aac6c6-08aa-48ca-bf6b-5f78d970e240&_phsrc=cPx16472&_phstart=successSource)

# City Worker Found Dead In Apartment

Robert J. Bongers, 62, 1511-B N. 8th St., employed by the city as a driver, was found dead at his home Sunday.

Police were notified by other apartment residents at that address that Mr. Bongers had not been seen for several days. They broke open a door to his apartment and found his body in a chair in the living room.

Dr. Reed M. Simpson, county coroner, said Bongers died sometime Wednesday or Thursday, of natural causes. He had not worked for the past week because of an illness.

Bongers was born in Phlox, Wis., Oct. 20, 1902, a son of the late Martin and Frances Bongers.

He attended Holy Name School, was a veteran of World War II, and had been employed by the City of Sheboygan since 1944.

Survivors are two brothers, Martin in Pennsylvania and George of New York City; and three sisters, Mrs. William Thomas and Miss Stella Bongers of Long Beach Calif., and Mrs. Joe Genetta of Anaheim, Calif.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Gerend's Funeral Home with the Rev. Anthony Knackert, pastor of Holy Name Church, officiating. Interment will be in Calvary Cemetery.

Friends may call at the funeral home on Tuesday from 9 a.m. until the hour of services.

Brother Robert J. Bongers (1902-1965) – "Sheboygan (WI) Press" Monday 25 Jan 1965 p 12

# Loretta Thomas


## in the Nevada, U.S., Death Index, 1980-2012

Name:	Loretta Thomas
Birth Date:	29 Nov 1904
Birth Place:	Wisconsin
Death Date:	4 Aug 2007
Death Place:	Boulder City, Clark, Nevada, USA

Sister Loretta Dorothy Bongers Thomas (1904-2007) – Find A Grave 224422852

### Loretta D Bongers

in the Nevada, U.S., Marriage Index, 1956-2005



[Order document](#)

[Add or update information](#)

Detail	Source
Name	Loretta D Bongers
Spouse	William N Thomas
Marriage Date	18 Oct 1956
Recorded county	Clark
Page	M04

[https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/9415548:1100?tid=75880625&pid=79007380736&queryId=50baf112-4418-4b26-816e-3ace55ad49c3&phsrc=cPx16488&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/9415548:1100?tid=75880625&pid=79007380736&queryId=50baf112-4418-4b26-816e-3ace55ad49c3&phsrc=cPx16488&_phstart=successSource)



**MISS STELLA BONGERS**

Funeral services will be held Saturday for Miss Stella Bongers, 58, of North Long Beach, Calif., a native of Sheboygan, who died Wednesday in North Long Beach Memorial Hospital.

Her death followed a lingering illness.

Miss Bongers was born Dec. 27, 1910, in Sheboygan, and made her home here until moving to California in 1949.

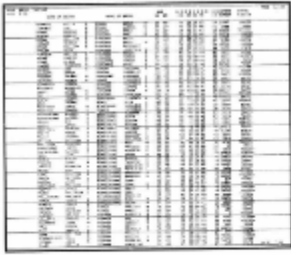
Survivors include two sisters, Mrs. William Thomas of North Long Beach, and Mrs. Joe Gianetta of Anaheim, Calif., and several nieces and nephews.




Services will be held Saturday at the Sponberg Mortuary in Long Beach, with burial in the Long Beach Catholic Cemetery.

"Sheboygan (WI) Press" Friday 10 Jan 1969 p 8

## Joseph Gianetto

in the California, U.S., Marriage Index, 1960-1985

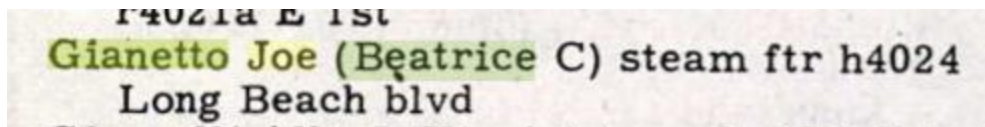


-  Order document
-  Add or update information
-  Report a problem

Detail	Source
Name	Joseph Gianetto
Gender	Male
Birth Year	abt 1912
Age	52
Marriage Date	27 Sep 1964
Marriage Place	Orange, California, USA
Spouse Name	<a href="#">Beatrice C Bongers</a>
Spouse Age	50

sister Beatrice Cecilia Bongers Bates Gianetto (1914-1988) -


[https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/4819151:1144?tid=75880625&pid=132018967067&queryId=024d80fa-f94e-4a10-8ea0-f9eebc059ebf&\\_phsrc=cPx16524&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/4819151:1144?tid=75880625&pid=132018967067&queryId=024d80fa-f94e-4a10-8ea0-f9eebc059ebf&_phsrc=cPx16524&_phstart=successSource)



Long Beach CA city directory 1962 – the couple married in Clark Co. NV on 27 Sep 1964 - <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1446640514:2469>

## Beatrice C Bongers

in the California, U.S., Marriage Index, 1949-1959



[Add or update information](#)

[Report a problem](#)

Detail	Source
Name	Beatrice C Bongers
Gender	Female
Estimated Birth Year	abt 1914
Age	35
Marriage Date	20 Nov 1949
Marriage Place	Los Angeles, California, USA
Spouse	Harold B Bates
Spouse Age	32

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/21172343:5186>

### Abbreviations:

b = born

d = died

F: = Find A Grave ([www.findagrave.org](http://www.findagrave.org))

NOK = next-of-kin

### Name: Martin Dewey Bongers

Name variations: Martin R. Bongers, Sr. – Martin William Bongers

#### Military:

On Tuscania: 107th Supply Co. D - private

Serial number: 251,181

Entered service from: New London, Waupaca WI

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Martin D. Bongers

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": father Martin Bongers, Sr., 318 Quinsey St., New London WI

Returned from war on: "Virginian" May 1919

Sailed on return ship as: Martin D. Bongers

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: father Martin Bongers, Sr., Quincy St., New London WI (cpl, Co. D, 107th Supply Train)

World War I draft registration (1917):

National Tuscania Survivors Association 1939 roster: PO Box 597, Sheboygan WI (spelled Bougers)

World War II draft registration (1942): as Martin Dewey Bongers – b. 17 Aug 1898 Mattoon WI; res: 934 Humboldt, Sheboygan, Sheboygan WI. NOK Mrs. Martin Dewey Bongers, same address. Employed by Wisconsin Oil Refinery, Rte. 3, Sheboygan, Sheboygan WI. Height: 5' 8½" – 160 lbs.

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlisted 15 Jul 1917

Discharged 29 May 1919

Address: 1839 N. 8<sup>th</sup> St., Sheboygan WI

Rank/unit: corporal, Co. D, 107<sup>th</sup> Supply Train

Birth & death:

Born: 17 Aug 1898 Mattoon, Shawano WI (alternatively found as Phlox, Langlade WI)

Died: 6 Jan 1967 Greenville, Mercer PA (at his residence, 160 Clinton St., of acute myocardial infarction)

Find A Grave record: 49125344, presence on Tuscania noted in flower

Burial location: Arlington, Arlington Co. VA

Cemetery: Arlington National

Tombstone: inscription (not pictured): Cpl US Army

Father: Martin Theodore Bongers, 6 Apr 1864 or 7 Apr 1857 (Find A Grave) Little Chute, Outagamie WI – 25 Aug 1924 Sheboygan, Sheboygan WI. Son of Dr. Henry D. (Henricus) Bongers & Maria D. Coenen.

Obituary: "Sheboygan Press" 28 Aug 1924 p 7 – Martin Bongers d. 25 Aug after a week's suffering from blood poisoning caused by a sliver which pierced his finger. Funeral 28 Aug, with interment on the North Side Catholic cemetery. A number of relatives & friends from out of town attended the funeral. Martin moved here 4 ½ years ago, and was employed in construction work. He was working as a member of the City of Sheboygan construction crew on S. 13<sup>th</sup> St. when a sliver from a concrete-covered plank he was moving entered his finger. He finished work that day, but grew feverish that evening & grew worse until his death. "Sheboygan Press" 30 Aug 1924 p 8 – a card of thanks from Mrs. M. Bongers & family to the priest, undertaker, pallbearers & Sheboygan city employees.

Buried in Calvary Cemetery, Sheboygan, Sheboygan WI.

Find A Grave: 46490193

Mother: Fannie Brouillard Bongers, 8 Jul 1873 Little Chute (or Grand Chute), Outagamie WI – 30 Oct 1949 Long Beach, Los Angeles CA. Daughter of Joseph Peter Brouillard (F: 60348016 & Stephanie (Fanny) Hiquet (F: 178622185). Her birth surname is spelled in a great variety of ways. Her first name is also found as Frances.

Obituary: "Sheboygan Press" 18 Nov 1949 p 6 – funeral services held recently for Mrs. Fannie Bongers, 76, former Sheboygan resident, who died 30 Oct 1949 at her home in Long

Beach CA. Born in Little Chute WI. For many years a resident of 627 End Court, Sheboygan. Left Sheboygan last July to live in CA. Services were held at St. Athanasius Catholic Church in Long Beach & burial was made there. She is survived by 3 sons: Morton [sic/Martin] & Robert Bongers of Sheboygan and George Bongers of West Point WI, and 2 sisters: Mrs. Rose Schienenberger of New London (Rose Brouillard Schoenenberger, F: 50505367) & Mrs. Arnold Eggink (Amelia M. "Amy" Brouillard Eggink, F: 103729252]. CA death record: died 30 Oct 1949 Los Angeles Co. CA at 1517 Harding St., where she had resided 3 months, of coronary sclerosis. Born 8 Jul 1873 Grand Chute WI. NOK Mrs. Beatrice Bongers [of 1517 Harding St.]. Handled by Mottell's Mortuary. Burial in Calvary Mausoleum on 2 Nov 1949. Buried in Calvary Cemetery, East Los Angeles, Los Angeles CA.

Find A Grave: 224419433

Parents' marriage: 7 Jan 1892 Phlox, Langlade WI [her surname indexed as Bonillard]

Spouse: Lulu Moody Bongers, 17 Aug 1903 New London, Outagamie WI – 21 Sep 1945 Wilson township, Sheboygan Co. WI. Daughter of Henry & Anna Moody.

Obituary: "Sheboygan Press" 21 Sep 1945 p 6 – Lulu B. Bongers, wife of Martin, Rte. 3, town of Wilson, died at the family residence ½ mile south of Sheboygan after a lengthy illness. Born New London WI 17 Aug 1903 to Henry & Anna Moody. Lived on the West Coast with her family until she returned in 1917 to New London. She attended Waupaca County Normal School & was later an instructor at Ogdensburg rural school for several years. She married Martin on 7 May 1922 at Waupaca WI. The couple resided in Sheboygan the past 23 years. Member VFW Auxiliary & Spanish American War Veterans Auxiliary. Survived by her husband Martin Bongers & son Martin Bongers, Jr. & 3 sisters. Funeral 24 Sep at Ballhorn Funeral Chapel, with burial rites graveside at Floral Cemetery, New London WI. "Sheboygan Press" 22 Sep 1945 p 8 – Auxiliary 19, Sons of Union Veterans, memorial services for Mrs. Lulu Bongers at 7:30 p.m. tonight at Ballhorn Funeral Chapel. All officers will wear white.

Buried in Floral Hill Cemetery, New London, Waupaca WI.

Spouse Find A Grave: 195049682

Marriage: 7 May 1922 at Waupaca WI.

Child:

- Martin Ronald ("Marty") Bongers (referred to as Martin R. Bongers, Jr.), 14 Sep 1929 Sheboygan, Sheboygan WI – 17 May 2001 Sheboygan, Sheboygan WI. US Navy veteran. Husband of Joyce Mae Dittrich (1929-2000, F: 116985576) whom he married 7 Jun 1949. Obituary: "Sheboygan Press" 19 May 2001 p 2 – photo – Martin R. Jr., age 71, of Lakeshore Ave., Sheboygan, d. 17 May 2001 at Sheboygan Memorial Medical Center, following a heart attack at his home. Born 14 Sep 1929 Sheboygan to Martin R. & Lulu Bongers. Buried in Wildwood Cemetery, Sheboygan, Sheboygan WI. F: 116985546

Siblings:

<https://littlechutehistory.org/genealogy/familygroup.php?familyID=F28092&tree=lchs>

- George Henry Bongers, 6 Mar 1893 Phlox, Langlade WI [or Mattoon, Shawano WI] – 6 Feb 1963 Newburgh, Orange NY. Listed as George Joseph on his WI birth record. – Married Alba Elizabeth Wakefield (1896-1958, F: 59473225) who later married a man named Kane. – Married Maude E. (1888-1963, F: 195862819) who is buried with him. - Buried in Calvary Cemetery, New Windsor, Orange NY. F: 195862783
- Theresa Maria Bongers, 17 Oct 1894 Phlox, Langlade WI – 31 May 1900 Mattoon, Shawano WI. Buried as “Tressa” on 2 Jun 1900. Listed as Theresa Marg. Bongers on her WI birth record [which is noted as damaged]. Her mother lists one child of her 4 dead by the time the 1900 census was conducted on 6 Jun 1900 [only 4 days after her burial]. Buried in St. Joseph’s Cemetery, Phlox, Langlade WI. F: 70777043
- Mary Elizabeth / Elizabeth Mary Bongers, 15 Jul 1896 (or Jul 1895) Phlox, Langlade WI – 8 Mar 1919 (?). Listed as Mary Elisabeth on her WI birth record & as “Lizzie” in the 1900 census. She does not appear in the 1910 census with her family. Death date found at: <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/9VX4-XHN> - not documented.
- Robert Joseph Bongers, 20 Oct 1902 Phlox, Langlade WI – 21 Jan 1965 Sheboygan, Sheboygan. Also found listed as Robert Henry Bongers. Registers for WWI draft as Robert Joseph Bongers. - Obituary: “Sheboygan Press” 25 Jan 1965 p 12 – Robert J., age 62, 1511-B N. 8<sup>th</sup> St., Sheboygan, employed by the city of Sheboygan as a driver, was found dead in his home on 24 Jan. Police were notified by the other apartment residents that he had not been seen for several days. When police broke down the door, his body was found in a chair in the living room. The coroner determined he had died Wed. or Thurs. (20 or 21 Jan) of natural causes. He had not been at work the past week due to illness. B. 20 Oct 1902 Phlox WI to Martin & Frances Bongers. WI. Survived by 2 brothers: Martin Bongers of PA & George Bongers of NYC, and 3 sisters: Mrs. William Thomas [i.e. Loretta] of Long Beach CA, Miss Stella Bongers & Mrs. Joe Genetta [i.e. Beatrice] of Anaheim CA. – Buried in Calvary Cemetery, Sheboygan, Sheboygan WI. F: 49520512
- Loretta Dorothy Bongers Thomas, 29 Nov 1904 Mattoon, Shawano WI – 4 Aug 2007 Boulder City, Clark. NV. Listed as “Laura” in 1910 census. – In the 1950 census for Long Beach, Los Angeles CA, Loretta Bongers, 45 WI, never married, worked as a car parts assembler in a car parts manufacturing company. Loretta D. Bongers married William N. Thomas 18 Oct 1956 in Clark Co. NV. William was born 26 Apr 1911 TX & died 28 Dec 1986 Clark Co. NV. – Loretta’s burial location unknown. F: 224422852
- Stella M. Bongers, 28 (or 27) Dec 1910 Sheboygan Co. WI – 8 Jan 1969 Los Angeles Co. CA. Obituary: “Sheboygan Press” 10 Jan 1969 p 8 – Funeral was held for Miss Stella Bongers, age 58, of North Long Beach CA, who died 8 Jan in North Long Beach Memorial Hospital. Born in Sheboygan 27 Dec 1910 & lived there until she moved to CA in 1949. Survived by 2 sisters: Mrs. William Thomas [i.e. Loretta] of North Long Beach CA & Mrs. George Gianetta [i.e. Beatrice Gianetto] of Anaheim CA. Burial in Long Beach Catholic Cemetery. “Long Beach Independent” 10 Jan 1969 p 47 – Stella M. Bongers, 1517 Harding St., survived by sisters Mrs. Loretta Thomas & Mrs.

Beatrice Gianetto. No interment noted in obituary. – Buried in Calvary Cemetery, East Los Angeles, Los Angeles CA. F: 224419775

- Beatrice Cecilia Bongers Bates Gianetto, 23 Jun 1914 WI – 31 Dec 1988 Orange Co. CA. Birth also found as 27 Apr 1915 WI. - Married Harold Bruce Bates 20 Nov 1949 in Los Angeles Co., less than 1 month after her mother died. Harold Bates (1917-1977, F: 156282119, buried in Pacific Coast Cemetery, Redondo Beach, Los Angeles CA) was the son of John M. Bates & Jessie L. Moore, age 32, his 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage, b. Lebanon IN, resident of 4359 Greenwood Ave., Lynwood CA. She was age 35, her 1<sup>st</sup> marriage, b. Antigo WI, resident of 1517 Harding St., Long Beach CA. – In 1950, Beatrice C. Bates Bongers/Brigers lived in Long Beach, Los Angeles CA with daughter Judith C.A. Bates, 11 WI. She was age 27 WI, separated, a maid at the Alamitos Bay Motel. - As Beatrice C. Bongers, she married Joseph (Joe) Gianetto on 27 Sep 1964 in Orange Co. CA. Joe was born 15 Mar 1912 in Silverton CO & died Nov 1979 NV. Joe is buried in Bunkers Eden Valley Memorial Park, Las Vegas, Clark NV, F: 131057077. He lived in Durango, La Plata CO with his wife Caroline Porterfield whom he married in Durango, La Plata CO on 25 Jan 1936. – Beatrice's bBurial details unknown. F: 224421860

Notes:

Wartime:

"Appleton (WI) Post-Crescent" 21 May 1919 p[ 1 – The 107<sup>th</sup> Supply Train arrived at Newport News VA yesterday after sailing 2 weeks from Brest, France. They stayed at Camp Hill last night, where they will be for several days. The unit marched to the camp with cheers from those lining their route. Among them: Martin D. Bongers, Quincy St., New London – and George H. Bonyers [sic] of Quincy St.

"Sheboygan Press" 7 Feb 1934 p 8 - a recent article omitted Martin Bongers as an additional Tuscania survivor, res: 1230 Michigan Ave., Sheboygan WI, fractured knee when he jumped from ship onto destroyer & landed on his knee, wound was bound up & he was taken ashore in Ireland, then to England, then to France, where he spent 3 months in a hospital

Post-war:

"Sheboygan Press" 31 Jan 1935 p 3 – listed as Tuscania survivor, resident of 1230 Michigan Ave.

"Sheboygan Press" 5 Feb 1936 p 4 – listed as Tuscania survivor, resident of 1118 S. 15<sup>th</sup> St.

"Sheboygan Press" 5 Feb 1936 p 17 - he & Fred Duxbury only survivors in Sheboygan, b. 17 Aug 1898 Mattoon, Shawano WI, fractured knee while leaving ship, at age 17 moved to New London, enlisted 5 May 1917 in 6th WI Inf., Camp Douglas to Camp McArthur to Camp

Merritt, infection set in in knee, served on 4 fronts in France & Coblenz (Germany) Army of Occupation, returned on "Virginia" arriving Newport News VA 8 May 1919, discharged Camp Grant IL 29 May 1919, charter member New London American Legion, moved to Sheboygan 16 May 1922

#### Obituary:

PA death record: Martin Dewey Bongers, age 68, resident of 160 Clinton St., Greenville PA, died at that address on 6 Jan 1967. Widowed. Born 17 Aug 1898 Mattoon [sic] WI. Social Security #391-03-8977. Employed at Greenville Steel Car Co. Wife Lulu Moody. Father Martin Bongers. Mother: Fanny [birth surname unknown] Bongers. Informant: Martin Bongers, Jr., Sheboygan WI.

Social Security Number: 391-03-8977

#### Censuses:

##### 1900 Hutchins, Shawano WI

Martin Bongers, [unknown age, month/year of birth] WI, parents b. unknown location, married 10 years, railroad engineer

Fannie, 28 WI, Jul 1872, father b. Canada (French), mother b. Belgium, gave birth to 4 children, 3 are living [daughter Theresa had been buried 4 days earlier]

Adopted daughter Rose Schoneberg, 9 WI, b. Jun 1891 [in Fannie's obituary, a sister is named Rose Schienenberger, buried as Rose Brouillard Schoenenberger, F: 50505367]

George, 7 WI, Mar 1893 [son]

Lizzie, 5 WI, Jul 1895 [daughter]

Martin, 12 WI, Aug 1898 [son]

A female servant is listed named Amy Brouillard, 18 WI, Jun 1881, father b. Canada (French) & mother Belgium. [In Fannie's obituary, a sister Mrs. Arnold Eggink is listed. This is Amelia M. ("Amy") Brouillard Eggink.]

& 2 female lodgers

##### 1905 WI state census – Mattoon, Shawano WI

Martin Bongers (indexed as Brugers but appears to read Bongers), age left blank, b. WI, parents b. Holland, stationary engineer

Fannie, 31 WI, parents b. Canada

Geo., 12 WI

Lizzie, 8 WI

Dewey, 6 WI

Robey, 2 WI

Laura, 6 months WI

##### 1910 Wabeno, Forest WI

Martin Bongers, 43 WI, parents b. Germany, in 1<sup>st</sup> marriage, married 18 years, engineer, logging industry



Fanny, 35 WI, father b. Canada (French), mother b. Belgium (French), in 1<sup>st</sup> marriage, gave birth to 6 children, 5 are living

George, 17 WI, laborer, saw mill

Elizabeth, 13 WI

Martin, 11 WI

Robert, 7 WI

Laura, 5 WI

1920 New London, Waupaca WI – Wolf River Ave. – line 4

Martin Bonger/Binger, 21 WI, parents b. US, single, laborer, factory

Roomer with Ida Fisher, her son & daughter & 6 other roomers

1920 Sheboygan, Sheboygan WI – parents & siblings – Trimberger Ct. – hard to read & not all data could be transcribed

Martin Bongers, 55 WI, laborer

Fannie B., 45 WI, father b. Canada

Robert, 17 WI

Loretta, 15 WI

Stella, 9 WI

Beatrice, 5 WI

1930 Sheboygan, Sheboygan WI – 2220 W. 8<sup>th</sup> – conducted 10 Apr 1930

Martin Bongers, 31 WI, parents b. WI, age 24 at 1<sup>st</sup> marriage, laborer, WI Power & Light, WWI veteran

Lulu, 26 WI, father b. NY, mother b. WI, age 18 at 1<sup>st</sup> marriage

Martin, Jr., 7 months WI

1940 Wilson, Sheboygan WI – in 1935 living in Sheboygan, Sheboygan WI

Martin Bongers, 41 WI, shovel operator, construction

Lulu, 36 WI, saleswoman, retail store

Martin, 10 WI

1950 Sheboygan, Sheboygan WI – 1634 Union Ave.

Martin D. Bongers, 53 WI, widowed, foreman, oil refinery

lodger with Sophie Kastalic & 5 other lodgers