I am still wondering how I got the job so fast. Last year was my first term on the executive. My best rationale is that Canada has to take its turn at least once a decade. Ralph Spence carried the gavel in the seventies; I can take up the challenge for the eighties. One of my ambitions, during the year, is to try to make NAVA truly North American.

Don Healy did a marvelous job of putting together a fine convention at Trenton. Anyone who has organized an annual conference knows the enormous amount of work involved. Don had several unusual hurdles to leap: his original hotel decided to renovate midstream and his intended guest speaker arrived too late for dinner. It is highly unlikely that we will be caught speechless next year.

Jim Ferrigan, as organizer, reports strong early registration. There are scores of outstanding delegates with presentations ready for any occasion.

Your 1986/87 executive, with the exception of myself, is all new. We will be relying most definitely on the consultants to keep us in line. It will not be easy to equal the performance of my predecessor of three terms, Grace Cooper. She carried out her duties with a firm, calm assurance. In an organization, like NAVA, which has no support staff, it is essential that each officer understands his role and handles it without being prompted. Congratulations to Alistair Fraser, of Lemont, Pennsylvania, for winning the Driver Award this year with his presentation on “Chadwick and the Canadian Red Ensign”. All presentations were written as well as oral; we will be making arrangements for selective distribution of the papers to members. More details on this project later...

We should have a busy and exciting spring with the San Francisco congress scheduled for August. DeVard Warner, our new editor, will keep us posted as plans unfold. In the meantime, have a relaxed and joyous festive season.
Letters to the editor

Vancouver, Oct. 13, 1986

Dear Sir:

The Vancouver (Canada) World Fair "Expo 86" closed on October 13 after a great success. It was budgeted for 13 to 14 million visitors and ended with over 22 million.

Some of the many young people temporarily employed with "Expo 86" reported in a TV interview about their job experiences and the often unusual question the foreign visitors had asked them. One of these questions struck me as especially funny: "Does the Canadian flag come in any other color?"

Wolfe Lincke
Vancouver, B.C.

European Community dedicates New Flag

At a solemn ceremony in front of the European Community’s headquarters in Brussels May 29, 1986, the Community dedicated an official flag representing the 12 Member States. On a background of light ultramarine representing the Western Sky, a circle of 12 gold stars, depicting perfection and accomplishment represents the union of the people of Europe. This design of the Old Council of Europe flag proved more popular than the gold epsilon E on a dark blue field design that represented the Community but never formally adopted. The new European anthem, the prelude to Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy” was also adopted at the same time and played at the flag dedication.

8” x 12” color enlargements of the NAVA XX group photo are available at a net cost of $8.00 (U.S.) from Nicholas Artimovich, 6260 Lightpoint Place, Columbia MD 21045, U.S.A. Orders for photos will be accepted for 2 months after you receive this issue of NAVA NEWS. Please allow an additional month for processing of photo and mailing.

The 4” x 6” Corner

Suggested by NAVA members Tom Carrier, Jim Ferrigan and Don Healy. They felt that many members of NAVA are collectors as well as researchers. Through NAVA NEWS they will try to assist those members who like to collect the most common of the available flags, the 4x6 inch miniature flags that are all around us. NAVA NEWS realizes that many members interested in these flags have no ready source of information as to what is new or what is rare in this area, so NAVA News hopes it can fill in the void. NAVA NEWS will not endorse any manufacturer or retailer of these flags, but will let the membership know that these flags have been made. This will allow the member the chance to seek out new flags for themselves.

To get this column started, we will list those unusual 4x6 flags which have appeared recently, but may be unknown to many of our members.

ATTENTION: 4 x 6 Collectors.
The following 4” x 6” flags are now available. Please check your usual source for these new gems.

Marshall Is.
Pala
Yap
Transkei
Slovakia (with arms)
Tuvalu
Brunei
North Korea
St. Christopher/Nevis
US Army 5 Star General
Northern Marianas
Truk
Bophuthatswana

Ciskei
Tonga
Aruba
Liechtenstein
Cayman Is.
Vanuatu
Micronesia
Ponape
Venda
Kiribati
Nauru
Serbia
Andorra
Br. Virgins
Burkina Faso
Saudi Arabia (with current sword & smaller lettering)
MPLA Angola prior to independence
Haiti, new state flag with blue/red colors of the post-Duvalier regime
Texas Sesquicentennial Celebration
Spain, with new royal arms
Spain, with arms prior to 1930’s
St. Vincent and The Grenadines
new design with simplified 3 diamond design
Euzkadi, the Basque flag
Croatia, with shield in the centre
Trenton NJ, 1985 design
“constitution” flag of 1787
Franco-Ontario flag

Good Hunting. Hope you can find these great additions to your collections. If you have any new 4”x6” flags that you would like to let your fellow NAVA members know about, please drop a line to Don Healy, 523 Centre St., Trenton, NJ 08611.
What So Proudly Delaware Hails

IT almost became the Second Battle of Cooch's Bridge, but it ended without bloodshed last week when Jack I. Lewis, a Delaware artist, painted the Stars and Stripes into his depiction of the Revolutionary battle scene.

The dispute began last month when Mr. Lewis, who is 74 years old, was about to unveil his "Battle of Cooch's Bridge," the first of 10 historical murals he was commissioned to create for Legislative Hall in Dover, the state capital. The project is part of an observance of Delaware's role as the first state to ratify the Constitution on Dec. 7, 1787.

At the battle, just south of Newark, an American brigade ambushed British troops on Sept. 3, 1777. It was believed the only British-Colonial clash on Delaware soil. According to local tradition, it was also the first battlefield display of Betsy Ross's Stars and Stripes.

The painting, showing Continental soldiers ready to ambush the Redcoats, drew the anger of descendants of Thomas Cooch because there was no flag in it. "It's been a tradition, and I think there's considerable circumstantial evidence that the flag was there," said Edward W. Cooch Jr.

Mr. Lewis contended that the flag's presence had not been proved. He said ambushing troops would hardly carry a flag into battle.

After experts of the University of Delaware could not settle the dispute, legislators overseeing the bicentennial project held up hanging of the painting to give the two sides time to reconcile. "I think maybe sometimes legends are better than fact," said Mr. Lewis last week, as he agreed to amend his painting.

The final version, now hanging in the House Chamber in Dover, shows the bridge and advancing British troops as viewed over the shoulders of three waiting Americans. One of the three holds the 13-star, 13-stripe flag, its rippling cloth covering much of the lower right quadrant of the work.

"I've seen it and I'm delighted," Edward Cooch said.

Vexillologists of the world suffered a great loss with the death on 12 April 1986 of James D. Marill. A General Services Officer with the United States State Department stationed since November 1985 at the American Embassy in Chad, Marill was killed in an automobile accident while traveling in Cameroon.

His contributions to the advancement of flag study were notable. Readers of THE FLAG BULLETIN will recall his articles -- "The Forgotten Flags of Witu" (Volume XX, No. 21), "A Swastika Flag in Panama" (Volume XXI, No. 6), and "Buganda 1870-1900: Flags in Conflict" (Volume XXII, No. 1). Each one was the result of months of research into original sources and conscientious rewriting. The topics were original, the preparation thorough, and the resulting articles lucid and comprehensive. He also contributed brief flag histories about Chad, France, and the Sudan to a publication of the American Embassy in Chad, N'djamena N'djottings. In the works at the time of his death were major articles on the flags of Zanzibar and Chad.

In 1981 Marill designed the flag of his home community, the Borough of Glen Rock, New Jersey. He was a member of our Association and, in addition to attending several meetings, he served as NAVA delegate to the General Assembly of the International Federation of Vexillological Associations. This occurred in 1983 at the Tenth International Congress of Vexillology in Oxford, England. At that congress he delivered a paper on "Flags of Ragusa" which will be published as part of the proceedings of the congress.

Marill was a graduate of Brandeis University, where he majored in history, and had a master's degree in communications from William Patterson College. As part of his work at the latter, he made an extensive videotape interview with the director of the Flag Research Center. In addition to his professional work with the State Department and his avocation as a vexillologist, Marill was a painter, sculptor, cartoonist, and fencer. He was saluted by the mayor and council of his home town when Glen Rock celebrated "Jim Marill Day" on 25 October 1985.

Ambassador John Blane, during services at the embassy in Chad, stated that Marill had "left an example for us all. If we were all to approach our daily lives and duties with Jim's dedication, perseverance and good humor, the country would be better served." Born in Boston on 23 August 1960, Marill was 25 years old at the time of his death.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Many thanks to Tom Carrier for his excellent work as NAVA NEWS EDITOR during 1986. We (my wife Daphne as secretary, and I) will do our best to carry on in the same fine and tireless manner as did Tom and Reverend R. B. Szala who for six years before produced our NAVA NEWS.

APPEAL: I am asking you the members of NAVA to please assist me in this office of News Editor by submitting as many news items as possible for inclusion in our NAVA NEWS; without your contributions, my job would be almost impossible.

FLASH: Spoke with Helen Ridgway who informed me that Woody has recovered beautifully from his heart attack; he is back at work and both he and his wife will be leaving at the end of December for a three month holiday in Arizona. Also spoke to Sandra Coykendall who says that Robert is recovering nicely from his recent heart attack and is back to work for a couple of days each week.

Woody and Robert, we hope to see you both in San Francisco in 1987.

APOLOGY: I must apologize for the lateness of this issue of NAVA NEWS and wish to assure the members that the next issue will be on time.

To all members, a Happy Christmas and a Bright and Prosperous New Year in 1987.