The Link

BULLETIN OF THE NATIONAL CRYPTOLOGIC MUSEUM FOUNDATION, INC.

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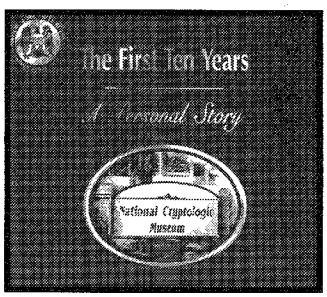
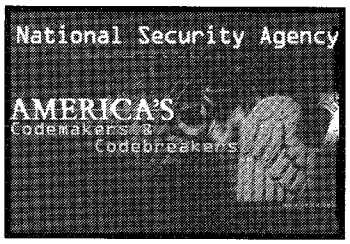
MUSEUM'S TENTH BIRTHDAY OBSERVED



To celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of the establishment of the National Cryptologic Museum, the Director, National Security Agency/Chief, Central Security Service and NSA Senior Managers hosted an open house at the Museum on Wednesday evening, 3 December 2003. From Earl J. "Jerry" Coates, first curator, who journeyed from his retirement home in Gettysburg, PA, to Jack Ingram, the present curator, a commingling of "old faces and new" crowded into the Museum to share memories and pleasure at the public reception afforded this unusual (for NSA) venture "out in the open." As a matter of fact, Director Hayden became so involved in the "give and take" that he decided on the spur of the moment to dispense with his prepared remarks and simply to encourage the socializing in which (with good hors d' oeuvres) all seemed engaged. NCMF President and Chairman John Morrison led the contingent of Foundation supporters present, and representatives of the Fourth Estate attended, as did a number of NSA's current leaders.

Upon exiting, guests were presented by representatives of the Agency's Office of Public Affairs with a packet of material, including a 3" CD-ROM titled "America's Codemakers & Codebreakers" and an attractive 28-page color brochure, "The First Ten Years: A Personal Story," by Curator Jack Ingram. (The CD, introduced by Director Hayden, uses the latest techniques to acquaint the viewer with the role of NSA and its forerunners in cryptology. Both it and the Ingram brochure are available "as long as supplies last" at the Museum or from the Office of Public Affairs, 301-688-6524.)



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OVERVIEW

It's difficult to believe that the National Cryptologic Museum celebrated its Tenth Anniversary this past December. Where has the time gone! And what a contrast between the modest opening exhibits and the bulging displays of today – not to forget those already on the planning board.

As I've driven in to work recently, I've seen the arrival and assembly of the Navy's EA-3B, destined to complete the inter-service symbolism at the National Vigilance Park adjoining the Museum. Soon painting and distinctive marking will begin, restoring its appearance as a Fleet reconnaissance asset, and it will be moved into the Park, where it will serve to commemorate the men of the Navy and Marine Corps who lost their lives in dangerous airborne operations during the Cold War.

Working closely with Museum Curator Jack Ingram, Dave D'Auria, our Acquisitions Chairman, is developing a "most wanted" list of items desired for the Museum. (Perhaps "wish list" would sound better than "most wanted.") It will aid us and others in procuring such artifacts, and I look forward to being able to share it with our membership. Some will doubtless appear as "targets of opportunity," and inclusion on the list will be a convenient guide before checking with the Curator when you learn of a questionable item.

I've met with Corps of Engineers, Agency, and County officials in recent months to share plans for the "museum of the future," and to identify land in this same vicinity for construction. Meanwhile, an impressive new Marriott Courtyard has opened across the Parkway from us, in the National Business Park. (Officially it's "South Area BWI/Fort Meade;" former paratrooper Patrick Leary is the General Manager.) Marketing Director Kevin Murmane paid us a visit in March and invited us over for brunch. We were quite impressed, and promptly booked space for our next Board meeting there, to acquaint Board members with the facility. (This may offer a more convenient location for our "off-site" programs and for overnight guests.) So, beyond the temporary inconvenience of all of the road and overpass construction of the past year or so, we are seeing promise of a more convenient and attractive future for the area, centering on the Museum.

A memorial donation from the Spierman family has been applied to the "a.k.a. SMART" program, at their request, and I want to thank them again for remembering "K" in this fashion. We have also been encouraged by inquiries from the corporate/industrial sector, about what their role might be in our undertakings.

Finally, we bid goodbye to our long-time Secretary and our Program Committee head. (Both slots, you may notice on our staff listing, are vacant.) John Callahan and Julie Wetzel were married over the Yuletide season. We celebrated with them at our March Board meeting with the presentation of an autographed and inscribed copy of David Kahn's *The Codebreakers.* They had already announced their plans to move to a sunnier South. So, while we wish them well, we've lost their knowledge and experience and their contagious enthusiasm for the Foundation, but we shall build on their past performance. Any volunteers?

John E. Morrison, Jr.
President

The Spierman Family Gail Leasure, Doris (Mrs. "K") and Brad Spierman

Gen. Morrison and Mrs. Spierman

THE WILLSONS AND CRYPTOLOGY: A NAVY FAMILY IN TWO WORLD WARS

Raymond P. Schmidt, CAPT USNR (Ret.)

Her father designed the U.S. Navy's first cryptographic device – employed by the Fleet for two decades – during the Great War. She was hired in 1935, shortly after graduating from college, by the Director of Naval Intelligence as a Latin America specialist. But in 1938 she was recruited by the Director of Naval Communications, and worked as a civilian cryptanalyst for OP-20-G until well after the Second World War. Her Navy officer husband was a submarine commanding officer during World War II, using radio intelligence to operate against Japanese shipping in the Pacific.

Mrs. Rice with Mrs. RADM P. L. Lautermilch MV Yangtze Paradise 1993

Now, at the age of 92, **Eunice Willson Rice** feels strongly that it is time to show her children and grandchildren what her late father invented. After all, *the Navy Code (later Cipher) Box (NCB) Mark I of 1917 was the first mechanical cryptographic device ever adopted for U.S. Navy use.* Its improved successor, the NCB Mark II produced in 1918, led to the development in 1923 of a more secure strip cipher device in 1923 that was approved for encrypting Navy plaintext messages, *i.e.*, those not translated first into a Navy code.

Vice Admiral **Russell Willson**, her father, always believed that the NCB provided impenetrable communications security against breaking by German cryptanalysts during World War I. That appears to have been the view of his superiors, who cited his "exceptionally meritorious service" in charge of the Code and Signal Section as a young Lieutenant Commander in a "duty of great responsibility" and awarded him the Navy Cross: "[For] the preparation, handling, and distribution of war codes and for devising a new and very efficient system of such communications."

This fascinating story came to light after Mrs. Rice wrote asking where she might find the NCB on public display. As evidence of the NCB's value to the United States, she enclosed a letter from the Treasury Department dated July 31, 1935, confirming that the General Accounting Office was about to issue a certificate allowing Treasury to send her father a check for his invention. Also included was a slip of paper citing H.R. 5564, which authorized Treasury to pay the princely sum of $15,000 to Captain Willson – ending some 15 years of waiting for Congressional action.

Willson, then commanding officer of *USS Pennsylvania* (and gladly distancing himself from cryptologic assignments), thereby learned of the forthcoming payment that would finally settle all U.S. Government obligations for his cipher device. The money not only compensated him in lieu of a patent, but it also set a precedent for other such awards.

(In 1937, Congress authorized payment of $15,000 to the widow of **Commander William F. Gresham** and to **Mrs. Agnes Meyer Driscoll**, the principal Navy civilian cryptanalyst in the 1930s and 1940s, for inventing the Communication [later Cipher] Machine [CM] in the 1920s. Similar in design to the NCB, the CM offered potentially greater cryptographic security; it, too, was removed from service issue and ordered destroyed in late 1938 or early 1939. Years later, Congress passed bills authorizing $100,000 be paid each to **William F. Friedman, Laurance F. Safford,** and **Frank B. Rowlett** for their contributions in developing U.S. *electric* cipher machines.)

Author **David Kahn** mentioned the NCB and Willson's role in his trail-blazing book, *The Codebreakers,* first published in 1967. He referred to the device as a strip form of the Jefferson cylinder, and noted that it was still in use in 1935 when Willson commanded the battleship *Pennsylvania.* Kahn provided the first widely-available comprehensive public account of early 20th century cryptology, and his book supplies valuable background for those starting out or wishing to conduct additional reading and research.

In 1985, **RADM Edwin T. Layton,** the Navy's first intelligence flag officer, added to Willson family lore in his memoir, *And I Was There.* Layton recalled that he reported to Captain Willson in 1935 when he was assigned to *USS Pennsylvania,* along with three other

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THE WILLSONS AND CRYPTOLOGY: A NAVY FAMILY IN TWO WORLD WARS

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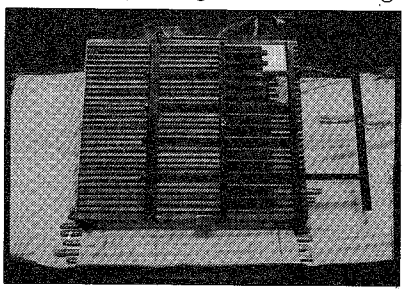
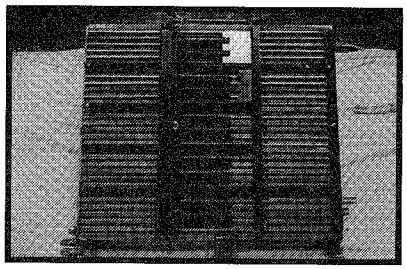
Navy officers who also became pro- minent in World War II cyptologic and intelligence work – **Wesley A. "Ham" Wright, Thomas H. Dyer,** and **Joseph J. Rochefort.**





Navy Cipher Box Mark II with the slide pulled to the right. This WWI device is held by the Naval Security Group Command display in Pensacola, Florida.

RADM Layton mentioned these assignments in the context of a humorous shipboard encounter between Willson and Wright, who had recently completed cryptanalytic training in OP-20-G. Rochefort had asked Wright to break coded radio messages sent by local Japanese fishing boats. His all-night stint caused the commanding officer to berate Wright for missing the captain's Saturday morning inspection because he was "fooling around with that stuff." Reminded that he had once been so involved, Willson replied, "Yes, but I had the good sense to get out of it!"

In other pages, Layton's's book demonstrates that Willson family ties are as enduringly entwined with cryptology as with the Navy. Layton quotes from a letter Mrs. Rice wrote to co-author **Captain Roger Pineau** answering his request for information about her association in the late 1930s with the "father of Navy cryptology," **Captain Laurence F. Safford.** Layton quotes her apt characterization of that brilliant but eccentric officer:

> "His hair seemed permanently to be standing on end as if he had been scratching his head in perplexity. He spoke in little bursts, unconnected phrases that unnerved his listeners and brought universal admiration from us for his secretary's ability to produce a coherent memorandum from his dictation."

It is clear that Mrs. Rice and her father did, indeed, enrich the roots of the U.S. Navy cryptologic organization during its formative years. Still active and energetic, she has earned many times over a happy outcome to her quest to view the NCB on public display.

Russell Willson, inventor of the Navy Cipher Box, upon his promotion to Lieutenant in 1911 and his marriage to the former Eunice Westcott of Chestertown, Maryland. Willson held this rank when he reported for duty as head of the Navy Code and Signal Section in the Office of Naval Communications in early 1917.

At the moment, it appears that may happen! First, a search at the National Archives facility in College Park, Maryland, yielded an essential declassified WWI document from the former Navy Registered Publications System Library: Communications Security Publication #210, which contains a useful outline sketch of the NBC and instruction on how to operate it.

Next, responding to an inquiry, volunteer officials of the Naval Cryptologic Veterans Association in Pensacola, Florida located a cipher device in Navy custody that bears a riveted tag reading "N.C.B. MK II" and a register #953 – one of 1,000 NCB Mark IIs produced in June 1918 for roughly $41.30 each. They are now planning an exhibit featuring the NCB and its inventor in the RADM Joseph N. Wenger Command Display in Pensacola.

Based on these findings, the National Cryptologic Museum at Fort George G. Meade, MD plans to consider working an account of the device into an existing exhibit. This tale of U.S. Navy mechanization of encryption during wartime provides a brief glimpse into the larger story of U.S. military cryptographic advancements during the early years of the 20th century. The Willson family offers us an engaging account of a father and his daughter who participated in and made unique contributions to United States cryptologic history – not to forget Mrs. Rice's submariner husband, who benefited and may even have had his life preserved through the fruit of their efforts.

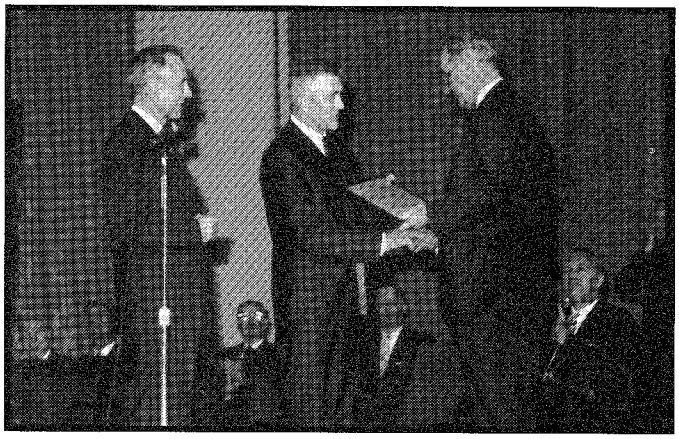
"I wish to be useful, and every kind of service necessary to the public good becomes honorable by being necessary. If the exigencies of my country demand a peculiar service, its claims to perform that service are imperious."

Captain Nathan Hale (1755-1776)

REMEMBERING THOMAS R. DEWEY

NCMF Member Len Posa

With the institution of the Memorial Registry, the Foundation has given all of us a means of honoring and preserving the names of those we wish remembered – those who have had an impact on our own professional lives and have quietly and anonymously accomplished good things in the service of their country. Such a person was Thomas R. Dewey. Well remembered by his colleagues, few other than his colleagues appreciate what he did, how he did it, and what it meant for the Nation and the Free World. In such a case, there is a need for more than his name in a book. His service was shrouded in the secrecy of our shared profession and his life was cut short by a fatal illness. Security considerations still prevent a full appreciation of his accomplishments; the passage of time and access to records make it difficult to recover details. But through the cooperation of his family and friends and the shared memories of those of us who knew him, I want to tell you more about Tom, and why I feel honored to be a sponsor in the commemoration of his name.



President L. B. Johnson presenting award to Thomas R. Dewey; D/DIR L. W. Tordella at Left, 4 December 1964.
Credit: LBJ Library Photo by Cecil Stoughton

Tom began his all-too-brief career at the National Security Agency in 1955, a twenty-five year old Air Force First Lieutenant, assigned to the Research and Engineering (R&E) organization. He converted to civilian status later that year. He served under such distinguished technical managers as the late Dr. Solomon Kullback.

Tom Dewey was a skilled electronic engineer with technical depth. He had the capacity to quickly and effectively design and develop equipments and systems for *needed* NSA operational missions. I remember him first as one of my earliest supervisors, in 1959-'60. I recall him, not only for his technical capabilities and his accomplishments, but also for his positive personal effects on me, a memory I share with others. One worked *with* him, rather than *for* him. We all understood that he wanted us – his subordinates, supervisors, and associates – to work *with* him. He was never negatively critical of our work – never in any way adversely personal. Whenever we needed to be criticized, it was always a positive leaning experience, whether it was for some technical problem or some operational mission aspect (or to correct my bad spelling). He rarely used the word *I*. He seldom talked about his accomplishments, except when asked. His answers were always instructive and not about himself. He let his accomplishments speak for themselves, *and they did*. His speech and his conduct reflected high moral values and devotion to his family. He was a role model for us all.

Prior to 1959, he had already made contributions to the state-of-the-art in the development of data and storage equipments and in system development. In addition to his work serving required operational needs, some of his ideas and efforts led to commercial applications, such as reel-to-reel, cassette and video tape recorders. Apart from his other tasks, he undertook in 1959 to supervise me in a program to design, develop and deploy a system to collect large volumes of radio signals, record them, and process them in a specially designed "mini" computer. (Recall that this was the time of practical transition to the digital world, and from vacuum tubes to transistors – there were no personal computers, "mini" computers or

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REMEMBERING THOMAS R. DEWEY

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hand-held calculators.) He designed the basic system in a matter of days (he may have designed the computer over a lunch break), and I was kept busy for over two years. Later on that effort led to what may have been the first digitally controlled radio.

That was also the year when Tom Dewey began the effort that was to result in an award from the President – an especially memorable event for all of us who knew him.

Arguably, the greatest strategic and tactical threat to the United States and its allies during the Cold War was a mobile Soviet weapons system, its platforms and associated command and control systems. They needed to be detected, identified, tracked, and reported in order to be neutralized. The technical aspects were complex and pushed the state-of-the-art. The operational mission was (in bureaucratic terms) substantial and impressive. The resulting capability provided for the timely detection, processing and initial exploitation that was done in minutes, rather than a time frame ranging from hours (rarely) to days/months (at best) to never. Tom, working with one assistant, did the initial designs, developments, and demonstrations in the lab in 1959-'60. The overall systems/operations were then developed, deployed world-wide, and successfully operated by the military service primarily concerned. Later hailed as "a very valuable contribution" in the guarded language of official citations, the system/operations resulted in considerable resource savings in system, people, operational functions, support, and other considerations. A conservative *overall* estimate to achieve comparable operational results would be in the tens of millions of *then* dollars.

In 1957, at age 26, Tom received a letter of commendation from Dr. Kullback, then serving as chief of R&E. He used the phrase, "an electronic system of paramount importance" to describe in unclassified form what Tom had achieved. (Specifics of the system are vague and likely classified, but thought to have been for a cryptographic problem.) A Certificate of Commendation in 1964 by Director Blake gave unclassified recognition to the technological feats and the resulting operational success Tom had accomplished on the Soviet weapons system mentioned above. It also paved the way for the process, both within and external to NSA, that successfully justified a first of its kind "National Award for Economy Achievement," and Tom had the honor of being NSA's first recipient. The accompanying photograph, which shows the ceremony, was inscribed by the President, "To Tom Dewey, a devoted American and valued public servant." Dr. Tordella, Deputy Director of the Agency and fully appreciative of the technical aspects and operational importance, added "To Tom Dewey, a brilliant scientist who has made several very valuable contributions to the security of the United States." That exceptional honor was the government's way of publicly recognizing what he had done. And in partial compensation for the "cost avoidance" Tom had achieved, the award was accompanied by a check of sizable proportions.

Two years later, on 14 December 1966, he received another "Certificate of Achievement," that one from Director Carter. Tragically, it came at the end of Tom's life, for he had developed a brain tumor. At the age of 36 he was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. Most of us do not achieve in a long career what Tom Dewey accomplished in his 11 years at NSA, in what would have been the beginning of his career.

(In the preparation of this brief memorial tribute, I am grateful to Mrs. Dewey, former colleague John Kallenback, and other associates and senior managers who knew Tom Dewey, and to our editor, Dave Gaddy. From my experience in trying to reconstruct the accomplishments of Tom Dewey, I would encourage those "inside the system" of NSA/CSS to think in terms of cryptologic history, to document technical achievements and significant operational aspects, and to record the names of those responsible. lp.)

PUEBLO REMEMBERED

On 28 January 2004, former Commander Lloyd Mark "Pete" Bucher, captain of USS *Pueblo* (AGER-2), died at a California nursing home. He was 76. Following the tragic attack on USS *Liberty* (AGTR-5) in 1967 by elements of the Israeli Defence Forces, North Korea's seizure of *Pueblo* in international waters east of Korea the following year, and her 11-month imprisonment and beating of the captain and his crew as spies, created international tension and embarrassment for the United States. Unlike *Liberty*, which was considered a "floating field station," tiny *Pueblo* was a tactical reconnaissance platform (technically, it was an "environmental research" ship, according to its designation) serving the U.S. Pacific Fleet, one of a small number of such ships, intended to sail with impunity as did their Soviet counterparts. Perhaps emboldened, North Korea struck the following year against an unarmed U.S. Navy airborne platform, an EC-121 (Lockheed's distinctive three-rudder "Constellation"), also operating in international airspace east of Korea and shot it down, with loss of the entire crew of Navy and Marine specialists. No protective or retaliatory action was taken by the United States in these incidents. Within a short while the seaborne platforms had been removed from service and "higher and faster" overhead means had supplanted the "airbreathers." Traumatized by their prison experience, the released crew of *Pueblo*, led by their captain, returned to a cool reception by the Navy and the end of promising careers. Although the survivors maintain their own association (and web site), there has been a natural affinity with the *Liberty* survivors over the years. In the word of *Liberty* author Jim Ennes, the two were "lightly armed, unescorted, uprotected and ill prepared to protect [themselves] against an armed enemy;...the nearest aircraft were equipped only for a nuclear mission and...conventionally armed aircraft were too far way and lacked refueling tankers." (There *was* a Congressional inquiry into the *Pueblo* and EC-121 incidents.) Leaving the Navy, "Pete" Bucher found peace in his talent for painting. May he rest in peace.

WWII WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT: A FILM

The History Project, Inc., has announced a new film, *The Government Girls*, premiering in Washington in June and planned for Public Television (WETA) in July. Featured throughout is NCMF Board Member (and Retired NSA Deputy Director) Ann Caracristi, with appearance also by Jack Ingram, Curator of the National Cryptologic Museum. Produced, written, and directed by Leslie Sewell and narrated by Cokie Roberts, the one-hour documentary tells the story of the women who responded to the mobilization of the nation's resources in the Second World War as civilian employees of government agencies. Unprecedented, the effort introduced young ladies to the "man's world" of Washington and showed that they, too, had "the right stuff." Many of them entered what became careers in government. Some met their future husbands. Racial as well as gender lines were crossed as the war effort shook up American society. (See Miss Caracristi's "I Remember When" in the Fall 1998 issue of *The Link*.)

On 15 June the film will be shown at 7 p.m. at the Washington, D.C. City Museum. (Ticket information is available at 202-383-1809 or e-mail reservations@citymuseumdc.org). Additional information about the project is available on the Internet at URL www.governmentgirls.com.

MESSAGE CENTER

(aka "The Oops Department")

Referring to the mention of "Vint Hills Farm" in the Fall 2003 issue of *The Link*, Edward P. Anania wrote to ask when the name was changed from "Vint Hill Farms Station," the name he recalled from being stationed there in the mid-'40s. He is, of course, correct. Our goof. (Thanks, Ed – also appreciate your nice comment about *The Link*.)

A MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Names continue to be added to the Memorial Registry, some by family members, some by co-workers. In recent correspondence, one family member wrote of having thought of sponsoring the name of a recently departed family member, but hesitated, wondering if that were appropriate, and was so pleased that a former colleague had taken the initiative. Sponsorship is open to all. But we can appreciate the mixed feelings that letter expressed. Having been denied full knowledge of the work done by a departed family member during their lifetime, an "outsider" might well hesitate. Sponsor Len Posa, in an accompanying article in this issue, demonstrates the difficulty, even for a former colleague, in trying to penetrate the veil – not so much of secrecy as of failing memories and inadequate records – to recapture the accompaniments of an admired leader or co-worker. Len encourages others to follow his example and preserve such information for historical purposes, as a tribute and a means of expressing the meaning and value of "a secret life." Continuing from the previous issue of *The Link*, the following names have been added:

#44 (Gold) Honoree:
Jack Gurin
Sponsors: Milt Zaslow and Harry Rosenbluh

#45 (Silver) Honoree:
Dr. L. E. "Larry" Shinn
Sponsor: David W. Gaddy

#46 (Silver) Honoree:
Samuel Kyung Sook "Sam" Hong
Sponsor: David W. Gaddy

#47 (Silver) Honoree:
Horace "Ted" Dunbar, Jr.
Sponsor: C.S.S. Associates Architects

NCVA *CRYPTOLOG* CHANGE-OVER

As the issue changed from Volume 24 to Volume 25, the much-admired *Cryptolog*, the organ of the U.S. Naval Cryptologic Veterans' Association, underwent a change in format from the traditional "tabloid newspaper" style of the past to a new magazine-style format, and from newsprint to coated paper. This was indicative of a more profound change – long-time editor Graydon A. "Grady" Lewis, who built the publication and took it into the color era, has relinquished the "con" to Robert R. Payne of Lubbock, Texas, the new editor. And the "home port" of *Cryptolog* has changed from Corvallis, Oregan, to Pensacola, Florida.

Serving Navy-Marine alumni, *Cryptolog* is both a means of keeping in touch and reporting reunions of shipmates and also a valued historical repository, as veterans have shared their memories of people, events, and places. In this latter capacity, it has been a basis for emulation and a source of information (and occasional reprinting) for *The Link*.

We salute Editor Emeritus Grady Lewis and his staff. They are by no means disappearing from the stage; some have already "transferred" and Grady is the new President of the NCVA. We wish them well and look forward to the new editorship.

For those with Internet access, the web site of the NCVA is at www.usncva.org. Membership Secretary Jack Gustafson is at P. O. Box 16009, Pensacola, Florida 32507-6009.

RECEPTIONISTS AT WORK

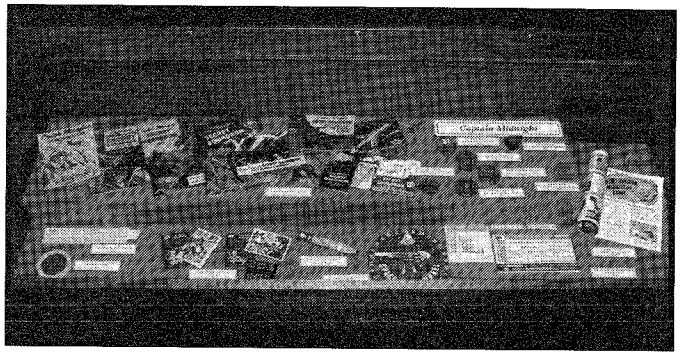
We quickly filled our quota of five volunteers to serve the Foundation and the Museum as receptionists, assisting visitors in the use of the hand-held personal museum tour device (INFORM) and in other ways. (See *The Link*, Fall 2003.) And they have swiftly moved to get the system back in full operation. They report that, during an hour and a half one day (with one unit out for repair), 23 units were in use, and, by the end of that day, 56 had been in use. Led by Pat Clements, our "Corps of Receptionists" comprises Mondays - Barbara Mills, Tuesdays - Nancy Arteche, Wednesdays - Bonnie Hohenberger, Thursdays - Joyce Jacobs, and Fridays - Janice Winston.

CRYPTOGRAPHIC TOYS FROM THE GOLDEN AGE OF RADIO

For over seven decades heroes of radio, television and movies have captured children's imaginations. Especially during the 1930s through the mid 1950s, children would join their hero's fan clubs and receive "secret" manuals and code devices used to interact with the hero while the show was on air. Today children can still purchase "secret" code devices mass marketed whenever a new action hero movie is released. These "secret toys" have become a fascinating part of Americana and are highly prized collectibles.

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Richard Brisson, of Ottawa, Canada, the National Cryptologic Museum now has a special display featuring dozens of toy code and cipher devices dating from 1929 to the early 1980s. Among the items are complete sets of Radio Orphan Annie and Captain Midnight manuals and brass decoders, a Tom Mix Six-Gun Brass Decoder Badge, a Dick Tracy Secret Code Book, an Indiana Jones Adventure Expedition Guide Decoder, a 1929 Pie-O-Gram Code Book, a Mr. Wizard's Crypto Coder/Decoder and a James Bond Code-O-Matic.

This unique collection of cryptologic toys, spanning seventy years, is on loan until January 2005. It should have a special appeal to youngsters – and to nostalgic oldsters, who will still admit to the attraction of words such as "secret" and "code."



CLOSING OF "B.A."

In yet another change in the post-World War II and Cold War deployment of U.S. cryptologic resources world wide, comes announcement of the closing of American operations at Bad Aibling Station on 30 September 2004. A "farewell fest" was held in early April, shared by Bavarians and Americans. A parade from the center of town to the station recalled centuries of history for the lovely spa, which had witnessed Roman legions, a Luftwaffe base, and POW camp, as well as a generation of Americans who relished the "Sound of Music" setting below Munich, overlooked by the Alps. No Rudyard Kipling has poetically philosophized on the occasion; but nostalgia was the order of the day, both for participants and past acquaintances, who returned in their memories.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Recently the Phoenix Society (NSA's "alumni group") posted a "help wanted" notice for a local firm seeking language skills in "Albanian, Amharic/Tigrinya, Arabic, Baluchi, Burmese, Chechen, Chinese, Dari, Dinka, French, Greek, Haitian Creole, Kashmiri, Korean, Kurdish, Pashto, Persian/Farsi, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Spanish, Somali, Swahili, Turkish, Urdu/ Punjabi, Uzbek, and others." How many of these can you equate to a nation or region? How many of them have you heard of before? This serves as a reminder of the continuing challenge for the government and our armed forces in finding (and retaining) trustworthy, competent linguists. Having them when needed, and their "care and feeding" when they are not, are age-old challenges, as the Language exhibit at the NCM attests (*The Link,* Fall 2003).

FOR THE BOOKSHELF

(This may deserve an apology: it isn't really "for the bookshelf," unless you have room for an "off the wall" book. It really isn't about cryptology. Or is it? How does it relate to the protection of information, part of the mission of the National Security Agency, now embraced under "information assurance." You can decide for yourself.)

Joseph McMoneagle, *The Stargate Chronicles: Memoirs of a Psychic Spy.* Charlottsville, Virginia: Hampton Road Publishing Company, Inc., 2002. ISBN 1-57174-225-5.

Imagine having a spy you didn't have to implant in the target country...who didn't have to know the language or pass for native. Who could sit back in safe territory, in a nice, clean office, and get the information you desired. Sounds like a HUMINTer's dream, doesn't it. Yet that is the promise – and the premise – of what is termed "remote viewing," A "sensitive" person is presented with a task – perhaps the coordinates of a target site or an image – and asked "what's there?" "Can you tell me what's going on, what they are doing there?" And the individual concentrates on trying to "see" and draw or describe what he or she "thinks" (?) is the answer. Sounds like something straight out of sci-fi, or the world of ESP. Some dismiss such things out of hand, some are frightened, some are curious. Some think that, if there *might* be something to it, it should be investigated further and, if valid, exploited in the interest of national security. CWO John McMoneagle, USA (Ret.) claims to have been part of such an investigation, part of a program to experiment, and, finally, to have become the outstanding proponent, an adept himself. In the process of becoming convinced and becoming personally involved, he sacrificed marriage and family, his health, and worried about his sanity. This is the story he relates in this, his latest of several books.

Born in 1946, McMoneagle entered service with the U.S. Army in 1964. After basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, he was "recruited" by "Military Intelligence" and received his specialty training at Fort Devens, Massachusetts (a site familiar to the Army Security Agency) and at "Area G," also known as "Little Korea." Expecting to be sent to Viet Nam upon completion of his training, he instead found himself on Eleuthera in the Bahamas, plugged into the Navy's BULLSEYE radio direction-finding system (AN/FLR-10), just in time for Hurricane Betsy in September 1965. He re-enlisted in 1967 and went to Viet Nam. From there to Bad Aibling, Germany, and the first of several border site assignments. From Germany, he was sent back to Ft. Devens, then to Vint Hill Farms Station to work on "special projects" for NSA and CIA. Then to northern Thailand, where he encountered hepatitis B. Back to Augsburg, Germany, leaving a former wife and son stateside. By this time he decided that he was a victim of professional envy by superiors lacking in the depth and variety of field experiences he had had, yet repeated attempts to "go for warrant" were rejected ("too young," "needed where you are") and he began drinking heavily. To break out, he applied for training in Mandarin Chinese. Instead, he found himself at HQ, INSCOM (Army's Intelligence and Security Command, successor to ASA) at Arlington Hall Station in October 1978, where he was introduced to a tightly restricted special project, one dealing with extrasensory perception, and specifically "remote viewing." It was to change his life. (Over the course of twenty years, he spent 12 years, seven months overseas, and tends to identify the long separations as the reason for two divorces.)

INSCOM interest in this field – in which the Soviet bloc had reportedly made great strides – was protected, both for security reasons and to avoid potential embarrassment by being accused of wasting money on pseudo-science or "dabbling in the occult." Set up in buildings 2560 and 2561 at Fort Meade, Maryland, through trial and error, and the use of strict protocols developed in conjunction with SRI International in California, results from the small team became impressive. For example, in an effort to "see" the re-entry of Skylab form outer space in July 1978, McMoneagle claims to have missed the actual point of re-entry by approximately 60 km and the actual day (11 July) by 6 days and a few hours and minutes. Such results encouraged the Army's Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence (ACSI), MG Ed Thompson, to open the unit to tasking from other agencies, all of it tightly compartmented as GRILL FLAME. In a chapter

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FOR THE BOOKSHELF

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titled"Fighting the System," the author recalls his experiences at the time of the Tehran takeover, the search for a downed Soviet aircraft in Zaire, the Dozier case (in which an American general and his wife were kidnapped in Italy), and the remote viewing of the Typhoon submarine, the worlds largest. That chapter sets the stage for the next, "Downward Spiral." Success spawned loosening of recruiting and training and abandonment of the protocols. It also opened additional knowledge of the project and heightened fear of budgetary damage or "the Proxmire Effect," the fear of ridicule from a Senator famed for his "Golden Fleece" awards for government waste. Careers had been ruined over less. A new and enthusiastic INSCOM commander, MG Bert Stubblebine, had seized on the prospects for accelerated learning (which had obvious attractions for the services if the training cycle could be reduced). His enthusiasm for "psi phenomena" became identified with staff meetings or after-hours gathering for "spoon-bending" by mental concentration, and, by association, tainted the remote viewing. A new, hard-headed skeptic became his boss as ACSI, MG William E. Odom (later to gain his third star as DIRNSA), and Stubblebine was replaced by an equally skeptical MG Harry Soyster, "who had the reputation of being anti-anything-paranormal, the immediate effect being a termination of funds and spaces required to run the project" (p. 181). McMoneagle had spent 71 months doing remote viewing, only to see it going down the drain. It was time to get out.

It's unfair to the book or the author to condense the story he relates. The results he achieved impressed this reviewer (McMoneagle claims to have submitted his manuscript for security review). The bureaucratic resistance, locked-in mind set, and obfuscation (transfer to another agency, "blue ribbon" review by people not cleared for the key aspect), even discrediting, of the subject dealt with by the project is disheartening. It paints a discouraging picture of what it must be like to introduce innovation into an entrenched system. It took a heavy toll on the man, physically and emotionally. Now happily married, he continues to engage in the work in civilian life.

If there is something to this process, how does it work? What is the mode or path of transmission of information? How does one shield against the reception of information, if shielding is feasible? **Surely those who developed TEMPEST ("Telecommunication Electronic Material Protected From Emanating Spurious Transmissions" – now EMSEC, emissions security) would be concerned.**

BLETCHLEY PARK THE AMERICAN GARDEN TRAIL

David Hamer, NCMF-BP Liaison Officer

On the weekend of 3-4 July 2004 the Bletchley Park Trust is planning to open the American Garden Trail in the grounds adjacent to the mansion at the BP Cryptologic Museum in the UK. The park was, of course, the wartime home of allied codebreaking efforts on the eastern side of the Atlantic during WWII and from mid-1942 onwards there was an increasingly significant American presence at the site.

The American Garden Trail – which will include examples of the official state plants and flowers of all fifty of the United States – will commemorate that presence and is being inaugurated as part of BP's celebration of the Sixtieth Anniversary of D-Day. This will be a "special weekend" event on the BP calendar and, weather permitting, there will be a flypast on both days by one or more aircraft from the RAF's Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.

For visitors to the UK – the Bletchley Park museum is located in the town of Bletchley, about sixty miles north of London, within the urban boundaries of greater Milton Keynes. It is easily accessible by road via the M1 Motorway or by train from London's Euston station. The museum is open to visitors seven days a week but many ancillary exhibits – most of which are run by volunteers – are staffed only on weekends. For details visit the BP website directly at: <http://www.bletchleypark.org.uk> or via a link from the NCMF web pages.

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