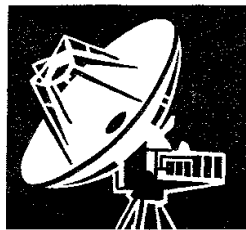


RESEARCH LAB REPORTER



PRODUCED BY RESEARCH LABORATORIES, 59 LITTLE COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE

"RESEARCH LAB REPORTER"UTOPIA RE-SEARCHED

To the rest of the Department, the Research Laboratories is a southern Utopia, shrouded in mystery and Melbourne's misty rain! They know it as the home of the British Standard Ohm and where white coated scientists determine the concise chemical content of our cable corrosion, the impurities in our water, and supervise our soap!

Now that I have had the good fortune to have spent two years in the Laboratories, I find that it is Utopian compared with my previous State environment. It is the absence of costing files, working reports, cutover dates, three years works programmes and the preparation of engineering proposals, that make for such easy living. For example, besides the customary tea clubs we have additional activities such as golf to Lafferty's rules!

In the front offices we can peruse the journals or withdraw to the library without fear of arousing the boss's scorn. Between the back benches the beards are seen to bristle into being and the background music is not the banal blare of the broadcasters but the best of Beethoven and Bach! Judging by the conversation it is a happy place, especially when we receive visits from "Jim", "Neddy", "Eccles" and a throaty voiced nomadic soul who is forever searching for Neil Deans!

No doubt the statistically minded will now be up in arms as my generalisations have been derived from such a small sample of the Laboratories "population". However when I do hear the occasional grumble, I cannot help thinking that, really, we just don't know how well off we are!

The Inside Outsider*

Personal Glimpses

Sylvia Drummond (nee Hindmarsh) Typing Pool Block A

The innocent eyed beauty who normally guards the portals of the typing pool in Block A needs no introduction. Since joining the Labs. in 1965 Sylvia, at various times, has occupied the typing chairs in our other establishments throughout the city area and her pleasant disposition and efficiency has been greatly appreciated by all those with whom she has come in contact.

Three days before Christmas she was married to Ian Drummond, a handsome National Service Trainee and later this month she will leave us temporarily to spend some time in Sydney so that she will be close to Ian until he departs for Vietnam as a member of the Army Motor Pool.

David Donald Mattiske, Engineer Class 3, Crossbar Development

Originally a cadet engineer from South Australia, David is one of the newer members of the Labs team having transferred recently from Telephone Exchange Equipment to occupy the position of Engineer Class 3 Crossbar Development left vacant by the departure of Frank Wion and the transfer of Greg Crew to Electronic Switching. David gained his Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical) at the University of Adelaide and commenced duty as an Engineer Class 1 with the Country Division of Whyalla. He accepted an offer of an Associated Electrical Industries Overseas Fellowship and left for the U.K. early 1964 to broaden his experience particularly in the fields of broadband radio communications and long line equipment.

In his leisure moments David is Secretary of one of the many Wine Bibbers Clubs operating in Parkade Building. He is also a raconteur of some note and a keen yachtsman with definite limitations, however, as a helmsman.

Do You Know ?

Question: "Why is Harry Wragge'd?"

Answer: "Because his Crew is continually switching."

Not long returned from an exhausting visit to England, France and Italy, Greg Crew, Crossbar Development departed again this month for 1½ weeks in Geneva to attend a meeting of C.C.I.T.T. Study Group XI, Working Party 1. This meeting was convened to finalize matters outstanding from the recent meeting of Working Party XI/I held in Florence during November which was attended by Greg in company with Roger Banks, Planning Branch. The Working Party has the responsibility of preparing a specification for the proposed new signalling scheme, C.C.I.T.T. Signalling System No.6 to be presented for approval to the C.C.I.T.T. 4th Plenary Assembly in Ma Del Plata in October this year.

Whilst overseas on the previous visit Greg took the opportunity to discuss work being done on common channelling signalling systems as applied to national networks; signalling techniques for use on (national) satellite circuits and signalling techniques proposed for future IST (Integrated Switching and Transmission) networks.

Subscriptions to Overseas Journals. Under existing arrangements it is possible to obtain personal copies of the Bell System Technical Journal and the Post Office Electrical Engineers Journal by submitting subscriptions to the Programme Review Clerk. This facility can be extended for additional overseas journals should the demand warrant it. Therefore it is suggested that should you desire to subscribe to any particular overseas publication would you please contact Ashley Conroy, Information Group, Block A (tele. 630 7904) and discuss your requirements with him.

Telecommunication Journal of Australia and Australian Telecommunication Research. The Information Officer, Laurie Melton, who is the agent for Block A, C and W for T.J.A. subscriptions will be pleased to receive the subscriptions of those who have not yet paid and who may wish to do so. Subscriptions for the new Journal A.T.R. should be sent directly to the General Secretary of the Telecommunication Society.

READERS MART

WANTED TO SELL

Knitting machine, original purchase value \$240 - excellent condition, semi-industrial, non portable, approx. 4' high x 4'6" wide. Best offer. B. Christensen. 7608T

A.W.A. Cruiser 6 Radio, inbuilt speaker, 6 volt. Best offer. D. Waller. 7821W

WANTED TO BUY

Bicycle, boy's 24" or 26" A.B. Conroy, 7904A

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Social

Snippets

Block A's "Hostess with the Mostest" - Vera Sullivan had a valid excuse for racing madly through the streets of East Melbourne in her night attire at midnight Saturday, 11th. She had just received news that she and her sister had won a Kingswood Holden in a raffle. Congratulations Vera and thanks from all your "boys" in the tea club for those lovely cream cakes.

Boyd Rayment (Microwaves) likes to be a little unusual apparently. In drawing up New Year Resolutions most of us decide to cut out some item such as smoking, over eating etc. but not so, Boyd. He has started the New Year by having his appendix extracted - a new twist. Best wishes for a speedy recovery Boyd and we look forward to your return later this month.

The hot weather affects people in various ways. The day the mercury topped 110° Carolynne Bird from the typing pool decided on a lunch time paddle in the shallows at Port Melbourne. However the heat and the temptation were too much and she plunged (or was she pushed?) fully clothed into the briny. Thank Heavens for these days of non-iron drip dry materials.

Always on the alert where a quick transaction is concerned, Eric Dodge from Path Evaluation was almost conned into the real estate business until it was discovered that the area concerned was suitable only for mountain goats. Hopes of a newly established Dodge City faded quickly.

The Oakleigh Council has joined others in launching "The Meals on Wheels" project and is now taking midday meals to many elderly folk within that city. A member of the volunteer band of helpers is Mrs. Barton, wife of Bill Barton (Welding Shop). It is rumoured that Bill is in for a big disappointment if he thinks Mrs. B. intends to keep in practice by providing him with brekky in bed these mornings.

Julian Ophel and Rob Western of the Physics and Polymer areas respectively have returned recently from a jaunt to Alice Springs. Only complaint of the trip was voiced by Julian concerning his being refused admittance to a restaurant in Alice. It would appear that slouch hat, commando type boots, a very old pair of shorts, tattered shirt, long red hair and beard are not accepted up there - I wonder why!

A hearty welcome is extended to the following who have joined us since the last issue.

John Sergeant, (Sub-sectional Clerk, Principles), Judy Wood, (computer assistant), Graeme Armstrong (instrument-maker), John Richards, (fitter and turner), Robyn Hollindale and Sally Learmonth (Library), Sue Spence, Sue Crowley, Rosemary Smith and Simon Melrose (Voice/Ear Team), Val Rech (engineer, Taubmans), Helmut Junghans, Philip Jones and David King (engineers, Cheney's), T.A.1's Keith Rogers (Radio Systems), Colin Flood (Multichannel Systems), Mario Pane (Pulse Systems), Alan Dobby, Douglas Daws, Robert Thompson, (Lab. Equipment), Richard Salomon (Electronic Switching), Chris Perazzo and John Ozolins, (Clerks, Block A).

Incidentally Chris and John may not be with us for long as it looks as though they will be continuing their studies at the University of Melbourne in Dental Science and Science respectively.

There were some very red faces at Watkins one afternoon recently when plumbing activities required the HIS on the second floor becoming the HERS for a day or two. A NOBLE temporary arrangement, no doubt, but the advice was not received for several hours after the changeover had taken place.

Congratulations to Dave Waller, Sub-sectional Clerk, Physics and Polymer, who has gained admittance to Monash University to pursue his Law studies, part-time. Now we have somewhere to go for free advice.

Bruce McEwan, Lab. Equipment is now a proud father - for the first time. Lynette, his wife, presented him with a fine daughter in January.

Congratulations to Harry Wragge and his team of editors, Roger Smith, Garth Jenkinson, Gerry Platau, Laurie Melton and the ex-Collingwood rugged back pocket George Hams (Planning Branch) for the highly successful first edition of their journal "Australian Telecommunication Research".

We are hoping to publish some interesting facts for both professionals and non-professionals in the next issue concerning conditions in New Zealand following the recent visit of P.R.B. and the F.A.D.G. who attended the 40th Congress of ANZAAS in Christchurch during late January.

Dollybelle Chapman, (Lab. Equipment) has returned safely from her trip to her home country - Ceylon. She had a wonderful time meeting her relatives and long lost school friends after so many years, but expressed concern at the widespread poverty and the struggle tiny Ceylon has to feed and educate her 11 million people. Perhaps we should cease grumbling over trivial matters and be thankful for our present way of life and give more thought to assisting those in less fortunate conditions.

It is reported that the recent outbreak of private parties in the South Yarra area is in no way connected with the fact that John Lewis (Multichannel Systems) has taken occupancy of a flat in that particular vicinity.

Sue McNeil (Steno-secretary, Apparatus & Services) has found a very pleasant way to cure the "butterflies" brought on by her forthcoming marriage to Brian Lafferty - she feeds them regular daily doses of applie pie and cream for lunch and several sandwiches for afternoon tea.

Recent addition to the Physics area is Graham Rogers, a way out jazz-bo. Although he doesn't make any noise, other than emoting in a corner and finger snapping, he is reputed to be an active member of the Geelong Jazz Festival Committee, since its inception three years ago. Van dyke and horn rims add to the effect.

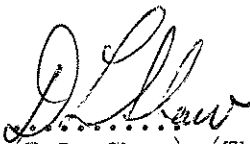
WRITTEN FOR THE GOLF WIDOWS

THINGS YOU DO FOR ME

These are the things you do for me,
 You plant a garden, sweet and pretty;
 Trim the trees, cut the lawn,
 Mend whatever's broken; torn;
 Fix the taps, stop the drips,
 Chop the wood, kill the thrips,
 Do the shopping, pay the bills,
 Plan an outing to the hills;
 And then, when all of this is done,
 You grab a golf stick
 And away you run. (Alva Allen)

(Have fun.)

*



(D.L. Shaw) (The Inside Outsider)
 Multichannel Systems.

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New

Technology !

MUSIC WHILE YOU WORK

What would your reaction be if in the middle of the evening washing-up operations, your kitchen sink burst forth into melodious, full-throated song?

Would you:-

- (a) Ignore the sinking feeling and pretend you notice nothing unusual?
- (b) Sit back and enjoy it?
- (c) Take advantage of the excuse and give away washing-up for life on the grounds of acute nervous strain? or
- (d) Merely rush off and sign the pledge (again)?

The Queensland Regulatory and Licensing boys can vouch for the existence of a sink with these talents and are also in a position to discuss at least some of the other aspects.

An Inspector of the Branch was called in when the sink paused momentarily to identify itself as "4QR Brisbane" and in so doing moved, for the purposes of the Broadcasting and Television Act, from the category of plumber's hardware into the realm of equipment capable of receiving broadcast programmes.

The gentleman who reported the phenomenon, a phlegmatic individual apparently, took a philosophical view of it all. He hastened to explain that he was not raising the matter as an interference complaint but merely wished to be assured that he was not infringing the regulations by using, maintaining and/or having in his possession unauthorised receiving equipment. He was given this assurance. The Post Office has presumably won another satisfied customer and, we understand, that the sink continues to sing on happily.

For the technically minded we include brief performance details. Programme quality, judged by soap opera standards is quite acceptable and is capable of adjustment to suit discriminating tastes by the addition of liberal amounts of detergent. Some experimentation is necessary however.

Subject to domestic convenience the sound volume may also be adjusted within limits by raising or lowering the level of the water, and finally the programme may be switched off at will by simply removing the drain plug.

Musical novelties of this type are not on tap so so speak and should you be keen to acquire one you could find it a difficult and rather frustrating business. The first essential would be to reside in close proximity to a high power broadcasting station. Conveniently located in your plumbing installation you will require some kind of in-built rectifier which could well consist of a fortuitous contact between metal surfaces with just the right amount of corrosion present to ensure efficient operation and in this immediate vicinity you will also need suitable conditions for some degree of mechanical vibration in order to produce the desired sound effects.

The chances are, however, that notwithstanding careful attention to these details the only audible effects you will achieve will be most unwelcome interfering noises in your broadcast receiver, and possibly in those of your neighbours. So perhaps you had better forget about it and get on with the washing up.

Sports



Hobbies



etc

Travel

Elizabeth Wells (Transmission Lines), apparently has a habit of "getting away from it all" each year. Christmas 1966 saw her off to Honolulu. This holiday she packed off to the U.S.A. and visited her mother and other relatives in Philadelphia. She also spent several days in San Francisco before returning home mid-January.

Athletics

Our notable instrument-maker, Kevin Barlett is keeping fit for the forthcoming football season with a very successful prolonged burst in the professional footrunning field.

Golf

Those whom golf brings weekly to the brink of bankruptcy will be pleased to learn that the golf ball manufacturers are hard at work developing a new solid ball of polymer material which will be considerably cheaper than the present ninety cents-a-swipe missiles. Their research scientists, however, are still concerned that, because the weight of the solid ball is distributed equally over its mass, it will not be as acceptable for course play as the existing heavy-cored model.

They are considering its speed off the clubhead, ability to take backspin, length of wet-weather flight, bite on the green, and every other question except the one of prime importance to all sufferers from golf whose accuracy makes their wives go out to work to meet their ball bills: will the new ball be easier to find?

Apart from painting the thing white, science seems to have done nothing towards reducing the nation's lost ball expenditure. The popular idea of inserting a spot of radioactive material for detection purposes may presently be impracticable, because the minimum useful level would be about 40 microcuries and require golfers to wear lead suits for safety, but there are plenty more likely stones still unturned. With all the current progress in olfactronics, couldn't some aromatic backroom boy have a go at impregnating golf balls with a powerful odour such as garlic, asafoetida or H_2S - releasable only after impact - so that the human nose could sniff it out among the bracken? Balls would then be bought not by number, but by flavour. The pleasanter perfumes now used for feminine scent could not, unfortunately, be adopted because of the dangers inherent in the mistaken flushing out of lovers from the deeper rough with No.8 irons.

Radio transmitters get daily more infinitesimal and surely some clever Japanese could produce a bug hardy enough to operate inside a golf ball and send out homing signals when deprived of light by long grass. With all these new fluorescent paints about, is it still certain that white is the best colour for the purpose? Or would a psychedelically decorated ball leap out better at the eyeball from the dark depths of bramble bushes? Could yellow marker dye be incorporated so that its telltale trail would be released after five minutes soaking in damp undergrowth? Or volatile powder worked into the dimples which would ignite by friction at the speed of any drive over 150 yards, and thus send out an Indian smoke signal for twenty seconds after landing? Has anyone considered injecting the ball with human blood and trying those screaming bedbugs that pick up human scents at half-a-mile in Vietnam? Or toyed with detecting with an infra-red camera the heat-pattern changes that occur when a hot ball lands in a cold nettlebed?

These are just a few lines of research that the golf-ball scientists might profitably follow and perhaps, who knows, eventually release us from our present dependence in the deep rough on simple eyesight, illicit dropping, and the carriage on our caddy-carts of little statues of St. Antony of Padua.

Fishing

Jim Frood and George Jansz, Lab. Equipment Division, have been giving the fish a fright in Westernport Bay. Some nice catches of whiting and leather jackets have been recorded. Perhaps they could pass on some tips to Neil Walker who left us with empty fridges after his recent piscatorial party.

Postwork Posers

- Q.1 How can you measure out half a cup of hard, solid butter without melting it?
- Q.2 The three volumes of a biography stand on a bookshelf in proper order. Each volume is an inch thick. How far would a bookworm have to bore in a straight line in order to penetrate from the first page of Vol.1, to the last page of Vol.III? The thickness of the covers may be neglected.
- Q.3 A certain king had three intelligent court officials. Wishing to know which of them was the most intelligent, he proceeded in this way: "I will blindfold you all," he said, "and then place a cap on each of your heads. Each of the caps will be either red or blue. I will then remove the blindfolds and you will see the colour of your colleagues' caps, but not that of your own. When one of you sees a blue cap, he is to hold up his right arm. The first of you to infer what coloured cap he is wearing is to hold up the left arm.

This procedure was duly carried out, and on removing the blindfolds each of the three officials immediately held up his right arm. About twelve seconds later, one of them held up his left arm.

Can you say what coloured cap each official was wearing, and how one of them knew its colour?

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R E S E A R C H L A B S .

DINNER DANCE

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June or July - Friday Evening

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Venue - To be selected

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Our present accommodation in various buildings throughout the city area does not afford us many opportunities to get to know the majority of our fellow workers. Therefore, it has been decided to institute a Research Laboratories Annual Dinner Dance for Labs. members and their partners.

It is anticipated that an all inclusive cost not exceeding \$6.00 per single will provide pre-dinner sherries and hors-d'oeuvres; A 4-course dinner with appropriate wines, prizes, novelties, dancing and refreshments.

In order to obtain an approximate indication as to the numbers desiring to attend, it is requested that you complete the attached proforma and return it to the Editor of the Research Lab. Reporter, through your Sub-sectional Clerk.

As soon as a suitable venue has been selected further details will be published regarding exact date, time and table bookings.