

# AIR SCOOP

LANGLEY MEMORIAL AERONAUTICAL LABORATORY

Issue 35, Vol. 5

Langley Field, Va., August 30, 1946

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## MIDSHIPMEN INSPECT RESEARCH FACILITIES

Last Friday 440 midshipmen and 10 commanding officers from the United States Naval Academy were guest of the Laboratory and were conducted on a tour of the Laboratory's research facilities. The middies assembled at the post theatre and Dr. H. J. E. Reid, Engineer-in-Charge, delivered the welcoming address and elaborated on the primary objectives of the organization.

Following the assembly, the group was conducted on a tour of the Laboratory where they were given an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on the operation and facilities of one of the foremost scientific research organizations for aeronautics in the world.

Prior to the war, a precedent been set to entertain groups of midshipmen each year but had to be discontinued during the war emergency.

## U. OF VA. CONDUCTS SURVEY AT LAB

A. Gessow, Chairman of the University of Virginia Extension Program for the Hampton Area, announced this week that a survey is being made at the Laboratory to determine the various evening courses most in demand by employees. Blanks are being sent out to each Laboratory employee and those interested in taking courses should state their choice and return the blank to John Ormand, Jr., Training Office, not later than Friday, September 6.

The classes will be offered this fall in conjunction with the University of Virginia Extension program and a minimum of eight persons must apply before a class can be offered.

A tuition fee of \$15 will be charged for each course. At the completion of the survey the courses and dates of registration will be announced.

## DICK SLADEK WINS TRUSCOTT AWARD

Richard Sladek, East Engineering, was the winner of the Starr Truscott Memorial Award in the Brain Buster's Fourth Annual Championship; The Peninsula National Model Seaplane Contest, held last Sunday at Langley Field. The memorial award was presented by the Peninsula Junior Chamber of Commerce in memory of the late Starr Truscott. Sladek won by virtue of his first place win in the Class C Gas Powered event, and second in the rubber event, giving him a total of 170 points. Carl Cecil, Erection Shop, was runner-up with 140 points.

Following the meet, awards were presented to the winners at the Peninsula Airport by Charles Folk, contest director. A. Byrd of Portsmouth won a Bullet motor for the best flight made by a flying boat type model and Carl Cecil won the special award for the longest single flight of the day.

Other winners were: Hand launched glider event - Bob Dagand, first; Bob Stewart, second; Joseph Boyle, third; Benton Cleveland, fourth; Caldwell Johnson, fifth; Morris Huff, sixth; Frank Hilsdon, seventh; and Gordon Cheesman, eighth.

Class A gas - L. A. Hobbs, Portsmouth, first; Carl Cecil, second; Bob Dagand, third, John Worth,

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## ANNOUNCE CIVIL SERVICE EXAMS

The Fourth United States Civil Service Regional Office at Winston-Salem, N. C., has announced the following examinations for probational appointment: Library Assistant, Grades SP-3 to SP-6; Librarian, Grade P-1, and Librarian, Grades P-2 to P-5.

The first two examinations named are assembled, that is, applicants must compete in a written test. The third examination is unassembled, applicants being rated on the basis of their training and experience.

For further information or application forms, call the Employment Office, telephone 2272.



A group of midshipmen are shown dining with Dr. H. J. E. Reid, Engineer-in-Charge, at the new Recreation Building in West Area. The middies were guests at the Laboratory last Friday.

--Photo by Calvert Worthington

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## FROM AVIATION'S LOG BOOK

By Len Arnow

### Flying Dutchman----

Anthony Fokker after having his airplane designs turned down by the Allies and his native Holland early in World War I, found encouragement from the Germans. Following the success of his first designs with the German Air Corps, Fokker fell into disfavor with the German government because he was a foreigner and also because the British had tried to offer him 2,000,000 pounds to quit Germany and build planes for the Royal Air Force. Later he was forced to build airplanes designed by other German manufacturers instead of his own, while he himself was kept under strict surveillance by the Kaiser's secret service.

In 1917 Fokker's chance for a come back arose when the German Air Corps announced a competition to stimulate development of a new pursuit plane. He designed a biplane fighter employing a welded steel tube fuselage and unbraced or cantilever wings, the second being a radical feature which had caused a previous Fokker design to be turned down by the Germans. After adding a strut to each wingtip to give the wings the appearance of being braced, Fokker piloted the new ship at the start of the competition and showed it to be fast and maneuverable with good all round performance. However, it tended to spin easily and would have proved dangerous when flown by Germany's top combat pilots the next day. Therefore Fokker and his mechanics performed a major operation on the plane overnight by adding two feet of length to the rear of the fuselage and more area to the vertical tail. The following day in the hands of German war aces, the new Fokker pursuit stood out head and shoulders above the planes designed by his German competitors.

During the months that followed until Armistice was signed, the Fokker D-7, as it was called, flew its way into aviation's hall of fame, making a formidable foe out of such famous German fighter squadrons as Richtofen's Flying Circus.

### NACA Notes----

The forerunner of the annual NACA Conferences was a meeting held on June 8, 1916 at the Smithsonian Institution between aircraft industry representatives and those of the NACA for improving aircraft engine specifications. . . . The originally proposed location for the Langley Lab was on Heine's Point in Washington. However a Washington park commissioner was against the proposal and a public golf course was built there instead.

## at the LABORATORY

Another Laboratory romance. . . . .

was climaxed recently when Nancy Huggett, Stock Control, and Melvin Lee Watkins, Office Services Circulation, took their final vows at the Trinity Methodist Church in Messick. Mary Blount, Procurement Stock, served as matron-of-honor.

Another fall wedding is. . . . .

in the wind. Dixie Carter, formerly of Personnel Records, has set September 17 as the big day in her life when she will marry Major Mike Beckett of Virginia Beach. The wedding will take place at the Langley Field chapel and Ellen Addison, Files, will serve as maid-of-honor and only attendant. Dixie's engagement ring is a West Point miniature. Her advice to the young single maidens is, "Don't give up, it just takes patience and fortitude."

Jake Klinar, Spin Tunnel. . . . .

recently became the proud father of a 4 pound, 15 ounce daughter, Ann Elizabeth.

Another new sparkler. . . . .

is being flashed around the Laboratory. This time it's Allie McDonald of 8-Foot. She's engaged to Johnny Argo, Jr., of Hampton.

A bit of encouraging information. . . . .

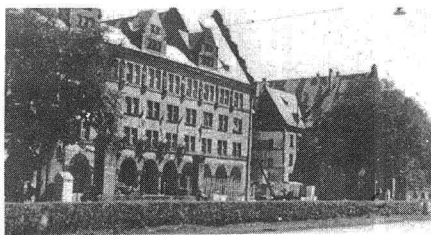
appeared in Monday's "Daily Press" that we would like to pass on to the single members of the fairer sex. Heretofore things have been looking pretty dark for the unmarried women with all the talk about not enough men to go around but the U. S. Bureau of Census points out that America is still the happy hunting ground for the husband-seeking maid. One of the nation's leading population analysts points out that there are more single men of marriageable age than there are women seeking them. Last year's figures showed more females than males - about 99.7 males to 100 women, but these included all sorts of females, single, married, divorced, widowed, and inceptitated. Not until a woman reaches the age bracket of 75 to 79 does she have to start worrying about the male shortage.

Four weary girls returned to the Lab. . . . .

this week with bruises, sore muscles, and black eyes. Feeling that travelling by train, bus, plane, or car was too ordinary, Ann Zepht, May Meadows, and Dot Clift, all of Loads; and Betsy Rice, IAL, decided to bicycle on their vacation. They have just returned after a two week bicycling and sightseeing trip through Canada. Dot Clift's souvenir from Canada is a nice big black eye which she received when the bicycle sent her tumbling down a hill.

Paul M. Selake, formerly of West Machine. . . . .

dropped us a note from Lechfeld, Germany, where he is working as a clerk in the squadron engineering office. He writes that the Army camp has been badly damaged by the war and at one time it was about eighty percent destroyed. Paul recently visited War Crimes Trials in Nuremburg and sent us a picture, which is reproduced at the left, of the Hall of



Justice where the trials are being held.

## SOFTBALL STATISTICS

With softball playoffs under-way and the season of play gradually coming to a close, final statistics show that only two batters managed to hit the .400 mark. Vernard Lockwood, AWT outfielder, topped the league batting average with .432 and Ted Himka, 16-Foot shortstop, came in second with an even .400.

Since only batters with thirty or more official trips to bat were considered, T. A. Andrews, AWT pitcher, missed the top position by three trips to bat. He ended the season with a .481 average, 27 trips to bat, 13 hits, and 10 walks. Bill Aiken, Loads shortstop, also missed by a narrow margin with a .448 average, 29 times at bat, and 13 hits.

The big disappointment of the season was the two year All Star infielder from AWT, Ray Comenzo, who hit .445 in 1944, led the league last year with .489, and ended this season with a .222.

Final statistics show the following persons as the league's ten top batters.

Player	Team	Pos.	AB	H	Avg.
Lockwood	AWT	OF	37	16	.432
Himka	16'	SS	45	18	.400
Enginbotham	PAR	OF	46	18	.391
Meggin	D.T.	OF	41	16	.390
Dingledein	FST	OF	34	13	.383
Nuber	LTS	1B	40	15	.375
Haynes	PAR	OF	38	14	.368
Bates	AWT	OF	40	14	.350
H. Clason	PAR	SS	46	16	.348
Schaeffer	FST	OF	38	13	.343

## HYDRO MEET

(Continued from page 1)

fourth; Ralph Moscaater, fifth; Caldwell Johnson, sixth.

Class B gas - James Walker, Newport News, first; Carl Cecil, second; Dwight McSmith, third; Jack Kinzler, fourth; and Joe Boyle, fifth.

Class C gas - Richard Sladek, first; Ralph Moscaater, second; Phillip Weatherwax, third; A. Byrd, Portsmouth, fourth; and Benton Cleveland, fifth.

Rubber-powered - Joseph Boyle, first; Richard Sladek, second; Reed Hall, third; Benton Cleveland, third; Frank Hilsdon, fifth, and Billy King, sixth.

**TED:** Ride for one to Raleigh, N. C. or vicinity on Friday, August 30. Harry Semento, FGDA.

**WANTED:** Two passengers to National Air Races in Cleveland, Leaving August 31. reasonable rates. Morris Huff, West Machine Shop.

## FRD GOLFERS CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT WINNERS

The Flight Research golfers have issued a challenge to the top eight men in the NACA Annual Golf Tournament held last month. Plans are underway to hold a match play tourney on Saturday, September 7, at the Hampton Country Club.

Flight will be represented by Melvin Gough, Herbert Hoover, Jack Reeder, Harold Crane, Harold I. Johnson, Sig Sjoberg, Art Vogele, and Chris Kraft. The eight top men from the NACA tournament, after the Flight men had been eliminated are: Jim Bertoci, 16-Foot; George Griffith and Dave Oohiltree, Structures Research; John Hanks, Induction Aerodynamics; Billy Bates, 7 X 10; Gordon Fitch, PRD; Dick Braig, Procurement Office; and Wiley Jenkins, Erection Shop.

## TO DISCONTINUE EVENING MEAL

Sarah B. Rickman, Manager of the NACA Exchange, wishes to remind Laboratory employees that after August 30 the East Area Cafeteria will discontinue the service of evening meals and will close at 5 p.m. This change is due to the small number of employees using the cafeteria facilities for their evening meal. The last meal served will be lunch, however, the cafeteria will remain open until 5 p.m. for the convenience of those wishing to buy cigarettes, candy, and other miscellaneous articles. Other hours will remain the same.

## BRAIN BUSTERS PLAN TO ATTEND MODEL MEET

Several members of the Brain Busters Model Club are making plans to attend the Philadelphia Record Flying Circus to be held Sunday, September 8, at the Willow Grove Naval Air Base. Flying will be from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. with an hour recess from 1 to 2 for the gigantic Naval Air Show. First prize will be an Ecoupe and other prizes amounting to \$10,000 will be awarded the winners. Entries can be made at the air base.

## SOFTBALL NOTICE

All team captains are asked to notify Bob Pendley, 8-Foot, of umpires who have called their games and whose names have not been turned in to Johnny Knemeyer. This applies only to the home team captains in each game.

## 19-FOOT, FST WIN FIRST GAME IN PLAYOFFS

In the games played last week to determine the team positions for final playoffs in the Men's Softball League, 19-Foot defeated 8-Foot, 4-0, to take first place, and PAR downed Low Turbulence, 3-2, to win the fourth place position.

Allowing only two hits, Irwin Schumacher pitched his 19-Foot teammates to a 4-0 shutout over 8-Foot to take the number position for league playoffs. 8-Foot seemed to have a hard time getting started but managed to hold the 19-Footers scoreless after their first inning rally netted them four runs. Donald "Burly" Beals, pitcher for the losers, gave up 4 hits, struckout 2, and walked 1.

In the LTS-PAR game PAR came through in the fourth inning to chalk up their first run of the day but Low Turbulence came back with two runs to take a 2-1 lead. In the sixth inning PAR tied the score and marked up their winning run in the seventh.

The semi-finals got underway last Monday with the winners of the best two out of three games scheduled to meet Wednesday, September 4. In the first game 8-Foot forfeited to Full Scale and 19-Foot Pressure Tunnel took a 5-3 win from PAR.

Playing a close game all the way with PAR leading in the seventh inning, 3-2, 19-Foot came through with three runs to take the game, 5-3. With one man on base and two out, Irwin Schumacher knocked a homerun to score the man on first and take a 4-3 lead. Stan Spooner came up next and smacked another homer for 19-Foot to put the game in the bag. Spooner and Owen Deters were the big guns for the winners with two hits each, and Jimmy Parks starred for the losers with three singles.

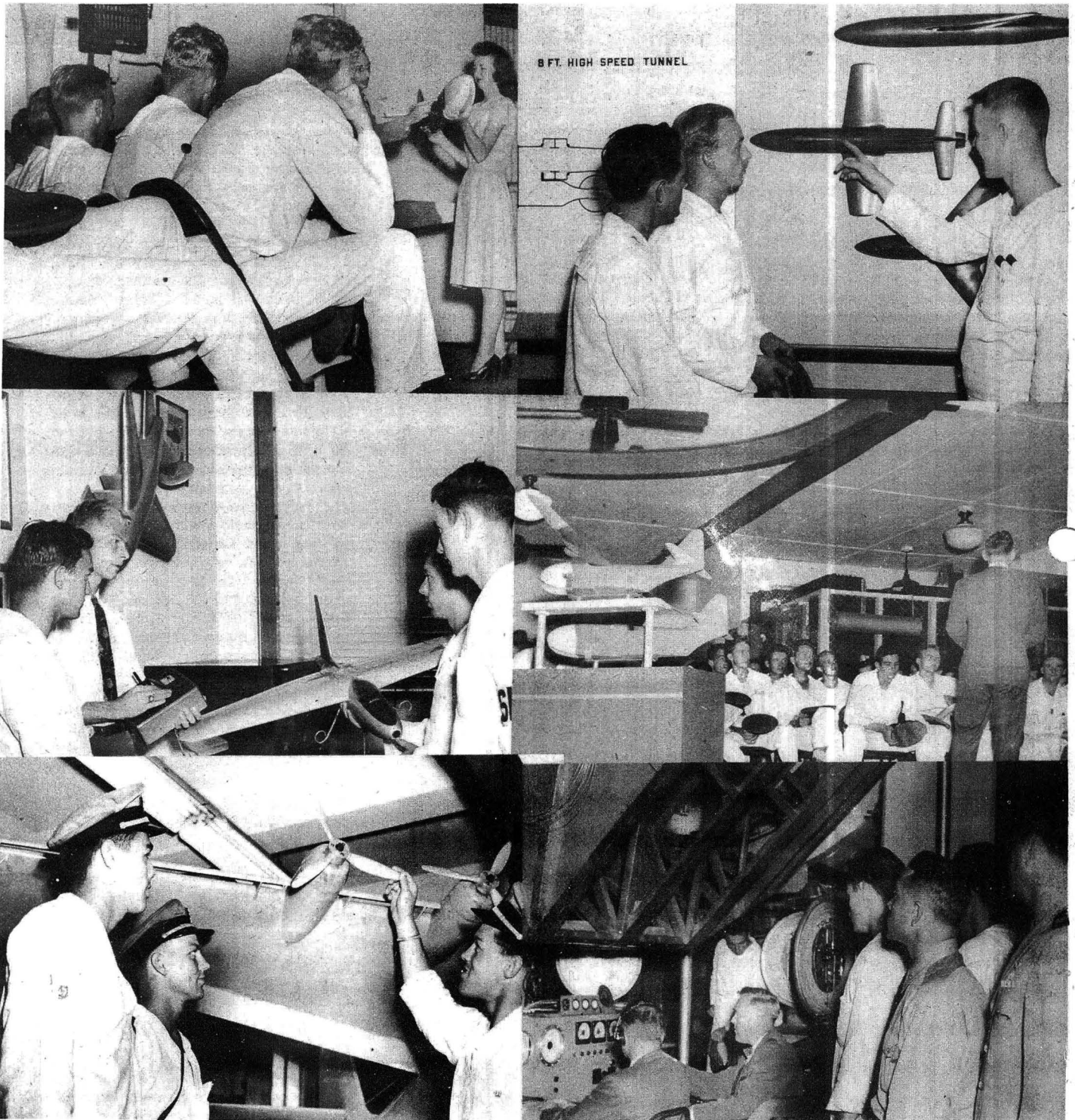
## LEAGUE TO PRESENT CHAMP WITH PHOTO

Chet Weislo, Chairman of the Men's Softball League, announced this week that members of the championship softball team will be awarded a team picture to be taken at the expense of the league. Arrangements have been made with the Hampton Camera Club to make the pictures at cost. Any other teams interested in a group picture may contact Kurt Strass at 16-Foot Tunnel.

**LOST:** 8 mm. Bell and Howard filmo. Serial No. - 262489. Inventory No. 1533. Photo Lab



# 440 MIDDIES INSPECT LABORATORY



Photos read from left to right of page. Top row: A group of the 440 midshipmen who visited the Lab last Friday seem quite engrossed with the Tank models. Three middies discuss the display at 8-Foot High Speed Tunnel. Second row: Jack Paulson explains the type of work done at the Free Flight Tunnel and shows how the model is

controlled while in flight. Ed Hoffman explains to a group of middies the type of work done at Tank No. 2. Third row: Three middies examine one of the four engine models in Tank No. 2. A group of middies and commanding officers look over the control room of the 8-Foot High Speed Tunnel. --Photos by Warren Nelson