

# The Leaf

VOLUME IX ISSUE 11

PROUD MEMORIES

Spring 2007

- Events
  - \*NOL Lunch 2nd Mon @Golden Bull Rest.
  - \*WOLAA Annual Luncheon at Golden Bull in Gaithersburg, Fri. 18 May 2007 @1130.
  - \*Holiday Luncheon at Golden Bull in Gatihersburg . December 2007
  - \*2008 FL Reunion, Fri, 7 March 2008, Dade City, FL

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

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

---

## *WOLAA Annual Reunion Luncheon*

*Friday, 18 May 2007. 1130-1430*

*At Golden Bull Restaurant, Gaithersburg, MD*

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

*In Ball Room on Second Floor.*

*Flyer will be mailed to you by mid-April.*

*Mark Your Calendars Now; Plan to Attend!*

- Editorial Staff:  
JohnTino  
Frank Koubek  
George Hamlin

---

WOLAA, Inc  
PO Box 1002,  
Olney, MD. 20830  
Phone (301) 439-3140  
E-M: [mrspat218@aol.com](mailto:mrspat218@aol.com)

---

**Luncheon Details.** We will again have the choice of three entrée': chicken, salmon, or prime rib. The cost will only be \$20 per person The WOLAA store will be open. We have arranged to have a lift operator on duty to help attendees use the lift to go to the second floor Ball Room. A short business meeting, as required by our bylaws will be held after the luncheon meal.

---

Inside This Issue:	
News from WOLAA	p2
Oral History/Feedback	p6
Book Review	p10
Ramblings	p11
Alumni Feedback	p11
Features	
Technical News	p13
Alumni Updates	p14
Deceased Alumni	p14
Oral History Supplement	

---

## **News from WOLAA.**

**\*Membership.** As of 26 March, WOLAA has 500 members. We had hoped to increase our membership to 550; but we have fell short. A final reminder notice was just sent to ~120 Alumni who haven't rejoined over the last two years. This reminder has already helped. The three year membership was very popular and with the Lifetime Memberships provide a great core base for 2008. If you see someone from the WOL, ask them if they are a member of WOLAA and ask them to join if they are not. Email or phone WOLAA with any names you want us to add to the data base or send a membership package.

WE THANK YOU FOR BEING A MEMBER OF WOLAA!

## News from WOLAA (continued)

**\*New Name Project.** In November, 2006, we asked every person in our data base to go through their address books, holiday lists, etc to locate people who worked at the WOL, and then send the name/address to WOLAA so we could find new names for our data base. Hopefully, these WOLers would join WOLAA. This was all part of our 10th Year Anniversary plan to increase new membership. Ten alumni provided 79 names, and of those, we added 28 new names and addresses to our data base. Several have joined WOLAA. We thank: J. Forbes; L Vendetti; O. McGlynn; Stu & LaVettia Hanlein; M. Hastings; Dr. B. Gaunard; F. Koubek; Joyce & Marty Walchak; B. Barnum; and P. Fennell. Lew Vendetti send us the most new names—eight—and will receive a free luncheon to one of our two 2007 luncheons. Jerry Forbes and Dr. Gaunard were tied for second—four—and each will receive a WOLAA sweat shirt. The New Name Project lives on; so we urge you to check your “data bases” and send WOLAA names of WOLers you find in the data bases.

---

**\*2007 Election and Board Members.** We will hold our annual election for Board Members at the Annual Luncheon in May. Houston Cole and Dave Wasmund will be on the “ballot” for another three year term. However, the Board is in need of several additional Board Members. The term would be for three years. You are urged to volunteer to be a Board Member. Please, Please email or call WOLAA if you are interested in being on the Board. Do it any time before the Luncheon or the day of the luncheon. We really need your help. If you call John Tino, he would be glad to provide you information on your Board duties.

**WOLAA President.** The president of the United States can serve 2 4-year terms. The governor of Maryland can also serve 2 4-year terms; the governor of Virginia can serve only 1-4 year terms. I have served, at the end of my current term, 4 3-year terms—12 years. Pat and I each turned 70 this year; we have both taken on a very enjoyable family duty, which takes up a lot of our time. We are also starting to enjoy play time; CA trip; annual FL trip; long weekends to OC; and annual adventure trips with our Grandchildren. But most of all, its time for new leadership for WOLAA. We are entering a very key time with GSA and FDA which needs someone to really work on a very frequent basis with them to assure our Proud Memories are preserved. I can no longer attend the LABQUEST meetings or key ceremonies for a growing facility presence of FDA at White Oak. This is very important. Dee Zook and Wayne Hopkins have represented WOLAA at these events. But, WOLAA should have their President there. Soooo, you see it coming, we need a WOLAA member to become our new president. I have raised this issue earlier; but it is now time to act. Please, please consider this, and give me (John Tino) a call or email me. Thank you.

---

**\*WOLAA Strathmore Night III.** Eleven WOLAAers attended our third WOLAA night at Strathmore on Thursday, 8 February 2007. We all met for dinner at 1800 at the restaurant at Strathmore. Another great meal and visit. Then, in celebration of Mardi Gras, we were treated by two New Orlean jazz groups. The music was sensational and you could easily believe you were in Preservation Hall in New Orleans. Both groups explained how the hurricane Katrina impacted them. Music was lost or they could not get back to get it to meet concert engagement needs. Several had their homes under 11 feet of water. Their spirit was amazing for what they had been through. We hope to attend Strathmore again this Summer or Fall. We have a core group of 9-11 attending. If you would like to join this core group and be notified of Strathmore Night IV, please email, write, or call WOLAA.

---

**\*WOLAA 2007 Florida Reunion.** Twenty –three WOLers enjoyed a great luncheon in Punta Gorda on Friday, 2 March. This included four snowbirds: Tino’s and Henschens. Great visit. Peggy and George Kalaf hosted the reunion. The group was updated on FDA and historical preservation. George discussed managing the Mk 48 Torpedo during its transition from WOL to Newport.

It was decided to plan the 2008 reunion a bit farther north in Florida. Ken Caudle has reserved a room in the restaurant at the country club in the complex that they live in Dade City, Florida. The area is about 40 miles from the Tampa Air Port and is just off Route 75. The date will be Friday, 7 March 2008. Long time away; but mark your calendars now. With the cold weather that Pat and I came back to find in Maryland, the March 2008 can't come too soon. See you there.

Pictures from the luncheon follow.

**\*Historical Preservation.** We will begin with several pictures of the FDA complex that I took in February 2007. The first shows what the Building 1 looks like today. The second is the WOL flag pole and the new building for FDA staff who approves our meds; the next one shows their new parking garage, where Bldg 20'25 use to be. The last is the building currently under construction for the rest of the staff of the Department which does the meds approval. It is roughly where Bldg 30 was.

**-Last Navy Person at White Oak.** Did you ever wonder who was the last Navy personnel to leave the White Oak facility. George Hamlin recently answered the question when he sent me an old email that Frank Pierce had sent him several years ago.

*“For those of us who served the Navy at White Oak, it's getting to be more and more like a "last man" club. At least Bob [Stewart] and I can take pride, for whatever it's worth, in knowing that we were the last two Navy personnel to leave White Oak. Actually, it was Bob. I went through the door first and he was the one who secured it. NTSA was the last Navy group there and we were there on the last day. Frank”*

*Editor Note: Both Bob and Frank previously worked in Technical Writing Group at WOL before moving to NTSA in Building 90.*

**-John Vincent Atanasoff.** George Hamlin sent me a note concerning his efforts in naming the NSWC auditorium after Dr. Bennett, our first TD. He also noted that he had tracked down the office at NOL that Dr. Atanasoff worked in when he was at NOL. His plan was to put a plaque on the wall by the office door noting: **John Vincent Atanasoff, Inventor of the Electronic Digital Computer, 1939–1941, at Iowa State University, Ames; Dr. Atanasoff worked for NOL both at Navy Yard and at White Oak; His office was in this set of rooms until 1953.** The plaque was never installed. So, George concluded it could be done when FDA moved in. Unfortunately, the demo man tore down that section of the Main Building. George now proposes naming one of the several new conference rooms in FDA new conference facility after Dr. Atanasoff. We will pursue this in our next meeting with GSA/FDA on historical preservation.

**-Wikipedia-NOL.** George Hamlin recently went on line to Wikipedia and typed in NOL. A very interesting write-up on NOL popped out. We have asked George to update it to include more of the key weapons developed at NOL/NSWC. Here is the current write-up. Check it out at [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naval\\_Ordnance\\_Laboratory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naval_Ordnance_Laboratory). Note: it indicates that one of the people who died on 9/11 worked at NOL—William E. Caswell. His name is not in any of the NOL/NSWC phone books that I have; does anyone know where he worked.

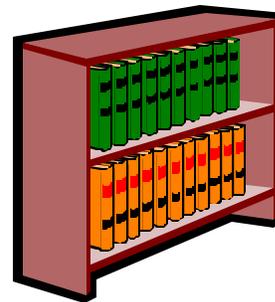
“The Naval Ordnance Laboratory (NOL), now disestablished, formerly located in White Oak, Maryland was the site of considerable work that had practical impact upon world technology. The White Oak site of NOL has now been taken over by Food and Drug Administration.

The NOL is now known as the Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division Projects:

- \* The World War II artillery fuze.
  - \* Nitinol, the shape changing nickel-titanium alloy well known to everyone. The NOL at the end of Nitinol refers to Naval Ordnance Laboratory.
  - \* Hypervelocity wind tunnel testing of Space Shuttle models for NASA.
- People who have worked there include:
- \* John Bardeen, the only person to win two Nobel Prizes in Physics.
  - \* John Vincent Atanasoff, inventor of the first electronic computer, Chief of the NOL Acoustics Division.
  - \* William E. Caswell, physicist and victim of September 11, 2001.
  - \* Norm Scofield, inventor of the Scofield-Gold neutron unfolding algorithm which is a method of solving a Fredholm integral equation.
  - \* Sigmund J. Jacobs, inventor of theory for the equation of state of detonation products, the Jacobs-Cowperthwaite-Zwisler(JCZ) equation.”

## Oral History

**\*Supplement.** We have two oral histories in this LEAF. They appear in a Supplement to the LEAF at the end of the LEAF. The first is by Frank Koubek and describes how in-house Laboratory expertise got systems back on line during the VietNam War. The second is from Bob Voisinet. Bob headed the wind tunnels at WO for the Air Force until he retired several years ago; Bob has retired to Florida. He has sent me six or so historical articles on the wind tunnels. The first one appears in the Supplement and is titled, "History of the Group of German Scientist." My plan is to publish 1-2 in each issue of the LEAF, and then to assemble all of them in a booklet. Will have the booklet available at WOLAA luncheon and will mail to anyone who requests it.




---

### \*Oral History Feedback.

-Wind Tunnels. Bob Voisinet sent the following email: "John, its such a pleasure to get 'The Leaf' and reminisce about our past and the good times at White Oak. In retirement in Florida, its difficult to keep in touch with former associates and all that is going on, but your articles have done a wonderful job of keeping me informed about friends and the FDA renovation. I was saddened to hear of the death of Sam Hastings, one of the true legends of the wind tunnel area, in the recent issue. Sam wrote about the history of the wind tunnels and I used his write ups in numerous references to help me portray the early days when the first tunnels came to White Oak from Piennemunde. There were other references that came to mind and I feel that these need to be preserved in the White Oak history. So, I dug up some classic references that I used along with a History Paper that I put together for the Supersonic Tunnel Association in 1996. You need to put these into the White Oak files and they may be worthy of inclusion in one of your Proud Memories editions."

---

-Anton. "Oooh, I'd never claim credit for being 'the creator of Anton' Khopochnik (Winter 2007 Leaf). You'll note in the story I sent about Anton, he was created by Frank Pierce. What I did, other than writing some of 'The Khropochnik Papers was put him into the NOL phone book (and into a few other places which I won't mention.) Frank had sneaked him in a (non-Navy) book, but his wife Nancy spotted the citation and had it yanked out in proofreading phase. George Hamlin"

---

-Challenge. Frank Koubek sent me the following note which includes a challenge to other WOLAA members to send in their WOL oral histories. I second his challenge; the ones we are getting have been great. I will take them in any media format: handwritten, typed, emails, etc. "I'm still pondering what my next Oral History will be after this one. I like the idea of a 'Do You Remember' article where in I will touch briefly on a number of past events at WOL that could stimulate more knowledgeable alumni to send in more detailed recollections. For example: The NOL carnival, Bills Bunch, The Annual Spring Follies in the Auditorium, NOL Film Club, Model airplanes flying on the back lawn, various employee club activities, origins of the NOL golf course, the barber shop, the NOLEA store, etc. The list is endless! There are countless stories that could be written as very interesting and amusing oral histories by those people who were directly involved.

Editor Note: Frank's Goat and Bank Robber oral histories have done just that. Hope his challenge to all of you is heeded.

---

-Goats and Robbers. "Hi John - I thoroughly enjoy each issue of The Leaf, and commend you and all the staff for doing such a fine job. I was especially pleased with the way the Sig Jacobs story came out. Lots of good information there, and the writers managed to capture quite a bit of what Sig meant to the Detonation Physics community of our nation.

My main reason for writing is to add comments on a couple of the stories that came out in the Winter 2007 issue. See below.

### GOATS GALORE

The Goats Galore story by Frank Koubek brought back quite a few memories for me since I was working back in the 300 Area at that time. My office was in Bldg 319, and our group conducted explosives tests in Bldgs 314, 317 and 324 for portions of our research. Two of those test chambers were without doors at that time, and the door of the third chamber was normally left open unless a specific test was underway.

To the best of my knowledge, no one in the technical part of our organization was consulted regarding the decision to put the goats to work back there. As far as we were concerned they just showed up. It did not take the goat herd very long to explore the area and to find some favored places for their deposits. Any of the hard-surface paths between buildings became regularly used latrines. The paths in that area were all very narrow. Perhaps the goats found them to resemble narrow cliff trails of their ancestry. Anyhow, when given the option, they must have spent lots of time on the paths for their signatures were on the paths after each weekend as well as after some weekday mornings. Our technicians, who were the first ones to use the paths each morning, had to take the time to sweep off the goat manure before the day's regular work could commence.

Certainly on weekends, and often on other days the goats would find their way into the explosive test chambers. Our explosives test operators had to clear the goat manure out of the chambers before the normal work could begin. Occasionally goats were actually present in the chambers during working hours and had to be chased out by the technicians - a job that brought quite a few laughs - especially from those who did not have to do the chasing. All the folks in our area were quite pleased when the goat experiment was terminated.

### The Great White Oak Bank Heist

The parts of the bank robber visit that some of us found rather fascinating were the ease with which the robber gained entry to the secured area and the length of time that it took to find the guy after he got into the place. We heard that the robber crossed the fence somewhere east of the hardware store storage area, which put him into the sparsely wooded area near the north parking lot. He then proceeded to walk on through the security gate by the dispensary, without having a badge nor being challenged. He proceeded to the region around the firehouse/garage and even struck up conversation with some of the people in that area. It was quite awhile before he was apprehended. I never did hear the precise details of his apprehension, nor exactly how long he was on the grounds before being caught. The rumor mill reported that he managed to elude the authorities for at least a couple of hours. Does someone know the specifics of how long he evaded capture?

Les Roslund “

---

### GOATS PR.

“Dear John. I'll add a little to the 'goat story.' At the time the goats were purchased, I was working in the Photo Lab. For publicity purposes, the 'powers that be' decided it would be good to release photos of the event to local media. One of the two pictures I am sending appeared in the Sunday editions of both The Washington Post and The Baltimore Sun. In that sense, I guess I could say that NOL provided me with the 15 minutes of fame that we are all

supposed to be entitled to. I used to have the newspaper clippings, but they've gotten lost in the shuffle of life. In addition to my few moments of fame, my Mother and I got a laugh out of it. She was a Baltimore Sun subscriber and didn't realize it was her own daughter she was looking at until her next door neighbor came over to tease her about feeling puffed-up because her daughter's photo was in the Sunday paper. We always tease Mom after that, telling her she didn't really read her paper very well.

And, if anyone knows the date (or approximate date) when the article appeared in the papers, perhaps it could be found in the on-line Post or Sun Archives.

Would you be kind enough to return the photos? My daughter would like to keep them in her photo collection.

Reflectively, Arlene McKeller (I was Arlene Ryan when the photos were taken)

Editor Note: I did return the pictures. Arlene is living in Erie, PA. to be near her daughter, who teaches at Edinboro University. She moved there in 2005, after living in College Park for 45 years. She lives in a retirement community, similar to Riderwood. Loves it but the Erie winter took some getting use to. She noted that, "I spent 10 years working at NOL and 27 years working at the University of Maryland. I don't miss the University a bit, but I still miss NOL. It was a one-of-a kind of place to work." I suspect that many WOLAA members agree with Arlene.

---

-Auditorium Productions. While in Florida, Pat and I visited with our friends Dan and Mary Lou Piacesi, who live in Port St.Lucie, Florida. While there, Dan dug out several pictures of a Gilbert and Sullivan musical presented in the NOL auditorium in early 60's. Jim Ayres directed it. Dan had the male lead. He couldn't remember who the female lead was; but she wore Mary Lou's wedding dress in the production. The first picture shows Dan at the far left. We spotted Frank Pierce on far right and George Hamlin, third from right. Tom Cristy with wig in background? Who are the other performers. The second picture is the full cast; I had to crop a few on the ends for it to fit. Can anyone identify the performers, especially the female lead. Does anyone spot themselves? Let the LEAF know.

## Book Review Johnny Grams

Mjt

I received two books from my family for the holidays. Both were inspirational and emotional to me. The first has to do with our 400-year history of America at War. The second book is a Clint Eastwood directed movie showing in January 2007, "Flags of our Fathers." I recommend both to you, and both receive 4 WO Leafs.

**\*Don't Tread on Me by H. W. Crocker III (2006).** First, I have to say that my America History in high school and college always had us being the good guys, or maybe I just wanted to see it that way. I had great history teachers in high school and college; but in general, they taught what was written in the history books the school used. Did you have the same take on history? Maybe, it was that my generation grew-up with the current war being World War II. At any rate, I would love to go back to my text books and compare their "wars" to those defined by Crocker. He starts with the Indian wars and continues through the second Iraq war. I was fascinated to read both sides of the story on each of our wars. In the Revolutionary War, 33% of the colonists were for war and independence; 33% were loyal to the British; and basically, 33% just wanted to be left alone. Sort of like today and our war on terrorism. The Boston Tea Party had a new twist; the British had already removed the tax on tea so it really wasn't an issue. However, it was to those who were making a very good living smuggling tea to the Colonists to avoid the tax. It was the smugglers who conducted the Boston Tea Party because they were upset by losing their smuggling activity. These early wars up to the Civil War were really about expansion and making us into the 48 states from coast to coast. I am glad we did this but some of the rationale and execution were not done wearing white hats. I always thought the War of 1812 was sort of flaky; but I didn't know we had declared war on Britian, who at that time was our best ally. This could easily have turned out a lot different, and we could still be under British "influence" like Canada. The Spanish-American War is also on my flaky list. Spain was really quite weak by this time, and we probably didn't have to go to war to chase them out of our hemisphere. However, it is too bad we didn't grab Cuba for real at that time; and why did we take on the Spanish in the Philippines. Again, when WW II came along, it was fortunate we had Midway, Guam, etc. or the Japanese might have had a different strategy to begin WW II. Finally, Crocker really goes after some of our leader, in particular, President Wilson. I knew he had delayed our entry in the war and probably screwed up Europe, setting the stage for Hitler and Stalin after the war; but I didn't realize that most of his bad decisions were based on being a very strong pacifist. So, read this book and see if your perspective on our wars changes.

**\*Flags of our Fathers by James Bradley (2000) Updated in paper back form in 2006.** This book is about the battle of Iwo Jima. Specifically, it is about the 6 men who raised our flag on Mount Suribachi. Bradley is the son of "Doc" Bradley, a navy medic and one of the six. He begins the book by describing the childhood of the six, who come from all over the US: Kentucky, Texas, Pennsylvania, New England, an Indian reservation, and the Mid-west. One is an American Indian and one is not an American citizen (His parents were Czechs, and he was born there.). Each child hood is different but all are quite typical of the depression era. Three had seen action in the Pacific before. Two had strong feelings that Iwo would be their last battle and was. I sort of remember when Iwo occurred. But, I had no idea that it was so awful. The two day predicted fight went on for a month and was first Pacific battle where we had more casualties then the Japanese. Iwo was our first invasion of Japanese soil (vs territory they had captured early in the war.) It was key to us as a mid-way survival base for our B-29's coming back from Japan and was a base to fly our fighter escort from. Both key to ending the war without invading Japan; but costly. In fact so costly that many Americans wanted the leaders to change our strategy for the war in the Pacific. We have heard this recently, also. The Japanese had made Iwo an underground fortress for 22,000 troops. Basically, the marines never saw the Japanese soldiers. The marines had pulled several divisions back from the Pacific to train them for 6 months to land and win on Iwo. It is good they did or I am not



sure it would have been a victory. The first new thing that I learned (or had forgotten) was the famous flag raising picture was not the first flag raising. After several days of taking the beach (Our forces were split to go north and south on island.) and fighting a terrible battle to take the mountain. The marines sent a company to the top of the mountain. They had expected a terrible fight; but basically marched right to the top. They were told to raise a flag (small one) and they did. The marines and sailors who could see the flag being raised cheered mightily. Then leadership said raise a larger flag; this event created the famous picture and memorial. Of the six, three later were killed in action on Iwo. Doc Bradley was wounded and was evacuated to Hawaii. In the US, they decided to bring the survivors back to make the 7<sup>th</sup> war bond drive campaign feature the flag and the men. Interestingly, one of the six was not properly identified; except by his Mother. It was many years later that the mistake was corrected. Bradley recovered from his wounds, returned to his home, married his childhood sweetheart, and eventually owned the largest funeral home in the area. He avoided the spotlight—so much so that his family never knew he had won a silver star for action as a medic before the flag raising. All six are now deceased. Of the three survivors, two had horrible lives after the war; Bradley had the most normal life except for the horrible dreams.

The Japanese fought to the death of all their troops. Their general had developed a masterful defense for the island. I cannot begin to imagine coming ashore to face fire power which covered every square inch of the island. Our bombing and naval guns did almost no good. It was the marines going from pill box to pill box—several dying before it was taken out that won the battle. Many received the Medal of Honor in WW II; but 1/3 of those awarded were presented for our heroes on Iwo.

An amazing and emotional book! It clearly will show you why we won in WW II and why we are “best.”

## Ramblings of a Senior

Mjt

**\*A Seniors Health Report.** I found a very interesting article in the Charlotte Herald Tribune while I was in Florida in March. The Federal Center for Disease Control and Prevention reported on 15 categories of health for we who are 65-years and older. I found it very encouraging re how well this generation of Seniors are looking after their health. We took some hits on exercising and eating our fruits and veggies. But, duh, it is just a lot more pleasant to eat dark chocolate and cashews for our health then broccoli. I probably should add french fries to my confession of my eating sins.

Category	Goal by 2010	Status in 2004
People over 65 currently smoking	12%	9%
Cholesterol Checked w/in last 5 yrs	80%	90%
Colorectal Cancer Screening	50%	63% (Lets make this 100% for WOLAA members!)
Mammogram w/in past 2 yrs	70%	75%
Flue Vaccine in past year	90%	68%
Pneumonia Vaccine	90%	65%
Obesity	15%	20%
Eating 5 Fruits and Veggies per day	Varies	30%

So, lets pat ourselves on the back; but we can do better.

## Alumni Feedback

**-Conventional Trident Missiles.** The Winter 2007 LEAF carried a short article on this subject. I was puzzled about the effectiveness of a HE warhead ballistic missile. The January 2007 Popular Mechanics magazine solved the mystery. The conventional warhead would be detonated using a HE; but the effectiveness would come from a “rod” warhead concept. The article by Noah Shachtman indicated the

kill area would be “anything with in 3000 sq. ft. of this whirling, metallic storm is obliterated.” The rods would be formed from tungsten. However, there are strategic and tactical issues. How would Russia and China react to a ballistic missile launch at North Korea, as the missile appears headed for them; how would they know it is not a nuclear warhead. The other issue is how does deploying one (out of only soon to be 12) ballistic missile submarine to the middle east to launch only the two conventional missiles it carries impact the planned deployment for nuclear launches. It appears the technical concept is realistic, but the political issues have a way to go. The author then describes a high speed cruise missile. This has the advantage of avoiding the political issues, and provides the goal of the military need to provide a quick reaction weapon when the time is called to strike Osama’s hideaway. The attack using Tomahawk on Osama’s camp would probably have been successful if Tomahawk had had the Mach 5 capability being proposed for the X-51 Waverider. This missile would use the shock waves it generates to actually be a benefit by causing lift. Neat article; I recommend you read it. John Tino

---

**\*Sam Hastings.** “It was interesting to read of the career of Sam Hastings. I found him to be a good friend throughout my time at the lab. He was my supervisor during my first summer at White Oak, and also for my first tour of duty in that JPT program that you and I were both on. What was the name of the lady that coordinated that program? I clearly recall her kindness and support, but cannot pull out here name.

Les Roslund “

(Editor Note; Her name was Mildred Stevens. She was like a mother to all of us JPT’s; and she was totally dedicated in getting us trained for NOL, and placed where it was best for our career and NOL.

I suspect some thought it was more than sufficient; but that was just the way NOL was in the 50’s and 60’s.)

---

### **\*Strange Happenings Near Old Point Comfort**

In The Leaf, (Winter 2007, Volume IX, Issue 1, page 7, Carderock Combat Craft Facility) you asked if anyone recognized the structure shown. You identified it by its new name and asked who was running it now. I can’t answer that question and know nothing of it since 1950. But I can tell of witnessing rather momentous events that took place in front of that building in 1950. It was NOL’s Ft. Monroe Mine Facility.

I went to work for the Lab about December 1949. My first assignment was to help modify mine mechanisms, the acoustic part, to go into sensors to be placed under water in the NOL range out in front of that building. Ships were diverted as they went in and out of Norfolk and Portsmouth to run through the range in order to record their acoustic signatures. When on the first morning, in January 1950, I arrived there, with Joe Nicoli, there was lots of excitement. Out there in front was a virtual “mountain”. It was the Navy’s only Battleship, the 45,000 ton U.S.S. Missouri aground a mile and three quarters west of Thimble Shoal Light on a mud bank, there because she was trying to run through NOL’s range. She was way up on that mud bank.

There was an inquiry and a great deal of discussion about numbers and placement of buoys and notices to mariners. But my recollection is simply that the Mighty Mo mistook two buoys marking a shallow fishing boat channel for two buoys marking the entrance to NOL’s range. As they say, the rest is history.

It took over a month to get her off there. Nineteen sea-going tugs couldn’t budge her. The Army dredged channels around the ship and back to deeper water which didn’t work. The Air Force had a hay day taking pictures and making jokes. They waited for a spring tide. I guess it was the combination that finally worked.

The only name of NOL personnel I see mentioned in the Newspaper clippings of the time is Wallace Taylor, who I did not know. The pictures I took at the time. Ed Hooper

Editor Note: The picture of Mighty Mo was too dark and wouldn’t copy; Ft Monroe in 1950 is shown.

---

## Features

### \*Technical

-USS New York. The picture and text tell it all. Rob Wingo, Magnetic Silencing Group, confirmed the ship will have the advance degaussing system to enhance protection in littoral waters against bottom mines. This work was begun while the group was at WOL.

## \*Alumni Update



-Awards. NSWC/DL and NSWC/IH announced their annual awards in their February newspaper. The following are awards to former WOL employees. WOLAA's BZ to each of them.

+Dr. J. Scott Deiter. Dr. Deiter is Director of NSWC/IH's Technology Transfer Office. He was recipient of the prestigious 2006 DOD George F. Linsteady Technology Achievement award. This award recognizes the extraordinary efforts of transfer technology from Labs to their partners in the public and private sector. Dr. Deiter has the IH patent program flourishing; increasing in quantity (almost doubling since FY-01—30 to 51.) and quality. Royalties from IH patents to employees have increased from \$8K in FY-02 to \$150K in FY-06. He has shown great leadership in developing the process to facilitate two-way technology transfer with industry. CRADA's at IH exceed 14 a year, and generates \$3M of income each year for IH.

+Lorilee B. Geiweidt. She received the Navy Meritorious civilian Service Award for consistently outstanding contributions to the mission of the DL Force Warfare Systems Department.

+Dr. Francisco Santiago. He received the DL IR Excellence Award for work on strontium fluoride based heteroepitaxial systems on silicon using compliant substrate engineering. Results were presented at the International Conference of the Material Research Society.

+Brian Will. Brian received the DL Distinguish Community Service Award for his off-duty efforts in the Awana Clubs International, overseas mission projects, and contributions to NSWC sponsored events. He also was a member of the Multi-Option Fuze Team which received a group award for successful development of the new fuze for 5-inch Navy guns.

### -Retirements.

+Sue Clancy. Sue recently retired from the FCC. Sue worked in training in Human Resources at NSWC. She was very involved with the Leadership and Manager Training programs and for teaching Meyers-Briggs indicator. She has moved into a new home in Fredericksburg, VA and plans to travel in their RV.

+Mike Gresco. Mike recently retired from NSWC/CD. He was project manager for Magnetic Silencing while working at WOL. He is now working for ATR.

-Cdr. Jim Stone. Jim had back surgery and has been in a rehabilitation center. You can call him at (301) 260-9571. If you would like to visit Jim, call his wife Audrey first at (301) 598-3758. The Rehab Center is at 18201 Slade School Road, Sandy Spring, MD. 20860.

## \*Deceased Alumni

Please inform Houston Cole of any information you have about deceased alumni: phone is (410) 489-2977, or email/write WOLAA. Please check the WOLAA web site for more timely information than can be provided by a quarterly newsletter.

\*Edward Dayhoff. Ed died on 11 December 2006 and this was covered in the Winter 2007 LEAF. The Washington Post added the following on Dr. Dayhoff: Contributor to Nobel-Winning Work on Atom. A Navy scientist who did pioneering work on the fine structure of the hydrogen atom.

\*Frank Hutches Pierce III. Frank died at age 75 on 24 December 2006 at his home of complications due to bronchitis. He was born in Princess Ann, MD. where he attended the public schools and the historic Manokin Presbyterian Church. In college at Salisbury State, he played the sax and fronted a band; he was also a night DJ on the local radio station. After graduation, he served in the Navy and the Korean War. Frank began working at NOL in the late 50's and also worked for the Office of the CNO. He

worked as operations manager and the U.S. Navy Liaison to two NATO groups. He retired in 1996. Frank was an accomplished photographer with an interest in portrait photography and photos of airplanes. As a writer, he published works on genealogy and history on the Eastern shore. He wrote, "A Boy's Eye View of World War II." Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Nancy; son Frank Pierce IV; daughter, Marie Rundquist; and one grandson. A tribute to Frank prepared by George Hamlin follows.

### **ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS FRANK PIERCE**

I met Frank Pierce when I reported to Publications in January 1962; he had already been there five years. I decided early that he was slightly whacked, and never had occasion to change my mind. White Oak had no one else like him, and never got another.

Frank was originally from Princess Anne on the Eastern Shore, a product of Salisbury State. He was in the Navy during the Korean conflict and returned to Salisbury State for his degree. He played sax down there and was front man for a band, and had a brief gig as night man on the local radio station. He had a degree in education and taught in the Montgomery County schools for a while, then joined NOL as a technical writer in early 1957. The profession of technical communication was as green as were the rest of the folks who were slowly accumulating on the third floor over the Captain's suite, and Frank picked it up along with everyone else; there was exactly one degree in technical communication in the whole place, the rest having degrees as diverse as English, Education, Engineering, Geology, and even Theology.

Frank acquired expertise in Naval weapons systems and became one of the senior people by the 1960s, expanding our technical manuals horizons beyond the standard Lab products (torpedoes, electronics, degaussing, sonar, fuzes, mines, mine countermeasures) into such areas as aircraft tactical manuals and Saudi Navy support. Eventually Publications, through Frank, had technical lead in several such areas. That ended rather abruptly when, via the blessed rotation system for Department heads, we acquired new leadership. NSWC by then comprised two kinds of departments: technical and support. Our department, Engineering, had feet in both areas, and two of its Branches (Publications and Photographic) were in reality part technical, part support. That wouldn't do; in his old Department the new man obviously had thought of the Engineering Department as "support only," and questioned our TUPs and technical leadership positions. He thought of these functions as empire building and role inflation; we thought of them as mission-related activities that we could lead well, and that coincidentally enhanced the Center's position downtown. Unimpressed, he canceled every one of them. Other E Department technical branches, like magnetic silencing, eventually ended up in the new H Department.

Frank didn't stay long after that; he transferred to Al Letow's Tactical Doctrine Support outfit in Building 90 in mid-1981 and took his functions, and some of our best employees, with him. Code TT was outside the Center and reported to Crystal City, so NSWC lost the technical leadership in those areas. Frank went on to be Navy liaison to two NATO groups and retired in 1996.

All that sounds like a almost-typical if remarkably successful career, but it was anything but routine. Frank was the sort of person who, simultaneously with managing a tactical manual project, could create characters like Anton Khropochnik (see , Winter 2007) and write books in such diverse fields as the history of the Washington Saengerbund and "A Boy's-Eye View of War II," an account of his early years on the Eastern Shore. He was a member of the Studebaker Drivers Club and the Saengerbund, a Teutonophilic group that gathered regularly to sing German songs. He explored and revived the historic area of gum bichromate photo printing, shot covers for magazines, plunked some on the mandolin, photographed models and weddings, and studied (and published works on) genealogy.

All the while there was the Pierce Wit. A succession of managers despaired of figuring out what he would be up to next; only Frank, for example, would have:

--Written a revised family history for Aunt Floss in Saint Louis, whoever she was, when we found the orig-

inal in the Xerox machine near the elevator - and The material left behind in the Xerox room made it quite easy (names, addresses, the works). Our revisions made an otherwise ordinary family history much more, ah, interesting and must certainly have enlivened the upcoming family reunion. Jerry Bruckheimer hadn't hit the scene yet, but if we could have gotten the revised history to him, I'll bet there would be a CBS mini-series out by now.

--Written to the Smithsonian suggesting compensatory payment for the immodest exhibition of a co-worker's mummified "distant relative," Dr. Wilhelm von Ellenbogen (the Smithsonian had someone equally witty on staff, judging from their reply).

--Responded to management insistence that funds be located and identified with a memo averring that "We have been successful in locating these funds...I decided to check the general area between the Capitol and Pentagon and sure enough, I found them not far from the old Resurrection City site. My theory is that they fell off a flatbed truck on the way to the Pentagon...Identification was relatively easy; you could tell by the size and the fact that there were pictures of Presidents on most. The funds were wet and after drying them over my basement dehumidifier for another week, I should be able to give them to Dave Stack. They are in small denominations, no consecutive serial numbers."

--Beavered away after hours to publish a one-off special edition of a degaussing manual with an outrageous special Foreword, just to see if he could blow any gaskets in the hierarchy of the Instruments Division.

--Responded to management demand for sole-source justification by firing back a memo allowing that the chosen contractor, among other things, had "muddled through the first year and I don't see any reason why they shouldn't have another crack at it," and "There are good restaurants in the area...now this might not seem like a big deal to you, but when they take you out to lunch three, four, five times each week, you rapidly grow tired of eating at the same place." You could just picture the Division Head, face down and cupped in hands, after receiving memos like this. Sure I'm quoting exactly; I kept copies of all this stuff.

So long, Frank, it's been fun and we'll not see your like again. And to Aunt Floss's relatives, if you're reading this, now you know what that family-wide scandal was all about. Never leave material like that in the Xerox machine for wackos like us to find.

George Hamlin

---

\*Andrew J. Betz. JR. Andy died on 13 January 2007. He is survived by wife, Patricia, who worked in the Credit Union at NOL; children: Mary Heri, Betti Burke, Katherine Kravitz, Helen Kuhnsman, Andrew J. Bretz, III, Robert Betz, and Nancy Betz; and 13 Grandchildren. Andy worked at the WOL in Air and Surface as a ME. Houston Cole noted that Andy worked on Zap and sold cars for Hill and Sandes Ford after he retired. Andy and I were very active in the St. Josephs Catholic Church in Beltsville. Andy headed the teams that worked dances, etc at St. Joes to raise money for the church. When the Catholic Church created the role for the laity as a Deacon, Andy was the first person I knew who became a deacon. He was very dedicated to the church as a deacon. Houston Cole noted that Andy was very involved with the prisoner ministry; and wrote a book on his experiences with a convicted murdered who he counseled during this ministry.

\*Robert. H. Stange. Bob died at age 77 on 18 January 2007 of congested heart failure. He was born in Baltimore and lived there his entire life. He graduated from Baltimore Poly and the U. of MD (BSME). Prior to coming to NOL, he served in the Army testing tanks. He worked at NOL from 1954 until he retired in 1984. He was an avid sailor for 60 years and loved sailing the Chesapeake Bay. He is survived by his brother William Stange, who worked at NOL and NASA. He worked in U11 at the WOL with Doug Hinely. This group did S&A devices. He also had a year long assignment at the Ft. Lauderdale test facility and worked on the CAPTOR assembly team.

\*

\*Dr. Julius W. Enig. Jules died on 16 February 2007. He is survived by his wife Mary; children: Daniel, Jordana Stockhamer, and Eric; and seven grandchildren. Dr. Enig worked at NOL in the Math Department. He moved to the Explosive Division in R Department and headed R10. He also worked in Office of Navy Technology. He received his PhD from the University of Maryland while working at NOL. Jules formed his own company after retirement.

\*Charles Young, Jr. Charlie died on 20 February 2007. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor; and children: Jacqueline and Hildie. Charlie worked at NOL/NSWC. He was the Program Manager for Swimmer Weapons. He was a passionate advocate of the SEALs and was dedicated to giving them the best weapons possible. Swimmer Weapons were developed at NOL/NSWC and were a great hands on development for engineers; however when ready for technical evaluation, U40 could clearly not do the actual testing when underwater swimming was involved. Except for Charlie; I am told that the SEALs had so much respect for Charlie that he actually swam with them.

\*Daniel Israel Gordon. Daniel, 86, a research physicist with the Navy, died of an intracerebral hemorrhage March 5 at Sibley Memorial Hospital. He lived in Chevy Chase. He specialized at the Naval Ordnance Laboratory and the Naval Surface Warfare Center in the development of magnetic materials and sensing devices. They were used in mines, minesweepers, the Apollo 16 lunar surface magnetometers, the Voyager missions to Jupiter and Saturn, the Viking Mars orbiter-lander and Sidewinder weapons. He was among the first to study nuclear radiation effects on magnetic materials. Toward the end of his career, he served as manager of the Very High Speed Integrated Circuit program for the Naval Sea Systems Command. Mr. Gordon was born in Norwich, Conn., and graduated from Yale University, then moved to Washington in 1942. He received a master's degree in engineering from Yale in 1947. He also pursued graduate study in physics at the University of Maryland and in 1968-69 served as guest scientist in Israel at the Weizmann Institute of Science and the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology. Mr. Gordon held six patents and published more than 65 professional articles and book chapters. He served as an officer and past president of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' Magnetics Society and chaired many of its technical, editorial and management committees. He was general chairman of the 1980 International Magnetics Conference. Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Clara Siegel Gordon of Chevy Chase; three children, Alan Gordon of West Roxbury, Mass., Joel Gordon of Lexington, Mass., and Lisa Gordon of Washington; a brother; and three grandchildren.