

# The Leaf

VOLUME XI ISSUE IV

PROUD MEMORIES

Fall 2009

- **Events** \*
  - \*NOL Lunch 2nd Mon @Golden Bull in Adelphi
  - \*Holiday Luncheon, Fri . 4 Dec, 2009. Golden Bull, Gaithersburg, MD. 1100-1500
  - \*WOLAA Night @ Strathmore. American Balalaika Symphony. Sat, 16 Jan 2010 at 1800.
  - \*WOLAA FL Reunion at Dade City, FL. Fri. 12 Mar 2010 @1130
  - \*WOLAA Tour of IH Lab Spring 2010
  - \*WOLAA Dedication of Proud Memory Garden, Spring 2010

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

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## ***James Milton Martin***

Jim died on 14 July 2009 at age 95. He had been in poor health since suffering heat exhaustion while golfing in July of last year. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Margaret; his three sons: James M (II); Dr. Lawrence W (and wife Susan); and Thomas P; his grandchildren Brian Martin (and wife Kate); Samuel Martin; Kyle Martin; and Diana Marsh (and husband Kevin); and great-grandson, Owen Marsh.

Mr. Martin was known at the WOL as “smiling Jim” because of his pleasant personality and warm affection for people working at the WOL. He was born in Texas, as was Margaret; and he went to college at the U. of Oklahoma, receiving a degree in physics in 1938. After the war, he continued his education at RPI; received a masters in physics; and continued there doing studies for his doctorate. Upon graduating from Oklahoma, he worked for oil companies in Texas doing oil exploration. His knowledge of physics and the science of geophysical exploration of oil were invaluable to the Navy’s R&D needs; and he joined NOL in the early 40’s. Like many S&E’s at NOL, Jim was commissioned an officer in the Navy. He then remained in the Navy in the reserves and retired as a Navy Captain with over 26 years of service. During the war, he spent many months in the South Pacific in mine warfare; Jim was very proud of his efforts in the very successful campaign to mine the water off Japan using B-29 bombers.

He remained at NOL after the war and worked in the Underwater Directorate. From the mid’50’s until 1973, he was the Head of the Underwater Evaluation Department. The Directorate operated using a matrix with three departments—electrical, mechanical, and evaluation—and program managers. Jim was a strong advocate of independent technical evaluation (Techeval) to assure the NOL product was evaluated to best serve the Fleet. While head of the department, the Betty and LULU nuclear depth bombs, SUBROC, Mk 48 torpedo, many swimmer weapons, Mk 50 series of mines, destructor mines, and CAPTOR were successfully Techevaled/Opevaled and entered the Fleet. In the early 1970’s, Jim was dispatched to Cape Canaveral for many months to lead the critical test operations for the Mk 48 Mod1 torpedo. At that time a “shoot-out” was being conducted from nuclear attack submarines at AUTECH to determine the best system between the Mod 0 (Newport/Penn State) and Mod 1 (NOL). Shortly after returning from Florida, he was asked to lead the Mk 48 Project Office and transition the system into the Fleet.

## Jim (Continued)

Office and transition the system into the Fleet. He retired in the mid-70s with over 30 years of service.

His first love was mine warfare. Jim and Dr. Bert Ramsay, one of his division heads, planned and hosted the very successful series of sixteen Minefield Conferences held at NOL. Detailed conference reports were prepared, and when completed, planning began for the next conference. He was very involved in the operational aspects of mine warfare in both the WWII as an officer and for the Korean War as a civilian. Jim was an active participant for the CNO in Technical Bilateral Agreements with Turkey, Denmark, and Japan. Valuable current and other oceanographic data were collected by S&E's from his Department that were necessary to design and operate mines. After retirement, he extensively studied the thirteen conflicts after WWII where sea mines were used. He published at least six paper on mining after retiring. Two published in the respected Navy Proceedings were: "Sea Mines in Nicaragua" (9/90, pp 111-116) and "Desert Storm—We Still Haven't Learned" (7/90 pp 64-68).

His love and belief in the WOL was very much in evidence by his strong testimony to the BRAC on 24 May 1991.

Margaret and Jim loved to: travel taking many trips abroad after retirement; play golf; and visit their grandchildren in Michigan. Jim enjoyed woodworking and their house and Margaret benefitted from his craftsmanship. He was also the community handyman for his neighbors in Woodmoor where they lived for over 50 years and until moving to Riderwood about 5 years ago. He was very active in WOLAA, serving on the Board since WOLAA was formed in 1998. Jim was well known at Argyle Country Club; and WOLAA was the benefactor. Jim reserved the main dining room for each of WOLAA's two annual luncheon—got great prices for the meal; and he insisted the WOLAA Board hold their meetings at Argyle, talking the Club Manager into letting us use the Manager's office.

A sincere WOL BZ to our dear friend. Fair winds and following seas, Jim.

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## News From WOLAA

**\*Holiday Luncheon.** Our Holiday Luncheon is planned for Friday, 4 December 2009 at the Golden Bull in Gaithersburg, MD. The flyer on page S1 of the Supplement in this LEAF gives all the detail. You will receive a flyer with RSVP information in the mail by the third week in October. Make plans to attend now. Please pass this information and flyer to any of your friends who worked at WOL.

**\*Membership Drive.** Our membership drive for 2010 will begin right after Thanksgiving. If you are not a lifetime member, you will receive a membership renewal form and return envelope in the mail. The dues remain at only \$15 for an annual membership, including spouse if they worked at WOL. Dues remain the same for the 13th year. We decided not to offer anymore new lifetime memberships due to the age of our organization. We thank all lifetime members for their support for WOLAA. Please recruit your friends who worked at WOL to join WOLAA. We need all the support we can get as we prepare to dedicate and enjoy our historical preservation at the FDA site.

**\*WOLAA Night at Strathmore.** Our next night at Strathmore will be on Saturday, 16 January 2010 at 1800 to have dinner at the Strathmore and to listen to the wonderful music of the American Balalaika Symphony. Pat and I guarantee you a most enjoyable evening and a ticket will be only about \$20. As I have noted, Dr. Ed Whitman is a member of this symphony and plays the dorma. If you are interested in attending, please email or call Pat and I using the WOLAA phone/email information. We will then contact you in early January 2010 to confirm your attendance, order your tickets, and then send you more information about the concert, directions, etc.

**\*2010 WOLAA FL Reunion.** Date is Friday, 12 March 2010 at Dade City, FL. Caudles will again host our luncheon. Mark your calendars now. Perhaps plan to stay over in the area and enjoy more fellowship that evening. Pat and I plan to attend.

**Historical Preservation.** Representatives from your WOLAA Board met with GSA in July and had a very productive meeting. We believe progress is well underway to complete the proud memory garden and conference center lobby for a Spring, 2010 dedication. It is likely we will combine the dedication with our May annual luncheon. Dee and I toured the Bldg 31 and 32 on 30 September. The main conference room can seat 600 and can also be subdivided into three smaller rooms. The lobby is large and will be very nice. As you exit the conference room, you can enter our Proud Memory Garden. The garden has been graded and a winding gravel path lined by NOL bricks meets up with the steps to Building 1. Page S3 of the Supplement of this LEAF provides my summary of the July meeting which I emailed to the WOLAA Board. We will have another meeting in late October with GSA to monitor and finalize plans.

**FDA Update.** New leadership is now in place at FDA. The overall construction projects are going well. The first FDA people came to WO in 2003; at the end of 2009, there will be 4,656 FDA employees in high quality new spaces at WO. (Over 1600 more than the max at the WOL.) By end of 2012, there will be 7,719 employees on their way to a final staffing of 8,889. They have just gotten a Record of Decision on a revised EIS to approve revision to a new master plan. Page S4 of Supplement shows the new plan. Note the following new projects: new office building in North parking lot; child care center and exercise facility by old volley ball court; expansion of power plant by old fire station; broadcast studio; and a total of 6,926 parking spaces on campus. Restoration of Building 130 is complete. A change of mission occurred and the top two floors are now being laid out as office space. The initial budget to build the FDA facility for about 6,000 employees was \$396M; so far the money appropriated to house almost 9,000 employees is \$979M and another \$300M is needed to complete the campus. Information on the new bridge across Paint Branch and the hydroballistic facility follows:

**Wind Tunnel Control Room Dedication.** The dedication of new control room at Wind Tunnel ribbon cutting ceremony was held on 18 September 2009. Dan Marren did a very good job of introducing the work of tunnel. He had several customers/sponsors speak. They all spoke highly of the tunnel and people. Bob Voisinet and now Dan have this wonderful partnership with the U. of MD where students work at the tunnel and do research/technology on aero subjects. I have toured their lab and their work is amazing. Control room is super with all new flat screen displays and controls to run a test and collect data. Many former tunnel employees attended, and it was good to chat with them. Bob Voisinet, who was the director after Jim Fisher retired came up from Florida to attend.

**NOL Hydroballistic Facility.** The Navy interest in Hydro facility is on going. To build new facility cost would be \$100M but to restore WOL facility less than \$10M. Navy coming for tour of facility soon. Looks like the idea of AF running facility, if it is restored, is the approach which will be used. This would give engineers and technicians of tunnel group more direct work.

**New Bridge.** How can anyone forget the bridge that connected the 300-400 area. I so hated winding down and up the road from the bridge to go out the back gate. The story I always heard was they built the road to fit the size of the bridge that they were given. Well, now you should see the road. GSA has re-designed the road system. You will come around location of Bldg 90, pass wind tunnel, and beginning at mine tank the bridge goes directly across Paint Branch to the next hillside. No more curves. The bridge is a major structure and very high. The road then curves when you get to the top of the hill to exit the WOL property and cuts across the Percontee gravel pit property to eventually exit out on Cherry Hill. This road will also continue across the Percontee property to connect with new Seven Day Adventist Hospital and the Montgomery County Technolgy Complex. Eventually the Percontee Property will be come a community much like Reston in VA with high end shops, restaurants, office space, townhouses, etc.



## Anton.

My name is Bill Manzke, and my wife is Maggie (Szelingowski) Manzke. We are both former employees at NSWC White Oak Lab, though only briefly. In fact we met there in 1979 back in the wind tunnel buildings. I think my wife is still getting over that first impression. That is a another story for another time! Today I would like to fill you in on the further adventures of Anton O. Khropochnik.

I arrived at NSWC-WOL in July 1979 fresh out of college with a newly minted engineering degree. My first assignment was back in the wind tunnel buildings. At that time, my future wife was a co-op engineering student working there. Also to my surprise, an old family friend, Reynar (Ray) Montgomery, had his office in the same building. Ray was just wrapping up his career there and would retire soon afterwards. However, he was always full of monkey business and many knew of his “interesting” office. His wall clock ran backwards, and all of the numbers on its face were arranged accordingly. He also had a robot-dog-like creation in the corner that he labeled the “Son-of-a-beach-mine.” Ray is the person who introduced me to Anton Khropochnik.

By 1979, Ray had become the keeper of the Anton stories back in the wind tunnels. Since I was the rookie at the time, he filled me in on all of the many adventures Anton had up to that point. It seems that somehow even in 1979 Anton was still showing up in unexpected places. This was great fun for those of us who knew him, since Anton had begun to venture off of the base at times. Trade magazines showed up in his name, and I seem to remember at least one credit card solicitation go by on its way to the shredder. Ray was getting close to wrapping up his career though, and by 1980 decided to appoint me “Keeper of the lore.”

It is at this point that Anton would begin to see more of the world. My own career path took me to another government agency in late 1980, marriage in 1981, and to an entirely different state in 1982 to work for private industry. Anton became a member of the household and moved with us. Soon, Anton O. Khropochnik became my drawing checker at work, and his initials, A.O.K. would appear in the title block of drawings. In the mid 1980's, Anton had one of his letters to the editor published ..... in Time Magazine. Anton also was the author of a number of model reviews in the magazine “Railroad Model Craftsman.” (A certain author of feature articles in the magazine wished to hide the fact that he was doing reviews too.) Anton became the proprietor of ““Mystic Model Products”” whose physical address was unclear to those wishing to do business with the company. In fact the company's product line was never fully disclosed.

Jump forward a decade into the 1990's and Anton was still keeping busy. He still earned a living as a drawing checker, occasionally making it into the cc: list on the internal memos of a large mailing machine company in Pennsylvania. Part number 999999-AOK in the engineering computer was titled “SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS — SEE ANTON KHROPOCHNIK.” Somehow, though, his office phone number always led the caller to the fax line. Outside of work, Anton also occasionally fired off a letter to the editor of a newspaper or hobby magazine. Whenever he moved, he was always sure to leave a forwarding address, too.

Jump forward another decade into the new century, and Anton is still around. My daughter had to give a presentation in High School a few years back on her future career. She wore a tailored business suit and introduced herself as “Helena Khropochnik, Anton's WIFE!” Then she proceeded to explain how they were both successful engineers. It seems that Anton has a family and a successful career.

Anton's proudest achievement to date is to have his name listed in a CD on-board NASA's Mars Exploration Rover. The MER project wandered around on the surface of Mars in 2003..... and Anton O. Khropochnik was there! (See image in Supplement in this LEAF on page S5.) Actually, he still is. Maybe someday if a future astronaut gets to Mars and back, Anton will spend some time in the Smithsonian too. Hey, it could happen.

## Anton (Continued)

One last story to tell about Anton O. Khropochnik, and this is real and true to the best of my ability. One of my co-workers at a former unnamed employer was an older engineer who had immigrated from Belarus when the iron curtain fell. (His faith was persecuted there.) We would pal around and visit each other's families on the weekend. He even tried (unsuccessfully) to teach me some Russian phrases. One day I happened to mention good old Anton to him, and he burst out laughing until his sides hurt. When he could speak again, he asked "Don't you mean *Khropochniak*? Maybe it is in a different dialect!" By then, I was full of curiosity and had to know the reason for his laughter. He replied "Translated into English, Khropochnik means *MAN WHO SNORES!*"

**George Hamlin** wrote:

Good God, we seem to have created a living legend. Frank Pierce would be so proud

Editor Note: Frank Pierce who was a technical writer at WOL is the creator of Anton.

## Wernher Von Braun Lecture at NOL Story Follow-up From Alumni.



**Dr. Vic Dawson Informed The LEAF.** Harry Archer and I belonged to the American Rocket Society in the early 1950's. Harry was my supervisor at NOL. Wernher Von Braun had written an article on rockets in the *Colliers* magazine. (No longer published.) Harry thought it would be a good idea to have Von Braun give a lecture at NOL. The Laboratory agreed to host the lecture and hold it in the NOL auditorium. Harry contacted him, and Von Braun agreed to come to NOL to give a lecture. It turned out that his lecture was based on the *Colliers* article. On the night of the lecture, there was a large traffic jam on New Hampshire Avenue and Von Braun, who flew in that day, was 1 ½ hours late getting into the auditorium. Dr. Dawson said he was inside the auditorium at NOL waiting, since he was involved in the arrangements, and did not realize about the logistics issues going on. Vic indicated that they did have speakers outside the auditorium for the overflow from the ~500 that the auditorium seated. He had also heard the number 5,000 had tried to attend. Vic noted there were two rooms adjacent to the main entrance to the auditorium. One was a coat check room and one had a two way mirror. The Laboratory had a photographer, Jim Burton, in the room with the mirror taking a picture of all who entered the auditorium. (Editor Note: I assume for security reason, although the lecture had to have been unclassified, since it was based on the magazine article.)

**Ed Hooper Emailed The LEAF.** In *The Leaf* -Summer 09, just out, Alumni Updates, Al Pertman has comments and questions about the Von Braun lecture. I attended that lecture. It was 1951 or 1952, I believe. My wife Jean and I attended in the company of Herb Woodson and his wife-to-be. Herb was an MIT coop student at NOL in the Magnetics Division at the time. And the Event was MIT sponsored so he got us in. However it was held downtown in the large Congressional (?) Auditorium on Constitution Ave. There was a mob trying to get in (I'd forgotten that) but we were inside. Very interesting-- and there really was a great deal of excitement about it.

**The LEAF Emailed Ed.** Tks for your feed back. I also had a call from Vic Dawson. He said it was held in auditorium at NOL. A man he worked for organized it on behalf or the American Rocket Society chapter at WOL. Von Braun had written an article in *Colliers* magazine, and this was the reason they wanted Von Braun to speak. The speech he gave was based on the magazine article. The traffic jam caused Von Braun to be over an hour getting to NOL. Do you think he gave two speeches in this time frame. The one at NOL and one you attended. Let me know what you think

**Ed Hooper Replied to The LEAF** I think it very likely that Von Braun did give two speeches in this time frame. I was taking evening classes down in the Jungle Room when several notables came to NOL and spoke under some program--- maybe Naval Reserve Officers Association, or something. Sometimes we would get out of class and go hear them. I have a vague vague recollection that one was Von Braun. But

## Von Braun (Continued)

would get out of class and go hear them. I have a vague recollection that one was Von Braun. But the statement from the book about 3000 being turned away and 5000 getting in I'm sure is talking about the Congressional Auditorium speech. The book mixed them up or rather failed to separate the really big crowd scene from the NOL scene which may have been large as Vic Dawson relates but couldn't have been 5000 in NOL's auditorium as Al Pertman relates. The big crowds I'm sure (pulling old vague memories out of the air) would be the kind of reporting seen in the Washington Post at the time. The author of the book, knowing that the German wind tunnels had been placed here, wanted to associate this post-war fact with the German Von Braun's post-war popularity and the excitement surrounding him. My best try. But Jean and I did go to that lecture with Herb Woodson and wife-to-be and there was a mob scene reported later in the newspaper.

**Pete Naylor Wrote the LEAF.** I was interested in the latest Leaf item by Al Pertman of lecture at NOL, as I had a minor involvement in that historic event in 1951 or early 1952. Dr. Von Braun's connection to NOL was as TD at Peenemunde. NOL Wind Tunnel No. 1 was liberated by US troops in 1945 and moved to NOL. I had come to NOL in the Missiles Division under Bill Anspacher and Ellis Scott. Many belonged to the American Rocket Society, which hosted the Von Braun presentation. Chuck Sahagian and I among others were recruited to help usher, and we were guaranteed admission to the lecture which was in the auditorium.

Fill the auditorium was gross understatement. There was a large traffic jam that the ushers avoided as we had to arrive early. Attendees swarmed into the auditorium which was filled, and the doors closed long before the scheduled start. But, Dr. Von Braun was not so fortunate re the traffic and arrived quite late. The lecture was fascinating. He projected a space station. This was six years before Sputnik and ten years before earth orbit. But as presented by Von Braun, it was a straight forward project. The concept was for the station to create an artificial gravity; no weightless environment. So large, many considered it impractical and it did not get past the concept stage.

Ushers stayed in the auditorium, so I don't know the size of the attendance outside or if loudspeakers were set up for them. We found seats for all the ushers but had to settle for SRO on the steps at the rear of the room. If we were not ushers, we could have arrived early and had good and comfortable seats to enjoy the lecture.

## Book Review Johnny Grams

Mjt.

Well my Summer reading to help my Grandson, Jon, is done. I struggled through "Of Human Bondage" and "Sons and Lovers." Both concern young men who suffer from emotional bondage that basically ruins their lives. Not sure what educational value a Junior in high school realizes from this literature, but both books are downers. Oh well!

I have joined the facebook web site and recently someone sent me a quiz where they list the top 100 classic books and wanted to know how many you had read. The norm is about 6 and I had read 10 thanks to my highschool English classes and my grandson's Summer reading. I have to say I don't believe I enjoyed any of the ten. Hadn't even heard of over 50 of them. Sure weren't any Tom Clancy books on this list.



**The Hand of God, A Message of Faith and Love by Catherine Walters (2009).** I had the privilege of knowing and working at WOL and DL with Johnny and Cathy Walters. They met at the WOL and married. Johnny retired from DL in 2003 as head of G department and had managed the shops for many years. Johnny died in 2008 from brain cancer. This book was written by Cathy with love and respect for her husband, Johnny. She carefully documents his early life, his work, their romance, their marriage and family. But most of all his courage and faith in God as he battled brain cancer. It is a very spiritual and emotional read. What courage and love by Cathy to share Johnny's life with us. She mentioned his caring for his people at NSWC. and how the BRAC's impact on his people so concerned him. I chaired the first BRAC Study at WOL, and the Center permitted me to take great people to work on this

## Books (Continued)

difficult human resource issue. Johnny was one of them, and he worked very hard to make sure that our people's interest were our first priority. A very difficult time for all, and I can assure you all benefited from Johnny being on the study. If you would like to read this book, Amazon has it for sale for less than \$15. It is very recommended by Mjt.

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### Ramblings of a Senior

Mjt

**\*55 Years.** Pat and I returned to our home town in July to enjoy our 55<sup>th</sup> high school class reunion's Luau. So, we graduated in 1954. Well, here is the point of this "Ramblings." Just before leaving for the reunion, we took our grand daughter, Shelby, to the Dairy Queen. Normally, Pat goes in to get her a cone; I did this time. I asked for the kids cone. "A \$1.75," stated the clerk. Good Grief, for just 2 ounces of DQ. This got me to thinking. In 1954, I was working at the DQ. I had just been promoted from window washer to server. I made 35 cents an hour. Never-the-less, it was enough to buy my first car—a '37 Chevie. But, what about costs in 1954. Well I served a great many kids cones for just 5 cents a cone! If you look at the increase in cost, the kids cone has increased by 3 cents a year. I also was in charge of buying "just right" bananas for our banana splits. They cost 11 cents a pound; now 69 cents a pound for a 1 cent per year increase. What about gas for that '37 Chevie? About 25 cents a gallon versus the \$2.25 a gallon I just paid; a 3.5 cents per year increase. What does this all mean? Not sure. You might say that bananas are a bargain; gas not too bad; but a \$1.75 for the kids cone really bugs this senior.



**\*Bankrupting Medicare.** In June and July, a happy, healthy senior attempted to single handedly bankrupt Medicare. He had a MRI, catscan, 2 sonograms, EKG, colonoscopy, 2 X-rays, 3 IV's, 3 blood tests, eye field test, sprayed with liquid nitrogen, invasion of body by TV camera, 2 induced naps in am, nerve block, and a partridge in a pear tree. Physical therapy consumed August. Yet, this senior is still happy and healthy.

So, what was going on. First the semiannual eye, dental, and dermatology exams. Next a kidney stone, and then torn rotator cuff surgery. BUT, the most beneficial payment by medicare was the colonoscopy. The senior is very happy with results, and is now on a 5 year cycle from a 3 year cycle for this very important preventive medicine test. Harry, Ray, Rosina, and Dom are dear friends from the class of '54. Ray, Rosina and Dom are cancer survivors because they had this test. How I wish my best friend, Harry, would have had a colonoscopy. Please, please make this senior even happier by getting yours now.

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## Features

### \*Technical

**-New SECNAV.** The new Secretary of the Navy was nominated on 27 March; was confirmed on 19 May by the SASC; and sworn in on the same day by VP Biden. He was later sworn in again by SECDEF Gates in a ceremony at the Navy Yard. The Honorable Raymond Mabus, Jr. noted, "I am well sworn in." He is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and was in their Naval ROTC. SECNAV Mabus served in the Navy from 1970-72 as a surface warfare officer on the USS Little Rock (CLG-4). Reflecting on this service, he said, "I am proud of that first tour of duty on a cruiser and proud beyond word to finally come home to the DON. Early on, I saw the sacrifices that our service members make every day to defend and secure our country." He graduated from Ole Miss with a Bachelor degree in English and obtained a masters degree in political science from JHU; and then a law degree from Harvard. From 1988 to 1982, he was governor of Mississippi and then served as ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

**\*Rear Admiral Retired Wayne E. Meyer.** Admiral Meyer died on 1 September 2009; his obituary appears on page S7 of the Supplement of this LEAF. In my view, Admiral Meyer was an innovative and risk taking leader. He did for the surface navy what Admiral Rickover did for the submarine navy. I suppose you either loved or disliked both leaders. I wanted to share two stories about Admiral Meyer which caused me to respect him very much. The first is humorous.

I was asked by someone from DL to attend a major AEGIS design review at RCA in NJ in the early 1980's. I was attending so the Lab would have some representation for ASW. Since U Department was just learning surface ship ASW, I was hoping I could sit in back of room unnoticed. When I arrived at the meeting Lloyd Perkins, who was an on-site engineer from DL, told me where to sit, and he also warned me to beware of a habit Adm. Meyer had. Since the facility was in the middle of farm country, flies were plentiful. Adm Meyer did not like flies and had his own weapon to dispense with them. Lloyd told me to beware. So the meeting began and Adm Meyer was clearly in charge. The presentations were about details of the SPY radar. I had no idea of the technical detail, and I am sure my mind was wandering. All of the sudden there was this tremendous noise, and I about jumped out of my skin and lost several heart beats. Scratch one horse fly. His own personal fly swatter was victorious. If any one was bored or sleeping, they weren't after the attack.

The second story demonstrates his ability to do what was best for the Navy. He had moved to NAVSEA-06 which contained almost all the sponsors for U Department. We were developing the warhead for the Mk-50 torpedo. The design was not the typical bulk explosive warhead and had risk. I was attending a Mk-50 major review as the U Department representative. Adm Meyer was chairing. The torpedo lead lab was NOSC. We were not in agreement with NOSC as they believed the Mk-46 bulk explosive warhead could meet the effectiveness need against the very difficult Soviet threat. The meeting was going well until the NOSC Project Manager suddenly put the warhead topic on the table and did everything he could to convince NAVSEA to dump our design and place the warhead back at NOSC. I defended our work; but one thing was clear our design was risky and could disrupt the desired development. Adm Meyer took charge and defended our design. It would have been easier to support NOSC; but I believe he knew that we had to take the risk if the MK-50 had any chance to be effective. I have been told a phone call to NOSC TD followed to direct that NOSC support the WOL effort. His decision was supported by the WOL delivering a very effective product.

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## Alumni.

**\*Alumni Profile.** I was chatting with Al Jox recently, and he mentioned his daughter, Lisa, had just taken on a new assignment. Since Lisa began her career at the WOL, I thought it would make a good story for the LEAF to profile alumni who are still in their careers. The first profile will be of Lisa Jox.

**-Lisa Jox.** Lisa graduated from the U. of Maryland in 1990 with her bachelor's degree and then in 1996 from Maryland with her MA in Human Resources. She lives in Columbia, MD and has three children: Elena (12), Hannah (10), and Barrick (8). She began her career at the WOL in 1991, working in the Personnel Department with assignments in P60 (PMA) and P70 (Awards, etc.). She moved to Carderock in 1994 where she advanced to a Senior Labor and Employee Relations Specialist. Lisa then went to work at the Naval Academy in 2000 as the Director of Human Resources. From this position, she was tapped by the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Civilian Personnel Policy to serve on a Tiger Team to help with standing up the new U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM); this assignment took her to Stuttgart, Germany for three months.

This year she was selected to join the DON Executive Management Resources Office, which is located in the Pentagon. She provides on-the-spot service and resources for DON's SESers; and she advises senior leaders including the DASN (Civilian Human Resources) on SES matters.





## Lisa (Continued)

Allen Jox noted that Lisa began her career in the Human Resource field as an entry level assignment. She enjoyed it; was clearly good in this field; and has never left it.

WOLAA is very proud of Lisa's achievements, and wishes her well in her new assignment.

Editor Note: Send WOLAA/LEAF the profile of other WOLers; so they can be presented in the LEAF.

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### \*Alumni Communicates.

**Dave Wasmund wrote:** I have looked into more efficient heating and air conditioning systems (replacements, since I have never built or bought a new house). I am planning on installing the in-door heat pump later this year (see below)- I am waiting for approval of my Maryland historic property tax credit of 20% (I have already been approved for a 20% Baltimore County historic property tax credit), which will make the heat pump's cost about \$120, which I should recover in the first year. The historic property tax credits vary by county (state (MD) is always 20%, and to qualify your house needs to be on a local or state (National Register) listing of historic properties, and the work that qualifies for the credit (briefly) cannot be new construction (e.g., cannot be an addition) but rehabilitation/maintenance (painting, roofing, heating, air conditioning, electrical, plumbing, doors, windows).

For your possible replacement of your heating (furnace) system, I would look into a geothermal heat pump. The initial cost will be somewhat high (you will have to install an underground piping system (horizontal installed, if you have the acreage, a few feet deep and a couple of hundred feet long- depends upon the size of your house, or BTUs needed to heat and cool) (vertically installed for most urban residences, or have wells dug a few hundred feet deep)). The savings run about 70% of your current heating/cooling energy cost, provides heating and cooling without concern for the outside temperature, has a 50 year guarantee on the underground piping, and life/repairs probably the same as a central A/C system. I am waiting for a system that will work with my boiler/radiator system (a few years off- the present geothermal pumps do not generate hot enough water temperatures for hot water radiator systems, only forced air)(my central air conditioning ducts are only good for air conditioning, not heating- too few for heating, and all on inside walls- and I cannot install new ducts without tearing up the interior of my house). Pay back may take a while (time to save enough on your energy bills to pay for the initial cost, but this is decreased if you have to replace your present system, as is your case). There are presently some hefty federal tax credits for installing geothermal (and probably regular) heat pumps, and you should recover all your installation costs when you sell your house (your energy bills will be 70% less than any neighboring house).

There are a lot of companies installing geothermal systems now, but their abilities (experience) vary, and the costs are high because it is a "new" technology (for the US, at least; but has been around for probably 30 years)- should come down, as it becomes more common and competition evolves. And it is somewhat localized, because of the well drilling and time it takes to install. I have a number of aging estimates from companies in my area.

Information on other systems that I sent to other people. In-door heat pump (water heating) (Air generate) [www.airgenerate.com](http://www.airgenerate.com). Costs about \$700 plus s/h; there should be a \$300 federal tax credit for pumps installed in 2009 Should be fairly easily installed by a somewhat handy homeowner on their gas or electric hot water heater. Should save about 50% of water heating costs for a gas installation; 75% for an electric installation Works like a room air conditioner, with the heat removed from the room/area going into the water tank rather than being vented outside. Dehumidifies as well (couple of quarts a day, in the summer), so need a condensate pump or drain near by. But your dehumidifier can also be shut off. Could be turned off in winter, because it does produce cooling whenever it runs. I plan on installing one in 2009.

## Dave (Continued)

High efficiency heat pump (Acadia) [www.gotohallowell.com](http://www.gotohallowell.com). Whole house heating/air conditioning heat pump (each unit is good for a 2,200 sq. ft. house; only works with forced air, not radiators). Costs about 14,000; should be able to get historic district tax credits for cost of installation (about 50%). It approaches geothermal heat pump efficiency, without the wells (employs another stage of compression). Good to -30 F. without electrical resistance heating. Should save 75-80 % of present heating costs (not sure about a/c savings). Can install multiple units, if house is much larger than 2,200 sq. ft. Probably should keep old heating system for back up (and avoid the cost of removal) Pretty sure it has an add on to supply domestic hot water. I probably won't add, since my duct work wouldn't work well for heating (just a/c). For either/both systems, should get all the installation money back when the house is sold. Payback for the indoor heat pump should be 1 to 2 years (if you dehumidify as well, 1 year). Payback for the Acadia will depend upon installation costs (number of pumps needed; installation costs; present cost of heating), but my guess would be 5 to 10 years, if you can get the historic tax credit. And you should see the entire cost (more for the heat pump, because of the tax credit) when you sell.

**Dr. Vic Dawson Informed The LEAF.** Bernie DeSavage grew up in the same area that Vic and his wife did. A relative of Vic's wife was a Doctor in the town that Bernie lived and was Bernie's Doctor during his youth.

**Charlie Bowersett Emailed The LEAF.** I have been wondering what happened to the corner stone at the Lab when FDA took over. I was at the corner stone laying but I can't remember the name of the Admiral that laid it. I can still see him using the symbolic amount of mortar in place then throwing the trowel into the mortar. I think he was head of the Bureau of Ordnance as it was called at that time. Maybe, Jim Martin remembers. One item that I remember being in it was a 40mm fuze that Ray Graumann developed during the war that saved the Navy millions of dollars and I think some electronic device the Lab had invented. I'd like to know what happened to the contents. Wish I could attend some of your luncheons but I don't travel much now on my own.

**The LEAF responded to Charlie.** The corner stone was opened in 1996 when we had the event at the Lab the year before the Navy closed NSWC/WOL. The contents were displayed for the event in a display case in the arcade. After the event, the items were sent for storage at the Navy Museum at the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C. The fuze was in the items as were several electronic items. Also, a half dozen or so reports were in the recovered container. One glitch during the process was that several reports and pieces of hardware were marked confidential. They were reviewed by security and declassified. (When placed in the corner stone container the DOD did not have automatic declassification processes.) At least one piece of hardware had to be evaluated by safety to certify it was inert. The corner stone was replaced by skilled masons so you cannot tell it was ever opened. We have pictures of the Admiral laying the corner stone. I don't know his name. We also have a video of removing the corner stone and then removing the items from the container. When we dedicate the Proud Memory Garden in the Spring of 2010, we are planning to display the contents of the NOL corner stone on the day of the dedication.

**Allan Pertman emailed WOLAA via Bill Ryan** Allan asked question about Dahlgren and Bill Ryan sent the question to Dave Grenier who works at Dahlgren.

**Dave Grenier Responds to Allan Pertman Inquiry.** Allan! Now this is weird... I was at the beach for the past 5 days and Carol and I were talking about upcoming WOLAA events. I forget what we were talking about but I thought of you and was wondering what you were up to. My thinking included some thoughts about how happily retired you must be and I wondered how you made that transition. But now I see that you are still working. Now the rest of the story about Dahlgren: NSWC Dahlgren Division became a tenant of the Naval Support Activity - South Potomac about four or five years ago. Naval District Washington consolidated all the maintenance and support activities across the region and decided to manage the facilities with O-6 level officers. So the Dahlgren head of support activities (a Naval CAPT) became the head of the facility and the CAPT of NSWC DD found himself reporting to his support staff. I understand that all the Warfare Centers operate this way now. Though they have JWAC, Naval Space Command, AEGIS Training Center and are moving the Navy Missile Defense Agency to Dahlgren, NSWC DD will remain the largest tenant. Does that answer the question? Good to hear from you.

**Houston Cole wrote:** I had lunch with John Walker (H14 Alumnus) on 6/27/09 to celebrate his arrival on the East Coast. He rode his bicycle (a recumbent) from San Francisco to Virginia Beach- a distance of more than 3,500 miles. They left in April and arrived here in late June. Quite an accomplishment! He is now 62 years old. Might be good for a human interest item in the next Leaf.

**John Kelley Wrote:** It may be of interest that retired WOL Senior Chemist Dr. David M. French celebrated his 95th birthday and (with wife Molly) his wedding anniversary on 11 July 2009. A large gift basket of goodies was sent from his WOL and IHD friends and colleagues. Dr. French, formerly our principal polymer chemist in R10, reportedly was a student of P. J. Flory. For recreation, we're informed that his interest now centers on studies of Relativity.

The web-based articles below also may be of interest. Although in them you will note references to such NOL/WOL luminaries as Dr. John Bardeen, regrettably there is neither an explicit mention of the White Oak Laboratory and its many Navy contributions, nor of its closure under BRAC. In fact, one fairly recent (and rapid) contribution, the thermobaric bomb, is described. As you may have known, its conceptualization and initial work were accomplished at WOL (E. W. Anderson, et alia). Subsequent to BRAC it transitioned (with WOL/R10) to Indian Head.

**Al Jox Wrote re George Beyer 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party.** The party was very nice. The room we had was just the right size for the nearly 20 people who attended. They had a delicious buffet with an open wine and beer bar. The meal was topped with a birthday carrot cake - it was delicious. Everyone was invited to say a word or two. The messages were heartfelt and very meaningful. George was very pleased with the day.

**Margaret Walton Emailed the LEAF.**

**Aspirin.** Many of us are taking baby aspirin to prevent heart attacks or to help prevent another heart attack. The following information provided by Margaret gives additional information about using aspirin for preventive medicine

-If you take an aspirin or a baby aspirin once a day, take it at night. The reason: aspirin has a 24-hour "half-life;" therefore, as most heart attacks happen in the wee hours of the morning, the aspirin would be strongest in your system.

-Aspirin last a really long time in your medicine chest. Always have a supply of aspirin in your home



## Aspirin (Continued)

-Keep it by your bedside that is where you are likely to need it.

-There are other symptoms of a heart attack besides the pain down the left arm. One must also be aware of an intense pain on the chin, as well as nausea and lots of sweating; however, these symptoms may also occur less frequently. But, it should be noted that there may be no pain in the chest during a heart attack.

-The majority of people (about 60%) who have had a heart attack during their sleep did not awaken during the attack. However, if it occurs, the chest pain may wake you up from your deep sleep. If that happens, IMMEDIATELY DISSOLVE TWO ASPIRINS IN YOUR MOUTH and swallow with a sip of water.

-After taking the aspirin, call 911 and state HEART ATTACK, and that you have taken two aspirins. Sit on a chair or sofa and wait for the ambulance. Do not lie down!

### Bill Ryan Emailed the LEAF.

There is a web site that you insert your address and it shows on a map all the crimes reported in your area for either the last 3,7,14, or 30 days. The site is: <http://crimereports.com/>.

### \*Deceased Alumni

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

-**Alvin F. Burless.** WOLAA was notified that Alvin, known as Mike at NOL, died in December 2008. He worked for many years at NOL as a specification writer.

-**William R. "Bill" Evans** William Richard Evans, 88, a retired machinist supervisor, died of vascular disease on May 9, 2009 at the Brooke Grove Rehabilitation & Nursing Center in Sandy Spring, MD. Bill Evans was born and raised in Washington, DC, and was a graduate of Eastern High School. He began his career with the Navy Department in 1939, working first at the Washington Navy Yard, and later at the Naval Ordnance Laboratory in White Oak, Md. His family lived in the Anacostia area of D.C. for many years, and in the 1950s and 1960s he served as Scoutmaster for Troop 88 of the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Evans involved dozens of young men with a variety of activities as part of scouting, including camping, hiking, and fishing. He solicited donations of scrap and reusable building materials from which he constructed a camping lodge for the Boy Scouts on a property near Crownsville, MD. Mr. Evans was a serious advocate of gun safety and responsible handling of firearms, and he was renowned for teaching the "Hunter Safety Course" to hundreds of young men. Upon his retirement from government service in 1981, he enjoyed travel with his wife and as well as 'tinkering' in his extensive home workshop. Mr. Evans was a Life Member of Naval Lodge No. 4 and a member of the Scottish Rite, and belonged to the White Oak Laboratory Alumni Association and the National Rifle Association. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Hazel Belle Evans of Olney, MD; two sons, Jack W. Evans of Alexandria, VA and Robert H. Evans of Upper Marlboro, MD, three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

-**Gertrude "Trudy" Helms.** "Trudy" Helms, 84, a volunteer for Meals on Wheels in Silver Spring for more than 25 years, died Aug. 1 of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease at Lowell General Hospital in Lowell, Mass. A longtime Silver Spring resident, she lived in Severna Park at the time of her death. She was born Gertrude Isabel Conley in Lowell. When she was 8, her mother died, and she and her twin brother went to live with their grandmother, also in Lowell. Mrs. Helms moved to the District in 1944 to work as a draftsman for the Army Security Agency, where she worked until her first child was born. Her husband, Harve Helms, died in 2002. Harve worked at NOL. Survivors include two children, Linda Siegert of Severna Park and Bill Helms of Ames, Iowa, and two granddaughters.

**-James M. Martin—Obituary in Post.** James M. Martin, 95, a physicist who specialized in mine warfare and spent most of his career at the Naval Ordnance Laboratory at White Oak, died July 14 at Laurel Regional Hospital. He had pneumonia, congestive heart failure and dementia. He lived in Silver Spring. Mr. Martin joined the ordnance lab in 1947 and served as chief of the underwater evaluation department, which conducted technical evaluations of mines. After retiring in 1973, he wrote papers on the use and effectiveness sea mines. James Milton Martin was born in Waxahachie, Tex. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in physics in 1938. Before World War II, he worked for oil companies in Texas, Louisiana and Venezuela, conducting studies to find underground oil reserves. In 1946, he received a master's degree in physics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y. Mr. Martin briefly worked for the ordnance lab in 1942 before being reassigned to the Navy during the war. He participated in mining operations against Japanese harbors and received a Bronze Star. He spent more than 25 years in the Navy Reserve before retiring at the rank of captain. He was a member of the Sigma Xi scientific research society and enjoyed playing golf. He was a member of Marvin Memorial United Methodist Church in Silver Spring. Survivors include his wife of 68 years, Margaret McLemore Martin of Silver Spring; three sons, James M. Martin II of Takoma Park, Lawrence W. Martin of East Lansing, Mich., and Thomas P. Martin of Tucson; four grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

**-Bill Donahue.** The LEAF was notified by Tom Cammack that Bill died this Summer just before his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. He had been ill with prostate cancer and had been living with his son, John, in Colonial Beach, VA for the last several years. Bill's older son, Jim, is a dentist. Mr. Donahue worked at NOL in the Mechanism Division in the Air and Surface Directorate's ME Department.

**-Leland "Twink" Starr, Jr.** Twink died on 9 September 2009 at age 89 after a fall. Twink had been living in the Yorktown area of VA on a small farm. He had worked at NOL in the Chemical Engineering Division of the Chemical Research Department. He worked on many important explosive projects at NOL, including several that assisted NASA on flights to the moon and into space. From 1960-2003, he was a proud member of the University of Maryland band's cannon crew at Byrd Stadium. He was so pleased to be able to attend homecoming at U of MD in 2008 and be honored there as part of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the band. For anyone who has ever attended a MD football game, you are well acquainted with the tradition of shooting the cannon when MD's team entered the stadium or scored. Bob Ridgway noted that, even though Twink was retired, he came back to WOL to help Bob identify issues in the 300 area that needed environmental restoration. His help was significant in the Navy being able to restore the base to the high level that they achieved. This aid also reduced the cost in cleaning these sites.

**-Dr. James R. Branscome.** Jim died on 17 August 2009. See Supplement in this LEAF on page S6 for obituary details.

**-Rear Admiral Retired Wayne E. Meyer.** Adm Meyer died on 1 September 2009. See Supplement in this LEAF on page S7 for obituary details.