

# The Leaf

VOLUME IX ISSUE 1V

PROUD MEMORIES

Fall 2007

- Events
  - \*NOL Lunch 2nd Mon @Golden Bull Rest.
  - \*Holiday Luncheon @ Golden Bull in Gaithersburg, Fri. 7 December 2007@ 1100
  - \*2008 FL Reunion, Fri. 7 March 2008, Dade City, FL

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

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

## **\*\*\*HOLIDAY LUNCHEON\*\*\***

***Friday, 7 December 2007 @ Golden Bull in Gaithersburg, MD. 1100-1500***

***!!!Mark Your Calendars NOW!!!***

**\*\*\*\*\***

- The LEAF is published quarterly by the WOLAA, Inc. for its members.

- Editorial Staff:  
John Tino  
Frank Koubek  
Bill Barnum  
Charlie Bowersett

WOLAA, Inc  
PO Box 1002,  
Olney, MD. 20830  
Phone (301) 439-3140  
E-M: [mrsapat218@aol.com](mailto:mrsapat218@aol.com)

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*WOLAA is completing plans for another great holiday luncheon. You will be getting your flyer and reservation form in late October. Watch for it and plan to attend.*

*This event will end our celebration of WOLAA's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We are planning to honor all NOL alumni who worked at NOL during WW II at the Washington Naval Yard. Be there to help honor these special alumni.*

*We will again offer your choice of three delicious entrées: prime rib, breast of chicken supreme, and new this year Golden Bulls great crab cakes; these will be accompanied by salad, vegetable, rolls, beverage, and dessert. Cash Bar Will Be Available. Plus, Santa's helpers are preparing to bake WOLAA holiday cookies, and Santa Dee is cooking up a special WOL oriented gift for all. The cost will be \$21 per person.*

*A holiday welcome but no speeches; just friendship and memories to begin your holiday season.*

*Plan to attend with your unit from WOL and reserve a table. Several groups from Supply, SUBROC, and R Department have done this and enjoyed the renewed WOL friendship over lunch.*

*If you see someone from WOL, pass this information to them and encourage them to attend. See you there.*

*Dee has purchased WOLAA T-shirts to sell in the WOLAA store. They will come in tan, gray, and white with the WOLAA logo. They will make a great gift for the holidays.*

## News from WOLAA

### \*WOLAA Directors.

-We have not published the directory of the WOLAA Directors for a long time. The directory follows and includes name, term, and primary duty. If you want to contact any director go to the web site to the POC window or email to [mrspat218@aol.com](mailto:mrspat218@aol.com), and your message will be forwarded to the director.

John Tino, president, 2006-08  
 Bill Ryan, treasurer, 2005-07  
 Houston Cole, data base manager, 2007-09  
 Jim Proctor, HP PM, 2005-07  
 Jim Martin, luncheon team, 2005-07  
 Diane Palermo, HP team, 2007-09  
 Ramsey Johnson, west coast WOLAA rep

Dave Wasmund, vice-president, 2007-09  
 Bernie DeSavage, secretary, 2006-08  
 Dee Zook, luncheons PM, 2006-08  
 Wayne Hopkins, WOLAA plate PM, 2006-08  
 Marie McLean, luncheon team, 2005-07  
 Harry Babley, HP team, 2007-09  
 Ken Caudle, FL WOLAA rep.

### \*Web Site.

As we begin to implement plans for historical preservation, we will need to communicate with our members and alumni more frequently than our quarterly newsletter. Our plan is to use the web site and emails. So, please get in the habit of checking the web site: [www.wolaa.org](http://www.wolaa.org). It was recently updated and we will try to keep the info current.

### \*Old Cell Phones.

We will be collecting old and unused cell phones at the Holiday Luncheon. We will have a box at registration for you to donate the cell phone. They will be used to support the Down Syndrome Association. Bill and Margaret Walton are active in this charity and this donation will really support their efforts.

### \*Historical Preservation.

Supplement A has the letter that we mailed to GSA with copies to many other people critical to our historical preservation project. This letter was sent to document our current agreements. This supplement also contains an interesting article from the Architect DC magazine; it discusses the FDA project and the efforts to make it environment friendly.

Dee Zook has been told that work on Building 1 is nearing a start date and some sort of ceremony will be held. Labquest wants WOLAA to be an active participant. Will keep you up to date. As a result of things starting to happen re historical preservation, the HP Task Force has begun to meet. They met at Bldg 405 to review all the slides that we have saved to determine what could be used as pictures for the WOLAA wall. They have also asked George Hamlin and Dr. Ed Whitman to join the task force to help research and write the text for plaques, etc.

## Oral History and Feedback.

### \*Oral History.

-Frank Koubek and Bob Barnet are still collecting the material to complete their oral history of the WW II Silver Spring Plastics Laboratory. They expect it to be completed for the Winter 2008 LEAF. They have also begun to work on the oral history of the 105mm Howitzer plastics cartridge case project done at NOL in the 1950's. It includes a silencer devised by B. M. Shepherd and a copy of a write-up in Ripley's Believe-It-Or-Not magazine/newspaper. Frank notes it is a fascinating story and received a lot of great PR for NOL. In this LEAF, go to Supplement B to read about the NOL Reserve Officers Unit. See if you can identify any of these Naval Officers/NOL Employees. Give the LEAF your FEEDBACK.

## Mt. NOLSKI by Bill Barnum

To look at the relatively flat terrain of the NSWC grounds you would not think that there was a mountain on the property—but there was. Mt. NOLSKI, so named by members of the NOL Ski Club, was located on the down slope of the number 3 hole of the golf course. The Ski Club, was able to purchase a mechanized ski tow, with funding provided by the NOL Employees Association, which provided financial support for many of the NOL Clubs and activities. With several junk yard automobile wheels used as pulleys and a long length of rope, club members were able to rig a rope tow to ascend to the top of the slope for the next downhill run. Several enterprising club members. Charley Rankin (NSWC Technical Shop) and Homer Hoyt (NSWC Glass Lab) were able to scrounge a Navy aircraft searchlight and field generator to light up the slope for night skiing. After some haggling with a local distributor some club members were able to purchase the then new and popular Head skies at a Government discount.



For several seasons club members would travel to the Canadian Laurentians for a week of ski lessons and fine French cuisine. With improved skills and a desire for new challenges we ventured Westward to Colorado. Our first day at Winter Park we were rewarded with 4 to 6 inches of new powder snow. Boy, what a contrast to Eastern hard pack (ice). A week long Western trip became an annual event supplemented with trips to New England and weekend trips to local areas in Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York. Not many of us with arthritic knees and flabby muscles are quite as adventurous these days, but we still remember those crisp, cool winter nights schussing down Mt. NOLSKI followed by a Ledo pizza and a beer.

### \*Oral History Feedback.

Wind Tunnels. A friend shared a copy of the Summer issue with me and I enjoyed reading it very much, especially the memoirs of Dr. Rudolf Hermann. I worked at NOL from 1948-54, some of the time in the wind tunnel area, first for Dr. Hermann Kurzweg and later for Dr. Gerhardt Eber. My husband, Richard C. Sullivan, worked in the wind tunnel area from 1957 until 1972. Dick has been deceased since 12/15/2001. In case you are interested, I have photographs of Dr. Kurzweg and Dr. Eber as well as bowling and golf team pictures from my husband's era.

Elsie Burton Sullivan

Toastmaster. Oh if you ever publish an article on the White Oak Toastmasters Club, I would love to report on what I did to close the club. It is not that interesting but does any one ever report on a closing process?

Laurence Thayer , Standard Missile Safety, NSWC/DL

Editor Note: I asked Larry to provide such an article for a future LEAF.

Atom Bombs. About the A-Bomb, The bomb used against Hiroshima was the gun type bomb. I understand it was called a gun type because they actually used a gun barrel as the casing. As I understand it, non critical masses of uranium were placed at each end of the tube. Detonators were placed behind each uranium charge and to cause an explosion these two charges were driven together by the detonators and united they formed a critical mass and exploded. Parsons was the commanding officer at Dahlgren at one time and he and Ray Graumann, my boss were well acquainted. Graumann was the Navy's foremost expert on Fuzes. One day Graumann got a call from Parsons, then an Admiral at Los Alamos I think and was asked to come out there for a consultation. Graumann never said what the conference was about but we suspected it had to do with the bomb. I had been working on a project for Naval Aviation where they were building pilotless planes at Philadelphia.

A Capt Rounds was in charge. The plane was to carry a 2000 pound bomb as the pay load and the fuze had to be able to be armed on the plane as they planned to crash land it onto the target. A special fuze was required and I designed that fuze the Navy Mark 232 and applied for a patent on it . Patent number 2,856,854 was granted to John Wheeler and me on this fuze. During a test of the plane at Patuxent River a freak accident caused the Range Safety Officer to request that a self destruct feature be added to the plane so he could destroy it if something undesirable happened. The plane had a pilots seat that was used during testing but would not be used in actual flight. I strapped a 100 pound fragmentation bomb to the seat and this became the destruct charge. A new fuze was required for this too. I modified an old service fuze that could be armed from a servo and added an electric detonator and we called it the Mark 233 fuze. I also applied for a patent on this fuze but one was never granted, instead I got a letter from the Patent Office saying the design had been placed in secrecy and no patent would be granted. This often happened on items that were classified. When Graumann got back from his conference with Parsons he asked me to load and ship a number of the Mark 233 fuzes and send them to Parsons. He never said what they were to be used for but the design was ideal for the Little Boy bomb. When I heard that Parsons had actually armed the bomb on the plane for added reliability I thought the Mark 233 with it's lanyard arming feature was ideal for this but of course it was never revealed that the detonator was the Mark 233. I think it was. The other bomb, the Fat Man was of a different type using plutonium and a compression feature to render the plutonium critical.

Charlie Bowersett

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I have been giving some more thought about the A-Bombs. I don't think there was a Navy bomb and Army bomb. I think they took people from any branch to work on the bombs. Parsons being a Navy man may have created the impression that it was the Navy's bomb. It's likely that the detonator used on the second bomb that was worked on by Bill Fowler was developed at the Lab too. The second bomb, the Fat Man was an implosion bomb. It included a sphere with blocks of high explosive mounted around the inside surface of the sphere. Each block had it's own detonator and all of the blocks were detonated at the same time creating a high pressure onto the plutonium which made it go critical. It would have been a natural assignment to have NOL develop the detonators. I don't know if that is what happened but it seems likely to me.

Charlie Bowersett

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## Book Review Johnny Grams

Mjt

The first review is about leadership, change, and taking chances. I read a lot of good beach reading over the Summer and found several new authors that I enjoyed. If you have favorite authors, please send them to the LEAF so we can share them with other alumni. 4 WO Leafs are the bestest.

### **\*Carley Fiorina, Tough Choices—A Memoir by Carley Fiorina (2006).**

Why did I read this book? I had been fascinated with Carley when she was named CEO of HP, and then became curious when the HP Board fired her. I saw her on TV when she spoke at the business school of the U. of MD; and she impressed me as a strong leader and change agent. So, what happened. Of course, this book is a memoir; BUT it was a great read of a person who is very intelligent, worked hard, took chances, and made change. She came from an educated family where her father was a law professor. They moved a lot as he worked his way up the academic ladder. She went to college at Stanford, and then took a MBA. She decided to go to AT&T for her first job, even though she was advised it wasn't the right type company for her.. They had a rotation program, and she took her first chance going with a group she had no background/experience. She did well, and was soon promoted to what we would call a PM. Carley was then sent to the very demanding MBA program at MIT. This is the same program that NSWC sent Dr. Ed Baker; Carley confirmed the same heavy/stimulating workload and networking that Ed described.

She made several moves in AT&T to other groups, and continued to do well and get promoted. She also encountered harassment from male peers and supervisors. When the deregulation of the phone system occurred, she was a strong player in forming Lucent from one of the divisions of AT&T. She was now doing very well financially, and was a leader at Lucent. HP was a family company formed in a garage by Hewlett and Dave Packard (who NOL had a run in with when he was in the DOD). They had stayed family, but now Hewlett and Packard were retired; and leadership and performance of the company had stagnated. They had the market re printers, but were losing their service and main frame market leadership. After a long search and many interviews of Carley, she was named CEO. I might add that she took a huge financial loss when she left Lucent---in the millions of dollars. My impression was she was doing very well at HP, and had led the merger with another large computer company. She was also very considerate to the H & P family, who were on the Board, but who didn't really have a passion for HP like their parents. She also preserved the garage where it all started. BUT, she didn't pay attention to several on the Board, especially one member who began to act like the CEO. He also began to demand more expansion at a time Carley felt the company had to adjust to the many changes going on within and out of HP. He brought several allies on the Board, who she felt were not threatening, and she made an enemy of a family member when she did the merger with Compaq. This combination resulted in the Board terminating her. So, I guess the lesson is you can do great but never forget to watch your back. I believe we lost a great CEO, and I hope she decides to return to the business world---financially she doesn't have to. 3.0 WO Leafs.




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## Features

### \*Alumni Feedback.

-Dahlgren Book.

In the recent Leaf, someone asked about how to get a copy of this book.

ISBN 0-16-077712-7 NSWCDD/MP-06/46

US Govt. Printing Office

Internet Bookstore.gpo.gov

Toll free 866-512-1800

Dc 202 512-1800

Fax 202-512-2104

Mail stop IDCC, Washington, DC 20402-0001

Larry Thayer, NSWC/DL

The current Leaf asked if anyone knew how to obtain a copy of the NSWC Dahlgren book — The Sound of Freedom. The book was given to all Dahlgren employees. I will see if I can find out who at Dahlgren controls the copies but I also know that it can be purchased for 35.00 from the government printing office. Link attached

[http://catalog.gpo.gov/F/LUDD41RCTAXGUCUHSAJHQMK8FNEDN7VFECBC3ILJ2JDM43EX9-02242?func=full-set-set&set\\_number=000854&set\\_entry=000001&format=999](http://catalog.gpo.gov/F/LUDD41RCTAXGUCUHSAJHQMK8FNEDN7VFECBC3ILJ2JDM43EX9-02242?func=full-set-set&set_number=000854&set_entry=000001&format=999)

Bob Otte, NSWC/DL

Hi John - read your newsletter and as usual, very interesting. I read about your email from Ramsey & the DL book . Remembered I had a book about DL, but it's not the same one. The one I have is a soft cover, called Dahlgren, Kenneth G. McCollum, Editor. It was published June 1977 & says it was prepared for publication by Publications Division, Administrative Support Dept, NSWC, Dahlgren, VA. 22448.

It seems to be about some of the technical history, interviews, lots of pictures. Think you probably know a lot of the people mentioned. Thought you might like to read it. To be perfectly honest, I don't know how or when I acquired it (maybe Wayne had). If you're interested in reading it, I'll give it to you next time I see you .

Mary Jackson.

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Spam. Enjoying the latest edition of The Leaf. I have two comments: First did you ever see the movie "Mr Blandings Builds His Dream House"?. Mr Blandings was a Madison Avenue type. During the construction in the suburbs he struck water while digging the basement but had to go to 300 feet to get water when he dug his well. Anyway his job was to come up with a slogan for a new product called SPAM. His old cook finally offered "You aint eatin ham if you aint eatin spam" that won the contest. Secondly, during the time I was working on the fuzes for the pilotless planes they assigned a naval officer to work with me as he would be the one to accompany the planes to the Pacific when they were employed.

His

name was Lt Caswell. I don't remember his first name. We tested the plane and payload at the Patuxent Naval Air station that was under construction at that time. There was no road to Patuxent at that time and we got there by following many back country roads. One funny incident I remember was that when we were looking for some place to get lunch there was no restaurant so we stopped at a country store and the fellow had some lunch meat and we asked him if he could make us a sandwich. He said he could if we would also buy a loaf of bread and we said OK. He said do you want to smell the lunch meat. To humor him Caswell said OK and when he held it up for Caswell to smell he poked it onto his nose and laughed at the joke. We wondered how many other noses it had been poked onto before that as it seemed to be one of his jokes. We got the sandwiches anyway. I don't know if this is the same Caswell but there was one at NOL for a short while.

Charlie Bowersett

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Dick Willey. I just read the LEAF last night really nice what you guys do. I had planned to come to annual luncheon, but something came up at work that I couldn't miss. I was looking forward to seeing everyone. I'm not the authoritative source; but I used to work with Dick Willey, and I'm pretty sure he died a number of years ago. Take care.

Dr. Ira Blatstein

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Who Recruited Them. John, It's been a long time since we last spoke; I thought that I would contact you with a challenge to your readers. I am sure that the majority of the people who worked at White Oak thought that it was a great place to work. It would be interesting to find out why they thought so. I have two items that, in my opinion, were important. The first was the college recruiting that they did at the beginning of WW II; these were the people that first staffed the Lab and later became our supervisors. (I wish that I knew more about how they went about selecting these people.) The second was the College Recruitment Program at the end of WW II. Hope that all is well with you.

George Stathopoulos

Editor Note: What an interesting topic and food for thought. Please give George and I your feedback on any information you have on the WW II and post-WW II recruitment programs for NOL.

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Long Bike Ride. One of our H14 Alumni, John Walker, has just completed a 3,000 mile bike hike from San Diego to MD with two of his biking buddies. They only took about 50 days, often biking 80 or more miles a day. He left NOL and took a job at NOSC in San Diego and then retired several years ago. His journal is on the following web site: [www.Crazyguyonabike.com/doc/JWRStour2007](http://www.Crazyguyonabike.com/doc/JWRStour2007).

Houston Cole.

-50th. Pete and Ann Eskin will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary this October. A WOLAA congratulations to Pete and Ann. Pete worked at NOL in U Department and the Evaluation Division.



-George Kalaf. I received a great interview article about George that appeared in the Port Charlotte Sun Herald on Sunday, 22 July 2007. You can probably go to their web site at [www.sun-herald.com](http://www.sun-herald.com) to read it. The title is "Man flew an F-94C before he joined Navy's Ordnance Lab by Don Moore. It has great picture of George as a young airman. I will bring article to Holiday Luncheon so you can read it. George has some great stories about games they played with Russian airplanes as he scrambled the F-94C out of base in Alaska. His perspective on work at WOL and impact it had on cold war are very insightful. George, his wife Peggy, and their two sons have lived in Port Charlotte since 1994.

### **\*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. Houston mails the family of our deceased alumni with a letter of condolence from WOLAA which includes a very nice pamphlet on how to contact OPM, take care of insurance, etc. This has been well received by the family. A friend of ours lost her husband a year ago, and she is still trying to settle the "paper and financial" work. She just noted she wished she had a good book to guide/warn her.

\*Sarah Levy Henoch. Sarah died at age 93 on 23 March 2007. She was born in Omaha, Nebraska. She was married 26 years to the late M. Henoch and 22 years to the late S. Levy. She is survived by her son Gary Levy; stepsons Malcolm, Larry, and Allan Henoch; and four grandchildren. She worked for the Navy Department in WW II and retired from NOL. She worked in ZD (Product Design Division of the Product Engineering Department.)

\*Gordon Haug. WOLAA was called by Jack Schreiner, son-in-law, of Gordon Haug to let us know that Gordon died on 1 July 2007. Gordon was a WW II vet who was decorated. He worked at NOL in the Product Engineering Department. His wife Bernice is deceased. He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law and three grandchildren. He was an active member of WOLAA and attended many of our events.

\*Jack W. Courtner. Jack died at age 90 on 1 July 2007. Jack had suffered from asthma. He was retired from NOL and worked in M Department. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth. His first wife, Constance, is deceased. He is also survived by children John and Billie Beller and three grandchildren. Jack attended Panhandle A&M College in Oklahoma and graduated from Oklahoma State in 1941. He was hired by the Navy as a marine engineer in BUSHIPS, and completed a course at the National Defense Training course in ship construction at GWU's engineering school. In 1946, he transferred to NOL. Jack was scientific staff assistant to the TD and retired as an analyst in M Department in 1981.

The following is a tribute to Jack written by Bill Abdi, "Jack died at the age of 90 on 1 July 2007 at his home in Leisure world of Silver Spring. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth; son John and daughter Billie. Jack had asthma all of his life. He worked in M Department (Comptroller shop) of NOL. Jack retired with over 40 years of federal service. He was a regular of the Golden Bull NOL monthly luncheon where he enjoyed one martini; and since he was never a big eater, he took half of his fish sandwich home. Jack was well liked and easy to work with and will be missed."

\*Francis DeBold. He died on 15 July 2007. Francis lived in Rockville. His wife died on 10 November 2006. He is survived by his children: Kathleen, Bonnie, and Daniel. Francis has 5 grandchildren. Burial was at Arlington.

\*Richard Lundsten. Dick died on 18 July 2007 at age 79. He is survived by his wife, Virginia; children: Donald and Richard, Jr.; and two grandchildren. Dick worked in the Magnetism Branch of the Applied Physics Division of R Department.

Bernie DeSavage wrote: "I asked John Scarzello to do a tribute to Dick. It could serve as a great tribute to Dick and also a good oral history of the work done by the group Dick worked in support of key Navy and NASA programs. I might add that the NASA magnetometer is still on the moon—what better memorial to NOL people."

Editor Note: This tribute/oral-history will appear in the Winter 2008 LEAF.

\*Jean Owens. Jean died on 11 August 2007 from cancer. She worked in Field Evaluation for Dale Kerstetter.

\*Esther Zander. Sylvia Humphrey wrote: "Sad news. Esther died on 19 August 2007. I got a call from her niece Nola Jean. She noted an obit is being written. Esther was one fine human being, so enthusiastic, loved animals, and was a good Democrat (very important). She kept herself going, in spite of the fact that she lived a lonely life, without her beloved Eugene Zander, who died several years ago. Her last days were spent in a hospice." Esther live in Florida and was a charter WOLAA member. She worked for Ralph Hightower who was the Underwater Weapons Program Chief.

\*John R. Cunningham, Jr. Dick died on 22 August 2007 in Winchester Medical Center at age 71 from heart disease. He was born in Lewistown, PA in 1935. He married his wife, Elizabeth in June 1958. Surviving are his wife, son David, daughter Heather Lyons, and 5 grandchildren. Dick worked at NOL/NSWC as a research physicist in the Magnetic Branch of R Department.

John Scarzello wrote: "John lived in Winchester, VA and moved there with his wife Betty when he retired from NSWC/WO. Dick was a research physicist who initially worked on ballistics, then garmet magnetic materials, and headed the WO research departments Sensor Technology Branch until he retired. However, most of us know Dick as the father of the Fort Lauderdale's Shallow Water Electromagnetic Range (SWER), in which he directed the design, development, fabrication, deployment, and operation for many ranging activities. SWER had lasted for about two decades and it, along with the ranging operations that Dick conducted, have made important contributions to Underwater Electromagnetic Silencing and related EM Technology! I had just talked to Dick a few weeks ago, when our colleague, Dick Lundsten passed away, and at that time Dick seemed in good spirits. I will remember Dick as a very high caliber researcher and person."