

# After School...

## The Newsletter of Minneapolis Retired Teachers Inc.

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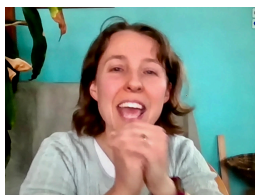
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Zoom into 2021 with MRTI



Our November and December Zoom meetings were such a success that we will continue meeting this way until we get the all-clear to meet in person again. In November, we followed Chris & Lisa Poppe on their journey to Egypt. In December, we traveled to India with Mercedes Tuma-Hanson, seeing the temples, markets and people through her eyes.



The Program Committee has created a slate of varied and interesting programs for you to enjoy from January to May.



**How can I go?** We're going via Zoom (directions on page 3). Our regular meeting callers will call to tell you about each meeting. If you wish to participate you **must** send **Denny Lander** your email address by **January 8.** ([dlander222@gmail.com](mailto:dlander222@gmail.com)) If you have already attended one of our Zoom meetings, you do not have to contact Denny again unless your email address has changed.

**Sending your email address to Denny is the only way you can participate in these meetings, whether you receive a lunch call or not!!**

**Make a sandwich and join us at 1:00!**

The meeting room will be open at 12:30.

## **Growing Up in a Coal Mine Camp School in Southern Colorado During the Great Depression (part 2)**

In early 1943, the Navy Department announced the formation of the Navy V-12 Program, a college training program designed to train officers for the growing needs of the Navy. The Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD could not train enough officers for the growing Navy which expanded from about 200,000 in 1941 to 3 million by the end of the war. While still in boot camp, I applied for the program. My academic high school record and performance on competitive tests in mathematics and other subjects was a factor in being selected. After graduating from Boot Camp, we were given 10 days of leave, so I returned home to visit my parents. When I returned to Camp Farragut, I was temporarily assigned to Ship's Company. My assignment was to make presentations to each Navy recruit company and persuade them to sign up to purchase war bonds. This was an easy assignment which gave me evenings free to go to the movie hall, the soda fountain in the Navy Exchange, the library and so on. At the end of June, I travelled by train from Spokane, Washington east to Minot State Teacher's College. There were about 300 Navy students, some who had some college credits, others recent high school graduates. I was one of only a handful who had previous naval service, so I was assigned as the Master at Arms for the second floor of the Pioneer Hall, the men's dormitory. I made bed checks at lights out and roused everyone in the morning. During my two semesters there, I had one elective and selected a typing class. Learning to type became a skill that paid off for me in a great way during my working career.

I had some interesting experiences while at Minot, including volunteer work harvesting wheat on a huge wheat farm. It was the first time I handled a team of horses with a wagon, driving through the fields to load the sheaves of wheat, and then unloading the sheaves on the large moving belt that carried the sheaves into the threshing machine. The school meals served to us at Minot were the worst I experienced while in the Navy. One of the perks for helping with the harvest was the sumptuous meals served in the farmer's dining room.

*Continued page 4*

## Issues for 2021 Legislature

Adequate funding of public schools, colleges and universities along with public pensions are primary issues that we will follow closely in 2021. Senator Tom Bakk, who previously served as Democratic Senate Minority Leader, has switched and become an Independent and will caucus with the Republicans in the coming legislative session. Senator Bakk proclaimed an "Iron Range Agenda". He calls for copper mining now on the iron range, rapid completion of the Enbridge pipe line, increasing licenses fees for electric vehicles and diverting more sales taxes to pay for roads, adding additional state aid for small public schools and no further controls on guns in Minnesota.

A recent issue of the StarTribune newspaper featured an editorial coauthored by many of the Metro area candidates that the Committee of Thirteen has supported in recent elections raising serious doubts about copper mining adjacent to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) and in the water shed of the St Louis river that feeds into Lake Superior near Duluth.

In previous columns, I have reported that in Minnesota 50% of the money for roads and bridges comes from property and sales taxes, and only 33% of the road money comes for user fees such as fuel taxes and license fees. The needs and wishes of Metro area citizens should also be addressed in the coming session. We must keep informed and support the legislators we helped elect. Stay tuned.

- *Ed Andersen,*

*Chair of MRTI Pensions & Legislation Committee*

## 2021 Program Schedule



**January 19, 2021 1:00 PM**  
**"Fix What You Can"**

Presented by Mindy Greiling  
 A legislator's challenges with  
 her son's schizophrenia.



**February 16, 2021 1:00 PM**

**"The Biological and Cultural  
 Evolution of Humankind"**  
 Presented by Dennis McGuire  
 The development of speech &  
 writing



**March 16, 2021 1:00 PM**

**"The State of Minneapolis Public  
 Schools"**

Presented by Superintendent Ed Graff



**April 20, 2021 1:00 PM**

**"Fathers, Sons and Holy Ghosts of  
 Baseball"** Presented by Tom Murray



**May 18, 2021 1:00 PM**

**"Connecting Communities through  
 the River"** presented by Tom Evers,  
 Executive Director of MPLS Parks  
 Foundation



**June 9, 2021 Field Trip**  
**Cruise on Lake Minnetonka**  
 (conditions permitting)

**All meetings will be conducted via Zoom until  
 further notice.**

## Zooming Directions

First, go to **Zoom.us** to **Download and install** a copy of the Zoom software on your computing device ( cell phone, iPad, tablet or a computer.) Your device must have a camera built in or attached.

If you are using Zoom for the first time:

- you will receive an email invitation to the meeting from Denny Lander
- start Zoom
- click on the line that starts with https://..... it will be underlined and blue.

Below is a sample, not the actual invitation.

*Denny Lander is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.*

*Topic: Denny Lander's Personal Meeting Room*

*Join Meeting*

**<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6520476121?pwd=RU-V4ZUd3Tm0xZnB0ZUZIVU5MUUVIKZz09>**

*Meeting ID: 652 047 6121*

*Passcode: 3D9ryQ*

Highlight and copy the passcode, in case you are asked to provide it.

When the meeting screen appears, if your name appears in a black square, you need to turn on your camera. Look for a red picture of a camera with a line drawn through it. Click on it to turn it green and your face will appear on the screen.

## **Interested in political activity?**

**Retired Teachers Council 59 (RTC 59)**

**"Gathering, Learning and Action"**

**Jan. 26, Feb. 23, March 23, April 27,**

**May 25 10:00am - 12:00 Noon**

**We will meet via Zoom**

**Find your invitation/link in your email**

## Coal Mine Camp cont.

In March, 1944, I traveled by train to Minneapolis, Minnesota to report to the NROTC unit at the University of Minnesota. I recall being fascinated when looking out the window of the street car as it travelled over a bridge and seeing the Mississippi River for the first time. Incoming plebes, as we were called, were issued Midshipmen uniforms, the same as those at the Naval Academy. I had to get accustomed to wearing white shirts and a black neck tie. We still wore chambray shirts and dungarees (or jeans) when doing chores. In the summer we wore basic seaman whites. A blue rim on our white sailor hats differentiated us from the V-12 sailors who wore the traditional hats

Purely by chance, I went to the USO on South Hennepin Avenue on Halloween. I was not aware that there was a Halloween Dance in the Minneapolis USO that evening, so I was surprised to walk in and find about a dozen young women dressed in various colorful costumes. There I met the daughter of Norwegian Missionaries in China, Evelyn Fauske, who was born in China on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1921. For the costume dance she was dressed in her mother's colorful Norwegian dress. We began dating shortly after that meeting.

After 20 months, my class of 70 graduated with a B.S. degree and we were commissioned as Ensigns, USNR on October 20, 1945. Several days passed before I received my orders, so I was able to date Evelyn each evening. I received orders to report to Navy Headquarters in San Francisco for deployment to the USS Fieberling DE 640, a destroyer escort. On October 29, my last evening in Minneapolis, I took Evy to dinner at Charley's, one of the most famous Minneapolis restaurants at that time. Afterwards we sat on the couch in the apartment she shared with her sister and sister-in-law and talked and talked until long after midnight about the future. We agreed to "keep in touch." I kissed her goodbye and left, not knowing if or when I would see her again. It was our good fortune to meet again just two months later on New Year's Eve.

My father was in Denver General Hospital being treated for Addison's Disease, an infection of the adrenal glands that had developed from his mine injury. After visiting him, I went home to Walsenburg. After visiting my mother, younger sister and friends, I traveled to San Francisco, where my twin sister Cathy was a Nurse Cadet at St. Luke's Hospital. I was able to visit her and

take her out to dinner several times while waiting for further orders.

I was sent to the USS Fieberling, DE-640, in dry dock for repairs in Portland, Oregon. Since it would take about six weeks to complete needed repairs, the Executive Officer in temporary command of the ship decided to send me and other new Ensigns aboard to the Damage Control School on Treasure Island near San Francisco. When I got back to Frisco, I called my sister, who had been trying to contact me. She had received word that our father was seriously ill. This was on Saturday, December 9, but I miraculously managed to maneuver my way through various Navy offices and get a 30 day bereavement leave. I got the last seat on a midnight United Airlines DC-3 plane to Denver and joined the rest of our family in the hospital on Sunday. My father passed away on December 10.

When I telephoned Evelyn to tell her about my father, she told me her brother, Hilmer, and his wife, Gloria, were visiting in Minneapolis and wanted her to return to San Francisco with them. Gloria's cousin in Los Angeles was looking for someone to share her apartment, and they assured Evy she could easily find a better secretarial job in LA. After my father's funeral, I called Evy again and invited her to stop off in Walsenburg to meet my family. I arranged for her to stay with close friends. When I kissed her goodbye two months earlier, neither of us had any idea we would meet again. When she got off the train in Colorado Springs the morning of New Year's Eve, it was obvious to me that my mother and siblings were impressed with my "girlfriend."

We traveled together by train to San Francisco, sharing coach seats. On the long trip we spent hours talking about the changes my father's death brought for me and about the future. I finally asked, **"Will you marry me sometime in the future?"** She said, **"Yes!"**

My four weeks of damage control classes on Treasure Island started. There were no living quarters available for transient officers on Treasure Island, so the Navy arranged for us to stay in a temporary Bachelor Officer's Quarters (BOQ) at the ritzy Fairmont Hotel, commuting across the bay by ferry boat. I had no night duties, so I was able to see Evy each evening until she left for Los Angeles. One of the officers in my group was married and had a home in LA. I commuted with him by automobile on two weekends to visit with Evelyn. She and her roommate, Evelyn LaMay, who was dating a Navy Chief Petty Officer, came to Frisco for one weekend.

*cont. page 5*



## Coal Mine Camp cont.

I returned to my ship thinking my fun days with Evy had come to an end, but again good fortune was with us. The Fieberling was moved out of dry dock and moored to a buoy in the Straits of Juan de Fuca near Seattle. Our new commanding officer told us we were to go to San Diego and from there to Shanghai, China. I called Evy to share the good news that I would see her again. Heavy sea swells off the coast made for a rough trip. I was very sea sick and began to question why I had ever chosen to enlist in the Navy.

On the morning the Fieberling left San Diego, Evy made a surprise bus trip to share a **“hug and hope to see you soon kiss.”** Our next port was Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. On the weeklong trip we encountered rough seas, and again I was very seasick. I got the nickname, **“The Green Ensign,”** and I seriously began to question how I would survive shipboard duty in the Navy. Sailing from Hawaii to Guam, I was a much happier sailor with calm seas. We looked forward to liberty on Guam, but a huge piece had broken off an Alaskan glacier and all Navy ships in the Pacific were alerted to the possible danger of a tidal wave. We had to stay aboard ship off the coast of Guam until the danger passed.

Our next port of call was Shanghai, China. I was fascinated by the sights we encountered: the brownish yellow color of the Yellow Sea; the many Chinese Junks; the slow trip up the Yuang Poo River guided by an experienced pilot; and finally mooring off the Bund, a sea wall in Shanghai. It was startling to see a human body floating face down in the water, slowly passing us as it moved downstream and then passing us again as the tide brought it back upstream. A few days after arriving in Shanghai, I was transferred to the USS LST 557. LSTs were used to land troops and tanks on the beaches in Europe on D Day and on Japanese-held islands in the Pacific.

In order to have a reasonably smooth post war transition releasing active duty personnel, the Navy established a point system based on the number of days of active duty served. Men who had acquired 60 points were eligible for release. With my boot camp duty and time with my NROTC days I was eligible for release but chose to stay on active duty. I was Officer of the Deck one day when Ensign John Borry came aboard.

I learned that he had been a V-12 student at the U of Minnesota when I was there. That meeting led to a life-long friendship when he returned to his wife in Minneapolis and I returned there to marry Evelyn Fauske.

Shanghai was a beautiful large city with a number of tall buildings and a large race track. We did not see evidence of any war damage in the parts of the city we were able to visit while on liberty. One day, I walked a few blocks beyond the tall buildings into a part of the city occupied only by Chinese. I was amazed to see the streets crowded with people, food stands, peddlers, a man squatting down getting a haircut, etc. The only vehicles on these side streets were rickshaws, bicyclists toting large loads, and an occasional ox drawn cart, threading their way through the people. The currency exchange rate was about 10,000 Chinese dollars to 1 American dollar, and increased almost daily. I shopped for souvenir items to send home and was fascinated to watch clerks use an abacus with nimble fingers and in mere seconds calculate the cost in American currency of purchased items. It was certainly different from the old cash register I learned to operate when working as a grocery store clerk. We got accustomed to the tradition of bartering and a peddler saying, **“You say how much, Joe.”**

We sailed north to Tsingtao. Our task was to train Chinese sailors to take over the LST after it was decommissioned, that is, removed from Navy service. This was a very challenging assignment. Most of the young Chinese were not familiar with automobiles, had almost no experience with machinery, and did not understand or speak English. Lt. Young, their commanding officer, was fluent in English, so he served as our interpreter to teach the young Chinese and was a great help to us.

I was transferred to the USS LST 1017 to assist with training another Chinese crew and the decommissioning of that ship. The worst thing for me was that with each transfer, mail delivery was disrupted for several weeks until paper work got sorted out in the Fleet Post Office (FPO) in San Francisco and in Shanghai. On June 4, 1946, LST 1017 departed Tsingtao for Fusan, South Korea. After LST 1017 was decommissioned, I was informed that I was to be released from active duty as soon as transportation back to the US was available. After a 14 day trip across the Pacific, we arrived in San Diego on July 29. It was amazing how quickly we were offloaded. My paper work was processed in just 6 hours! I headed home to visit my mother and then to visit my fiancée to make plans for our future.



*To be continued in April issue*

**Nick Lovdjieff**

# Minneapolis Retired Teachers are Cheerful Givers

During 2020, the following 190 contributors gave a total of \$11,079.00 to the MRTI Scholarship Fund

If you made a donation but your name does not appear on this list, please contact Sylvia Farrells at [angelseyf@gmail.com](mailto:angelseyf@gmail.com)

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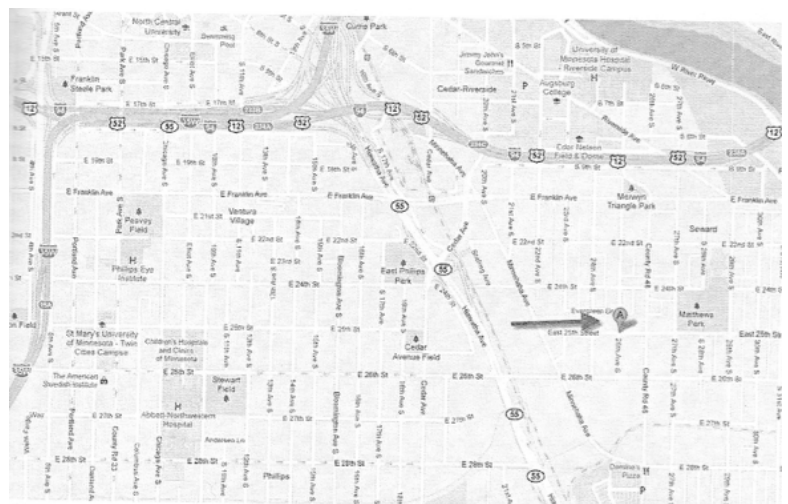
Eagles Club #34 American Legion  
(On the corner of E. 25th St. & 25th Ave. S)  
2507 E. 25th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55406

MRTI Newsletter January 2021  
Chris Poppe, editor

Articles, opinion essays and  
comments are welcome and  
should be directed to:

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