

The Leaf

VOLUME X ISSUE 1V

PROUD MEMORIES

Fall 2008

- Events *
 - *NOL Lunch 2nd Mon @Golden Bull in Adelphi
 - *Tour Bldg 1, Wed, 19 Nov 2008 @ 1300
 - *Holiday Luncheon Fri, 12 Dec 2008 @1100 @ Golden Bull, Gaithersburg, MD.
 - *WOLAA Night @ Strathmore. Details TBD
 - *Florida Reunion in Dade City, FL Fri, 13 Mar 2009

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

WOLAA Web Site: www.wolaa.org

Notice! Notice! Notice! Notice! Notice!

Mark your calendars now! Wed. 19 Nov. 2008.

WOL Alumni Tour of Restored Bldg1.

Labquest and GSA have arranged for former employees of the WOL to tour the restored NOL/NSWC Building 1. You will see the restored lobby and PAO/Security rooms; the FDA Commissioner's office with a NOL fireplace in his reception room; the connection of the Building1 to a new FDA Central Use Building; new entrance to Building 1 at the basement level; new circle and wall; and restored flag pole.

Date: Wednesday, 19 November 2008 at 1300

Logistics: Enter main entrance from NH Avenue and drive toward Miller Hall area for parking. If overflow parking is needed, you will be directed to a parking space. Meet in the Miller Hall area and then you will walk to Building 1 for the tour. Arrangements will be made for those needing assistance.

Refreshments. Return to the Miller Hall area after tour for light refreshments and to reflect with other alumni on what you have seen.

Flyer. You will receive a flyer in mail toward end of October with a form to RSVP so Labquest and GSA will know how many will attend.

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

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News from WOLAA.

*Corrections.

-Quarters A and B. The Summer LEAF noted the Quarters will be restored for use by VIP. This was not correct. The Quarters are being restored to commercial standards for use by the U.S. Public Service Commissioned Officers Corps for meetings and training facilities.

News from WOLAA (Continued)

*Corrections (Continued)

-Holiday Luncheon Date. My high school class had its annual reunion and the theme was Christmas in July. Well, WOLAA did not have their Holiday Luncheon in July as the Summer LEAF indicated on page 1. Sorry for any confusion this caused. Our Holiday Luncheon will be on **Friday, 12 DECEMBER 2008.**

*WOLAA Holiday Luncheon.

-The correction above notes our Holiday Luncheon is coming soon and will be held at the Golden Bull in Gaithersburg, MD at 1100 on Friday, 12 December 2008. Mark your calendars and be prepared for another great luncheon. The ball room is decorated beautifully for the holidays and Santa Dee is working with the restaurant to provide good food to go with the great fellowship. Santa Dee is also working with her elves at the North Pole to create a neat holiday gift. You will receive your flyer on the luncheon in early November.

*Missing Alumni.

-With your help, we have found six more missing alumni. Our missing list has been updated and is provided in Supplement A. Please review and let's find another six missing alumni. Email or call WOLAA with your information.

*Membership.

-WOLAA's 2009 Membership Drive will begin after Thanksgiving. A membership form will be sent to all annual members and all alumni in our data base who are not members. We thank all the Lifetime members and 3-year members; you will NOT receive any membership notice. The dues will remain at only \$15 per year. We are proud that the dues have never been raised! The lifetime membership remains at \$150. Our membership has stayed between 550 and 600 since WOLAA was established. Please rejoin as we need your support and interest as we complete the Historical Preservation for WOL, and continue to provide events of gatherings and proud memories. Your membership card remains valid for 2009

*Historical Preservation.

-Building 1. Dee Zook and I had the opportunity to tour Building 1 in mid-September as part of the LABQUEST's monthly meeting. Very impressive. The outside circle and wall is well under way, and entry through the basement is so different from charging up the many steps to the front doors; it is very impressive. I am jealous of what I saw next; in the basement of NOL the offices were ugly block walls with pipes for a ceiling. This is all removed and high quality space has been created. We next went up to the first floor via staircases which remain just like we knew them for so many years. We were at the old Supply Department complex when we got to the first floor. This area is the office suite for the FDA's Commissioner's Suite. Very well done and features one of the NOL fireplaces in his reception area. The picture on the next page shows the restored fireplace. We then walked to the lobby and saw the restored lobby. It is just like you will have remembered it. GSA hired skilled craftsmen to restore the plaster on the ceiling. The offices to the left and right (security and PAO) look just like they did in NOL days. The staircase has been kept as before. The opening to go into the Arcade now connects to a super atrium that connects to the FDA Central Use Building. You will be impressed. Alas, our neat phone booths had to be removed to make way for a second elevator to meet code. Gone is the old elevator that had so many mechanical issues.

We were not able to go to the second and third floors. I can't wait for you to tour the Building. It will provide you many Proud Memories; and will live to provide a preserved history for NOL/NSWC.

-FDA Project. Supplement B contains an aerial view of the construction at the WO site. It also shows you a depiction of the site when completed. The landscaping project is underway and soon the site will show landscaping for the new entrance and several of the roads and new buildings. Some of this will be done when you take your tour of Building 1.

-NOL Flag Pole. The flag pole did not want to be removed, and GSA had to dig down over 20 feet to reach the bottom of the foundation for the pole. It will shortly be replaced closer to Building 1 in the new circle. For many years, we were told the pole was from the mast of the USS Maine, which was sunk to “cause/begin” the Spanish-American War. We have learned the pole was purchased for only a few hundred dollars from a local vendor. Recently, I had another siting of the mast of the USS Maine. We were on a trip up the Hudson Valley with our Grandchildren and toured West Point. The guide pointed out a discontinuity in a flag pole’s length. She said it was because the top was the mast of the USS Maine. Don’t know if truth or fiction; but the picture below shows the West Point pole. What do you think????

-Historical Preservation Status. The WOLAA Historical Preservation Team has made great progress over this quarter. They have defined the text for the nine plaques for the Proud Memory Garden, and have also selected the pictures that will be engraved on each plaque. GSA has begun to work with the landscaper to define the garden and the style/location of the plaques. Supplement C provides the text and lists the pictures selected for the plaques.

Things have changed in the overall plan for NOL/NSWC Historical Preservation. The following summarizes the current plan:

—Fire Station. It has been restored and looks just like the NOL Fire Station. It is being used as part of the utility plant for FDA

—Building 1. As described earlier in this LEAF. It should be noted that GSA has been able to find a vendor who makes the same windows as were installed in 1946. The new ones are of course better insulated. They have also located the same bricks as used in Building 1, and all bricks used in the new FDA buildings use the same type bricks.

—Flag Pole. Moved and restored

—Proud Memory Garden. The garden will contain 9 plaques and will be arranged along the walkway between the new conference center and new side steps leading into the first floor doors of Building 1. The plaques will tell the NOL/NSWC story as you walk from the conference center to building 1. The saved NOL brick which WOLAA members cleaned will be used in some fashion along the walkway.

—Dr. Bennett. The lobby of the Conference Center will hopefully have another NOL fire place installed in the lobby and the Bennett Plaque will be mounted by it. A second plaque will summarize the career of Dr. Bennett. We also plan to mount the Nate Stinson Navy Award Plaque in the lobby area. The story is the technical excellence set by Dr. Bennett and the leaders of NOL and the attention the Navy paid the its most important resource—the men and women who worked there.

—Conference Center Wall. We originally planned to have display cases with exhibits of NITINOL, ordnance, and corner stone contents. This has been dropped, and the wall will have large aeriels of the NOL campus and the new FDA campus. We will hopefully also display the original painting of NOL's 50 year anniversary collage. A plaque will describe the contents of the painting.

—Tunnel 1/2. Dan Marran, leader of Air Force Tunnel Complex at WO, had created an excellent display of the German Tunnels. The physical window of one of the tunnels is part of the display. It will be on exhibit in Building 409 where the current tunnel is contained.

Oral History.

*Carderock Articles.

-The NSWC Carderock PAO has given the LEAF permission to print the three articles which appeared in their Sea Frame Magazines' Volume 4, Issues 1 and 2 of 2008. These are displayed in Supplement D. Two are on Magnetic Silencing, and the third is on Magnetostrictive Material—Galfenol. The authors are William Palmer (POC, William Gay); James Miller; and Dr. James B. Restorff, Marilyn Wun-Fagle, and Dr. Arthur E. Clark.

*WOL Open House and Armed Forces Day Reminiscing

-This neat looking back at the wonderful open houses at NOL/NSWC was prepared by Frank Koubek. It is provided in Supplement E. Many children of WOL employees write WOLAA to tell us they knew very little about what their parent did at NOL, but they reflect on the fun they had at open houses and how impressed they were about the facilities and products of NOL/NSWC. Enjoy.

Please submit your oral history of NOL/NSWC. I know you have great stories/history to tell us!!!

Book Review Johnny Grams

Mjt



My Summer reading was not typical this year.

***Tenth Grade Summer English Project.** Our Grandson Jon for the second year had a Summer English and History project. In English, he had to read four classics, and then prepare a paper on each book which analyzes the books to address several issues. I decided to read the four books and to discuss them with him. The books were: “The Picture of Dorian Gray”, “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest”, “All Quiet on the Western Front”, and “The Catcher in the Rye.” I have to tell you all the books are downers. All the main characters die or have mental issues at the end of the books. I know they are classics, but I would have only read “All Quiet on the Western Front” if given a choice. Jon agreed with me. Have you read any of these books? What did you think of them? Oh, I also felt it is a “bummer” to have Summer homework. (Jon did also.) But, if you are going to prepare for college and tough courses, this is a good way to sort out the excellent students and the OK ones. I also believe that our youth are smarter and more diligent than they get credit for.

***Grandmere, A Personal History of Eleanor Roosevelt by David B. Roosevelt with Manuela Dunn-Mascetti (2002).** We were able to tour the Roosevelt Library and homes of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt this Summer with our grandchildren Jon and Emily. Pat bought the subject book because we were both so fascinated with the life of Eleanor Roosevelt. I have to admit that I never cared for Eleanor Roosevelt when I was young. Not sure why. But, after reading this book and touring the museum/houses I have changed my mind. What a fascinating life and amazing achievements. She was clearly an outstanding first lady and set standards for all future spouses of a president. Her support of her husband and the guidance she provided was much more than I ever realized. She is the only first lady to have a section of the presidential library dedicated to her. Its our past; but I recommend you study the Roosevelts, especially Eleanor.

Ramblings of A Senior

Mjt

*Christmas in July.

-As I noted on page 2, Pat and my high school class had their annual reunion in July, and the theme was Christmas in July. The hall was decorated to be Christmas—sleigh, decorated trees on each table, reindeers, etc. Oh, and Santa Claus and his 72 year old lovely elves arrived from the North Pole with treats for all the class mates. Guess who Santa was. Yep! Santa and his elves are shown below. This reminded me of the last time I wore the proud uniform of Santa. NOL/NSWC had some “excellent” and well hidden holiday parties. A great one was the U10 party in Bldg 25. One of the features was Santa arrived, and each secretary was presented a gift after a visit to Santa. It was an honor to be asked to play Santa. So, my question to you is who were some of the other Santa’s at the U10 party? Write or email WOLAA with you memories of who played Santa at the U10 party. Would love to hear about memories of other parties!!!

Features

*Alumni Updates.

-John Renzi. John retired on 31 May 2008 from NSWC/Indian Head with 34 years of service to the Navy. He worked in U Department at WOL as a mechanical engineer until moving to Indian Head in 1997 when WOL closed. John worked on CAPTOR, Mk 48 torpedo, Mk 50 torpedo warhead, Beach Zone Obstacle Clearance, several Block S&T programs, and many others. He analyzed the Challenger disaster for NASA and solved the issue with the shuttle's rocket boosters. As a result the destruct charges were removed from the External Tank. Congratulations John

-Wounded Warrior Project. Ed Whitman wrote concerning the Surface Navy Associations efforts to help wounded shipmates at Naval Medical Center in Bethesda. They have collected many DVD and distributed over 155 portable DVD players. This years project is to purchase a conversion van to transport wheel chaired patients around the DC area. For more information, go to:

<http://www.operationsecondchance.org/About.htm>

-Shingles-free. Carl Zovko wrote, "Ed Baker wrote a brie article about his experiences with shingles and the new treatment for it. It brought back some memories. My Mother was afflicted with shingles, and it brought her great pain. As a child, I found the name confusing, and I still do. Sometime over the past dozen years, I received a letter from the Veterans Administration. They asked if I would volunteer for a study of shingles. Since I was retired and had nothing better to do, I volunteered. I had to go to several meetings in Baltimore where they explained that they were testing the effectiveness of a new vaccine for shingles. They needed subjects for a double blind test. All of us received an injection, some with e the serum and others with a placebo. They followed up on us for several years to see if any of us got shingles. I did not. After the test was completed and analyzed, they sent us the results The told me that I had received the actual anti-shingles serum and would probably not ever get shingles.

-Ft. Monroe. George Hamlin sent an update on Ft. Monroe. Conflict exists between those desiring to develop the area and those who want to preserve it. The preservationists have researched the history of the Fort and discovered that it was a Union's oasis for fugitive slaves during the Civil War. They have dubbed it "Freedom Fortress." They paint is as 'slavery's Ellis Island.' These groups are using that history to support the park proposal and have presented it to the Governor. Nothing is likely to happen until the Army leaves in 2011.

-Naval Reserve Center Adelphi. The Center was part of the last BRAC. I assumed the Army would take over the building and grounds re the adjacent Army Research Center. Recently, I noted that the Regulus missile display was removed from the side of the building. Clearly, the Navy was in the process of leaving. More recently, I noted someone had moved in. Not the Army but the Maryland National Guard.

*Deceased Alumni.

Please inform Houston Cole of any information you have about deceased alumni; phone is (410) 489-2977 or email or write WOLAA.

-Warren D. Jones. Warren passed away on 21 May 2008 after a long illness. He had joined NOL in the early 60's and worked in U Department on the SUBROC Adaption Kit. "Jonesy" transferred to Goddard in 1964 and worked in the Tracking and Data System organization. Following retirement, he worked for Bendix on NASA contracts.

-Anthony Yedinak. Tony died at age 72 on 31 August 2008 from diabetes and heart disease. He is survived by his wife Georgette; daughter Debbie Ridgely; son Anthony; and three grandchildren. Tony worked for the Navy for 30 years, retiring from NSWC in 1994. He was a technical writer working in E Department. Tony had a love for people and passion for conversation. He enjoyed helping people with advice and listening to others. Tony had a multitude of friends. He was very active in the St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Church in Urbana, MD. His hobbies were attending flea markets, restoring antique furniture, woodworking, landscaping, and keeping up with current events.

-Robert E. Booth. Robert died on 27 August 2008 at age 69 of cancer at his home in Mt. Airy. He was born in Baltimore. In the 50's and 60's, he served in the Coast Guard Reserve. His career began as a machinist for an aircraft manufacturer and then he worked at NOL as a machinist. He retired in 1996 as an industrial specialist for NAVAIR. Robert was very active in the Masons. He is survived by his wife, Emma; children, Linda McDaniel, Barbara Henney, and Timothy; and nine grandchildren.

-Harold Avrick. Hal died on 24 September 2008 at a care home in the Waldorf area. He is survived by his wife Carol. He worked at NOL in Code 780, the Product Design Division. Hal was a co-founder of the E Department Holiday Luncheon for NOL retirees. More detail will be provided on the WOLAA website.

Supplement A

WOLAA Missing Alumni Update

October 2008

1. Mary Ayres-Truesdell
2. Elmer Barth; deceased
3. Clifford Bedford; found
4. Sheila Beehler; found
5. David Bixler
6. Garland Brabson; found
7. James Brennan
8. Robert Brown
9. Austin Brown
10. Ron Brunsvold
11. Marie Coker; found
12. Helen Cullum
13. Walter Davis
14. Harvey Dutil
15. Nancy Ferndock
16. Ralph Foote
17. Bill & Betsy Gann
18. Bruce Garber
19. Audrey Garland
20. Jean Graiue
21. John Greene
22. Dan Harris; found
23. Lettita Page Harrison; found
24. Fritz Hasselberger; deceased
25. Kevin Heinrich
26. Elliott Hertzmark; found
27. John Honaker; deceased
28. Henry Hubbard
29. Theresa Johnson
30. William Jordan
31. Mildred Jordan
32. Mikki Kahne
33. Ephry Kaplan; found
34. Betty Kelly
35. Carson Lyttle
36. Charlie Mahoney
37. Clyde & Ginny Markland
38. Howard. McLelland
39. Jim Meek
40. Gerald Miller
41. Joe Mobley; found
42. John Moore
43. Wanda Morat
44. Turng Nguyen
45. Frances Otto
46. Elaine Pearson
47. Deidre Point
48. Ruth & Bill Preston; found
49. Rolph Renner
50. Leon Shkolnik
51. Irving Silver; found
52. Dr. Patricia Smith; found
53. Yo Song; found
54. Tom Spaulding
55. Lou Helen Stickel; deceased
56. Sandy Stosz
57. Dan Stretmater; found
58. Dr. Harold Szu
59. Ralph Truitt
60. Thomas Tulko
61. K. L. Vasanth
62. Joann Ward
63. Robert Wasser
64. Harvey Waterman; found
65. Gladys Waters
66. G. F. Whetzell; found
67. William Wilson; found
68. Ruth Woodward
69. H. W. Wright; found
70. Jack Wursbaugh; deceased
71. Bernard Zeak