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# Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3

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# 75¢



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**Ms. Avery Pearl  
Pet Columnist**

# Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

**MOOYAH!**

Pappy says that you guys have got to try this place on Kingston Pike called MOOYAH! Pap says it is delicious and Mimi says it is so clean!

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Mimi and Pap agreed that the workers are very nice and friendly and service is excellent. The only problem is, they didn't bring a doggie bag for me and Ms Ivory to sample all the yumminess.

Any-woof, next time you're in Knoxville, give them a try. Your taste buds will be happy and your belly miserable because it is so full!

For more of my Pet Perspective like and follow me on Facebook at Ms Avery Pearl.



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The Deer Lodge Abner Ross Center meet on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 PM.

Coalfield Genealogical and Historical Society meets the second Tuesday of every month at the Senior Citizens Building at 6:00 PM.

Morgan County Republican Party meets the last Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM at the American Legion in Wartburg.



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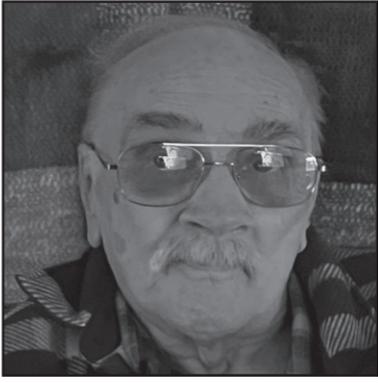
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## — In Loving Memory —

### Donald LeRoy Moore, 72



Donald LeRoy Moore, born July 6, 1953, passed away August 8, 2025. He was the son of the late Tom and Marie Moore of Petros TN.

He is preceded in death by his brothers, Edgar, Billy Frank, Robert Harold, James (Jimmy), Tomas Eugene (Tommy). Sisters, Geneva and Loretta. Niece, Wendy (Heidel) Smith and Great Niece, Felicia Williams.

Donald is Survived by his sisters, Barbara Moore and Patricia Heidel. Son, Billy Moore, Daughter in law, Nita Moore, Grandchildren, Lana Vertner (Husband Kaiden Vertner), Kaylee Moore (James Shell), and Paris Moore. Great Grandson, Weston Shell. Along with many nieces and nephews.

Donald's Memory will live on in the lives of all that was fortunate enough to have known

him. His soft voice, warm smile, selfless nature and love for all his family and friends will be sorely missed by all.

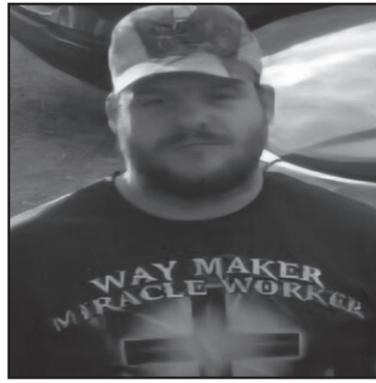
Donald had many hobbies over the years. He loved to get out with his son, nephews, brother in law, and friends on the weekends to shoot guns, ride motorcycles, ATV's, and rail buggies. Donald had a particularly soft spot for camping and fishing with his grandchildren, whom he cherished more than anything.

Loving father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend. Words cannot express how much his love, kindness, help, that raised eyebrow, and a sense of humor will be missed.

The family will receive friends Monday August 11 from 4:00 – 5:00 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg with the funeral to follow at 5:00, Bro. Tyler Trout officiating. Interment will immediately follow the funeral at Heidle Cemetery in Wartburg.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Donald L. Moore.*

### JB Parker Gibson, 33



JB Parker Gibson, age 33, went home to be with the Lord on August 8, 2025. JB was a member of A New Beginning Church in Lancing. JB loved his dad and to play his guitar. He didn't know a stranger and he had a big heart for everyone.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents George and Pearl Gibson of West Virginia; mother Barbara Taylor of Florida; sister Jessica "Pooh" Gibson of Lancing.

He is survived by his dad Jerry (Robin) Gibson of Lancing;

sisters Cecilia Swint of Lancing, Jessica "Rose" Mullins of New York, half-brother Jeremy Sizemore place unknown; step brothers Tony (Erica) Taylor of Petros, Shane Taylor of Lancing; nieces Aleeyiah Taylor, Skylar Taylor and nephews Noah Taylor, Brandon Potter and Michael Potter; girlfriend Michelle Marmy and her children Aryana and Andrew; aunt Dee Gibson and a host of cousins and friends.

The family will receive friends Friday, August 15, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 4:00-5:30 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 5:30 p.m. with Bro. Jerry Gibson officiating. Interment will follow in the Island Ford Cemetery in Lancing.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of JB Parker Gibson.*

Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.

## Psalm 123:1

**Unto thee lift I up mine eyes,  
O thou that dwellest in the heavens.**

### Earlee John King, 40



Mr. Earlee John King, age 40, passed away on Monday, August 11, 2025.

Earl worked as a machinist for several years at Oak Ridge. He enjoyed fishing and loved animals. Earl loved to draw and has a collection of beautiful pictures he has drawn.

He is preceded in death by the love of his life, his wife LaKeisha Danielle King; father John (Chuck) King.

Earl leaves behind his precious daughter Haiden MaKenzie King "Little Lady Haidy", as he jokingly called her. Mother, Eva King; father and moth-

er-in-law Wendell and Karen Cross; brothers John, and Cleve (Samantha) King; sisters Sara (Steven) Han, and Sayward (Chris) Heath and a host of nieces, nephews and many cherished friends.

The family will receive friends Friday, August 15, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 12:00-2:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 2:00 p.m. with Bro. Charles Webb officiating. Interment will be in the Sunbright City Cemetery in Sunbright.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Mr. Earlee John King.*

### Benny Paul Nelson, 85



Benny Paul Nelson, age 85 passed away peacefully at his home in Catoosa surrounded by his family.

Benny was a 36 year employee of the Tennessee Dept. of Forestry. He was a lifelong member of the Shady Grove Baptist Church in Lancing.

He is preceded in death by his parents Leo & Ernestine Nelson and son Michael Leo Nelson.

He is survived by his son Tim and wife, Winnie Nelson; grandsons Jason and wife Jessica Nelson, Travis and wife, Ashley Nelson; grandchildren Otto, Laykin, Alice and Kollins

Nelson; 4 sisters Diane and Wesley Howard, Wanda and Barry Fowler, Martha Nelson, Janie and Carlos Brooks, and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

The family will receive friends Thursday, August 14, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 7:00 p.m. with Bro. Bill Durham officiating. Graveside services will be Friday at 11:00 a.m. in the Morgan Memorial Gardens in Wartburg.

Pallbearers: Jason Nelson, Otto Nelson, Jason Bunch, Travis Nelson, Josh Hancock, and Marvin Howard.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Benny Paul Nelson.*

— In Loving Memory —

**Laura Marie Neal, 55**



Laura Marie Neal, age 55, of Oakdale, passed away peacefully on August 10, 2025.

Born on September 19, 1969, Marie was preceded in death by her parents, Sammy and Janie Kilby; sons, Dakota Brown, Nathan Brown, and Jason Neal;

brothers, Jim and Stevie Kilby, and brother and sister-in-law, Gary and Susie Neal.

She is survived by her husband, Jackie Neal; sons, Josh (Kiah) Brown; Brandon (Emily) Neal; Dalton (Destini) Kilby; daughter, Brittany Kilby; sister-in-law Missy Kilby and her cherished grandsons Ryker, Colin, Killian, and River. She also leaves behind many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles, and countless friends who will miss her deeply.

Marie dedicated much of her life to caring for others, working as a CNA at the old Harriman Hospital and later serving at Oakdale

School. She had a gift for connecting with people, especially children—and found joy in lending a helping hand wherever it was needed.

She loved nothing more than spending time with her grandsons, cheering on her favorite drivers at the dirt track, enjoying an evening out on the boat, taking family beach vacations, and sharing fellowship at church with family and friends.

Marie's life was defined by love, generosity, and an infectious smile that could light up any room. She will be remembered for the kindness she showed to everyone she met and the deep

love she had for her family.

If anybody would like to make donations, please contact Schubert Funeral Home.

The family will receive friends Thursday, August 14, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral service to follow at 7:00 p.m. Marie's wishes are to be cremated.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Laura Marie Neal.*

**Dorothy Ann Pressley, 91**



Mrs Dorothy Ann Hamilton Pressley woke up in Heaven on August 14, 2025.

A native of South Harriman. She was a daughter of Elmer and Rhoda Ann Hamilton and she was 1 of 9 daughters.

Dorothy married Elmer "Tuggle" Pressley and was soon the mom of 15 babies. Although sons Johnny and Larry passed away very young and she had one baby that was born sleeping with Jesus.

She was a wonderful mom who filled her home with good food, song, laughter, and a switch if you misbehaved. She taught her children about the Lord and hard work. She was always there to give a hug or a prayer.

Dorothy lost her beloved husband Tuggle, daughters Mary Louise Miles, Tammy Trent, son Alan Pressley, and grandsons

Christopher Pressley and Joey Miles before she made her own journey home.

Dorothy left behind a legacy of love, kindness, and faith for her remaining children:

Jerry (Nancy) Pressley, Betty (Lonnie) Stout, Carrie Curtis, Ann (John) Brackett, Marvin Pressley, Houston Pressley, Randy (Shenia) Pressley, Lena Marlow, and Mickey Pressley. She also left so many grand children that it would take a church sanctuary to hold them all and that's exactly where she would want them to be. The family would be honored for everyone to join them as they celebrate the life of a tiny, yet re-

markable woman on Sunday, August 17 from 1-3 at Evans Mortuary in Rockwood. Funeral to follow, then she will be laid to rest at Piney Grove Baptist Church Cemetery in Midtown.



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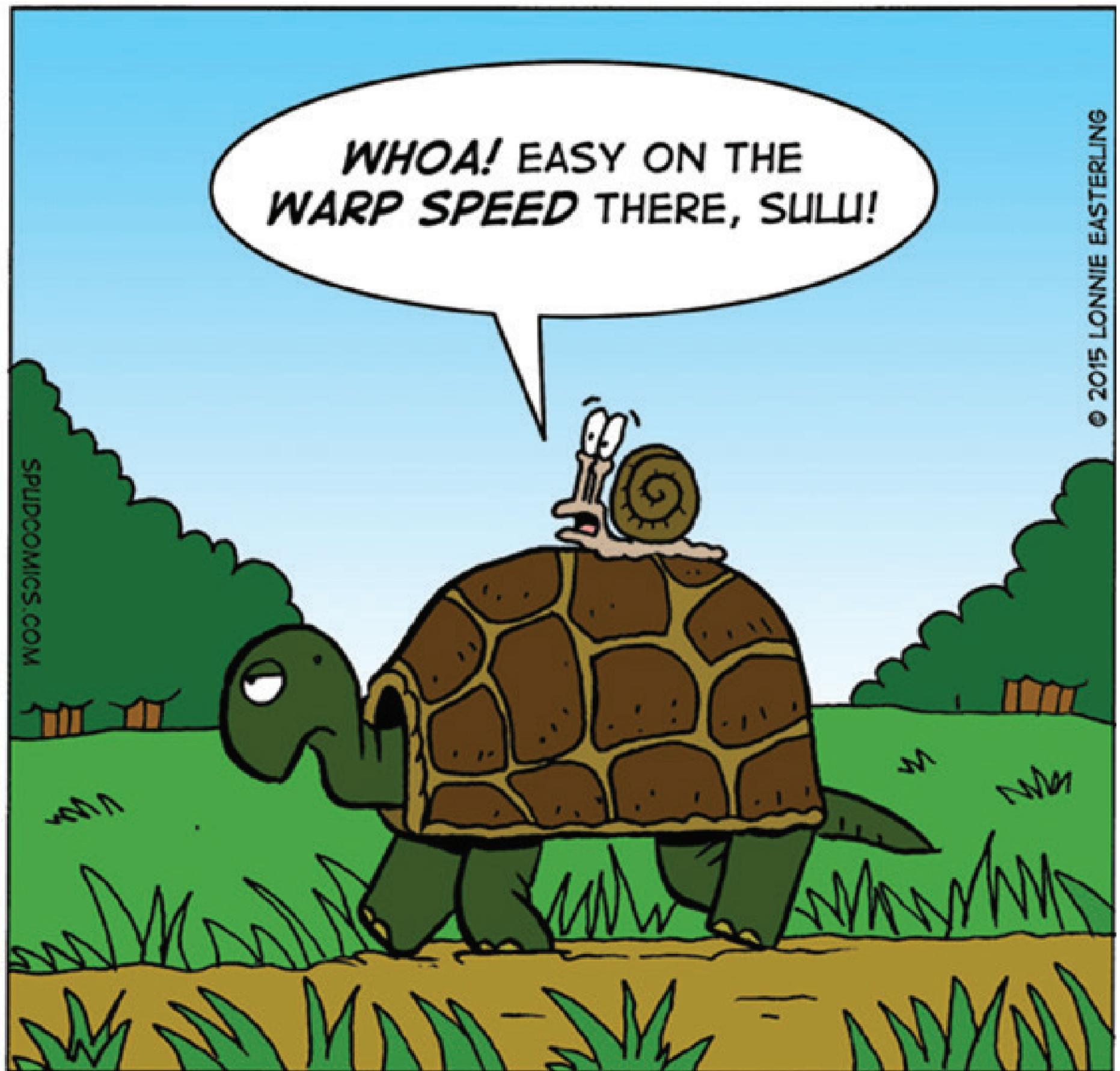
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## Historically Speaking

### Oak Ridge:

#### The birth of the nuclear navy, part 1

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Oak Ridge has been the location for many firsts. When you mention being from Oak Ridge, you do not even need to add Tennessee. Most people will immediately identify Oak Ridge with the atomic bomb. Many will even know that the uranium-235 for Little Boy came from Oak Ridge. However, not many will identify Oak Ridge with the birth of the nuclear navy, the first shipment of isotopes for nuclear medicine, the creation of the first industrial-size nuclear reactor, much less the first use of nuclear energy to produce electricity (a small but early demonstration at the Graphite Reactor).

This Historically Speaking series will feature the birth of the nuclear navy. It will bring out the details that resulted in what became one of the most effective nuclear deterrence elements of the nation. The first part of the series will focus on the support given to the U.S. Navy by Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

The K-25 Gaseous Diffusion Plant, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and the Y-12 National Security Complex have all played distinct but interconnected roles in supporting the U.S. Navy's nuclear program since the Manhattan Project. Their involvement has primarily revolved around the production of enriched uranium and the development of nuclear technologies, with one significant exception: the USS Seawolf propulsor.

The United States' nuclear-powered submarines and aircraft carriers have long been a cornerstone of America's strategic deterrence. This most powerful military force's inception can be traced to the unique scientific expertise and visionary leadership that existed in the early years of nuclear development in Oak Ridge. While the thought existed, the practical application was what was needed. Oak Ridge was where practicality prevailed, and that is where the U.S. Navy went to learn how to build a nuclear navy.

The idea of a nuclear navy began with Philip Abelson's "Atomic Energy Submarine." This groundbreaking physics report detailed how a nuclear reactor could be installed in a submarine to provide both propulsion and electrical power. It was written in March 1946 while Abelson was at the Naval Research Laboratory and was later published by the Carnegie Institution.

It concluded that, "with a proper program, an atomic-powered submarine capable of operating at 26 to 30 knots submerged for many years without surfacing or refueling could be operational in about two years." It also projected that a submarine with twice that submerged speed could be developed in five to ten years.

This report was highly influential and was later supported by Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, who, through his relentless leadership, turned the concept into a reality with the USS Nautilus, the world's first nuclear submarine.

Then the first steps were taken when Captain (later Admiral) Hyman G. Rickover attended a pioneering reactor training program at Clinton Laboratories in Oak Ridge led by Nobel laureate Eugene Wigner. As a result, he profoundly shaped the course of naval history.

Rickover and seven others from the U.S. Navy were selected to attend this newly formed program in Oak Ridge. They were here for approximately one full year. Housing would have been provided to them in the city of Oak Ridge.

That is when Rickover met Alvin Weinberg, and a close relationship soon developed as Rickover continued to pursue the practical steps required to create a nuclear navy. This relation-

ship would continue through the years, keeping Oak Ridge close to and involved in Rickover's progress.

One of the first things needed was the design of the nuclear reactor, which Rickover managed through his powerful position on the Atomic Energy Commission's Division of Reactor Development, and as Director of the U.S. Navy's Naval Reactors Branch. The USS Nautilus was the first nuclear submarine, and the USS Seawolf the second.

Each of Oak Ridge's facilities contributed to the creation and development of the U.S. Navy's nuclear navy in different but related ways. This relationship with the U.S. Navy and Oak Ridge started in 1946, continues to today and is anticipated for the foreseeable future.

The Clinton Laboratories (which became the Clinton National Laboratory and then the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in March 1948), in addition to providing the initial training, was also instrumental in the very early stages of reactor technology. In 1947, Rickover asked for assistance in the development of the USS Nautilus, the Navy's first nuclear-powered submarine. The concept of the pressurized-water reactor recommended by Alvin Weinberg was critical to the Nautilus's design.

In the early 1950's Rickover arranged to have 100 naval officers spend a year in Oak Ridge for intensive study and collaboration with scientists at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The design of the pressurized water reactor, which became the standard for naval propulsion, and shielding for the protection of personnel on a submarine was all done by scientists at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, as Ted Rockwell, who worked directly for Rickover, told me in an oral history interview.

The fuel rod cladding using "half-free" zirconium (zirconium with hafnium reduced, which was done in Building 9211 at Y-12) was chosen because of its low neutron absorption and corrosion resistance. This remains the primary method for fuel rod cladding in nuclear reactors today. On a tour of Y-12, Finis Patton, who managed Engineering for the Union Carbide Nuclear Division, told me of his personal experience doing the research that resulted in the purification of zirconium.

Other examples of support provided to the U.S. Navy over the years by Oak Ridge National Laboratory are:

1. Neutron embrittlement of metals
2. Long-term behavior of structural alloys
3. Degradation of reactor materials over time
4. Vibration-damping materials
5. Reactor pump noise analysis
6. Computational modeling of fluid-structure interaction
7. Alternate fuel forms, including high-density uranium fuels and advanced ceramics
8. Contributed to safety modeling and reactor transient analysis, including loss-of-coolant scenarios relevant to compact naval reactor designs
9. Radiation shielding for confined spaces — optimizing protection with minimal weight and volume
10. Studied how radiation exposure affects electronics and human performance in submarine environments



The first nuclear-powered submarine, the U.S.S. Nautilus, was launched in Groton, CT, on Jan. 21, 1954, and entered Navy service in September that year. (Courtesy of U.S. Navy/Naval History and Heritage Command)

11. Assisted in reactor life-extension studies, refurbishment planning, and decommissioning procedures for aging submarine power plants

12. Provided technical guidance on long-term storage of naval spent nuclear fuel and disposal of activated components

13. Contributed to nuclear propulsion training through simulation tools and data for naval nuclear schools; and,

14. Maintained critical databases of nuclear cross sections and thermal performance

15. The Acoustic Measurement Facilities Improvement Program combined instrumentation and signal processing engineering to assure the nuclear "quiet underwater platform," i.e., submarine, fleet was operating as discreetly as designed. This was done by the Instrumentation & Controls Division for the Navy in the late 1980s and early '90s. At the time, this project had the largest computer in the Laboratory.

Additionally, developing and testing materials that can withstand the extreme conditions within nuclear reactors, which is vital for the longevity and safety of naval reactor cores, was done at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The education of nuclear engineers needed by the Naval Reactors Program was also done there until universities began nuclear engineering programs. Cybersecurity has also been provided to protect the Navy's digital infrastructure and systems. And finally, specific isotopes needed by the U.S. Navy have been provided.

In the book *Critical Connections*, written by Lee Riedinger, Al Ekkebus, William Bugg, and Ray Smith, Appendix 2, is found: "1957 UT Department of Nuclear Engineering formed as a result of collaborations in reactor R&D." This was in collaboration with Oak Ridge National Laboratory

So, the Oak Ridge National Laboratory played an extensive role in the creation of the U.S. Navy's nuclear navy. Much of what was developed for the Nautilus also applied to other nuclear reactors. The collaboration quickly advanced many aspects of the Nuclear Age. Rickover and Weinberg played significant roles in the establishment of the understanding and implementation of the practical use of nuclear energy.

Next, we will look at the roles played by the K-25 Gaseous Diffusion Plant and the Y-12 Plant (Y-12 National Security Complex) in the birth of the U.S. Navy's nuclear navy.

# Acts of the Apostle's Chapter 4



Melvin Howard

Acts (4:1-4) the anger of the Sadducees: as Peter and John addressed the people in Solomon's porch, they were accosted by several Jewish officials. There were priest, an officer in charge of the Levites who guarded the temple, and the Sadducees. The Sadducees were the aristocracy of the Jews (being the majority element of the Sanhedrin). They were religious materialists, denying the existence of spirits and angles, also repudiating the immorality of the soul and the resurrection of the dead (Mt. 22:23-33; Acts 23:6-10).

These Jewish leaders were indignant because Peter and John kept on teaching the crowds, proclaiming that Jesus was the prime exhibit of the doctrine of the resurrection. This infuriated the Sadducees (23:8). The authorities took the apostles into custody. Since it was already night, and as Jewish law prohibited trials at night (a restriction ignored in Jesus' case), it was decided that Peter and John would be detained until the following day. But the rulers were too late. Many had already been impacted by the apostolic message. Note it was "the word" that produced faith in the hearts of the people (Rom. 10:17). The number of believers was now approximately five thousand men (Greek: adult males). If one factors in women and youth, the total would be higher. It has been estimated that there were some twenty thousand believers living in Jerusalem at the time of Stephen's death. The population of the city is believed to have been about fifty-five thousand at that time.

(Acts 4:5-12) Peter's defense: the next day there was a meeting of officials. The "rulers" were the priestly members of the Sanhedrin, a council of seventy-one members, with the high priest as the presiding figure. The elders were lower members of the Jewish aristocracy (predominately Sadducees) and the "scribes" (mostly Pharisees) were the interpreters of the law.

Annas, called "the high priest," was there, as was his son-in-law, Caiaphas. Caiaphas was the ruling high priest (Mt. 26:3; 57; Jn. 11:47-53; 18:13-14, 24, 28), but Annas had served in that capacity from A.D. 6-15 and so retained the title and influence. Other members of the priestly family were there as well. The word "Sanhedrin" means "to sit together." The assembly convened in a semicircle, placed the apostles "in the middle," and interrogated them (the verb indicates a barrage of questions).

Peter and John were treated as if they were criminals---the offense being the healing of a lame man! The authorities wanted to know by what sort of power and in whose name "this thing" had been done. They dared not use the word "miracle," though they did not deny that a wonder had been wrought (v. 14-16). What powerful testimony this was from hostile forces! Let modern skeptics take note.

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit (under the Spirit's guidance (Mt. 10:17-19), responded. He explained that the miracle was done in the name (by the authority) of Jesus---the one they had crucified, whom God raised from the dead! "In him," within the sphere of his power and authority, this man "stands" here completely whole. Evidence of the miracle walked right into the courtroom! As he had done in his Acts 2 sermon, Peter again demonstrated that the death of Christ was part of a long-standing, divine plan. The apostle cites Psalm 118:22 and argues that Jesus was "the stone which was set at nought of you the builders" but which, by God's power, was made "head of the corner." (Not Peter) "If Peter was ever to have become a pope, Peter would have, right here certainly, claimed to be the stone rejected by those builders." (See 1 Peter 2:4-8).

(Acts 4:13-22) threatened and released: as the officials carefully noted the "boldness" of Peter and John, they perceived that these men were "unlearned and ignorant," they were not formally trained rabbis (Jn. 7:15). The rulers stood amazed. They "took knowledge" (began to fully recognize) that these men had been associates of Jesus. The dignitaries stared at the healed man (who had not walked a step in the first forty years of his life), and they could say nothing against it. The tense suggests a prolonged befuddlement.

The apostles were ordered to leave the Sanhedrin assembly (or hall), and the officials "conferred" among themselves. The Greek suggests they kept trying to "throw together" an explanation, but nothing was working. "What are we to do?" they asked. "A notable miracle has been performed through them (the sign was from a higher source ultimately (v. 30). This thing is known throughout the city, and we cannot contradict it." The only solution was to shut down the messengers. Peter and John were ushered back into the assembly and strictly charged to teach no longer in the name of Jesus.

The apostles responded that it was better to listen to God than them. The statement was defiant. Peter and John declared that they could only speak what they had seen and heard. Christianity is grounded in real evidence---not mystical illusions. It was a frustrating moment for the Jewish council. They could find no legal cause for punishing the apostles, so they further threatened them and let them go.

Acts 4:23-31 Peter and John's report: following their release, Peter and John found "their own company" (most likely the apostles) and reported the dramatic confrontation. When the events were detailed, the group "lifted up their voice to God with one accord." Obvi-

ously someone led the prayer, and the others were in full agreement.

The prayer begins with praise unto God for his thrilling creative power. Here he is designated as "Lord," a term that asserts supreme authority, or absolute right to rule (Lk. 2:29; Rev. 6:10). God made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all that is in them. This is similar to Exodus 20:11, except that in the Old Testament passage the time element was added---"in six days." The apostles did not subscribe to the illogical notion that the universe existed eternally or that it created itself. The doctrine of creation is foundational to the case about to be argued. No one can divorce creation theology from the balance of biblical doctrine. The point is: God has a right to rule because he is the CREATOR (Rom. 9:21)!

David's inspired words (Psa. 2:1-2) certainly found fulfillment in the actions of those who joined efforts to kill Christ. In this very city the Jews conspired to rid the world of God's "holy Servant" (3:13), the Anointed One (10:38). Both Herod (Antipas, who had John the Baptist decapitated (Md. 6:14) and Pilate (the Roman governor), though political enemies, became friends as a result of their opposition to Jesus (Lk. 23:12). Others, both Gentiles and Jews, combined to perpetrate the most notorious deed of human history. What they did not realize, of course, is the fact that though they were pursuing their own evil designs, in the marvelous and mysterious providence of God they were implementing a heavenly plan. They were bringing to fruition what the Lord's counsel had "foreordained" should transpire (v. 28; 2:23). Jehovah respects human free will. He never forces men to do wicked things. When they are so inclined, however, God can orchestrate the circumstances so as to bring about his ultimate will.

The hostility, so viciously perpetrated toward Jesus, was continued against the apostles. But these courageous men were determined to lay the matter before the Lord and let him handle the situation. "Lord, look upon their threatenings (v. 18) and grant your servants to speak your word with all boldness" (v. 29). Amazingly, there was no petition for relief from persecution, only a request for more "boldness" (v. 13), which prayer obviously was answered (v. 31).

As the word was preached, the apostles anticipated that God would continue to confirm the validity of the message by the accompaniment of "signs and wonders" (Mk. 16:20), which he did. "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken wherein they were gathered." Was this an earthquake? If so, the timing was of God, signaling, as it were, an affirmation that their prayer had been heard. Earthquakes were frequently a manifestation of the presence of the Lord (Psa. 114:7; Isa. 2:19; Heb 12:26). The group was "filled with the Holy Spirit" and they continued to speak God's word with boldness. Perhaps this empowering of the Spirit was a divine reaffirmation of Heaven's presence with the apostolic band. Again, it is worthy of notice that they were speaking the word of God, not the words of men.

Acts 4:32-35 the unity of the believers: the followers of Christ are designated as "them that believed." The word "believed" is used, not because "faith" is the sole condition of salvation, but because belief was the initial response and leading motive for all their subsequent acts of obedience. This term frequently summarizes all that is essential to becoming a Christian (5:14; 16:34; Rom. 5:1).

The oneness of heart and soul (perhaps signifying intellectual and emotional unity) was surely a factor in the strength and success of the movement (Jn. 17:20-21). How vivid a contrast is this passage with the sad divisions of modern sectarianism. The disciples shared their possessions with others. The distribution was voluntary, not forced; this was not socialism. No one lacked the daily necessities of life. The funds were deposited with the apostles, who took the oversight in seeing that the monetary distribution was effected in a judicious fashion. This seems to imply a treasury (1 Cor. 16:2). With great power the apostles gave witness regarding the resurrection of Jesus. They did this by testifying of their encounters with him following his resurrection, and also by buttressing that testimony with supernatural displays of power. Truly, God's grace (favor) was upon them.

Acts 4:36-37 the example of Barnabas: the record now mentions a worthy brother whose name was Joseph. He was of the tribe of Levi and a native of the island of Cyprus (13:4). The apostles gave this brother the name Barnabas, which, in some sense, signified to them "son of exhortation"--- a designation he obviously had earned. The bestowal of a special name was a token of respect.

Barnabas would become a companion of Paul (9:27; 11:30; 12:25; 13:2), and Luke will describe him later as "a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith" (11:24). This noble brother owned a field. He sold his real estate and brought the money to the apostles for use in the gospel cause. The generous and honest disposition of Barnabas appears to be included at this juncture in order to draw a contrast between him and the unscrupulous conduct of Ananias and Sapphira.

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