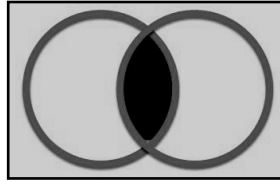


NewsLetter



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

Polaroid Retirees Association

April - June
2022

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

President's Letter

Greetings to my fellow PRA members,

We are springing forward to daylight saving time, have seen our first robins of the season and are looking forward to seeing everyone in person at our first PRA Luncheon and Business Meeting in two years.

The Board of Directors is still meeting via Zoom and making plans for upcoming elections at our May Business Meeting. Arthur Aznavorian and Mary McCann are running for their 3rd terms on the Board. Arthur has kept us on track as Vice President and Parliamentarian; Mary has served as dedicated and exacting Secretary. You will vote at the meeting.

The Board will say goodbye with many thanks to George Murray and Elizabeth Foote who have completed the maximum three 3-year terms (9 years) allowed by our Constitution. Most notably, Elizabeth has been the PRA *Newsletter* Editor and George led as President for 3 years. They have served with distinction in many areas of our work, and we are very glad they'll remain a part of the PRA.

As a result we have vacancies on the Board. Please let me or any Board member know if you are interested in joining us. We would be pleased to let you know the responsibilities and time commitment as well as our views on the satisfaction of working to serve the PRA membership.

Mary McCann will assume the duties of *Newsletter* Editor in June. With her very capable team of Bill Rosen, Erika Kliem and MaryAnn Hall, she will continue the outstanding tradition of putting out our world class *Newsletter* every quarter.

We recently launched an electronic version of the *Newsletter* through the efforts of the team of Ruth Scanlan, Bill Rosen and Bob Ruckstuhl. See more on page 9.

In addition to the many former employees who use the website, Membership Chair Bob Ruckstuhl reports we have 675 yearly dues-paying members, 193 lifetime members and 110 widows and widowers of late PRA members who choose to continue on the PRA rolls.

The lifting of many mask mandates is a welcome event but that doesn't mean that we can stop being vigilant to the possibility, though less likely, of a Covid-19 surge. With that as a caveat, we are moving forward with our plans for the Luncheon and Business Meeting on Wednesday, May 18th, at an exciting new venue - the Warren Conference Center in Ashland, Mass. We have the option of eating outdoors under their large tent which is capable of accommodating 200 people. You can see their facility at www.warrencenter.com

Once again, the Direct Federal Credit Union is footing the bill for the entire cost of the Luncheon. We are very grateful for their continued support. Details and directions are included on page 10. We invite you to register to attend today. We hope to see you there.

Meanwhile, stay safe and healthy.

John Flynn
President, PRA

Board of Directors & Officers

President
John Flynn

1st Vice President
Arthur Aznavorian

2nd Vice President
Ruth Scanlan

Treasurer
Nino Dilanni

Secretary
Mary McCann

Directors

Dave Bayer

Dan Cence

Elizabeth Foote

Don Foster

Maryann Hall

Touie Jackson

Erika Kliem

Paul Lubin

George Murray

William Rosen

Bob Ruckstuhl

A Polaroid Story by Joe Stella

The first Polaroid prototype copier was to be shown around 1964 at the Shareholders Meeting in Waltham at the emptied warehouse. This was to be the unveiling of a new film and a black and white photo copier.

I and a host of other dedicated engineers from Research had been working on this machine for years. **Dick Haberlin**'s group in Chemistry provided the film. **Bob Malster** was the manager.

In prep for the Big Day, a small crew of us set up on the stage the night before. **Dr. Land** came by just as a *continuous* black copy came out of the machine, and the only way we could stop it was by killing the power. I will never forget his quote: "I just bought this and the repair men are here already!"

This would have been a disaster if the press and shareholders had been there. He wouldn't discuss contingency plans and said only, "It will work tomorrow."

We clustered, **Larry Ting** and others, and decided to change all the relays and switches in the machine. It took all night.

Day of the meeting, my manager asked me what we would do if it happened at the meeting. He suggested we set up a power cord and switch to be placed in my lap. If it

malfunctioned again, I was to throw the switch and just go home. I was a 25-year-old, an Associate Engineer - and shaking like a leaf with that switch on my lap.

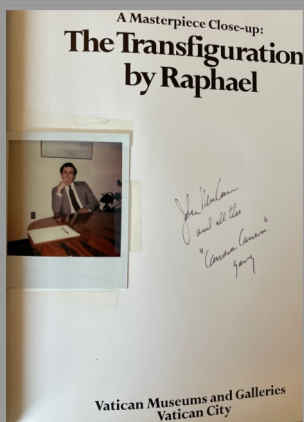
The machine functioned perfectly and Dr. Land had a great time copying and showing the fine details we could achieve with silver halide film. (He even copied a dollar bill and projected it onto a screen!)

We took our crew out for dinner for a celebration where I got a call from **Stan Calderwood**'s office ordering me to have the machine in his office at Tech Square the following morning.

The machine was still in Waltham. The following morning I went to retrieve it. Overnight, the Warehouse had become a warehouse again. The photo copier was in the corner missing the processor. I could not find it anywhere. An employee told me to try the dumpster, and there it sat on the top of all the clutter from the show. I retrieved it, cleaned it, installed it and delivered it. The machine worked for Stan but ... guess what: It leaked on his office floor. Thank you, Polaroid, for 29-year career of fun.

Thank you **Nick Gold, Paul Mason, Phil Norris, Larry Ting, the Model Shop and many others.**

A Vatican Mystery Solved



Last month, the *Newsletter* Editor received an email saying, "I recently bought a few art books from an estate sale [of J. Fred Bucy], and taped inside one of the books are two Polaroid pictures. One was of **Bill McCune** 1981 and the other is of someone stated as part of the 'Camera Camera gang.'"

A response to Sidney Van Wienen's inquiry came from **John McCann**, the person in the second photo:

"J. Fred Bucy was President and Chief Operating Officer of Texas Instruments. TI (as we called it) was the supplier of the microelectronic chip that controlled the operation of Polaroid's revolutionary SX-70 Camera, which was introduced in 1974. As VP of Engineering, Bill McCune would have known Fred Bucy, so we think Bill gave this book to him."

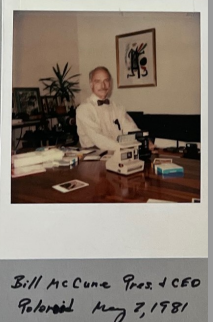
John and his laboratory worked for **Edwin Land**, and they built the room-sized cameras in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and in the Vatican's

Pinacoteca gallery.

"The photography of *The Transfiguration* took place at the Vatican Museums in 1978 and 1979. The conservators at the Vatican had just completed the restoration of the very large *Transfiguration* painting (13 feet by 9 feet). The photos are actual size reproductions. The close-ups shown in the book were displayed along the gallery in front of the actual painting, fully restored.

"The inscription is the silly pun that "Room-sized Camera" is "Camera Camera" in Italian."

Ms. Van Wienen is very happy to have the mystery solved. A future issue of the *Newsletter* will feature a longer story of the Vatican Project.



The Mark of the Beast by Ed Byrnes

When **Edwin Land** introduced his new “instant picture camera” to the Optical Society Annual Meeting in 1947, I suspect he truly did not appreciate the totality of his invention or its pending impact upon society. Although his unique camera system may not have had the scientific legs for a Nobel, it definitely became a member of the rarefied, meritorious scientific social order for unique technical contributions to 20th Century society.

Like any new invention, the initial instant (45 seconds) film had its share of hiccups, most notably image instability. In simple terms the chemical process was not stable, thus print images could not be said to be archival ... a no-no at best.

A quick solution to the problem was to print coat the positive image with a plastic based emulsion that would stabilize the processing chemistry, thus obtaining archival status. The methodology was simple of nature. A simple plastic swab saturated with said stabilizing emulsion, packaged in a small vial the size and shape of conventional lipstick, was included in each pack of film.

Unfortunately, the coating process was not as simple as advertised. Coated prints tended to curl while drying, and heaven forbid they touch when wet. You guessed it, they stuck together. Another joy was the resulting stain left upon any and all coating surfaces and the potential of dermatitis issues with hands. Surprisingly, there were few complaints from users on this issue.

Let me explain instant imaging vs instant photography. To help build sales and avoid confusion, Polaroid chose to separate amateur photography from the imaging requirements of the medical, scientific, and industrial world where “quantification” of results was a requirement. The CT scanner introduced into the medical world in the early ‘70s was equipped with a Polaroid camera as were nuclear, ultrasound, microscopes and a variety of other industrial systems, all dependent on Polaroid “instant” imaging film.

The non-amateur medical, scientific, and industrial film business quickly grew to such significant levels that the need of sales and marketing support became obvious. Accordingly, support teams were quickly organized and sent forth into the Domestic, European, and Japanese markets to service and grow the non-amateur film business.

In time, the annoying print coating requirement, with its potential for skin irritation, was no longer an issue with the introduction of a new, no-need-to-print-coat, high-speed B&W film. To maintain non-amateur market separation, the new film was given a specific code name, Type 666, for all medical, scientific, and industrial applications.



Type 666 film was an immediate hit with all users and its future appeared to be most assured with reasonable yearly growth. Unfortunately, there was a deepening shadow of unrest lurking upon the horizon which was totally unpredictable. Simply put, the film designation, Type 666, was alleged to be an issue. How could that be?

Our first factual awareness of a pending problem came via a note from a hospital having a religious association. Their comment was simple and to the point. The number 666 was associated with “The Mark of The Beast.” They further explained that the apocalyptic biblical term comes from Revelation 13: 16-18. According to the Apostle John in the New International Version Bible, a pair of beasts will rule the Earth with cruelty. Their evil reach, which can be interpreted as hidden manipulation, will require all people who engage in commerce to wear the mark of the beast. The Apostle John did not identify what the mark looks like, although many theologians translate Scriptures to associate the number “666” with the beast.

Yes, laugh as you will (we all did) but not too surprisingly, the religious hospital switched from 666 to Polaroids standard amateur 3000 speed film. What we believed to have been a unique, singular situation proved to be incorrect.

For over time the way of the beast prevailed, and medical sales of 666 film fell dramatically and was eventually discontinued.

If there is a philosophical point to be made here, it’s a simple one:

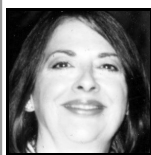
*Never underestimate
your potential customer’s spiritualism.*

Welcome New Members!

Annmarie Mazzucotelli of Winchester ***Hugh MacKenzie of Bourne***
Dennis McCarthy of Parrish, FL ***Dan Tanona of South Kensington, RI***
JoAnne & Lou Strenck of Sudbury

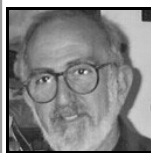
In Memoriam

Find more complete obituaries at www.polaroidretirees.org



Aliota, Patricia Ann, 79, Peabody, MA, 1/19/22 was the wife of Lawrence, mother of Stefanie, and grandmother of three. She was an Executive Assistant for

International Marketing. She loved to volunteer and participate at the Swampscott Senior Center, daily walks and afternoon lunches with friends, trips to Foxwood and yearly trips to Aruba. She was a member of the PRA.



Arpiarian, Archie H., 88, Cambridge, MA, 1/30/22 was the companion of Effie, brother of Verjin, and cousin to many. He was a Mechanical Engineer.

Archie was an avid collector of model trains and enjoyed antiques, spending many years at the Cambridge Antique Market. He was a member of the PRA.



Bonvouloir, Margaret M., "Peg", 90, Norwood, MA, 2/26/22 was the wife of late Gerard "Gerry", mother of Amy, James, Mark, John and Kenneth, and grandmother of nine. She was an Administrative Assistant

(Camera Division, Norwood). She spent her retirement years with her husband Gerry traveling, volunteering, trying to "win the big one" at Bingo, and doting on their 9 grandchildren. She was a member of the PRA.

Davis, William R., Wilmington, DE, and



The Villages, FL, 1/13/22 as the husband of Barbara and the late Yolanda, father of William Jr., David and Jane grandfather of four, step-father of Jennifer,

Kelly and Michael and step-grandfather of three. Bill enjoyed playing softball and golf, and loved to travel, which included various adventures in his Road Trek all around the country.

Fauteux, Laurier A., 86, New Bedford, MA, 3/2/22, was the husband of Bonnie, father of Christopher and Timothy, and grandfather of three. He served in the U.S. Air Force (Korean War, based at Itazuke Air Base, Japan). Laurie was a Supervisor (New Bedford). He and his wife enjoyed golf.



He was a member of the PRA.

Gookin, John V., 91, 2/24/22 Walpole, MA was the husband of Margaret, father of Ronald, Teresa, Lorrie and Daniel, stepfather of John, grandfather of Kimberly, and great-grandfather of Hailey and Ben. John served in the U.S. Air Force (Korean War). He worked in Norwood. John loved music, regularly playing his guitar and singing at the Echo Lounge in Walpole and at social events, earning him the nickname "Johnny Guitar."



Hawkins, James C., 89 Ashland, MA 2/3/22 was the father of Brian and grandfather of Nicole, Ryan and Courtney. Jim was a Career Executive Manager, Film Division (Waltham). He loved karate and tennis, with a 7th degree black belt in

Okinawan Uechi Ryū. He became guardian of his granddaughter Nicole when she was young and raised her as her father. He brought her around the Polaroid offices for years and showed her off proudly.

Hubbard, Jason, 77, Holland, 2/28/22 worked in International, (Latin America, Asia, Europe and Cambridge, MA).

Lawrence, Jr., Maxwell, "Max", 92,



Concord, MA, 2/19/22 was the husband of Catherine, father of Deborah, grandfather, great - grandfather of one; step-father-in-law of Gina and

her husband Jim Murphy, stepson Mark and step-grandfather of five. He served in the Merchant Marines and the U.S. Navy on submarines. Max was Senior VP of Manufacturing for P-60 (W3) and the start of SX-70 (R2) and was the owner of Telemark Scotland. He spent many hours on the stand for the Polaroid/Kodak lawsuit. He was a member of the PRA.



Laws, George A., Sr., 72, Malden, MA, 1/19/22 was the husband of the late Lois, father of George Jr. and Victoria, and grandfather of three. George was a Research Technician He

had a fascination with science fiction and loved to discuss and study anything science related.

Levangie, Jon Fredrik, 83, Lexington, MA, 2/20/22 was the husband of Rosemarie, father of Laurie, Jack, David and Dineen, and was a grandfather and great grandfather. Jon served in the U.S. Army (Korea). He was a Supervisor of Safety (OSHA). Jon co-published a case study, "Ergonomic Evaluation and Analysis of a Film Processing Task," which is registered in the U.S. Library of Congress.



Lowney, Thomas P., "Bumpy", Norwood, MA,

1/30/22 was the companion of Maureen, and former husband of Diane, father of Scott, Sue and Matt and grandfather of five. He was a Financial Analyst (Cambridge). Tom enjoyed running, playing golf and watching Football.



Massucco, Richard E.

"Dick", 79, Chelmsford, MA, 2/11/22 was the husband of Ronna, father of Gary and Shelley, grandfather of four, and great - grandfather of two. Dick was an architectural engineer (Waltham). Dick enjoyed gambling and trips to any casino where he would sit at a 3 card poker table for hours and he also enjoyed vacationing at Squam Lake. He was a member of the PRA.



McLellan, James D., 95, 2/7/22, Waltham, MA was the husband of late Maxine, father of Lorinda, grandfather of three, and great grandfather of two . He served in the U.S.



Army (World War II). He was a Technical Specialist (Waltham). Summer trips to Wells Beach and Ogunquit, Maine became yearly family traditions. He was a member of the PRA.

Mehta, Dr. Avinash Chand, 91, Bel-



mont, MA, 2/16/22 was the husband of Maureen, father of Dr. Sheila and grandfather "Papa" of two. He was a Senior Research Fellow in Organic Chemistry (Cambridge) and helped revolutionize film development technology. He holds 19 patents as a primary inventor and was a contributor to an additional 7 patents. Avi was invited to the White House

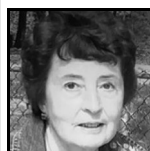
In Memoriam cont.

to take part in the first state visit of President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India. He loved to dance, enjoyed reading mystery novels and watching westerns and James Bond movies. He was a member of the PRA.

Miller, Edward P., 81, Concord, MA, 1/30/22, was the husband of Anne, father of Michael, Chris and Sean, and grandfather of six. He was a Senior Marketing Executive. Ed enjoyed woodworking, sailing with family, traveling the world, storytelling, and enjoying time with his grandkids on the Cape.



Montague, Marie G., 81, South Dennis, MA, 2/20/22 was the sister of Judith and Jean, aunt of Patricia (her caretaker), Julie R., Christine, Julie N., Michael and William. She was an Executive Secretary. She enjoyed traveling the country in her RV and was an active, prize-winning member of the Bay State African Violet Society.



Nelson, Lillie Estel, (Essie), 78, Scotland Neck, NC, 2/17/22 was the mother of Francis and Sonya, and aunt to many. Before fully retiring and moving back home to Scotland Neck, she used her own personal car and became a taxi driver. Essie was a very good gardener as you could see when you passed by her house, sitting on her stool.

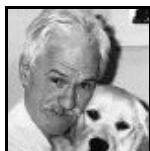


Percy, Ronald A., Mashpee, MA, 1/1/2022 was the husband of Nancy, father of Debi Cabral, Rebecca, Ronald, Taylor, and grandfather of seven and great-grandfather of four. He served in the U.S.



Navy. Ronald worked in Waltham and New Bedford. He enjoyed golfing, traveling, and cooking and was an avid Boston Sports Fan.

Popoloski, David, 71, Franklin, MA, 2/18/22 was the husband of Kathy, father of Paul and Ryan, and grandfather of one. He worked in Waltham. Dave enjoyed working on projects around his own home, including cultivating his flower garden and going for a hike with his Golden Retrievers through the Blue Hills Reservation.



Qualls, Loretta W., 82, Cambridge, MA, 1/7/22 was the wife of the late Leroy, mother of 3 daughters, 6 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. She was a member of the PRA.

Savage, Richard "Dick", 96, Needham, MA, 1/14/22 was the husband of the late Margaret, father of Joseph, Martha, Richard, Jr., David and Meg, grandfather of thirteen. He served in the U.S. Navy (WWII). Richard worked in Finance. Richard enjoyed Humarock barbeques and "progressive dinners," trips to Ireland, camping with the Boy Scouts and square dancing with Peg.



Savignano, Joan Marie, 88, Stone Mountain, GA, 2/4/22, was the wife of late Lawrence, mother of Larry, Teresa, Neil and Caryn, and grandmother of five.



Simoes, Jean M., 89, South Easton, MA 2/12/22 was the wife of the late John, mother of Edward and grandmother of three. Jean cherished and loved the time she spent with her family.

Tyner, George, 84, East Dennis, MA, 1/17/22 was the husband of Claire, father of Tripp and Stephen, and grandfather of three. He served in the U.S. Army. George worked in the Finance Division providing support to many divisions including the Contract Camera Manufacturing



Group, the Corporate Accounting Group (Cambridge), the Central Information Technology Group, and the Camera Division (Norwood). George was a member of the Board of Directors of the Polaroid Federal Credit Union. He enjoyed skiing, skating, swimming, partying, and watching the New England Patriots and the Boston Red Sox. He was a member of the PRA.

Visco, Alfred R., Framingham, MA, 1/14/22 was the husband of the late Dorothy, father of Laura, Linda, Sarah and David, grandfather of 10, and great-grandfather of four. He was a Sergeant in the U.S. Army (Korean War). Alfred was an Industrial Engineer. He enjoyed square dancing and ballroom dancing with Dottie.



Woodman, Raymond F., 75, Dracut, MA, 1/13/22 was the husband of Germain, father of Jonathen and Rodney, and grandfather of six. He served in the U.S. Navy Seabees as a Steel Worker (Vietnam) and the U.S. Army National Guard. He worked in Cambridge. Friends could always count on Ray for a story, joke, or just his constantly happy demeanor.



Directions for leaving remembrance for friends and colleagues are on page 11.

Polaroid on Ames Street *by Frank Ceppi*

Prologue

In 1934 **Dr. Land** was granted a patent for his invention of synthetic Polarizing material. Eastman Kodak provided the company's first financial break when it submitted a \$10,000 order for photographic Polarizing filters.



13 years later in 1947 Dr. Land demonstrated at The Optical Society of America a working model of his instant film and camera system. In 1948 the camera system was first offered to the public at Boston's Jordan Marsh Company. The cost was \$89.75, and all 56 cameras brought to the introduction were sold that day.



By 1951 all of Polaroid's facilities were in Cambridge, conveniently located between Central Square and Kendall Square. 730 Main Street housed corporate headquarters. Engineering and Land's lab were located at 2 Osborne Street and Polarizing sheet and sunglass lens manufacture together with photographic film manufacture were located at 12 Ames Street which at the time was Polaroid's manufacturing hub. Camera manufacturing was outsourced.

12 Ames Street

The 12 Ames Street building was constructed in 1910 as a 3-story masonry factory structure. A fourth floor was added in 1920. Prior to Polaroid's occupying the facility it was the home of the J. P. Eustis Manufacturing Company which specialized in the manufacture of brass bathroom fixtures and bathroom accessories.

When Polaroid began occupancy of the 12 Ames Street building in the '40s it consisted of four floors. The Positive Assembly film machines and 4x5 / X-Ray operations occupied the 1st and 2nd floors, and the Polarizer sheet manufacture, sunglass lens molding and Polarizer Technical Products occupied the 3rd and 4th floors.



In 1957 the Positive Assembly operation vacated Ames Street and relocated to Waltham Building 2. Three years later the 4x5 / X-Ray operations relocated to Waltham Building 3.

12 Ames Street was now a dedicated facility for the expanding operations of Polaroid Sunglass lens molding, Polarizing sheet manufacture and Polarizer Technical Products.

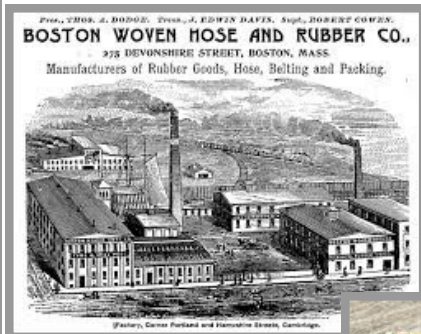


Polaroid Sunglasses are familiar to most people but lesser known are the Polarizer Technical Products. These included polarizing sheets used in conjunction with non-glare desk lamps, variable-density windows, three-dimensional movies, and three-dimensional photographs called Vectographs (which were used by the military during World War II for relief maps prior to any invasion). Additionally goggles for airmen and tank personnel and optical ring gun sights were supplied to



the military. Post war Polaroid supplied a variety of Polarizing sheet for electronic applications, liquid-crystal displays and optical microscopes.

I joined the Polarizer Division in 1960. One of my earliest responsibilities as a fledging engineer was to conduct heat balance studies of the sunglass lens molding operation. Part of the study involved recording temperatures at various points in the manufacturing process. One of the temperature gauges used in the study sensed the cooling tower water temperature and required me to climb up on the roof where the cooling tower was located to record it. I will never forget the potpourri of aromas greeting me there on the roof. To the East the smell of burning rubber tires from the Boston Woven Hose plant two blocks away, to the North the smell of Lifebuoy soap from the Lever Brothers complex (then located in the Tech Square area), and finally right next-door the smell of chocolate from the Daggett Chocolate Company. My memory may be fading but that "roof top fragrance" remains remarkably vivid.



During the 1960s efforts were made to consolidate all Polarizer related operations into one facility. In addition to the existing 12 Ames Street building, the adjacent 20 Ames Street building was leased. This expansion brought Polarizer R&D, Polarizer Sales and Marketing, the Albany Street Glass Shop and a group of engineering personnel from EFED to the "Ames Street Campus." It also allowed more elbow room for our Internal Accounting, Production Control, Quality Control, Maintenance and Engineering departments.

(Note: The Albany Street Glass Shop provided the precision ground glass liners for the sunglass lens molding operation and the EFED Group worked on the details of the lens molding operation soon to be established at The Vale of Leven in Scotland).

MIT owned the 12-20 Ames Street Buildings and had development plans for the location. As a result, plans were developed by Polaroid to relocate the expanding Polarizer Division to a building at Polaroid's Norwood campus. By the early 1970s, Polarizer sheet manufacture, sheet coating and lens molding operations were in production at the N-2 facility in Norwood.

In July of 1980 the remaining Polarizer operations at 12-20 Ames Street ended. Employees and alumni gathered for a cookout in the parking lot as they reminisced about their many enjoyable years spent working there.



Ida Szabunka, Ann Tennis, Barbara Skelley

The Ames Street building was razed shortly thereafter and replaced by the I. M. Pei & Partners designed MIT Wiesner Audiovisual Center, named in honor of former MIT president Jerome Wiesner and his wife Laya.



Epilogue

In 1935 Dr. Land had negotiated with American Optical Company to be the exclusive supplier of Polarized lenses to their Cool-Ray Sunglass Division. In 1975 American Optical ended this 40-year arrangement. Polaroid was abruptly left without a domestic customer for their Polarized lenses. Lens molding production dwindled and in time was shut down in Norwood and all remaining

production transferred to the Polaroid lens molding facility at The Vale of Leven, Scotland. Polarized sheet continued to be manufactured at the Norwood facility.

Shortly after Polaroid declared bankruptcy in 2001 the Technical Polarizer and Display Films business was sold to 3M's Optical Systems Division of St. Paul, MN. The newly acquired Polarizer business continued to operate from its site in Norwood and a significant number of the 85 employees were offered positions with 3M.

Also following the bankruptcy, Polaroid's lens molding operation at The Vale was sold to Stylemark, renamed Polaroid Eyewear, and then sold again to the Italian Company, Safilo who continue to own Polaroid Eyewear today. In 2017 Safilo decided to shut down the lens molding operation at The Vale and purchase lenses from the far east thus ending 52 years of Polaroid's presence at The Vale.

Moments to Remember



Although our numbers have dwindled the "Polarizer Family" has been meeting for many years at our semi-annual luncheons at the Chateau in Norwood. In addition to the pleasure of staying in touch we enjoy sharing our Polaroid memories.



Front: Giorgio Trapani, Sevi Savvidis, Frank Ceppi, Dick Adams
Back: Barbara Skelley, Adrienne Kishkis, Nino Dilanni, Ann Tennis



*Tempus fugit,
FGC*

'63 Internal Communications

Pat Morris sent us a 1963 Newsletter that she found among her late husband's papers. **Jim Morris**, with the company for over 34 years, "enjoyed his time at Polaroid mainly because of the wonderful coworkers he had. He also greatly admired all of the professional people that he did not know personally, but was in awe of their accomplishments."

The 4-page communication, written by **Dorothy Starr**, announces the 1962 profit sharing payments, service anniversaries, promotions, an invitation to play basketball, courses offered by the Peers Club and a "Clearing House" that lists items for sale by employees.

The paper reports,

"Payments into the individual accounts range this year from the equivalent of about two and a half weeks' pay for young people with relatively short service to seven weeks' pay for older employees with long service. Payments are based on pay rate, age, and length of time with the Company." "The plan now covers 2411 people, 68% of those on the payroll."

You can see the entire document on the [polaroidretirees.org](https://http://www.polaroidretirees.org/NewsletterBOD/Old_Newsletter_2.pdf) website at https://http://www.polaroidretirees.org/NewsletterBOD/Old_Newsletter_2.pdf

Thank you, Pat, for a glimpse at Polaroid's past. We would love to see you at the May Luncheon.

High Tech Engineering by Bill Eburn

Some foreword thinking companies have product development groups which promote out-of-the-box thinking. For instance, the Skunk Works was Lockheed Martin's Advanced Development Group, where such thinking was encouraged. It produced some outstanding results such as the SR-71 Blackbird. At Polaroid in 1959, we too were motivated by Dr. Land to bend the rules if it would result in doing the impossible. Earlier, such efforts on his part had resulted in the introduction of instant photography.

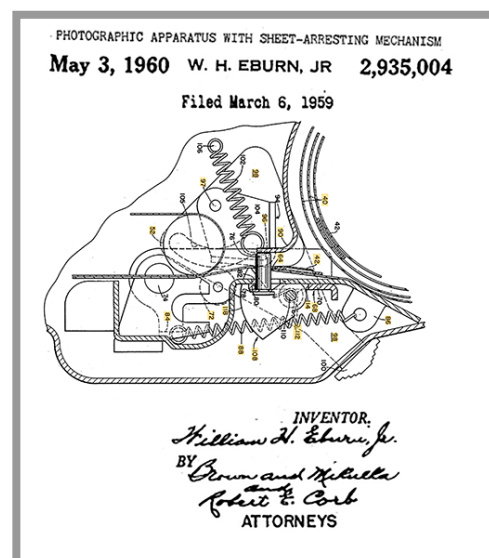
At that time, one bothersome problem existed with the use of the current roll film cameras. To start the development process, the photographer had to pull the film strip out of the camera until it was stopped by pins that dropped into holes in the film. The problem was that the pins would make a small noise when they dropped into the holes and upon hearing that noise, some users might stop pulling the film before it had moved forward to the proper stop position. When the next picture was taken, the pins would not release, and the film would tear, thus ruining the balance of the film roll. This problem was called a "false clue." There had been many attempts to eliminate this problem. We even had a thick notebook full of ideas that did not work.

One day, **Dick Wareham** and I went across the street to what is now Bertucci's Italian Restaurant for lunch. After visiting the rest room, I dried my hands on the cloth towel dispenser. Lo and behold, it let me pull out a length of towel, then stopped for a few seconds before releasing the towel again. Voila!, just the action we needed for the film

stop. I called to Dick to see this amazing operation. But how was it done? The next day, we went to lunch fully armed with a screw driver and pliers. It was later said, that two grown (?) men were seen in the men's room, secretly disassembling a towel dispenser for reasons unknown.

As it turned out, the method used in the towel dispenser was not adaptable to the cameras, but it did get me thinking about the problem. About six months later, I came up with a fix (see the patent here) and it was used in the Model 80B camera. Did I steal a secret from a towel dispenser?

Of course not. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.



New Electronic Newsletter Format

I am part of the team that provided the option to PRA Members to electronically view the *Newsletter*. I am aware of the many good reasons to use the electronic format: less paper usage and disposal, less costly to email than to snail mail and the ability to see the pictures in color if they are submitted in that format. This week I received my first email link to the Q1 2022 *Newsletter*. And I was delighted.

I was reading the article by **Bill Eburn** which referenced the 440 shutter mechanism. Normally, I would have finished reading the entire *Newsletter* and then gone to my computer and typed in the link to the shutter article,, if I remembered. This time, while I was reading the article, I clicked on the link and viewed the very informative video. I then finished reading the rest of the *Newsletter*. It was seamless.

Thank you to all who helped bring this format to the membership. I hope everyone gets as much enjoyment from the ease of use as I do. As always, your comments are appreciated. And Bill, thanks for the creativity you brought to Polaroid. **Ruth Scanlan**

Editor's note: You can opt to receive the Newsletter in your email quarterly by sending an email to praemail@comcast.net. Type "I want email" into the memo line. Include the type of device you will use to read the Newsletter (laptop, tablet, cell phone, etc.). Don't like it? You can opt out at any time.

Sign up for the Wednesday, May 18th, Spring Luncheon!

PRA Spring Luncheon
The Warren Conference Center, 529 Chestnut St., Ashland, MA
Wednesday, May 18, 2022

We hope you'll join us!

Overlooking the Ashland Reservoir and 100 acres of woodland, the Warren Center is midway between Framingham and Hopkinton. It is wheelchair friendly. You can see photos, directions from Boston, south, north and west, and more at:

<https://www.warrencenter.com>

10a.m. Registration & Conversation
11a.m. Business Meeting
11:30 Cash Bar and Social Time
12:15 Seated for Lunch

FREE for PRA Members!**

\$25 for Non-Members!

Thanks go to

DIRECT FEDERAL CREDIT UNION!

Entrée
Selections

Chicken Roma: Pan seared and roasted with prosciutto, tomato, basil, mozzarella, roasted beurre blanc and a balsamic reduced drizzle

Fish: Baked haddock, hard crusted with lemon beurre

All meals include Chef's choice of vegetable, breads, classic Caesar salad, coffee, tea and dessert.

The Warren Center will make every effort to honor your request for a special meal. Note vegetarian or vegan in "Other"

| Name for Name Tag | Chicken | Fish | Other* |
|-------------------|---------|------|--------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

☐

Please check to confirm: I understand that attendance requires proof of my and my guest's vaccinations. Recommendations of the Warren Center and city/state public health will be Followed. Masks are encouraged.

Make checks payable to: Polaroid Retirees Association, Inc., and mail with this reservation form to:
Bob Ruckstuhl, Polaroid Retirees Assn, P.O. Box 522, Rowley MA 01969

Registrations and luncheon choices must be received by April 20. We will be unable to offer refunds for reservations cancelled after May 10. In case of emergency, please call Bob at (978) 380-2119.

**** NOTE:** Your PRA dues must be up to date through 2022 or have been waived (see your *Newsletter* address label) to take advantage of this generous offer from the DFCU. Use page 12 to pay your dues. We must have an accurate count for this new venue.

If you filled out an *intention* to attend form in our last Newsletter, please complete this form today so we know you're coming.

Smithsonian Article Updated

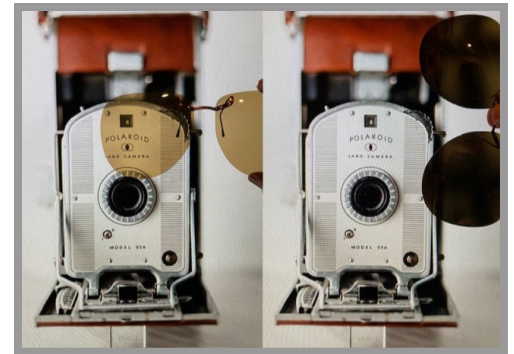
In February, *The Smithsonian Magazine* updated a 2018 Ann Elsner article, “Polaroid Inventor **Edwin Land** Gave Us More Than Just Photos.” You can access the article at the polaroidretirees.org website’s Bulletin Board at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/polaroid-inventor-edwin-land-gave-us-more-than-just-instant-photos-180969119>

Below is an excerpt that centers on Land’s creation of the polarizers that we know from their use in our sunglasses:

“His inexpensive polarizer made it possible to reliably and practically filter light so only wavelengths with a particular orientation would pass through. Land founded the Polaroid Corporation in 1937 to commercialize his new technology. His sheet polarizers found applications ranging from the identification of chemical compounds to adjustable sunglasses.

“Polarizing filters became standard in photography to reduce glare. Today the principles of polarized light are used in most computers and cell phone screens, to enhance contrast, decrease glare and even turn on or off individual pixels.”

Mary McCann tested the truth of the statement and exclaimed, “Polarizers are still with us! Flat screen TV’s and computers and some cell phones utilize polarizers to make their images visible. The images here are photographs of the first page of the Smithsonian article on an Apple computer screen.





“I’m holding Polaroid sunglasses in front of the screen, and have rotated them. Note the extinction!”

Share a Memory

When **Max Lawrence** passed away in February, his wife Kay asked PRA member and friend **Joanne Strenck** if there were a way to share Max’s heartfelt memorial piece for **Nic Van Dongen** so colleagues and members could see it. It is now posted on the PRA website.

Anyone can add comments directly to an individual’s obituary on the PRA website using the following sequence:

- Visit the PRA website at www.polaroidretirees.org
- Select **Bulletin** Board from the top blue panel.
- Select **In Memoriam** from the folders on the left.
- Open that folder by clicking on the + sign.
- Find the person’s obituary folder by name or date.
- If you can’t find the name, click on the search button at the top below “Message List” 
- When you find the name, click on the folder to the left and select the  button to write your comment. The reply button is located at the top of the obituary, just above the person’s name.
- Write your message
- Click on Submit Message

Write your message and follow the directions to post it. Your memory is now recorded..

Those looking at the obituary will be able to see your memories of your friend and colleague.

POLAROID RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 541395
WALTHAM, MA 02454-1395

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

CURRENT DIRECTORIES ARE FREE. UPON REQUEST, BUT A CHARGE OF \$6.00 IS REQUIRED TO COVER SHIPPING & HANDLING.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO **POLAROID RETIREES ASSOCIATION** AND MAIL TO :
POLAROID RETIREES ASSOCIATION, P.O. BOX 522, ROWLEY, MA 01969 ALLOW 3-4 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY IS THE PROPERTY OF THE **POLAROID RETIREES ASSOCIATION INC.** PUBLISHED FOR THE EXCLUSIVE INFORMATION AND USE BY AND OF ITS MEMBERS. NO MEMBER, ASSOCIATE, PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL OR COMPANY IS ALLOWED TO MAKE ANY BUSINESS OR COMMERCIAL USE OF THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY. ANY USE OF THIS DIRECTORY FOR REASONS OTHER THAN SOCIAL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MEMBERS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

MUCH OF THE INFORMATION GATHERED FOR THIS NEWS LETTER IS GLEANED FROM AMERICAN AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA SOURCES, INCLUDING THE INTERNET. THEREFORE, **THE POLAROID RETIREES ASSOCIATION INC.** DOES NOT WARRANT OR ASSUME ANY LEGAL LIABILITY OR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONTENT, ACCURACY, COMPLETENESS, OR USEFULNESS OF ANY INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

MUCH OF THE INFORMATION GATHERED FOR THIS NEWS LETTER IS GLEANED FROM AMERICAN AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA SOURCES, INCLUDING THE INTERNET. THEREFORE, **THE POLAROID RETIREES ASSOCIATION INC.** DOES NOT WARRANT OR ASSUME ANY LEGAL LIABILITY OR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONTENT, ACCURACY, COMPLETENESS, OR USEFULNESS OF ANY INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

What's a special memory or two of your life at Polaroid?

Send your stories to Bob Ruckstuhl's address below or to newsletterpra@gmail.com

Membership Fees are due and payable the first of the year.

Yearly Dues **\$15.00**
 Make check payable to **POLAROID RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC.**
and mail to R. Ruckstuhl, Polaroid Retirees Assn, P.O. Box 522, Rowley, MA 01969

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--------------|---------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Please <u>Print</u> : | | | New: _____ | Renewal: _____ | Change of Address: _____ |
| Name: _____ | | | | | |
| Last | | First | MI | | |
| Address: _____ | | | | | |
| City: _____ | | State: _____ | Zip: _____ | | |
| Spouse's Name: _____ | | | Phone (optional): _____ | | |
| Email Address: _____ | | | Date of Retirement: _____ | | |