The evening begins at 6:00 pm with a potluck dinner followed by a musical program by the Barb Piper and Bill Hammond Duo. Barb Piper is a sensational vocalist and instrumentalist from Faribault, MN, whose rich and expressive voice will enchant you. Roseville-based Bill Hammond is an accomplished acoustic guitarist and compelling singer. What to bring for the potluck meal is based on the first letter of your last name: A-E, Deserts; F-M, Hot dishes; N-Z, Salads.

**OCTOBER PROGRAM: ROSEVILLE**

Mark D. Davidson is the Chief of Public Affairs for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), St. Paul District. He will talk about the activities of the USACE, St. Paul District as well as what the Corps is doing around the world, here in the United States, and in the Upper Midwest. Mark has been with the USACE since 2000, and in the short span since then the USACE District office personnel have been through three major floods within the district, many other emergency and crisis events, and dozens of major media events. For major disaster response, office personnel have responded to Hurricane Ivan recovery in the fall of 2004 and all office personnel responded to Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts in 2005-2006. Mark’s office has received multiple major USACE awards and their newsletter Crosscurrents has likewise been recognized many times for outstanding work. Prior to 2000 Mark had been in the Air Force and Air Force Reserve, retiring as an E-8 Senior Master Sargeant. In his last duty as a civilian, he was the chief of Public Affairs, 934th Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve Minneapolis - St. Paul Joint Reserve Station, Minneapolis, Minn. His areas of expertise are media relations and community relations. Mark lives with his family in Bloomington.

**ADDRESS CORRECTIONS**

Please send permanent address changes to Lowell Benson addressed to the VIP Club at the address given on the label page of the Newsletter

**NOVEMBER PROGRAM: EAGAN**

Our September program, introduced by Cindy Krachner, started with an historical video of our postal service beginning with a pre-revolutionary war Ben Franklin and his pigeon-hole sorter. Mail clerks did the sorting at stations and in rail cars until the coding and scanning technology took over. Ms. Krachner, before getting her Customer Relations assignment, worked with the databases and said our mail is now sorted for each carrier’s route. Because of the several Unisys-Lockheed Martin postal
programs, Cindy had a knowledgeable audience and did her best to answer our questions, reminding us the best source of information is usps.com.

Again, your board of directors and the nominating committee want to see some new faces and hear some new ideas at our board meeting. Give us a test – come to a board meeting and get free coffee, then stay for one of these low-priced lunches we so fondly remember. Even if you choose not to be nominated, you are still welcome and may find a committee through which to volunteer. Also, don’t be shy about submitting articles for publication in the newsletter or suggesting topics for future programs. Many of you remain technology junkies and could help with cell phone, HDTV, and computer information.

Respectfully, Brian Berggren, VIP Club President

From the Editors

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Richard Lundgren, e-mail rflundgr@aol.com
Don Naaktgeboren, e-mail donfishn@yahoo.com

DINING CLUBS & GROUPS

Breakfast groups and get-togethers:
One breakfast group meets monthly at 9:00 a.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Tri-City American Legion, Old Hwy 8, New Brighton. Phone: 763-416-3903.

Another breakfast group meets monthly at 8:00 a.m. on the 1st Thursday of each month at Joseph's Grill, 140 South Wabasha, (Wabasha and Plato) St. Paul. Phone: 651-222-2435.

Luncheon Groups & Dinner Clubs:
One Unisys Luncheon group meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. at the Old Country Buffet, Holly Shopping Center, located at University Ave. and Mississippi St. just north of I-694. For information call 651-552-1465.

Another Luncheon group (engineering/drafting) meets monthly on the 1st Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. at the Old Country Buffet at 2000 S. Robert, West St. Paul. For information call 651-456-0750.

And another Luncheon group (Unisys and Burroughs) meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. at the Mall of America 3rd floor North Food Court. We sit at the tables between the elevator and Burger King. For information call 952-854-7855.

Dinner Club. A Unisys Dinner Club meets monthly on the 4th Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. at Champs located at 35E and Larpenteur Avenue. For information call 763-786-1044.

MEETING & EVENT DATES 2007

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<tr>
<td>Aug. 08</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Rsvl</td>
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<td>Dec. 13</td>
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<td>USAF</td>
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Note: Rsvl = Roseville, Eagan = Eagan Community Center, Park = Highland Park Pavilion, USAF = NCO Club at U.S. Air Force Base off Hwy 62

WELCOME NEW CLUB MEMBERS

Anderson, Robert  U  Eagan, MN.
Brings, Gerald & Audrey U  Bloomington, MN.
Corwin, Judy L.  U  Burnsville, MN.
Ernst, Steve & LaJean L  Apple Valley, MN.
Feichtinger, Roger & Edie U  Eagan, MN.
Horn, Barbara  U  St. Paul, MN.
Johnson, Gary & Paula L  Eagan, MN.
Leverkuhn, Wayne & Helen U  Mora, MN.
Pataki, Mike & Patricia L  Anoka, MN.
Pearson, Kenneth & Darlene L  Burnsville, MN.
Roberts, Owen & Susan U  Aitkin, MN.
Severson, Richard & Janice L  Lakeville, MN.
Vandewalker, Dean & Arleen L  Rosemont, MN.
Welshinger, Paul U  Shoreview, MN.
Wolszon, Richard & Mary L  St. Paul, MN.

U = Unisys  B = Burroughs  L = Lockheed Martin
D = Unisys Defense Systems

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

IN REMEMBRANCE


MacFarlane, Iver R. - Iver passed away at age 92. He was a longtime resident of Anoka and employee of Sperry-Univac.


Skaja, James D. - Age 58, of Eagan, MN. Passed away on 8/19/07 from complications of ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). James is survived by wife, Bonnie. James was an employee of Lockheed Martin.

Wise, Harry Dearman - Harry was a Computing Pioneer and longtime Minnesotan. Harry died peacefully on September 8, 2007. He was a lifelong builder of many things, including computers, cars and friendships. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Peg Wise. He joined Lockheed Martin in 1956 and spent 5 decades in System Design Engineering, retiring from Lockheed Martin (previously: Univac, Unisys, and Loral). He was an enthusiastic member of many organizations including: the "Original Geek Squad", the "Monte Carlo Computer Club" lunch group, the Futurist Group, the Sierra Club and was a HAM Radio Operator, Spelunker, and model plane enthusiast. Harry was also a member of the VIP Club.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLOODMOBILE INFORMATION

Bloodmobile Information from Marion Scott:
Thanks to all the volunteers who helped at the following three blood drives: The August 13th blood drive at Unisys MACS in Eagan where 21 units of blood were collected. The August 22nd blood drive at Lockheed Martin where 64 units were collected. The September 14th blood drive at Unisys in Roseville. Volunteering were; Geri and Hank Dotzler, Midge and Chuck Homan, Dale Phelps, Ruth Sanford, Bill Madden, John Winiecki, Eugene Webster, Bernie and Kathy Jansen, Loretta and Leroy Dubois and Marion Scot. My sincere thanks to each volunteer.

VIP CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY
The VIP Club's annual Christmas dinner/dance will be on Thursday, December 13th at the Ft. Snelling NCO Club. A reservation form, cost, map, etc. is on page 7.

OLD TIMERS GET TOGETHER
The Old Timer's gathering at the Ft. Snelling Officer's Club will be at 11 a.m. on Thursday, December 6th. If you can help with reminder calls to those who aren't VIP members - send an e-mail to labenson@usfamily.net by Oct. 15th.

UNIHOG/UNITURKEY
The UNIHOG/UNITURKEY annual luncheon is scheduled for 11 a.m. at the City View (former Lost Spur) on Friday, November 16th. Reservation process, costs, and speaker information will be in next month's newsletter.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY
The September Newsletter presented the Volunteer request that is repeated below. It is repeated this month since no one responded to that request. Mr. Hal Schardin of the Minnesota State Services for the Blind would appreciate your volunteering for this very worthwhile cause.

Many of our VIP Club members spent many years in the Engineering and Hardware Maintenance of computers and support equipment. This type of experience is urgently needed by the Minnesota State Services for the Blind. They need Volunteers to troubleshoot and repair Cassette Talking Book Machines. These are special format, slow speed cassette machines that permit blind or reading-impaired individuals to have access to books, magazines, textbooks, etc. When the machines are returned to their Service Center, they need to be cleaned, tested and repaired before they are sent out to other clients. The Service Center provides repair benches plus cleaning materials, test equipment and replacement parts. Volunteers are asked to work a minimum of 4 hours per week. There is also need for people without technical experience to clean the machines enabling the technical repair people to focus their time on repair. The Minnesota State Services for the Blind is located at 2200 University Avenue in St. Paul. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity please contact Hal Schardin at (651) 642-0848. Submitted by Bernie Jansen
LEGACY NEWS UPDATE
Submitted by Dick Lundgren, rflundgr@aol.com.
Recent Contributors to Legacy Website
(http://www.usfamily.net/web/labenson/Legacy.htm)
Just when it appeared that the quality bar of new author contributions had reached the limit, new additions have raised the bar even higher. The exciting recent inputs, now posted to the Legacy website, have come from the pens (read keyboards) of Kevin Hoffmann, Burton O. Gunderson, and John Nemanich. Kevin’s career started in 1976 with software work of the IIN (Imperial Iranian Navy) DD-993 program. Almost instantly world political events had an impact as the Shah of Iran was deposed and the customer switched contractually from IIN to USN (Kidd/Ayatollah Class ships). Kevin relates the “primitiveness” of the software world at that time as he describes the efforts involved in a system build, debugging, and patching, and also the pluses and minuses of the paper tape and magnetic tape media then in use. He further describes the challenges of shipboard Radar Alignment and Satellite Navigation (SATNAV), the latter in an environment where GPS had not yet become a household word. It’s all worth a good read, especially for technical content and for the adaptation of old experiences to new programs. Burt Gunderson’s 40+ year career began at the RRU Nike Zeus Dept. under Earl Joseph, not an inauspicious beginning. His personal history and the places where it took place are marvelous memories. So many of Burt’s inclusions are like sound bytes from Grandpa’s knee: Project Moonbeam, GPDC, 1004 plugboards, 1218, Army War Room, DVRs, 418, and many more. Burt evolved into the test lead for programs too numerous to mention and in so doing faithfully recalls his managers and co-workers throughout. The name John Nemanich is not too well known on the defense side of LM/Unisys, but it will be after you peruse his article, A Brief History of Networking at Unisys. John originally wrote this article in 1997 in response to a request for a short history of Networking at Unisys, which was to be used at the opening ceremony of the new Network Management facility at Blue Bell. This article is a genuine 24 carat nugget of our (Unisys commercial AND defense) historical legacy. The roots of networking go back to ERA days in the late 40s, and from that launch pad John traces developments in networking that occurred in both Burroughs and Sperry and then continued at Unisys. Revisit names/acronyms like, AUTODIN, POTS, DCPs, DCTs, GOSIP, and many more. Also check out the roles played by the defense side (St. Paul/Salt Lake City) by the 1616 computer (predecessor to the 3760 Comm Controller), the1206 and the AN/UYK families, and the FDDI token ring developments. Even Loral Communications Systems (later LM) partnered with Unisys in the development of wireless telephony. And the development of the Internet itself (contrary to Al Gore) was not a singular undertaking. Quoting John, “Unisys was an Internet pioneer from the beginning.” John’s whole story was done the right way. He talked to all the players, past and present, who were involved in networking developments. He assembled a ton of data into this engaging history and even ventures a few “visionary guesses” into the future. Don’t miss it. With ALL our multiple inputs in this “collective authoring” approach, we are realizing a “double sourcing” in pride. We can all be justifiably proud of both our technical accomplishments and of the creative writing finesse of our many contributors. Many thanks, and we look forward to more.

Legacy of International Programs – Focus on Germany, cont.
This article continues the story of our legacy of business with German customers. Last month’s newsletter recounted the story of how the first three West German destroyers (the Lütjens, Mölders, and Rommel) introduced NTDS to the West German Navy (FRGN). These ships, of the class Z-103B (Z for Zerstörer, = Destroyer), carried the USQ-20/642B computer as the core of the FüWES/SATIR (Führungs- und WaffenEinsatzSystem/System zur Auswertung Taktischer Informationen auf Rechnerschiffen) combat system. It was complemented by display equipment from Hughes and communications equipment from Collins. FüWES/SATIR translates roughly as Guidance Control and Weapon Delivery System/System for the Evaluation of Tactical Data on Computerized Ships. The next project for the FRGN was the acquisition of the S-143 class Fast Patrol Boats (GFPB) to patrol the North Sea (bounded by West-friendly Denmark, Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands and the UK) and the Baltic Sea (bounded by East-friendly Poland, the German Democratic Republic, the three Baltic nations, and Russia itself). The GFPB program for Univac started in 1970 with deliveries of 1830B computers, 1840 mag tape units, 1532 I/O consoles, and 1299 switches. Ten FPBs of the S143 Albatross class and later ten more of the S143A Gepard class were built. The S143A equipment had modifications to the 1830B computer with the addition of Control Memory and expansion of main memory to 96K. For the GFPB program hardware integration started at Signaal (later Thompson CSF and now Thales) in Hengelo, Holland, and company involvement for
shipboard integration soon moved to Wilhelmshaven, West Germany. Software development continued in Wilhelmshaven, supported by many company expatriates as well as many German nationals who had developed expertise in 30-bit software in the Z-103B program. The land-based software test and development site in Wilhelmshaven was known as the EZ/AZ (Erprobungszentrum/Ausbildungszentrum or Development/Training Center), a practice that continued for all subsequent ship systems. The combat system for the German Fast Boats (Schnellboote) was known as AGIS (Automatisches Gefechts- und InformationsSystem, or Automatic Combat and Information System). In the late 1970s, West Germany, as part of a NATO commitment, began the development of the F-122 (F for Fregatte, = Frigate) class of ships. By this time, the US Navy had advanced the NTDS to the 32-bit AN/UYK-7 hardware base plus contemporary peripherals. Eight F-122 class ships (lead ship Bremen) would be built, to be followed later by four F-123 class ships (lead ship Brandenburg), based on the AN/UYK-43 computer (UYK-7 replacement in the USN). Another ship system used on ships of several classes was the PALIS (PAssiveLInkSystem) which used either the AN/UYK-20 or later the AN/UYK-44 computers. The use of German/American training and development teams was a precedent set with the early S-143 systems and followed in subsequent systems efforts. The spin-offs from these German Navy activities were numerous. The accumulated technical experience expanded the talent base for many future foreign and domestic programs, and the management experience advanced many careers. World perspectives were broadened and lives were enriched. Of a personal nature, many multicultural lifelong friendships were established and even a few marital involvements were sparked.

However, in the non-Navy area, the company had some other notable business accomplishments, specifically for the German equivalent of the FAA. In 1976 Sperry Univac-Eagan and Sperry Univac-Germany jointly performed on a contract called ZKSD with the German Air Traffic Control Agency (BFS) to develop a central Flight Data Processing (FDP) system that would distribute and print flight strips at all civilian airports in West Germany. ZKSD stands for Zentraler KontrollstreifenDruck (literally, Central Control Strip Printing, or more descriptively, Central Flight Plan Data Processing and Strip Printing System). BFS is the Bundesanstalt für FlugSicherung (Federal Institute for Flight Safety). The initial architecture utilized multi-IOP computers from the US-FAA programs but as the architecture matured, main frame commercial 1100 series processors were used. Unisys Germany continued to support this system including a major upgrade called UKD into the late 1990s.

Another program was the German Short Term Conflict Alert (STCA). As a direct result of an STCA product demonstration at the annual Air Traffic Control Association Conference in 1990, Unisys was awarded a contract with the German BFS, later called DFS (Deutsche Flugsicherung, German Flight Safety/Air Traffic Control) to integrate the aircraft conflict avoidance safety feature into the existing German air traffic control system. The STCA product was based on the safety algorithm used in the Micro EARTS program. Unisys Eagan was responsible for design and system development with Unisys Germany responsible for hardware procurement and system installation. The system was installed at 11 air traffic control centers throughout reunified Germany. In 1997 Lockheed Martin – Air Traffic Management received a follow-on contract for system upgrades.

An interesting non-governmental customer was the Otto Versand Inc., Germany’s largest catalog ordering company. Otto Versand in the mid-1970s was already a huge customer for the Univac 1100 series main frames, but they wanted new technology to give them a competitive edge. They threatened to switch to IBM unless Sperry could come up with the “technical advantage.” Enter the VRU (Voice Response Unit) developed by the Speech Research group of Sperry Univac Defense Systems. This unit could streamline the handling of multiple customer phone orders and smooth out the peaks and valleys of customer calls. The synthetic German speech worked perfectly with many customers mistaking the “voice” for a well known German TV announcer. Not only did the technical solution satisfy the customer, but the reliability was unbelievable. The customer engineers had no experience in repairing the VRUs because they never failed. Credit the VRU’s “ancestors.” The VRU product was a derivative of the ruggedized, mil-spec UYK-20 and the Canadian (Winnipeg) UYK-502 computers. With component selection and hardware construction aimed at functioning in a tough environment, the VRUs thrived in the benign conditions at Otto Versand. If the ancestors are strong, so too the descendants.

It should be pointed out too that we also had many non-German customers in Germany. The U.S. Army is one example, but this article only focuses of the German customers.

Further inputs?
Additions or corrections to any of the preceding stories are always welcome. Please contact the author (rflundgr@aol.com).

**CURRENT ISSUES**

**Healthcare**

Way back in 1993 Kaiser-Permanente CEO George Halvorson wrote “Strong Medicine.” Fourteen years ago he identified virtually all the problems that continue to confound our health care non-system, one that has no way for paying for either preventive health or even a cure. Back then (as now), doctors billed from the Physician’s Current Procedure Terminology (CPT) code book, a collection of fifty thousand procedure codes (associated with prices) used to identify patient care services. Halvorson next describes “code creep” and “unbundling.”

Code creep occurs when a patient has other conditions that may make treatment more difficult; the doctor then uses higher cost codes whether or not additional work was required. Unbundling occurs when a single procedure, say a wart removal, gets coded as both an office visit and a wart removal. Other ways to achieve this are with return checkups or a scheduled visit to pick up a prescription, both of which could be handled by a non-billable phone call. Remember, most fee-for-service physicians are small businessmen and every attempt to control costs results in some other way to increase billing – no one wants a pay cut.

I picked the code creep topic because an acquaintance does code consulting. As an instance, when a billing clerk is absent and a less specialized clerk is used billing totals can fall dramatically. For an average surgical unit, in one month the billing total differences developed by a code specialist can be several hundred thousand dollars above the total developed by a stand-in clerk for the same set of patient procedures.

We still have too few primary care doctors, too much technology with unproven value, too many insurance programs with high administrative and sales costs, and a system where we pay for procedures rather than cures or improved public health. In the recent past, we have been given health savings accounts (HSAs), a tax shelter for use with high-deductible policies. We also have guaranteed the drug companies the right to charge the world’s highest drug prices. I’m just wondering what the next improvement will be.

Submitted by Brian Berggren.

**THE LIGHTER SIDE**

**Church Humor**

The elderly priest, speaking to the younger priest, said, "It was a good idea to replace the first four pews with plush bucket theater seats. It worked like a charm. The front of the church always fills first now." The young priest nodded, and the old priest continued, "And you told me adding a little more beat to the music would bring young people back to church, so I supported you when you brought in that rock n roll gospel choir. Now our services are consistently packed to the balcony." "Thank you, Father," answered the young priest. "I am pleased that you are open to the new ideas of youth." "All of these ideas have been well and good," said the elderly priest, "But I'm afraid you've gone too far with the drive-thru confessional." "But, Father," protested the young priest, "my confessions and the donations have nearly doubled since I began that!" "Yes," replied the elderly priest, "And I appreciate that. But the flashing neon sign, 'Toot 'n Tell or Go to Hell' cannot stay on the church roof."

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**VIP CLUB APPLICATION AND RENEWAL FORM**

Retiree Name: ___________________________ Spouse: ___________________________

Address: ________________________________ CITY __________ STATE ______ ZIP __________

Phone: (____) ___________ Check here if your address or phone number has changed

New Member(s) _________ Renewing Member(s) _________


Please make check payable to VIP CLUB and mail to P.O. Box 131748 Roseville MN 55113-0020

Dues: $12 for 3 years Single year rate $5. Note to new members: Your newsletters start after dues are received.

Check here if your address or phone number has changed

Check here if you do not wish to have your name listed in the VIP Members directory. (Directory distributed to members only)
ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

5:45 pm – 7:15 pm  Initial social time with hors d’oeuvres
7:15 pm - 8:00 pm+ Enjoy an elegant sit down dinner with your choice of
Top Sirloin, Italian Chicken or Walleye
8:00 pm - 11:00 pm Dancing to the music you like by
The Connie Villars Quartette.

VIP CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY, Dinner-Dance Reservation Form

Please reserve, at $25.00 each, _____ place(s) for the Annual VIP Club Christmas Party, Dinner & Dance being held Thursday, December 13, 2007 at the NCO Club at the Air Force Base off Hwy 62. The social time begins at 5:45 pm with hors d’oeuvres. Dinner will be served at 7:15. At 8 pm the Connie Villars Quartette will play music for your listening and dancing enjoyment. Please send in your reservations now, since seating is limited. Your reservation must be received by Dec. 3rd. If your reservation is for more than 2 persons, please attach a list of added names and you will be all seated together at a reserved table.

Picture ID required for entry to Air Force Base.

Check here (     ) if you have attached _______ additional names.

Names: __________________________________________

Address ________________________________  _____________________

Entree selection(s) & qty.: Top Sirloin _____; Italian Chicken _____; Walleye _____

Please make your check or checks payable to: VIP CLUB

Mail to: Dorothy Becker
8630 Queen Avenue South
Bloomington, MN  55431

Phone: 952-881-3516
Directions to Eagan Community Center. Take Hwy 35E south or north to Pilot Knob Road. Turn left (north) on Pilot Knob Road. Turn left on Central Parkway (which is also the North entrance to Lockheed). The Eagan Community Center is at 1501 Central Parkway.

Directions to Unisys in Roseville. Take Hwy 35W south, or north, to the Industrial Way / St. Anthony Blvd off ramp. If coming north or south on Hwy 35E go west on Hwy 36 which will take you to the Industrial Way / St. Anthony Blvd. off ramp of 35W (Hwy 36 becomes Hwy 35W where it joins Hwy 35W). Go north on St. Anthony Blvd. to Walnut St. (the first street on the right). Turn right and go to Highcrest Road. It is the first place where you can turn left. Past the stop sign, Bldg 3 is on the right. Gate 5 is in the center of the building. From Hwy 280 northbound, use left lane exit just past Cty Rd B for Terminal road access (St Croix St.). Turn left at Terminal Rd, then turn right at Highcrest Rd to building entrance.