

Reaching Out From a
Common Experience

"Reaching Out From a Common Experience"

Greetings from a unique group of people - the retirees of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The Laboratory Retiree Group (LRG) is a non-profit corporation which seeks to maintain communications with and to serve the needs and interests of retirees from LANL. If you wish to join our organization, an application is available in this newsletter. For more information, please contact our President Charles R. Mansfield at coyote2@swcp.com or by mail at P. O. Box 546, Los Alamos, NM 87544.

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Board Member: Alan Wadlinger awadlinger@vla.com

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Health Care Premium Working Committee: Glenn Lockhart

Computer Literacy: Mary L. Mariner, (505) 672-1950

Membership: Sheila Girard, (505) 672-3497

Main Gate: John Stewart, (505) 662-7158

Web Contact: LRG Web Master: Don Reid lrg271a@gmail.com

The **Laboratory Retiree Group** web site is www.losalamoslrg.org.

Health Issues by Glenn Lockhart

Since the last issue of *Main Gate*, we have received letters from LANL Benefits and DOE/NNSA. The LANL letter stated that LANL's goal is "...to provide the best quality healthcare (sic) in the most competitive price structure that can be sustainable into the future for all the participant populations." This indicates to me that LANL is on our side.

The DOE/NNSA letter repeated their stance from their previous letters:

LANL, at this point, does not administer a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) for Medicare eligible retirees;

Only the DOE Contract Officer can determine whether LANL's plans are "substantially equivalent" to UC plans; and

LANL retirees do not have enforceable third party rights under the DOE/LANL contract.

The following is a reprint from 2 previous issues of the *Main Gate*. It is being reprinted at the suggestion of retirees who have called me since the last reprint. Not all of the retirees are LRG members, but I recommended that they join.

Make Life Easier For Your Heirs

Death Creates Stress. The key to reducing that stress is to prepare for death ahead of time. A few retirees (including my spouse) have suggested that this article be about what to do when your spouse dies. This is a complicated problem, because the solution varies for every individual -- retirees have different health care plans; retirees may or may not own a car, stocks, bonds, or real estate. My approach is to list general contacts to consider, leaving it to you to supply specific contact information. Each contact will have detailed instructions for the caller on what to do and how to do it.

Make sure that your spouse and the administrator named in your will (everyone needs a will) are familiar with all of the information that you compile for suggested contacts (see below). The information should be updated annually (each list should be dated as to the last update), but should also be updated if a major change occurs (such as moving to a new residence). Don't worry if you enter the same contact information in more than one category.

Location of Important Papers: Furnish this information to your spouse and administrator with a copy in the safe-deposit box.

Safe-Deposit Box (everyone should have one). Bank name, address, box number, and location of keys.

NOTE: The administrator for your will should be a co-owner to allow access after your death. All important documents (including your information lists from this article, deeds, wills, insurance policies, stock and bond certificates, etc.) should be stored in the box. A current inventory of contents should be kept in the safe-deposit box and at home.

Home Storage Locations: List all locations (file cabinet at home, shoebox under bed, etc.) and be specific as to what is stored there (tax returns, purchase price on stocks and bonds, financial statements, etc.).

Attorney: Usually has the will (everyone needs one) and/or trust documents. NOTE: Consult for probate requirements.

Accountant: Usually has tax documents. NOTE: Consult for tax requirements.

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Financial Advisor: Usually holds stocks, bonds, other investments. May or may not be a reliable source for tax advice.

Other: Any location not specified above (such as the title to your car or the deed to your house held by a lender).

Personal Information: Full legal name; any aliases; date of birth; place of birth; Social Security Number; home address (street, city, county, state, zip code); telephone number(s); marital status; information on spouse; and information on children.

Family and Friends to be Contacted: Name, relationship, address, phone, e-mail.

Advisors and Other Entities to be Contacted: Name, firm name, address, phone, e-mail.

Potential Contacts – Accountant; attorney; auto/home/liability insurance agent; bank/credit union; doctor; dentist; chiropractor; charities; pastor/priest/rabbi; employer/business partner; landlord; funeral director; life insurance agent(s)/companies; trustee; pension/retirement fund contact (UCRP, CalPers, Veterans Administration, Department of Defense, etc.); Your Benefits Resources (for LANL retiree health insurance); the local county clerk (to change the names on the deed to your house) and the county assessor (to possibly change veteran's and head of household exemptions). NOTE: UCRP and PERS have a death benefit. The funeral director will usually obtain copies of the death certificate as part of his service (you will pay him for this service and it is well worth it). The funeral director will want to know when (dates and time) and where you want to have services (see Memorial Instructions). The 800 number for the pension/retirement contact will be on your monthly check stub.

Government Entities: Medicare and Medicaid; state department which administers welfare (usually Health and Human Services); Internal Revenue Service (ask for forms and publications for closing out the estate); the state department of veterans affairs (required for burial in a National Cemetery and for obtaining help on who to contact for veteran's benefits for survivors); post office; Social Security Administration. NOTE: Social Security has a burial benefit (\$255) payable to the surviving spouse.

Memorial Instructions: Burial or cremation (disposition of ashes); prepayment with a funeral home (name, address, phone, funeral director, amount paid, date paid, location of policy/receipt); ownership of burial plot (cemetery, address, phone, date acquired, location of deed/receipt); memorial service (where, who will conduct the service, music selections, flowers or donations in lieu of flowers, pallbearers, eulogies); conduct of wake and reception; other instructions. NOTE: The state department of veteran's affairs arranges burial in national cemeteries.

(To be continued in the Fall (November) Main Gate.)

Sweet Seventy (or 65) by Ken Lee

Here is the follow-up to the previous "Sweet Seventy" article.

Since retirement, I have branded myself as a professional student. For instance, on December 2011, I completed my MBA degree at NMSU. At one of our breakfast meetings I mentioned that age has its privileges. I earned the MBA with 36 credit hours at a discounted rate because I am over 65. Using NMSU as an example, a resident of New Mexico currently pays \$279.50 and \$259.20 per credit hour for graduate and undergraduate respectively as a part time student. As seniors (age 65+), we pay \$59.60 per credit hour for either graduate or undergraduate courses for 6 credit hours or less per semester. That is a significant saving of $6(\$279.50 - \$59.60) = \$1,319.40$. For me the saving would have been \$7,916.40 for the 36 credit hours. Remember, if one takes 1 more than six credit hours, all seven hours would be at the regular rate. [See more at www.aseniorcitizenguideforcollege.com.]

Coffee and Conversation (and Breakfast) 1st Tuesday of the month, 8:30-10:30 a.m., Viola's on Trinity.

The New Los Alamos Golf Club House



The golf course is to the left.



Golf carts will be stored in the lower section.



The porch looking over the golf course on the right.



The Diamond Drive side (i.e. the front).

The Kite Festival at Overlook Park (Photos by John Guenette)

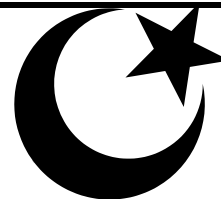




In Memoriam

As of 06-23-2014

By Jack Clifford



Daniel Alan James
Donald T. Trujillo
Naomi C. Bowler
Dorothy J. Hoard
Gloria H. Newman
Nina M. Weisgerber
Frank G. Alarid
Marian Jocot Moorman
John Buchen
Boyd A. Sherwood
Donald Rose
Robert Groff
Sandra D. Larson
Robert M. Douglass
Robert Bowyer
Charles Beckett

Michael Cannon
Robert Shropshire
Maria A. Wood
Gilbert R. Ortiz
Elizabeth (Betty) Lilenthal*
Earl (Jim) Cox
Melvin L. Brooks
Patricia J. Wright
Mary T. Rospopo
Robert D. Krohn
Michael W. Stewart, M.D.
Alice K. Westervelt
David F. George
Leland K. Neher
Gerald K. Sondreal
John P. Anaya

Odelia V. Doran
Nancy Weinbrecht
John L. Warren
Ronald Sharp
Christine E. Jolly
Joe A. Mariner
Paul O'Brien
Karl L. Meier
Llewellyn Jones
Andrew Nowak
Beckie B. Diven

**Not Lab Employee but Well
Known in Community*

REMEMBERING OPERATION CASTLE by William Spencer

After 60 years I still remember my involvement in the testing of two H-bombs during Operation Castle in the Pacific Proving Ground in 1954. There were two bombs named Runt and Bravo. They were massive bombs. They weighed 21 tons and were 5 feet in diameter and 21 feet long. My involvement was in the design of the case for the primary, the nuclear assembly, and for the design of the mechanism for inserting the nuclear capsule into the primary which was called the IFI or the In Flight Insertion device.

Runt was fired in April in Bikini Atoll and gave a yield of 17 megatons. Bravo was then made ready for firing on March 1.

Following the assembly of Bravo, made on Parry Island in Eniwetok, it was moved onto a barge. The barge was then floated into an LSD ship for transport to Bikini atoll. This was a 150 mile over-night trip in which I was the only LASL employee to be aboard. Upon arrival the next morning the barge was floated from the LSD into the Bikini Atoll and anchored to wait for the firing date.

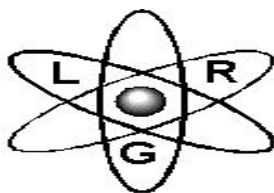
It was 2 ½ weeks before good weather was predicted for firing the shot. The fall-out from Runt was a concern for Bravo. The Runt shot had caused a massive fall-out problem. While waiting we spent our time aboard the USS Curtis the Navy command ship for Operation Castle. It was anchored in the lagoon, about a ½ mile from the barge. Some of the other LASL personnel aboard the ship were Wally Leland, Ben Diven, Harold Agnew, Chism, Horpedale, and Jack Barger from ACF. Harold was the principle designer of the Runt, a wet device, and the Bravo, a dry device. As he had mentioned, they were his.

While aboard the ship there was a lot of free time, and I would work out on the deck where I did a few simple acrobatic stunts with Harold. I also teamed up with a sailor and we got good enough to put on a acrobatic show on movie night.

I spent some time accompanying Agnew in going out to the barge to do dry runs on the firing system. We were transported by a M-Boat, a small landing craft.

Over the past years I often wondered who was on the arming party for the bomb. The function of

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Membership Application

LRG has three classes of membership. Participation in all LRG social or educational events is open to all members regardless of membership classification.

ACTIVE Member: A Los Alamos National Laboratory employee who has retired **from the prime contractor of LANL (presently UCRS, PERS, and LANS)**. Active members pay dues of \$12.00/ calendar year. VOTING PRIVILEGES at Annual Meetings and eligibility to serve as LRG Officers and/or Directors are reserved for Active Members. Active Members receive copies of the LABORATORY RETIREE DIRECTORY and LRG's publication, *The Main Gate*.

AFFILIATE Member: The spouse of an Active Member, of a deceased retiree, or of a deceased person who would have been eligible for ACTIVE membership. **AFFILIATES pay no dues. An Affiliate member may become a Member on the death of the spouse by paying dues.**

FRIENDS: Persons who are not LANL retirees or affiliates but support LRG. FRIENDS pay dues of \$15.00/yr to cover cost of postage for the DIRECTORY and all issues of *The Main Gate*.

THE LABORATORY RETIREE GROUP, INC. (LRG)

☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal ☐ Affiliate ☐ Friend

☐ Change of address ☐ Check here if requested information remains unchanged.

Lab. Retiree: _____, _____ Year Retired: _____
(Please print or type last name first)

Retiree System: _____

Spouse: _____, _____ LANL Retiree? Y ___ N ___ Year Ret.: _____
(Please print or type last name first)

OR

Friend: _____, _____
(Please print or type last name first)

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ Fax or E-Mail _____

I WISH TO BE LISTED IN THE LABORATORY RETIREE DIRECTORY: Yes ___ No ___

Please make your check, which will serve as your receipt, payable to LRG, Inc. and mail to:
LRG, Inc.

PO Box 546

Los Alamos, NM 87544

Cash or Check #: _____ Date: _____ Amount: \$ _____

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Address Service Requested

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the arming party was to attach the firing cable and also to insert the capsule (which had been in the retracted position) into the primary using the IFI. This involved inserting a T wrench through a hole in the noose of the weapon case and turning it clockwise. These activates of the arming party were performed on the day prior to the shot day. I wondered who they were and how they got there.

I e-mailed Harold and he responded saying he thought it was Bert Heil who inserted the capsule, but could not remember who attached the firing cable. I was able to contact Bert and he acknowledged inserting the capsule and thought it was someone from GMX-7 who attached the firing cable. I asked him how they got to and from the barge. He said they were flown in by a PBY, a Navy flying boat, which landed in the lagoon. They were then transported from the PBY to the barge by an M-boat. After arming they were transferred to the Curtis.

The Curtis sailed out of the lagoon during the night and anchored 40 miles at sea. We observed the shot with awe. It was amazing, very impressive. It gave a yield of 15 megatons. Harold was often quoted as saying "why buy a cow while milk was so cheap," referring to the success of the more practical dry device, the Bravo.

The Curtis returned to Eniwetok.

During the next 3 weeks I assembled 2 bombs and moved them to firing towers in the Eniwetok Atoll.

Note: You can see the megaton bomb at the Atomic Museum in Albuquerque. Look for the hole in the nose. That is where the T-wrench was inserted.

William Spencer 4/2014 now 91 wspan96962@aol.com