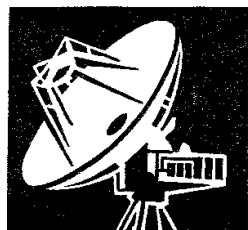


RESEARCH LAB REPORTER



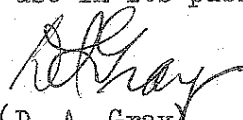
PRODUCED BY RESEARCH LABORATORIES, 59 LITTLE COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE

"RESEARCH LAB REPORTER"

It was with particular pleasure that I accepted the opportunity to write this editorial for the Research Lab Reporter, because when I first joined the staff the whole of the Laboratories were located in the one building at 59 Little Collins Street, and I have often missed the frequent contact between the clerical, technical and professional staff members which was possible in those days. Since then, due to the growth of the Post Office business throughout the Commonwealth, the Research Laboratories has also undergone considerable expansion, so that we are today located in various sites throughout the city.

I believe that for the past 40 odd years there have been rumours of moves afoot to locate Central Office, including the Research Laboratories, in Canberra, and if this happens maybe we will all be housed under the one roof again, enabling us to become better acquainted with our fellow workers. But when we are united in a fine new building - either in Melbourne or Canberra - it is most doubtful that without the Research Lab Reporter we would even then get to know of the highlights in the life of individual staff members; of the triumphs of the playing fields, the academic and professional achievements, or of the daily gossip, and the details of the new and lost faces, and where they all fit into the scheme of things.

The Reporter is a means of communication like the Radio, Television and the Daily Press, but like all communication channels it cannot function without the co-operation of the user at the end of the line. To maintain this line of communication, to bring everyone closer together, to be able to report the humorous as well as the serious problems of today and above all to bring the Laboratories' workers closer together, I recommend your support in providing the reporters of this magazine (their names are listed on the final page) with material for future use in its publication.



(D. A. Gray)

Thumbnail sketches

Duncan Gray, B.E.E., A.M.I.E.Aust., Engineer Class 4, Principles

Duncan Gray says he is the only surviving member of the professional staff which was working in the Laboratories when he joined the organisation in February 1941, during the darkest days of World War II, and the Laboratories were working at top speed on defence projects - mainly radar, or "radio location" as it was called then.

Fresh from an engineering course at Melbourne University, he had already taken a Diploma in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering at Footscray Technical College and became Engineer (Instruments) in the Laboratories under Alan Lorimer, then Divisional Engineer, Laboratory Facilities. In 1946 Duncan became Divisional Engineer, Laboratory Equipment, for a brief period and in 1947 transferred to the position of Divisional Engineer, Telephonometry, where he set up a mammoth "Immediate Appreciation" test in which most of the Model Shop staff took part.

He moved again in 1948, this time to the Multichannel Division, where his major work was the co-ordination of the design and construction team on the Bass Strait Cable 7-Channel Extension project, the cutover of which took place in 1954/55.

When Mr. Brett departed upon an overseas visit in 1962, Duncan was chosen to lead the Physical Sciences Sub-Section as Acting Engineer Class 4. In 1965 he transferred again, this time to Engineer Class 4, Principles, and he was subsequently appointed to this position.

Coming from a family of professional foresters and gardeners, Duncan is an enthusiastic grower of Australian plants, and from time to time photographs of his native garden have been featured in local gardening magazines. Always active in local

community affairs, he was, for seven years, secretary of the Beaumaris Art Group, and claims it to be one of the best-known suburban art societies in Australia.

Duncan has travelled abroad on two occasions: on an official study visit in 1958, and again two years later with his wife during six months furlough.

Mrs. Maree Zara, Typist, Watkins, 262 Exhibition Street

Maree, as Miss Childs, joined the Department in 1954 and graced the portals of Long Line Equipment, Lines and Research before she was lured to Canberra by the Department of Defence in 1959. However, nine months in the A.C.T. was sufficient and she returned to Melbourne and joined the Methods Section. In 1964 unable to resist the continental charm and culinary art of one, Aime Zara, she entered into the Holy Bonds of Matrimony.

Since rejoining Research in 1965 Maree has won the praise of many at Watkins for the quiet, efficient and pleasant manner in which she has performed her secretarial duties despite her pet aversion of the amount of work generated by official overseas visits. She was very pleased to see that the latest issue of the Central Administration Telephone Directory had finally dispensed with the use of her maiden name.

Frank Arter, B.E.E., M.Eng.Sc., Engineer Class 3, General Services

Frank has been with the Laboratories since his original appointment as Engineer Grade 1 in early 1958. He joined the Department as a Clerk at South Melbourne Workshops in 1952 and became a Cadet Engineer in 1953. He qualified at Melbourne University, gaining the degrees of Bachelor of Electrical Engineering in late 1956 and, after a further year of post-graduate work, of Master of Engineering Science in early 1958. His first three years in the Laboratories were spent with Harry Wragge and Frank Wion in the V.F. Transmission Division - the original Research occupants of Taubmans Building. Here he saw the introduction of transistor switching circuits to laboratory projects and claims to be one of the first to have used Arthur Baddeley's printed wiring boards. He then joined Duncan Gray and

Arthur Thies in Multichannel Division for two years before taking up his present position in Ross Pitkethly's Sub-Section on an acting basis. Now appointed, his chief concerns are the Model Shop, the Training Annexe and matters relating to the accommodation and facilities of the Laboratories. He is backed up in this work by Paul Battlay, the Model Shop team led by Chas Eyre, Phil Westbrook and Bert Cooper, by Bill Staley and Arthur Forecast in the Training Annexe and by the small group of outposted Workshops carpenters and painters known as Jack Dyke, Des Kiss, Barrie Anderson and Frank Shields. Despite the depletion of this team by hard-to-fill vacancies, it is the largest Division in the Laboratories, with the last count of heads totalling somewhere in the fifties. The services offered by the Division to the remainder of the Laboratories are in continual demand and Frank is kept on his toes trying to keep the maximum number of customers happy for the maximum time. He also finds himself considered a good testing ground for rumours that the Laboratories are to be re-located in a wide variety of places.

After hours, Frank travels to Bayswater and hence has his own interest in re-establishing the Laboratories in this outer-suburban area. His wife Margaret and he find that bringing up a young family is almost a full-time occupation. The family (at time of writing) comprises Cathy 6, Greg 4, and Michael 2, and Frank is thus adequately supplied with "assistants" in the jobs he takes on around the home. However, Margaret allows him out occasionally to join a recently established and hardy band of "golfers" who, as Charlie Bates says, score "about the ton". He is a willing starter, although he generally argues in favour of a somewhat later starting time than that proposed by Alva Allen. Brian Lafferty has shown by dubious arithmetic that Frank consistently comes out as "B" grade winner in Lab. tournaments, but Frank says that this is proof of his uncanny ability to play the right number of holes the wrong way.

Neil Walker, Sub-Sectional Clerk, Transmission Systems

Neil enlisted in the R.A.N. in 1941 and served for a period of $4\frac{1}{2}$ years of which over three years were spent overseas attached to the Royal Navy. He was known as a Coder by rank and

was to be found in the Radio Room. Although he learnt very little about radio equipment he did know where not to place a screwdriver. He was a most fortunate survivor of the H.M.A.S. Nestor which was sunk in June 1942 whilst engaged on escort duties with the Malta convoys.

Returning to civvy street Neil resumed his managerial duties in private enterprise but finally saw the light and in 1957 decided to make the Public Service his career. After four years experience in the Victorian Wages and Allowances Section and twelve months of controlling paying officers every fortnight he "figured" it was time he sought the green pastures of Central Office and subsequently found asylum in the Transmission Systems Sub-Section in February 1965.

The leisure hours of this ancient mariner are spent in unsuccessful trout fishing and as an active member of the Collingwood Football Social Club which almost "rose" to great heights last season - (see Stop Press).

Margot Kelly, Library Officer

There have been many enquiries as to the name of the chic young lady seen in the vicinity of Merl Cuzens' office on rare occasions. Let us introduce Margot Kelly, ex-Queenslander, who is one of the foreign legion members. Margot is outposted as library officer in charge of the Long Line Equipment branch library at Parkade. Prior to joining the library staff in 1965 she worked for two years in the National Library in Canberra.

There are two things about Margot that are most peculiar: she appears to enjoy Melbourne winters and she believes she is associated with the best group of engineers in the Engineering Divisions.

MICROWAVES ?

WISE & OTHERWISE

The Physics Division considers itself extremely fortunate to have the services of Vic McMaster of Model Shop fame. Vic, although of age, refuses to retire and every possible advantage is being taken of his wealth of experience and ability to construct just about anything.

There is a strong rumour going the rounds that Alva Allen is seeking legal advice with a view to taking court action against this publication for defamation of character.

He is alleged to have stated that some one must have their wires crossed - the reference to his electrifying burst on the Rosanna Golf Course (February issue) was entirely without foundation.

Congratulations and bon voyage to Alan Anderson of the Polymer Division who was married on the 7th April. Alan has left us and accompanied by his new bride, Dorothy, is about to depart for a two year working holiday overseas. On behalf of all his friends at Watkins, Gerry Flatau presented Alan with a large travelling case and expressed the hope that Alan would keep us informed of overseas developments, both personal and technological. Alan thanked everyone especially Hec Ruddell for his assistance and friendship extended to him over the years and hoped that his wife would permit him some use of the travelling case some of the time.

The daughter of Robert Barclay, Senior Instrument Maker, presented him with a grandson recently. Grandfather, mother and babe all doing well.

George Jansz, Clerical Assistant in the Laboratory Equipment Division is busy preparing for the wedding of his daughter, Yvonne on 27th April. Another future grandfather to swell the ranks of the Laboratory Equipment Division.

Dick Fitzsimons, Technical Officer Grade 2, Acceptance Testing, has purchased a Toyota Crown station sedan. After running it in Dick is taking a month's furlough and together with his family is doing a tour up to sunny Queensland - Safe travelling Dick.

Social Snippets *(from our "DJ" Reporter)*

Congratulations to Neil Wain and his wife Joan on the happy arrival of Bradley John. If he grows up to be as tall as his father he will have to get "height allowance".

Glad to see Ash "Tubby" Conroy transferred to the Labs. everyone will find him a congenial chap. Hope he's around for a long time.

Doc Seyler could become a photographic model after seeing his picture in the A.P.O. Magazine recently. Congratulations on your Doctorate.

Evergreen Fred Kelly known as "Fearless Fred" might have his work problems (according to him) but building his house is the major concern, whether it be cornice trouble or fitting in the fireplace. At the moment he is an amateur stone mason.

Ed Fall is falling for the old cupid trap, stay out in the Nullarbor with the witchetty grubs Ed until you are sure that you wont be led to the altar.

Everyone is pleased to see that the "Chief" (PRB) has lost none of his old zip since returning to work after a recent operation.

Played golf the other day with Charlie Bates, he might be a good driver but he sure can't count.

Sylvia Hindmarsh is losing her fiance to the "Nasho's" shortly. Suggest Sylvia, you join the "Lonely Hearts Club" or look around the Labs. for a suitable substitute for a couple of years.

See that Kevin Bartlett made the Tigers list again. Good luck Kev for the coming season. Might be a good recruit for BTL's social football team.

Lumps & Bumps

Fred Petchell of the Chemistry Division was involved in a nasty accident recently on his way to work incurring about \$200 damage to his Vanguard. Although "carrying" a sore leg for a while Fred was absent for only one day.

It's good to see the smiling countenance of Terry Dillon returned to our ranks after a period of three weeks sick leave including hospitalization. Terry is most adamant that his particular surgeon definitely "nose" his limits despite the leg-pulling he received.

Hec Ruddell discovered his right index finger was not made of plastic when he unfortunately crushed it whilst dismantling his swimming pool for the winter season. Hec agrees there are more comfortable ways to be plastered.

Other recent victims include Barry Meehan and Julian Ophel who were on the wrong end of a squash racquet and hockey stick, respectively.

YOUR MOVE

Many pleasant additions have been made recently to our library staff. A very warm welcome is extended to Judith Quilter, Mary Lou Cussen, Catherine Carmody, Roslyn Whitton and Rae Grafton.

Judith is the library officer in charge of acquisitions, ordering and processing and was previously responsible for library services at Repatriation General Hospital, Concord, New South Wales.

Mary Lou has recently returned from an overseas trip prior to which she was in charge of the library services at St. Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne. She can now be found working with Sandra Russell on reference/information work.

Catherine finished her schooling last year and is the clerk in charge of loans. She is interested in training as a library officer at a later stage.

Rosslyn is our new cataloguer and hails from the head office of C.S.I.R.O.

Rae, like Judith, is an interstate acquisition and is the Clerical Assistant Grade 1 who will look after the circulation of periodicals.

A cordial welcome is extended also to Vin Roche, Clerical Assistant (Principles), Gwen Butler, Stenographer at Cheneys, Engineers, Alan Fowler (Radio Systems), Ian Davidson (Pulse Systems), Chen Tai (Microwaves), Zellman Warhaft (Path Evaluation), Bob Kilby (Design, Mech. and Elect.), Technical Assistants, Jennifer Kett and Sudah Shaheeb (Physics) and J.P.O's Cornelia Vandenhurk (General Services) and Ray Farlow (Watkins). Incidentally, Jennifer is the daughter of Bob Kett.

A special farewell to Vic Maloney who has returned to his main forte in gaining promotion to the Arbitration Division of the Public Service Board. Vic made many friends during his stay in the Labs. and his breezy style as editor of this publication will keep the new editor on his toes in endeavouring to keep up the standard.

Best of luck to Virginia Paddle who has left us to become the Children's Librarian at the new municipal library at Essendon.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Wells, Clerical Assistant Grade 1 of the library staff who has received a promotion to Clerical Assistant Grade 2 with the Computer group in the Transmission Media Sub-Section.

Also to Graham Trebilcock of the Model Shop, who has been spurred on by the lack of loot to gain a more lucrative appointment as a Drafting Assistant, Grade 2. His loss will be greatly felt and we wish him well in his new field of activity.

Farewell also to Jack Mansergh who, since his promotion to Engineer Class 1, has changed sides and is now a member of the Radio Section.

Nell Fewster of the Laboratory Equipment Records is leaving us next month and shifting abode to Queensland to reside with two of her brothers. Nell joined the Labs., from the Navy Department in 1956 and her congenial and warm personality has been much appreciated by all. We all wish her well for the future.

EDITOR'S POSTSCRIPT

As a new member of the staff of the Research Labs. and the third editor (in five issues) of the Reporter, I find that I have got to know many of you already through the pages of our previous issues. I am sure this feeling must apply to other new starters like myself.

The success of this House Journal is dependent mainly on you, the readers, so I strongly appeal to you for continuous active support in contributing suitable items for inclusion in future issues. Our band of reporters are always available to receive such items and their names are listed on the following page for your convenience.

Miss M. Cuzens
Miss K. Jones
Mr. P. Westbrook
Mr. J. Blake
Mr. R. Jepson
Mr. L. Melton
Mr. K. Minnitt
Mr. K. Young
Mr. N. Walker
Mr. D. Raines
Mr. T. Dillon
Mr. A. Schwatschko

A. B. Conroy
(A. B. Conroy)
Editor

Stop Press

13th April. Congratulations and farewell to Fred Drakeford, Sub-Sectional Clerk (Taubmans) who has been called to Treasury Place as right hand man to our F.A.D.G., Mr. Harris. Will-o'-the-wisp Don Raines is catering for the clerical needs of Taubmans Building.

Neil Walker has taken over the reins of Branch Clerk and in his stead as Sub-Sectional Clerk (Principles) we welcome Arnold Schwatschko (ex Lines Section). Incidentally, Arnold is the greatest living authority on how to obtain replacement parts for difficult Volkswagens.

Mac Apsey is our new Equipment Officer. With a name like MacKenzie we can rest assured any dubious requests will receive the "eagle eye".