

# The Men Who Gathered Together



2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

David Claire Jennings

with

Thomas W. Lee

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# The Men Who Gathered Together

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This story is based on actual people and events as the author's first-hand account.

Syracuse University, Bird Library, S.U. Archives has provided images and illustrations. Onondaga Historical Association has provided images and reconstructed rotogravure clippings from the Syracuse Post Standard newspaper and other sources from Syracuse University archives. OHA's newspaper articles are from the collection of Richard & Carolyn Wright Research Center.

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## FOREWORD - How this book happened

After long and successful careers, Dave Jennings and I, as old men, have pooled our recollections of our first jobs out of Technical College and in retrospect, how lucky we young upstarts were, just out of college, to have had the experiences and exposures to the men and women of SURC.

It was initiated by some phone calls to former SURC employees when I decided to expand my current consulting work, which is conducting tutorials explaining how to set up labs to detect counterfeit electronic components. While negatively affecting production and profitability in the commercial electronics world, these counterfeits can claim lives in the military, such as a helicopter crash in training that claimed the lives of two Army Warrant Officers. This expansion consisted of a snapshot look at the entire component set in complete radars, to the extent that it was possible, rather than concentration on singular MIL-STD-883 components.

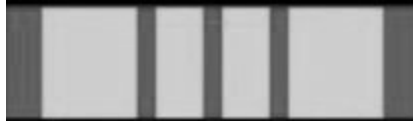
By rare chance, four complete compact radars became available, one of which was the AN/PPS-5. This radar is credited by commanders for saving lives normally lost in dangerous patrols. Used during the Viet Nam War, this radar was retrofitted by SRC with new electronics in 2002, taking it, for example, from Pencil Tubes to GaAs and Metal-can TO-18's to FPGA's.

Phone calls to Dave Jennings, Len Paciorek and Dr. Wiley showed that there was no familiarity with this particular sensor from the SURC days. Luckily, information was available from the Web, including scans of the original manuals. Nevertheless, the call to Dave triggered mutual recollections of the SURC days and renewal of our association, which started 58 years ago.

With the guidance of Bob Shields to assure we did not unintentionally reveal anything that may be sensitive, even after all these years, this book is offered, after all this time, as an intellectual product from SURC and of this renewed association, eventually involving other SURC'ers as well.

We at SURC were military-minded in the 1960's, when much of the country, including some of our own college classmates, was protesting the Vietnam War. Now, as we face a new World War, a Biological War

against a Virus which in essence, confines us to quarters; we have time for documenting these flashbacks, the personnel and the technology. This little book is launched for the benefit of young technicians and engineers who are interested in our specialized discipline and will join us in our work in Sensor Technology and in support of our men and women in arms.



Viet Nam service medal

- Tom Lee

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## Preface

The need for updating the 2016, first edition of this work with this second edition in 2021 had become apparent as more information came to light. Our contributors to the earlier work had more time to remember and reflect, making this memorable history come more alive.

More emphasis on the people and our projects at SURC was needed to better understand why we were there, when we were there, and how we served our country during the rise of the Cold War. We came to realize that after all this time, our projects were no longer classified and could be described to the public without any threat to national security. After all, this is a history book.

It was decided to replace the ring binder large format book with a conventional bound paperback format and publish it for the public. We had always known that the readership for this book would be a very small, select group of people that were interested in those early SURC (Syracuse University Research Corp.) years, the evolving ideological position of Syracuse University, or the few at the modern day SRC (Syracuse Research Corp.).

With time, the connecting threads of people and company between SURC and SRC have become more tenuous.

Many of our brothers have passed on. The oldest generation of founders, administrators and managers are mostly gone. The next generation of youngsters who served under them are beginning to leave us now. With this in mind, we remember them as they were.

Immortality rests in the souls of men who have departed. For those of us living, immortality rests in what men have given. A substantial portion of the measure of a man is revealed in what he did. Accomplishment, apart from manner, matters. A man and his



accomplishment are inseparable as one memory emanating from his place and his time.

This is for all of them.

# Appendix A. Employee List

## **Administration**

Goff, Martin, administrator

Meece, Lynn, secretary

Murray, John, financial manager

Barsanti, A. John, security officer

Rice, Admiral Robert, director

Stepihen, Elaine, secretary

Wayne, Charles, 2<sup>nd</sup> director

## **Computer Services**

Blackwell, Paul

Burton, Coley

Herman, Bob

Shurtliff, Don

Stratakos, Sharon

## **Defense Systems Laboratory (DSL)**

Burgess, Gene, drafting supervisor

D'Agostino, Dick, technician

Longacre, Andrew, PhD., founder, director

Malcolm, James, technician

McGay, Ronald, technician

Munson, Jack, assistant director, engineer

Parr, Dick, technician

Rodems, Jim, director

Schaub, Col. Ward, contract administration

Steele, Al, technician

## **Electronics Research Laboratory (ERL)**

Ballantine, Robert G., technician

Behr, Michael C., technician

Bicevskis, Imants (Mike), engineer

Black, Jim, janitor

Boose, Grover, engineer

Buckridge, Larry, technician

Bush, David, technician

Clark, Robert A., engineer

Clark, Phil, engineer

Curry, Dr. Thomas F., PhD., founder-director

Ewald, Edward E., technician

Ferguson, Jack, engineer

Fichthorn, Jon, technician

Gerber, William, engineer

Goldich, Howie, PhD., post doc physicist-scientist

Gutmann, James, engineer

Jennings, David C., technician

Hogg, John, engineer

Holman, Roland, engineer

Horton, Harold, technician

Laverghetta, Thomas, technician (later engineer)

Lee, Thomas W., technician

Len, Joe, engineer  
Lockwood, John H., technician  
Lothes, Robert N., PhD., engineer  
Lucht, Wayne K., technician  
Mahoney, Robert P., technician  
Malone, James, technician (later engineer)  
McKinley, Richard S., technician  
McLaughlin Robert L., engineer  
Naditch, Gerald, engineer  
Paciorek, Leonard J., engineer  
Rasmussen, Doug, technician  
Rozunick, Jim, engineer  
Ruhl, Janet, secretary  
Salami, Alfred, engineer  
Secord, Jim, engineer  
Shields, Robert B., research engineer  
Stratakos, John, engineer  
Taft, Larry, engineer  
Ventre, Bonnie, secretary  
Vescera, Al, technician  
Wiley, Richard G., PhD, research engineer  
Yermas, John, technician

## **Special Projects Laboratory (SPL)**

Hair, Hugh, engineer

Roome, Jerry, engineer

Harris, Paul, director

## **Machine Shop Services**

Chapman, Paul, chief machinist

Waclena, Gary, machinist

# Acknowledgments

Many thanks to Tom Lee, Mike Behr, Bob Shields and Bob Herman for helping me to remember. Much appreciation to Syracuse University Bird Library and Onondaga Historical Association for their research archives.

Tom's memory proved invaluable to help me get the story right. His required some jump-starting but less so than mine.

He has forever remained the technologist with a sense of humor. I have merely hung on to the engineering discipline, work ethic, frame of mind, etc. as a problem solver, maker-builder, etc.

Our debating memories, our common experience, our proclivity for engineering detail and accuracy, and our careers as writers, brought the best possible outcome.

Once again for this 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Tom Lee has been a stalwart and avid contributor to our collective memory, and I credit him for getting me off my duff to make this second effort. This time he served as editor-in-chief.

We have kept in regular contact with Bob Shields who has helped us with the facts regarding organizational, administrative and technical matters. I have reminisced with Mike Behr and learned more about his Navy career and many lives before and after SURC. Tom has spoken with Dick McKinley and Dick has supplied many of the pictures in this work.

Fair winds and following seas. God speed us on our way.