LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

What’s Happening in Your World?
By Dave Howe, Retiree News Editor

Dear Retirees,

Welcome to the Q1 2020 edition of our BV Retiree News. I hope everyone’s 2020 is off to a great start! As you’ll see, this issue of Retiree News is filled with great, interesting stories of travels and adventures penned by your fellow retirees. I hope this will inspire you to think about stories you might have to share. Those living in the Kansas City area have just come off a dream football season, where we cheered our Kansas City Chiefs on to Miami and became the 2020 Super Bowl Champions! Do you have stories about Super Bowl parties that you hosted or attended? Or perhaps pictures of you celebrating with other Black & Veatch retirees? Are there other events, travels, milestones or news that you would like to share?

Remember, our BV Retiree News is an excellent way to stay connected, but it does require your input. How about sharing some of your adventures? The “newsier” the newsletter, the more fun it is to read. Don’t worry about writing a complete story, just send us a few points and/or pictures and we’ll put the story together for you. If you include photos with your story or article, be sure to provide a brief description of the photos.

Let’s make 2020 the year that you share your stories. Send your information and photos to RetireeNews@bv.com and we’ll make sure to include them in a future issue.

Keep traveling, keep volunteering and keep writing, but most importantly keep sharing!
Large Dangerous Rocket Ships

By BV Retirees Gayle Van Durme and Doug Elder

On Labor Day weekend 2019, the Kansas “KLOUDBusters” rocket club hosted the annual Tripoli Rocketry Association event, LDRS (Large Dangerous Rocket Ships) 38. KLOUDBusters has hosted this national event seven times because of its perfect Rocket Pasture site in Argonia, Kansas. The Rocket Pasture offers a wide-open site on the Kansas prairie with plenty of launch pads and a super-high 50,000-foot waiver.

Black & Veatch retirees Gayle Van Durme and Doug Elder, former Black & Veatch professional Rich Stoebner from Las Vegas and Kansas City friend Mike Cohen all traveled to Argonia for LDRS 38. This gathering of avid rocketeers has been featured on both the Discovery Channel and the History Channel. It serves as a forum for rocketry enthusiasts to share their special projects, and for manufacturers and vendors to showcase the latest products.

On our way to the event, a Saturday morning rain convinced us to make a short side trip to Hutchinson to the Cosmosphere. What better preface to a model rocket launching event than visiting a museum that houses the world’s largest combined collection of United States and Russian aircraft? The Cosmosphere has an impressive aviation collection that spans the entire Space Age and is well worth a visit on its own.

By the time we made our way to Argonia, the skies were clear and conditions were perfect for rocket launching. We pulled out our lawn chairs and binoculars and settled down to watch the show.

The first thing we noted was that low-power rockets took off from the launch pads nearest to the crowd, with mid-power flights taking off farther away and high-power flights even farther away. A Launch Control Officer (LCO) oversees the rocket launches, runs the launch control box and handles the announcements. The LCO also watches the range for safety violations and has final say if the rocket has a successful flight.

We witnessed hundreds of launches during Saturday and Sunday, and the action was fast and furious with launches occurring at a rapid pace. We had to be on our toes, because sometimes things went
awry during the launch or recovery portion of a rocket flight. Even if the flight was perfect, a large rocket descending under parachute could land in the spectator area. If we heard a "heads-up" warning, we were instructed to locate the rocket and protect ourselves and those with us.

The event intermixed the launches of various size rockets. Some of the smaller rockets struggled to elevate themselves 20 feet, but one of the largest rockets climbed in excess of 40,000 feet. When the bigger rockets launched, we could hear the rumble and feel the vibration. Then there was a column of smoke as the rocket streaked into the blue yonder. Along with the other onlookers, we reacted with shouts of joy when a parachute deployed at the last minute or with gasps of dismay when it failed to open and a rocket plowed into the ground.

The culmination of the event was the launch of the strangest rocket at the show. The St. Louis Rocketry Association had painstakingly built a replica of the cartoon character Marvin the Martian’s rocket ship. The team transported its ungainly ship to a launch pad on the far horizon. Crowd anticipation was high as the countdown commenced and amazingly, the 500-pound ship slowly lifted off from the pad and then proceeded with a long, arching, almost horizontal flight path. Its creators had intended it to fly straight up, but the flight was considered a great success because two large black parachutes successfully deployed and gave Marvin a soft landing.

While the KLOUDBusters won't be hosting the national event again for a few years, they do host a similar large event every Labor Day weekend. We all agreed that a trek back down to Argonia again in 2020 may be in order!
Adventures in Peru

By BV Retiree Rowe McKinley

Since retirement, my wife Becky and I have expanded our travels to include some of our “bucket list” destinations. This year we went south to Peru, principally to visit Machu Picchu, but we were also treated to other wonderful vistas and geographical terrains.

We began in Lima where we visited the Larco Museum, which is housed in an 18th century mansion with beautiful surrounding gardens. It has exhibits that include 5,000 years of pre-Columbian Peruvian history. For dinner we ate in the courtyard of a residence that is a National Historical Building. It was quite a home, and we got to enjoy our first of many “pisco sour” drinks. It tastes a little bit like a margarita made with a special “pisco” brandy.

We next flew to the town of Iquitos, Peru, where we boarded our “hotel” for the next three days, cruising on various tributary rivers that feed into the Amazon River. Our hotel was the Delfín III, a riverboat that resembled a huge boxcar flotilla on the outside. Inside, it was very plush with teak wood flooring throughout, beautifully appointed rooms and most importantly, a wonderful restaurant that served gourmet, top-of-the line meals.

Every day we would disembark the “home boat,” boarding small skiffs that held 10-12 people to travel to the day’s expedition. The first day we visited the village of Nauta, a small riverside town on the Maranon River. We visited the grade school there, where the very talented students exhibited some of their artwork. After visiting the town, we cruised up and down various branches of the river, observing parrots, toucans, hawks and egrets along the banks and in the trees.

The next day we visited the rain forest in the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve, Peru’s largest wildlife preserve spanning over five million acres. The rain forest was pretty darn humid but well worth the two- to three-hour trek. While our guide was explaining various attributes of the rain forest, his companion was “beating the bushes” with his machete looking for flora and fauna. He located an anaconda snake (our guide said that the anaconda is the strongest of the constrictor snakes, out-squeezing both the boa and the python).

We also saw a boa constrictor snake, a bushmaster (a black and white highly poisonous snake), a poisonous red/orange tree frog of about an inch in length (the natives use the poison in this frog to tip
their blowgun darts for hunting game), and a tarantula about the size of a man’s palm!

The first day back on dry land we traveled to the Sacred Valley, starting the busy day with a visit to the small town of Ollantaytambo, which is built on top of an Incan settlement. The Incan ruins there include a series of huge terraces that run up the side of a mountain. We climbed a couple of sets of steps in this village as we were headed to the top. At 11,000 feet above sea level, we appreciated our guide stopping to talk to us for about 15 minutes at the top of each set of stairs. Some of the boulders in these walls were reportedly several tons in weight and had to be rolled into place by 1,200 Incas using ropes and rollers of some sort.

The following day we took a cool train ride to the town of Aguas Calientes (warm water) and looked forward to the next morning – our trip to Machu Picchu.

We took a bus up to Machu Picchu and toured this magnificent Incan ruin for about four hours. It was exactly like the pictures we’ve all seen, but being there, in the mountains with clouds hanging around the high Andes peaks, the fresh air, the sunlit walls and shadows on the buildings, just made it glorious. It is hard to imagine the time, patience, skill, devotion and resulting structures that the Inca planners and craftsmen put into this marvelous site.

We took the train back to Cusco, the religious and administrative center of the Inca Empire, where we visited several historical and religious sites.

All in all, a trip we had long waited to take was well worth the wait!
Engineers Can’t Write

By BV Retiree Bob Renfrow

Editor’s note: The following article (which has been condensed) was written around 2007. It was recently shared again as part of “Memories” at Liia Hakk’s memorial service, November 2019.

In anticipation of my retirement, my wife had me cleaning out my home office, getting rid of all the paper I have a habit of keeping, thinking I will read, need or use sometime, but never do. I came across something that made me think about my struggles with writing in college and as a young engineer.

Back in 1989, I was managing a project for the Lincoln, Nebraska, water utility, Lincoln Water System. The initial phase of the project was for the development of a preliminary design report for future water improvements to meet the city’s needs for the next 20 years. To get this work, we had formed the Lincoln Water Consortium (LWC), which included two local engineering firms and an architectural firm.

In addition to our primary area of responsibility, water treatment evaluation and design, Black & Veatch provided overall technical quality control review of the engineering effort, including the documents that the consortium produced. Consequently, we were coordinating the writing of four different firms and I don’t know how many different engineer-authors providing written text.

Reflecting on my thoughts on writing – engineers’ writing in particular – reminded me of Liia Hakk, a lady in our office who edited many of the technical documents Black & Veatch produces. She is a very nice lady who is excellent at what she does, with a good understanding of the English language and the many engineering terms we use.

Liia’s responsibility is to help us present the project’s technical aspects in a well-written manner so our nontechnical clients, some of whom are public officials, can easily understand what we evaluated, what we recommended, and why.

I have learned over the years that sometimes her editing comments can be somewhat humorous, particularly if she knew you well. Occasionally, these edits present a
somewhat biting sense of humor that could really tear at you, if you didn’t know Liia well, or if you took them personally. Of course, these types of comments only came when you really fouled up, made stupid writing mistakes, or presented confusing text. I also believe that the comments reflected Liia’s good-natured way of getting our attention, and maybe a way to provide some relief from a long day of tedious editing.

Knowing that we had varying degrees of writing abilities from engineers on the project and the possible cutting comments from Liia, I had to prepare our engineer-authors, as well as our outside consortium authors. We did not have enough time or budget for us to sanitize any of the editing comments. I forewarned each firm that their engineers should not get upset with any of our review comments, that their engineers were being treated the same as ours, and that they should not take anything personally.

We all gained a lot from our interactions with Liia, including an understanding of good technical writing skills. We also gained an understanding and respect for what Liia contributed to the final product – a report that anyone, regardless of his or her engineering knowledge or background, could read and understand. Liia usually wrote her more biting comments on yellow sticky tabs attached to the appropriate page so that they could be easily removed from the edited copy. And yes, we typically removed the yellow tabs before forwarding the remaining editing comments to our consortium members – we thought it was best not to share.

As I read Liia’s comments, I enjoyed the humor the notes provided while still relaying the appropriate message to the author of the text. As an engineer who struggled with writing, I began to save some of the yellow sticky editing comments as I thought they might make a good retirement gift for Liia, whenever she retired.

Even as I read these faded editing comments again after almost 17 years, they still make me smile and contemplate what we as engineers had written that initiated such frustration to produce such prose. I do believe my interactions with Liia over the years have helped me improve my writing, as I think it has for many other young engineers.
BV Retiree Bob Banker Celebrates Birthday in Style

By BV Retiree

The Management Consulting monthly lunch group (a.k.a. Old Geezers) held its January 2020 lunch at the home of Black & Veatch retiree Paul Hoback and his wife, Nelda. The “Geezers” were treated to a delicious home-cooked meal followed by a celebration of Black & Veatch retiree Bob Banker’s 93rd birthday! Those lucky “Geezers” who got to share the meal and participate in the birthday celebration included: Bob Banker; Keith and Liz Barber; Bob and Susan Benson; John Harris; Nelda and Paul Hoback; Peggy and David Howe; Larry Lauen; and Becky and Rowe McKinley.

Spoiler Alert: Bob successfully blew out all the candles on his cake in one try!

Connect With Your Fellow Retirees!

Black & Veatch retirees have their own Facebook page and it’s a great way to connect.

If you haven’t done so already, please join the Black & Veatch Retirees Facebook page so you can keep up with what your fellow retirees are doing and let everyone else know what you’re up to.

• After you log in to Facebook, search for “Black & Veatch Retirees.”
• Once you get to the Retiree page, click Join.

Facebook is one more way to connect with other retirees and share stories that we might include in Retiree News.

NEWLY RETIRED

The following Black & Veatch professionals retired April-June 2019.

**OCTOBER**
- Paul Amon
- Charles C. Cassady
- Kenneth Glenn
- Christian Asuncion Connell
- Doug Dickinson
- Mark S. Dover
- Michael A. Gaumnitz

- Thomas A. Gibson
- James H. Hargrove
- John R. Hughes
- Kevin M. Hunsicker
- Mark R. Jones
- Vladimir I. Kantor
- John B. Nagle
- Gertrude Neil
- William F. Roush

**NOVEMBER**
- Patrick G. Calhoun
- James F. DiMauro
- Harry McMillan

- Dinnie
- Marsha M. Johnson
- Michael L. Keith
- Warren J. Paul
- Jon Rice
- Henricus H. Spee

**DECEMBER**
- David L. Abrams

- Thomas Perry Davis
- Mario Garcia
- Louis W. Graving
- Neil R. Hemmingsen
- Kevin A. Kerschen
- John D. Kriegshauser
- Laverne T. Masanque
- Yonairo De Jesus
- Maya
- S. Dennis McKee

- Sara J. Moll
- Tyrone Allen Morgan
- Joseph K. Plubell
- Miguel Raya
- Emery P. Soileau, Jr.
- Owen Leecester
- Tulloch
- Lyle A. White
CONDOLENCES

Black & Veatch retiree Benjamin “Ben” J. Stables, Jr., passed away on Tuesday, 26 November 2019, at Saddleback Medical Center in Laguna Hills, California. He was 95. Ben served in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1946, and his ship carried soldiers across the English Channel to Omaha Beach on D-Day of the Normandy invasion. Taking advantage of the G.I. Bill, Ben earned a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree at the University of Minnesota. Upon graduation in 1951, he went to work for Black & Veatch where he worked in the Power business in a variety of roles during his 39-year career. He became a partner in the firm in 1979.

Sam Wolfinbarger, Black & Veatch retiree, passed away peacefully Tuesday, 17 December 2019, after a year-long battle with cancer. He was 80. A native Missourian, Sam attended the University of Missouri at Rolla and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1961. Following two years of active duty with the U.S. Army he returned to Missouri and joined the Civil/Environmental Division at Black & Veatch Consulting Engineers. He later spent several years with another firm in Springfield, Missouri, before returning to Kansas City and rejoining Black & Veatch as a Project Manager, a role he held until his retirement.

Black & Veatch retiree Phillip Burke passed away Sunday, 12 January 2020. He was 85 years old. Survived by his wife, children and numerous other loving family members and friends, Phillip leaves behind a legacy of community service in addition to his career at Black & Veatch. He was a volunteer for 4H and Boy Scouts and was a youth leader and Sunday School teacher. Phillip enjoyed spending time with his much-loved family and creating woodworking gifts for his great-grandchildren and other family members.

James P. “Jim” Radda, Black & Veatch retiree, passed away on Monday, 10 February 2020. He was 76. Jim joined Black & Veatch in Kansas City in 1979. In addition to his time in Kansas City, his career took him to Indonesia and Thailand for coordination of quality assurance/control, procurement, production engineering, project controls, office administration, IT and translation. Jim transferred to the Portland, Oregon, office in 1995 and served as the Project Controls Manager, then Operations Manager. He was appointed Director of Production for the Energy Beijing regional office in 2007 and worked there until his retirement in 2009. Jim then returned to Lake Oswego, Oregon and spent the past 10 years gardening, volunteering and spending time with family.

Beijing: Past, Present and Future

HAPPY 15TH ANNIVERSARY! BV’s Beijing office celebrates a milestone.

Professionals in Beijing celebrated a major milestone on 24 December: 2019 marked the Beijing office’s 15-year anniversary as a wholly foreign-owned entity.

Black & Veatch’s journey in mainland China began some 40 years ago through its role on a major power plant to serve the people of Beijing. An office was opened in the city in 1995.

To commemorate the anniversary, the office created a video showcasing its history, projects, social responsibility and employee engagement since its inception.

Since its first project developing the Shijingshan Power Plant for Beijing Electric Power Administration in
Beijing: Past, Present and Future
Continued from page 9

1979, the Beijing office has contributed to major power developments in China and reliably delivered new and innovative technologies. For example, in 2004 Black & Veatch participated in the Longtan Hydropower Dam, an important cog in China’s East-West Power Transmission project. The facility remains the highest roller compacted concrete (RCC) dam in the world. Fast-forward to 2019, when Black & Veatch delivered numerous General Electric F-class advanced combustion turbines plants across China, 9FB, alleviating the reliance on coal-fired steam generating facilities.

For Oil & Gas clients, the Beijing office works at every stage of the facility lifecycle. The company has completed more than 20 liquefied natural gas (LNG) production facilities throughout China, most of which feature Black & Veatch’s patented PRICO® LNG technology. The first floating LNG facility, Exmar Tango, was built in Nantong, China, and the Beijing office helped guide the industry-leading efforts to provide topside engineering and plant equipment for the project.

One of Black & Veatch’s most significant contributions to China’s commercial development is through our partnership with Chinese developers overseas to support the export of Chinese major and balance of plant (BOP) equipment for power plants in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Europe and Americas. The Central Java Super-Critical Coal Fired Power Plant in Indonesia, led by the Beijing office, is selected as a case in the Third-Party Market Cooperation Guidelines and Cases issued by the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of P.R. China on its official website.

“We started with fewer than 10 people in 2004 and have grown to a 210-plus team that serves as an important global and regional center of excellence in a variety of key technical areas,” said Peiyuan (Wayne) Dong, Beijing Office Manager. “It is through the investments in Beijing professionals’ capabilities as international experts that we are helping our clients stay ahead in these times of change and embrace the innovative technologies. We honor the past, celebrate the present and will continue pursuing excellence for the future.”

Beijing office leaders celebrated the milestone anniversary with a cake cutting.

The Art of Infrastructure

FIELD DAY. The majesty and mystery of BV Water projects featured in photo exhibition at Chicago’s Field Museum.

A photographic series of municipal water and wastewater facilities, including some engineered by Black & Veatch, formed the basis of the recently concluded “State of Water: Our Most Valuable Resource” exhibition at the Field Museum in Chicago, Illinois.

Chicago-based photographer Brad Temkin created the series – as described in a February 2019 Wired magazine story (www.wired.com/story/wastewater-treatment-gallery) – inspired by the complex and, for many, mysterious infrastructure built to capture, treat and deliver water safely and in vast amounts in urban environments.

A major project supported by Black & Veatch and included in the exhibition was Chicago’s Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP). One of the largest public works projects for pollution and flood control, TARP protects water quality in regional waterways and Lake Michigan (mwrd.org/tunnel-and-reservoir-plan). Black & Veatch
has provided planning, design, engineering and construction support on various aspects of TARP since 2001.

Temkin’s perspective on the facilities is abstract, not documentary, focused on unusual forms in the infrastructure. For example, a monolithic concrete block rises from the floor of McCook Reservoir, a converted quarry and core component of TARP that serves as a 3.5-billion-gallon stormwater and sewage management system. In another image, a surface of green water looks like an aerial shot of a mountainous region on an alien planet.

Art was Tempkin’s top priority for the series originally, but the exhibition used the labels accompanying his images to explain the functions of the systems that Temkin shot. The concrete “baffle” block at McCook is part of an energy dissipation solution designed by Black & Veatch to tame the flow of sewage and stormwater when it races into the reservoir during extreme wet weather events. The alien planet? It’s a clarifier at a water reclamation plant. Using the arresting beauty of the photography, the exhibition fostered a fresh appreciation of water and all it takes to bring it to people’s fingertips, ready for use at a moment’s notice.

Miguel Sanchez, Engineering Manager, has worked extensively on TARP facilities. He said he was “truly awed to see the results of our work displayed in this way, and extremely proud that our contributions can be considered a part of this.”

Furthering the message of the exhibition, Black & Veatch sponsored an event at the Chicago City branch of the American Public Works Association (APWA). Attendees were given a viewing of the photographs and heard remarks from Temkin as well as leaders of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, the City of Chicago’s Department of Water Management and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chicago District.

“Black & Veatch professionals from different business units and different offices around the world provided expertise that was essential to the success of the projects featured in the exhibition,” said Dave Koch, Associate Vice President. “It was a thrill to see their solutions featured, and it gave a fresh perspective on how we’re making a difference in communities around the globe.”

Check out Temkin’s “The State of Water” portfolio to see photographs from the exhibition: https://bradtemkin.com/portfolio/the-state-of-water/.

The “State of Water: Our Most Valuable Resource” exhibit at Chicago’s Field Museum depicted Black & Veatch-engineered solutions at the McCook Reservoir.
SEND US YOUR STORIES!

We want to let other retirees know about your life. Share your updates by emailing your personal news and photos to RetireeNews@bv.com. We’re seeking newsletter stories on subjects including:

- **Traveling** – Tell us about your most recent trip.
- **Awards received** – Share the good news with fellow retirees.
- **Community involvement** – Let’s hear about how you give back.
- **Reflections on working at Black & Veatch** – What was the most interesting thing you experienced while working for the company?