

# AIR SCOOP

LANGLEY MEMORIAL AERONAUTICAL LABORATORY

## ATOMIC PLANE ENGINE MAY BE POSSIBLE

In a nation-wide press release, the NACA Washington Office last week followed close upon the echoes of the first atomic bomb explosion by calling attention to the distinct, though distant, possibility that the tremendous energy made available by the splitting of atoms represents a future source of power for propulsion of supersonic aircraft.

NACA, the release stated, has been conducting secret research for the Army and the Navy on problems of flight at speeds greater than the speed of sound. Throughout this work, the need for greater and more efficient power sources than those now in use has been apparent. Atomic reaction, such as that which takes place in the new bomb, releases eight million times as much energy as the chemical reaction. Provided that scientists can develop a means of controlling the release of the energy so that the atomic power will propel rather than pulverize an airplane, the principles behind the atomic bomb appear to offer the answer.

Aside from the obvious gain in absolute power, it was pointed out, the new fuel would offer the advantage of extremely small storage space, thus making possible the solid construction of "the knifelike wing profiles apparently essential to supersonic craft", and leading to greatly increased payload.

### OFFICIAL

*All employment at the Laboratory is being made in accordance with a recent Civil Service announcement that applications for federal employment will be accepted from no persons other than veterans and those employees involved in reduction in force from other agencies. In cases where neither of the above types is available to fill a particular vacancy, other persons may be granted temporary appointments not to exceed one year.*

## SEE STORY ON PAGE 4



## DOMINATOR TESTED IN 19-FOOT TUNNEL

The B-32 Dominator, a new super-bomber slightly smaller in dimensions than the B-29 Superfortress and one of the newer weapons to have a hand in adding the final punch to the enemy, was one of the many war planes to pass through the wind tunnels and other research facilities of the Laboratory before going into operations in the Pacific near the close of the War.

In a letter to Dr. G. W. Lewis, Director of Aeronautical Research, commending the 19-Foot Pressure Tunnel for its work on the B-32, Brigadier General F. O. Carroll, Chief of the Engineering Division at Wright Field, stated, "The tests included a series of modifications to the airplane model, the results of which not only accomplished the purpose intended but have apparently furnished means for substantially decreasing the drag of the airplane which in turn will be reflected in increased airplane performance."

"Especially commendable is the general cooperation, attitude and diligence with which this work was pursued, in particular by personnel of the 19-Foot Pressure Tunnel, and which resulted in satisfactorily furnishing assistance in a minimum of time."

## LANGLEY GLAD TO SEE WAR'S END, HOLIDAYS

After being kept in suspense for four days as to Japan's answer to the peace proclamation offered by the United Nations and finding it rather hard to do much more than sit by radios, Laboratory employees were finally relieved on Tuesday night at 7 p.m. when President Truman announced that Japan had accepted our terms. After the long tension, employees were ready to celebrate the great news in a big way so they willingly and without question accepted the two day holiday offered them by the President.

During this same week of history making events, the Laboratory staff was placed on a 44-hour work week, working on a bi-weekly pay period of one 40-hour week and one 48-hour week. All employees worked on Saturday August 18, but will not have to report to duty on August 25 or September 1. The off-Saturday for September 1 was arranged so that employees may have a longer week-end over the Labor Day holiday and will have adequate time to take that little week-end trip they have been planning and looking forward to for the past four years.

H. J. E. Reid, Engineer-in-Charge, asks that employees still continue to do their part during this time of reconversion by continuing to buy their usual allotment of victory bonds and carrying on with the share-the-ride car pools. If all employees who own cars start driving to work, there will arise an acute shortage of parking area, so until further arrangements can be made employees are urged to continue to share. And don't forget, that tires are still rather hard to get.

### HELP WANTED

The Dixie Hospital is in need of someone to teach chemistry to student nurses at the hospital training school. Any Laboratory employee who has the necessary qualifications and is interested in teaching is asked to contact the Air Scoop Office and give full particulars.

The Air Scoop, an official publication of the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory, National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, Langley Field, Virginia, is published weekly in the interest of its employees. Matter appearing herein may be reprinted only with advance written permission. Address contributions to the Editor, Service Building, Telephone 2376.

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## LINE at the LABORATORY

### There may be an acute . . . . .

manpower shortage during this generation and 3,000,000 women may have to live alone, according to a few statisticians, slightly on the pessimistic side we keep telling ourselves; however, if the present birth rate continues to be so evenly matched, the up and coming generation will have nothing to worry about. Last week, two boys and two girls added their names to the Nacar roll. On V-J Day, Dick Everett, D.T.O.S., became the father of a son. On the following day, Wednesday, Bill Ferguson, West Machine Shop, had a daughter. On Thursday, Tiny Hutton, Air Scoop, became the father of a bouncing boy, Paul Scott. (Associate Ed. Note: This big event, along with V-J Day may account partially for the absence of last week's edition of Air Scoop). And on Saturday, Bunny Helfand, Gust Loads, announced that he was the proud papa of a daughter.

### Of all people . . . . .

H. J. E. Reid had to be the only Langleyite we've heard of who didn't hear the news about the Jap surrender until twelve hours later. He was, of all places, on the boat that left Washington prior to the announcement and landed at Old Point around seven the next ayem.

### Virginia's speed limit has been upped . . . . .

to 50 m.p.h. on most highways, but many Peninsula roads are still subject to lesser clips. The Kecoughtan and Shell roads are limited to 35 and even 25 in spots due to heavy traffic and congested housing. The Langley Field road, from Mollar's Place to the entrance of the post, is classed as a military access highway and remains at 35 m.p.h. just as the signs say. The road is being patrolled and those who pull out of line or violate the speed limit will find that a municipal cop is much easier to talk out of something than is an MP. However, the Army is making traffic at the gate as speedy as possible. It's still necessary to show the badges on the way in, but keep 'em in your pocket going out; nobody's interested.

### Blanche Sponsler called in . . . . .

to advise that the West Computers have moved from the Warehouse building to two spacious offices on the first floor of the new ALD building. The phone is still 4570.

### The yankees beat another hasty retreat . . . . .

from what might have been the third battle of Bull Run Sunday night when Jerry Kayten and party gave up \$15.25, without a fight, to a Manassas justice of the peace who took an officer's word that Kayten was breezing along at a clip that would make Cannonball Turner look like a school bus driver. Jerry came back to work Monday morning, remembered the two previous Confederate victories on the spot, decided to forfeit the bail rather than fight the case. Anyone who knows how to deduct a similar expenditure from his income tax might call 2281 and ask for Kayten.

### Reddening faces here and there . . . . .

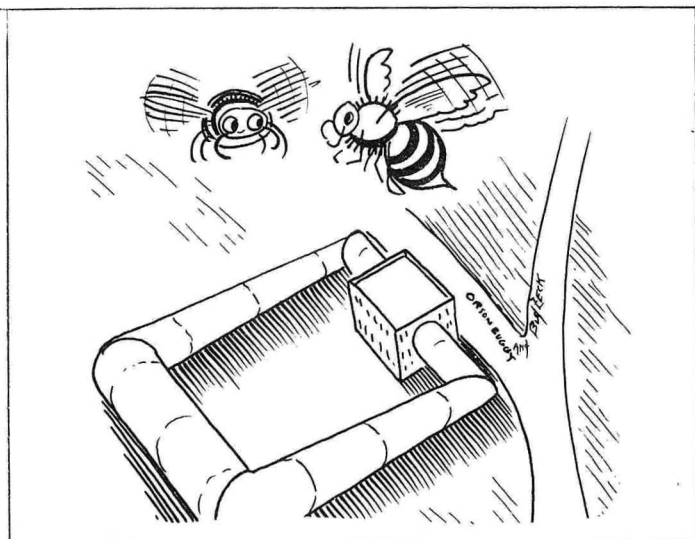
as this is being read might give away the romanticists who have been using Laboratory phones to carry on their tete-a-tetes with Army boy friends and girl friends. Until a short time ago, all telephone connection was maintained through a manually operated system that had but one line. This line was so crowded that it proved inadequate. Direct lines to and from the Army were installed. This has proved very convenient to Lab lovers who simply have to dial zero and then call their Army number. Such an unprecedented number of calls have jammed these lines that it has been necessary to monitor calls and find out what business could be taking so much time. During such official telephone snooping, one young lady was heard in a 20 minute session of small talk to a GI, and immediately following, a 15 minute similar gabfest with another. Her secrets are safe, as are others that have been overheard, but the practice had best be halted before somebody gets into serious trouble. Blackmail isn't anticipated, but disciplinary action is.

### Some people are natural born . . . . .

sailors and others have to learn the hard way. Having been on three excursions, Dick Naeseth, 7 X 10, figured that he without a doubt belonged to the first class so he went out and purchased himself a boat and decided to try his luck with the breeze. After hoisting the sails in old-timer fashion, he glided smoothly across Sunset Creek until he was confronted with the problem of dodging the sea wall - needless to say, he didn't dodge it. In order to save his boat a little of the wear and tear of beating against the wall, as a last resort, he lowered the sails and by some divine guidance rowed out to Hampton Roads. He clipped the breeze for a few knots and then decided to adjust a few of the fixtures. In preparation for the overhauling job, he anchored the boat in normal fashion and set about his duties. Naeseth's original idea came when the time arrived for him to haul in the anchor; instead of hauling it in, he untied the rope from the boat and threw it overboard leaving his anchor and rope lodged somewhere at the bottom of Hampton Roads.

### Now that the war is finally over . . . . .

and people are becoming a bit more settled, we imagine business will pick up for Dan Cupid and the marriage rate will reach a new high. The first post-war nuptial plans to reach our ears are those of Rene Rhodes, formerly of 19-Foot Pressure Tunnel, and Bill Connor, also of 19-Foot. The wedding is scheduled to take place during the latter part of September.



Say, bud, do you still need a priority to get tested in this joint?

# 19-FOOT LOSES; LOADS WINS

## PRESSURE TUNNEL CLINCHES PENNANT HOWEVER BY DOWNING EAST SHOPS

Providing softball with its biggest upset of the year, the Electrical Section did what no other team has been able to do, tag a 1-0 shutout onto the league leading 19-Foot team. The loss affected the Pressure Tunnel's dignity but not their standing for they came back with a similar win over the upsurging East Shops to win the pennant.

John Knemeyer allowed five hits for Electrical, Pete Deters getting two of them. The winners got six off Martina who walked six and struck out 12. The winners' run came in the fifth when Kaufman tripled and scored on Gebbons' single.

Tuesday found Martina and the champs back on the ball. With Al allowing three hits, no walks, and striking out ten, 19-Foot made the most of seven hits to win 1-0. Bill Koven doubled in the sixth inning, took third on Spooner's single, and raced home after the catch of Pete Deter's fly to left.

### Absence Of Cannonballs Beats Champs

In a tearful statement, made in between morning after telephone calls from well wishers who wished to rub it in, Harold R. "Cannonball" Turner, Sr., graduate manager of athletics at the 19-Foot Pressure Tunnel, absolved all team members of any blame for their loss to the Electrical Section, saying that the absence of himself and Mrs. Cannonball from the 19-Foot bench was the only reason for the defeat. Turner, in a statement that will probably go down in history beside Joe Jacobs' "We wuz robbed," or Chick Hergoles' "I shoulda stood in bed," explained, "I thought it wuz gonna rain."

FOR SALE: Exacta reflex camera with film. F3:5 lens. Dave Ullman, Reproduction Section.

FOR SALE: Living room rug, convertible davenport, chairs, desk, mirror, table, etc. Robert F. Moore, Impact Basin.

WANTED: Ride to Washington, D. C., week-end of August 25. Len Arnou, 1st Loads.

WANTED: Ride to Clarksburg, West Va. or vicinity on August 30. Fred Chalfont, East Model.

### STANDINGS

Team	W	L	Pctg.
19-Foot	17	1	.944
East Shops	15	2	.882
Structures Reds	15	3	.833
Low Turb	14	4	.778
IRD	13	4	.765
AWT	11	6	.641
Tank	10	7	.588
16-Foot	10	8	.556
8-Foot	10	8	.556
PRT	8	7	.533
Flight Blues	10	9	.526
Full Scale	9	9	.500
PRD	6	1	.353
West Shops	6	12	.333
Electrical	5	11	.313
Stability	5	13	.278
Reproduction	4	13	.235
Structures Whites	4	15	.222
Flight Whites	2	16	.111
Loads	1	16	.059

## KILGORE WINS CHAMPIONSHIP

Ed Kilgore, East Engineering, defeated Sgt. William Scott of Fort Monroe in the finals, 6-2, 6-4, to retain his title of county champion in the men's singles in the Hampton-Elizabeth City County tennis tournament.

Bill Bates, AWT, and Jack Erwin, FGDA, won the doubles championship when they defeated Kilgore and Howard Edwards 7-5, 8-10, and 6-1. Starting the play-offs on Friday, Bates and Erwin won the first set, lost the second, and the third was called on account of darkness with the score 6-6; however, they walked away with the third set when it was replayed on Monday.

## FOR ARMY ACER'S

Every ex-serviceman or woman who claims veteran preference, under Civil Service regulations, must furnish proof of honorable separation.

"Separation" here means "discharge" and not "transfer to inactive status".

All Langley workers who are entitled to this preference, including also widows of ex-servicemen and wives of disabled ex-servicemen, should file, without delay, Civil Service Commission Form 14 - Veteran Preference Claim.

A telephone call to Personnel Service, telephone 2377, will bring a CSC 14 which can then be filled in and brought with proof of honorable separation, to the Civil Service local board or the office of the local Civil Service Representative, both located in the Civilian Employment Office (first building on the left as one enters Langley Field.)

Waiting until the bitter end of a bitter season, Aircraft Loads finally chalked up its first victory of the year. Reproduction is the team that hangs its head. Pitcher Bill Aiken, with three singles, paced an 11 hit attack that netted the winners 10 runs to their opponents' seven. Harry Clason and Leo Stoutsenberger worked on the mound for the losers. The win left Loads still in the depths of last place.

FOR SALE: 20-Foot cape cod sloop. Regatta winner and comfortable day-sailer. Good condition. J. B. Wright, 8-Foot High Speed Tunnel.

WANTED: Ride for two to New York after work September 5. Bob Tarshis, Tank #2.

## LMAL TENNIS TOURNAY STARTS SEPTEMBER 2

by Tommy Toll

A tennis tournament will be held for men and women employees of the NACA. The men's singles and doubles matches will start during the week of September 2 and the women's singles and doubles matches will start during the week of September 9. There will be no entrance fee, but each player in singles and each team in doubles is to supply three new balls for a match. Winners of a match take the three unused balls and advance to the next round. With the exceptions of the final matches in each event, matches may be played on any courts that are suitable to the contestants and will consist of winning two out of three sets. The final matches must be played on the NACA tennis courts or Fox Hill Road and these matches will consist of winning three out of five sets in the men's events or two out of three sets in the women's events.

Any NACA employee can enter the tournament by filling out the form below and sending it to T. A. Toll, Stability Tunnel, on or before Thursday, August 30. Entrants will be notified of their opponents in the will be posted at the NACA tennis courts on Fox Hill Road. Any additional information about the tournament may be obtained from Toll or from George Heimerl, Structures Research; Ed Kilgore, East Engineering; or W. H. Phillips, Flight Research.

Entry blank for NACA Tennis Tournament  
I wish to enter the following events  
Men's singles \_\_\_\_\_ Women's singles \_\_\_\_\_  
Men's doubles \_\_\_\_\_ Women's doubles \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Section \_\_\_\_\_ Section phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_  
My doubles partner is \_\_\_\_\_



# EX-GI GETS DFC VIA PERSONNEL

Grady Mitcham, the young man in the picture on page one, was a sergeant in the Army Air Forces. While on a flight over Germany, his actions won for him the Distinguished Flying Cross. The Army however neglected to award him the medal, and mailed it to him after he had been sent here to work in Auxiliary Flight. The package was sent to Personnel Files to be delivered when he was located. Dixie Carter, the young lady in the picture, felt that it was a shame for someone to miss the formal presentation ceremony that goes with medals and decided that she would make delivery in person. A time and place was arranged in the Air Scoop Office, and Miss Carter delivered the goods (Ed Note:!!!!). She confused the U. S. Army ceremonies with the French ones, and after pinning on the medal, bestowed a ceremonial osculation. The photographer blew his top as well as his flash bulb so it had to be done all over for a picture. Smiling, the two posed for more pictures after the ceremony. Said photographer Foster, "Wait 'til Clason sees these." Said Dixie, "I believe every young girl should put her heart in her work." Said Mitcham, "The Good Conduct Medal was nothing like this." Said Editor Hutton, "See what you ACER's have been missing?"

Details on Mitcham's other exploits will be published at a later date, but rumors that he has resigned to go back to the Army after more medals are untrue.

FOR SALE: Man's camel hair coat. Cheap. A. C. Burt, Instrument Calibration.

WANTED: One boy's or girl's bicycle. F. J. Liberatore, Instrument Calibration.

WANTED: Ride for 2 or 3 to New York City on week-end of August 31. Robert Parks, Planning Office.

WANTED: Ride to Charlotte, N. C. on August 31. Sybil Tyson, Planning Office.



# CHAIRMAN TELLS STORY BEHIND COUNCIL WORK

By Peter F. Korycinski

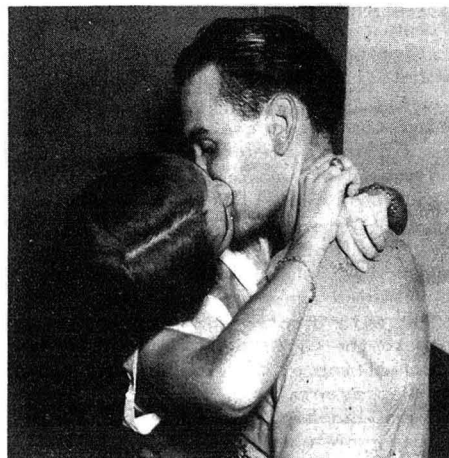
The small group of people who comprise the Temporary LMAL Recreation Council appear to be somewhat misunderstood as to their motives and purposes. This is by no means a defense or an apology for what has or has not been done, but may serve as an explanation of our "raison d'etre", so to speak.

Something more than a year ago this group was called together by Laboratory officials with the primary objective of justifying a recreation facility for LMAL, and to aid in the establishment of a permanent organization which would assist in co-ordination of all recreational activities of the Laboratory. It has always been understood that we were a temporary group, and throughout the months, these two objectives have been our primary concern.

The members of the temporary association were invited to attend the first meeting only by virtue of the fact that they were actively affiliated in the promotion of some recreational organization already established. The membership of these organizations include, by and large, the vast majority of the Laboratory staff actively interested in recreation. The group is not self appointed, nor have any of the members any thought of personal gain.

First plans had been to establish immediately a permanent association, but it was not deemed advisable to do so until it was known whether funds could be secured for the facility. Consequently, the job was to provide justification for a recreation center. This was done, and it is our belief that the efforts of the Temporary Recreation Council have greatly expedited the promotion of the LMAL recreation project.

Since the appropriation has been made, we have been on the alert in our endeavor to provide the maximum facility from funds secured. Long hours have



By Porky

K. E. Snapp, S 1/c, who is stationed at the Receiving Station, Norfolk, came in for a visit while quite a discussion was going on regarding the impending VJ Day. Quoting one service man's opinion regarding the emperor, "Get rid of him regardless of how much longer it takes."

Dr. Seymour Sherman of the NDRC, who visited the Lab on August 10, was struck by our receptionist's southern accent. He asked where she was from.

"Georgia", she replied, as only a Georgia belle can.

When she asked his name, Dr. Sherman gnawed several fingernails and backed toward the nearest exit. Dr. J. Barkley Rosser and Robert K. Newton, who are from the National Defense Research Committee also, made no effort to protect him.

been spent in conferences and committee meetings. We have constantly consulted with the officials of the Laboratory about the buildings and grounds. Recommendations have been made to the Engineer-in-Charge in our efforts to see that essential items might not be omitted, and in order that a permanent organization might be established.

The plan for the permanent association is now in the making. Early issues of Air Scoop will unfold that plan to the staff. An election based on democratic principles as set forth in the Aims and Objects submitted by the Temporary Recreation Council will take place early this fall. It will be up to the elected representatives of the permanent body to use or discard the proposals submitted by the temporary council. Whatever the decisions of the permanent association, the Temporary LMAL Recreation Council shall have served its purpose and can only wish the permanent body success in all their undertakings.

