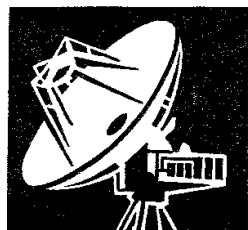


RESEARCH LAB REPORTER



PRODUCED BY RESEARCH LABORATORIES, 59 LITTLE COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE

RESEARCH LAB. REPORTER

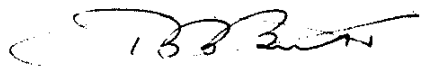
Important elements of life are our satisfactions and our dissatisfactions, and for me the past year has had its quota of both :

- . Satisfaction with the recognition it has been possible to give to many engineers following the restructuring of the organisation;
- . Dissatisfaction that it is taking so long to finalise the appointments and to remove the few anomalies.
- . Satisfaction that our technical grade and clerical restructuring proposals are being cleared for consideration by the Public Service Board;
- . Dissatisfaction with the length of time it has taken to get to this position and with the time which must still elapse before any benefits result.
- . Satisfaction with the real progress made towards a solution to our accommodation problems;
- . Dissatisfaction with the elements of uncertainty that still delay final committal to the Monash and Lyon Park proposals.

I could go on for a dozen pages.

One major satisfaction I have is the competence, initiative, loyalty and good humour of the staff. It is these attributes that have enabled us in the Research Laboratories to take the many frustrations and difficulties in our stride and to maintain our position at the forefront of technology in our selected areas of competence and to make a valued and valuable contribution to the well being of the Post Office. Thank you all for giving me this satisfaction.

I take this opportunity to extend to you and your families the Season's Greetings and hope that this Christmas will be a happy one and that all goes well with you in 1973.


5.12.72

Latest Achievements

C.C.I.T.T. No.6 Signalling System

An inaugural call dialled by the Director-General, Mr. E.F. Lane on 18th October marked the commencement of a live traffic phase for the National Trial of the No. 6 Signalling System. The call was made from the Windsor Field Trial site of the Switching and Signalling Branch, and was set up using a No.6 signal link before entering the Sydney network.

The cutover of the Laboratories No.6 exchange used for this call marked the first public use of a computer controlled exchange in Australia. It is believed furthermore that the No.6 route put into service is the first such facility in the world to carry subscriber dialled traffic. This official opening marked the culmination of several years work by many people in the Switching and Signalling Branch.

The opening was well attended by representatives of the press, and the official party also included Mr. I. Gunn, (Director, Victoria) and senior management staff from Planning and Research, Engineering Works, and Telecommunications divisions.

Rain Attenuation Investigations

Satellites Section with the help of Unguided Media, Design (Special Projects) and other sections, developed, constructed and put into operation a solar radiometer in Queensland last October. It is installed at the Army Tropical Trials Establishment at Cowley Beach, about 15 miles S.E. of Innisfail. This project has been designed to study the effects of rain, particularly tropical, on the attenuation of 10-15 GHz signals over earth-space paths. The sun is being used as a source of 11 GHz radiation, and the radiometer with sun-tracking antenna forms the receiver.

The first data now to hand have shown that the radiometer system is working unattended very much as designed.

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Assignment Overseas

Harry Wragge is our only representative to undertake an overseas visit since our last issue. As a member of the Australian delegation to the C.C.I.T.T. Plenary Assembly, Harry attended a meeting of Joint Working Party FT.6 in mid November and a meeting of Special Study Group D late November/early December. He has also been invited by the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation (I.T.T.) to visit L.C.T. in Paris. The I.T.T. is actively studying digital systems, with particular emphasis on integrated switching and transmission. They have drawn on all their houses for relevant skills, and have assembled a highly qualified team at L.C.T. with the objective of formulating a specification for a future I.S.T. system. This team has already produced a considerable volume of material as part of this specification and this has been circulated to the various I.T.T. houses for comment.

Harry's visit will give him a splendid opportunity to gain an appreciation of the way in which the I.T.T. development is proceeding and this, of course, will be of considerable value in deciding the way in which our own developments in the use of digital systems and I.S.T. should progress.

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A very large crowd filled the Prototype Shop, Block A to hear Don Sheridan say a few well chosen words on the occasion of the retirement of Syd Baker, after 14 years service in the Laboratories. Syd was the recipient of a wad of "lettuce" which was to be used in the purchase of a new FT 200 transceiver. The FT 200 will grace the bench of a new "shack" erected in the back yard of Syd's new home in Carrum. A late report from Bert Cooper tells us that Syd has been heard on the air with the new "reg" GLOM 73.

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Congratulations to Merl Cuzens who was recently elected to the Asian/Pacific Committee of International Federation of Documentation (F.I.D.).

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David Richards, who already has our sympathy being the only male member of the Library Staff, is endeavouring to compete against Sylvia Peters and Helen Rodd to produce bigger and better prize roses and sweet peas. However the snails are causing David considerable concern.

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Bob Evans the jovial young redhead from Design (Special Projects) has his driving licence AGAIN. One of Bob's earlier escapades almost wrote off his 3 weeks old, (at the time) Cortina. For reasons unbeknown, even to Bob, he found himself executing a perfect right hand turn into some stranger's driveway. Suddenly being aware of his position he endeavoured to extricate himself but in doing so knocked down part of two front fences and rolled his vehicle twice. The most annoying part was that the only injury he sustained was a cut nose when a bystander in assisting him from the wrecked car hit him in the face with the front seat.

* * * *

Early this month the F.P. O'Grady Reading Room was filled to capacity by the many colleagues of Ern Rumpelt to wish him many years of happy retirement and present him with a suitable memento to remind him of the 24 years he has spent in the Laboratories. Following the presentation a most enjoyable buffet luncheon was held at the Little Reata Restaurant.

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Ed Stanley, Block S departs for overseas during this month to study the topography of Tasmania and also many important details of bird life in various areas. If he likes the spot there is talk that he may make his nest and stay.

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There were two young ladies from Block A last month who reached the 21st anniversary of their births. First was Rita Torcaso from the Main Library who celebrated quietly with some Library colleagues and followed up with a family party at home. Second was Jill Read who was presented with a pair of exquisite bedroom slippers and perfume by her friends on the 2nd floor and then taken to lunch by the girls to the new Hotel Melbourne. Needless to say Fred Kelly had to carefully (as usual) oversight the computations on the overtime lists during the afternoon.

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Congratulations to the winners of the Peter Gerrand Cryptogram! It was a team effort by Irene Vigh, Diane Forster, Gwen Butler and Robert Page. These members are putting their heads together to submit a brain teaser for the February issue.



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It is not intended to broadcast the Branch concerned but a very amusing incident occurred at Parkade late last month. It appears a certain officer submitted an S.6 for four various sizes of the new jiffy bags. He desired to obtain 95 bags in all. However, to his dismay a semi-trailer arrived at Parkade loaded with 95 cartons which represented about 19,000 bags.

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Our ace reporter from Block S Ray Jepson has deserted us for this issue while he is enjoying himself having taken a months furlough. In the old days Ray would have been unable to go on leave at this particular time as he would have been organising the Labs. Christmas Party. It is most unfortunate that our rapid growth and lack of suitable accommodation prevents us from all gathering at a central point.

* * * * *

Sports, Hobbies, etc. 


GOLF

As usual another very pleasant day at Ivanhoe Golf Course was held late October and about 40 members of the Labs. participated. John Kelly (83) narrowly defeated Alex Quan for the Group A title. John Semple and Bill Tait both on 104 were joint winners in Group B and Eric Koop won the honours in Group C.

Daye Thompson of Block "C" won the trophy for nearest the pin and Stan Sanders the longest drive off the 16th tee. Thanks again to Alva Allen for his organising. Incidentally Alva did break the "ton".

* * * * *

SAILING

Barnacles are being disturbed and many are preparing for the forthcoming sunny days around the Peninsula. Alan O'Rourke has sold his SABOT and is moving into the bigger class. Many marine memories at morning tea are heard, from Chas. Eyre, Les Murfett and Frank Art

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BALLET

Peggy Bird is bubbling with excitement and pride as 10 years old daughter Kathy has again passed her exams with the usual Honours.

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Counting Heads

According to the latest issue of the UN statistical yearbook, the world population (3700 million, by the end of this year) will double (7400 million) by the year 2000 if the annual 2% rate of increase is maintained.

The increase rate is only an average; Scandinavia's is 0.6%; Central America's is 3.4%. Most densely populated area (19,625 people per square kilometre) is Macao, the Portuguese colony on the South China coast, followed by Monaco with 16,107 people per square kilometre.

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CANBERRA'S NUCLEAR WARDENS

The following contribution was submitted by one of our retired officers - Mr. Norm McCay. It is hoped that this may be an inspiration to other retired gentlemen on our mailing list who might like to let us know how they are going and what they are doing to occupy their time.

This item is an extract from "On The Beam", the P.M.G. R.S.L. Sub-branch Journal.

A Canberra spy reports that various citizens of that city have been sent a circular falsely purporting to come from the Department of Defence, outlining a civil defence programme.

"Under the recommendation of the Civil Defence Programme Organisation we are undertaking extensive training to organise both civilian and military personnel for the purpose of fire fighting in the event of nuclear raids on Canberra and districts," says the circular.

"As a citizen whose loyalty to the Commonwealth is unquestionable, we believe we may count on you as a patriot for your full co-operation. Hence we have taken the liberty of appointing you as a Nuclear Warden of the division in which you reside."

The circular goes on to outline a training programme stretching over the next six months with "refresher classes to be held on every alternate month until the danger abates".

Then the citizen is advised by the circular of an amazing range of equipment he is required to carry as a Nuclear Warden of his district.

EQUIPMENT

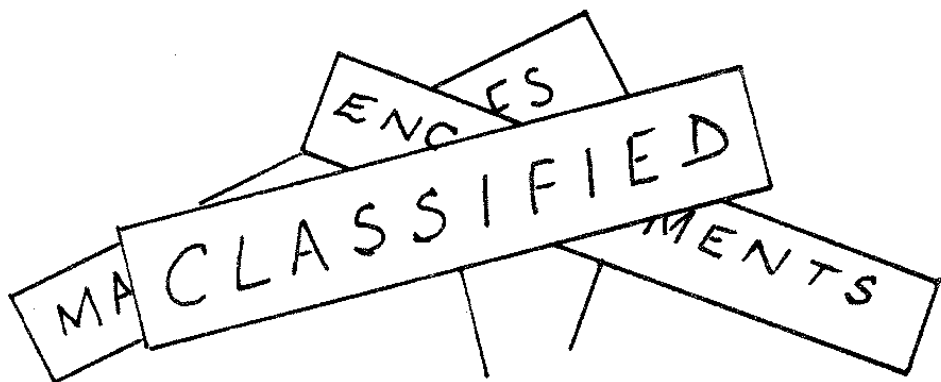
This is the line-up: "Respirator; axe to carry in belt; stirrup pump to be carried over right shoulder, long-handled shovel, to be carried over left arm; extension ladder, to be carried under left arm; rake, to be carried under right arm; scoop, to be carried in left hand. . .

"Whistle, to be carried in mouth with a spare pea in left ear; belt to be worn around waist with 10 hooks, for carrying sandbags and four pails of water; two wet blankets around neck; steel helmet with brim turned up to carry extra water; extra sand to be carried in all pockets. . ."

And finally, item 13: "Box of matches to light the b_____ Atom Bomb if it doesn't go off."

Who is pulling whose leg?

* * * * *



FOR SALE

Surf Board, 6 feet, "SHANE" excellent condition - One season old \$70.00

Contact: Mike Ingram 7612

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FOR HIRE

New Caravan with annexe, 6 Berth, Car mirrors provided, available from 8th January, 1973, will accommodate baby's cot.

Contact: N. Deans 7593.

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MISCELLANEOUS

Brian Halpin (Prototype Shop - Block A) will perform blow-ups of any black and white negatives - all at reasonable cost.

Telephone 7963.

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ENGAGEMENTS

Main Library Maureen Hubbard to
Gary O'Neill

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Prototype Shop Peter Caldwell to
Joy Robertson

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Design (Special Projects) Kevin French to
Heather Daniels

* * * * *

MARRIAGES

Block S Terry Baines to Russell Grattidge

* * * * *

Block A Lorraine Peoples to Chris Bell

* * * * *

Block S Graham Brownfield to Jenny Willey

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Block F Ian Moran to Sharon Gaylor

BIRTHS

Ex-Block A Typing Pool to Sylvia (nee Hindmarsh)
and Ian Drummond,
a daughter Megan Jane

* * * * *

Guided Media to Graeme and Sheila Kidd
a son, Simon John

* * * * *

Lab. Instrumentation to John and Jennifer Zigmantas
a son, Carter John, Arthur

* * * * *

Welcome to :

Greg Wong Hee	Apprentice F. & T.
David Winslade	T.A. 1
Ian Dougall	Junior Assistant
Pat Walsh	C.A. 3, Library
Elaine Alexander	Library Officer

and also to our 43 vacation students who have joined
our ranks for the next few months.

Farewell to :

Lorraine Peoples, Transmission Systems Steno-Sec. Lorraine
who marries an Army man just prior to Christmas is taking
a temporary transfer to Sydney to be with her new hubby.

PROMOTIONSCongratulations to :

Ilga Petering	Main Library
Ern Rumpelt	Network Theory
Graeme Kidd	Guided Media
Ron Trainor	Time and Frequency Standards

$$\sqrt{.982}$$

12

?

$$x^2 + y^2 = z^2$$

? Festwerk ?

$$\frac{1}{n} + \frac{1}{y}$$

1. The Freight Train

Two men are walking toward each other alongside a railway. A freight train overtakes one of them in 20 seconds and exactly 10 minutes later meets the other man coming in the opposite direction. The train passes this man in 18 seconds.

How long after the train has passed the second man will the two men meet? (Constant speeds are to be assumed throughout).

* * * *

2. Three Generations

When I am as old as my father is now, I shall be five times as old as my son is now. The combined ages of my father and myself are 100 years.

How old is my son?

* * * *

3. The Evasive Lineman

While visiting a line depot we came upon a lineman digging a hole. "How deep is that hole?" we asked. "Guess", said the lineman, being evasive. "My height is exactly 5 feet 6 inches." "How much deeper are you going?" we enquired. "I am one third done," was the answer, "and then my head will be twice as far below the ground as it is now above ground."

How deep will that hole be when finished?

* * * *