

# AIR SCOOP

LANGLEY MEMORIAL AERONAUTICAL LABORATORY

Issue 19, Vol. 5

Langley Field, Va., May 10, 1946

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## WE MUST CONSERVE ELECTRICITY

### CLEVELAND ISSUES TENPIN CHALLENGE

The challenge issued by Langley to the other two Laboratories and the Washington Office for a NACA Duck Pin Championship Tourney by mail has been accepted by the Cleveland Laboratory and they in turn have issued a challenge for a similar setup to decide the NACA Tenpin Championship. No word has been received from the Ames Laboratory and the Washington Office; however, this Laboratory has accepted Cleveland's challenge and the playoffs for both tournaments will be held May 21.

Anyone interested in bowling on either team is asked to contact the Air Scoop Office, Service Building, telephone 2376.

### BRIDGE TOURNEY ENTRIES CLOSING

Entries for the second duplicate tournament sponsored by the Laboratory bridge club must be in by May tenth in order to get a place in the tourney, according to Gene Frank, tournament chairman. Entry fee for non-members of the club is one dollar.

The tournament is planned for May fourteenth at the Symes-Eaton Community Center at 8 p.m. However, if the curtailment of electric power forces postponement, all entries will be notified. All those desiring to enter should contact Frank, Safety Office; Carl Rossman, Structures Research Lab; or John Crigler, Physical Research Lab.

### YACHT OWNER TO FORM CLUB

Bill Trail, of Physical Research, has recently purchased the yacht "Fleet", an 81-footer that will sleep 17. It is powered by twin engines of 150 horsepower each. The boat needs considerable work to get it into shape and Bill is anxious to form a club to operate the craft as a club yacht, distributing the work and cost among the group.

Among the facilities of the "Fleet" are hot and cold water, bottled gas cook stove, electric bilge pump, and a large electric refrigerator.

Anyone interested may call Trail at the Physical Research Lab or drop him a line at Box 383, Hampton.

### APPRENTICE TERM TO START MONDAY

The Sixth term of the Apprentice School will begin Monday, May 13, and classes will be held at the Hampton High School on Monday and Wednesday nights from 7 to 9:30 p.m. The classes are intended primarily for apprentices but any person interested may attend for a nominal fee of \$1.75.

The classes offered are: Elementary Electricity - second part; Algebra, Machinery's Handbook - IB, Sheet-metal Layout, Simple Aeronautics, and Strength of Materials - sixth term.

Persons interested in registering are asked to contact the Training Office telephone 2256, by noon Monday.

### GREEN COW PLANS DANCE FRIDAY NITE

Hal Johnson, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Noble Order of the Green Cow, points out that only one week remains in which to purchase tickets for the big blow at Grand View Pavilion next Friday night, May 17. Tickets may be obtained from the section salesman for a measly four bucks and the holder and his female companion are entitled to attend all the remaining dances for the 1946 season plus after dancing swimming privileges at Grand View, that is when dances are held at Grand View.

For the information of those who are interested only in the dancing part, Red Overton and his orchestra will strike up at 9 p.m. and sound off at 12 midnight - Daylight Saving Time that is.

### SOME EX-GI'S MAY GET TAX REFUND

Former enlisted men are reminded that any Federal tax paid since 1939 on service income will be refunded upon writing to the Collector of Internal Revenue to whom such tax was paid.

A statement should be made which gives the amount of money paid and, if possible, the receipt number for the tax.

The local Collector of Internal Revenue may be found at the Post Office Building on 25th Street and Washington Avenue, Newport News, for consultation on Federal Tax problems.

### LAB HELPING TO FURNISH POWER

Drastic curtailment of electric power throughout the community has forced the majority of local commercial and industrial establishments to operate on a part-week basis, and while such action is not expected at the Laboratory, officials have asked all employees to go all out in the conservation of electricity, as it is only with sensible activity that even the minimum needs of the community can be met.

The Laboratory itself is going all out to assist the Virginia Electric and Power Company in furnishing local power, pumping approximately 100,000 kilowatt hours daily to the community from the West Area Power Generating Plant. The plant operates on fuel oil and is not affected by the coal strike.

Laboratory employees are asked to keep their use of electricity at a minimum, both at work and at home. All lights, fans, and other appliances should be cut off when not actually needed.

Normally the Laboratory buys its basic power needs from the local power company, and uses the Generating Plant to take up the slack and provide the extra juice for the high speed tunnels, like the 16-Foot which burns up 14,000 kilowatts while hitting top speed. However on April 25, the feeder line from the Hampton VEPCO substation began running current the reverse way with 7500 kilowatts going into the dwindling reservoir of the community. This amount has been supplied daily, except Sunday, from 6 a.m. until 12 midnight. A total of 3,000,000 kilowatt hours is supplied daily and officials pointed out that this is enough to provide for the normal needs of over 25,000 average homes. The plant will generate up to 10,300 kilowatts, the rest being needed for normal Lab operations.

Never before being forced to take such drastic measures in an emergency, the shipyard in Newport News has cut its working hours to keep in line with the 24 hours of power weekly decreed by the State Corporation Commission. The yard will work only on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of each week as long as the emergency exists. Employees will be

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Editor . . . . . Tiny Hatton  
 Associate Editor . . . . . Ruth Angel  
 Art Editor . . . . . Harry DeVoto  
 Staff Photographer . . . . . Bill Taub  
 Reporters . . . . . Langley employees

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## *LIFE at the LABORATORY*

Last week Jerry Kayten, . . . . .

a charter patrolon of 33A Kecoughtan Castle or better known as Kecanwyok, departed from the Laboratory. Before leaving Hampton, he willed to the resident barons a complete roster of all the noblemen who have roamed the apartment's marble halls since October, 1940 A.D. On the document appear the names of no less than 17 peers of the Peninsula, eight of whom are known to have fallen in the "Battle of Bachelor", with the possibility of two other survivors, Seven men remain at Langley, four are with the Cleveland Lab, one is at the Washington Office, and the other five have been lost by the wayside. The present dukes, in order of lineage, are: Jack Funk, now on temporary duty at Orlando Air Base, Irwin Schumacher, East Engineering; Sam Rosenfeld, Structures Research; and Hal Levitt, East Engineering. Alumni still at LMAL are Sid Alexander, Bernie Maggin, and Bob Schade. Jerry Teplitz, formerly of 19-Foot Pressure Tunnel, is at the Washington Office. More articles on other bachelor quarters will probably appear in the "Air Scoop" from time to time and the hangout with the largest roster has not been determined as yet.

### HOW NICE OF THE POSY GROWERS

To the many employees who furnished flowers for the inspection Thursday, go the thanks of the Laboratory and particularly Mrs. Lenore Hilcher who was in charge of floral arrangements. The attractive array on the luncheon tables spoke well for the gardening efforts of many Langleyites. A reminder however, there are still two more days of the inspection, Monday and Wednesday, and more flowers will be needed.

### WILL THIS STOP THEM?

The highway from Langley Field into Hampton got some new white lines painted down its center this week. Noticed particularly was the double line for a short distance on the approach to the gate to the post. Virginia law decrees that this double line must not be crossed for any reason, so that anybody anxious to beat the line must now do his passing before he gets that far.

There are still enough privileged characters driving the highway to make life miserable for the average driver who hates to see anyone pull in front of him in line, but who still thinks enough of his own car not to have a bumper battle. We can still hope that eventually they'll take the hint.

Free Flight Tunnel had. . . . .

a big section party Wednesday evening somewhere near Yorktown. Guests still are trying to figure out just where they went and the most puzzling part of the whole evening is just how Bernie Maggin ever managed to find such an out of this world place. The members of the party started out by car but ended up going the biggest part of the way in true Daniel Boone style.

One of the leading. . . . .



Laboratory romances was climaxed last Saturday in Henderson, North Carolina. The bride was Rowena Daniel, 8-Foot High Speed Tunnel, and the nervous groom was Johnny Becker, 16-Foot Tunnel.

16-Foot seems to be getting. . . . .

its share of the news this week. Plus the marriage. they have also had three babies. Pete Korycinski was lead off man with a daughter, Nancy Marie. John Cangelosi followed suit the next week with a girl, Nonny Marie, and this past week John Wood proved to be the odd man in the lot with a boy. The members of the staff are finding it rather hard to stand up under the vapors from such foul cigars.



Another romance was. . . . .

climaxed last Friday when Doris Cohen married Bob Jones. Both are members of the Stability Analysis Section.

Another to join the ranks. . . . .

of proud papas is R. W. H. Noel of East Engineering. He became the father of a daughter, born Tuesday, April 30.

## LAB WORKER ONCE AMONG TOP OUTBOARD DRIVERS

Dick Geirsch, of the West Sheetmetal Shop, was once one of the nation's top outboard motorboat drivers as a look at his room full of trophies show. Serving a two year stretch in the Navy, Dick recently returned to the Lab.

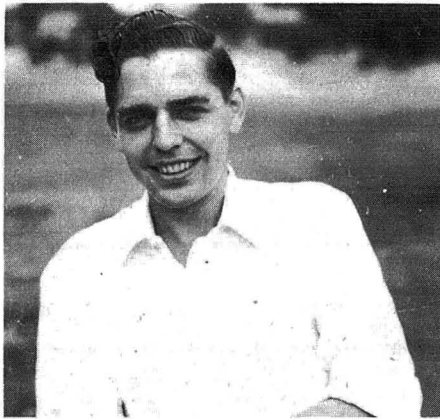
Most of Dick's outboard racing took place in the early thirties, around his native New Jersey. In 1933 he was South Jersey, Jersey, and Maryland champion. In 1934, he piloted the first Class C boat to finish in the 140-odd mile Albany to New York marathon and repeated the performance in the Trenton to Philadelphia marathon. Later in the year he took second place in both the President's Cup and the National Championships.

He has long since ceased to mix gasoline and castor oil for his "Flyaway" but he still has the trophies to remind him.



Dick Geirsch

## MARTINA HURLS PERFECT GAME



Al Martina, leading pitcher in the men's softball league for the past two seasons, joined the ranks of softball's immortals Tuesday night when he pitched a perfect game.

On the mound for the Alberts Sports Shop team in the Newport News Merchants League, Martina pitched a no-hit game against the YMCA nine. In addition, he faced only 21 batters and struck out all 21. The feat is unparalleled in local softball circles.

## FIVE TEAMS ENTER SOFTBALL LEAGUE

At the organizational meeting held last Monday for the Girls' Community Softball League, five teams were represented and league officers were elected. Ferne Driver, 16-Foot Tunnel, was elected chairman, and Helen Northcross, 19-Foot Pressure Tunnel, secre-

## MEN'S SOFTBALL GETS UNDERWAY

The men's softball season opened Monday with a minor explosion in the West Area as Aircraft Loads, last season's last placers, trounced West Shops' Eagles, 11-2, and last year's champs, 19-Foot, won from the 7 X Foots, 13-1. The Low Turbs followed suit on Tuesday, taking Dynamic Tunnels, 11-5.

Dan Savitsky and Ed Hoffman were the big guns in the Loads attack, getting three hits each. Paul Harper was effective on the mound for the winners, walking only two men. Bob Stewart and Carl Cecil pitched for the Eagles.

The 19-Foots put on a 13-hit attack, paced by Bob Neely and Stan Spooner who drove in five runs between them. Spooner hit two doubles while Neely connected for a single, double, and a triple. Miller batted in 7 X Foots' only run in the fourth when his single scored Polhamus. Pat Cancro pitched for 19-Foot, allowing six hits. John Lowery was on the mound for the losers.

Bart Geer, Bob Nuber, and Lloyd Wallace got two hits each to lead Low Turbulence over the Dynamic Tunnels. Geer collected a home run and a base clearing double. Wallace had a perfect day with two singles and a walk. Maggin led the losers with two for four. Dale Burrows pitched for the winners and Red Neihouse for the losers.

tary and treasurer. Following the election, plans were discussed for securing adequate playing fields and obtaining the necessary equipment. As yet, no definite diamonds have been selected.

The five teams entered in the league are: Presbyterian, Personnel, 16-Foot-PRT, AWT-7 X 10, and Computers.

## FIRST CASUALTY IN LEAGUE HISTORY



Mike Panz, diminutive second baseman for West Shops' Eagles, became the first casualty of the current softball season and the first serious casualty in the history of the men's league when he suffered a fracture of his left forearm in the opening game between Shops and Loads.

In the fourth inning of the game, Panz took a throwin from the outfield to put out Allen Stokke at second. As he turned for the putout, he and Stokke collided, throwing Panz to the ground. He fell with his left arm under him, breaking the large bone in the forearm, three inches above the wrist. He was taken to the Dixie Hospital and the arm put in a cast. It was estimated that he would keep the cast on for six or seven weeks.

Most serious blow to Mike was the fact that he would have to stop bowling. He is currently rolling at a 186 clip in the Community Tenpin League, retreating fifth in the standings. He was to lead the Laboratory team in its match with the other Laboratories for the NACA championship.

## SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

Week of	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
	Diamond #1	Diamond #2	Diamond #1	Diamond #2	Diamond #1	Diamond #2	Diamond #1	Diamond #2	Diamond #1	Diamond #2
May 6	9-6	4-11	10-5 LTT	A	8-7	3-12	4-13	B	1-14	6-4
13	7-6	2-11	9-4	C	8-5 PRT	3-10	D	1-12	14-13	11-9
20	8-4	7-5 Aus. Fl.	E	9-3	2-10	1-11	6-14	F	12-3	13-7
27	5-1 8'	4-2	G	13-11	14-10	H	3-7	----	----	----
June 3	1-13	2-12	I	10-4	3-11	8-6	9-5 Loads	J	14-12	7-1
10	3-13	2-14	K	11-5 19'	4-12	9-7	10-6	L	3-1	14-9
17	11-7	10-8	M	12-6	5-13 IRD	4-14	7-3	N	1-9	8-2
24	6-5 WAS	7-4	8-3	O	1-10	2-9	P	14-11	13-12	----
July 1	6-2	5-3 AWT	12-10	Q 5	R	13-9	----	----	----	----
8	9-3	10-7	S	5-12 16'	11-6	3-14	T	4-13	2-1	----
15	10-9	11-3	12-7	6-13	5-14 struct.	4-1	3-2	----	----	----
22	11-10	12-9	13-8	7-14	4-3	5-2 PRT	6-1	----	----	----
29	12-11	13-10	14-9	1-8	7-2	6-3	5-4 7X10	----	----	----

- 8-Foot High Speed Tunnel
- Full Scale Tunnel
- Atmospheric Wind Tunnel
- 7 X 10 Foot Wind Tunnels
- Dynamic Tunnels
- West Area Shops
- Auxiliary Flight
- Propeller Research Tunnel
- Loads
- Low Turbulence
- 19-Foot Pressure Tunnel
- 16-Foot Tunnel
- Instrument Research
- Structures Research

A. Dates designated by letters will be for the girls' softball schedule. (20 games)  
 B. Home team is the team designated first (each team is home team at least six times.)  
 C. Rained-out games will be rescheduled in the blank dates from the eighth week on.

## What's My Name?



The NACA was in a way a bit of a Godsend to me for the Lab wrote the University of Michigan in 1938 requesting that some men be sent down by June first. That was during exams and I was sent after taking only one final exam.

I went to work in the Full Scale Tunnel and later married one of the prettiest girls ever to work there--one of the prettiest in the world, in fact. In 1942 I was transferred to Flight where I have flown airplanes and played on all the athletic teams.

A test pilot-engineer I've logged between 1400 and 1500 hours with 110 helicopter hours. My first flying experience came from gliders while at school; I got my private license in Newport News in 1939.

I've never yet had to bail out or crackup, but I had a close squeak in a few years ago that still chills me occasionally. The torque meter supply line of the P4U I was flying broke and a quarter inch stream of oil, at 400 pounds per square inch pressure shot over the windshield. I opened the canopy, got a look at the field and started in. My goggles, covered with oil, blew away in the stream when I stuck my head out, and I constantly blinked one eye in order to see a little coming in. The oil going through the engine caused ground observers to think I was on fire but luckily everything came out okay.

I'll be 30 this month and am a native of the Michigan country around Lake Superior.

Jack Reeder

## SAVE ELECTRICITY

(Continued from page 1)

paid for only the actual time worked. Retail merchants over the entire Peninsula have adopted the following time schedule: Monday, closed all day; Tuesday through Friday, open 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.; Saturday, open 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. The local newspapers and radio station have obtained independent power supplies and will continue operation as usual.

## ARCHITECT HOPES TO "ENGINEER" VIOLIN

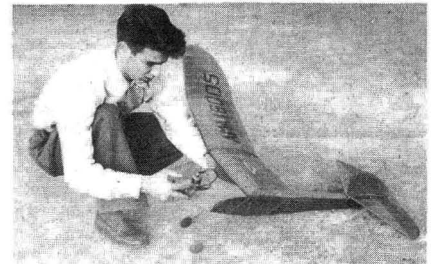
Not satisfied with hydrodynamics research all through the day, Charlie Daniels, one of Tank No. 1's naval architects, spends his quiet evenings at home patiently pursuing the elusive element that all researchers seek. However, it's not the field of hydrodynamics that interests him after hours; it's the lair of the muse that Charlie invades, with a Guarnerius in one eye and a Stradivarius in the other, believing that some day he can "engineer" a top quality violin.

Charlie, who comes from a long line of hobbyists, started tinkering with strings while still in knee pants. For a long time he had wanted a cello and when asked what he wanted good old Santa to bring for Christmas, he naturally said a cello. His parents, fearing that his interest wasn't as intense as he pretended, were a bit in doubt as to whether to get him one or not. Finally they decided that the little virtuoso should be given a chance so they started on their long search for a cello but could find only an old broken one. That was selected as his Christmas gift. Chuck still remembers that Christmas morning, quite a few years ago, when he found a big paper bag under the Christmas tree. He reached in and pulled out the neck of a cello, next the body, and piece by piece all the parts of the instrument. Being a bit in doubt as to how he should react to such a peculiar gift, Chuck just gave his Dad a funny puzzled look. His Dad smiled and said, "Son, if you really want a cello bad enough you can put this one together." So Charlie got some glue and set to work.

When a senior in college, his brother gave him wood for a cello and during his spring vacation he cut out and made his own. Charlie says that the instrument has a very good tone and is better than average but he doesn't know what made it good - he just cut it out. He now knows that an instrument can be cut out of wood but he wants to know how to cut out a good one. He next wants to make a violin so he is doing research work on the basic principals of violin making. He has catalogged all scientific articles written on violins since 1890 and has also invented a few instruments for measuring quantities. One of his newest inventions is an instrument that measures the spring constant of the belly of the violin.

Chuck's theory is that most good violin makers construct their instruments from experience and intuition therefore the information can not be passed on to others and is lost when the individual dies. He believes that with intelligent scientific research a good violin can be "engineered" not just made and that all the needed information can be put down on paper

## MODEL BUILDERS TO DETERMINE WINNER SUNDAY



Jerry Lewis, D.T.O.S., warms up the engine of his gas model just before take off time in the Brain Buster meet.

The Brain Busters will hold their last in a series of meets Sunday at Langley Field from 11 a.m. til 5 p.m. The series of contests is being held to determine who will be sent to the Chicago Victory Meet which will be held from July 4 to 10. So far, Reid Hull, East Engineering, has managed to win the first two meets and this Sunday will determine whether he is top man or not.

The meet consists of a free-flight gas A, B, and CC combined with a 10 second engine run.

## PORTSMOUTH AERO CLUB SPONSORS MODEL MEET

The Middle Atlantic States Gas Model Championship will be held at Monogram Field, Drivers, Virginia, on June 2 from 9 a.m. 'til 4 p.m. The field is located twelve miles west of Portsmouth on the old Suffolk Boulevard. Signs will be posted along all routes leading to the field. Trophies and various other prizes will be awarded to winners up to fifth place. The banquet, which will follow the meet, will begin at 5:30 p.m. The meet is sanctioned by AMA and models must be up to requirements. All entries should be in by Saturday, May 18 and sent to L. R. Purdy, 20 Irwin Street, Portsmouth, Virginia.

WANTED: Ride for one to Roanoke after 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday, May 29, or very early Thursday morning May 30. Also desire return ride in order to arrive for work at 8:15 a.m. on Tuesday, June 4. Mary E Wood, Construction Engineering Section.

FOR SALE: 32 Savage automatic pistol. W. H. McNamara, Addressograph Service.

WANTED: Ride to New York on May 29 or 30. M. R. Seldon, Flight Research.

for use by future generations. After he has completed his research and worked out satisfactory formulas, Charlie hopes to "engineer" a good violin.