



### In Memoriam

We have been saddened to learn of the deaths of the following members of the Syracuse Elfun Society:

E. Scott Minner, of Conway, SC died at home on January 2, 2019.

George Robert Koonce, of Liverpool, NY died on April 25, 2019.

Orville "Bud" Bakeman, of Syracuse, NY died peacefully on July 19, 2019 at age 93.

Complete obituaries for local individuals may be found online at [Syracuse.com](http://Syracuse.com).

### 2019 Annual Meeting



The Syracuse Elfun Society held its 2019 Annual Meeting at Barbagallo's Restaurant on Thursday, May 16, 2019 with 32 members and spouses present. Format for the meeting followed that from previous years: a social period, luncheon followed by the Annual Meeting, and then a speaker.

#### Annual Meeting

##### Brief Elfun History

- 1928 - Elfun Society Organized
- 1944 - Electronics Park Announced
- 1948 - Syracuse Chapter of Elfun Society Formed
- 1953 - Syracuse Chapter Celebrates GE's 75th Anniversary
- 1978 - Syracuse Chapter Celebrates Its 30 Years
- 2014 - General Electric Merges Elfun into GE Volunteers
- 2015 - Syracuse Chapter incorporated as "Syracuse Elfun Society", 501(c)7 tax-exempt social club

##### Syracuse Elfun Society Today

- 265 Active Members in the US and Canada.
- 31 Surviving Spouse Complementary Memberships.
- Major Activities:
  - Social Events
    - 2018 - Annual Meeting, Luncheon Cruise, "Mamma Mia", Syracuse Chiefs, White Deer Tour, and more.
    - 2019 - Annual Meeting, "South Pacific", Syracuse METS, Holiday Luncheon, more to come
  - Website - [SyracuseElfunSociety.org](http://SyracuseElfunSociety.org)
  - Quarterly Newsletter, Items of Interest, Occasional Videos
  - Service Projects
- 2018 Finances
 

•Income	\$6,400
•Expenses	\$7,400
•Ending Assets	\$6,500

Discussion

Cindy Chermak, filling in for her husband Carl who was on a business trip, briefly reviewed the history of the Elfun Society and the changes at the corporate level that resulted in formation of the Syracuse Elfun Society. Our yearly budget, funded completely by member dues, and the activities of the Syracuse Elfun Society were discussed. A short Q&A period followed and then the meeting was adjourned.

Cindy then introduced Edward Bogucz, Ph.D., our speaker who is the Executive Director of the Syracuse Center of Excellence. Ed briefly ran through a number of initiatives of the Syracuse CoE and then launched into his talk "From Gere's Lock to Electronics Park and Beyond." It was fascinating to hear Ed describe how engineering developments in the 1800's led to the New York State Barge Canal and the impact that had on our local area, New York State, and the nation. He followed with a discussion of how early precision machining businesses in Syracuse supported the development of the Carrier Corporation, then General Electric's Electronics Park facility, and a number of recent technology start-ups.



Ed graciously allowed us to videotape his presentation and for those who were not able to attend the meeting, the video of his talk can be viewed on YouTube at [youtu.be/-UDupuNecsy](https://youtu.be/-UDupuNecsy)

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## Social Events

We are in the midst of a busy summer, with some events already complete and more on our calendars.

### Elfun Family Day at the Ballpark Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>



You can't beat that Elfun weather! On the nicest Sunday afternoon of the summer, the Syracuse Mets used a four-run bottom of the eighth inning to come from behind and beat the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Rail Riders at NBT Bank Stadium.

### Syracuse Mets rally for win over Scranton/Wilkes- Barre

Updated Jul 14, 5:23 PM; Posted Jul 14, 5:23 PM



Our group of 43, along with the rest of the crowd of 5,682, soaked up the sun as we watched Tim Te-

bow have a solid hit in his first at bat and René Rivera hit a two-run home run to put the Mets ahead for good. It is such a nice annual afternoon with friends and family. Plan to attend and continue our support of the Syracuse Mets in the 2020 season.

### Paul de Lima Coffee Tour & Lunch at Lakeshore Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup>

Many of us have missed our traditional Holiday Party at Lakeshore, but 34 of us will make up for it at this event. The date just misses the newsletter deadline, so we will fill you in on the tour and lunch in the fall news.

### Broadway in the Fingerlakes "South Pacific" & Buffet at The Sherwood Inn Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>

We have a group of 48 ready to return to Merry-Go-Round Playhouse for one of our most popular annual outings. We will be transported to a lovely south sea island to relive the timeless romance between Nellie and Emile, punctuated by the wartime craftiness of Luther Billis and the bravery of Lt. Cable. Following the matinee, we will enjoy our buffet at the beautiful Sherwood Inn and then perhaps stroll the streets of Skaneateles and admire the lake. You will hear all about it in the next newsletter.

### A Day in Auburn Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

Let's spend a day in Auburn exploring some of its iconic sites. First, we will tour Willard Memorial Chapel, designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany and celebrating its 125th birthday this fall. This building, a National Historic Landmark, is the last remaining from the Auburn Theological Seminary. It has a "Total Tiffany" interior, meaning the entire chapel interior, not just the windows or lighting, was designed by the Tiffany company. We will hear the history of the Chapel and see the magnificent "Christ Sustaining Peter on the Water", nine leaded glass chandeliers, mosaic floors, and so much more. The 19th century Steere and Turner organ is one of the largest and best preserved of its kind in the area.

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The organist will play selections for us while relating the history and intricacies of the instrument.

We will proceed south (transitioning from North Street to South Street), park for free in the garage at 1 Lincoln Street, and regroup at the brand-new Equal Rights Heritage Center. There we can sit down and rest, use the fantastic restrooms, explore the interactive displays, and shop at the small Taste of NY shop. The docents from the Seward House will meet us here, conduct the orientation in a comfortable setting, and then guide us to the house next door. We will hear about William Henry Seward, Governor of New York, United States Senator, President Lincoln's Secretary of State, and the negotiator of the purchase of Alaska from Russia. We will see a museum quality replica of Thomas Cole's "Portage Falls by the Genesee" (the museum decided in 2013 it could not provide adequate security for the \$18 million original). The tour includes both stories. Due to the historic nature of the house, there is no elevator. For those who do not wish to tour the second floor, the Seward House will provide first floor seating and interpret the second floor from there.

Lastly, we will proceed further south to the beautiful Springside Inn for an afternoon luncheon. They look forward to welcoming us into their lakeside inn for a choice of Chicken Farce (boneless breast made with house stuffing), Slow Roasted Tender Pot Roast, or Vegetarian Pasta Primavera. All meals include garden salad, fresh baked rolls and butter, fresh vegetables, mashed potatoes, dessert of the day, coffee or tea. Tax and tip included. Cash Bar Available. This sounds delicious.

Check the flyer and make your reservations for this new and informative event. Your final confirmation email will include a detailed itinerary with venue addresses and helpful hints.

There is so much more to see and do in Auburn. If we enjoy this outing, Elfun will schedule another to visit the Cayuga Museum / Case Research Laboratory, Harriet Tubman House / National Historical Park

and New Hope Pancake Mill. And, as always, we are dreaming up additional field trips in and around Syracuse, so there will be more to come in 2019/2020.

**Save the Date**  
**Holiday Luncheon**  
**Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at The Inn Between**

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## Scamming Voicemails

Remember the phone scam from years ago? You'd get a call saying that (a relative, your grandson, your sister, etc., etc.) had been arrested and thrown in jail in a foreign country and you needed to wire money RIGHT AWAY to pay for bail and a lawyer to get them out of jail. Most folks are wise to that one now. But the internet crooks keep coming up with new scams. Here are some calls received in the Syracuse area in the last year:

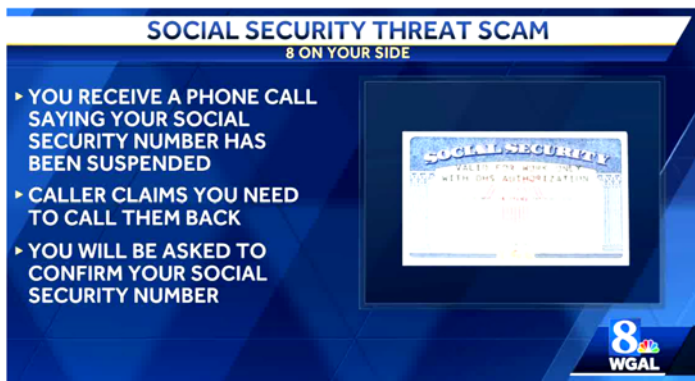
**September 18, 2018** – *“This call is from the Internal Revenue Service. You have filed **ILLEGAL TAX RETURNS** with the US Government that must be corrected immediately. You must call us immediately to discuss a settlement offer and avoid jail. This offer is valid for 30 days. It expires after that. You will be taken into custody by the local cops as there are four serious allegations pressed on your name at this moment. We would request you to get back to us so that we can discuss about this case before taking any legal action against you. The number to reach us at is 803-845-2130. I repeat 803-845-2130. Thank you.”* CallerId shows 1-803-845-2130 (unknown location)

**March 26, 2019** - *“This call is from the Legal Department of Social Security Administration. Your **SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER HAS BEEN SUSPENDED** and we have filed a case under your name. So, before this matter goes to Federal Claim Courthouse for you to get arrested, kindly press **one**, I repeat press **one** (pause then message repeats)”*. CallerID shows 1-877-897-0603 (Pampa, TX)

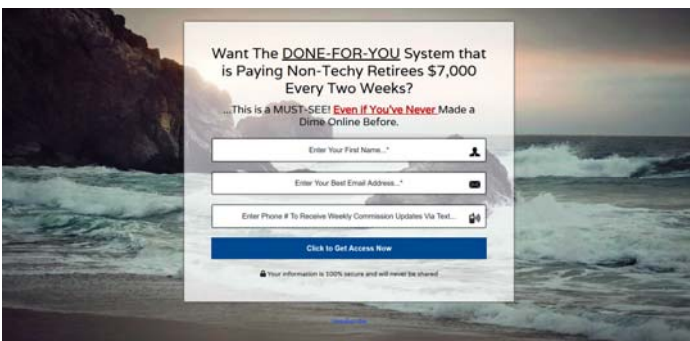
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**March 27, 2019** - “Hey, it’s been awhile so I figured I’d try to connect with you and see if you’re interested in making some **SERIOUS INCOME ONLINE**. And if so, I just wanted to share this with you because it is currently making me over \$100,000 a month in verifiable income and if you get to the website recently you’ve been able to see that this is actually verifiably true. So, what I’ve been sharing with folks lately here is that with our system you know I don’t see why you can’t be making \$7,000 or more every single week. I mean right now we have members doing that and we have completely automated and outsourced the business so if you are still serious about changing your financial situation, we recommend that you go back to [www.7KPlan.com](http://www.7KPlan.com), again that’s [www.7KPlan.com](http://www.7KPlan.com). You should check it out because it doesn’t require you to learn any marketing or talk to people on the phone for it is a true done-for-you business, and we create all the skill set and put it into our systems and automation so check it out it’s [www.7KPlan.com](http://www.7KPlan.com). Again, that is [www](http://www), dot, number 7, letter K, Plan, spelled P L A N. Hope to catch up to you again. Till then take care.”  
 CallerID shows 1-720-259-5761 (Denver, CO)  
**March 28, 2019** – same message but CallerID shows 1-866-563-9310 (unknown location)



**March 21, 2019** - “We have an important message from Capital Management Services. This is a **CALL FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR**. Please call 1-800-457-8104.” CallerID shows 1-315-492-5077 (Syracuse, NY)

**April 25, 2019** - same message but CallerID showed 1-559-588-0067 (Alpaugh, CA)

**May 2, 2019** - same message but CallerID showed 1-603-367-3909 (Madison, NH).

**May 28, 2019** - same message but CallerID showed 1-470-313-6951 (Adairsville, GA)

Some of these calls would actually be funny if it weren’t that some folks actually fall for the scams.

## GE’s Farrell Road Plant

In 1959 General Electric’s Heavy Military Electronics Department in Syracuse had a problem – space. HMED had operations at: Electronics Park; on Court Street; Green Street; Erie Boulevard; LeMoyne Avenue and in Dewitt. It also occupied space in the Carrier Building, Atlantic Building, Watson Building, Fazio Building, Rudolph Building and the Les Lee Building. It wasn’t surprising then when this article appeared in the June 3, 1960 edition of “THE GENERAL ELECTRIC NEWS”:



### Departments Reveal Expansion Plans



“Heavy Military Electronics Department this week announced plans for a long-term lease, with renewal options, on two new buildings to be constructed in the Town of Geddes.

The new facilities will be built on a 185-acre site located north of the New York State Thruway and just east of Exit 39 at State Fair Blvd. The tract ex-

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tends to the Seneca River and is bounded by Van Vleck Road and the Delaware and Lackawanna Railroad tracks is scheduled to start immediately and will be completed early next year.

In making the announcement, J. J. Farrell, Department general manager, indicated that no substantial increase in employment is anticipated at the Heavy Military Electronics Department as a result of this construction, since the new buildings, for the most part, will replace facilities already in use.

One of the new buildings will be a 300,000 sq. ft. production plant equipped with a 30-foot high bay and light cranes for shipping. This building will house the defense work currently being done by the Department in its Thompson Road plant leased from Carrier Corporation, and in Bldg. 7 at Electronics Park. The manufacturing space vacated in Bldg. 7 will be occupied by the Company's Semiconductor Products Department and provide them with much needed room for expansion, Mr. Farrell added.

The second building will occupy 160,000 sq. ft. and will house office space and engineering laboratories, providing for a modest expansion of the Department's applied research and development efforts.

Approximately 2,900 employees will occupy the two new buildings which are scheduled to be completed early next year. Parking spaces will be provided for 3,000 cars. Both buildings will be one-story construction and will be fully air conditioned.

The 160,000 sq. ft. building will be owned and constructed by the Walter R. Stanley Construction Corp., Ossining, New York. Construction and ownership arrangements for the 300,000 sq. ft. production facility have not been completed.

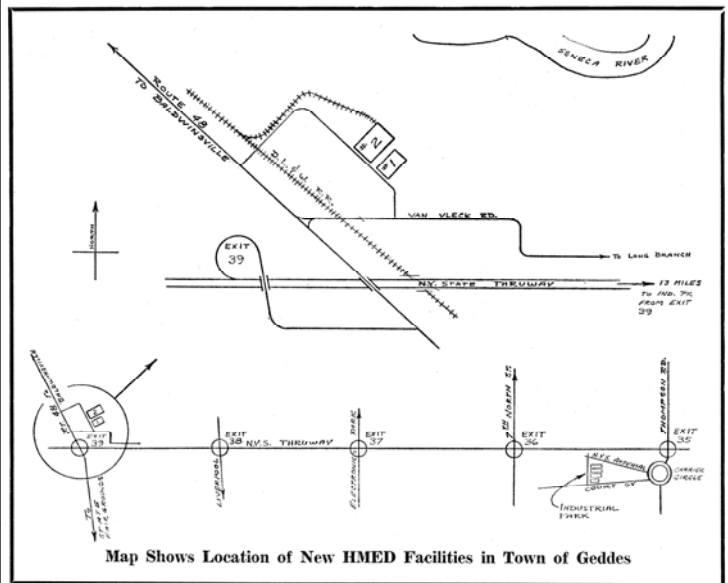
Mr. Joseph Berndt, Supervisor of the Town of Geddes, has been working closely with General Electric Company officials in making preliminary ar-

rangements for the necessary utilities at the new site including water supply, roads and sewers.

The Delaware and Lackawanna Railroad plans to build a railroad siding to the buildings. Rapid access is also available to the New York State Thruway, and a water outlet to the St. Lawrence Seaway is provided by the nearby Seneca River.

One of the nation's leading suppliers of military electronic equipments for the Armed Forces, the General Electric Company's Heavy Military Electronics Department employs a total of approximately 8,000 people. More than 2,500 of these employees are engineers and technical personnel."

The article also included the following map to show GE employees and customers how to reach the new facility:



Remember that this was 1960. John Glenn Blvd and I-690 had not yet been built, and the local roads around the new facility had not yet been expanded, so to reach the new facility, referred to as the "Syracuse Industrial Center", drivers would have to take Exit #39 on the Thruway and use Route 48 and Van Vleck Road to get to the local access road to the GE buildings.

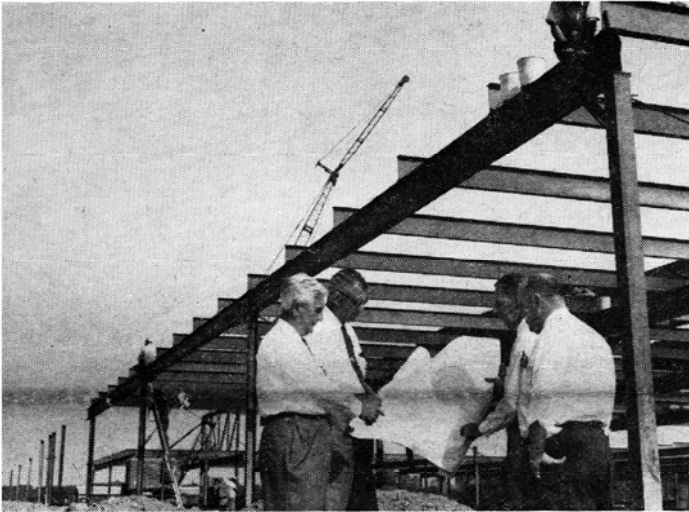
Construction on the buildings moved ahead rapidly and the following appeared in the August 19, 1960

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GE NEWS:

### New HMED Industrial Center Building



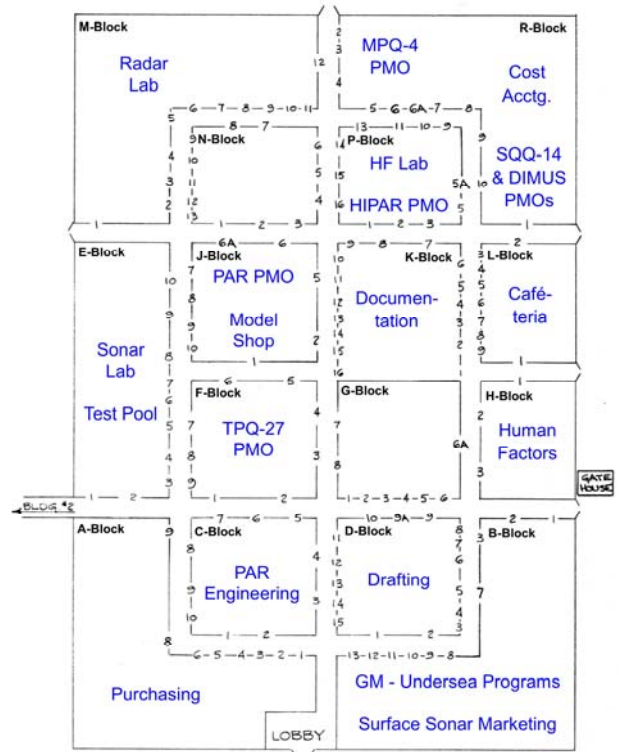
**ON SCHEDULE** — Construction of HMED's new Bldg. 1 at Syracuse Industrial Center, which will house engineering, office and laboratory space, is proceeding on schedule and should be ready for occupancy about Jan. 1. Left to right are: Contractor Walter A. Stanley, HMED manager of Facilities Ken Larsen, supervisor of Plant Engineering Dave Wilder, and Bill Krigbaum, HMED Facilities. HMED's Bldg. 2 which will house manufacturing facilities at Industrial Center, is expected to be ready for occupancy by April 1.

The facility's designation as the Syracuse Industrial Center did not last long. The Town of Geddes was very happy to have the tax base of a GE plant and by the time the new buildings were ready for occupancy in 1961 the access road had been officially named Farrell Road in honor of John J. Farrell, HMED's first General Manager, whose retirement was about to mark the end of his 50-year career with GE.



Buildings 1 and 2 at the Syracuse Industrial Center now were referred to as FRP-1 and FRP-2 and were

soon filled to capacity as HMED received many contracts for equipment to fight the Cold War. In 1974 HMES, since HMED was now called Heavy Military Electronic Systems, held an open house for employees and their families. This floor plan for FRP-1 was used as a visitor guide to the various programs then operating in that building:



In the 1980's as the commercial operations at Electronics Park wound down GE was faced with owning several large, sparsely occupied buildings. The decision was made to move out of rented facilities at Court Street and Farrell Road and into buildings 5, 6, 7 and 15 at Electronics Park. For several years FRP-1 and FRP-2 sat empty, with the parking lots being used for storage by various firms.

More recently, the property now identified as "241 Farrell Road", was purchased by Syroco in 2004, and when that firm went bankrupt, was sold to Widewaters in 2012. Currently Old Dominion Freight Line occupies FRP-2's parking lot and has constructed a modern headquarters on a portion of it. J.B.Hunt Transport Services has used portions of

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**Former foundation of FRP-1 in the foreground, FRP-2 and Garage in the background**

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FRP-2, and Meyer’s RV Superstores has used the high bay area for camper shows. The Everett J. Prescott piping supply firm occupies the garage at the back of the property.

Less use has been found for FRP-1 and it was demolished in the spring of 2019. Thanks to Bill Patterer for letting us know of the demolition of FRP-1.

## More GE In The News

Those readers who receive their newsletter by e-mail should have received the following article reprints during the past three months:



- May 5, 2019 – “Siemens To Spin Off Power Unit”
- May 9, 2019 – “GE’s Pay Plan Draws Protests, But Still Wins Vote”
- June 8, 2019 – “GE’s Nemesis: An Eerily Prescient Bear”
- June 12, 2019 – “Blockbuster Defense Merger”
- July 11, 2019 – “GE’s Bonds Outpace Company’s Shares”
- July 11, 2019 – “GE’s Workers Reject Deal In Surprise”

- July 13-14, 2019 – “Workers Wanted: Watch Russia, Dodge Polar Bears”

The last article, concerning conditions today at the remote and frigid sites where GE’s FPS-50 (BMEWS) and later, FPS-117 radars were installed, prompted a number of comments:

*“Those were the sites I was electrical engineer for 1992-1995 when we were stationed at Elmendorf. The bear story is **not** exaggerated!”* – Paul Schantz (son of Neal Schantz)

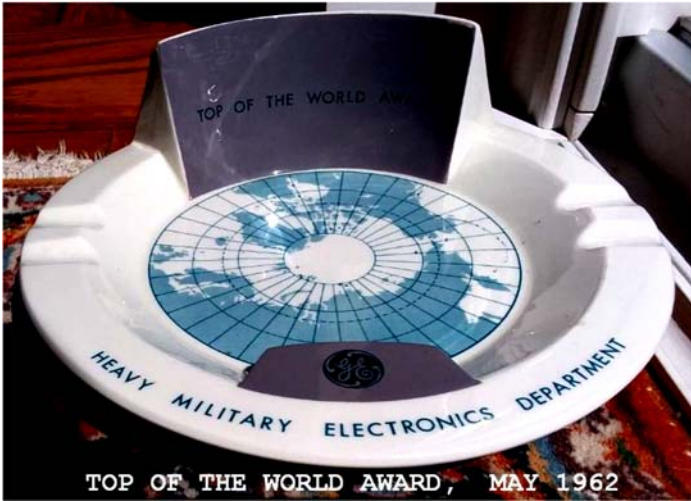
*“I found this article quite interesting! I worked on the FPS-117 radars in most locations around the world. Was not directly connected with BMEWS but knew of many people who went thru BMEWS. SEEK IGLOO (Alaskan radar) was the first deployment of the FPS-117 under my late good friend and neighbor Bruce Cameron after the B3D in Belgium (Bill Gouldthorpe) Then came NORTH WARNING on the DEW LINE etc etc. To my knowledge the Alaskan Air Command was the first (and only) customer to make the FPS-117 'unattended' and would remotely monitor the operation of the solid state radar and send in a repair team by air when the performance went down.”*– Bill Wingfelder

*“I enjoyed the radar article - it brought back memo-*

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ries of my 18 months or more on the BMEWS project. I was there from the beginning - transmitter installation (7 or 8-foot tall Klystrons installed via overhead electric chain lifts), test and checkout, system operation and then tech rep to RCA who had the operations contract. All of us that spent time on BMEWS received a memento from HMED.



In the spring of 1962 I was already enrolled in the University of Utah School of Engineering when HMED sent me Down Range (a BMEWS type radar in Trinidad). At this site I was a digital tech working on the Pulse Compression mod. It was a GE engineer, Dusty Arnold, who help me move from 6 or 7-hundred pound Klystrons to circuit boards with solid state components.

*I finished my portion of the project and left Trinidad engaged to a local young lady - quit GE and went to college, then came back to GE as an engineer” - John Phillips*

## Missing Elfuns

We try to keep in touch with Elfuns – even if they are no longer members. Here are several that we’ve lost touch with, along with their last known city and year of contact:



- James S. Bangs (Jim) - Monroe GA – 2015
- Donald Beall - Hoschton, GA – 2016
- Louis O. Eber - Liverpool, NY – 2016
- Jerrold P. Gunderson - Clearwater, FL - 2017
- Harry Manning - Rogers, AR – 2015
- Raymond Nemecek - Salem, SC - 2014
- Martin F. Schlecht - Camillus, NY – 2014

If you have any information on these former Elfuns, Bob Ruth would appreciate it if you could e-mail it to him at [RuthRob@msn.com](mailto:RuthRob@msn.com), or drop him a note at **4763 Echo Park Road; Liverpool, NY 13088.**

Thanks!

### Syracuse Elfun Society Board of Directors

SyracuseElfunSociety.org

<u>Position</u>	<u>Individual</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Chairperson	Carl Chermak	CChermak@aclara.com	315-637-0380
Vice-Chairperson	open		
Secretary	open		
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Webmaster/DB	Bob Ruth	RuthRob@msn.com	315-451-0685
Communications	Steve Auyer	n2tkx@arrl.net	315-451-7359
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Social Events	Cindy Chermak	Chermak@msn.com	315-637-0380
Work Projects	Marv Hahn	MarvH@twcny.rr.com	315-699-2621
At Large	open		
At Large	Neal Schantz	NealSchantz@gmail.com	315-652-6467
At Large	Pete Scalzo	none	315-457-0598