

The Leaf

VOLUME VIII ISSUE 111

PROUD MEMORIES

Summer 2006

- **Events** *
- *NOL Lunch 2nd Mon
@Golden Bull Rest.
- *WOLAA Second Night at
Strathmore, Thurs. 26
Oct 2006 @1800
- *WOLAA Holiday Lunch,
@Argyle CC, Sat, 9 Dec
2006 @1100

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

WOLAA Web Site: www.wolaa.org

News From WOLAA

Mjt

***WOLAA Annual Luncheon.** Another successful annual luncheon and WOLAA general meeting was held at Argyle Country Club on Friday, 19 May 2006. We had 129 alum sign up and 125 were able to attend. Attendees were from Maine (Linda Colvin) to Florida (George Kalaf). It was great to visit with all. Again, the strip steak and salmon entrees were very good. Our thanks to Dee Zook for working with the Country Club staff to make the arrangements for the luncheon and to Bill Ryan for handling all the financial aspects of the luncheon. The General Meeting as required by the bylaws was brief. We held our annual pseudo election to elect board members; this year John Tino, Dee Zook, Wayne Hopkins, and Bernie DeSavage were re-elected to a three year term. Displays included several articles on NITINOL and NOL that we have just been given by alumni. Another display told the SUBROC story; this was done because Henry Hoffman is preparing a presentation for NASA on guidance and navigation control, and WOLAA provided Henry the material we had on SUBROC----see Oral History Supplement. Max Beard's family presented WOLAA a DVD containing a spoof of life at NOL and the Photographic Division (Like Bill's Bunch films.) and the DVD was played during the cocktail hour.

***WOLAA President.** I have been president of WOLAA since we formed this great organization in 1996. I have enjoyed every minute of it from the wine tasting, ballgames, luncheons, trips to Florida for Florida reunions, and The LEAF. However, Pat and I have discussed my activities, and have decided it is time to begin total retirement. Soooo, this will be my last three years as President. Please consider becoming WOLAA's President. If you are interested, call or email me (Same as ones we use for WOLAA.). The thought would be to join us on the Board now, and then be "elected" as President by the Board at the time you decide (at or before my last three years completes). I want WOLAA to continue, and we will need your interest and good leadership for this to happen.

***WOLAA Night at Strathmore.** On 22 June 2006, thirteen WOLers attended the performance of "Hollywood: The Epics!" by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) and Baltimore Choral Arts Society at the Strathmore Music Center in Rockville, MD. The group met early to enjoy dinner together

(Wouldn't you know two of the favorite entree were the WOLAA luncheon entrees--grilled salmon and steak.) The program was sensational. The conductor explained the background of each number with history and humor. The mixture of the BSO and chorus was wonderful. It was enjoyable to attend as a group. Qualifying for discount tickets helped with our enjoyment.



Several noticed another performance on Thursday, 26 October which they would like to see. It is again in the Superpops series. It features the BSO and The von Trapp Children singing songs from the Sound of Music and other folk and music from around the world. **If you would be interested in attending a second WOLAA Night at Strathmore, please write, phone, or email WOLAA. We will look into tickets and get back to you. There is a group rate for 15 or more so that will reduce the price of tickets. The seats in the Grand Tier Section of the theater were good. Tickets would be ~\$38 if we don't get the group rate. We would again meet at 1800 for dinner (costs for light fare was ~\$10 and ~\$15 for entrees.). Hope you will want to attend. Please let WOLAA know by the end of July if you have an interest in attending.**

***Beard DVD.** Max Beard's family found two productions of the Photographic Division at NOL Proud memories Max had at home on 16 mm film. They first converted them to VHS tape and then to a DVD. The first film shows a little of life at NOL including skits to spoof management attention to tardy employees and then a lot of bloopers. Like mines being dropped from Navy jets at Solomons, and the disaster that resulted during R&D if the chute didn't deploy correctly. The second film was a number of neat skits about life in the photographic lab and office. If anyone is interested in a copy of the DVD, email WOLAA or call at (301) 439-3140.

***Historical Preservation.** Dee Zook, Jim Proctor, and John Tino met with the GSA Historian, Gary Porter, to discuss the status of historical preservation and the design effort for Building 1 Restoration. This was a very productive meeting as GSA is forming a committee to work with the architect as they begin the design effort for Building 1. The committee will have Dee and Jim Proctor representing WOLAA and will have representatives from the historians of the FDA, GSA and architect. The effort will include discussions on the Proud Memory Garden, restoring the Building 1 Lobby, redesign of the front entrance, relocation of the flag pole, design of a WOL room (likely to right of lobby where visitors use to check in.); and use of the fire places, paneling, and flooring which have been saved. No decision on the contractor who will restore golf course (18 hole course) and then operate it. Plans continue for the 100th Anniversary of FDA, and we will try to participate in the event in the Fall which will dedicate their Central Use Facility, which is located directly behind Building 1. They recently dedicated a parking garage which is sort of where Buildings 20/25 were. Work on a state-of-art physics lab is ahead of schedule and an office building to house ~1500 employees is several stories out of the ground at this time.

Book Review Johnny Grams

Mjt

This time I decided to report on an author and a book series. I have enjoyed the books by the author and the book series is teaching me history I never had or as a senior have totally forgotten.

***Andrew M. Greeley.** Father, Doctor Greeley is a catholic priest with a PhD in sociology and is a professor at U. of Chicago. If you are Irish, catholic, from Chicago and/or like romance, action, and mystery his novels are for you. Come to think of it, if you like a good novel his books will be enjoyed by you. He has written over a hundred novels and several non-fiction books on "religion/life." I have not read any of his non-fiction but am told by my minister best friend that they are quite good. Some of his novels are a series about an Irish family. One begins with the grandfather before WW II and carries, so far, thru the end of the cold war. The library I use has over 30 of his books.



***The American Presidents Series by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. General Editor.**

The book on “John Adams” several years back was fascinating and covered every aspect of his life, etc. It was also long. This series provides a book on each president which is written by a guest author. I have read the book on James Monroe by former Senator Gary Hart and on Theodore Roosevelt by Louis Auchincloss. They are a summary of the president’s life, major achievements as president and an assessment of their personalities/character. They are well written, and while they present history, it is more in story form than boring dates/facts. They are also small books (6” by 9”) and short (less than 150 pages). My take on Monroe was the Monroe doctrine. He was a lot more. The first president to have a military and military strategy focus; negotiated the Louisiana Purchase for Jefferson; purchased Florida and established the Louisiana boundaries (Chased Spanish out of our South-east); and had the vision for the area which now contains our 48 states. Roosevelt was a real “trip.” He was a conservative republican who took on big business and also passed first Food and Drug bill. He was not against wealth as he came from wealth; but he was against corruption by big business. I am getting these books from the local library; look in the biography stacks of the library. If you enjoy history and have been curious about a certain president, these are the books for you.

Ramblings of a Senior

Mjt

***Attacked by “Fowl”.** While fishing, Jimmy Carter was attacked by a rabbit. Now I know how he felt. One morning I was walking my daughter’s and son-in-law’s two dogs in their orchard. I heard this really annoying sound and looked up. Charging into the orchard was a flock of very irritated “fowl.” I thought they were coming into the orchard for breakfast; so at first I ignored them. All of a sudden, they (about 9 chicken-like creatures) charged me. I thought they would stop before they got close to the dogs and me. They didn’t; a bit of panic began. They kept up their annoying sound (well maybe also a bit scary), and they kept coming. Then, I thought what am I worrying about, I am holding the leash of a 100 pound German shepherd. However, he was totally ignoring the situation; so I began to wonder how much good he would be. Just then, Johnna’s other dog (a Belgian something) had had enough of these critters. With a growl and a charge of her own, the fowl took off for home, saving the day! I later learned the flock was guinea hens.

***Money Making Projects.** As a boy, especially during the Summer, I came up with projects to raise money. They all sounded good but my ROI was in the negative on most of them. Like, picking elderberries; but I didn’t realize you should leave them on the stems—sure took a lot of picking to fill a pint basket. Like planting a ½ acre of sweet corn; but a week before harvest the corn got a real yucky blight. Like raising rabbits; no one told me you had to look in those beautiful cherry eyes right before slaughter. But my favorite was selling cloverine salve.

My “Boys Life” magazine told me how easy it was to sell cloverine salve. It would cure just about everything and was in great demand. I ordered a case; I believe there were a dozen cans and they sold for less than 50 cents. I quickly learned I wasn’t a salesman, and only sold one can. My Grandma, as she often did, bailed me out and bought the rest of them. Last week I was scanning one of those magazines that come in the mail. Lo and behold, cloverine salve is still live and well. Now, it sells for \$6.99 a can and looks like it comes in the same size can with the same printing on the top. They note generations of Americans rely on cloverine salve, and it is still good for almost everything. Gee, would this be a good money making project for WOLAA? Or perhaps, the perfect gift for folks at the Holiday Luncheon! You know I really think I will leave cloverine salve just for my ramblings.

Features.

Mjt

*Retirement News.

-Putting It Off. I had promised myself that I would have a colonoscopy when I was 60, then 65, and finally when I turned 70. I probably wasn't serious about 70. Then, my best friend, since high school, was found to have rectal cancer. Cancer has spread to his liver. They believe he has had cancer for two years. I just had a colonoscopy. I must admit that I was nervous and concerned. As those who have been wise and had one know, the worse part was drinking the "gallon" of stuff to prep you for the procedure. The procedure only took about 15 minutes and I was awake shortly after I came to the recovery area. Just as when you give blood, the nurse gave me orange juice, waited a few minutes and sent me on my way.



Colon cancer is the second leading cause of death from cancer; it's the fourth leading cause of cancer in the USA (5% will get colon cancer.); it is an equal opportunity cancer affecting all aspects of the population. Almost all cancers arise on the surface of benign polyps called adenomas; not all polyps become cancer. Twenty-five per-cent of patients at age 50 have a benign pre-cancerous polyp. My son at age 40 had three; I had one. Almost all polyps found during the procedure can be removed at that time (My son and I both had the polyps removed.). It appears that this is a disease that is passed by heredity. My friend's son (age 45), ironically, had a large polyp which has resulted in a very extensive surgery. So, what ever age, have a colonoscopy now or at least discuss the subject with your doctor on your next visit.

-Recognizing Strokes. A while back the LEAF published the three questions that can identify if a person is having a stroke. They are repeated as a reminder. Maybe clip them out and put them in your wallet or purse as a reference:

S * Ask the person to SMILE.

T * Ask the person to TALK, to SPEAK A Simple Sentence---It is a sunny day.

R * Ask the person to RAISE BOTH ARMS.

If they have any trouble doing any of the three, call 911 now, and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

-Contact Lenses. This issue has been out for a while; but there has been a recent increase of a cornea disease. Apparently, it has most impacted people using contact lenses and appears to be an issue with the cleaning solutions. If you wear contact lenses, you might want to check with your doctor.

-Microwave and Water Bottle Cautions. I am told this is not new; but is worth mentioning. The Johns Hopkins News report stated you should not use plastic containers in the microwave; should not use plastic wrap in the microwave; and should not put water bottles in the freezers. The issue is dioxins which form cancer are created. This is particularly true, when the food being prepared contains fat. Glass, corning ware, or ceramic containers are recommended.

-Bed Time Snacks. Finally, some good news. I have blamed late night snacks for weight gain. The UC Berkley Wellness Letter of 2006 reports it is the number of calories going in your body not when that impacts your weight. Of course, high-calorie snacks on top of regular meals won't cut it. But, if your work or retirement schedule finds you eating the evening meal late, don't worry.

-Credit Union Scam. Beware! Takoma Park NARFE Chapter newsletter noted that a member had an email from the "National Credit Union." They were told to verify their credit union account number and then click on a web site link to avoid their account from being impacted. A call to their credit union indicated this was probably a scam and should be ignored.

*Military News.

-Battery R&D. The most recent Carderock magazine carried an article describing the collaboration of Crane and Carderock to provide the R&D and Inservice Engineering for battery and other electrochemical power system requirements for the Navy. The article cited a MOU that was developed in 1993. The intent was to make use of the different backgrounds, collective processes and experiences of the two units to form a unified team which is stronger than the two individual groups.

-New Civilian Personnel System. The first phase of the new system was kicked off in April 2006. It includes 11,000 civilian Defense Employees of the Air Force. Mary Lacey is the program executive of this new system; and she is visiting the sites where the program went into effect to meet with the employees, to explain the program, and to answer their questions. She noted, "The most important message is we are ready. Employees are trained, supervisors are trained, leaders are leaning forward, and we're ready to go." The employees primary issue is the supervisors ability to provide a fair performance evaluation. Her answer is the supervisors have had significant training in the new systems. This phase was to be larger but legal issues remain with the collective bargaining employees.

-The Tomcat. Earlier this year the F-14 Tomcat made its last trap on an aircraft carrier as the last wing of Tomcats was retired. Captain Sizemore made the last trap, and stated; "It's the end of an era. This is one of the best airplanes ever built, and it's sad to see it go away. It's just a beautiful airplane. It's powerful, it has presence, and it just looks like the ultimate fighter." Another pilot's comment was, "When you think of naval aviation, you think of the Tomcat." It was in service for 32 years. The final decision to retire was partially built on the much longer maintenance to flight hours ratio for the Tomcat over the F-18; they are 3-4 times more for the Tomcat. The movie "Top Gun" showed the ways of the Tomcat as did the TV show, "JAG."



*Alumni Updates.

-Dr. Vic Dawson. The Giant Grocery Chain's April 2006 InSight Magazine carried a very interesting article written by Vic which was entitled, "Shooting for Fun." It discussed the sportsmen who use firearms for recreational shooting. The lead page had a picture of Vic with his collection of firearms. He described the three cardinal rules of safety: Keep gun pointed in a safe direction; Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot; and Keep the gun unloaded until you are ready to shoot. He then described the category of firearms and discussed each: rifles, pistols, shotguns, and antique arms. There are classes for the last three. He noted many sportsmen shoot competitively but a far greater number enjoy "plinking"----shooting informally at a range. Vic noted the NRA maintains a cadre of certified instructors who give courses on shooting firearms. Vic noted that in the Montgomery County area there are many ranges and noted the Bethesda Chevy Chase Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America in Poolesville (bcciwla.org); The Wildlife Achievement Chapter in Damascus (damasusiwla.org.) and the Rockville Chapter (iwla-rockville.com). Vic is a NRA Training Counselor and Instructor.

-Ramsey Johnson. Ramsey sent the LEAF an email to indicate that he just had a root canal. Not a pleasant event and in itself not newsworthy. BUT, enter our friend NITINOL. Ramsey wrote, "In final stages dentist used a tool that rotated wires made of nickel-titanium shape-memory alloy—NITINOL. The wires (of varying diameters-----all quite small) were inserted into a chuck. The 'business' ends of the wires were flared to enable dentist to fine tune the process for removing and cleaning the remnants in root canal. Multiple diameter wire selections for different abrading features. Improvement over prior tools that were more rigid and tapered----sometimes binding near tooth's surface. Thin wire thus helps minimize

access bore hole. NITINOL still thrives in orthodontics.”

-Anh Duong. During Woman’s History Month, the DL/IH newspaper (The South Potomac Pilot of 16 March 2006) did a great profile on Anh. She has had a remarkable career. I will summarize her profile. She has worked for WOL and IH for 23 years. After 9/11, she lead the team which developed the first thermobaric bomb in just 67 days, earning a Meritorious Medal for her leadership and establishing IH as the national lead in this field. She is currently detailed as the science advisor for Dep CNO for information, plans and strategy and to the director of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. Her focus is on counter-ing the now famous IED devices being used in Iraq. She is featured in the American Society of Civil Engineer’s book, “Changing Out World: True Stories of Women Engineers.” It is part of a project to address the under representation of women in the engineering profession. Anh came from South Vietnam when she was 15 and started her sophomore year in high school, knowing just 50 words of English, but graduating in the top 3% of her class. She went on to graduate from the U. of MD with a bachelors degree cum laude in ChE and Engineering CS. She has received the Art Bisson Award for Naval Technology Achievement from CNR, and the Pan-Asian-American Chamber of Commerce Award of Excellence in Public Service. A WOLAA BZ for Anh Duong.



*Deceased Alumni.

Please inform Houston Cole of any information you have about decease alumni: phone (410) 489-2977. Please check WOLAA web site for more timely information than can be provided by a quarterly newsletter.

The Fall LEAF will carry a tribute to Dr. Jacobs.

-Carl Raymond Peterson. Carl died on 12 November 2005 after contracting pneumonia after surgery. He was 83. He worked in parachute group on such projects as CAPTOR and the Mk 56 Mine. Carl is survived by his wife, Pauline; and his daughter, Vicki Peterson.

-Esther N. Guffy. She died in December 2005 at age 81. Esther was the wife of Captain Guffy, who was Supply Officer at the WOL. She was born in Millheim, PA. She attended W&M College and graduated from USC with a degree in political science. She worked for the Navy where she met and married Capt. Guffy; they were married for 53 years. Esther was an avid reader and loved to bake and cook. She was well known for her bake goods which were first to go at bake sales. She wrote a cookbook called “Recipes from Around the World,” and her children said she cooked in seven different languages. Her favorite place to live was San Diego; when they moved to Ellicott City, Captain Guffy had built the twin of the house that they lived in San Diego. She is survived by Captain Guffy; daughters, Diane Hughes and Susan Stalker; son, David; and three grandchildren.

-John “Al” Alfred Ambrose. Al lived in Leisure World and died from complications of heart failure in February 2006. He was 81. Al worked in Comptroller shop located in the Arcade. He served in the air force in WWII and worked at NSWC for 45 years. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Cecilia; son Stephen; daughter Janet Hoey; and five grandchildren.

-Frank Baltakis. Frank died of heart failure at age 80 in March 2006. He was living in Lake Worth, FL. Frank was a mathematician and worked in Bldg 405.

-Lester Melvin Leach. “Lefty” died on 12 May 2006. He is survived by his wife, Betty; sons, Keith and Bryon; daughter Judy Danaher; and 6 grand children. He worked at NSWC in the Magetics and Electrical Division, and then, as an electronics technician in the vibration lab in Bldg 20.

-Larry Edgar Ware. Died at age 75 from complications of heart surgery on 13 May 2006. Larry was a native of New Boston, MO and a 1954 graduate of the Naval Academy. He served in the Navy for 6 years and attained the rank of LtCdr. He then began his long career at NSWC as a tech writer. His avocations included golfing, boating, birding, and ballroom dancing. He also was fluent in conversational

Portuguese. He is survived by his sons Chris and Tim; and 4 grand children. His wife, Ruth, died in 1975 and his daughter, Mary Beth Dearing, died in 1992.

-Joel L. Stein. Joel died on 14 May 2006. He worked at NSWC in the Systems Analysis Office of U Department on mine analysis and in the Warfare Analysis Office. He is survived by his wife, Sandra; sons Steven and Robert; and a grandchild.

-Dr. Jagadish Sharma. Jag died after a long illness on 16 May 2006. He worked in the Research Department. He was from India and knew many of the leaders of India as well as the leading physicists of the golden age of Physics. He was a dedicated scientist and made many contributions to the advancement of science.

-Bill King. Bill's wife Mary called to inform WOLAA that Bill died in May at age 59 from Parkinson Disease. They had moved to Maine after retirement to be care givers for Bill's parents. Bill worked in U Department on mine projects and was the SLMM Project Manager. More information will be provided in the Fall LEAF