

# Gadsden GAB

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## HIROSHIMA & UNIVERSAL PEACE: ONE PERSON'S JOURNEY

Vince Lannie

I came to Hiroshima in anger and left in peace. But peace in itself does not mean that one forgets the past. Yet what I discovered in Hiroshima shocked me beyond belief: approximately 100,000 people immediately killed; serious sickness and developing trauma for many; and deep human disfigurement due to radioactive rays. The breadth of this destruction was immense but not different in kind when standing on the sunken Arizona Battleship at Pearl Harbor and honoring the remains of over 1,000 seamen trapped in their own ship as it sank slowly into the sea, with oil drops still rising today from sunken tanks.



Hiroshima atomic past and present day.

It should not be forgotten that Japan began a conventional and sneak attack against the United States in 1941, and America ended the same war in 1945 with the advent of atomic power and nuclear energy. In both cases, each country viewed the other as evil. Seventy-two years later, neither country has ever officially apologized for their respective offensive acts.

There are different ways to view the Hiroshima holocaust. John Hershey's enquiring book, *Hiroshima*, (published 1946, updated 1985) compared pre and post atomic Hiroshima through six survivors of the blast: a store clerk, a physician, a tailor's widow, a German priest, a young surgeon, and a pastor of a Methodist congregation. All lived in the fan-shaped city of Hiroshima located on six islands formed by seven rivers. Its normal population hovered around 380,000 which had been greatly reduced to 245,000 by wartime military conscription and evacuation programs. Factories surrounded the edges of the city, and to the south were important shipping docks and a critical airport carrying military supplies to strategic locations. Most buildings and houses consisted of wooden frames and walls supporting heavy tile roofs.

Then one day the sky above Hiroshima burned bright as snow. It was August 6, 1945, when the first atomic bomb dropped on the city. [The point in the air at which the A-bomb exploded was called the epicenter; the point on the ground directly beneath was called the hypocenter.] Moments later clumps of smoke had begun to push up through the general dust. Houses burned uncontrollably and huge drops of water the size of marbles began to fall. [These drops were in reality condensed moisture falling from the combination of heat, dust, and frisson fragments.] Many people were struck dead immediately while the remaining wounded supported maimed and disfigured half dead stragglers. In a city of 245,000 nearly 100,000 were killed or doomed in the first instance. This included, but barely mentioned, nearly 25,000 indentured Korean factory workers as well as 15 to 20 American prisoners stabled in dank prison cells. One hundred thousand more were hurt or wounded in one way or another. Japan radio quoted President Truman's warning that the new atomic bomb contained more power than 20,000 tons of TNT. If Japan did not surrender immediately and unconditionally, atomic raids would commence on other cities. When no surrender appeared on hand, Truman ordered a second atomic blast on Nagasaki (August 9) with similar harsh results on that city. This second atomic bombing caused the Japanese Emperor to realize that his country could not respond militarily to the United States and its Allies, and belatedly and sorrowfully surrendered to the enemy. On August 15, the Divine Emperor recorded a message on the radio in a public plea to his people. He declared that to save the nation for a future existence Japan must "endure the unendurable" and "suffer what is insufferable." He concluded, "We must relinquish our faith in victory" and "we must surrender." The war was over.

Two stories written for Hiroshima elementary school children emerged from the atomic holocaust. Both exemplified the devastation caused by the atomic bomb and by implication the

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## HIROSHIMA...CONT'D

cruel Americans. In "The Lunch Box", a mother had prepared a meal for her young son to eat throughout the night. It was only the next day that she found his precious skull with an unopened lunch box beside him. The mother cried out in melancholy frustration: "You died before you could even eat your food." Then she looked around the rubble and saw "bodies of young girls" and students everywhere "burned beyond recognition." And tears came to her eyes.

Another story, "Sadako and The Thousand Paper Cranes", concerned a young girl who was two years old when the atomic bomb hit Hiroshima. She contracted leukemia 9 years later and folded 1,000 paper cranes in the hospital to help her recovery. Sadly, she died 9 months later

at 12 years old. From that time on children in Hiroshima traditionally folded thousands of paper cranes as symbols for peace and humanity throughout the world. Presently there is a statue of Sadako in the Hiroshima Peace Park, supported on a "Mountain of Paradise," holding a golden crane in outstretched hands. Every year on Peace Day, September 21, thousands of children hang garlands of paper cranes under and around the statue. Their universal wish is engraved at its base with this solemn stanza:

*This is our cry,  
This is our prayer,  
Peace in the world.*

Such was the exuberance and optimism of Sadako's personality. It is a story that has retained its poignancy and is forever enhanced by the children of the world.

Even before the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, some of its citizens had begun to despair of victory. The Japanese were massively outnumbered in ships, soldiers, weapons, munitions, and air power. Nevertheless, Japan's war lords urged civilians to continue their support of the war effort. These leaders believed in the divine right of Japan to victory. Prime Minister Hidecki Tojo bombarded the Japanese people



with thematic pro-war propaganda: "The Americans are evil! The Japanese are winning. The Japanese took Singapore, the Philippines, Hong Kong, and more and more." The local Hiroshima government reinforced these slogans with more austere and pragmatic pleas: "Doing without until victory" and "Waste is the enemy." Much of this propaganda was geared especially to the younger generation. Boys were removed from school at an early age and ordered to meet advancing American troops. They were told that if Japan lost the war they would all be killed. As a result, they practiced killing American troops with homemade bamboo spears. They recognized that bamboo was no match for guns and tanks but were taught that the most noble and

patriotic thing one could do was to die for one's country.

But then Hiroshima suffered the shock of the atomic bomb. The war ended shortly and the city lay in ruins. Propaganda ceased and reality set in. What was Hiroshima to do? It could die a slow death and return to its traditional past. Or it could rebuild itself into a new city spreading the ideal of peace in Japan and extend this concept throughout the world. In 1949 Hiroshima was officially designated by the Japanese Parliament as an International Peace Memorial City. In time, a Peace Memorial Museum was built as well as a Peace Park illustrating Hiroshima's past and its conversion as a center of universal peace. Paper cranes honoring Sadako's folding of a 1,000 paper cranes remain embedded on various shrines and monuments throughout the city and are usually attached to the simple Sadako prayer memorized by all.

In the beginning, it was thought that nothing would grow in Hiroshima for 75 years following the atomic bomb destruction. But in that very first year an oleander plant bloomed through the scorched earth. The plant grew stronger and larger and gave citizens hope and light for reconstruction.

The oleander rose from destruction to become Hiroshima's symbol for hope and eternal peace. May it always remain so.

## BACK IN TIME: LIGHTNING STRIKES

*Dr. Jack Hisley*



Late in the summer of 1907, the Cape Fear Power Company was constructing a hydroelectric plant at Buckhorn in Chatham County, NC. On September 3, 1907, a lightning bolt struck a building serving as a refuge for 50 workers from an approaching storm. Seven men were killed instantly and everyone else in the building was injured. This instance became a US record for the number of people killed or injured by a single lightning strike. This record was surpassed on July 12, 1961, when lightning killed eight people inside a tobacco barn in Sampson County, NC. As is often the case, the

dead had no visible burns or wounds.

Lightning can travel as far as 12 miles from a thunderstorm—thus many are struck before they realize they are at risk. Survivors often have lasting problems such as memory loss, sleep disorders, fatigue, joint stiffness, and depression.

North Carolina ranks second in the nation in the number of fatal strikes and fourth in the number of lightning-related injuries. In fact, the Old North State averages 535,388 cloud to ground strikes per year, or 10.8 flashes per square mile.

The take-home message is to cease all outdoor activities, boating included, when one sees lightning or hears thunder. On June 21, 2008, a fisherman standing on the rocks south of Fort Fisher (a Civil War fort in southeastern NC) was struck by lightning. As he was being carried off by the EMS, other fishermen on the rocks watched but continued to fish! Have you ever???



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT / CEO

*Bill Trawick*



Summer is officially here! As usual, a significant number of residents have left, or are leaving, and will not return until nearly fall. We will miss them and hope they have safe travels and an enjoyable summer.

For the remaining residents and staff at BG, the coming months will be eventful, to say the least! We will be able to follow the renovations of Winningham Court, the pool, and the Commons up close and personal. Although this work will present inconveniences, please be assured the staff is committed to making your lives go as smoothly as possible. For those of us who are looking forward to the fresh new look of our interiors, hopefully this will be an interesting and enjoyable process to observe. Of course, as always there will also be a myriad of wonderful activities planned for all to enjoy!

On the staff side, a standing room only crowd gathered in Blackmer Hall last week to hear Sarah present the results of more than a year and a half of strategic planning which has produced an exciting plan for our Community's future. The coming months will be intense as we continue to refine the plan and make progress toward its implementation. The expanded and enhanced skilled, memory care, and assisted living environments, and the new offering of on-site Medicare-reimbursed rehabilitation, will further our Community's "Vision for Excellence in Retirement Living", and continue Bishop Gadsden's position as the premier retirement choice in our market area and as a leader in the world of senior living.

On a more somber note, we have experienced the loss of an unprecedented number of our friends in recent weeks, and it has taken a toll on both residents and staff. To be "in relationship" makes us more vulnerable to these losses; but how much less our lives would have been if we had not had the joy these special individuals brought to our lives. The beauty of the "Community" of Bishop Gadsden is that we have the privilege-yes, the privilege-to share both sadness and joy with our friends and to support one another in times of sadness, and celebrate with one another in times of joy. It is a profound blessing.

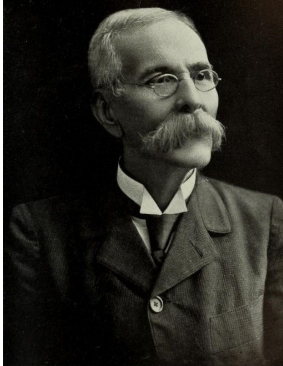
## A FAMOUS RELATIVE

*Ray Houlahan*

In 1903, Manuel Amador Guerrero was a dedicated doctor in the State of Panama and was greatly admired by his fellow citizens. He was the Chief Medical Officer for the Panamanian railroad, as well as a member of a group of professionals who were determined to create a revolution that would separate Panama from Columbia, making it an independent country. Thanks to some very clever planning and the great help of Teddy Roosevelt and an American gunboat, their dreams were realized one year later.

Soon after independence was declared, Dr. Guerrero was named the first president of the newly formed country of Panama. As their President, he was anxious to cooperate with Panama's new friends in the United States. For centuries many countries had dreamed of achieving "a path between the seas" through the Isthmus of Panama. Consequently, Dr. Guerrero and the United States agreed to a 25 year lease creating The Canal Zone where the US would attempt to build a canal. Thanks to Dr. Guerrero and his associates, one of the great engineering feats of the 20<sup>th</sup> century had the legal status for the canal construction to begin.

The story of Dr. Guerrero is interesting and his place in history both for Panama and the United States is



secure. However, the relevance of his history hits home when I learned that Manuel Amador Guerrero is none other than our Cecilia Eaton's, Executive Assistant, great, great grandfather. Soon after Guerrero's death, his wife immigrated to the United States with her 16 year old daughter, Cecilia's great grandmother, and the American part of the story begins.

There is an intriguing addition to their story, when I learned that in 1907 President Roosevelt personally awarded Guerrero one of his specially minted double eagle 20 dollar gold pieces for his service to the US in making The Canal Zone possible. The coin remained with the family. In 2000, when Cecilia's mother died, this valuable coin could not be found among her possessions. Finally in 2005 the famous coin appeared on a Florida state list of unclaimed property. Miraculously, just two days before the state deadline, Cecilia's sister was able to reclaim the coin for the family, restoring an important piece of history to its rightful place.

Future family conversations will center on what to do with one of the five most sought after coins in America. We wish them luck and thank Cecilia for sharing this wonderful bit of family history.

## BEGINNING THE COASTAL CAROLINA AQUATIC ASSOC.

*Dr. Walt Ector*

It was the summer of 1966. Competitive swimming seemed to be dying out in Charleston. There were a few teams with a few swimmers: the North Charleston Blue Angels, coached by Mrs. Blouin, the Charleston YWCA team, coached by Patsy Morley, and the Summerville team, coached by Mrs. Lola Jones. There were also small summer only teams in Hobcaw, Mt. Pleasant, Northbridge Terrace, Charleston Country Club, and a small team in the Air Harbor area. However, there were only a few swimmers involved, and only the YWCA had an indoor pool with a year-round program. There was no organized overall program, and little incentive for kids to get involved. There were a number of subdivisions with community pools, but no swim team.

A handful of local swimmers had qualified for the Regional swim meet which was held that year in Chattanooga, TN. My oldest daughter, Jan, was one of them, with one teammate from the YWCA team, and four from the Summerville team. The Region, at that time, consisted of all of South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, and the northern half of Florida. The southern part of Florida was a region unto itself. Now South Carolina is its own Region.

The Regional swim meet lasted two days, with the outstanding swimmers from all the area states. The next morning we looked in the newspaper for the results. Our few swimmers had done very well; but the news about the entire regional meet was reported in one small paragraph. However, Chattanooga had developed a Novice Swim League and had held their end-of-season meet the same weekend. The report of that meet consisted of two pages, with photographs, and comments. There was a large number of swimmers involved.

On our ride back to Charleston, I began to think about how we could get more of our Charleston kids involved in swimming. I was concerned about the number of drowning deaths occurring each year in the Charleston area. The CDC in Atlanta reports there's an average of 3,500 fatal, unintentional drownings every year in the US. In addition, for every child who dies from drowning, another five receive emergency room care,



many requiring hospitalization, and too many suffer long term brain injury. With Charleston surrounded by so many bodies of water, I felt that we needed more emphasis on swimming.

I was impressed with the large number of swimmers Chattanooga had involved. The idea of a novice swim league in Charleston began to form. So, on returning to Charleston, I got together with two other fathers of swimming kids, Buddy Pregnal, and another, and we discussed the idea of a novice swim league. At first we decided that the swimmers who practiced in the summer could only be involved. Those who swam year round were excluded, since it would be the NOVICE League. We contacted each existing swim team and presented the idea. Soon we had meetings with representatives from each team, and rules were formed. We scheduled dual meets between teams, and we were up and running. At the end of the summer of 1967 we had the first year-end meet with all teams competing. The heat sheets for this meet were formed in my living room. The meet was held at the Citadel pool, and was a great success.

From that beginning the League has grown tremendously, with over 2,700 swimmers from 19 teams competing in the 2016 season. Some time ago all swimmers, including those swimming year round, were allowed to participate. And the name was changed to the present name: Coastal Carolina Aquatic Association (CCAA). An exam was developed to qualify officials, and a list of qualified officials was formed. The enthusiasm of the swimmers and their parents at these meets is infectious.

Kathleen Wilson, a member of Charleston City Council, has been attempting for several years to get a Natatorium built in the Charleston area. Many other cities enjoy this type of facility. Kathleen is a noted long distance swimmer, having swum the English Channel, among a number of other long distance events.

The competitive swim season has just begun in Charleston. The end of season meet is scheduled for July 14-16. The beginning and organizing the Charleston Swim League is one of my proudest accomplishments.

## SURPRISE! \$\$ IN YOUR CUBBY! - ELIZA'S ATTIC

Several residents have already taken advantage of the suggestion that the Attic will take your unwanted sterling silver, sell it to our friendly and generous jeweler in Windermere Shopping Center, and bring you a check for half the proceeds...with the other half going to the Attic, and your donation of the silver tax deductible.

One resident received just under \$100 and another a little over \$350! All for a few sadly tarnished pieces of neglected sterling silver.

Search your closets and drawers! It could benefit you and BG!

## HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

*Katie Jayne, Director of Community Life Services*

Bishop Gadsden is once again making plans for hurricane season. This year in planning we have taken into consideration the many valuable lessons we learned last year evacuating from Hurricane Matthew. As I reflect on that time from last October, I am proud of how our staff, residents and families reacted. It became a well-oiled machine and I truly believe that is a result of our yearly planning and training.

Through the winter we reflected on Hurricane Matthew and conducted reviews and training to improve the details of our evacuation. These reviews were also conducted with our contracted vendors. This has allowed us to strengthen these business relationships we rely on during a time of need. The state has also evaluated our plan and we have received approval for 2017. Our staff is looking at their individual plans and making a commitment to evacuate with Bishop Gadsden or to serve as a relief team member when we return.

We are asking all residents to look at their plans for 2017 and let us know their needs. These numbers are crucial in accurately planning for staffing and resources. We have secured contracts with vendors in the Spartanburg area once again. As you know, last year Spartanburg was not our evacuation city, as a conference was in session during our time of need. We are in the stages of building other back-up plans in other cities. This will allow us choices if the timing of rooms becomes an issue. Diversity and flexibility is key in preparing this multi-faceted plan.

All of this planning comes with a hope that we will not use



any of these resources this hurricane season. The Bishop Gadsden campus recognized Hurricane Awareness Week June 25–30, which included a live drill, table-top exercises and information sessions. With three storms already named at print time, we are diligently watching each storm and will communicate any warnings as needed.

### *Hurricane Matthew Evacuation Story* *As told to Lauren Seaton, CLS Intern* *by Resident, Lois Randall*

During the Hurricane Matthew evacuation, on our bus there were only two independent living residents while the rest were residents of Read Cloister. We had a smooth evacuation and everything went well. When we were returning on the bus back to Bishop Gadsden, everyone was restless. You could tell that everyone was ready to be home after the four hours of traveling. Audrey Williams, the charge nurse, could sense it. Audrey got this big, beautiful package out that was filled with cookies. She walked down the entire aisle of the bus and everyone took one cookie and was happy. I know cookie packaging, and this was a special box. The cookie was so delicious and I looked at the box and said, “I bet you had the box for your family.” Audrey said she was glad to share it. Everyone calmed down for the rest of the trip. Of course, she is a superior, competent, and knowledgeable nurse but she also gave of herself more than what the job called for. In giving that one cookie, we were all content. We knew that she had shared the box and we will never forget that moment. She is an unselfish, excellent woman.

## SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC, EARLY 1945

*Lee Baker*

She was a small ship, one of the smallest steel hull vessels in the U.S. Navy. PC-825 was my ship along with 5 officers and 71 sailors. Less than 24-hours ago she had collided with a U.S. Navy transport we were escorting from Pearl Harbor to the Marshall Islands. Since the collision our skipper was worried about his fate as we limped along at a reduced speed of nine knots. Soon we were joined by a seagoing tug as we made our way back to Pearl Harbor.

The 0400 watch sighted a sister ship on the horizon who had sonar evidence of a Japanese submarine in the area and asked if we could assist. Our skipper, anxious to redeem his reputation, decided to join the chase without informing our escort. The PC-825 located the Japanese submarine and began its attack run when our skipper realized the gunner's mate was still in the sack. We pulled out of the attack line, aroused the gunner's mate who was in charge of releasing the depth charges and resumed our attack run. A shallow pattern depth charge run is accomplished safely when the ship's speed is at least 15 knots.

Despite our slow speed of nine knots, depth charges were released from the fantail. The explosions occurred so close to our ship that the stern was lifted out of the water and came crashing down four harrowing times. By this time, the entire crew was awake and on deck thinking the PC-825 had experienced yet another collision. Confirming the sinking of the Japanese submarine was futile.

Orders to return immediately to Pearl added to the skipper's anxiety. We arrived at Bishop's Point in Pearl Harbor at 1030. A car was waiting with two officers to escort our skipper to Naval headquarters. We never laid eyes on our skipper again.

The private shipyard to which we were sent for damage repair was near Waikiki Beach and the good news was the PC-825 crew received 30 days of relaxation and liberty while repairs were made. We enjoyed every minute of our time there!



## BEYOND THE BG TRAILS - AN ADVENTURE WALKING THE ARTHUR RAVENEL BRIDGE

Dr. Norman Walsh

This story is mostly for those who have never been on the walk/bike lane of the Ravenel Bridge. It is for two groups: Group A—those who would like a short walk to the East Tower (Mt. Pleasant side) viewing area where one can get a fantastic aerial panorama view from Sullivan’s Island to the city of Charleston. This view



includes the Sullivan’s Island light tower, Fort Sumter, the Yorktown aircraft carrier and Patriot’s Point, the remains of the first concrete passenger ships made in America and the City of Charleston. It is also likely that one will see in the harbor a cargo ship with tugboat, a cruise ship, a Charleston tour boat and many smaller boats. From the parking lot it is 0.82 miles to the East Tower viewing area. It is a steep uphill walk but anyone in just mild fitness should be able to make it in 30 minutes. I did it in 26 minutes the first time and 21 minutes a week later. Once on the walking lane of the bridge it is very important not to get in the bike lane and risk being hit by a fast biker—especially downhill. There are benches at each tower and it is safe to stop and enjoy the view. In fact, it is worth the trip just to walk that first segment and look around. If you don’t mind extra weight, carry a camera and binoculars.

With light traffic, one can leave BG and be parked in 20 minutes. To get there, take the far right lane of the Bridge and exit on Coleman Blvd.; take the first right on Patriot’s Point Blvd.; after about ¼ mile, turn right on Harry Hallman Jr. Blvd. and follow it to the parking lot. Parking is free. A paved path leads to the Bridge walking lane.

Also on this site is the Charleston County “Memorial Waterfront Park”. A walk on the 1,250 foot long pier under the bridge is highly recommended. One can read more about it on the link here: <https://ccprc.com/1171/Mount-Pleasant-Pier>

As one ascends the bridge, the shell of an old ship can be seen on the left near the shore line. From time-to-time its story is printed in the *Post and Courier*. Recent research by the Mt. Pleasant Historical Commission discovered that it was erroneously called the “Archibald Butt” while its actual name is the Col. J. E. Sawyer. It is the first ferrocement ship built in America (1919 in New Bern, NC). It was 128 feet long and could carry 500 passengers. It sank near Adger’s wharf in 1926. In 1929 it was raised and towed to its present location.

For Group B who might want more exercise.—this is my story of the “adventure”. Forty years ago I used to run a 10 mile round trip from my Mt. Pleasant home across the old bridge and back.

Recently I wanted a change from walking in the woods and road at BG and wondered whether walking 2 miles 5 times a week here at BG conditioned me enough to make the 5 mile round trip on the bridge.

On Memorial Day morning, May 29, I decided to test my

body. Since last walking the Ravenel Bridge, over 5 years ago, I had gained weight, had another hip replacement and was less conditioned. My wife, Marcy, has been walking the “Bridge” with friends every Thursday for several months. I decided to do it alone so as to not lose face if I had to turn back before making the crossing.

Before reaching the first tower I was puffing and wondering whether attempting this walk was a mistake, but stubbornly committed to making it 2.5 miles to the end on the Charleston side. I arrived there in 1 hour 7 minutes and was pleased to see two water fountains. Benches are there also but I choose not to stop. Starting back up, my shoulders drooped and my legs felt a little wobbly. Soon a young woman passed me, slowed, turned and asked, “Are you alright?” I said, “Yes”; not realizing how spent I must have looked. But that did it, I straightened my shoulders, sent energy to my legs and told myself that I could do it. My resolve was so strong that the return trip to the Mt. Pleasant side was done in 16 minutes less time.

The return trip is easier because the highway slope is less in this direction. My iPhone app recorded the elevation climb at 380 feet. The West Tower (closer to Charleston) is also a good stopping point because one gets a closer view of the city. I found the traffic noise extremely irritating. When I removed my hearing aids, it dropped to the level of just “annoying”. The total walking time was 1 hour 48 minutes. I returned on June 9 and did the trip five minutes faster without any “puffing”.

I felt ready to see whether I could walk at Marcy’s pace so returned with her two days later on June 11. We walked nonstop to the Charleston side at Marcy’s pace but she did not want to go faster returning and held back. I pushed on and finished at a pace 2.5 minutes per mile faster than before for the 5 miles. I was competing with myself and was pleased to have an improvement. This trip nonstop took 90 minutes. I can’t take much pride in that since I was constantly being passed.

Whether one chooses option (a) or (b) I recommend this adventure to anyone who feels fit enough to go and enjoy one of the finest vistas in the Lowcountry.

—THE  
QUOTE  
—OF THE MONTH—

“Age is merely the number of years the world has been enjoying you.”

—Unknown Author

If you would like to be featured as quote of the month, please contact GAB Editor, Dr. Walt Ector. We’d love to share your words of wisdom!