

# The Leaf

VOLUME IX ISSUE 111

PROUD MEMORIES

Summer 2007

- Events
  - \*NOL Lunch 2nd Mon @Golden Bull Rest.
  - \*Holiday Luncheon @ Golden Bull in Gaithersburg. Fri. 7 December @1100.
- \*2008 FL Reunion, Fri, 7 Mach 2008, Dade City, FL.
- The LEAF is published quarterly by the WOLAA, Inc. for its members.

\* *11 September 2001.....GOD BLESS AMERICA!*

WOLAA Web Site: [www.wolaa.org](http://www.wolaa.org)

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## *WOLAA Headline News.*

\**Dr. Gaunaurd Honored by International Optical Society*

\**Holiday Luncheon Set for Friday, 7 Dec @ Bull*

\**WOLAA Celebrated 10th Anniversary*

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D. Cappy

## News From WOLAA.

**\*Annual Luncheon.** A BZ WOLAA Annual Luncheon was held on Friday, 18 May at the Golden Bull in Gaithersburg. The three entrée choices were enjoyed and the fellowship was obvious. There were more reserved tables this year with alumni enjoying mini-reunions with the group and/or projects that they worked on at the WOL. Attendance was way up. We accepted reservations to the last day, including a few walkins. Several attendees took the opportunity to join WOLAA for the first time. Lew Vendetti was recognized for submitting the most new names for our New Name Project. The annual meeting was brief. We took the time to re-elect Houston Cole and Dave Wasmund to the Board. We also welcomed Harry Bagley to a three year term on the WOLAA Board. Thank you Harry for agreeing to serve WOLAA.

**\*Holiday Luncheon.** Dee worked with the Golden Bull and we have signed a contract to hold our Holiday Luncheon at the Golden Bull on Friday, 7 December 2007 at 1100. MARK YOUR CALENDAR Now. Dee is working on the WOLAA holiday treat and we promise great cookies. She is also looking into a new WOLAA T-shirt for the WOLAA store. As part of the 10th anniversary of WOLAA, we want to honor all alumni who worked at NOL during WW II.

**\*Historical Preservation.** We had our first 2007 meeting on this subject at the FDA on 28 June. The architect reviewed the design status on Bldg 1 restoration, including the lobby and front entrance. Discussion on the wall, room and garden were held. More on this in the Fall LEAF.

## Oral History.

### \*Oral History.

We have two oral histories for you in this LEAF in Supplement A. The first is by Frank Koubek. Its title is: "Velveeta Cheese & Reminiscing the NOL Fishing Club Circa 1950's & 60's." It is a great fishing story; and shows the benefit the employees received from WOLEA. It also shows the community that NOL was. The second history is our second installment of the wind tunnels history. This one provides the memoirs of Dr Rudolf Herman, who was in charge of the wind tunnels at the end of WW II. This material was provided by Bob Voisinet.

Frank Koubek send me a note indicating that Bob Barnet and he are collaborating on the WW II Silver Spring Navy Plastic Laboratory story. Bob has three photos to include in the story. Their goal is to have the story ready for the Fall LEAF

By the way, Frank noted that Bob is 88 and is recovering from strokes. But, "he is still turning out beautiful stuff on his wood lathe; and he and his wife, Ruth, attended a prestigious wood turners tutorial school recently at the Arrowmont Craft School in Tennessee. They plan to show and sell their wares at several arts and craft shows this Summer. Ruth is an acrylics artist."

Frank also included a second Post Note in this edition's velveeta cheese history. It is a challenge to members of other NOL clubs. "There were many, many clubs and other group activities at WOL over the years. Perhaps you have some interesting tale to relate. Some fertile areas that come to mind are the NOL Carnival, Golf Association, Water Ski Club, Spring Follies, etc. For example, an interesting story would be the origins of the WOL golf course----its funding, construction, and the evolution of the NOL Golf Association. How about the NOL carnival? Do you remember the Carnival Queens? Perhaps some of you may recall the vigorous campaigns waged to elect the NOL Carnival Queen each year. We love to hear from you! Get out those pencils and send your tales to the Editor of 'The LEAF.'"

### \*Oral History Feedback.

-Wind Tunnels. Dear John, I read with particular interest the story about the German scientists that came over with the Wind Tunnels to the good old NOL. I had the privilege of working with them for about 14 years starting in 1946. In 2003, I took a trip to Peenemuende to see the original site of the German laboratory. I have enclosed some pictures of the place—the only building left I believe is the old power station.

Although I enjoyed the article in the LEAF very much, I was disappointed that the names of the scientists and engineers who came to the states were not mentioned. Is it possible to obtain their names? Also—I wonder if some of them might be still around.

Keep up the good work on the LEAF, Sincerely, Charles E. White, Silver Spring, Md.

Editor Note: Will see if I can find a list of their names. See the last page of LEAF for Charles' pictures.

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-Anton. John, I've been meaning to reply to George Hamlin's Story of "The Elusive Anton Khropochnik" which was very interesting indeed. I happen to have many of the old NOL phone books given to me by Dick Froehlich when he retired. I actually have a complete set of the four 1963 quarterly editions with George's Anton in it: Jan 1963, Apr 1963, Jul 1963, and Oct 1963. Further, I have the Oct 1962 and Jan 1964 editions confirming that Anton is nowhere to be found, exactly as George said. The entries read:

"Khropochnik Anton.....[ext]8432.....[Div]BP....[Loc]411-205....[Home Phone]585-5183".  
 What I'm wondering is whether there was any hidden message in the home phone number. I will be donating the entire set of phone books to WOLAA next year if interested. It's not a complete set because it has been a good source of giveaways to WOL retirees, giving them the issue in which their name first appeared. John Renzi"

George's answer to the phone number question:

"I can't remember why we picked that number - though as I said in the story, a distant memory sez it was the Zoo's number. A 585 (JUniper 5) exchange was local to White Oak, though, so I might be wrong about that. I remember a lot of things that aren't so.

Hidden message? I'm surprised at youse guys. The number is 585-5183. We were darn creative up in 1-370, but even we could not have figured out a way to make a word out of a telephone number with a 1 in it.

As to phone books. If you ever read in the morning paper that my plane went down, contact my executor for a nearly complete set. I'm not quite ready to let go of em just yet.

Geo Hamlin"

## Book Review Johnny Grams

Mjt

Two different but both inspiring books this time. The first was written by Katherine Wallace, who was the NSWC librarian at the time the WOL closed. It is her personal story about growing up in Germany during WW II. The second is about boys who become Eagle Scouts and the impact being an Eagle has on their lives. Both are worth the 4 WO Leafs.

**\*Aurora by K. F. Ritter (2006).** I had a call in April from Jean Sellers. "Did I know about this book that Katherine Wallace had written?" No, I hadn't, but my interest was high when Jean noted the subtitle of the book, "An Alabama school teacher in Germany struggles to keep her children during W.W. II after she discovers her husband is a German spy." Jean contacted Katherine, hoping she would come to our May luncheon to talk to alumni about her book. Katherine was not able to attend; but did send copies of books for Jean to sell. We sold over 20 books. Aurora was Katherine's mother (Ritter was Katherine's maiden name.). She was from Alabama and had become a school teacher prior to WW II. She was in NY City in the Summer taking a course at Columbia. She met her husband there (Vati was a German and a textile engineer, who had come to this country to escape the poor work conditions in Germany.); married; and had two children---Katherine and her brother. Aurora was very successful in NY City; but Vati couldn't hold a job, as he had strong views which didn't agree with his bosses. The family eventually went to Germany to visit his family. He returned to the USA, stranding his family in Germany. Aurora had to find work and eventually had to help finance his trip back to Germany. Using her contacts, she got him a job in the German army, and he ended up in intel. As the war with the US got closer, he formed the largest German spy ring in the US, using his many contacts in NY City. This spy ring stole the drawings for the Norden bomb site and an auto-pilot system for our bombers. Both greatly helping the German cause. The FBI cracked the ring and arrested 23 people. (The book noted details of this are displayed at the Spy Museum in D.C.)

Many things happened between Aurora and Vati during the war. The key being a divorce and him stopping her from taking the children back to the US. She would not leave w/o the children; so she was forced to spend the war in Germany. Not a great situation for an American citizen. Their experiences are just amazing. Many of us recall the fire bombing of Dresden near the end of the war. But, Aurora lived in Hamburg, and it was fire bombed before Dresden. How she escapes death is a miracle. The experiences of Katherine and her brother are breath taking. We seldom think of the terrible life the German women and children had. You have to read this book to understand. The return of Aurora and the children to the US after the war is fascinating. So is the rest of Aurora's life after the war.

We will have the books at the Holiday Luncheon in December. I strongly recommend that you plan to buy one.



### **\*Legacy of Honor, The Values and Influence of America's Eagle Scouts By Alvin Townley (2007).**

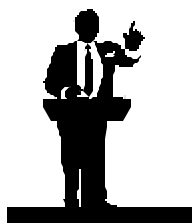
Townley is an Eagle Scout and is one of 3 million Eagle Scouts in America since scouting began. He was curious about what becoming an Eagle Scout meant, and how did men progress in their life/career after receiving their Eagle badge. So, he quit his very good job, and toured the country for two years interviewing men who were Eagle Scouts. I became interested in the book for several reasons; one I am not an Eagle Scout and two, my Grandson, Jon, is very involved in scouting. My friend and I joined the local Wurtemberg, PA scout troop in about 1948. We met in the local fire house. The early attraction was a very aggressive dodge-ball like game we played at the end of the meeting. My uniform purchase was the neck scarf you wore; I guess I couldn't afford anything else at the time. I did all my things to pass the tenderfoot badge. I spent hours memorizing how to tie the "million" knots that you had to know. The night of my test, the scout master didn't show. I was so frustrated that I never went back and promptly forgot how to tie all those damn knots. Okay, I wasn't cut out to be an Eagle scout. My grandson is doing much better. He is now a tenderfoot and expects to pass his first class by the end of the year. He enjoys his fellow scouts and the camping trips; although the first couple were in the Winter and he was a tad cold. I plan to give him this book; and I hope he is inspired by the character and quality of men who practice the scout oath their entire life.

Townley covered all areas of the country. Scouting differed from the inner city to the country troops in the South to suburban troops. Scouting did have issues with integration in the past and recently with gay rights. The one common characteristic was great leadership and dedication by the troop leaders. Many are of course Eagle Scouts them selves. Most of the men interviewed credit their family, church, and troop leader for their values and the motivation to get all 21 merit badges to qualify to be an Eagle Scout. Almost all noted the hard part was the testing to show you really knew the stuff for the merit badge you were being tested. The test to qualify for the Eagle rank is not a picnic. As you would guess, the list of Eagle Scouts include: CEO's; US Senators (~10% which is higher than statistically predicted re the number of Eagle Scouts in the population.); astronauts; policemen/firemen. One U.S. president; who would you guess? He was Gerald Ford. The CEO's include the founder of Walmart and Marriott's Son. When Katrina struck, the Eagle Scouts responded in larger numbers, percentage wise, than the population.

I will end with the following by Townley, "The organizations that support Scouting often have beliefs and opinions that conflict with one another, but they all agree on the fundamental values contained in the Scout Oath and Scout Law. In Scouting, they tacitly focus on those things which unite all Americans. They find the common ground so important in our nation's fabric and future."

## **Ramblings of a Senior**

**Mjt**



**\*Spam.** Today, this word is associated with the email/internet computer world, and in general, means "stuff" you don't want to receive. However, this rambling associates the word with the "meat" product produced by Hormel Foods. For you see, this is the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SPAM. And, I really love the stuff. I know that many who served in WW II have other words to describe how they feel about spam. In 1937, the first can of spam was produced. As a boy, I enjoyed opening the can of spam as it was a challenge. The can came with a key which had a hole in the end. You inserted a little metal tab, located at the top of the rectangle like can, in the end of the key. You then started to turn the key tearing the metal tear-away strip around the perimeter of the can. The challenge was when you got about 2/3rd of the way around the can and the system began to fail. After great care and cursing by a young boy the lid was off. The challenge was not over; the "meat" was bathed in grease/lard/gel, which should have allowed the spam to slip out of the can. BUT, no; you had to insert a knife and go all around the can to unstick the meat. Then, you had to wedge the knife or fork into the side of the meat to give it an extra incentive to come out of the can. PLOP; it was out.

So, what to do with it. Granted, my Mom tended to spoil me; here are several of my favorites. She

would slice it, and make a cold sandwich. Of course, on white Wonder bread. Or she would slice it and fry it. Served with sunny side-up eggs was just yummy. She would also score the top of the spam, insert clove into the meat, and bake it. This became an entree' for the evening meal. Does anyone else "love" spam? Do you have a favorite way to serve it.

Anyway, spam is celebrating 70 years. You can send for a super T-shirt. You can also send for their three commemorative cans: 1987–50years; 1998–went hi-tech with a web site; and 2007–70 years and six billions cans of spam sold. Oh, and now they have a lite spam. Only 8 grams of fat, 40mg of cholestrol, and 580 mg of sodium. The ingredients include pork with ham (?) and mechanically separated chicken (?). I can't imagine how many grams of spam fat I have eaten in my lifetime.

By the way, the can now comes with an easy to open top. Just grab a handle on top of the can and pull. Ah, progress.

**\*Memorial Day Parade.** Pat and I were in Lawrenceville, NJ over the Memorial Day weekend. We were there for our Grand son's confirmation. We were informed that there was a parade on that Saturday; and that our Grand daughter Brownie's troop was marching in it. So we went to a parade. Lawrenceville is an interesting area. A very famous Prep School is there; very ethnic and catholic; many blue collar families; lots of professionals working in high tech areas; and yet, a small town. Pat and I even know the police chief. I was soon to find a very patriotic area. The parade had every organization marching, fire trucks, and lots of reserve and national guard equipment (large artillery armory/units in Lawrenceville). The parade route was full of people. As the parade proceeded and the large crowd along the route cheered and clapped for the military and fire fighters, I was again struck by the greatness of our country and our citizens. My emotions peaked when I saw our Grand daughter, Emily, approach; and she was holding one end of the Brownie troop banner. I wish each of you could enjoy the true spirit of Memorial Day and our country.

## Alumni Feedback.

**\*Wikipedia -NOL.** Dr. Ed Whitman wrote: "I saw the mention of 9-11 victim William Caswell in the latest Leaf and can offer a little information. I worked with Bill Caswell a number of years ago (around 1990) when he was –I believe–chief engineer of a deep-black ASW project under RADM Craig Dorman in SPAWAR. (At that time I was Dorman's civilian deputy.) I lost track of him after I moved on, but I gather He remained working in that general area for the rest of his career. The next time I heard of him–sadly–was in conjunction with 9-11. I was not aware that he ever worked at White Oak–and I tend to doubt it."

**\*Auditorium Productions.** Lew Vendetti wrote: "John, Yes its Tom Cristy in the wig. In the lower photo, the man to Jim Ayres' left is Phil Aronson, who was probably conducting the band at that time. He died while still working a the lab. In the top photo the man standing next to Dante is, I believe Ed Seymour. I'm quite certain that his name is Ed, less certain about the Seymour."

George Hamlin wrote: "Ah shucks, John Marshall, that's too easy. The production is "Trial by Jury," and the Glee Club rendered it 30 & 31 August 1962, as a lunch-hour performance. The leads were:

Judge: Dave Ressler

Usher: Tom Christy

Defendant: Dan Piacesi, the source of your photos

Counsel: Jerry Blum

Plaintiff: Mary Irwin (the female lead you were asking about)

The jury comprised Ed Seymour, foreman; George Hamlin. Larry Hampton, Carl Mueller, Frank Pierce, and Bob Ward; that's the lot you see in the first photo, not necessarily in that order. The bridesmaids were Orian Ann "Jinx" Falkenborg, USN; Ann Fulcher; Jennette Murray; and Carol Einwich.

I can hear you asking, okay, wise guy, but I'll bet you don't remember who the spectators were. They were: Mickey McInturff (later Mickey Kahne), Hilda Williams, Moira Swan, Ron Rayburn, Louise Lewis, Dorothy Duncan, Betty Morrell, Arabella Gray, Dorothy Trainor, Irene Langdon, Janet Ayres, Ron Joseph, Bill Richardson, Larry Nuckles, Jim Randolph, and Ray Harwell.

Long-timers will recognize that some of these folks went on to what passed for fame and fortune with later Bill's Bunch productions. As for Piacesi's snappy sport coat, I have no idea where that ended up. The sole accompaniment was a piano and, I regret to say, I cannot remember who the pianist was - that will be the chap standing next to the said instrument in the lower photo. Mary Irwin sang a killer female lead. The surprise find of the presentation was Dave Ressler, a summer intern from a northern college who showed up just at the right time to be the judge. And a good judge too.

Oh, and don't think I didn't notice that you cropped me out of the cast photo. You realize that that impairs the collector value of that edition of The Leaf."

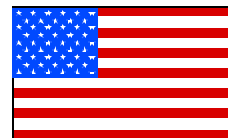
Editor Note: Guilty. I cropped out several when picture's width didn't quite fit. They were jury members who appeared in the other picture.

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**\*Bradley's Book, "Flag of Our Fathers."** George Barclay wrote: "Gentlemen: I enjoy reading my wife's copy of the Leaf. Having been a Docent at the Navy Museum I have some knowledge of the Iwo Jima flag raising and the men involved.

I, too, was interested in Bradley's book and the Movie. But, as the 'nit-picker' that my wife says I am, I call your attention to your reference to the Silver Star. If you look closely at Bradley's record you will note mention of his Purple Heart and Navy Cross. No mention of any other award. (Bradley's book doesn't mention a Silver Star either, but says he didn't know his Father received the Navy Cross.) I'll enclose some photos that I've used on my tours."

Editor Note: My error. It is clearly the Navy Cross. It was very interesting that he never told his family; it was for his work as a medic on Iwo that he received the award. See Supplement B for these pictures.




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**\*Lee Probst.** See Supplement C for the interesting letter that Lee sent the LEAF.

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**\*Indian Head Feedback.** John Kelley asked me to send information on WOLAA to Jerry La-Camera, Technical Operations Manager at Indian Head, and to Dr. Alfred Stern, Chief scientist for Energetic Material. I received the following feedback from them:

I want to thank you for the email. I remember you well and recall you were one of the key leadership folks at NSW White Oak when I was just a "wet behind the ears" engineer beginning my career at White Oak. Some here might say not much has changed....:)

Though I was only at White Oak for 4 years of my career, I have very fond memories of my time there and considered the initial experience I obtained there a major part of my remaining in federal service with the Navy and believe I was well served by the technical mentoring and experiences I received there. I think all were saddened when the decision to BRAC White Oak occurred. But I also know many of the other warfare centers and other organizations in navy and DOD were enhanced by the influx of talented folks from White Oak that migrated to the many different paths their careers took. I know Indian Head was much enhanced in performing its energetics mission and believe Dahlgren, Panama City and Carderock benefitted as well, not to mention ONR/OSD.

I appreciate your sending me this info and the link to the webpage. I will try to send in a membership application soon and will look to see if my schedule will permit attending the May luncheon if at all possible. That is right around my daughter's graduation from College and I may have other commitments to attend. If I cannot make the next one will certainly try to attend the December event.

Again many thanks for this email and hopefully I can reconnect with you and some of the other White Oak Alums soon. I have added my contact info just in case you wish to add to your database.  
V/r, J. Jerry LaCamera, Jr.

Thank you for your quick response to John Kelley's request. It sounds like you and the alumni association have done a heroic effort to maintain a historical remembrance of NOL. It was truly an honor and a privilege to begin my Navy career there, and it was very sad to see it close.

Frequently, at the numerous meetings I attend both nationally and internationally, the WO lab is reverently mentioned for its many seminal contributions to ordnance technology.

Thank you very much for the information and the membership details.  
VR, Alfred G. Stern, Ph.D.

**\*Dick Willy.** I received the following from Lillian Karmel. "My name is Lillian Karmel, and I am still a WOLAA member; my husband Charlie worked at the Lab until retiring in 1979. I am still living in Florida and a friend, Emory Morgan, who also worked for the Lab has asked me to learn whether Dick Willy (The spelling may have been Willie) is still living and if so do you have an address, phone number, etc for him. Emory (or Buck as he is also known) lives nearby in Nokomis, FL. I would appreciate any information you may have since Dick and Emory had been good friends.

The last reunion luncheon I attended was at the Ringling home in Sarasota and I am never in Maryland area when you meet there. I do have so many fond memories of the lab, the carnivals, the movies, and the camaraderie.

Editor Note: Can any one Help??? Email or call me if you have info on Dick. I found his name in a 1962 NOL phone book as Richard Willey, who worked in Bldg 90 in the Underwater Explosions Branch. He is not listed in the 1968 book.

## Features

### \*Retirement News.

-TSP Question by Bernie DeSavage

I continue to find NARFE an invaluable source of information regarding retirement benefits and their nuances. Here's one I hadn't thought about.

A member wrote asking the following question: "I know that upon retirement I can take monthly payments from my TSP account. My spouse is designated as my TSP beneficiary. At my death, can she continue to receive that monthly payment and leave the balance in for continued earnings?"



NARFE's response was that the surviving spouse could not leave funds in a TSP account. There are two options: The funds can be withdrawn in a lump sum payment and be subject to a 20% tax withholding, or the remaining balance can be rolled over directly to her own traditional IRA, as this is considered to be an eligible rollover distribution.. The latter can be done without the 20% withholding.

If you're not a member of NARFE, I encourage you to join. Not only is it a great source on information, but is a very powerful lobby for retiree benefits.

### -Signs of a Stroke.

The LEAF has carried this before; but I have received this information recently from several WOLAA members so I repeat it. If you come across a person who you suspect is disoriented and may be having a stroke, the following test is recommended. It called S. T. R.

S. Ask the person to smile; are they able to smile?

T. Ask the person to talk by speaking a simple sentence. You might use: "It is sunny out today." Is the sentence coherent?

R. Ask the person to raise both arms. Can they?

A final test would be to ask them to stick out their tongue. If the tongue is crooked or if it goes to one side or another, that is also a sign of the stroke. If the person fails any of the above, call 911 at once and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

### \*Alumni Update.

**-Guillermo C. Gaunaud, PhD.**

**Press Release Dated 30 April 2007 by SPIE, The International Society of Optical Engineering.**

**\*Dr. Guillermo C. Gaunaud Elected SPIE Fellow.**

"SPIE will honor 56 new fellows of the Society this year. Fellows are members of distinction, who have significant scientific and technical contributions in the multi-disciplinary fields of optics, photonics, and imaging. They are honored for their technical achievements, for their service to the general optics community, and to SPIE in particular. More than 480 SPIE members have become fellows since the society inception in 1955.

Guillermo C. Gaunaud, PhD., of the Army Research Lab, Adelphi, MD., USA is honored for major contributions to direct E/M and acoustic interactions with matter.

Gaunaud's technical contributions center on research on scattering and radiation theories as they apply to E/M, elasto-dynamics and acoustics scattering. One of his early novel discoveries was the RST (Resonance Scattering Theory), which contributed greatly to the understanding of basic scattering mechanisms. Energy incident on penetrable body, within its broad resonance region penetrates the body only through the spectral windows located around its resonances. At other frequencies, the body behaves essentially as impenetrable.

Dr. Gaunaud has made important contributions to radar signal and information processing and joint time-frequency analysis and E/M resonance theory over the past two decades. Much of his recent work has dealt with the radar detection and classification of sub-surface land targets. He organized several special meetings in Automatic Target Recognition (ATR) areas and served as associate editor for several journals in E/M theory and acoustics. He has also worked as adjunct professor at several universities. Gaunaud has been a member of the conference committee of SPIE's ATR Conference since its inception over 16 years ago and has been very active organizing and chairing special sessions and contributing technical papers at SPIE Symposia and in SPIE journals."

Editor Note: A WOLAA BZ to Dr. Gaunaud. His RST Theory work was done while he worked in R Department at the WOL.



**-Dr. Sigmund Jacobs.** Bob Ridgway provided me a playbill from the Kennedy Center re The Washington National Opera. Under supporters, it had the following about Dr. Jacobs.

"Dr. Sigmund Jacobs and his wife Lillian were patrons of the arts and long time supporters of Washington National Opera, beginning in 1983. Dr. Jacobs was recognized as a worldwide authority in the theory and application of initiation and detonation of explosives and propellants. Recently WNO learned that Dr. Jacobs passed away and named the Opera as beneficiary of his will. His generous support will assist us



in presenting the highest quality opera in the nation's capital.....Dr. Jacobs' presence will be greatly missed, and we are grateful to him for his thoughtfulness and support, which serves as a lasting testament to his life's beliefs.

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**-Ramsey Johnson.** Ramsey send me an email noting that NSWC/DL has produced a book about the history of Dahlgren titled, "The sound of Freedom: Naval Weapons Technology at Dahlgren, VA. 1918-2006." The book was commissioned by the Navy and authored by historians James P. Rife and Rodney P. Carlisle. The book contains the technical history of the Lab but also stories of the scientists and officers and their tangles with management. The book covers the invention of a bomb-sight tool in WW II and the computer contributions with Harvard and the work re the FBM force in the 50's/60's. It also covers the "blue collar workers" on the Main Range and elsewhere on the base. This information was printed in an article in the Freelance Star by Ed Jones. BUT, we have no information on how to obtain a copy of the book. Can anyone help????

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**-Bill and Dave Fowler.** Bill worked in U Department in test sets group and his older brother Dave worked at NAVORD. Bill called me with a question. Which of the two atomic bombs dropped on Japan in WW II was the Navy bomb? He explained that his brother, Dave, had worked on the fuze for the Navy bomb and his team held a patent on the device. Bill was preparing information about his family for their school (university) and needed the requested information. He noted that the fuze was based on a "gun design." Dr. Ed Whitman did some research and sent the following: "WRT to the WWII atomic bomb. I did a little rooting around in my books and didn't find much. However, I do know this. A Navy captain, 'Deak' Parsons, was very actively involved in safing, arming, and triggering the two bombs. (I believe a biography of him may have just come out.) He rode the 'Enola Gay' to Hiroshima to perform some last-minute assembly/test, etc. No mention is made of his doing the same thing on the Nagasaki bomb. Here's my theory: the two bombs are very different: the first was 'cannon-barrel' uranium bomb; the second a plutonium implosion bomb. That would have required two very different S&A mechanisms. Possibly the Navy worked on one and the Army on the other----and if that's true, it stands to reason that ----given Parson's participation----the Hiroshima bomb would have been the 'Navy' one. Just a guess." So, based on what Ed states and the fact that Bill says Dave's device was a "gun design" our guess conclusion is the Hiroshima bomb was the Navy bomb. Anyone want to weigh in on this important history? Let me know and I will get info to Bill.

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### **\*Deceased Alumni.**

Please Inform Houston Cole of any information you have about deceased alumni: phone is (410) 489-2977, or email/write WOLAA. Please check the WOLAA web site for more timely information than can be provided by a quarterly newsletter.

\*Bob and Doris Nylund. Their son called WOLAA to inform us that Bob died of a stroke on 20 December 2006 and Doris died just 12 days later. They were living in retirement in Naples, FL. Bob worked in the library, Doris worked as a secretary for several U Department Project Offices, including SECT.

\*Vincent Baratta, Sr. Vincent Baratta, Jr. notified us that his Father passed away on 16 January 2007. Vince lived in retirement in McKees Rocks, PA which is near Pittsburgh. He worked in the Electrical Systems Division in U Department

\*Betty Campfield. Betty died on 8 February 2007. She was the wife of Ray Campfield who worked in the Mechanical Systems Division in U Department. She is survived by son Ray, daughter Mary Beth, and two grandchildren.

\*Harry F. Kendrick, Jr. Harry died at age 89 on 18 March 2007 at the Providence Hospital in Washington. He was a rigger foreman at the WOL. He was a native Washingtonian and graduated from Dunbar High School. He served in the army and European theater in WW II. After the war, he began working for the Navy; he was asked several times to lend his expertise to special projects for the lab. He retired in 1976 with 30 years of service at the WOL. Harry was a self taught golfer and placed in many local tournaments. His wife, Ada Jones, died in 1991; he leaves no immediate survivors.

\*Marjorie Anne Wahler. She died on 25 March 2007. Her husband, Martin W. "Bill" Wahler, is deceased. Bill worked in drafting, Code 780, in Bldg 405 for the WOL. Marjorie is survived by children, Sharon, Melanie, Kathleen, and Rosemary; and eight grandchildren.

\*Cdr. James Mullen Stone. Jim died at age 79 on 31 March 2007 at the Brooke Grove Rehab and Nursing Center in Sandy Spring. Jim was a diesel submariner and came to the WOL as an ordnance officer. He retired in 1977 and worked at Vitro as a systems engineer until 1990. Cdr Stone lived in Silver Spring and was a native of Westbury, NY. He joined the Navy at the end of WW II and after the war attended the Naval Academy, graduating in 1952. He commanded the diesel submarine Cubera. He was a member of the St. John the Baptist Catholic Church on NH Avenue and was active in the Knights of Columbus. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Audrey; five children: retired Navy Captain Kevin, Ken, Gary, Rick, and Tracy; and nine grandchildren. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on 13 June 2007. He was recently described as a true gentleman and gentle man; for all who knew Jim this is very real and these are very good traits to be remembered.

\*Maryann Carole Dudzik Batton. She died at age 86 on 2 April 2007. Her late husband was Charles Batton. She is survived by three daughters, one son, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. She worked in security at the WOL. At the time of death, she was living in Riderwood.

\*Casper J. Aronson. Cappy died on 12 April 2007. He is survived by his wife of 59 years the late Eleanor Aronson; daughter Rhyda; and grandfather of Sarah Conant. Cappy worked at the WOL and headed the Explosive Research Division. He was a respected and significant leader in explosive research at the WOL. Rhyda provided a tribute to her father and it appears in this LEAF as Supplement D..

\*James David Featherson. James died on 9 April 2007. He lived in Waldorf with his wife Dorothy. He had five children, 21 grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. Jim was a contract negotiator in Supply Department.

\*Dennis Roy Mensh. Denny died on 8 May 2007. He is survived by his wife, Leslie; sons, Stephen, Adam, and Evan; and two grand children. He had alzheimers. Denny worked in U Department in the Evaluation Department during CAPTOR's development, working in Jeff's (Don Jefferson) group which analyzed the field data for CAPTOR's detection system. He later worked in the analysis group in U Department. Denny loved to ride the submarines when they came to Ft. Lauderdale. These tests and runs were very important to CAPTOR and Denny desired to support the submarine as it made its runs across the CAPTOR units. He also noted to his co-workers his love of the chow on an SSN.

\*Peter Francis Vial. Pete died at age 84 on 14 May 2007 in his home at Riderwood. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Peggy; four children; 10 grandchildren; and two great grandchildren. Pete worked in Air/Surface Department at the WOL. He was a key member in the HEL project. Pete had MS while working at the WOL. He walked with a cane for a while but eventually he scooted around the halls in an electric wheel chair. He was a gentle and a positive person; liked by all. I took a Legacy book to Pete while he was still living in Hillandale. His home was on a hill and had many steps; I assumed there was an easier entrance via the garage. We had a good chat, and Pete was interesting in catching up on WOL alumni.

\*Dr. D. John Pastine. Jay died on 8 June 2007 at age 71. He is survived by children: Jessica Putzier, Alexandra McManus, and Dr. Stefan Pastine; and three grandchildren. Jay was born in Philadelphia, PA, and graduated from Gonzaga High School in D.C. He received his PhD in theoretical physics from Catholic U. in 1964. Jay worked in the research department at the WOL in the explosives division.

After retirement, he was a partner in Enig and Associates. We received the following from Eric Enig, president of Enig and Associates:

“I got a very sad and unhappy call from Jay Pastine’s son Stephan Saturday morning. Surrounded by his children at Howard County General in Columbia, MD., Jay passed away Friday from complications related to his advanced-staged lung cancer.

Jay was one of a kind, a brilliant scientist with a very good sense of humor and warm personality, truly a people person. He had a tremendous impact professionally in the advancement of science within the DOD, as well as with his second career, his twenty-plus years with Enig Associates, Inc. Though he had largely scaled back his hours over the last several years in favor of relaxation and visits around the country to see his children and grandchildren, and had announced his intention to retire this year in October, his office door was always open to colleagues to discuss new, challenging ideas.”

\*Luigi A. Vagnoni. Lou died on 18 June 2007. He was the husband of the late Donatina Vagnoni. His family included his sons: Stephen, Joseph, Michael, and Luigi; and eleven grandchildren. Lou worked in the Environmental Branch at WOL. He was active in bowling and a regular participant in the H14/Bldg 20 luncheon group.

\*John Homza. John passed away on 18 June 2007 of Alzheimers at age 79. He is survived by his wife Doris; children: Laura, Keith, and Brett; and two grandchildren. John worked at the WOL as a Mechanical Engineer in U11, S&A Branch. George Daniello wrote the following warm tribute of John:

“What John Homza means to me: After graduating from college in 1968, I chose to work at NOL in the area of mechanical design, and I was assigned to work with John Homza. This turned out to be the most wonderful stroke of luck that could have possibly happened to me! I knew mechanical engineering from the ““book”” viewpoint, but had no idea how to get anything done in the real world. John immediately became my mentor and taught me everything I needed to know to actually ““do”” (and love) mechanical engineering at the lab. I knew, even then, that I would always remember my first years at the lab, working with John, as ““the good old days””.

John was also my mentor in personal life. He was my primary consultant for everything from getting settled in this area, to home and yard maintenance after I bought my first house. John unselfishly gave me the knowledge and wisdom to develop both professionally and personally.

John was one of the most physically and mentally active people I have ever known. He dove head-long into all phases of life; home and car maintenance, gardening, stereo listening, and Redskins football, to name a few. John lived life to the fullest, and graciously shared his love of life with those around him. Also, as many people know, John had a wonderful sense of humor (and of practical jokes), earning him the name ““Crazy John””.

I’ll always remember John Homza as the person who helped me the most, both professionally and personally; and I will miss him.”