

Omaha Lab Number

Omaha is located on the eastern edge of the State of Nebraska, about half way between the north and south borders. The M. E. Smith Building is located on the eastern edge of the City of Omaha about half way between the north and south borders, on the southeast corner of Tenth and Douglas Streets. On the fifth floor of this nine story cement and steel building is none other than the Western Division laboratory of the Aero Service Corporation, which occupies the northwest quarter of the floor and is generously supplied with windows providing an abundance of light. The entrance leads along a hall beside the contact room to the office which is a very large room containing four desks, several chairs, three walls covered with charts, maps, etc., and of course, the fourth wall is solid to the ceiling with windows. The two desks to your left belong to our Secretary Miss J. G. Durland, whose ready smile is a sign of welcome to all comers. The center desk is Ed Broadwell's who has charge of the Western Division. "Who is that person sleeping at the other desk? Why, my friends, that is the Prop Wash Editor, busy as usual. Let's walk through this door quietly so we will not disturb his afternoon nap."

This office, belonging to Dave Keegan who has charge of production out here is used for checking and shipped, and as you see, also contains the water cooler which accounts for most of its popularity. Dave is usually assisted by Bob Tighe, who has never been known to stop work long enough to taste the water from the cooler ten feet away from him. Now we'll take this door which leads into the laboratory proper. Please step this way. Notice the two outer walls of windows, a most ideal lay-out. The shelves to your left contain all the exposed rolls of film waiting for delivery to Washington. These two long tables are for numbering the rolls of film when they come from the Drying room. Orville Quinn, who by the way is Photographer, Paul Crause's brother-in-law, has charge of this work, and is assisted by Dick Doran. As it takes about two hours to check and number each 180' roll of film they are seldom idle. Straight ahead is Joe Masino's department where all the contact prints are stapled down on homosote boards to be checked for their proper relation one to another. Joe and his gang work hard and put in many hours of overtime in keeping up with nine planes. His assistants are Roy Brown from Omaha, Charlie Hastings, reserve pilot from Reading, Pennsylvania, Tom Hassett of Philadelphia, who has just recently been transferred from the contact room, and Carl Gerard, also well known to all of us from the Philadelphia Lab Third Floor gang. Joe Masino, by the way, would welcome any and all suggestions from you field crews as to how he might make the reflight photo indexes more useable to you.

Over on the north side is what is known as the Slack Studios. Clarence has charge and it is here that all the photo indexes are made with a 2000 pound all metal Brownie. The shades are to help cut down daylight hilation on the boards being copied and these large photo-flood lamp reflectors are to give just the right amount of light. Clarence also mounts all the photo indexes, being delivered to the Government, on linen using these wooden frames.

Back here to the center of the building are three large racks for drying the contact prints. This warm dry western air makes drying a quick operation. The two fellows placing the wet prints on the racks are John Jewell and Jim Barnett, who at one time liked to look at pictures, but somehow they have lost that desire. The small room to our right is the chemical room in which all the developing formulae are mixed from the chemicals stored here on these racks.

So much for the bright spots of the lab. Now for the dark rooms. To the east we have a double doored room in which, under skillful handling, Johnnie Korman has brought some 400 rolls of film to life. He is ably assisted by a local lad, Lee Ferryman. These two fellows have averaged over : 25 rolls of film per week, so far, having received as many as 24 rolls in one day. They go for days at a time without seeing the light of day, working into the wee small hours of the morning to make sure all the cameras are working satisfactorily before they lock up shop and call it a day.

The adjoining dark-room is where Clarence Slack develops and prints ann his photo indexes as well as all the Prop Wash picture sections.

Across from this hall is the drying room where Lee watches the wet film as it goes through the Patco dryers.

And last, but by no means least, we come back where we started from, the contact room. It is about 40' square and holds four contact printers, four contact crews (two men each) two Pako print washers, five sets (three each) of wooden washing and developing tanks, and four chemical crocks. From this room comes more noise, songs, and work than any place of equal size in the City of Omaha, led by Gordon

Roser (Of Philadelphia) the song bird, and the McManaman brothers, Bob and Jerry (from Omaha). This room gives the visitor his first impression of the Western Division. Work and hard work is the Key note, but the melody is definitely mischief. If you can walk through there without getting a hypo soaked wad of cotton down your back you had better be doubly careful on your next trip through. Charlie Gilfillan's (from Phila.) many and varied imitations of various radio and movie stars makes us wonder at times just where we are. It is here that Philadelphia Jim Cambell strives daily to bring his weight below 190 by pushing the heavy handle of the contact printer down some 500 times. Bill Meehan, Jim Holst, and Cliff Steimbe, all of Omaha, have become expert at crooning and make themselves invaluable in the contact room. Photographer Bill Bohan of crew number 8 is rapidly losing his sun, tan here in the contact room as a member of one of the crews. The Bull-Throwing in this department keeps Janitor Morton very busy cleaning up. It is here that you often find Ed trying to check this or that and still listen to a dozen people asking him for bets on this or that football game. As a mail carrier explained it "I don't know what kind of a business it is. All I see is a bunch of half-naked fellows running around working like hell."

The seven Rover Boys, now living in the House of Seven Gables, are quickly getting over their love for house-keeping. They moved in on the 10th and on the 18th a housekeeper was on the job. Charlie Hastings is business Manager, and master of ceremonies having complete charge of the housekeeper. For the first week Jim Campbell was official cook and Bill Bohan was just kitchen assistant in charge of the dishwashing department. Tom Hassett was official second maid, making all the beds and doing all the dusting. Carl Gerard was relieved of all household duties the day he purchased his Nash Deluxe 8. All his spare time is spent in the garage getting set for the next day's run to the office. Carl charges 5¢ per ride per person and is doing a rushing business, not that the local taxi companies are worried, but Carl never travels light. Charlie Wilfillan is outside man. His duties are to cut the grass and above all to keep the two fish ponds clean and the gold fish happy. The seventh Rover boy is not an employee of A.S. He lives with the others because he doesn't know yet what he is in for. It won't be long before his week's wages are bet on almost every football game in the country. \$20.00 per month is the room and board charge but it is our guess that this anti will have to be raised as soon as the oil burner is snapped on. At any rate they are, at this writing, having a wonderful time in their ten room palace, having removed every breakable article from the whole house. The house rules are posted in conspicuous places and contain this one - "Do not wade in the fish ponds." After three months of housekeeping any one of them will make "some man a good wife."

The bowling team consisting of Ed Broadwell, Dave Keegan, Clarende Slack, Gordon Roser, Bill Meehan and Orville Quinn bowls on Thursday night in the "Omaha Business Men's Bowling League." They were stage struck the first two times but this week they really rolled them down the line. From the newspaper we read "High team game 992. High team series 2726. The team average was 166 with the following individual averages for the first three games. Slack 173, Roser 154, Keegan 182, Broadwell 164, and Meehan (2 games only) 184.

On Saturday the 24th, the lab will split up with the east against the west in the company's first football game (and probably the last). At this writing each team has eleven captains and eleven all-american players. The probable Winner? We are betting on the hospital. The game is growing into a grudge battle on account of the dubbing the East gave the West in the baseball game some time back. The West is concentrating their attack AT Dave Keegan and consider Joe Masino the man to be watched. The work in the lab will take the real defeat when the boys drag themselves in on Monday. Both teams go into the fray confident of victory as they are both undefeated and untied. The odds are 9 to 5 in favor of victory for the West but as we saw in the baseball game anything can happen. Quarter Back Quinn has been working on some numbers for some time now and we can expect some fancy truck plays from the West Team. Detailed report of this "Cereal Bowl Game" will appear in our next issue.

Claire Carroll joins the Prop Wash poets with the following which is certainly descriptive of this type work.

"Mapping Day"

Day light  
Sky bright

We fly  
So high

Get line  
Done fine

"Pics". stop

We frown

Come down---

Let's go fishing!

- Claire Carroll

Claire included with the above the good news that Bill is getting along very well.

We copied this from McCoy and Swan's Daily report card for their flying total on September 20th.

Flying time	
Photographing	5:00
No. of exposures	730

This crew flew 26 hours the first four days of this week and took a total of over 2100 exposures. Some flying.

As a matter of fact, this is not the only work that was done this week. The following telegrams which were received on Wednesday give a good picture of just how the weather has been breaking of late.

"All work finished---" Reiss

"All original flying completed"--- Smith, Thomas, McCoy

"Completed shipped reflights on hand wire arrival next work" Kitching-  
man

"Reflights finished - out of maps, indexes, and film" Carothers.

As these wires were coming in Bullock and Baird were here looking for some work to do having finished the day before. Eurgess, was at that moment, finishing his last reflights. Thus, at 5:00 P.M., September 21, 1936, the Western Division crews were out of work and activity in the field was at a stand still. The following day saw probably the greatest concentration of fishing ever put on by this company.

Smith and Turner, having finished in Montana, moved to Spearfish on Monday to join McCoy, Swan, Thomas, and Scott, to help clean up South Dakota, and also help in a poker game now and then. Just to get in the spirit of things Kuser and Moore moved base from Salt Lake City to Price, Utah. They had just finished two areas around Salt Lake and moved South to warmer territory. With 8 crews out of work temporarily here in the middle west, crews number 3 and 7 out of weather in the south, Kuser and Moore will have to uphold the flying honors of the entire company. All this concentrated flying started on Sunday when the weather cleared up and stopped when the work cleared up. The result was 121 hours during the first four days.

On August 24th Henry and V. K. made a bet as to when all original flying would be complete out here. This recent sprint gives V. K. the money by a 9 day margin. Pay Up Henry.

The Pet House containing Joe Masino's ferret, Mr. Foldberg, attained such an obnoxious fluvia about it that Joe finally was forced to give the entire outfit to one of the local fire houses as a mascot. But that did not stop the flow of live stock into the lab. On Monday we received a small sand lizzard from crew # 52 in North Platte and on Wednesday we received a box from Spearfish containing three live snakes and one lizzard. We dare say that the noise of the rattlers will keep everyone in the Lab on their toes. When the express man drags in a mountain lion from crew #2 we will give the lab over to the animals. What a place this is at times.

On Tuesday of this week the Prop Wash Publishing Department received the following:

Prop Wash Ass'n.

WHEREAS: "Prop Wash", that little yellow messenger that tells us what's what, who's who and whose where, has to date appeared bright and early every Monday morning.

WHEREAS: This same "Prop Wash" has given us a new lease on life, has given us something to talk about, has given us a great deal to laugh about, has given us a lot of inside dope (catch on?)

WHEREAS: All of a sudden, "Prop Wash" turns up missing!

WHEREAS: We want "Prop Wash" every Monday morning, no ifs, ands or buts about it. Be it resolved; That if youse guys are of the same opinion and we know you are, you will kindly sign your name below and forward this petition to the next one on the attached list.

Raymond E. Kuser

Alice P. Kuser

Edward A. Schuch

Stewart A. Reiss

Kathry Reiss

Paul Crause

Ruth S. Scott  
 Eleanor B. Moore  
 George H. Stuebing  
 J. E. Swan  
 Richard M. McCoy  
 E. Foster Thomas 2nd  
 Polly Thomas  
 Sharon M. Scott  
 Leonard Carothers  
 Mrs. L. Carothers  
 W. Lippincott  
 Ann Lippincott  
 R. F. Kitchingman  
 Polly Kitchingman  
 Eric E. Dixon  
 J. D. Turner  
 Clarke L. Smith

Otto Illhardt  
 Wm. R. Burgess  
 Margie Burgess  
 D. E. Bullock  
 R. B. Baird Jr.  
 Helen McCormick  
 J. D. McCormick  
 Robert T. Jefferson  
 Virginia Jefferson  
 J. Tommy Page  
 Buddie Page  
 L. E. Luckenbill  
 Maveline Luckenbill W  
 William Bohan  
 Bill Carroll  
 Claire Clifford Carroll

This important document has been carefully considered by the management and the seriousness of its contents noted. While we appreciate your interest in our paper, we can not, however, bow to any such demands as laid out by this petition. The very basis on which this great country of ours has been built for the past 150 years is freedom and one of the biggest and strongest organizations we have, the newspaper, was built on principle. The "Freedom of the Press" has been a watchword of this nation for many years and now you, our reading public, would ask us to violate this time proven law. If we should heed to your request and religiously publish this sheet in time to arrive at its various destinations on Monday mornings we would certainly be losing our freedom. We have enjoyed, so far, the privilege of editing the Prop Wash every time we had a night off. It is this freedom that has kept the pioneering spirit of this once-in-a-while" forging ahead. Therefore, while desiring to cooperate 100% with our public, we will bend every effort to heed to your wishes but by no means must this cooperation be considered a mandatory conformity to meet your demands.

On Friday, Smith and Turner moved into Omaha to await further orders from V. K. who is scheduled to arrive in town on Monday.

As a parting shot we quote from a letter from Salt Lake City, giving an account of Ray and Alice Kuser's sixth wedding anniversary trip on September 2nd. It will clearly show the real dangers connected with the life of a mapping pilot.

"We did go to Morrior Lake for our anniversary. We zoomed all over the lake all afternoon in a rowboat with the new motor attached, ate a tremendous dinner, hiked all over the mountains, and so to bed. The bunks are arranged one on top of the other. Ray chose the upper, set the alarm for four the next morning, so that we could be back in Salt Lake in plenty of time to go mapping, if the weather were good. At four, it was pitch dark, when the faithful alarm rang. Ray blind with sleep stepped out of bed without benefit of ladder. The ensuing crash was heard for miles ---to say nothing of the burst of language that followed. To this minute he is still covered with scratches and bruises."

Our next issue will be called "Phila. Lab. Number" in which we will by remote control give you a word picture of the main office.

We'll be seein' you in the "Wash".

Tom Maddock.