

Jubenville's "ripple tank"

A MAN-SIZED PACKAGE

How do you make science more palatable to high schoolers -- whose interest in the subject is definitely flagging? With a boost of \$300,000 from the National Science Foundation, some of America's top scientists and educators are putting their heads together to work out a new answer to this question. They are not just discussing the problem. With headquarters at M.I.T., the Physical Science Study Committee is busily at work re-vamping the entire approach to science at the high school level -- from textbooks and exams to lab equipment.

The project was dreamed up last year by Prof. Jerrold Zacharias (Physics). Details were worked out in many a Saturday parley between President Killian, Edwin Land (President of Polaroid Corporation), Nobel Prize winners Edward Purcell (Harvard) and I.I. Rabi (Columbia) and a number of M.I.T. professors, all of whom felt that drastic steps should be taken to remedy the chronic and ever-increasing shortage of science teachers and scientists. Their line of attack: to start at the ground level by offering a new "total package" in physical science to students and teachers across the nation.

Under Dr. Elbert P. Little's enthusiastic administration, the Committee has taken giant strides since its formal launching in September. Top M.I.T. physicists (Friedman, Morse, Rossi, Frank, Zacharias and others) are pooling their talents on a new physics textbook. The book, which the Committee hopes to try in a few selected schools in the fall of '57, is also getting contributions from research groups at Cornell, Bryn Mawr, the University of Illinois, and Bell Telephone Labs. Laura Fermi, author of the bestseller Atoms in the Family, has a full-time berth as organizer of monographs at Committee headquarters in the Sloan Building. Arthur Jubenville, long-time teacher and recent inventor of EREC-TRONICS kits for youngsters, is building all sorts of distracting apparatus -- out of such materials as yardsticks, rubber bands, and ping pong balls (see above) -- to be used in school laboratories. President Killian, Corporation Chairman Vannevar Bush, and other renowned educators are helping out on the Steering Committee. So is Hollywood's Frank Capra, and even Walt Disney blew in to M.I.T. last winter for consultation on the 70-odd films scheduled for the future.

So far much of the Committee's effort has been extracurricular -- sandwiched in between teaching and other commitments. But this summer things will really be humming. Beginning early in June educators, scientists, and teachers from all over the country will start arriving at M.I.T. for an intensive 3-month session on the project. By the end of the summer, they hope to have the textbook in tentative shape, a number of movies completed, lots more lab apparatus, and at least the groundwork laid for a "teacher's manual" to explain the new program to those who will be responsible for carrying it out. The biggest problem at the moment: finding housing for the visitors.

BRING THE PORTCULLIS

He'd qualify for the Quarter Century Club any day (or was it a she?) -- except that he spent only three days of his 72 years on the M.I.T. campus. Even that brief visit he made under protest, endlessly prowling the inner recesses of the Chapel moat with lumbering step and slowly blinking eyes, while the unruly hedge of seaweed on his tail slipped this way and that with the water. "Looks kind of prehistoric," whispered one spectator. "They must've built the Chapel right around him."

The 50-pound snapper was captured, after a brief skirmish involving a baseball bat, on the banks of the Charles River in Wellesley. (It is rumored that on their way home his M.I.T. captors introduced him round at Jake Wirth's.) Once in the moat, the problem was what to do next. After three days of fruitless discussion, the moat was drained and two hardy recruits from B & P -- with a campus wagon in tow -- transplanted the uncomfortable animal to the nearest point in the Charles River. With a careful eye on Route 9, maybe he'll make it back to Wellesley before too many moons roll by.

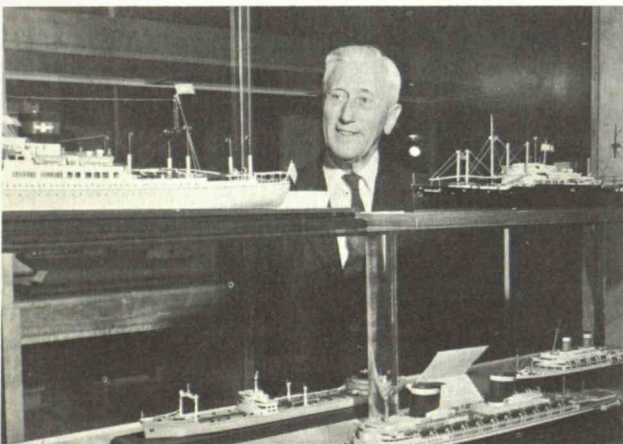


ADIOS SENOR

He used to speak Spanish, as a youngster, but when Prof. George C. Manning (Naval Arch.) joins the faculty at the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil this month he'll be lecturing in Portuguese. "I expect I'll pick it up pretty quickly," he says cheerfully, and the fact that Prof. Manning will be teaching from a textbook -- now being translated into Portuguese -- that he wrote himself may make things a good deal easier.

For some time, now, the Brazilian government has been sending its most promising Naval Officers to M.I.T. to study. But it's an expensive proposition, and Prof. Manning has the honor of launching the first program in naval architecture ever to be given in Brazil. Actually, there's only one other such course on the whole continent of South America. That is at the University of Buenos Aires in Argentina, and it was started by the ousted dictator Juan Peron, because the American State Department took a dim view of his political doings and stopped issuing visas to Argentinian students who wanted to study in the United States.

Prof. Manning is an old hand at teaching. He was one of the youngest officers ever chosen by the U.S. Navy to instruct at the Naval Academy. He was also chosen to set up a post-graduate course in naval architecture at Annapolis before World War II. After reaching the position of Lt. Commander in the Navy (and riding a gunboat on the Yangtze River in China), he taught at M.I.T. for 21 years. This July, in Brazil, Prof. Manning will celebrate his 65th birthday. He will spend two years at Sao Paulo, and if he's not too absorbed in the project he'll probably retire after that. To the two honorary citations he received at M.I.T. before his departure last week, one from his friends in the Bureau of Ships and one from his graduating naval students at M.I.T., we add a late farewell and best wishes.



Manning checks Merchant Marine

PRIMEVAL CLAMBAKE?

The hullabaloo on Mass. Ave. these past weeks, says Don Whiston (B&P), has to do with new power cables being laid by the Cambridge Electric Light Co. And the oyster shells spewed onto M.I.T. sidewalks from the bottom of the trenches? According to Don, Mass. Ave. was once (1850's or so) a flourishing clam bed. Oysters, imported from Maryland, were added later. The Dept. of Civil Engineering points out that huge quantities of oysters were also available in the Charles River area to some early dwellers whose dates have been tentatively fixed at 1700-1400 B.C. Dept. of Architecture adds a P.S.: Mass. Ave. (M.I.T. stretch) was originally built on a sand bar -- the highest point of land between two great areas of swamp -- and Central Square was once a busy seaport (to wit, the Cambridgeport Savings Bank).

GOLDEN

Start counting backwards, through time, the number of years put in at M.I.T. by the 60 current members of the Silver Club, and you'll almost run into Julius Caesar. The grand total: exactly 1,916 years. The Silver Club (Chairman, Muriel Kennedy, Bursar's Office), which is the feminine equivalent of the Quarter Century group, celebrated its fifteenth birthday last Thursday at Endicott House in Dedham. Completing a perfect attendance record were two members, both retiring this June, who between them have accounted for 79 years of service.

First chairman of the Silver Club was Doris Peabody, long-time head of the M.I.T. Letter Shop. A graduate of Bryant and Stratton, Miss Peabody joined the staff of the Alumni Office in 1916. There was no Bldg. 7, at that time, and Miss Peabody still remembers her daily walk up the long path, flanked by lawns ("I think"), which would now run right through the middle of the front lobby.

Miss Peabody took charge of the Alumni Office in 1920. Her boss: Walter Humphreys, now Secretary of the Corporation. (Once, with her teeth chattering, she even took dictation from President Maclaurin.) As the Alumni Office expanded, its correspondence became so voluminous that an independent Letter Shop was set up, with Miss Peabody in charge. The L.S. consumption record for the last year and a half: 7000 reams of mimeo paper, weighing about $7\frac{1}{2}$ tons. Following her retirement, Miss Peabody's itinerary will take her to Groton, Mass., where she grew up. Coming from a family of carpenters and cabinet-makers, she has plans for an antique shop on the family homestead. As an expert weaver and a recent convert to photography (she specializes in gardens), Miss Peabody will keep plenty busy on the side.

Also winning a blue ribbon for attendance -- at the Silver Club and at M.I.T. -- is Olive Barnard. Miss Barnard has been keeping tabs on Course XV (Business and Engineering Administration) for 38 years. Happily for the Course, she and Prof. Schell arrived at M.I.T. within two years of each other. Together they built Course XV into such a going concern that it literally mushroomed into the School of Industrial Management. Today, being a strict self-disciplinarian on names and faces, Miss Barnard knows something about some 3500 Course XV-ers, now scattered in all parts of the world, who won their degrees at M.I.T. If a member of the class of '20 drops in unexpectedly from China, Miss Barnard is sure to address him



Million-letter Peabody

Barnard's business



by name. Her biggest identification difficulty: not the discrepancy in age, but the sometimes major discrepancy in shape. For some years, now, Miss Barnard has been helping Course XV students to find jobs. To date she has an excellent record -- with only a very occasional protest from grateful hirers. (Not long ago she got word that a student she had helped to place "is doing fine . . . but he keeps taking his shoes off in the office.") Although Miss Barnard will retire this June, she hopes to keep abreast of Course XV doings on a part-time basis for at least another year. Being an avid reader, she's got lots of books to catch up on in her spare time.

HERE AND THERE

Prof. Gordon Brown (Elec. Eng.) has been filmed for CBS-TV's "See It Now." He is scheduled to appear on Sunday, June 2.

Recommended: an excellent speaker on a timely subject. The annual A.D. Little Memorial Lecture will be given on May 22, 8 p.m., by Dr. Edwin H. Land, President of Polaroid Corporation, Visiting Institute Professor, and a Fellow of the M.I.T. School for Advanced Study. Dr. Land's topic: "Generation of Greatness: The Idea of a University in an Age of Science."

Errata: Bill Crepeau (issue of May 7) reminds us that it's not Volkswagens he's selling for Benson Inc. (he's had several calls on the subject), but a little Minx named Hillman.

Dr. Marshall G. Holloway, former director of Lincoln Lab, has been appointed president of the newly-formed Nuclear Products - Erco Division of ACF Industries, Inc. Dr. George E. Valley, former associate director of the Lab, is new Chief Scientist for the Air Force.

An estimated 1069 M.I.T. students -- graduate and undergraduate -- will receive degrees at commencement exercises on June 7.

Prof. John Norton (Metallurgy) has been re-elected Chairman of the Faculty. Prof. Thomas Sherwood (Chem. Eng.) is the new head of the Undergraduate Policy Committee.

FOR SALE, ETC.

'54 Plymouth Suburban. R & H. Overdrive. Good cond. \$12 00. David Dudley, Ext. 791.

'54 Ford station wagon (8-cyl.). 38,000 miles. Good cond. Susskind, Ext. 2346.

Craftsman 8" circular saw with tilting arbor and $\frac{1}{2}$ hp Westinghouse motor. Used slightly. \$55 (retail \$94.90). One 7:60x15 Goodrich Lifesaver w/w tubeless. Driven under 500 miles. \$20. D. Rotondi, Ext. 7326 (Lincoln).

Antique flintlock duelling pistols and other collector's antique firearms. Ext. 2671 or WE 5-0388j.

Gerard RC-80 record changer with GE cartridge & diamond stylus. Best price. Custom built high fidelity power amplifier. Best price. Bator, Ext. 3648.

'54 Volkswagen Sedan. Good cond., some instruments, all tools. Asking \$1095, or swap for '51 or '52 TD plus cash. Al Conrod, Ext. 3496 or Vo 2-9050 (evenings).

Home furnishings (Brazilian student leaving country in July). 9 cu-ft. refrigerator (\$80). Easy spindrier washer (\$40). Dinette set (\$30). Sofa & arm chair (\$30). Bdrm. furn - (\$80). Desk & bookcase (\$10). Miss Leah, WA 3-1270.

Wanted: Freezer (zero storage cabinet). Prefer small unit, will consider any size if price is right. Jane Dennis, Ext 611.

Wanted: Woman's English bike. Mrs. Weiler, Ext. 2110.

Sublet (6-8 mos.) 4-rm. furn. apt. with porch. Couple only. Reasonable rent. Minutes to MIT. Wasserman, Ext. 3601 or As 7-0614.

Sublet for summer or year. Mod. furn. apt. 2 bdrms, LR, K, solarium, bath. 20 min. to MIT by bus. Garage. \$130/mo. Avail. June 15. M. Williamson, Ext. 2705.

For rent. Commonwealth Ave., Newton. 6-rm. unheated apt. \$125/mo. Avail. June 1. Al 4-3038 after 5:30 p.m.

For rent. Garfield St., Camb. 2-rm. furn. apt. (plus K&B). \$135/mo. Plenty of room for 3 roommates. El 4-4850.

For summer rent (June 10-Sept. 10). Belmont. Furn 3-bdrm. house with screened porch, playroom, garage, large yard. Quiet neighborhood. Ext. 135 or Iv 4-4707 after 6 p.m.

For summer rent (mid-June - Sept. 10). Belmont. 3-bdrm. house, LR, DR, K, cellar. Big yard. 3-min. walk from bus line. \$40/wk. plus utils. C.S. Alden, Ext. 2646.

For sale. Bedford. 4-rm. expandable Cape house, 1-yr. old, with full shed dormer. LR, fp, lg. K, bath. Fully plastered construction. Forced hw heat. Large corner lot. Asking \$14,900. Ext. 7350 (Lincoln) or Cr 4- 7665.

For sale. Lexington, Woodhaven section. 7-rm. modified Cape. 3 bdrms plus all-weather porch. Spacious grounds, lots of shade trees. Enclosed back yard. Close to public transportation. Asking \$17,900. Call owner, Vo 2-4521.