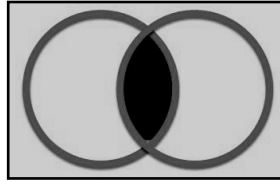


NewsLetter



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

Polaroid Retirees Association

October - December
2021

THIS PUBLICATION IS SOLELY FOR THE USE OF THE PRA MEMBERSHIP
POLAROID RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC. P.O. BOX 541395, WALTHAM, MA 02454-1395
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President's Letter

Dear PRA Members,

I hope everyone is well and safe at this disruptive time in our lives. Once again, we have had to cancel the semiannual Luncheon in October at The Lantana due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 Delta variant spread. This is very disappointing to all of us who always look forward to these meetings to catch up on life events and renew old acquaintances. We hope this will be the last time we have to do this and we can get back to "normal" in May 2022.

Since the last *Newsletter*, the Board of Directors has been meeting regularly and managing the affairs of the Association. One important action that has occurred is the appointment of Don Foster as a new member of the board to fill the unexpired term of Jim Mitcheson who served effectively for two years. Elsewhere in this issue of the *Newsletter*, you will see the story of Don's experience while at Polaroid and how active he has been since leaving the company.

I believe there is a reservoir of great candidates for the board among all of you members. There will be additional openings in the near future as Elizabeth Foote and George Murray serve out their terms after many years of service. We also bid farewell to Eric Thorgerson who retired in June after completing over 11 years on the board, both as a member and as past president. We always welcome interest by PRA members to become board members and will draw on that resource as we continue to serve you into the future.

Our new members bring new vitality and enthusiasm to the board as we strive to keep the PRA relevant and responsive to our desire to stay connected to our former Polaroid associates and the company's rich history. Board member George Murray is leading us through a PRA Planning Cycle to help us with the work we need to do to address the PRA's shrinking numbers and aging membership. Areas of focus include ensuring financial viability and staffing for our communications (website, luncheons, *Newsletter*).

Stay healthy and safe as we approach the holiday season. Pay dues before January and we hope to see you in the spring.

John Flynn, *PRA President*

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Paul Lubin

George Murray

William Rosen

Bob Ruckstuhl

Ed Wade

Welcome New Member Mary Duggan-Green from Leominster!

The Gemini Twins & Ozymandias by Ed Byrnes

The Gemini Twins



The term “polarizing” has been in the science lexicon since 19th century when crystallographers discovered that calcite crystals had the ability to polarize light. Numerous scientific and technical applications soon followed but were constrained by the size limitation of calcite crystals. This remained a growth problem until the early 20th century when the Land-Wheelwright laboratory made history with its introduction of large-scale sheet polarizers, code named “j-sheet.”

Webster’s dictionary offers a second definition of “polarizing” which has no relationship to its scientific twin. Simply put, it is divisive of nature and categorizes people into sharply opposing factions, holding different political or personal views of all things, particularly to governance.

Fortunately for Polaroid the scientific side of Gemini was the reality of its time. Thus, Polaroid was able to develop a variety of unique products that quickly established an international reputation that soared to financial envy. To the personal, it provided rewarding employment to its employees...us.

Whoever would have guessed that Gemini #2 would, in a matter of a few contemporary years, become a serious threat to the stability of our democracy. When you think about it, politics have always been polarizing of nature...vote for me not him... but not in a toxic way. It’s only of recent years that America has been drinking from the poison well of chaos.

How this provocative polarizing situation plays out remains to be seen. It definitely will impact the pending mid-term and following Presidential elections. We can but hope and pray that democracy prevails.

In many ways the current situation of potential destabilization reminds one of the Roman conflicts over Julius Caesar’s death. Within a short construct of time, Rome shifted from a Republic to a Monarchy which prompts a question: What future direction will America take and how will it affect its relationship with current allies and enemies?

Something to ponder.

Ozymandias

A few months ago, my dear friend and fellow retiree, **Sheldon Buckler** emailed me the following poetic verse.

“My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings;
Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!
Nothing beside remains, Round the decay
of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.”

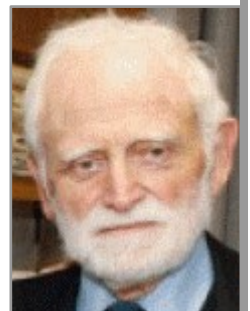
To be truthful, I am not quite sure what Polaroid-Shelly had in mind when he quoted that verse taken from Percy Bysshe Shelley’s 14-line sonnet, “Ozymandias.” Whatever, it so happens that that particular poem was one of many discussed in my freshman college English class some 75 years past.

As one might expect a 75-year time lapse applies to memory lapse as well. All I can remember about Percy Shelley’s famous poem is its name, “Ozymandias.” So, time to reread the poem for clues to Polaroid-Shelly’s sending of the verse.

I interpret the theme of the poem to be the inevitable decline of kingdoms due to pretensions of greatness. For further understanding, I researched all references to “Ozymandias” and found that it was the common name for the powerful Egyptian Pharaoh, Ramses II.

As we know, time is not an ally to the greatness of kingdoms or empires for they all eventually fail. I suspect Percy shared this opinion and thus penned his poem “Ozymandias.”

Back to Polaroid-Shelly. Without his telling, I have to assume his “Ozymandias” quotation is his way of remembering Polaroid.



Sheldon Buckler
Columbia

The Color Lab 1965 - 1973 by Ruth Scanlan

June 28, 1965: I started to work for Polaroid right after graduation from Emmanuel College with a chemistry degree. I remember the date precisely because I had \$25 to my name and payday was 27 days away. "What do you mean I get paid once a month?"



Ron Checiuch

I worked in the Color Lab in the back lab with **Ron Checiuch** (sp), **Roberta Luhowy** and **Frank Menighini**. When a position opened up in the reagent group, "the goo group," under **Jeanne Ward**, I took it. In the early days, that part of the lab not only made reagents, but also coated 10-foot loops of negative. The

group tested chemicals for both reagent and negative functionality. I was taught how to process spreads in a darkroom by **Susan Lefevre** and how to coat negative by **Arthur Newton**. You cannot imagine my pride at being able to successfully weigh out emulsion in the dark and coat 10 layers of negative, one at a time. Other areas of the lab were the sheet group, sensitometry area, microscopy and photo studio.

Susan had first presented the concept of SX-70 to **Howie Rogers**. While processing a series of pictures in the darkroom, she forgot to peel one apart after 60 seconds. In this particular test, the receiving sheet was clear plastic, not the usual opaque one. When she saw the image through the sheet, she brought it to Howie. That led to her many months of using the ball mill to create very small particle size white powders to act as a reflecting layer for the picture.

Jeanne Ward had the reputation of requiring a lot from her group. However, we all grew under her leadership. While we were engaged in this exciting and fast paced project,



Jeanne Ward

Polaroid reached out to some of the underemployed members of the community and created a program lead by Jeanne in the Color Lab. The people selected for this 'internship' attended English and math courses in the morning and were taught laboratory techniques in the afternoon. They then worked full time in the Color Lab. Many of the graduates of this program went on to higher education (including a

PhD in Chemistry and several Bachelor degrees). Many of them worked for decades for Polaroid and were important and loyal contributors to the Corporation.

Of course, the SX-70 film had to develop a high-density image, even in full sunlight. Many people contributed to the creation of the indicator dyes, the polymers that would impact neutralization, and the negative, receiving sheet and reagent balance that would give the best photographic quality. Soooo, when the managers of all these areas thought we had reached that goal, the ultimate test was designed. On a bright sunny day, with a prototype camera from the Machine Shop, a group of managers stood on the roof of 28 Osborn St on a very bright sunny day and processed a picture. It worked! Later, Jeanne had a party at her house to toast to the occasion. I can only remember some of the people: **Tom McCole**, **Howie Rogers**, **Lloyd Taylor**, **Terry Milligan**, and many others.

There were several other labs within the Color Lab that reported to Howie on special projects. They were headed up by **Dick Wright**, **Bob Stevens**, **Ted Mclelland**.

It was a pleasure to grow and laugh with these people, as we were part of creating something totally new that would delight the world!

Land on a Stamp? The PRA Tries Again

New Board member **Paul Lubin** has taken up the Dr. Land U.S. Postage Stamp cause, and the board agrees with Paul that we should give it another try. Paul has sent the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee information about Land's qualifications with the objective of their reconsideration. Paul's letter includes the following:

"Dr. Land was a scientist, inventor, entrepreneur, business leader and public servant. He invented a way to produce plastic polarizer that is used in precision lenses for military and scientific applications, sunglasses and LCD screens. He invented and developed a revolutionary method for producing instant photographs and the company to manufacture the cameras and film to make them. At its peak in the 1990s, Polaroid Corporation employed over 20,000 people. At the time of his death, he had been granted the third most U.S. patents after Thomas Edison and one of Edison's associates...Dr. Land was a member of the President's Scientific Advisory Committee from 1957-1959, and a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board from 1961-1977. Land received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963."

"...We believe that this submission meets the requirements of your selection process and hope you will act favorably on our request."



USPS 1973

Meet the New Polaroid Board Member

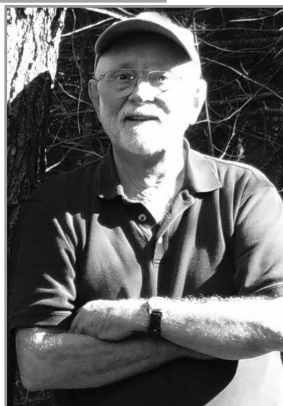
*As a newly appointed Board of Directors member, **Don Foster** was asked to tell us about himself. We think you'll agree he'll be a great addition to the board. Here's what we learned:*

As an engineering undergrad, I knew I was headed for a career in gas turbines, jet engines or power generation. But then I interviewed with Polaroid, a company I didn't know. Polaroid made me an offer I couldn't refuse.

I started in New Bedford in May, '72, working with **Howie Worzel** evaluating film quality and performance. Later, I moved into Process Engineering and worked on coating, drying, fluid flow and defect detection.

In '79, I moved to EFED and worked on process instrumentation in W1, W5, and W8. A few years later, I was offered a chance to work with **Eric Thorgerson** and **Fawwaz Habbal** starting a magnetics lab at 784MD as Polaroid embarked on video tape and floppy discs. Following that, I moved to a new position in the CPS group to handle customer issues with Polaroid's magnetic products and to establish service and repair capability for the Polaroid 8mm Camcorder. Unfortunately, that product was soon canceled.

From there, I moved to ER&D at Tech Square working with **Tom Rodriquez** on a lab for the "megadensity" product – yet another blind alley for Polaroid. That engineering team shifted to the Helios project, and I was asked to start a small lab studying laser exposure of the film. When Helios emerged as a marketable product, I



moved with the team to Newton and then back to New Bedford in the new NB6 building to start a film evaluation lab for Helios products.

I earned several patents – one in electrostatic coating (with **Ed Chirokas** in W5) and another in dissolved gas detection.

I left Polaroid in '99 and returned to college for my third graduate degree – this one in professional writing, the others in business and engineering. The UMass Dartmouth English Department asked me to teach the tech writing course to engineering students because "Our faculty cannot understand those kids." I taught English for ten enjoyable years and then joined the College of Engineering to teach the senior Product Design capstone course to ME students, which I did until 2018. Currently, I teach and manage the ME labs.

Outside the University, I serve on the School Committee for our local Voc-Tec; on the Board of our local Cable TV Access Corporation; and on the Board of an alumni association (and I prepare and edit the association's newsletter). I also served for over twenty-five years as Chair of our local Zoning Board. I'm honored to judge at the regional and state science fairs, and I judge WPI and BU senior engineering projects.

I still meet weekly for breakfast with Polaroid colleagues, all bright and wonderful people, all Polaroid people.

Jaap reports from the Netherlands

***Jaap Blik** is a new PRA member and tells us about his Polaroid memories and his life after retirement.*

My early days at Polaroid

When I was hired by Polaroid Enschede in the Netherlands back in November 1972, I was just 25 years old. Polaroid Enschede had just started one or two years before to produce its own Polacolor reagent, and management was looking for a supervisor with at least some knowledge of chemistry and chemical engineering. At the time I was still studying for my BSc, but had a couple of years' experience working in an organic chemistry research lab, synthesizing exotic compounds for the dying process of polyester fiber, which was produced by what later became AKZO, a big Dutch artificial fiber and chemical company.

In those early years I was sent to the US (1974 first time) for training purposes, which meant spending time in W2

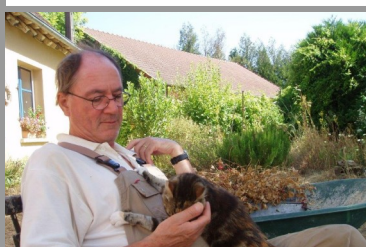
with the Reagent colleagues and **Joe McCarthy** as my mentor. He was great in helping me as I had no idea about American habits or culture. Also through the years after, Joe was always a good supporter and great colleague; I still cherish the memory and thank him for that.

In the years after, I came over to the US several times. Although memories of the '70s have faded a lot, one still stands out. Since I would be over for two to three weeks, the W2 colleagues would take me into town on Fridays to the "Friday Meeting" in Cambridge. It was held in Osborn street, near 28 if I remember well. To me this was an impressive, long WOODEN building of at least four stories high, in which, I was told, **Dr. Land** had his lab at the ground floor. We entered a wide, wooden, creaky staircase to arrive at top level in the meeting room. There was a long table and at the head of the table sat **Bob Delahunt**, arms flat on the table sideways, hands together, bent forward slightly and peering darkly around the room, inspecting the 20 or so(?) attendees. It was clear he was in

charge and was well respected. Among those in the room were **Bill Herman**, the Reagent Manufacturing manager at the time, **Dave Carlson and Bob Young, Sid Kassman**, Joe McCarthy and myself and others I unfortunately don't remember. People reported out on progress and issues. I will never forget how, on one of those occasions I had to explain why my operation in Enschede had lost some 14 or so batches of Polacolor reagent.....

After the meeting, several of us crossed Main Street to what was called "The O." It was a café or what we in Holland would call a "lunchroom." A group of us, including Dave Carlson, Bob Young, Joe McCarthy and I think Sid as well, went there to have hamburgers, beer, etc. It was very clear everybody relaxed after the meeting and had fun!

I enjoyed working for Polaroid for 35 years, ending my career as Operations Manager in the IDSC, the International Distribution Center in Enschede, that served 120 countries outside the Americas. It was a totally different organization from the film factory, where strict procedures and specs ruled processes. This operation was aimed at speedy, immediate action. When I retired in 2006, the Warehouse Manager who had been reporting to me said, "From you I have learned to take some time and think first when there is a problem!" Working in the IDSC was another great experience. I took early retirement in February 2006.....



Jaap & cat at the farm in France

Retirement

When my wife Else and I came across this 200-year-old farmhouse in rural France for sale for a very low price, we immediately had plans for it.... "later"..... after retirement.

The time was 2003 and from then on, we spent every vacation we could at our French place, cleaning it up and restoring a bit where we could. But during 2005 it became clear that my wife was rather ill; she became slowly but surely more and more tired, talked slowly, had trouble walking steadily, etc. She seemed to get older faster than one would expect.

So, when I could take early retirement in the beginning of 2006, there was an important reason; I had to take care of my wife. It took till the mid of 2007 when, finally, the cause was found for her illness. She underwent brain surgery and when I visited her that afternoon immediately after, she sat upright in bed, talkative and vivid! It was like a great miracle; I finally had my wife back! Not long after that I took a picture of her in France dragging a tree she had just cut! What happiness! And fully restoring the house could begin!

In order to stay a little active back in Enschede, I joined a group of mostly retired people who work in nature around Enschede, one morning each week. As an example, fields of heather will fast be overgrown with trees if those are not taken out when still small. And so, some of the firs we took out back then are now big fir trees in France on our land.....

By now the old farmhouse is a very comfortable place and we spend about half our time out there. Friends visit us there and we made several friends among the locals, another good experience. But there is always lots of physical work to do, from mowing fields to cutting trees. It keeps us fit and yet age starts to count as the maintenance of the land around it is heavy. For how much longer? We are happy all goes well so far and hope, you who read this, are faring well also!

Jaap Blik, Enschede, the Netherlands

Welcome to the PRA, Jaap. Great to have you here!



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Then what???

We will acknowledge receipt of your email and the next newsletter will come as an email attachment.

What if I change my mind????

You may opt out at any time. There will be a link in future newsletters that will allow it.

In Memoriam

Find more complete obituaries at www.polaroidretirees.org



Albert, Raymond J., 97, Peabody, MA, 11/4/20 was the husband of the late Helen, father of Peter, Michael, Thomas, the late Richard, Matthew and Mary, grand-

father of ten, and great-grandfather of four. He served as Engineering Officer on an aircraft carrier. Ray was a Mechanical Engineer. He loved sailing, fishing and playing musical instruments.

Bartlett, Muriel A., 99, Cambridge, MA, 10/14/2020 was the mother of



Walter, Deborah, Dorston and Reynold, grandmother of fourteen, great-grandmother of twenty-one and great-great-grandmother of three. She

was always so happy to interact with all her peers at the Polaroid Retirees luncheons. She was a member of the PRA.

Benoit, Andrew F. "Andy" Medford, MA, 7/13/21 was the husband of the late Isabel and companion to Pauline, father of Leon, Lorraine, James, and Marie, grandfather of nine, and great-grandfather of five. He served as a Corporal in the U.S. Army, (Korean Conflict)

Bertorelli, Joseph M., 93, Nahant, MA, 7/14/21 was the husband of



the late Anne and the companion of the late Therese, father of Joseph, John, James, Paul and Christopher, and grandfather of three. He served in the U.S.

Army. He was a Design Engineer. He enjoyed traveling and spending time with his family and friends.



Bessette, Robert W., 81, Milford, MA, 7/14/21 was the husband of Rosemary, father of Robert, Rosemary, Richard, Raymond and Roger, grandfather of eleven, and great-grandfather of

five. He was a Senior Buyer. Robert was an avid cribbage player and loved to travel on cruises to Europe. He was a member of the PRA.



Caddell, III, Thomas "Tuck" 80, Pembroke, MA, 8/11/21, was the husband of Ann, father of Jay, Glenn, Wendy, Kimberly

and Kathleen and the late Paul. He was a Senior Principal Mechanical Engineer (Waltham, Cambridge, Norwood and Mexico). Tuck achieved his lifelong dream and became a Class A PGA Golf Professional.



Cappucci, Maria P., 86, Roslindale, MA, 7/19/21 was the wife of Giovanni, mother to the late Antonio and Giovannino, grandmother (Nonna) of two, and Great-Nonna of two.

She worked in Production Camera Division (Norwood). Maria enjoyed cooking and sharing her delicious creations. She was a member of the PRA.

Cardillo, Kathleen, "Kathy" 86, Reading, MA, 7/1/21 was the wife of the late George,



mother of Karen, Cheryl, Bob and Linda, and grandmother of seven. She was a Nurse. Kathy was an avid reader, enjoyed book

swapping and mastering challenging crossword puzzles, and was a loyal Red Sox fan.



Ceppi, Donald J. (Don), 75, Bedford, MA, 7/13/21 was the brother of Frank and the late Dr. Clare, and cousin and uncle to many.

He later established his own photographic company "East / West Productions" and created photographic marketing materials for Universal Studios and Knott's Berry Farm. He also was the photographer for the Van Halen Rock Band on one of their tours.



Coleman, Timothy W., 76, Westborough, MA, 8/1/21 was the husband of Kathryn, father of Brett and Darren, and grandfather of six. He was an Analytical Chemist.

Timothy was a passionate historian of World War II battles.



Corbett, Christopher H., 80, South Portland, ME, 6/22/21 was the husband of the late Peggy and Manny, father of Stephen, Matthew and Sara, stepfather

of Hoyt and Kim, and grandfather of eleven. He served in the U.S. Navy as a

Weapons Officer. Chris was a Plant Manager of three film factories. He traveled the world, sailed, climbed mountains and spent summers on Chebeague Island.

Corolla, Sr., Paul J., 77, Medford, MA, 8/15/21 was the husband



of Pamela, father of Paul and Melissa, and grandfather of five. He was an Accountant in Finance. Paul enjoyed traveling to his home in Highland

Beach, FL, was an avid Boston sports fan and was active with the Friends of the North End organization.



Couture, Jr., Laurie R. "Larry", Billerica, MA, 7/4/21 was husband of Brenda, father of William, Jennifer and Sarah. He was a Customer Relations Specialist. Larry enjoyed hunting, fishing, antiquing and photography.

Davenport, John McCoy,

74, Downers Grove, IL, 7/12/21 was the husband of Carol, father of Tiffany and JT, and grandfather of five.

He worked in Sales and Marketing. John loved Pelican Lake, Vikings football, charcoal barbeques and a Dewar's.



Davis, Jr., George A.,

79, East Freetown, MA, 9/4/21 was the husband of the late Phyllis, father of Olivia, and grandfather of one. He



served in the U.S. Navy. George was a Financial Analyst (New Bedford). He was a Mason, avid gardener, enjoyed day trading, and loved British sports cars and spending time with his grandson Carter.



Day, Paul F., Weymouth, MA, 7/8/21 was the husband of Gertrude, father of Debra and Susan. He served in the U.S. Air Force (WWII) and the

Coast Guard. He taught boating safety in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Paul was Mechanical Engineer. He was a furniture maker and enjoyed hockey and Cape Cod.

Desjardins, Diane, The Villages, FL, 9/7/21 was the sister of Carol and aunt of her niece and nephew. She was a

In Memoriam

Secretary in the International Advertising Division (Cambridge).

DeWolfe, James E., "Dumpa" 82, Hudson, MA, 7/11/21 was the husband of Linda, father of Michelle and Brian, grandfather of seven, great-grandfather of one, and honorary grandfather of many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a Camera Repairman (Japan and Korea). He was a Senior Human Resource Administrator. Jim spent his leisure time skiing, golfing, riding motorcycles, traveling, enjoying fine whiskey, "driving Miss Daisy" (Breenie), entertaining and playing cards. He was a member of the PRA.



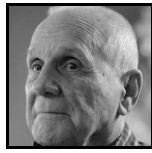
Dickson Jr., Robert F. "Bob", 86, Sudbury, MA, 5/26/21 was the husband of the late Mary, father of Robert III, Linda, Karen, Paul, Mark, Scott and Nancy, grandfather of fourteen, and great-grandfather of six. He was a Technical Manager (Norwood and Waltham). Bob enjoyed golfing and was a sports enthusiast.



Finn, Jr., Thomas F., COL (Ret.), 74, Wilmington, MA, 7/12/21 was the husband of Jane, father of Katharine, Matthew, Timothy and Patrick, and grandfather of twelve. He served in the U.S. Army and the U.S. Army Reserves. Tom was a Senior Principal Industrial Engineer for Camera Production (Norwood). Tom enjoyed looking forward to family adventures where he captured every moment on video.



Graf, Robert "Bob" J., 86, NH, 9/11/21 was the husband of Ellen, father of Otto, Kurt, R.J., Eric and Todd, grandfather of eight and great-grandfather of three. He served in the U.S. Air Force (Korean War). Bob was an Industrial Engineer and a member of the Cement Heads. He loved to take pictures. He was a member of the PRA.



Grella Jr., Lawrence J., "Larry" 84, Marlborough, MA, 7/9/21 was the husband of Phyllis, father of Lawrence III, Steve and Jeffrey, grandfather of three, and great-grandfather of five. He served in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Columbus. He was an Electrician. Larry loved skiing and boating. He was a member of the PRA.

Hagan, Lorraine, 87, January 2021 was the mother of Lorraine. She worked in the Material Control (New Bedford). She was a member of the PRA.

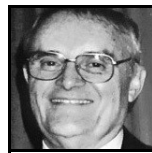


Kaufman, Neil A., 84, Sudbury, MA, 8/8/21 was the husband of Phyllis, and father of Susan. He worked in Pilot Plant Operations, Chemical Manufacturing and Production. Neil enjoyed teaching, playing bridge, and the Patriots, and he built radio controlled airplanes. He designed and built the original sign for the Boston Post Road location, making each letter by hand.



Kennedy, Charles B., 86, Acton, MA, 7/20/21 was the husband of Clementine, father of Robert, Mark, Kathryn and Scott, and grandfather of three. He was a Design Engineer. Bruce was a Celtics and Red Sox fan, and enjoyed traveling to many countries and hosting family and friends from around the globe on the Cape.

Kilroy, Jr., James J. "Jim", 91, West Roxbury, MA, 7/19/21 was the husband of Irene, father of Katie, Dennis, Peg and Sheila, and grandfather of four. He served in the U.S. Army. Jim was a sports enthusiast who enjoyed playing hockey well into his 60s and cheering on his grandchildren at various sporting events. Jim served for many years on the PRA Board, including three years as President.



Langston, Lesa Ann, 64, Fort Wayne, IN, 7/25/21 was the wife of Gregory, mother of Rhonda, grandmother and great-grandmother of one. She

worked in Polaroid ID Systems.



Maguire, John "Jack" 74, South Bend, IN, 6/22/21 was the husband of the late Terry, father of Sandra, grandfather of Marisa, and great-grandfather of one. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps. Jack enjoyed refereeing hockey, umpiring baseball and he loved his Bruins, Red Sox, Patriots and Celtics.

Mahoney, Robert P., "Bob" 64, Rockland, MA, 7/5/21 was the husband of Diane, father of Rob, Thomas, Michael and Dennis, and grandfather of three. Bob was an Engineering Technician (Norwood). His happy place was coaching sports, youth baseball, basketball, and football.



McGrath, Richard G., 86, Walpole, MA, 1/9/21 was the husband of the late Barbara and Rita, father of Susanna, Richard, Lee and Kelly, grandfather of eight, and great-grandfather of two. Rick served in the U.S. Air Force repairing electronics on U2 spy planes. He was a Supervisor in Norwood. He played in the Stone Street Strummers in Walpole.



McGuire, Charles S., "Steve" 88, Manlius, NY, 9/8/21 was the husband of Ann, father of Frank, Sally, Mary, Martha, Katie and George, stepfather of Melissa and Mark, grandfather of fourteen, and great-grandfather of thirteen. He was an Officer in the U.S. Army. Steve was a Patent Attorney. Steve enjoyed classical music, the Chicago Cubs and "wintering" in Grand Cayman.



Nelson Sr., Norman, 88, Phoenix, AZ, 6/12/21 was the husband of JoAnn, father of Norman Jr. and Eric, and grandfather of six. Norman served in the U.S. Army (Korean War). He worked in the Research Labs. Norman loved dancing and taught ballroom dancing.

In Memoriam



Palanjian, Marion, Newport Beach, CA, 1/16/21 was the wife of Jerry, mother of Jessica and Alex, and grandmother of four. She was an Executive Secretary (Tech Square, Cambridge). Marion's interests were reading, crossword puzzles, Jeopardy, travelling, tap dancing, bridge and home (and holiday) decor.

Pasieka, John, 92, Fernandina Beach, FL, 6/9/21 was the husband of Diane, father of John Jr., Sue, Kathy, Pat, Michele and Bill, grandfather of eleven and great-grandfather of three. He served in the U.S. Air Force. John joined Polaroid's Product Design Department to head up Industrial and Technical Product Design, became Technical Director for Consumer Still Products, Product Engineering, and ultimately rising to the Director of Product Engineering Division. He was a member of the PRA.

Perdue, Raymond, 78, Decatur, GA, 3/12/21.



Richter, Esco, Apopka, FL, was the husband of Patricia. He was a member of the PRA.

Santosuosso, Thalia, 88, Bedford, MA, 9/8/21 was the former wife and friend of Alfred, mother of Debra, Diane, Jeffrey and Andrew, grandmother of six, and great-grandmother of four. Thalia enjoyed hobbies like bowling, but her true passion was ballroom dancing!



Seeley, Ronald T., 82, Bolton, MA, 7/30/21 was the husband of Patricia, father of Marianne, Brenda, Karen, and Richard, and grandfather of six. He served in the U.S. Navy as an EMP2 aboard the destroyer USS Yellowstone. Ronald was a Facilities Maintenance Engineer. He enjoyed golfing, and long drives in the car. He was a member of the PRA.



Sheehy, Kevin J., 84, Green Valley, Arizona, 8/1/21 was the father of Donna, Marlene, and Maura, grandfather of twelve, and great-grandfather of two. Kevin was a proud Irishman who enjoyed telling a good story, playing golf, jamming to good music, card games with a beverage in hand and running the Boston Marathon in his forties.



Tarushka, Joseph F., 91, Quincy, MA, 8/21/21 was husband of the late Margaret, father of William,

Daniel and Michael, grandfather of five, and great-grandfather of two. Joseph served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps (Korean War). He was an Electronics Technician. Joseph enjoyed current events, politics, sports and watching classic movies.

Van Dongen, Nic, 90, Swansea, MA, 8/18/21 was the husband of Ineke, father of Merrick and Nicholas, and grandfather of six. He was an Electrical Engineer (Film Negative Manufacturing New Bedford). Nic loved sailing, cruising, and traveling. He filled many shelves with sailing trophies. He was a member of the PRA.



Whalen, Charles "Charlie" 87, Waltham, 8/31/21 was the husband of Madeline, father of Charles, Francis, and John, and grandfather of six. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps. Charles was a Machinist. He was a highly skilled craftsman, talented gardener, and had a gift for connecting with strangers and winning the trust of animals. He was a member of the PRA.

Wright, James, "Jim" Chandler, AZ, 6/12/21 was the husband of Patti, father of Brian, and grandfather of two. He worked for Copy Service and Camera Product Services in Massachusetts and California.

Obituaries are compiled by Maryann Hall. Notices may be sent to newsletterpra@gmail.com or R. Ruckstuhl, Polaroid Retirees Association, P.O. Box 522, Rowley, MA 01969

A Recollection by Johnnie Haywood

We asked Johnnie to tell us how he came to Polaroid and of a special recollection or two. He hesitated but, with the help and writing talent of his daughter Mona, he shares his memories.

My undergraduate degree was in Chemistry, which is what I taught at a Virginia high school for the five years that I was the Head of the Math & Science Department. In addition to the responsibilities corresponding to the abovementioned positions, I coached football and baseball. The players, the coaching staff members, and I realized an undefeated season for our efforts on and regarding the gridiron.

During my third year of teaching, the local county began work to integrate the entire school system –

including the two separate teachers' associations. I was the president of the local chapter of the Virginia Teachers Association, which was comprised of Black educators, and my mandate was to work with an officer of the local chapter of the Virginia Education Association, which consisted of White teachers, to strategize as to how to integrate the school system in Spotsylvania. Our goal was to help to construct and to assist in implementing a 5-Year Plan and a couple of first steps were:

✧ to merge the teachers' associations and

- ✧ to establish a representative group of school officials to lead and to manage the new integrated school system.

One weekend, I accompanied a friend from college to attend a job fair in the District of Columbia. I was interviewed by a fair number of companies and Polaroid was amongst them.

I was hired by Polaroid in 1968/1969. After my arrival, I spent the next three years as a Supervisor in the Optics/Molding Area, where I implemented cost savings in the red-dot machine area: then to SX-70, where I was a supervisor of Team C – “B” Shift. While at 640, I worked on the “B” Shift for some years. During the 1977 shutdown I moved with the rest of the group to Norwood, and in approximately four years, was promoted to Production Manager. A hallmark of my tenure at the corporation was that I worked on the SX-70 from inception to the final camera. I was very fond of my stay at Polaroid: I would be there today if it were possible!

We all have some story or experience at Polaroid that was good and/or unique: mine was when Dr. Land came to 640 Memorial Drive to see the shutter operation of the SX-70. On the appointed night, I got a call from security that Dr. Land had arrived and was on his way upstairs. I met him at the fourth-floor elevators. He was alone. (I did not know how he managed that feat: he had made previous visits – always with an entourage.) We exchanged greetings and proceeded on a tour of the SX-70 Shutter.

I took him on a tour of my area, where the shutter front housing was married to the shutter. In addition, this area was where the shutter was:

- ✧ functionally tested,
- ✧ calibrated at two light levels (calibration was of particular interest to him), and
- ✧ (finally) inspected for shipment to Norwood.

Grace* was one of the five or six calibrators working in my area of responsibility, and, importantly, was someone who wanted to meet Dr. Land; when approached to participate in the tour, most people were too nervous to meet him. She and I showed Dr. Land how we calibrated the shutter using two light levels: one was “high” (i.e., at 800 candles per square foot) and the other was “low”, which was somewhere around 40 to 60 candles per square foot. Then Grace showed him how we completed the operation.

Dr. Land questioned the inclusion of the low light level, and we provided an explanation. He stated why he thought that the inclusion was not necessary and suggested that we stop calibrating for the low level. His reasoning made sense to us and from that night going forward we stopped the dual calibration.

At the conclusion of the tour, I walked Dr. Land to the elevator, and I called or left notes for the “A” Shift staff personnel, the Engineers, Supervisors, my Boss – everyone who needed to know of the change and of Dr. Land’s visit.

In my mind’s eye, I still can see him exiting the elevator – its sole passenger. I still do not know how he managed that trick.

**Grace’s husband worked in Material Control and he was a Supervisor on the “A” shift. He later told me that she could not sleep that night, which I took as a compliment for/of Dr. Land.*

2 Osborn Street by Mary McCann

With your help, the Newsletter hopes to describe all Polaroid buildings and their stories. Mary contributes:

The Osborn Street Building is historic. It has four commemorative plaques! They date back to 1832, when Davenport made horse-drawn carriages. Another plaque commemorates Alexander Graham Bell’s first long-distance phone call to Boston in 1876.

Polaroid expanded across the street from 730 Main to the Osborn Street Building in 1941 at the height of World War II. During that time Polaroid made polarizers, optical filters, plastic lenses for tank telescopes, goggles for the military, gun-sights, and was working on thermal guidance for bombs. Polaroid also made Vectographs for 3-D prints using polarizing glasses. Eisenhower’s forces used a giant assembly of Vectographs of the entire Normandy Beach when preparing for D-Day. Later, when the war effort ended, Land would use the Vectograph skills to create Instant Photography and keep jobs for his employees.

The building’s American Chemical Society plaque says: *“From his workplace in this building, Edwin H. Land (1909-1991) led the Polaroid Corporation in its development of the first instant photography system. This novel technology, demonstrated in 1947, produced photographs by means of a complex sequence of chemical reactions contained within a film Unit. Land directed numerous improvements to the original one-step, sepia-toned film until Polaroid introduced a truly integral instant color photography system in 1972.”* This plaque gives us a hint of all the instant photography research that was carried on in this building. The PRA plaque lists many of Land’s famous quotations. Photographs of these plaques are on our PRA website:

<http://polaroidretirees.org>

#2 Osborn, is the entrance closest to Main Street. There was no signage on the building, but a sturdy iron pole barrier outside the doorway prevented enthusiastic

researchers from racing across the street to 730 Main without regard to traffic.

Inside the locked 2 Osborn door, a steep stairway led upwards to the Black & White Film Labs. The 1940s and '50s saw the development of Sepia, and then Black and White, Instant Photography. **Meroe Morse** who joined Polaroid in 1944, later became the Director of B&W Films Research. We plan to share a more complete story of Black and White research in a following article.

Dr. Land's offices and personal laboratory were on the first floor, just inside the #2 Osborn door. An unmarked door opened to **Natalie Fultz's** office and reception area. She was a retired Navy Wave with very high security clearance and exceptional stenographic skills. She assisted Dr. Land with all of the President's and Chairman's official correspondence and with the security and communication of his classified documents. She hosted the Chairman's visitors and managed the activities of the Chairman's office. **Peggy Prebensen** and **Barbara Walsh** joined her staff in later years.

Ansel Adams' "Moonrise" hung on a wall of Land's office. A bright knit afghan, used for posing for photographs on any new run of color film, was draped on a chair, and three walls of his office held an extraordinary collection of rare books on photographic history. His personal lab space was connected to his office by a door in the wall opposite Natalie's office. This lab stretched along the Main Street wall and was called "the back lab."

Monte Reel's description of the U2 Spy Plane suggests that in the late '50s, some of the initial plans for the U-2 spy plane and camera system were made in this lab. In the '60s **Fred Binda** and **Al Bachelder** worked on a wide variety of Dr. Land's experiments. In the 1970s **Nick Hadzkyriakides**, **Barbara Theobald**, **Gordon Kinsman**, and **Florence Rubin** worked nonstop in the back lab finishing the SX-70 film and camera. At the other end of the lab there was a locked door – a back door to the back lab. A few people had keys to the back door and a steady stream of daily visitors came through: **Howie Rogers**, **Stan Bloom**, **Stan Mervis**, **Vivian Walworth**, **John McCann**, **Tom McCole**, and **Dick Chen**. These meetings were brief and unscheduled, so as to immediately transmit experiment results. Dr. Land would often leave a group of vice-presidents in his office to step into the back lab to see the latest experiment's result.



*Dr. Land
in the back lab*



*Nick Hadzkyriakides &
Dr. Land*

The back lab also housed a small kitchen so that Dr. Land could cook a snack for himself in the middle of the night. In 1975 John McCann set up Polaroid's first digital imaging laboratory next to the back lab. The lab had a new PDP computer system connected to a digital memory bank that stored and displayed on television a 512x512x24 bit digital image. This unit was made by a small silicon valley company, I²S. All of the lab's systems had arrived, including all the I²S components. The plan was that the I²S VP of Engineering would fly to Boston during the day, spend the night integrating the entire system and return to California on a morning flight. John offered to stay and be helpful, but agreed to his guest's request to work alone all night. John returned early the next morning to find everything worked as expected, and then drove the sleepy I²S VP to the airport. On the way John inquired if he was hungry and wanted to stop for breakfast. The installer replied that, "No, a fellow came by in the middle of the night, and asked what I was doing. He looked over my shoulder for a while, and then asked if I was hungry and would like a snack. I answered that I would, and he returned in a few minutes with eggs and toast." John asked, "Were the eggs good?" The man said, "Yes it was an excellent omelet." John then asked what the man was wearing, and was told, "a tweed jacket and grey slacks". John told him "That was Polaroid's president, Dr. Land. He is a fan of Julia Child on Public television. Polaroid sponsored her first year of TV programs."

Further down the building was Dr. Land's unique Projection Room. This room held a large carousel with projectors for many different formats of film. The annular table that held all these projectors was 10 feet in diameter and rotated about its center. The projectionist stepped through an opening in the annulus to stand behind the projector. Users could rotate the carousel to project any size film image or light onto a screen. This was the room where Dr. Land would develop experiments refining his red and white color photography.

Dr. Land loved to lecture on Human Color Vision. He frequently described the chance observation that began his lifelong experimentation and development of Retinex Theory. While developing Polacolor instant three-color subtractive print film, Land wanted to see the colors possible in three-color additive projections. He repeated James Clerk Maxwells's 1862 experiment for the Royal Institution. Three slides of the same scene were photographed with red, green or blue filters, then projected and superimposed using the same filters. At the end of reviewing a variety of three-color projections, while putting filters and slides away, Meroe Morse asked Land why the colors were still there when only a red and a white projector were still on. Land replied, "Oh, that's adaptation."

In the middle of the night, he sat up in bed, and said, "Adaptation, what adaptation?" Land got up and returned to the lab at 3 o'clock in the morning to see whether these colors could be explained by color adaptation of the eye.



Jay Scarpetti

experiments in red and white photography and subsequently to his Retinex Theory of color vision. Over the next fifty years, he gave many demonstrations and lectures and wrote twenty-six essays on Retinex Theory.

In the 1960s Land's color research went from projections to experiments with papers that he called "Mondrians."

John McCann and Jeanne Benton worked with the Mondrians and the publications of the results. John McCann became manager of the Vision Research

Laboratory in 1964. The lab studied human spatial vision, applying their discoveries to make electronic imaging hardware mimic the signal processing of human vision. Computer programmers, photographers and vision scientists were all part of the lab. **Jay Scarpetti** and **Phyllis Bennett** handled conventional photographic duties and helped set up

Polaroid's large format cameras and Museum Replicas. In addition to being an observer in vision experiments, Jeanne Benton was the creator of illustrations for Land's lectures and articles. The Vision Research staff included audio electronics specialist **Bill Wray** who invented a sophisticated sound system for the Polavision cameras that was demonstrated with the memorable performance of "Summertime" at the 1977 Shareholders' Meeting.

A group of dark rooms adjacent to the Vision Research Lab housed **Lucretia Weed's** lab and her staff of **Bob and Paul Nangeroni, John Doran, and Jim Whalen**. It is not

By that time, he was well on his way to generating 537 patents, the majority on the topic of image capture and image reproduction. Land recognized instantly that the human visual system was fundamentally different from all image reproduction systems. The observations of that night led to his



Marie Watson & Phyllis Bennett

an exaggeration to say that her lab developed all of Polaroid's transparency films, both Black and White and Color: Types 46L 146L and PolaLine films, and a variety of Color Transparency films in various formats from 35 millimeter slides to 8 millimeter movies. Her lab was the central integration point for all aspects of the challenging new technology of Polavision. Lucretia was yet another Vision Research contributor, providing test targets for experiments and insightful commentary.

All of these stories weave an unbelievable tale. If it were fiction it would be too complex to be believed! There is an old building in Cambridge, across Main Street from Cambridge Housing Authority Apartments. Over the centuries, it housed Davenport Carriage manufactory and Bell's original long distance laboratory, Singer made sewing machines there (but no plaque), and Land invented Instant Photography. For decades that unmarked building was the corporate headquarters of a Fortune 500 company. The office of the Founder, Chairman of the Board, President, Director of Research, and principal stock-holder was also behind a very plain, unmarked door.

If the walls could talk, they would report that they were kept clean and well painted, but every one there was so busy working on the future of science and engineering that interior design was never discussed. The job of Research is constant change. Ideas, and their workspaces, changed constantly. The walls could report that during Land's tenancy they observed the research that led to Instant Photography, Positive/Negative films, the complete transformation of Instant Photography in SX-70 camera and film, the Polavision Instant film system, a fundamentally new theory of Color Vision based on studies of the Natural Scene, and efficient algorithms for digital image processing of HDR scenes. There were frequent visits from Ansel Adams, Nobel Laureates, and government and business leaders. The walls could also report that Dr. Land doubled as a short-order cook around midnight when he wanted to learn more about a new machine in his lab.

And that is just half of the first floor of 2 Osborn Street!

The PRA website polaroidretirees.org offers another "trip down Memory Lane" Select Bulletin Board, then General Messages to read Steve Berry's posting of 7/10/21.

Fall 2021 Luncheon Canceled

The PRA BOD has canceled our October 2021 Luncheon to protect our Membership from the risks of contracting the COVID-19 virus and its variants.

We plan to hold the Spring Luncheon on May 18, 2022, and ask that you stay safe, wear a mask, get a booster shot and wash your hands.

We will be doing the same.

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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

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