

FermiNews

Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory
October 15, 1981

PRAIRIE HARVEST SETS RECORD

A new record was recently set at Fermilab when six tons of prairie grass seed were harvested in less than one week.

The significance of the harvest is that it has never before been possible to collect such a large amount of seed by harvesting prairie seed mechanically. Of the vast expanse of the original prairie that covered the Midwest before it was settled, only a few hundred acres remain in Illinois. They are carefully protected by conservationists. The recent rise in prairie restorations has, for the most part, been on relatively small plots that can be manually tended. A few people can collect all of the seed in these plots.

The Fermilab project started in this way seven years ago. In 1974, a group of volunteers collected 400 pounds of seed at prairie remnants and at the restoration at the Morton Arboretum. This was sown into eight acres of the 650 acres in the center of the Main Ring. Similar harvests in succeeding years increased the size of the planted area so that by the spring of 1981, 180 acres had been planted. The early plantings by this time were mature enough to produce good seed.

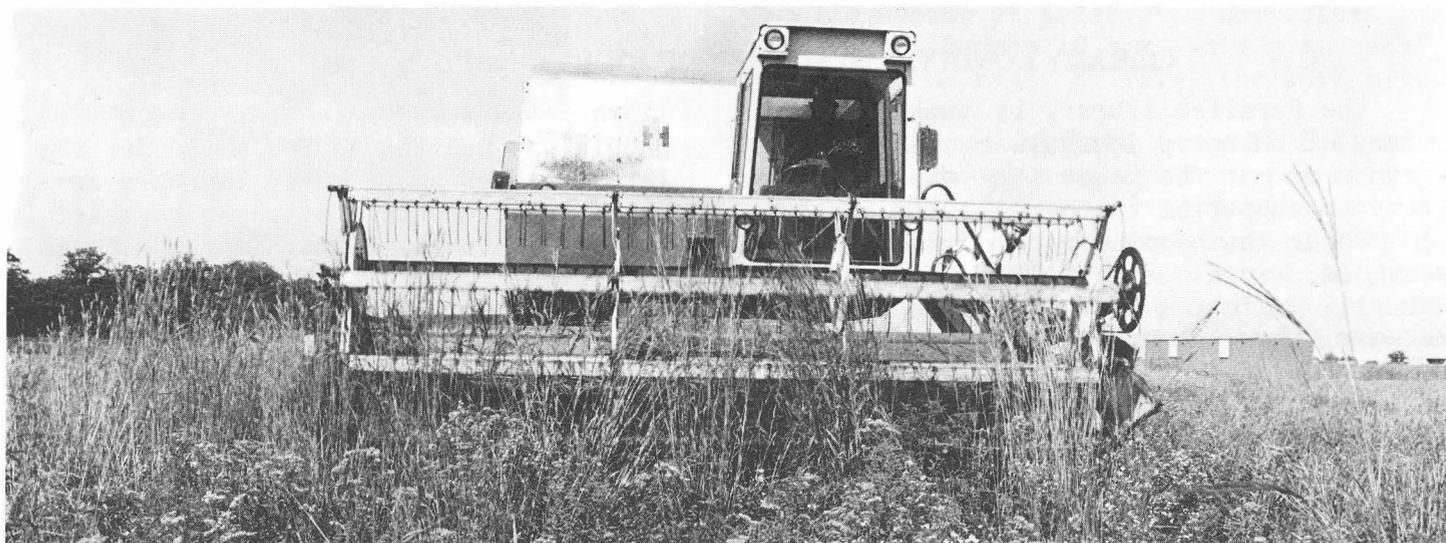
In order to gain control over much of the remaining acreage quickly to protect it from encroaching weeds and scrub trees, a decision was made this year to



Vic Kerkman (left) of the Fermilab grounds crew and Steve Bracker of the Prairie Volunteer Committee transfer seeds from the combine to the planter during Fermilab's recent record-breaking harvest.

harvest as much seed as possible with a small-grain combine. The harvest took four full days, working until dark. Most seed was planted immediately by another crew into ground that had been plowed and disked during the summer. About 250 of the 650 acres are now planted in Fermilab's restoration plot.

(Please read companion story about call for volunteers on page 3.)



Rich Kujath of Fermilab's grounds crew uses a small grain combine to harvest seeds of prairie plants.

THOSE LEAKS COST DOLLARS

Extension 3363. That's the plant maintenance number, and the one you should call whenever you see a faucet leaking, a toilet that will not quit flushing or any other water leaks. Those couple of minutes you take to make the call will save the Laboratory money and help conserve water.

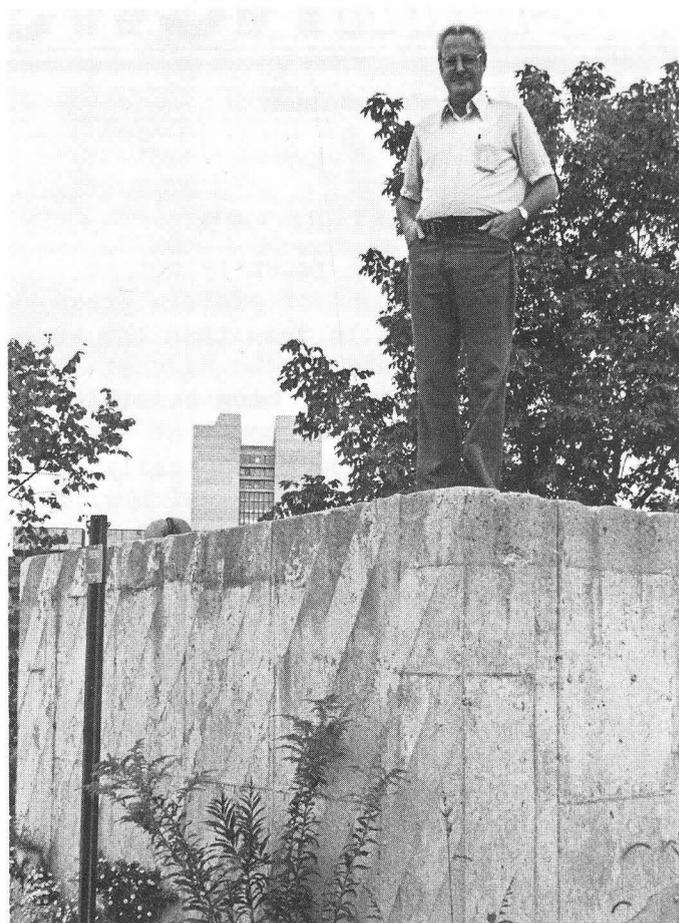
Here are some eye-opening statistics prepared by Joe Volant of Plant Management. A leaking faucet, depending on how bad the leak is, could waste water from one to five gallons each minute. In one day, that amounts to 1,440 to 7,200 gallons.

A stuck flush valve of the type used on most of the bathroom appliances at Fermilab can easily use 20 gallons of water each minute. That means 28,800 gallons would be wasted in one day.

But there's more to this story than just paying for lost water. Fermilab also pays the city of Batavia to process the Laboratory's waste. "An increase in water usage because of leaking appliances will result in an increase in charges for waste disposal," said Volant. "The meter that measures the waste discharge recently showed an increase in flow to the city. When we investigated, we learned that a couple of bathroom appliances were leaking. After we repaired them, the meter readings returned to normal."

The water that Fermilab uses comes from Well No. 1, which is located on Kautz Road, just southwest of the Central Utility Building. The Laboratory's need for water varies from day to day, but 50,000 gallons would be typical for a normal working day, said Volant. During weekends and holidays, the Laboratory requires less.

"Prior to 1979, we operated our own waste treatment plant," said Volant. "That



Joe Volant at Well No. 1.

year, we modified our system, closed our own plant and began discharging the waste into Batavia's treatment system. The quantity of discharge is recorded by a flow meter that we monitor daily. The bills we get from the city are based on those meter readings."

So, to help the Laboratory keep those costs down, remember to call ext. 3363 when you see an appliance leaking water.

LIBRARY CONDUCTING SURVEY OF JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Fermilab library is conducting a survey of selected journals to determine whether or not the Laboratory should continue to subscribe to them.

Roger Thompson, director of library services, explained that the library annually evaluates journal subscriptions because "they consume a large portion of our budget." If a journal is not used or only infrequently referred to, then it is economically more feasible to cancel the subscription and possibly begin a subscription to a journal that is more popular with the scientists working here.

But before any final decisions, the

library staff wants to hear from the people who use the journals. Under the latest issues of selected journals are bright orange sheets of paper that ask the readers if "this journal is read enough to warrant subscription renewal in 1982." The library staff encourages readers to write their comments on the sheets.

Afterwards, Thompson said, decisions will be made about the journals with the help of the comments on the survey sheets. The librarian added that he considers the annual survey an important procedure in keeping the library up-to-date, efficient and running economically.

NALWO LUNCH PLANNED

NALWO will hold a brown bag lunch Oct. 29. The event will be held in Curia I from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. All women employees and wives of staff members are invited to attend to learn more about NALWO and to hear a speaker.

Dr. Bari Watkins, director of the Program on Women at Northwestern University, will talk about "Real Differences-- A Survey of Recent Research on Women and Men." There will be a question-and-answer session afterwards.

Participants should bring their own lunches. Coffee and dessert will be provided by NALWO. For additional information about NALWO, contact Elaine Cremaldi, vice president, 231-8852.

REMINDER ABOUT OKTOBERFEST

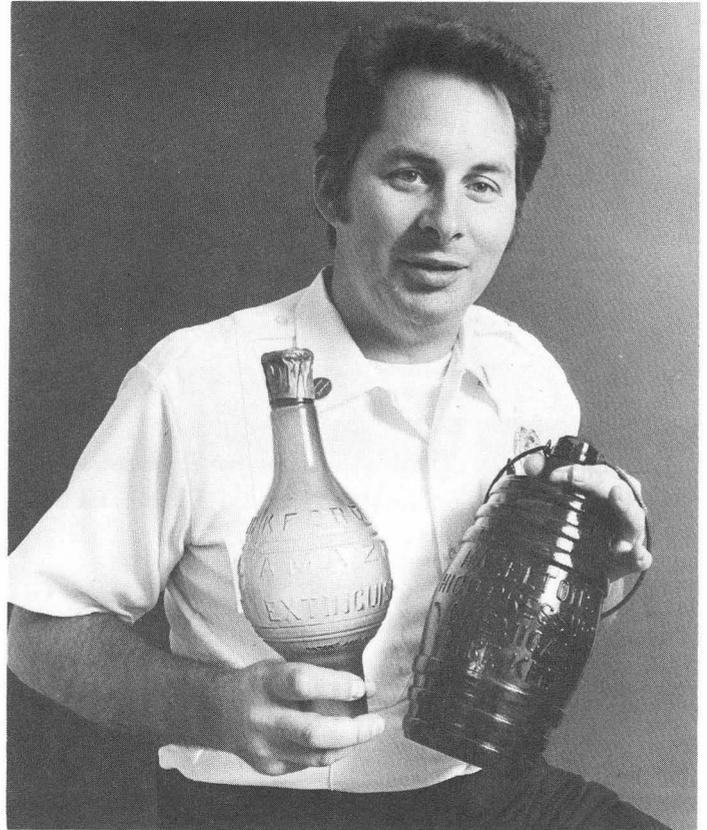
It's Oktoberfest time--spelled with a "K" in Fermilab parlance--coming your way Oct. 16.

The fun will begin at 5:15 p.m. and end around 11 p.m. "Prime Time," a Chicago-land band, will play from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Everything happens at the Village Barn. There's a nominal cover charge of 50 cents to help defray the cost of the band. In addition to hot dogs and sauerkraut to appease appetites, there will be specially marked lucky tickets entitling the holder to a free beverage.

Sponsored by NALREC, the details are being handled by Jim Fourmont and Nancy Shanahan, co-chairmen.



Jane Green has been named the new arts coordinator for Fermilab's performing arts and lecture series. Before joining the Laboratory, she was associate director of University Programming and Activities at Northern Illinois University.



Capt. John Slowiak of the Fermilab Fire Department shows two vintage fire extinguishers from his extensive collection. For 10 years, he has been gathering them, until he now has about 300 items. Some of them are on exhibit in the Wilson Hall gallery, WH2S. His collection dates from around 1860 to 1900. John has won ribbons and awards for the rarer items in his collection. He has been with Fermilab for 11 years.

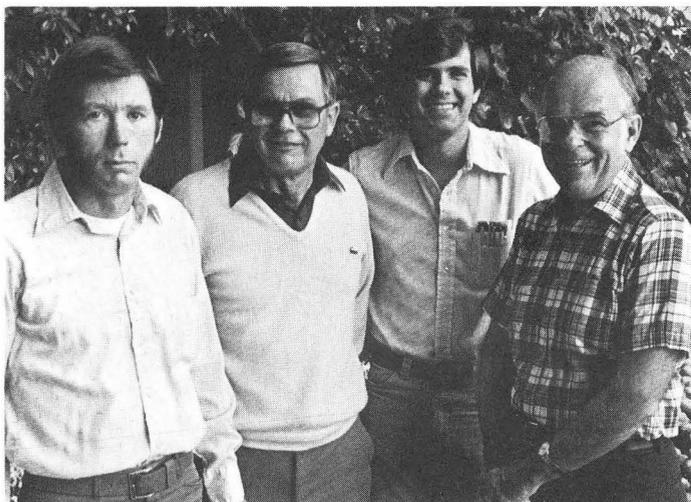
PRAIRIE COMMITTEE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

The Fermilab Prairie Committee has issued a call for volunteers to harvest prairie seeds on Oct. 17 and 24.

The harvests will take place at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle on Oct. 24 and at the Midlothian prairie on Oct. 17. This prairie is located on the west side of Kedzie Avenue at 151st St. Harvesters usually work from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. In the event of rain, the work will be cancelled.

Volunteers will be asked to collect seeds of rare prairie species that will then be planted in Fermilab's prairie restoration plot. Several hundred people have participated in this project in the past seven years. The seeds collected this year will be used to enrich previous plantings toward an authentic mix of the species in the original prairie.

Volunteers are asked to wear comfortable clothing and to bring shears and grocery bags for their seed picking. No previous experience is necessary. For additional information, call ext. 3351.



Wednesday night's top team (from left) Ed Wilmsen, Ed West, Al Forni and Bud Stanley.



Tuesday night's top team (from left) Randy Currier, Don Tinsley, Ron Currier and Frank Juravic.

FERMILAB GOLF LEAGUE RESULTS

The golfing team of Frank Juravic, Don Tinsley, Ron Currier and Randy Currier won two honors as the 1981 Fermilab Golf League season ended. They finished first in the Tuesday night league and beat the Wednesday night first place team for the overall 1981 championship.

Finishing on top in the Wednesday night competition was the team of Al Forni, Bud Stanley, Ed West and Ed Wilmsen. Each

night league has 10 four-member teams. "We had tight races on both nights of the season," said Vic Kuchler, league member. "Several teams were in contention right up to the end. That made it a lot more interesting."

Next year's league officers will be Dan Snee, Gene Dentino, Wilmsen, Tinsley and Juravic. The league played at the Fox Valley Country Club.

CHEZ LEON MENUS

Oct. 21, 12:30 p.m., \$6--Potato Leek Soup, Selection of Quiches, Fresh Mixed Salad, Apple Cake

Oct. 22, 7 p.m., \$11--Coquilles Saint-Jacques, Slices of Beef Tenderloin with Mushroom Madeira Sauce, Yams with Pecans, Broccoli with Madeira Sauce, Fresh Bibb Salad, Rum Raisin Souffle

Oct. 23, 7 p.m., \$11--Oyster's Rockefeller, Spinach and Sea Legs Salad, Steak and Scampi, Tomato and Broccoli Timbale, Fettucine in Marinara Sauce, Brandy Ice with Bourbon Truffles.

For reservations, call extension 3082.

TOURNAMENTS OF ANIMATION

The Fermilab International Film Society will present the 14th and 15th international tournaments of animation Oct. 16 and 17. Each tournament will begin at 8 p.m. in Ramsey Auditorium. Admission each night is \$2. The films represent the best animated films in the world for 1978 and 1979.

NEXT COLLOQUIUM SPEAKER

Joseph Ford, a pioneer in modern non-linear mechanics and Regents Professor of Physics at Georgia Institute of Technology, will be the Physics Colloquium speaker Oct. 21.

His talk on "How Random is a Coin Toss?" will begin at 4 p.m. in Ramsey Auditorium. Ford's host will be Jonathon Schonfeld

"Mathematicians have learned how to quantify randomness, and there are deterministic dynamical systems whose behavior is random according to their criteria," explained Ford. In his talk, he plans to introduce the algorithmic complexity theory and explore the radical changes in physical theory that it could portend.

The series of lectures is presented by the Fermilab Physics Colloquium committee. Its purpose is to help scientists and laymen keep up to date on what is happening in other disciplines.

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