

White Oak Laboratory Alumni Association, Inc.

The Leaf

VOLUME XI ISSUE III

PROUD MEMORIES

Summer 2009

- **Events** *
*NOL Lunch 2nd Mon
@Golden Bull in Adelphi
*Holiday Luncheon, Fri, 4
Dec, 2009. Golden
Bull, Gaithersburg, MD.
1100-1500
*WOLAA Night @ Strath
more. American Balalaika
Symphony. Sat. 16 Jan
2010 @2000.

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

WOLAA Web Site: www.wolaa.org

Bernard "Bernie" DeSavage 21 February 1938– 21 June 2009.

Bernie died on Father's Day evening of an aneurism. He had been undergoing treatment for cancer; his second set of treatment was going well. He had recently enjoyed his granddaughter's wedding and Father's Day gathering of family. Bernie was looking forward to going to lunch with friends.

He is survived by his wife of almost 49 years, Sally Curran DeSavage; also children Cheryl Sellner, Janet Spates, and Ken DeSavage (and his wife, Judy). He had six living grandchildren. His grandson, Eric Sellner, is deceased. Bernie is also survived by a brother.

He was a graduate of Boston College in 1960 with a degree in physics and began his career with the Navy at NOL as a JPD in 1960. His first permanent assignment was in Code QS (Solid State Division). Dr. Art Clark noted that Bernie worked with him and was a masters candidate in physics from the U. of Maryland. He stated Bernie had a good feel for research and was excellent at defining and conducting experiments. In the late 1960's he was working in Code 211 (Magnetism and Materials). Dr. John Scarzello said Bernie was working on special intel projects for Viet Nam and made trips on site. In the late 1970's, he became the Branch Head for R43, the Electromagnetics Branch. In 1979, he was the acting head of R40. In 1980, he moved to U Department, working for George Kalaf to become the first Technology Manager for Mine-warfare. Bernie had to create the needed processes to determine the best technology tasks for the small budget afforded sensor and warhead/fuzing for mines. In the mid-1980's, Dr. Hill, TD, selected Bernie to be the first Technology Block Manager (Code D4) for NSWC. The various warfare areas in the Center each had a block of technology funding and D4 had to coordinate and work with the Navy's Office of Technology. Next, Bernie returned to R Department as the Deputy Department Head working for Jim Proctor and Betty Gay. In the mid-1990's with the WOL closing re BRAC, Bernie took on the leadership as site manager for those people and functions moving to Carderock. He is given much credit for the successful move and eventually the new buildings, labs, and facility built at Carderock. Bernie was the Special Assistant to the CD Material Department Head until Bernie retired in 2000.

Bernie (Continued).

Bernie and Sally met in 1959, when they both volunteered to be in a play. They began dating and soon Sally took Bernie home to meet her parents. They were married in October 1960 after Bernie began working at NOL. Bernie was very close to his family and has been very supportive to his children and grandchildren. Since retirement, he has been active as a volunteer in his parish, taking elderly to doctors, on errands, etc. He has been active in WOLAA since the beginning, being on our Board and was currently our secretary. Bernie and Sally took many wonderful trips since retirement, including several trips to Alaska and also to Ireland and Europe. Sally's brother is a Catholic lay deacon and gave a beautiful and personal homily at Bernie's mass. He ended by fittingly stating, "Til we meet again."

News from WOLAA

***2009 WOLAA Holiday Luncheon.** Our Annual WOLAA Holiday Luncheon has been scheduled for Friday, 4 December 2009 at the Golden Bull in Gaithersburg, MD., beginning at 1100. A week earlier this year. MARK your calendars now. Santa Dee is making contact with the North Pole to develop a special holiday present from WOLAA for you. We anticipate the menu and cost for the luncheon to be very nearly the same as the May luncheon was.

***2009 WOLAA Annual Luncheon.** What a great luncheon. Attendance was down about 35 with 112 WOLers and guests enjoying the food and fellowship. I thought the crab cakes were the best we have had at the Golden Bull. Bill Ryan gave the treasurer report; finances are good. Holding our normal democratic election of Board members; Houston Cole, Harry Bagley, Dave Wasmund, and Di Palermo were reelected for a three year term. The status of our Historical Preservation efforts was summarized. Again, the WOLAA store was open selling WOLAA Directories, Oral History of Wind Tunnel, and our neat new WOLAA T-shirts. Got lots in stock; they would make a good Holiday gift! As a special event after the business meeting, John Sery played a video he made of the 1997 closing ceremony of the WOL. The emotion seeing the American flag coming down for the last time as a Navy facility was a touching memory.

***WOLAA Night at Strathmore.** At our last night at Strathmore, we saw the Pops featuring songs sung by Leading Men of Broadway. What a great show and the meal/fellowship before the show was special. Our next night will be on Saturday evening, 16 January 2010 beginning at 2000. We will plan to meet for dinner at the Strathmore's Restaurant at 1800. More detail in later LEAF's and on the web. The featured concert is by the American Balalaika Symphony. They, "embody a tradition that dates back to 19th century Russia, they replace the strings of the violin family with plucked balalaikas and domras producing a shimmering sound augmented by full wind and percussion sections." Dr. Ed Whitman plays a domra in the Balalaika Symphony. Pat and I have seen several of their concerts and really, really enjoy them. The cost will be much less than the BSO or Pop shows—Like about \$20. Event is in the future; but begin to plan for this to be a great way to rid Winter blues in January 2010.

***WOL Hydroballistic Tank.** Both the mine tank and hydroballistic tank still exist at WO. Recently, I had a call from an engineer at JHU/APL. The Navy has a need to do underwater testing of a submarine weapon system and also training in a tank like the one at the WOL. Is it still there? Yes. But, I didn't know the condition and if the filter equipment, etc was still there. I got the person in contact with the GSA real estate folks and gave him WOLers names to contact. Apparently, Lockheed had a tank like WOL; but it has been torn down. The Navy is thinking of building a new tank; but the testing scale would be very small. Many feel you would not have quality data to scale up to full scale. I don't know if the use is for short term or long term. I do know that GSA has a study ongoing to demolish several of the unused tunnel buildings and the hydro tank. So, the Navy needs to investigate and decide quickly.

***Historical Preservation.** Jim Proctor, Wayne Hopkins, and I had a very encouraging meeting with GSA concerning the Proud Memory Garden. Please see the summary of this meeting in Supplement 1. A follow up meeting is planned for 14 July. Will update you on that meeting by the web site. Supplement 2 displays the text for the plaque for Dr. Ralph Bennett that we plan next to the fireplace in the lobby of the FDA Conference Center. A text for a hand out to further explain the career and significance to NOL of Dr. Bennett is also given in Supplement 2. George Hamlin researched and prepared this material.

Oral History.

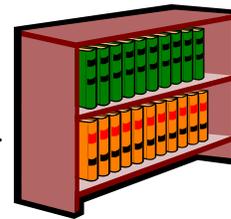
***Plastics Laboratory.** Bob Barnet and Frank Koubek teamed to provide us with a very interesting and important oral history of the plastics laboratory that existed in WW II in Silver Spring, MD. Frank wrote, "It took awhile for Bob Barnet to get the old photos circa 1945 in shape to a suitable size, etc and to get his final write-up to me. We collaborated by phone and by U. S. Mail for quite some time before we were able to put together what we thought would be a great story. Bob at 89 is probably one of the few, if any survivors of that era!" The story is given in Supplement 3. It includes three pictures: officers, enlisted, and civilians. I think you will enjoy this history.

Book Review Johnny Grams.

My Summer reading has begun. For the third year, I am reading the books my Grandson has been assigned for next Falls English Class. It has been fun to discuss them with him and see our different views between our generation. The first book is "Of Human Bondage" by W. Somerset Maugham (1915); the second is "Sons and Lovers" by D. H. Lawrence (1913). Lawrence also wrote, "Lady Chatterley's Lover." Both are set in England and I struggle with such books, especially written in the early 20th century. BUT, surprisingly, I am enjoying "Of Human Bondage." Both books are over 800pp; so this is going to take a while.

"From Science to Seapower, A Roadmap for S&T Revitalization" by Robert A Kavetsky, Michael L. Marshall, and Davinder K. Anand. (2006). Bob and Mike worked at the WOL. Bob came to the 2008 Holiday Luncheon and discussed the book. He left copies so all attending who desired book could have a copy. The book explains the drain of the S&T talent in the government and focused on the Navy. The key is the book lays out a plan to revitalize the scientists and engineers in our Centers/Labs. The book noted it is especially difficult to fill PhD slots re salary and the security since many new PhD are not U. S. citizens. The following graph shows what has happened. Note even the Reagan build up has not held as many have left government service. Let's hope someone in the Federal Government and/or Navy heeds the message.

Mjt



Ramblings of a Senior

Mjt

***Champs.** Pat and I are from the Pittsburgh area. So, we just had to note that the Steelers are the NFL Champions, and the Pens have just brought the Stanley Cup back to Pittsburgh. Unique and we are very proud and pleased. BUT, alas very little chance for my beloved Pirates to bring a World Series win to Pittsburgh like they were doing in the late 70's.

***A/C Unit.** First the air bag light on our van came on and stayed on. Yep, a new airbag; but to our surprise no charge. Then, main TV decided to fail. So, off to get a flat screen TV. Certainly a huge improvement over the old sets. And of course on the hottest day of this Summer, our A/C unit let the temperature in the house go to 83 degrees. Called our A/C contractor; and since we have a M&R contract, it was repaired without any charge. It was the fan motor; compressor still OK. But, repairman noted a couple things; first unit was old and we should replace it. Sort of knew that. Then, he told me something I didn't know and wanted to pass on to you all. Our unit uses the old refrigerant; and this will continue to be available. However, after 2010, the compressor units which use the old refrigerants won't be made. He said already some companies have quit making them. So, we will have a choice. Get a new compressor soonest and keep old coolant lines and coils. Or wait and replace the entire system. Lots of tradeoffs here. Can we trust government to allow old refrigerant to remain on market? Do new compressors cool as well? Do I really need to replace entire system now? Well, I guess that is an analysis and expense waiting for resolution. If anyone knows more information about the A/C changes, contact WOLAA and we will publish in LEAF and on web.



***Facebook and Twitter.** What the heck are these all about? Everybody and their brother seem to be doing it. Even governments have set up to do it. The recent "revolution" in Iran used twitter to communicate. So, I did it. I now have a facebook account. Haven't figured out how to download pictures yet and some of the terms—like "the wall" threw me. I think for once we are ahead of our grandkids. Yea for the Senior.

Features

Technical.

*Supplement 4 reproduces two technical articles from the Carderock SEAFRAME magazine. The first article describes the results of calibrating the advanced degaussing system on the new LPD-18 ship. It is written by William Gay, who worked at WOL and is son of Bill and Betty Gay. The concept for advanced degaussing was begun at WOL before the group moved to Carderock. I am sure they feel really super about their ideas and technology becoming a successful reality on an important Navy ship.

*The second article concerns metal matrix composites and the improvements for wear characteristics. Amamath Divecha is the Technical POC for this article and work. He also worked at the WOL before moving to Carderock.

Take the time to read both these articles. They clearly show the Navy Centers/Labs are doing essential work and the talent must be retained for the long term defense of our country. Both are great examples for leaders to use to implement the plans set forth by the Kavetsky/Marshall book. Now, if the leaders would just get the recently recreated TD positions filled, things would be looking up for the Centers/Labs.

Alumni Updates.

-Al Pertman. Al was recently reading the book, "Von Braun (Dreamer of Space/Engineer of War)" by Neufeld. Al discovered the following: "...speech on rocket ships at NOL in suburban White Oak, where wind tunnels had been evacuated in 1945, Von Braun appearance caused an enormous traffic jam.

Three thousand people had to be turned away and five thousand people heard the lecture. Many outside by loudspeakers set up outside the hall. Attendance exceeded his 'wildest dreams,' forcing him to 'virtually fight my way into the building.'" Well, does anyone know about this and did any of you attend the lecture. My guess would be in middle 50's. As we all know, it didn't take much to jam up the two lanes of NH Avenue in those year. Also, auditorium could hold about 500 but 5000 at NOL??? Let the LEAF know when and where this lecture took place.

-Dr. Ray Lemar. Dr. Lemar retired from IH in April 2009. He worked at WOL as a senior member of the Detonation Physics Branch (R13).

-Jim Partak. Jim retired from the DL on 1 May 2009. He had worked at WOL in the Hardening Electronic Branch.

WOLAA wishes Ray and Jim the best in retirement and thank them for their service to the Navy.

-Glyn Dabbs. Glyn received the Paul Martini Award this year at the DL. Glyn was specially proud since she formerly worked at WOL and personally knew Mr. Martini. Glyn was secretary to Dr. Enig and then worked for Captain Boyer and Chuck Bernard in mid-70's when WOL and DL merged. She has returned to work and is Department Secretary for department which appears to contain functions from F and H Departments of the 90's. Our WOLAA BZ to Glyn.

-Mary Laanisto. Mary received the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award at DL for outstanding leadership and execution of Littoral Combat System Mission Module Team. Mary worked in U Department on the Surface Ship ASW system and moved with the group to DL in 1996. She worked on software development for the SQQ-89 ASW system from 1988-2003. She moved to the Mission Module Team in 2003. A very proud WOLAA BZ is extended to Mary.

-Pete Eskin. Pete had hip replacement surgery. He is now in rehab at Riderwood's Renaissance Gardens Facility. He is in Room 3232 in the Oak Grove wing. Pete says he is doing better and is walking with a walker and short distances with a cane with the four prong bottom. He hopes to get home soon. Pete worked in U Department in the acoustic tank facility re CAPTOR sensors and later on the ASW Fire Control System.

-Jim Martin. Jim is also in the Riderwood rehab unit. His room is 3239. Jim fell ill on the golf course last July from severe dehydration and was not able to regain his strength. Since then, he has had a mild heart attack. He has difficulty speaking and is confined to a wheel chair. Jim is now 95. Jim joined the NOL during WW II as a Naval Officer (Retired as a Captain in reserves). He spent time in Pacific re mines using the B-29's. He headed the U/W Evaluation Division (U40) and then replaced Bob Knowles as the Mk-48 Program Manager. Jim is currently on the Board for WOLAA.

WOLAA wishes Pete and Jim speedy recovery and good health.

***Deceased Alumni.**

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

-Gladys Waters. Dottie Sisson notified WOLAA that Gladys daughter, Linda, notified Dottie that Gladys died several years ago. Gladys worked at NOL in the Management Program Division, Code 104.

-Ted Taylor. WOLAA was notified that Ted was recently deceased. He lived in Washington D.C. He worked at NOL in Code 432 (Operations Division) for Dale Kerstetter. No other information is currently available.

-Lloyd Bruck. Stu Hanlein notified WOLAA that Lloyd died on 22 January 2009. Lloyd had worked in the Ballistics Group at NOL from 1961-63 and then moved to NASA.

-Leonard R. Klein. Jim Woodhams notified that Len had died on 7 February 2009 at Mary Washington Hospital. Len was living in Fredericksburg, VA. He was born in Erie, PA on 8 September 1938. He graduated from Gannon College in Erie, PA and studied at GWU. Len was head of Human Resources at NSWC from 1972-1986. He then moved to Office of Personnel Management as Director for Employment Policy and Operations until retirement in 1996. He received a Presidential Rank Award from President Regan and then a Distinguished Rank Award from President Clinton. Len worked for Boeing from 96-98 and then as a consultant to various federal agencies. He was an avid reader, historian, and gardener. Len is survived by his wife Ruth and children, Kristen and Martin.

-Clarence "Buzz" P. Jones, Jr. Buzz died at age 73 on 26 March 2009 in Bellingham, Washington. Buzz served in the Navy and retired as a reserve Commander. After leaving the service, he graduated from the U of Maryland with an EE degree. He joined NOL working in U Department and for Al Will. In 1970, he was assigned to Keyport to be the NOL EE rep during the Mk 48 Mod 1 selection test program at Keyport. He stayed on for the production proof testing and then transferred to Keyport when the Mk 48 transitioned to NUSC. Buzz has been very active in the Senior Computer Club in Bremerton, and has tutored students at the high school level. He is survived by his wife, Donna; and his children: Chad, Donovan, Mitchem and Kieran; two step-children: Melanie and Eric Roed; and two grandsons.

Mac McPherson. Mac's wife, Eloise, informed WOLAA that Mac had died at age 96 in April 2009. Mac worked in the Produce Design Division at NOL. Eloise also worked at NOL and was the Secretary for U10, Mechanical Systems Division.

-John C. Collins. Jim Woodhams informed WOLAA that John died at age 71 on 15 April 2009 in Tucson Arizona. He had been head of Training Division at NOL in 1960's. He later moved to BuStandards and then to NASA. After retirement, he moved to Tucson. John is survived by his wife, Jan; daughter, Pam Streett; and sons, Scott and Dan; and four grandsons.

-Anne Moeller. Anne died on 22 April 2009 after suffering a heart attack on 18 April, just a day after Karl and Anne returned to MD from their home in Punta Gorda, FL. Karl worked at WOL in Mk 48 Office and then moved to NAVSEA. He was a financial manager.

-Jane Fennell. Jane died on 3 May 2009 after a brief illness with lung cancer. She was the wife of Paul Fennell who worked in U40 at the WOL. They were living in Bend, Oregon.

-Dr. Irving Korobkin. Irv died at age 83 on 20 May 2009. He is survived by his children: Alan, Vicki, Andy, and Gail (Shirazi); and four grandchildren. His wife, Sally, is deceased. Irv worked at NOL in the Aero Department. He was head of the Aerophysics Department. He worked "downtown" for several years and returned to the WOL to be Head of the Nuclear Program Office in D21.

-Harold Lacey. Known as Lacey to many of us, he died of heart and lung cancer disease at his home on 25 May 2009. He worked at NOL in the Analysis Division headed by Dalton Lane. He then moved to the MASWSPO Systems Analysis Office in Bldg 90. Lacey worked on Surface Ship ASW studies and worked for Brownie and became good friends with Bob Bryant. When The SAO moved to Crystal City, Harold transferred down town. He was quiet and well liked by all who worked with him. Betty Gay noted, "Harold Lacey's death makes me very sad. He was my supervisor for several years—about 1963-66 or so time frame. Everybody called him 'Lacey' at work. I did my first big written report on fuze burst heights for air-launched chemical weapons under his supervision. He and Richard Hu and I shared a room together. His contemporaries were Ralph Craig, Dan Stretmeyer, and John Lutrell. Lacey was an excellent technical mind, a good supervisor—interested in his people and their progress. A very even tempered and soft spoken person, with a wonderful sense of humor and laugh. His grandchildren must have called him Pop-Pop." Harold's wife is deceased. He is survived by two sons and several grandchildren. He was so pleased that his grandson had recently been accepted to the same school that he attended. His son, Brian, and I had a long conversation about his very kind and caring Father.