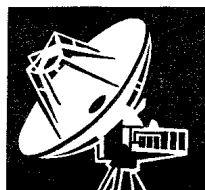


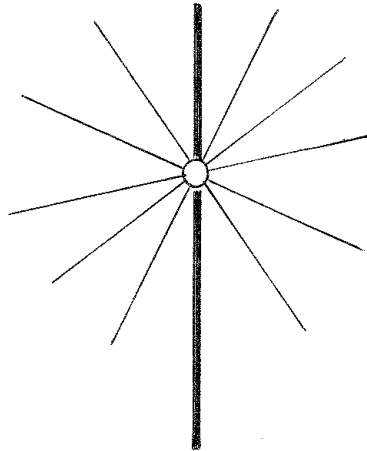
RESEARCH LAB REPORTER



PRODUCED BY RESEARCH LABORATORIES, 59 LITTLE COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE

"RESEARCH LAB REPORTER"

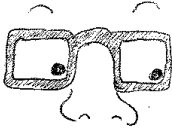
A Christmas Message



The year of 1968 is drawing to a close and very soon the Christmas bells will be ringing out their festive greeting and good tidings to all men.

Each one of you in the Laboratories can be assured that your particular efforts throughout the year have contributed in some way towards the development or provision of the communication facilities which will be utilized to transmit these good tidings. May these communication facilities bring you and your family the very best of Christmas Greetings from your loved ones and friends.

To you and your family the staff of the Lab Reporter extend their very best wishes for a happy festive season and a healthy and prosperous year in 1969.



PERSONAL GIMPSSES

Ashley Conroy, Programme Review Clerk, Block A

Ash joined the Laboratories, as Programme Review Clerk, in the Information Group early in 1967 and since then he has been active in many areas. Many staff members know of Ash's engaging telephone manner whether he is organising a visit, chasing information for the Bi-monthly Bulletin or buying a roof rack for his car. He is often called on to act as secretary at meetings, at which he copes in his usual efficient manner with the great number of technical terms bandied about, or to organise such things as the recent Radio Research Board Symposium, which necessitated him being on duty at the University of Melbourne for several days. Ash's well known sartorial elegance is nothing but a help with these matters, of course.

As is common with the other members of the Information Group, Ash loves eating. He is often out dining and reports of his repasts move through the office at Block 'A' rapidly the next day. It was with heavy head (and other portions of his anatomy) that he went on a diet over the last few months, in preparation for the summer and his holidays. With the spiritual assistance (in financial form) of his workmates he managed to lose the required 20 lbs by the due date (further details on p.7). Rumours of large numbers of excellent but oversize suits being available at low cost were rife recently but these have not been substantiated. As numerous recent advertisements in the various buildings indicate Ash is also nuts about nuts.

Ash was chairman of the committee that organised the very successful Supper Ball this year and also is the present Editor of the Lab Reporter. He is a true gentleman in every sense of the word. Ash goes through this troubled life without worrying too much about things but he may well wonder how this ever slipped past the Editor's eagle eye.

* * * * *

DO U NO

Its a case of "The Eyes have it" ! Our visual communications expert, Albert "Doc" Seyler departed this month for six months furlough overseas, during which time he has received Public Service Board approval to accept an invitation to act as a consultant with the Bell Telephone Laboratories for three months.

Following his term with Bell Albert will continue with his private travel in U.S.A. and later in Europe. Enjoy yourself Albert and we'll expect some interesting items of news on your return in June 1969.

* * * * *

Introductory Tour of Laboratories

During November about 30 new engineers and sub-professional staff members, divided into four groups, were provided with an introductory Labs tour to give them the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the activities of the divisions outside their own areas of operation.

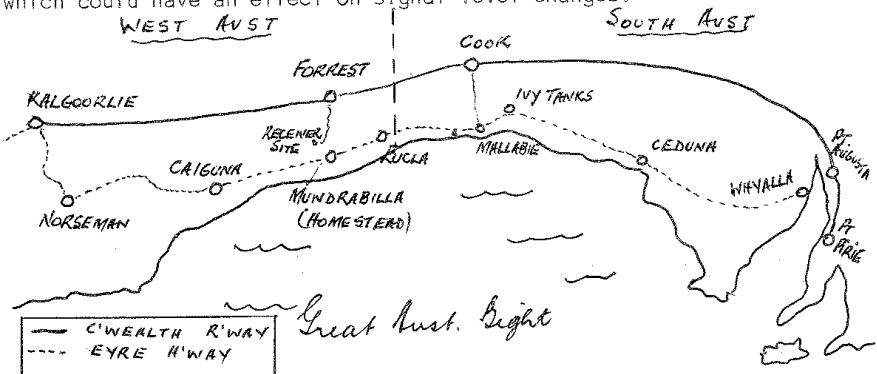
The tours concluded on a high note when Geoff Goode introduced us to Ed Bondarenko and his impulse generator at the Environmental Physics location at Carlton. The 1968 Gameness Medal is awarded to Ed for his daily meandering amid 1,400,000 volts.

MICROWAVE PROPAGATION MEASUREMENTS
ON THE EAST-WEST ROUTE

(With thanks to Jim Lucas and Barry Thomas)

The East-West or Nullarbor Project - what was it all about? Now that it is all over perhaps it is too late to say anything or, perhaps, it is better late than never. Certainly, it would take a large volume to record all of the sidelights of peoples' lives whilst on the Project.

First, the reason why - To measure, over twelve months, the average signal levels, noting all special changes such as "fading" and "depressions" coupled with observation of meteorological conditions which could have an effect on signal level changes.



There were three main sites, namely Mundrabilla, Ivy Tanks and Head-of-Bight.

Mundrabilla had two adjacent transmitter sites, one on top of the inland escarpment and one a few miles south and below the escarpment on the coastal plain. These two sites looked westward to the receiver site, which was perched on the top edge of the inland escarpment (The escarpment rises 250 feet above the coastal plain).

Ivy Tanks consisted of a Centre site (receivers) plus an East and a West transmitter site approximately twenty-five miles either side of the Centre site.

The Head of Bight receivers were located at Mallalie with the transmitter site, Wigunda, twenty seven road miles further west.

Staff (usually a T.O. 1 and a technician) were provided on a continuous basis to carry out the necessary tests. Their daily routine (most times seven days a week) involved the running of the station and the maintenance of :-

- (a) the U.H.F. test transmitters and receivers
- (b) the V.H.F. and H.F. transceivers for communication with the outside world and other sites
- (c) the diesel engines and alternators for power supply
- (d) meteorological and test equipment
- (e) miscellaneous equipment including their vehicle and finally themselves.

Since the transmitters were usually 30 to 35 road miles away a good deal of travelling was involved over roads that could barely be called tracks. Rain could be a problem due to the nature of the Nullarbor soil. A few points of rain could turn the Plain into a great bowl of soft brown custard.

Two landrovers were rolled over without anyone really trying, while the great open Eyre Highway after recent heavy rains became, to quote from a Log entry "a brown, liquid hell". Long walks were not unknown when vehicles became hopelessly bogged.

For the men to maintain themselves it was necessary to be a cook/bottlewasher and general rouseabout. Most blokes had their specialities - bread, a baked rabbit or spaghetti bolognaise and after awhile all became, if they weren't at first, quite reasonable cooks. A visiting working party arrived at one site to find the home team busy making apple pie for dessert, so it wasn't just baked beans for every meal. We won't elaborate on the tale of a man known to all as "Foxy" or of the fellow known far and wide for his love of raw meat.

A typical trip went something like this; depart Melbourne by plane to Adelaide on a Wednesday morning, thence train to Port Pirie and board the Commonwealth Railways Transcontinental Express arriving at Cook about seven o'clock Thursday morning. The team

for Ivy Tanks or Head-of-Bight would alight whilst those for Mundrabilla would remain aboard for breakfast and go on to Forrest, W.A., a further 240 miles.

At Cook or Forrest the procedure was much the same, to doff good clothes, don the old "desert clothes," pick up the vehicle (a 4 wheel drive Landrover or Toyota) load and set off on the track to the Eyre Highway, some 80 to 100 miles south. The feeling of utter loneliness at being "dumped" and seeing the train slowly disappearing into the distance, while around is only a handful of houses, was one that will be hard to forget.

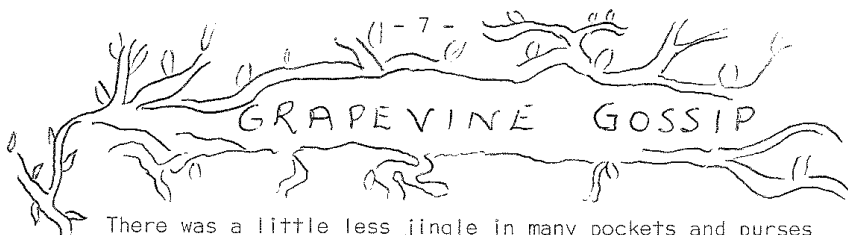
On arrival at the site there was the usual unpacking and storage of provisions, the inspection of charts and equipment and, finally, settling in for a two week stay.

After a fortnight came the same loading, packing and the long journey back to Melbourne with two weeks supply of Propagation, meteorological and other charts and records.

Either at Forrest or Cook going to, or coming from the field we found the same superb hospitality and company of the P.M.G. Repeater Staff awaiting us. Many a communal evening was enjoyed with good food and an ample supply of liquid refreshment. The opportunity should not be allowed to pass to name these good people as their efforts, technically as well as socially, often went above and beyond the call of duty. At Cook, the past Supervising Technician BARRY MINKWITZ and his wife JOAN, the present Super. Tech. MICK COLLINSON and his wife ROSE MARY (who is at this moment in the Cook Hospital suffering from hepatitis - Good wishes go to Rosemary from all her friends at the Labs for a speedy and complete recovery from this serious illness), MALCOLM CROSSE and wife KAY and BRIAN and PAM SARD. They will all be remembered for their excellent hosting. At Forrest, last but by no means least KEN TAYLOR and his wife ANNE were almost worn out making cups of tea and coffee and opening countless cans of good cheer for weary and thirsty Research bods.

The project occupied almost eighteen months of intensive toil and provided a never to be forgotten experience for all those associated with it.

* * * * *



There was a little less jingle in many pockets and purses in Block A after a certain member of the Information Group successfully CONned his fellow workers by fulfilling his promise to lose 20lbs in a specified period. The official loss was 23 3/4lbs after the EYRE was cleared concerning the nobbling of the official scales on the eve of the weigh out. Thanks to the alertness of the Material Store's ace detective, Neil "Flash" Thomson, the culprits were apprehended. A hearty afternoon tea of chocolate eclairs and other assorted delicacies was enjoyed by all to celebrate the successful culmination of a long and tense struggle.

* * * * *

Barry "The Greek" Woolcock, Transmission Lines, really appreciates the fact of being married to an intelligent lady. Spouse Maureen was successful in a recent competition conducted by a large chain store. Result - the Woolcocks depart for Honolulu on 11th December to spend 10 glorious days at The Reef Hotel situated on the foreshore of Waikiki Beach. Sorry Chaps! no more orders can be taken to have those grass skirts filled for Christmas.

* * * * *

Commiserations to Harry Wragge who has joined those who at some time or another "have put their foot in it." Only difference is Harry didn't pick his mouth to do the job instead he used his rotary lawn mower. However what's one fractured toe when you have another nine.

* * * * *

A fond farewell to our typist-in-charge, Maree Zara who elected to leave very quietly on 22nd November. Maree has decided to transfer to the luxurious life of home duties to prepare for the advent of a young Zara in early 1969. All the best Maree and we can expect a visit from you from time to time.

* * * * *

Perry Mason is just an amateur when you compare his performances with the statement prepared by Norm McLeod Switching Group, following his recent mishap. However, all jokes aside - Norm was most fortunate to escape injury when another vehicle went through an intersection on the 'red' causing Norm to hit him amidships.

* * * * *

After many months of negotiation the Editorial Staff of this Journal has been successful in acquiring the services of the best newshound in the Laboratories; that quintessence of verbosity Alva Allen. Consequently you can expect to read some choice tid bits of information in future issues. (all authentic, of course!)

* * * * *

Many happy returns to our effervescent steno-secretary, Luci Varrasso, Advanced Techniques who quietly celebrated her coming-of-age on 15th November. Luci's ever-smiling, pleasant nature helps us all in getting over those "monday morning blues".

* * * * *

The Commonwealth Centre is doing a brisk trade in injections these days. Stefan Lu is off to his home town - Singapore - for Christma and Mrs Vyner is due to leave for Singapore, Bangkok, Cambodia and Hong Kong later this month.

* * * * *

A big cheerio to Alan O'Rourke, Telephonometry at present spending an enforced holiday in Fairfield Hospital with scarlet fever.

* * * * *

Doug Wellington and Alex Robertson, Sub-sectional clerks, Advanced Techniques, were farewelled by many friends from various areas at an enjoyable luncheon. They leave us with our best wishes for a most successful future.

* * * * *

Another face which will be missed around the 'traps' is that of our popular "Chief Chippie" Jack Dyke who was ever obliging in knocking up that irregular size piece of necessary furniture etc. Welcome to Roy Davies who has arrived to occupy the position of Senior Carpenter.

* * * * *

Who put the small dents in Charlie Bates' new vehicle. It is rumoured that he may be supplied with a Bren Gun Carrier for city running. Incidentally Charlie whats with this sheepish smile you have been sporting lately? Got a secret?

* * * * *

Dave Shaw has a habit of referring to various objects as a "DINGUS". His colleagues are offering a prize to the first person who comes up with answer as to "what really is a DINGUS?" - the prize being a personally conducted tour of the Multi-Channel Systems Division.

* * * * *

Last month the Transmission Medians orbited from Lonsdale Street to Flinders Lane but the resignation of Marjo Ho had nothing to do with this transfer. Marjo has just moved into her new home and has decided to become a lady of leisure.

* * * * *

That titian haired taper of the typewriter Joanne Schofield has just passed her driving test and issues a warning to give right of way, at all times, to all lady drivers in the Box-Hill - Camberwell areas. Another member of the stenographic staff - Gwen "Legs" Butler is undergoing driving instructions down Seaford way. Her main problem was how to curl into a mini-minor.

* * * * *

Who can help the bearded giant from Cheneys? Phineas Glick, Probability Division, requires a vacation student who has a good background of maths with an interest in statistics. No problem to date - the

- 10 -

Melbourne University has offered five candidates - four females and one male. Wonder what part statistics will play in selecting the successful candidate.

* * * * *

A hearty welcome is extended to all our newcomers during the last few months among whom are :- Alec Slamen T.O. 1 (Electrical Standards), Pat Cooke and Pam Craven (Main Library) Bernie Smith Engr. Class 1 (Pulse Systems), Mick Chirgwin (Procurement), Graham Pearce and Lou Green sub-sectional clerks, Advanced Techniques, Arvid Johnson (Physical Sciences), the library officers-in-training and our vacation students.

* * * * *

ROAD COURTESY

Colour blind or soft in the head
Who knows the reason why
Our fellow worker would drive through the "RED"
In a brown Cortina JUY ---

In the vicinity of Watkins proceed with trepidation
Cos this Piper's Son may be there
You'll receive his discourteous gesticulation
As he prangs you with nary a care.

* * * * *

ELECTION - CONTRIBUTORS REPRESENTATIVE TO SUPERANNUATION BOARD

In accordance with Section 120 of the Superannuation Act 1922-1968 the contributors representative on the Superannuation Board is elected every five years. The term of the present representative expires in March 1969 and a poll of candidates will be taken in February 1969. The proclamation setting out the details appeared in Gazette No. 72, dated August 29, 1968 (pages 4920-4923).

Timetable for Election

Electoral Roll closes, 7th November 1968.

Nomination for election as Contributors Representative
12 o'clock noon on 21st November 1968.

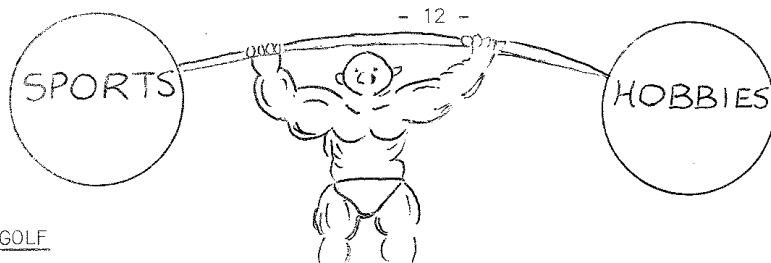
Poll closes, 12 o'clock noon on 17th February 1969.

CONTRIBUTORS REPRESENTATIVE ON SUPERANNUATION BOARD

The contributor elected as the Contributors Representative is appointed to the Board for a term of five years by the Governor General and has a joint responsibility with the President and an actuarial member for the Board's activities. Formal meetings of the Board are arranged at least once monthly and he is required for consultation between formal meetings.

(EXTRACT POSTAL ADVOCATE OCTOBER 1968)

Edwin. D.S. Fall, Propagation Division is a Candidate for the election



GOLF

Despite the bleak conditions, 69 fanatics turned out at the Ivanhoe Public Links on the 2nd November to battle for the honour of Champion of Champions for 1968. The event was officially opened by that genial giant, "Beefy" Lafferty whose magnificent 300 yards tee shot disappeared into the drink accompanied by a tumultuous cheer from the large gallery. Side wagering was extremely heavy (at approximately 15 cents a head) and no holds were barred - "He, who took his eye off his ball subsequently had little hope at all".

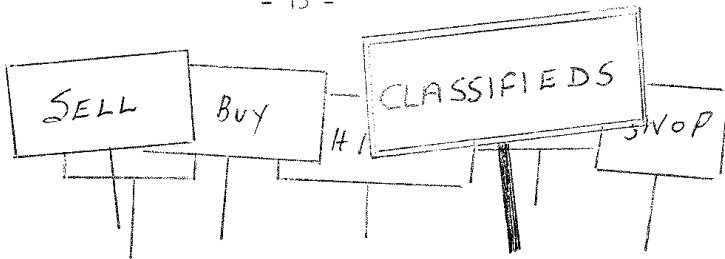
A sadistic method of handicapping was reluctantly carried out by Ross Pitkethly who considered he should have taken his furlough after the contest instead of before. Much to our shame the coveted prize in Group A was taken out again by a visitor Jim Floyd, a member of Barry Woolcock's four. Congratulations to you Jim and also to the other winners, Alva Allen (Group B) and Cheryl Johnson (Group C). The fact that Alva organised the event and won Group B is purely co-incidental.

Ted Heeley, Model Shop interrupted his game following his tee shot at the 10th to discuss the art of gardening with the occupier of a nearby residence. He failed to convince the lady that he would not harm her prize flowers by playing a chip shot from the midst of her garden.

A merit certificate will be awarded to Bert Bladier for outstanding endurance for toting a magnificent golf buggy which contained everything but a portable barbecue. Although wagers have been settled the Stewards are still considering the case of the David Geldard four. There is talk of a "ring in" at the eleventh hour.

The next event is tentatively scheduled for Feb/March 1969 under the chairmanship of Charles Gloster Bates (who is keen to win a title). Any affluent person who wishes to donate a trophy could contact the Editor on 630 7904.

* * * * *



WANTED TO SELL

Skiboat, 12' runabout, hot Ford 10 motor, V-drive,
bondwood hull with fibreglass skin.
\$400 (including trailer)

Jill McDonald 7937A

Gemstones - large quantities of fine quality topaz.
Also agate from the agate creek district of North Queensland.
Samples available for inspection.

Lyle Perkins 6876

Mower Engine 4-stroke, Kirby Lawson, complete with cutter
plate etc, reasonable condition,
\$20.00 or offer

Lyle Perkins 6876

Leather Jacket, new condition, small "bodgie" size, suitable
also for small "rocker" \$10.00.

Lyle Perkins 6876

Festive Candles

Candles in the shape of Christmas trees about six inches high,
just right for your Christmas decorations are available from Paul
Battaiay, General Services (7312A)

They will burn for 24 hours and cost 62 cents for plain
colours and 69 cents with glitter. Normal retail price is \$1.35 -
colours are white, green, red and orange.

* * * * *

ENGAGEMENTS

Main Library Jill McDonald to John Liddell.

Administrative Services Michael Shanahan to Lee Norrish

MARRIAGES

Main Library Pam Craven to Greg Wakeman

Transmission Media Doug Wellington to Sue Reilly on
21/12/68 (flying boat honeymoon involved)

BIRTHS

Administrative Services to Brian and Desma Christensen -
a daughter Jane Frances, sister for Rohan and Grant.

Switching Group to Terry and Jan Dillon, a son (the first
child) - Jamie Terence, 7lb 2ozs 19 $\frac{1}{4}$ " long.

Multi-Channel Systems to Dave and Patricia Cleary, a
daughter, Meredith Anne.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to :-

Roger Smith - Transmission
Don Waters - Chemistry

* * * * *

1. What digits can be substituted for the letters to make the following addition true? Each letter can only be represented by one digit.

(15 minutes)

* * * * *

2. Suppose that all X's are also Y's, but only some Y's are Z's.

Which one of the following statements is true?

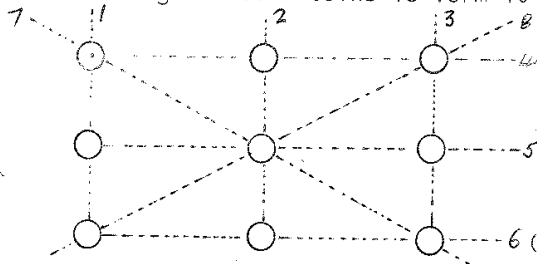
- (a) No X's can be Z's
- (b) If something is not a Y, it is also not an X.
- (c) If something is a Z, it cannot be an X.

(15 minutes)

* * * * *

In the arrangement shown in the diagram, 9 coins have been placed so that they form 8 rows of 3.

Can you re-arrange these 9 coins to form 10 rows of 3?



(Answers available from Ash Conroy 630 7904)

THE RIGHT OF WAY

Not the right of way when driving but the simple way of right,
And never once forgetting to be courteous and polite,
A little bit of patience as behind the wheel you sit,
And you'll never lose a fender and a child you'll never hit.

Of the worst of phrases ringing all through motordom today,
Is that selfish bit of wording that is known as right of way,
It has filled the graves of many who some road have sped along,
Since death never asks the question - is the driver right or wrong?

Just a little thought for others just remembering to be kind,
Just the willingness in traffic to slow down and stay behind,
Just the show of gracious manners which all gentle folk display,
And the accidents that happen will be fewer day by day.

So control that flash of temper when another sounds his horn,
In the car may be a mother soon to have her baby born,
Be considerate in your driving, be courteous and be kind,
And you'll reach your dwelling safely and you'll keep your
peace of mind.

Author Unknown.