White Oak Laboratory Alumni Association, Inc.

The Leaf

VOLUME VIII ISSUE 1I

PROUD MEMORIES Spring 2006

11 September 2001…..GOD BLESS AMERICA!

WOLAA Web Site: www.wolaa.org

- **Events** *
  ***NOL Lunch 2nd Mon @Golden Bull Rest.**
  ***WOLAA Annual Luncheon, Fri, 19 May 06 @ Argyle CC @1100**
  ***WOLAA Strathmore Event, Summer 2006. Date TBD**
  ***WOLAA Holiday Lunch, Dec 2006. Details TBP**

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

- **Editorial Staff:**
  JohnTino
  Dr. Ed Whitman
  Bill Ryan
  Frank Koubek

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

Inside This Issue:

Dr.Cabell Nicholas "Nick" Pryor, Jr.

Nick died at his home in Amherst, Virginia on Friday, 27 January 2006.

A Few Words in Remembrance of Nick Pryor by Dr. Ed Whitman

If memory serves correctly, I first met Nick Pryor at MIT, though I don't recall whether it was in conjunction with the old NOL co-op program or through the campus radio station — WTBS, "the radio voice of MIT"— where he was the Chief Engineer, and I was the Classical Music Director. In any event, when I was selected to be an NOL co-op in the spring of 1959, getting to know Nick was inevitable, because he was just two years ahead of me — and Bob Davis and Art Delagrange — in the same program, and we would see each other on campus and during our regular co-op assignments at White Oak. I remember being greatly impressed at that time by his electronic wizardry at the radio station and the persistent rumor that he had a near-perfect cumulative average — certainly a lot better than mine!

We became a lot closer during my last co-op assignment at White Oak, when he was engaged by MIT to tutor me in a probability and statistics course, which I could get credit for by taking a placement exam back at school. We would spend a couple of hours each week in his office, going over the material, but we talked about many other things as well, and he became something of a benign mentor. And not only did I pass the course with flying colors, but I wound up having a summer romance with his office mate, a young woman physicist!

However, because I was one of the few MIT co-ops who never worked directly for or with Nick, I don't have a lot to offer about his technical accomplishments or managerial style. His signal processing group was responsible for some of the earliest U.S. Navy applications of correlation techniques and spectral analysis for detecting submarine signals in a noise background, and he had assembled a top-notch group of people to work on the problem. Those of us on the outside looking in found the engineering pretty daunting, but it was clearly an exciting place to work, and everybody seemed to be having a good time, both on the job and in the group's associated social activities, which I and my late wife were drawn into because of the MIT connection. I had the impression

at the time that Nick was not only the technical mainspring of the operation, but also the pater familias who held the whole thing together. At any rate, his people sure loved working for him!

Nick had become a division director by the time he left White Oak in 1975 to become the Technical Director of the Naval Underwater Systems Center in Newport. At the time, it was quite a startling development: Not only was he an "outside" candidate for the job, he was "deep-selected" to boot. Only a few years earlier, NUSC had been formed by the merger of the Naval Underwater Sound Laboratory at New London and the Naval Underwater Weapons Center at Newport, and they were suffering the same kinds of hate and discontent that later emerged when White Oak and Dahlgren were amalgamated. I don't envy the challenges that Nick must have faced in his initial time at Newport, but somehow he pulled it together and stuck it out for seven years.

Probably nobody remembers that I took over the division job that Nick vacated when he left NOL for NUSC, and I later held a couple of positions in the Pentagon similar to his subsequent assignments there. Thus, like many others who knew and worked with Nick, I often felt that I was following in his footsteps — but always challenged by the realization that they were big footsteps to match. In recent years, we had largely gone our separate ways, relying on mutual friends to keep alive a sporadic connection. On the small handful of occasions we'd met during the last decade, Nick was still Nick — a very, very smart man, but cordial, engaging, involved — and deeply courageous in the face of the illness he knew was sapping his life. We're all better for having known him.

"And therefore, never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

News From WOLAA mjt

***Florida Reunion.** Twelve people signed up to meet at The Olive Garden in Ft. Myers, FL on Friday, 24 March 2006. They enjoyed memories of the WOL and shared stories of living in Florida. Marge Chapman hosted this reunion. The Summer LEAF will cover their discussions/plans for having the 2007 WOLAA Florida Reunion.

***WOLAA Night at Strathmore.** At the Holiday Luncheon, about a dozen alumni expressed interest in a Summer WOLAA night at Strathmore in Rockville, MD. At the May luncheon, we will have some options, and hold a brief meeting after the lunch with those interested in going to a music event.

***Historical Preservation.** We have good news to report.

-Building 1. GSA has begun the design process to restore Building 1. They showed a sketch of the front court of Building 1, and it really looks good. They still plan to move the flag pole to a closer circle of Building one and the two new buildings on either side of the NOL building. The main entrance will be under ground into the basement of the building in order to have better security and preserve the lobby on the first floor. They promised to restore accurately the main lobby. We will still have a proud memory room to the right of the lobby (old security/reception rooms), and now FDA may consider a historical room to the left (old PAO rooms). This would have a theme of transition of the WOL technology and products to theirs.

-Golf Course. GSA continues to evaluate contractor proposals to remodel and operate the golf course. It would be an eighteen hole course with club house (behind the Hillandale fire house). We have a time sensitive proactive situation here, as we must meet with the contractor as soon as one is announced so we can convince the contractor to plan for a memorial garden on one of the tees——hopefully one. This will be the best location as all our other options are now behind the FDA security foot print and would not be available to WOLAA members.

-Landscape Architect. GSA has now hired a landscape architect and design work will begin this Spring. WOLAA will meet with them ASAP to seek their assistance in the design of the Garden.

-Historian. Deanne Zook, Jim Proctor , and John Tino will meet with Gary Porter, GSA Historian and our POC, on 6 April 2006 to begin conversation with him about all the above.

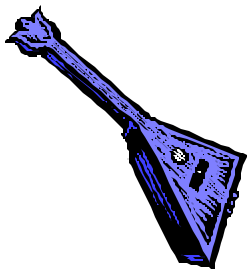
So What''s a Domra? by Ed Whitman

Maybe you can teach an old dog new tricks. A year and a half ago, indulging a decades-long interest in the music of traditional Russian folk-music ensembles, I took up an obscure plucked instrument called the domra bass and joined a local musical group called the American Balalaika Symphony. It's been a life-changing experience!

The ABS is essentially a mid-sized symphony orchestra in which the usual bowed string instruments –– violins, violas, cellos, etc. — are replaced by groups of plucked counterparts drawn from the Russian balalaika and domra families. Everybody who's ever seen Dr. Zhivago knows what a balalaika is — a fretted, three-stringed triangular lute originally from Central Asia. The four-stringed domras are similar, except that their bodies are round. Both instruments come in several sizes, from very small to very large, and the biggest of all, the contrabass balalaikas, stand about five feet tall and need to be played standing up. My own bass domra looks like a large lollipop nearly 18 inches in diameter, and it has exactly the same tuning and range as a cello. In addition to our plucked instruments and conventional wind and percussion sections, the orchestra includes an accordion and two rather exotic instruments — the gusli and cimbalom. The first of these is a large, horizontal table harp that can be plucked, strummed, or used for stunning glissando effects. The cimbalom is an Eastern European hammered dulcimer frequently heard in Hungarian music, and its twangy, percussive attack can cut through the thickest orchestral scoring.

The sound of a balalaika orchestra in full cry is absolutely unique and invariably described as "shimmering." This is because to get the continuous tone so easily produced by traditional bowed instruments, balalaika and domra players must use rapid tremolo playing to sustain all but the shortest notes. With 40 players sounding together, the resulting effect always reminds me of the beating of hundreds of birds' wings. Once heard, it's never forgotten — and to be part of that glorious sound is sublime. Moreover, when the brass and percussion come in on the climaxes, we can blow the roof off.

Despite the considerable antiquity of the balalaika and domra, large folk-instrument orchestras first appeared in Russia only in the late 19th century, largely due to the efforts of a single nobleman, Vasily Andreyev, who heard several peasant instruments on one of his estates and became intrigued by their ensemble possibilities. Eventually, he organized a "Great Russian Imperial Balalaika Orchestra," which toured



Europe and the United States to great acclaim before the First World War. The ensuing Soviet regime, which provided significant state support to folk and traditional music, encouraged both new performers and composers in the genre, and among other groups, it founded the two best balalaika ensembles in the world today, Moscow's Osipov and St. Petersburg's Andreyev balalaika orchestras. Meanwhile, Russian and Ukrainian émigrés founded similar musical organizations in their new homelands, and today, there are nearly a dozen in the United States alone — including two in the Washington area!

The American Balalaika Symphony was founded in 2001 by Ukrainian émigré-— now U.S. citizen — Dr. Peter Trofimenko, a native of Kiev, where he studied balalaika performance, conducting, and composition. Peter, who conducts the ABS and arranges all our music, is the most musically-talented individual I've ever known personally, and working with him has been a revelation. Our varied repertoire consists of Russian and Ukrainian folk music, Soviet-era compositions for balalaika orchestra, and Peter''s own arrangements of carefully selected standard classics. Thus, in addition to music by the likes of Shostakovich and Khachaturian, we've also done Verdi, Bach, and piano concertos by Saint-Saëns and Liszt. We present four formal concerts each year and regularly invite world-class Russian and Ukrainian soloists on balalaika, domra, and piano to join us in featured works. Getting to know these extraordinarily talented people — pretty much "just folks" at the personal level — is one of the great thrills of playing with the orchestra.

The 65 members of the Symphony are certainly a varied group, ranging in age from high-school students to senior citizens — and in ability from well-meaning amateurs, like me, to conservatory-trained musicians. About a third of our number is of Russian or Ukrainian extraction — with Russian a second language at our rehearsals — but there are typical suburban couples, college students, young professionals, and even a couple of members of the U.S. Army Band. Common threads are broad cultural interests, the love of making music together, a collective sense of humor, and the willingness to explore new things. A handful of our balalaika and domra players learned to play as children in the former Soviet Union, but most — like me –– only started when they joined the orchestra. Previous experience on guitar, mandolin, or violin is very helpful, but many of us had only a smattering of general musical knowledge, such as I gained from playing piano and harpsichord over the years. The orchestra provides a loaner instrument and a few rudimentary lessons and asks only that you commit to attending rehearsals and a reasonable amount of home practice. Other than that — and a lot of friendly encouragement from your colleagues — you're on your own!

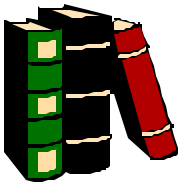
In my case, I had been collecting recordings of the great Russian balalaika orchestras since my 20s, and when — by a happy coincidence — I heard the ABS for the first time on my 64th birthday and saw that they were recruiting new musicians, it was like "a sign unto me." A week later, after I attended a rehearsal and expressed serious interest, Peter thrust a domra bass into my hands and said, essentially, "Learn to play it." I've been at it now for about 18 months, and because I'd never played a string instrument before, it's been a challenge. Within four months, however, Peter had me on stage in an actual concert with the understanding that I only had to attempt whatever I was capable of at that point. Now, with an hour or so of practice each day, I'm finally reaching a level where I can play most of what's expected of me in rehearsals and concerts — and I'm pretty good at dropping out on stuff that's beyond my current skills and picking up again when the going gets easier. (Since there are seven domra basses in the section, I have plenty of cover — and I fake it a lot……) Best of all, my sight reading is getting better and better, and my daily practice is beginning to be more fun than drudgery. In any event, I've definitely been committed to the long haul ever since electing at the one-year point to buy the domra I've been playing on. I should also add that I've taken on the responsibility of producing the program brochure for our concerts, which entails researching and writing the program annotations. Since writing articles on musical subjects has been another long-term goal, my associations with the ABS have been doubly rewarding.

Soooo…… If you have some latent musical interests lying fallow and are seeking an outlet for your talents along those lines, look us up. We have a website ---- www.balalaika.biz ---- with everything you ever wanted to know about the American Balalaika Symphony (and were afraid to ask). There, you can find

information on our concert schedule and how to go about joining up. Or give me a call—I'm in the phone book. We rehearse twice each week----Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings----in the multi-purpose room of an old-folks home in northern Alexandria, and our usual concert venue, NVCC's Schlesinger Auditorium, is only a block away from that. (Both are very close to the intersection of Route 395 South and Seminary Road.) I can promise you a rewarding personal experience, wonderful music, great international parties, and one of the warmest and most interesting groups of people you'll ever meet. It'll keep you young.

Book Review Johnny Grams Mjt

***Going Places, How America's Best and Brightest Got Started Down the Road of Life by E. D. Hill (2005).** E. D. Hill is the "tri-host" of Fox and Friends on the Fox News Channel. The book explores how successful people in America got their start. She "interviewed" people from a total cross section of America. They include: Tiki Barber, Geraldine Ferraro, Donny Osmond, Cathy Rigby, Dolly Parton, President Bush, Joe Theismann, Donald Trump, Henry Winkler, Senator Mel Martinez, former SECNAV John Lehman, Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, and many more. Each person wrote about 2 pages on their "career." She introduces and sets the stage for each person presented in the book. She didn't do it; but what fascinated me was the common threads that ran through the book. Some were raised in wealth; but most has what I will call "challenged" child hoods and were raised in "small" towns. Many worked to get their education, and many agreed they were not the brightest in their "class." But all had worked very hard and with passion to achieve their successes. Most practiced what a professor from GW told me, "Don't walk but run from the negative." Almost all gave credit to their Mothers and very interestingly to a teacher who had made a huge impact and difference. In my own life, I would give the credit to my grand mother (Grand ma Stoner), and to three teachers: in fourth grade, Mrs. Mueller; my high school physics teacher, Miss McKnight; and in college my math professor, Mr. Justis. This would be a good book for our children and grand kids to read. This strategy for success could only strengthen our families and our nation. 3.5 WO Leafs.



Ramblings of a Senior *Mjt*

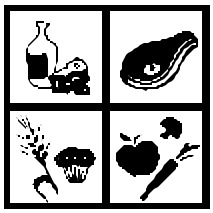
****Lo Tech vs Hi Tech in War.*** While the nation was worrying about terrorism, Iraq/Iran, port deals, quail hunting, and falls in winter olympics, the Tino family was in a midst of a great war. We had suffered a sneak attack by several Italian mice. They had somehow entered our basement and made a sneak attack on food stored in our basement, most notably a bag of pasta----thus they must be Italian. So, I planned a counter attack; I placed my high tech mouse trap in their path to the food source. Sure enough, the strategy worked; but my defensive weapon had to be scrapped. Lo and behold, a few days later, I heard another sneak attack in the ceiling between the basement and first floor. I did some limited R&D and purchased two more hi tech traps. This time my strategy was to defend the path to the food and the food area itself. The traps were of a neat design; just flip them open; and the manufacturer said they needed no bait. How great can it be! What an improvement over the old wooden lo tech spring traps. I just hated them as I could never get them set without snapping my own fingers, and the bait just didn't stay where I wanted it. So, I waited; no body count. But, I could hear the enemy night after night strengthening their position—I hoped not their numbers. So, the heck with the manufacturers, I applied peanut butter to both traps. I waited a day and then checked my weapons. Those Italian mice had eaten the peanut butter from both traps, and even licked them clean without setting off either weapon. Grrrrrrrr! Out with hi tech, and back to the dreaded lo, old tech. After a couple of near misses on my own troops (my fingers); four Mod 1 traps were strategically placed, including a new and improved tactical location (two traps were used). Bingo, lo tech comes thru and a body count of two the first night. There has to be a lesson of lo vs hi tech here someplace.

Features.

Retirement News.

-Look in a Mirror for Thyroid Health. This is more information on our health by Dr. Marilyn S. Radke, who writes for NARFE's magazine. All of us knows how important the thyroid is to good health. I didn't realized that it "controls the function of many of the body's organs, including the heart, brain, liver, kidneys, and skin." Thus, it is not surprising that those of us suffering from "untreated thyroid disease have a greater risk for heart disease, osteoporosis, high cholesterol and even depression." She urges those of us with thyroid disease to "work with our doctors to take control of thyroid health by using 'The Three T's of Thyroid Therapy.'" One, THINK about your thyroid. Know the symptoms and talk to your doctor; Two, TAKE your meds. Be consistent and take them at same time every day. Tell your doctor if you begin to take herbal meds and vitamins. Three, TRACK your condition. Make sure the doctor checks your Thyroid Stimulating hormone (TSH) level regularly. The levels should be between 0.3 and 3.0. 80% of people with the disease have underactive thyroids. Some of the symptoms are fatigue, unexplained weight gain, dry skin, and increased cholesterol. Thyroid cancer, Graves Disease and others cause overactive symptom, which tend to be the opposite of an underactive thyroid: Nervousness, unexplained weight loss, irregular heartbeat, and others. She gave the following way to do a self exam. Use a hand held mirror and a glass of water to check your neck for thyroid disease: First, hold the mirror in your hand and focus on the area of your neck just below the adam's apple and immediately above the collarbone. This area is where your thyroid gland is located. Second, while you focus on this area in the mirror, tip your head back. Third, take a sip of water and swallow. Fourth, look at your neck as you swallow. Check for any bulges or protrusions in this area while you swallow. Do not confuse the adam's apple with the thyroid gland. Repeat this step several times. Fifth, if you find any bulges or protrusions in this area, see your doctor. This could indicate an enlarged thyroid gland or a thyroid nodule needing treatment.

-One Hot Potato. "On your next visit to the store, stock up on sweet potatoes and reap the benefits of these super spuds. They are naturally sweet and packed with beta-carotene, vitamin C and E, folic acid, and potassium. Sweet potatoes are also a good source of fiber, especially if eaten with the skins on. A medium-size sweet spud has just 160 calories and offers plenty of noshing options. Bake them as you would white potatoes, slice them to make "fries" (bake on a baking sheet coated with nonstick cooking spray), or incorporate them into soups, pies, or casseroles. Your taste buds, and your waistline, will thank you. (From Parish Health Ministry, Greenwise, January 2006)." By the way, I add cinnamon on my baked sweet potato, yum. I, also, have to add that Pat and I go to this small bar in Ocean City which has the best burgers in OC; but also great sweet potato fries. However, these are not baked in the oven but are deep fried. Not the healthiest but sure the greatest. Pat and I are spending a lot of time in Winchester, VA and on Route 11 there. We discovered the greatest sweet potato chips from a Mom & Pop potato chip company named the Route 11 Chips (Just south of Stevens City). So, they aren't the healthiest either; but you must get some benefit over "white" potato chips.



-FedSmith.com. Try this web site for good info on the federal government. Site has articles, gives the TSP funds rates, and daily news headlines. You can also get a daily email sent to your email address. The site is free. You do have to sign up for it.

-Hotel Visit Warnings. The following issues were pointed out to me concerning reservations and keys at hotels/motels. First, reservations. We typically make our reservations for our trips over the phone or on internet. Most transactions require the giving of the information for a credit card. The warning was that a person did this and when checking their credit card bill found a charge for the same hotel but different date on the credit card bill. Not much you can do to stop this dishonesty as long as you give out the credit card info; BUT, you should at least carefully check your bills to make sure no one has used your card. Second, concerns the use of "credit card" keys that most hotel/motels now use.

I had assumed the info on mag strip was the room number and authorization. According to the CA Bureau of Investigation, the card can also contain: name, address, room number, ck-in/ck-out dates, and CREDIT CARD info. This is how the issue develops. As you leave, most leave the plastic keys in room or in box at desk. Once clerk reuses the key, your info is over written and you are off the hook. The problem is the interval before this is done. Some one can read key and get your credit card info. It is recommended that you take the key home with you and thoroughly destroy it at home. Has anyone got caught on either of these scenarios!

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*Technical/Laboratory News.

-Presidential Rank Award. Gene Gallaher, NSWC/Dahlgren, recently received the Presidential Rank Award. Each year President Bush honors an elite group of career mem bers of the Senior Executive Service (SES) for their outstanding leadership, accomplishments, and service over and extended period of time in some of the nations most critical positions in the federal service. The NSWC "CO" noted, "Gene is a natural leader, and his dedication has ensured the technical capabilities in the security challenges that currently face the nation are second to none. He has helped extend the NSWC hallmark of systems engineering to the new frontiers of homeland security." Gene has been a Department Head at Dahlgren for over 15 years. He has headed the Joint Warfare Applications Department over that time and more recently has been the Product Area Director for Homeland and Force Protection, in the new scheme of things in the Centers. Gene is a native of Oak Hill, W. VA and graduated from West Virginia Tech. He has worked at Dahlgren for 37 years. The award is granted to no more than 5 Percent of the SES and SL/ST corps each year. The award comes with a signed certificate from the president and a cash award of 20% of base pay.

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*Alumni Updates.

-Jim Russell. Earl Fancher reported that Jim was in the hospital and in ICU for 30 days beginning in 5 December. He was then moved to the Washington Adventist Nursing/Rehab facility on NH Avenue. He suffered some kidney problems from meds he was taking.

-Dennis Mensh. Jesse Rosenberg reported that Dennis is now in a nursing home. He has altzheimers.

-Al Pertman Retires. Bill Ryan provided the following: "Allan Pertman retired from PEO IWS (RAM Program Office) on 3 January 2006 where he served as the T&E and Security Mgr for RAM, a U.S./German cooperative ship defense missile system. During 2004-05 he served as the RAM Chief of Staff.

Allan began his career at White oak in June 1965 in what became WA division. Early in his career, he worked on the development of remote unattended sensor systems under the Vietnam Laboratory Assistance Program (VLAP), during which time he served a tour in Vietnam under VLAP. In the mid-70's, Allan transferred to U Department and worked on CAPTOR TV instrumentation with Bill Brooks, and as the Lead Assessment Engineer for SLMM and CAPTOR systems during the period 1976-1986 including a tour in Hawaii.

From 1986-1994, he was the Branch Head of G43 working on a variety of programs including the Standard Missile telemetry system. In 1994, Allan joined the RAM program office. Allan's long and productive career was capped by the successful tests of the RAM system off the USS Eisenhower in 2005.

A WOLAA congratulations to Allan.

-Pam Lama Retires. Pam retired from NSWC/CD in early March 1906 after 30+ years of service. She began her career at age 18 at NOL. She took an upward mobility position in the Photography Lab. Under the mentor ship of Fred Figall, she became a professional photographer respected throughout the Navy Laboratory system. She did excellent portrait work and took the official pictures of all the CO's, TD's, and Department Heads at NSWC DL/WO and Carderock, managing to get a smile from all. She also made many trips to field activities to cover special events and tests. All the great pictures of the NOL building used by WOLAA were taken by Pam.

She has been a key member of the On the Surface and PAO team of Ellen, Sylvia, Dee, Di, and Marcy. Pam is a proud member of the WOPB group. Ask them what WOPB stands for; but I believe George Stathopoulos coined the term. Pam's husband, Mike, also worked at NSWC/WOL & Carderock, and he recently retired. A WOLAA congratulations to Pam.

*Letters to WOLAA.

Joe Nachman Sent the Following: In your Winter 2006 Edition of the Leaf, I noted with interest from the oral history of the Ceramics Lab. that it was located in the Marine Barracks in B. 90.

In 1948 or 1949, as Metallurgist for the Magnetics Division, I had my vacuum and special high purity atmosphere melting facility located in the basement of the Marine Barracks. I used this facility until our new building was completed.

I believe the building was No. 24. As I remember Robert Fischell worked in the Magnetics Test Lab under Dan Gordon. His is certainly another success story of NOL Alumni.

Thought you might me interested in this additional bit of information about B90.

*Deceased Alumni

Please inform Houston Cole of any information you have about deceased alumni: phone (410) 489-2977 or email at hmcole2@verizon.net. Please check the WOLAA web site at www.wolaa.org for more timely information than can be provided by a quarterly newsletter.

The following memorial for John Anderson Darling was provided by his niece, Diane Powell.

John Anderson Darling. John Anderson Darling (Jack as his family called him) died on April 3, 2005 at the age of 81 at his home in Leisure World, Silver Spring, Maryland. He is survived by a brother living in California and many nieces and nephews.

Jack was a native Washingtonian and graduated from the University of Maryland with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He was a design engineer for the Naval Gun Factory in 1948, an Aeronautical Engineer from 1948-1960, Supervisory Aerospace Research Engineer, and Head of Missiles Research Naval Surface Weapons Center (NOL) from 1960 until his retirement in 1975. During his tenure at NOL, he was involved withe aerodynamics using supersonic and hypersonic wind tunnels.

Jack served with C. E. AUS from 1943-1946, he was PTO Recipient for Meritorious Civilian Service Aware, U. S. Navy, 1948-1967. Jack was a member of the American institute of Aerospace and Astronautics and the American Defense Preparedness Association.

After he retired, Jack took care of his parents in his home. He was devoted to his family and country throughout his life. His hobbies were drawing, painting, ham radio, and fishing on the Chesapeake Bay.

-Robert Myers. Robert died on Monday, 15 November 2004. He worked at NOL in the Photographic Lab, and he retired in 1973. He is survived by his wife, Helen; sons James and Timothy; daughters, Martha Shulenberger, Johanna Berkowitz, and Coleen Histon. He is also survived by 11 grand children and 8 great-grand children.

-Bob Stotz. We have learned from his wife, Muriel, that Bob died on 16 June 2005. He was head of the Management Staff, NOL, Code 100 for many years. After retirement, he lived in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. After his wife, Maggie, died, he moved to Phoenix, Arizona.

-John Backus. We were informed by Betty Dorsey that John Backus died in July 2005. He worked at NOL in Code 790, General Engineering Division of the Product Engineering Department.

-Paul Charles Rand. Paul at age 89 died on 9 January 2006 of complications of a stroke at Gardens Nursing Home at Riderwood. He was a civilian physicist at NOL for 39 years, retiring in 1977, and was an active member of First Baptist Church of Silver Spring. Paul was born in Vermont and received his bachelors and masters in physics from the U. of Vermont. While at Vermont, he was a standout tennis

player. He briefly taught physics at JHU. During WW II, he came to NOL to test underwater acoustics to protect ships. His grand daughter, Christine Gorham noted he was sent to a clandestine location on the water to discover a way to safeguard ships and returned with an invention that was implemented on every Navy ship. She said he never told anyone what was invented. Paul was the manager and operator of Brighton Dam for many years; this facility was very important in the R&D of acoustic sources and sensors. In retirement, Paul volunteered for Meals on Wheels; was active in his church; enjoyed card games; and traveled with his first wife to Squam Lake, NH, OC, and FL. His first wife of 51 years, Helen, died in 1994 and his son, Charles, died in 2004. He is survived by his wife of 11 years, Ruth; daughter Nancy Downing; 3 grand children and a great-grand daughter.

-John Nickolay Fredenia. John died on 20 January 2006. He lived in Rockville, MD. He worked at NOL headed Code 321, the Ballistic Design and Operations Division. His wife Shirley Marie is deceased. He is survived by Susan Stanley; 2 grand children and 3 great-grand children.

-Armand D. "Mandy" Vasco. We were notified by Bill and Dorothy McCawley that Mandy died on 20 January 2006 at age 83. He was living in the Calabash, NC area. He worked at NOL in E341, Configuration and Data Management Section; he retired in 1984.

-Dr. Cabell Nicholas "Nick" Pryor, Jr. See tribute to Nick by Dr. Ed Whitman on page1. Nick died at age 67 from cancer at his family home in Amherst, VA on 27 January 2006. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Becky; son Phillip and daughter Sharon; and 4 grand children. Nick was born in Washington DC and grew up in Hyattsville, graduating from Northwestern HS. He received his BS and MS in EE in 1960 from MIT and PhD from U of MD. Nick also attended the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School in 1980-81. His career with the Navy began as a MIT co-op at NOL in 1957. He had been a Division Head of the Electrical Systems Division in U Department for only a year when he was selected at TD of NUSC in Newport RI in 1975. After retiring, he worked at CNA and did a variety of consulting work which continued into late 2005. Nick was a brilliant engineer and lead a group of talented people in U Department who did acoustics and signal processing primarily for Air ASW. When NOL competed for the new light weight torpedo R&D in the early 1970's (We proposed a medium weight torpedo.), Nick lead the effort to design a new concept for active/passive homing, which was radically different and improved over the system being used by the Mk 46 torpedo. Nick had many interests which matched his motto, "Work hard then play hard." He was an avid pilot, beginning as a teenager, and owned his own airplane for a number of years, logging over 2000 hours. His other interests included photography (His pictures of flowers were breathtaking and showed his skill and patience in displaying the best of the beautiful bloom.), firearms, reading, gourmet cooking, and wine making. He was active in family genealogy and had written a book on the Pryor family. Nick and Becky also traveled extensively in the US and abroad.

-Pat Jones. Marge Buehler notified WOLAA that Pat died on 8 February 2006. She was the wife of Richard E. Jones, who worked at NOL in the Magnetism and Met Division. They had retired to SC.

-Dr. Sigmund Jacobs. Dr. Jacobs died on 26 February 2006. Dr. Ruth Doherty noted, "Those who knew Sig knew him to be a true Renaissance man----experimentalist, developer of unique diagnostic tools (Jacobs Camera), theoretician (J of the JCZ Equation of State), lover of classical music and opera, and beloved spouse of his wife, Lillian. The field of detonation science has surely lost one of its giants." John Kelley noted, "Dr Jacobs and Dr. Donna Price (both of NOL/WOL) were referred to as the Grand father and Grand mother of Detonation Physics. It was through their efforts, as well as many others that WOL was so highly respected as a Lab and Center for Navy Explosives and Explosive Research." Dr. Whitman noted, " (He) was probably White Oak's best know explosives expert for many years. I worked for him for two successive co-op terms in the spring and summer of 1961, assembling and testing the high speed framing camera that he invented for taking pictures of detonation phenomena at a million frames per second. (At the time, we used to refer to him as 'Big Sig.') He was a very, very nice man and remarkably easy going for someone that smart. When I got married that fall, he sent a pewter bowl as a wedding gift—something we had certainly not expected. Heavens knows I learned a lot from him!"