

# The Next Stage

## Reservations due Sept. 15 for Sept. 17 HDAA Dinner

Billy Graham has our September dinner set up at the Knights of Columbus Banquet Room under the direction of our own Barbara Plonka, who fed us some fine food when she and husband Chester had a restaurant in the Haysland Square area a few years ago. The K of C address is 3053 Lehman Ferry Road.

Dinner will include Chicken Cordon Bleu, baked potato, green beans almondine, tossed salad, and icebox pie, with rolls or bread, coffee and tea. The banquet room is listed for up to 65, and Paulette says they serve good food.

The cost is \$10 per person. Prepaid reservations should be sent to PO Box 4185 (Huntsville 35815-4185) to arrive by 9/15/98. This is a day later than the postcards said; so, reservations mailed at the Haysland Post Office on Monday afternoon should make it.

---

## Group of 55 Enjoy Picnic

The third annual Huntsville Division Alumni Association picnic was held at the Redstone Arsenal Rustic Lodge on Saturday, June 6, 1998 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Mando's served a "Good Ol' South BBQ" buffet. Jim Hamblin promised a fun day and it seemed to be just that, starting with a game of "how to get the caterer through the new security system." The Rustic Lodge is a beautiful spot, with a large patio overlooking the Tennessee River. Unlike the heat and cold of previous years, the weather for the picnic this year was perfect.

Attendees at the June Picnic included: Paulette and Jim Hamblin, Bill Russell, Izzy and Roberta Friedman, Bob Lakebrink and Mildred Thrasher, Bill Barnes, Sharon Livingston and Tom Turner, Billy and Anna Graham, Nancy and Thomas Parker, Chuck and Annalie Owens, Mark and June Whitfield, Tom and Libby Loder, Helen Acuff and Virgil Lacy, Doris and Paul Osmer,

Continued on page 3, see "Picnic"

## Don and Patti Wilson Challenge Others

Patti Wilson quotes husband Don as saying that all HDAA members should be challenged to do two things:

- 1) **bring one guest** who is a potential member to the next dinner, and
- 2) **Help build the Bo Stokes memorial Habitat for Humanity house.**

We certainly have a LOT of great talent out there (a lot of whom are officially retired from working 8+ hours each day).

And, it might make a great community humanitarian project. Perhaps we could become a humanitarian group in our own right - like Kiwanis, Rotarians, etc....so that we could get together to have fun,

Cont'd on p. 3, see "Challenge"

## Plan for Christmas Party on Dec. 10

The fourth annual HDAA Christmas party is scheduled for Thursday December 10, 1998, at the Madison Square Holiday Inn.

## In Memory:

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the families of fellow alumni who have died recently.

**Avis Herbert** passed away on June 20. Avis, a retired industrial nurse, battled cancer for almost a year before she died. She and husband Deane almost never missed a Thiokol or HDAA party and everyone enjoyed her company. We will miss her. Thiokol alumni turned out en mass for the visitation and funeral

**Mary E. Karabinos** died recently. Mary and husband Andy attended HDAA gatherings faithfully until her cancer interfered. Andy was in Program Management and Pricing before going to work as one of the Martin on-site reps.

**Henry Suns** was a Foreman in Manufacturing several years ago.

**Carl Shockley** was a foreman in Manufacturing.

**Editor's Note:** We depend almost exclusively on information provided by fellow members. HDAA is online at : <http://www.hsv.tis.net/~cstokes/HDAA>

## Big Welcome to New Members:

- ☺ Jerry and Judy McMurry; 1776 Point of Pines, Guntersville, AL 35976-6221 (256-582-4616)
- ☺ Ernie Flemig, 827 El Dorado Ave., Huntsville, AL 35802-3209
- ☺ Jim Compton, 116 Pinewood Dr., Somerville, AL 35670 (256-350-5285) (Work: 256-772-9321)
- ☺ Deemer and Jimmie Self; 2712 Trevor Dr. SE, Huntsville, AL 35802 (256-881-7757)

---

## Lady Retirees Meet for Monthly Lunch

The Ladies Luncheon was held Wednesday 9/2/98 at Logan's Roadhouse. Attendees were Joyce Royston, Mary & Jim Cash, Jean Walker, Doris Osmer, Jo Killian, Louise Fenton, Helen Acuff, Faye Jones, Barbara Plonka, Nita Boyd, Sue Steuer and friend from Germany.

The next Luncheon will be at Logan's at 11:30, on Wednesday, October 7, 1998. Come join us for lunch. Call Joyce Royston at 539-4338.

## Retiree's Lunch at El Palacio

The regular retirees luncheon at El Palacio is strong and healthy after all these many years. The group gathers on the third Wednesday of each month at about 12:15 for greetings, handshaking, conversation, an occasional joke and a great deal of learned philosophy. And, last but not least, is the fact that they also eat lunch together.

The comradeship is a sight to behold. One would never think that some of these people worked in a near combative situation and were "organized for conflict", once upon a time. There is genuine concern for those who are ill, having special problems, or recovering from medical procedures.

The Thiokol- Huntsville folks are outstanding people! There are no notification or reminders of the meetings and yet attendance stays high, generally running from 15 to 30 people. Based on the mid August (19th) meeting attendance of 25, the retirees still enjoy these luncheons. Attendees included: Bill Savelle, Jack Godsey, Jack Hagler, Chuck Babcock, Deane Herbert, W.C. Smith, Bill Hunter, Steve Adamek,

Continued on next page

### Challenge (cont'd from p. 1)

constructive for our community in some capacity. Patty says "I'll never forget when "Father Flanigan" had a house-painting party at his house one weekend. We had about 12 of us from R&D who showed up in grubbies at his house on Drummond...and we all were assigned a specific item to paint on the exterior of his house. (I had lower trim and windowsills within reach, etc., etc., etc.) And, when the house was finished, we had a backyard BBQ with plenty of sodas (during the painting effort) and beer (after the painting effort, if so inclined). It was a ton of fun, productive, and developed a lot of camaraderie! So, perhaps we could do some such thing for a less fortunate community "

Patty continues "I've always been a firm believer that the community continuously does for us throughout our lives in one way or another...and it's only fair that, when we can, we turn about and give back to the community in some fashion. And, helping in some such voluntary efforts are a good way to return the giving.

"Just a thought."

---

Anyone interested in trying to have a special HDAA-day for working Habitat? Ideas sent to [Cstokes@Traveller.com](mailto:Cstokes@Traveller.com) will be posted at: <http://www.hsv.tis.net/~cstokes/HDAA>

### Habitat Invitation

The Carolyn and Bo Stokes Memorial House will be constructed in a Habitat for Humanity "Blitz Build" 10/9/98 - 10/18/98.

Bo's daughter Lynda says "This is a huge project and we urge you to join us by volunteering to help build the home, contributing funds, or donating materials.

"HDAA members have many talents in constructing things, and we are hoping that you will use them in the building of this house."

If willing, please contact Lynda at 883-0643 or e-mail [cstokes4@compuserve.com](mailto:cstokes4@compuserve.com). Any monetary donations can be sent to Madison Habitat for Humanity, 2817 University Drive, Huntsville, AL, 35816, with a note designating "Stokes Memorial House."

---

### Picnic (cont'd from p. 1)

Don and Gay Ann Nelson, Nita Boyd, Bill Stogner, Ruthy Wilson, Mary and Jim Cash, Gene and Iva Thomas, Red Hayes, Jack and Helen Hagler, Gattis and Shirley Milam, Faye and David Jones, Ron and Alice Clements, Truman and Gayle Rains, Cecil and Shirley Stokes, Harold and Jackie Whitesides, Kathy Reynolds, Tom and Carol Bryant, Ed Bradshaw, Henry Nocke, Marlin Moman and Don Wilson.

### El Palacio (cont'd from p. 2)

Sam Zeman, Gordon Fletcher, Bob Langley, Bill Barnes, Tony Guzzo, Bob Brooks, Jim Hamblin, Leon Champion, Mark Whitfield, Walt Terry, Jerry Webb, Roy Willis, Dick Wall, Jake Reep, Bill Fiser, Marty Olliff, and John Nelson.

As usual, the group was served by Rachel Hall, their favorite waitress.

---

### Caveny & Zeman Meet at Seminar

In late July 1998, Sam and Nora Zeman ran into (Dr.) Len Caveny at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Monterey, California. It turns out that Len was attending the same International Pyrotechnics Seminar that Sam was attending.

Len has retired from his Government position and is now a consulting engineer. His business card shows his Ft Washington, Maryland, address and interestingly, the back of his card is printed in Russian.

Nora had a big discussion with Len about his five daughters and their geographic migration to the California area, and Sam enjoyed a chance to talk to him about the old days in the Engineering Department.

Like Len, Sam is working as a consultant. Sam works with Stone Engineering

Cecil Stokes  
4022 Heatherhill Rd  
Huntsville, AL 35802

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Huntsville, AL  
Permit No. 764

Huntsville Division Alumni Assoc.  
Post Office Box 4185  
Huntsville, Alabama 35815-4185

## Love at the Huntsville Division

Don't be scared by this title. Several of us working on this blip agreed we could have a fine checkout article if we kept the subject open, but we didn't want to be defendants in suits at law. This is about lawful marriages contracted between employees of the Huntsville Division.

Conversations about the subject started a compilation of names, so, lookout, here goes.

Dick King and Mary Glenn; Mark Horton and

Cynthia McMillan; Martha Thrower and Billy Gibbs; Dick Wall and Martha Jones; Marie Thomas and Carroll Bobb; Paulette Woodall and Ralph Sellers; Mildred Troupe and Will Wallace; Pat Chandler and Bill Quick; Joyce Newton and Don Royston; Paulette Sellers and Jim Hamblin; Buddy and Gloria Blackwell; Lucille Reed and Jay Pockrus; Jud Lovingood and Juanita Snead; Dave Flanagan and Yvonne Collier; Patty Thorpe and Don Wilson; Charles Crawford and Wanda Lott; Barry and Susan Moore.

This is a beginning. We know there are others to be named. Please call them to Paulette or Jim Hamblin at 256/461-4295.

The Next Stage is the quarterly newsletter of the Huntsville Division Alumni Association, Inc. Its address is POB 4185, Huntsville, AL, 35815-4185. The 1998 HDAA Board consists of President Paulette Sellers Hamblin, Vice President Roy T. Willis, Secretary Faye Edmonds, Treasurer Nita Boyd, and Directors: Bill Barnes ('00), Al Brazzelton ('99), Gene Burroughs ('98), Bo Churn ('99), Billy Graham ('98), George Green ('99), Jim Hamblin ('00), Charles O. Jones ('99), Jim Lee ('98), Fools McCauley ('00), Jan McMahan ('00), Jake Reep ('99), Billy Ray Sorter ('98), Cecil Stokes ('99), Jo Tipton ('98), Cecil Walden ('98), and Sam Zaman ('00).