

White Oak Laboratory Alumni Association, Inc.



The Leaf



VOLUME XV ISSUE I

KEEPING MEMORIES ALIVE

Winter

- **Events**
 *Maybe a WOLAA FL Reunion Mid March 2013, TBD
 *WOLAA Annual Luncheon @ Argyle CC on Wed. 15 May 2013.
 *WOLAA Holiday Luncheon @ Argyle CC in Dec 2013
 *Garden Visits in Spring 2013 TBD

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

WOLAA Web Site: www.wolaa.org

ERRATA! ERRATA!

Dora McGrath. Our sincere apology to Dora. She is alive and well. The Fall LEAF had noted Dora had passed. We are looking forward to visiting with Dora at our Annual Luncheon in 2013

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

News From WOLAA.

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Holiday Luncheon. The 2012 Holiday Luncheon was held at Argyle Country Club on Wednesday, 5 December. One hundred alumni RSVPed to attend. The food, holiday decorations, and service were all superb. We noted the attendees enjoyed the fellowship and many stayed after enjoying the WOLAA holiday cookies for dessert to visit even longer. The WOLAA holiday gift was a notepad with magnet. Diane Palermo provided the text for the notepad, which is: "WOLAA Keeping the Memories Alive." WOLAA has adopted, "Keeping Memories Alive" as its future purpose as an organization.

May Annual Luncheon. The annual luncheon will be on Wednesday, 15 May 2013 at Argyle Country Club. We elected to select Wednesday again as it worked well for the Holiday Luncheon and is a better day of week to schedule at Argyle. We realize that \$29 is a significant cost. We did all we could to keep it from going above \$29: Wednesday as a date; WOLAA furnished the dessert; smaller entrée portions; and WOLAA paid for the room/service charge. We are continuing to investigate others locations but Argyle remains the best at this time.

Historical Preservation. We will plan visits to the Garden this Spring. Please email or call WOLAA if you and family members would like to visit the Garden. We already have two members desiring a visit.

Bill Ryan has proposed and the Board has agreed to pursue a plaque for the WOL at the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. The cost is \$3000 and Diane Palermo has agreed to be the lead on this project.

News from WOLAA (Continued)

WOLAA also plans to pursue a similar venue at the Navy Museum at the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C. Bob Donnelly is a volunteer at the Navy Museum at the Naval Academy and he is pursuing an exhibit for the WOL as part of the Museum's Cold War Exhibit. He is also working with a professor to provide lectures on the developments of SUBROC, Mk 48 Torpedo, and CAPTOR. Alumni would provide the lecture. At all three locations, we plan to pursue a kiosk exhibit playing the Legacy Story as developed for our exhibit at FDA. We believe the Naval Academy Museum may have such kiosk available in their Cold War Display.

WOLAA Florida Reunion. At the time the LEAF went to press we were still deciding if there would be a WOLAA Florida Reunion in 2013. The number of WOLers living in Florida has decreased over the years as has the interest in attending a reunion. Ken Caudle is conducting a survey of those who have been attending a reunion over the last several years. If there is a reunion, it will be in mid-March and the WOLers living in Florida will receive a flyer by mid-February 2013.

Rambling of a Senior

mjt

Mannheim Steamroller. In the 1980's, Mike and Barbara Stripling took an amazing trip to Australia and New Zealand. When they returned, they created a spectacular slideshow to share with their co-workers on the large screen in the WOL auditorium. I thoroughly enjoyed the amazing scenes; but what I fell in love with was the background music they had chosen——Music by the Mannheim Steamroller. A while later Mike informed me the group was appearing at the Warner Theatre. After a splendid meal and fellowship at Marty and Joyce Walchak's home, the three couples drove to enjoy the group in concert. This began my fascination and enjoyment of the Steamroller's music. Their music is ,”a mix of renaissance instruments with rock ‘n’ roll beats’ It is truly great with Christmas music. So over 25 years since our first concert, Pat and I went to Strathmore to see their latest Christmas Concert this past December. Better than ever with amazing music arrangements, video, lights, and special effects. Alas, their genius and “drummer,” Chip Davis has health problems and can no longer go on tour. His replacement was just as amazing as Chip. Pat and I continue to enjoy their tapes (from 25 years ago) and CD's. Their latest has a Venice Italy theme. You know I believe even our Grandchildren would enjoy their music!

Book Review Johnny Gram

mjt

Team of Rivals by Doris Kearns Goodwin (2005) George Stathopoulos loaned me this great book. Over Thanksgiving this year the movie version hit the screen to great reviews. Both my children saw the movie and thoroughly enjoyed it. I have always considered President Lincoln a great President. But I never understood his genius for leadership and political strategy. When he ran for President, he was clearly the underdog. He had three really qualified rivals: Seward, Chase, and Bates. They were better educated, had more political experience, and were better known. Lincoln was nominated by the new Republican party and went on to win the Presidential election. He then assembled one of the strongest cabinets even to this day. He wisely brought his three rivals into his cabinet: Seward as Secretary of State; Chase as Secretary of Treasurer; and Judge Bates as Attorney General. The book is about his interaction with these rivals during the campaign and when he was President. All four candidates were against slavery. Lincoln appears to have been against the concept of slavery early-on; but politically he believed the correct strategy was to attack the spread of slavery into the new territories. He was not always successful in this strategy. But, once he became President his strategy changed, and we know the rest of the story! It may just be a great idea that every high school student should be required to read this book before graduating so they can understand the basic that our country was founded, evolved, and must continue to exist for their freedom to be sustained. Clearly, I strongly recommend this book or movie to you

Alumni Updates

Membership. Our 2013 membership project has a total of 355 members. This includes 77 life-time and 27 “spouses.” 120 of our 2012 members have not rejoined. Please rejoin and help us reach our goal of 500 members.

Old Broads. Recently, there was a luncheon arranged for U Department’s “Old Broads” secretaries. I know this isn’t a politically correct term; but is probably OK based on what Margaret Walton wrote, “Marian said she coined the term, but I don’t remember. When the division secretaries and Nan (U Department Secretary) would get together, we called ourselves the ‘Old Broads.’ It is fine to post picture.”

The “Old Broads” are: L to R, Margaret Walton, Marian Newman, Nan Lanham, Georgia Barton, and Pat Donahue.



Dick Yee. Tony Parrent wrote, “As an unrelated side story, today (October 8) is Dick Yee’s 90th birthday. He lives in Venice, FL where Mary Ann and I visited with him in February. Last Monday, the day before we left to come down to FL for October, one of Dick’s sons invited me to a birthday celebration to be held today in Silver Spring. (Maybe we’ll see Dick when he gets back to Venice later this week.) I met and worked with Dick at NOL 50 years ago, but I found out more about his fascinating life in our February overnight visit than I could have imagined: born in CA; raised in China to his teen years until coming back to join US Army; as a kid, scrounged chicken necks and feet for family food and flour-sack threads for his mother to make clothes; electrical engineering degree on GI bill; his wife, whom we knew, died in the ‘80s but they raised three sons - surgeon, GP, and business; competitive team bridge player; highly competent tennis player; ballroom dancer; and much more. (Dick worked in code 531, Electrical Evaluation Division, U/W acoustics, and retired in 1980s.)”

Al Bouley (Deceased). John Greene wrote, "I first met Al when I was working in the STILO under Mr. Weber. He and I enjoyed shooting and trading firearms (before the draconian laws now in existence). Some of you may remember the trips the scientists made to the far North. On one of those occasions while retrieving a sonobuoy, they aroused the interest of a big white bear. The bear figured it could convince the humans to maybe share their "food". I had it on (reasonably) good authority the humans abandoned the "black 'seal' they just caught" and departed the area quite swiftly. The sonobuoy survived with heavy scratches. This later caused management to arm those who went North in harms way. Originally they were armed with M-14 against the "Polar Bear threat". Cooler heads prevailed after awhile and they were provided with Shotguns. A class on firearms was given to include operation of those firearms issued and others that might be available. I was asked if I had a S&W model 29 for use in the class as this is a popular Bear deterrent. At that time I did not have one but I knew Al did. I twisted Al's arm to lend his personal favorite for the class. I know at least two classes had Al's revolver as a prop. After Capt. Moore disbanded the WOL Gun Club Al decided he would not let his prize piece go. I wonder if that Model 29 and the Luger I had traded him remained with him till his end."

Raymond H. Blair (Deceased). William Blair, Ray's son wrote, "My father, Raymond H. Blair, worked at NOL from the mid 1940's until the mid 1970's. Recently while cleaning out an accumulation of old papers in my basement, I came across an NOL organization chart dated January 1, 1944! Seemed a shame to just throw it away, so I was wondering if the White Oak Laboratory Alumni Association would like to have the chart. I live in Burtonsville and would be happy to drop the chart off to someone in the area or mail it to the Alumni Association. Please let me know if there is any interest in the chart. The chart is printed on a single page, approx 18" x 24 " in size."

Frank Cooke. Frank sent the following note to Houston Cole, "I stumbled onto the WOLAA sight today and found your name there. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that this association existed. As I would expect, you and the others have done a great job! There was so much energy in that place that I am not surprised to see that it carried over to the present organization. I explored the sight somewhat and will continue to read as time allows. I also found the application for membership and will send it in soon. I look forward to seeing some folks that I have not seen in a long time. Sometimes I wonder what happened to many of my colleagues. I make my home now in Cambridge, MD and have been retired for the past seven years. I do work part-time as a teacher for the local school district. I tutor children who are out of school for extended medical care. I also do some coaching for the high school tennis team. My health is pretty good. The next time that I am over that way, I will try to get by to see the Memory Garden. I have not set foot on the property since I left in 1982. Say hello to some of the other Board members who may remember me. Best wishes, Frank Cooke fecooke@yahoo.com"

Alexander "Mac" McMullen. Houston Cole wrote, "I got a call today from a daughter-in-law who was returning a call I made a year or so again when "Mac's" mail was returned and I was trying to get an updated address. She gave me his current address and I added him back to our mailing list. She said he will be 100 on Thursday, now lives in an assisted living community with his wife. He is still mentally sound, might enjoy getting mail from WOLAA, and might enjoy getting a call on his birthday. He apparently worked in drafting but was gone by 1969. His phone number is 410-421-5604."

Editor Note: For those who knew "Mac" or worked in drafting, I am sure he would love to hear from you.

Ken Baker (Deceased). Ken's son emailed me, "I have my father's collection that I would like to put in your collection to remember him by. There are a few things, like a picture album with pictures of the "GANG" that worked with him on his many projects."

Editor Note: We met and the collection contained all of Ken's "memories" of SUBROC. I used this to provide a SUBROC display at the Holiday Luncheon. The album of the "GANG" was a wonderful album of memories of Ken's U12 Branch. The members of U12 who attended the Holiday Luncheon really enjoyed their memories through Ken's album. WOLAA "Keeping the Memories Alive!"

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Joe Ryerson. On Wednesday, October 17, 2012, The Washington Post carried a 1 ½ page article on Joe. The article was titled, "Maryland's big fan on campus." I hope many of you saw this heart warming tribute to Joe. He has been a fan for decades and attends all the Terp's football practices and games. He is warmly loved by the players and coaches. Joe worked in the mail room at the WOL. Deanne Zook described him as, "the guy who use to deliver mail. He was a small guy. Always pleasant and cheerful. He wore black frame glasses that he was always pushing back on his nose cause they would fall a bit." See Supplement page S1 for pictures of Joe. A WOLAA BZ to Joe

Harold Herring. Harold wrote, "Have you read any of Eckert's books? I've read 'Wilderness Empire' and 'The Frontiersman.' Excellent history. Enjoy the Holiday. Things are fine here (Las Cruces, NM.)."

Deceased Alumni

Please inform Houston Cole of any information about deceased alumni. Phone (410) 489-2977. Or please email or write WOLAA. The LEAF is pleased to print a tribute to our deceased alumni. Prepare and email/write to WOLAA.

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Dora McGrath. Our sincere apology to Dora. She is alive and well. The Fall LEAF had noted Dora had passed. We are looking forward to visiting with Dora at our Annual Luncheon in 2013

Tributes. There are two tributes in this LEAF. The first is in memory of Gil Bowen and appears on Supplement pages S2-S4. It was prepared by Barry Pifer. The second is in memory of Faison Sessoms and appears on Supplement pages S4-S7. It was prepared by Tony Parrent.

WOLAA Notification. WOLAA was notified by notes on returned mail that the following alumni are deceased. No other information is available.

Jaroslav Bodnaruk. He lived in Pickens, SC and worked in Code 780, Product Design Division. His wife is also deceased.

Martin Mullen. He died in 2006 and lived in Satellite Beach, FL

Rita Smith. She lived in Washington, D.C.

Carl Hanenmann. He lived in Bedford, PA. Carl worked in Code 780, Product Design Division.

Charles Bellinger, Sr. Charles died in December 2012. He worked in R10 area of the WOL for 38 years. His daughter Pamela Dunson, also worked at the WOL.

Additional Information. The Fall LEAF reported the following alumni deaths, and WOLAA was provided the following additional information.

Mary Ellen Falusi. Rose Ridgway provided the following: Mary Ellen was a mathematician when I worked with her, but remember I left NOL after David was born in 1962. She continued working until she retired, but I don't know what year that was. She was the only child of an Irish mother and a Hungarian father who had immigrated to the U.S. He worked for the lady who owned the Hope Diamond and carried it all over the east coast in a shoe box when she traveled to parties. Mary Ellen was educated in Catholic schools and college and was a very devoted Catholic. When I worked with her we were reducing data from the wind tunnels using punch cards for the computer on the hill. Our office was in a room off the sphere.

Andrew Sharper, Jr. Ted Lovell provided the funeral program for Andrew: He was known to many as "**Skip**" went home to his heavenly Father on September 6, 2012. He was born June 23, 1931. He was preceded in death by his mother, Mae Frances Howell and his father Andrew Leroy Shaqier, Sr. In addition to his parents, Skip was preceded in death by his first wife, Marian Sharper, and by his second wife Naomi Katherine Sharper. I met Skip over 50 years ago when his first cousin, my husband, Larry took me to meet him. We were always very close to him and I believe he always thought of Larry more like his little brother than that of a cousin. He asked Larry to be his best man when he and Kitty were married. Skip was a master electrician and worked for Pepsi Cola for many years before going into the Federal Government and working for the United States Navy Public Works Center. He retired in January of 1997, when his wife Kitty became ill. After his retirement he spent the next eleven years caring for his beloved Kitty. Though Skip had his own ideas about things, he was a caring and gentle man. Whenever he was able Skip was always ready to help his neighbors and friends, carrying them to doctor's appointments, the grocery store, and even helping with electrical problems, If there was any way he could help you he would be there. He enjoyed making gadgets out of anything and everything to suit his purposes. He made meters out of Tupperware tumblers and other devices out of some of the most remarkable materials. He always had a hard time finding slacks with legs short enough to fit him, so he learned to sew and would alter his clothes anyway he had too. Skip like all his most important things like his wallet, cell phone, glasses, and keys to be handy whenever he would need them so he fixed up his suspenders with little cases to hold all these little things. He was never without his suspenders. Skip loved to go out to eat and some of his favorite places were Four Winds Cafe, Gateway Restaurant, Boomerang Restaurant, Courtney's Restaurant and of course Roy Rogers where they would fix him a special breakfast. He had a great many friends and seemed to make friends wherever he would go. We will all miss Skip and his eccentric ways. He definitely marched to his own beat while here. And I am sure he is in sync with all the angels now that he has found his way to his heavenly home

Deceased Alumni: Reported This Quarter With Obituaries.

Eugenia Tanglis. Gordon Riel notified WOLAA that Eugenia, age 61, died. She was the beloved daughter of Peter Tanglis and Stama (deceased). Loving sister of Portia Osborne (Karl Oberacker). Dear aunt of Madeline and Peter Osborne. She was a research physicist Ph.D. for the U.S. Naval Ordnance Laboratory. Tony Parrent provided the following: Jeannie was an active member of the NOL Glee Club, which is how I knew her best. She came to the Glee Club with several others from back in Bldg 90. Some of Jeannie's pals from Bldg 90 who brought Jeannie to Glee Club were Jean Goertner and Bill (Wm. W.) McDonald. Her serious health problems had been a concern from the time I first got to know her. And I didn't know (or remember) that she lived in Takoma Park where I was director of music at a church there for 25 years, although I now vaguely recall that she and Frank Farley knew each other due to some Takoma Park connection.

Randolph S. Clark. Randolph S. Clark, 91, of Glenelg, died Monday, March 19, 2012, at home. Born Dec. 28, 1920, in Washington, D.C., he was the son of the late Randolph E. and Minnie Groves Clark. He was the husband of Estalene G. Clark. He served in the Navy during World War II and worked as a draftsman/engineer at the White Oak Laboratory for 39 years. He was a member of Church of the Open Door in Westminster. Surviving, in addition to his wife, are sons Paul G. Clark and wife Kathy, of Frederick, and Mark C. Clark and wife Lori, of Mercersburg, Pa.; and grandchildren Carrie, Christie and Aaron Clark, and Andrea Hendershot. He was predeceased by a sister, Betty F. Stallone.

James Brown, M.D. On Saturday, May 26, 2012, JAMES BROWN, M.D. of Temple Hills, MD. Beloved husband of Vera Brown; devoted father of Cynthia Brown (Phillip), Michael Brown (Tarita) and Kimberly Brown Smith, M.D., Ph.D. (Abel). Also survived by one brother, David Anthony Brown (Louise) and one sister, Erma Chambers (Rev. Sam); and a host of other relatives and many friends. Preceded in death by sisters, Elizabeth Brown and Dorothy Gray, Ph.D

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RADM Robert W. McNitt. RADM. McNitt died on 12 August 2012. He worked at NOL when he was a Commander and had fond memories of NOL. He wanted to come to the Dedication of the Garden last year; but his poor health prevented his attendance. See Supplement S8 for his obituary..

John F. Bilsky, Sr. Of Clinton, MD died Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at Southern Maryland Hospital. Beloved husband of Jean M. Bilsky for 54 years; father of John, Jr. (Cindy); grandfather of John, III and Alicia. He is a retired Tech Sergeant from United States Air Force and then worked at Defense Threat Reduction Agency retiring in 2001.

Donald Jefferson. Don died on 28 October 2012. He worked in U42 as an electrical engineer. He was project leader for the CAPTOR field test data analysis. A tribute for Don will appear in the Spring LEAF.

Mike McLaughlin. George Hamlin provided the following: Mike McLaughlin, a former member of the White Oak publications team, died on 20 November. Born August 17, 1935 in New York City, he was an graduate of Penn State University and had served in the Navy, reaching the rank of Commander, before coming to White Oak in the early Sixties. At White Oak Mike worked on special publications and left to work in the area of compute security. He retired to Bridgewater, Va., where he was a life member of the Bridgewater Rescue Squad. He had five children and five grandchildren.

Gerald D. Batts. Gerry, 76 of Hampstead North Carolina, died Thursday, December 27, 2012 at the New Hanover Regional Medical Center, of congestive heart failure. Gerald David Batts was born July 20, 1936 in Jones City, NC, and is survived by his wife Doranna Batts and three children. Dana Hesse noted, "Gerry Batts wasn't a White Oaker per se, but as a partner at ONI he did work with a number of us through the years on various programs." John Scarzello provided the following, "Gerry Batts received a degree in Geophysics (University of North Carolina), served in the US Navy and retired as a Commander. He was employed at the Naval Intelligence Support Center and Office of Naval Intelligence, Washington, DC, for many years, and worked with many Navy laboratory technical groups, at the Naval Surface Warfare Centers at White Oak, Annapolis and Carderock, and the Naval Air Warfare Center in Patuxent River MD. Gerry contributed to many important Navy programs. He will be missed."

John F. Haben. John of Rockville MD died September 26th, 2012 after a long illness. He was 85, and born in Pennsylvania, October 14, 1926. His wife Lorraine Haben survives him. John Scarzello provided the following, "John F. Haben, know as 'Jack' to his NOL White Oak colleagues, was a physicist in the Magnetism and Metallurgy Division of the Research Department (Code 211), who worked on characterizing and developing soft magnetic material alloys. Many of these alloys were used in electrical circuit components and magnetic field sensors. Jack worked with his NOL colleagues in several departments to develop magnetic field sensors for intrusion detection, and ordnance locators (Mk 15) to detect buried land mines and concealed contraband in small boats. Jack was the NOL sensor representative in 1968 as part of the Vietnam Laboratory Assistance Program (VLAP), and contributed to the development of the Water Magnetic Intrusion Detection System (Water MIDS) and several related devices. He also worked on ASW detection barrier/surveillance systems, and sensors for nuclear weapon security systems. Much of Jack's work is in his paper "Methods For Measuring The Magnetic Field," IEEE Transactions on Magnetics, Vol. Mag 8. No. 1, March 1972, co-authored with his colleagues Daniel I. Gordon, and Dr. Robert E. Brown. After his retirement from NOL in 1982, he worked as a technical consultant in industry to 1992. Jack was a very fine person and engineer. Jack was active in the Elks Lodge 0015 (Washington-Rockville), where he led the lodge for a period as Exalted Ruler (ER)."