

'... Chance, which seems to flow onward without rein, ...'

— Boethius

by Allan C. Hanrahan

Everyone has his or her favorite or latest "coincidence" story citing the mysteries of happenstance or the machinations of Fortuna, the Roman goddess of fortune.

Since the beginning of civilized peoples, writings about chance or the vagaries of fortune have been produced by such writers as Boethius, the Sixth Century Roman Scholar, who wrote a treatise on the subject in his *Consolation of Philosophy* (probably the last document of Classical Antiquity), which so influenced the medieval Geoffrey Chaucer's classic *The Knight's Tale*, taken from *The Tales of Canterbury*.

Chaucer perhaps, and Boethius, certainly, influenced such recent American writers as the brilliant John Kennedy Toole, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *A Confederacy of Dunces*, a masterful work rife with instances of chance and coincidence.

All of the foregoing is my way of introducing you to my own humble -- and latest -- tale of "coincidences," which begins in the shop area of Building 1265 where I am talking with **WILLIAM E. (BILL) FELTY**, an Engineering Technician in Technical Support Section C of the Operations Support Division.

As proud parents are occasionally wont to do, Bill and I are talking about our respective children; and he relates that his daughter Sharon, 22, is an art major at East Carolina University and his eldest son Neal, 20, is attending Virginia Military Institute on a football scholarship.

Children's interests are very often assumed and shared by their parents, and Bill is no exception. When Neal was playing youth league football "I used to go down and watch him practice," said Bill, "and I asked the coach, Leo Roach (Leo is a retired NASA employee and was the subject of a 1972 "Profile") if I could help with the uniforms and such, and he made me an assistant coach for that year. But you know," Bill continued, "there are a lot of people who know football and can help coach, so I moved on; but there aren't many

around who want to coach soccer," he added, in reference to the efforts he expended on behalf of his youngest son David's interest in that sport, an area of unique accomplishment for Bill.

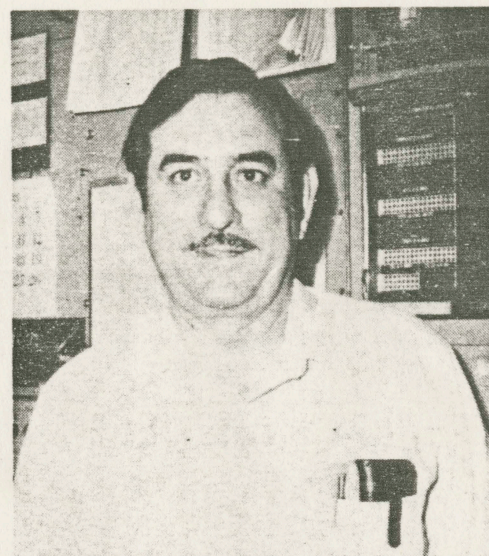
A few years ago it seems there was only one soccer team in York County, and it had to rely on competition from other localities. As one who taught "the basics," as Bill put -- "the fundamentals--" he was one of the first soccer coaches in York County, and helped organize the league that drew 300 applicants its second year, when Bill was President of the league, and by its third year had outgrown the capacity of the parents to keep up with it, and is now administered by the Leisure Services Department of the York County Government.

Still on the subject of sports, Bill has been a member for some time of the Tabb High School Athletic Booster Club, serving one year as vice president, and for five years has served on the Piney Point swimming pool maintenance committee.

But it is in the realm of science and academics that Bill's 14-year-old son David, along with five of his peers, has generated the most recent and probably highest level of excitement in the Felty household.

David and five classmates of Tabb Intermediate School, among them Johnathan Brumfield, son of Marcus L. Brumfield of the Structures and Dynamics Division, were invited by their former fifth grade teacher to enter the regional Olympics of the Mind competition in Chesapeake, Va. Their project, a self-sufficient, energy-efficient "spring car," based on a concept of the sixteenth century genius, Leonardo da Vinci, earned them a first-place in their level of competition, as well as a special award for creativity.

They won the state competition held at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland Saturday, April 16. They have been invited to compete in international finals to be held at Central Michigan University May 26-28. However, there are a couple of exciting sidelights to their story: they



were the subject of a front-page article (by Barbara Smith) in the March 24 issue of the York Town Crier, and before that, on March 18, they traveled to New Jersey, at the Columbia Broadcasting System's expense, to be video-taped for possible inclusion in a CBS documentary, "Leonardo da Vinci, the Man," to be aired Tuesday, April 26, at 8 p.m. (prime time!). It seems that the CBS-TV scouts at the Chesapeake competition were much impressed and intrigued by what the boys had done, but whether or not the group will be seen is not yet known; their segment may yet fall victim to the film editor.

Bill Felty was one of those who accompanied the group to New Jersey and he admitted it was exciting, but he went on to emphasize that the rest of the parents (in all the ways that were allowed) helped the boys as much or more than he did.

Obviously this Roanoke native and his wife Dolores are proud of the children they have produced. Dolores, coincidentally, works in the Passenger Transportation Branch of the Financial Management Division and has been a center employee for about eight years.

Bill has been a center employee for about 10 years, but for 10 years prior

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Happenings

HAPPY HOUR, will be held today from 4 to 6:30 p.m. in the Activities Center. **BINGO** is played every Thursday at 7:10 p.m. in the Activities Center.

GARDEN CLUB. The 1983 NASA Garden Club plot dues will remain the same for this year -- \$7 and \$4 for a 20' x 40' and 20' x 20', respectively. A third tiller is being purchased this year. Plots are still available. For information call Jack Neubauer, ext. 3457 or write Mail Stop 494.

NAGS. A proposed outlet shopping trip is planned for May 28 to Burlington, N.C. For more information, call Shirley Davis at 838-7435. The NAGS next meeting is May 17 at the Holiday Inn, Hampton.

VISITOR CENTER SOUVENIR COUNTER is selling balloons, frisbees, pens, pencils and key rings displaying NASA's 25th anniversary logo.

PERSONNEL PROFILE

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to that he worked for various contractors here, so he is no newcomer. It was work with a contractor that initially brought the Felty family to the Peninsula from the Washington, D.C. area, where Bill had taken his discharge from the Air Force in 1954, after six years service. Dolores was working for the FAA at that time and she and Bill lived in the same neighborhood in Washington. They chanced to become acquainted one day while he was working on his car. (Now he spends much of his time trying to keep four cars on the road.)

From 1954 to 1957 Bill worked at various jobs while attending the Capitol Radio Engineering Institute on Sixteenth Street in Washington. Coincidentally, for about a year during that three-year span, this writer lived in that neighborhood and for about five months caught the bus for the suburbs on the corner outside the Institute, sometimes speaking to some of the students as they came to school. While neither of us remembers meeting the other, it seems Bill and I also frequented some of the same neighborhood establishments, so no doubt our paths crossed; now, here we were about 27 years later, sitting in the shop area of 1265, talking about our children.

RED CROSS VOLUNTEER HONORED. Ursula Tillerson, who has supported the Red Cross Bloodmobile at Langley for many years, was recently in the spotlight when the Hampton Roads Red Cross Chapter honored her as the 1982 Volunteer of the Year, recognizing nearly 30 years of steady service. Although in her 80s, she volunteers her time as a bloodmobile worker at many local drives and as a worker at the Hampton Veterans Administration Hospital.

BRIDGE PLAYERS. An "Open House" will be held at the Peninsula Duplicate Bridge Center, 700 Newmarket South, Suite 301 (next door to Ft. Eustis Credit Union), Sunday, May 1, from 4 to 6 p.m. Refreshments and free instructions in fundamentals and play of duplicate bridge will be offered. American Contract Bridge League sponsored game will follow. All interested bridgers are invited to bring their friends. Come with or without a partner. For more information, call Frances Allen, 595-2491, or Maria Vallas, ext. 4508.

LAA ATLANTIC CITY TOUR. A bus will depart from the Activities Center for Atlantic City Saturday, May 21, at 6:30 a.m. and return Sunday, May 22. For details and reservations call Frankie Ward at the Activities Office, ext. 3139.

PATRIOT PASSES. One-year admission tickets to all Colonial Williamsburg exhibition buildings, craft shops, bus service and Carter's Grove Plantation are available at the Activities Office for \$20.50/adults and \$10.50/children.

AA meetings are held weekly. For further information, call ext. 3600 or 2605.

DISCOUNT TICKETS are available at the Activities Center for King's Dominion, at \$10 each and Busch Gardens, at \$10.50 each. Children under 3 years old are admitted free.

CONSUMER SAVER COUPON BOOKS, good for various restaurants and activities through December 31, can be purchased at the Activities Office. This is a value worth over \$600 for \$10.50 each. For further information call ext. 3139.

COMPUTER SHOW. The second annual Virginia/Carolinas Computer Show and Office Equipment Exposition will be held at the Pavilion in Virginia Beach, Va., from April 21 -- 24. Free introductory



— photo by Don Ward

Artist Sara Larkin poses with her painting, "Earth Rising." Larkin's paintings, which record man's first exploration of space, will be featured at the Visitor Center through April 30. Larkin's work is drawn from memory with no photographic processes involved and the technique employed is her own invention. The moons and planets of our solar system are depicted as spheres of swirling, muted colors against a background of infinite blackness.

seminars on computers as well as business automation will be offered. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 12 years old and under. The show will be open from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. all four days. Robots and video games will also be featured. For further information, call 800-368-2066.

AIAA. Lt. Commander Charles Gray, retired United States Navy pilot and instructor, will speak at the April 22 AIAA dinner meeting. Gray, who has logged more than 3,000 pilot hours aboard lighter-than-air vehicles, will talk about his experiences with the U.S. Navy's airships from 1954 to 1959. The meeting will be hosted by the Langley Student Branch. Cocktails will be served from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. with dinner beginning at 8 p.m. The Chicken Cord Bleu dinner will be \$10 per person and \$5 for each student member. For more information, call Cooper, ext. 3615, Wallsom, ext. 2498, or Melson, ext. 2627.

DISCOVERY, a human relations group for single people, will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 23, at the Unitarian Fellowship of the Peninsula. Bring cheese, crackers or beverage to share. Attendance fee is \$2. For more information, call 877-5791.