

# VIP Club Newsletter

**VOLUME 28, NO. 7 / 8 <http://www.vipclubmn.org> JULY / AUGUST 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, August 06	Board Meeting, Roseville	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, August 13	Roseville, Program and Social Time	7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 03	Board Meeting, Eagan	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, September 10	Eagan, Program and Social Time	7:00 p.m.

## **AUGUST PROGRAM: ROSEVILLE**

Our presenter for August is Jack McKernan, and his topic, "Diabetes and Macular Degeneration," is a potential concern for all of us. Following his USN discharge, Jack had successful careers in a variety of major corporations, including American Airlines, Land O'Lakes, and Edina Realty, and has also excelled in major volunteer efforts with Fairview Southdale Hospital and with the Lions Club. He frequently speaks throughout the Twin Cities about Macular Degeneration and other Lions' Sight and Diabetes projects. He has worked with the Lions/U of M Eye Bank, Research Center and Children's Eye Clinic. His presentation will stress the need for preserving your eyesight and diabetes related concerns, and also include a short video on Macular Degeneration. A Q&A session will follow.

## **SEPTEMBER PROGRAM: EAGAN**

"The China Surge: Threat or Promise?" is the title of September's program. This issue touches all of us today. Will China be, or is it already, the world's hardware factory? (And for that matter, will India be the world's software factory?) It's no accident that with China's GDP growing at 8-10% per year, a direct byproduct is that 70-80% of items at Walmart are made in China. Ditto for major retailers in Europe and elsewhere. Walter W. Benjamin, Ph.D., who recently visited China and has read extensively on the subject, will give us the benefit of his experience. Professor Benjamin, Hamline University emeritus, will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of modern China, her

military, social, environmental, and political posture, and what the coming XXIX Olympiad symbolizes for her role in the world. Dr. Benjamin has lectured in Great Britain, Canada and the US, and he has authored books on the Great Depression (The Magical Years: A Boyhood Revisited) and on military issues (War and Reflection). With his doctoral background in ethics, he has been a contributor to national periodicals such as The Wall Street Journal, The New England Journal of Medicine, Minnesota Medicine, The Washington Post, Newsweek, The Chicago Tribune, and others.



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**From: Brian Berggren**

Our annual picnic could have been better if we didn't have a downpour after the burgers were on the grills and maybe if a few more had come to the park. But we sure got the alphabet groups right for those bringing the salads, desserts, hot dishes, and appetizers. The 90 or so attending enjoyed State Fair quality food, all attractive, tasty, and varied – a couple even had memorable zing, at least to my Norwegian palate. This is a special thanks to all who took part; I cannot recall a better potluck spread

for super goodness and minimal duplication. On hearing the rainy forecast, Tom picked up two tent shelters from Unisys that let Jim, Paul, and Tom man the grills without getting soaked, and the rain lowered the temperature to a comfortable cool for the rest of us. Pictures from the picnic are shown on pages 4 and 5.

Dale has been working the phones and has lined up interesting and informative programs for the rest of the year. Check the program announcements and try to attend a couple. Also, your Sesquicentennial Committee has been asked by the State organizers to set up and man the exhibit at the State Fair. This will require a good bit of extra volunteer manpower and getting people to sign up for a shift would be appreciated. Even if you can't commit to a shift, try to visit the exhibit and maybe stay another hour or so to help.

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
Aug. 13	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Sept. 10	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
<b>Oct. 08</b>	<b>11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Rsvl</b>	<b>PotLuck Program</b>
Nov. 12	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social time
<b>Dec. 11</b>	<b>5:45 p.m.</b>	<b>USAF</b>	<b>Christmas Party</b>

**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

Ahl, Betsy & Chuck	U	Vadnais Hgts, MN.
Cafferty, John & Teri	U	St. Paul, MN
Curri, Tom & Jean	U	St. Paul, MN.
Elmore, Russ & Avis	L	Springbrook, WI.
Erickson, Leroy & Cynthia	U	Roseville, MN.
Gallagher, Kay & Jim	L	Apple Valley, MN.
Gulbranson, John & Lois	U	Roseville, MN.
Herman, Gary	L	Apple Valley, MN.
Matuska, Jackie & Dan	U	Pine City, MN.
Myers, Jay & Verlene	L	Inver Grove Hgts, MN.
Peterson, Russ & Lillian	U	Brooklyn Park, MN.
Steen, Diane & Roger	U	Mounds View, MN.
Swenson, Mark & Sharon	U	Farmington, MN.
Travalent, John & Elizabeth	U	Burnsville, MN.

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

## IN REMEMBRANCE



Chiat, Harvey Jay - Age 77, Died Sunday, June 22, 2008 after a valiant battle with heart disease. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn. Harvey joined Univac, now Unisys, in 1960 and retired in

1997. Harvey was also a member of the VIP Club.

Goodwin, Jerry – Age 66, died May 23 in Phoenix, Arizona. He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Nancy. Jerry had worked for many years for Sperry-Univac in Eagan.

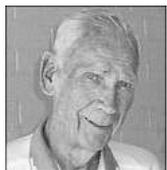


Hempel, Erich - Age 88, of St. Paul. Passed away peacefully on May 17, 2008. Survived by loving wife, Ruth. Erich was a long time employee at Univac.



Johnson, Dianne Marie - Age 61, of Savage, MN. Passed away on Saturday, June 14th due to complications of bypass surgery. Dianne was a lifelong Employee of Lockheed-Martin, retiring in 2001.

Juhl, Earl C. - Age 84, of Richfield, MN. Passed away June 7th at Walker Methodist Home. Earl is survived by his wife, M. Denise. Earl was a retired engineer from Sperry Univac



Larson, Vern J. - Age 83. of Maplewood, MN. Died at Mesa, AZ, on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. He is survived by his beloved wife, Katherine (Altman, Brosnan). Vern was a 20 year employee of Unisys and a long time member of the VIP Club.



Montain, James D. - Age 81, of Fridley, MN. Passed away at home June 2, 2008 after a lengthy battle with cancer. Survived by wife, Alice. James was a retiree of Unisys and a long time member of the VIP Club.



Mullen, Michael - Age 64, of Burnsville, MN. Died peacefully at his home on 7/6/2008. He is survived by his loving wife, Donna (Spry). Michael worked for the Sperry Corporation for 39 years as a field engineer. He enjoyed golf, hunting, and trap shooting.

Schneider, John W. "Jack" - Age 78, of Coon Rapids, MN. John is survived by his wife, Jeanne. John was a Unisys retiree and member of the VIP Club.

Strack, James M. - Age 86, died on May 13 in Beaverton, Ore. James is preceded in death by his

wife of 55 years, Martha Catmull. Following his military service, he worked for Sperry Univac for 28 years as a computer programmer.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **12th ANNUAL OLD TIMERS PICNIC**

Mark your calendar for the Old Timers Picnic on the 3rd Saturday of August (August 16th) from noon to 5 p.m. at Schaars Bluff (Same place as usual) 5 miles west of Hastings at Spring Lake Park Reserve. Golf prior to the picnic around 9 a.m.

Contact Curt Anderson for questions or suggestions at [anderscurt@comcast.net](mailto:anderscurt@comcast.net) or call (651) 438-9851.

### **BLOODMOBILE INFORMATION AUGUST RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES.**

Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. Lockheed Martin, Eagan needs greeters and servers 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> Unisys MACS, Eagan needs greeters and servers 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Please call Marion Scott at 651-455-7952 to sign-up.

## **LEGACY NEWS UPDATE**

Submitted by Dick Lundgren, [rflundgr@aol.com](mailto:rflundgr@aol.com).

### **SESQUICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT STORY**

Many, if not most, readers were old enough in 1958 to remember, at least vaguely, Minnesota's Centennial. Perhaps you would recall, as would our contemporaries in the general public, the very popular Centennial Train (which hit every county except Cook which had no railroad tracks), the Parade of the Century (which featured foreign dignitaries from 26 different countries invited by Gov. Orville Freeman), or school history projects (which dwelled on the Minnesota 100-year-old birthday theme). But little known is the fact that our genesis company, Engineering Research Associates (ERA), was in its 13<sup>th</sup> year of operation in 1958 and was reeling from the effects of large numbers of opportunists "defecting" to start Control Data Corporation. Fast forward now another 50 years to the state's Sesquicentennial.

Last fall, as ideas for Sesquicentennial events were still bubbling to the surface, we (the VIP Club) contacted the State of Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission. We believed that our two-year Legacy project might lead to a role in celebrating the Sesquicentennial. Our story was to present the role that ERA played in the founding of the Minnesota Computer industry, leading to our present companies

Continued on page 6.



VIP Club annual picnic at Highland Park June 11, 2008



If you'd like an electronic copy of any of these snapshots, send an e-mail to [labenson@usfamily.net](mailto:labenson@usfamily.net).

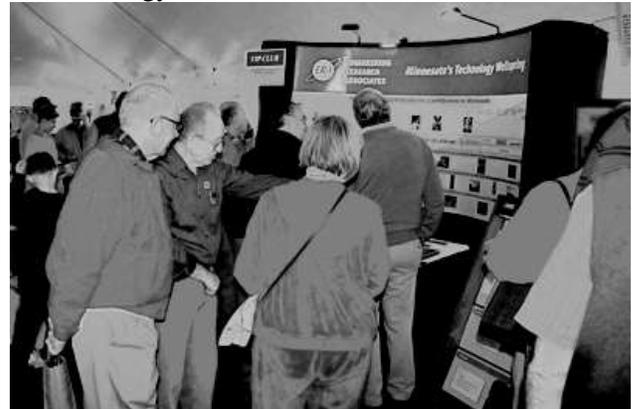
Continued from page 3.

(Unisys, Lockheed Martin, and all predecessor names) as well as to over 100 spin-off companies. The Sesquicentennial Commission knew nothing of our story, but they liked our idea, they liked the presentation of an industry's history within the context of the state's history, and they liked the fact that this industry (with enormous economic impact upon the state) had true Minnesota origins and significant longevity. The wheels were set in motion.

Ideas flowed from the VIP Sesquicentennial team (**Ron Smith, Tom Turba, Quint Heckert, Harvey Taipale, Dick Lundgren**, and others), and our Sesquicentennial Exhibit plan evolved. The initial deadline was to have the exhibit ready for the Sesquicentennial Expo on the Capitol Mall May 17-18. To prepare the exhibit (without a PERT chart, by the way), Unisys Roseville provided a staging area in the employee cafeteria. Over time, the supporting structures (provided by Unisys) were erected, the graphics mounted, the artifacts added, and the large flat panel display (provided by Lockheed Martin) installed. As expected, a bit of debugging for technical, editorial, and aesthetic concerns took place, and the final product was ready to roll in time. Pictures of the exhibit follow below, but the main features are the two large panels with graphic displays (one of the evolution from ERA in 1946 to the present, and one of the various business areas in which we have played major roles), a large display with a series of rolling images with historical highlights, and an interesting, maybe even nostalgic, assemblage of industry artifacts.



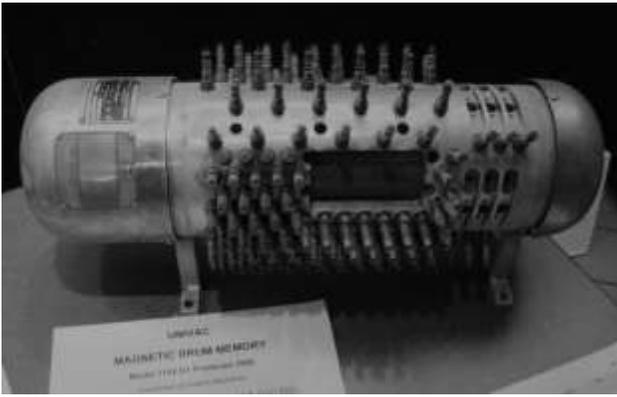
The two-day weekend event on the Capitol Mall was a capital success. We had a minimum of four volunteers staffing the booth at all times, and all were consistently engaged in conversations with exhibit visitors. The booth drew visitors from the U of M Charles Babbage Institute, the MN Historical Society, the Sesquicentennial Commission itself, a gaggle of MN State politicians, former/current employees of our company and of other high-tech companies, and a surprising number of (Blackberry/iPod-toting) youngsters appreciating the gee-whiz-ness of six decades of technology evolution.



It was noted that the ERA magnetic drum of 1947 did not have enough memory to hold even one iPod song. Other anecdotes of visitor interchanges include three former CDC employees, all of whom thought they would have ended their careers with CDC. One CDC guy actually had shared an office with Seymour Cray. He mentioned that the office walls and even the ceiling were carpeted to muffle any distracting noises. He said Seymour drove him nuts. A retired military guy worked maintenance on virtually all aircraft that contained the ERA antenna coupler. The extensive market for that device was amazing. And lastly we had input from a visitor who said that our graphics substantiated the lie that Minneapolis is the Capitol of Minnesota. Well, you learn something new everyday and just have to roll with the punches.

Many other people helped with a lot of logistic support (transportation, setup, teardown, staffing, etc.) for the Capitol Mall venue. Among them are **Tom Burns, Max Tiede, Alden Allen, Brian Berggren**, and **Jim Larson**.

Following our successful run on the Capitol Mall, the exhibit was moved to the courtyard of the LM Eagan building, where employees and others could view it over several days. One day included a gathering of original ERA and early RemRand people (**Manny Block, Jack Sater, Phil Phipps, Warren Burrell**, and others) to recount stories of the early days. Next, the exhibit moved to the Unisys MACS building where it drew a lot of attention over a two week stay. One Unisys employee with the history gene, **James Stramel**, was helpful by recording digital images of the major elements of the display including artifacts and descriptive placards.



Most recently, a subset of the exhibit was erected at the July 3/4 Eagan Funfest near the Eagan Community Center, the purpose of which was to talk to the community visitors and explain what business goes on in our buildings. One young exuberant visitor extolled “My dad works for Lockheed Martin!,” as proudly as if his dad was president of the world. Gotta love the youth! For support of the exhibit at the Eagan Funfest, many thanks to **Peggy Mullikin, John Westergren, Ron Smith, Quint Heckert, Tim Toba, Abner Yemaneab, Eric Anderson, David Feely, Dennis Severson, Bernie Jansen, Millie Gignac, Todd Witchall, Ed Nelson, Don Weidenbach, Ole Olson, Scott Benjamin, and Larry Bolton.**

The exhibit has now taken on a life of its own. The Sesquicentennial Commission has already asked us several times to be part of the Sesquicentennial “action” for the full 12 days of the 2008 Minnesota State Fair (Aug. 21 to Sep. 1). We have agreed, but many volunteers will be required to staff the exhibit and provide logistic support. If you go to the Fair anyway, or need a new excuse to go this year, here is your opportunity. Preparation and training for staffing the exhibit will be provided at Unisys Roseville where the display will be set up prior to the Fair. Volunteers will be reimbursed for Fair tickets up to \$8/ticket (the cost of advance sale tickets). If you are interested in working a minimum four hour shift during this event, contact Tom Turba ([TNTurba@comcast.net](mailto:TNTurba@comcast.net)) for schedule assignment and the latest info. All you need to do is be friendly and converse with visitors to the booth. We’ll have the luxury of an air-conditioned venue with entertainment and a beer garden nearby, plus there are also plans for public panel discussions involving the pioneers from ERA and other early company names (e.g., Remington Rand UNIVAC). This won’t happen again for 50 years, so be part of it while you can!

## TRAFFIC SAFETY, 6 OF 9

**Intersection designing for older drivers:** As we age, our bodies get weakened vision, reduced reaction times, and limited dexterity. Coupling these physical and cognitive limitations with extended life expectancies results in transportation difficulties for ‘senior citizens’. According



to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) studies, the single greatest concern is the ability to negotiate intersections safely. In 1998, The FHWA issued Design Guidelines to state departments of transportation – when they design new intersections or re-build existing intersections. Increased left turn lanes w/arrows, extended yellow phases, increase the diameter of signal lights, build roundabouts, bigger and more reflective signs, and better sign placement are the topics covered. In Michigan, an AAA study of 33 re-designed intersections showed a 17% crash reduction for drivers 17 to 64, but a 31% crash reduction of drivers over 65. In another Michigan area, a study of 13 redesigned intersections had a 66% reduction in crashes for under-64 drivers but a 73% reduction for over-65 drivers. In effect, initially intended for older drivers, these guidelines are helping reduce crashes for all age groups. (Statistics are from the ITS International Aug/Sept. 2007 World Highways supplement.)

Studies show that roundabouts reduce crashes, traffic delays, fuel consumption, and construction costs while increasing roadway capacity and effecting traffic calming. Thus Mn/Dot has already constructed 31 roundabouts on city and county systems, the most recent in Woodbury at Bailey and Radio Drive. 19 more are in the design process, 7 are planned, and 10 are being considered for roundabouts. Yield to vehicles already in the roundabout. Next issue, we’ll address signal light operations. BUCKLE UP for safety! L. A. Benson

## TRAVEL

**Laughlin, Nevada / 3 nights / \$239 includes air, hotel & transfers** – Enjoy a 3-night stay at Don Laughlin’s Riverside Resort. Offer valid until mid September.

**Ireland / 6 nights / \$698** -- Always dreamed of visiting Ireland? At just \$698 for a 6-night, fully escorted tour, you won't need a leprechaun to make your wish a reality. That price also includes hotels and 7 meals. Many dates available thru Oct. 26th.

**Greece / 11 days** -Take an unforgettable 11-day fully escorted "Balkan Adventure" to Greece. Twelve meals, first-class hotels. September and October are ideal months. Just \$1598.

**Norway / 10 days / \$1779** -- Anxious to explore your Norwegian roots? A 10-Day, spectacularly scenic tour of 8 cities starts this Fall at just \$1779, with wonderful guides every step of the way.

Ever thought of an elegant transatlantic crossing to England on the Queen Mary, or to one of its other destinations? Don't forget Alaska! But hurry! Those breathtaking 7-Day Glacier Cruises on a five-star Holland America ship are almost sold out.

How about a one-day getaway in September, like "Duluth with Train" for just \$54, or a Lake Pepin Cruise/Apple Orchard Tour for \$54?

It's all out there just waiting for you. Call me, Yvonne Cecchini, at 651-437-9278 or email me at [ycecchini@earthlink.net](mailto:ycecchini@earthlink.net)

**VIP CLUB  
P.O. BOX 131748  
ROSEVILLE MN 55113-0020**

**VIP CLUB OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS FOR THE YEAR 2008**

\* = A/C 651, + = A/C 612, @ = A/C 763, # = A/C 952

<b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS:</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER CHAIRPERSONS</b>	<b>ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS</b>
<b>OFFICERS</b>		Christmas .....Dorothy Becker #881-3516
President            Brian Berggren *451-9009		Picnic..... Chuck Homan *699-5180
Vice Pres            Thomas Turba *489-0779	Red Cross Blood Drive	
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	& Joe Schwarz *698-9698	
	email address: vipclub2003@yahoo.com	
	<b>WEBMASTER</b> Lowell Benson *483 3709	
UNISYS Liaison, Roseville ..... Sue Carrigan *635-7955	Lockheed Martin, Eagan Liaison... Tierney Helmers *456-4963	Printing &
Mailing UNISYS Print Shop, Roseville .....		

**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.