TOM’S WEB SITE INPUT (THE STORY)

Motto:

If you do not have fun along the way, you will not be able to have fun when you get there



Childhood

Thomas Blatt (Tom) was born on November 13, 1933 in Budapest. His father was Dr. Geza Blatt, MD, his mother was Jolan (Simon) Blatt, a librarian. The Blatts lived in Budapest. In 1942 Dr. Blatt was drafted (World War II) and in January 1943 he died at the Russia-Ukraine border. Tom still feels this was the greatest tragedy in his life.





Education, Friendships, Leaving Hungary

Tom attended elementary and high schools in Budapest, followed by four years at the University of Technical Sciences, also in Budapest. During this time he developed very close friendship with three others that lasted through their entire life. In 1956 during the outburst of the Hungarian revolution against the communist regime, Tom used the opportunity to leave the country. He left with one of his friends George. The decision to leave was very difficult, partly because he was just about to get his degree, partly because he did not want to leave his mother alone, and partly because one of his friends decided not to leave. Escaping was not as easy as it sounds, because “it was too early in the game” and the border was still covered with Russian and Hungarian tanks. Tom and George were captured and put on a Russian military truck going eastbound. They, however, jumped off the truck during the night while going hrough the city of Gyor and successfully crossed the Austrian border the following day.





Arriving in America, Graduate Schools

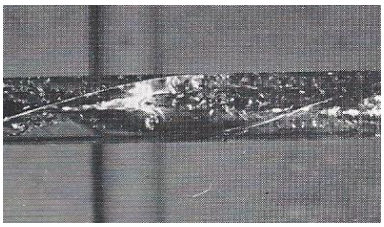
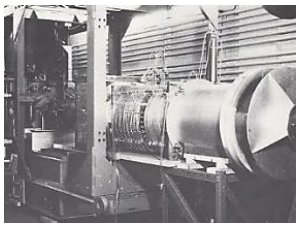
In 1956 after the outburst of the Hungarian revolution against the communist rgime. Tom used the opportunity to go to the US. In 1957 he was accepted to MIT graduate school where he earned an MS degree in mechanical engineering. In subsequent years he earned an MBA at Boston University.





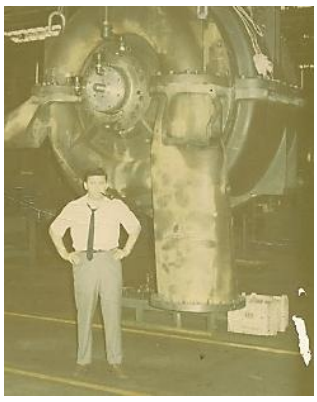
Professional Life

Tom’s working life can be divided into three periods. From 1959 through 1977 he was Manager of Product Development at NREC (a Cambridge think tank), where he was responsible for all experimental facilities, personnel and subcontracting in the area of rotating equipment (turbines, compressors, pumps, etc.) used primarily in the chemical and aerospace industries.



His original research work included solving the impact of zero gravity on boiling fluids in space, and developing a new, improved version of the Hilsch tube, proving that the concept does not violate any of the basic laws of thermodynamics or fluid dynamics, as many people believed through the decades. 1966-1968 he was named manager of an international product development project. During this period he spent over half of his time in Italy. In 1977 Tom decided to go on his own, and developed a small international consulting practice which he continued until the late 1980’s. In 1983 Tom established iNTRAX corporation, a small company developing markets and conducting sales for small technical US companies in Europe. INTRAX had local sales organizations in France, the UK and in Eastern Europe. In 2002 Tom retired at the age of 69, terminated most of his operation and moved to Florida.



Family Life

Tom married Donna O’Connell in 1965, and they had two sons Karl and Greg. They lived in Weston, Massachusetts. The Blatts had a friendly separation in 1983, after 18 years of marriage.






Tom married Ann Waldron in 1988, and they have been married ever since. The Blatts lived in Lincoln, Massachusetts and in Amherst, NH., before retiring in Florida in 2000. They did a great deal of travel until 2020 when this came to a sudden halt due to the COVID. The Blatts travelled all over but the main concentration was Switzerland where they went skiing each year for over 15 years. They got married there. Tom and Ann now live in retirement in Boca Raton, Florida where they see Karl and Greg and their families regularly.







Sports, Social Life

Tom has been involved in organized sports since age four (swimming) and in competitive sports since age 12. He swam butterfly and breast strokes until age 16 after which he switched to water polo and was a permanent member of the team that won the under 21 national championship in 1952 in Hungary. He continued playing water polo in the US (at MIT). Slowly he switched to squash and started to play competitive bridge becoming a Life Master in 1965.







Around this time cross country skiing became his favorite sport, and it remained that for the rest of his life. In 1979 he accepted a youth soccer coaching position (of 11 year-old boy)s, and coached them for six years, winning six division championships, four league championships, and in 1984 the state championship in Massachusetts. During this period he took his team on four European tours, playing friendly matches and in tournaments.

The Blatts' social life involved friends primarily from family, schools, work and sport activities, and dining in fine restaurants both in theUS and overseas.



