

VIP Club Newsletter

VOLUME 28, NO. 5

<http://www.vipclubmn.org>

MAY 2008

The Number to call for information on Unisys Retirement Status and Benefits: 1-877-864-7972.

The Number to call for information on Lockheed Martin Retirement Status and Benefits: 1-866-562-2363.

Wednesday, May 07
Wednesday, May 14

Board Meeting, Eagan
Eagan Program & Social Time

10:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 04
Wednesday, June 11

Board Meeting, Roseville
Annual Picnic Highland Park Pavilion

10:00 a.m.
4.00 p.m.

SESQUICENTENNIAL EDITION

MAY PROGRAM: EAGAN

THE BRIDGE DAY

Major Al Smith, Minnesota State Patrol, will present and talk about his 20⁺ hour day on August 1st, 2007.

The bridge fell at 6:05 p.m. - Al was on the site by 6:10 p.m. to begin communication with and coordination of emergency response

teams. State, local, and national government agencies cooperated seamlessly while responding to the most publicized disaster in Minnesota's history. Who was in charge was never an issue (egos left at home) - all agencies stepped up and handled their trained and logical area responsibilities.



See Pages 4 & 5 for complete story about our participation in Minnesota's Sesquicentennial events.

JUNE PICNIC: HIGHLAND PARK

COME OUT AND CELEBRATE! The VIP Club Annual Picnic will be held at 4:00 p.m. on June 11th.

This event enjoys the largest attendance of any Club event each year. It will be held at the Pavilion at Highland Park in St. Paul. The Club will supply hamburgers, buns, condiments, coffee, and soft drinks.

All attendees are requested to bring food items for the potluck portion of the picnic - suggestions of what to bring are based on the first letter of your last name:

A - E Salads, F - J Desserts, K - R Hot Dishes, and S - Z Appetizers. Please include serving utensils for your dishes and mark them with your name.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From: Brian Berggren

Unlike last years volunteer breakfast, we had cool but comfortable weather and a great volunteer turnout. Of our hosts and sponsors, Unisys was represented by Sue Carrigan and Lockheed Martin by Lee Myer, Peggy Mullikin, and Jan Raycraft. Lee spoke of the company's appreciation of our volunteer community and its work on the Legacy

UNISYS

LOCKHEED MARTIN



program. Ole Olson and Lowell Benson shared the continuing progress on the Legacy tasks, with Lowell also inviting visits to the new and ever-growing VIP Club website.

Bernie Jansen, our volunteer event chair, gave us the numbers from this year's volunteer survey: 120 responders reported giving 24,532 hours in service to their chosen organizations and causes. As Bernie knows so well, our donated hours continue to grow and benefit communities both in Minnesota and many other states where our members reside.

Our program speaker was humorist LuAnn Buechler, who talked about the "Heart of a Volunteer." LuAnn is a chronic volunteer, and as a mother of two handicapped children, ran March of Dimes charity auctions in the Rochester area. She offered both touching and laughable observations about volunteering as she cheerfully disabused us of her seven myths about volunteering.

Look at the June 11 Picnic notice and then mark your calendar. We again hope for good weather and another chance to visit with our co-workers and friends.

Respectfully, Brian Berggren, VIP Club President

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

Please send permanent address changes to Quintin Heckert addressed to the VIP Club at the address given on the label page of the Newsletter. Also, please remember that for temporary changes the U.S. Postal Service will forward your mail.

From the Editors



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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 2008

Date	Time	Location	Activity
Jan. 10			No Meeting
Feb. 13	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Mar. 12	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
Apr. 09	8:30 a.m.	Rsvl.	Volunteer Breakfast
May. 14	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
June 11	4:00 p.m.	Park	VIP Club Picnic
July 09			No Meeting
Aug. 13	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Sept. 10	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
Oct. 08	11.30 a.m.	Rsvl	PotLuck Program
Nov. 12	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social time
Dec. 11	5:45 p.m.	USAF	Christmas Party

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

Cote, Clarice G. U Burnsville, MN.
 Kahlert, James L Boulder Creek, CA.
 Keerl, Tom & Bennie U New Brighton, MN.
 Menkevich Wm & Mary U Coon Rpds, MN.
 Redding, Roger U Sammamish, WA.
 Rusinak, Wm & Mary Jo L Minneapolis, MN.
 U = Unisys B = Burroughs L = Lockheed Martin
 D = Unisys Defense Systems

IN REMEMBRANCE

Claassen, Neil J. - Passed away at home, surrounded by family and friends, on 3/12/2008. Neil was a former Sperry Univac employee



La Duke, Paul F. - Age 77, formerly of Lino Lakes, MN. Preceded in death by wife, Joyce. Paul spent 36 years as an employee of Unisys.

McCabe, Captain Robert Emmett - Age 82, of Redmond, WA. Bob passed away at home. He is survived by his wife, Ruth. Bob was Unisys retiree.

MacConnell, David - Age 67, passed away on Good Friday, March 21, 2008 at David Grant Hospital on Travis AFB. He is survived by his loving wife of 41 years, Jeanne. David started work for Sperry Univac as a Field Engineer in 1982.



Reischauer, Robert E. "Bob" - Age 76, of Spring Park. Passed away on December 5, 2007. Bob is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Audrey. Bob worked in UNIVAC marketing for about 10 years. Bob has been a VIP Club member for many years.

Rogneby, James H. - Age 71, of Bloomington, MN. Passed away on April 11, 2008. Preceded in death by loving wife, Diane. James was a Unisys employee and also a VIP Club member.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL NORWEGIAN SYTTENDE MAI LUNCHEON PLANNED - MAY 15, 2008

Celebrate your Norwegian heritage, or that of your friends or associates, by attending a luncheon in recognition of Norway's Constitution Day, Syttende Mai (17th of May). This event, a tradition for more than 30 years, will again be held at Casper's Cherokee Sirloin Room (cherokeesirloinroom.com), 4625 Nicols Rd., Eagan (at Cedar and Cliff), on Thursday May 15. The buffet lunch will be comparable to previous years and will open at 11:15, so come early. Once again, our program committee has invited Prof. Odd S. Lovoll, preeminent scholar of Norwegian immigration and contemporary Norwegian-American culture. Contact Dale Phelps (952-831-7843) by May 12th if you would like to attend.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Meals on Wheels can use your help in delivering hot, nutritious lunchtime meals on weekdays (Monday through Friday) to the elderly and those

with limited mobility in our community. You can volunteer once a week or once a month, and delivery takes only about an hour. Volunteers deliver much more than a meal, they bring a smile and kind words, they relieve isolation, and provide peace of mind for people in need.

There are nearly 50 Meals on Wheels program centers spread throughout the Twin Cities metro area, so there is a location near you. You can bring a friend or family member with you to help deliver meals. Volunteers provide their own transportation and must have a current driver's license. Your costs for transportation are tax deductible. For more information, contact Molly Kennedy at Metro Meals on Wheels (612-623-3363) or visit their website at <http://www.meals-on-wheels.com>.

ATTENTION ALL GOLFERS

DARTS is celebrating their 20th Annual Golf Classic on Monday, June 2 at Southview Country Club in West St. Paul. Twenty years ago, DARTS was looking for a way to bring businesses together to help DARTS raise funds for a new bus. This need planted the seed for the DARTS Golf Classic, and it is still going strong after all these years. Your \$225 entry fee includes lunch, green fees, cart and the special celebration banquet. Register by May 15. There will also be a live and silent auction. Don't want to golf? You can still attend the banquet celebration for \$25. For more information, contact Georgann McClure at 651-234-2229 or georgann.mcclure@darts1.org.

CURRENT ISSUES

Submitted by Brian Berggren.

CLIMATE CHANGE - NO SCIENCE FICTION

Six Degrees: Our Future on a Hotter Planet is a fresh look (2008) at climate change literature by British journalist Mark Lynas. His book has taken the research of hundreds of scientists to describe in a very readable way the global changes likely to occur with each one degree Celsius rise in atmospheric temperatures. As a resident of Oxford, Lynas used the Radcliffe Science and Earth Sciences libraries at Oxford, along with American Geophysical Union papers, for his well-annotated sources.

With only one degree we see Artic ice changes, rock falls in the Alps as thawing occurs on the Matterhorn, and hurricane warnings in the South Atlantic. At two degrees of warming the oceans become more acidic and toxic to shelled creatures, Greenland's glaciers start an irreversible melt, and the loss of Andean glaciers remove Peru's main water supply for Lima and the arid coast.

Climate Change continued on page 6.

Sesquicentennial Edition

Minnesota Statehood Festival and Expo – May 17 and 18, 2008



Mark your calendars for the weekend of May 17th and 18th, when Minnesota celebrates 150 years of statehood with a weekend of events and exhibits in St. Paul, planned by the Sesquicentennial Commission and the Minnesota Historical Society. As part of the Statehood Week festivities, a pair of huge tents, showcasing “**Minnesota Innovation: 150 Years of Ingenuity,**” will be erected on the State Capitol grounds for two days of public exhibition. Other events and speakers are planned throughout the weekend, culminating with a formal program beginning at 6:58 PM Sunday evening. On the 24 hour clock, that is 18:58, which represents the year Minnesota was admitted to statehood. At that minute, the Minnesota Air National Guard will kick off the evening program with a flyover of the Capitol grounds. This is a great weekend opportunity for everyone in Minnesota to come and browse through our state history to get a snapshot of the vitality of the State of Minnesota today.

The VIP Club will be participating by providing an exhibit in one of the tents, developed around our common Engineering Research Associates (ERA) legacy. This exhibit has been planned as one of the elements of the legacy history initiative. Our steering committee has been developing the concept for a booth for the past several months. Both Unisys and Lockheed Martin are providing various significant resources to make this exhibit a reality.

The primary objective of our exhibit is to begin to reveal the untold story of the great contributions that ERA made to the State of Minnesota, the local technology industry, and the computer industry in general. Increasingly, as we gather and catalog materials, it becomes apparent that ERA’s historical role as a technology innovator is largely under-reported and under-appreciated. Most local folks are unaware of ERA’s existence, much less its key role in the development of revolutionary technologies and its role as the wellspring of Minnesota’s computer industry and related technology businesses. Unlike many companies, ERA also appears to have had an early tradition of publishing and sharing information, which fostered growth of the computer industry nationwide. Some of the remarkable achievements from ERA include:

- Production of the early, highly classified, US code-breaking computers
- The first highly reliable commercial computer – the start of 24/7 operations
- The first “hard drive” (actually drum) based processing systems, so prevalent today
- Development of computer-based combat systems still deployed throughout the world
- Development of the first automated Air Traffic Control system, the successors of which are still managing air traffic around the world and who still represent important businesses for our current corporate sponsors

- Provider of ground-based missile guidance for hundreds of early space shots and satellite launches
- The first space operations management and training systems, carrying through to planning and training for today's Space Shuttle missions
- Development of the airline reservation and cargo management systems, modern versions of which are still being supported by Unisys
- More than **100 billion dollars** of direct and indirect economic contribution to Minnesota

Our exhibit will graphically depict this history and some of these accomplishments. One super-graphic will show the progression of companies, founders and early notables, key equipment developments and spin-off companies. Others will photographically portray some of the key "firsts" highlighted above. We will have interesting early computer artifacts on display, highlighting early ERA equipment, and showing the state of the earliest computer technology.

The VIP Club exhibit promises to be an exciting opportunity to be a part of the celebration of 150 years of statehood, and VIP Club members are encouraged to be active participants in the occasion. First, and foremost, if you have time for nothing else, plan to take part in the statehood weekend festivities. Spend some time on the Capitol grounds, see the sights, and visit the VIP Club exhibit - you might even meet some familiar faces there. For a comprehensive list of all Minnesota Sesquicentennial events throughout 2008, check their website, www.mn150years.org. Program and schedule updates to the Statehood Festival and Expo will be posted there.

More importantly, for those of you that are willing to take a more active part, **we need volunteers** at various times between the 12th

and the 19th of May. Early in that week we will be staging the exhibit at Unisys Roseville, then transporting it to the Capitol grounds on the 15th or 16th for setup. Many hands will make light work of these tasks. In the period from the evening of the 16th (State VIP tour of the exhibit), and during the days of the 17th and 18th, we need roughly two dozen volunteers to be in the booth and meet the exhibit visitors (around 3 hour shifts, 3 people per shift). Booth duty will not require any special knowledge (you will get a quick brief before your shift) and does not require any special skill other than an ability to be open and friendly to the public. On the flip side, being a part of relating this history to the public can be great fun and personally very rewarding. Finally, late on the 18th and on the 19th we need to take down the booth and transport it to Eagan, where it will be on display in the courtyard there. Tom Turba is coordinating the volunteer schedule. If you can help in any way, please contact Tom by email at TNTurba@Comcast.net. If you do not have email, you can call him at 651-489-0779.

So, as Minnesotans commemorate 150 years of statehood, remember three things: **Check out** the schedule of events on the Sesquicentennial website, **Volunteer** to be a part of the VIP Club's contribution to the flagship event, and **come and enjoy** the Minnesota Statehood Festival and Expo on May 17th and 18th.

If you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact any member of the steering committee.

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VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION BREAKFAST AND YEAR 2007 VOLUNTEER SURVEY RESULTS

On April 9th Unisys again hosted the Volunteer Recognition Breakfast for the VIP Club members who performed Volunteer Services in 2007. A total of 121 Unisys and Lockheed Martin retiree members who responded to the *Newsletter* survey donated 24,532 hours to various charities in Minnesota, Arizona, Illinois, Nevada, North Carolina, Texas and Wisconsin. Sixty-five members and guests attended the Breakfast. Brian Berggren, VIP Club President welcomed the attendees; the overall Program was chaired by Bernie Jansen, VIP Club Past-President. Our Unisys Corporate sponsor was represented by Sue Carrigan, VIP Club Liaison; Lockheed Martin Corporation was represented by Lee Meyer, Director of ES & P Programs; Peggy Mullikin, Communications; and Jan Raycraft, Diversity Programs. Sue Carrigan and Lee Meyers addressed the group thanking them for their significant volunteer contributions during the past year. Following the Management addresses, Dick Olson and Lowell Benson, Co-Chairs of the VIP Club Legacy Project summarized the significant progress made over the past two years including establishing the new Club website with direct access to the Legacy Project. The Entertainment featured Humorist LuAnn Buechler's program entitled "Heart of a Volunteer" which highlighted the challenges and rewards of being a Volunteer.

The following thirty-one VIP Club members who together donated 13,710 hours were recognized for their outstanding service: Eileen Angelucci & Paul Jorgencen, Warren & Dorothy Becker, Lowell & Gloria Benson, Barney & Ardella Buss, Dale and Jan Harbour, Brent Jordahl, George and Barb Kydd, Dick and Marie-Rose Lundgren, Jim & Marjean McGuire, Robert and June Myller, Dick (Ole) Olson, Dale Phelps & Ruth Sanford, Jerry and Nina Raveling, Bob & Joyce Schneider, Joe & Nancy Schwarz, Donna Sylvester, and Tom and Virginia Turba. The following ninety members also responded to our survey: Ron & Nancy Abicht, Nick Benson, Brian & Barbara Berggren, Jeanette Bias, Art & Margaret Boehm, Larry & Ruth Bolton, Jim & Kay Bratsch, Bill Corson, Hank & Geri Dotzler, Leroy & Loretta DuBois, John Dufour, Bob Gardner, Millie Gignac, Roger Gilette, Nancy Gountanis, Glen & Donna Hambleton, Quint Heckert, Chuck & Midge Homan, Ray Hrbacek, Bernie & Kathy Jansen, Elaine Johnson, William & Harriet Kiffe, Archie & Vivian Lahti, Ernie Lantto, Ron & Sue LaPointe, Jim & Marge Larson, Vern & Mary Latwesen, Wayne & Helen Leverkusen, Darrell & Barbara Lindemann, Lynn & Paul Lindholm, Bob & Lois Massey, Howard & Arlene Meier, Ed & Joan Michaud, Dick Mullins, Don & Marlys Naaktgeboren, Larry & Alice Nelson, Dick & Corky Nicholson, John & Lois Novotny, Marlin Olson, Phil Phipps, Dick Roessler, James & Janice Roth, Duane & Marilyn Sandstrom, Jack & Louise Sater, Owen & Sue Scharf, Robert Scholz, Marion Scott, Woody & Barb Spitzmueller, James & Bunny Sullivan, Robert & Elaine Sund, Norris Swanburg, Wesley Swanson, Joe Teare, Paul & Carol Thompson, Don & Charlene Weidenbach, and Skaidrite Zarins.

The Year 2007 Volunteer Activities performed by members and the hours donated to the various organizations summarized by Categories are shown in the following Table:

1.	<u>Community and Related Services</u>	5,856 hours
2.	<u>Health and Disaster Services</u>	3,012 hours
3.	<u>Meals, Food and Housing Services</u>	2,619 hours
4.	<u>Music and Theatrical Services</u>	894 hours
5.	<u>Schools, Museums, and Educational Services</u>	1,854 hours
6.	<u>Religious Support and Related Services</u>	5,134 hours
7.	<u>Other Services</u>	5,163 hours

TOTAL DONATED VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR YEAR 2007: 24,532

Climate Change continued from page 3.

Above two degrees of warming bad things start happening: drought and famine in the subtropics, rising ocean levels and more severe storms, the Amazon going dry, and mass population displacement.

At the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum 55 million years ago North Pole air and water temperatures neared 23 degrees C. (73 degrees F.), warmer than the Mediterranean today. The Cretaceous Period (144 to 65 million years ago) was the "longest-lasting extreme greenhouse episode" and produced tropical Atlantic temperatures approaching 42 degrees C. (107 degrees F.).

Being able to choose our future will very probably require us to limit global temperature increase to two degrees to avoid "positive feedbacks" that will cause increases regardless of what we do.

LEGACY NEWS UPDATE

Submitted by Dick Lundgren, rflundgr@aol.com.

About a year ago this newsletter provided the status of the LM-initiated Legacy project after one year of progress. It is now time to provide again a status summary at the two year point. Many pioneering initiatives have taken place and the passion for this project has become contagious. **Dick Olson**, Legacy committee co-chair, recently took it upon himself to summarize our current status to the seven key people for Legacy at the LM Corporate level. In Ole's last climactic act of autonomy before retiring, he created a report of LM-Eagan's significant events and activities going back to the founding of ERA in 1945. He sent this report to **Sharon Watts** and **Denise Stonecypher**, who have been tasked by LMHQ with lead responsibility for Legacy, as well as to the other five major players. Ole's role as Legacy committee co-chair has now been passed to **John Westergren**.

1. Historically Significant Relationship between Univac St. Paul (now LMTS) and CALAC (now Lockheed Martin)

A very important part of the Lockheed Martin Tactical Systems - Eagan (LMTS) Legacy is the relationship between Lockheed California and Sperry Univac. The 1830 (CP-901) computer and a later version, CP-2044, used on Lockheed P-3C aircraft and sold to U.S., Dutch, Norwegian, Japanese, and Australian Navies, are the earliest and longest computers in operation. The 1832

(AN/AYK-10) aboard the S-3A and S-3B and the Canadian CP-140 (P-3C) was the first airborne multiprocessor. Much less known is the AN/UYK-23 computer used in Lockheed U-2 aircraft for NASA weather surveillance and the SR-71 for high altitude airflow control.

Sperry Univac Defense Systems Division had a long and successful relationship with Lockheed Aircraft Co., Burbank, then known as CALAC, as a supplier of airborne computers and systems software for P-3C and S-3A and B antisubmarine warfare aircraft. Univac Marketer **Jim Rapinac** and many other DSD managers developed close working relationships with Lockheed management including **Sherm Mullin**, who was a major contributor to the success of the P-3 and S-3 programs before becoming president of the Lockheed Skunk Works later in his career.

2. Significant Pioneering Origins in the Computer Industry

Engineering Research Associates (ERA) in St. Paul, MN was the first American Computer Company, incorporated in December 1945. Some amazing inventions occurred at ERA, including the first magnetic drum in the world (the world's first hard drive).

3. Significance within Academia

ERA is historically significant within the University community. ERA pioneer **Erwin Tomash** established the Charles Babbage Institute (CBI), a leading international center for the history of information technology, and the Engineering Research Associates Land Grant Chair at the University of Minnesota. The CBI Director, currently **Dr. Tom Misa**, occupies this endowed chair. ERA 1103 S/N 4 was donated to the University of Minnesota in 1958 to initiate their computer science program.

4. Significant Response to LMHQ Legacy Request

LMTS Eagan has been responsive to the LMHQ Legacy request for the names/contributions of the most historically important key figures. LM-Eagan furnished LMHQ with a list of 18 names, both living contributors and deceased. LM-Eagan has completed capturing historical recollections of all the selected living personnel in Legacy Videos and in Oral Legacy interviews. In addition, the Legacy Committee has identified over 30 individuals who joined ERA in the 1940's and 1950's, and we are in the process of interviewing the oldest/most significant ones. Unfortunately two prime candidates recently passed away before we could do

the Legacy Interview (**Harry Wise**, 77 and **Earl Joseph**, 80).

5. Keeping our legacy alive - a continuous process for decades in St. Paul

Keeping our Legacy alive, back to its origins with ERA, has been a continuous process for decades in St. Paul. First Friday Luncheons have continued monthly for over 40 years. This was originally formed by four of the early ERA pioneers, (**Dr. Sid Rubens**, **Dr. Arnold Cohen**, **Jim Nikitas**, and **Don Nemanic**). Sid Rubens, who recently died at age 97, was the last survivor of the original group. The Legacy Committee had recent communication with Sid, prior to his passing. The fifth person to join the luncheon group was **Warren Burrell**, now the coordinator. **Jack Hill**, another frequent participant at the First Friday Luncheon is now 97 years old. Jack had been an engineer at 3M before joining ERA in 1946. He is one of two engineers who delivered and setup an ATLAS stored program computer at the NSA predecessor in October 1950.

6. Significant contributors to the "greatest generation"

Many of our former employees served in various theaters and capacities in WWII. To all of them, a salute of sincere gratitude and enduring friendship. Probably the best known story, which recently got worldwide publicity in an AP feature, is that of **Fred Hargesheimer**. Fred was an early ERA and Remington Rand employee whose phenomenal success as an Antenna Coupler salesman assured an income stream to ERA that enabled the company to stay in business and eventually become the early leader in the digital computer industry. Fred achieved notoriety after his Lockheed P-38 reconnaissance plane was shot down over New Guinea in WWII. He was rescued by natives who hid him from the Japanese and restored his health. In gratitude for his life, he repaid them with a school and a hospital in subsequent years. An AP reporter, who recently visited his school in New Guinea, learned of Fred from the natives and then sought him out in California for three days of interviewing which resulted in the AP article. This article was prominent in both major Twin Cities newspapers. Of interest is the fact that Fred's classmate in engineering at Iowa College (now Iowa State University), **Bill Butler** (EE 1940), encouraged Fred to come to ERA. Bill, now 91, is also a regular participant at the first Friday Luncheon.

7. Significance at the National Level for the U.S. Navy.

The Naval Tactical Data System (NTDS) took UNIVAC computers to sea in the 1950's. NTDS was demonstrated to President Kennedy, and it is believed that the naval superiority enabled by NTDS was a factor in "push back" of the Russians (Khrushchev "blinked") during the Cuban Missile Crisis. The original computers for NTDS and all subsequent generations of them, until today, have been developed in St. Paul by Univac/LMTS. This whole story has been chronicled in David Boslaugh's (Capt., USN, ret.) book, *When Computers Went to Sea, the Digitization of the United States Navy*. His book describes a significant portion of LMTS Legacy (over 40 years) and stresses the incredible performance and reliability of the computers (some were 30 years in the fleet, outlasting their ships). NTDS capabilities were also extended to several foreign navies.

8. Significance at the National Level for the Air Traffic Safety

Our involvement in Air Traffic Control began with an FAA contract to provide digital systems at 62 major airports in the U.S. The reliability realized in our early NTDS computers was a clear factor in winning this business. The number of airports in the U.S. has expanded and foreign customers have also chosen our systems. These systems continue today throughout the world.

9. Significance at the National Level for NASA

NASA, in its infancy, was inexperienced, untested, and unsure. It needed in its own mind and in the public's mind to establish confidence in its capabilities. Our company's contribution was the Athena Missile Launch Computer System. This computer and associated UNIVAC developed software successfully launched 350 missiles from the Cape, Vandenberg, and Johnston Island. No launch was ever scrubbed due to a hardware failure or software glitch in our systems.

10. Pride in our Legacy Continues at the Minnesota Sesquicentennial

Legacy retirees (LM/Unisys) are planning a joint exhibit for the 150th Minnesota State Anniversary Celebration to be held on the Capital Mall in May 2008. The retirees are in the process of constructing a large graphic depiction which will show our evolution of ERA through the years to LM, including spin off companies, key events, key people and major customers. The 150th Committee expects that 80,000 people will attend.

11. Broad Support for Legacy at LMTS-Eagan

Our current effort has a core of about twenty-four seriously committed Legacy “doers.” About 150 individuals have made contributions to the Retiree Legacy Web Site (<http://vipclubmn.org>) with write-ups of their own career and/or of technical topics. The vast majority of the effort is by committed retiree volunteers. The retiree club, formed in 1979, has over 1000 members, many proud of their collective accomplishments and passionate about seeing history correctly recorded. Legacy news updates are also a regular feature of the VIP retiree club newsletter.

12. Unbiased Documentation Sources

Our legacy is not simply written by us for us. There are three great non-company, neutral sources that are excellent in describing our early years and deserve to be included here. The authors and book titles are as follows.

Arthur L. Norberg - *Computers and Commerce, A Study of Technology and Management at Eckert-Mauchly Computer Company, Engineering Research Associates, and Remington Rand, 1946-1957*

David L. Boslaugh (Capt., USN, ret.) - *When Computers Went to Sea, the Digitization of the United States Navy*

Engineering Research Associates, various - *High-Speed Computing Devices* (with introduction by Arnold A. Cohen and published by Tomash Publishers)

TRAFFIC SAFETY, 4 OF 9

Car and Driver tips: The way you drive plays a big role in how safe you are on the road. But here are other things you can do to increase your safety and the safety of your passengers. 1) **Buy a safe car.** That might seem like obvious advice, but newer model vehicles have such safety features as anti-lock brakes; crash-tested bumpers; traction control; and side, passenger, and front air bags. 2) **Buy a tire gauge and check the air pressure once a month.** Under-inflated tires are one of the most overlooked maintenance items. They lead to dangerous conditions such as decreasing maneuverability, particularly in rain or snow, and can create drag, increasing fuel consumption. 3) **Keep your car properly maintained.** Another important and inexpensive maintenance item that can improve safety is windshield wiper blades. Bad blades can cause streaking and glare on the windshield, so replace them frequently and keep your wiper fluid container full. 4) **Take a defensive**



driving class. Many organizations offer them – including the Minnesota Safety Council – teaching older drivers how to anticipate problems in a variety of scenarios, such as driving on a rural road, in a congested urban area, or on a residential street. 5) **Make your driving more fuel efficient.** Replacing your vehicle’s air filter about every 30,000 miles is a good idea. Test whether the filter needs changing by holding it up to the light. If you can’t see through the filter, it’s time to change it. Routinely maintain your vehicle to the manufacturer’s specifications. Additionally, avoid “jack rabbit” starts in which you accelerate very quickly from a complete stop and drive at the posted speed limit. While that will make your car more fuel efficient, it will also keep you and your passengers safer.

In the next issue I’ll overview Minnesota’s ‘Toward Zero Deaths’ initiative - BUCKLE UP for safety! LABenson

FUN AND FREE

This feature provides suggestions for older “kids” (that’s most of us) and younger kids to have entertaining “bonding” experiences together. The criteria are that the experiences are generally fun and free (or almost free) and take place in the greater Twin Cities area. The first idea is a visit to an exhibit created by the International Spy Museum (spymuseum.org). This exhibit only runs until May 4th (short fuse, so act fast), but it’s right in town at the Minnesota History Center (www.mnhs.org). It’s an interesting portrayal of who threatened America and what they did, going back to the founding of our country. The exhibit is called “The Enemy Within: Terror in America – 1776 to Today.”

The second idea for May (Friday, May 30th to be exact) is a visit to the Witch. Specifically, it is a visit to the Witch’s Hat Water Tower in Prospect Park (highest natural point in Minneapolis). When you’re driving east over the Mississippi on I94, you’re looking straight at it, along with the KSTP tower and Skymax Dome. The local school nearby, Pratt Elementary, puts on its annual Ice Cream Social from 5:30 to 8:30, and it’s the one time in the year that the tower is open. The witch, whose name is Mary Worth Washington, can sometimes be seen looking out the portals near the top of the tower, especially by those with stimulated imaginations. Get there early to avoid the long wait in line. Look for Mary’s initials above the door to her abode, and enjoy the spooky, dark winding staircase up to the top. The school’s playground also has Spiderman’s Spider Web for young climbers, and musicians/other entertainers are on hand too. The tower, built in 1914, was designed by Minneapolis city engineer and Norwegian-American F.W. Cappelen.

As usual, if you have had some great fun and free (or almost free) experiences with those one or two levels below you on the family tree, let us know (contact rflundgr@aol.com), and we’ll broadcast the ideas in a future newsletter.