

# Syracuse Elfun Society

## 2023 Winter Newsletter



Syracuse University Main Campus



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

- **Ying-Chen "YC" Hwang**, of Liverpool, NY passed away on Wednesday, August 31, 2022 at the age of 102 years and 11 months old, while at breakfast with his son, Peter, who had been caring for his father for the last few months.
- **David W. Lee**, 87, of Cicero, NY, passed away peacefully on Tuesday October 18, 2022.
- **Frank G. Spann**, 96, passed away on Friday, November 18, 2022 in his home of 66 years at 127 Dormar Drive, North Syracuse, New York attended by Daniel Spann, his caregiver.

Complete obituaries for local individuals may be found online at [Syracuse.com/obituaries/Syracuse](http://Syracuse.com/obituaries/Syracuse). If you are not able to locate an obituary, an e-mail to [steve.auyer@gmail.com](mailto:steve.auyer@gmail.com) should get you the obituary by return e-mail.



## Save The Date!

**Tuesday, August 29, 2023** for the 2023 Broadway in the Finger Lakes Special Event.



We have reserved this date for the 2 pm matinee of "Beautiful", the musical which reflects the life and career of Carole King. Even if you don't recognize the songs she herself has recorded, you will be familiar with many hits she has written for The Drifters, The Chiffons, Aretha Franklin, James Taylor, and a host of others. REV Theater will seat the majority of us in Rows G-J, and has reserved five seats in Row D which will not require steps. Our after-theater dinner will again be at the nearby Springside Inn. Watch for further details along with the flyer in the Spring Newsletter.

Have a wonderful holiday season with your friends and families, and we are looking forward to seeing you at this and our other social events in 2023.

*Cindy Chermak*



# December 8, 2022 Holiday Party



**Attendees:** Manny Ares & Faye Dannick, Steve & Donna Auyer, Gail & Susan Boerschig, Carl & Cindy Chermak, Jeanne Coddington, Larry & Nancy Flora, Gary & Mary Lee Gates, David Hagenmayer & Chifra Sorbello, Ed Heinzerling, John & Donna Iannuzzi, Joe Kinzel, George Kirkpatrick, John & Joan Knapp, Gerry & Dode Lipton, Don & Pat MacLaughlin, Laurie Pachilis, Bill & Maureen Patterer, Jim & Toloa Perry, John & Rose Phillips, Bill Poorman, Al & Sue Roger, Carolyn Rothenhoefer, Stuart & Ruth Schwartz, Tom & Steph Shields, Nick & Ann Vaccaro, Fred & Carole Wenthen, John & JoAnne Williams.



We had a festive group of 47 at The Cavalry Club on December 8<sup>th</sup> for a holiday buffet luncheon. What a delight to gather in the golf house, look at the beautiful scenery, and reconnect with old friends. Steve Auyer brought some GE memorabilia free for the browsing and the taking. John (and Joan) Knapp won the door prize of a fresh holiday floral arrangement.

*Cindy Chermak*



## In Case You Missed .....

As articles of interest to current and former employees of General Electric have appeared in newspapers and other publications, we have made copies of those articles available to those members who receive communications by e-mail.

Because of the postage and mailing costs which now approach \$1 per article per person, we do not mail out hard copies to the 60% of our membership who receive communications by hard copy. But if you would like a hard copy of any of the articles below, send an e-mail to [steve.auver@gmail.com](mailto:steve.auver@gmail.com) and we'll get a hard copy out to you.

**October 16, 2022 – “How two big companies investment deals made Syracuse an epicenter of tech manufacturing”** – A Post-Standard article discussing how the new manufacturing facilities of General Electric and the Carrier Corporation affected Syracuse.

**October 19, 2022 – “GE Puts Its Famed Academy Up for Sale”** – Remember Crotonville? This article from THE WALL STREET JOURNAL covers Crotonville's history and why GE is looking to dispose of it.

**October 19, 2022 – “Lockheed Martin Charts Sales Rebound”** – In the same newspaper, Lockheed Martin reveals how it will recover from a disappointing 2022.

**October 26, 2022 – “GE Cuts Outlook Amid Renewables Losses”** – Ongoing problems with its renewable energy business will cause GE to miss its operating targets.

**December 26, 2022 – “How Focus Takes US Further”** - GE spent many millions to buy out all the advertising space in this edition of The New York Times, to explain how its plan to split itself into three separate companies will reinvigorate itself. Lots of pretty art, mixed reviews from readers. Some view this ad as an attempt to “pump up” demand for



the first business to be spun off – GE HealthCare.

**December 29, 2022 – “GE HealthCare Technologies Will Join S&P 500”** – GE provides more information on the first of its three operating businesses to be spun off as a separate company and Wall Street decides that the business will be large enough to be incorporated into this stock market index. The new firm will trade under the “GEHC” symbol with the “GE” symbol encompassing Power Generation and Aircraft Engines – at least for awhile.

**January 3, 2023 – “GE Turns to Shedding Power Business”** – Now that GE HealthCare is a separate business, GE turns to working on disposing of the company's “problem child” – won't be as easy as

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GE HealthCare was, though.

**January 5, 2023 – “GE HealthCare Ends First Day Of Trading With \$27.5 Billion Value”** – looks like GE “dodged the bullet” with this spinoff, now will the new stock retain its value?

## OTH Lives ....

.... or maybe this should have been called “Son of OTH.” In either case, Gary Gates passed on some interesting information concerning a new application of Over-The-Horizon (OTH) Radar that appeared in recent government press releases, summarized as follows:

*“Gilbane Federal, Concord, California, has been awarded an \$118,368,220 firm-fixed-price contract for the construction of reinforced concrete pads and foundations in support of the installation of the Tactical Mobile Over-the-Horizon Radar (TACMOR) equipment in the Republic of Palau. Work will be performed in the Republic of Palau, and is expected to be completed by June 2026.*

*TACMOR will support air domain awareness and maritime domain awareness requirements over the Western Pacific region. The project will demonstrate an OTH radar that is one quarter the size of traditional OTH systems. FY 2017 funding covered design and fabrication of transmit/receive enclosures, transmit/ receive arrays, and integrated system components with partner nations. FY 2018 funding covers critical design reviews, factory tests, and a military utility assessment of the system.”*

*“Department of Defense documents, as well as general US planning and policy, increasingly suggest the western Pacific as a potential future battlefield for the United States. Guam, a territorial possession of the United States since the Spanish American war in 1898, routinely houses bombers that may be tasked with flights to North Korea or China. One of the major challenges of fighting in the Pacific is that*

*the ocean is vast, and in any war that lasts more than a few hours, the ability to find, track, and attack enemy forces will be a vital component to victory.*

*By putting the radar system in Palau, the Department of Defense will be able to increase its awareness of a vast swath of sea in the region, and in turn, keep an eye on an important slice of the Pacific.”*

Military bloggers have been speculating about TACMOR and there are at least several comments and videos on the subject posted on the internet. One such video, which discusses the OTH produced in Syracuse and speculates on the new application has been edited and posted on the Syracuse Elfun Society’s YouTube site where it may be viewed by using the link <https://youtu.be/yRbeB9B91iw>.



While discussing OTH with Gary, he commented that: “I started working on the experimental version of the GE OTH at Court Street when Gary Nelsen was the Lead Engineer. I was just a young electrical engineer at the time. I went on to work in Reliability and Maintainability and eventually Quality Assurance. I started out working on the East Coast OTH design and manufacture as a Quality Engineer under Malcom (Mickey) Bienvenu, Quality Program Mgr. When he retired I took over as Quality Program Manager for OTH. That included both the internal (GE) manufacturing, suppliers, and major subcontractors over a broad area of the U.S. My responsibilities also including the construction of the two East coast sites and the eventual deployment of the hardware on site. Jack McKissick was in charge of the Software Quality Assurance in parallel with me.

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We made many visits to OTH subcontractors to monitor their progress.

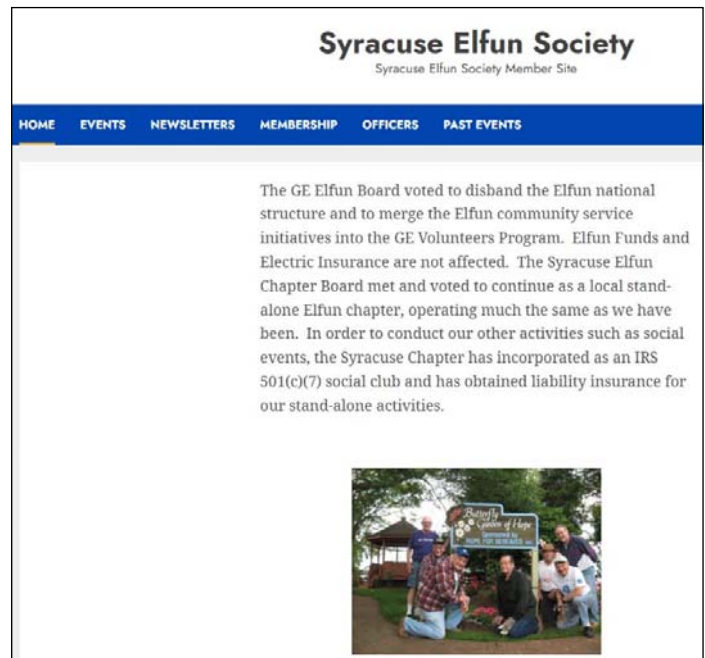
Then the contract for the West Coast sites started and I was in charge of the Quality Program Management of that as well. That effort was progressing well and the East Coast was going through final acceptance testing. I cannot remember if it had been turned over to the Air Force or not, when plans for the Alaska sites were announced as well. The land clearing for those sites was started when for some unknown reason all of the OTH contracts were cancelled. I was extremely disappointed. So much time, effort, and working with great people over many years went down the drain. Such is life I guess.”

## Thank You, Scott Fulmer

We all remember several years ago when GE disassociated itself from Elfun Society. That was a sad day for Elfuns everywhere. Our Syracuse Chapter was left without a parent organization, bylaws, a business address, and a host of other support services. Dave Fulmer was our Chair at the time, and he went above and beyond to research and enact the steps to enable our chapter to incorporate as an IRS 501(c)(7) social club and obtain liability insurance for stand-alone activities. And here we are, one of the few remaining chapters, and the most lively of those without a membership roster of actively working GE employees.

What you may not know is that Dave's son, Scott, was instrumental in establishing our new independent web site. Scott worked with Dave, our webmaster and data base manager Bob Ruth, and our newsletter editor Steve Auyer, to construct a website appropriate for our needs, all at no charge to Syracuse Elfun Society. To this day, Scott hosts our site and offers technical advice to our chapter, recently collaborating with our new webmaster, Ron Panetta, to update our process of posting chapter information. Scott continues to provide this service at no cost to our chapter.

We are so fortunate that Dave guided us into our



new, independent status, and so thankful to Scott for facilitating our website:

([www.syracuseelfunsociety.org](http://www.syracuseelfunsociety.org)) which enables us to maintain communication with our membership. Let's all thank Scott and think of him as an honorary Syracuse Elfun Society member for his contribution to our chapter.

*Cindy Chermak*

## “Power Failure”

There's been no shortage of recent books about General Electric:

2005 - **“WINNING”** - 372 pages, Jack Welch explains how anyone can become as good a manager as he was.

2009 - **“Jeff Immelt and the New GE WAY”** – 264 pages, praises Immelt as the “prototypical leader for the new century.”

2021 - **“Hot Seat”** – 340 pages, Jeff Immelt provides an “Urgently needed, and unusually raw, source of authoritative guidance for decisive leadership in uncertain times.” No comment.

2022 - **“Lights Out”** – 354 pages, explains how Im-

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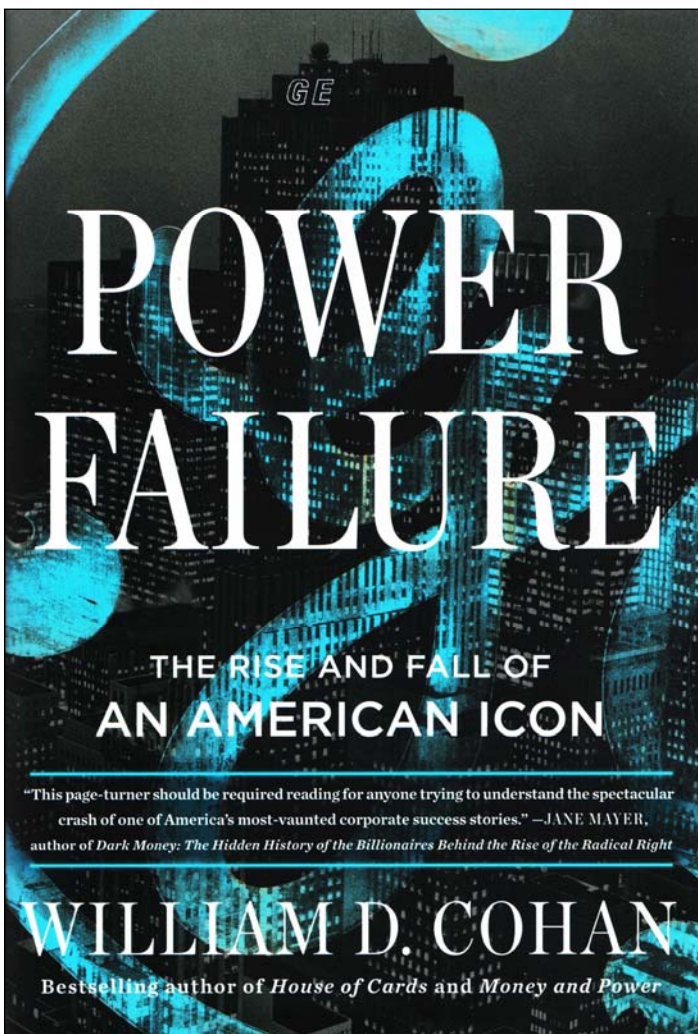


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melt's "Pride and Delusion" led to "the Fall of General Electric."

2022 - "The Man Who Broke Capitalism" – 264 pages, explains how Welch "gutted the heartland, crushed the soul of Corporate America, and how we can undo his legacy."

Now there's a new book to add to the list: "**POWER FAILURE – The Rise and Fall of An American Icon**" – just published at a weighty 798 pages, and currently selling on Amazon for \$31.94 (marked down from the original \$40).



**Power Failure** differs from the four earlier books in that it starts off with GE's history in the late 1800's with Charles Coffin piecing together a number of smaller firms to form what would eventually become known as General Electric. The book then rapidly moves along to 1981 when Welch took over as CEO.

The book's author, William Cohan had a lot of access to Welch over the years and includes many personal anecdotes about Welch (some obscene) in the book.

Cohan notes that when Reginald Jones, then the CEO of General Electric, was thinking about selecting Jack as his successor, he had Jack move into an office near him where he could watch Jack for 6 months to see whether Jack would be a good successor. Jack hated those 6 months and vowed never to repeat that step in any future selection process.

Thus, when Welch was looking for a successor, he developed a list of candidates and invited each to come in for a lengthy interview. He was most impressed with Jeff Immelt – so Jeff got the job. Welch later came to believe that he had made the wrong decision, that Immelt was not the man for the job, but by then it was too late.

The book then follows Immelt as he made one mistake after another, lost the confidence of the Board of Directors, and was replaced by John Flannery in 2017. Flannery himself was replaced by Larry Culp in 2018 – which is pretty much where the book ends.

Although "**Power Failure**" is a big book, and loaded with details, it also offers a lot of interesting commentary on what was happening behind the scenes with Reginald Jones, Jack Welch, Jeff Immelt, John Flannery and Larry Culp – not a "quick read" but an interesting one.

## Do They Look Familiar?

On the following page is an advertisement that GE ran in the October 6, 1952 edition of **LIFE** Magazine. Anyone remember that weekly magazine? A year's subscription would cost you \$6.75.

In the upper right-hand corner of the advertisement is a photo of three young engineers examining a scale model of the radar shown in the advertisement with the text: "**TYPICAL G-E RADAR ENGINEERS** are young, competitive, progressive. At G-E

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# YOUR RADAR DEFENSE MADE STRONGER BY G-E ELECTRONICS RESEARCH

**E**VEN AS YOU READ THIS, the U.S. Air Force is strengthening and expanding a vast continental radar network stretched around the strategic approaches to the U.S. and its vital production centers. The goal—to complete an electronic nerve system to detect sneak bombing missions which might be launched at us from half the world away.

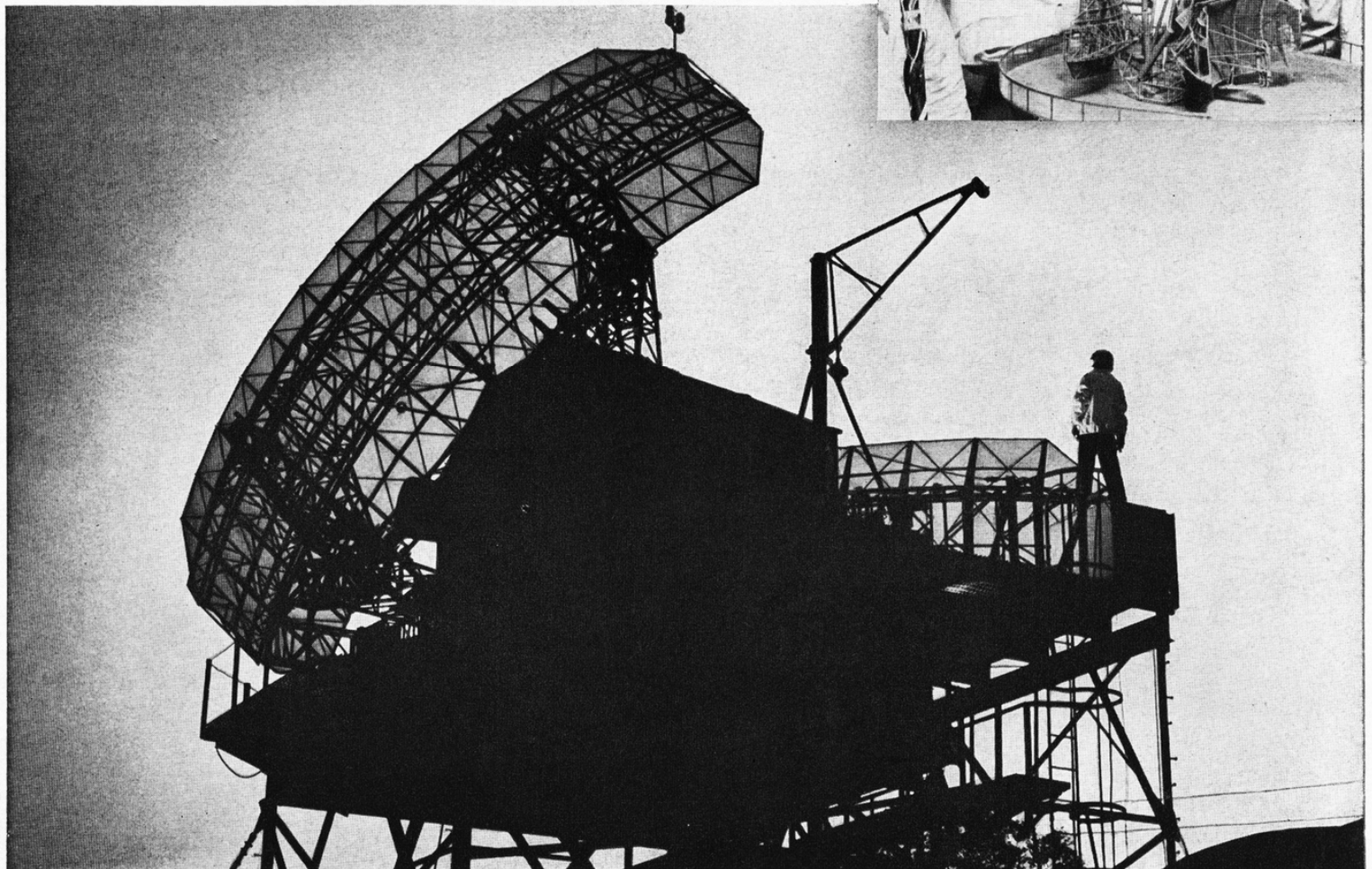
Through around-the-clock research in electronics and by the manufacture of the most advanced radar equipment, General Electric is working to give you a warning system surpassing anything heretofore available.

Improvements in our radar defense enable U.S. jet interceptors to locate the enemy quicker—farther away from our industrial centers. Precious minutes saved by more efficient radar can well be the minutes that save an American city from destruction.

G-E electronics research and production facilities are helping provide better radar not only for ground stations, but also for planes, ships, and submarines. In these vital military applications as in television, radio and all other fields of electronics, you can look to General Electric for leadership.

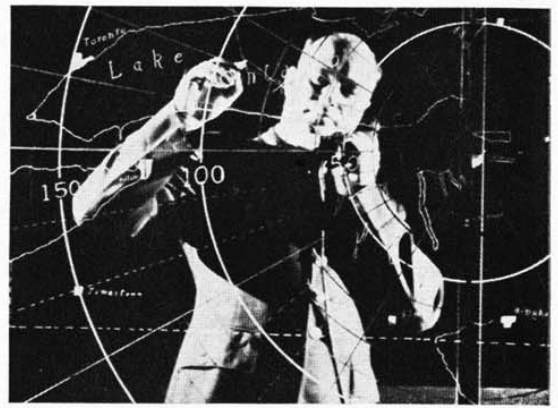
*You can put your confidence in—*

**GENERAL  ELECTRIC**



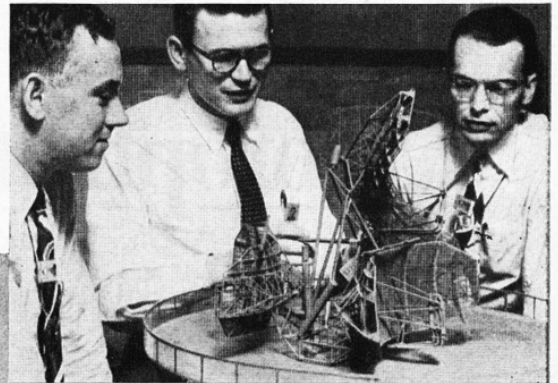
**A RADAR STATION (LOCATION MILITARY SECRET) KEEPS ITS "EAR TO THE AIR."** The giant elliptical antennas shown above, have "sails" of lace-like steel to cut down wind resistance. Sweeping the air in endless watch, these "sails" send out V-shaped beams which detect

planes as far off as 250 miles. Many of the big antennas are protected against high winds and weather by "radomes" of rubberized fabric. The balloon-like "radomes," supported only by internal air pressure, permit transmission of radar energy without loss of power.



**AIR FORCE OFFICER PLOTS UNIDENTIFIED PLANES.** Transparent chart in Air Defense Command Headquarters resembles giant spider web, gives continuous visual picture of many radar observations.

**TYPICAL G-E RADAR ENGINEERS** are young, competitive, progressive. At G-E they see their ideas developed and put to use. More than 60% of the work at Electronics Park now is devoted to the latest electronic equipment for the armed forces. Engineers not now engaged in defense programs are invited to write to Technical Personnel Office, General Electric Company, Electronics Park, Syracuse, New York.

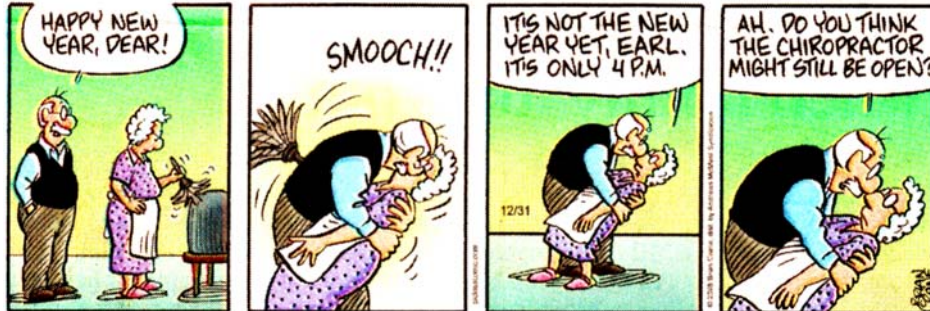




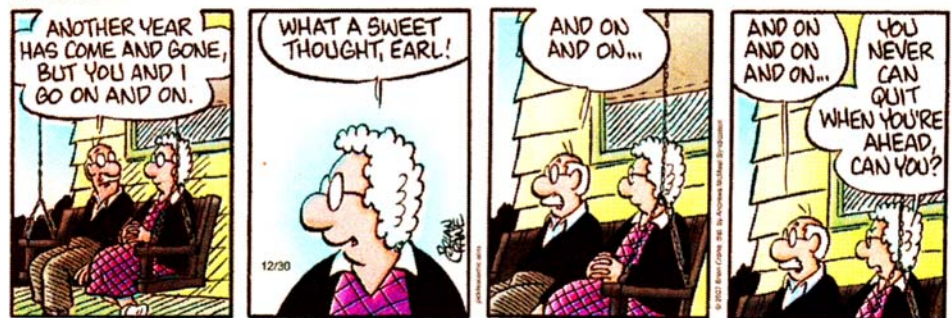
they see their ideas developed and put to use. More than 60% of the work at Electronics Park now is devoted to the latest electronic equipment for the armed forces. Engineers not now engaged in defense programs are invited to write to Technical Personnel Office, General Electric Company, Electronics Park, Syracuse, New York."

If any readers remember the system that was the subject of the advertisement, or better, the names of the "young, competitive, progressive" engineers in the photograph, we'd like to hear from you at [steve.auyer@gmail.com](mailto:steve.auyer@gmail.com). And finally, not to imply that we're aging or anything, but here are two strips of one of my favorite cartoons:

**Pickles**



**Pickles**



#### Syracuse Elfun Society Board of Directors

<u>Position</u>	<u>Individual</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Chairperson	Carl Chermak	CarlChermak@gmail.com	315-637-0380
Vice-Chairperson	open		
Secretary	open		
Treasurer	Joe Kinzel	jakinzel@msn.com	315-303-7347
Webmaster	Ron Panetta	ron@panman.us	315-451-4681
Database	Bob Ruth	RuthRob@msn.com	315-200-1321
Communications	Steve Auyer	Steve.Auyer@gmail.com	315-451-7359
Seniors	Fred Wenthen	Fred.Wenthen@gmail.com	315 637-5577
Social Events	Cindy Chermak	Chermak@msn.com	315-637-0380
Work Projects	Marv Hahn	MarvH@twcny.rr.com	315-699-2621
At Large	Don MacLaughlin	donal djmacLaughlin@gmail.com	315-652-5792
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