

Two convicted, one acquitted in fraud trial

BY SKIP VAUGHN

Sentencing has been set for 11 a.m. Feb. 18 in Birmingham for Betty Ruth Laird and John William Chambers, a Missile Command employee.

They were convicted last week by a federal jury of conspiracy to defraud the government by obtaining payment of false and fraudulent claims. The charge was connected with vouchers submitted by Laird for payment for manuscript pages under a technical typing contract she held with MICOM. Chambers, chief of the technical information office, approved those vouchers when they were really for payment for picture frames.

Billy Norman Brown, a former Laird employee, also on trial, was acquitted of the charge. The jury also acquitted Laird and Brown of the remaining two counts in the indictment for overbilling for pages.

Brown said after the trial that he was very happy to be cleared of the charges and that he hoped to be able to find a job now. "I thought that justice was going to do me wrong for a while," he said. His attorney, Bent Owens of Birmingham, who was court-appointed to represent him, said the verdict on Brown shows "the system works."

Chambers' testimony that he knowingly approved

the vouchers for payment of pages when they were really for picture frames was crucial to the jury's decision, according to a juror. "His openly admitting that he did this is the only thing that convicted him," said W. O. Gaither of Mulga, Ala., near Birmingham. He called Brown the man "in the middle" who was only doing his job for Mrs. Laird.

The jury deliberated over six hours and took at least seven votes, according to Gaither. Bill Maples of Birmingham, who was selected as foreman, said "We took a look at this thing from all angles."

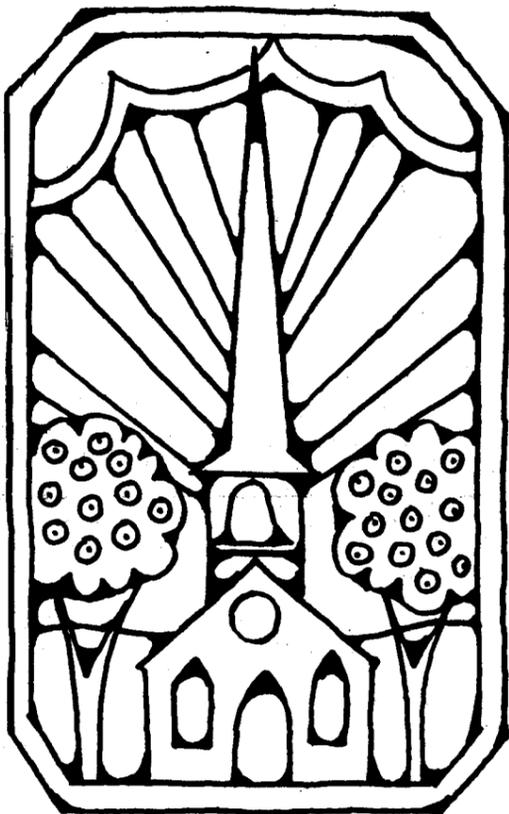
U.S. District Judge Sam Pointer of Birmingham

(Continued on page 14)

The Redstone Rocket

Vol. XXX; No. 34

January 27, 1982



Prayer breakfasts scheduled Feb. 3

Two tri-faith National Prayer Breakfast observances are scheduled to be conducted at Redstone Arsenal Feb. 3.

The first will be at the Recreation Center from 6-6:45 a.m. and the second in the Bicentennial Chapel assembly room from 7-8 a.m.

Both prayer breakfasts are free of charge but attendance at the Bicentennial breakfast is by reservation only. For reservations call 876-7135.

The featured speaker for both observances is Jeri Walker Blankenship, District Judge in Madison County. She took the oath of office last October as Madison County's first woman trial judge.

Maj. Gen. Robert L. Moore is scheduled to make remarks at the Bicentennial Chapel observance.

"The National Prayer Breakfast is an annual testimony that the United States is established on the precepts of justice and liberty under God," said Chaplain (Col.) Delbert W. Gremmels, MICOM Staff Chaplain.

For more information on the prayer breakfasts call the Chaplain's Office, 876-6485.

Insurance rates up

BY ED PETERS

The mood of most Redstone workers likely fell somewhere between blue and cross when they opened this week's paycheck.

All those with group health insurance — 79 percent of the civilian workforce — had a bigger bite taken from their checks, reflecting the new higher health insurance premiums.

The average employee premium has gone up 31 percent, according to Office of Personnel management in Washington, while benefits have been reduced by 6.5 percent.

The rate hike and benefits cut were instituted without an "open season" allowing workers an opportunity to change plans in response to the higher costs and reduced coverages.

Moreover, the customary literature detailing new rates and coverages has not been made available to workers and may not be for some time.

"They (OPM) have told us they're in the process of getting brochures out and hope to have them by the end of January, but more than likely it will be mid-February, I guess," said Phyllis Partridge, of CPO technical services division where insurance matters are handled.

She said delays have been encountered before in obtaining insurance brochures from a distribution point in Baltimore and said they come by fourth class mail.

She has received a rate chart and synopsis of benefit changes by plan. "We will have to have this reproduced and distributed to employees if we don't get something from OPM soon," she said.

Partridge said rates are up in all of the 12 insurance programs used by Redstone workers and benefits are down generally, although some plans have improved benefits in some categories. "High option family seems to be where the biggest (cost) increase is," she noted.

MAJORITY

Blue Cross-Blue Shield is the insurance carried by the majority (61 percent) of arsenal civilians. Their family high option coverage has increased by \$11.25 — from \$30.52 per pay period to a new rate of \$41.77.

The second most popular insurance at Redstone, Postmasters took a \$14.94 jump in the family high option \$52.44 per pay period.

The third and fourth ranked plans at Redstone, Aetna and Mail Handlers, went up, respectively, \$.55 and \$2.23 for the high option. Both plans cost less than \$16 per pay period.

The more expensive plans generally provide more extensive coverage.

Partridge said people wanting information on rates and coverages may come to Bldg 7444 and look over the rate chart and brief descriptions of major changes to each plan that CPO has received.

The insurance changes have set off a storm of employees protest. "We've gotten a lot of calls," said Partridge. "They're upset, they say it's unfair to raise the rates, without being given the opportunity to change."

She said the matter of an open season is "still in court. They're still arguing about having one. OPM doesn't want one till fall."

"OPM has no current plans to hold open season anytime soon."

OPEN SEASON CANCELLED

In an effort to hold premium increases for 1982 at what it called "reasonable proportions," OPM last October cancelled an open season scheduled Nov. 9-11 and continued its negotiations with some 120 insurance carriers in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

OPM announced the program changes Dec. 31 with an effective date of Jan. 1.

Bob Fletcher, AFGE Local 1858 president, says he has received "innumerable calls" from people "wanting an open season and concerned about cost and decrease in benefits."

"The next (Jan. 28) paycheck will show the increase, and here they haven't had a chance to shop around for something cheaper."

Fletcher said he is "confident the court of appeals will direct an open season, or Dr. Devine (OPM Director Donald J. Devine) will go ahead and direct an open season and beat the courts to it . . . that game's played all the time up there."

"The new benefits and rates reflect two rounds of benefit cuts directed by OPM Director Donald J. Devine in September and October, and represent an effort to hold down premium costs to both the government and the enrollee," an OPM press release states.

"His authority to make the cuts was upheld by the U.S. Court of Appeals on Dec. 21. The court gave carriers in the program until Dec. 28 to decide whether they wanted to modify the benefit reductions originally agreed to in October in order to meet the second round 6.5 percent benefit cut . . ."

OPM also states that ". . . most (benefit) reductions involve cost-sharing for the enrollee. Deductible amounts have been increased, coinsurance rates have been modified and compayment features have been introduced."

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Letters

Not so simple

Editor:

Re: Death of "Kiss"
 Keep it simple, sweetheart!

Once upon a time a person seeking employment or promotion with Civil Service completed an SF 171, application for employment. This time-honored 171 contained all the information anyone would ever want to know about the job history of an applicant. Names and telephone numbers of former employers (for verification purposes) were included, as well as items of information about experience, education, awards, and so on. It was all there, and in addition, the SF 171 required only one page of instruction on how to fill it out, which was connected right to the form.

The SF 171, once it reached the civilian personnel office, was evaluated by qualified personnel people, and the applicant was hired or promoted or advised accordingly. Further, the SF 171 was good as gold anywhere in the world where U.S. civil servants are employed, since the qualifications for civil service jobs are the same everywhere.

Then came the age of automation. The Talent Bank was formed. The Civilian Personnel Office became a repository for applications, while panels of non-personnel people made determinations and selections of qualified candidates. An applicant now filled out the traditional 171, but he or she also, upon employment must now fill out a Talent Bank Worksheet to be considered for promotion.

Voluminous instructions were developed (but not made readily available) on how to fill out the Talent Bank Worksheet. While the 171 contained concise information, the Talent Bank Worksheet requires a great deal of abbreviation.

The applicant then takes all of the information readily available on the SF 171 for any and all to see and converts it to the language and format necessary for the Talent Bank. The time and total cost involved in evolving and implementing these new procedures is staggering, while the complication of the entire matter of promotion became much, much greater.

Once promotion was almost automatic based on the evidence of the SF 171. Now one was required to submit a Merit Promotion Application, an SF 171, and a talent bank worksheet or printout.

In the secretarial field, further complications were brought forth. It is not enough to have successfully performed certain jobs; now one's very credibility comes into question. One's supervisor must complete an evaluation for each position applied for, even if the positions are in the same category. But the incredible growth of complication of what was formerly a fairly simple procedure does not stop there.

Suddenly, if one is to be considered for promotion one must do all of the above, plus fill out one form each, individually signed and dated, for nine or ten KSAOs (knowledge, skill, ability or other characteristic questionnaire). On these forms one must again swear that one can perform the duty,



where it has been performed, where knowledge was obtained, and any related awards. Never mind that the records already contain this knowledge, or that a great deal of time and teeth-gnashing goes into completing all the required steps, or that one's supervisor is constantly called upon to verify one's qualifications!

Meanwhile, what happened to the SF 171? It is still in existence, but no longer required, and is, in fact, often returned to applicants for promotion as no longer being necessary, even though it contains all the information needed. There is no one to plead the case of this simple, concise record of one's civil service history. And simplicity gives way to complication, disguised as progress.

The saga does not end with everyone living happily ever after, because among other things it is a story of a battle lost in the war on paperwork. Morale droops and frustration sets in as one seeks advancement.

Will the SF 171 live to reign once again in the civilian personnel office? Will employees be relieved of having to prove again and again their qualifications and potential? Will supervisors be relieved of having to repeatedly fill out evaluations on their employees? (Surely the required annual evaluations should suffice!) Will civilian personnel once again evaluate and rate employees? Tune in again in 1991 to see!

Name withheld on request

Hang in there

Editor:

In response to comments ("I love to drive in the snow . . . but not around these Alabamians") made by Sp4 Danny Vanalstine, 515th Ord. Co., in the Jan. 20 issue of the Redstone Rocket, I feel that it is someone's responsibility to offer an apology to him for the poor driving ability of we Alabamians.

This is primarily because we just don't have enough snow and ice to practice on. Our lack of expertise became apparent when watching the news

film of driving conditions in Chicago, Philadelphia, New York, etc., where the average, well-trained driver would hit slippery conditions, spin around in the road, hit both guard rails, three cars, and then dive off into a field, ditch or upon a sidewalk. Under similar conditions in the South, about all we ever do is just end up under someone's bumper or go straight to the ditch, thus eliminating all the entertainment and travel time.

Hang in there Danny, and be patient with us, just a couple more good winters and we'll get the knack of it.

Jim Vines

US Army TMDE Spt Group

Don't get sick

Editor:

In my total experience as a federal employee, I have never felt so helpless and frustrated.

Health insurance is an absolute necessity in my family, as I am sure it is in yours. However, I am unable to obtain any concise information from the normal sources about what can be done to change or adjust the coverage I currently have contractor for, to something more financially bearable.

I saw a copy of a Corps of Engineers information letter on health insurance which absolutely blew my mind. According to my memory of what that letter said, there were "negotiations" in October with the insurance companies which raised every federal employee's weekly insurance payments severely and dropped the corresponding benefits too.

By my calculations (and I know they are imperfect because CPO has not seen the wisdom in making the figures available to me), I will pay over fifty dollars per pay period for insurance, or a total

of more than \$1,300 per year. In addition, before my insurance company begins to reimburse me for doctor's office visits (which is most of my medical expense), I will have to pay two hundred dollars per person off the top for deductibles. This adds another \$1,000 for my family of five to the \$1,300 for a subtotal of \$2300 out of my pocket before I get any insurance benefits. Then with my medical rider I am now going to have to pay a \$50 deductible fee for each person before the insurance begins to pay the 80 percent of dental charges. This adds another \$250 out of pocket to the \$2,300 for a total of \$2,550 out of pocket expense before the insurance really starts to "help" me.

God forbid that I should really get sick. For if my doctor has to make too many visits, the insurance ceases to cover it.

Any fool can see that what I should do is take my \$2,550 and put it in the bank for normal incidental medical expenses, and change to a low option. But lo, I am unable to change because some benevolent decision maker has decided that I don't need to; therefore, no open season has been forthcoming to allow me the freedom of making that choice. Why? Is my only option at this point to drop all my health insurance or keep it just as is?

Let me close by reiterating that I know my figures are probably inaccurate. Surely I would feel less frustrated and helpless if I had better information and an option for better insurance at a lower cost. But be assured that I am writing this letter only because many concerned fellow employees have expressed the same feelings to me that I am expressing to you.

Name withheld on request

Letters to the editor should be signed (name withheld on request) and sent to: The Redstone Rocket, DRSMI-G. Unsigned letters will not be used.

THE REDSTONE ROCKET

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Black history programs seek 'racial involvement'

BY JEANNE LANZARO

February is Black History Month and a committee at Redstone Arsenal has been working for months organizing events to acquaint the post community with the black experience.

"The aim this year is to get more racial involvement," said SSgt. Randolph Q. Billips, School Brigade's equal opportunity non-commissioned officer. "Why have a Black History Month?" Billips asked. "It's not just for the blacks. Most blacks know something about their history and culture."

February's program is geared at being more informative rather than entertaining of black culture and heritage, so that all races will have the opportunity to become aware of the black experience, said Billips.

The Dining Facility and Recreation Center start off the activities Feb. 2. Troops will be treated to a special "Soul Dinner" at all three of the post's dining facilities from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Among the delicacies to be served are simmered chitterlings, fried catfish, simmered ham hocks, and turnip greens.

The Recreation Center's variety show starts at 7:00 that night. They'll have a poetry reading and

the "Not Ready for Motown" band will stage a tribute to major black music artists from the 1950's through the 1970's. Short biographical sketches on the accomplishments and contributions influencing the black movement will be presented.

Dr. Calvin Matthews of Alabama A&M University will speak on one aspect of the black experience and Charles Patty Jr., of Columbia College will speak about blacks and their present day contributions to the scientific community.

A Gospel Sing-in will take place at the Bicentennial Chapel Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. Groups performing that evening are the Little Indian Creek Gospel Group and the First Baptist Young Adult Choir from the Little Indian Creek Baptist Church, St. James Gospel Choir, the Pentecostal Lighthouse Gospel Choir, and C. H. and Company.

The Back Stabber Band will be performing at the recreation center Feb. 14 at 8 p.m.

Artwork by Alabama A&M University students will be on display during duty hours Feb. 17-26 at the Post Chapel, Library, Craft Shop, and buildings 3300 and 5250. Awards for the best artwork will be presented at the Post Chapel Feb. 17, at 7 p.m. En-

tries will pertain to black history and black awareness. Any member of an arsenal organization may enter. For more information see your company commander or phone the Post Chapel, 876-2337.

Concluding the month's formal activities, the NCO Club will sponsor a dinner, fashion show and dance Feb. 25 beginning at 5 p.m. The fashion models will show contemporary clothing, some of their own fashions and some loaned by the Post Exchange.

Throughout the month, video tape showings of black historical lecturers will be shown in conference room 115 of, Building 5250, during lunch. Films will feature subjects of the Harlem Renaissance and both positive and negative images in black artifacts.

Information about transportation to and from these activities is available by calling SSgt. Lawrence Strong at 876-2326. Bulletin boards throughout post will provide more details on the events and activities during Black History Month. More information is available from Billups at 876-3736.

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Post bank eyes check fee

First Alabama Bank onpost has requested a change to their banking agreement that would permit them to charge a \$1 fee to non-account holders for cashing their U.S. Treasury checks.

"The request is in the command for action," said Lt. Col. Gerald Miller, MICOM Finance and Accounting Officer. "Approval will provide for implementation on Feb. 1."

A check cashing fee not to exceed one dollar is permitted for onpost banks by a policy change of the Office of the Secretary of Defense announced in

December. Purpose of the fee is to let onpost banks recover the cost of processing Treasury checks, and it applies to both military and civilian non-account holders at onpost banks.

Queried recently about the fee Ed Donley, First Alabama's officer for military and industry relations, cited a survey of military bankers which showed it costs 65 to 90 cents to process a Treasury check. "I feel out costs fall somewhere in there. We charge \$2 offpost and have for years," he said.

Donley added that the bank will continue to cash Treasury checks free of charge for account holders.

GOOD NEWS FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

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Vessey visits

Gen. John W. Vessey Jr., Army Vice Chief of Staff, looks at a hardware display during his recent visit to Army commands here. Explaining equipment is Col. Monte Hatchett,

Multiple Launch Rocket System project manager. While here, Vessey toured and was briefed on missile activities at MICOM and BMDSCOM.

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SFC Joseph Endinger, Co. A — "Before this year I didn't seek any help. But now that I'm newly married I'll be using my wife's tax service. They're well qualified to get me a better break."



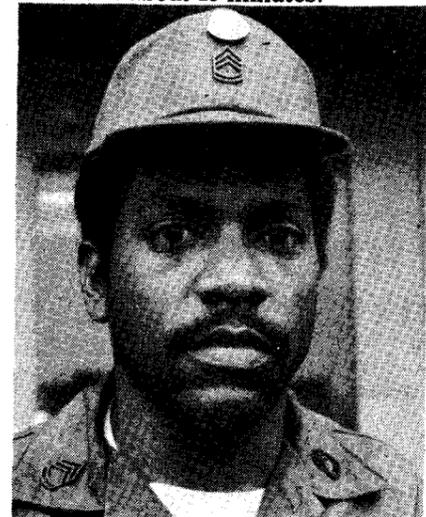
Sp4 Andrew Lowery, Co. B — "I read the tax booklet completely, but sometimes it's inadequate. If I have any complications I seek professional assistance."



Sp4 Tom Fisher, HHC MICOM — "I only have to fill out a simple form, but before I turn it in I have my tax-assistance officer check it out. It's better to be safe than sorry."



SFC Franklin W. Mestrezat, 4th S.C. — "I prepare mine on past experience. I've always gotten along just fine using a short form. I can fill one out in about 15 minutes."



SFC Charles Bush, 291st MP Co. — "I went to the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance class, and it really helped me to better understand the 1981 tax return. The form for this year is very different than before."

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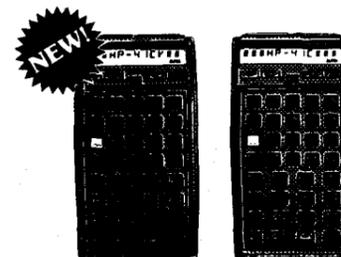
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SQT: Prepare and you'll do well

BY JOHN WAGNER

"When you know the Skill Qualification Test is coming, it's dangerous to take the attitude of 'I know what I'm doing so I won't study,'" said Billy Hughes, Redstone Arsenal training standards officer.

The SQT is a comprehensive method the Army uses to measure a soldier's level of proficiency in his MOS and in common subjects.

It consists of three segments and is given for most MOSSs. The SQTs are divided into 12 groups or "windows." Each window will "open" at the beginning of a certain month and each test within it will be given over the next six to nine months. There are four MOS skill levels that can be tested, depending upon rank. Skill level 1 is for grades E-1 through E-4, and skill level 2 is for E-5's. All levels will have "common subjects" included such as weapon qualification and physical fitness.

"The first step is that a soldier will receive an SQT Notice and Job Site Component Booklet," Hughes explained. "This notice informs him of the period his test will be given. It also has instructions to the supervisor for administering the job site component — the first phase of the test. Furthermore, it provides sample testing material for the other two components and information on training for each."

The job site component is given directly by a soldier's supervisor and requires the soldier to perform specific duty-related tasks. An Administrative Specialist (71L) for example, will be required to do such things as dispatch outgoing distribution, type a military letter, and conduct administrative research. Each task is graded according to performance measures. Soldiers will receive a "Go" or "No Go" grade on each task.

The next part of the SQT is called the hands-on component. The soldier goes to a testing site and again performs specific tasks to be graded by an E-8 or above. Usually an alternate test will be given if necessary equipment is unavailable.

Finally, there is the skill component, which is a formal written test consisting of multiple-choice questions. "Normally there will be 42 to 50 questions," Hughes said.

Training for the SQT is very important. The prime source of information is the Soldier's Manual available for each MOS. Soldiers can obtain these at the MOS library in the Army Continuing Education Division, building 3222.

"I've taken the SQT before," said Pvt. 2 Joseph

Kutchins, 515th Ord. Co., a nuclear weapons maintenance specialist. "The manual is definitely important. I have mine and I'll be studying it frequently over the coming months."

"A person should look up everything he knows he'll be tested on," Hughes added. "He might be surprised at the changes that have come about."

Supervisors also have a responsibility for those under them. SFC Jose F. Juarez, Co. A, who writes lesson plans for ammunition storage specialists, described his own training procedure. "As soon as we receive our notices, I set up study sessions twice a week. We thoroughly go over all the material and I keep track of the progress of each person.

"I'll also be taking them over to the Munitions Department to learn about special weapons. They're not normally exposed to that but they'll be tested on it. That's an example of what a supervisor may have to do. But I get results. Nearly all of my people receive good scores."

"As long as a person prepares, it's not hard to do well," Hughes concluded. "Out of 915 tests I received for last year, 115 had 100 percent scores. You get out of it what you put into it."



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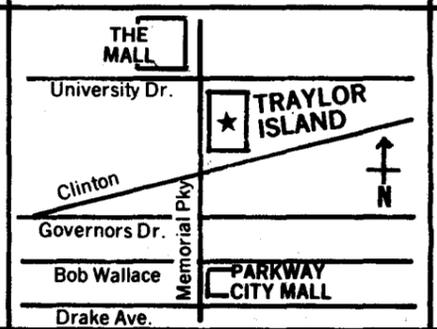
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CWF championship still up for grabs

The Civilian Welfare Basketball League championship is still up for grabs but the favorite's role will be settled pending this week's games.

Rachels was scheduled to meet Finance and Accounting in a crucial battle of the unbeaten last night with the winner taking over undisputed first place.

Rachels kept it unbeaten string alive by defeating P&P No. 1, 59-35, last week behind the double-barreled attack of Randy Murray with 17 and James Battle with 11. Glenn Caradine had 16 for the losers.

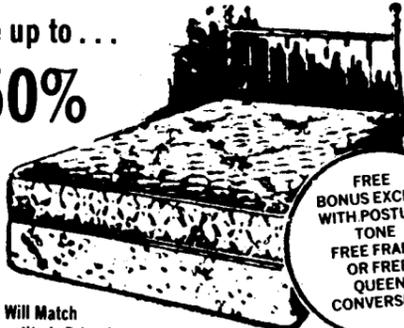
Finance and Accounting, meanwhile, rolled over Supply, 55-33, behind Abdullah Muhammad with 18 but supported by James Love and Dewayne Kelly with 10 each.

Bob Hubbard had 16 for the losers.

Elsewhere, P&P No. 2 swept a doubleheader by stopping Controllers, 51-38 and nipping Corps of Engineers, 44-43. Calvin Boone sparked P&P No. 2 with 17 against Controllers while Larry Gropher had 14 for the losers. Boone also took honors with 16 against COE while Mike Mitchell had 15 for the losers.

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REDSTONE EXTENSION

Spring Quarter Class Schedule 1982

CLASSES BEGIN MARCH 5, 1982

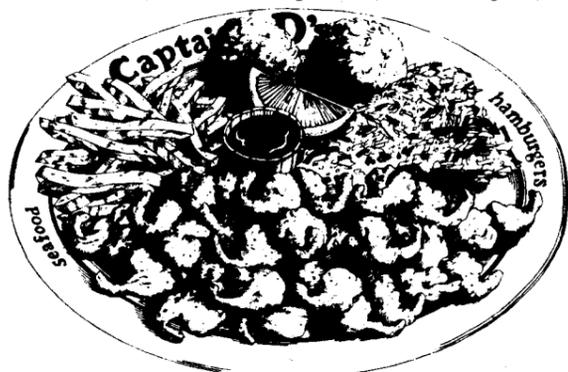
COURSE	TITLE	TIME	CREDIT	ROOM
BUSINESS				
BUS 121	Intro. to Business	T-TH 1900-2100	5	3650 TBA
BUS 151	Business Math	T-TH 1900-2130	5	3650 TBA
BUS 182	Industrial Manag.	T-Th 1030-1300	5	3650 TBA
BUS 201	Accounting I	M-W 1900-2130	5	3650 TBA
BUS 202	Accounting II	M-W 800-1030	5	3650 TBA
BUS 202	Accounting II	T-Th 1630-1900	5	3650 TBA
BUS 235	Marketing	T-Th 800-1030	5	3650 TBA
BUS 252	Economics II	M-W 1030-1300	5	3650 TBA
DATA PROCESSING				
DAP 105	Intro. to D.P.	F 1630-2130	5	3650 TBA
DAP 105	Intro. to D.P.	S 800-1300	5	3650 TBA
DAP 106	Computer Prob Solv.	F 1630-1930	3	3650 TBA
DAP 106	Computer Prob Solv.	S 800-1100	3	3650 TBA
DAP 150	Basic Programing	F 1630-2130	5	3650 TBA
ENGLISH				
ENG 101	Eng. Comp. I	M-W 1630-1900	5	3650 TBA
ENG 102	Eng. Comp. II	M-W 1630-1900	5	3650 TBA
ENG 203	Eng. Lit. I	T-Th 1900-2130	5	3650 TBA
HISTORY				
HIS 101	West CIV. I	M-W 1630-1900	5	3650 TBA
MATH				
MTH 099	Inter Algebra	M-W 1900-2130	5	3650 TBA
MTH 101	Contemp. Math.	T-Th 1630-1900	5	3650 TBA
MTH 111	College Algebra	M-W 1630-1900	5	3650 TBA
MTH 122	Trigonometry	F 1630-2130	5	3650 TBA
PHYSICAL SCIENCE				
PHS 101	Phy. Sci. I	M-W 1900-2130	5	3650 TBA
PHS 120	Environmental Science	T-Th 1630-1900	5	3650 TBA
PSYCHOLOGY-SOCIOLOGY				
PSY 107	Bus. & Indust. Psy.	M-W 1900-2130	5	3650 TBA
PSY 201	General Psy	M-W 1630-1900	5	3650 TBA
PSY 201	General Psy	S 800-1300	5	3650 TBA
PSY 204	Child Psy	M-W 1900-2130	5	3650 TBA
SOC 201	Intro. to Soc.	T-Th 1900-2130	5	3650 TBA
SOC 221	Marriage & Family	T-Th 1900-2130	5	3650 TBA
SPEECH				
SPH 101	Speech	T-Th 1900-2130	5	3650 TBA
SPH 110	Bus./Profess'l Speech	T-Th 1630-1900	5	3650 TBA

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18 gallon blood donor 'will keep giving'

BY ED PETERS

"This is my first time — is it going to hurt?", asked George M. Robinson, contemplating the long needle about

to slide into a vein in his forearm. He feigned a frightened look, then laughed and the Red Cross personnel gathered 'round laughed with him.

Robinson, an engineer with



Robinson: 'That plug in the fingertip . . .'

MICOM's Missile Logistics Center, was preparing to donate blood, not for the first time but for the 144th time, making him the apparent record holder for blood donation by an individual in North Alabama.

"That's 72 times in each arm," said Robinson, protesting that all those needles were giving him "scar tissue."

"George is a character," remarked Alice Carder, Red Cross director of donor services for Madison County.

"You don't get many 'Georges,'" added Ken Roberson, manager of the local Red Cross. "As far as I know he's given the largest number of pints of anyone in North Alabama."

The Red Cross presented a plaque to Robinson last Wednesday when he showed up at the Recreation Center to donate the pint that would bring his total blood donation at Redstone Arsenal to 18 gallons, believed to be a record locally.

Robinson says he's actually given a good bit more blood than that in all "25 or 30 gallons but I imagine the records as old as they are are in the round file."

He said he seems to recall first giving blood in 1942 at old Brookley Field where he worked during World War II.

He began giving at the arsenal when the local blood program started around 1953.

The Red Cross requires a 59 day wait between donations. Robinson

says he hasn't given blood every time he came up eligible. But with 144 donations in less than 20 years he hasn't missed many times. "I used to do quite a lot of TDY for the arsenal and missed then . . . but haven't missed as far as being physically able," said Robinson who turned 66 years old Christmas day.

Because of his age he had to bring a doctor's health certification when he came to the Rec Center to make the donation rounding out his 18th gallon.

"Our regulations say anyone 66 or over must have a doctor's permission" to give blood, said Roberson. The regulation is because "the older you get, the more likely something can go wrong," the Red Cross manager said.

Robinson said having to get doctor's permission every time from now on isn't going to stop him giving blood. "I will keep giving. I'd like to make it an even 20 gallons before I quit."

Robinson said he never has had to receive blood. "And the good Lord willing, I never will. But I've got plenty banked."

Why does he give blood? He thought a moment, then replied, "It doesn't hurt me in the least and will help somebody else, so . . ."

While it doesn't hurt, he confesses that even after 18 gallons "that plug in the fingertip bothers me every time. I feel like I come off the chair a foot."

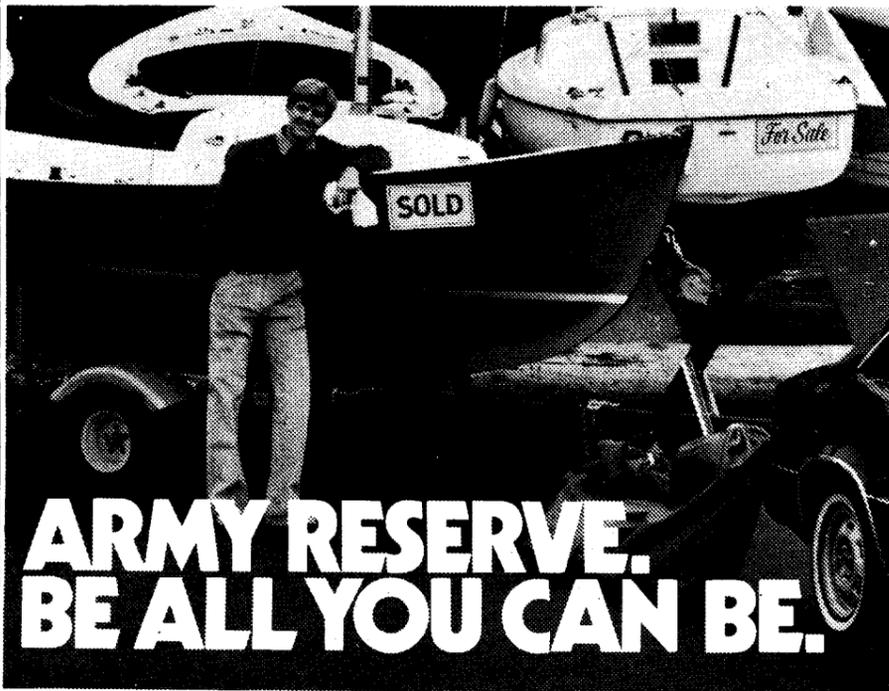
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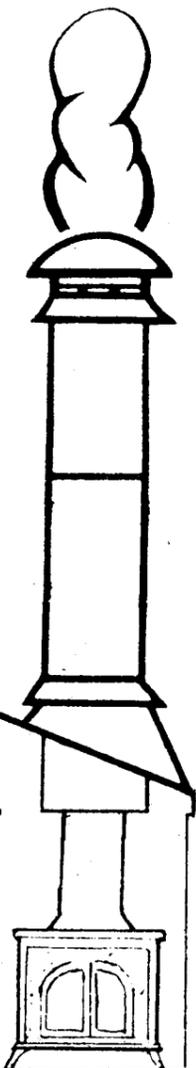
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Good office space is hard to find

BY ED PETERS

There was a time when Bldg. 7101 was the finest building on the arsenal, the headquarters where the general and command group sat.

Today it is showing its age. The paint is peeling, mouldings are coming loose and leaks have discolored the ceiling.

The floor sags and gives. Not long

ago a refrigerator fell through it. At one time mushrooms were growing between cracks in the tiles.

Fire Chief Clifford Dudley calls the building "most definitely a fire hazard . . . no question about it".

The building, in Army terminology, is "uneconomically repairable", meaning it's not worth spending money on.

There are several other buildings in use on the arsenal in no better and in some instances worse shape than Bldg. 7101. These include Bldg. 7172 and the rundown Tin City complex which have 500 people in them.

And so, in 1978, it was decided to tear Bldg 7101 down . . . as soon as a better place could be found to put the people who work there. Three years later, 7101 is still in service. In capsule, that is the story of the Army's physical space problems at Redstone.

Getting all MICOM civilian workers and soldiers into a good working environment has been and continues to be a major command priority, but options are limited. Money for new office buildings — administrative space — is the hardest of all to get from Congress. How hard? Bldg. 5250, completed in 1959, was the last major Army office building funded on Redstone.

Good administrative space has long since been filled to capacity and beyond. Until new buildings can be funded — that will not be anytime soon — reality requires making do with what's available. The record shows that has been done well, but there are only so many former warehouses that can be converted to office space.

Mary Burroughs and Karen Bender of Facilities Engineering are the physical space analysts who do their best to match people and organizations with work areas suitable to their needs. "Suitable", said Burroughs, "is the key word".

analysis section in Bldg. 5250. "They're hurting, probably sitting at a little under 70 per," Burroughs said.

There is some near-term relief in sight with the conversion of good storage-type buildings to office space, and possible relief in the long term in the form of new office buildings.

New office space presently is being developed in warehouse building 4492 obtained from Marshall Space Flight Center and Bldg. 3651, the PX home and sports shop recently moved to the shopping mall.

LOOKING AT BARRACKS

"We're also looking at 19 barracks in the 3200 area," Burroughs noted. The one-story masonry buildings will become vacant in May when new barracks on Gray Road are completed.

Money has been requested to build two new three-story office buildings, according to Dave Branham, production control chief at Facilities Engineering, but it would be near the end of the decade before these could be completed.

Meanwhile, he said, it is planned to demolish 7101 and 7172 just as soon as a better place becomes available to put the people.

"The useful life of most of these wood frame buildings (like 7101 and 7172) has been expended and they need to come down," Branham said. They are among the first buildings ever erected on the arsenal, built hurriedly in World War II.

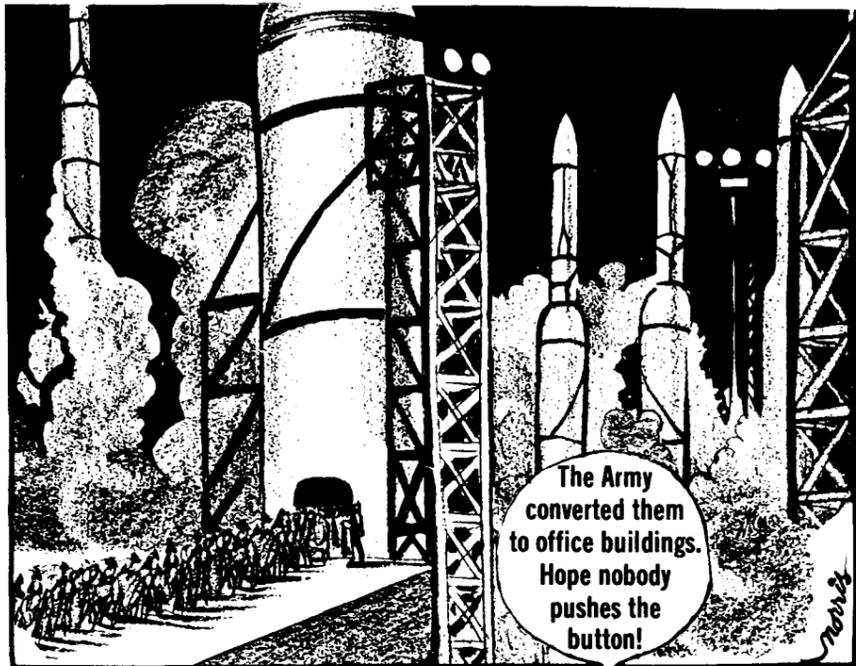
The Tin City buildings were second-hand Navy surplus when they were erected here in 1950s.

A program has been underway for several years to get people out of substandard buildings and tear the old buildings down. Latest to come down is Bldg. 7110, the old occupational health building. Occupational health, along with RASA headquarters, moved from the 7100 area into the old hospital complex.

Earlier, four two-story administrative buildings in the troop area were razed to make room for new barracks.

Also taken down in recent years was the ramshackle Splinter Village complex of buildings formerly housing Civilian Personnel Directorate, which is now in a renovated tin warehouse building on Warehouse Road.

While there have been no office buildings constructed to replace the old ones, new office space has been created by converting the old hospital, PX and commissary buildings. Additionally, two buildings have been acquired from Marshall Space Flight Center, Bldg. 4566 housing Product Assurance Directorate and Bldg. 4496 in which a missile research and development activity is located.



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AT A PREMIUM

Planned people moves and building demolitions and renovations had put suitable physical space at a premium here when an unplanned move of several hundred people had to be made because of an asbestos hazard in Bldg. 5681. These people were farmed out to various places, including Tin City. At the same time other people moves because necessary with the MIROR reorganization.

Burroughs said space analysts like to allow 80 to 90 square feet of physical space per person in an office, with additional space for vaults, computer terminals and other special requirements. "But unfortunately we can't always stay with that", she said. An example of a group making do with a good deal less is Comptroller cost

CONSERVE GAS

IT'S GOOD EXERCISE



Warrant officers help with telethon

Warrant officers from Redstone Arsenal pitched in to help raise money for victims of cerebral palsy during the United Cerebral Palsy telethon Jan. 16-17.

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association manned phones throughout the 20-hour telethon at the Huntsville Mall.

"When I asked for volunteers to assist with the telethon, the membership's response was, 'Tell me when and where to be!'", said CWO 3 Ray Boyd, chapter vice president. "This resulted in two-to-four Warrant Officers being present at all times to assist as needed."

Warrant officers answered phones and took pledges at the VIP table along with representatives of the municipal government and local business leaders. Almost \$60,000 had been pledged in Huntsville at the end of the telethon.

Pete Ceruzzi, telethon chairman, praised the Redstone Arsenal community and specifically the Warrant Officers Association for the outstanding support rendered during the telethon. He said that activities representing the Huntsville community are never complete unless Redstone Arsenal participates.

In addition to manning phones, the chapter donated \$165.00, Boyd said.



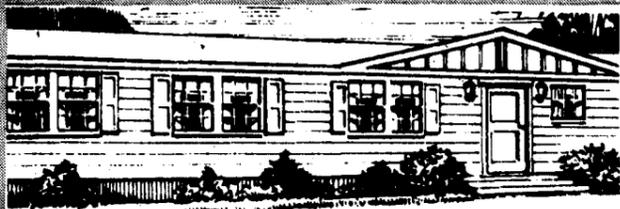
CWO 3 Ray Boyd at telethon with Gordon Richmond and Jo Vaughn. (Photo — Bill Curry)

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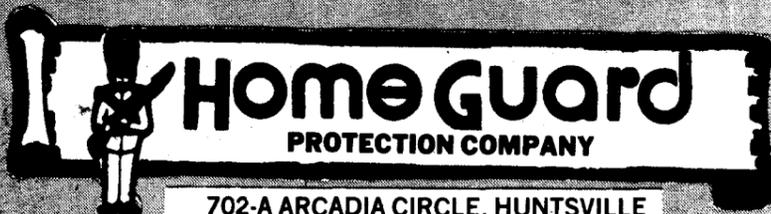
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NOTE: Students should pick-up pre-registration packet from ASC Office on-post BLDG. 3650.

TUITION AND FEES must be paid on Friday, February 19 2:00-4:30 p.m. at ASC Office on-post BLDG. 3650. Phone: 876-7561

ADVISORS will be available from 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 27

Thursday, January 28

Wednesday, February 3

Thursday, February 4

REDSTONE ARSENAL CLASS SCHEDULE

AC 443	Federal Tax Accounting II	Sat.	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
BU 305	Statistical Methods of Business	Tues.	6:00 p.m.-10:10 p.m.
BU 311	Legal Aspects of Business I	Fri.	4:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
BU 346	Federal Contract Administration	Mon.	6:00 p.m.-10:10 p.m.
EC 321	Money and Banking	Wed.	6:00 p.m.-10:10 p.m.
EC 323	Intermediate Micro-Economics	Thurs.	6:00 p.m.-10:10 p.m.
EC 415	Managerial Finance	Mon.	6:00 p.m.-10:10 p.m.
EH 433	Fiction	Fri.	4:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
GS 307	Small Computers for Business	Fri.	4:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
HY 302	Great American Issues	Wed.	6:00 p.m.-10:10 p.m.
MG 346	Management & Organization	Tues.	6:00 p.m.-10:10 p.m.
MG 349	Personnel Management	Wed.	6:00 p.m.-10:10 p.m.
MK 331	Marketing Principles	Thurs.	6:00 p.m.-10:10 p.m.
PO/BU 358	Public Administration	Fri.	4:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
PS 335	Adult Psychology	Saturday	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
RE 312	Judaism	Thurs.	6:00 p.m.-10:10 p.m.

CLASSES BEGIN March 16, 1982.

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7th S.C.		8	3	6th S.C.		7	4
HHC Team 1		5	6	515th Ord. Co.		6	6
5th S.C.*		5	6	95th SVC		3	8
291st MP Co.		2	9	8th S.C.		4	7
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Rec Center tours have broad appeal

BY JEANNE LANZARO

Nestled in the dry "hollow" of Lynchburg, Tennessee is the very wet Barrelhouse of Jack Daniel's Whiskey. The Jack Daniel's Distillery Tour is one of a number of tours offered by the Redstone Arsenal Recreation Center for military personnel and family members.

"We plan an average of two trips a month," said Alice Bower, recreation specialist. "Trips are geared to a variety of interests. There are sporting events, sightseeing tours and amusement attractions. We try to appeal to single troops as well as families."

Bower said that most of the trips cost from 50 cents to \$13. The center provides a bagged lunch for most of their trips, to help keep the cost down, explained Bower. The Jack Daniel's Distillery Tour is an exception. "The White Rabbit Saloon is one of

the highlights of that tour and most people prefer to buy the lunches offered there."

Feb. 7 the center's tour group will be riding the Incline to the top of Lookout Mountain. Then they'll tour the Confederama and see the Civil War come to life. "It's a nice sightseeing trip for singles, groups and families," said Bower.

Tickets are still available for the Atlanta Hawks/Golden State Warriors Basketball Tour on Feb. 28. The trip to the Omni in Atlanta costs \$8.

Other sports trips during the year include an Atlanta Braves baseball game and an Atlanta Falcons football game. The center also has tours going to the Winston 500 and Talladega 500 stock car races. "This year we're working on a trip to the Nashville or Birmingham Zoo," Bower added.

Besides going on a tour to Six Flags Over Georgia with the recreation center, members of the military

community can save money by buying their tickets from the center before they go, Bower said. "Right now we're working on getting discount tickets for the 1982 World's Fair at Knoxville."

Recently the center toured Nashville. The tour group went backstage at the Grand Ole Opry, visited the Country Music Hall of Fame, a recording studio, downtown Nashville, the Governor's Mansion, and homes of such country stars as Minnie Pearl, Eddy Arnold and Ronnie Milsap. In the spring there'll also be tours to Opryland said Bower.

"We try to make our trips interesting to everyone and we frequent places by the response we receive. For example, we've had three Jack Daniel's tours in four months, and there are still over 60 people on the waiting list."

For information on tours you can call 867-4531 daily between 1:30 and 10 p.m.

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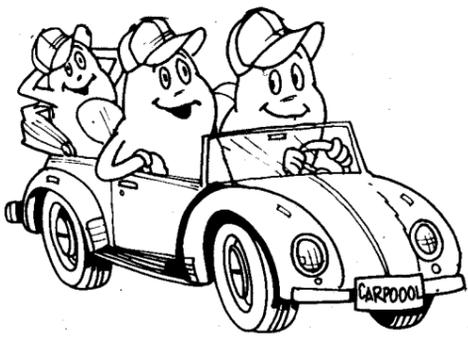
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Carpool or ride wanted from Mayfair Park/Huntsville High area to 5250. J. Smith 876-1967.

Hwy 53

Carpool wanted from Harvest/Toney area to 3648 or MMCS area, hours 7-3:30. Theo E. Hughes 876-7437.

Decatur

Carpool members wanted from Decatur (can meet at Priceville) to 4488 or 4566, hours 7:45-4:15. Rita Parks 876-5234 or Anita 876-2630.

Harvest/Toney

Carpool wanted from Harvest/Toney on Ardmore Highway to 3424 or school area. Betty Traweek 876-3517.

Hartselle

Carpool wanted from Hartselle to 5400 or 5435, hours 7:30-4. John McGhee 876-2945.

Carpool wanted from Hartselle to vicinity of 7442 (Civilian Personnel), hours 7:30-4. Ruby J. Massey 876-3617.

Carpool members wanted from Hartselle to 3623 and 3740 areas, hours 8-4:30 (flexible). Joe Coughlin 876-3682.

Guntersville

Carpool member wanted from Guntersville to 5400, 5250, 4500 areas, hours 7-3:30. Royce Phillips 876-5947.

East Limestone/Fairview

Ride or carpool wanted from East Limestone or Fairview areas to 4488 or vicinity, hours 8-4:30. Brenda Kyle 876-4103.

Announcements

Recreation Center

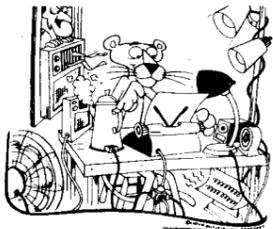
Tonight — Movie "10" at 7 p.m. Thursday — Bingo at 8 p.m. Friday — Pool Tournament at 7 p.m. Saturday — Jam Session at 2:30 p.m. Sunday — Jack Daniels Distillery tour at 11 a.m.

AAAA and SOLE meet

A joint luncheon meeting for the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America and the Society of Logistics Engineers is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Jan. 29, at the Officer's Club. The guest speaker will be Joe Cribbens, special assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics Support to the U.S. Army and Army Aviation Worldwide. He will speak on "Management of Aeronautical Material" and share his expertise and experiences with members of AAAA and SOLE who attend the luncheon.

Flying club safety meeting

The Redstone Arsenal Flying Club will hold its mandatory quarterly safety and general membership meeting on Thursday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m. in Toftoy Hall Auditorium.



We all have a consuming interest in energy

Bloodmobile

The Bloodmobile will be at Bldg 3202 (8th SC) today beginning at 4 p.m. It will be here Friday Jan. 29, at Bldg 8027 from 7:30-11 a.m. and at Bldg 4566 from 8-12 noon.

OWC meeting

A silent auction and interior decorating tips keyed to military quarters on post will be on the program at the OWC meeting Feb. 9 at the Officers Club. It will begin with a social at 11 a.m. with lunch at 11:45. Ladies of BMDSCOM are hosts. Members are encouraged to donate items in good condition (no clothing) for the auction by taking them to Marilyn Moberly at 56 Bomford. Large items should be taken to the club on the day of the auction. For reservations call A-E Anna Carmichael, 830-0575; F-L Caroline Robinson, 837-7352; M-R Debbie Quinn, 830-1330; S-Z Bettye King 882-1985; Cancellations by noon Feb. 8 to Willie Heyward, 837-9627.

Women in Action

Women in Action will host its first luncheon of the 1981-82 term on Jan. 29 at the Officers Club. A social will begin at 11:30 a.m. with lunch at noon; the cost is \$6. No reservations will be taken after noon Jan. 28. The speaker will be Susan Reeves, a Birmingham attorney who was a founder of the Alabama Legal Services Corp. For tickets, call Avis Lang 876-2843, Margaret Vaughn 895-4170 or Doris Wambeke 876-5441.

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NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF REDSTONE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

The Annual Meeting of the membership of Redstone Federal Credit Union will be held at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, January 28, 1982, in the Concert Hall of the Von Braun Civic Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Members are invited to attend and receive reports on 1981 operations. Mail balloting results will be announced.

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Fraud trial

(Continued from page 1)

presided over the trial that lasted almost three weeks in Huntsville. The maximum sentence for conspiracy is 10 years or \$10,000 or both.

Chambers and his attorney, Julian Butler of Huntsville, had no comment after the verdict was read around 4:30 p.m. Friday. Mrs. Laird said later in a prepared statement read by her attorney that she was "very disappointed and deeply hurt."

The one-page statement, released by attorney Robert Sellers Smith, said "We feel that she has been found guilty of a felony for nothing more than performing her contract as ordered by authorized government officials at Redstone Arsenal. We expect at an early date to file a motion with the court for a judgement in favor of Mrs. Laird notwithstanding the verdict."

The trial began Jan. 4 with four defendants. Roddy Hoyt Moody, who works in Chambers' office, was dismissed from the case when the charges against him were dropped at the request of the prosecution Jan. 11.

Government prosecutors called 59 witnesses to the stand, including 28 during the final week. Defense attorneys countered with 14 witnesses after the judge dropped 19 of the 22 counts in the indictment.

Judge Pointer narrowed count one to conspiracy relating only to vouchers for picture frames. He threw out all but two of the counts charging the contractor with overbilling for pages.

The first witness called last week by the prosecution was Peggy Scott, who worked at Laird Enterprises as a technical typist in 1979. She testified that work was sometimes taken away from her before she had finished to meet a "quota" for billing.

DEFAULT SUGGESTED

Karolyn Pond, an attorney for the Missile Command, testified about a Dec. 4, 1979 meeting to discuss delays in Laird's performance of work. She said she suggested the Army default Laird's contract but that Chambers responded that could not be done because of "the politics involved."

The government called James Fagan, retired MICOM engineer, Kenneth Evans, a MICOM engineer, and Mallory V. Jackson, a MICOM aerospace engineer, to discuss work they had produced through the technical information office and its contractor Laird Enterprises. James Capley, chief of the MICOM photographic branch, testified about the procedure for procuring view-graphs.

Prosecutors then called Chester Huskins, a retired chemist, Eugene Palm of MICOM's Army Missile Lab, and Dr. Billy J. Walker of MICOM to testify about work they had done through the technical information office.

Linda Yancey, who works in the technical information office, testified several documents received from the contractor had to be redone in-house because they were in "bad condition." She was followed by Dr. Sherman Seltzer of Huntsville and Dr. Thomas Roberts of MICOM who had documents done through Chamber's office.

The FBI agent assigned to the case, Tom Wiseman, was recalled to testify about his interviews with the three defendants. He testified Mrs. Laird told him oil paints and picture frames were charged to the government as pages under an agreement she and Chambers had worked out.

Wiseman testified Chambers said he had authorized the purchase of numerous picture frames for various officials at Redstone and that the frames were listed as pages under the Laird contract. The FBI agent testified Chambers said paint brushes and paints were also obtained for illustrators in his office.

Wiseman testified Brown said they routinely paid for picture frames at Chambers' request and that the frames were charged as pages at the end of the month. The FBI agent added Brown said he and Chambers had worked out a formula for the payments.

The remaining prosecution witnesses included 11 engineers who had work done through the technical

information office; three former Laird employees; and a technical editor in the technical information office.

Mrs. Laird's husband, Marvin "Mack" Laird, was the first witness called by her attorney, Smith. He testified his wife started her printing and publications business in 1969 and that he went to work for her two years later. Medical problems had forced him to stop work as a mechanic in 1971, said Laird, age 48.

'EXCELLENT' WORK

Bonnie Varnom, Smith's next witness, testified she worked at Laird Enterprises in 1979 as supervisor of illustrators. She said her five or six illustrators did "excellent" work and that she had no knowledge of work being sent off incomplete. Her last month at Laird was spent in charge of document control, she said.

Burl Dunlap, who worked parttime and fulltime at Laird until its government contract ended, testified that "all documents that I worked on were complete when delivered."

Smith's next two witnesses were called to testify for Mrs. Laird's reputation for truth and veracity. They were Joseph Wittkop Jr., executive director of Huntsville Youth for Christ, and the Rev. Sam Wolfe, a Baptist minister in Huntsville.

Dr. William C. McCorkle, technical director of Army Missile Laboratory, testified he did not know of any complaints about paintings done by illustrators in Chambers' support office. "I think most people are very appreciative of the art," he said. He testified he did not know how the works were framed for office walls.

Smith's next witness was Wilbur S. Davis, who retired in 1973 as assistant director of Marshall Space Flight Center in charge of procurement operations. As an expert in contract matters, he testified that Laird's contract was "confusing and not clear." Judge Pointer, however, told the jury "there is no way these contracts could be construed as authorizing frames for paintings."

Dr. Julian S. Kobler, the retired director of Army Missile Laboratory, testified there were paintings done by Chambers' illustrators and framed before Laird's contract. He said he did not find out how frames were obtained until Chambers told him while the investigation was under way.

NOT REQUESTED

Retired Maj. Gen. Louis Rachmeler, MICOM commander until July 31, 1980, testified four paintings appeared on the walls of his office around early 1980. He said he did not request the paintings although he may have mentioned the decor of his office to his aide, Capt. Mike Thompson. He testified he did not know how the frames were billed.

Mrs. Laird testified she won a government contract in April 1978. She said the contract was basically for doing technical manuscripts for publications. Brown became her project director that summer, she said.

Mrs. Laird testified Brown relayed a message from Chambers that he wanted the contractor to provide picture frames. She said she did not discuss

this with Chambers. "I had no reason to believe he (Chambers) would do anything wrong," she testified. "As far as I was concerned, if he ordered it, he got it. My job was to fill the orders."

Chambers was called by Julian Butler, his lawyer. Chambers testified that Dr. John McDaniel, then director of Army Missile Lab, assigned him to hire artist Albert Lane in 1976. He said McDaniel had already talked to Lane about doing artwork for the executive suite of an arsenal building.

BILLED AS PAGES

Chambers testified he told McDaniel "I had no real avenue to get the framing done." He said McDaniel told him to get it done and that he got the frames by using the then contractor, Superior Technical Services. Chambers testified the frames were billed as pages under that contract.

Requests for artwork came from Maj. Gen. Charles Means, Horace Lowers, and Col. Michael Dooley, he testified. Before the summer of 1979, Laird had no involvement with the framing, according to Chambers. He said he approached Laird's Dwayne Kennedy about the possibility of getting some framing done. Chambers said he discussed with Brown the method of how they would be billed.

In 1979, Chambers testified, paintings were done for Kobler's office in Bldg. 5400 and artwork requests came from Col. L. B. McPheeters and Col. David Smith. Four paintings were placed in Maj. Gen. Rachmeler's office and a large oil painting was done for Brig. Gen. Benjamin Pelligrini. Chambers testified all the paintings were hung in arsenal buildings and said he had no intent to defraud the government by having them framed.

Owens, Brown's attorney, called Brown and another former Laird employee. Brown testified he spoke to Mrs. Laird after getting Chambers' request that picture frames be done under the contract. He said Kennedy would pick up the paintings and take them to Frameland and then bring the bills back to him.

Brown, under cross examination, testified Mrs. Laird would make the money available for picture frames. He said she would have the money available in petty cash when he would need it to pay for the frames.

Maj. Gen. Robert L. Moore, MICOM commanding general, was called by Mrs. Laird's lawyer, Smith. Moore testified he was aware of the investigation involving MICOM and Laird before taking command in 1980. Asked his opinion of picture framing under the contract, he said "It's illegal."

Moore testified he issued an order that paintings should not be done for private consumption. He said he also issued a statement to the workforce that theses should not be typed at government expense and that anyone who already had one typed should reimburse the government.

Assistant U.S. attorneys Mike Rasmussen and Ann Robertson called a MICOM attorney to the stand to introduce records showing picture frames could be purchased legally through government channels. After closing arguments, the jury deliberated Thursday afternoon before adjourning until Friday morning.

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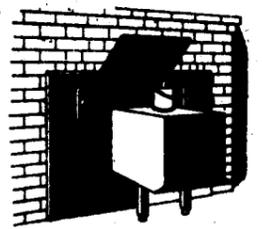
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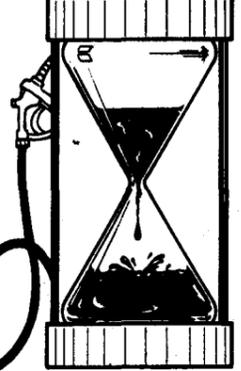
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GENUINE DATSUN PARTS

WHEEL ALIGNMENT AND SUSPENSION SPECIAL

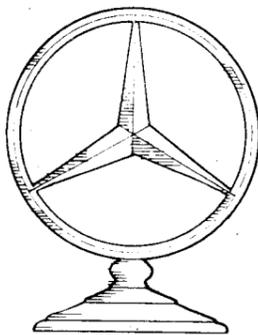
- Check Caster & Camber
- Set Toe-In
- Inspect Steering Linkage
- Inspect for Road Hazard Damage
- Check for Irregular Tire Wear
- Safety Check Entire System

\$15.40 WITH THIS COUPON AT CONTINENTAL CARS, INC.

NOTE: Pick-Up Trucks Slightly More

Coupon Good Through Feb. 27, 1982 — Datsun Vehicles Only — Any Taxes Extra

Install the best!
GENUINE DATSUN PARTS



BRAKE SPECIAL

- Replace Front Brake Pads
- Inspect Rotors, Drums, Calipers, Hydraulics
- Replace Front Grease Seals
- Repack Front Wheel Bearings As Required
- Bleed & Refill Hydraulic System
- Road Test

NOTE: Wheel Cylinder Rebuilding/Replacement, or Resurfacing Rotors/Drums, Extra — If Required.

\$50.00 WITH THIS COUPON AT CONTINENTAL CARS, INC.

MOST MODELS

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HAVE A DATSUN IT'S GOOD FOR YOU

TIRE ROTATION

- Check Tire Wear
- Check Tire Pressure
- Rotate Per Manufacturer's Specifications

\$3.00 WITH THIS COUPON AT CONTINENTAL CARS, INC.

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GENUINE DATSUN PARTS

Credit Cards Honored:
MasterCard, Visa,
American Express

Please Call for an Appointment
Continental Cars, Inc.

4406 University Drive

Huntsville, Alabama

205-837-5752

Service Hours:
7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Mon. thru Fri.