

Air Force Association Newsletter May 2009



The Sun returns to the North Pole, with the Sun below the Moon February 2009. (From Moe Gates, Trenton)

www.971WingAFAC.com

Social Calendar

- Mar 14 18 Wing members enjoyed the company along with good food and service at the Airplane Restaurant.
- Apr 25 5 pm. Dinner has been booked at the newly opened El Padrino Restaurant at North Gate and Voyager Parkway, with the party room reserved for our group. Our food critics (Carol and Art) rate this high on their Southwest food dining list. We will order off the menu to give each of you the opportunity to select your favorite food. Margaritas are great here. Social committee will be calling to get a head count later. Hope to see you there. Meal: Order from Menu (The manager would like us to place our orders as we come in so the cooks will be able to get a jump on the cooking.) We plan to eat around 6pm.
- May 25 Memorial Day: 1100 in Memorial Park. Blazers, stetsons, medals. If you have grown out of any of these, just come as you are. Inclement weather: Retired Enlisted Club on Emory Circle, east off Murray.
- May 29 Regular Force Dining-In: 1900 at the Antlers Hilton. \$50.00 per person with wine, \$30.00 per person, no wine. Dress: Military mess kit, civilian formal evening attire. Menu" "Fig and Apple Pork Roulade or Vegetable Wellington". RSVP to Joan by May 5th, Phone 282-9207 or Email JLPavan@aol.com
- Jun 05/06 Annual Pikes Peak Scale Model Exposition and Contest at the Airport Radisson. Our CF liason, MCpl Dubois may be a judge. Also a table is planned for veterans to chat with the public. Check with www.centennialpms.org/pikes_peak_model_expo.htm
- July 25 At the Nancy and Peter Rallis residence

THE PINK AND THE BLACK : This elaborate, and delightful, 16-page account with 18 apparently-authentic photos of the 1919-1949 Royal Newfoundland Air Force is being circulated and Google has it as fact when it, sadly, is a hoax. The only WWII Newfoundland squadron was RAF 125, night fighter, flying Defiants, Beaufighters, and Mosquitos.

DEADLINE for the July issue is 15 June, but today is not too early as space fills up rapidly.. Send inputs to georgesweanor@comcast.net

The Editor's Corner

Are We Getting Our Money's Worth ?

ANNUAL MILITARY SPENDING IN BILLIONS OF US DOLLARS

USA	711.0	France	54.0	S.Arabia	29.5	Australia	17.2	Israel	11.0
China	121.9	Japan	41.1	S. Korea	24.6	Brazil	16.2	Netherlands	9.9
Russia	70.0	Germany	37.8	India	22.4	Spain	14.4	UAEmirates	9.5
UK	55.4	Italy	30.6	Canada	19.1	Turkey	11.6	Taiwan	7.7

The UN defines major wars as those that cause 1,000 deaths annually. There were 10 of these in 1965 and 8 in 2005. Whereas in WWI only 5% of casualties were civilian, today it is 75%. With the exceptions of the invasions of Afghanistan, Gaza, Iraq, Lebanon, and Tibet all current conflicts are internal with Africa the home of most including 5 million dead in the Congo. There is no major war today between evenly-matched countries. None is likely.

So, there is something very frightening about this chart. It totals \$1.3 trillion, a partial cost of humanity's inability to live peacefully with itself. It also lacks balance. It is published by the US Department of Defense that admits it spends \$112 billion more than all the other 19 big spenders combined, yet plans to increase its \$2-billion-a-month splurge on unlikely military victory in rugged Afghanistan where 70% of the population lives on less than \$2 per day, has no electricity, and is 72% male and 87% female illiterate. Life expectancy is 44 years. 500 die monthly from our bombings including cluster bombs. Over 800 detainees have been mishandled at various prisons. Afghans hate both the Taliban and the Karzai government that contains the old war lords and survives on corruption and bribes. We continue to lose and take precious lives. Yes, security is needed to protect vital infrastructure building, but the contributions of two score countries are insufficiently co-ordinated so Afghans have seen little improvement. Women are still persecuted and much original goodwill has been lost. In the \$22 billion cost to Canada is the current education of the new police force but the goal is to bring recruits up only to Grade 4 level. Ethics? Illiterate captains still know how to enforce bribes.

Against whom do we need all these carrier groups: US 11, UK 2, Brazil, France, India, Spain, Russia, Thailand one each? Or F22s and F35s when a much-cheaper Mosquito or Sabre would be more than adequate against any enemy we are likely to encounter? Advanced weapons do provide employment and promote technology.

Nuclear Warheads are estimated to be: Russia 8,800, USA 5,535, China 400, France 350, Israel 200, UK 160, India 140, Pakistan 60, North Korea 10. The UK renounced chemical and biological weapons in 1956.

So, what priorities should we place on world threats? This scribe would rank them: (1) Unsustainable human and cattle population, (2) Climate change, (3) Water shortages, (4) Energy sources, (5) Sharing the wealth, (6) Protecting the productivity of land and sea, (7) Domestic crooks and hackers, (8) Rogue leaders wherever they might be, (8) Nuclear weapons, (9) Addictions, (10) Yellowstone, Sun plasma bursts, and other geological threats, Foreign Terrorists.

Could we start with the basics? We humans, who think we dominate the planet, have evolved over billions of years to the point where we can begin to compete with other, more numerous life forms, such as bacteria and viruses. We now search the heavens for hints of life out there while still unable to communicate with our relatives right here on earth such as fish, reptiles, insects, bacteria, and so on - even with our pet dog and cat.

All life forms have been injected with a command to reproduce. Some, like wolves, use common sense to control the urge to what the environment can sustain. Most do not. Let us just look at humans and their impact.

We are hobbled with a constant sexual drive that pays no attention to the season, the hour, or the consequences. We delight in the pleasures of conception but not the responsibilities that follow. It did not matter a great deal when we were hunters and gatherers and there were continents empty of humans. Very gradually, population pressures persuaded us to venture forth to find and dominate what was beyond the next hill and the next river. With a slow, but increasing, population we had to learn how to domesticate plants and animals to serve our needs. As this was a lot of hard work, we also learned how to organize ourselves into groups that could kill other humans and take the fruits of their toil.

Today, we have 6.7 billion humans on a planet that can sustain, with a European life style, a maximum of 2 billion. Births exceed deaths by a 20-9 ratio, so the gap between the rich and poor becomes a chasm. Climate changes will lead to mass migrations but where is there left to go? There are those who argue that we humans are blameless. We can continue our extravagant life style as our impact is minute compared to the forces of Nature that are cyclical and over which we have no control. Yes, Nature, at the moment, is more powerful than man and has caused almost all of previous climate changes. But, none of the factors that Nature used is a cause of the current threat: large scale volcanic activity, immense methane bubbles, meteor/asteroid collisions, or a dangerous configuration of earth tilt, orbit, and precession - that leaves only humans, cattle, and termites to blame. Without tackling Problem #1, our future is bleak. This century may see most of the US mainly uninhabitable. Our species could survive in Canada, northern Eurasia and Antarctica to blame us for ruining the world as it once was. But arctic soils could need a few thousand years to sustain agriculture.

CANADIANS ABROAD: There is no accurate tally. Estimates range from 3 to 5 million, most with dual citizenship. 15,000 had to be evacuated from Lebanon during the Israeli invasion of 2006. Some worry about all 5 million returning on retirement to free medical care and other benefits. 800,000 have moved to the USA while 200,000 US citizens have taken up permanent residence in Canada. Many get into trouble like Mohammed El-Attar sentenced in Egypt in 2007 to 15 years of hard labour for spying for Israel which he denies, and Huseyin Celil sentenced in 2007 in China to life in prison for agitating against the government. Then there are those holding political office, like:

Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke who was elected on a 414-9 vote in February 09 as Somalia's prime minister. He holds degrees in Political Science and Political Economy from Carleton University, Ottawa. His father was assassinated in 1969.

Tooryalai Wesa has a PhD from UBC and his family has lived in BC for 13 years. Hamid Karzai asked him to be Governor of Kandahar where he was raised and still has family. He took the post 18 Dec 08. His 3 daughters graduated from UBC and remain in Canada.

TAXES: Sure, I dislike taxes as much as you do; there are far too many, making collection costs very wasteful. But, if we sanction our leaders to pay high salaries and to embark on numerous projects, then we all must pay our share. We have all complained about higher Canadian taxes but now Canada is in a much safer position to weather a depression than the US.

My parents taught me well: Pay as you go! Borrowing and paying interests was never an option. We rented, with rents ranging from \$20 to \$45 per month, until my parents, at age 60, had saved enough to build their own 3-bedroom, brick, 2-storey house. We were a happy family of five, never thinking we lacked anything, and always willing to help those not so fortunate. We lived in good neighborhoods in the five towns and cities to which my Dad was transferred.

It never occurred to us that, for happiness, we needed to live beyond our means by incurring debts.

But, we are now in a world that is divided between rich and poor nations where the rich and would-be rich have fouled things up so badly that we have to stimulate ourselves with a massive creation of bailout money instead of doing penance by increasing taxes. It is argued that those earning more than \$250,000 (an astronomical sum to the vast majority) pay more and the rest of us pay less. Yes, the rich should pay - but so should we all. If we are so irresponsible to get into this mess we all must pay to get out of it. To save our currency, we must start anew, after a good dose of deflation, and rebuild on solid foundations, accepting frills only when we can afford them.

AN UGLY WAR is raging on both sides of the Mexican-US border, fueled by addiction and greed. The root cause is the huge addiction to drugs that exists in N.

America and the huge profits that can be made by Mexicans supplying the demand. Not to be outdone, US arms merchants, who can legally sell automatic weapons and who value dollars over lives, supply 90% of the arms smuggled into Mexico.

In the last 2 years 7,000 have been killed and 5,000 have simply disappeared. The rot has infected the Mexican police force and the Army - greed over duty.

LAGRANGIAN POINTS: Like the Sargasso Sea that surrounds Bermuda, there are 5 areas in the Sun-Earth empire where gravities cancel out and you can park, serene in the knowledge that you will not drift out.

These are known as L1, L2, L3, L4, and L5. Only L4 and L5 are stable as the solar system rotates around the galaxy. These huge areas were discovered by the French-Italian mathematician Joseph-Louis Lagrange, born in Torino, Italy, in 1736.

Some say these would be ideal locations for alien space craft to shut off their engines and park while they observe the stupidities of the human species.

At the moment we have the Heliospheric Observatory Satellite (SOHO) parked in L1 and the WMAP spacecraft parked in L2. As these parking lots are unstable, course and attitude corrections must be made every 23 days.

The stable points, L4 and L5 are at the apex of equilateral triangles formed with the sun-earth distance as the base. L1, L2, and L3 are at points along the sun-earth axis and its extensions.

AWOL: HOMELAND SECURITY. Where was it when we needed it? A real terrorist, not the bearded variety, that, like the Hun in the Sun we did not know was there, missed us by a whisker on 02 March. Had it not been speeding so much our gravity could have pulled it in to give us a slap equivalent to 1,000 Hiroshima bombs. It was an asteroid with a diameter of over a hundred feet that missed us by a mere 48,800 miles.

FRIENDLY FIRE: One of the worst cases in WWII was the killing by RAF Typhoons of 7,500 POWs in ships in Lubeck harbour just two days before the area was liberated by the British Army. They were being transported from eastern camps and were mainly composed of Jews, Russians, and others considered enemies of the Third Reich. Some 10,000 were aboard the Cap Arcona, the Thielbeck, and the Athen.

Details of the orders to four Typhoon squadrons (184,197,198,263) to attack shipping in Lubeck and the consequences have been sealed until 2045 in the UK. However, a survivor, a Jewish dental student, Benjamin Jacobs, and Lubeck residents provided Robert J. White-Harvey with data to publish an account in the 18 Apr 07 Jerusalem Post.

GUANTANAMO: After the US invasion of Cuba in 1898, a lease was forced on Cuba in 1903 for use of the harbour for \$2,000 per year, renegotiated in 1934 for \$5,000. In 1960 Castro ruled it illegal and has refused payments but because their first cheque was cashed inadvertently, the US argues the treaty remains valid.

PASSING THE BUCK: China claims the US is to blame for the pollution Chinese factories cause in producing goods for the US market. However, China's proposal for a world currency to facilitate trade merits study and action.

BOMBARDIER NEWS: In March 09, Grupo Mexicana purchased 13 CRJ200s to join the more than 50 airlines to operate CRJ aircraft. Lufthansa signed an order for 30 CJ100 aircraft. These will emit 20% less CO₂, 50% less NO_x, be 4 times as quiet, 20% more fuel efficient and 15% less expensive to run. Bombardier, as of 31 Jan 09, has delivered 1,527 CRJs. And then there is the Royal Malaysian Air Force that bought two Bombardier aircraft for maritime work. 9

GLOBAL WARMING: Scientists, Environmentalists, Politicians, Industrialists, et al, using thousand of computers and ice core drillings, are seeking complex causes when actually, it is quite simple.

Back in 1945-49 we had a group of inquisitive airmen with 3 B-29's, one C-54, and one C-47, based in Edmonton. We were there to test LF Loran, but had great freedom of action to fly wherever we thought we could increase human knowledge. We had overload tanks in the bomb bays so could mount 24-hour-long flights.

What better than to be the first military aircraft to fly over the Pole? Keith Greenaway was navigator on this flight. As the B-29 neared the Pole at low level, one brave and generous crew member went to the relief tube to go down in history as the first human to fertilize the Pole. His donation was so generous that it warmed the Pole, starting off an irreversible warming trend.

Now, you know the real reason.

RAAF exPOW ASSOCIATION: Brian Walley has sent us the final newsletter of this once-vibrant association that was founded in 1983 by Dan London, my Halifax mid-upper gunner, on emigrating from the UK where he was a founder of the RAF ex POW Association. Dan sparked the publication of *We Flew, We Fell, We Survived*, then two volumes of *Silk and Barbed Wire*, recounting the stories of former POWs. Some 3,500 copies were sold. Among other activities the association has donated \$10,000 to the University of Western Australia, and has contributed to the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and Silver Chain.

Betty Neisten, a stalwart of the Dutch Resistance, has been Patron of the Association. She remarks, sadly, "War could not defeat us. Time has."

RETIREMENT SEX:

Two men were talking. "So, how's your sex life?"

"Oh, nothing special. I'm having Pension sex."

"Pension sex?"

"Yeah, you know; I get a little each month, but not enough to live on!"

GERHARD HERSBERG \$1 MILLION PRIZE: Went to Ottawa University scientist, Paul Corkum, for his attosecond laser pulses - one billionth of a billionth of a second - that provided the first image of an electron circling an atom. He hopes to produce 3-dimensional maps showing the position of molecules in cells.

BUCKING THE TREND: Porter Airlines, founded in 2006 at Toronto's Island airport, continues to expand, adding Thunder Bay, New York, and Chicago to its Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City, and Halifax destinations. It has ordered 10 more Bombardier Q-400 aircraft to enlarge its fleet to 18.

FORESTED OTTAWA . 100,000 trees, in the 6-foot-tall range, will be delivered free to households requesting them. Good species selection for those who ask early.

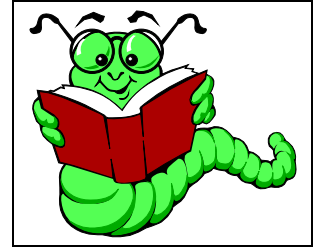
DIRIGIBLES: The Graf Zeppelin, the Hindenberg, the R-100, the R-101 - all gone, but the dream lives on. In the UK, US, and Germany promising ventures have come and faded away. The latest, *MobyAir*, in California is a monster: 165 feet high, 244 feet wide, and 647 feet long. It has a payload of 400 tons. With a top speed of 174 mph it will cruise at 8,000 feet. Fearing the competition, several cruise ship companies are showing interest. Developer Igor Pasternak and his Worldwide Aeros Corporation plan to have one flying by 2010. (Submitted by Brian Walley, Australia).

A THORN BY ANY OTHER NAME: Faced with 4 grand-jury investigations, loss of its State Department job, and expulsion by the Iraqi government, Blackwater has changed its name to Xe (pronounced Zee).

Those 50,000 combat troops to be left in Iraq after all combat troops have been withdrawn will simply change their name to Advisory Troops.

THE WRITING ON THE WALL is being read by the oil-rich Gulf States who are now leading the drive for green energy. Abu Dhabi, for instance, is spending \$15 billion. Research and development in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE armed with patents being claimed for new techniques, promises they will retain their dominance in the energy market.

JOEL ROBERTS POINSETT's first act as US ambassador to Mexico in the 1820s was to replace the "American Embassy" sign with "Embassy of the United States" as Mexicans are also Americans. He also introduced us to the Poinsettia plant.



GREAT CIRCLES - THE KEITH GREENAWAY STORY

by Kathy Bergquist, ArtBookbindery, Winnipeg, 2008, 315 pages

Having crammed so much into just one RCAF career, Keith has made it very difficult for any author to depict it all between two covers of one book. In September 2002, when Kathy Bergquist interviewed me at the Greenaway residence in Ottawa, modest Keith kept insisting he would remain aloof from any book written about him. I said: "Keith, your career is much too complex to avoid close and continuous contact with any narrator." In spite of Keith's reluctance to promote himself, Kathy has done a fine job of ferreting out as much as she has, such as 28 pages to his pre-RCAF career.

I first met Keith in 1946 in Edmonton where he was an acting (unpaid) flight lieutenant, hastily promoted to head up a group of 7 RCAF that joined the USAAF B-29 Detachment, in test flying a low-frequency Loran chain set up across the prairies in anticipation of permanent installations along the Arctic coast. Those were the days when, in going from the "Interim" to the "Peacetime" RCAF, we all had to drop a rank. Shortly after arrival, at a social function, I took our 3-year-old daughter over to where Keith was standing, saying: "Barbara, I would like you to meet my boss." She looked him up and down, then stated bluntly: "He is not your boss - Mummy is!" Keith promised to leave it that way.

A farm boy with 3 brothers near Lindsay, Ontario, Keith was intrigued by the odd aircraft that would fly over the farm, and longed to be a pilot. In 1938 his application to join the RCAF was not accepted due to insufficient formal education, so an aunt and uncle loaned him the money to take an Electronics course. Armed with a diploma, he was accepted by the RCAF in May 1940, but was fed into the wireless, rather than the pilot, stream. As a lowly trainee, Keith made so many good contributions to an expanding, and stumbling, air force that, when he was about to go overseas on Mosquitoes, he was recalled to be an instructor. Keith's dedication, enthusiasm, and willingness to work long hours of overtime place him well above the norm. Over the years, even as an Air Commodore, Keith kept corresponding with me, sending me monthly "Care" parcels, crammed with clippings from newspapers and government publications with his hand-written comments accompanying each article. Many of these comments got published in this Wing newsletter.

In Edmonton we had great freedom to chart our flights. Keith seized this opportunity to study huge Arctic areas that were blanks on current maps. He got Ottawa to publish this but the book was labelled "Confidential" so it did not get the distribution it deserved. He sparked us at improving navigational techniques and pioneering grid-gyro navigation. He developed a Twilight Computer to cope with the long periods of twilight in the Arctic that preclude astro-navigation. It was not long before his abilities were noted by the Defence Research Board (DRB), the RAF, the US Strategic Air Command (SAC), and others, so there was a constant demand for his services, much to the annoyance of RCAF personnel officials who wanted to give him the normal progression through administrative jobs. When high-ranking officials toured the Arctic, it was Keith who was assigned the navigation responsibilities. After DRB took him for 6 years and Curtis LeMay asked for him for 2.5 years in SAC, and numerous calls for lectures, Ottawa put its foot down by refusing a 1958 USN request to navigate the blimp, Snow Goose, from their base near Boston to Ice Island T-3. Keith took his annual leave to accept the task. To the USN Keith was the world's best navigator. Ottawa bounced back by making him CO of the Central Navigation School in Winnipeg. Here he evolved the 7-month Spec N course, a course I had taken in 1949 that cost the RCAF \$100,000 per student, into the Aerospace Systems Course to serve the future and warrant the cost. In 1963 he was promoted to Group Captain to command RCAF Station Clinton where our Lew Lomas was his Chief Administration Officer (CAAdO), then in 1967 was shipped off to Kuala Lumpur as an Air Commodore to assist the newly-independent Royal Malaysian Air Force to chart a Malaysian course. After retirement in 1971 he continued to volunteer his time to organize and conduct, until 1999, annual highly-popular Arctic tours for ambassadors stationed in Ottawa.

An honorary degree from Carleton University, the McKee Trophy, induction into the Hall of Fame are just some of the accolades showered on Keith. None of these have changed the farm boy in Keith and he remains always inquisitive and perhaps overly optimistic about this species he represents so well. Keith and Hazel retained an affection for the old B-29 detachment. In 1998 they spent 12 days with us during which we drove them to a reunion in Apache Junction, NM, as well as enjoying dinners at the homes of Olive and Lew Lomas and Margit and Roy Thompson.

Kathy has done a fine job of elaborating Keith's career and emphasizing the burdens this placed on his able and patient wife, Hazel, and their two daughters in an age when one was married to the Service and families received scant consideration. Thank you, Kathy. I admire how you persevered to drag all this data out of Keith. I am sure you had to go behind his back for much of it.

TIPTON'S CREW, by Ferriere and Burda, Beautiful America Publishing, 72 pages

This is an interesting story, loaned to me by Gary Thompson. It deals with a 10-man B-24 crew that met at Davis Monthan AFB in Tucson, AZ, in November 1943. They trained on a B-24 they named *The Crescent of the Half Moon* which they would fly to Italy, survive 30 missions, be shot down twice, but all return home. The crew was made up of two with Czech ancestry and one each with Polish, Greek, German, and Italian, all of whom could still speak their native tongues. Typical of the plight of wives trying to be with their husbands as long as possible is the story of Jean Tipton when he was posted to McCook, Nebraska. She got the last available room in the lone motel in town. In order to cook she bought a hot plate and a board to sit over the toilet seat to be used as a table. In Feb 44 the crew flew to Brazil, for the 12-hour night flight to Dakar with celestial their only navigational aid. Two of the 781 Squadron's crews failed to show up at Dakar. From their temporary base at Oudna, Tunisia, they practiced low-level flying, losing two aircraft that collided. From here they completed their first raid - low level to the Ploesti oil refineries. Finally, on 27 Apr 44, they flew to the almost-completed base at Pantanella, Italy. Like Oudna, crews lived in tents. Their first mission out of Pantanella was to Ploesti. On the return leg they were hit by flak, lost both starboard engines but managed to stagger to Yugoslavia where they bailed out into the arms of Tito's partisans who took them to a hospital set up by the British which they reached on D-Day and learned of the invasion. A C-47 flew in to take them back to Italy and they completed another 16 missions before being shot down again, this time to become POWs with the officers sent to the US compound in Luft III, Sagan.

This is a good story, spoiled by the implication that only Germany and the USA were fighting WWII. The Great Escape is described as though it were an all-US event when it was in the adjacent Commonwealth compound. The reader would infer all Red Cross parcels were US Red Cross whereas most were British and Canadian. It tells of the liberation of the POW camp at Moosburg and only the planting of the US flag on a church steeple. Actually, as was the custom in areas liberated by the Americans, British, and Canadians, the French tricolour, the Union Jack (for the Commonwealth), and the Stars and Stripes were unfurled at equal heights from prominent buildings. All three looked good to us!

Authors

Are having good books printed faster than I can read them. I have just been given two more recent UK books on Bomber Command: *Bomber Boys*, 492 pages and *Men of Air - The Doomed Youth of Bomber Command*, 435 pages, both by Kevin Wilson. These are well researched with data gleaned from hundreds of interviews of survivors, some of whom I flew with. I have 16 other books in front of me now. I am partially into all of them, and it is hard to decide which to review next. All are thought-provoking and question the actions of politicians, economists, generals, conglomerates, and what-have-you. Many of my best books are by women who have done excellent research. We are indeed fortunate to live among those world societies that permit dissent and encourage the belated emancipation of women from over 2,000 years of oppression by Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The loss to humanity of this immense talent has yet to be addressed by some societies but the progress in just my brief lifetime has been impressive. Also, the debts of wisdom and understanding by female commentators on PBS, CBC, BBC, Al Jazeera, as well as those interviewed by Bill Moyers, Amy Goodman, and Charlie Rose bodes well for our species. They all pursue the Truth - even when it hurts.

Two of my recent purchases are by **Noam Chomsky**. He was born in Philadelphia in 1928. His father, William, fled Tsarist Russia in 1913 and his mother, Elsie Simonofsky, left Eastern Europe at age 1. Raised among poor Jewish immigrants, he was imbued with working-class values, but managed to graduate from Harvard in linguistics. He joined the staff at MIT at age 26. His essays opposing the war in Vietnam earned him a slot on Nixon's "enemies list". He acquired additional foes because he, as a Jew, opposed Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands. Frequently in Latin America, he supports the working classes. The 515-page book, *The Essential Chomsky*, printed in Canada, contains 25 of his most-acclaimed writings, including *The Responsibilities of Intellectuals*, *Containing the Enemy*, *Language and the Brain*, *A World Without War*, *Failed States*, *Intentional Ignorance and its Uses*, *Reflections on 9/11*, *The Rule of Law*, and *Imperial Grand Strategy*. It also lists 148 of his essays from 1951 to 2007. The other Chomsky book I have in front of me is the 301-page *Hegemony or Survival* that describes the quest of the US for global dominance. It was 2003 best seller. I also have two by the Pakistan journalist, **Ahmed Rashid**: *Taliban* and *Descent into Chaos*. These are very insightful books on the men who rule Central Asia. I am up to page 215 in one and page 20 in the other.

All of these books are slow reading as they are packed with names and facts. 52 books ago I realized that my failing memory would no longer permit me to finish a book before I reviewed it. Now, I sit at this keyboard as I read and extract facts and quotes. I average 10 pages of notes for every 500-page book. This permits me to jump from book to book and to keep adding to my addiction - and to return to my notes before composing a review.

And then there are the Science books. I have a dozen recent volumes. They intrigue me and I keep trying but admit I need help at understanding the physics and mathematics in most of them. I keep reading in the hope that understanding will suddenly hit me. Much easier to understand, if more mundane, I have for review: *The Shock Doctrine - The Rise of Disaster Capitalism* by Naomi Klein (699 pages), *The Wrecking Crew - How Conservatives Rule*, by Thomas Frank (369 pages), *The Snowball* by Warren Buffet (960 pages), *We Can Have Peace in the Holy Land* by Jimmy Carter (229 pages), *Who Speaks for Islam?* by Dalia Mogahed and John Esposito (204 pages), *America Alone* by Mark Steyn (215 pages), *Afghanistan's Untold Story* by Elizabeth Gould and Paul Fitzgerald (390 pages), *The Way of the World* by Ron Suskind (415 pages), *The Limits of Power* by Andrew Bacevich (209 pages), *Apocalypse 2012*, by Lawrence Joseph (262 pages), *The End of Faith* by Sam Harris (348 pages), and *Censored 2009* by Peter Phillips (416 pages).

Review suggestions?

FORTRESS AMERICANA:

As of 01 June 2009, U.S. law will require Canadian citizens to present either a valid passport or another accepted travel document to enter the U.S. by land or water. Canadian citizens, aged 15 and under, may present a birth certificate or a citizenship card instead of a passport when travelling to the U.S. by land or water.

On 31 Jan 08, the US stopped accepting oral declarations of citizenship at the border. All Canadian adult travellers are now required to present proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate, and proof of identity, such as a driver's license, when entering the US by land or sea. Both US and Canadian citizens, 16 and older, are required to present a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license, AND proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate or citizenship card. Children, 18 and under, are currently only required to present proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate.

Passports and trusted traveller program cards - NEXUS, SENTRI and FAST - will continue to be accepted for cross-border travel by land and water.

A valid passport is required for entry by air for all ages. The NEXUS card is acceptable if used at a NEXUS kiosk.

Canadian and US citizens do not need a passport to enter Canada; however, you should carry proof of your citizenship such as a birth certificate, certificate of citizenship or naturalization, or a Certificate of Indian Status, as well as a photo ID. If you are a permanent resident of the US, you must bring your permanent resident card (green card) with you.

To view the complete requirements, please visit http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1196711811270.shtm.

For 01 Jun 09 requirements, visit http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1206634226418.shtm.

(Submitted by Roy Thompson).

COMPLAINTS TO UK HOUSING COUNCILS (from John Hall, Ottawa):

In the UK, Housing Councils control blocks of flats (apartments) which they rent out to tenants. Here are a few genuine complaints that have been received:

1. My bush is really overgrown round the front and my back passage has fungus growing in it.
2. He's got this huge tool that vibrates the whole house and I just can't take it anymore.
3. It's the dog's mess that I find hard to swallow.
4. I want to complain about the farmer across the road; every morning at 6 a.m. his cock wakes me up and it's now getting too much for me.
5. I am a single woman living in a downstairs flat and would you please do something about the noise made by the man on top of me every night.
6. My neighbour's 18-year-old son is continually banging his balls against my fence.
7. Please send a man with the right tool to finish the job and satisfy my wife.
8. My lavatory seat is cracked, where do I stand?
9. I am writing on behalf of my sink, which is coming away from the wall.
10. Will you please send someone to mend the garden path? My wife tripped and fell on it yesterday and now she is pregnant.
11. I request permission to remove my drawers in the kitchen.
12. 50% of the walls are damp, 50% have crumbling plaster, and 50% are plain filthy.
14. The toilet is blocked and we cannot bathe the children until it is cleared.
16. I want some repairs done to my cooker as it has backfired and burnt my knob off.
17. The man next door has a large erection in the back garden, which is unsightly and dangerous.
18. Our kitchen floor is damp. We have two children and would like a third so please send someone round to do something about it.
19. I wish to complain that my father hurt his ankle very badly when he put his foot in the hole in his back passage.
20. Tiles are missing from the outside toilet roof. I think it was bad wind the other night that blew them off.

MADNESS: NUCLEAR AND SPACE WEAPONS AND ARMS SHIPMENTS :

The Manhattan Project, that involved Canadian, UK, and US scientists, cost, up to Aug 45, \$20 billion. \$14 billion more was spent on the 1957-1964 ICBM program. In addition 4,680 nuclear bombers and 67,500 nuclear missiles were built. The US stockpile in 2002 totalled 10,600. If the 2012 Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty is implemented, the US will still have about 2,000 operational nuclear warheads and bombs - but still wants to keep 4,900 as a hedge against future threats. The Medvedev-Obama pledge at the G-20 summit in London to slash nuclear weapons is encouraging.

On 12 Sep 1985 the US launched the first space weapon by shooting down its still-functioning Solwind scientific satellite. China then proposed a ban on all space weapons and all countries, except the US and Israel, supported the implementation of a treaty. With no progress on this front, China, on 11 Jan 2007, caused us much grief by shooting down its own still-functioning weather satellite that was 500 miles up, leaving a debris field of thousands of pieces posing threats to other space vehicles. We have become heavily dependent on space satellites so a treaty is vital, yet the Chinese warning has yet to be heeded.

And now Merchants of Death in China and the US have made new arms shipments to the Sudan, Zimbabwe, and Israel.

Farewell to an Old Sailor - by Carol Holley Nielsen

He was born on March 31, 1918, in Helena, Arkansas, to a railroad worker and a stay-at-home mom. Life was hard but manageable. After suffering an injury at work and losing his job his father took off to find work elsewhere. When the depression hit, there were many who found themselves in the same situation.

He dropped out of school in the fifth grade because Mom was having terrible headaches and needed someone to look after her. Besides, walking across the cow pasture without shoes in the winter, just to get to school, wasn't a lot of fun either. Brother and sister were both working small jobs to help make ends meet. At age 14, his mother died of a brain tumor, leaving him and his older brother to look after themselves.

He joined the Navy at age 17, lying about his age in order to "get out of Arkansas and see the rest of the world." The Navy was good to him, providing him with three "squares" a day and a warm bunk at night. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in December 1941, he was on the West Coast doing recruiting for the Navy. It was on a troop train, later in December, heading for Chicago that he met his future wife.

He joined the crew of the newly commissioned Mannert L. Abele (DD733) in 1944. He served as the ship's navigator, working on the "bridge" along with the ship's Captain and Exec. He enjoyed navigation, as it involved a lot of mathematics, something he always was "good at." The Abele joined the Pacific campaign, just prior to the invasion of Iwo Jima in January 1945.

As American troops stormed the beaches of Okinawa on 1 April 1945, the Abele provided close fire support before beginning radar picket patrols northeast of Okinawa later that day. On 12 April Mannert Abele caught the full fury of the kamikazes as she was patrolling off Okinawa, accompanied by two LSMRs, support ships. The enemy sent between 15 and 25 attack planes at her, but she managed to ward off any direct hits.

At 1400 hours, three kamikazes came at her. She was able to ward off two, but the third kamikaze crashed the starboard side and penetrated the aft engine room where it exploded. Immediately the Abele began to lose headway. The keel had been broken and the ship lost power, including the guns. Within a minute, the Abele was struck by a Baka bomb which broke the ship in two. Those who were able, abandoned ship, including the sailor from Arkansas who remained on the bridge as the hull of the ship gradually listed. As the survivors clustered in the churning waters, enemy planes bombed and strafed them. One of the two LSMRs which accompanied the Abele, repulsed further attacks and rescued the survivors.

Survivors from the Abele were housed on the deck of the support ship, being given mattresses to sleep on. Within 24 hours of picking up survivors, the LMSR 189 was under attack by kamikazes. As the plane that made the first hit on the LMSR 189 approached the ship, the sailor from Arkansas could see the fear in the eyes of its Japanese pilot. Grabbing his mattress for floatation support, the sailor from Arkansas jumped into the water again just after the strike. Fortunately, there were many other support ships in the area to pick up the survivors of LMSR 189. Twice in the water within just 24 hours!

Survivors were given 30 days of shore leave upon returning to the United States. Just about nine months later the writer of this tribute was born! The rest of his naval career pales in comparison to those days in 1945. The painful memories of the sinkings were kept tucked away for sixty years.

On February 14, 2009, the sailor from Arkansas joined his shipmates from the Abele. On February 14, 2009, Murven Holley passed away - my father. I shall miss him dearly.

BLOGS

The field is crowded. When I tried to set up my own site they told me Ye Olde Scribe was taken and that I would have to dream up some other weird title. In the meantime let me recommend the blog site of Diana DeLuca, "Seniors Dealing with Life" by "Cool Old Tech". She has posted many interesting articles, the last one correcting Fox news when it degraded Canadian world contributions.

A CANADIAN CONSCRIPT GOES TO WAR

Canadian Military History, Winter 2009, Pages 21-36, by Patrick Dennis

As I was putting this issue to bed, Pat's article arrived. It is an interesting and well-written account of the part played by conscripts in the final 100 days of WWI, told through the experiences in Hilaire Dennis, Pat's grandfather. Unsustainable losses among Canada's 4 divisions necessitated the enactment of conscription in 1918 which permitted the Canadian army to remain a major player and the shock troops of the Allied advance. Hilaire took part in the Battle of Amiens, 8-20 Aug 1918, that cost Canada 11,348 casualties. On his 5th "over-the-top" charge, 28 Aug, he was severely wounded, and languished in his own blood in a wet shell hole for 8 hours before being able to crawl back to safety and painful surgery in France, Britain, and Canada which he reached 17 Jan 1919.

Pat is now a professor in Political Science at the Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, with branches in Kitchener and Brantford. At the moment, Pat is busy grading papers.