



Syracuse Elfun Society

2022 Fall Newsletter



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

- **Francis “Frank” Michael DeBritz**, 87, of Nokesville, VA, died on July 4th, 2022, in Brewster, Massachusetts.
- **Major Alan Johnson** peacefully passed away in his Fayetteville home on Friday, August 12, 2022, four days shy of his 96th birthday.
- **Dallas Bowser**, 90, formerly of Fayetteville, NY and living in Reading, PA, passed away on August 30, 2022.
- **George "Herb" Coddington, Jr.**, 91, of Baldwinsville, NY passed away on Wednesday, September 7, 2022.

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

Remembering Frank DeBritz

Francis “Frank” DeBritz graduated from Brooklyn College with a bachelor’s degree in mathematics and began his career at Westinghouse before moving to Syracuse, NY, to work for General Electric. He worked as a Systems Engineer, Manager of Engineering, and General Manager.

The Navy’s nuclear submarines use a complex Com-

bat System that integrates data from a number of sensors that is used for sonar tracking, monitoring, and launch of all on-board weapons, including torpedoes, missiles and mines. IBM was the lead contractor on the development of the Integrated ASW Combat System for the Los Angeles class nuclear attack submarines – with GE as a subcontractor.

The program had performance issues and in 1981 the BSY-1 portion was split off and the BSY-2 portion recompeted. IBM thought that GE would again be a subcontractor on the new contract. Frank had other thoughts and submitted a proposal with GE as the prime contractor and IBM as a subcontractor, GE won the competition, turning what had been a nice subcontract for Syracuse into a major business area. Frank led the program which successfully, delivered the first system to the USS Seawolf (SSN-21) in 1995.

Frank was a master storyteller. He was gifted in his ability to recall accurate facts and details of hundreds of subjects – some of them germane to the subject being addressed at a meeting, and some not. If you ever were to participate in a meeting with Frank that started at 3pm, you knew not to make any plans for anything else that afternoon and evening.

In his retirement, Frank continued his hobby of writing poetry and stories, bringing to fruition his dream to be a published writer. He wrote two children’s books (“Did You Ever Dream”, “Ice Cream in Her Pocket”), a collection of poetry, and his memoir, “**From a Brooklyn Basement**”.



Remembering Major Johnson

Major passed away at his Fayetteville home on August 12, four days shy of his 96th birthday. He served

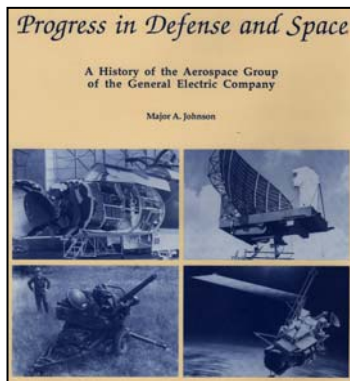
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in the Navy's Officer Training Program, graduating from Purdue University with a BSEE degree. He joined GE in 1948, initially working in both Buffalo and Syracuse. Subsequently, he completed the three-year Advanced Engineering Program with rotating assignments in Lynn, Massachusetts, Schenectady and Syracuse. He then joined Heavy Military Equipment Department in Syracuse, working on a wide variety of programs, including mortar locators, advanced doppler height-finders, air-defense and missile-defense radars.

In 1961, Major received a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering from Syracuse University and also joined the Advance Projects Development Section where he was systems engineer on an experimental MOSAR project, an ultimate analog beamforming approach and later was instrumental in GE being awarded the PAR missile-defense radar development contract. Subsequently, he became manager of the Advance Project Development Section where he contributed to successful efforts on the Over-The-Horizon Radar and the Marine Corps solid-state radar which led to a continuing business for this class of radar for many applications.

During his career, Major received numerous prestigious awards, both from GE (e.g., the Steinmetz Medal) and the IEEE (e.g., Radar Systems Panel Chairman). After retirement, he wrote and published an epic 656-page tome, "**Progress in Defense and Space**", a history of GE's aerospace and defense business.



Upcoming Social Events

December Holiday Party

With staffing issues causing so many fine restaurants to reduce hours, we had limited availability for a holiday luncheon venue. As we had a lovely, socially distanced luncheon at the Cavalry Club last year, we have decided to return for 2022. Plan to dress in your holiday finery for lunch on Thursday December 8. The flyer is included with this newsletter, so send in

your reservations. We look forward to celebrating with you.

Plans For 2023

We will certainly repeat our old standbys such as Family Day at the Ballpark and Broadway in the Finger Lakes, but we also hope to return to some of our other favorites such as boat rides and tours of some of the interesting sites in our area. Cross your fingers that COVID will finally abate so we can get out and have even more fun together in 2023 than we did in 2022!.

Cindy Chermak

In Case You Missed.....

During the last three months, the Syracuse Elfun Society sent out copies, by e-mail, of the following articles concerning GE that have appeared in various publications:

- September 13, 2022 – **“GE Faces Pressure But Says Breakup Remains On Track”** – **THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**. General Electric CEO Larry Culp says the company's breakup plans are on track in spite of supply-chain pressures that threaten to slow deliveries and push up costs.
- October 5, 2022 – **“Micron To Build Biggest U.S. Chip Factory”** – **THE WALL STREET JOURNAL** - Will Micron have the same or a greater impact on Syracuse than GE's Electronics Park did in the 1950's and 1960's?

For members who do not receive communications by e-mail, let us know of any of the above articles that you would like to receive in hard copy format and we'll drop them in the mail them right away.

Recent Social Events

Elfun Family Day at the Ballpark

Sunday July 31 was a lovely day to watch the Mets prevail over the Omaha Storm Chasers 4-1. It was 82° and partly cloudy per the Mets box score page. We usually see more local Pennsylvania opponents, so it was a change-up to see a team from the mid-

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west. We witnessed a home run in the first inning and a combined 12 strikeouts by the Mets pitchers, so all in all it was a good day. Steve Auyer and Ron Panetta took some nice pictures as our group of 36 mingled in the Left Field Terrace. This remains a popular multi-generational family outing, and we plan to return to Alliance Bank Stadium in the 2023 season.



Broadway in the Finger Lakes

The setting was the Savoy Ballroom in the 1930's, back when the gentlemen arrived in top hats while the ladies were adorned in furs. Chandeliers hung from the ceiling, a bar stood to the right, and a six-person orchestra owned a back corner of the stage. One member of our group remarked that there was no plot. There wasn't, nor much of any dialogue. Both were unnecessary. Rather, the cast of five sang and danced their way through a comprehensive revue of the music of Fats Waller. At times the joint was jumpin' with the band in full swing; other times the cast sang a heart-rending acapella tune filled with harmony. We hope our group of 34 enjoyed this show which was a bit different from the usual big Broadway production.

Following the performance, we took the short drive to the beautiful Springside Inn for dinner in The Heritage Room. Our tables of 8 and 9 allowed for good conversation. The inn has several rooms on the second floor, and a few of us took the opportunity to go upstairs and take a peek.

A poll of the group showed that "Beautiful" The Carole King Musical looks to be our choice for 2023. You will recognize songs that she herself recorded, as well as hits by other performers such as The Monkees, The Drifters, James Taylor, Aretha Franklin, The Shirelles, Bobby Vee, Little Eva, and even The Beatles. Once we select the date, we will plan a matinee and dinner in August of next year.



Interested in GE History?

If you're looking for something to read while the weather's not conducive to playing golf, there are a number of books that deal with the early history of General Electric. These aren't about the history of the company, so much as they are about some of its larger business sectors. GE's efforts in the following areas began approximately as follows:

- 1880 – Lighting, Locomotives
- 1890 – Appliances
- 1930 – Defense

1940 – Jet Engines

There are a number of books available as shown in the following list that cover these areas. Don't expect them to be written by well-known authors, they are mostly written by individuals that worked in those areas at various GE locations at some point in time. They average about 200 pages in length but range from 56 to 656 pages. You also can't walk into your nearby Barnes & Noble and expect to find them on the shelf. Most are available, sometimes second-hand, from web sites such as Amazon (AZ)

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and eBay (EB). If you can't find a particular book of interest on one of these sites, check back a few weeks later and it may have popped up again.)

"A Century of Light", subtitled "The General Electric History of Light", James A. Cox, printed by The Benjamin Company, 1979, 224 pages. (EB)

"A Walk Through The Park", subtitled "The history of GE Appliances and Appliance Park", Louisville, KY Elfun Historical Society, printed by Friday and White, 1987, 120 pages. (EB, AZ)

"The Age of Edison", subtitled "Electric Light and the Invention of Modern America", GE's development of advanced lighting technology, Ernest Freeburg, Penguin Books, 2013, 354 pages. (EB, AZ)

"Flame Powered", subtitled "The Bell XP-59A Airacomet and the General Electric I-A Engine" GE's entry into the jet engine market, David M. Carpenter, published by the Jet Pioneers of America, 1992, 78 pages. (EB, AZ)

"The General Electric Story, Volume 1, The Edison Era, 1876-1892", Elfun Society – Algonquin Chapter, 1976, 56 pages. (EB, AZ)

"The General Electric Story, Volume 2, The Steinmetz Era", Elfun Society – Algonquin Chapter, 1977, 74 pages. (EB, AZ)

"The General Electric Story, Volume 3, On The Shoulders Of Giants", Elfun Society – Algonquin Chapter, 1979, 81 pages. (EB, AZ)

"The General Electric Story, Volume 4, Pathways of Progress, 1947-1978", Elfun Society – Algonquin Chapter, 1980, 109 pages. (EB, AZ)

"Illustrated History of General Electric Locomotives", O. M. Kerr, printed by Delta Publications Associates, 1979, 96 pages. (EB, AZ)

"Lamps for a Brighter America", subtitled "A history of the General Electric lamp business", Paul W. Keating, McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1954, 246 pages. (EB, AZ)

"Men and Volts", subtitled "The Story of General Electric" 1870's-1930's, John Winthrop Hammond, printed by J. B. Lippincott Company, 1941, 436 pages. (EB, AZ)

"Men and Volts at War", subtitled "The Story of General Electric in World War II", John Anderson Miller, McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1947, 272 pages. (EB, AZ)

"Ordnance Systems Department", subtitled "A History 1940-1982" and includes several common programs with Syracuse, W. B. Fox, Jr., published by GE's Ordnance Systems Department – Pittsfield, MA, 1983, 125 pages. (AZ)

"Progress in Defense and Space", subtitled "A History of the Aerospace Group of the General Electric Company", Major A. Johnson, printed by M. A. Johnson, 1993, 656 pages. (AZ)

"Seven Decades of Progress", subtitled "A Heritage of Aircraft Turbine Technology" a history of GE's jet engine business, 5 editors listed, Aero Publishers, 1979, 232 pages. (EB, AZ)

"Eight Decades of Progress", subtitled "A Heritage of Aircraft Turbine Technology", no editors listed, 1990, printed by The Hennegan Company", 328 pages. (EB, AZ)

"Workshop of Engineers", subtitled "The story of the General Engineering Laboratory of the General Electric Company" the beginning of GE's Corporate R&D Center in Schenectady, John Anderson Miller, 1953, printed by the Maqua Company, 179 pages. (EB, AZ)

The Latest Scams

Scammers have recently begun sending e-mails confirming the automatic renewal of a bogus subscription. Typically, these renewals are in the hundreds of dollars and the e-mail states that if this is incorrect, or you have any questions, you need to give them a phone call. Of course, when you call them, they'll need to know the details of your credit card so that they can cancel and refund the subscription. But once they have your credit card details, you can guess what they'll do with the information.

At the bottom of the page are examples of two Scam e-mails.

The first hint of a Scam when you get an e-mail like these, is to note that there are many mistakes in these e-mails: spelling, punctuation, unusual telephone number format, use of a Gmail account instead of a corporate e-mail account, etc. – this is a

Example 1

FROM: Damena Smith
<damenasmithfwo@gmail.com>
SUBJECT: Auto update [PAY-56345634]

Dear Member, Your subscription of McAfee Security has been successfully renewed and updated. The debited amount will be reflected within next 24 to 48 hour on your account statement.

PRODUCT INFORMATION: Invoice No. – ERFG-56344787

Product Name: McAfee Security

Expiration Date: 1 year from the date of purchase

Price: **299.85\$**

PAYMENT METHOD: Auto-Renewal.

If you wish to cancel this subscription then please feel free to contact our accounts department as soon as possible. You can reach us on +1(888,423,3740)

Regards: Billing Department

tipoff that the message is fake – so ignore it.

The next thing to remember is that the Scammers haven't charged your credit card at all! If they had, the last thing they would want to do is alert you to the erroneous charge. So the best thing to do is nothing at all – if the charge does show up on your credit card you can then dispute it with the credit card company!

If you do decide to respond to the sender of the Scam, they will be so very, very sorry about the mistake, but will need to know all your credit card information so that they can cancel the purchase order and remove the charge from your credit card.



Yeah, sure!

Example 2

FROM: Mohsin Thomas
<mohsinthomas2692@gmail.com>
SUBJECT: Geek Squad Subscription Has Been Renewed Now At **\$249.99**

hello user



Date :08-31-2022

Dear Consumer,

We've send you this email to inform you that your service with Geek squad has been renewed successfully. All details for your service are mentioned in this email. Our team is trying to contact you for this renewal but they didn't get any response from your side. So the service that you use earlier that renews automatically.

Transaction for this service has been auto debited from your bank account. It will be reflecting after 24hrs in your account. If you want any information regarding service or you need any other further details for this order please contact us on our help line **+1 (866) 208 3493**

Order Summery :

Renew Order ID	Details of software	Service Period	Activation code	Paid for Renew Service
MKL56883G869	Geek Squad security software	1 Year	GEEK658435G7	\$249.99

We've provided you all the details related to this order. We've renewed this order according to your last service with Geek Squad. We've charge you only \$249.99 for 1 year of service because you are our existing customer.

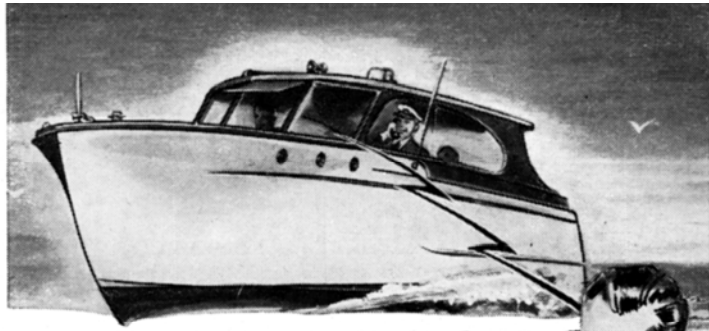
+1 (866) 208 3493

THANKS AND REGARDS
TEAM GEEK SQUAD.



Not Initially A Hit!

Over the years GE's Electronics Park developed and produced many new products - often they advanced the state of the art and led to new product lines for GE. This 1949 product was not one of them - but who knows, maybe Steve Jobs later saw this ad and it gave him an idea for a new product?



FOR BOATING PLEASURE—
TAKE SAFETY WITH YOU—



RADIOTELEPHONE

PERFORMANCE-ENGINEERED AT ELECTRONICS PARK

- Keep in touch with office, home, or friends in other boats. G-E 2-way radio is your key to safe, confident boating pleasure!



Neat, compact, 5-watt G-E Radiotelephone is a valuable and handsome asset to your boat. Easy to install and use—operates from a 6-volt battery. Equipped with famous General Electric top-loaded Antenna.

Four channels at the flick of a switch:

- Ship to ship—instant, easy voice communication over a wide area.
- Ship to shore—just pick up the phone, talk to any land telephone.
- Direct channel to U. S. Coast Guard.
- International distress and calling frequency.

MAIL THIS COUPON for free bulletin and name of your nearest General Electric dealer!

MARINE DEALERS!

Your boat owner customers are live prospects for the new G-E Radiotelephone. Be sure to have all the sales facts at your fingertips. Mail coupon today for full particulars!

General Electric Company
Room 102—Bldg. 3-B
Electronics Park
Syracuse, N. Y.

Please tell me more about G-E Marine Radiotelephones.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

CITY.....ZONE.....STATE.....

You can put your confidence in—

GENERAL  ELECTRIC

Syracuse Elfun Society Board of Directors

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Vice-Chairperson	open		
Secretary	open		
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At Large	Ray Terry	raygterry@gmail.com	315-677-3008
At Large	Nick Vaccaro	nvaccaro@twcny.rr.com	315-457-3632
At Large	Pete Scalzo	none	315-457-0598

Syracuse Elfun Society 2022 Holiday Party

Thursday
December 8th

11:30am Arrive & Social
12:00noon Lunch

\$30/person
Elfun & Guest

Reservations
Due November 26th

Cavalry Club
Troop K Road
Manlius



TEAR OFF AND MAIL

Mail to: Cindy Chermak, 10 The Orchard, Fayetteville, NY 13066 **NO LATER than Saturday November 26th.**

There will be _____ of us this year, and at \$30/person that comes to \$_____. A check payable to "*Syracuse Elfun Society*" is enclosed. Directions to Cavalry Club will be included with your reservation confirmation. Reservations limited to 50. Open seating.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone & E-mail: _____