

By Jim Wittmeyer

PPrivate First Class Eddie Watkins was late for church this Christmas morning. As he hurried up the hill towards the mess tent, mud began seeping through the canvas sides of his boots. Eddie was a little squinty-eyed because the new boots were pinching his feet.

Topping the hill, he nearly collided with Captain Thomas. The Captain, a spare little man, smiled tightly at Eddie as he adjusted his helmet and flak jacket.

"How's the kids, Eddie?" he asked.

"Oh, they're just fine, Captain," Eddie answered.

"Late for church?"

"Just off watch," Eddie said, moving out.

Sgt. Linkman looked up from his hymn book as Eddie entered the tent. The men were singing "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem."

"Householder slept late," Eddie told the squad leader.

"Don't worry about it," Sgt. Linkman said, handing him a hymn book.

Eddie thought how odd the white vestments looked draped over the preacher's (Chaplain . . . Eddie corrected himself) jungle fatigues. He took a deep breath, looking around at the mud-soaked infantrymen. Pretty smelly, Eddie thought. The open air showers on the hill didn't look too inviting in the December monsoon though, he admitted to himself.

The chaplain was giving the benediction and Eddie bowed his head, until Sgt. Linkman stirred beside him. Platoon Sergeant Smith was squeezing by towards the door.

"Any choppers today, Sarge?" Sgt. Linkman asked. Eddie craned his neck to see the Platoon Sergeant.

"Don't know," Smith answered. "The rear is still clouded up," he added.

Sgt. Linkman and Eddie moved with the crowd to the door.

"How's that R and R, Bob?" the Chaplain asked.

"Oh, just great," Sgt. Linkman said, grinning. "Those Aussies really know how to live."

The chaplain looked the squad leader up and down. "Everything OK since you got back?" he asked.

Linkman laughed. "Yeah, sure Chaplain," he said, pushing through the tent flaps.

"Why so down, Eddie?" the Chaplain asked.

"Oh, I was expecting a package today," Eddie answered.

"Well, it may get in yet."

"Yeah, sure Chaplain," Eddie said, eyeing the overcast sky dubiously.

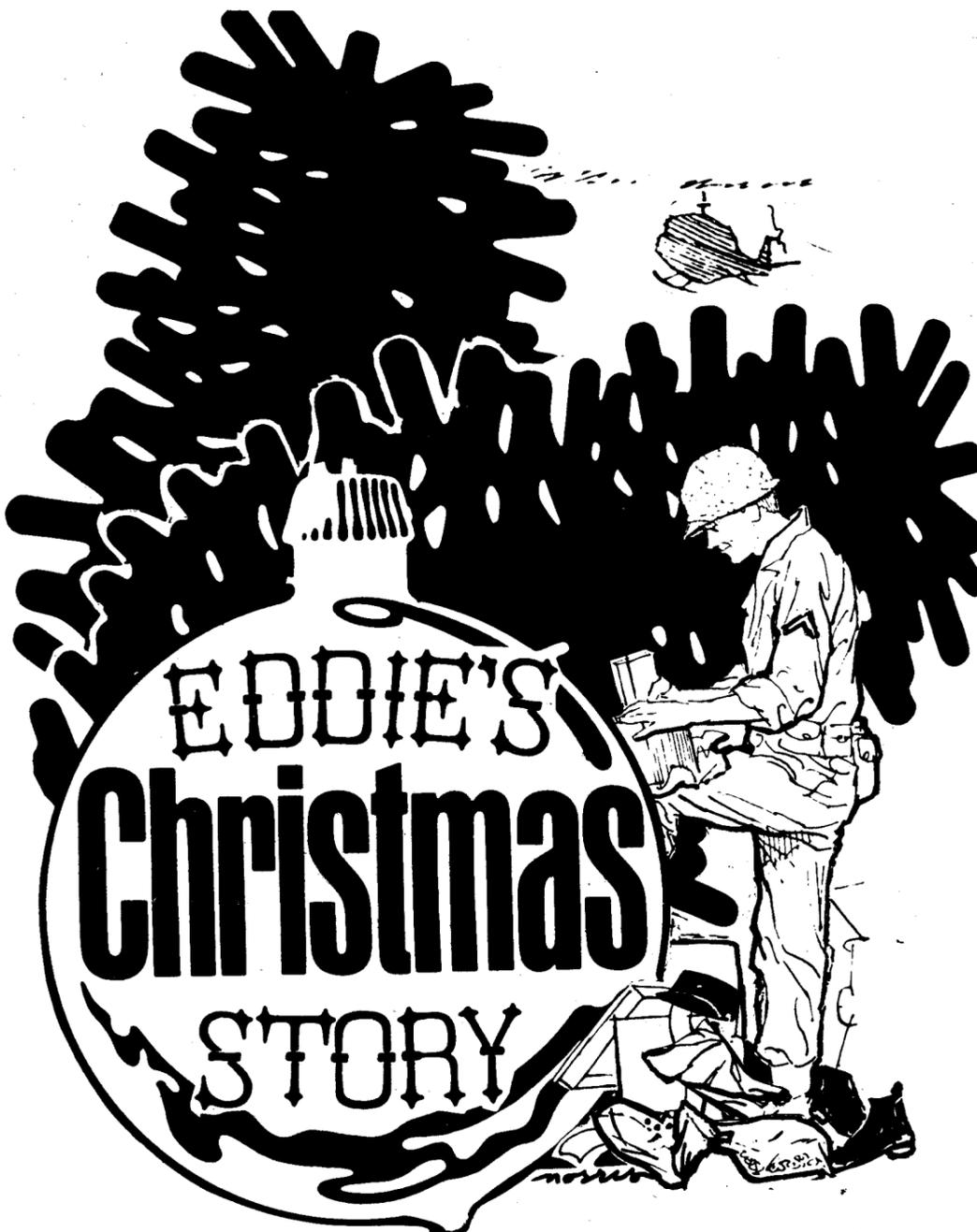
The Chaplain arched an eyebrow. "How's the kids, Eddie?" he said.

"Oh, just fine," Eddie mumbled, still watching the sky. "They're doing just fine."

"You know," the Chaplain said, squeezing Eddie's arm, "you shouldn't let it get to you too much. They're OK. They can make it on their own. They did before you came, you know?"

"Yeah, Chaplain," Eddie said, "sure."

Saddle-up!" Sgt. Linkman said, handing the radio head piece back to Eddie and adjusting his bandoliers (ammunition molder). The six men slowly eased up out of their resting places in the mud. The



squad moved out through the gate. "Which way we headed?"

"They'll know," Eddie said. "They're Catholics."

Corporal Anderson, the pointman, called back. "The mud-ringed thatch huts of the village were beginning to appear around the bend in the road. They reminded Eddie of shredded wheat, only soggy. Several Vietnamese women were visible in and around the hootches; feeding water bulls, carrying water, pitching manure from shallow crockery pots into the rice paddies. Here and there old men sat at doorsteps slowly drawing in and out on long stemmed pipes.

"What will it be today," Corporal Anderson called back from the point, "Chevis Regal or Pink Champaign?"

The men laughed easily. They would settle for Tiger Rum as always. Hopefully the villagers had corked it with plastic stoppers today, the wooden ones always rotted away. Powerful stuff that Tiger Rum, Eddie thought.

In the village, the squad paused at the open air market for some holiday shopping. The village elder, a wrinkled old man with a white goatee, greeted Sgt. Linkman with a "Very Christmas!"

"So you bring it when it gets here."

"Very Christmas to you too," Linkman replied.

"My pocket is empty today," Eddie said, looking down sadly.

Spike giggled, twisting Eddie's pantleg roughly. "Oh Number One," the little boy said slyly, suppressing his excitement, "today is for the gifts!"

Eddie picked up the boy. "Look Spike," he said, "today is for the gifts, like I told you, but you have to be patient, you know? Patience

means that you have to wait for something good to happen."

"You mean like I wait for my poppa?" Spike asked.

"Well, yeah," said Eddie. He didn't like to think about Spike's dad, out there in the mountains somewhere. Looking down at his rifle, he hoped he would never have to meet the little boy's father.

"You come to my house now?" the little boy asked. "My mama makes food," he whispered in the man's ear.

Eddie looked over at Sgt. Linkman. "I don't think so," he said, slipping the boy off his shoulder onto the ground. "I have to go now."

"The gifts," cried the boy, his eyes widening, "Today is for the gifts!"

Eddie, walking away, turned "You have to wait, Spike. Today isn't over yet. Wait for something good, OK?"

The little boy nodded.

"Saddle-up!" Sgt. Linkman said.

The beating rhythm of chopper props drifted slowly in from the overcast horizon as Corporal Larry Peters, company mail clerk, slowly laid out the flouresant nylon 'X' on the hill top. Unfurling his hand flags from a back pocket, he turned to the radioman.

"Everything OK?" he asked, thumbing at the horizon.

The radioman smiled and stuck out his thumb, pointing up.

"Mail Call!" yelled Corporal Peters as he stumbled down into the sandbag bunker. The candle melting slowly onto the roughshod table in the center of the room flickered out as seven men stampeded the clerk.

"Come on man, how about Zinneman man, you got anything for me?" "How about Lietz? Hey anything for Lietz . . . hey Zinneman, man, quit shoving! Hey take it easy Eddie . . . hey Zinneman, man, tell you bro here us guys with time in get it first. Come on Eddie, get to the back of the line, man" . . . "Hey, Lietz, man, don't be telling some brother to be getting to the back of the line. What you think you are man, in Selma or somethin . . . Hey Peters you give this man his mail man . . ."

"Hey Man, All You Guys Shut Up!" Corporal Peters yelled.

"Aw," said PFC Zinneman with precise timing, "all you whiteys stick together." Laughter.

"OK, where's Linkman," the mail clerk asked.

"Here I am," the squad leader answered, coming in the door.

"Well, here's your guys mail and you can have it."

"Thank you much," Linkman said. "OK, let's see . . . Leitz!"

"What'd I tell you!" Zinneman said, grinning.

"Zinneman!" replied Linkman, shoving an envelope at the PFC. "Edmunson, Pastori, Lindeman, Smith," called the squad leader, pitching letters and packages.

"You got anything for me," Eddie asked anxiously.

"Yeah," Sgt. Linkman said,

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MICOM CG Assesses New Year

As we complete another year of solid achievement, I want to thank each one of you for your continued support and cooperation and also to give you my personal assessment of the challenges confronting us as we move into 1975.

MICOM has not escaped the serious funding problems that are hitting all Department of Defense activities, a situation that inflation has made much worse. In our specific case, our funding problems are intensified, in part, by the shortages of electrical power and natural gas and the consequent much larger and unanticipated energy bills that must be paid to operate. I am counting on your continued full cooperation to our conservation program.

The defense-wide dollar crunch makes it certain that we must continue to perform our mission as well as meet new work requirements within the resources, people and dollars, we now have, or, in some cases, with less than we now have. We recently received new civilian manpower guidance, for example, which sets a lower authorized ceiling for June 30, 1975, than the number of individuals now on board. The facts available to me now

lead me to conclude that we can reach the new authorization level by attrition. This, of course, means that we must continue to live with the virtual freeze on new hires put into effect several weeks ago. We may have to shift spaces, and perhaps some personnel within the organization, in the months ahead to get more people in those mission areas which must receive first priority.

Our more serious problem is dollar driven. We are short about three million dollars in operations and maintenance funding, specifically in an account that includes funds for the salaries of about 2,000 of our civilian employees. Here again, the facts before me lead me to conclude that the problem can be managed by putting on controls to save money in such areas as travel, overtime and purchase of new equipment; by deferring some building maintenance and by taking certain actions to shift funds within accounts.

In addition to these management actions which I have approved, each civilian employee can help us resolve this dollar problem. When civilian personnel take annual leave, their salaries for that period are paid from a different account than the one that pays their regular salary. Each day of annual leave, as a result,

achieves a saving in regular time salary. I hope each of you will consider that in planning your leave and take maximum annual leave, not only during the forthcoming holiday period, but through the remaining six months of the fiscal year.

In the past, "maximum annual leave" has sometimes been construed to mean up to 50 percent of the office force on leave. I am setting no limit and am taking this means to advise managers and supervisors to make their own careful assessment on work that must be done, see that it does get done with minimum staffing, and do everything possible to insure that everyone who wants to take annual leave does get to take it.

In summary, although we have serious problems, they are, in my judgement, manageable problems that can be resolved. They should not be a source of undue concern to you during this holiday season.

To each of you and to all members of your family, my heartfelt wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

VINCENT H. ELLIS
Major General, USA
Commanding

'It Just Doesn't Seem Like Christmas'

Will 1974 be remembered as the year that changed Christmas?

An informal Rocket survey revealed that this Christmas represents a first time in a lifetime situation for some younger members of the workforce.

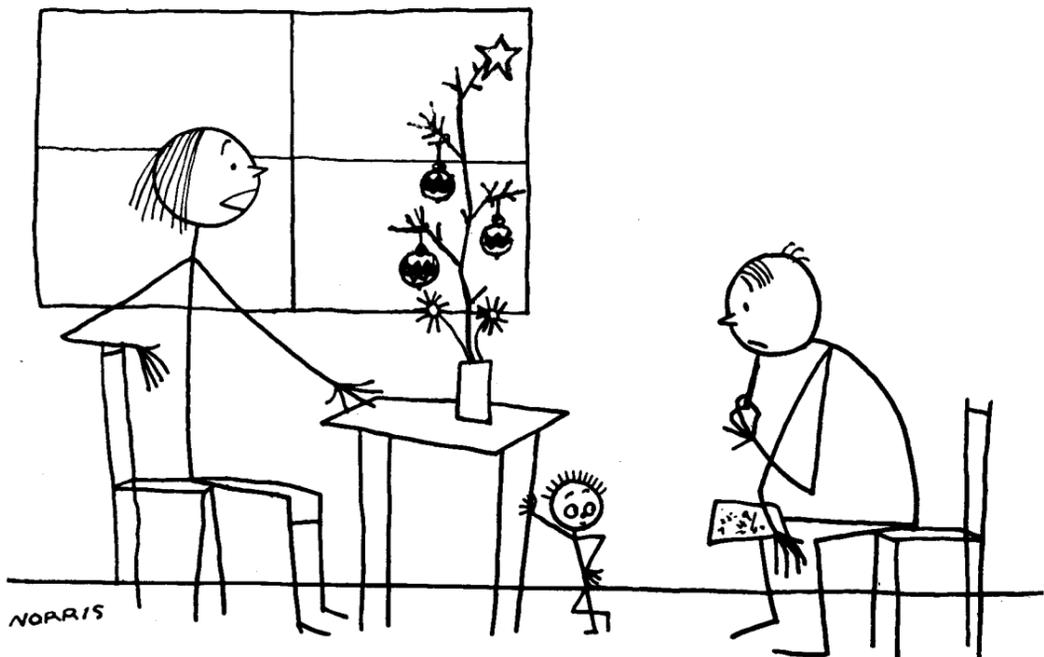
For some older members it recalls Christmases of leaner years.

One MICOM worker summed up the sentiments of a lot of others with the statement, "This year Christmas just doesn't seem like Christmas."

For him, the income that has heretofore been quite adequate is suddenly quite inadequate. He is 30 years old, has a wife and two little kids. "This year we're not drawing names, except for the children," he said, adding: "The family's drawn names for as far back as any of us can remember, but we decided to forego it among the adults this year. We're certainly not poor people — we're just all caught a little short this year."

A private first class finds himself a week before Christmas stone broke, in debt and not one present bought. "I'd like to go home and I'd like to buy my wife something nice, but it doesn't look like I'll be doing either," he said. And unless he does get to go home, there'll be no Christmas tree in his Christmas. "I can't afford one," he said, sounding almost bitter.

Many people who are buying a tree aren't lighting it. Said one woman: "We're trying to do our part to save energy, so we're just leaving our lights packed up in the garage." She allows it won't save much energy, but thinks it's important as a symbolic gesture. "I remember back in World War II you couldn't buy lights and most other decorations, so we decorated the tree with things we made. And that's what we're doing this year," she said.



A MICOM supervisor said his Christmas tree this year is ceramic, about 15 inches high and lit by one small bulb in the base. He too noted the energy crisis symbolism and said, "The kids are all gone this year and, well . . . It's enough for my wife and me."

A nighttime drive through the post housing area reveals a conspicuous lack of Christmas lighting. What little decorating there is going on in office areas here is being done totally without lights. The Command's only lighted Christmas display is the tree at the Chapel.

At least one person, thinks the energy crisis has changed Christmas for the better. "This is the first Christmas since I've been in Huntsville that the street I live on hasn't looked like a honky-tonk strip," he said dryly.

At the PX, sales of lighted decorations are down for the second year in a row, said Exchange Manager Don Emmons, while non-lighted decorations are popular. He said there has been little change in overall customer Christmas buying habits. He noted, however, that "people are faced with the fact that prices are going up every day" and he has detected a trend where people are making on-the-spot the decision whether or not to buy an item, rather than delaying the decision and returning to find that the price of the item has gone up.

The Redstone Post Office reports that their mail volume is not up to what it usually is this time of the season. The volume of letters is down significantly, a spokesman said. The volume of packages is down a little. Stamp sales are too.

"It's beginning to pick up a lot now though," the spokesman continued, "and may just be that the rush is hitting us a little later than usual."

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The Rocket

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Brigade Joins Army In Europe

Washington, D.C.—Firm plans to increase the Army's combat strength in Europe were announced last week by Secretary of the Army Howard H. Callaway.

In March a 3,800 man brigade from Ft. Hood's 2nd Armored Division will deploy to Germany, while strength levels in certain U.S. Army Europe units will be increased. The total combat force, of which the Ft. Hood brigade is part, will be approximately 6,000 men, Callaway said.

Nearly 6,550 support spaces are being withdrawn or converted in order not to increase total Army troop strength in Europe.

Callaway's announcement provided details to plans disclosed earlier to increase Army combat

capability in Europe by sending a brigade there.

Major elements of the armored unit will be a brigade headquarters, support and tank battalions, two mechanized infantry battalions and a field artillery battalion.

The brigade headquarters and support battalion, totaling about 660 soldiers, will go to Europe on a permanent basis. Other brigade units will go on a temporary duty status of not more than six months. Dependents will not accompany soldiers on TDY.

TDY units will rotate between bases in the U.S. and Europe on a schedule that maintains a brigade in Europe under command of the brigade headquarters stationed there permanently.

On Saving Time At The Pharmacy

In an effort to reduce the waiting time at the Army Hospital Pharmacy, several suggestions have been offered. First Lieutenant Terrence Rumore, assistant administrative officer urges all customers to follow these tips.

Insurance of full name and correct address on the front top portion of prescription slips will avoid delays caused by missing or erroneous information.

Hours of operation at the pharmacy are from 8 a.m.-6 p.m., on weekdays. The pharmacy is closed on all weekends and holidays. Whenever possible, customers

should avoid peak hours between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The lunch hour is especially heavy.

The lieutenant added that the first day after a holiday is particularly busy. He also suggested that people leave their prescriptions at the pharmacy and pick them up at a later time.

Occasionally, a prescribed drug may not be stocked by the pharmacy. In these cases, partial reimbursement may be obtained through CHAMPUS for civilian purchases. For further information contact the CHAMPUS advisor at the hospital.

Tri-Service Team Chief

A young lady who is designated as a mathematics statistician at the Army Missile Command is one of the first women to head a tri-service team sent to review management and control systems at a major weapon contractor's plant.

Ola C. Berry, a member of the Cost and Economics Information Systems Branch of the MICOM Procurement and Production Directorate, was appointed chief of a 12 man, two woman review team sent recently to Hughes Aircraft Company, Culver City, Calif. The team had to determine the acceptability of management practices there in accordance with basic management principles called Cost Schedule Control Systems Criteria.

The team's performance under her guidance resulted in Hughes Aircraft receiving a letter of acceptance—in other words, the company met all requirements of criteria used to evaluate their management of weapons programs for the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Mrs. Berry had served on review teams previously, but this was her



OLA BERRY

first experience as team chief.

She came to Redstone in 1967 following her graduation from Stillman College, and received her training under the MICOM intern program. She is originally from Georgiana, Ala.

Senate Okays Post Hospital

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Senate passed the 1975 military construction appropriation bill Monday which includes \$10.3 million to build a 40-bed hospital at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.

Earlier the House of Representatives had passed similar legislation appropriating the identical sum for the new Redstone hospital. The three-story structure is to be built on a hill south of Goss Road, a site near the present hospital.

Construction will probably begin in the spring and take about two years to complete.

Over \$1 Million Stays In Area

Goods and services supporting MICOM missions brought more than \$800,000 worth of business for Huntsville firms, and another \$370,000 in awards to companies in nearby areas during the past month.

Contracts for weapon systems and related equipment totaled \$18,456,650 during the same period and went to companies around the country.

Items covered by the smaller awards include laboratory and office equipment and supplies, tuition to nearby colleges and universities, food, and laundry and cleaning services.

The MICOM Procurement and Production Directorate executes the contracts and awards.

BMDSCOM

Mission Not Changed Despite New Cutback

The Army Ballistic Missile Defense Systems Command (BMDSCOM) announced on December 12 that its authorized manning level would be reduced effective May 23, 1975, by 36 military and 340 civilian spaces.

As of December 1, BMDSCOM had 186 vacant civilian positions making 154 the number of individuals who must leave the work force by transfer, retirement or termination.

The command said it had no immediate estimate of how many retirements it could expect in the six months remaining before the

effective date of the reduction.

BMDSCOM will continue its mission of research, development and support of ballistic missile defense systems with an authorized strength of 84 military and 676 after making the reduction. The commands will not be affected by the BMDSCOM cut.

Civilian employees of the command are in a competitive area apart from other Army agencies in the Huntsville area.

Employees of the command were told last week that initial RIF notices will be issued March 10, 1975.

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Holidays



MARY LEO, Broker

Redstone Annex Humming

by William Hayes

Chris Kringle recently made a deal with the Army.

Santa's elves wouldn't repair missile systems if soldiers at the Missile and Munitions Center and School wouldn't manufacture toys.

But the oral contract includes a "clause" that allows soldiers to repair toys for distribution to good little boys and girls who would otherwise be missed in the Christmas Eve rush.

To help St. Nick, Sergeant Major William Napier organized "Operation Santa Claus" to collect toys, games, dolls, bikes, trikes, sporting equipment and other surprises for Yuletide distribution.

As the inventory began to grow, it became evident that a toy shop was needed to recondition many of the items.

With all helpers committed to the North Pole plant, Santa Claus declared an elfpower crisis and asked Napier for help. Napier nabbed a little floor space and found a volunteer—Staff Sergeant Gordon C. Loggins—to serve as production manager for the North Pole's Redstone Annex.

Some soldiers who had enlisted to study radars and computers at MMCS soon volunteered to work on toy tractors and bicycles. A number of wives gave dolls beauty salon treatments and wardrobes.

Within weeks, storage space in the secret toy cache began to fill with toys of all descriptions. Plans for distribution to needy youngsters were coordinated through chaplains at Redstone.

Napier, Loggins and others devised ways to obtain tools, parts and supplies for the project at no cost to the Army.

Wives clubs supplied cash donations for local purchases.

Workshop volunteers worked with hand tools, wire brushes, steel wool and spray paint—always without technical manuals to guide

them in their labors.

"The bikes take a lot of time—maybe four or five hours for an overhaul," said Loggins. Trikes are easier, mainly because they have fewer moving parts, he said.

As he walked through the "shipping department," Loggins picked up a toy dump truck and tested its mechanisms. "We have

several hundred items ready to go now, and we're keeping up with the flow as it comes in," he mused.

Santa Claus, who was making a list and checking it twice last week, was unavailable for comment on delivery. But Redstone coordinators said they would be ready for "Phase II" of the operation by Dec. 24.



READY TO GO—Freshly coiffed and clad, these dolls line a shelf after a beauty treatment by workers for Operation Santa Claus. (U.S. Army photo)

Updating Equipment Technique

The Missile Command Maintenance Directorate is using a new management technique in coordinating modifications for the Lance Missile System with the various commodity commands of the Army Materiel Command.

Equipment updating with minimum disruption to tactical units is the goal of the program.

The new modification approach

is unique in that all hardware changes, regardless of commodity command responsibility, are combined into blocks of Modification Work Orders (MWO's) and applied by an integrated installation team representing the various technical skills of participating commands.

Several modifications have been accomplished under the concept, the largest and most recent being completed in Europe late in November. Two other modifications are currently being developed.

The program began with a modification charter from the Lance Project Manager to the Director of Maintenance providing for a Lance Modification Control Center (MCC) which was established in the Land Combat Maintenance Engineering Division.

The MCC is the coordination point for participating commodity commands and its primary functions are tracking hardware figuration and developing an integrated modification plan for each using major command on a block by block basis.

Although a single control center serves all commands, basic engineering, budgeting and MWO kit procurement responsibilities remain with commodity commands managing the end items of the weapon system.

Teams of contractors and Aniston Army Depot personnel was initially employed for field application under the direct control of the MCC but development of greater depot capability reduced contractor participation, resulting in installation cost savings.

The MCC furnishes the completed block plan for field implementation to the Depot Maintenance Division which directs the commodity integrated team in the field and feeds installation reports directly to the MCC for maintenance of system configuration records.

The commodity integrated MWO blocking concept achieves its goal of minimum disruption by distributing all kits in combined shipments and using one team to service all equipment within the battalion during a period agreed to by the tactical commander.

Do The Driving Yourself—

Are you feeling those old transfer blues again? Well, the Army has plans to ease the burden of relocating by means of a new do-it-yourself moving program set to be tested around the first of the year.

Installations participating in the pilot program are Lexington Blue-Grass Army Depot, Ky.; Fort Rucker, Ala.; Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; Fort Gordon, Ga.; Fort Eustis, Va.; and Fort Bragg, N.C.

The voluntary concept offers a soldier the option of driving the truck transporting his household goods to his new destination. Members of the immediate family may ride in the truck or drive the family car. If the car is towed, however, the soldier must pay the cost of a towbar and the installation.

An interested soldier should first contact the transportation officer on post, who, with information as to when, where and how much the

soldier intends to move, will decide upon the size of vehicle needed.

A contractor, in addition, will estimate the mileage, figure the best route and provide the soldier with a cash allowance to cover truck fuel and servicing en route.

With packing materials provided, the soldier is ready to begin his move and may even hire help as long as that help is not a relative.

During the trip all receipts should be kept in case the expenses amount to more than the initial allowance. Minor route deviations (10 percent or 50 miles) can also be made without penalty.

Upon arrival at the new location, temporary storage can be arranged if quarters are not ready. Again, the contact is the transportation officer. After returning the truck, the move is over, unless there is non-negligent damage, whereby a claim should be filed.

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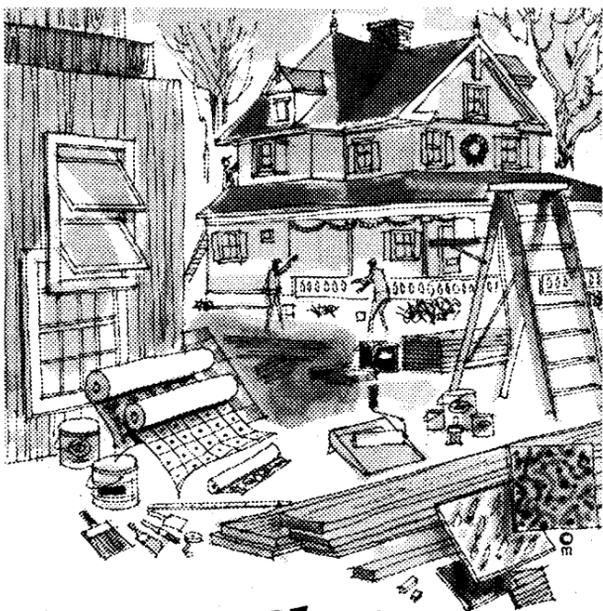
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"It was one rough day. I don't want another like it."

The words were spoken by Sergeant Robert W. Byrne, a Military Police Patrolman as he told his part in saving the life of 5-year-old Michael Barszcz.

Coincidentally, Byrne was in the neighborhood of Michael's home at 1219 B Nike St. when he first saw the boy. He was limp in his mother's arms as she had started for help. She laid him in the grass, kneeling near him.

"When I got to him he was not breathing," said Byrne. "I found he had no pulse either."

"At first," said Mrs. Patricia Barszcz, "I thought that Michael was just unconscious from being hit with a softball. I didn't realize that his condition was so serious."

"Normally we radio for an ambulance," said Byrne, "but I realized we had to get him to the hospital fast, and I told Patricia that as I began to massage Michael's chest. He responded some, so we loaded him into my patrol car and headed for the hospital. The traffic cleared well for my lights and siren which made driving easier."

"I kept trying to help Patricia with Michael. His heart would not keep beating, I was afraid she might go to pieces, so I kept telling her what to do and trying to help. It was a terrible experience for her, but she kept working."

"At the hospital I ran into the lobby and yelled. I got quick attention. Fortune was with us again—several doctors were right there. They continued the chest massage, and put him on a respirator."

As soon as possible the boy was sent to Birmingham where his condition was stabilized.

"I stayed with him a few days," said his father SFC Barszcz. "He was there from Thanksgiving to the following Wednesday."

"We were afraid that Michael would have brain damage from his heart being stopped," said Patricia.

Captain Carl R. Fraley, Jr., Operations Officer, said that letters of commendation are being presented to Byrne.



BETTER TIMES—Michael Barszcz examines the radio of an MP patrol

"Doctor Eisenfeld has sent me a letter which credits Byrne with saving Michael's life, the Captain said.

Eisenfeld is Captain Leonard Eisenfeld, a pediatrician at the U.S. Army hospital.

Reflecting on his actions, Byrne said, "I did what common sense told me to. I never had any first aid courses which told me how to keep a heart going. I thank the good Lord that I held my head and kept cool so I could get the job done. I was just at the right place at the right time and everything we did turned out right."

AUSA Program New And Old

Eighteen new or reaffirmed resolutions were adopted by the Association of the United States Army at the annual fall AUSA meeting in Washington.

The introduction to the resolutions states, "The obligation of AUSA is to effectively bring the facts relating to . . . unprecedented problems to the American people in order to promote awareness, concern and productive action." The resolutions concerned these topics:

Strength of the Army, the volunteer Army; research, development and modernization; forward deployment, strategic mobility, presidential induction authority, amnesty, military health care, U. S. missing in action.

Also, a single component of officer corps, military compensation, reserve component incentives, support of the ROTC, employer support of Army National Guard and Reserve, government housing, dependent education, G. I. Bill education benefits, loss of training areas.

Hoosier Student Best

Private Roger A. Duffy, 21-year old student at the Missile and Munitions Center and School, has been named Redstone's Post Soldier of the Month.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Duffy of Evansville, Ind., He is enrolled in the Improved Hawk missile fire control repair course.

Duffy and other soldiers were judged on military bearing, conduct, knowledge of current affairs, military subjects and personal achievements. A panel of senior officers and NCO's, makes the final selection.

Along with post-wide recognition, Duffy earned a plaque and citation from the Association of the U. S. Army, two U. S. Savings Bonds, 120 days exemption from formations and extra duty, and a "night on the town" sponsored by the Huntsville Madison County Chamber of Commerce.

Duffy is a 1971 graduate of North High School, Evansville, and worked as a building maintenance mechanic at Evansville's Welborn Hospital before entering the Army in April of this year.

He enlisted for Redstone under the guaranteed enlistment program's Station of Choice option.

"I've really enjoyed my duty here so far," he said.

After basic training at Ft. Knox, Ky., Duffy took his basic electronics training at Ft. Jackson, S. C. Upon finishing that



ROGER DUFFY

course, he was assigned to study portions of the Improved HAWK air defense missile system.

Before he graduates, he will have studied missile electronics, advanced circuits and transistor application. He'll learn to operate the system's central computer. Upon graduation, Duffy will be able to inspect, test and repair electronic systems of the missile's fire control unit.

THE ROCKET — DECEMBER 18, 1974 Page 5

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'Keeping My Options Open'

Local President Closes Federal Career

The young sailor expected to be killed, so in the 30 minutes remaining before he took his seat in a torpedo bomber for a night attack on two enemy carriers, he hastily wrote a farewell letter to his father.

A great many young naval aviators wrote similar letters on board the U.S.S. Enterprise the afternoon of December 7, 1941.

George M. Burchfield, president of Local 1858, American Federation of Government Employees, chuckled the other afternoon in his arsenal office as he recalled a federal career spanning 35 years and the thoughts that ran through his head that hectic day long ago when America went to war.

The chuckles continued as he told of the mission that followed. He and his pilot never did locate the carriers they went out to attack that night nor did any of the other Enterprise planes. The Japanese carriers that had launched the air strikes that wiped out most of the American Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor that morning were far to the north of Hawaii. The Enterprise was well to the south returning from a trip to Wake Island.

What Burchfield and his pilot did discover after their Douglas TBD lumbered into the dark sky was that the third man in the plane's crew, the rear gunner, had been left behind.

The 21-year-old enlisted torpedoman/bombardier, spent part of his first combat mission trying very hard to squeeze himself under the cockpit canopy and get back to the rear seat to man the gun. The task, difficult in ideal circumstances, was made much more worse by the parachute he wore strapped to his back and was not about to take off.

Rough Mission

He recalled nothing humorous about another mission six months later. When American carrier planes sank several Japanese carriers and turned the tide of the Pacific War, he flew in one of six Enterprise torpedo planes that came back, six of 14 launched. A sister squadron from the



George Burchfield

carrier Hornet lost every plane.

Burchfield, who retired from the Navy as a warrant officer in 1958 after 21 years service, will call it a career at the end of this month after adding an additional 14 years service as an Army civilian employee.

He plans, however, to complete his term as president of the fed-

eral employee union local which represents civilian employees in eight Army and Defense activities, saying: "We've got a little more negotiating to do to get what is best for the members."

His union term expires in April and he could, as a retired federal employee, seek re-election. He brushes aside queries about future union activities by reply-

ing "I'm keeping my options open."

He talks with quiet pride about some of his accomplishments as an Army civilian employee, in particular his role as MICOM coordinator for the 2.75 inch rocket and aircraft launchers during the mid-60's. The armed helicopter came of age in Vietnam, in large measure due to the effectiveness of the 2.75 rocket.

Burchfield, who had joined the Army Ballistic Missile Agency as an equipment specialist in 1961, by then was a logistics specialist in MICOM's Aircraft Weaponization Office. An early advocate of tri-service management of the 2.75 rocket program that later became reality, he spent 60 days in Vietnam in late 1968 as a member of a team introducing new warheads for the rocket to Army combat aircrews throughout the country.

Burchfield's union involvement began after he transferred to the Safeguard System Command, now BMDSCOM, in 1969. Then, he recalls, "I didn't even know what the AFGE was." He learned fast, later served as the union's vice president for Safeguard, led the successful organizing drives which culminated in elections and the creation of two new bargaining units, one still the only one composed of professional employees among local Army agencies.

Lot of Guts

Lacking the experience he felt necessary, he decided against seeking the presidency in 1971, came back two years later with a well organized campaign and a full slate of officers and won the post he defines as having two essential requirements: "some intelligence and a lot of guts."

The ensuing 20 months, he describes as a period of "getting our house in order." Burchfield took over a local with a divided membership and a depleted treasury, a situation complicated by the spin off of a new local representing NASA employees which further depleted the parent Local 1858 membership and coffers.

His first self-defined task, "asserting leadership," behind him, Burchfield and his officers worked out the local's financial difficulties, solved in part by a severe austerity program set up by Burchfield and his executive committee.

A chart on his office wall records what he feels best about. Twenty months ago all eight of the agreements that constituted the local's formal relationship with the agencies where it has recognition had either expired or were about to. Now six have been completed, and an agreement covering the local's largest unit, MICOM non professionals, is in the final stages of negotiation.

The reason for the obvious upturn Burchfield says, matter of factly, include: "The independence of this local, the unity of the membership and their officers, and an approach to all problems that emphasize logic and reason. When it comes time to negotiate we sit down, talk and negotiate like gentlemen."

Thinking about that statement momentarily, the not yet mellowed labor leader, adds:

"When I negotiate, I don't trade. I ask what I believe is reasonable. If someone can prove to me that I'm unreasonable, I'll back off . . ."

He doesn't have to say the rest, which briefly is that in 35 years of widely varied federal service, he has very seldom backed off.

Three To Four...

Leads In Accidents

The Missile and Munitions Center and School "rush hour" from 3 to 4 p.m. is apparently the most dangerous hour to be on Huntsville's streets.

That doesn't mean MMCS drivers cause accidents to peak at that time—but if they're on the road, they're exposed to potential danger, according to a school

safety official.

William Koontz, safety officer for MMCS, cautioned soldiers and employees to exercise special caution on their way home.

"A review of Huntsville Police accident reports indicates the hour between 3 and 4 p.m. each day has the greatest number of accidents in the city when compared with other one-hour periods," said Koontz. "Reports through the year indicate this hour leads all others."

By mid-November, 505 reported accidents occurred during that hour. That figure represents about ten per cent of the total number of accidents at all hours for the year.

Scouts Decorate Their Tree

For the first time in five years a little northern pine tree on post will be decorated for the Christmas holidays. The tree was planted near the Rocket Nursery by Redstone girl scouts.

The scouts will have their tree decorating and caroling party on Dec. 22nd, from 2-4 p.m., adjacent to the nursery. Each troop has made decorations that are ecologically oriented.

All scouts, parents and interested persons are invited to join in the festivities.

Missile School Christmas Party

A Christmas party for students at the Missile and Munitions Center and School is scheduled for 10:30 this morning at the Post Recreation Center.

Col. Errol E. Hayes Jr., MMCS Commandant, is hosting the affair, which will include games, gifts and refreshments.

The 55th Army Band will perform.

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Christmas At Redstone Means Helping Others

(Editor's note: A couple of weeks ago the Rocket asked its readers to report plans of organizations for charity giving during the Christmas season. As in the past, response was light. Rocket staffers know there are many who do have plans to lend a helping hand to mankind less fortunate than themselves. Perhaps many feel Christmas giving is personal and that satisfaction comes from the doing, not publicity which may result from it. We respect the right to privacy and have not actively pursued stories on Christmas projects. Following are two accounts which were turned in. Elsewhere in our Christmas edition is a feature on a group of officers' wives whose efforts will gladden the hearts of some children.)

Harris Home

Late Friday afternoon a group of Huntsville youngsters watched in the twilight for the dark bus that was coming to take them away.

Some were laughing and exuberant, others quiet and withdrawn as the big Army bus rumbled up, the door swung open and

Redstone MPs stepped aside to let them board.

As the bus turned on to Oakwood Road and headed into the sunset, they knew they were going to Redstone Arsenal. They didn't know they were going to get their first look at a jail cell.

For these 40 youngsters, getting locked up was probably the most popular part of the play provided them by the 291st MP Company here. For a Christmas project this year the MPs are feteing the youngsters at the Harris Home for Children.

Friday the MPs held an all-you-can-eat supper for them at the dining hall here, followed by a party and visit with Santa Claus (a private first class) in the MP training room.

They heard the Christmas story recounted by Chaplain (major) Clyde J. Wood, while an ensemble from the 55th Army Band furnished music.

Each child selected a stocking stuffed with Christmas things. Hidden in three stockings were little Christmas trees which could be traded for a surprise present.

Refreshments and treats were provided by MP wives.

The MPs plan to give a gift to

each Harris Home child Christmas day, SP4 Rodney Biddix said. Biddix, who is heading up MP Christmas charity activities, said the MPs would like to hear from anyone having clothes or toys to give away.

Chi-Ho Mansion

Chi-Ho Mansion, a home for non-delinquent children in Madison County, will find its financial footing a little sounder as the result of Redstone efforts to support it for Christmas.

Chi-Ho, licensed by the State of Alabama, is a home for children referred to it by Family Court and the State Department of Pensions and Security. It keeps children who have been abandoned, abused or neglected from having to go to a

detention home for criminals until permanent arrangements can be worked out for them.

The organization is dependent on concerned citizens for its support.

Believing these children to be a forgotten segment of society, personnel of the Ground Equipment and Materials Directorate of the Army Missile Research, Development and Engineering Laboratory are making financial contributions to Chi-Ho instead of selecting a needy family or families to assist during the holidays.

Chi-Ho has already received a helping hand from Redstone.

A group of young men and women who held car washes, bake sales and benefit dances for the last month presented a check for \$1,000 to the Chi-Ho home Monday.

The fund-raisers, all soldiers at

the Missile and Munitions Center and School, took on the project themselves. Army regulations related to soliciting for charitable causes are stringent to prevent possible abuses, and their fund-raising efforts were in no way connected with DA.

So the men and women worked after duty hours and used no government resources to help them in their efforts.

"All of us live here in Huntsville, though it may be only for a month or two as we go through school here," said Sergeant Doreen Bradley, organizer of the drive.

Volunteers who helped in the drive privately agreed that Chi-Ho provided a valuable social service to the city of Huntsville.

A number of other soldiers were instrumental in the effort, Sergeant Bradley said.



CHAPEL FUND—Mrs. Herbert Wagenheim, left, Redstone Officers Wives Club welfare chairman, gives Chaplain Charles Maness a \$250 check from the club for the post chapel fund. Mrs. Frank Ragano, club president, is on the right. The check was presented during a Wives Club luncheon last Tuesday. The club has also donated \$500 to the Army Distaff Foundation and \$150 to the Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airman's Club.

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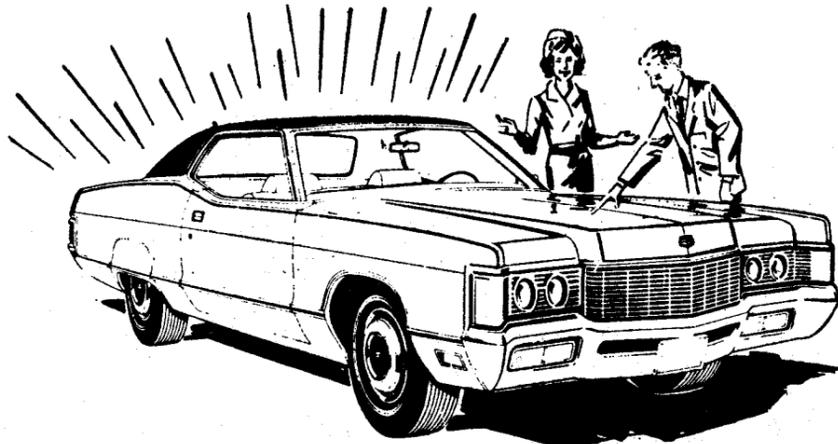
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Upward Mobility

Training Boosts Potential

Several MICOM organizations are giving an extra boost to their employees enrolled in the Upward Mobility Program through addition of special training courses in their respective areas.

Training plans were developed for individuals in the program so they could acquire and learn new skills or knowledge in order to qualify or become more competitive for better jobs in the future as vacancies occur.

Among the additional training opportunities offered are:

Material Management Directorate developed and conducted a two-and-one-half day course in basic supply management with 26 program participants attending.

A chemistry lab course for engineering aides and technicians is in progress in the Product Assurance Directorate. Three upward mobility participants are attending two to three hour lab sessions once a week for 16 weeks.

Maintenance Directorate is providing a Logistics Fundamentals training course this week for 35 persons, and has established on-the-job training programs for several of the participants.

Four upward mobility participants in the Procurement and Production Directorate were sent to a three-day procurement course in Washington, D. C.

The Audio-Visual Division is establishing an on-the-job training program for participants who have career goals in the photography or illustration fields.

According to Jim McCright of the MICOM Civilian Personnel Division, supervisors have taken many other actions to help persons in their areas as reflected by a noticeable increase in enrollment in college, government sponsored and correspondence courses.

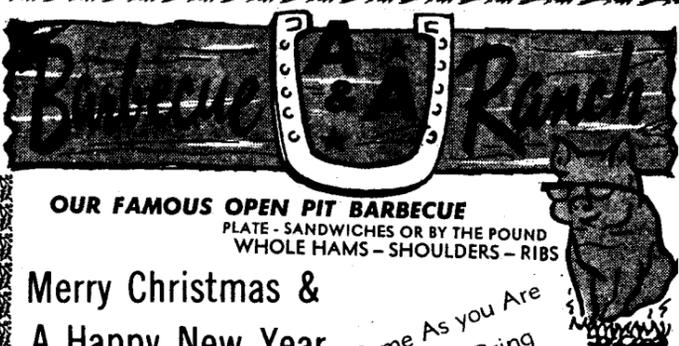
At present 180 MICOM employees are enrolled in the Upward Mobility Program. Two hundred and eighteen were originally selected, but 17 have applied for vacancies through the merit promotion program and have been placed in career positions, 12 withdrew, and nine persons were lost through transfers and resignations.

Action is being initiated to re-open the Upward Mobility Program. It is anticipated the program will re-open early in 1975.

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There was a time when people like C. R. Rhinehart, Isola Baites and Margaret Pruitt who work in the Purchasing and Contracting (P&C) branch of MICOM's Procurement and Production Directorate came to work and expected to clear their desks by the end of each day.

When it was business as usual nine months or perhaps as long as a year and half ago they were arranging to buy the goods and services required by MICOM organizations, without undue delays. The situation has changed. Instead of handling the actions routinely, all kinds of problems have arisen.

"Dollar-wise, we're experiencing the same things people are in industry and in the economy in general," Major Manuel Garcia, said. Until recently, he was the deputy in the Purchasing and Contracting branch.

"Deliveries are slow for various reasons. The supplier can't get the materials. Or he finds that something he contracted to sell us for \$10, has risen to \$15 and he is reluctant to furnish at the agreed price when he has customers willing to pay the increased amount.

"There are shortages of critical materials in some cases. In such precious metals as gold where the price changes rapidly, suppliers are reluctant to quote a figure when the price could be much higher the next day. Precious metals aren't the only items on which contractors are reluctant to bid.

"They'd like for us to give them a contract left open for price at the time of delivery. The government doesn't do business that way. We normally have to have a firm price offer before we can make an award.

"It's requiring a lot more effort to find enough firms to compete for our business."

Problems don't end there for the contract specialists who have to arrange to buy goods and services in support of the day-to-day Arsenal missions, under constantly changing market conditions.

A contractor, for instance, who has contracted for something at \$20 and finds he can't sell it for less than \$25 later, because of increased costs is reluctant to deliver.

Although most Arsenal customers are cooperative and understanding when there are

delays, shortages and cancellations, all these circumstances add to the specialists' workloads.

Sometimes P&C personnel call the manufacturer to find out to whom material has been shipped, and when. Buying is done from the manufacturer when possible. However, at times they must deal directly with the distributors or dealers.

Often it is found that firms are operating on tight budgets and need their money as soon as possible. Or, a firm will use a contract to go to a bank and borrow money. When that happens it requires action on the part of the contract specialists.

At times arrangements can be made for partial payment when part of the work contracted for has been completed or the goods delivered.

In these instances cooperation of the Commercial Accounts Section of Finance and Accounting is required. This causes additional work for them.

People at P&C are experienced old timers at the buying business at Redstone, but find that current market conditions are giving them problems they never faced before.



CREATIVE TOUCH—Want something pretty and different? Kay Neal gathered some cattails, reeds, and a variety of weeds . . . sprayed them with different colors of paint and then put them in an old milk can. Kay, a secretary with the Ballistic Missile Defense Systems Command, likes creative things. Her flowers growing on shelves and climbing to the ceiling create a unique divider between her dining and living room. Home can be prettier if you have a touch for the unique.

Former Commandant Briefed

Major General Erwin M. Graham, commander of the Army's Logistics Center at Ft. Lee, Va., and twice in the past a commandant of the Missile and Munitions Center and School here, completed two days of briefings at MMCS recently.

From March to June of 1952,

Graham, then a major, served as first commandant of the provisional Ordnance Guided Missile School.

As a colonel, he returned to command the facility from July 1965 to August 1967.

During his working visit, General Graham and key MMCS

officials discussed more than a dozen topics related to the school's mission.

"The Christmas Story"



The Nativity Scenes will be shown again this Christmas season at the Huntsville Memory Gardens. To help conserve energy, the Nativity Scenes will be lighted only until 12 midnight now through the Christmas season.

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Races Up In Air At Holiday Break

By Dave Cowan

It was show-off time for several teams, a time of disappointment and confusion for others, but when last week's action ended in the chaotic RSA Basketball League and teams took a Christmas recess, neither division had resolved who would be No. 1.

In fact, even the strongest contenders for the top spot had their troubles as mid-season approached.

The week began with upsets. The 7th students knocked off MICOM



and then lost a thriller to the 4th SC two days later, while the 291st MPs beat the 6th students. All five teams had been undefeated.

On the last day before the holidays, the 6th SC and the MPs presented SSG and Company C with unwanted gifts as both teams hit the magical 100 mark in back-to-back wins. Willie Rice set an individual scoring record for the cops.

Monday

In Monday's action, the 7th SC upset MICOM, 42-37; 8th SC edged

Rockets Drop Pair

Friday All-Fouled Up

By DAVE COWAN

FT. CAMPBELL, Ky.—The Fort Campbell Eagles—exhibiting their 101st Airborne strength—muscle out a 103-72 win over the Redstone Rockets in a foul-infested basketball game at Dreyer Hall here Friday night.

A total of 52 fouls—three technicals against the Rockets—were called by the officials as tempers flared on both sides throughout the tension-packed game.

"It's the second time we've got a bum deal on officiating here," said Rocket coach Ralph Santaluz.

"It's not fair. The referees weren't worth a damn," grumbled the coach.

Redstone lost to the Eagles, 97-80, in November here after both clubs played to a 50-50 deadlock at halftime. But numerous conspicuous calls went unnoticed in the second half of that game and an old-fashioned donnybrook developed toward the end.

Frank Bernacet led the Campbell squad with 16 points as the Eagles built up a 56-32 halftime lead and went on to outshoot the Rockets, 46-40, in the second half for the win.

Joseph Baker and Larry Varndoe grabbed 14 apiece. Michael Berg rounded out the Eagle's double-scoring with 12.

For Redstone, Fred Morgan sank 19 while Richard Mitchell and Willie Rice nabbed 16 and 15 respectively.

Company A, 41-37; and the Marines defeated 95th Calibration, 56-42, 56-42.

The 7th students kept their record unblemished with a win over previously undefeated MICOM. The students compiled a 35-20 halftime lead and then coasted to victory in the second half as stalwart missilemen Ray Smith, Dan Johnson and Kerry Bell fouled out.

Willie Nelson led the 7th with 17 points, followed by Fred Morgan and Jim Johnson with 11 and 10. Art Perrin nabbed 14 for the losers.

The 8th students, led by Davy Rodgers and Clarence White with 11 and 10 points, picked up their second win of the season over Company A.

The A's led the 8th at halftime 17-15, but the students out scored the permanent party 26-20 in the final half for the win. Charlie Miller and Wardrick Griffin paced the A's with 20 and 10 tallies respectively.

Leathernecks L.T. Braswell and M.C. Williams sank 24 and 18 points as the Marines beat 95th Calibration for their first win.

For the Calibrators, Lance Kennamer and Charles Appleton had 18 and 16 points respectively.

Tuesday

The 291st MPs downed the 6th SC, 60-50; Meddac whipped SSG, 64-16; while Company B spanked Company C, 39-28, Tuesday night.

In a duel between two undefeated teams the 291st MPs rolled up a 48-16 halftime lead, but then had to hold off a 34-point second half surge by the 6th students for a 60-50 win.

Willie Rice, Richard Mitchell and Charlie Dickerson led the MPs with 20, 14 and 10 points, while Johnny Muse sank nine. Ernie Graham, Derwin Blackwell and John King got eight apiece for the students.

Fourteen players put points on the scoreboard for the medics in their crushing 64-16 defeat of SSG.

Richard Boozer led Meddac with nine while Jon Hallmark and Wynn Hoffman had eight points each. Jim Kennedy and eight for SSG.

Cliff Boler sank 14 points as Company B evened their record at 2-2 with a win over Company C.

Charles Douglas had low for the C's.

Wednesday

The 4th SC edged the 7th students, 55-51; MICOM beat Company A, 58-41; and the 95th trimmed the 8th, 41-30, last Wednesday night.

In another game between two

RSA BASKETBALL

STANDINGS			
EASTERN			
	W	L	
4th SC	4	0	
7th SC	3	1	
MICOM	3	1	
8th SC	2	3	
Marines	1	3	
95th Cal.	1	4	
Company A	0	4	
WESTERN			
	W	L	
291st MPs	5	0	
6th SC	4	1	
Company B	3	2	
Meddac	2	3	
Company C	1	4	
SSG	0	5	

undefeated teams, the 4th SC posted a come-from-behind victory over the 7th students.

The 7th students built a 35-29 halftime lead and then moved nine points out in front early in the third period in what looked like the beginning of a rout. But the 6th staged a comeback to notch the score at 45-45 at the end of the period and then went on to out score the 7th, 10-6, in the final stanza for the win.

Jim Smith and Cornelius Williams led the 4th with 19 and 15 points, while Fred Morgan and Willie Nelson sank 22 and 16 respectively for the 7th.

Ray Smith nabbed 16 points while Ron Gastine and Gordon hit 11 each as MICOM rolled to their

third win against one loss with a victory over Company A.

Again, Wardrick Griffin and Charlie Miller led the A's with 16 and 14 points respectively.

In the final game, 95th Calibration won their first game with a victory over the 8th SC.

Lance Kennamer and Martin hit 18 and 12 for the Calibrators, while Ken Ellis sank 13 points for the students.

Thursday

Thursday night, the 6th SC blistered SSG, 103-16; 291st MPs whipped Company C, 104-38; and Company B eked out a 42-41 win over Meddac.

Revengeing a loss earlier in the week, the 6th students became first in the league this season to pass the century mark. They did it with a 103-16 win over SSG.

The 6th put six men into double figures. Roy Ebron lead the pack with 18. Jim Gaynes and Jim Curry had 16 each, followed by Johnny Muse, Darrell Lindsey and John King with 13, 12 and 10 respectively. Chris Lindgren nailed down seven for SSG.

In the second contest the 291st MPs, led by Willie Rice's 40-point performance, posted a 104-38 win over Company C.

Rice's brilliant performance set a one-game scoring record for the league season. He also leads the league in individual scoring with a 28.2 points per game through four contests.

Other scorers for the MPs were Charlie Dickerson, Richard Mitchell and John Williams with 18, 17 and 10 points respectively. Jerry Butler turned in another fine game for the C's with 20 points.

In the final game before the Christmas recess, Company B edged Meddac 42-41 in the waning seconds for their third win.

The medics seemed destined to win their third game in the early going as they took a 21-16 halftime lead over the B's. At the end of three periods, they held a 31-25 advantage, but the B's nibbled away at their lead in the final quarter with Mike Fields sinking a 15-footer with 22 seconds left to give the permanent party the win.

Clifford Boler led the B's with 16 points, while Mickey Rooker and Goodard hit 12 and 10 for the medics.

Statistics

RSA BASKETBALL TOP 10 LEADERS

EASTERN			
Name	Unit	G.	Pts.
Braswell	Marines	3	57
Morgan	7th SC	3	47
Moss	4th SC	3	46
Nelson	7th SC	4	57
Castine	MICOM	3	39
Kennamer	95th	5	65
Smith	4th SC	4	51
Griffin	Co. A	4	48
Williams	Marines	3	35
Miller	Co. A	4	47
Perrin	MICOM	4	45
Johnson	1, 7th SC	4	44
WESTERN			
Name	Unit	G.	Pts.
Rice	MPs	4	113
Mitchell	MPs	4	76
Boler	Co. B	4	62
Muse	6th SC	5	67
Butler	Co. C	5	58
Kennedy	SSG	5	53
Cook	SSG	4	41
Gaynes	6th SC	5	50
Dickerson	MPs	3	30
Graham	6th SC	4	35



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CBF Lead At Stake Tonight

The first big showdown in CBF basketball for the season is on tap for tonight with MISD scheduled to shoot it out with Missile Intelligence in the six o'clock lidlifter of a three-game card at the Evangel School gym.

Each of the rivals stayed on an unbeaten course in last week's play with MISD outscoring the Corps of Engineers, 76-62, and MIA handing Three M a 65-45 setback. The other game saw R & D roar past PAD 1 to the tune of 69-33.

Following the battle for the lead Three M will try to get their attack righted at the expense of PAD No. 2 and R & D closes out the 1974 portion of the schedule against the Corps.

James Love banged home 29 points and Fred Smith tossed in 16 more in sparking MISD to

their fourth straight victory. The defending champions led by seven, 34-27, halfway through the contest.

Bob Hubbard joined the double-figure scoring column with an even dozen for the winners in addition to setting a new league record by handing out 13 assists.

Joe Webb was the leading point maker in the Corps attack with 22, Jerry Mullinax connected for 15 and Claude Steele hit with 13.

Missile Intelligence displayed a well-rounded attack with five players scoring in double figures as they soared past the Three M quintet that was absorbing a third straight setback after a season opening victory. Billy Williams paced the scor-

ing with 19 points and Mose Hall collected 14 more. Phil Shepherd, Ron Phillips and Robert Council were the other three members of the high scoring MIA quintet.

High scoring honors for the game were claimed by Jesse Lewis. The 3M sharpshooter hit on ten of 14 field goal tries and added four for four from the free throw stripe for 24 points. Mel Waters chipped in with half that many.

R&D had little trouble in disposing of DPA No. 1 after cruising out to a 28-15 halftime bulge.

Lloyd Brooks set the scoring pace for the Engineers with 24 points and newcomer Rob Sumner broke in with a 16-point production. Miles Springfield provided the only PAD threat and he ended up with 15 points.

Bowling Results

Tuesday Night

STANDINGS

Retired 1	42
Squires	35
MICOM II	32
Five Aces	31
Camperland	30
MICOM I	29 1/2
Lucky Strikes	29
Home Team	29
Half & Half	29
Fat Harry's	27
Calibrators	24 1/2
Company C	21
Tech Escort	20
Marines	13

RESULTS

Retired 3, Squires 1
Camperland 1, MICOM II 3
Home Team 1 1/2, MICOM I 2 1/2
Five Aces 3, Lucky Strikes 1
Half & Half 3, Calibrators 1
Fat Harry's 4, Tech Escort 0
Company C 2, Marines 0

IND. HONORS

High Series: Kelley, 584; J. R. Moore, 521; Hockman, 538.
High Games: Kelley, 213; Dobbins 204.

Wednesday Officers

STANDINGS

ExASPRators	76
Strikeouts	72
Bee M's	68
Swingers	66
Black Jacks	66
Gimlets	64
Lucky Strikes	60
Readiness Group	58
Redrock Engineers	56
Widgets	50
Halo's	18
Sch. Bde. B's	18

RESULTS

Bee M's 8 Scs. Bde. 0
Redrock 6 Gimlets 2
Widgets 6 Black Jacks 2
Lucky Strikes 6, Swingers 2
Readiness 4, Halo's 4
ExASPRators 4, Strikeouts 4

IND. HONORS

High Series: Miller, 572; Jones, 567; Reece, 566; Townley, 535; Ogozalek, 534; Bryan, 531.
High Games: Reece, 225; Ogozalek, 220; Jones, 213.
High Avg.: Townley, 178.5; Alrup, 178.5

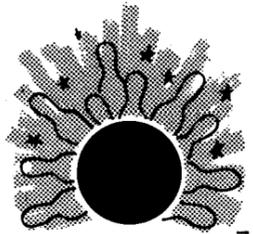
Friday Mixed

STANDINGS

Outhouse Gang	43
Three & One	42 1/2
B.V.'s	40
Ham-Macs	39
Wieners	36 1/2
Eight Balls	34
Bee's Nest	32
A&A Barb. Q Ranch	32
Four Pins	32
Ha-Ha's	31

RESULTS

Team Series: Three & One, (scratch), 1985; (Hdc.), 2432.
Team Game: Odd Couples (scratch), 723; (Hdc.), 876.



IND. HONORS

High Series: (men) Lugo, 610; Ralston, 584; Goltz, 559; Bean, 555; (women) Gillispie, 335; Doss, 509; Bean, 507; Wilson, 503.
High Games: (men) Lugo, 225-211; Ralston, 222-213; Shupe, 221; Goltz, 214; Bean 203; (women) Wilson, 203.

AMC League

STANDINGS

Hughes TOW	Pts
Spares	35
Fat Cats	33
Lily Flagg	33
Bombers	32
Alley Cats	27 1/2
T-Birds	27
Sprinters	26 1/2
Sheraton	24
Untouchables	22 1/2
	19 1/2

LAST WEEK:

Hughes 4, Sprinters 0
Spares 4, T-Birds 0
Fat Cats 4, Untouchables 0
Lily Flagg 3, Bombers 1
Alley Cats 2, Sheraton 2

HIGH ROLLERS

Tom Patterson, 564 (217); Bill Walker, 563; Oliver Patrick, 555; Dave Blackwood, 553; Dennis Frans, 553; Chuck Turner, 535; Monroe Bates, 529; Joe Gareri, 521

S&M League

STANDINGS

Reo's Enterprises	Pts
Pick Ups	37
Parkway Lanes	36
Three & Two	34
Clowns	31
Strikers	28 1/2
Outcasts	27 1/2
Misfits	26
Barber-Coleman	21
Interns	20
	19

LAST WEEK:

Three & Two 4, Barber-Coleman 0
Outcasts 4, Interns 0
Strikers 3 1/2, Clowns 1/2
Pick Ups 3, Rebas 1
Parkway 2, Misfits 2

BOWLER OF WEEK

Tom Reid just missed Honor Roll status in shooting a 595 total that spurred the Outcasts to their sweep of the Interns.

OTHER HIGH SCORERS

Ray Bailey, 568; Hugh Mauney, 567; Chris Leachman, 566; Gil Vitale, 546; Buck Wade, 538; Norm Fischer, 537; Al Rossi, 534.

Best Possible Present

Christmas Break Will Find MICOM In First

Jack Bissinger has his heart set on an early Christmas this year and is even ready to settle for a single gift, provided that is, the gift is done up in appropriate wrapping.

The coach of the Missile Command girls basketball team sends his charges against the Big Ed's Pizzeria outfit tomorrow evening at the West Madison school with revenge and the league lead both at stake.

The Pizza-Makers doled out a setback to MICOM in the Madison

Women's league opener but were later victimized by the Huntsville Independents. The Arsenal gals have come back to win four in a row for a share of the lead.

Tight defense once more made the job easy last week when MICOM routed the Tomboys, 63-30, to set the stage for the second renewal of their feud with Big Ed's. The latter had an equally easy time in disposing of McCarley.

Linda Melton, Mary Lou Laney and Donna Broughten manned the back court posts most of the game and for the fourth straight game held the opposition below 40 points.

Anita Wingard had the magic

touch on her long set shots and banged home 12 of 16 field goal tries in her game high 28 points. Gladys Hill hit for 23 and Carole Bissinger was responsible for the other 12.

MICOM Artists In Xmas Show

Four prominent North Alabama artists are featured in an exhibit or original art work at Dunnnavants' Mall through December 24. Three of the artists are employed by the Missile Command and the other is the wife of a MICOM artist.

All of the art work is for sale and part of the proceeds will go to the Sheriff's Boys Ranch at Selma and Hartselle.

The participating artists are Judy Miller, Frank Nelson, Phil Andrews and Don Davis. Several styles may be viewed in such media as pastel, watercolor, oils, acrylic and silk screen.

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Eddie's Christmas Story

Continued from Page 1

"this piece of paper. Be cool, there's a big box for you up at the CP. Give this to Smitty . . . eh, Sergeant Smith . . . when you pick it up."

Eddie jogged to the top of the hill, splashing mud.

"How's it going, Eddie," the platoon sergeant said, moving over to the jerry-rigged shelves on the side of the tent.

"You got a package for me?" the PFC asked.

"Yeah, here it is," Smith said, pointing. "What'd they do, send you a car?"

"No, Eddie said, picking up the big box, "I don't think so."

"Hey, Eddie," the sergeant called, stopping him in the door, "How's the kids?"

"They're gonna be just fine now," Eddie said, grinning. "See ya later."

"Hey man, look at the bennies!" Zinneman exclaimed as Eddie dropped the package on his bunk.

The squad gathered around as Eddie opened the box and began

sorting through miniature trousers, shirts and shoes.

"Oh, wow, man," Leitz groaned, "there's nothing to eat in that whole box! All you got in there's clothes, man?"

"Be cool, man," Zinneman said, "Those are for the kids in town. That's cool, Eddie. We can take this stuff in on sweep next time."

"I don't think so," Sgt. Linkman said from the back of the group.

The squad turned. "Look," the Squad leader said, "I was up at the CP a little while ago and the scoop is we're moving out in the morning."

"Oh, wow," Leitz said as the rest of the men groaned. Eddie sat stunned. "What's going on anyway?" Zinneman asked.

"Charley's supposed to be moving around in the area, I guess," Linkman replied, "anyway, we're gonna spend a few weeks out in the field. So party tonight, tomorrow we get muddy." The men groaned again.

"Hey, what's happening?" yelled PFC Householder, coming

in off watch.

"Let's break it up," Sgt. Linkman said, looking around. "Zinneman, get Householder his mail."

"Man, it's raining like hell out there," Householder commented, shedding his soaked poncho. "The Hawk about blew me away."

Linkman squatted next to Eddie's bunk. "Look man, this is kind of bad, but don't worry about the kids. They've been running around half naked since they were babies."

"This is the first time they was ever going to get something for Christmas," Eddie protested. "They don't have nothing, you know, nothing. I just wanted to give them something."

"Well, it's just tough," Sgt. Linkman said, "That's all. Forget about it."

"Look sarge," Eddie said, "can't I just sneak into town tonight and drop the stuff off?"

"No way."

"No, look, I'll just go in and get right back. Nobody'll see me in the dark," Eddie pleaded, his black face half smiling, "I won't even grin."

"Forget it now," Linkman replied. "The only guys leaving here tonight are the suckers who got stuck with the listening post. And we didn't get it, which is damn lucky."

"Well, look," said Eddie, seeing a chance, "can you get me on that LP?"

"No, man; besides, it's going out in the other direction. You go sneaking around out there where you're not supposed to be and somebody in the tower'll spot you and blow you away."

"Look sarge, what if I get a couple of the guys to volunteer with me for the LP. You could get the guy in the tower to look the other way for a while, you know?"

"Yeah, maybe," the squad leader said. "Zinneman, Householder!" he called. The two soldiers drew in. "You guys want to volunteer here for Eddie?" Eddie explained and the two men nodded agreement.

"OK," Linkman said. "Get your stuff ready and I'll go see what I can do."

"We've got ten minutes," Zinneman said softly, replacing the cap on the fluorescent dial of his watch. "Man, I'm drowning in this Hawk. You sure that's the right hootch, Eddie?"

"Yeah, that's it," the PFC said. He pointed across the market, empty now in the darkness, to the vague flicker of a kerosene lantern lighting a doorway.

"Well, Householder, you got the watch," said Zinneman. "Let's get it, Eddie." The two men, packs

bulging lightly on their backs, trotted through the wind swept mist to the door.

The boy was standing at the door, peering out.

"Merry Christmas!" said Eddie in a stage whisper.

"Number One," yelled Spike, putting a bear hug on Eddie's leg.

From the back of the hut, behind a thatched screen, a woman and a girl of eleven or twelve moved into the lantern light. The boy took the woman's hand, leading her forward.

"This is my mama," Spike said, "and my sister Nyu."

"Merry Christmas, ma'm," Eddie said. "Merry Christmas Nyu."

"Eddie, we don't have time," Zinneman said, sliding the pack off of his back and onto the table. Eddie did the same.

"You know, Spike," he said as he unstrapped the pack, "I told you you have to wait for something good. Well, I guess you waited, so I wanted to keep my promise."

The little boy showed his mother the shirt Eddie handed him; jumping around and laughing, as the woman helped him put it on. "You said right Number One," he said to Eddie, "this is for gifts today. I waited and Poppa has . . ." The woman clapped her hand over the boy's mouth.

Eddie felt Zinneman's grip on his arm and eyed the screen cautiously. Did it move? he thought.

"Eh . . . Spike, I'm gonna have to go, you know? I've got to get back to the post, so . . . look, pass this stuff around to the other kids,

OK?"

"OK," Eddie concluded, looking from the boy, whose face was still cupped in his mother's hand, to the screen. Eddie knelt in front of the boy and squeezed his shoulders.

"Look, Spike, I'm not going to be around for a while, you know?" he said. "I have to go away for a while and I won't be here to take care of you."

Eddie glanced at the screen and raised his voice a bit more. "Anyway, it might be the best thing for your family to stick real close together, you know? When a family is real close together, why, nobody in the family can get hurt. You tell your mother, here, keep the family together."

"OK, Spike?" He paused, trying to see into the mother's eyes. "OK, then," Eddie said.

The two men turned for the door. "Americans!" called the woman's soft voice.

The men whirled, Zinneman's bolt slapping home.

Her eyes were watery as she held the boy to her side.

"Peace for you," she said.

"Peace," said Eddie, as they turned out into the night.

Merry Christmas



Merry Christmas

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Software Course Initiated

The Missile Command has initiated a software training course at Redstone that is to missiles what rolls are to a player piano.

"We're studying software tapes . . . that tell computer-automated systems what to do," said Gerald Price of the Army Missile Research, Development and Engineering Laboratory. "The Army is automating many systems with digital computers and MICOM is training to perform engineering services for these systems as they phase out of production."

"We hope to establish a nucleus of expertise to provide software support across a broad spectrum of Army missiles," said Price who is head of the Tactical Computer Systems Group, Systems Engineering Directorate.

Approximately 20 people are enrolled in the course which is on the TSQ-73 (Missile Minder), an air defense system that coordinates and controls the Army's Hawk and Nike Hercules missile batteries against enemy aircraft. The 19-week course features 16 weeks at Redstone learning about air defense doctrine and becoming familiar with the TSQ-73. The final three weeks will be spent at Van Nuys and Fort MacArthur, Calif., for actual on the job training on the TSQ-73 computer.

"Basic techniques learned in this course can be applied to other missile systems later," Price said. In addition to Systems Engineering, other MICOM people enrolled in the course are from the Management Information Systems Directorate. Remainder of the class is from the Test and Evaluation Command at White Sands Missile Range.

The Missile Minder program is directed by the Project Manager, Army Tactical Data Systems at the Electronics Command but has a directorate under Lt. Col. Monte Hatchett at the Missile Command which is procuring the system for the Army.

The training course now underway at MICOM is conducted by the Data Systems Division of Litton Industries, prime contractor for the Missile Minder.

The Missile Minder is one of a family of digital computer-based and highly automated tactical defense systems the Army is developing for quick reaction and defense against enemy aircraft. Housed in a small shelter that can be moved by truck or aircraft, the system has two-channel radar interface equipment that processes sensor data supplied by radars and IFF equipment. It automatically detects, acquires and sends target positions to Hawk and Hercules missile batteries and assigns the intercept job to the particular battery best able to make the kill.

What's more, Missile Minder coordinates the exchange of air defense information among Army, Marine Corps and Air Force command and control systems.

Dial 112 For Redstone News

Army Chooses Emblem For 200th Anniversary

Commemoration of the U.S. Army's bicentennial will be enhanced by the newly created official bicentennial emblem.

The Army bicentennial, on June 14, 1975, will be one of the first events celebrated as part of the National Bicentennial Era, which begins in that month and ends on July 4, 1976.

The emblem depicts a Revolutionary War drummer, representing the soldiers of the Revolution and the entire U.S. Army marching through history. Above the drummer are the words, "Vanguard of Freedom," which is the theme of the Army bicentennial.

Alfred L. Howes of the U. S. Army Command Information Unit in Washington, D.C., created the design for the emblem.

The emblem will become a familiar sight on publications, displays, mementos, and other items related to the Army bicentennial.



Colorful Vibrant Army History Starts In Next Rocket

The United States Army is preparing to celebrate its 200th Birthday of service to the nation next June 14th.

Preceding the birth of the nation by a year, the Army can recount a colorful, vibrant history filled with many accomplishments and contributions in the development of a nation and a way of life dedicated to human freedom and dignity.

In helping the Army observe its Bicentennial, the Rocket staff is preparing a series of articles recalling the various battles in which the Army has participated from the Revolution through Vietnam, some victories, some defeats.

No attempt is being made to produce a lengthy, detailed and complete history of the Army. That is left to professional historians. Rocket staffers are borrowing from them to publish interesting highlights of Army history in concise style for popular understanding.

The series, to be accompanied by illustrative art work and appropriate photographs where possible, will begin January 8th, when the Rocket resumes publication after the Christmas and New

Year's Holidays.

The Army's history is filled with the heroic deeds of men and women best described by Thomas Paine in "The American Crisis," December 23, 1776.

"These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly; 'tis dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven know how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed, if so celestial an article as freedom should not be highly rates."

You are cordially invited to join us for the January 8th issue of the Rocket when its staffers will take you back to April 19, 1775 at Lexington Massachusetts where someone fired a shot that was heard around the world.

McDonald's

NOW OPEN AT 7:00 A.M. FOR BREAKFAST

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Merry Christmas

TO ALL OUR ARSENAL FRIENDS

Mr. Lynn & Staff

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Santa's here to help us deliver our Merry Christmas wishes to all our patrons and friends. May the best of the season be with you. Thank you for letting us serve you.

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WORLD'S LARGEST MOVER

How to tell your friends you're reenlisting.

Sometimes a good man leaves the Army for a bad reason. Pressure. The kind he gets from some of the people around him.

We know that there isn't an army of cranks out there. But we also know that the few there are can make it tough on a guy who's trying to make an important decision.

So we've gathered together some of the more frequently heard gripes, complaints, harassments and put-downs. And we've put down the facts.

This way you'll have the answers the next time someone questions your decision to reenlist.

"They'll promise you anything to get you to reenlist." That's a big one. You hear it all the time. And the irony of it is, it's true. But not the way your buddies mean it.

First, you have to qualify for whatever it is you want to reenlist for. If you do, we put your choice in writing. Along with your own understanding of the agreement in your own handwriting. So there's no chance of misunderstanding each other.

Then, if something goes wrong, we make it right. Or you make tracks.

Here's another one. **"Only guys who can't make it as civilians reenlist."** Wrong again. The average reenlistee today is smarter, better trained and more highly motivated than ever before. With a better chance of making it, anywhere.

The fact is, he stays because he likes what he's doing. (We know the importance of job satisfaction, and we've been working on making the Army more responsive to the needs of the individual.)

The only way we'll keep a good man is to make him a good offer. So we've become more competitive. That way you get a better Army, and we get a better soldier.

"You'll never make big money in the Army." Maybe so. But how many people really make it big

whatever they do for a living?

You will make a good salary, though. One that will go a lot farther when you consider that many of the best things of Army life are free, or much lower than in the civilian community.

So don't be fooled by pay comparisons. It's the things that you as an Army man won't have to pay for that really add up.

And then there's **"The Army's ok if you're single."** Perhaps we should be glad that the complainers concede that much. But this statement implies that it's not ok for a family man.

We say, ask one. We think you'll find that Army benefits for your family are outstanding. Benefits that go beyond the savings at the commissary. Benefits that grow with your family.

We like to think of today's Army as a family of families. As responsive to the needs of your family as we would be to our own.

And last but not least: **"What are you, a Lifer?"** This one has been floating around for a long time. So we'd like to set the record straight, and see what a "Lifer" really is.

In today's Army, he's a man who's living his own life. Making his own decisions.

He's a man who wants and works for the good life. For himself. And for his family.

He's a man who realizes that the Army asks for an extra degree of dedication, over and above normal job loyalty.

He's a man who enjoys in return that unique sense of pride that comes from serving one's country.

If that's the way you feel, talk it over with your Career Counselor. He'll also be able to help you deal with any other discouraging words you may hear. He's a "Lifer," too.



Today's Army gets better every time a good man reenlists.

Instructor Earns MMCS, TRADOC Honors

Edmond R. Falconbury has withstood chronic pain to serve his country for more than 20 years. He was recently named Handicapped Employee of the Year for the U. S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. Falconbury was earlier selected for the honor for MMCS.

Falconbury, 61, was stricken with tuberculosis of the spine at the age of two. The virus fused six of his lumbar vertebrae as it ran its course. The same year, his mother died of the disease.

He was unable to walk until he was six. Even then, walking or standing put pressure on his spine that was difficult to endure. He became painfully aware of the distances that separated destinations common to him: the creek near his home, the spring where his family got their drinking water, and the one-room schoolhouse where Edmond went through elementary grades.

As he matured, he found that he could not expect recovery from his

spinal damage. Though getting around from place to place presented problems, Falconbury applied himself diligently.



Edmond Falconbury

He was his high school class valedictorian, but was unable to go on to college. Money was scarce in the early '30s, especially in eastern Kentucky. Then too college study meant constant treks between classes.

Instead, he began a home study program through the Kentucky Board of Rehabilitation. Pain flared up in his back from time to

time, once confining him to bed for three months. But Falconbury graduated from the National Radio Institute in 1935.

He worked as a radio serviceman for three years in his hometown, then signed on as a radio service instructor for the Kentucky Adult Education program after working a month for the Works Progress Administration.

Falconbury began his federal service career in 1942 with the Federal Communications Commission. Four years later, he became a radio engineer for the agency, believed to be the first time a man not holding a college degree earned that position.

He left the Civil Service in 1947 to work on his own, but returned to accept an appointment at Fort Monmouth in 1950. He came to Alabama in 1952 to the newly-established Ordnance Guided Missile School, forerunner of MMCS.

As an instructor here, Falconbury has helped train thousands of students from all over the world.

Constantly expanding his knowledge through specialized study and correspondence courses, he has taught electricity and electronics, principles of amplitude and frequency modulation (AM and FM radio) and radar and missile systems like the TOW and Dragon.

He still wears a back brace to enable him to stand in front of his classes. When he removes the device at home for even brief periods during his daily shower, the pain in his back is almost unendurable.

Falconbury has received numerous citations and superior performance ratings for his work, and he's been active in community affairs since he and his family arrived in Huntsville.

During the early 1950s, he traveled through north Alabama and south central Tennessee, telling high school students about electronics careers.

During the award ceremony, Edmond Falconbury was quick to credit his wife for her help and encouragement over the years.



THREE GALLON DONOR—Ann Harper of the MICOM Inspector General's office recently received a certificate from the Red Cross when her donation of blood topped three gallons. Mrs. Hopper has one of the rare types of blood and is called to donate when her blood is needed for emergencies.

...POOL IT!



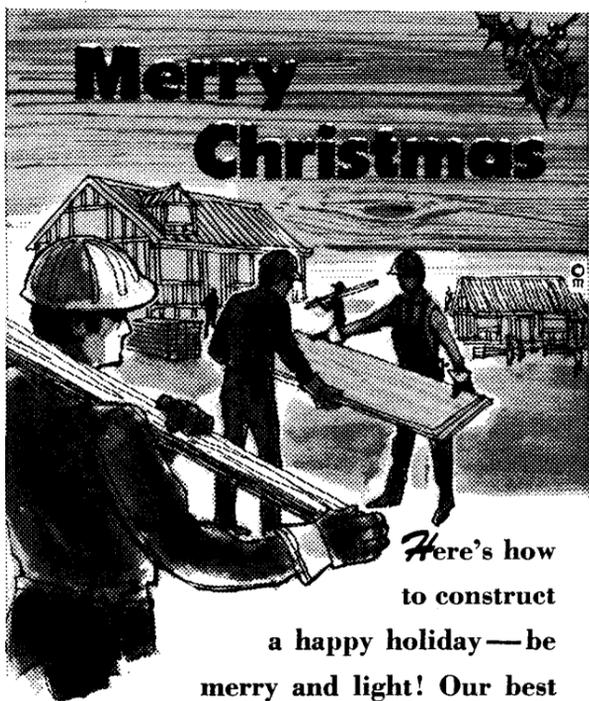
CLOSING NOTICE!

Cafeterias in Buildings 4488, 5400 & 5681 Will Close Dec. 23rd and Re-open Dec. 30 and 31, Jan. 2 and 3rd.

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OLD-TIME GREETINGS

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Dunnivant's

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 PV2 Jack D. Ogle
 SP5 Reynaldo S. Ginete
 SP5 Leroy Robinson
 PV2 Hansel Mcelroy
 PV2 William G. Morgan
 PV2 William Burch
 SP4 Rickey G. Costner
 PFC Claus P. Cheesbrow
 PFC Ricky S. Davis
 MSG John C. Jones
 SFC Henry A. Reynolds
 PV2 Willie Carr
 SP5 David R. Robertson
 PV2 Darlene F. Girvan
 PFC Melvin L. Terry
 SP4 David M. Gulas
 SP5 Gary L. Ellex
 PV2 Roy Cowley
 PV2 Ronnie G. Springer
 PV2 James A. Burgess
 SP4 Jesse J. Vibert

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 SP6 Jerry P. Roberts
 SFC Wesley Roscoe
 SFC Leland D. Hinkle
 SP4 Michael Hoglund
 SFC Donald W. Slagle
 SFC James Q. Whaley
 SP6 Lacy C. Baldwin
 SP5 George T. Martin

MEDDAC

SP5 Richard Goodson
 PFC Sandra L. Clark
 PV2 David A. Poerio
 SP4 Anthony D. Donato
 PV2 William J. Shipley
 PFC Jean A. Hofacker
 PFC Vicki J. Hofacker
 PV2 Nikki A. Anderson
 SP5 Ronald P. Holliday

USAMCC

SP6 Amos Walston
 SFC Paul O. Pittman
291ST MP CO
 PFC Bobby Horton
 SP4 Charles E. Dickerson
 PV2 Roy M. Jackson
 PFC James H. Rogers
 PV2 John A. Gaskin
 PV2 Theodore W. Albright

MICOM

SP5 Charles D. Short
 SP4 Robert M. Vaughan
 PV2 James R. Carter
 PV2 Linda K. Kroll
 PFC James A. Breland
 PFC Robert A. Boris
 PFC Nancy K. Rice
 PV2 Terry W. Brewer
 SP5 Eugene Garlington
 SP4 Bennie E. Gordon

MET TEAM

SP5 Michael R. Arndt
 PV2 David J. Giannico
USACC
 PV2 Anita K. Stevens
55TH ARMY BAND
 PV2 Walter D. Collins

Reenlistments

MICOM

CSM Arthur R. Senkewich
 SP5 Warren Hargis
 SP5 Gary N. Simms
 SP5 Craig E. Walters
 SSG Ronald I. Dibling

MMCS

SP4 Robert L. Beebe
 SP5 Joseph C. Blas
 SP4 Clifton L. Golden
 SP4 James A. Grider
 SFC Donald H. Harless
 SFC Richard O. La Flamme
 SFC Franklin M. Payne
 SP5 Morgan R. Ware
 SP5 Michael Lynn Webb
 MSG Clyde L. Anderson
 SP4 Randy H. Boykin
 SP6 Anthony Di Fiore
 MSG John F. Dinkel
 SFC Willie G. Finney
 SFC David E. Holland
 MSG Willard R. Jones
 SFC Gene C. McKenney
 SP4 Gregory A. Shields
 SSG William D. Veith
 SP5 Ben M. Warren

Retirements

RASA

LTC Otto J. Hierholzer
 LTC William R. Males
 CW3 Willard C. Smith

MICOM

MAJ James N. Atanasoff
 CW4 Jackie L. Burks
 CW3 Hector Ramirez-Rivera

MMCS

1SG Robert J. Snow
 MSG Marcus E. Howard
 SFC Ronald G. Well

Military Briefs

Promotions

TO E-3: Mark S. Robbins
 TO E-3: Jeffery Perrin
 TO E-3: Prince H. Smith
 TO E-3: Raymond Velasquez
 TO E-3: Donald McCullough

TO E-3: Walter R. Johnson
 TO E-3: Howard J. Robinson
 TO E-3: Betty G. McKinney
 TO E-3: Adrienne L. Clancy
 TO E-4: Jimmy D. Breazeale

TO E-4: Patrick J. Kinsey
 TO E-4: Morris E. Rooker
 TO E-4: Melvin L. Terry
 TO E-4: Jessie P. Leal
 TO E-4: Lester Strickland
 TO E-4: Bobby G. Wood
 TO E-4: Ricky Davis
 TO E-4: Ruben Robinson
 TO E-5: David C. Clough
 TO E-5: Jon S. Hallmark
 TO E-5: Richard A. Berube

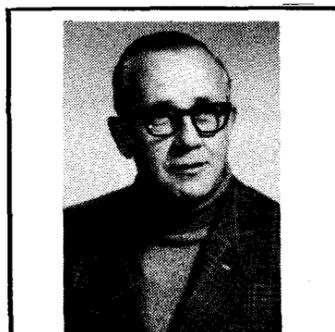
TO E-5: Henry L. Canada
 TO E-5: James T. Mayhue
 TO E-5: Van J. Parr
 TO E-5: Dennis W. Riehle
 TO E-5: Joanne Collevchio
 TO E-6: Ronald L. Dibling
 TO E-6: George W. Holmes
 TO E-6: Harry Widner
 TO E-6: Michael D. Wright
 TO E-7: David J. Mednick
 TO E-8: Donald V. Lowe

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Merry Christmas

These carolers' glad refrain helps express our season's sentiments. May the holidays be merry and bright in the happiest of Yuletide traditions. To the many friends that have given us the pleasure of their patronage . . . our sincere gratitude.



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Whatever the season Sandra Jensen has some little "critters" to fit the occasion. At Christmas it's Santa Claus and Santa Mouse along with Raggedy Andy, Winnie Pooh and Rudolph.

Sandra, a secretary with the Ballistic Missile Defense Systems Command, makes her "critters" out of cardboard egg cartons. She makes them at home in her spare time and with the assistance of her two sons, Jimmy, 6, and Joe, 3.

To date Sandra has made 18 different characters which include Dennis the Menace, the Easter Bunny, Smoky the Bear, Raggedy Ann, Deputy Dog and the Dancing Cat just to mention a few.

It all started several years ago when she saw a little mouse character a friend had made out of a plastic material. She had some old cardboard egg cartons so she took some scissors and glue and made her own figures. Her children wanted them in color, so she got acrylic paint and decorated them herself.

Last year the children suggested putting them on the Christmas tree so she installed hooks so they could hang them on the branches. The acrylic paint doesn't rub off and the cardboard figures don't break like regular tree ornaments so she can let the youngsters decorate their own tree.

In 1973 she made 26 figures and sent them to kindergarten with her children for the kids to paint and decorate themselves. The teacher reported it was one of the best projects the children had ever undertaken and the whole class thanked Sandra for her idea.

So far Sandra has made more than 150 "critters" and has given most of them away to friends and relatives.

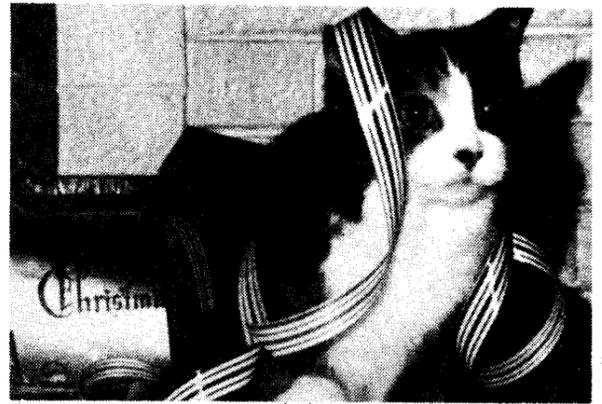
Sandra described her hobby this way: "Making the figures is something I enjoy and my children take an interest too. When I make the basic figures the boys brush on the basic coat of acrylic paint and then they tell me what color



CRITTERS FOR CHRISTMAS—Sandra Jensen

schemes they want. We enjoy other people's reaction to them almost as much as we enjoy making them. I feel it's a hobby that brings joy to us and to everyone else and that's what makes it fun."

Now that Christmas is almost here, Sandra has only 18 "critters" left to decorate her tree so she's got to get busy again soon.



... The post veterinarian joins with the American Veterinary Medical Association in reminding those planning to give pets for Christmas that pet ownership requires careful selection, proper planning and responsible care.

VETERANS! BE AWARE!

If you are interested in buying or selling a home with a VA loan, let us inform you of your rights. Just call us and we will be glad to send you, without cost or obligation, "Pointers for the Veteran Homeowner."

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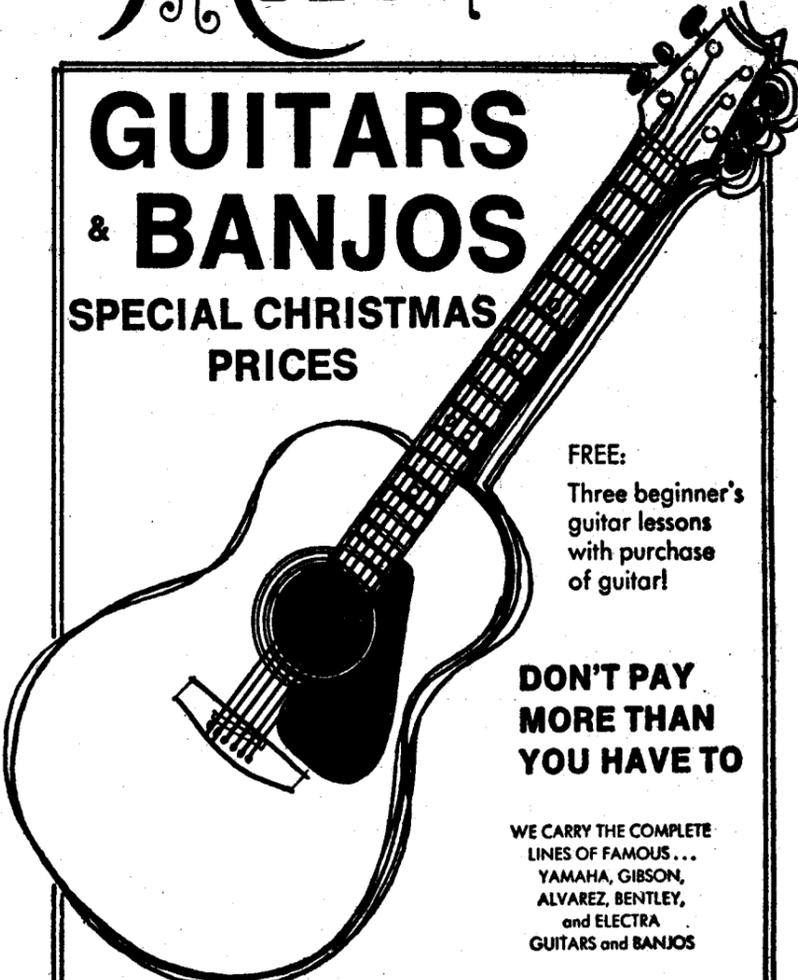
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Hairbrush Here And A Little Glue There

"This one looks like it needs a facelift."

"Maybe we can settle for a new hairdo."

"Take a look at this dirty little face."

"I don't know where to start."

A group of SAM-D officers' wives gathered around the kitchen table at the home of Ann Means and looked at the task before them. Mrs. Means is the wife of Brigadier General Charles F. Means.

The women sifted through an assortment of dolls with ragged clothes and dolls with no clothes at all. A stuffed dog peered from beneath a toy jeep with one wheel missing, while the wives planned their strategy.

Equipped with knitting needles and hairbrushes, the women set about transforming the weathered toys into ones that will be treasured by children throughout the city come Christmas morn.

The project is in cooperation with the Christmas Charities that supplied Mrs. Means and her friends with boxes of toys donated by community residents. After being scrubbed with soapy water, patched with glue or fitted with a bright new dress and bonnet, the toys look as if they could have come straight from Santa's workshop.

"We've had so much fun working



SANTA'S HELPERS... Sylvia Molepske, Mar Jackson and Valerie McLaughlin

Other women who have con- on the toys," said Mrs. Means, "and it's a project that will bring a lot of joy to so many needy children."

tributed time and effort to the project are Sylvia Molepske, Shirley Thamasett, Mar Jackson, Karen Laska, Dona Sims, Harriet Munsch, Valerie McLaughlin.

Sharon Souvenir, Virginia Roseman, Harriet Lewis, Sue McMullan, Timmy Camp, Marge Drinkwater, Judi Sabin, Diane Hatley and Marie Maksimowski.

"Have A Goal— Stick With It"

It's possible that a record was set when more than 175 interns, trainees, upward mobility personnel, and others interested in the profession of logistics turned out for the recent four-day course sponsored by the local chapter of the Society of Logistics Engineers.

As far as is known, the comprehensiveness of the effort to acquaint newcomers with the basics of a profession was unique. Guest speakers from government, industry, and universities across the country introduced the students to a far-ranging variety of subjects within the broad logistics field.

In closing the program, MICOM Commander, Major General Vincent Ellis said "I am delighted to see so many girls and blacks in this audience. It means to me that the logistics profession will have the benefit of their talents and wisdom in the highest councils of government and industry in the years to come."

He urged the students to take advantage of every means of self-improvement so as to be ready for the opportunities that would surely come. "Have a goal, and stick with it," was his parting advice.

DRIVE SAFELY

GIGANTIC WAREHOUSE SALE SAVE FROM 10% to 40% OFF ON ALL TREES AND DECORATIONS

GEORGIA PINES • AUSTRIAN PINES Scandinavian Spruces • Norway Pines • Bavarian Pines

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Magnificently Decorated,
Life-like, Christmas Trees
NOW ON DISPLAY!
BRING THE KIDS!

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HEAVY DUTY STEEL STAND INCLUDED WITH ALL TREES

7' Bavarian Pine

The amazing small needle detail of this lovely import tree delights the eye. Looks fresh from the forest.

SPECIAL DISCOUNT PRICE
\$39⁸⁸

PERMANENT
FLAME RETARDANT
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7' Austrian Pine

The favorite holiday tree in pump perfection. Tapered elegant fullness makes it fun and rewarding to decorate.

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7 1/2' Austrian Pine

Big, bushy upswept beauty with a naturally tapered look. Easy to assemble, fun to decorate. The ideal family tree.

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7' Norway Pine

Splendidly proportioned soft needle tree with the unique lightweight feature that adds to the family's joy in trimming.

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7' Scandinavian Spruce

A breath-taking giant with soft needle charm in gorgeous moss green color. The luxury tree, lightweight, easy to store.

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ALABAMA POOL CO.
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Next To Richard's Lighting

Two universities will share major components of a massive research device as a grant from the Missile Command arranged through the National Science Foundation.

The large scale donation of research equipment to Mississippi State University and Purdue University will be turned over to the institutions as soon as transportation details are arranged, according to Troy C. Bowden. He coordinated the donation and transfer of the apparatus for the Missile Research Development and Engineering Laboratory of MICOM.

In use for more than a decade in

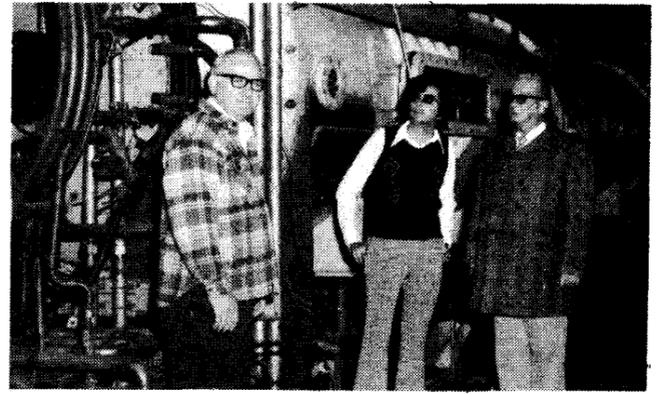
the Army's missile program, the plasma jet apparatus was employed to test missile re-entry devices in very rapid, high temperature gas flow simulating heating and air flow conditions encountered by a missile in high velocity flight. It was also used in other research work associated with high speed gas flow.

The tunnel portion of the device, arc generators, cooling system and three 1.2 megawatt generators which power the arcs are to be disassembled and trucked to Mississippi State. A fiberglass-lined vacuum tank measuring 90 feet in length and 12 feet in diameter will go to Purdue.

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center is assisting MICOM and Purdue and will handle and load the tank for rail shipment.

The grant provides for transfer of the equipment to the universities for use in their research programs. MICOM will receive courtesy copies of research reports which may result from future use of the equipment.

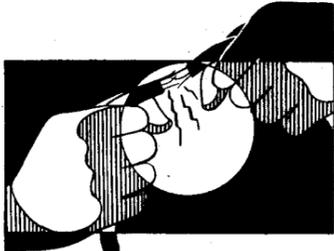
First placed in operation in the Missile Research Development and Engineering Laboratory in 1961, the plasma jet was designed and assembled under the direction of Dr. Thomas Barr and Charles Carson of the Laboratory's Physical Sciences Directorate.



MOVING DAY—MICOM's Troy Bowden, right, helps Mississippi State University scientists plan for moving the wind tunnel portion of the plasma jet apparatus MICOM donated to the University. With Bowden are, from left, Leslie Hester and Dr. David Murphree.

Will you spend your Holidays in the Hospital?

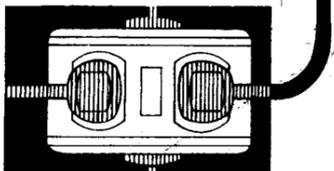
DON'T



...TAKE ANY CHANCES!

Be sure the equipment you use is safe. Inspect that ladder before you climb it. Use the proper tools. Don't nail through electrical wires when hanging holiday lights.

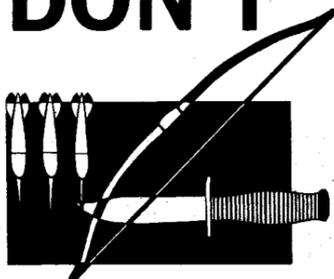
DON'T



...OVERLOAD THE SOCKETS!

Overloading electrical sockets can cause a dangerous fire hazard—so don't add extra extension outlets. Check for frayed, broken or bent wires to prevent fire and shock.

DON'T



...GIVE CHILDREN DANGEROUS TOYS

Check those toys! Are they approved? Look for sharp edges and points. Check for hidden sharp wires and staples. Avoid toys that heat up and toys that shoot.



The Christmas and New Year holidays are the most dangerous times of the year . . .

It's a dangerous season because it's a confusing season. People are busy, running about and their minds are preoccupied with many thoughts about many things. There's the rush of Christmas shopping and holiday parties. There's memories of past years . . . some sweet, others bitter. There's financial problems, streets crowded with traffic and packed stores. It all adds up to pressure. So somebody will drink a little too much at the office party and drive home. Someone else will run a stop sign because their attention was on their problems rather than on the road. And everybody gets careless. Homes burn down because of that and household and occupational accidents increase. People are injured. People die during the holiday season due to the pressures of Christmas and the New Year. So this year, take it easy. Relax and enjoy yourself, but keep extra alert and practice sensible safety rules in your home, at work and on the road. And look out for those who don't. Don't spend your holidays in the hospital.

HERE'S TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH AND SAFETY—

Published by The Independent Insurance Agents of Huntsville in the Hope of Keeping the Holiday Accident Toll Down



DON'T



...DRINK AND DRIVE!

Alcohol and gasoline is a fatal mixture, so if you drink, don't drive. Keep alert for the drunk driver, especially during the holidays. Don't become one of his victims.

DON'T



...PUT GIFTS NEAR FIRES!

During the holidays it's great to have a roaring fire in your fireplace. But make sure it stays there. Keep the tree and gifts away from the fireplaces and heaters.

DON'T



...LET YOUR TREE DRY OUT!

Keep your tree in a basin of water and don't let it dry out. Don't let lights touch the needles and use only fireproof decorations. Spray your tree with a fire retardant mixture.

Fire Greatest Holiday Hazard

A ride through the countryside during the Yuletide season is a trip through Christmas fairylands that otherwise exist only in the dreams of children on Christmas Eve.

Santa Claus and his reindeer, etched in light against the night sky, ride the snow-covered roofs of thousands of homes. Candles flank the gaily decorated front doors and glow with a warm light of welcome for the passerby. Nativity scenes and frosty trees glitter against a backdrop of a well-lighted house.

The fairy tale is a reality. It's Christmas—the season of light and good cheer and the time when the American home expresses its individuality and decorative skill for the world to see.

Christmas has brightened up since Martin Luther used a few lighted candles as decorations for a Christmas tree in Germany. Despite the energy crisis, many households will continue the electric decorating tradition.

Much of the family's activity centers around the house during the holiday season—both inside and outside. Particular emphasis should be placed on safety.

Christmas is one of the most dangerous seasons for accidents. A careless act in the home could turn the joyous season into one of grief and suffering.

Accidents are caused by use of unstable platforms for hanging decorations, by ice on sidewalks and steps or by mislaid toys in hallways or doorways.

But most important is the danger of fire—a menace that takes thousands of lives each year.

Fire dangers can be reduced if holiday decorations are fireproof or fire-resistant. Also, pick up accumulated gift wrappings and keep matches, lighters and candles away from children.

In addition, an approved fire extinguisher should be on hand. If a fire should break out, get everyone out of the house before attempting to call the fire department.

A major cause of fires during the

holidays is the Christmas tree.

It is estimated that Christmas trees are displayed in over two thirds of U.S. homes.

"Once a tree has been cut, it should remain in a home no longer than two weeks," said Forester David M. Bryant of Facilities Engineering Division,

"Trees become dry and brittle, therefore, they should be kept outside until a few days before Christmas and dispose of it as soon as possible after Christmas day," he said.

Military personnel can cut their own trees this year at Redstone, according to Bryant. Two locations—the new chapel site, intersecting Goss Road and Hugh Drive, and the proposed shopping center site south of the post service station off Vincent Drive—will be marked with red flags for tree cutters.

"Trees may be cut in any size. However, they will not be treated with flame retardant this year," said the forester.

Families are advised to use some type of flame retardant on their trees as an added measure of safety.

Safety tips on Christmas trees:

—Choose a fresh tree and when setting it up, saw off the trunk at an angle above the original cut.

—Place the tree in a container of water or wet sand, keeping the water line above the cut at all times.

—Support the tree well.

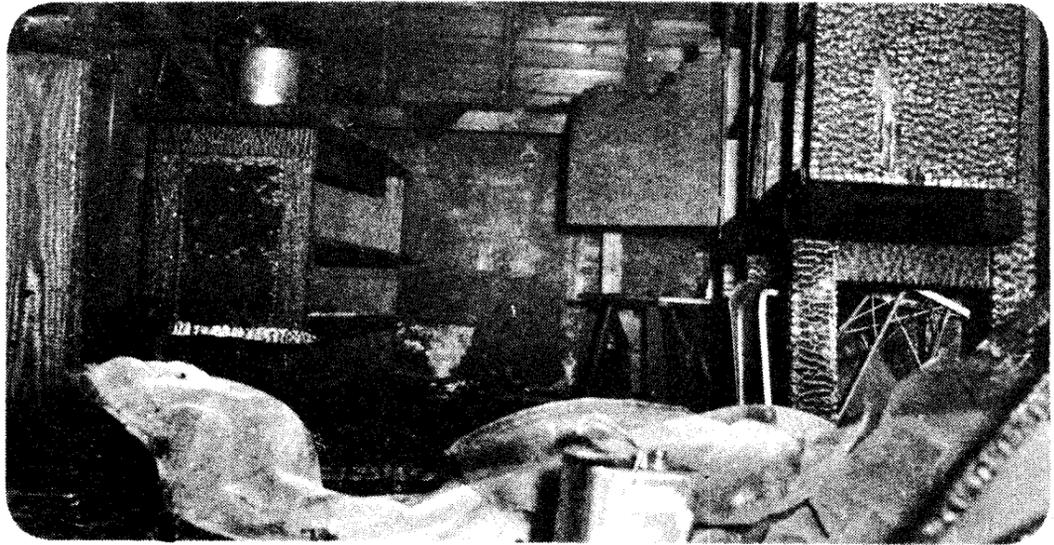
—Set the tree away from a radiator or fireplace and never in a position which will block a fire escape route.

—Use noncombustible decorations.

—Don't use candles or let Christmas wrappings accumulate around, on or near the tree.

Certain safety rules should be followed when plastic or metal trees are used:

—Don't use strings of lights. Frayed wires could cause burns or electrocution.



BE SAFETY MINDED—Don't let your dreams for the joyous holiday season go up in smoke.
(Photo by RASA Fire Prevention-Protection Branch)

—Don't place any electrically operated toy at the tree's base.

—If plastic trees are used, be sure they are marked as being

made of slow-burning material.

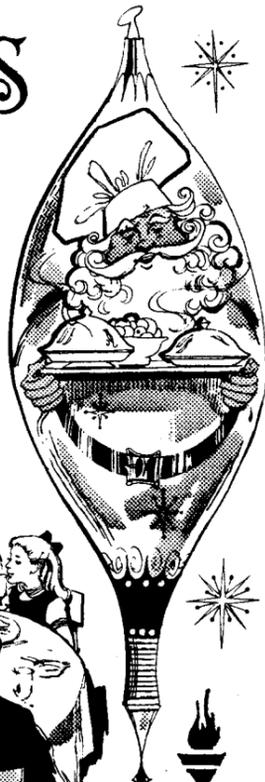
—Be sure the plastic tree carries the Underwriters' Laboratory label if the tree has a built-in

lighting system.

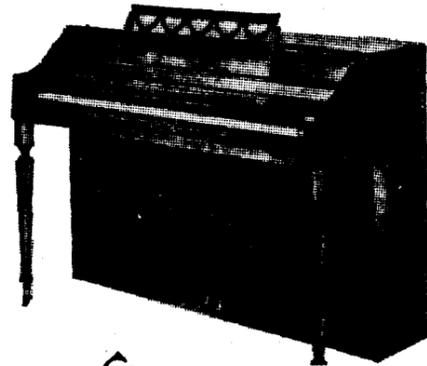
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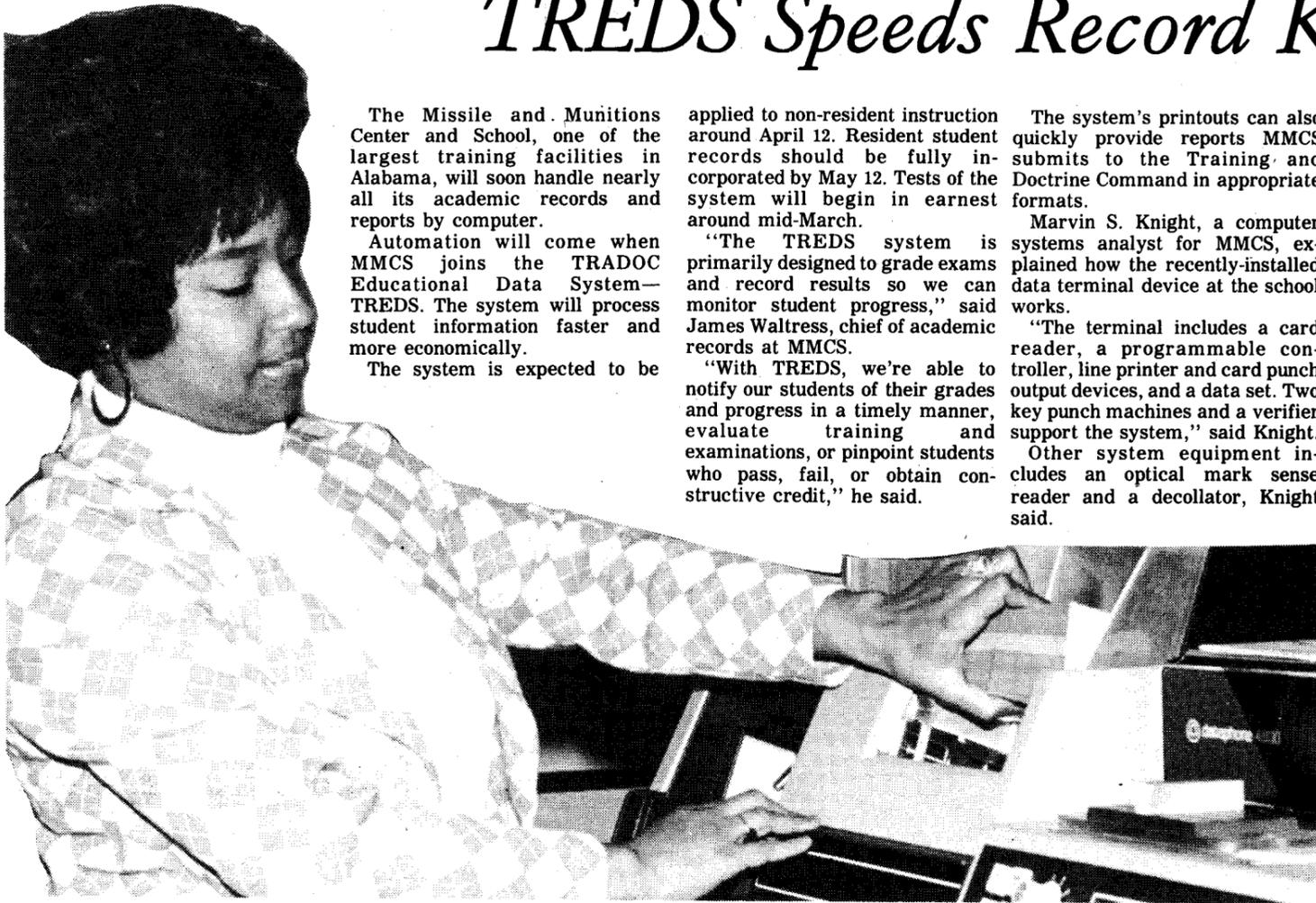
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HEART OF HUNTSVILLE

TREDS Speeds Record Keeping



DEALING WITH CARDS—Antoinette Reynolds of Huntsville loads a "deck" of data cards into the card reader in the ADP Services room at the Missile and Munitions Center and School. The data terminal for the TREDS system will insert card data into one of its academic record programs. (U.S. Army photo)

The Missile and Munitions Center and School, one of the largest training facilities in Alabama, will soon handle nearly all its academic records and reports by computer.

Automation will come when MMCS joins the TRADOC Educational Data System—TREDS. The system will process student information faster and more economically.

The system is expected to be

applied to non-resident instruction around April 12. Resident student records should be fully incorporated by May 12. Tests of the system will begin in earnest around mid-March.

"The TREDS system is primarily designed to grade exams and record results so we can monitor student progress," said James Waltress, chief of academic records at MMCS.

"With TREDS, we're able to notify our students of their grades and progress in a timely manner, evaluate training and examinations, or pinpoint students who pass, fail, or obtain constructive credit," he said.

The system's printouts can also quickly provide reports MMCS submits to the Training and Doctrine Command in appropriate formats.

Marvin S. Knight, a computer systems analyst for MMCS, explained how the recently-installed data terminal device at the school works.

"The terminal includes a card reader, a programmable controller, line printer and card punch output devices, and a data set. Two key punch machines and a verifier support the system," said Knight.

Other system equipment includes an optical mark sense reader and a decollator, Knight said.

The system can operate two ways, on or off line. Off line, the system functions by itself, involving computer components in the same building at MMCS.

On line, however, the data set, which looks like a telephone mounted on a breadbox, can connect the MMCS components to remote computers via telephone lines.

One such computer to which the MMCS system has access is a 360-65 unit of the MICOM Management Information Systems Directorate in building 5201, said Knight.

Whether the machine operates on or off line depends on the job it's doing.

Knight's job is to design appropriate programs for the various functions necessary for academic records operations. The actual programming is performed by a computer programmer.

In most cases, Knight says, he deliberately loads some errors into an inaugural job to test the program he designed. "What we're trying to do is see if the machine will catch erroneous entries or other mistakes," Knight said.

On rare occasions, mistakes can prompt a "memory dump." When a computer dumps, it prints out or card punches everything in a particular part of its memory core.

"This implies, 'there's a mistake somewhere in this data mass—find it,'" Knight said.

One recent dump was triggered by an apostrophe entered where a comma should have been.

The printout unit belched out data at 300 to 400 lines per minute until it was all over. "That's a relatively sedate printout," said Knight.

"For most of our operations here, we would not be likely to need more than 100,000 bits of core," said Knight. Most of his work involves 32-bit computer "words."

That's based on eight "bits" to each "byte" and four "bytes" to the word.

"The system is easily adequate to handle our current average student load of around 1,200, based on one or two written or hardware tests each week for each student. That gives us a partial workload of about 2,000 test records a week, not counting reports and analyses for the evaluators within the Deputy Commandant for Training and Education," he said.

The new system is expected to support the students more effectively, help in evaluation and validation and compile necessary reports more quickly.

Bogus Check Writers In For PX Trouble

A computerized check verification system is being installed at PX's nationwide which the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) hopes will cut down the number of bad checks it receives.

The system will permit PS employees to determine in about two seconds whether checks they are presented can be cashed. Terminals will link each PX with one of three memory banks in the country storing the social security numbers of persons who have passed bad checks.

The computer terminal will also signal whether a customer has already cashed a check that day. The system should be

operational by March 15. Don R. Emmons, exchange manager of the Redstone PX system, said electronic verification may be working here about a month earlier.

AAFES cashes—free of charge—more than 30 million checks a year. Last year 216,826 dishonored checks amounting to \$7.1 million were returned.

AAFES ultimately lost more than \$1 million on bad checks it could not redeem.

Emmons said the system will help solve the bad check problem at Redstone. He said the PX here was left with \$415 in dishonored checks at the end of October passed by soldiers who went AWOL.

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NAMES IN THE NEWS

By SP4 FRANK HARRIS

Arrivals

CW3 Bennie J. Robinson arrived recently from Germany to begin his fifth tour here. Assigned to Co. C, he is chief of Missile Branch B in the Office of Logistics.

A veteran of the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, he is from St. Louis, Mo., and graduated from Hadley Technical High School before entering the Army in 1950.

SFC Robert E. Murphy has arrived for his third tour. A senior instructor in the Land Combat Division, he is assigned to Co. B.

A native of Dayton, Ohio, he is a 1957 graduate of Sidney High School. He entered the Army in 1958.

SSG Dennis H. Morris recently arrived for his first tour. Assigned to Co. B, he is an instructor in the Land Combat Division. He is from Flintville, Tenn.



BROWN MURPHY

and is a 1967 high school graduate. He entered the Army in 1967.

SP6 Jerry W. Williams returned from Germany. An instructor, he will work in the HAWK Division and is assigned to Co. C.

A native of Magnolia, Ark., he attended high school before entering the Army.

Distinguished Graduate

PFC Bobbie J. Brown was recently named distinguished graduate of the ammunition operations specialist course.



MORRIS ROBISON

She earned the title by attaining an academic average of 99.11 per cent for the course.

Assigned to the 7th Student Company, she arrived at MMCS last August.

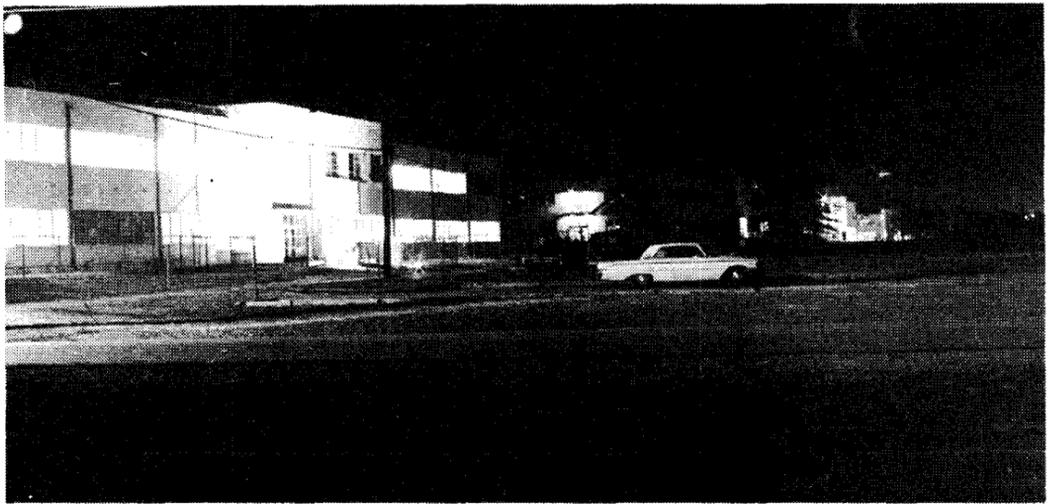
A native of Weatherford, Tex.,

she attended Texas Wesleyan and Tarrant County colleges before entering the Army this year under the Guaranteed Training program.

Promotions

Promoted to Master Sergeant: Jesse L. Owens, a student in the 7th Student Company.

Promoted to Sergeant First Class: Kenneth B. Sarette, Nike Division; Richard Paduchoski of the Race Relations Section; Charles D. Boos of the HAWK Division; Bobby L. Combs a student in the 5th Student Company.



SECURITY LIGHTING—About 70 security lights were recently disconnected along "academic row" at the Missile and Munitions Center and School, but required exterior lighting for restricted areas has been maintained. Classroom lights turned on in building 3301 (foreground) are for B shift personnel and building custodians. This recent photo was taken with a tripod-mounted camera at about 9:30 p.m. with 400 ASA film exposed for 30 seconds at f-2.4.

(US Army photo)

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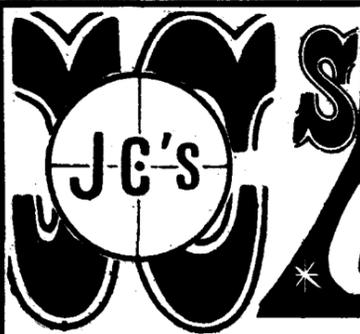
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