

The Village Courier

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10 CANADIAN GEESE JOIN NAL FAMILY

Early last Fall, John Barry and Rudy Dorner stood outside the Curia and watched a flock of geese fly south over NAL's 6,800-acre site. The annual exodus prompted them to speculate on the prospects of providing facilities and a habitat at NAL for geese to "winter over and hopefully to breed."

Several weeks later, Barry was in communication with a former colleague at the University of Michigan, Prof. Donald I. Meyer. The Ann Arbor physicist asked Barry's assistance in acquiring wild ducks to breed at NAL as a symbol of the academic community's support of the dedication of Robert R. Wilson, NAL's Director, in pursuing strict conservationist philosophies in developing the Laboratory.

"I suggested that perhaps a more significant gesture would be the presentation to NAL of Canadian Geese to be used for breeding, and we agreed that this would be a worthwhile effort," recalls Barry, of the Director's Office staff. Then, Barry began a lengthy, sometimes frustrating attempt to locate Canadian Geese, ready, willing and able to make NAL their home -- temporarily, at least, if not permanently. Dorner, NAL's Site Manager who came to the Laboratory from Illinois Department of Conservation, helped in the search for new wild game.

It was thought that NAL provided a unique and appropriate environment for declining species of certain game. The presence of the Canadian geese, it was thought, would encourage flocks of other birds to "stop-over" as they migrated from the North to the South on their middle-west flyway.

Eventually, Barry was referred to State Rep. Bruce Waddell, who represents the 33rd District in Illinois' General Assembly. Waddell has been active for years in Izaak Walton League and is a member of Illinois' Giant Canada Goose Committee.

On December 30, Waddell brought to NAL 10 Giant Canada geese which were accepted by Robert Hines, Farm Manager, and Barry, on behalf of NAL as a "loan" from the Izaak Walton League. Explained Waddell: "The Committee's aim is to provide breeding birds to co-operators who, in turn, agree to protect and to nurture the birds. Ultimately, we hope the plan is successful enough so that we can place the offspring of the geese back into their natural flyways."

The species planted at NAL is the "Canadensis Maxima." It is native to this area, and it is rare, as it was thought that the Maximas became extinct about 50 years ago. However, in 1960, an Illinois Natural History Survey expert identified some in a winter flock



...NEW ARRIVALS: Izaak Walton League provides 10 "Canadensis Maxima" for NAL site. Here (l. to r.), Bob Hines, NAL Farm Manager; Arthur Leverenze, of Elgin; John Barry, NAL Director's Office, and State Rep. R. Bruce Waddell, of Dundee, uncrating geese to be placed at fire pond near Curia.

Photo by Tony Frello, NAL

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near Rochester, Minn. Since then, flocks have been observed at nearby Woodstock, Ill. The birds at NAL came from the McGraw Wildlife Foundation's preserve, near Dundee. The Maximas grow to a larger size (average about 20 lbs.) than other species which average nine pounds.

Five females and five males are in the NAL flock. The Canada goose averages 30 years in its life span. NAL's flock is now between two and four years of age. A large specimen of Maxima has a wingspread in excess of six feet.

The Giant Canada population in the U.S. and Canada has been estimated recently at about 50,000. Giant Canadas have personality quirks, too. They often fight for nesting sites. Sometimes the gander is goaded on by the female and a battle to death ensues. The geese copulate in water and are happiest in an "island" situation either created artificially or in a natural setting. This also has the advantage of protecting them from predators. They are vulnerable to dogs and foxes -- even raccoons. After they have "paired off," the geese can be moved in pairs to new locations. The mating normally lasts a lifetime, unless the birds are placed in some abnormal circumstance.

At present, NAL's geese reside in the fire pond behind the Curia. Visitors are invited to view them, but are cautioned to keep a distance because of the birds' powerful wings. The flock may be moved to other sites at NAL after they have paired-up sometime this Spring. Geese have strong homing instincts and tend to return to the same area in which they were hatched to build their own nests. They migrate as far north as the Arctic Circle.



....From the Arctic Circle to NAL, Canadian Goose inspects his new habitat....

Photo by Tony Frelø, NAL

largest scientific instrument for pure research.



....Canadian Geese silhouetted under NAL bell tower....

Photo by Tony Frelø, NAL

Explained Rep. Waddell: "There is a continuing need to put back into nature something that was taken out by man. It is a great satisfaction to work with a bird this size and to get to know its family characteristics."

Barry and Hines said they hoped that the new NAL family members will attract other geese. Perhaps, they note, the Izaak Walton League soon will provide prairie chickens. The chickens would join the two herds of buffaloes, Mallard Ducks, deer and other animals and birds that will be "invited" to establish homes in the ex-urban environment of the world's largest scientific instrument for pure research.

DUSAF NEWS FROM DOWN ON THE FARM - By Dolores Snodgrass

DUSAF's Christmas Party at Brookwood Country Club turned out to be a beautiful gala affair. Col. Alexander, Project Director; P.E. Moyer, from the Office of Max O. Urbahn; and Irvan Mendenhall, DMJM, DUSAF Steering Committee members attended and seemed to thoroughly enjoy the good food, good company, and dancing.

The Jorge Boadas have taken a beautiful vacation over the holidays to Ecuador, Venezuela and Mexico. Kurt Schneider and his family spent the holidays in California with his parents. Mike Goral, Structural, and Robert Scott, EEO, both went home for Christmas, and that means California.

Donna Stenzel, Secretary to Mr. Warner, E/A, is retiring from her work as secretary to stay home and tackle that loveliest of jobs - homemaker (women's lib notwithstanding). We'll miss you, Donna. Peggy Rodman, formerly in Specification, will be Mr. Warner's new secretary.

HAPPENINGS AT THE 200 BeV AREA OFFICE - By Minerva H. Sanders

Congratulations are in order for Marilyn Bailey who replaces Dawn Pitts as secretary to our administrative staff. Dawn's parting gifts from her many friends at CH and the 200 BeV Office included a silver serving tray, a gold 28" diameter wall clock, an iron nut cracker and a 5-piece nut bowl set.

The Fred C. Mattmuellers' home was brightened over the holidays by the presence of their son, Larry. (Remember, the swinging D.J. from Augustana College in Rock Island?) Also home from college for the holidays is our Area Manager's son, Kennedy A. Brooks - better known as KAB. KAB is a junior at the Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.



KENNEDY C. BROOKS

You know, there's a lot of truth to that old saying, "You can't keep a good man down," because on Christmas morning, as the Brooks were preparing to leave for St. Louis, Missouri, to visit Mr. Brooks' mother and sister, Mr. Brooks slipped and fell, breaking his right wrist in several places. But, bright and early Monday morning, he was on the job as usual.



JOHN KIEFER

Many thanks to the wives of our men at the 200 BeV Office for the delicious treats they prepared for us during the holidays. However, at one point we had an unfortunate incident and almost had to send for Dorothy - the NAL nurse. It seems that Jack Kiefer made the mistake of telling Ron Zeitler there was rum in Mrs. Mattmueller's creme puffs and bourbon in Mrs. Brooks' cookies. (Pepto Bismol in our medicine cabinet saved the day.)

Ruby Bland spent her holidays visiting relatives in Memphis, Tennessee. We tried to make her feel "needed" so we saved all the work for her return (smile).



TIPS FOR BETTER COLD WEATHER CAR STARTS - By George Doyle, NAL Maintenance

When you go out one of these subzero mornings and find your car reluctant to start, don't tromp on the gas pedal and don't keep the starter going - and going - and going. The tromping is just likely to flood the engine and the excessive workout for the starter is likely to exhaust an already weak battery.

Before and while you're starting, keep all of the car's electrical equipment off: radio, lights, heater and anything else that draws current from the battery. If you flood the motor by pumping the pedal too much, hold the pedal down without using the starter - keep the key turned off - and this will tend to drain out the raw gasoline. Then, after four or five minutes, you will have another chance at starting. A flooded car won't start because the spark plugs are wet. Try to start with only short bursts of the starter.

Most of the important things about cold morning starts, however, are done before you ever struggle out into the cold, such as: 1. Have a relatively new battery that will hold a strong charge. Make sure occasionally that it is filled and that connecting cables are clean. Don't have all the electrical equipment going just before you turn off the motor at night. That will tend to drag down the battery you will depend on in the morning. 2. Have good, clean spark plugs. The ignition system is the main factor in poor starts, and the plugs are part of the ignition system. 3. Try to avoid the freezing of water in the gasoline line by keeping the gas tank full and using a gasoline additive to prevent icing.

ADULT SWIM NIGHT SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, FEB. 6

On Saturday, Feb. 6, NAL's Social Committee will sponsor an adult swim night. It will be held at the Holiday Inn, on Route 31 in North Aurora, starting at 7:30 p.m. There will be a charge of \$2.50 per person to cover swimming, snacks and live music. Tickets are on sale at 21 Sauk and the NAL Cafeteria. For further information, contact Jodi Eskey, Ext. 348. (Bring your bathing suits and caps.)

NAL "SKI NIGHT" MONDAY, FEB. 8

"NAL Ski Night" will be held Monday, Feb. 8, at 6:30 p.m. at the Four Lakes Ski Lodge, 1601 Maple Ave., suburban Lisle. The \$7.50 per person fee includes admission, parking, tow, boots and poles, plus a one-hour group lesson. There is a restaurant and lounge on the grounds. Skiers must provide their own transportation. Tickets will be available at the Lodge upon arrival.

PRO BASKETBALL TICKETS AT PERSONNEL OFFICE

NAL's Personnel Office has received coupons offering discounts of \$1.00 on tickets valued at \$4.00, \$3.00 and \$2.00 for the professional basketball game featuring the Chicago Bulls vs. Philadelphia '76ers Friday evening, February 5, at the Chicago Stadium. Please stop by Personnel for a coupon --- free of charge.

NALWO CALENDAR	
	Mrs. Nancy Teng, Editor
January 22	Bon Vivant. 8:00 p.m. Atlantic Fish and Chip Restaurant, 7115 W. Grand, Chicago, featuring English-Irish-Scottish foods. For reservations call Rosemary Billinge, 469-9093 by Jan 20.
January 28	Sewing. 1:00 p.m. at Greta White's house, 27 River Lane, Geneva.

SAFETY TRAINING COURSE GRADUATES: Leo Ray, Booster, and August Rehbein, Radio Frequency, were among NAL supervisors who completed the six-week "Key Man" Safety Training Course. It will be offered again in 1971.

REMINDER: The ice skating area is open on the tennis courts near the NAL Village Barn, for employees and their families, evenings and weekends.

CLASSIFIED ADS

GIVE AWAY - Airdale (?) to someone who has children plus room for dog to run. Call Diana at the switchboard.

WANTED - A nice home for a soft warm puppy. One-half Collie and one-half mixed. Call 355-3381.

AVAILABLE - Reserve a 1 to 3½ acre lot for building or investment. The sites are located in Batavia just 10 minutes from the Laboratory. Contact Marilyn, Ext. 453 for information.

FOR SALE - '62 Ford Galaxie-XL, 352 eng., auto., P.S., air, bucket seats - very clean, body in good shape. \$300. Call Larry Sobocki, 879-7580.

FOR SALE - Player piano, needs repairing. Call G. Lee at Linac.

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