



**Montreal  
March, 2005**

**Spartans 2004 Festive Season Newsletter**

No, the dates have not been mixed up, we are just late in producing the newsletter which usually follows the semi annual luncheon. Production deadlines in retirement are more flexible than the ones we respected in our business lives. I hope you will be tolerant of the informal and even breezy tone of this letter, but I believe it reflects the informal spirit of the luncheons, which are becoming increasingly popular and well attended.

**Joining our luncheon group of 63 for the first time, were old colleagues and friends.**

Claire McCole Recently returned from North Vancouver bereaved by loss of her husband  
Dave Whitton about to relocate to the West coast  
Mohamed Abdelhadi  
Greg and Peggy Baylis both looking fine  
Hazel Osborne joining Ozzie for the first time  
Cecyl Pagé still working but happy to join old friends  
Mike Gondos well recovered from medical procedures  
Claude Richard  
Harold Linke and Diana just out of touch in Ottawa, not lost  
George Vaillancourt  
Ted Phillips  
Hilar Kurlents fortunate delay in departure for Florida, allowed him to join us  
Mathilde Grosswindhager a little apprehensive but happy to meet Fred's friends  
Peter Garland still a youngster working for EMS

**Regrets from members unable to attend**

Elsie Langdon (Note of apology)  
Henri Raymond (Out of town)  
Gilberte Gauthier (Medical appointment)  
Ed and Marie Biernat (In Florida)  
Ilse Smejkal (Recovering from a bypass operation)  
Yolande Garneau (Next time)  
Mary Buchanan (Busy)  
Bruce Berridge living in Ottawa, last minute domestic crisis  
Bill Chisholm  
Jack Sutherland Many thanks for the invitation to join you and others from  
RCA/SPAR/EMS in Montreal next week. As much as my wife and I would like to be with you  
and the others, we will not be able to. We have just returned from a trip to Montreal and Saint  
John NB, visiting our daughter, and have to attend to things around TO. Although it was on the



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occasion of a sad day, the funeral of John Collins, it was great earlier this year to see so many of the fellows who had worked at RCA. Hope you have a great time. Kindest Regards

Alphons & Dinny Evers (Next time)  
Willy Brouillet (Visiting daughter in Port Hope)  
Grace Fletcher (Visitors, and planning a trip)  
Ed Eve (Busy with new job)  
Claude Houssais (Working in Ottawa)  
Bronwen Williams (Next time)

**Correspondence**

One of the pleasures of association with this group is catching up on colleagues long out of sight but certainly not forgotten. Those of you not immediately familiar with the ISIS program might need an explanation to go with the following, but bear with us for this nostalgic exchange.

Hi Lorne

I don't know whether you remember me or not, but Evelyn Feehan sent me the Spring Newsletter plus all the names of active members.

I would like to have my name added if approved and there is this other fellow employee you might remember out here by the name of Terry Cagney. Imagine 2 SPAR employees in Nanaimo BC. Terry's address is 5227 Lost Lake Rd., Nanaimo BC Tel: 250-758-7196 I've bumped into him a few times at the grocery store. I think he retired from the Toronto location.

It was amazing looking over the list and refreshing my mental picture of all those fellow employees. Hope to hear from you soon Lorne and congratulations on your effort to keep people in touch with one another.

Ruth McWhinnie (ruthmcw@shaw.ca)  
"Pricing"

My reply

Greetings from Montreal

Yes Ruth I certainly remember you from my occasional brush with Finance, and of course Terry (Red Train) Cagney, mainly from RCA days. I first worked with Terry in the mid to late 60's when I was doing system engineering work on the ISIS A scientific satellite and reporting to John Stewart. I desperately needed help in the relatively new digital systems area, and Terry had just come free from the DIVCON program which was an engineering triumph but a business failure. I recall giving him the problem of sorting out the timing, which was essential to digital engineering, a task that I thought might take a month. To his everlasting credit and to my utter amazement he came back in about four days with the most exquisitely detailed and completely worked out solution to this task. Hard to forget a start like that. You better ask him



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for the origin of the Red Train moniker while you are giving him my best regards. See if you can get his E-mail coordinates or have him drop me a message.

Ruth replies

Hi Lorne!

Thanks for the reply. I certainly will deduct \$10 from my meager Spar pension and send it on as soon as Al or George contact me. I do have cable internet (Shaw similar to Rogers). I cannot promise to attend the luncheons, but then what is a mere \$1000 to see everyone again. Please say hello to the crowd, but just don't remind them that I was one of the "bean counters". Take care, Ruth

And then from Henry Hore

Hellooo Ruth

Terry Cagney and I worked together on the ISIS-A spacecraft that Lorne alluded to in his reply. Terry was the Systems Engineer on it and I was the Payload Engineer. We had our desks together with Joe MacNally, and the Ground Support Equipment, (GSE), engineers on the mezzanine floor, a couple of steps up from the third floor Lab, facing the St Antoine street side of the Lenoir building. Amongst the GSE group was Jim Middleton responsible for computer interfacing the GSE to the spacecraft. Terry and Jim were quite often at technical loggerheads and with the former's no nonsense, "DO IT NOW" attitude, Jim coined the "Red Train" moniker that stuck throughout the program duration!

The foregoing items were read aloud to the delight of the members.

**The luncheon attendees not already mentioned were:**

Al Lawson  
Barbara Walker  
Bill Corless  
Bob and Letty Cox  
Charles Albright  
Curt Ingerville  
Daisy Scammel  
Dave Ahmed  
Doug Jung  
Eila Tallon  
Evelyn Feehan  
George and Dorothy  
Larder

George Symeonides  
Gil Kerr

Gilles Lachapelle  
Henry and Elsa Hore  
Irma Carson  
Jane Robinson  
Jim Sisley  
Joe and Carmen McNally  
Joe and Mary Soul  
John Zacharatos  
Leo Arsenault  
Lionel and Jacqueline  
Giasson  
Lloyd & Betty Martin



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Lloyd Slaven  
Lorne and Riggie Keyes

Louis LaRoche  
Manfred Altmann  
Marion De Terry  
Marion MacCallum  
Milt Lillo  
Nicole Bourdeau  
Paul and Hanni Weijers  
Paul Loiselle

Rea Hall  
Roger Lafrance  
Roland (Rollie) Niklaus  
Svend Berg  
Ted Phillips  
Val Duk

A sampling of luncheon photos are attached to this letter. In the future we will try to establish who has a high speed Internet connection so that we can be more generous in attaching photos. This could be done when renewing your \$10 annual membership.

One sad item is to note the death of Lil Berman, a warm kindly person, and tireless photographer at Alma Mater Lenoir reunions and retirement parties. Somewhere there must be a treasure trove of her memorable pictures.

**The Spartans Spring luncheon is planned for May 5, 2005 so mark your calendar, and expect the detailed announcement in due course.**

Your reporter  
Lorne Keyes