



The
Scintillator
AUGUST

The Scintillator

VOL. 5

AUGUST, 1946

No. 2

**DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

E. M. VAN NAME

EDITOR

P. J. DU BOIS



ASSOCIATE EDITORS

K. V. CAMPBELL

B. L. MCGREGOR

PHOTOGRAPHERS

H. C. EARL

N. C. MEAGLEY

CONTRIBUTORS

The Employees of Scintilla Magneto Division, Bendix Aviation Corporation

Published monthly by Scintilla Magneto Division, Bendix Aviation Corporation, Sidney, N. Y., for its employees. Address all communications to P. J. DuBois, Editor, The Scintillator.

Tribute to the Working Man . . .

Labor Day is coming up . . . wind-up of another summer season . . . a breathing spell for Mother Nature before she changes to the year's gaudiest garb . . . a day for picnics, parties, or just pain loafing . . . a tribute to the working people of our country.

Since 1884, when Congress first set aside a special day in honor of the working men and women, we have celebrated Labor Day on the first Monday of each September. Until recently, it was just another holiday . . . a day off from the daily routine . . . a holiday that came between July 4th and Thanksgiving.

But since December, 1941, this day has become something more than an ordinary holiday. It has become a tribute to the millions of working men and women who pooled their time and talents to accomplish almost undreamed of production miracles in the struggle against foreign tyranny.

The working men and women of America are the backbone of our nation. They hewed and slashed at the wilderness . . . they cleared the ground and tilled the soil . . . brick by brick, stone by stone, they created our towns, our cities, railroads and industries. But the sweat of their brow they have helped America become great.

Labor Day is OUR day. Without our fellow workers on the production lines and farms throughout the country, this nation could never have risen to the heights it already has attained, and to new heights promised in the future.

We have a big responsibility in keeping America the kind of country our forefathers intended it to be. The working men and women can make or break America.

Let's use horse sense in our industrial relationships. Sound economics proves that wealth comes only from work. If we stay on the ball and produce to the best of our ability, then we are bound to reap the rewards we seek.

C. F. KETTERING DISCUSSES IDEAS

Those who have studied the history of creative men of all types have often wondered what these famous people of the past centuries would do if they were living today. What would happen if Leonardo da Vinci's brilliant mind were given free play in our present-day world? What would the inventor and philosopher, Benjamin Franklin, do if he had our research facilities at his disposal or how would Eli Whitney work if he had modern production machines and methods? What would Shakespeare write or Beethoven compose? It is difficult to estimate just what position these famous men of history would assume in our modern world unless we analyze the science of creating.

Since I am an inventor, I will use illustrations from this field. Great inventions, contrary to many popular conceptions, seldom, if ever, occur as a spark of genius springing full blown from the brain of an inventor. There are very few fundamental ideas. Like nature that surrounds us, our man-made world has come about by a process of evolution. Our modern wheel is a direct descendant of a section of a log used by our primeval ancestors. The ancient Greeks studied the nature of matter and foresaw the atom and handed down to us the principle of the jet engine that drives our superspeedy planes of today. And our theory of electricity has been relayed on to us over a period of 2,000 years, passing through many hands, and amplified by hundreds of men of different nationalities.

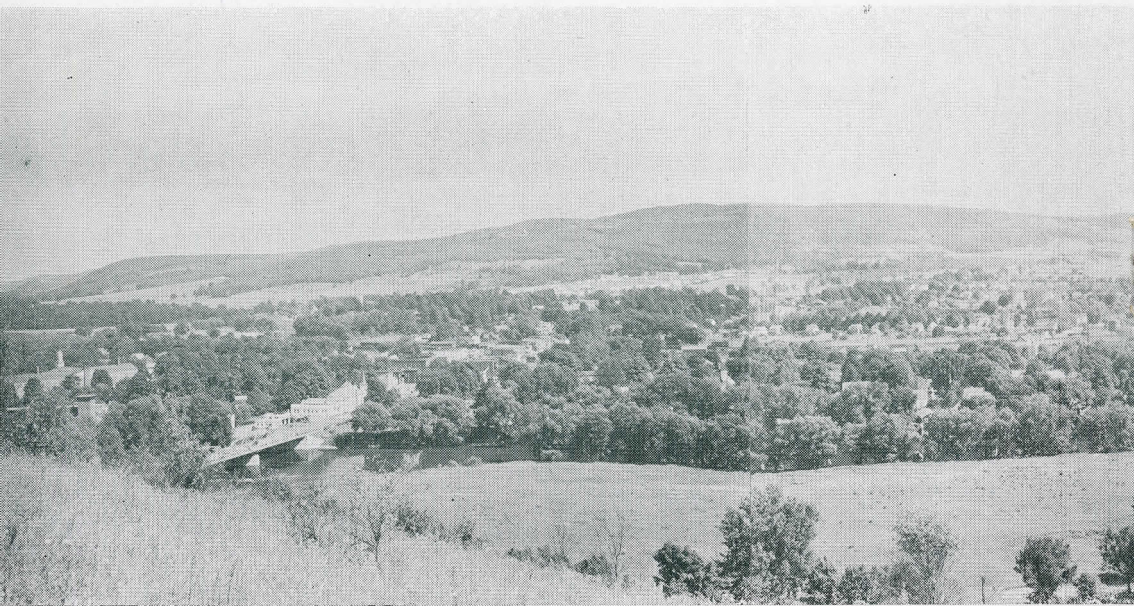
Each of our famous men added a link in the chain of evolution by contributing an outstanding part; who can say which link is the most important? Each one built upon the foundations laid by those who preceded him. Often, as in the case of da Vinci's helicopter and Oliver Evans' amphibious vehicle, the inventor's ideas were too far advanced for his time. Many people do not differentiate between the idea and the product. Ideas often have to wait many years before they can be made to work properly. But if we were to study these famous inventors, composers, and writers of history we would uncover certain common traits which are just as essential today as they were in the past.

It is very difficult to tell just who is going to originate a new thing. A school-teacher, Eli Whitney, invented the cotton gin; Goodyear was a store clerk; Fulton and Morse were artists; the Wright brothers ran a bicycle shop and George Eastman was a bookkeeper. The developments that eventually made these men famous had practically no relationship to their occupations. But of first importance, each of them had an idea, and with these men, the perfection of the idea became the controlling influence. The hope of financial reward is seldom the motivating influence.

The second important quality is patience. Edison hunted all over the world for just the right variety of bamboo to use as a filament for his newly invented incandescent lamp. Midgley tried thousands of compounds in his search for an antiknock for gasoline, and for twenty years Goodyear searched for something to vulcanize rubber. Coupled with patience is the courage some of these men have had to possess to overcome the misfortunes that have beset them. Palissy in his search for an enamel finally had to resort to tearing down the fence around his home to get fuel for his furnace. And Goodyear at one point in his career had to auction his household goods to pay the butcher and baker.

The third element is the importance of getting the facts. We so often confuse man-made rules and statements with proved facts of nature. Sometimes the disregarding of existing beliefs is the key to progress. In other cases—such as that of Alexander Graham Bell—a slight knowledge of the subject, coupled with intelligence, led the inventor to embark on experiments that a more profound knowledge would have discounted. And Bell's experience like those of the most successful inventors emphasizes the importance of trying out an idea—even if it appears to be theoretically impractical.

Regardless of whether the pioneer was a mathematician in ancient Greece, an alchemist of the Middle Ages, a composer, a painter, or a research worker in a modern industry, his outlook now, as then, if he is to succeed, must be fundamentally the same. He will have to possess patience.
(Concluded on Page 4)



This recent photo by Norm Meagley, taken from a Mt. Moses vantage point, emphasizes the combination of mountains and plains for which Sidney is noted. The Susquehanna which, on occasion, has been known to harass Sidney residents by creeping up in basements, now

The Cover

The cover was selected by the judges as the Camera Club's best entry in the Club's competition for this month's cover photo. It was made some time ago by Kenneth A. Aitken, 96-24, at Sand Lake, Canada. Charlie Brooks and Elmer Dann are the fishermen in the scene. Photo was taken on a Contax 3 camera, using Super-Pan Supreme film.

KETTERING (from Page 3)

tience, courage and open-mindedness. Desire to solve the problem must be strong enough to overcome any existing difficulties and he should not be discouraged by the endless hours needed to get the facts. And whatever the compensation, the enduring satisfaction of solving the problem is worth many times more than financial reward or world acclaim.

—Aerophonin.

FIELD TRIALS SET FOR OCTOBER 12-13

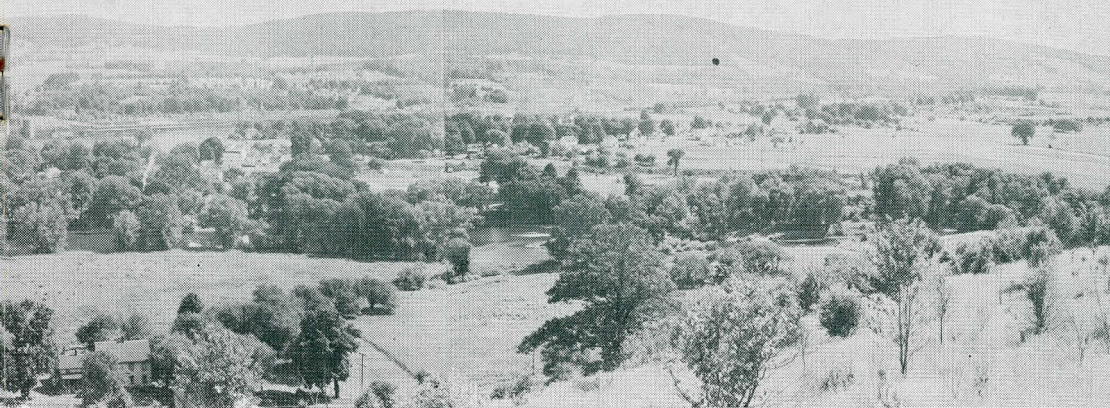
Activity in the Sidney Sportsmen's and Field Trial Club is now being concentrated on the annual field trials scheduled for October 12th and 13th, at the Quack-embush Farms, scene of past field trials.

Judges for the two-day event will be Howard Sweet of Marathon, N. Y., and Frank Dolan of Binghamton.

If the weather is right, an extra attraction will be provided this year. Mr. John L. Michel, Sr., will give an exhibition in plug casting, using a $\frac{5}{8}$ oz. plug. Mr. Michel held the world record in this class for four years. He is also considered an authority on bass fishing and plug casting in Eastern Seaboard and Canadian waters.

Club officials anticipate a larger number of entries for this year's trials than ever before. Refreshments will be available on the grounds.

The Sidney club is now affiliated with the Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America, and the Central New York Field Trial Association.



meanders sleepily through the meadows and flatlands. The smoke stack, pointing skyward like a finger in the center of the photo, serves as a quick identification for locating the Scintilla plant.

SCINTILLA DPC ADDITION PURCHASED BY BENDIX

Since V-J Day most Scintillites, as well as members of the community at large, have been keenly interested in learning the final disposition of the plant addition built by Defense Plant Corporation for Scintilla's use during the war.

The answer came in a news story released by the War Assets Administration on August 13th, announcing that the addition had been purchased by Bendix Aviation Corporation. The purchase price, as announced by the War Assets Administration, was \$471,050. Purchase of the DPC property will add approximately 183,000 square feet of factory floor space to the Bendix and Scintilla holdings.

Bursting with curiosity, this little feller examines a specimen of wild life on the farm. Although the object in his hands is almost entirely concealed, it appears to be either a bird or a baby chick. This photo was selected for honorable mention in the Camera Club's competition for this month's Scintillator cover. Photo was taken by Albert Kern, 31-64, at Guilford. The youngster is his son.

HONORABLE MENTION IN COVER CONTEST



Meet Your Supervisors

While circumstances contribute generously to shaping the lives of most men, it seems that Lady Luck has played an unusually prominent role in the life of Robert Graham, Service Department Supervisor. Naturally, some of his luck has been bad. But on the other hand, were it not for one very important piece of good luck, he might have been at the bottom of sea many years ago.

Bob was born of Scotch parents, in Scotland, in 1892. He graduated from high school and then entered what was known as grammar school. Compared with American educational standards, this appears to be progressing backwards. However, it's merely a matter of terminology, as the term "grammar school" was used to denote a branch of education on approximately the same level as our prep schools or junior colleges.

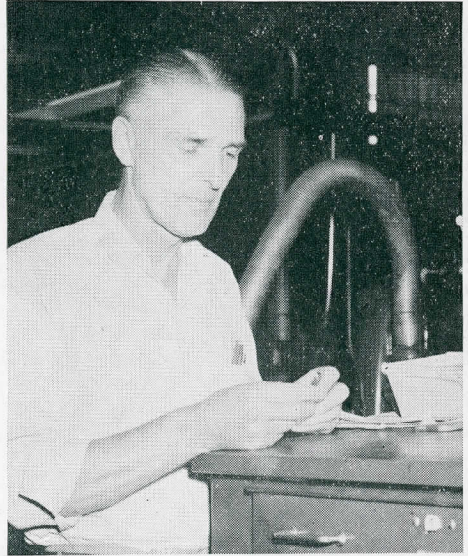
His father was an engine driver (engineer) on the North British Railroad, and it followed naturally that when Bob

(Continued on Page 8)



Robert Graham

Meet Your Foremen



Robert Bennett

Our Foreman of the month is Robert Bennett, who heads the Grinding section of the Tool Room. Bob is one of those rare specimens of the human race who shy at seeing themselves in print. Therefore our account of his personal history is necessarily brief.

Bob was born at Risley, New Jersey, in 1897, but remembers little of his life there as his family pulled up stakes and went to Honesdale, Pa., while he was still only knee high to a grasshopper. In common with many of us, Bob began to work for his living while still quite young.

He recalls that one of his first jobs was with the Durlam-Weston Shoe Co., Honesdale, where he worked about a year. He then went with the Lambert Silk Co., at Honesdale, being employed as a weaver. Next we find him with the Gurney Elevator Co., Honesdale, engaged in machine work and tool crib and tool room operations. He remained there

(Continued on Page 7)

The Old Timer Sez:

Heered a feller maik a speach a while ago. It was a dern good speach. Nothin' flowery about it, an' not too long. The feller said his piece then set down.

But he had somethin' to say, so he didn't have to do no oratin' like some of them long-winded politishans. Mebbe that's why his talk was easy to listen to. He didn't ask fer any favers, an' didn't maik any fantastik promises . . . which is somethin' out of the ordinary fer these days.

He was talkin' about th' difference between small towns like Sidney and big towns like New York, Chicago, Buffalo, etc. The way he put it, he made it sound kinda logical . . . how fellers in small towns have jest as good a chance to do somethin' worthwhile fer the community, and make a good name fer themselves, as the feller in the big town does.

It all depends on whether a man wants to do somethin' of community value becuz he honistly is interested in seein' things done better . . . or whether he jest wants to see his name in th' papers, an' have folks slap him on the back an' tell him what a wonderful feller he is.

It's all in how a man thinks. One man sez "This is somethin' that oughta be done. It'll maik this a better town to live it, an' mebbe help it grow an' prosper." Th' other chap sez, "This is a good chance fer me to git some publicity, an' mebbe cash in on a good deal somewhere. I'm in it fer what it'll do fer me."

I got thinkin' about how many of us Scintilla fellers live in small towns around here. It would be a big boost fer both the company, the communities and ourselves if each one of us would kinda git more interested in community projecks, an' lend a hand in doin' some of the things that oughta be done. An' not fer what each one of us can git out of it financially, but jest fer the pleasure an' joy of helpin' maik our town a better place to live in.

Let's stop beefin' about th' feller what's tryin' to do somethin'. Instead, let's pitch in an' help him do the job.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all my friends for the kindnesses extended to me during my recent illness.

Ann J. Olmstead
Receptionist

BARTER COLUMN

PHOTOGRAPHY: For wedding groups, family photographs, and all types of commercial and portrait photography, call Norm Meagley, Photography Dept.

FOR SALE: 1 pair practically new chrome plated "Standard" kitchen faucets, and 20"x30" "Standard" kitchen sink. Also bathtub. Jos. F. Bazata, Service Dept.

FOR SALE: 8 mm. movie camera and projector. Camera in excellent condition. Projector in good condition. Will sell together or separately . . . reasonable. Robert F. Keyser, 69 Beal Blvd., Sidney.

FOR SALE: Record player, like new. Mildred Bryant, Dept. 70, or 15 Maple Ave., Sidney.

FOR SALE: "Reynolds" 2-year guarantee pen, two weeks old. \$12.50 value for \$7.50. Inquire Miss J. Lambert, Service Repair Dept. 87.

FOR SALE: 1 complete set drafting instruments, 6 triangles, and large bow compass. One Springer Spaniel puppy, male, registered. J. P. Franzese, Mold Design . . . or 22 Maple St., Oneonta.

BENNETT *(from Page 6)*

about nine years, until the company ran into financial difficulties, when he decided to seek other employment. He held several jobs between that time and May, 1937, when he came to Scintilla as a grinder operator in the tool room.

Bob has remained in the tool room throughout his association with Scintilla. He became Foreman of the Grinding Section about 1940.

He expresses a liking for nearly all outdoor sports, and in his earlier days spent a lot of time on the baseball diamond. When we asked him to name the fraternal or other organizations in which he holds membership, he shook his head and stated he is not a "joiner."

Bob is the father of two sons and a daughter. Both boys were in the Army and served in the European Theater. His daughter is employed by the Sidney National Bank.

I wish to extend my thanks and appreciation to Departments 30-46 and other friends for the generous gift during my long illness.
Ed Fancher

GRAHAM (from Page 6)

was ready for employment, he should select railroading as his occupation. He started work when he was 18, and acted as a relief operator in a variety of railroad jobs for about three years.

During that time a number of his fellow workers had left Scotland for Canada, where experienced railroad workers were much in demand on a Canadian railway. Bob also had the urge to see some of the world, and accordingly made arrangements to join his mates in Canada.

About that time (1912), Great Britain became embroiled in the great coal strike, which disrupted the schedules of the steamship lines. Bob had intended to go directly to Canada but found it would be necessary to go instead to New York.

At the port of embarkation he learned that he had his choice of two ships . . . the magnificent new "Titanic," or the "Baltic." However, when he discovered that passage on the "Titanic" was about \$40 more than on the "Baltic," he chose the latter . . . and that's where Lady Luck first stepped into his corner. On the trip across, the "Titanic" rammed an iceberg, and sank with heavy loss of life. Bob says that's one time he was glad he wasn't a millionaire!

Upon reaching New York he ascertained that he could reach Canada by way of Norwich, where he had an uncle whom he wanted to visit. During the visit his uncle prevailed upon him to remain in the United States. Bob soon went to work in the Master Mechanic's office of the O. & W. R. R. at Norwich.

After sometime on that job, he enrolled in an apprentice toolmaker's course. During the last six months of the course he was given an assignment . . . to evaluate all of the rolling stock and tools on the line from Sidney to Utica and Oswego. This was about the time the government was preparing to take over the railroads for wartime purposes.

He enlisted in the U. S. Army in 1918, acquiring full citizenship status at the same time. Three days before enlisting he attended his own wedding. After being stationed on the West Coast, he was shipped to Fort Dix, where his outfit was preparing to embark for France when the war ended.

Returning to Norwich, he went back to work on his old job, but was laid off during the post-war depression. After being

out of work for only one week, he found employment at the Kayser Silk mill in Sidney, as a toolmaker. He remained there five years, then came the strike . . . and he was out of a job again.

But not for long. With'n a short time we find him located with the Standard Tool & Die Works, Binghamton, where he stayed for five years.

While working in Binghamton he had been unable to dispose of his home in Sidney. Shortly after Scintilla located in Sidney (1925) Bob decided to return to the village. He accordingly resigned from his Binghamton job, and on Feb. 26, 1926, joined Scintilla as a machinist-toolmaker.

In January, 1928, he was appointed Foreman of Dept. 20, which was a combination experimental and test room, and also handled magneto repairs. He was transferred to the newly organized Service Department staff in April, 1933, and in February, 1936, was made assistant Service Manager. He became Supervisor of the Service Department in May, 1942.

Bob and the Mrs. reside at 24 Winegard St., Sidney. He is interested in a wide variety of sports, especially hunting and fishing . . . which brings up another curious fact. Although he left Scotland for Canada, he first entered the Dominion on a fishing trip, several years after bidding farewell to the bonnie banks and braes.

A good mixer and a lover of sociability, Bob is a member of Sidney Masonic Lodge, Zor Grotto, American Legion, Moose, Elks, and Eagles. He says he probably belongs to a few others, but couldn't think of them on the spur of the moment.

Small Scintillator This Month

The Editor's vacation has upset the Scintillator's schedule this month, therefore the August copy is only a miniature of the usual issue.

We expect to be back in full swing with the September issue, perhaps with a larger quantity of news than customary. Watch for it.

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to everyone at Scintilla, and especially Payroll for the many cards, letters, gifts, flowers, etc., sent to me during my long illness.

Freda Zurbruegg