

West Coast Laboratory Dedicated To Learning More About Universe

By WILLIAM HINES
Star Science Writer

LA JOLLA, Calif.—In an industry so hectic that its leaders frequently complain that "practice has outrun theory," it is refreshing to find a place dedicated to helping theory catch up.

Such an establishment is the John Jay Hopkins Laboratory of Pure and Applied Science, also known as the General Atomic Division of the General Dynamics Corp. An out-of-this-world sort of place atop a sun-drenched mesa in one of the pleasantest parts of the globe, Hopkins Lab is dedicated to learning more about the universe man is already beginning to explore and exploit.

Supervised benignly by a roly-poly young genius named Frederic de Hoffmann, about 300 scientists and 250 helpers search for truth in every state of nature man can reproduce in the lab. They heat thin gases to a million degrees and accelerate shock waves up to 100 times the speed of sound. They chill materials down to within a few degrees of absolute zero and then bombard them with radiation.

Why? To see what will happen; to learn more about the nature of things.

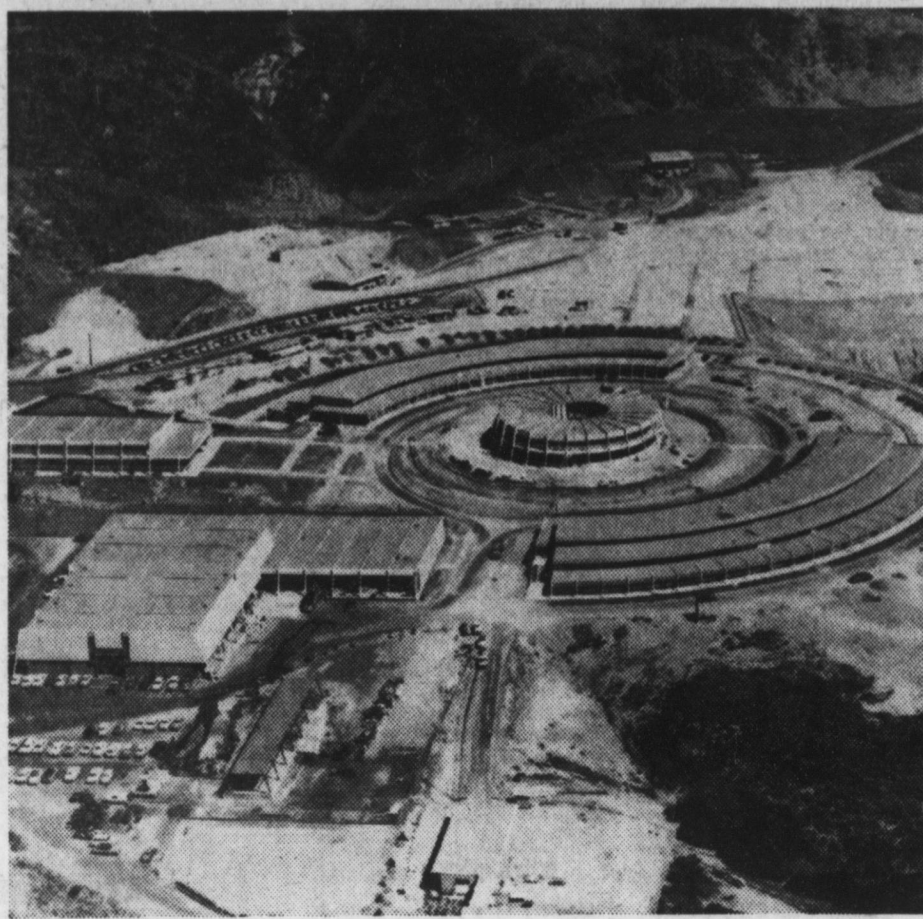
Research Expensive

That this kind of scientific doodling costs money can hardly be doubted. General Atomic officials concede they haven't made any money yet and probably will operate in the red for another five or six years. But they point out that you can push basic research only so hard, and they are content to wait for something to turn up.

"Something" in the missile area already has turned up, in the form of a \$1 million (first-year) contract from the Pentagon's Advanced Research Projects Agency. The only public knowledge about this "feasibility study" contract is that it is related to the possible development of a new concept of propulsion of controlled nuclear explosions.

Beyond this, the Pentagon has muzzled GA so thoroughly that its officials decline even to discuss the scientific theory behind controlled explosions—despite the fact that theories are non-secret.

This is not GA's first in-



WHERE THEORY IS KING—The John Jay Hopkins Laboratory of Pure and Applied Science sprawls across a sun-drenched mesa in Southern California. Research into many areas of science is conducted in the laboratory where theory stays ahead of practical application.

ursion into the missile field, though the company has no production contracts. It is, however, looking into the behavior of materials under the sort of radiation conditions that might be encountered in space.

Finds Limitations

"It's getting to the point where electric circuits can't stand as much total radiation as a man can stand," Dr. Victor Van Lint observed. Dr. Van Lint, a lanky Indonesian-born, Netherlands-raised physicist who speaks with only the wisp of a Dutch accent, is a GA specialist in solid-state physics. One of his chief projects is investigating how transistors, diodes and other semiconductors behave in the presence of ra-

diation at temperatures around 200 degrees below zero Centigrade.

They don't behave well. "I've made it a rule that there are to be no transistorized components in our electronic measuring devices when we run these radiation tests," Dr. Van Lint said.

In his work, Dr. Van Lint—like the other scientists here—has access to some of the finest equipment available. One of the features of the laboratory is a powerful linear accelerator, a kind of a "straight cyclotron" that kicks subatomic particles up to speeds near that of light. The laboratory was a dream of the late John Jay Hopkins, who created General Dynamics out of a series of mergers of smaller companies. GD is now headed by Frank Pace, a former Secretary of the Army.

Unusual Plant

A striking thing about the Hopkins Lab is the physical layout. The chief feature is a circular building surrounded by two larger arc-shaped buildings

—rather as the orbits of electrons circle the nucleus of an atom in the classic atomic conception. The buildings are extreme in their architecture, apparently "hanging" from exposed steel girders.

The effect, while avant-garde, is pleasant, as are the carefully tended gardens, the building fountains, the splashing reflecting pools and the trees. Next year there will be a swimming pool.

As might be expected, worker turnover is low, notably among the scientists.

"I'm here to stay," said Dr. Van Lint. "This is the finest compromise I can imagine between academic research and industrial compensations."

Which seems to mean they pay him well and leave him alone—and who could ask more of a boss?

Hoffa Delays Organizing of State Workers

By LEE M. COHN
Star Staff Writer

James R. Hoffa still intends to sign up State and municipal employees as Teamsters Union members, but he has slowed down his schedule drastically.

Associates of the Teamster president said today he will wait until he can conduct the organizing drive without the fanfare that killed off last month's efforts to unionize New York City police. In fact, Mr. Hoffa apparently plans to minimize the uproar by concentrating on signing up public employees other than policemen.

When the drive begins, the Teamsters probably will work gradually through local affiliates instead of launching a blitz co-ordinated at the national level.

Planned Big Drive

Mr. Hoffa told reporters in January the union would undertake a major national campaign to organize 10 million State, county and municipal workers. He planned to hold a meeting to co-ordinate the drive.

This is the technique he has used in several big organizing efforts, including the current campaign with employees of Sears Roebuck & Co. When a national organizing campaign works, it achieves much faster and more spectacular results than local drives.

Now Mr. Hoffa has postponed the national co-ordinating meeting indefinitely. In the meantime, local organizing will plug along as usual. The Teamsters for some time have had members in the ranks of such public employees as trash-truck drivers.

The national union probably will increase counseling and financing aid, without full-scale co-ordination by headquarters.

Mr. Hoffa apparently fears that announcement of a big organizing campaign any time soon would revive last month's furor over unionizing of police.

Threat Backfired

The police drive obviously got out of hand. Henry Feinstein of New York convinced the Teamsters' executive board that public employees are a fertile field for unionization. Police were supposed to be only one segment—and not an especially important one—of the campaign approved by the board.

Senators Probe Attack On Teamster Monitors

The Senate Rackets Committee tries today to find out who is inspiring a series of attacks on the Teamsters Union board of monitors.

Interrogation of John Cunningham, a Teamster from Flushing, N. Y., is expected to concentrate on evidence that some of his expenses have been paid by the home local of James R. Hoffa, the union's president.

Mr. Cunningham currently is pressing a court action to block an order by District Judge F. Dickinson Letts, who is prepared to compel compliance with cleanup directives issued by the board of monitors he appointed last year.

Edward Bennett Williams, the Teamsters' general counsel, has said he opposes Mr. Cunningham's move. Mr. Williams apparently wants Judge Letts to issue his order so the union can press an appeal.

Nevertheless, the Rackets Committee and the monitors suspect a tie-in between Mr. Cunningham and the Hoffa regime. Martin F. O'Donoghue has produced evidence indicating Mr. Hoffa's Local 299 in Detroit paid Woodner Hotel bills last August and September.

But then Mr. Feinstein became militant and threatened to picket police installations in New York starting January 12.

Cries of outrage by the public and by New York's Mayor Robert F. Wagner forced Mr. Feinstein and Mr. Hoffa to tone down. Then the police drive collapsed when Mr. Feinstein dropped his organizing efforts under threat of losing his city job.

The whole affair convinced Mr. Hoffa he must walk softly, at least until his notoriety dies down. He still is the prime target of investigations by the Senate Rackets Committee, and is engaged in a crucial court battle.

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1,629-Mile Polar Area Is Explored

By the Associated Press

A party of American and New Zealand scientists has just completed a dangerous 109-day, 1,629-mile traverse of previously unexplored territory in the Antarctic. They traveled by tractor and afoot.

Telling of this yesterday, officials of the American International Geophysical Year Committee said findings of the trip are potentially of great import to science. The trip itself suggests it might be feasible to resupply the United States South Polar station by tractor train.

The party was led by Albert P. Cray, deputy chief scientist of the United States-IGY Antarctic program. It included four other Americans and one New Zealander.

They left Little America October 15, 1958, and traveled over the Ross Ice Shelf, up Skelton Glacier to a height of 9,000 feet, then west several hundred miles to Victoria Land Plateau and finally into the Naval air facility at McMurdo Sound. They completed the trek January 31, but their dispatch announcing completion of "a major scientific journey" was delayed.

LOST

BOXERS (2), male and spayed female; strayed from vic. Andrews Fd., Howard. RE 6-0098, RE 5-7454.

COCKER SPANIEL, buff, male; vic. Kensington parkway, strayed a pet. Reward. LO 5-5097.

COCKER SPANIEL, small, brown female, "mossy" vic. Rockville-Twinbrook. Reward. GA 4-9578 after 5, answers name "Delight," vicinity Montgomery Hills. S. S. JU. 5-0986.

DACHSHUND, reddish brown female, 3 1/2 yrs. old; license 1626, D. C. H-2 tattooed in one ear; answers to name of "Quasi" vic. Sarnaby Rd. Washington sts. n.w. Reward. WO 6-4304.

DIAMOND RING, 6 carat solitaire; vic. Southern Hotel or Hotel, Va. Reward. OT 4-9375.

DOG, German Shepherd, male, black and tan; Fr. vic. Seat Pleasant; 1 yr. old. RE 6-6354.

DOG, female, mixed breed, short hair, fawn color, 4 white stockings, white chest, long white tipped tail; sturdy long-jawed body, terrier face, red collar; "Pinky" telephone no. on plate. \$10 reward. DE 5-8804.

EARRING, diamond and pearl; vicinity Constitution Hall, or in cap between hall and Dorchester House. Jan. 29; reward. OL 6-5830.

EYEGLASSES, Constitution Hall, Sun. Feb. 1; reward. RE 5-0833.

GERMAN SHEPHERD, pure bred, gray, black and beige answers to name of "Fairfax" lost in vic. of Kensington. Reward. OL 7-3036.

HANNA FILE, contains personal papers; left in phone booth, Pa. ave. and 13th st. n.w. Reward. Return address noted in file.

PEKINGESE, brown and white male; vicinity Woodland and Landover Hills area. Ans. to "Stubby" AP 7-7316.

PUPPY, pure tan with white markings tip of tail and feet; 3 mos. old female, wearing new tan leather collar; answers to name of "Happy" vic. of Pinewood ave. little girl's dog. JU. 9-0046.

TOOLS, tile setter's; near Twinbrook shopping area. JO 3-0604.

\$25 REWARD for contents of brief case; lost from car on 8th st. n.w. between EYE and K. about 5 p.m. Monday. OL 2-8387.

FOUND

CAT, white and gray female; vic. Macomb st. and Wis. ave. EM. 3-0478.

DOG, collie type, tan; vic. 3700 blk. 2nd st. at 1st. Call WASHINGTON ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE. NO. 7-5730.

DOG, red, male, cocker spaniel; Chillum, Md. area. Call RA. 2-7523.

DOG, at W. and Mass. aves. n.w. area, black, small, collie type, male. ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE. NO. 7-5730.

ENGLISH POINTERS (2), male, vicinity of Bailey Cross Roads. Va. JE 1-1666.

RING OF KEYS, on 11th st. n.w. at E. at Call J. P. SCHAEFER. NA. 8-8800.

Youth Indicted In House Thefts

A Washington youth who allegedly left his fingerprints as a consistent giveaway was indicted for housebreaking here yesterday by a District grand jury.

The indictment charged him with breaking into eight homes in Northwest and Northeast Washington between July 30 and September 23 of last year. The boy is Reginald B. Brooks, 17, of the 4600 block of Easy place S.E.

Assistant United States Attorney John C. Conliff said the youngster, whose case was waived before District Court action by Juvenile Court here, broke into the homes by cutting window screens. The prosecutor said the youth left fingerprints in seven of the eight homes.

Mr. Conliff said the youth was arrested in New York on December 14 on information supplied to the New York police by District police.

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