Spares

Bulletin

of the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

24 June 1985 No.9

Coming Full Circle

Two SNS Ceremonies took place recently and the events leading to both being inseparable, it seemed fitting that they should occur together.

Seven years to the day after the close-down of Nimrod, the same hand turned the same key in the same control panel to start a new era of science at RAL.

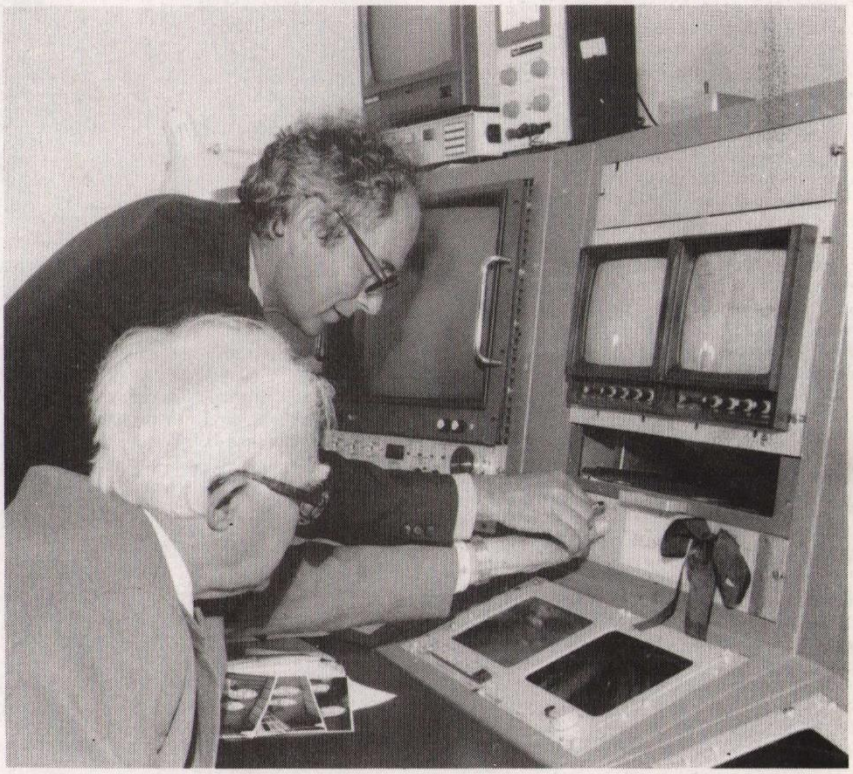
On 6 June 1978, Dr Gerry Pickavance, together with Dr Godfrey Stafford, the then Director of the Laboratory, had performed the close-down ceremony of Nimrod, the accelerator which had been for many years at the heart of the Laboratory's Scientific Programme. On 6 June 1985 he performed the symbolic ceremony of switching on the Spallation Neutron Source (SNS) - "From the ashes of Nimrod the SNS has arisen".

Dr Pickavance was Director of the Laboratory from its foundation in 1957 (though various changes of name and organisation) until 1972, and as such was one of the prime architects of Nimrod. His interest in the Laboratory's progress continued even after the stroke he suffered in 1972, and when the time came for the Nimrod close down, who else but he had the right to throw the switch?

For seven years he kept the key presented to him on that occasion, through the difficult and sometimes troubled years of the building of the SNS, to fulfil the promise that it was he who would start up the SNS accelerator.

To mark his unbroken ties with RAL, Dr Geoff Manning, the present Director, gave him another key to safeguard - this time it was the spare duty officer's authorisation key.

Neutron beams provide a powerful tool for physicists, chemists, engineers and biologists to study the structure and properties of matter under a variety of conditions. The SNS, the world's most powerful source of pulsed neutrons, produced first neutrons in December 1984. The first five experiments using the source are expected to begin in a matter of weeks.



Gerry Pickavance (front), assisted by Geoff Manning, performs the switch-on ceremony. 85RC 3231

and to a Stop

Leo Hobbis' Farewell

Leo Hobbis' career has also been intimately tied to the histories of Nimrod and SNS. On what more fitting occasion then, for RAL to express to Leo our gratitude and to offer best wishes for a long and happy retirement. This was done on behalf of us all by Dr Manning, who also presented Leo with a telephoto lens and a mounted component of a focussing lens as momentos.

Leo was born in New Zealand and graduated at Auckland University in 1945. From 1947-48, our G&R colleagues will be interested to learn, he was an Ionosphere Observer at Campbell Island for DSIR, NZ. Having gained his PhD in 1953, he was then offered a Harwell Special Research Fellowship and eventually came to Rutherford in 1956. Here he first worked on the PLA, being responsible for the pre-injector. His section were the first people on the site. Leo's office was in the corner of R12, now a workshop. People working with him then were Herbert Whitby, Ted Harrison and Terry Walsh.

In the mid 1950s when it had been decided not to take the PLA beyond 50 MeV (600 MeV had been planned) the Lab was thinking about what HEP machine should be built. The 7 GeV Proton Synchrotron (later Nimrod)

Leo's Farewell *(cont'd from p1)*

emerged and Leo was responsible for the 15 MeV injector. He was joined at that time by such people as Trevor Hyman, Nigel West, Roy Billinge, Brian Southworth and later by Harold Wroe. The injector produced its first 15 MeV protons in August 1961; the resonant cavity is displayed outside the Restaurant. The commissioning of Nimrod was also his responsibility, and first beam was achieved in August 1963.

Leo was the first Head of Nimrod Division. He changed to Head of Applied Physics Division in 1968 in which role he controlled a scientific programme of great variety. Study of High Flux Beam Reactions for the Rutherford site became his priority in 1970 which led to his becoming Head of Neutron Beam Research Unit in 1971. In 1974 he became involved in preparations for setting up the High Power Laser Facility at the Laboratory but reverted to Neutron work in 1976, specifying and planning the SNS experimental facilities. In 1977, in large part due to Leo's personal work, his interaction with the neutron community as well as his technical knowledge and expertise, the SNS was approved and he was made a member of the project team with particular responsibility for the target station and experimental facilities. NBRU became Neutron Division in 1978, but lost Leo to Central Office where he held the position of Head of Science Division from 1980. To make up for this he was honoured with the OBE in 1982!

"My own personal contact with Leo dates back to 1963," said Geoff as he made the farewell presentation. "I have always found him a pleasure to work with; level headed, honest direct and a gentle man in a world where there were often more rough, pushy and unreasonable guys. He gave a great deal to AERE, NIRNS Rutherford, RAL and SERC, for which we thank him. We wish him a pleasant retirement back in New Zealand."

Leo Hobbis (centre) flanked by Gerry Pickavance (left) and Geoff Manning (right) and backed as always by a large gathering of RAL colleagues. 85RC 5229

"When I first decided to come to AERE said Leo," reminiscing on his career in the UK, "I wasn't certain of a job. Our few possessions were packed in cases when the telegramme arrived to say I'd gained an AERE fellowship. Five weeks later I started at Harwell.

In theory a choice of projects was mine - in reality I was offered the PLA, and took it. The early days were marvellous. We were all inexperienced, relatively young, thrown in at the deep end and given wonderful support. In our Nimrod days, we faced tough problems but by application and concentration we solved our technical difficulties. Life had it's challenges and frustrations but they were exciting times. The Lab evolved, SNS was started and the help of colleagues many of whom are here today, was always forthcoming.

However this is not really a sad time for me, with children and family in New Zealand there is a strong pull. Thanks for your good wishes, the gifts and the memories. I shall watch the future of the Lab with great interest and I wish you continuing success, especially with SNS. Thanks to all, especially Gerry for being here today."

Thanks from Leo

Many thanks to all who contributed to my very acceptable farewell gift and whom I did not see personally on 6 June. And, best wishes to all friends and colleagues on the Harwell/Chilton sites who made my long time there such a pleasure. I will remember you all very often. Do visit NZ and get in touch; someone you know in SERC will have our address!

Trade Exhibition

ROSE RADIATRON LIMITED will be exhibiting their "enclosures for electrical and electronic equipment, terminal boxes, instrument cases and cable glands" in their mobile exhibition van parked in the layby outside Building R20 on Thursday, 25 July, from 1000 to 1600 hrs.

Missing

The following items are the subjects of loss reports and details of their whereabouts should be relayed to the enquirers.

Wolf Sapphire Drill
AERE No. 22692
RAL No. 14/4543
Information to J Mills Ext 6461

Avometer No. 73465/C/458
Avometer No. 9214/165
Information to A Wells Ext 5387

Guinea Pigs at RAL

Staff at RAL spent an enjoyable day with their guests of the "Guinea Pig" Club on Saturday 8th June.

Like all good occasions, it started with a convivial meeting at the 'White Hart', Harwell and migrated to RAL, where after a group photograph and a brief introduction to the work of the Lab by Dr Manning, everyone dispersed to inspect the exhibits depicting the range and variety of projects pursued here. These included Delphi Coil winding equipment, the Spallation Neutron Source, Engineering for LEP and the Millimetre Wave Telescope, Computer Aided Design (such pretty little buildings at the touch of a pen), the AMPTE mission, Microelectronics and the discovery of the W and Z particles.

That our guests were interested was fully demonstrated by the number of questions asked and the difficulty the guides had in prising them away from one display to another. (That's no complaint. We were delighted to see them so engrossed).

During the afternoon, Drs Geoff Manning and Gordon Walker were honoured by being made 'Friends of the Guinea Pigs' and presented with brooches to mark the occasion. The RAL photographers pulled out all the stops and provided framed photographs of the group which were presented before the party left for a D-Day Memorial Service at the end of the old runway from which the airborne invasion of Arnhem took off.

This was preceeded by a fly-past of a Spitfire - a great thrill not only for RAL staff, but for spectators who appeared from far and near.

This is the second visit of the Club to RAL (we apparently didn't bore them to tears the first time) and we all sincerely hope to welcome them again in the not too distant future. We had a good time, we sincerely hope that they did too!

Sir John sees EISCAT

Sir John Kingman, Chairman of SERC, deeply engrossed in the Presentation of the EISCAT project arranged for his visit to RAL on Friday 24 May. (85RB 3086

EISCAT - European Incoherent Scatter Radar System - is funded by the UK, West Germany, France, Norway, Sweden and Finland, and is used to study the ionosphere and magnetosphere at high latitudes. The system has its ground stations north of the arctic circle at Tromso in Norway, Kiruna in Sweden and Sodankyla in Finland. The user community for EISCAT comprises about 12 university and establishment groups and has access to a data base at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory.

The Presentation provided an in-depth view of the wide range of scientific studies being undertaken by the EISCAT community. An excellent exhibition, presenting both RAL and University projects, it epitomised the spirit of co-operation and team work that exists within the community, and was very well received by all who saw it.

Guinea Pigs, guests and RAL staff pictured together before the kick-off.

Crib

The annual RAL Crib Evening was held on Friday 3rd May in the Recreational Association building R58.

Forty two players took part in Singles and Doubles competitions with the honours going to-

SINGLES - Winner David Kent
Runner-up Tony Lubbock

DOUBLES - Winners Rob Hambledon
Phil Walker
Runner-ups Alan Saxeby
Werner Sommerfield

TUDOR MORGAN, Rec. Soc. Chairman presented the trophies and also those for the Lunchtime League knockout winners, to Dick Apsey, Marjorie Thompson and Bert Thompson.

It is now the close season until October, anyone interested in joining-in next season please contact Tony Lubbock Room 2.66 Bldg. R1.

RAL

Radio Control Model Club

Model Tattoo 85

Fly For Fun

Sat 27 July 10am - 7pm

Sun 28 July 2pm - 7.30pm

This 'Fly for Fun' will be held on the sports field.

For powered aircraft and gliders participants must have flying insurance and there will be a fee of £1 on the day. ALL SPECTATORS MUST KFEP BEHIND THE BARRIERS.

Please contact Mr P C Marchant-Angell Ext 5545 for Further information.

Film Badge Notice

It is period 7. Colour strip ORANGE Please be sure you are wearing the correct dosimeter and all old ones are returned.

NEXT FILM ISSUE
Monday 15 July.

At Sevens and Eights

Anyone searching for issue No.7 1985 of the *Bulletin*, is doomed to disappointment.

By some quirk of the Editor's mental processes the issue suddenly became No 8.

She apologises for the hiccup.

Internal Events

ASTROPHYSICS EVENTS
R68 CONF RM - 1400hrs

26 June	Dr Robert Speer/Imperial 'Grazing Incidence Speetroscopy'
8 July	Dr George Fisher/Lawrence Livermore 'Radiative Hydrodynamics of Solar Flares'
11 July *R61	Dr Tony Hearn/Utrecht 'Models of Small Coranae in Hot Stars'

Your suggestions for a series of seminars later in the summer would be welcome. Please contact Manuel Grande Ext 6233 or Ken Phillips Ext 6366.

Bulletin

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