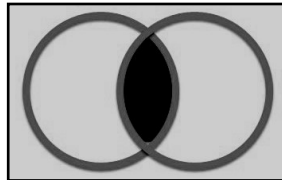


NewsLetter



Newsletter Team:
E. Foote, M. Hall, E. Kliem,
W. Rosen

Polaroid Retirees Association

January – March
2021

THIS PUBLICATION IS SOLELY FOR THE USE OF THE PRA MEMBERSHIP
POLAROID RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC. P.O. BOX 541395, WALTHAM, MA 02454-1395
WEB SITE ADDRESS WWW.POLAROIDRETIRES.ORG EMAIL— NEWSLETTERPRA@GMAIL.COM

Letter from the President

GREETINGS is the popular salutation or sign of regards, goodwill and warmth we normally extend to our loved ones, family, friends, associates, neighbors and even strangers that we pass on the streets. 2020 wasn't a very pleasant year in which we were stimulated to greet people, groups, etc., with a polite warmth or expression of goodwill. Instead, we were prompted to avoid interaction and contact with everyone, even in our homes. In caution, we must cancel our 2021 May Luncheon and Business Meeting.

Yes, it was a year to forget and remember. Our nation has gone through dark periods like this in the past: Pearl Harbor, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, 9-11, financial collapse and other. We have learned to withstand these dark periods in our history and have surfaced from these with energy and vigor, which is what I suspect and pray that we repeat from the coronavirus and its attack on our lives.

As a group of Polaroid retirees, we have experienced some difficult times but have emerged as an active and progressive organization focused on our good times in a great company with outstanding people. Let's all agree, those were mostly good times, often filled with excitement and good memories. Such is the basis of the PRA, a chance for us to gather, recall and share common memories together "like the good ol' days."

The PRA Board of Directors is working much the same as it did last year to keep our business on track. We meet online via Zoom, as we have since last spring, until we can safely get together. Each month we review the business required by our Constitution and Bylaws, as well as discuss plans for the Association's future. The Q2 *Newsletter* will contain a review of the board and committee activities and discussions.

The board will elect members in May using the process we used in the absence of the 2020 May Meeting. Three directors stand for 3-year term re-elections. They are Nino DiIanni and Bill Rosen for their 3rd terms, and Bob Ruckstuhl for his 2nd. All 3 are critical contributors. Additionally, I am pleased to announce that with the approval of the board, I have appointed long-time PRA members John Haywood and Touie Jackson to the Board of Directors. John, or "Johnnie" as many of you know him, worked at Polaroid 27 years in several areas of the Camera Division and Optics, as well as the Dispute Resolution Office. Touie worked at Polaroid for 35 years in Optics, Camera Division and Industrial Sales. They fill the vacancies created by Larry Chelmow and Milt Dentch who resigned before the completion of their 1st terms. Also, Touie and John have been nominated unanimously by the board for election to full-terms in May. You'll hear more about all five nominees in the Q2 Newsletter.

Unfortunately, 2020 and the virus interrupted our gatherings, meetings and sharing. We miss these events and one another. However, I'm convinced that "this too will pass" and during 2021, we'll return to our old ways of life and Retirees activities, and we'll look back with appreciation and relief that it's behind us; thank God.

So, at this time we, the Board of Directors for the PRA wish to extend to each of you our sincere wishes for a happy, healthy New Year and look forward with confidence and hope that we can return to express to our group during an event, **GREETINGS!**

Ed Wade, *President, Polaroid Retirees Association*

Board of Directors & Officers

President
Ed Wade

1st Vice President
John Flynn

2nd Vice President
Arthur Aznavorian

Treasurer
Nino Dilanni

Secretary
Mary McCann

Directors

Dave Bayer

Elizabeth Foote

Maryann Hall

John Haywood

Touie Jackson

Eva Karger

Erika Kliem

Jim Mitcheson

George Murray

William Rosen

Bob Ruckstuhl

Eric Thorgerson

Not Feeling Alone... by Maryann Hall

If you stopped into the Camera Division's Quality department, you met Maryann. We asked her to share how she's doing during these difficult times. She tells us:

When we were advised to isolate in the COVID-19 Pandemic, Eleanor Roosevelt's words came to my mind "**You must do the things you think you cannot do.**" How could I accomplish this being stuck at home alone and not feeling lonely? Alas, as time passed, I realize her words unknowingly forced me to do many of the same things which I did before the isolation. Now, I am doing them differently and all is good. Keeping my interests, being busy and saying to myself "Maryann, you got this" were the keys to handling this.

Not being able to visit or go out with family and friends is hard but it still is possible for me to easily communicate with them because of the digital age using the telephone, Facetime, Zoom, Instagram and by emailing and texting, etc. I have been fortunate to have every one of my children, their spouses, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren reach out to me to talk and see how I am doing. I am grateful that they check on me and have my back no matter what time of day. The digital age made it possible for me to see my granddaughter Aubrienne graduate with her Masters as a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst, my grandson Anthony graduate from high school, my grandson Nicholas' baseball, and my daughter Barbara and great granddaughters Angela and Christina honored to be named the 2020 Commonwealth of Massachusetts Heroines at an online award ceremony, all via the Internet. As the weather got warmer, my daughter Julieann and son David came to visit me wearing facemasks and socially distancing in the backyard.

It is difficult not to go to the supermarket but fortunately, my five caring children and their families always check and volunteer to shop for me. They text to let me know they are coming to deliver the food and socially distance, wave to me and leave the groceries on my back porch. I use Instacart where I put my orders in online and a personal shopper shops for the items and delivers the groceries and leaves them on my porch, all safe and contact free. It is great also to be able make other purchases online.

I enjoyed my 10'x12' greenhouse this summer. This was my first time doing it alone. I grew tomatoes and cucumbers, which I shared with my children when they brought me my groceries. Watering my plants was very convenient because my son John installed an automatic watering system and automatic solar vent window openers in the greenhouse.

I make sure I take a walk everyday down my street. Yes, even when it is cold out.

Daily, I continue to search for any obituaries of our dear departed Polaroid "family" friends and post them on polaroidretirees.org website, send out the condolences to PRA members' families and prepare the notices for the

Newsletter. Where we could not meet at the Norwood Chateau, using Zoom was an excellent alternative for the Directors to have our monthly Board of Directors meetings. After the pandemic ends, we know we can have our meetings even when it's a stormy winter day.

My companionship during this time includes two chihuahuas and a Jack Russell who makes me laugh quite a bit. They usually do not have any complaints except for few barks here and there, specifically when they hear someone at my door or when they want to chime in at our monthly PRA Board of Directors Zoom Meetings. I did take them to the veterinarian for their ongoing checkups. They only let one person go in at a time. Everyone must wear facemasks. The pups are always happy to go for the ride but once in the parking lot they start nervously shaking and do not want to wait in the car for the phone call saying it is our turn to go in. Once it is all over, they run for the door and want out of there ASAP.

On August 8, 2020, when some restrictions lifted, I and a few of my children finally were able to fulfill David Hall's wishes with the beautiful presentation of a U.S. Navy Sea Tribute Ceremony aboard the Captain John II, Plymouth, MA, and we scattered his ashes into the sea.

I did participate as a poll worker for the first election but did not for the second election. I was advised by my doctor not to do so. My visits to my doctor are virtual video appointments. This is a wonderful way to see the doctor and if need be, I can also talk to her via email at any time

One of the greatest opportunities during this time is that I am one of an 8-member team that spearheads a nonprofit called Annie's Kindness Blankets ("AKB"). With the help of an army of volunteers, we make no-sew fleece blankets for anyone that needs an everlasting hug. We continue to make AKB's at home now. You can find out more at www.annieskindnessblankets.org.

After I make the AKBs, I iron on a label that speaks of being kind to others and place it in its own tote bag. From there, it is placed into a pretty purple mailing bag and placed outside for the USPS mail carrier. Along with my outgoing mail, my USPS mail carrier Scott takes the AKB packages from my door and off they go to be delivered. He tells me, "I'll take as many as you want to give me." AKB is continually receiving requests for these blankets. Annie's Kindness Blankets is a kindness campaign which began in 2015 by my daughter Barbara and my three great-granddaughters (Angela, Christina, and Mia) in honor and memory of their mom Annie. It is for the prevention of suicide to emphasize kindness. Presently 9,000+ blankets have been mailed in Annie's honor and one-half have been mailed through USPS. Thanks goes to Scott my mailman and all the other mail carriers for helping us deliver AKBs. They are Superstars. AKBs are delivered to anyone for any reason. They are a representation of an everlasting hug and meant to remind others they are never alone.

The need for facemasks became necessary and thus a spinoff for AKB. Through the Internet, I learned how to make them for the Medical Professionals and for anyone

requesting them through AKB. I have made and mailed 600 facemasks to date.

With all this said, I want to say that my security cameras give me the pleasure to see the outside world without my being physically out there. I get to see all the animals that enjoy my backyard as I do. There are cats, skunks, opossums, ground hogs, raccoons and many beautiful birds. I did not know ground hogs could climb a fence!

I hope we do not have a bad snowy winter but if so, my son Tony will be plowing my driveways and shoveling my walkways even though we will still be socially distant. I believe we will all be together soon. Staying healthy and keeping safety in mind is priority for me.

With the kindness and help of others and the digital age, a lot is different but okay too. From the words of Eleanor Roosevelt,

“I know we can do the things we think we cannot do.”



My Superstar Mailman, Scott

“Lost Members”

As the PRA Board of Directors discussed how to enlist new members, Membership Committee chair Bob Ruckstuhl shared some data that he thought might lead to some clues about what to do. Bob said that, over the years, the PRA has “lost” a number of members who simply stopped paying their dues. Though these members have a two-year grace period to catch up, and receive letters encouraging them to do just that, many never follow through and let their memberships lapse.

Bob said we likely could learn ways to better retain members if we canvass this group, and since the personnel records of the company have long been destroyed leaving us no record of former employees, we need to focus on the retention of our current members.

The board agreed and Bob, along with BOD members George Murray and Erika Kliem, agreed to create a mailing to ask a group of 199 “lost members” why they had let their dues lapse and subsequently left the PRA. This is what Bob and Erika learned:

The data is weak; 75% did not respond. Those who did emphasized they did not know any of the current members or had poor health that kept them from involvement. All responders said they enjoyed working for Polaroid, calling it a “great company,” but had lost touch with people and no longer felt the connection. Unfortunately, the original objective of the mailing was not realized in that we did not learn much regarding how or what we could do to better retain those who simply let their memberships lapse.

The Board asks you to keep your connection. Take a look at the website article on page four to learn how to find former colleagues. Get involved with the Board of Directors as a board member or advisor. Write a piece for the Newsletter about your Polaroid memories or your life after Polaroid so you can find old friends or make new ones. Tell the board what they could do for you.

We want to help you stay. We don’t want to lose you.

POLAROID
Land CAMERA
THAT MAKES

1. Dunsak
2. Putter
3. Staley
4. Munger
5. Lanier
6. Boyer

Finished pictures
in a minute

SEE THIS AMAZING
CAMERA AT THE
GELOTTE STORES

CLAUS GELOTTE
CAMERA STORES

Rental—Repair—Delivery—Mail Order Services

BOSTON 284 Boylston St.
6-6366

CAMBRIDGE Harvard Square
Kirkland 1-2365

1. Werle
2. Boroway
3. Dickson
4. Chaubert
5. Law

Polaroid at Fenway

PRA member Nino DiIanni shares this game-day program showing Polaroid’s support for the home team.

The Claus Gelotte Camera Shops, Freda’s Restaurant and Gallagher & Burton’s Whiskey are long gone, but Lucky Strikes still sell though mainly overseas.

The Sox play on.

GALLAGHER & BURTON'S
The “Carriage Trade” FAVORITE
world the place that Bostonians like to!

POLAROID
Land CAMERA
THAT MAKES

1. Dunsak
2. Putter
3. Staley
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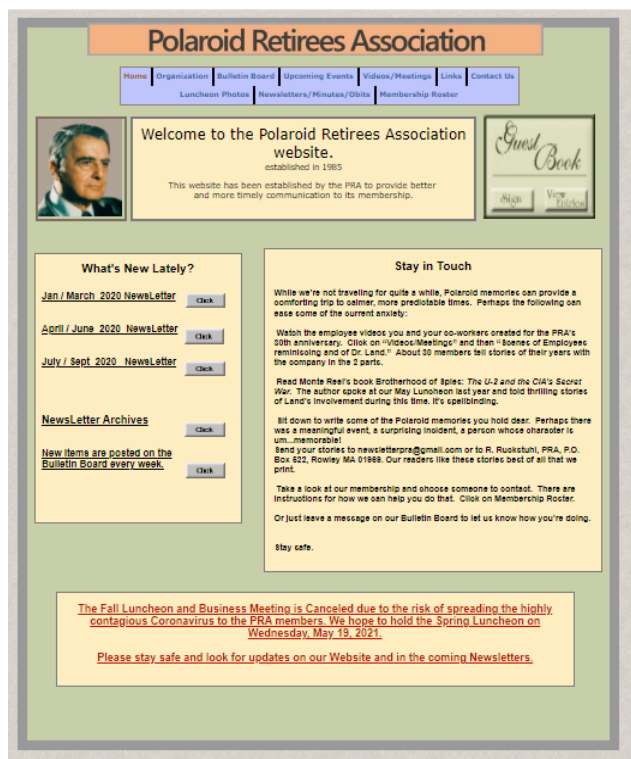
1. Werle
2. Boroway
3. Dickson
4. Chaubert
5. Law

FREDA'S
AMERICAN RESTAURANT
FENWAY AT THE
FENWAY PARK

LUCKY STRIKE
There's never a
rough puff in a Lucky
BECAUSE L.S./M.F. - LUCKY STRIKE MEANS FINE TOBACCO

Navigating the PRA Website by Mary Mccann

Mary offered to share what she's learned by looking around the PRA website. Thank you for your help as we fill our days at home with memories and friends, Mary.



A few months ago, we received an article on Ansel Adams from the archives of the National Portrait Gallery. I thought many Polaroid retirees might enjoy reading it, so I forwarded it to our Newsletter editor and asked her to post it on the Polaroid Retirees website. Our ever-accommodating editor kindly did just that for me.

Now, with the constant warnings of rise in COVID-19 and the cancellation of both our fall and spring Luncheons, I've been thinking of the old friends that I used to see there. I wondered whether there might be news of them or a way to reach them on the PRA website.

I'm embarrassed to say I am just learning to navigate the site and take advantage of its power. However, I doubt I'm the only one who hasn't used it, so I thought I might describe the links and the actions that are there to encourage others to explore the site, too.

Typing in **polaroidretirees.org** will take you to the home page.

Home Page

The picture of Dr. Land at the top of the page signals immediately that we're on the right page and serves as a reminder of the man who started and guided the company we worked in.

Also on the page:

GuestBook – The topmost link on the page is an easy way to sign in and say hello. Right now there are: *Total entries - 22!* – *Let's make that greater!*

What's new lately? Links to copies of the 2020 *Newsletters*, plus a link back to *Newsletters* from 2014 through the present. "Stay in Touch" is a short reminder for us describing the various ways we can do just that.

Moving to the next link, **Organization**:

This page describes the organization of the PRA and it lists the Osborn Street Plaques that the PRA was instrumental in establishing.

The Most Important link on this page is the **Membership Roster**, our opportunity to connect with old friends who are members of the PRA. The roster includes only the name, city and state of our members and provides a means of establishing contact with the individuals on the list.

Bulletin Board

This is a wonderful place to browse and reminisce. Here you can add your messages to the website, as well as modify or delete them.

Message Titles – The instructions for adding a posting are displayed at the top of the page and are simple and easy to follow. Buttons include:

Home takes us back to the introductory PRA home page.

PostMsg This link opens up the form to write the message that you'd like to post, to select where on the website you would like it to be posted, and to select a password for you to use if you want to edit the posting after you've posted it.

Delete requires that password to perform the function.

Search allows you to find postings for particular topics of interest.

Expand is a wonderful link! It fills in the short list of messages that we see when we first arrive at the page.

The categories of messages are General Messages, News and Announcements, Board Feedback, Company News and In Memoriam.

Over the years **Steve Berry**, PRA Member & former Board member, has been the most frequent contributor to News and Announcements and Company News categories. Current Board member Maryann Hall faithfully posts messages in the last category.

Shrink: The **Expand** button changes to the **Shrink** button when the list is expanded.

The last 4 buttons are used by the website administrator, **Bill Rosen**.

You can select the time frame to narrow messages down within months or years.

And way, way down at the bottom right, you can click to be notified when new messages are posted. You'll receive the notifications in your email.

Take a look, post a note, click for notifications and keep an eye out for your former colleagues' next postings!

Polavision Market Launch: LA 1977 by Rick Kirkendall

After reading the PRA Newsletter article about the Polavision documentary underway, Rick Kirkendall offered his story. We found ourselves recalling incidents of our early employment with humor and... just a hint of embarrassment. Here's Rick's memory:

The Polaroid Southern California Consumer Products District was selected for the rollout of Polavision, specifically Los Angeles. My assignment was the District Sales Manager responsible for Sales Representatives, a Key Account Manager, and Merchandise and Service Representatives. The MSRs were part time, mostly mothers, who visited stores, trained store staff and built displays. It was fall, 1977, and by then we had sold retailers their holiday budget for instant cameras and film and the "moms" had done their work.

The launch plan from my Western Region Sales Manager was to attain maximum sales, merchandise penetration, and visual presence of Polavision with our accounts. We had little control over National Accounts (i.e., Walmart, Target) as all decisions were made out of state at their headquarters but we had great relationships with local chains (i.e., Broadway, Robinson's) and specialty camera dealers. And we "loaded" them all with what was to be the next "hot selling" miracle from Polaroid. We allocated liberal advertising allowances to them to promote in newspapers and dealer ad flyers.

Two weeks into the selling period, one of my colleagues inquired, "How is Polavision doing?" My response: "It is not selling!"

My boss the RSM was directed to write a weekly status report and FedEx it to his boss, the National Consumer Products Sales Manager in Cambridge, who would deliver it to Land's office on Mondays. One Friday night the NCPSM got a phone call from Dr. Land who asked if the report for the previous week had arrived. He advised Land the report would be delivered Saturday morning and he would have it at his office on Monday AM. Land asked that he deliver it ASAP on Saturday to his home in Cambridge. Instructions were to park at the end of Land's driveway, flash the car headlights twice and his security would respond.

After a few more weeks of poor reports, my boss, my Key Account Manager and I were "summoned" to Cambridge.

Unsure why, we departed LAX on a Sunday and arrived at Dr. Land's lab/office on Main Street that evening. We were ushered into his office where we found him with a Polavision camera, crawling on hands and knees and recording the antics of a child of one of his scientists. He processed the film and asked us if that was not an incredible product?? We agreed and were fairly complimentary as we were in the presence of the "Almighty." (Was *this* the time to be honest?)

Dr. Land invited us to dine at the 549 Board Room that evening. I sat to his right. Oh, there were about 3 or 4 layers of my senior management there too, all pretty mute. During the meal Land asked me why Polavision was not selling. I stammered and said something about the marketing plan. At that point in my sales career, I would not know a marketing plan if it bit me on the arm. So Land said, "You have until tomorrow at 10 AM to present a new marketing plan."

We did an all-nighter and met Dr. Land in the lobby of 549 the next morning. Somehow, overnight he had erected a huge, colorful kite-shaped tent for optimal viewing of the Polavision player. He asked my Key Account Manager, how many of those tents he could place in LA department stores before Christmas. He replied, "Maybe 2 or 3." Land flushed red and I jumped into the conversation and told Land, "All you can make, Sir!" (Fortunately, only about a half dozen could be produced - which we somehow got placed!) No retailer wants to give up selling space for a static display of an unproven product during the most critical retail sales quarter of the year.

There was not a happy ending. Polavision Christmas sales were poor. It did not take long until our customers insisted that they return remaining inventory and get a prompt credit.

I still have fond memories of the wonderful company Polaroid was at the time. I'm still friends online and personally with many of the talented and brilliant people who worked at Polaroid, a lifelong benefit.

**Welcome New PRA Members
Paul Monbouquette from Nokomis, FL
& Lee Hamilton from Hyde Park!**

**Welcome Back
Timothy Scully from Buzzards Bay
& Thomas Dougherty from Chelmsford!**

In Memoriam

Find more complete obituaries at www.polaroidretirees.org

Allen, Martyn A., 81, Riverview, FL, 9/13/20 was the husband of Lois, father of Julie, Keith, Lance, and Billinda, grandfather of ten, and great-grandfather of three. He was a Captain in the U.S. Navy Reserves. Allen was an Engineer (Waltham). He was a voracious reader and tenacious card player.



Arsenault, Barbara H., 100, Randolph, 10/26/20 was the mother of Kathleen, Joan, Barbara, John, and the late Francis, grandmother of four, and great-grandmother of 7. Barbara worked in Camera Division in Norwood.

Branco, Maria E., 76, Stoughton, 12/6/20 was the wife of Manuel, mother of Maria, Gina, and Richard, and grandmother of six. She worked in Norwood. She enjoyed gardening, cooking and traveling but her greatest joy was spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.



Boyea, Robert J., 91, Wellesley, 9/29/20 was the husband of Elizabeth, father of Timothy, Ann, Mary and Jocelyn, and grandfather of two. He served in the U.S. Air Force (Korean War). He enjoyed playing golf and wood-working in his basement workshop. He was a member of the PRA.

Burgess, William A. 96, Lincoln, 9/14/2020 was the husband of the late Joyce, father of John and Nora, grandfather of two, and great-grandfather of three. He served in the U.S. Naval Reserve (Korean War). He was the Manager of the Industrial Hygiene (Health Safety and Environmental Affairs group) (Cambridge and W2). His interests included furniture restoration, wooden boat building, lobstering, model railroading, drawing and sketching, and playing the harmonica.

Cady, Patrick J., 73, Raynham, 9/13/20 was the husband of Ann Marie, father of James, Thomas, Daniel, and Patricia. Pat was a Chemical Processor. His family was widespread, from the kids he coached, to his cousins and friends in town and his golf buddies, extending to

most everyone he met. He always had the latest bestseller on him and a stash of cookies nearby to satisfy his insatiable sweet tooth.

Callahan, Paula A., 76, Waltham, 9/5/20 was the wife of Lawrence, mother of Laurie, Karen and Lawrence. She was an Executive Secretary (Waltham). Reading and crosswords were her favorite pastimes. She was a member of the PRA.



Corcoran, John S., Somerville, 10/11/20, was the brother of Thomas, Joseph and Catherine. John served in the U.S. Air Force (Vietnam War). John was a Technical Writer.



Curreri, Jerome "Jerry", 84, Revere, 10/24/19 was the husband of the late Marion, father of David, Steve and Paul, and grandfather of eight. Jerry served in the U.S. Navy (Korean War). He was an avid fisherman and liked boating, skiing and golfing.



DeMarinis, Joseph V., 85, Winchester, 11/10/20 was husband of the late Kathleen and companion to Margaret, father of Jennifer and Mary Rose, and grandfather of two. As a true engineer, Joe enjoyed intellectual curiosity his whole life, with an amazing depth of knowledge on every subject. He could build or fix anything and was artistic.



DeMattia, Nicholas A., 79, Medford, 12/19/2016 was the husband of Joyce, father of Pamela and Nicholas Jr., and grandfather of three. He served in the U.S. Navy (Vietnam War). He enjoyed fishing, gardening, bowling and music.



DiNapoli, Michael J., 88, Waltham, 9/18/20, was the husband of Ellen, father of Michael, Debbie and Lori and grandfather of four. He served in the U.S. Navy

(Korean War). Michael was a Precision Mechanical Inspector (Waltham). He liked to travel, enjoyed all types of exercise, going to the YMCA to swim, and playing tennis.



Doherty, Louis G. "Chuck", Quincy, 11/16/20 was the husband of the late Leona, father of Jeanne, Trisha, Kathy, Thomas and

James, grandfather of twelve and great-grandfather of seven. He served in the U.S. Army (Korean War). He was known by everyone as the man who would always lend a helping hand to his family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. Chuck enjoyed his second job of being a roofer. He was a member of the PRA.



Easter, Margaret J., 93, Norwood, 10/12/20 was the wife of the late Stephen, mother of Brian, and grandmother of two.

Margaret was a member of the Polaroid Retirees Club, a member of the Food Workers Union and a long-time employee for Stop & Shop.

Ericson, Andrea M., 72, Kennebunk, ME,



10/28/20 was the wife of John, step-mother of Gail and John, and step-grandmother of one. She retired as a Senior Materials Manager in the Plan-

ning Division. She loved daily power walks, crafting, knitting, quilting, needle point, and jewelry making although her first love was jewelry buying.

Fultz, Natalie M., 101, Milton, 9/26/20 was the cousin of Alice, the late Mary and Rose, and aunt of John. She served in the U.S. Navy (WWII and Korean War). She was Secretary to Dr. Land. Natalie was a joy to know, full of energy and totally invested in any activity of which she was a part. She was a member of the PRA.



Giglio, Joseph "Joe" S. D., 94, Malden, 2/21/19 was the husband of Pauline, father of Pat, and uncle of many nieces and nephews. He served in the U.S. Army in France

(WWII). He worked as a Chemical Pro-

In Memoriam

cessing Engineer. He was an avid sports fan and enjoyed walking.



Goeselt, Richard, 87, Exeter, NH, 9/8/2020 was the husband of Elizabeth, father of Brian and Laura, and grandfather of three.

He was a Field Maintenance Officer in the U.S. Air Force and attained the rank of Captain. He worked in Waltham. Richard enjoyed reading, woodworking, gardening and sailing.

Hall, John A., 82, Concord, 5/13/20 is survived by many friends, acquaintances and the Concord Friends of the Aging. He was responsible for over 120 thirty-second national and global television commercials, rated one of the top "50" of its time in television history. He served on the Board of Directors for the Polaroid Retirees Association and was a member of the PRA.



Hansen, Priscilla A., 77, Edgecomb, ME, 10/7/20 was the wife of Charles, mother of Stephen, and grandmother of one. She worked in Finance. She enjoyed doing jigsaw puzzles, working in her beautiful gardens and associating with her many good friends and neighbors.



Hatfield, Judy A., 65, West Bridgewater, 10/1/20 was the longtime companion of James (Jim) and mother of the late Thomas. She worked in the Payroll Department in Norwood. Judy enjoyed trivia nights with friends and playing backgammon and spending time with her family and friends.



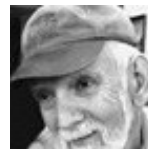
Hawley, Steve, 10/2020 worked in Cambridge and was instrumental in the development of the Microscope Camera.



Herman, James G., 65, Elyria, OH, 12/8/20 was the son of Sylvia and Richard, father of Katie, grandfather of one. Jim was excelled as their top Camera Repair Technician

(Parma, OH and Atlanta, GA). Jim was a Civil War Reenactor at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, GA. serving both as a Confederate soldier and a Union soldier, an avid collector of postage stamps, baseball cards and vintage comic books.

Hill, Robert F., Arlington. 11/21/17 was the husband of the late Ann, father of Robert F. Hill, Jr., and grandfather of one. Robert served in the U.S. Air Force.



Kennedy Sr., David P., 79, Cambridge, 10/19/20 was the husband of Louise, father of David Jr., and Kate and grandfather of one. David worked in the Battery Research

Division. He was a baseball enthusiast, Cub Scout Leader and actively involved in civic affairs in Cambridge. He was a member of the PRA.



Leaman, William F., 80, Marshfield, 9/22/20 was the husband of Claire, father of Christopher and Stephen, and grandfather of two. He served in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Hawaii. Bill enjoyed spending time with his granddaughters and enjoyed traveling with his wife.

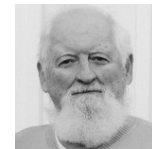


LeClaire, Leo W., 89, Medfield, 10/17/20 was the husband of Barbara, father of Bruce, Brian and Brent, and grandfather of five. Leo served in the U.S. Marines (Korea). Leo was a Plant Engineering Manager and Human Resources Director. He was a member of the PRA.



Leduc, Robert D., 84, Crystal River, FL, 10/31/20 was the husband of Carol, father of Michael and Christopher, and grandfather of two. He was an Industrial Manager. Robert served in the U.S. Navy. In the early 1970s he participated in the development of the SX-70 camera under top secret conditions that he could not discuss with his family. He enjoyed camping, boating and ski mobiling.

Lowe, Willie H. "Harvey", 81, Smithfield, VA, 05/10/20 was the husband of Nadine. He served in the U.S. Army and was highly decorated, devoted SFC in 1172 BTU, U.S. Army. Harvey was a Fabrication Technician (Cambridge & Tech Sq.) a Machine Mechanic (Waltham Film Div.), Maintenance Mold Mechanic (Norwood). He was an avid gardener, fisherman and hunter.



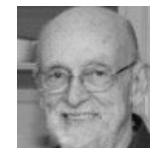
Lynch, William "Bill" T., 80, Indiantown, FL, 12/4/20, was the husband of Gail and the late Nancy, father of Brian, David, Tom, Michele,

Stefani and Meghan, and grandfather of six. He served in the U. S. Army (Vietnam War era) and the U.S. Army Reserves. He was an Analyst and Developer. Possessing a creative nature, he loved photography, painting, stained glass art, as well as genealogy & travelling.

Mazzei, Ralph A. Jr., Cambridge, 10/4/20 was the husband of Mary, father of Joseph, Michael and Anthony, and grandfather of seven. He was a member of the PRA.



McCrory, Bernard F., 82, Bonita Springs, FL, 10/10/20 was the father of Brooke and Alexandra and grandfather of two. He worked in Technology. Bernard loved golfing, football, reading spy novels and a great steak.



Murphy Jr., Timothy C., 91, Peabody 4/23/20 was the husband of Jeanette, father of Karen, Brenda and Paula, and grandfather of four. He served in the U.S. Army (Korean War). He was a Senior Manager for almost all of the machines used in the manufacture of the Picture in a Minute film product and was an independent consultant in the field of Industrial Automation.

Nowak, Roberta, J., 86, Peabody, 12/2/20 was the mother of Robert, James, and Stephen, grandmother of 11, and great grand-



In Memoriam

mother of three. She was a strong-willed, independent woman. She loved spending lots of time with her family whether it was during the holidays, sitting and sipping tea while watching her game shows, or going through old family photos she'd taken over the years.

Papageorge, Kiki G., 93, Belmont, 10/1/20 was the sister of Athena and Stephen and aunt to many nieces and nephews. Kiki was a Quality Control Inspector (Waltham). She enjoyed gardening and especially being with her family.



Pappas, Constance "Connie", 80, Naples, FL, 10/28/20 was the wife of the late Leonard, sister of Eleanor and Christie, and aunt of many. She was a Business Executive. Connie was an artist, a great bowler, avid golfer, enjoyed dancing and playing cards.



Pawl, Kenneth A., "Kenny", 78, Malden, 9/3/20 was the husband of Maureen, father of Kevin, Marianne and Chris, and grandfather of six. One of Kenny's favorite past times was setting up trains in the shop in Waltham for all to enjoy around the holidays. He was a member of the PRA.



Pearson, Robert P. "Babe", 89, Easton, 11/13/20 was the husband of Fannie, father to James, Jannell, William, OC, Reginald, Creighton, Katherine and Nyoka Paul, and grandfather of nine. He served in the U.S. Marines (Korean War). He was a Manufacturing Technician. Robert was so dedicated to Polaroid in his last two weeks of life that he relived his work vividly.

Perikli, James, 87, Medford, 9/17/20 was the brother of Paul, and uncle of two. He

was an Export/Import Administrator. James especially took pleasure attending monthly luncheons with the EHS Gang, where good food and conversation were enjoyed by all.



Reitter, Frank R., 94, Framingham, 9/7/20 was the husband of the late Bernice, father of Reverend Frank, Mary and Stephen, and grandfather of one. He served in the U.S. Navy as a Pharmacists Mate on LST 291 and participated in the D-Day invasion of Normandy at Omaha Beach. He was an avid sports fan. He was a member of the PRA.



Russo, Richard J., 66, Marshfield, 5/5/20 was the husband of the late Grace (Amy), brother of Joseph, Robert, and John Russo. Richard worked in Camera Division, Incoming Inspection (Norwood). Richard enjoyed playing golf, playing cards, going to Foxwoods and hosting his big annual backyard cookout with Amy. He was a member of the PRA.



Ryan, Maureen A., Milton, 10/27/20 was the wife of William, mother of C. Melissa and William, and grandmother of two. She worked in the International Division. She gained fame among her family for the monster lobster rolls she prepared on special occasions.



Smyth, George A., 96, Wilmington, 10/6/2018 was the husband of late Marguerite, father of Janet, Pamela and Alan, grandfather of five, and great-grandfather of three. He served in the U.S. Navy (WWII).



Snyder, Herbert S., 86, Sharon, 12/13/20 was the husband of Francine, father of Heidi, Robin, and David Snyder, and grandfather of five. Herb began his professional career as a Chemist and then moved on to become a Production Manager (Norwood). He was a member of the PRA.



Sugrue, Richard J. "Mike", Weymouth, 7/11/20 was the husband of late Pauline, father of Maura and Timothy, and grandfather of five. Mike worked in PML 784 Memorial Dr. (Cambridge). He served in the U.S. Army. He loved fishing and spending time with his family. Mike was a member of PRA.



Sullivan, Arthur T., 86, Kingston, 9/13/20, was the husband of Dorothy, father of Mark, Kathleen, Maureen, Kieran, Michael, Casey and Shannon, grandfather of twelve, and great-grandfather of two. Arthur served in the U.S. Army. He was a Principle Engineer. Arthur enjoyed traveling, reading and playing golf. He was a member of the PRA.

Womboldt, Howard N., "Howie", 68, Waltham, 10/15/20 was the husband of Nancy, father of Danielle and Marc, and grandfather of one. He served as a sergeant with the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division, the 'Screaming Eagles', (Vietnam War). He was the Director of Purchasing and Facilities Management (Waltham). Howie took up the game of golf and could be found on the links whenever the opportunity came.

To post the loss of a loved one here and online, send obituary notices to Maryann Hall at newsletterpra@gmail.com

Polaroid Memories by Ed Byrnes

*You have followed Ed's stories in previous Newsletters, and these are some of his recollections of the company's early years. His challenge to you: Share **your** stories.*

Memory (*mem-uh-ree*) N. The mental capacity/faculty of retaining and reliving facts, historical events, impressions, etc., of previous life experiences. (dictionary.com)

With the above definition in mind, memories are a marvelous antidote to the prevailing gloom of the Covid-19 pandemic. So, let's venture forth with memories that we all share, directly or indirectly, as employees of Polaroid.

Before proceeding, I should note that my reservoir of memory cells has been substantially drained in the last 94 years. Thus, should I err in names or events, please understand and forgive.

Early Historical Memories: The Land Years, 1950s to the Late 1970s

Following WWII, Polaroid was well known for polarizing sunglasses, auto visors and, to a lesser degree, products such as optical educational kits, Vectograph 3D training/educational devices and multipurpose vision goggles.

Think aviation, military, skiing, motorcycle, et al. However, all was to quickly change with the introduction of a new unique technology, "Instant Photography," in 1948. It was a new beginning, a renewal of uniqueness that would bring forth future worldwide fame to Polaroid and indirectly, to America.

It should be noted up front that the instant film camera system was not a simple conceptualized off-shelf product. It was a complex concept that required solving many unique chemical, mechanical and engineering issues for both film and hardware. Fortunately, the camera system was a viable product by my arrival on October 1, 1951.

I must admit that my first day of employment was most interesting for an array of reasons. Foremost was the lack of job description other than an unspecified position of alleged relevance in research. However, I was given the name of my supervisor, Dr. William Schurcliff, so that was assuring and of course my pay grade.... the best assurance of all.

I was quite surprised by my low employee number, 666. I thought the number to be unseemly low considering that Polaroid had been in existence for 19-plus years of which some 4 years were dedicated to providing Uncle Sam with significant war materials. Whatever the facts may have been, I was quite pleased with my new "666" employee number. Definitely a James Bond-type identifier.

After being processed along with another new recruit by the name of George Fernald, we were taken to lunch by the Personnel Manager, Miss Ginny Cronin. Lunch was scheduled at the Polaroid canteen, located on the second floor of 730 Main Street. As you might expect for a canteen, it was

arranged with long trestle-type tables with bench seating, a most democratic and collegial arrangement for daily news and scuttlebutt among employees. After lunch both George and I were taken to our respective supervisors.

In 1951, Polaroid's facilities were all located in Cambridge and one might be tempted to say, quite forlorn at best. Headquarters was at 730 Main Street. Engineering and Land's lab were located in an old furniture building across the street from HQ. Sunglass and Film Manufacturing were located at 10 Ames Street, which was within a stone's throw to the MIT campus. Polaroid's Legal Department was ensconced in an office building located in Kendall Square. The one facility not anchored in Cambridge was Camera Manufacturing.

After the successful 1948 introduction of the model 95 camera in Boston, when 57 out of 60 handmade cameras were sold at Jordan Marsh, Dr. Land negotiated an exclusive contract with the United States Time Corporation to manufacture Polaroid cameras. Some 44 million cameras were manufactured by Time prior to Polaroid's assuming all manufacturing.

The lack of an impressive Cambridge campus had no bearing on employees' attitudes or comfort factor. It was Land's "we are one family" philosophy that kept us dedicated to becoming a unique, profitable company of international means and respect. Not all was anvil-banging labor either. Thanks to Land's vision and business philosophy, there were many tender moments within the Polaroid family. For instance, I was but a 2-month employee, yet shared in the company's annual gift, a large Thanksgiving turkey, to all employees. That was shortly followed by a Christmas bonus of \$25. Perhaps a juvenile observation on my part, but I was definitely impressed and most thankful that I selected Polaroid as my employer.

Corporate largess filtered down to department levels for there were many summer clambakes, luncheons, dinners, bay cruises and perhaps the most enjoyable of all, the annual Christmas parties held at various venues. I cannot recall the specific year, but our last full company Christmas party was held at the Bradford Hotel in Boston. Land was the keynote speaker of the evening and outlined in oratorical splendor his vision of Polaroid's future adventures and our participation within it.

Because Polaroid's early camera sales verged on the exponential, it became quite obvious to management that a sales warehouse facility was required on the West Coast. To fulfill that need, an appropriate facility was acquired in the mid-1950s. The chosen city was Hollywood. Would you expect less? After all we were in the "picture" business. The facility was located on Cole Avenue, one block from the famous Hollywood Boulevard. Other distribution centers would quickly follow in Chicago, Dallas and Paramus.

Europe was not far behind America in its love of instant photography. Thus, a sales warehouse facility was negotiated with the city of Amsterdam in the mid to late 1950s. A manufacturing facility in Enschede would follow some years later. Polaroid was now of international status and

many additional European facilities would be added over the coming years.

The demand for Polaroid cameras and films was akin to a prairie fire, all-consuming and seemingly unstoppable. To accommodate the demand, additional manufacturing facilities were desperately needed, so Polaroid either purchased or subleased various Cambridge business facilities. To name but a few: Salvi Motors, an abandoned piano factory, the Welch Building, and the Windsor Street former school complex.

With financial success assured, Polaroid decided in the 1960s to go forth with its Master Plan for both a new manufacturing facility and Corporate Headquarters. The new plant, the first facility outside of Cambridge, was to be built along route 128 in Waltham. Corporate Headquarters would be at 575 Technology Square in Cambridge. Both were successful investments, each in their own uniqueness. It should be noted that the Waltham facility location provided a free advertising opportunity of some significance. The factory's Polaroid logo overlooked the 128 expressway, thus viewed daily by thousands of commuters.

The selected site for Polaroid's World Headquarters was 575 Tech Square located between Kendall and Central Squares. There were three 10-story rectangular buildings formatted in a "U" configuration with an enclosed common area of walkways, benches, grass and trees. Fronting the open "U" was a 3-story building of international design. It was simply referred to as "The Block House" which was home base for worldwide operations. The Tech Square campus was just a 5-minute walk from MIT and a one-stop subway ride to Harvard. This was an important convenience to Land because of his business relations with both institutions.

By the mid-1970s Polaroid's exponential and expansive worldwide growth had become holistic by design. Thus, all social company activities were now conducted by individual plant facilities around the world.

The Cambridge facilities continued to host a bevy of social activities at various local venues. One of the more popular sites was the Pier 4 restaurant overlooking Boston Harbor. Pier 4 was noted for its huge seafood menu and popovers. Because the restaurant was adjacent to the Commonwealth Fish pier, their seafood menu had a witty header, "From Sea to Your Plate."

In time, Pier 4's reputation became a Boston legend, similar to Boston Cream Pie, and a must experience for both tourist and locals. Success requires growth and it became obvious that more restaurant space was required to accommodate demand. Unfortunately, piers have physical limits, so a unique solution was birthed, a floating facility adjacent to the pier. This was accomplished by obtaining a retired Hudson River Cruise ship, the SS Peter Stuyvesant, and docking it to Pier 4.

The good ship Stuyvesant was quickly converted to an elegant cocktail lounge for awaiting one's table and offered a number of on-board facilities best called party rooms for private activities. It was these accommodations that caught Land's attention and many Polaroid social affairs were enjoyed therein, rocking so gently upon the waters. To cite an example, my 1951 class of Polaroid employees celebrated our 25th anniversary aboard ship and were given Diplomas of Gratitude and a most surprising gift, a Boston Rocking Chair. Why a rocking chair and not a watch? I never asked.

We are all familiar with Dr. Land's charismatic introduction of the SX70 camera in 1972. I suspect he was most pleased with the media coverage for it was one of his greatest scientific contributions to society. But alas, fame requires constant renewal and the forthcoming series of other new unique Polaroid products, such as Polavison, failed on their promise. I suspect these product failures contributed to Land resigning from Polaroid in 1982.

Polaroid's history is easily divided into two, "The Land Period" and "The Polaroid Period." Or should one prefer, BC and AD. Being young and idealistic at the time, I was definitely attracted to the Land Period because of its humanism and potential of becoming a significant player on the world stage. As such, I have often mentally associated the early years to the film *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*. An epic story combining idealism, innovation, uniqueness, a resident genius and products desired by all of humanity.

The Polaroid Period was the mature years of the company, a vastly different perspective to the earlier one, but nevertheless an interesting and challenging period. *I leave it to others to bring it forth to life.*

May Luncheon Cancellation

The PRA Board of Directors has cancelled our May 2021 Business Meeting and Luncheon to protect our Membership from the risks of the COVID-19 virus.

We hope to hold the Fall Luncheon after vaccines are widely distributed, and we ask that you stay safe, wear a mask and wash your hands. We'll be doing the same.

Our best wishes for a healthy, happy 2021 go out to you and your loved ones.



Update from Debbie Douglas

To our friends at the Polaroid Retirees Association, I wanted to share some updates from the MIT Museum. We were so proud to host *The Polaroid Project: At the intersection of art and technology*; so disappointed to have to close it prematurely last March. I am grateful to museum colleagues and curator extraordinary **Barbara Hitchcock** [*and PRA Member ed.*] who made a 3D interactive gallery available this summer. We were delighted to see so many of you participate in our online curator's talk in October. (We will let you know when the planned edited version of that talk is posted.) So what's next?

First, I am pleased to announce that the Foundation for the Exhibition of Photography has been able to organize a second tour of the exhibition. The details are pending but it seems likely the crates will be headed to Asia next spring. Our collections manager Gloria Martinez and registrar Katie Porter have been extremely busy this fall preparing for this. Only a few of us are allowed access to the museum and for very limited amounts of time (20 hours maximum) so the deinstallation and filling out the condition reports took nearly 2 months (normally about 2 weeks!). Because there is going to be a second tour, we carefully inspected all the artifacts (see photo) and have had to repack everything in the international traveling crates. Jackson Boerner is preparing a new box to better protect some of the pieces. (See photo).

In the meantime, we are preparing our collections for moving. That's a picture of Bryan Kelly from Visitor Services who has been redeployed to help with collections. He's

helping repack the dozens of cabinets filled with artifacts from the Polaroid Historical Collection. That involves opening all the boxes and checking all the locations in our database. If we were not experiencing this dreadful pandemic, we would be inviting many of you to help out. But there will be another opportunity when we finish the move and we need to unpack the boxes in their new home. Many of you know that the museum is building new galleries in Kendall Square but you may not be aware that we have to move out of our off-site collections facility by May 2023 as well.

New developers purchased the property MIT leases for the museum so we will soon be looking for a new warehouse—and competing with the likes of Amazon for a good quality facility in the metro-Boston area. That means that the 10,000 plus Polaroid artifacts (out of 1.5 million artifacts) we acquired in 2010 will move again. Once we get settled, we will definitely begin a program to bring in volunteers to help us identify and catalog the collection. I know we will need to turn on the voice recorders as well because you have so many wonderful stories.

Discovering those stories has been the gift of this collection for the past decade. I look forward to learning more in the coming years!

Debbie Douglas, Director of Collections &
Curator of Science and Technology



