

July 2020 Syracuse Elfun Society Newsletter

In Memoriam

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

Richard Albert Marx, Jr., age 83, of Skaneateles, New York, died on April 19, 2020, at St Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse.

Thomas Dudarchik Jr., age 95, passed away quietly on April 24 at the Iroquois Nursing Home in Jamesville, NY.

Ralph J. Brown, 93, died peacefully at his home in Manlius on April 26, 2020 with his family around him after a long illness.

Wayne H. Wiswedel, of Lakeland, Florida, passed away at the age of 86, on May 31, 2020.

Erman Earl Ferris, of Manlius, NY, passed away at the age of 95 on Wednesday, June 3, 2020.

Alfred E. Landry, 91, of Liverpool, NY, passed away on Sunday, June 7, 2020.

Robert L. Tessier, Jr., 82, of Baldwinsville, NY, passed away on Saturday, July 4, 2020

Donald G LaCasse, of Syracuse, NY, passed away on July 9, 2020 to reunite with his beloved wife Anne.

Clifford Irving Blair, 93, and a native of Clay NY, passed away on Monday, July 13, 2020 after a short illness.

Complete obituaries for local individuals may be found online at Syracuse.com.

Chairman's Column

We have endured many challenges during this COVID-19 pandemic, ranging from being locked

down in our houses for months on end to living through the medical emergencies of family and friends. Best wishes to each and every one of you as you weather this dilemma.

Regarding the Syracuse Elfun Society, I look at this new fiscal year with cautious optimism. I am cautious as we continue to cancel the social events that you love. I am optimistic because, when conditions improve, we will again be able to schedule new activities and share each other's company in a safe manner. I am also optimistic because we now have a fully staffed Board of Directors. Thanks to Nick Vaccaro, Ray Terry and Joe Kinzel for coming forward to fill the open positions on the board and thanks again to Joe for also assuming the Treasurer's responsibilities. A new year is a good time to try something different. If you think of an activity that our members would enjoy, don't hesitate to contact any of us. Our contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

Social Events

We do not have much to report except the further cancellation of 2020 events.

First, Rev Theater (formerly Merry-Go-Round Playhouse) announced the suspension of live performances in the theater this year. Since our outing to "State Fair" on August 18 was cancelled, we also cancelled the after-theater dinner at The Springside Inn. Rev Theater has contacted us to reassure us they value our annual visit and hope to see us next season.

Mid-Lakes Navigation is running an abbreviated schedule, but we cancelled our July 1 Mail Boat Cruise. The thought of a three-hour, masked, socially distant morning, with the inherent risk to our members, did not justify holding the event. We have notified Mid-Lakes. They absolutely understand our

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position, and also look forward to welcoming us in an upcoming season.

Lastly, we were hoping that the Syracuse Mets would be able to play at least a few games and host us for Elfun Family Day at the Ballpark on August 9. With the cancellation of the minor league baseball season, that, too, is off our 2020 schedule.

It is too early to determine the fate of the December 5 Holiday Luncheon at The Inn Between. We will closely monitor governmental directives and keep you apprised as the date grows closer.

Who know what 2021 holds? If circumstances allow, we will basically resurrect our 2020 plans and carry them out one year later. Above all, keep safe and well and know that, when we can, we will gather as a chapter at some time in the future.

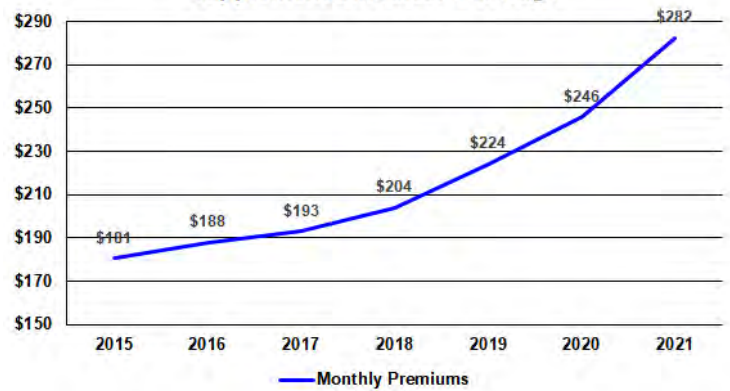
2021 Medical Insurance - Part 1

While the cost of our supplemental medical coverage has been slowly increasing every year, there have been recent rumors that the increase from 2020 to 2021 might be significantly higher because of the added costs medical insurance companies are incurring in 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

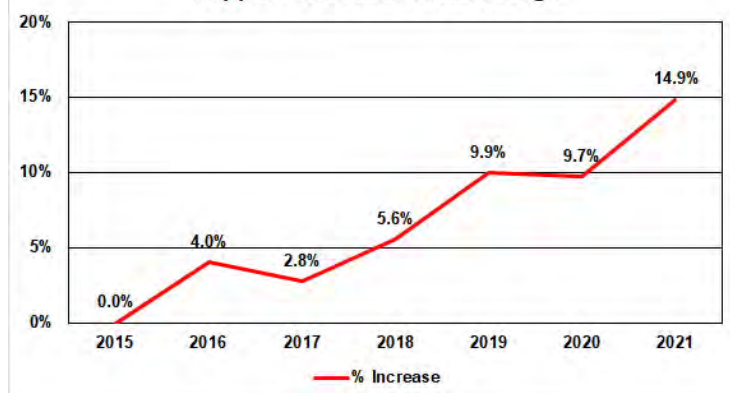
Here in Syracuse, the two main carriers are Humana and UnitedHealthcare. In accordance with New York State law, carriers must provide advance notice of rate changes and allow the insureds to comment on the changes before they go into effect (not that it ever makes much difference).

UnitedHealthcare has just released their notification letter and it shows an almost 15% increase. This increase is qualified in that it only applies to the individual the letter was sent to – and rates vary by plan code, ZIP code, etc., etc. The two following charts put this increase in perspective, both from a \$-increase and a %-increase standpoint.

Monthly Cost of "Typical" Plan F Supplemental Medical Coverage



Year-Over-Year % Increase in "Typical" Plan F Supplemental Medical Coverage



WSJ Articles

Well, they say that every cloud has a silver lining – and in this case it probably means that **THE WALL STREET JOURNAL** is so busy writing articles about the Covid-19 pandemic that they don't have time (or desire, or space) to continue to publish negative articles about GE.

Here are their GE-related articles from the last three months, reprints were sent to all members with an e-mail address:

- April 28th – “GE’s Reliance on Aviation Business Backfires as Pandemic Halts Travel”
- April 29th – “Welcome to Your Flight, Nathan”
- May 5th – “GE’s Jet-Engine Unit To Cut 25% of Its Jobs”
- May 15th – “Heard On the Street – One of America’s most storied corporations is going with a retro look.....”
- May 28th – “GE to Sell Its Lightbulb Business,

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- Shedding Last Link to Consumers”
- May 29th – “Heard On The Street – How many General Electric chairmen does it take to change a lightbulb?”
- July 18-19th – “The Dimming of GE’s Bold Digital Dreams”

Anyone Remember?

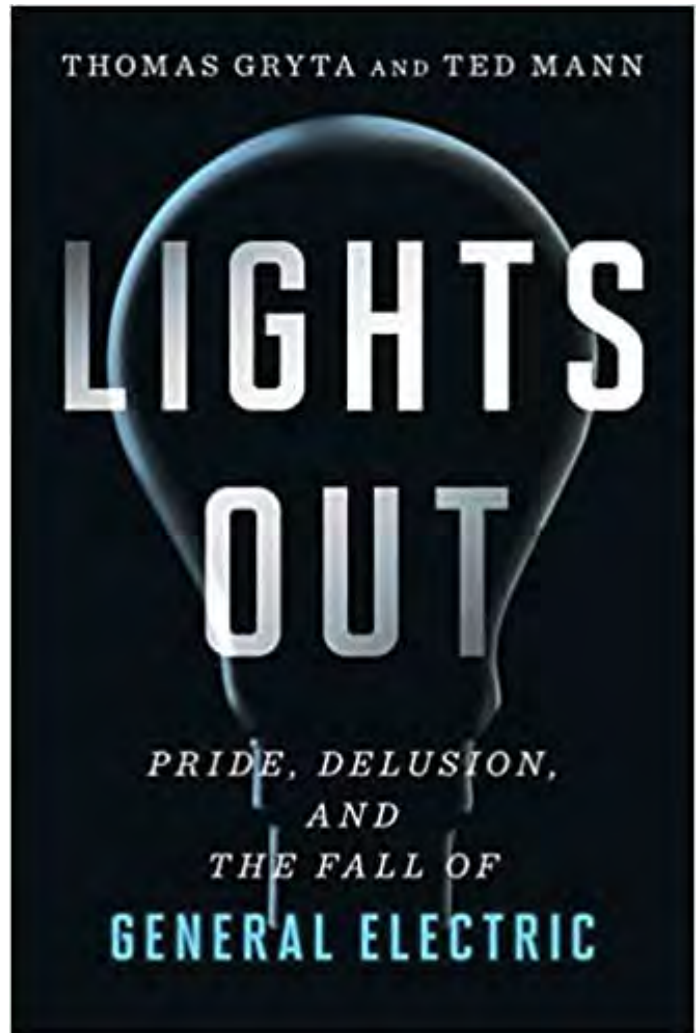


Steve Stern passed on the above photograph with the following comment: “Thanks for the newsletter and other information. I thought you might like this photo. It was taken when Syracuse football coach Dick MacPherson spoke at a joint meeting of the Syracuse, Utica, and Binghamton chapters in Baker Hall. I don’t remember the date this was taken, but clearly it was before the Martin Marietta buyout.”

Can anyone provide a date for this event? I can identify Carl Chermak, Wayne Wiswedel, MacPherson, Nick Vaccaro and Steve Stern in the photo. The photo’s resolution is fairly low so increasing it’s size won’t help much.

Book Review “Lights Out”

If you’ve been reading those Wall Street Journal articles on General Electric, you may remember that many were written by Thomas Gryta and Ted Mann. The two have now teamed up again to write a book



on the subject which was just released on July 21st. If you have any desire to read it, you can order a copy from Amazon.com for about \$25. Here’s a quick review of the book from Amazon:

“How could General Electric—perhaps America’s most iconic corporation—suffer such a swift and sudden fall from grace?”

This is the definitive history of General Electric’s epic decline, as told by the two Wall Street Journal reporters who covered its fall.

Since its founding in 1892, GE has been more than just a corporation. For generations, it was job security, a solidly safe investment, and an elite business education for top managers.

GE electrified America, powering everything from lightbulbs to turbines, and became fully integrated into the American societal mindset as few companies

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ever had. And after two decades of leadership under legendary CEO Jack Welch, GE entered the twenty-first century as America's most valuable corporation. Yet, fewer than two decades later, the GE of old was gone.

'Lights Out' examines how Welch's handpicked successor, Jeff Immelt, tried to fix flaws in Welch's profit machine, while stumbling headlong into mistakes of his own. In the end, GE's traditional win-at-all-costs driven culture seemed to lose its direction, which ultimately caused the company's decline on both a personal and organizational scale. 'Lights Out' details how one of America's all-time great companies has been reduced to a cautionary tale for our times."

GE's Photo Lab

General Electric maintained a well-equipped Photo Lab in Syracuse, equipped to shoot, and process in-house, large-format negatives in both B&W and Color. Photos were used for product documentation and advertising, for use in the local GE NEWS, for release to outside news organizations, and to document employee social activities.

The Photo Lab moved several times and by 2000 was located in Building 6 at Electronics Park. At that time Photo Lab personnel were in the process of

scanning the extensive collection of negatives and prints and eliminating the hard copies which occupied several rooms of storage.

Apparently the negatives and prints were then discarded, with some being "saved" from destruction as these items occasionally show up for sale on eBay and other sites. A large number of these items recently appeared on eBay and a few were able to be purchased. The following fourteen pages reproduce a number of these early photos as they present an interesting view of the employees and products of GE in Syracuse.



Just one caution - these photos are simply the ones that "popped up" on eBay and do not represent a complete, or even necessarily balanced, overview of all the people, activities and products of General Electric in Syracuse.

That said, if you would like a copy of the image file in JPEG format for any of the photos, an e-mail to the editor should get you those files by return e-mail. Please just identify the photo(s) that you want by page number and position so that the photo(s) you receive are the ones that you want.

Syracuse Elfun Society Board of Directors

SyracuseElfunSociety.org

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At Large	Pete Scalzo	none	315-457-0598

Commercial Products

A sample of the commercial products produced in Syracuse.



April 26, 1946 - This product on one of the radio assembly lines in Building 5 at Electronics Park in Syracuse, NY is a model YRB-12-3 which General Electric manufacturers for the "Radio Matic Corporation." This model is sold for use in hotels and motels and has an instruction plate on the top which tells the occupant of the room how to operate the radio; "INSERT 25C COIN ONLY THEN PUSH PLUNGER. INSTRUCTIONS - OPERATE AS ORDINARY RADIO FOR TWO HOURS OF INTERMITTANT OR CONTINUOUS RECEPTION. DEPOSIT 25C COINS ONLY, DO NOT USE DIMES OR NICKELS, WILL TAKE UP TO SIX QUARTERS. PROTECTED BY ATLANTIC MUTUAL INSURANCE CO. NEW YORK CITY. MANUFACTURED BY GENERAL ELECTRIC FOR Radio Matic of America Incorporated, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA."



October 30, 1946 - TO IMPROVE FLIGHT SAFETY - To improve flight safety in darkness, fog or storm for the average commercial or military transport plane, the Army has asked General Electric to design airborne radar like this to weigh about 100 pounds. G. E. built lightweight radar for the Army Air Force during the last few months of the war. The Army wants 50 pounds shaved from this unit, the APS-10, which weighs about 150 pounds, and contrasts with 500-pound radar flown throughout most of the war by the AAF. Here Carl Yerian, G. E. engineer at the company's Syracuse, N. Y., electronics plant, is shown with principal elements of APS-10 unit - antenna at left, radar scope atop control box, with transmitter, receiver and other units at right.



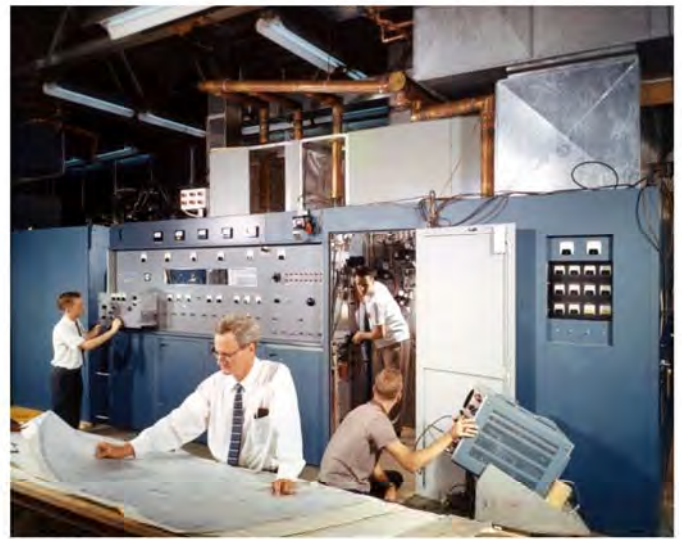
September 13, 1946 - GE's B-1-B 250W FM transmitter, shown in this 1946 photo, eventually sold over 300 units. The design used a proprietary "Phasitron FM modulator tube" to develop a stable, high quality FM signal at a very competitive price.



May 29, 1950 - General Electric Model 740 Radio Phonograph Combination with Doors Open.



January 3, 1954 - Television Receiver Department - Bldg. 5 assembly line.



1960 - General Electric 250KW Shortwave transmitter in final test at Electronics Park Building 7 before being shipped to the Voice Of America facility at Greenville,



May 31, 1963 - More than 60,000 line items, as represented by these punch cards, are converted to 2,400 feet of magnetic tape on each of these two reels by means of the GE-225 computer system designed in Syracuse and now at use in General Electric's Nela Park. The result is the 5,500 customer invoices at the right.



February 3, 1972 - Sorority girls at Syracuse University listen to one of the first programs broadcast over the Syracuse University student-run FM radio station, WJIV, which uses a modern General Electric FM transmitter.

August 26, 1981 - IN THE NEW CLEANROOM - Jim Foley, Manager for Quality Control, watches as Alberta Middleton does snubber welding on incoming electron guns in the new cleanroom at General Electric's Cathode Ray Tube Operation in Building 6 of Electronics Park in Syracuse, N. Y.





June 30, 1983 - PUMP & PLUG - A one-of-a-kind "hybrid" automobile developed by General Electric researchers is "refueled" by adding gasoline and wall-plug electricity. The experimental vehicle, which features an electric motor and a gasoline engine under its hood, offers the fuel savings of an electric but eliminates the electric's major drawback: its limited range. Running on the gasoline engine, the huybrid can make long - even cross-country - trips without having to stop to recharge batteries. The Hybrid Test Vehicle was built for the U. S., Department of Energy (DOE) by a team of leading automotive and technology firms headed by scientists and engineers from GE's Research and Development Center in Schenectady, NY and Electronics Laboratory in Syracuse, NY. It was delivered recently to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, Calif., for extensive testing. JPL, managed by the California Institute of Technology, served as DOE's contract manager on the project.



November 11, 1986 - Brian Kempski, a quality control engineer for GE's Cathode Ray Tube Operation (CRTO) at Electronics Park uses a microscope to measure certain quality specifications of a color picture tube.



July 10, 1984 - AVERY L. BROOKS - Test Analyzer, Cathode Ray Tube Operation (CRTO), GE Syracuse.

December 2, 1987 - Talaria Projector Assembly at Electronics Park - Talaria was the brand name of a large-venue video projector General Electric introduced in 1983. Light from a Xenon arc lamp was modulated by a light valve consisting of a rotating glass disc that was continuously re-coated with a viscous oil. An electron beam similar to the one in a cathode ray tube traced a raster on the surface of the coated glass, deforming the surface of the oil. Where the oil was undisturbed, the light would be reflected into a light trap. The raster traced into the oil formed a diffraction grating. Both monochrome (PJ7000 line) and color (PJ5000) units were produced. The later LV-series could produce an 8,000 lumen image on a 15'x20' screen from 64 feet away.



Community Relations

General Electric As Portrayed In The Local Press



May 26, 1953 - HUNTING KNIFE CONFISCATED - Deputy Sheriff Yale Cummings displays a hunting knife deputies took away from one picketer during yesterday's outbreak at Electronics Park. He is flanked by Deputies Fred Sommers and Frank Rice. Rice was injured during the day when struck in the elbow by a car crashing the line. Cummings also holds a radio aerial, torn from a car by a picket.



May 26, 1953 - FIRST WOMAN INJURED IN MELEE - Mrs. Bernice Hartbower, Phoenix, is stretched out on the pavement here in front of the main gate at GE, in front of the wheel of a car preparing to enter the plant. Recuperating later in a prowl car from a blow on the head, she told reporters she was brushed by the car, fell and struck her head on the pavement. She did not desire hospitalization.



May 26, 1953 - TYPICAL SCENE YESTERDAY MORNING - This is a general view of a GE entrance gate yesterday morning at Electronics Park, as cars prepared to try to enter the picketed entrance, while crowds hang around on the edge to see whether the picketers or the salaried workers will out maneuver each other.



May 27, 1953 - SHERIFF'S STAFF BOLSTERED - Approximately 60 special deputy sheriffs were ordered on strike duty at Electronics Park yesterday by Sheriff Albert E. Stone to augment his regular staff. The additions enabled the deputies to outnumber IUE-CIO and other union pickets yesterday in contrast to Monday. Most of the special deputies wore white arm bands and badges to identify themselves. They are shown here keeping open a path for a salaried GE worker's car to enter the plant.



May 27, 1953 - ONE OF SIX ARRESTED - Deputy Sheriff Fred Sommers is shown here shortly after he arrested a man he identified as John Manzano, 31, of Solvay, at the General Electric strike scene at Electronics Park yesterday. Picketing was relatively peaceful yesterday following Monday's melee.



October 3, 1960 - Workers pass through picket lines



October 10, 1960 - GE security guard smashes window of locked car parked in company gate.



October 3, 1960 - Shattuck directs fire hose attack.

October 11, 1960 - LIGHT MOMENT ON THE LINE - Laughing pickets at Electronics Park today linked hands with deputies guarding the gates and allowed employees to pass without incident. The IUE members, apparently in the best mood they've been in since the strike started, joked and talked with the deputies. For weary deputies the change was refreshing - to say the least.





September 15, 1986 - Picketers at General Electric. John Stanley is in the center.



June 25, 1987 - GE retirees picket at the Electronics Parkway plant.



June 26, 1987 - GE retirees picket at the Electronics Parkway plant.



March 12, 1992 - This is the large work room at the GE Career Center where adult, ex-GE employees come to work on their skills. Michael McGraw, from Syracuse is working on his math skills. (The GE Career Center provides assistance to laid-off employees in finding jobs.)



August 14, 1987 - Congratulations Team - A team of Syracuse GE employees captured first place in the men's division and third place in the women's division at the recent Manufacturers Hanover Corporate race held at Onondaga Lake Park. About 60 employees participated in the 3.5-mile run.

Electronics Laboratory

General Electric's Center of Excellence for Electronics



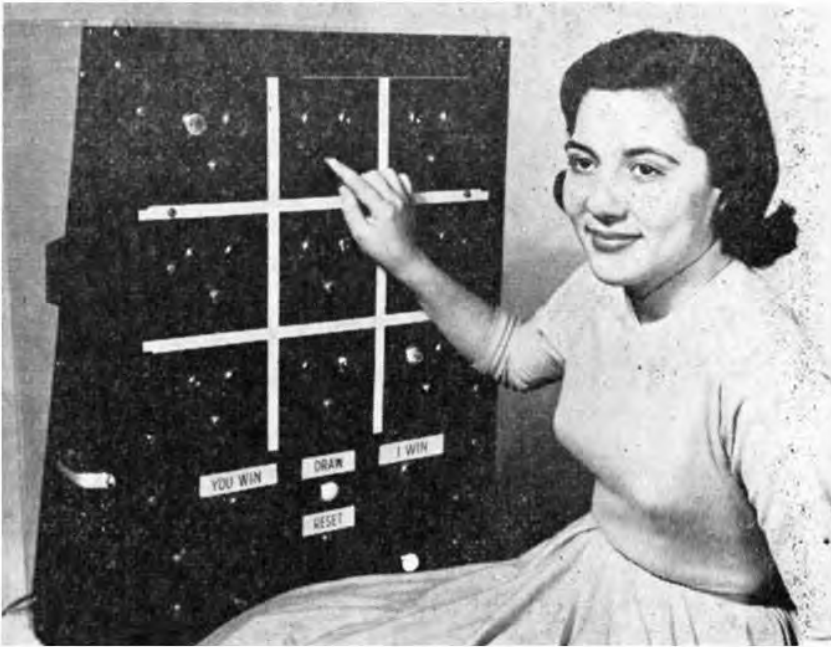
January 28, 1954 - AUTOMATIC PUNCH PRESS, developed by scientists at General Electric's Electronics Laboratory at Syracuse, N. Y., is controlled by an electronic brain. The machine is a by-product of development work done by G-E scientists on an automatic component assembly system, under a U. S. Signal Corps contract. Directions are fed to the punch press by an electronic digital computer, which "reads" information on size, number and location of holes to be punched from a perforated card. G. E. describes the machine as a forerunner to an automatic assembly machine in the system being developed for the Signal Corps, and said techniques employed to make it automatic may also be applied to machines for drilling, riveting, stapling, electrical testing, and others. Checking operation of the electronic brain, and punching accuracy, are John Ruppert (left) and Frank Rives, of the G-E Electronics Laboratory. (Yes, those are vacuum tubes in the cabinet - about 100 of them!)



March 24, 1954 - FOR CIVIL DEFENSE - It looks like a hearing aid, but it really is a five-ounce, experimental pocket radio, designed by General Electric engineers J. J. Suran (left) and W. F. Chow. Tuned to a single frequency, it is intended primarily for civil defense messages to the public during emergencies. It uses germanium devices instead of the conventional radio tubes, thus allowing longer operation on two small dry cells.



1954 - World's First Transistor Radio - Developed by Arthur Stern at General Electric's Electronics Laboratory in Syracuse, NY and first demonstrated at the 1954 Convention of the Institute of Radio Engineers in New York City. This design was productized and sold by GE as models 645-648 in 1955. This allowed GE to score second place in the race to offer a consumer transistor radio.



January 18, 1957 - Electronics Is Master in Game of Skill. Yola Di Battista finds electronic wizardry too tough a foe as she tries to beat this unbeatable tic-tac-toe machine devised by General Electric engineers here. Yola works in the Cathode Ray Tube Department, Building 6. The tic-tac-toe machine was created by GE Electronics Laboratory engineers Bert Linker, Bob Thor and Bob Hill. The control logic for this device was a "bunch" of latching and stepping relays - hardwired together!



December 20, 1982 - Electronics Laboratory process specialists Teresa E. Kohlbrenner (left) and Ellen L. Merrill examine wafers in the Monolithic Microwave Facility, located at Electronics Park, Liverpool.



March 30, 1963 - Dr. Joseph Gaynor - Photo-Plastic Recording Process he invented at the G. E. Company Laboratory.

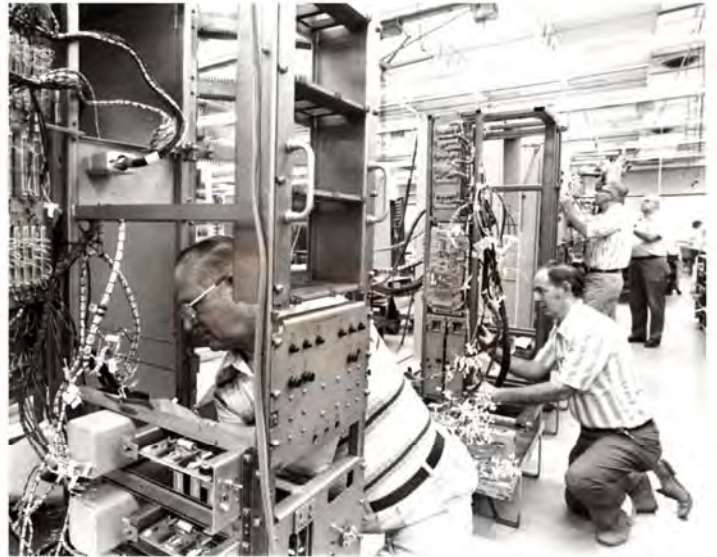
February 20, 1989 - GE Electronics Laboratory, Liverpool, Pin Ho, Senior Materials Engineer at the GE Lab... oversees gallium arsenide material growth on three inch wafers in the MBE reactor... the wafers are then used as the base for fabricating HEMTS, which require highly pure material for best performance...



Military Products



March 18, 1960 - Mortar locator, developed by United States Army Signal Corps and General Electric Company, gives accurate map location of enemy mortars, permits troops to return fire within seconds. Coating of urethane foam around conical detection equipment (right center) prevents inaccuracy or damage to the unit as result of temperature induced expansion or contraction of critical parts.



April 20, 1982 - Cabinets for the AN/SQQ-89(V) Sonar System in the final stages of assembly at the Farrell Road Building 2 cabinet assembly area.



November 9, 1982 - This Syracuse-produced GE air-defense radar, part of the FPS-117 family, is being adjusted by Environmental Test technician Gary J. Piontkowski prior to undergoing performance tests at temperatures ranging from 70 degrees below zero Fahrenheit, to 110 degrees above zero.

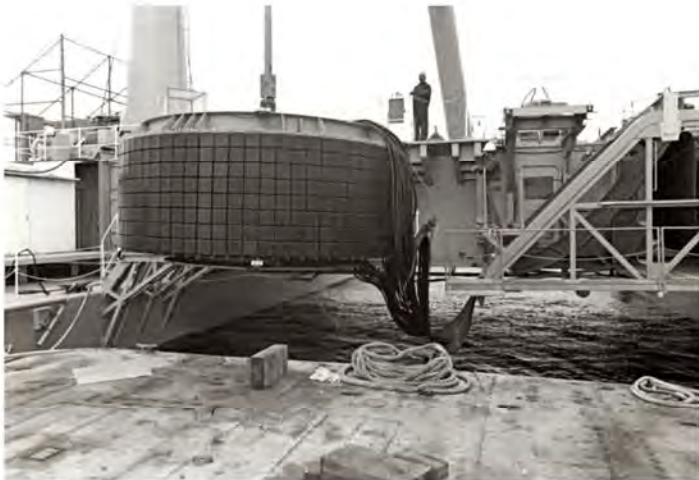
November 22, 1980 - An automated material mover, nicknamed "Charlie" helps Vivian B. Mitchell, General Electric assembler, perform her job in GE's Military Electronics Systems Operation on Farrell Road. The equipment moves 1,400 pounds of sonar transducer components at a time between production stations. Investments in equipment like this by New York state firms help keep their employees among the most productive, and eliminate repetitive, boring tasks.





November 6, 1984 - Cabinets for the Over-The-Horizon (OTH) radar system undergoing checkout in the Farrell Road Building 2 cabinet test area.

January 27, 1985 - Air defense radar units like this one for use by the Air Force Alaskan Air Command are being produced in Syracuse, NY by General Electric.



October 23, 1985 - 1st article testing of the bow-mounted sonar array for the AN/SQQ-89(V) Surface Ship Anti-Submarine Warfare Combat System on the U.S. Navy's Seneca Lake test barge.

May 12, 1986 - This General Electric TPS-59 transportable radar is undergoing checkout prior to acceptance testing by the customer at General Electric's Electronics Park facility.



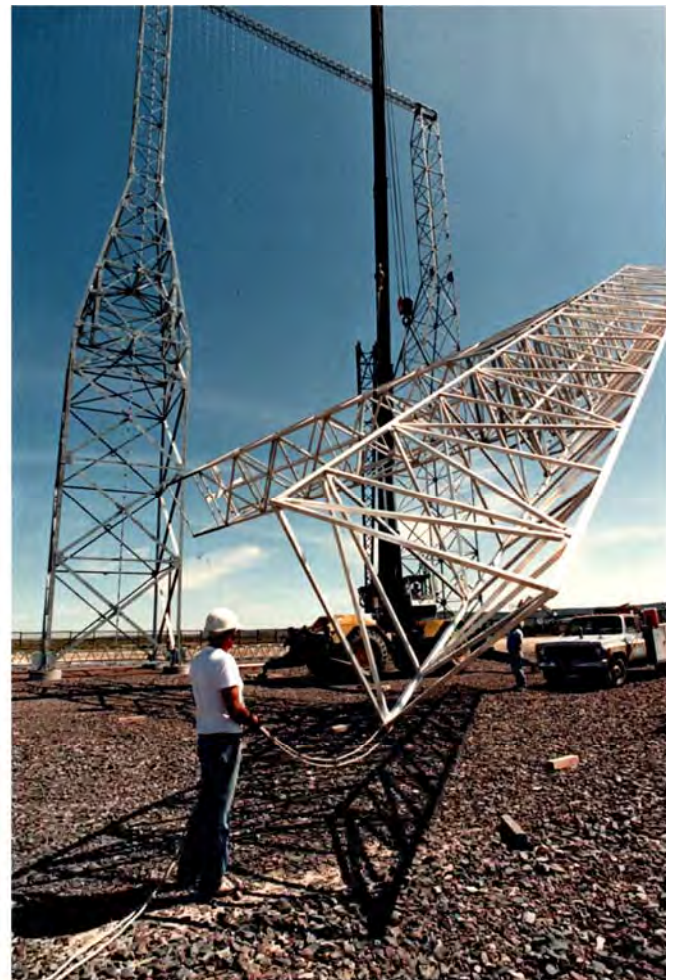


January 19, 1988 - GE engineer David L. Brown works on a sonar project at the Hybrid Integrated Circuit (HIC) facility at the Court Street Plant.

July 15, 1988 - One of the antennas for General Electric's Over-The-Horizon (OTH) Backscatter Radar system is being erected.



November 30, 1988 - General Electric Company's Over-The-Horizon (OTH) Backscatter Radar display console.



January 24, 1991 - Another of the Over-The-Horizon antennas being assembled and erected.

People & Organizations



December 30, 1948 - FINGERPRINTING INAUDIBLE SOUND - The "fingerprint" on the table-top is being made in talcum powder by sound-waves pitched so high that the human ear cannot hear them. The inaudible sound is coming from a tiny whistle on the end of the J-shaped tube in the picture's center. This sound is reflected on to the table by the concave metal disk held by General Electric engineer R. W. Samsel. The ridges in the powder are caused by the so-called "standing waves", which are points where waves headed for the table-top meet those bouncing back from it, cancelling each other out. At these points, there is no activity, and the powder can remain at rest.



January 29, 1963 - Richard L. Shetler, General Electric Company, Command Systems Division and Apollo Support Department. Dick started at Syracuse in 1945 and managed radar programs for many years.



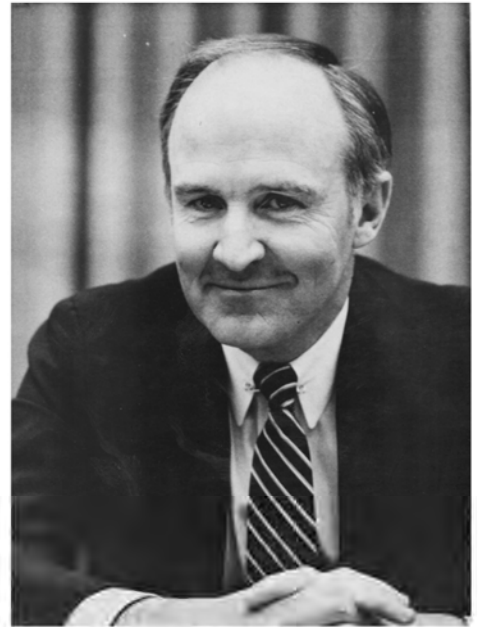
September 11, 1966 - Thomas I. Paganelli, General Manager of GE's Heavy Military Electronics Department, discusses performance of Mobile HIPAR radar with military visitors at Farrell road plant. Left to right; Lt. Col. Francis J. Hart, commander of Air Force plant representative's office in Syracuse; Paganelli; Col. W. W. Saunders and Col. R. M. Colquitt Jr.



December 8, 1975 - CHARLES B. CLARKSON - G. E. Syracuse General Manager, Syracuse-based Undersea Electronics Programs Department.



January 29, 1963 - A General Electric family gift of \$300,000 is presented to the United Way. From left are Jack M. Falge, 1978-79 GE Employees' Federated Fund Drive chairman; Thomas I. Paganelli, GE vice president and Syracuse area executive; Syracuse Newspapers Publisher Stephen Rogers, United Way general chairman; and Arthur S. Baker, GE Employees' Federated Fund chairman.



December 18, 1980 - NAMED NEW GE CHAIRMAN - John F. Welch Jr. smiles at a news conference in New York Friday, after it was announced that he will succeed Reginald H. Jones as chairman and chief executive officer of General Electric Co., effective Jan. 1, 1981. Welch joined the nation's ninth-largest industrial company in 1960 and was named a vice chairman last year. Jones plans to retire next April.



February 14, 1985 - Oleg Golubjatnikov, Staff Engineer, Undersea Systems Department (USD), Military Electronic Systems Operations (MESO), Syracuse General Electric Company.

December 12, 1985 - G.E. & RCA MERGER - John F. Welch, Jr., General Electric chairman and chief executive, left, shares a laugh with Thornton F. Bradshaw, RCA chairman, after they announced the merger of General Electric and RCA Thursday in New York. The \$6.28 billion cash deal would be the most expensive non-oil acquisition in U.S. history.





August 29, 1986 - Frank DeBritz, Program General Manager, General Electric's Undersea Systems Programs, addressing Operations personnel in the high bay assembly area at the west end of Building 5 in Electronics Park.



September 18, 1991 - Al Horvath - GE Syracuse Area Executive addresses the crowd for Desert Storm vets.



November 15, 1988 - OLD NEWSBOYS - (left to right) Bob Benson, Dick Taylor, Bill McGrath, Judy Woodward, John Randall and Becky Thyne