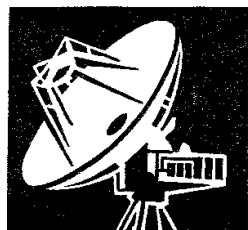


# RESEARCH LAB REPORTER



PRODUCED BY RESEARCH LABORATORIES, 59 LITTLE COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE

"RESEARCH LAB REPORTER"THE PERSONNEL LETTER

What it means and how you get it.

BY A. B. CONROY (59/59929R)

For a considerable time, some suspicion has surrounded the letter appearing immediately after each officer's personnel number. Some think it is a guide to their character or security rating. Others, more knowledgeable, informed us that it indicated the bank of computer files in which our records are kept by the Public Service Board.

Those to whom I have spoken have been unable to produce the formula by which the letter is determined. No wonder! It is quite a cute little scheme. Here is how it works:

- (a) First, place your personnel number down in vertical column starting from the top like this: .....  $5 \times 8 = 40$
- (b) Put a multiplication sign alongside each figure .....  $9 \times 7 = 63$   
.....  $5 \times 6 = 30$   
.....  $9 \times 5 = 45$
- (c) Next, put the digits 2, 3, 4 etc. alongside in vertical column starting at the bottom .....  $9 \times 4 = 36$   
.....  $2 \times 3 = 6$   
.....  $9 \times 2 = 18$   
..... **238**
- (d) Multiply the figures then add the answers. Then divide by 11 and the remainder will indicate one of the following letters:

0 = A; 1 = C; 2 = E; 3 = G; 4 = K; 5 = M;

6 = P; 7 = R; 8 = T; 9 = W; 10 = X.

No comment on the complexity of the formula, the time factor to apply it or the ingenuity of its originator.

# HONOURS & AWARDS

Congratulations to Alec Meagher (ex-Printed Wiring Group) for his recent decoration of the Imperial Service Medal.

\* \* \* \*

Also to Bill Metzenthén (Telephonometry) on his grand achievement in a class of international candidates for obtaining his Master's Degree from the Netherlands Universities Foundation for International Co-operation.

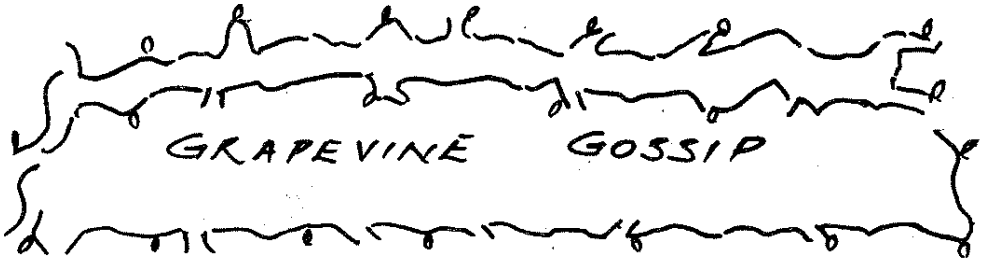
\* \* \* \*

And to Peter Caldwell (Model Shop) whose outstanding efforts were rewarded with his being named as Best Apprentice Fitter and Turner for 1969 and also Dux of Apprentices for 1969. At a presentation ceremony for Apprentices conducted at the Postal Workshops, South Melbourne, Peter was awarded a medallion and also a book on "Milling".

\* \* \* \*

Also to Eric Gray, T.A. 2, Lab. Equipment, who received two cheques at a presentation ceremony held at the Tooronga Training School. One cheque was from the Supervising Technicians Association for Eric being Dux over all five years of Technician Trainees and the other cheque was from the Telecom. Society for being top 5th Year Trainee.

\* \* \* \*



Believe it or not, Merl Cuzens was known to be plastered one night after work last month. No! She had not been celebrating. Unfortunately, Merl attempted to walk between two vehicles and was involved in a rather nasty mishap culminating in a broken left leg and a badly bruised right leg. We are very happy to report that Merl is improving rapidly and we are looking forward to hearing her thumping around in the Library in the near future.

\* \* \* \*

Also on the sick list is Bob Barclay, Lab. Equipment. Bob has suffered more than his share of ill-health in recent months and following many X-rays and specialist attention he is now on a strict diet in the hope that an operation can be avoided. Cheers Bob.

\* \* \* \*

The sudden cold snap has brought a remarkable change to the attire of some of our female members. Gayle Morrison, Typing Pool, Block A was the first to appear in her maxi-coat followed closely by sister Cheryl, Block W and Cathy Sawkins, Block A. The following week, we were confronted by Karrel Bowhey, Block A in a very becoming pillar-box red slack suit.

\* \* \* \*

Welcome back to Bruce Morton, Path Evaluation after a two years spell with the Antarctic Division. Bruce was engaged in a Physics programme involving the investigation of Cosmic rays and the effects of radio transmission and ionospheric measurements. Another interesting diversion from normal procedure was the part he played in a ten weeks survey of ice measurements (movement).

Apart from the hazard of blizzards and falling into crevices, he warns of the curiosity of penguins who hunt (or walk) in packs of about 20 and have a bad habit of surrounding and attacking a person.

\* \* \* \*

Coincidence? It has been brought to our notice that three well known and well patronised establishments have disappeared from the Melbourne skyline in this area during the past few months - The Clare Castle, The Melbourne and Triaca's (ex-Mario's). Since his promotion to the other end of town, Don Raines' colleagues now refer to him as the "Kiss of Death".

\* \* \* \*

Brotherly Love! Arthur Forecast, Frequency Standards, received a call from his brother the other evening seeking assistance to tow his car home. Only set back was that the car had broken down at Merton (100 miles from Melbourne) and poor Arthur rolled into bed at 4.15 a.m.

\* \* \* \*

Doug South, Sub-Sectional Clerk, Block T, has treated himself to the trip of a lifetime for a young fellow. He left for overseas early this month on one of the "Pacesetter" - under 26 tours. During his absence of three months, Doug will visit Singapore, Athens, Rome, London and many other cities.

\* \* \* \*

On Saturday, 16 May, Dick Fitzsimons, (Lab. Equipment) walked the aisle with his remaining two daughters who were married in a double ceremony. After a very happy reception, Dick is bemoaning the depleted state of his wallet. He is wondering what to do with his empty rooms. One however, looks like being turned into a ham shack.

\* \* \* \*

Talking of ham reminds me of Ray Jepson. Ray (AX3JI) and Dick (AX3RX) our two most active radio hams, made recent contact with King Hussein I of Jordan (another ardent amateur operator). Ray duly received a card suitably embossed with gold crown and endorsed with some very nice remarks. Dick is still praying for his card to arrive.

\* \* \* \*

A few weeks ago, whilst munching on a slice of unknown substance at morning tea, Wally Schubach, Block A, was heard to mutter, "Recipes from other nations suffer from my wife's translation". We have since discovered that Mum and the kids were away for the school holidays at the time and Wally was really blaming one of his own concoctions.

\* \* \* \*

It is understood that Anthony Newman, Lab. Equipment, has requested to be excluded from any overtime duty. He is getting married shortly and has stated he wishes to rest as much as possible and become a NEW MAN.

\* \* \* \*

Sporting



Round-up

FOOTBALL

The big grudge match between Duplicating Section and the Laboratories will take place at the Harry Trott Oval, Albert Park, at 2.15 p.m. on Sunday, 21 June. Unfortunately, last year you could have counted the spectators on one hand. Don't let the weather worry you. You can park your car at the fence and sit in comfort and warmth. Coach Kevin Bartlett has been putting his side through a most vigorous training period and you can expect to see some sparkling football from the following :- Peter Dalliston, Johnny Zignantis, Peter Quinn, Bill Fitzpatrick, Bill Kuys, Keith Rogers, Murray McGaffin, Terry Elms, Colin Rogers, Frank Drew and Wilson McOrist.

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GOLF

Congratulations to Ted Hulley, Switching Group who outclassed a particularly strong field to take the honours at the Director-General's annual Golf Day. Ted can be assured of a very stiff handicap for the next Labs tournament.

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V  
ALICE IN WONDERLAND

BY

LEWIS GARROLL GREEN

PHYSICAL SCIENCES

After the recent transfer of my loyalties from 31 Flinders Lane, which was my initiation into the Laboratories and where I came to learn a lot about how radio propagation testing is conducted, I now find myself becoming increasingly interested in Chemistry and Metallurgy and a wider span of activities being conducted from this area you would never see anywhere else.

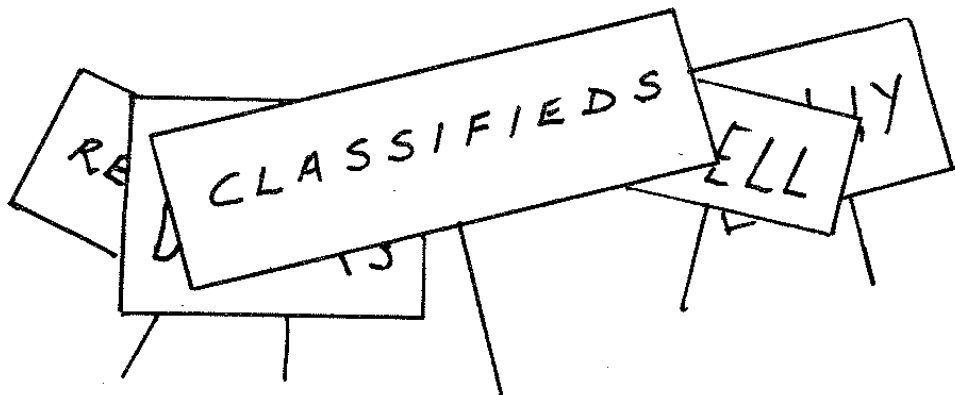
I had not looked through a microscope before, but I am now firmly convinced that there are many, many things that are not quite what they seem. For instance, how was I to know that carbides created fabulously beautiful patterns in steel viewed at close quarters as they do in brass and many other metals. Incidentally, when you next purchase an axe for your wife remember to make sure you specify that it will be used on hard woods. Axes are made specially for either hard or soft woods. Yes, Metallurgy is really quite interesting.

Neither did it ever fall on my ears that the Romans could not melt their iron sufficiently to pour into moulds but rather pushed the molten material into the required shape. This can also be observed under the microscope as evidenced by the large Roman steel nails obtained by the Labs from England where they were found underground in a well preserved condition.

I have not the space to relate all the interesting cases undertaken here except perhaps to indulge in one most important research project now nearing completion. In order to do justice to this work, a large and expensive machine call an INSTRON TENSILE MACHINE was purchased which can be used if necessary to test the breaking strain or fatigue of metals and it can exert a force of up to 5000 Kg. Its main function however, is one which is rather more delicate than that and if ever you happen to be passing the third floor at Watkins, this machine can be seen in all its glory testing to find out how close it can go to breaking the shells on walnuts and almonds without crushing the kernels.

Yes, metallurgy is quite fascinating.





WANTED TO SELL

Car radio, portable, SANYO 12 transistor, 4 band, complete with cradle, fittings and extension speaker, brand new, less than 1/2 price \$70.00.

K. Guilliard 630 6593

\* \* \* \*

Tape Recorder, excellent condition \$70.00.

(Mrs.) E. Horvath 630 6289

\* \* \* \*

Television Receiver, 21" A.W.A. excellent condition \$40.00.

R. Potter 630 6289

\* \* \* \*

WANTED TO BUY

125 c.c. motor suitable for mini-bike.

R. Slade 630 7992

\* \* \* \*

Mini-minor wheels (2 off) or similar size.

R. Potter 630 6289

\* \* \* \*

Trailer 6' x 4'

Auto Tent 12' x 12'

I. Moran 630 7334

\* \* \* \*

Piano, fully iron frame, approx. \$50.

I. Moran 630 7334

\* \* \* \*

#### ENGAGEMENTS

Pulse Systems ..... Laurie Bouchier to Sharron  
Campbell

Equipment Development ..... Denis Page to Sharon Lynch  
(ex-Typing Pool)

\* \* \* \*

#### MARRIAGES

Path Evaluation ..... Bruce Morton to Patricia Wood

Typing Pool ..... Karrel Bowhey to Max Knight

Environmental Physics ..... Graham Rogers to Marilyn Monks

\* \* \* \*

FOR RENT

Flatette, fully furnished, \$14.00 per week. Very close to tram, train and bus. Close to excellent shopping centre - 3 EVELENA ROAD, TOORAK. Linen, gas and electricity included.

Graham Rogers 387 1547

\* \* \* \*

BIRTHS

Pulse Systems ..... to Bernie and Trish Smith -  
a daughter, Katharine Amanda  
(8lbs. 4ozs)

Grandparents

to Peg and Tom Broughton  
on the arrival of their second grandchild - Jennifer Elaine  
(8lbs. 7ozs) who arrived on 6th May.

\* \* \* \*

to Laura and Joe Walsh who  
have joined the grandparent group since Elizabeth and Greg Teese  
presented them with Christopher Gregory on 21st April. This event  
entitles Joe to become present holder of the Grandfather's "Staff  
of Office" for a few weeks only.

\* \* \* \*

to Ethel and Phil Westbrook  
for their first grandchild, Belinda Isobel, (6lbs. 11ozs) born  
to daughter Janet and husband John Bamford on 23rd May. Phil  
is eagerly awaiting his turn of the "Staff of Office" after Joe  
Walsh has had the chance to display it for a respectable  
period.

\* \* \* \*

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to :-

Ed Bondarenko,	Physicist Class 2
Bruce Chisholm,	Chemist, Class 2
Peter Caldow,	Senior Fitter and Turner
Joe Scicluna,	Senior Fitter and Turner

\* \* \* \*

Welcome to :-

Phil Cameron	C.A. 1
Tony Townsend	Engineer Class 1
Clas Torner	C.A. 1
John Wise	Engineer Class 1
Gordon Remnant	C.A. 1
Sue Dixon	Typist
Vic Sargeant	Engineer Class 2
Ronnie Brunton	Sub-Sectional Clerk
Graeme Monaghan	C.A. 2
Soe Mei Tjia	Engineer Class 1
John Gillies	T.O. 1
Nanette Hayles	C.A. 1

and to the others who have  
joined the Labs since our last issue.

\* \* \* \*

FAREWELL to :-

Vera Sullivan, Clerical Assistant, Grade 2, Laboratory Services, who will have retired before our next issue is distributed. Miss Sullivan leaves us on the 13 July after nearly five years in the Laboratories. As a Commissioner for Affidavits she has been of assistance to many members of the Labs during her stay with us.

She will be sadly missed particularly by the fourteen members of the "Birthday Cake" Tea Club, Block A for whom she has held the Honorary position of No.1 Hostess. Morning and afternoon tea discussions have confirmed beyond doubt that she is the greatest living authority on Australian Political History and the tea breaks will lose a lot of their fire subsequent to her department. Although she won't admit it, we know she is a very keen Richmond fan.

Vera, we wish you many years of health and happiness in your coming retirement and we sincerely hope you will visit us from time to time (just bring two chocolate eclairs).

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# GARDENING NOTES

For you keen gardeners who are having trouble with snails, etc., discard those commercially prepared products and make your own batch of Dr. Alva Allen's successful recipe.

4 ozs. METALDEHYDE  
2 lbs. BRAN  
1 lb. CEMENT  
1 lb. LIME

Make a dry mix of all ingredients then carefully add sufficient water to make a stiff paste (preferably in a suitably sized tray). Before mixture sets, run a sharp instrument through it to form small blocks (approx. 3" x 3"). Colouring may be added, if desired. Place these blocks around your garden and watch your snails disappear.

Approximate Cost - \$1.35.

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$7x^2$       ?      14       $2x^2 + xy = 9$   
 LL-872      POSTWORK      POSERS      ?  
             ?       $\frac{x}{6} + \frac{y}{4} = ?$       Log. 939

From many reports received, our posers in the last issue created an unusual amount of interest. Unfortunately, due to lack of space we cannot publish answers, but they may be obtained by contacting the Editor on extension 7904.

\* \* \* \*

1. (Time limit - 15 minutes)

Three men left their hats on a rack when they arrived for a party. On the way home, the men were not, for some reason, in condition to tell one hat from another.

If the men each took a hat at random, what is the chance that each got his own hat, 1 in 2, 1 in 4, 1 in 6, 1 in 8 or 1 in 10?

\* \* \* \*

2. (Time limit - 20 minutes)

A group of children at camp were to be taken down to the lake for swimming practice and in order to keep the trip orderly, they were instructed to line up so that each had a partner. This arrangement, however, was unsatisfactory because one child was left without a partner. Rearranging them in rows of 3, then 5, and then in rows of 7, proved equally unsatisfactory because in each case one additional child would have been required to get a complete formation.

How many children were in the group? (We will assume that a group larger than 300 would have been referred to as a mob).

\* \* \* \*

## 3. (Time limit - 10 minutes)

A ball is dropped from a height of 200 feet. It hits the ground and rebounds, hits the ground and rebounds, etc.

If the rebound is always  $1/10$  of the height from which it fell, what is the total distance, to the nearest foot, through which the ball travelled before it came to rest?

\* \* \* \*

If you have a poser which you would like published, send it to Ashley Conroy, Information Group, Block A.

\* \* \* \*

Help keep our city clean  
Eat a pigeon a day.



### RESEARCH LABORATORIES BALL

Bookings for this year's Ball have now reached 400. This is most pleasing when one considers that the A.P.I. Central Office Ball only drew 380 last year.

Arrangements are well in hand to ensure us a marvellous night of entertainment. Prizes, to the approximate value of \$100 will be distributed throughout the evening.

\* \* \* \*

For those who for many reasons are not going along to the Laboratories Ball, Graham Rogers, Environmental Physics, issues the following invitation. The Louis Armstrong Birthday Ball will be held from 8 p.m. - 2 a.m. on Friday, 3rd July at Aberdeen House, Aberdeen Street, Newtown, Geelong. The price is \$7.00 per double, B.Y.O. Three top bands will play including Owen Yatmen's group. Proceeds will help support the 6th Geelong Jazz Festival in the spreading of the good word. Those interested can contact Graham on 387 1547 for further particulars.

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