

The Village Critic



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PLANT MANAGEMENT SECTION TRAINS FOR THE FUTURE

One of the first NAL sections to go "operational"--that is, to mature from a construction phase into a permanent operation, is the NAL Plant Management Section. This section is responsible for the maintenance and operation of all utilities, plant buildings and structures, and plant equipment.

Since the extent of the problems is endless, William M. Riches, Plant Manager, announced an employee training and development program for his section last July designed, according to Riches, to "offer every employee the opportunity to increase his knowledge and skill in his present job and to prepare for advancement to a more responsible position."

At the first orientation meeting in July, employees were offered a wide variety of training methods, including correspondence courses, do-it-yourself training systems, on-site classes, off-site classes, and on-the-job training. The flexibility of the teaching methods no doubt accounted for the whopping response - 41% of the people in the section immediately indicated an interest in the programs offered. A total of 31 Plant Management employees returned forms signifying approval of 42 of 78 different training courses, plus an additional six courses which were requested by the employees themselves.

The largest response came from craftsmen in the section, seeking to improve their own skills by learning better techniques for plant maintenance and by instruction from supervisors to adapt their skills to the special requirements of the NAL systems. The programs offered also included supervisor, secretarial, and a "general" category designed to survey the relationships between Plant Management and other sections of the Laboratory.

Since the first of August, under the direction of Art Streccius, Industrial Engineer in the Plant Management Section, who is in charge of the training programs, a veritable beehive of training activity has been underway. Streccius came to NAL from a position in a management consultant firm, bringing 20 years of industrial background to the new NAL facility. By November 1st, 51 persons had enrolled for training. They represented the three sections of Plant Management: Plant Maintenance, Plant Services and Office Services. The largest number is studying

(Continued on Page 2)



....Shown producing a training film are Ward Bosworth, Staff Engineer (on left), Art Streccius (back to camera) and Paul Linden, Plant Services....



....Utilizing a training film made at NAL are (L to R) Pete Lentini, Ray Gunderman, Gene Stark and Jack Morphey, Mechanical Maintenance Supervisor....

Photos by Tony Frelo, NAL

PLANT MANAGEMENT SECTION TRAINS FOR THE FUTURE (Continued from Page 1)

mechanical and electrical aspects of plant maintenance. These men are utilizing the new Plant Engineering self instructional maintenance courses. One course consists of 10 units each, containing 10 lessons totaling 200 hours of study. They meet in small groups at 4 p.m. once a week, led by NAL supervisors. In Plant Services, 12 men are taking correspondence courses ranging from automotive mechanics to plumbing and heating installation, aided also by supervisors when necessary. Several supervisors are studying leadership and supervisory techniques.

Bill Byrd, one of nine men taking an electrical maintenance correspondence course, feels that he will get out of the courses, "whatever I put into them. But this is the first time I've had an opportunity to get this training, and I really appreciate it." Byrd estimates he will put in well over 100 hours on his 10-unit course.

In addition to the conventional teaching methods, Streccius is utilizing the audio-visual technique in which he films the actual operation of a facility and makes a permanent record of the operation and maintenance of a system, such as the Village Domestic Water Supply and Distribution System. Together with an audio-taped explanation and a large chart, this method enables a newcomer, or a person with another skill, to acquaint himself in full detail with this operation immediately and with no other help. "This technique will enable us to carry out our responsibilities with fewer supervisors and it also teaches the employee to seek out such information on his own, and he becomes more flexible and therefore more valuable," according to Streccius.

Streccius has also made similar films on the maintenance of wet and dry fire protection sprinkler systems, the site-wide electrical distribution system, and the industrial and domestic water systems, and all equipment critical to the operation of the Laboratory facilities.

The program is not limited to males. Secretaries in the section have joined in--one by attending a seminar and others by participating in "Voice Courtesy and Telephone Courtesy" program sponsored by Illinois Bell Telephone. Still others are enrolled in correspondence courses in secretarial sciences.

The length of the courses now underway is from one to two years. By the Spring of 1972, the students will already have logged over 3,000 hours of exposure to self-improvement. However, the on-the-job training and the taped audio-visual system and maintenance training will continue indefinitely as a function of the Department.

Plant Management employees are also given the benefit of an in-depth tour of NAL facilities and general orientation on the origins and early development of the Laboratory. Leaders of other Laboratory sections also give brief presentations. Since their work encompasses every facet of the operations at NAL, Riches and Streccius feel that general information is vital to the success of our employees.

"We'll measure the results by the increase in confidence, reliability, and skill of our people," says Streccius. "We've invested a good deal of time and money in our employees, and the benefits of our training programs have already been reflected in solid and improved performance in support of Laboratory operations."



...Shown above at a study session, (L to R) Frank Werneske, Dick Graff, Elec. Maintenance Supervisor, Bud Stanley, Ray Gunderman and Doyle Burchfield...

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

"Seduced and Abandoned" -- a brilliant comic-satire film of life in Sicily -- will be shown in the Village Barn at 8 p.m. on Friday, January 21, sponsored by the NAL Film Society.

Winner of a Best Actor Award at the Cannes Film Festival and of a Best Director award of the Italian Academy, the film gives NALites a unique opportunity to view on site an outstanding international film.

Don't miss it!

A GIFT FOR YOU...

NAL employees and members of their families received a very unusual gift during the Christmas holidays of which they may not be aware. Thanks to the 163 NAL employees who donated blood to the Red Cross Blood Bank when it was at the Laboratory on September 2nd and 3rd and again on December 21st, the NAL families are covered for all the blood they may need until September, 1972, no matter where they may be in the United States. If the need for blood should arise, simply tell your physician or someone on the hospital staff that you, or members of your family, are entitled to receive blood, free of charge, through the Red Cross Blood Bank.

Robert Scherr, NAL Proton Laboratory, donated the 163rd pint of blood on December 21st, which topped the goal for the required amount to insure coverage for all NAL employees and their families.

A special "thank-you" to all donors for the gift that could be the gift of life for a loved one!



... (L to R) Robert Scherr, Dorothy Poll (NAL Nurse), and Red Cross R.N. Pat Myslinski...

Photo by Tony Frelo, NAL

SOCIAL SECURITY BASE INCREASES... Effective January 1, 1972, the base amount on which U. S. Social Security tax payments are computed was increased from \$7,800 per year to \$9,000 per year of an employee's salary. The 5.2% deduction rate remains the same. The \$9,000 total figure will be computed on the basis of paychecks received beginning with the first pay period of 1972. An equal amount for matching purposes is paid to an employee's account by NAL.

HAPPENINGS AT THE AREA AEC OFFICE - By Minerva H. Sanders

Bob Laza will be leaving us on January 21 to accept a position with the American Testing and Engineering Company (ATEC), a soil consulting firm with home offices in Indianapolis, Indiana. Bob will be the General Manager of ATEC's Chicago Regional Office. He will spend four weeks in Indianapolis, one week in Baltimore, Maryland, and one week in Cincinnati, Ohio, training for his new position. We offer our best wishes to Bob on his departure from the AEC.



Robert (Bob) Laza

A warm welcome is extended to Dorothy Jackson, our new work-study helper. Dorothy is a senior at the Aurora East High School and works in the Area Manager's office four hours each afternoon. After graduation in June, she plans to join us full time. Dorothy is also a nurse's aide at the Aurora Manor Nursing Home on Saturdays.

We send our "thanks" to Mrs. Imogene Brooks, Mrs. Ann Mattmueller and Mrs. Joan Mravca for the delicious treats they prepared for us over the holidays.

Congratulations are in order for our area counselor, William A. Donato, on receiving his twenty-year award. The award was a gold pin with a blue sapphire stone and was presented by our CH Manager, Mr. Kenneth A. Dunbar, at the CH annual Awards Ceremony held at Argonne.

Home for the holidays: Kennedy C. Brooks' son, Kennedy A. - who just completed his studies at Georgetown University, Washington, D. C.; Fred Mattmueller's son, Larry - the "swinging D. J." from Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois; and Frank Durckel's daughter, Ann - the blond beauty from the University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois.



Kenneth A. Dunbar and
William A. Donato

AT LONG LAST....Cafeteria lunch service in the high-rise building....
....beginning Monday, January 17th, 11:30 a.m.....
Serving hot lunches, hamburgers, salads and desserts, coffee and milk.
Enter building on east side, under lower portico.

NEWS FROM NALWO

SING-A-LONG group will meet Friday, January 14, 8:30 p.m. at the home of the Dick Carrigans, 1703 East Illinois, Wheaton, Illinois. Everybody welcome! For further information call Herta Laukant, 665-0439.

BRIDGE group will meet on January 19, 1:30 p.m. at the White Farm. High and low prizes. Call Mary Fray for more details at 232-0724.

GET YOUR THEATER PARTY TICKETS NOW!

Saturday, February 12th is almost here! Don't miss the NALREC theatre party at the Candlelight Dinner Playhouse. "Fiddler on the Roof" is the show. Tickets at \$11 per person include dinner and tips, the show, bus transportation to and from the NAL Village. If you would like to form your own party, seating can be arranged. Call Jim Snow, Ext. 775, or Barb Schlucnter, Ext. 701, for further information.

PARLEZ VOUS FRANÇAIS???

You are invited to join a congenial group of people who are interested in having a "French Table" at the NAL Cafeteria every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m., in the small dining room. You need not be a native of France to enjoy the conversation which will be initiated by Marcel Goldberg, a visiting scientist from the University of Paris. What you may think is only a "smattering" now will be fluent with a little practice. Stop by, if only to say "Bon Jour!" Call Dave Carey on Ext. 457 for further particulars.

CONGRATULATIONS....To John and Mary Louise Satti on the birth of their new 8 lb. 7½ oz. son, Paul Anthony, born on December 21, 1971, at Edward's Hospital in Naperville. John works in the Meson Lab.

....To David Jarvis of Downers Grove on his engagement to Judy Olach, NAL Technical Services. Judy received her ring on Christmas Eve; the wedding is planned for September 9.

NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

Journals are not for circulation! In response to recent requests, the Library is maintaining closer control of journals. All those in circulation have been recalled. Users are now requested to copy articles needed in the duplicating facility closeby.

It's time to return overdue! Clean off your shelves and start the New Year right. Your deadwood may make someone very happy!

CLASSIFIED ADS:

FOR SALE - '70 Ford Pickup Trk., excel. condition; '60 Cadillac, 2 Dr., Conv., excellent condition; bed and chest; desk, child's toy chest & chair; '71 Crown stove w/self cleaning oven; misc. items. Ext. 402, 403 or after 3:30 call 898-8284.

FOR SALE - 23" Airline B & W Console TV, picture tube 1 yr. old, \$85 or best offer. Tom Santoy, Ext. 555 or 898-8736.

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