



APGAR

Family Association Newsletter

Issue 26

Summer 2005

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Our 2004 Reunion - the First at Stanton Grange

Despite a cold and rainy **Saturday**, 67 Apgar cousins found the Grange Hall in Stanton and were rewarded with a full program of family history presentations, genealogical research help, fine food, and family camaraderie for our **30th reunion**.

Mike Apgar and Lynn Conley presented the results of current research into the Apgar genealogy; see separate articles in this newsletter.

A separate children's program was managed by Megan Krainski and Christina Fraties.

Many took advantage of the well-stocked Apgar Store to acquire mementos and other Apgar Family memorabilia. The store was managed by Carol Apgar and Kris-lie Apgar.

Matt Krainski presided over a lively Yankee Auction of historical items. He was supported by Charles Pratt and Dave Rich. Besides providing rollicking entertainment and

allowing members to acquire unique items of historical interest for their own collections, the Association made a \$150 profit for our treasury.

A beautiful afghan, made by Debbie Apgar, was raffled off and won by Judy Rumrill. Debbie plans to donate another afghan for the 2005 reunion raffle.

- Keeping with an Apgar Family tradition, we recognized the following special people in attendance:
- Senior Gentleman - Howard Apgar, age 82
 - Senior Lady - Mary Apgar, age 77
 - Longest Married Couple - Al and Fran Tiger, 51 years
 - Traveled the Farthest - Sandy Olah from Taylorsville, Utah
 - Most Children - Jo Anne Kotch, 5 children
 - Youngest Child - Logan Taylor Kotch, age 10 months
 - Largest Family - Howard Apgar Family, 10 members

(continued on page 2)





2004 Reunion (continued from page 1)

On **Sunday**, a smaller group met for breakfast at the Mountain Post Cafe located on Water Street in Mountainville and later for worship services at the Cokes-bury United Methodist Church, site of many former reunions. Then, they departed by caravan to view historic Apgar homes, churches, and cemeteries throughout Hunterdon County. With each car armed with driving instructions, the group visited the Apgar Homestead, the Lebanon German Reformed Church, the Historic Clinton Red Mill Museum, the Schick Reserve, the Paul Apgar House, the Boss John Apgar Homestead, the Volendam Windmill and Ann House (1703), the Ships Inn at Milford, and the William Conover Apgar House (now a Frenchtown B&B).



"We discovered a new patriarch, Frederick 'Fritz' Epgert, born around 1708..."

Searching for Apgar Family Roots

At the 2004 Reunion, **Mike Apgar** reported on recent genealogical findings. A summary of new information items over the past few years include:

- While looking for traces of the "lost" brother George, we discovered the "forgotten" daughter Maria Sophia.
- Then, while trying to link Sophia to her parents (allegedly Johannes Peter Apgard), we discovered a new patriarch, Friederich 'Fritz' Epgert (born around 1708 and emigrated around 1740) and his wives:
 - Anna Julianna Haag, mother of Johannes Herbert and Johannes Peter Epgert, both of whom were born in Germany, and eventually migrated to America.
 - Anna Eva Schaefer, probable mother of the other ten Apgar children, who were born in America.
- Finally, while researching Fritz Epgert's background, we became aware of the wider German community that traveled to America and settled in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania during the first half of the 18th century.

Mike has been in touch with the Professional Genealogist, Hank Jones, about extending our research to original information sources in the Westwald area of Germany. This could offer additional insights into the early life of our newly-identified patriarch, Fritz Epgert.

Mike already has reviewed microfilm records (in German) of the Evangelisch church books of Niederwambach and Puderbach. These sources confirmed our family patriarch to be Fritz Epgert. We already knew that German surnames were generally taken from town names and we have long been interested in the German village of Epgert, in the Westwald, near Cologne.



Bequests to Our Association

By George N. Apgar Jr.

Have you considered a donation or bequest (in your will) to the Apgar Family Association? Your trustees urge you to consider two options:

1. Donate or bequeath, without restrictions, certain historical material including books, diaries, family bibles, photographs, newspaper clippings, and other documents. These may be sent to the Association Historian.
2. Donate or bequeath financial contributions in your name or anonymously. Any amount may be sent to the Association Treasurer.

For more information, contact George.

Message from your President — Lynn Conley

As a genealogy enthusiast and the President of the Apgar Family Association, it has been an esteemed honor to serve in this position during the past year. Being a part of such a historic family has given my family the pleasure of making new friends and finding some really wonderful cousins. It has also given me the privilege of working with a very dedicated group of trustee members, whose dedication to family is unsurpassed. It is because of their loyalty and celebration of the Apgar Family that the traditions and memories of this family do not fade, but continue to be a part of Hunterdon County History.

If we look back at the sacrifices our ancestors made to start a new life, in the land across the sea, I believe it is our obligation to make sure that their stories are told to all the future generations of this unique community called the United States of America. As a country established by travelers, it is important to learn fact from fiction, giving us a better understanding of what it takes to be a part of a very unique family. It is important that future generations understand that living in the United States is a blessing given to them by the resolve and beliefs of their ancestors.

Their stories, however, cannot be told unless we know who our ancestors are, when they came, where they came from, and if we are lucky enough, how they contributed to the society called America.

The one thing we can all be sure is that they all did contribute, for they made the next generation. We are here because they existed and we should make every effort to place their names with ours and tell the story of family.

During this upcoming year, I ask on behalf of the Apgar Family Association that related families make an effort to be active participants in our quest to reunite our past with our future. We need to share our ancestors and ourselves with each other. We need to show, not by words but by

deeds, that we believe in family and the values they bring to our society. We invite every member to bring your family to our old fashioned reunion, volunteer to be a trustee, and, most important, tell your family story.

Thank you again for the honor of being your current president.

Lynn Conley



Lynn Conley - Apgar Family Association President

Homestead News

The day after the 2004 reunion, Mike Apgar, Lynn Conley, Debbie Apgar, and Mary Apgar

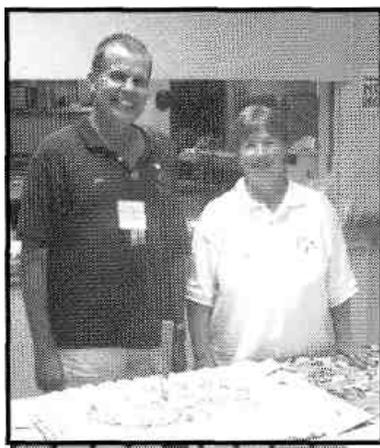


David Mills (c), current owner of the Apgar Homestead, presents to outgoing President Mike Apgar (L) and incoming President Lynn Conley (R) the lucky horseshoe found on the property

inspected the Old Apgar Homestead (near the Cokesbury Methodist Church) and noticed two stones, probably grave markers, embedded in the old oak tree. We have long believed the tree marks the original family cemetery. One of the stones clearly showed the number "7" but little else. Could this be the marker for the final resting place of Herbert, who was 70 years old when he died? Or, could it be the grave marker for his father, Fritz Eggert, or his mother, Anna Eva Schaefer?

Mike, our Genealogist, continues to study the tree and the markers. The Association continues to explore the site for clues to our ancestry. Our research is supported by Dave Mills, current owner, who purchased the property from Mr. Sutton in 1960. Mike is pursuing the use of ground-penetrating radar to find the actual graves at the Homestead.

2004 Annual Business Meeting



Outgoing President Mike Apgar and Incoming President Lynn Conley share duties of cutting the cake

President Mike Apgar called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm during the first day of the 2004 reunion. He described the current status of research into the origins of the Apgar Family in Germany. The records indicate that our patriarch was Fritz Epgert, father of twelve children, all of whom eventually lived in America. See the story elsewhere in this newsletter.

Mike presented a plaque to former President John Apgar in recognition of his service to the Association.



John Apgar (L) receives plaque from Mike Apgar (R) for his prior years of service as Association President

Lynn Conley presented the Genealogist's Report, in which she recommended the creation of oral histories by senior members of our current Apgar generation, which will preserve their memories for the future.

Judy Beck presented the Historian's Report, in which she emphasized that the Historian is the appropriate contact for births, marriages, and deaths while the Genealogist is the appropriate contact for past family history.

Debbie Apgar, Membership Chair, reported our mailing list has over 400 names; 226 of them are paid members.

Dave Rich, Treasurer, reported a bank balance of \$8,215, including a certificate of deposit and a checking account. (Note that his report was updated in June 2005 to show a balance of \$10,392.)

Henry Apgar Jr., Newsletter Editor, reported the cost to print and mail each newsletter is now \$3.

Vice President George Apgar Jr. presented the following slate of candidates for the coming year; all were accepted by the members attending:

- Lynn Conley, President and Trustee
- George Apgar Jr., Vice President and Trustee
- David Rich, Treasurer and Trustee
- Roger Flartey, Recording Secretary and Trustee
- Louanna Rich, Corresponding Secretary and Trustee
- Debbie Apgar, Membership and Trustee
- Mike Apgar, Genealogist and Trustee
- Henry Apgar Jr., Newsletter Editor and Trustee
- Judy Beck, Historian
- Helen Apgar, Historian Emeritus
- Dorothy Apgar, Historian Emeritus



"Apgars like to eat..." according to the historians. We proved it again at the 2004 reunion as we chowed down on beef and chicken prepared just to our liking.

One Family's Historical Research

By Wendy Rumrill

Several years ago, my niece Desiree had to complete a family tree for school, which my mother-in-law, Judy, helped her to accomplish. This project became so interesting to Judy that she continued to research and showed me the findings of my husband's family tree. She was hooked. It didn't take me long to become interested as well.

In the meantime, my mother, Nancy Lee Apgar Hancharick, would mention the Apgar family reunions from time to time - we always planned to go, and in September 2000 we finally did. By this time, I had started to trace back after reading the story on the Apgar Family Association web site. By the time I arrived, I had traced back to Johannes. I found the reunion fascinating and planned to return.

Ever pursuing more hobbies, I became interested in scrap booking, along with my mom and mother-in-law. Family history software programs were to follow. And binders and folders...you get the idea. My mother is very fortunate to have many good photographs and memorabilia of our ancestors, and we have been able to combine the hobbies of family history and scrap booking together.

A return trip to the reunion in 2003 to hear the latest developments was not to be - blame it on a lady named Isabel who made landfall close to home here in North Carolina. More recently, I've adjusted the family history

records to reflect our newfound patriarch, Fritz, which I figured out thanks to our 2004 newsletter.

By now, I had been a medical transcriptionist for several years. Dr. Virginia Apgar, although not in my direct line, is very interesting and gives me a sense of pride when typing obstetrical reports.

Fast forward to the summer of 2004 while amongst my "stuff" I decided that I needed to write a little story (again inspired by my mother-in-law) on my direct line, back to Herbert and Adam. With a little technological help, I was able to scan some photos and give (at least the more recent generations) some "personality" by incorporating the photos into a word processing document and giving each descendant their own page or chapter, so to speak.

This year marks the 100th birthdays of my grandfather, Nahum George Apgar, and my grandmother, Mazie Belle Willever Apgar. I plan to extend the story I started to write in their honor.

I encourage everyone to write their story and share it with all our cousins. I feel it brings interest and life into the ancestors we gather to honor each September. Not to mention, it will be a treasured keepsake for generations to come. (I have a document from the 1940s on the Cregar family that has been tremendously helpful, which intertwines with the Apgars.) Remember - you don't have to be an expert and it doesn't have to be fancy; sharing our heritage and genealogy hobby is what's important.

Leroy Apgar -A Family Member who Cares to Share!

By Lynn Conley

Leroy Apgar at 78 is a man of many talents and many interests, but he will be remembered as a true **Altruistic Patrons Giving Amazing Riches (APGAR)** to the Hunterdon County Medical Center Foundation. In May of 2003, Mr. Leroy Apgar and his wife, Millie, gave \$5000 to the Capital Campaign in honor of Dr. Austin H. Kutscher Jr.

Mr. Apgar's generosity however did not stop with this donation; in September of 2003, he gave \$106,000 in memory of his wife of 36 years, Millie, who sadly passed away on July 15, 2003. Of the \$106,000 dollar donation, \$50,000 will be used to provide nursing scholarships. The scholarships are called the Millie E. Apgar Educational Fund Scholarships. They will be given to Hunterdon County residents and Hunterdon Medical Center employees to pursue or enhance their nursing careers. The remaining funds (\$56,000) will be used in Fulfilling the Vision, Capital Campaign, which will build a new Emergency Department and renovate the Intensive Care Unit at the medical center. Two of the triage rooms in the new Emergency Department will

have plaques that read: 'Given through the generosity of Leroy Apgar in memory of his wife, Millie E. Apgar.'

Mr. Apgar's philanthropy did not stop with the Medical Center Donation; in 2004 he gave \$2000 to the Cokesbury Methodist Church and \$2000 to the Lebanon Methodist Church. In addition, he has given \$100 to the Flemington Food Pantry.

In 2004, he also gave a \$6,000 contribution to the, Johns-Manville Quarter Century Club. The Johns-Manville asbestos factory closed in 1986; however, the members of the Quarter Century Club (employees with 25 or more years) continue to have annual dinners. Last year was going to be the last dinner due to the lack of funds until Leroy Apgar, a 34-year Johns-Manville employee, came to the rescue.

If the kindness of Leroy Apgar is an example of character and resolve of the Apgar family DNA, may we all show that we too are, **Altruistic Patrons Giving Amazing Riches. APGAR!**

The 31st Apgar Family Reunion Returns to the Grange

Saturday September 17, 2005

All Saturday events are at the Stanton Grange Hall, 16 Route 618, Lebanon, NJ

- 10:00 Greetings, Genealogy Assistance, Show & Tell
- 11:00 Speaker - Jim Wade "The Native Americans of Hunterdon County"
- 11:40 Annual Group Photo
- 12:00 **Family Style Lunch** (Adults \$10.00, Children under 10 years \$5.00)
- 1:00 Business Meeting and a Genealogy Report on "Apgar Tavern Owners" by Ann Schaefer
- 2:00 Yankee Auction
- 3:30 Genealogy Assistance
- 4:00 Closing remarks



George Apgar Sr. directs car parking at Stanton Grange in 2004

Sunday September 18, 2005

- 9:00 Meet at **Spinning Wheel Diner in Lebanon; Route 22 Southbound**; Breakfast with Family Members
- 11:00 Attend Church Service at **Lebanon German Reformed Church, Lebanon, NJ.** (This is a different location from last year; this is the church of the Apgar Family in Hunterdon County in the early 18th century.)
- 12:30 Lunch at **Chelsea's Restaurant & Pub; Route 22 East, Lebanon,** (Former- General Store)
- 2:00 Return to the **Lebanon Reformed Church Meeting Room** for a DAR presentation on "Connect to The Daughters of the American Revolution through Family Research."



Lebanon German Reformed Church, location of Sunday Church Service



Matt Krainski, Lynn Conley, Mike Apgar at conclusion of last year's auction

Why come to the Reunion?

An important aspect of reunions is that they substantiate one's identity. The correlation of identity and its effect on self-esteem cannot be over emphasized. As one hears the achievements, struggles and courage of past family members, they instill a sense of pride that allow the next generation to give to the world their special talents. Let your family experience the fun of finding new cousins and the history of their identity. Come to the Apgar Family Reunion!!!

Do you want to help plan our 32nd Annual Family Reunion?

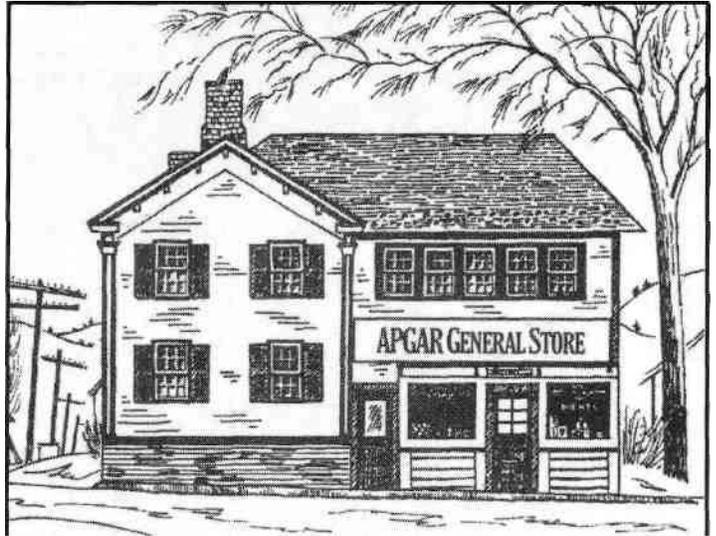
Your are invited to attend our 5th Annual Reunion Planning Workshop for the purpose of planning the September 2006 Family Re-union. The workshop will be held at Chelsea's Restaurant and Pub, 10651 Route 22 East, Lebanon, NJ, from 1:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon. Please RSVP to George Apgar Jr. (732) 297-6686 or to Lynn Conley ((201) 460-9292.

Apgar General Store Open on Saturday

The Apgar General Store will be open for business during the first day of our Reunion on the second floor of the Stanton Grange. In addition to providing a unique opportunity to stock up on Apgar memorabilia for yourself and relatives, the store provides an important source of additional income to the Association which reduces your annual dues. So plan to purchase that Apgar hat, Apgar polo shirt, or Apgar tote bag and wear the Apgar name all year.

Some new items this year include:

- Apgar 2005 Family Collectible Vase, made of stoneware with a cobalt glaze, for sale at \$35. Were you fortunate enough to grab one of these collectibles in prior years? There is a new design each year.
- Apgar Family Fraktur House Blessing Artwork. This is a traditional Fraktur reminiscent of the German House Blessings created by our 18th Century ancestors. This design was created by a 21st Century Apgar artist (Louanna Rich) and is destined to become your family heirloom.
- Apgar "Peach" refrigerator magnet, designed by Wendy Rumrill.



For 2005, the Apgar Store will be located on the second floor of the Grange Hall



Carol Apgar and Krislie Apgar manage the Apgar Store, and its many stoneware mementos, during the 2004 Reunion

Although the Apgar General Store is open only for two days each year, we are working on arrangements for members to order some of these products by mail.

Any member who would like to purchase the Apgar 2005 Family Collectible Vase after the reunion should contact George Apgar Jr. (at address on back page of this newsletter). The cost will be \$35 plus postage.



Members shopped for family heirlooms and keepsakes at the 2004 Reunion

Historical Happenings

By Judy Beck (*judith.beck@att.net*); (908) 236-2413

The following information is taken from various sources, including the internet. Our best source of information is YOU! Please feel free to contact me or a trustee when happenings occur.

DEATHS:

APGAR, Albert M, (6.10.3.6.1.1.1.), 80, died 10/23/04. Res: Bethlehem Township, NJ.

APGAR, Amy Joy, (w/o 10.14.6.3.12.3.2.), 28, died 1/30/05. Res: PA.

APGAR, Charles M, (unknown line), died 12/1/04. Res: La-Marque, TX.

APGAR, Clyde N Jr, (7.4.7.8.2.2.), 92, died 7/27/04. Res: Thousand Oaks, CA.

APGAR, David O, (unknown line), 85, died 2/22/04. Res: Indianapolis, IN.

APGAR, Donald L, (1.2.3.11.1.5.1.), 78, died 10/11/04. Res: Lopatcong Twp, NJ.

APGAR, Donna M, (w/o 7.13.1.1.3.1.1.3.), 68, 12/31/04. Res: Trumansburg, NY.

APGAR, Dorothy, (unknown line), 81, died 6/19/04. Res: Auburn, NY.

APGAR, Geraldine, (w/o 9.6.2.10.5.3.), 73, died 11/17/04. Res: Hamilton Twp, NJ.

APGAR, Harry Lewis, (6.2.8.1.2.1.3.1.), 66, died 1/5/05. Res: Sebastian, FL.

APGAR, Joycelyn E, (unknown line), died 12/20/03.

APGAR, Marian M, (w/o 6.5.7.4.1.1.1.2.1.4.2.2.1.1.), 86, died 8/23/04. Res: Annandale, NJ.

APGAR, Mildred E, (w/o 6.4.3.6.5.2.1.), died 7/15/03. Res: Flemington, NJ.

APGAR, Newton W, (10.14.6.3.11), died 7/11/05. Res: Middlesex, NJ.

APGAR, Pauline H, (w/o 3.7.3.6.5.2.), 83, died 1/14/04, Res: Rockford, AL.

APGAR, Robert M, (9.6.2.10.7.1.), 65, died 3/9/05. Res: Middletown, NJ.

APGAR, Rufus H, (6.10.10.1.2.2.), 92, died 3/21/05. Res: Boonton, NJ.

APGAR, Ruth W, (3.7.9.3.5.2.), 96, died 9/12/04. Res: Lebanon Twp, NJ.

APGAR, Wallace Wilson, (unknown line), 94, died 10/16/04. Res: Doylestown, PA.

APGAR, Walter George, (6.4.3.6.4.3.3.), 67, died 11/11/04. Res: Portage, IN.

APGAR, Walter Stanley, (1.2.3.11.1.6.1.), 84, died 11/12/04. Res: Easton, PA.

BERGER, Hazel H, (4.1.2.2.3.6.1.), 95, died 3/31/03. Res: Port Charlotte, FL.

BISHOP, Thomas, (h/o 6.7.6.3.1.1.), 73, died 5/17/05. Res: Whitehouse Station, NJ.

CARRAWAY, Joyce (1.7.4.7.7.3.), 72, died 9/12/03. Res: Plainfield, NJ.

CHMELEW, Mae E Apgar (3.7.7.2.11.1.), died 10/16/04. Res: E Brunswick, NJ

CONOVER, Martha Alpaugh, (3.5.3.2.3.2.3.), 85, died 2/9/03. Res: Denton, MD.

DISSLER, Sarah Keephart, (9.2.1.8.4.6.), 91, died 8/19/03. Res: Quakertown, NJ.

FEDORKO, James Albert, (6.11.12.3.1.1.2.), died 5/26/03. Res: Oquossoc, ME.

FISHER, Geraldine Ramsey, (7.4.3.2.2.2.2./4.1.2.2.3.1.2.), 78, died 5/25/03. Res: Solsbury, PA.

FLEMING, Gladys M, (2.3.1.12.5.3.), 82, died 5/9/05. Res: Oxford, NJ

HIBBS, Jane Schapfer, (6.11.12.2.1.1.), died 6/15/02. Res: Vero Beach, FL.

HOFFMAN, Doris A, (6.12.9.5.3.1.), 83, died 8/16/04. Res: Litchfield Twp, PA.

ISAK, Donald, (5.7.8.2.1.1.1.), 58, died 4/9/03. Res: Flemington, NJ.

JENTSCH, Robert, (h/o 2.3.5.1.8.2.1./6.2.3.1.8.2.1.), 88, died 6/12/03. Res: Alexandria Twp, NJ.

LANNING, Arthur, (1.2.3.3.10.2.9.), 69, died 5/14/03. Res: Glen Gardner, NJ.

MEEHAN, Rayetta, (6.4.3.4.2.1.7.1./10.15.3.1.2.1.7.1./6.7.5.1.2.1.7.1.), 71, died 12/5/04. Res: Bellevue, FL.

SMITH, Robert H, (h/o 1.2.3.3.2.3.5.2.), 77, died 10/5/04. Res: Lebanon Twp, NJ.

SUTTON, Ilene E, (w/o 1.8.8.5.1.5.), 71, died 3/19/05. Res: Clinton Twp, NJ.

VAN HOUTEN, Virginia S Apgar, 86, died 4/18/04.

WALTON, Helen A, (3.7.7.2.10.3), 90, died 2/4/05. Res: Green Brook, NJ.

WINSHIP, Donald R, (h/o 1.2.3.11.1.2.1.1.), died 9/2/04.

WOOTEN, Suzanne, (6.11.11.1.1.1.3.1./10.8.11.1.1.1.3.1.), 51, died 5/15/05. Res: Tampa, FL.

BIRTHS:

APGAR, Ryan Michael was born 5/10/05 to Daniel Apgar (unknown line) and Inez Wiatrowski.

BENTHIN, Charlotte & Grace were born 4/5/05 to Jennifer Haley and Greg Benthin (6.4.3.4.5.4.1.2.2.1.2.2.).

KOTCH, Logan Taylor was born 11/6/03 to Troy (3.5.3.1.3.3.4.4.1.) and Cheryl Kotch.

MILLER, Ashlee was born 5/23/03 to Joanne Trimmer (3.7.7.2.3.2.5.2.2.) and Troy Miller.

PHILLIPS, Dylan Scott was born 12/9/04 to Susan and Chuck Phillips Jr. His great, great grandmother is Cecilia Bell (unknown line).

SMITH, Daniel John and Sarah Ashley were born 10/3/04 to John B. Smith III (3.6.1.7.2.4.1.2.1.) and Lisa Ann Lazorchak.

SLOSS, Connor Charles was born 2/14/05 to Christopher Sloss (6.4.3.4.2.1.6.2.2.1.) and Sally Baer.

WILT, Alexandra Christina was born 4/5/05 to Alison Apgar-Wilt (1.1.6.6.1.1.1.1.2./3.9.6.6.1.1.1.1.2.) and Neal Wilt.

YOUNG, Haley was born on 6/1/03 to Toni Young (unknown line) and Juan Olivera.

CLAYTON, Keeley Reece (10.5.5.2.1.1.1.2.1) was born 3/5/04 to Andrew and Anne Hartkemeier Clayton (10.5.5.2.1.1.1.2)

MARRIAGES:

James Matthew Apgar (1.2.3.1.1.4.2.1.3.2, 2.3.1.2.1.2.1.3.2, and 4.1.1.6.3.3.1.1.3.2) and Leah Renee Kindred were married on 7/30/05.

Kelly Lynn Apgar (1.2.3.11.1.4.1.1.1.) and George "Cubby" Myers were married on 7/3/04.

William C. Farrowill (3.7.11.1.2.2.1.2.2.) and Lisa Gauger were married on 4/24/04.

Troy John Kotch (3.5.3.1.3.3.4.4.) and Cheryl Martin were married on 6/1/96.

Jessee Lee Brooks Kotch (3.5.3.1.3.3.4.3.) and Suzanne Lewendowski were married on 3/18/00.

Garyn Sheets (1.2.11.3.2.4.1.1.1.) and Christine Werner were married on 9/27/03.

Amy Tiger (1.2.3.7.2.7.3.2.5.) and Michael Scando were married on 5/17/03.

Anne Dieckmann Hartkemeier (10.5.5.2.1.1.1.2) and Eric Andrew Clayton were married on 6/7/03.

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS:

Eleanor Perry Hankinson (3.5.3.1.4.4.1.) and Donald Hankinson of High Bridge, NJ, celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary on 3/5/05.

Update on the Passing of George M. Apgar (February 27, 2004)

Apgar Family Association Trustees

In our never-ending quest to keep our family information as accurate as possible, we would like to recognize the omission of some vital information in the obituary of George M. Apgar that was published in the 2004 Apgar Family Newsletter. Our original obituary was based on two obituaries that were published in local newspapers, and we did not realize at the time that they were incomplete. It has come to our attention that those obituaries omitted some significant information, so we would like to update the obituary of George M. Apgar.

George was married three times. His first marriage was to Shirley Tayburn and they had one child, Brenda Apgar Zimmerman. Brenda is married to Dave Zimmerman and they have two daughters, Vicki Lee Zimmerman Mangulson and Kristi Lee Zimmerman. Vicki Lee Zimmerman is married to Sven Mangulson and they have one son Leif Hans Mangulson. George's second marriage was to Marion Frances Roesing, and they had one child, Georgia Carol Apgar Case. His current wife is Beryl.

To our knowledge, this is the most up to date information we have at this time and we regret publishing the former obituary with these omissions.

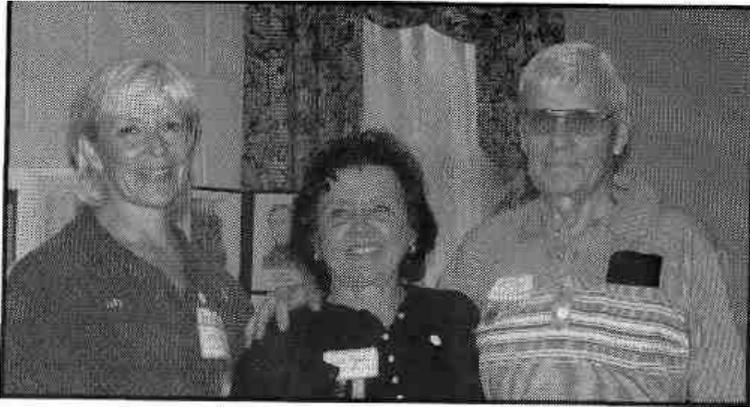
Omissions, Oversights, and Obituaries

By Lynn Conley

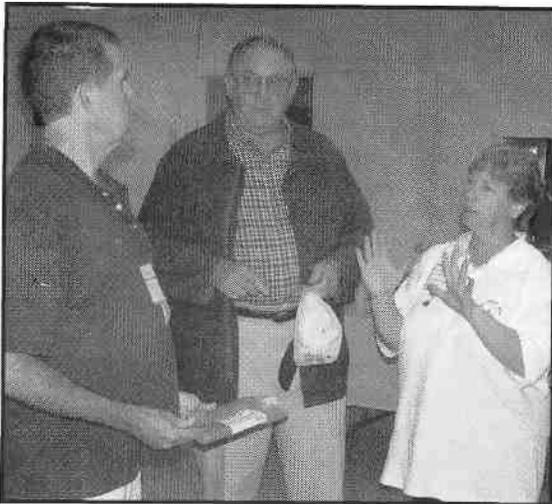
As the current President of the Apgar Family Association, I would like to extend my sincere apologies to any family member who has not been correctly mentioned, eulogized, or singled out for their outstanding contributions to the nation, community, or the Apgar Family Association. As a volunteer group of eight, we are struggling to provide a web site, a news-letter, a two-day reunion, and updated family genealogy data. We believe in the importance of family and the role the Apgar Family Association plays in maintaining our history and reaching out to others to become a part of our extended family. Since family is the one place in society where an individual is unconditionally accepted and loved, it is important to come to know and interact with as many relatives as possible. Family members accept one another as they are, each being special and unique. Family is the very core of human social life, and the benefits of knowing one's family (past and present) cannot be overstated.

I therefore ask that the trustees be looked at as members of your family, with our strengths and our weaknesses, and as with any family, be given assistance when help is needed. We cannot do it alone. In today's world we all have extremely busy lives with many responsibilities and commitments. Since time is our greatest antagonist, with each day leaving us less, we are asking members or friends who wish to make sure to have their special family individual is remembered correctly, that a person from their nuclear family compose an article or paragraph for the annual newsletter. The completed composition can then be forwarded to the Apgar Family Association Newsletter found on the website and on the back of the newsletter. The Association wants to know and remember all those who have made special contributions to our community and our family. So please write the articles; we cannot do it alone.

Scenes From the 2004 Reunion



Longest Married Couple—Fran and Al Tiger;
with Judy Beck, Historian (L)



David Mills (C), current owner of the
Homestead, came for lunch



The Kotch Family, including
the Youngest Child at the 2004 Reunion—
Logan Taylor Kotch, age 10 months

Dining with Family
(left and facing page)





Assistant Auctioneer, Charles Pratt, proudly displays unique heirlooms for sale at the 2004 Auction. The event will repeat in 2005



The Association honors our largest family (Howard Apgar Family) and our Senior Lady (Mary Apgar)



Charles Emory Apgar- "The Wireless Wizard"

June 28, 1865 -August 17, 1950

By Lynn Conley

They say fathers have a special influence on their daughters. In the case of Dr. Virginia Apgar, one of our most notable ancestors, her father also has a very special place in the history of our country and in our genealogy. What role Charles Emory Apgar (10.14.4.3) played in Virginia becoming a trail-blazer in the field of medicine will be left to her closest descendants. However, the role Charles played in history is now part of the record, literally. The following information on Charles Emory Apgar, found on two internet sites, provides some interesting facts on this remarkable individual.

"The earliest surviving recordings of a radio signal are segments of Morse code transmissions recorded off the air in late 1913 or 1914 by Charles Apgar, a New Jersey radio amateur who fitted the electrical element of a headphone to a home-made electrical recording head attached to an ordinary Edison cylinder phonograph. This contrivance enabled Apgar to electrically record radio signals picked up by his receiver on wax cylinders. And he made several such transcriptions during 1913-1915 — some of which led to the discovery of high-speed coded messages being transmitted by German spies through the Telefunken wireless station at Sayville, Long Island. Other recordings made by Apgar were more prosaic — including examples of Morse code news bulletins transmitted by the New York Herald's wireless station WHB in Manhattan.

Apgar's original wax cylinders are lost. But, samples of his recordings survive, courtesy of an uncoated aluminum air check of Apgar's appearance on station WJZ in New York on December 27, 1934. Apgar was interviewed by NBC announcer George Hicks, and highlighted his description of his experiments by playing two of his cylinders into the microphone — one containing a sample of a New York Herald news transmission and the other an example of one of the "spy" transmissions. Twelve-inch aluminum copy discs of this program are owned

by the Antique Wireless Association, and a tape copy is owned by the Library of Congress." (

McCloud, Documenting Early Radio - A Review of Pre-1932 Radio Recordings)

If you would like to hear the original recording made by Charles Apgar, it can be heard on the web at <http://history.acusd.edu/gen/recording/tapes.html>.

To understand the real Charles E. Apgar, this history paper written by Charles's great-grandson Lee Apgar in 1977 provides a more detailed account of the extraordinary life of Virginia's dad.

"Charles E. Apgar, more commonly known as the

"Wireless Wizard" was one of the "Edisonians." Even though he had only three years of high school and one year of college education, he possessed a great knowledge of the math and sciences. In 1876, Apgar's family of seven moved to Bernardsville, New Jersey, which happened to be the vacationing place of George I. Seney, a prominent New York banker. Seney thought that young Charles showed some academic promise so he decided to put Charles through school. His schooling consisted of three years (1880-1883) at Centenary Collegiate Institute and then one year at Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT.



Charles Emory Apgar, father of Dr. Virginia Apgar

At Centenary, he was one of the top students in the math and sciences as well as music. Consequently, when a laboratory explosion accidentally killed his chemistry professor, Charles was appointed a temporary substitute teacher. He was also the organist for the chapel services every Sunday. After a successful career at Centenary, he attended Wesleyan for one year. Unfortunately, due to the failure of Seney's bank, Charles' college education ended after his first year. [1]

In the fall of 1885 Charles took his first job with the New York Life Insurance Company in the treasurers department. For the next six years he steadily worked his way up to next in line for one of the vice-president's positions. The company was increasing its volume of business at a very rapid rate. Tragically the company did not increase employment

in proportion to the rising workload. Due to the increased work and the resulting pressure, Charles had a complete nervous breakdown in the early months of 1902. His doctor told him that he would have to work out of doors at something congenial. After a brief convalescence in Europe, Charles took a job selling pianos for the Aeolian (Music) Company. Shortly afterwards he found another job selling automobiles. From 1902 to 1910 he kept both jobs. [2]

Charles' first contact with wireless came while he was looking through a magazine in a stationery store in New York City. He promptly abandoned any idea of understanding what the article or its complicated schematics were about. He laid it aside thinking, "What nonsense to print such crazy stuff which only an expert can understand." [3] About a month later he read in the New York Herald that an amateur had copied the Herald's wireless on the results of the 1910 election. The article stated that this amateur was an employee of a Wall Street bank, so Apgar located him the next time he was in New York City.

Between the cashier's (amateur) explanation and a catalogue from one of the experimental wireless supply houses, Apgar had enough information to attempt his own "try-out"—the first time you try to receive a station—about one month later. Charles noted: "In less than one minute I heard Station OHX. and one other station. Contrasting this with the experiences of some amateurs (who as I have read, often spend a month or more feeling around before getting a single signal), to say I was satisfied is putting it mildly. Of course, the whole family was called in—even the cat—whose 'meow' was about as near to a wireless signal as anything I had ever heard." [4]

The wireless system which Charles had just mastered had been invented in 1903 by Guglielmo Marconi and Lee de Forest. Charles became good friends with the chief engineer, Roy A. Wigan, of the New Jersey based Marconi Company and, through this contact, was able to get a job as a researcher there. He was to work there from 1909-1921. He made many important inventions while working for Marconi. Probably his most important invention was the process for recording wireless.

It took three years of work to perfect. He also invented an ampliphone circuit, which amplified even the smallest noises so as to make them easier to record. [5] In his final years there, he put his efforts into inventing the paper cone loudspeaker, which was later used in every radio. Before he perfected the paper cone speaker, all wireless operators had had to use uncomfortable earphones. Even though he invented various useful gadgets such as an electric door lock and a continuous ringing alarm

clock, the wireless was still his favorite hobby. He owned a completely homemade ham radio outfit, which at that time was the most powerful in the entire world. [6]

If Charles had obtained a patent on some of his inventions, some ensuing battles might have been averted and he might have made a fortune. The wireless business at this point was still a very unusual and risky business venture. Marconi and de Forest both had companies situated in the New York and New Jersey areas. Both companies were continually stealing each other's secrets and trying to apply patents to such inventions. This led to many patent suits originating mainly from de Forest's company. The subsequent litigation bogged down the technological advancements that both companies could have made. [7]

The ampliphone circuit invented by Charles around 1905 was the object of one of the big patent battles between the Marconi Company and the de Forest Company. Lee de Forest, the father of American radio, copied and then patented the ampliphone circuit (claimed also by Apgar) in 1907. In 1914, Marconi vs. Forest, the court rendered the de Forest patent invalid. The Marconi Company had a patent on the ampliphone circuit or Audion as they called it under the name of the Fleming valve, so de Forest's company was forbidden to manufacture anymore Audions.[8] If Charles had patented the invention in the first place, this would not have happened.

During the United State's pre World War I neutrality period, a powerful wireless station at Sayville, Long Island owned by the Germans, was suspected of sending coded messages regarding ship departures from the eastern United States. Apgar's wireless recorder which could record wireless signals onto wax cylinders, and his ampliphone circuit were the two instruments that would be used to decipher messages being transmitted by the German station owned by the Atlantic Communications Company. This was a subordinate to the Telefunken Corporation, a brokerage business firm in Germany. The station had to renew its license annually. In 1914 the U.S. only granted it a temporary license; in case the station violated the U.S.' neutrality the license could be revoked quickly. The station was still allowed to transmit, but U.S. Navy radio officials were brought in to censor out-going messages. The U.S. had become suspicious of the operation and was trying to make sure that its neutrality was not being violated. [9]

Although the government had censors listening full time, it was much too difficult to detect any deviations in the Morse Code messages seemingly being sent out and the ones that actually were. The

messages being sent were too simple and innocent, not to mention that the cost of sending messages was \$1.00 per word. Some of the messages seemed ridiculous, "Myra has diphtheria," or "Send always invoice before shipping knives," [10] and resulted in even tighter censorship. This, however, did not faze the Germans one bit, because the code that they used involved only one word or one space out of each message. The coded messages could be spaced out over a period of hours or even days. With no way to record and compare them, the Germans could have gone on indefinitely sending secret messages to their waiting submarines on the positions and other pertinent data on the allied ships.

The Secret Service was called in to continue the investigation as there was no FBI, and they, in turn, inducted Charles Apgar into the Secret Service. The Chief of the Secret Service, William T. Flynn, really did not know much about wireless. He contacted Lawrence R. Krumm, chief radio inspector of New York to ask his assistance in the investigation of Sayville. By coincidence, Krumm and Apgar happened to be well acquainted. On June 5, 1915, Krumm wrote the following letter to Charles: "My dear Mr. Apgar: Will you be kind enough to call me up Monday morning from your place of business. I am very desirous of getting in touch with you immediately, as I believe you can be of considerable service in a good cause." [11]

Charles wasn't quite sure what to think of this letter, but he suspected it had something to do with his invention of the recorder since he had demonstrated it to Chief Krumm only three days earlier. The following Monday he contacted Krumm and he made an appointment to meet with William J. Flynn. Flynn asked Charles if he could transcribe messages sent from the station on to wax cylinders so that they could see if the messages contained hidden meanings which could not be detected by the censors. Since Charles was the only person in the country who could operate his invention, he gladly accepted the challenge and started the recording process on the night of June 7. Charles recorded messages for four hours a night from 11 p.m. until 3 a.m. On June 21st all of the recordings were sent to Flynn in Washington. He in turn gave the recordings to Secretaries Lansing, Redfield and David after they were decoded. These men eventually ordered the takeover of the Sayville Station. [12]

Next followed a cover-up, both by the government of our country and the station owners over what had actually happened. On July 1st, the three Secretaries went into conference on the Sayville matter, and on July 7th, they informed Herman Metz, President of the Atlantic Communications Company, that the Navy Department would soon take over the entire

operation of the Sayville station. On July 15, 1915, this was subsequently accomplished. They were still allowed to do their business -reporting stock quotations and transactions - but the Navy did the actual sending of messages. When the press questioned Dr. Frank, secretary of the Atlantic Communications Company, about the takeover, he said: "There has been nothing unneutral at Sayville. If there had been any question of unneutral uses of the plant, the Government would not have taken it over; it would have taken it down." [13]

He also commented about the wireless recorder "that Mr. Apgar can record messages sent out by wireless on a phonograph cylinder is hardly worth discussing, that is physically impossible. I have never heard of it being done." [14]

Obviously Frank made this statement so as to avoid as much of the blame of the takeover as possible. Interestingly enough Apgar had in his possession the following letter, which showed that Frank's company, if not Frank, himself, knew of this process five months beforehand: "Dear Sir, Your letter of the 30th, addressed to Mr. A. E. Seeling, has come to hand, and we have noted its contents with interest. The answer we beg to say that we have no objection to your receiving our Sayville press in the way you have done so far. We can however not allow that you publish what you receive, neither private message nor press. It would interest us to receive one or two of the phonographic records you have taken, and we would be much obliged if you could favor us with same. Yours very truly, Atlantic Communication Company". [15]

On this letter was a memo by Apgar that he personally delivered two of the records to the Atlantic Communications Company of which Dr. Frank was at this time secretary and treasurer. Of course there is a slight possibility that Frank really didn't know about the recorder, but this is dubious since, in his position, he would have had access to any information about such inventions. Unlike Frank who was German, Herman Metz, the president of the company, was an American businessman.

Immediately after the takeover, Metz, who had appointed himself Chairman of the Board of Directors during the takeover procedure, made the following statement pertaining to the neutrality of his company: "This company has committed no improper or un-neutral act. No charge of any such act has been brought to the attention of its officers by any official of the United States government. The government censors on duty at the station have carefully supervised all messages sent, and have returned copies of the same. The company being a public service corporation had no discretion in refusing or accepting messages. Articles recently published in

the newspapers of this and other cities attributing unneutral or improper actions to this company were absolutely and unqualifiedly false" [16]

Comparing that statement with the evidence against the station one would immediately say that Metz's statement was a complete lie. However, Metz later issued a statement of his intention to cooperate as fully as possible with the government operators. It appears that Metz was a patriotic American who had been deceived by some devious German spies. The government learned that Metz's interests in the Atlantic Company were strictly business and that he had had absolutely nothing to do with the technical operation of the Sayville station."

Fortunately the station was taken over just a week before the station was scheduled to expand its Sayville transmitting power to South America. If they had gone through with this, it would have aided the German submarine campaign. This service was thwarted because Colombia took over the German station, which was based in Cartagena, Colombia. The Sayville station would have been transmitting to it. [17]

The government continued to obscure the actual events that had led to the takeover of the station. For some unknown reason they tried to cover up the fact that an amateur wireless operator, Apgar, had assisted in the Sayville takeover. On July 19, Secretary Daniels at first refused to discuss the Apgar records, but then went on to say: "Apgar's phonographic records of messages sent out from the Sayville Station were NOT the chief source of the government authorities' information (or as indicated here or tonight, however,) It was learned that his records reached Washington only yesterday, whereas the Sayville station taken over by the Navy Department ten days ago." [18]

Apgar could not try to disprove Secretary Daniels' statement because under a specific statute of law all the records were impounded. Whether these records remained impounded or were destroyed is unknown, but Charles never received any of the original recordings that he had made. In the following days even more doubt was generated about who was responsible for the takeover. On July 19, in the New York Herald under Official War News, the government again insisted that the Apgar records played no part in the seizure of Sayville. Captain William H. Bullard, the Navy officer administering supervision of the Sayville station, had this to say about the Apgar recordings: "The messages have not yet been compared with the original messages or submitted for approval to the United States censor at Sayville, and therefore it was obvious that they had played no part whatever in the decision." [19]

He went on to say that when he was sent to take command of the Sayville station, after the takeover, that the records made by Apgar had not even been seen, let alone compared with the original messages. Bullard gave all the credit for the takeover to the Naval Radio Station in Arlington, Virginia. He said "Arlington and other government stations 'listened in' on Sayville every night, and the records taken of the messages sent from Sayville in this way were compared with the original messages submitted to the censor. The government obtained all the information it desired in this way." [20]

The Bureau of Navigation and the Department of Commerce backed up Bullard's statement and went one step further, saying that "they regarded the records as merely incidental to the mass of detail gathered by the regular government investigators, " They also claimed that "the apparatus to record the messages is not new and is in general use throughout.." [21] This last statement epitomizes the invalidity of these claims as there were only two recorders in existence at that time and they belonged to Apgar.

Whatever the reason for the smoke screens being thrown up about who was responsible for breaking the code, even Chief Flynn at that time refused to corroborate Apgar's contribution. When asked about the sequence of events leading up to the takeover, Flynn could not deny that Apgar was involved but he issued a statement saying: "I do not care to say when the records were delivered to the Navy Department, nor do I know whether comparisons have been made with the Government's records. Since April government inspectors have made frequent trips to Sayville, and while they obtained no evidence of a damaging nature their reports offered no data to confute the persistent rumors that Sayville was successfully evading the censorship imposed by the United States." [22]

Almost ten years later, Flynn, now the head of a detective agency, wrote the following response to a letter from Apgar: "My dear Mr. Apgar, I am in receipt of yours of the 17th regarding my broadcasting last Saturday night. I certainly remember your valuable services during the period when the government was enforcing the Neutrality laws and often comment on it. If ever I have the occasion to speak from WOR on wartime secret service, I shall give you due credit. I still have the records you made but unfortunately time has made some of them useless." [23]

The records referred to in this letter were examples of wireless recordings, not the Sayville recordings. At least this letter erased some of the doubt that had been clouding the issue of whether Apgar was instrumental in helping the government break the code and take over the Sayville station.

Scenes From Previous Reunions

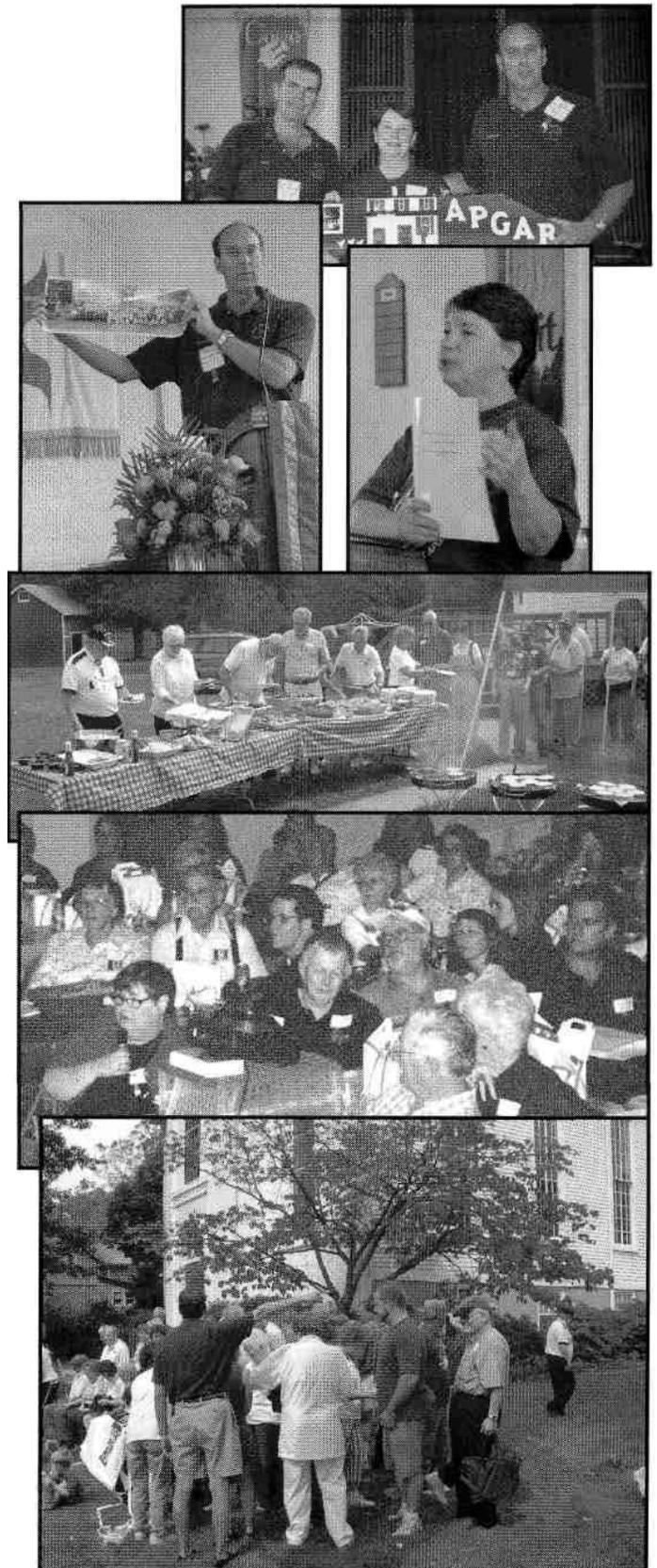
Even though Charles received a huge amount of press coverage, he never derived the financial rewards that should have come with such inventions. At one point during the Sayville affair, Charles said that a patent was pending on the wireless recorder. He didn't receive a patent on it and never made any other reference to it except to say that it was pending. He never patented his paper cone speaker, either. It would appear that Charles was not into wireless for money or recognition; he was in it for the pure pleasure and satisfaction that he could be helpful to his country.

In fact, it almost seems as if there was a government conspiracy to suppress information that might prove useful in the coming war effort. As long as there was no patent on his wireless invention, the Germans would have difficulty using the device for their own purposes. The fact that it was such a new invention prevented many people from accepting the facts about the Sayville incident, but in the New York World, July 8, 1915 his actions were described as "the most valuable service ever rendered by an amateur radio operator to our country." In fact it would seem that helping out his country was his highest priority.

Twenty-five years later, when Charles was 75, he sounded a "call to arms" to the 55,000 radio ham operators in this country. The Second World War had started the year before, and once again the U.S. feared its neutrality was being threatened by the German spies. Apgar described the fifth column activities "a thousand times more perilous than they were in 1915 before the term was invented" and urged all ham operators to try to help "paralyze the most insidious weapon up to now available to enemies of our democracy." [24]

Why the government tried to cover up the fact that Ap-gar truly did help in the Sayville takeover has to remain a matter of conjecture. Maybe he did not get his patent because the government realized that the Germans would steal it. It is ironical that he never applied for patents on his other inventions and yet, on the one he decided to patent, he never received it. The fact that sinking of allied shipping decreased rapidly after his break-through in recording messages on wax cylinders was very satisfying to him. Although a slim example in American history this shows how the dedication of a single amateur scientist with limited resources could foil a part of Germany's espionage network. The publicity generated by this incident perhaps slightly accelerated the United States' entrance into World War I. "

Readers interested in the footnotes should check the website: http://apgar.net/eric/cea_info.html



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September 16-17, 2006