

# AIR SCOOP

LANGLEY MEMORIAL AERONAUTICAL LABORATORY

## REID TELLS OF TRIP TO EUROPE

Given an opportunity "to give some account of what he was doing in the five months while he was off the job," Engineer-in-Charge H. J. E. Reid steered clear of the details of his secret mission to Europe but gave 300 Laboratory employees a first hand picture, both word and photographic, of the effect of air bombardment in the European war. The occasion was a dinner meeting of the supervisors of the Laboratory held last Wednesday evening at the Hampton Country Club.

Introduced as special guests at the meeting were Mrs. Reid, George B. Colonna, member of the Sub-Committee on Personnel, Buildings, and Equipment, and Grover Loening, Chairman of the Committee on Helicopters. It was announced by Research Chief John W. Crowley, Jr. that Loening, one of aviation's pioneers, was coming to work for the NACA as Technical Consultant to Drs. Hunsaker and Lewis.

Reid told the supervisory group, which he said was six times as large as the total staff when he first came to work at the Laboratory, that the nature of the Alsos Mission, of which he was a member, was still secret. However, he was able to talk to a

Continued on page 3

## SAM EAKIN DIES; HERE 26 YEARS

Samuel Eakin, head of the line crew for Flight Operations and the Laboratory's third oldest employee in length of service, died suddenly of a heart attack last Sunday while visiting his sister in New York City.

Born in Banbridge, Ireland, May 4, 1893, he was a naturalized citizen and resided at 36 Richmond Avenue, Langley View. On March 10, 1918, he enlisted in the United States Army as an aircraft mechanic. Following his discharge from Langley Field in June, 1919, he took a position with the Army as an automobile driver.

Eakin, who came to the NACA in 1919, would have celebrated his twenty-sixth anniversary with the Committee on September 23. When he first came to the Laboratory he worked in the old Engine Lab as an aircraft engine mechanic. He was later transferred to the hangar and in 1927 was put in charge of the line crew for Flight Operations and was responsible for the maintenance and repair of all airplanes used by the Laboratory for test purposes. He was serving in this capacity at the time of his death.

Eakin is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary Eakin, and a son, Johnnie.

## SENATE COMMITTEE APPROVES PAY RAISE

The Senate Civil Service Committee has approved, with a few revisions, the recently introduced Downey bill providing a base pay raise for Civil Service employees. However, the committee rejected the proposal to give Federal workers time-and-one-half overtime pay, and voted to continue the present overtime formula which amounts to straight time on the first \$2900 base pay.

As the bill was sent from the Senate to the House Civil Service Committee last Monday, it provides a base pay increase of 20% on the first \$1200 base pay, 10% additional on that part of salaries between \$1200 and \$4600, and 5% on everything above \$4600. Under this formula, the cash increase would range from \$240 to \$800 per year. The committee also approved a 10% additional bonus for night work, speedup of automatic in-grade promotions, and holiday pay at overtime rates after the war.

The base pay revisions, as approved by the Senate committee would provide increases as follows:

\$1400 to \$1704
\$1800 to \$2100
\$2300 to \$2650
\$3000 to \$3420
\$3600 to \$4080 etc.

Continued on page 4



Probably the last picture of the late Sam Eakin, the above was taken last fall when Percy Keffer, Sam, and Charlie Wolf stopped off in the Personnel Office to reminisce about old times. Sam (center) was the Lab's third oldest employee in length of service.

## LOCAL CIVIL SERVICE BOARD APPOINTED

A United States Civil Service Board of Examiners has been formed here at the Laboratory so the local board positions, which consist of laborer and trade positions, may be filled without the application having to go through the Fourth Regional Office. In this way, time will be saved in filling vacancies of such a nature. Norwood Evans has been appointed head of the board and other members are: Carrie Love, Clerk;

(Continued on page 4)

# EDITORIAL

## BORROWING BADGES

A few days ago there was an incident at the gate that every NACA employee should know about. What happened was this. . . a young lady discovered she had forgotten her badge, and, rather than stop for a temporary pass, she accepted her ride's offer to use an extra badge he carried in the car. Even though it was a man's badge, she got by the morning guard. But that evening, the deception was noticed and the young lady was taken into custody.

Where did that extra badge come from? Well, it seems that a former employee who used to ride in the car lost it. Some months later, the driver of the car discovered it between the cushions of the car. Of course he intended to return it all the time.

If this were an isolated instance, it would hardly be worth fussing about - but it isn't. Many other employees, after finding supposedly lost badges, belonging to themselves or others, keep them for the same purpose and, what is worse, lend them indiscriminately to anyone wanting to come onto Langley Field.

The Army doesn't want unauthorized persons snooping around the field and neither does the NACA. So what's the answer? The Army states that unless the practice of lending badges stops at once, the MP's at the gate will be ordered to bring each car to a full stop and carefully compare each badge picture with the face of the person wearing it. We hardly need to point out that the resultant delay in entering and leaving the field would be relished by nobody.

It's up to us to see that this measure is not put into effect. We can do it by turning in all lost badges as soon as they are found, refusing to lend our badges to anyone, and refusing to borrow anyone else's.

## AU REVOIR "JUDGE" PENNY

The Instrument Service Section lost one of its most valued employees, and the Laboratory one of its oldest members in point of service with the retirement of Rufus B. Penny after almost 23 years with the NACA. Penny entered on duty November 1, 1922 and requested retirement because of failing health on April 21 of this year.

Known as "Judge" Penny to all who worked with him, he was rated a top-notch mechanic, toolmaker and machinist who could always be depended upon to do his work capably and efficiently. The sincere good wishes of his co-workers follow him into retirement, and with them, the hope that improving health may soon permit his return to the job from which he is so sorely missed.

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## Life At The Laboratory

*It must be catching; whatever it is . . . . .*

in the Research Staff Office. Rufus House popped twins a few years back, and now the double bundle of joy has hit the household of Gordon Mercer. A boy and a girl, each with red hair and brown eyes, they came into the world last week. Weighing 60 pounds apiece they are both walking now. Pop Mercer sold them both a few days ago. Mama is Bailey, a well known heifer on the Mercer farm south of the border.

*The marriage situation is really . . . . .*

picking up this season, in fact, it seems to have overtaken and finally surpassed the birth records. One of the latest victims is Elizabeth Hobbs, formerly of Employment, who recently left the Lab to devote her time to her new husband, Dell Heath of Hampton. The big event took place Saturday, May 12.

*Whether or not Jerry Truszynski, IRD, considers . . . . .*

the thirteenth his lucky or unlucky day remains to be seen, nevertheless he selected that day to take upon himself a wife, namely, the former Helen Bennett of East Mill Stone, N. J.

*After questioning him for months . . . . .*

as to his prospective marital status, Norman Silsby of Flight Research finally came through with a satisfactory reply. Early summer is the approximate time and the other party involved in the plot is Dorothy Harton of Army Supply and Maintenance.

*Bill Daugherty, East Engineering . . . . .*

went and got himself engaged to his home town girl, Jeanne Barnes of Richmond. Jeanne's first remark upon receiving the ring was, "Well, dog gonnit now I've got you."

*The last census taking in December revealed . . . . .*

that 53% of the women employed here at the Laboratory were married; however, since the publishing of our Technical report on the SE-X1 in which we suggested that the number of single women furnished a fertile field for future investigations, the percentage has undoubtedly jumped about 10 percent higher. Ella Moore, Blueprint, recently upped the percentage when she married Captain Cecil D. Cothran of Langley Field.

*It seems that there was a young man . . . . .*

who walked into a bar and asked for a long beer and a double Scotch. Upon being served he chugalugged the beer, wiped his mouth, unbuttoned his coat, poured the Scotch down the inside pocket, and ordered refills. "Oh, no," replied the barkeep, "Not that with good whiskey." "Listen," says the drinker, "Gimme what I want or I'll come over the bar and climb your frame!" Whereupon a small mouse stuck his head out of the inside pocket and added, "That goes for your stinkin' cat, too!"

*Anyone who thinks he is a handball player . . . . .*

has an invitation from Low Turbulence to meet their self-acclaimed, undefeated champion, Milton Klein, who thinks nothing of spotting men as many as 18 points, or still better, of taking opponents on two at a time. Challengers may contact the champ through his manager and press agent, Freddy Rice, LTS.

*Let each and every one of us remember that Liberty is a gift not lightly given; that we, within ourselves, must preserve for generations yet unborn a vision of brotherhood among men, until one day all the world shall be ready to share it.*

--Frederick S. Wilson

# SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Team	W	L
Characters	2	0
IRD	2	0
Flight Blues	2	0
East Shops	2	0
Structures	1	0
19' P. T.	1	0
Props	1	0
Full Scale	1	0
Low Turb	1	1
16-Foot	1	1
PRD	0	1
Hummers	0	1
Loads	0	1
Tankers	0	1
Flight Whites	0	2
S. Whites	0	2
West Shops	0	2
Electricians	0	2
Stability	0	0
High Speed	0	0

## LAST WEEK'S SCORES

16-Foot 5, LTS 3	LTS 16, FRW 4
EAS 18, FRW 3	PRT 18, SRW 3
SRW 10, IRD 12	IRD 8, 16-Foot 6
AWT 23, PRD 3	Tank 6, EAS 8
FST 20, ALD 1	FRB 8, Elec 7
	WAS 3, 19' P.T. 10

## LEAGUE LEADERS

### HITTERS

Batting (at least 7 trips)--Comenzo, AWT, .667; Rice, LTS, .667; DeVore, FRB, .571; Teeter, AWT, .500  
 Hits--Comenzo and Rice, 6 each.  
 Runs--McKee, AWT, 9

### PITCHERS

(at least 2 games)

Won and lost--Andrews, AWT, Daum, FRB, 2-0  
 Hits--Burrows, LTS, 8  
 Strikeouts--Burrows, 21  
 Walks--Andrews, 2

### BRAINBUSTERS MEET SUNDAY AT U S O

The next meeting of the Brain-busters, NACA model club, will be held on Sunday, May 20 at the Industrial U S O in Hampton. The meeting will start at 8 p.m. and plans for the coming season and the annual Brain-buster contest will be discussed. All members and any persons interested in joining the organization are urged to attend.

WANTED: Passengers from Stuart Gardens on 8:15 shift. Bob McKann, Tank 2.

FOR SALE: Tennis Racquets and set of golf clubs. Also racquets restrung. Jack Jenkins, East Engineering.

FOUND: Set of four keys near South-Hampton apartments. J. A. Solomon, Electrical Office.

WANTED: A ride to Richmond, Saturday afternoon May 19 after 4:45 p. m. Call Tony Garavaglia, Tank 2.

# REID TELLS OF TRIP

From page 1

certain extent about the type of research in aeronautics that went on in France during the German occupation.

He left La Guardia Field in New York last October (after having been briefed thoroughly and given ditching instructions) and flew in a C-54, via Newfoundland, the Azores, and England, to Paris. The total elapsed time was 36 hours and flying time 30 hours. During a short layover at the Azores, he noticed that an airplane took off, in some direction, every 20 minutes. On the way into Paris he flew over Cherbourg and St. Lo and got a good view of the ruins.

Arriving in Paris on Wednesday was a lucky thing for him, for at the Navy hotel to which he was assigned, it was one of the two days a week when there was hot water. There was no heat until December 1 though, and the room temperature went down to 40 degrees. Again he was lucky, for he stayed at the first Parisian hotel to get heat. Then the mercury shot up to 65. Hotel residents were not permitted to take wood into their rooms for fires, but the Navy occasionally confiscated Nazi propoganda for the purpose. Reid saw 500 pounds of "Mein Kampf" make a hot time in the town of Parea for a short time one evening when an enterprising naval officer could think of no better way of disposition.

### Navy Feeds Well

"There was good food and lots of it," said Reid about the mess at the hotel. He added that they drank three or four cups of coffee with every meal and five or six cognacs in the evening. This they found absolutely essential in order to keep warm inside.

According to Reid, when the Nazis overran France they chased the French scientists out of the laboratories. At the aeronautical lab at Challais Meudon, the French did not destroy the machinery or put sand in the bearings, but simply removed the counterpoises from the balances when they left. Since they had a very complicated setup, it was very bothersome to the Germans. Then when the Allies chased out the Germans last year, the ingenious Nazis did the same thing. From what they left behind, the Germans were working on much the same problems that we are. They tested models of two and four engined bombers, probably clean-up, and perhaps worked on propellers, helicopters, and lateral control and high lift devices.

FOR SALE: Twin spool beds with spring and mattresses, and two chest of drawers. Good condition and reasonable. Call at apartment 4D, South Hampton

### Jeep Well Ventilated

Then came a chance to go to Orleans to see a German guided missile, the FX1400 bomb. Loaded with K rations, Reid boarded a jeep and was off. "I found the jeep's ventilation perfect," he commented, reminiscing about his wintry ride. The FX1400 was a guided missile that was dropped from an airplane. It had an armor piercing nose and was very effective against ships. It wasn't used much because our pilots maintained control of the air.

It was on a trip to Strasbourg that Reid got pretty close to the front. There he heard the boom of artillery and the thud of shells falling nearby. There was also occasional small arms fire. While in Strasbourg he visited the Junkers engine plant which had been converted for making the jet 004 engine. He noted that the Germans had carried out a fine apprentice system, and that they had decentralized their engine manufacture so that it would suffer the least from allied bombing. Within a radius of 25 miles there were numbers of small plants, each making certain small parts which were later assembled.

### Sees Bombed German Cities

He also got close-up looks at Aachen and Cologne. The brick walled buildings in Aachen were levelled to the ground, however the wind tunnel at the university was intact. Cologne had a few structures still standing. These all had reinforced walls.

A visit to London included repaying a visit to William Scott Farren, Director of the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough. Farren visited LMAL in December, 1943. Reid said that the English lab had also expanded greatly during the war and was now staffed by 6200 workers. There he got a look at V-2 parts and had an opportunity to see what made it tick.

Reid was high with his compliments of the English people. With whole blocks and cities wiped out, he said they show the effect of the terrific strain of war, but that they have adhered to a strict ration system and have had no black market.

The dinner, which was the largest affair of its kind held in many years, was arranged by the Training Division. Elton W. Miller was official host. The program included group singing, led by Tiny Hutton with Mary Noble Bennett as accompanist, and songs by a quartette composed of Ken Harper, John Ankeney, Bill Sleeman, and Charles Gurtler.

LOST: Swiss wrist watch in West Model Shop on May 10. Finder please return to A. G. Brinegar, West Model Shop.



# F.F.T. ENGINEER IS WEDDING HOBBYIST

The feature on Durwood Dereng's unique hobby of violin making prompted the lads in the Free-Flight Tunnel to set up a howl to be heard. Finally, with much urging and persuading, they were able to prevail upon Marvin Pitkin to act as their spokesman. "What about Paulson?", asked Marvie.

"What about Paulson?" we asked, "What does he do?"

"He ushes."

"He what?"

"He ushes - at weddings. You know ---a male bridesmaid."

And so began to unfold the tale of John Wilfred Paulson, Free-Flight's giant among men of striped trousers and claw hammer coats.

Paulson it seems got mixed up in the marriage racket early in life. At the age of three, it is rumored, his family started hiring him out, resplendent in his Little Lord Fauntleroy suit, as a ring bearer. This went on until, at the age of seven he began to steal the rings and substitute cheap imitations which he made on the days he played hookey from school. One day the cops caught up with him and he spent the next 14 years in the pen. The day after his release he was wandering across the campus of a large midwestern university and was mistaken by an NACA recruiter for an engineering graduate. Three days later he reported for duty at the Laboratory.

Arriving here in the summer of '42, Jack became so enthralled by the work in Free Flight and the multitudes of beautiful lassies aroundabout the Peninsula that he forgot all about being in weddings and began to think about his own. He found many prospective prospects for a prospective wife, but deeming himself an unprospective bridegroom for a short time yet (It is whispered that no one has asked him) he remained unwed.

All this took about two years.

Then in the spring of last year, Chuck Bennett, a cell mate at Free-Flight, plighted (or is it plit) his troth with Mary Noble Angel. Paulson just happened to be on hand. On the early evening of May 21, the wedding guests at St. John's church thrilled to the sight of Paulson and Bernie Maggin leading the way down the aisle (Jack still in his Little Lord Fauntleroy) spilling rose petals as they went.

Brides-to-be fainted, mothers weeped, married women collapsed, bobby soxers screamed, and a four year old girl bellowed, "Daddy, daddy, buy me one. I'll be nice to it." John Wilfred was made. Invitations to "wait on me" poured in. Finally wedding through the stack, he picked up the one for the

Sjoberg wedding in September.

Sig and Betty Sjoberg were the luckiest of all, for Paulson shyly consented to be best man. He admits that he tried to substitute rings, using a bottle opener for the second, and that he got it past the stricken Sjoberg but the preacher, biting into it, declared it a fraud and demanded the real thing. Sig didn't even wake up. Realizing that he couldn't get by with this sort of thing, Jack turned over a new leaf and has been a good boy ever since.

On two successive Saturdays he dressed up for George Ellis, a local yokel, and M. O. McKinney, of the Free-Flight gang. For Mack, Jack journeyed 320 miles to Winston-Salem, N. C.

Needing a rest, he retired from active participation until March 6, 1945, when he honored Flossie Timberlake and Clo Wood by an appearance at their knot tying. Since that time, his social secretary has found it necessary to refuse countless offers because, "The boy is so-o-o overworked. We must keep his best interests at heart."

And so, prospective wedding principals, if you want your wedding ceremony to be the ultra in something-or-other, just make arrangements to have this curly blonde, six foot four, lean hunk of masculinity stand up for you. Address inquiries to John Wilfred Paulson, Incorporated, 93-C, Kecoughtan Court Apts., telephone 6552. His slogan---"A Charming Ceremony--A Happy Home." Rates on request.

# PAY RAISE

From page 1

The formula provides a higher percentage of increase for low-paid employees instead of the flat 15% raise which was proposed at first.

Chairman Downey, of the Senate Civil Service Committee, who introduced the bill, hopes to obtain its passage next week. The prospects are bright as it has the approval of Senators Byrd, McKellar and other leading members. If passed, it will be the first general revision of white-collar pay rates since 1929.

# CIVIL SERVICE

From page 1

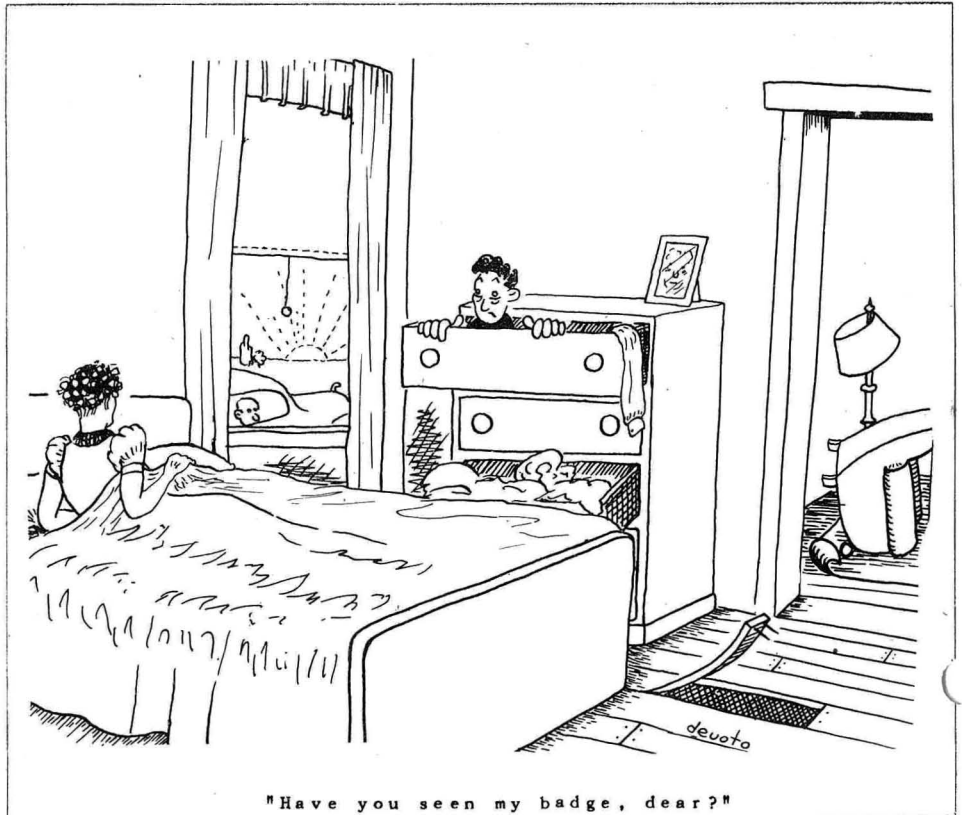
Charlotte Huston, Clerk; and Virginia Powell, Marjorie Cullifer, Ernest Shave, Archibald E. Hudson, and Dorothy McGehee.

The board, which is a sub-office of the Civil Service Regional Office, is responsible for administering civil service laws, rules, and regulations in the recruiting of personnel to fill laborer and trade positions.

FOR SALE: Double size spring and mattress. 2 months old. Bargain. L. Burnham, Instrument Service, night shift.

Asked for a statement as to his other pastimes, Jack reveals, "I also use my off nights to mind babies, providing they're female, over 17, and have their own car."

Free-Flight has been heard.



"Have you seen my badge, dear?"