

Upcoming Meetings:

March 13, 2019, 10:00 a.m.

TVA Community Credit Union
 Program: Col Ed Yeilding
 Free Lunch, Door Prizes

June 18, 9:30 a.m.

Annual Picnic & Health Fair
 Program: Health, Fitness, & More
 Great Door Prizes (thousands of \$)

September 11, 10:00 a.m.

TVA Community Credit Union
 Program: Scholarship Presentations
 Free Lunch, Door Prizes

December 11, 10:00 a.m.

TVA Community Credit Union
 Program: To Be Announced
 Free Lunch, Door Prizes

Be sure to receive this newsletter—
 enter/update your email address by
 sending it to Reba Whitson at

rjwhitson@tva.gov@tva.gov

Index

Quarterly MeetingPg. 1
 Landing his BlackbirdPg. 2
 Garden ProgramPg. 3
 Valleywide SummaryPg. 4
 Meals on WheelsPg. 7
 EaglesPg. 8
 Endowed Scholarship.....Pg. 9
 Annual PicnicPg. 10
 Paper Clips.....Pg. 11
 Help NeededPg. 12
 Suggestions.....Pg. 13



Muscle Shoals TVARA is on Facebook now!

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MS CHAPTER TVARA QUARTERLY MEETING

Hello everyone,

We are starting a new year with several community projects. Our chapter members are currently supporting the Annual Garden Program. We will be in need of volunteers as we move forward.

Our next Quarterly Meeting will be held March 13, 2019, 10:00 a.m. at the TVA Community Credit Union on Wilson Dam Road in Muscle Shoals. Our scheduled speaker is U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Ed Yeilding (ret) of Florence, who, in 1990, set a coast-to-coast aircraft speed record of 67 minutes and 54 seconds, in an SR-71 spy plane. (See next article)

PLEASE NOTE: The credit union staff has asked us not to park in the spaces at the front of their building. Parking will be available at the rear of the credit union and at the parking lot of Tri-Cities Church of Christ, located across the side street, to the north of the credit union.

Reminder: The Muscle Shoals Chapter of the TVARA holds membership meetings each calendar quarter, the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Quarter meetings are held at the TVA Community Credit Union on Wilson Dam Road in Muscle Shoals, and the 2nd Quarterly meeting is our annual health fair and picnic

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held at the Florence/Lauderdale Coliseum in Florence. Please join us at our quarterly meetings for good fellowship, interesting speakers, and lunch.

We have a number of sponsors for our newsletter and for our involvement in community projects, so please support these sponsors anytime you have an opportunity.

Landing his Blackbird at March Meeting

Ed Yeilding, Lt Col (ret), was born in 1949 at the Auburn University Infirmary. He was raised in Florence, AL, near the end of Cypress Mill Road (up the hill from Cypress Creek).



In 1963, he became an Eagle Scout with Troop 287 (Scoutmasters Ted Margolin and Henrick Aune). He graduated from Coffee High School in 1967. He was an electrical engineering co-op student at Auburn University, working at Arnold Engineering and Development Complex, and TVA's Cumberland Steam Plant. He was commissioned through the Air Force ROTC. After pilot training at Williams AFB, AZ, his assignments were the RF-4 at Bergstrom AFB, TX; and Okinawa, Japan; the F-4E fighter at Moody AFB, GA; the SR-71 at Beale AFB and Palmdale, CA; and the C-20 at Andrews AFB near Washington, D.C. While at Moody AFB in 1982, he earned a Master's degree in Management through an extension of Troy University.

In 1983, he was selected for the SR-71 at Beale AFB, CA. He flew 93 SR-71 overseas reconnaissance missions and became an SR-71 instructor pilot and developmental test pilot. When the SR-71 fleet was retired in 1990, the Smithsonian Institution requested a plane for display. Departing California March 6, 1990, SR-71 tail 972, pilot Ed Yeilding, and RSO (Reconnaissance Systems Officer) J. T. Vida set an official coast-to-coast aircraft speed record and three city-to-city speed records to call the public's attention to the retirement of the amazing SR-71 and to honor all

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Vice President

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Secretary: Carol Sherer

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Board Member: Cameron Kay

Board Member: Jim Green

Board Member: Bill Baggett

TVARA Picnic Mgr.: Henry Long

Garden Program Mgr.: James Bedsole

Hospitality: MJ Ligon

Wilson Dam Visitors WT: Lewis Frederick

Endowed Scholarship: John Ingwersen

Newsletter: John Ingwersen, Janice Berry

Contacts:

For Problems (Benefits, Pharmacy),

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*Comments or recommendations for your
newsletter: Send to*

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supported, and flew the SR-71 during its 25 years of vital Cold War service. The records still stand. Cruise speed was the flight manual limit, mach 3.3, 2190 miles per hour, reaching an altitude that day of 83,000 feet, flying coast-to-coast in 67 minutes 54 seconds. That SR-71 is on display at the Smithsonian's Udvar-Hazy Center near Dulles International Airport, west of Washington D.C.



In his next assignment, at Andrews AFB MD, 1990-'96, Ed flew world-wide Special Air Missions in the C-20. His passengers included the Vice-President, four-star generals, cabinet members, senators, congressmen, ambassadors, and First Ladies.

After 23 years of active military service, Ed next flew the DC-9, DC-10, and the 747-400 for Northwest Airlines, retiring in 2009 as a Delta pilot after the airlines merged. In 2007, he was added to the Alabama Aviation Hall of Fame at the Southern Museum of Flight in Birmingham; in 2008, to the Walk of Honor near the Marriott Shoals Hotel in Florence AL; and in 2011, he was named Distinguished Eagle Scout. His military awards include three Meritorious Service Medals, four Air Medals, three Commendation Medals, and four Combat Readiness Medals.

Never married, Ed has enjoyed living again in his hometown of Florence AL since 2005, and is an active member of North Wood Methodist Church. He enjoys community activities, flying his Citabria, and he gives frequent talks about the fascinating SR-71 Blackbird.

Ed's father, William E. Yeilding, was a TVA electrical engineer for 35 years; and his brother, John W. Yeilding, is a TVA mechanical engineer who worked at Colbert Steam Plant and is currently at Brown's Ferry Nuclear Plant.

Gerald Williams Cooperative Garden Program

By James Bedsole

We very much appreciate BVI for donating a substantial amount to the garden program this year. Their support has consistently been there every year and goes a long way toward making this program a great success.

Each year, our TVA Retirees Chapter has the privilege of **\$5,000 Check presented to Community Action for Garden Program** (left to right): **Tim Cornelius, Joan Marsh, Tammy McDaniel, Gary Jarnigan** helping low-income families plant a garden by providing seeds, plants, and a bag of fertilizer—enough supplies to grow a 50' by 100' garden that



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will provide the family with fresh vegetables all summer and will save them \$500 in grocery bills. Those members of our Chapter wishing to help this year should call Tim Cornelius at 256-483-5917 or 5275, to sign up; or sign up at our March Chapter meeting. Working together, we will help over 1,000 families. Last year, our Chapter provided more than 600 work hours to make this vital program work.

Following are the activities for which volunteers are needed:

1. Receive telephone calls from February 5 through March 15, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Community Action Center, Sheffield.
2. Label post cards at Community Action Agency Building, Florence, on Monday, March 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
3. Pre-package seeds into single-serve packs on April 1 & 2—a total of 8,000 packs are needed. We will need 25 volunteers for this effort, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the old Board of Education Building on U.S. 72.
4. Distribute plants and seeds from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on April 16 & 17. This will require 25 volunteers' working from the old Board of Education Building on U.S. 72.
5. Distribute plants and seeds in Russellville, on Wednesday, April 16. If you would like to volunteer, call the Russellville Community Action Agency.



Join a Caring Community. Five clubs in Shoals area meeting at various times and days. Call Cameron Kay at 256-810-6569 for a club near you!

This is a good program to help those in our community who are willing to help themselves. They will reap the harvest, and we will know our help was needed. At the same time, you can enjoy the fellowship of other TVA retirees and catch up with former colleagues.

February Valleywide Meeting Summary

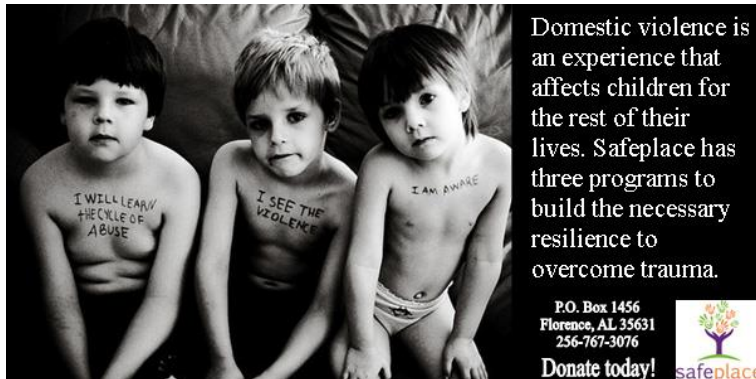
By John Blackwell

The participants in the conference call were TVARA Valleywide officers and guests. Dewitt Burleson, TVARA President, opened the meeting by remembering and recognizing the contribution of Charles Smith, President of the Nashville Chapter.

TVA Update—Susan Lauver, Manager, Brand Marketing, TVA Communication, reported the following:

- The TVA Board of Directors met on February 14, 2019, and conducted a listening session on February 13, 2019.
- Bill Johnson, TVA CEO, announced his retirement and a replacement is being recruited.
- 2018 was a great year for TVA with its debt the lowest in 25 years.
- No problems arose in meeting the power demand of the cold weather.
- TVA is developing a 20-year Resource Plan.
- Valleywide, rainfall measured a record 67 inches.
- TVA prevented about \$250 million in flood damage.
- 2018 saw industry investing \$4.3B, with 25,000 jobs.
- Susan expressed appreciation to the 1,200 retirees that participated in the Brand research.

Jerry Landon, Program Manager, Healthcare Plans, TVA



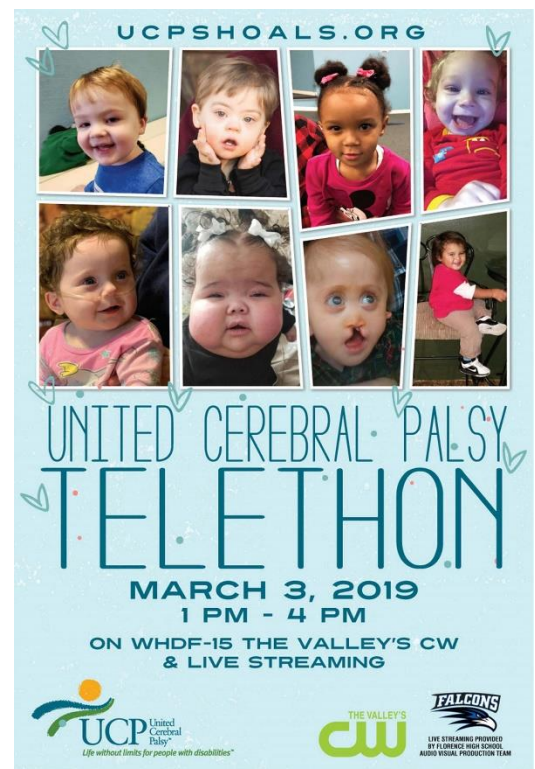
Employee Benefits, reported the following for 2019:

- Some changes have been made in the medical insurance plans for the 3,800 retirees under 65 years of age.
- Few changes were made in the medical insurance coverage for those under age 65.

- For retirees over age 65, John Blackwell discussed these changes in the enclosed article.

Pat Brackett, Executive Secretary of TVA Retirement System Board, announced his retirement. Interviews are underway for a replacement.

- The assets of the TVARS are between \$7.5B and \$8B.
- IRS forms 990 have been mailed to all retirees. The TVARS will be glad to follow-up when a retiree contacts them.
- The TVARS Board is continuing the process of filling the seventh Director's position and has interviewed 5 candidates.
- The next meeting of the TVARS Board will be held March 7, 2019.



The minutes of the November 1, 2018, meeting were approved.

The Treasurer's report for the 4th Quarter of 2018 was approved.

Dewitt Burleson, Valleywide President reported.

Richard Wilson, presented the membership report for February 4, 2019.

Reny McClain-Lee, Volunteer Coordinator reported the following:

- Few projects were underway during the last quarter of 2018, due to bad weather.
- The Muscle Shoals Chapter was recognized for its work with Meals on Wheels and the Garden Program.
- The Western Chapter is working with LBL to investigate establishing an education program.
- The Knoxville Chapter is investigating establishing a garden seed program and working on a Veterans Park Memorial.
- Work is continuing on the TVA oral history.
- TVA has indicated a desire to work with retirees on an "Adopt a Trail" Program. TVA has 170 miles of trails. Specifically, TVA would like the support of retirees in conducting quarterly reports on the conditions of the trails. No manual work would be requested.
- In 2018 TVARA chapters spent \$95,000 on projects.
- Suzan Bowman met with Scott Garnett, TVA Communication, to discuss recognizing TVARA projects on TVA's Twitter and Facebook accounts. There was support of this involvement by the attendees.
- TVA will be announcing the date for the TVA Retirees Appreciation Picnic on October 12, 2019.
- The picnic location will be moved indoors to the Chattanooga Convention Center.
- This convention center offers several benefits to the attendees, such as controlled heating and cooling, a much better sound system, more food options, less cost to TVA, and less work by retirees to conduct the picnic.
- Discussion was held concerning moving the picnic back to Guntersville, AL. Generally, most attendees wanted the picnic location to remain in Chattanooga. Susan Bowman stated that TVA, in the future, may consider moving the picnic to Nashville, TN.



Dewitt announced that the March newsletter would be released as planned, with 16 pages of articles of interest to TVA Retirees.

Meals On Wheels

A Muscle Shoals Chapter TVARA Partner

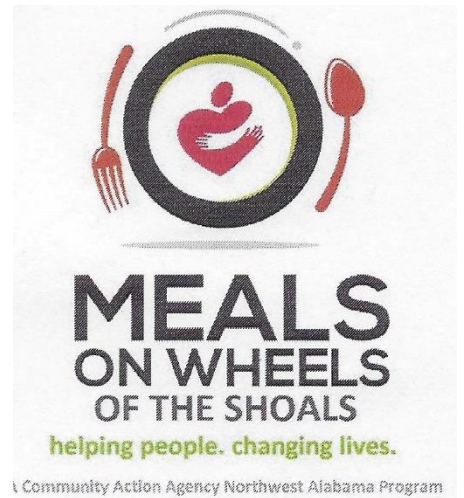
By Gary Jarnigan

Many of our Shoals Chapter members serve Meals On Wheels by delivering meals during the week. This year, our Chapter obtained a \$5,000 BVI grant to assist with this program that is so important to our community.



\$5,000 Check presented to Community Action for Meals on Wheels Program (left to right) Tim Cornelius, Joan Marsh, Tammy McDaniel, Gary Jarnigan.

People with homebound disabilities have to cope with the threat of hunger, isolation, and loss of independence. However, with the help of Meals On Wheels Of The Shoals, they are furnished with one nutritious meal per day, seven days a week, all year long. Warm meals are delivered to the recipient's door between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and noon on weekdays. Pre-prepared frozen meals are issued for weekends and holidays. The people are not only getting warm meals, but are able to interact with the friendly Meals On



Wheels (MOW) volunteers from the community. Friendships are established, which are also a blessing to the volunteers.



MOW is a program through the Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama that delivers consistent nutritious meals to about 165 homebound elderly and disabled people who live alone in Colbert, Franklin, and Lauderdale Counties. The meals are served at no cost to the homebound person. The program costs \$199,000 a year to feed the currently enrolled, which is a little more than three dollars per



meal. This is all funded by donations from the local community, local city and county governments, businesses, and organizations such as United Way and TVARA. Community Action Agency has a part-time employee who coordinates the program by visiting the homes, coordinates the volunteers, and speaks publicly about MOW. The coordinator also visits the homes of potential clients to determine whether the applicant qualifies. The person must be 18 years of age or older, disabled and homebound, and live

alone. The person also must be unable to prepare a nutritious meal and must meet the low-income guidelines.

At this time, MOW does not have enough funding to include all who are qualified. However, as more donations come in, the money will go directly for meals to additional qualified people.

More than 400 dedicated volunteers, with several being TVARA members, deliver meals on a yearly basis. TVARA has also given \$5,000 this year to support MOW. With the cost of \$1,204 a year per person, this gift from TVARA helps cover the costs of preparing for more than four people for a year.

I am currently on the board of the Community Action Agency (CAA) of Northwest Alabama. The CAA is a private non-profit corporation that strives to help people in Colbert, Lauderdale, and Franklin Counties who need a little help from time to time. We could not do it without our army of dedicated volunteers. I would like to recognize TVARA members who volunteer their time to Meals On Wheels of The Shoals. If you are a volunteer, please send me an email with your name and the number of hours you volunteer to gary.jarnigan@yahoo.com.

Bald Eagles on Wilson Lake -There is love in the Air

By John Blackwell

During most of John Blackwell's 77 years growing up on the Tennessee River, no bald eagles were sighted. However, over the past several years, the Bald eagles are making a comeback. It is a great experience seeing the national symbol soaring through the



skies above the Tennessee River. More and more folks in the Tennessee Valley are realizing that the eagle population is increasing and are enjoying this spectacular sight.



A pair of Bald eagles have established a nest on the Blackwells' property on Wilson Lake near Wilson Dam in the city of Muscle Shoals. This nest is located in Northwest Alabama on the Tennessee River and is one of many in Colbert and Lauderdale counties which border the river. The Blackwells have proven to be good neighbors, and this will be the fourteenth year the eagles have returned. Steve Letson, Wildlife Photographer, and other eagle enthusiasts have been spending time watching and photographing the eagles.

The eagles built a large nest consisting of twigs and limbs and grass. This nest is about 90 feet up in a pine tree and has a great view of Wilson Lake. The nest has a bowl-like depression in the center. The parents fill the depression with grass and straw to make a level surface, and in the middle of that they excavate a smaller cup.

Eagles re-use their nests season after season, with some nests believed to have been occupied for hundreds of years continuously. January is the time of year when the eagles begin to get the nest ready. After rebuilding the nest, the next step is to mate. The eagles have been seen courting and mating, and it will be two or three weeks before the eggs are laid. The female settles on the cup of the nest and lays her egg into it. Eagles usually lay between one and three eggs.

Most of the time, 3 days are between eggs' being laid. Once the first egg is laid, the eagles will protect the nest by sitting on it around the clock. The incubating period starts from the time the first egg is laid. An egg usually weighs about 4 ounces, compared with a chicken egg, which weighs 1.5 to 2.5 ounces. The eggs will hatch in the same order in which they were laid—3 days apart. The eagles will share



incubating duties for the eggs. Each eagle will sit on the eggs for about five hours, keeping the eggs warm and turning the eggs occasionally. The eagle will part the feathers on its chest to be sure the egg is against its bare skin. The incubation period is about 35 days. If things go as planned, sometime in March, there will be a hatching. So, stay tuned!

(Photographs provided by Steve Letson, Wildlife Photographer)



Muscle Shoals Chapter TVARA/UNA Endowed Scholarship Your Support Needed!

We have several businesses and charities who are supporting our endowed scholarship by providing financial support through the purchase of ads for our newsletter and booths at our Annual Health Fair/Picnic. We thank them for their generous support and hope that each of our members will look at their advertisements in this and future newsletters and support these businesses and charities as they support us.

As of December 31, of this year, our endowment has reached \$53,469, up more than \$8,600 from our January 2018 balance. In the three-month period from November 2018 through December 2018, we have had contributions from the following: Penny Walker and John & Lynn Ingwersen.

The endowment for 2018-2019 is supporting two \$800 scholarships. As the fund continues to grow, we can start looking forward to increasing the endowment so that we can increase the number and amount of the scholarships. The scholarship award gives preference to relatives of active Muscle Shoals TVARA members. The application process is completed for the 2019–2020 academic year, and the scholarship(s) for the 2019-2020 academic year will be presented at our September Quarterly meeting, along with a \$100 award for the best essay submitted with an application.

Donations are tax deductible. Make your check payable to Muscle Shoals Chapter TVARA/UNA Endowed Scholarship and mail it to:

UNA Foundation Office (Attn: Endowed Scholarships)
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UNA Endowment Luncheon. (L-R) John Ingwersen, Lynn Ingwersen, Joan Marsh

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Muscle Shoals Chapter Annual Picnic

The Muscle Shoals Chapter TVARA Annual Picnic is just around the corner. On Tuesday, June 18, starting at 9:30 a.m. we will once again have the annual picnic for the Shoals area, with thousands of dollars in giveaways, delicious food, and vendors with valuable information for you. While all TVA retirees are invited, an invitation will be sent out to all our PAID Muscle Shoals

members only. If you wish to be included in our mailing and receive many other benefits, join TVARA today by sending your check or money order for only \$15.00 for a full year membership to:

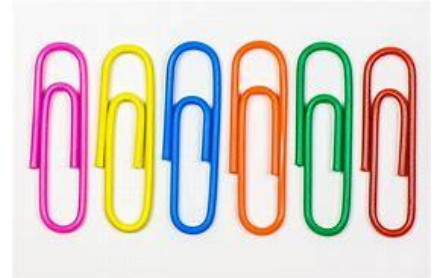
TVA Retirees Association
400 West Summit Hill Drive, SPT 5A
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

THE INVENTION OF THE PAPER CLIP

Contributed by Joan Marsh

DID YOU KNOW?

- During the Nazi occupation of Norway in World War II, Norwegians made the paper clip a symbol of national unity. Wearing a paper clip was often reason enough for arrest.
- A giant paper clip in Oslo Norway was erected as a memorial to Johan Vaaler.
- Eighteen billion paper clips are used annually just in the United States.



THE STORY:

Consider the humble paper clip: It's just a thin piece of steel wire bent into a double-oval shape, but over the past century, no one has invented a better method of holding loose sheets of paper together.



The common paper clip is a wonder of simplicity and function, so it seems puzzling that it wasn't invented earlier. For centuries, straight pins, string, and other materials were used as fasteners, but they punctured or damaged the papers. While the paper clip seems like such an obvious solution, its success had to wait for the invention of steel wire, which was "elastic" enough to be stretched, bent, and twisted.

The first paper clip was invented by Samuel Fay in 1867. The patent (#64,088) was issued on April 23, 1867, for a Ticket Fastener. Fay specified in the description that, in addition to attaching tickets to garments, it could be used to hold papers together. Fay's design, along with the 50 other designs patented prior to 1899, are not even close to the modern design we know today. But the modern paper clip existed on paper as early as April 27, 1899. It appears on a patent (#636,272) issued November 9, 1899, to William D. Middlebrook of Waterbury, Connecticut. Middlebrook invented, not just the paper clip, but he also invented a machine to produce the paper clip. The patent drawings clearly show the final product—the common paper clip. In his description, he makes reference that both the machine and the paper clip design are to be covered by the patent.

Cushman and Denison, a manufacturing company already in the paper clip and office supply business, purchased the Middlebrook patent in 1899. That same year, Cushman and Denison also trademarked the name "GEM" for their new paper clip. The design was perfected further by rounding the sharp points of the

wire so they wouldn't catch, scratch, or tear the papers. By 1907, the Gem brand rose to prominence as the perfect paper clip that "will hold securely your letters, documents, or memoranda without perforation or mutilation until you wish to release them." Since then, literally zillions of paper clips have been sold.

Over the years, many different inventors have been credited with the invention of the paper clip. First, because so many patents were issued, and second, because so many design possibilities existed. One of the most prolific inventors was George McGill, who patented under his name, or in conjunction with other inventors, more than 15 different designs from 1888 to 1903. His 1903 patent (#742,893) even shows a design that looks like Middlebrook's. But the inventor who is named most often as the inventor is Johan Vaaler. He probably is named most often because the story surrounding his paper clip makes for good reading.

In 1899 a Norwegian named Johan Vaaler, patented the paper clip in Germany because Norway had no patent law at the time. Vaaler's device received an American patent (#675,761) in 1901. Vaaler's American patent drawing shows several kinds of paper clips, from square to triangular to one that looks a lot like the elliptical ones in wide use today, but the wire does not form the familiar loop within a loop. However, Vaaler did nothing with his invention.

Norwegians have proudly embraced their countryman, Johan Vaaler, as the true inventor. During the Nazi occupation of Norway in World War II, Norwegians made the paper clip a symbol of national unity. Prohibited from wearing buttons imprinted with the Norwegian king's initials, they fastened paper clips to their lapels in a show of solidarity and opposition to the occupation. Wearing a paper clip was often reason enough for arrest.

One clear challenge to the GEM was patented (#1,985,866) in 1934 and has come to be known as the Gothic clip because its loops are pointed more to resemble Gothic arches than the rounded Romanesque ones of the GEM. Henry Lankenau's patent application for the "perfect Gem" also listed ease of applying to papers" as one of the invention's advantages. Although colorful plastic materials and new shapes have challenged the double-oval steel-wire paper clip over the years, none has proven superior. The traditional paper clip is the essence of form follows function. After a century, it still works!

Help! We Need Your Help!

Do you enjoy writing or photography? We're working to make this newsletter the best, and your talents are needed. If you would like to occasionally write an article on your experiences, or on a TVA person who



What is the Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR)?
ILR is a member-run group of active mature men and women seeking intellectual and social stimulation. Members participate in discussion groups, luncheons, social activities, and short day trips, all during daytime hours. Winter classes run January through March; Fall classes run September-November.

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deserves recognition, please let me know, and I will schedule your article for a future newsletter. Do you enjoy photography? We could use a designated photographer to get pictures at our various events. We have been somewhat haphazard at this, and would like to get better. Call John Ingwersen at 256-757-5325 or email him at jlingwersen@gmail.com.

Suggestions?

We want your feedback, comments, and suggestions. Let us know what you would like for TVARA programs, for our newsletter, and/or ways we can improve, in any way, our service to you.