



## Testimonial Dinner Honors John Shesta

Many employees, both old and new, attended a testimonial dinner for John Shesta at O'Hara's Restaurant on Wednesday, February 25, 1953.

Reminiscing and conviviality seemed to be the general theme before, during and after dinner. Many of John's older acquaintances were called upon to say a few words about their experiences at RMI. Jimmy Wyld stated that although our development has included many new fields, it must be emphasized that we are still in the business to manufacture Rocket Engines.

As one of the older members of the American Rocket Society and original founders of Reaction Motors, Inc., John has followed every development and achievement from the early days when he and other members of the American Rocket Society conducted experiments in the wilderness of North Jersey as a hobby. This hobby grew into the Reaction Motors, Inc., as we know it today.

We will not lose John entirely since he is a member of RMI's Board of Directors and will become a member of the Advisory Board. It is with regret that we say "so long" to John.

**TESTIMONIAL DINNER** for John Shesta. Left: putting on the feedbag at O'Hara's in Sparta. Right: Larry Heath makes a few appropriate remarks; others at the speakers' table are Alex Keyes, Mr. Shesta, Henry H. Michaels jr and Joseph Molleck.

## Cost Reduction Seen Important Here Too

by A. A. Smith, Ass't Manager of Personnel & Administration

There is an economic fundamental in business that in order to sell your product, it is essential that your costs be low enough to permit you to meet competition and at the same time, make a profit either for yourself as an individual or for the stockholders if the business is a corporation.

These fundamental principles apply to RMI as well as any other business. Whether we manufacture rocket engines or perform research and development work for the Services, we must keep in mind that under the government's procurement procedure, a number of other firms are also invited to submit proposals for similar products and services.

Because of the fact that a number of our competitors have other more lucrative lines of endeavor, they are in a position to frequently underbid us on a total cost basis for the simple reason that they bid their costs on the basis of a small segment of their organization being assigned to similar government work programs.

At RMI, our entire organization is devoted to government R and D work for the most part on a CPFF basis and for this reason, it is necessary for each and everyone of us to be cost conscious at every step in our daily work. This does not mean that every expenditure has to be scrutinized to the point where we would be termed penny-pinchers" but it does mean that in a broad sense, we can do our share by saying to ourselves at the end of each day, that the eight hours spent helped to contribute to our overall objective in fulfilling

the assignments and responsibilities entrusted to us.

What would be the best way to accomplish this and at the same time, embark on a cost reduction program which would really place us in a competitive position? The answer is: let us first have an objective. In approaching the problem from a financial point of view, we have examined the principle area of cost reduction and we find that it is possible to reduce our overhead expenses to the extent of approximately \$300,000 per year. A considerable part of this overall objective (with respect to indirect labor) has been accomplished as a result of the reduction of the work week. When we use the word indirect labor, we refer to all employees who do not charge their time specifically to projects. Other savings which will enable us to meet the target objective involve a reduction in the amount of general work, and other economies in various expense accounts. Another avenue of cost reduction which concerns each and everyone of us would be reflected in a wholehearted effort to reduce our absenteeism.

Cost reduction is a topic which has gained particular significance throughout the country. A great many firms as well as the government itself are engaged in formulating various programs to cut costs and maintain their competitive position. We hope you will give this problem your serious attention and recognize its importance. It will represent our principle theme in connection with a supervisory training program which we plan to get under way in the next week or two. At these meetings, it is anticipated that many cost-saving suggestions will be made by our supervisors.

Let's make this a banner year and do our part wherever we can to achieve our objectives.

## Young & Winternitz Renamed to NACA

Appointments to the twenty-eight technical committees and subcommittees of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics have been announced for 1953. From RMI the following reappointments have been made: Mr. Raymond W. Young, Committee on Power Plants for Aircraft; and Dr. Paul F. Winternitz, Special Subcommittee on Rocket Engines.

Each year some 400 men are appointed to the NACA's technical committees and subcommittees. They serve their country in a personal and professional capacity, without compensation, and are chosen on the basis of their recognized leadership in a special field. They include engineers from the aircraft industry and the airlines, scientists from universities, and experts from the civil and military agencies of the Government most concerned with aeronautics.

Among the most important functions of the committees is the coordination of research programs conducted both by the NACA and other agencies and institutions. They also provide material assistance in the consideration of problems related to assigned technological areas, in reviewing research in progress both at NACA laboratories and in other organizations, and in the recommendation of new research work to be undertaken.

In commenting upon the manner in which the NACA is cooperating with the economy program of the Government, Dr. J. C. Hunsaker, Chairman, said that "the Committee has endeavored to stretch the operating funds available to meet increasing research needs during the national build-up of air power," adding that in this effort the NACA "has had the assistance of leaders in science, industry, and the military services in selecting the most pressing research problems to receive attention".

## Plan Now for Your Harvest: in the Payroll Savings Plan

Easter is the season of Resurrection — The time when all things begin to grow again for the harvest that is to come. What better time is there for you to start a little growing of your own, so that you too can reap a harvest later on—called Security? It's very easy—just join the Payroll Savings Plan here at RMI and start to save U. S. Defense Bonds regularly and automatically.

In nine years and eight months—or, even better, in nineteen years and eight months—you will have a harvest that will mean you'll have no worries over what the future might bring. So join Payroll Savings right away and start growing for that harvest—Security.

## THE ROCKET

a monthly paper by and for the employees of Reaction Motors, Inc.

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TOM DALMAN—

Photographer

# RMI's Inquiring Photographer

Question for this month: "What do you like best about RMI?"  
Polled at Lake Denmark.



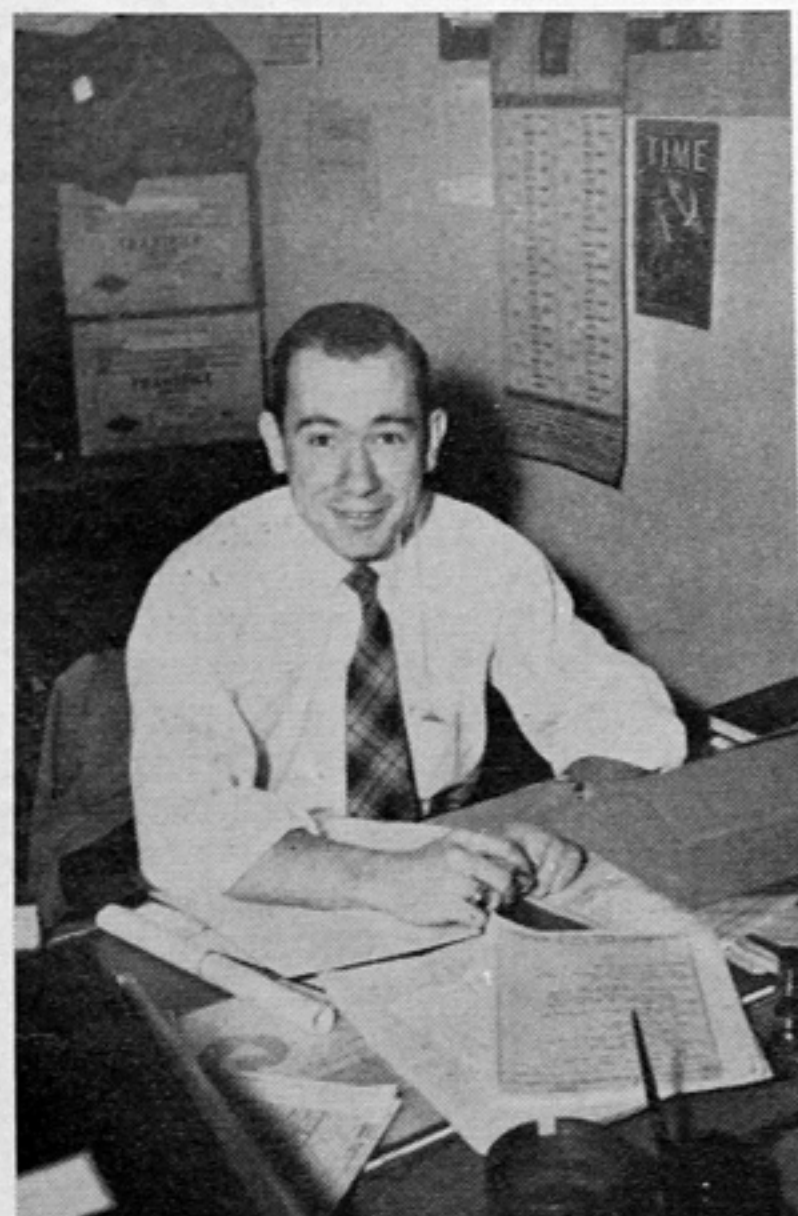
**Marion Cappello**

"Fellow employees."



**Bob Coughlin**

"The Company, even with the forthcoming expansion, will remain small enough to prevent one's getting 'lost in the shuffle,' as in huge corporations. An employee's good (or bad) points are more readily discernible and recognition of same made easier. There are fewer people ahead of you that have to resign, retire, get fired or otherwise become separated in order for you to move up the ladder."



**Tom O'Grady**

"The opportunity RMI affords young engineers to gain experience in the field of rocket motors."



**Nellie Hellmuth**

"I like the friendly atmosphere and the people I work with."



**Harrison Burton**

"I like the type of work we do here and the persons I am associated with."



**Charlotte Porche**

"The friendly atmosphere. The people are easy to get along with and co-operative."

## Hail and Farewell

Hail to Donald Pisciotta, new Editor of The Rocket. Donald was born in Newark, and is still a resident of that city. He graduated from Seton Hall University in 1951 with a Degree in Labor Relations and Personnel Administration. He was President of the Debating Society at Seton Hall. Don has done considerable traveling, journeying to the Sahara Desert and the French Morocco to recruit local and American personnel for construction work for the largest airbases in the world. His hobbies include tropical fish and collecting rare stamps. Don joined Reaction Motors, Inc. in February 1953 as Editor of The Rocket and Personnel Assistant.

lish. Her English MG was a familiar sight in the Rockaway parking lot. Helen was also noted for her fashion-sense. She joined Reaction Motors, Inc. in 1951. After a trip to Florida, she plans to tour Europe.



**Helen Loughlin**

Farewell to Helen Louise Loughlin, former Editor of The Rocket and Personnel Assistant. Helen is a resident of Mountain Lakes, attended St. Elizabeth's High School and is a graduate of Penbroke College, Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, where she received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Eng-

### THE STORK CLUB

#### Engineering & Research

Fred Hammitt — a son Harold

Dwight Smith — a daughter

Holly Virginia

Hank Schnitzer — a son Jeffrey

Brian

#### Finance & Administration

Robert Mulligan—a son Timothy

Gavin

#### Manufacturing Division

Ludlow DeMouth—a son Ludlow

Jr.

#### On Military Leave

Bob Bosworth—a daughter Julia

## Daffynitions

RESEARCH: Looking for something a second time.

HYPOCHONDRIAC: Propellant Analyst.

LIASION ENGINEER: Two way stretch.

TOPPING TURBINE: Oriental Headdress.

LATHE DOG: Old metal turning machine.

RAPSCALLION: Onion from Lou Rapp's garden.

RETORT: Snappy answer.

SPORTS CAR: Car belonging to a sport.

PER DIEM: Latin for "do or die".



**BRIDAL SHOWER** held recently at The Harbor in Parsippany. Left to right: Barbara Nuss, Vi McKenna, Elaine Finn (the honored guests), and Marion Griffin and Pat Bitting at the head table.

## Weir & Grish Still Lead Pin Leagues

As our bowling season swings into the homestretch, Ed Weir of the 6000 Assembly Team of the Friday Night Circle League and Don Grish of the Maintenance Squad of the Monday Night Hiawatha League seem to have individual honors well in hand.

The only individual high not controlled by this pair is individual 3 games in the Circle League. The current leader in this department is George Schoeck, Weir's teammate with a neat 599. Ed's 174 individual average and 266 high score top Schoeck's 167 and McAleer's 166 individual averages as well as McAleer's 244 high single game. Don's fine 622-3 game total, individual 243, and 170 average, top his League. Bill Knuckey, a transfer from the Friday night League remains second in individual standing, sporting a 158. "Irish" Jack McCormick is third with 154.

Rocket Engineers hold a comfortable 11 point lead in the team standings of the Monday Night Hiawatha League with Maintenance and Production Control tied for second place. Production Control is tops in both high single and 3-game team totals.

The Friday Night Team standings continue to maintain a ding-dong pace. For the past six weeks, no more than two points have separated the first four teams. At this writing, Production and 6000 Assembly are tied for first place with Test Operators and Test Engineers trailing by one and two points respectively. Production holds the high team individual game with 6000 Assembly the current 3-game leader.

### RMI to Co-Sponsor Team in Rockaway Little League

Reaction Motors will again co-sponsor, with McWilliams Forge, a team in the Rockaway Little League. This League consists of boys between the ages of 8-12 inclusive.

The League is badly in need of assistance from both men and women. Anyone living in the vicinity of Rockaway who can devote any time whatsoever to this very worthwhile project should contact Nellie Hellmuth, Telephone Operator at Lake Denmark, or Homer Berger in Personnel.

### Daddy Haynes Elected Veep by Dover Industrial Softies

Under the leadership of its new officers (Jack McWilliams of McWilliams Forge, president; George Haynes of Reaction Motors, Inc., vice-president; and Art Bryant of Eagle Pitcher, secretary and treasurer) the Dover Softball League is preparing for a busy season.

Reaction Motors will again be represented in this League and welcome all candidates. Practice sessions will get underway early in April dependent on the weather. Practice sessions will also include yodeling lessons for all prospective coaches.

### Support RMI's sports program



**GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM:** (front row) Laura Barry, Priscilla Durr, Mary Alice Miller, Gail Eva; (back row) Barbara Pfau, Carolyn Solt, Peggy Stiles, Jane Smith, Janice Dickisson, coach Bob Amses. Absent: Joan Reese, Marge Gustin.

## What's Wrong with Our Sports Program?

by Homer Berger

For the first time in my five years with RMI, I must sadly report a decided lack of interest in our sports programs. Unfortunately, this shortcoming is not limited to moral supporters or fans, but has also spread to participants as well. Attendance has been poor in both bowling leagues, furthermore, due to lack of players the last two games in the men's basketball league were forfeited. Spectators at any sports functions are a rarity.

Perhaps our approach or method of conducting these programs is wrong. Larry Heath has come

up with a suggestion that we organize an overall "Sports Club" to include all sports and hobbies. In addition to our present activities hunting, fishing, skiing, archery, horseshoes, photography, etc., could be added. An organization such as this not only would obtain many benefits for its members, but would assist in bringing people together for activities other than work functions.

Company officials are **not** excluded.

Let's have your comments and in the meantime, how's about a little moral or physical support for our existing programs?

### Morris Co. Linksmen Elect Sam Cowin Vice-President

On February 16, 1953 the first meeting of the Morris County Industrial Golf League was held at McGregor's in Dover. Sam Cowin of RMI was named vice-president. Other officers elected were Tom Sheridan of Monroe Calculating, president; and Joe Powers of Sandoz Chemical, secretary and treasurer.

The League will consist of at least eight and possibly ten teams, depending on the availability of golf courses. A committee was appointed to investigate all course possibilities.

All those interested in participating in golf activities, contact either Sam Cowin (Dept. 27) or Homer Berger (Personnel). All are welcome.

### RMI Cagers Trying Hard

Orchids to our undermanned basketball team of Bob Amses, Stan Ihde, Bob Jolly, Pete Cutchis, Bob Frick, Bob Ruben, with occasional help from Bob Mulligan. What happened to the rest of the squad?

Although a little weak in the victory column, no team in the League has tried harder, fellows. Keep it up.

## Lost Inventions

It seems only fair, to most people, that when a person comes up with a successful invention or improvement, he should receive financial rewards in proportion to the brainchild's usefulness. Our present system protects an inventor's interest in his own property—but some people think they detect "monopoly" in patents and want to see all inventions made public property immediately.

But there is more to patents than fairness to the inventor. By providing incentives, patents have contributed greatly to our industrial, scientific progress. To take the other side of it—why is China, rich in brains and resources, a "backward" nation today? One reason is that it never had a patent system. So inventors kept their secrets, profiting only in a small way—and many a Chinese invention died with its creator.

**CALLING ALL GIRLS!** Nearly 19,000,000 women are holding jobs today, making up almost 30 per cent of the labor force. Business and industry have positions waiting for more—particularly if they're young and single, without family responsibilities.

## Girls Try Basketball for the First Time

Reaction Motors, Inc. has, for the first time this year, entered a team in the Dover Girl's Basketball League for the 1952-1953 season. The team is well represented by Priscilla Durr, Captain, Mary Alice Miller, Co-Captain, Joan Reese, Peggy Stiles, Carolyn Solt, Janice Dickisson, Barbara Pfau, Laura Barry, Gail Eva, Jane Smith and Marge Gustin. Unfortunately, Audrey Sherwood and Ann Ostensen were lost to the team early in the season.

The girls, playing together for the first time and pitted against experienced teams, have shown themselves to be good competitors. Bad breaks and inexperience have contributed to a not-too-favorable, winless record.

However, the statistics have not affected the morale of the girls. The "Rockettes" have maintained a high competitive spirit which has reflected in an aggressive, more confident game each time out. The girls are fast becoming contenders in the League and your encouragement at the Dover High School Gym on Thursday nights would be welcomed by them. Let's see them in action and show them we're behind them.

## Gladys Perez Rolls Season's High Game

The last few months of the Girl's Bowling League have seen few changes. The highest game of the season—191 was bowled by our President, Gladys Perez. The second highest game of 185 was bowled by Mary Alice Miller of the Audit Department. Both girls have the highest pins bowled in one night — Gladys with 484 and Mary with 458. Fran Sproha has shown the most improvement since the beginning of the season. She has increased her average by 11 pins in 48 games. This is Fran's first bowling season. Bea Green, of the Payroll Section, must be congratulated for best attendance. She has bowled a total of 60 games to date.

A little excitement was stirred up a few nights ago when two mice were running around the bowling alleys. The girls were reluctant to put on their street shoes before leaving in case they were occupied by mice. No complaints have been received as yet.

The latest averages, as of March 3, 1953, are as follows:

Name	Average	Games Bowled
Marion Bawkin	130	5
Gladys Perez	128	39
Tippy Biting	122	45
Betty Ball	121	45
Mary Alice Miller	116	34

Arrangements will be made later in the month for a date and place for the annual bowling banquet.

**STATION USA:** Research to improve radios and competition in selling has put them within the reach of the pocketbook of almost every American family. Iowa, where the tall corn grows, leads the country in radio ownership, with 99½ per cent of all homes so equipped.

# Over the Coffee-Cups

by Edithy Crandall



Sometimes I think that we take Spring for granted, especially people who live in a big city. It seems to me that people in small towns are more attuned to the seasons and have a greater awareness of the change of seasons. In cities, one often becomes callous to the manifestations of nature. Urbanites behave as if they were ordinary occurrences. Perhaps they are everyday happenings, like the rising and the setting of the sun. But they are not ordinary. Nothing in nature is ever ordinary. God is a great architect and a great painter. B. Herbert said, "Sweet Spring, full of sweet days and roses". Springtime is the season of awakening. So it is with the coming of Spring we think of new dresses, crocus, gay bonnets, and fun. Yes Spring is here; for the young, for the old, for everybody!

### Jottings

Welcome to the following new employees to Reaction Motors, Inc. — Dorothy Sherbuk, Robert Findlay, Sylvia Flartey, Marjorie Becker, Edith Stone, David Mann, Joseph Zidek, George Bretxschneider, June Horning Franki Van Der Wal, Mary Stornello, Donald Pisciotta, Eva Robertson, William Roher, Blanche Spitzer, G. Gainey, Philip Sebold, Michael Komich, Robert Dann, David J. Mann, R. Reinhard, Nancy Wight.

Welcome also to the following returned from Leave of Absence: William Stebbens, George Miller, Sophie Ewton, Fritz Ranft.

Hear ye, Hear ye! All yon aspiring Romeos and Juliets. A RMI Amateur Theatrical Group is being formed. Interested parties please contact Don Pisciotta, Editor of the Rocket.

On February 25th, a farewell dinner was given for John Shesta at O'Hara's Manor House in Sparta. Mr. Shesta was presented with a sterling silver Creamer and Pitcher. He was also presented with a sterling Table Lighter by the Guards.

### Contract Administration and Service Division

Frank Iwanowsky was heard to comment "Fisherman are defined as 'fable-minded' sportsmen!" Frank is now on a business trip out at the West Coast . . . Best Wishes to Betty DiRenze leaving RMI to become Mrs. William Hughson . . . Fred Dexter planning a Floridian vacation in April.

Betty Folkvard, Mary Alice Miller, Roseanne Hourigan, Ellen Kelly, and myself had a "night on the town" recently. Dinner at Leone's Restaurant (famous for its Italian cuisine), tickets to "Guys and Dolls", were just a few of our stops. Asks Betty what happened to her hat!

### Engineering & Research

Patti Thomas enjoyed the sand and sun in Daytona Beach, Florida . . . Rosemary Ryan recently

feted at a party in honor of her forthcoming marriage. The gathering was held at Mrs. Josephine Goodenough's home in Morristown, N. J. Rosemary plans to be married April 11th with a honeymoon to the West Indies to follow . . . Barbara Howell practicing how to "Habla El Espanol" for her coming trip to Mexico. Barb also plans to visit her cousin, Ann Jay, former RMI employee, who is now living in Texas . . . Wedding Bells for Elaine Ricer of T. I. G. Elaine is now Mrs. George Finn . . . Louis Rapp, Chief Chemist enjoyed a leisurely vacation at his new home . . . Murray Strier spent his vacation in New York . . . John Fisher and family touring California for two weeks . . . The Physics Department in a new location, Building #725, Lake Denmark . . . The boys up in Lake Denmark are pitching again, horseshoes that is!

Former employees Bill Buckley and Joan Murray married on March 8th. Bill is in the United States Navy . . . Thom Manolakos was elected to the Riverdale School Board. Also, Bill Wright was elected to the Sparta School Board . . . Joannie Schroeder's moaning the blues. Her fiancé is leaving for the Service March 23rd.

### Finance & Administration

Milly Magill tells us that "A goblet is a small sailor!" . . . Mailgirl Mary Lou Hilbert became the bride of Airman Third Class Bill Bowlby. Elsie Danielson was Mary Lou's Maid of Honor . . . Suzanne Jean Bennett may be seen in the Resort Department of various Department Stores — Sue is clothes-hunting for her forthcoming trip to Bermuda . . . Also Bermuda-bound are Betty Ball and Irene Smith . . . An A & A Baseball Pool Party is being planned. For all particulars, contact John Piccirilli . . . Borrowed from Tele-viewing, The Purchasing Department's newest greeting is "Have a Happy" . . . Anyone desiring to be psychoanalyzed, consult Margaret Greeves, Rockaway Mailroom. Marg is majoring in psychology at Rutgers-Dover Extension . . . Audrey Sherwood headed for Miami Beach and two weeks in the Florida sunshine . . . Gail Eva and Barbara Phau, Mystery Story Bugs! . . . Thespians Marie

McGarry currently may be seen in the Dover Little Theatre presentation of "Life With Father". Marie is playing the part of "Maggie the Maid" . . . Bill Murphy remarked "One doubtful advantage of living in Russia is that you would never lose an election bet!" . . . Former Accounting Department Employee Ruth Heller had a nine pound baby boy, Dennis Keith . . . Nice to see Joan Reese back in Rockaway. Joan is now working in the Security Office with Lee Blide and Fred Cresatella . . . Purchasing Department's John Patrick Stewart is taking his shamrock tie out of the mothballs to wear on March 17th, Saint Patrick's Day!

### Manufacturing Divisions

Congratulations to Don Van Zyle on his temporary appointment of Assistant Plant Engineer during the absence of Mike Gogats. Mr. Gogats is presently assigned to the New Facility Program . . . Madeline Donofrio back from Hollywood Beach, Florida with a terrific tan and a sparkle in her eyes. (Could be the sparkle results from a stop-off to Mississippi to visit a certain young Air Force Man?) . . . Manufacturing spreads the Welcome-Mat for Ed Skorynko, Tom Madden, and Joe Pendergast from Trought Associates helping out in Tool Design . . . The Plant Engineering Department is as proud of their "new baby" as Ludlow DeMouth is of his. By the way, the Plant Engineering's "baby" is a new green pick-up truck.

Vivian Deeds recently visited her husband who is stationed with the Marines at Parris Island, South Carolina . . . Holbrook Smith contends "A woman's chief asset is a man's imagination!" . . . Ray Wolfe has joined the "Toolers Ranks" . . . Greetings to John Townsley, Ken Pierson, and Dan Danielsen . . . Howie Mabey is giving Don Mollo competition with his flashy vests! . . . Arnold Boch and his new Plymouth . . . Peggy Beaumont with her new yellow and black Mercury Monterey . . . A speedy recovery is wished Dick Smith and Pete Ulrich who are recuperating from an operation . . . Gil Jacobs building a new house in Mine Hill. Upon completion, it is offered for sale. The house has five rooms and a bath. For all particulars, call Extension 14, Experimental Shop.

**DIFFERENT TUNE:** There are juke boxes, and juke boxes. There is one in a church in Harrison, N. J., (looks just like the one in the town tavern)—only it plays nothing but hymns, psalms, and short sermons. For free, to anyone who enters the church.



**BOWLBY-HILBERT**

Wedding bells rang recently for Mary Lou Hilbert (RMI mail clerk) and Wallis Bowlby.



**SOSSONG-BENTROVATO**

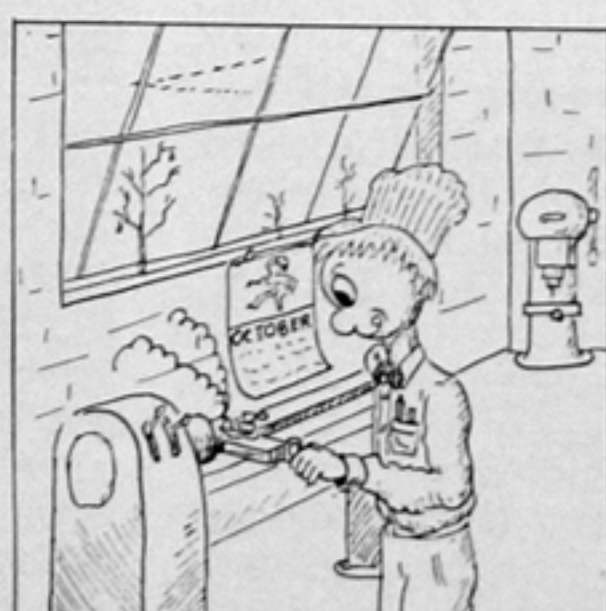
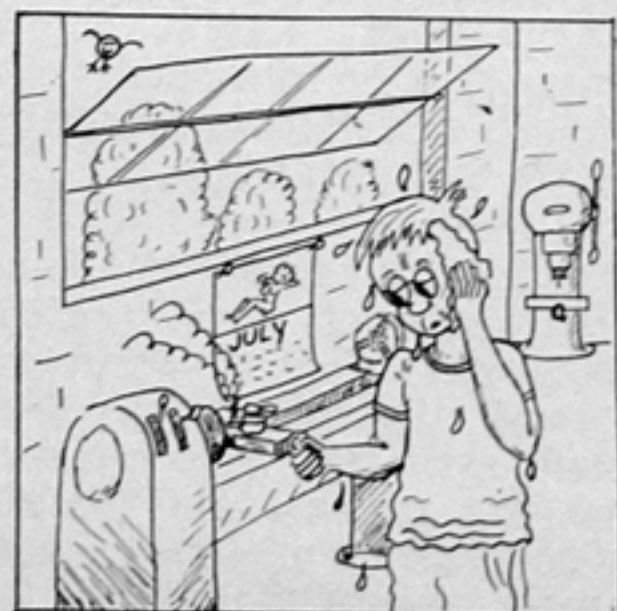
This was an all-RMI wedding: Connie Bentreovato of personnel and Henry Sossong of engineering.

## My Little Town

*I wouldn't trade my little town  
For a dozen Empire States,  
Or a hundred other buildings  
With their stories piled like crates.*

*A little town's just big enough  
For me to feel a part;  
And still it is just small enough  
To hold close to my heart.*

## SPRING FEVER



DAVE HOWARD