

The Village Grier



national accelerator laboratory

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NAL BISON--BACK HOME ON THE PRAIRIE

The first day of Spring, 1973, had barely come and gone when one of the most delightful manifestations on the NAL site--the first buffalo calf of the year--arrived, unannounced, at 2:20 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21. Madame Buffalo then assumed a safe position in the center of the 80-acre pasture on Road B which is the NAL herd's "range," and cleaned up her 80-lb., chestnut-colored baby while the 25 other members of the shaggy family one by one sauntered over to inspect and presumably to welcome the newcomer, then returned to their buffalo business. By Thursday morning the youngster's wobbly legs had steadied enough that it could join the meandering herd, with occasional rest stops when Mother would wisely sink to the ground and the tiny figure would do likewise, usually on the sunny side of Mama.

The event marks the beginning of the second year in which the two original NAL herds have lived in a combined pasture area. In 1970, the Laboratory purchased the first six animals from a source in Colorado. To obtain better cross-breeding, another group of twelve was added in 1971 from a herd owned by the State of Illinois. The two groups were kept in separate pastures until 1972 when they were combined.

Known to be sensitive to familial structure, the animals have apparently now settled into a satisfactory social pattern. There is a dominant cow which has been the big bull's favorite. The young bulls rap horns occasionally to prove who's who. The herd has assumed a more natural pattern, roaming on 80 acres in a style more typical of a large range than a small barnyard.

The largest, oldest bull turned mean some time ago and has been kept in "isolation" in a pen across Batavia Road. His days at NAL are numbered; he is dangerous, and a younger bull appears to be better for breeding purposes. With the pleasures of having a fine herd in captivity go the responsibilities of good herd management, says Rudy Dorner, NAL Site Manager.

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...New arrival in the NAL buffalo herd...



...Some of the old timers...

"We are now beginning a program of tagging and sorting our herd. We'll then be able to keep better track of offspring and inter-breeding.

"Of course, we will cull the herd to achieve better quality. We have six young bulls now. Any more would create a problem and we would suffer from the unproductive battling. We'll be selling some animals; we'll trade with zoos to maintain our stock. Some of our animals may be sold for meat, but this is not uncommon among buffalo raisers. Contrary to what many people think, the bison is no longer in danger of extinction. There are 30,000 in North America, most of them in well-managed herds. But it is important that they be well managed, including being given inoculations for brucellosis, for instance," Dorner says.

Plans continue eventually to have a large herd of buffalo in the center of the NAL Main Ring. But, according to Dorner, if all the animals were to be kept there, they would be inaccessible to public viewing. It is likely therefore that a group of 25 or so will always graze in an accessible location. Presently the herd is fed hay and other feed supplements that have made a noticeable improvement in the coats of the animals. The pasture also has a mud wallow, very important for comfort during fly and insect season. Bare ground provides "itching spots" where the animals roll on their backs, especially in the spring, and thus loosen thick winter hair before the hot weather.

Anyone interested in more information on buffalo will enjoy the book, "The World of the Bison," by Ed Park (Lippincott, 1969). Park explains that the correct name of the North American animal known as a "buffalo" is bison. The true buffalo has no hump; that name belongs only to the water buffalo in Asia and to the African buffalo. But to most Americans, the "bison" is a buffalo and probably always will be, according to Park.

There are two bison sub-species, the plains bison and the wood bison. The NAL animals are plains bison; their origins are Oklahoma and Colorado; their ancestors once covered the vast Great Plains of North America, numbering 50 million at one time. Their unrestrained slaughter in the early 1900's was a tragic part of America's westward development, diminishing the population to about 500. According to a story in the New York Times, the U. S. National Buffalo Breeders Association, formed in 1968, now has 200 breeding members; the total buffalo population is increasing.

Although the NAL herd appears docile and harmless, visitors are asked to remember that these are not tame animals. Do not go into the fenced area or attempt to feed the buffalo.

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MAHARISHI MAHESH YOGI VISITS NAL

One of NAL's most unusual visitors came on Friday, March 16 -- Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, the leading proponent of transcendental meditation, and about twenty-five members of his teaching staff. The diminutive Yogi had expressed his particular interest in meeting with Dr. Robert Wilson, to learn something about what we do at NAL.

In a discussion in Dr. Wilson's office, Maharishi explained that his interest in NAL stemmed from the nature of high energy physics. Just as scientists here and at other laboratories study the basic nature of matter, and are attempting to find some unifying principles governing all matter and energy, so Maharishi and his followers study the workings of the mind, trying to reduce the thought process to its most basic level. Maharishi feels that once these fundamental thought processes have been mastered through transcendental meditation, new realms of the mind and spirit are opened, and the individual is capable of greatly expanded capabilities and creativity. (Those who practice transcendental meditation do not adhere to any particular life style or hold any specific philosophical or religious beliefs. Following their discussion, Dr. Wilson led the group on a tour of the site. His comment on the visit? "Well, they're a very interesting group. I'll be curious to see how they get on."



...Robert R. Wilson (L) explains the accelerator system to Maharishi...

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Photos by Tony Donaldson

"HELEN GOES TO TROY"

One of NAL's very talented couples, Janice and Arthur Roberts, is deeply involved in the production of "Helen Goes to Troy," a revised version of one of Jacques Offenbach's best known comic operas, "La Belle Helene." It was first produced in Paris in 1864, and hasn't been given in the Chicago area since 1868. The opera is a satire based on the story of the abduction of Helen by Paris, the event that really caused the Trojan War.

The new English translation and revision of the book and lyrics, and the musical arrangements were all written by Dr. Arthur Roberts, of the NAL Physics Department, who is eminently qualified for the task. A graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, he has been involved with both music and physics for all of his professional life.



...The Roberts at rehearsal...

Janice Roberts, of the NAL Visitors Center, is staging and directing the production. She also attended the Manhattan School of Music, and says she got into professional directing when her children volunteered her services to their Rochester, New York, high school, to replace an ailing drama teacher. She has been at it ever since, and has about twenty productions to her credit.

Says Janice Roberts of "Helen," "I think it's a very witty show. The cast is a combination of good amateurs and professionals -- the amateurs get a kick out of working with the professionals, and the professionals keep on their toes when they see how really good some amateurs are."

The Roberts are particularly pleased that a grant from the Illinois Arts Council has enabled them to commission an original ballet, to be premiered with the production. It is being choreographed by Kenneth Brelsfoard, and will be performed by the Brelsfoard Dance Theater Company of Chicago.

"Helen Goes to Troy" is being presented by the Music Theater of Hyde Park, Inc., at the Beverly Art Center, 2153 West 111th Street, Chicago. Performances will be given on Friday and Saturday, April 13 and 14, at 8:15 p.m., and on Sunday, April 15, at 2:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$3.50, \$3.00, and \$2.50. For reservations, call 627-0667 or 629-2646. The Skokie Arts Council will sponsor one performance in Skokie, on April 21.

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TWO NAL EMPLOYEES ON CREDIT UNION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Frank Kleber and Larry Sobocki, both of the Accelerator Section, were elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Argonne Credit Union at the annual meeting on March 14, 1973. Both men have had experience working on credit unions in other organizations. Each will serve for one year, Frank on the Supervisory, Investment, and Personnel Committees; and Larry on the Credit Committee.

The Argonne Credit Union is employee-owned and governed, and operates on a not-for-profit charter. It is estimated, according to this year's annual report, that members saved about \$250,000 by borrowing at the credit union rather than at commercial savings and loan associations and banks. The long-awaited Federal Share Insurance went into effect as of March 14 -- each member's earnings in the union are insured to \$20,000, on a par with commercial banks and savings and loan associations, by a U.S. Government agency.



..Frank Kleber(L), Larry Sobocki

There are 714 members of the Argonne Credit Union who are NAL employees. Anyone wishing to join, or needing financial advice or assistance should contact Ralph Wagner, in Personnel, Ext. 3396. He is the Credit Union Administrator on site.

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(Photo by Tim Fielding, NAL)

NALWO CALENDAR FOR APRIL

Friday, April 6 - Family Potluck Supper - 5:30 p.m. - Village Cafeteria - Newcomers welcome! Call Barbara Lach (231-0107) for further information.

Wed., April 11 - Bridge Group - 1:00 p.m. - White Farm. Contact Mary Fray, 232-0724.

Sat., April 14 - Gourmet Group - 7:30 p.m. - An Indonesian Rijstafel; Nancy & Dick Carrigan, hosts. For reservations and recipes call Mary Otavka, 969-6199.

NALREC HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK

NAL Ping Pong Champ Jim Walker needs some lively competition for the third NAL Ping Pong Tournament, April 9 through 13. Call Sharon Nila, Ext. 3587, to register and get your playing schedule.

Sherry is also recruiting women softball players for an Aurora Park District team. If you're interested, call her, Ext. 3587.

Members of the proposed NAL Archery Club will be treated to a field archery film and a demonstration archery team exhibition on April 4 at 6 p.m. in the Barn. Four of the demonstration squad members are Denny Cline, national barebow champion 72; Don Moorhead, 5th place 72; Vince Zamora, 6th place 72; and Ernie Villegas, state broadhead champion 72. The demonstration will include freestyle, barebow, and bowhunter styles of archery. All interested parties and guests are welcome. Goodies will be served. For further information call Mark Kibilko, Ext. 3776.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE - 1971 Buick Electra 225, Full Power (Brakes, Windows, Steering), Air, Stereo, Vinyl Top, Steel Belt Radial Tires, 17,000 miles, \$3,800 firm. Call 896-6342 after 5 - ask for Marty.

FOR SALE - Ski Rack, brand new, deluxe double locking A&T, \$25.00-Call Travis Minto, Ext. 3172.

FOR SALE - Tent - 11x17, outside frame, 4 windows, canopy, zipper door - \$60.00. Dwaine Johnson, 879-3638.

FOR SALE - 1970 Chrysler New Yorker, Air Cond., Full Power Inc/Windows, AM/FM Radio, 2 Dr. Hard Top. Must sell to settle estate, \$2,300.00 firm. Contact Norm Engler, Ext. 3391 or 227-0691.

FOR SALE - 1961 Oldsmobile, good body, in running condition. Best offer. Ext. 3595 or 898-5914 after 4:30 p.m. Judy Dill.

FOR SALE - 16 ft. Larson, Fibreglass, 1970 60 h.p. Johnson Tee-Nee Heavy Duty Trailer. Includes skis, life jackets, fire ext., spare prop, tank, storage cover, convertible type top etc. Call Kenneth Bourkland, Ext. 3701.

WANTED TO RENT - 3 bedroom home around Batavia, Geneva, or St. Charles. Three children, no more than \$200 a month. Would like lease. Call Charles Crose, Ext. 3728, or 892-2076.

WANTED - Mini Trail Bike, 50cc or larger. Would trade 4 h.p. Mini Bike. Call Art Streccius, Ext. 3788 or 392-4905.

FOR SALE - 1970 Galaxie Mini Bike, 4 h.p., good condition. \$75 or best offer. Call Art Streccius, Ext. 3788 or 392-4905.

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