

# VIP Club Newsletter

Electronic Edition  
July/August 2011

**VOLUME 31, NO. 06** <http://www.vipclubmn.org> **JULY/AUGUST 2011**

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, July 06  
Wednesday, July 13

No Board Meeting  
No Program

Wednesday, August 03  
Wednesday, August 10

Board Meeting, Roseville  
Program and Social Time

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

## **JULY PROGRAM:**

No program scheduled for July.

## **AUGUST PROGRAM: Roseville**

“UNISYS; Then, Now, and the Future”; as presented by Ronald Q. Smith.



Ron is a Distinguished Engineer/Architect working at UNISYS, Roseville. He was an active member of our 2008 Sesquicentennial Team including presenting UNISYS Commercial aspects of our history at the State Fair Grounds ‘Technology Forum.’ Mr. Smith is co-author with George T. Gray of the book “Unisys Computers: An Introductory History.”

UNISYS commercial operations has a heritage extending back to 1873, 72 years before ERA provided the computer technology impetus in the St. Paul and Minneapolis area.

Remington, Rand, Sperry, Eckert-Mauchly, American Arithmometer Company, and Burroughs are the ‘*then*’ ancestor organizations that were parts of various mergers. The ‘*now*’ is a 60+ year history of systems and hardware deliveries. The ‘*future*’ is the latest news about the UNISYS lease arrangements of the Roseville plant.

Join us at 7 p.m. for the Ron’s talk, cookies, coffee, and camaraderie at UNISYS, Roseville.

## **SEPTEMBER PROGRAM: Eagan**

Our guest speaker for September will be Tom Gillasp. Tom has served as the Minnesota State Demographer in the Minnesota Department of Administration since 1979. Tom will speak about the “NEW NORMAL”. Recent economic events and the passing of the Baby Boom into its retirement years have ushered in a new age that has been called the “Age of Entitlements” and the “New Normal”. This will have a dramatic impact on our state and national economic future. Growth is likely to slow and budget deficits increase as revenues grow even more slowly while demand for expenditures increase. This is

not a short run effect and it is not a Minnesota issue, but rather a long-run, global issue. Short run, local solutions will not solve the issue. Our actions in the next ten years will be critical to our long run future. Every type of business and institution will be affected. Tom Gillaspay discusses the trends behind these dramatic changes and their likely implications for successful navigation of the "New Normal".



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**From: President Lowell Benson**

Your BOARD has been quite busy and is taking a break by doing this combined July/August newsletter issue. Your September issue will be out in mid-August. At that time we will have tallied your votes on the Constitution Ballot which was a part of the June newsletter. Thanks to each of you who took the time to vote electronically and by U.S. Mail. At that time we will also report on a By-laws update that perforce follows constitution changes. We won't have a board meeting in July, an item on our August Board meeting agenda is our 2012 calendar as we keep looking ahead. We'd welcome your feedback or feed forward as we discuss topics of possible program interest to our members. In the September newsletter, Keith Behnke will write about the LMCO and UNISYS golf leagues possibly merging for the 2012 season as both have had current and retired members playing during the summer months. You have read by now that the LMCO Eagan building sale is complete and will be vacated by March 2013. Our Legacy committee has a lot of document, photo, and artifact processing to complete 'between now and then'.

I hope that you who were there, enjoyed our annual Highland Park picnic and camaraderie. This gathering always has over 100 participants and has been a wonderful opportunity to reminisce with former co-workers. A few picnic snapshots are on page 4. The recent Roseville 'Good Old Days' event had a great turnout, the 'Syttende Mai' celebration at Casper's was interesting as we learned of troop winter training exchanges between Camp Ripley and Norway. If you missed these, there is a Field Service picnic coming up in August. In September committees will meet to plan the November election slate for the 2012 board, the November Unihog/Uniturkey luncheon, and the Ft.

Snelling Old Timer's gathering in December. If you have a bit of time to help with any of these upcoming events, please send me an e-mail, [webmaster@vipclubmn.org](mailto:webmaster@vipclubmn.org).  
Respectfully, Lowell Benson, VIP Club President



**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 Gina's Café at the Eagles Club, 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, from September through April, on the 4th Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. at Champs located at 35E and Larpenteur Avenue.

**MEETING & EVENT DATES 2011**

Date	Time	Location	Activity
Jan. 12, 2011			No Meeting

Feb. 09 7:00 p.m. Rsvl Program - Social Time  
 Mar. 09 7:00 p.m. Eagan. Program - Social Time  
 Apr. 20 8:30 a.m. Gina's Cafe Volunteer Breakfast  
 May. 11 7:00 p.m. Eagan Program - Social Time  
**June 08 4:00 p.m. Park VIP Club Picnic**  
 July 13 **No Meeting**  
 Aug. 10 7:00 p.m. Rsvl Program - Social Time  
 Sept. 14 7:00 p.m. Eagan Program - Social Time  
**Oct. 12 6.30 p.m. Rsvl Social Program**  
 Nov. 09 7:00 p.m. Eagan Program - Social time  
**Dec. 15 4:00 p.m. USAF Christmas Party**  
**Note: Rsvl = Roseville, Eagan = Eagan Community Center, Park = Highland Park Pavilion, USAF = OFFICERS Club at Fort Snelling.**

**WELCOME NEW CLUB MEMBERS**

Donaldson, James & Mary U St. Paul, MN.  
 Eastman, Robert & Ruth U Columbia, MN.

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

**IN REMEMBRANCE**

Burley, Paul - Age 69, of Woodbury MN. Passed away June 5, 2011. Paul is survived by his loving wife of 41 years, Tricia. Paul was a long time VIP Club member and Lockheed Martin retiree.



Rich, David - Of St. Paul MN. Passed away peacefully surrounded by his immediate family on Friday, June 3rd, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Patricia Repinski. Dave worked as a Unisys software engineer for a number of years.



LaBreche, Jeanne -Age 74, of Gladstone, Michigan. Passed away on June 4, 2011. Jeanne is survived by her loving husband of 49 years, Gary. Jeanne spent most of her working career at UNISYS in Roseville, MN until she retired in March of 2001.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & REPORTS**

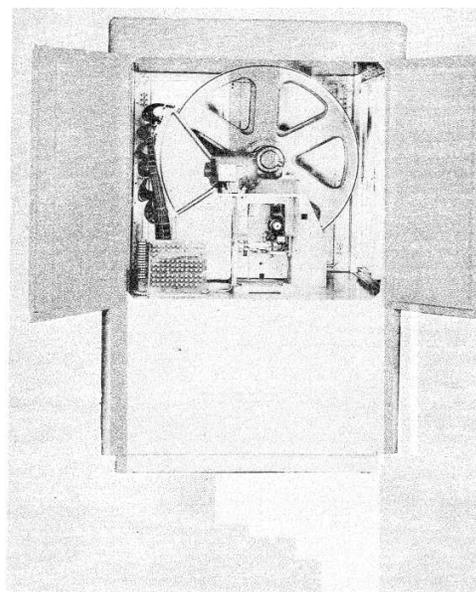
**RE-LOCATING?**

Please send permanent address update information to our database Membership Director at, VIP Club - P.O. Box 131748 - Roseville, MN 55113. Also, please remember that for temporary address changes, (vacations/snow birds, etc.) the U.S. Postal mail forwarding service should be used. Submitted by Quint Heckert

**WEB SITE REVIEW** by Lowell Benson.

This is the fifteenth in the series of 'Article for the Month' reviews for the 37.4% of our Club members who don't have immediate internet access.

In April, 2010 we posted '[Drum Prototype Design](#)', a 1947 paper written by ERA's J.M. Coombs. This paper came from Don Weidenbach, labeled as "Reprinted from the *Proceedings of the National Electronics Conference* Vol. 3, 1947." The pages were numbered 201 through 209. A surprise is that there was a sheet with page '#30' on it stapled to the back of the paper. (shown below)



Goldberg Computer MEMORY MAGNETIC DRUM

30

"Abstract.-

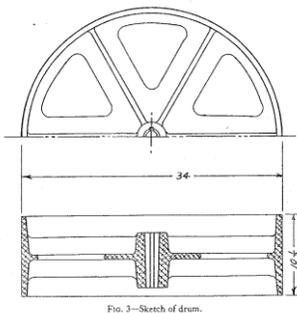
This paper describes a memory system for storing digital information on magnetic tapes. The tapes are bonded to the surface of an aluminum drum. Associated with each tape are three heads for reading, writing, and erasing magnetized spots on the tapes. This equipment allows numbers to be stored indefinitely, to be inspected as often as required, and to be removed when no longer needed. The system will store 200,000 magnetized spots on a drum 34 inches in diameter and 10 inches wide." "To test the feasibility of a system capable of storing a larger amount of information, a cast aluminum drum 34 inches in diameter and 10 1/4 inches wide was made. This drum was carefully heat-treated to minimize any tendency toward dimensional changes, and final machining was done with the drum on its own bearings and supported by the frame in which it was to be used. The initial eccentricity of the drum was 0.0007 inch. For four (continued on page 5)



Picnic Collage ‘people’ – if you’d like a high pixel count of a photo, send a note to [newsletter@vipclubmn.org](mailto:newsletter@vipclubmn.org).

1. Waiting for doors to open: Marion Scott, Tom Turba, Gary Outlaw, Al Trapp, Alden Allen, Curt Nelson, Quint Heckert, and Brian Berggren.
2. Setting up the hot dishes: Kathy Jansen, Virginia Turba, Geri Dotzler, ?, and Nancy Gountanis
3. Hank Dotzler, Dale Phelps, Ruth Sanford, Geri Dotzler, Marion Scott, and Virginia Turba.
4. The Angus Burger Quartet.
5. Gene Philipson, Tom Gustafson, ... , Martha Gustafson, and Margery Philipson.
6. Lolly & Norb Santoski.
7. Bernie & Kathy Jansen and Rosie & Dick Lundgren.
8. Mary & Chuck Wenz brought desert in a cooler.
9. Doris Dixon & John Pastre and Larry Bolton
10. Carol Engleking, Chuck Donahue, and Gary Outlaw
11. Nancy Gountanis, Kaye Sabean, Dick Lundgren, and Alden Allen
12. Marion & Duane Glasow
13. Marlin Olson, Gayle & Harvey Taipale, and Darlene Sabean.
14. Midge & Chuck Homan, Warren Becker, Frank & Johanne King
15. Lynn & Paul Lindholm

(continued from page 3) months this dimension did not change. After six months it has grown to 0.0009 inch. A sketch of the drum is shown in Fig. 3.” (shown below) “



An essential part of many automatic digital computers is a memory device, in which numbers may be stored for any desired length of time, and withdrawn from storage as required. The specifications for a memory device are dependent upon the techniques used in the remainder of the computer, and upon the type of problems which the computer is designed to solve. In general the memory will store one or more of the following types of information:

(1) the original data of the problem, which may consist of measured values of physical quantities, known physical constants, or previously calculated tables; (2) the instructions for the operation of the computer, which may be changed automatically during the process of computation; or (3) the intermediate or final answers of the computation. Among the devices which have been used for number storage are mechanical counters, relays, conventional electronic tubes, punched tapes, punched cards, and acoustic delay lines. Currently under development are several types of electrostatic storage tubes and a number of methods for using magnetic wires and magnetic tubes. thousand numbers, and into which numbers can be readily inserted, deleted, or changed in value. The features of magnetic recording offer attractive possibilities for problems of this type.” “The writer wishes to acknowledge the contributions made by J. L. Hill, S. M. Rubens, and R. L. Perkins to the technical part of this work. He is indebted to W. F. Winget for assisting with the manuscript. “

In this web site posting postscript, Lowell makes several observations: “1) Some where out there is a document that has 29 pages in front of a page 30 figure labeled Goldberg Computer. 3) Figure 4 and 5 of the paper appear to be photos of the Drum presently at the Minnesota Historical Society, although the MHS doesn’t have the shrouds over the ‘spinning’ wheel. 5) The original paper appeared in a 1947 Vol. 3 issue – Assuming that volume 3 was the third quarter and that the drum had been running for four months when the article was drafted means that the initial operation had to have been either early 1947 or late 1946. 6) Page 95 of Capt. David Boslaugh’s book “*When Computer’s went to Sea*” states that John Coombs presented a paper on magnetic drum storage techniques at the November 1947 National Electronics Conference. Obviously it was this paper. The same page states that the Goldberg drum was a 24” size.”

## 15<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FIELD SERVICE PICNIC

**SAT AUGUST 6, 2011** – The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Field Service Picnic will once again be held at Dakota County Spring Lake Park (East Shelter) on Saturday August 6, 2011 from noon to 5PM. The park is located four miles west of Hastings. Come early and join the best ball golf tournament. Mark your calendar and contact Curt Anderson at [anderscurt@comcast.net](mailto:anderscurt@comcast.net) or 651-438-9851 for details. Submitted by Curt Anderson.

## LIGHTER SIDE

**Astute Readers** - In the last issue, we posted a lighter side tidbit which stated that a fifth three-day weekend this July wouldn’t occur for another 823 years. Two readers took exception to the ‘823 years’: Rip Anderson pointed out that July 2016 will also have a fifth three day weekend. Don Bennett noted that he’d developed a program before he’d retired from LMCO which calculated which day of the week a future date would occur. That program indicated that identical dates within a month could occur every 7 years, then Don cited an e-mail which he’d received: “Don’t believe everything you read or receive over the internet – A. Lincoln.” The submitter of the tidbit (LABenson) obviously didn’t check the authenticity of the item before submitting it for publication. Sorry, Lowell.

