

The Village Crier

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TINY FERRET AIDS CONSTRUCTION OF NAL MESON LAB

From the dictionary: A ferret is a domesticated, albinistic, red-eyed form of the polecat; employed in Europe for hunting of rabbits in burrows. Usually 21-23 inches long, five inches tall.

"Felicia Ferret" is playing an important and little-known role in construction of the Meson Laboratory at NAL. She is not on the NAL payroll nor on Social Security, but her activities are saving scores of manhours and getting a difficult job done quickly.

In the construction going on at the Meson Lab, there developed a need several weeks ago to swab out stray steel particles from the long lines that must be spotless for the elementary particles that will zoom through them in a few months. During the design process, Wally Pelczarski, designer in the NAL Main Ring Section, was given the job of designing a mechanical ferret that would be the "meson-cleaner".

In a conversation with Robert Sheldon, the innovative Briton who first suggested that discarded beverage cans be used in designing the geodesic dome near the Neutrino Lab Building, Pelczarski accepted Sheldon's suggestion that live, rather than mechanical, ferrets be used.

So, Pelczarski arranged for the Wild Game and Fur Farm, Gaylord, Minn., to send him the smallest ferret it had on hand. Back, via a special shipment, came Felicia, about 15 inches long, or about 15 per cent smaller than her male counterpart. Felicia cost \$35,



...*"Felicia Ferret"* at the end of a successful run...
Photo by Tim Fielding, NAL

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....Fastening a string to Miss Ferret's special collar are (L to R) Don Richied and Wally Pelczarski....



....Richied and Pelczarski testing Felicia's special rigging....

Photos by Tim Fielding, NAL

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but has saved NAL hundreds and perhaps even thousands of dollars.

The tiny ferret was chosen because it is known as an observant, curious animal whose hunting instincts make it seek out holes and other items. It also has been used extensively for rat extermination. The first ferret was brought from Africa to Europe several hundred years ago. And the first ferret is reported to have reached the United States in 1875.

Felicia can go through rectangular tubes one and three-eighths of an inch by four and seven-eighths of an inch; holes that are only slightly larger than the size of her head. So far, Felicia has made three 300-foot runs through Meson vacuum pipes that are only 12 inches in diameter. She is scheduled to make nine more "house-cleaning" runs through the Meson vacuum lines in the next few months.

A specially-made collar placed around Felicia's neck carries a string or light-weight rope. The ferret then pulls the string through the pipe. To the end of this string, workmen fasten an appropriate swab which is then pulled through the pipe by the workmen. After that, the vacuum pipe is clean and free of unwanted scrap particles.

Felicia's diet is similar to that of a mink. Some of her food has been obtained from a mink farm in nearby suburban Winfield. Mainly, her diet consists of chicken, chicken livers, raw meat, fish heads, etc. She is also very fond of ordinary hamburger.

Says Don Richied, Meson Lab technician: "Felicia has saved me a lot of time and effort. We'll use her over and over again and perhaps other sections in the Laboratory can put her to work for them as time goes by."

So, it's back to nature for science at NAL. The animal head count now includes buffalo, cattle, sheep, ducks--and a ferret. Can you ferret that?

56 SIGN UP FOR NAL BOWLING LEAGUE

To date, 56 employees -- 44 men and 12 women -- have signed up to take part in the 1971-72 bowling league, according to Mrs. Barb Schluchter, of Main Ring, NAL Bowling League Secretary. She notes that there are to be 12 teams of five members each so the League still needs nine more regular bowlers.

Fifty-one persons have signed up as regular bowlers and five as substitutes. The League will start bowling on Friday, September 10, 1971 and complete its schedule Friday, May 5, 1972.

Bowling will take place at the Bowling Green Sports Center in West Chicago, every Friday from 8 p.m. until approximately 11:30 p.m. except Friday, December 17 (Christmas Dance); Friday, December 24, Christmas Eve, and Friday, December 31, New Year's Eve.

Persons interested in bowling competition should call Helen Ecker, Ext. 391 or Barb Schluchter, Ext. 701.

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM: Fifteen NAL employees have signed up for the Fall, 1971, tuition reimbursement program relevant to their careers.

If you have any questions about this program, please contact William Butler, Personnel, Ext. 324, before the academic year gets underway.

NALREC BEGINS 1971-72 ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

NALREC, Inc., the NAL recreation club, is preparing plans for its Fall and Spring activities. The NAL family picnic on Sunday, August 29th, was the first major event of the schedule. If you have any suggestions, you might wish to communicate with an officer, board member or committee member of this recently-formed organization. Following is a list for your use:

Officers of NALREC and Board Members

Chuck Marofske (Personnel).....President
Bernie Lensmeyer (Housing).....Vice President
Carol Weissert (Material Management).....Vice President
Gerry Reid (Plant Modification).....Vice President
Marilyn Paul (Experimental Services).....Secretary
Mildred Meyer (Personnel).....Treasurer

Committee Members

Ed Arko	Operations	Eric Jarzab	EEO
Joann Baaske	Payroll	Bob Kolar	Main Ring
Bob Bennett	Machine Shop	Dan Matias	Operations
Dawn Chartrand	Physics Research	Ralph Mataya	Farm Mgt.
Greg Chartrand	Experimental Services	Doug Maxwell	RF
George Doyle	Plant Services	Sharon Nila	Contracts
Helen Ecker	Technical Services	George Nosal	Bubble Chamber
Jim Edwards	Beam Transfer	Marilyn Paul	Experimental Services
Liz Foster	Director's Office	Barb Schluchter	Main Ring
Walter Gorecki	Model Shop	Jim Schluchter	Operations
Kathy Gustafson	Contracts	Elbert Smith	Radiation Physics
Carolyn Hines	Transportation	Jim Snow	Meson Lab
Ed Jarman	Beam Transfer	Carol Weissert	Material Mgt.

Clubs Under NALREC

Riding Club.....Sandra Ruple.....Housing
Amateur Radio.....Jim Schluchter.....Operations

PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP OPENS AT NAL

On September 21, 1971, a cooperative pre-school playgroup will open for children over 18 months of age. The group will meet on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the White Farm on Eola Road on the NAL site. It is planned that supervision will be provided by the parents at a ratio of one adult for each three children with no less than two adults present at each session.

The playgroup will occupy the three rooms on the second floor of the farm house. Educational equipment and toys have been purchased, made by the parents, and obtained through donations. In addition, a fenced area has been prepared in the yard for outdoor play.

The playgroup has been established in response to the need for educational and social opportunities for children of this age group. It has been developed as a cooperative of parents to insure a flexible program that will reflect the individual needs of the children participating.

Mrs. Helga Biggs, Chairman of the group, sincerely hopes that interested persons will contact Mrs. Ann Gordon, 393-9144, in Warrenville for further information. All families of NAL employees are welcome to join in this activity.

CREDIT UNION HOLDS DIVIDEND AT 5.3%

In keeping with the spirit of the President's recommendations, the Credit Union's August 31st quarterly share dividend rate will again be 5.3% per annum. The dividend will be added to all share accounts on that date and will appear on the next statement.

There are now over 525 NAL members enrolled in the Credit Union, an employee owned, not-for-profit organization.

BLOOD DONOR PROGRAM UNDERWAY THIS WEEK

Nearly 135 employees have signed up to take part in the first annual blood donor program for NAL employees. Mrs. Dorothy Poll, First Aid, advises that the American Red Cross blood donor team will visit the Laboratory from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Thursday, September 2 and from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Friday, September 3. Blood donors will be handled by the expert group on each of those dates. It will require about 30 minutes for each appointment and only less than 10 minutes for the actual donation.

WANTED! TENNIS PLAYERS interested in having a tournament this Fall at the NAL courts. Call Barb Schluchter on Ext. 701 if you are interested in participating. Must have at least 20 players in order to have a good tournament.

CONGRATULATIONS!

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT-3 bedroom ranch, Batavia area. \$175/month. Call John Milford, Ext. 461.

FOR SALE-'68 Chevy Wagon, p.s.,p.b., automatic, air cond., radio, 2 new tires. \$1,325. Call C. Larsen, Ext. 351.

FOR SALE-'68 Apache Ramada Camping Trailer. Sleeps 8, built-in stove, ice box, cabinet, spare tire & add-a-room. \$1,150. Call W. Pelczarski, Ext. 701 or 323-8586.

FOR SALE-Four first flight "Golden Eagle" Woods, 1,3,4, & 5 Alum. Shafts. Used one time. Price \$75.00. Call Robert Scott, 879-2900, Ext. 250 or 251.

FOR SALE-Double-door cedar lined wardrobe, \$25; large (36"x90")sturdy, dining room table w/10 chairs (two arm), \$75.00. Please call Spike, Ext. 351.

FOR SALE-'68 Ford XL, red w/black vinyl top, air, p.s.,p.b.,radio, good Firestone 500 tires. Good condition, must see to appreciate. \$1,650 or best offer. Call Norva, Ext. 210.

FOR SALE-'69 Triumph 650 c.c. TR6R-16" spool wheel. Slight custom & chrome. \$1,000 or best offer. Call D. Wagner, 898-0386 after 5:00.

FOR SALE-'69 Ford Galaxie 500, 2Dr. Hardtop, Air Cond., p.s., p.b., Excellent condition. \$1,800. Call Reid K. Ribel, 231-7850.

FOR SALE-Bell & Howell T.D.C. Vivid Stereo Slide Projector-35 m.m. Perfect condition. \$200. Call James Buffenmyer, Ext. 279.

WANTED-Donations of suitable equipment for pre-school play group such as cribs, playpens, blocks, phonograph, indoor & outdoor gym equip., books, easels, musical instruments, dolls & doll house, puzzles, games, toys together with shelving and kitchen utensils. For pickup, call Joyce Wehmann, 584-6714.

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