

# The Village Courier



fermi national accelerator laboratory

Operated by Universities Research Association Inc.  
Under Contract with the Energy Research & Development Administration

Vol. 9 No. 10

March 10, 1977

## PRAIRIE SEEDS/PHYSICS FIND COMMON GROUND

Fooled Mother Nature may not be nice, but for her own sake, a Fermilab ecology project will do it anyway.

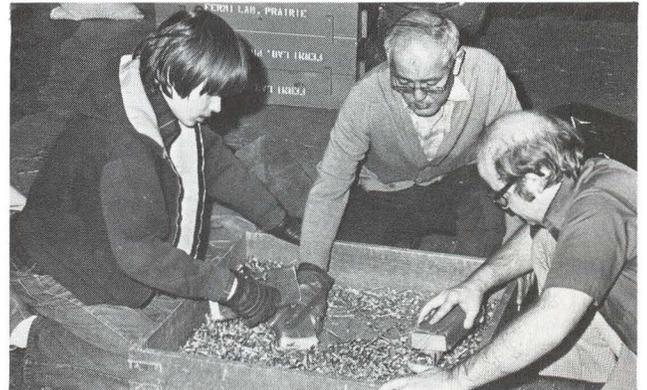
While most seeds are readying for spring sprouting Fermilab staffers and helpers have put some "special" seeds into hibernation for a few months. VSS (Very Special Seed) treatment is being accorded selected prairie plant seeds--grasses and flower varieties--planned for planting here in June. Seeds were sorted, separated from foreign materials and put to bed during Fermilab's third annual seed cleaning day Feb. 26.

Tony Donaldson, an Accelerator Division engineer and chairman of Fermilab's Prairie Restoration Committee directed the project. He reported that 50 volunteers contributed over 200 hours in cleaning and stratifying seeds collected last fall. In October, 150 volunteer gleaners stalked the Morton Arboretum at Lisle, Gensberg-Markham (Ill.) Prairie and other scattered prairie plots for the precious seeds, seed pods and clusters.

A near-record 390 pounds were collected and bagged in the field. The paper bags were stored on site until cleaning day.

Collected were about 290 pounds of grass seed and 100 pounds of flower seeds. Of the grasses, Donaldson said, Big Blue Stem seeds totaled about 150 pounds, with Indian Grass totaling 130 pounds and 10 pounds of Switch Grass. Among the 20 varieties of flowers represented were Bottle Genetian, Blazing Stars, Compass Plant, Prairie Dock and Yellow Cone Flower. (In 1975, the harvest yielded about 250 pounds of seed: 190 pounds of grasses, 60 in flower seeds. Weather conditions--high winds blew seeds off stalks--a late harvest and fewer volunteers reduced the effort's effectiveness.)

Stems, sticks, stones and other debris were sifted from the seeds during the cleaning operation. It got underway at 9 a.m. in Kuhn's Barn, near the swimming pool. Fermilabbers working were Rene Donaldson, Technical Publications; Nancy Tweedie, Guest Office; Maury Goodman, E-401; John Nagy, E-95; and Dave Snyder, E-288; and Mrs. Richard Lundy and Mrs. Polly Cosgrove, whose husbands hold Neutrino and Accelerator assignments.



*...Evanston Boy Scouts, leaders, clean Rattlesnake Master flower seeds...*



*...R. Schulenberg (L) and York H.S. student separate seeds from debris...*



*...Indian grass seeds get bagged for stratification by Evanston scouts...*

(Continued on Page 2)

## PRAIRIE SEEDS (Continued)

Other volunteers included students from York High School, Glenbard East High School, and Bryan Jr. High School (Elmhurst). Also, a half-dozen Boy Scouts came from Evanston and numerous area residents were drawn from surrounding towns. They were notified in advance through a mailing list maintained by Rene Donaldson.

Technical advice is provided by Ray Schulenberg, curator of the herbarium at Morton Arboretum and Robert Betz, Northeastern Illinois biology professor and a prairie authority. He heads an advisory committee guiding prairie restoration efforts at Fermilab.

1977 seed-cleaners needed little direction, Donaldson said. "Most were veterans; they knew exactly what to do."

After cleaning, seeds were settled down for a late winter's nap by stratification. The process will insure dormancy until planting in June. In a nutshell, stratifying consists of: 1) bagging seeds in cloth sacks, 2) soaking the sacks in water (in Fermilab's case, a discarded bathtub was used), 3) soaked sacks are individually rebagged in plastic utility bags, and 4) bundles are refrigerated at 38 degrees F.

Spring for these seeds will arrive in June. They will be defrosted, then dried by being spread out two to three inches deep on a concrete floor for four or five days.

Preceding planting will be a second biennial field burnoff supervised by the Fermilab fire protection unit. The measure is necessary to give prairie grasses an edge against competing weeds. "Prairie plants are perennials with long, well-developed root systems," Donaldson said, "they can withstand fires which the weeds cannot."

The seeds will be used to plant from 16 to 20 acres in the northwest quarter of the main accelerator ring. Rudy Dorner's site operations crew will tackle the assignment with a special planting machine on loan from the Arboretum. About 16 acres of the 660 in the ring have been planted since 1974.

That year marked the launching of a Fermilab project to restore vanishing Illinois prairie on the high energy physics research site. A demonstration plot adjoins Road D, opposite the buffalo pasture. Surrounded by a rail fence, the plot is a mini-version of the prairie intended for inside the main ring.

With man's help, the sample plot is kept virtually free of weeds. Plants there thrive more vigorously than in the large tracts within the main ring where nature's law--survival of the fittest--reigns.

Eventually, perhaps next year, Donaldson predicted, prairie plantings at Fermilab will yield seeds to complete the project.

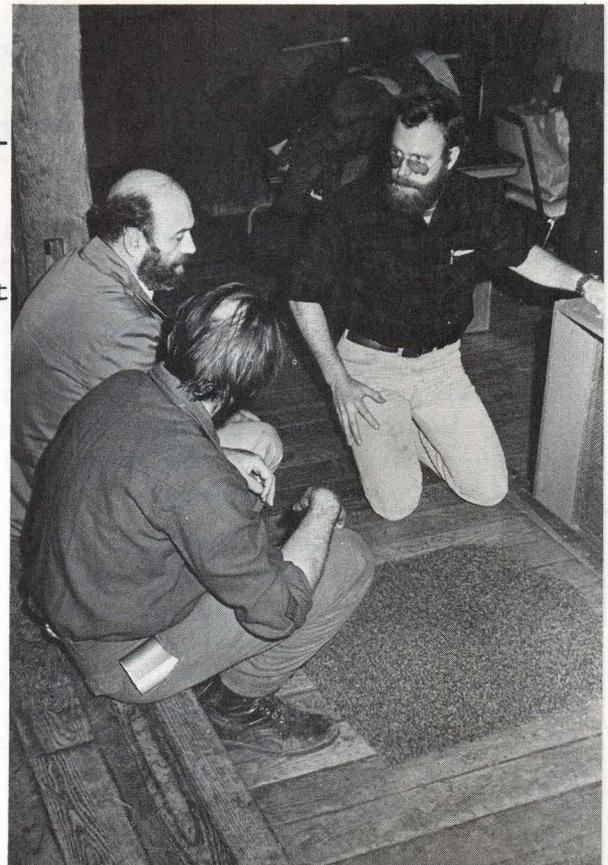
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...T. Donaldson (L), project director, demonstrates his technique for a fellow worker...



...Surprised by a photographer were E. Lundy (second from left) and friends...



...Cleaned seeds await bagging by R. Betz (L), volunteers

### LAB MAN SAVES BOY

Romesh Sood, Neutrino beam line crew chief, is a testimonial for Fermilab safety classes. While eating at an Oak Park Burger King, he and his wife noticed a family group across the dining room. A boy, about 12 years old, was choking on a piece of food caught in his windpipe. His mother was trying unsuccessfully to remove the obstruction. Sood came to the rescue. Performing the "Heimlich maneuver," he ejected the food from the boy's windpipe by popping it out like a cork from a bottle. Sood had learned the method three days before in a class taught by Charles Bonham, safety supervisor and Edward Brezina, safety engineer. Well done to all concerned.

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...Shirley Burton took up tour guide duties in the Public Information Office effective Feb. 28. Seven years' service as a secretary in the Directorate are expected to help her interpret Fermilab programs and facilities to our various publics. Guided tours are offered by appointment, Monday through Thursday, for groups from 10 to 50 persons 9th grade and over during daylight hours. A self-guided tour is also available during the week and on weekends from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. To arrange a tour or for more information, visit Shirley in the Public Information Office, CL-1W, or phone Ext. 3351...

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### BARRY MOVES TO CAFETERIA POST

John McCook has announced that effective March 1, John Barry (R) assumed duties as Acting Manager of Fermilab Food Services. A graduate of Northwestern University, John was a business manager at the University of Michigan before coming to Fermilab in 1969. He replaces former manager Eric Jarzab.

Cutting up in the kitchen are: J. McCook, Associate Director for Administration; chef Bill Ross and Barry.

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THE INTERNATIONAL FILM SOCIETY

presents

*Ulysses*

8 p.m.

Auditorium

Friday, March 11, 1977

James Joyce's "*Ulysses*" comes to the screen in a British version directed by Joseph Strick (1967). The work by Joyce, an Irish playwright, is considered by many to be the greatest novel of the century. A storm of abuse greeted its initial publication. The action spans a single day in the life of its three main characters and is densely layered with symbolic, mythical and metaphorical strata. Milo O'Shea, Barbara Jefford and Maurice Rooves star.

Brief introductory remarks will be given by Dr. Philip Kenney, Joycean lecturer at Rosary College, and author of several articles on Joyce.

Note: This film is recommended for mature audiences only.

Admission: \$1.50 Adults, 75¢ children

FERMILAB ORGANIZES INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Fermilab, with Argonne National Laboratory, is organizing Particle Accelerator Conference VII: "Accelerator Engineering and Technology," an international meeting to be held March 16-18 at the Pick-Congress Hotel, Chicago. L.C. Teng, of the Fermilab Accelerator Division, is conference chairman. Judy Ward of the Directorate is handling arrangements for the conference. Frank Cole, Accelerator Division, will edit the proceedings. The conference is co-sponsored by the American Physical Society, National Science Foundation and ERDA.

New developments in the science, technology and use of accelerators will be explored at the conference. Scientists, engineers and others concerned with applications of accelerators are expected from around the world. The program will include invited papers, panel discussions and contributed papers. The meeting will be presented under the auspices of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-Nuclear and Plasma Sciences Society.

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY DANCE

NALREC will sponsor a St. Patrick's Day dance Saturday, Mar. 12, at the Village Barn. The doors open at 8:30 p.m. with "The Mellotones" providing music from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. A \$1 admission buys food including corned beef, popcorn and eggs. Green beer will be among beverages at a cash bar.

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ANNUAL MEETING

Argonne Credit Union will hold its 27th annual meeting Wednesday, Mar. 16, at Argonne National Laboratory. The meeting will be held in the cafeteria, Bldg. 23. A social hour at 5 p.m. will be followed by the business meeting at 6:30 p.m. Members are invited and urged to attend.

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GARDENERS, PICK YOUR PLOTS!

Spring, hopefully, is coming and so is the garden-planting season. George Doyle, Village Services, reminds employees and visitors that Fermilab has set aside 120 garden plots, averaging 20 by 40 feet, for aspiring agriculturists. Persons who were assigned garden plots in prior years will have the opportunity to retain the same plots for 1977, Doyle said. Reservations for former plots must be made by April 15, or they will be open for reassignment. Assigned plots not utilized by June 15 will also become available to other requestors. Rototillers will be available for rent. To sign up, or for details, call George at Ext. 3421.

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