HILLSVILLE PLANT CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

During the Spring of 1961 the Sprague Electric Company leased the former manufactory facilities of Carroll Hosiery and during the fall the first employees were hired. These were Mrs. Agnes Long (first employee), Clayton Flanagan, Arnold Rotenizer, Doren Martin, Clayton Robinson, Leon Harmon and Robert Gardner. Of these, Clayton Robinson and Leon Harmon recently retired and the others are still working.

Equipment was installed and the production of ceramic capacitors began. During the fall of 1963 an addition to the plant was added and a motor start capacitor was added. The employment level had reached 128 by the end of 1964. During the first few years the plant growth was discouraging due to the poor demand of our products.

In the Spring a decision was made to make the Hillsville plant a manufacturer of miniature electrolytic capacitors. This resulted in the removal of the motor run capacitor and installation of new equipment. The employment level increased by mid 1966 to over 200 and by the end of 1966 employment had increased to 368.

In the Spring of 1969 a decision was made to move the ceramic operation to another location and to enlarge our electrolytic capacitor operation. The plant has shown a growth through the years with adjustments being made during recessions. Our peak employment was reached in mid 1980 when we had 687 employees.

An expansion to the plant was begun in late 1979 to help ease crowded conditions and to take care of the future plant growth through 1985. The present plant has 94,000 square feet. New automatic equipment is being installed and new capacitor designs are being developed.

Sprague Electric employees represent the finest in Carroll County with 420 having more than 5 years seniority.

The Hillsville plant held an Open House on October 2 and 3 in celebration of their 20th anniversary.
SANFORD EMPLOYE RECEIVES NATIONAL SUGGESTION AWARD HONOR

Paul "Red" Allaire received National Suggestion Systems "Suggestor of the Year" award in June. He was honored at the Association's annual meeting at the Tara Sheraton Inn in Framingham, Massachusetts. Also present were Hugh van Zelm, Corporate Suggestion Administrator, Dan Donovan, General Foreperson of the Printing Department, and Elaine McDonald, Chairperson of the Sanford Suggestion Program.

Red has been with Sprague for 12 years and works in Powder Preparation in the Pellet Department. He has been an active participant in the Sanford Suggestion Program and holds an outstanding record as an "inventor"—72% of the suggestions Red has submitted have been implemented with substantial cost savings to the Company—and, of course, many $$$ to Red.

The suggestion that put him at the top of this list was his development of a method for salvaging tantalum powder during the powder preparation operation. This converted the previously low grade scrap material to top grade powders which could then be reused as non-contaminated raw material—the base of our finished product! This suggestion resulted in higher efficiency for Sprague Electric, and put $2,474.00 into Red's pocket. The award was the largest awarded any Sprague Electric employee throughout all Company facilities in 1980.

Earlier this year, Sprague entered Red as a nominee for the National Association of Suggestion Systems prestigious "Suggestor of the Year Award." Also in the running for this award were other suggestion winners from both private and public sectors, among them giants like Raytheon, John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company, and the General Services Administration of the U.S. Government. As you can see—some pretty stiff competition!

A panel of independent judges rated each candidate. The winner was selected based upon a total number of points accumulated in four categories: 1) number of suggestions submitted during the year, 2) the number adopted, 3) total dollar amount of awards, and 4) ingenuity and originality. Although some other nominees had received higher awards, Red scored particularly high under ingenuity and originality. When the judges' ratings came in and the calculations were completed, Red became "Suggestor of the Year." He was presented with a handsome plaque which is on display in the cafeteria.

WILLIAM E. McLEAN TO RETIRE

After more than 13 years of outstanding service with Sprague Electric Company, William E. McLean is planning to retire on December 31, 1981.

Mr. McLean joined Sprague Electric in 1968 as Assistant to the Executive Vice President. He was elected Vice President, Operations in 1969, Senior Vice President, Passive Components in 1973, a member of the Board of Directors in 1974, and is present Executive Vice President.

Before joining Sprague Electric, Mr. McLean was Vice President in charge of Engineering and Manufacturing for the Electra Manufacturing Corporation of Independence, Kansas and had previously held executive engineering posts with Basic Tool Industries and the Solar Manufacturing Corporation both of Los Angeles, CA. During World War II, he was Technical Officer of the Canadian Department of the Navy, and Officer in Charge of the Air Services Branch for the Canadian Department of Transport.

Mr. McLean has been active in the Electronic Industries Association and has chaired several of its engineering and quality assurance committees. He has been a member of the Government Liaison Committee of EIA, a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the American Vacuum Society.

Mr. McLean has been responsible for the company's passive component engineering and manufacturing facilities for aluminum and tantalum electrolytic capacitors, small and large paper/foil capacitors, and wound resistors in the United States. He was also responsible for Sprague subsidiaries, Sprague Electric of Canada, Ltd., Toronto, Ontario; Mexico S.A. de C. V., Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico; and Micro Tech Mfg., Inc., Worcester, Mass. and for Sprague Electric's electrolytic capacitor development engineering department, its corporate engineering services, and its advanced equipment engineering.

Mr. McLean was born in Scotland and educated in British Columbia. He and his wife, the former Jean Hamlin, a native of Vancouver, B. C., reside in Williamstown, Mass. and have four children. He will continue on a part-time consulting basis for the company.

SPRAGUE RETIREE STILL IN THE RUNNING

Wallace A. Young, Sr., a former long-time North Adams Sprague Electric employee, received the Agnes V. Whitt Award for his volunteer work at the Petersburg General Hospital, Petersburg, VA.

Wally was featured in the June issue of the employee publication of the Petersburg General Hospital, where as a member of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), he currently is a volunteer in the Medical Records Department.

In 1973, Wally suffered a heart attack which he believed was caused by his inactivity at that time. Prior to retirement, he had been very active in basketball and running and had competed in more than three hundred races including the Brockton Ten Mile Race in which he set what was then, the world record of fifty-one minutes and forty-two seconds.

After his heart attack, a neighbor suggested volunteer work at the hospital and he began doing volunteer work in the Medical Library. Shortly thereafter he became affiliated with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and worked in many areas including the School of Nursing, X-ray, Data Processing and the Print Shop.

In addition to being honored with the Agnes V. Whitt Award, he was also the recipient of the first Volunteer of the Year award in 1974. His current work in the Medical Records Department keeps him active and happy.

Wally underwent major surgery the first of the year but he reports that he is doing very well. He and his wife celebrated their fifty-fourth wedding anniversary in June.

Wally was a Systems Analyst in North Adams until his retirement in 1968. His many friends will be happy to know of his continued success.

SPRAGUE ELECTRIC LOG ISSUE 3, 1981


Paul F. Sprague—Photographer
Sprague Electric Company had a total of 62 Quarter Century recipients this year. This brings the total membership in the Club to 1780. Employees honored for 25 years’ service were:

**BARRE**
- Frank Baldwin
- Gordon E. Kent, Gene Lambert, Herman Roy

**CONCORD**
- Vernon V. Huckee

**GRAFTON**
- Lucille M. Bria, Delores Hoffmann

**HILLSDILLE**
- Charles E. Scarey

**LANSING**

**NASHUA**

**NORTH ADAMS**
- Doug Smith

**ORLANDO**
- Bill Lunadergan

**SPRAGUE GALASHIELS EMPLOYEES WIN POOL**

Eight employees and one former employee in the Galashiels, Scotland plant won over $90,000 in Littlewood's pool—a national football pool.

All were unaware that they had won until a Littlewood's representative called on them. They had not bothered to check their coupon and were bowled over by news of the win. The nine scooped $90,000 for a $4.00 stake.

Eight of the winners work at Sprague's Netherdale factory and one is a former employee. Eight of the winners were: Stan Osuchowski, a supervisor maintenance technician; machine operator Sid Kittel; Jim Fairweather, a toolmaker; maintenance technician Alec Miller; electrical engineer Robert Carter; supervisor Mrs. Thelma Turnbull; Ludwig Clark and former employee Keith Robinson.

The winners stated that they were all delighted with the great news.

**WORCESTER EMPLOYE PEDALS HER WAY TO BIKE RECORDS**

Debra Ann Jones, a Quality Control Engineer at the Worcester plant, established two new U.S. women’s bicycling records by riding 373.606 miles during a 24-hour period and 192.8 miles in just 12 hours. The national record for 24 hours of continuous cycling was 365 miles.

Debra, a Lunenburg (Mass.) High and Harvard University graduate, set the new standards July 18 and 19 on a 12-mile course in North Chittenango, NY. The course was approved by the U.S. Cycling Federation, which sanctioned and monitored the event. She encountered difficulties soon after the start of the race when she was forced to negotiate her way past a blazing fire in a hay wagon and had to ride over fire hoses.

Debra biked 4,800 miles this year in preparation for her run at the record. Many of those miles were logged late at night or early in the morning. She rode her bike to work for a 56-mile roundtrip from her Townsend home to Sprague Worcester in preparation for her record attempt and despite her busy work schedule, found time to ride 100 miles at least twice a week. She rides with the Fitchburg, Mass. Cycling Club and has been a racer for seven years. Prior to that, she ran cross-country at Lunenburg High. She completed the Boston Marathon in less than three hours four years ago. She was also the first girl to compete on our cycling team at Lunenburg High where she later returned as the girls' coach. Debra is an avid cross-country skier and ballet dancer and instructor.

Seven members of the Fitchburg Cycling Club formed her support crew, including her father, Lester, who is also her equipment manager. Her mother, Grace (also a rider), and sister, Lynn (a USCF official), were also there for the record-breaking ride.

Congratulations to Debra for this great achievement!
KEROSENE HEATERS
Philip T. Brucato

Have you seen or heard about kerosene heaters lately? It's a little before my time, but I understand they were quite popular years ago. Today a new generation of kerosene heaters has hit the market. Redesigned, and applying new technology, these heaters are advertised as a low cost energy source with advanced safety features. The first important question would seem to be valid with today's prices. Kerosene (grade #1 only) ranges from $1.10 to $1.45/gallon. When you compare this to electric heaters on a cost per BTU basis, the kerosene heaters are approximately half as expensive to operate. Initial cost of a kerosene heater is $120 to $300, depending on style, size, and manufacturer.

The two important safety questions are: (1) Fire; (2) Generation of carbon monoxide gas.

To address the fire issues, manufacturers have designed the fuel tank to be at the base of the unit thereby giving it a low center of gravity. Also, the fuel feed is based on a wick-fed principle instead of gravity fed. This eliminates the chance of a runaway fuel supply. The tanks are usually sealed so if it were to be tipped over, kerosene would not leak out. Finally, the most important fire control feature is an automatic shutoff device. The design may vary between manufacturers, but they are all advertised as an automatic shutoff device. Two basic designs are: one which drops the wick down, and the other slides a plate over the wick. In both cases they are activated when the unit is jarred.

The other important safety issue is the question of carbon monoxide generation. A recent New York State law which went into effect September 1, 1981 clearly sets carbon monoxide generation in the flue gas. The question of carbon monoxide generation is the most difficult to address and the most serious. Manufacturers claim 99% efficiency with little or no carbon monoxide. They do, however, recommend leaving a window open for ventilation. With our emphasis on sealing up our homes to prevent energy loss, the question of ventilation is an important one. This, I might add, is also true when using wood and coal stoves.

Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas that is not detectable to your senses because it is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning resemble those of the flu at first, with headache, dizziness, and nausea. At the first signs of these symptoms, shut off the heater and get yourself to fresh air.

I hope these comments will help you decide if a kerosene heater is for you. Presently, there is no Federal law regulating their use but some states prohibit their use in the home, although, as with New York, many are revising their laws. Check with your local Fire Department for the laws in your area. These heaters require maintenance and do present a certain level of risk, so if you use one—BE SMART—BE SAFE—STAY HEALTHY!

PETER R. LOCONTO
NAMED GENERAL MANAGER

Peter R. Loconto has been appointed General Manager of our Worcester Integrated Circuit Operations. Peter has been Director of Product Development and Marketing.

Peter first joined the Semiconductor Division in 1969 from the Raytheon Company and has been with us ever since then, except for a short period in the early seventies. He was named Manager, Digital Products in 1974 and held that post until his appointment as Director of Product Development and Marketing in early 1980.

Peter received his technical education at Central New England College and Lowell Technological Institute.

CONCORD MEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM

The Concord Sprague Softball Team finished the season with an overall record of 35 wins and 11 defeats. Sprague finished its regular season in the Class B Division with a 20 win, 2 defeat record, good for first place. At one point our record was 2-2, but we finished with 18 straight victories to post the best record in the Concord Softball League. In the Class B playoffs, Sprague could only manage a second place finish. On our way to the finals, we played the Class B New Hampshire State Champions who finished second to us in league play. We beat them by a score of 3-1. In that game Sprague had a triple play to highlight the strong defense that it had shown all year. Then it was on to the finals against a team we had beaten 3 out of 4 times during the regular season. The teams played for eleven innings and Sprague was upset for the championship.

In the New Hampshire State Class B Tournament, Sprague lost to a team from its own league which it had beaten 2 out of 3 times during the regular season. On its way to a second place finish, our team beat teams from all over the State, with our best game against a team from Laconia, N.H. We beat them 6-0 in a defensive game.

In the Class A tournaments, where the competition is greater, Sprague made excellent showings although not finishing in the top positions. In perhaps the strongest Class A tournament which was held in Concord, Sprague played some of its best games. In a field of 39 teams, Sprague finished in the top ten. The second game of the tournament saw Sprague beat the previous year’s champion by a score of 2-1. In a later game, Sprague lost to a team which won the Class A tournament by a score of 4-3. Also in that tournament, Sprague’s other loss was to a team who also won the Laconia, N.Y. Class A Championship.

Based on its fine play this year, Sprague will now move to the Class A division where the competition will be of a higher caliber. We are expecting a good season next year, and are very optimistic about our chances in league play and tournaments. 1981 was the season of excellent team effort and hard play. Whenever members of any team give their all, can anyone ever be losers?

Outfielder Gary Evans prepares to meet a pitch from the opposition. Gary was one of the most improved players on the team and won the “Sprague Coaches Award” for his ability, versatility and team spirit.

Catcher Dick Zinn is shown providing instructions to his players from third base. His fine coaching and demanding perfection were a big factor in Sprague’s fine showing during the 1981 season.

Coach Dennis Stewart is shown providing instructions to his players from third base. His fine coaching and demanding perfection were a big factor in Sprague’s fine showing during the 1981 season.

Pictured is scorekeeper Ron Hughes who hasn’t missed a Sprague game in 3 years and kept those vital statistics. Ron holds the distinction of being a person who handles a thankless job. Thank you Ron, the team appreciates your time and energy.
SPRAGUE CONCORD RECYCLES NEWSPAPERS

On March 5, 1981, Concord employees embarked on a unique program of recycling newspapers in order to save trees, landfill space at the local dump, and to provide cellulose insulation for today’s home. The idea came from the Concord Energy Committee which had heard of a non-profit recycling organization called “Recyclit.” This organization was originally sponsored by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and since its inception, has become self-sufficient thanks to the City of Concord’s interest in the program, and especially Sprague employee interest.

Early in March, Recyclit provided Sprague with a collection bin for newspapers. These newspapers could not be thrown in the bin but had to be packaged in grocery bags, tied or placed in cartons. Hence, in order to participate and play the game, employees not only had to contribute their own newspapers but their own time, packaging material and the inconvenience of bringing paper to the plant.

Despite these obstacles it was decided to establish a goal of being the number one business establishment in Concord to recycle newspapers. To accomplish this feat meant that over 800 pounds a week would have to be collected. The first week started slowly as only 300 pounds were collected. The next two weeks showed gains of 600 and 650 pounds respectively. Finally, in the fourth week Concord employees reached the goal and following that, figures increased so that during the first 13 weeks employees averaged 1,063 pounds per week.

With the establishment of over 1,000 pounds per week, Sprague became the number one collection point in all Concord for all businesses. In fact, the recycling program in Concord has grown to such an extent and is so beneficial to the City that the City now supplies the recycling bins for Recyclit.

Needless to say, Sprague employees have played an instrumental part in the Concord recycling program and their contribution has made a difference. Sprague employees account for approximately 10% of all newspaper recycled in Concord. This has also resulted in a lot of landfill space saved since the entire city of Concord has saved over 750 cubic yards and Sprague has played an important part in this savings. To date, the entire program has also produced enough cellulose insulation to insulate more than 175 homes. Think of it, employee efforts have stopped a lot of waste with a recyclable source, saved the city the expense of burying waste, and turned waste into insulation which results in homeowner and industry saving energy.

What next? Well, another goal has been established and that one is to beat the old employee thirteen week record of 1,063 pounds per week. In the first 7 weeks of the second 13 week period, the program is averaging 1,428 pounds a week. In addition, Bill Holf, President of Recyclit has recognized employee contributions and participation.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Recyclit and our Coordinator, Laura Russell, I want to thank you for your support of recycling by allowing us to retain a recycling bin on your premises. Your energy and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

Subsequently shown is a graph indicating the number of pounds of newspaper that Sprague employees bring to the recycling bin each week. This graph is shown in each local Concord bulletin and keeps employees apprised of how well we are doing. For instance, recycling of aluminum beverage cans is presently under consideration at the Concord facility and will likely be implemented. Who knows, maybe Concord employees can also be the “Number One Aluminum Recycler” in Concord.

SPRAGUE WELCOMES SANFORD ROTARIANS

The Sanford-Springvale Rotary Club met for the first time in their history at a local industrial site. Sprague Electric, Sanford’s largest employer, was invited by the Rotary membership to host the event. The August 28th business meeting was held under a canopy on Sprague Electric’s front lawn followed by a buffet luncheon. It was a record turnout with over 65 Rotarians attending. Our Rotarian guests concluded the day with a tour of the Sanford facility.

NASHUA SPONSORS ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

Sprague Electric, in conjunction with the Southern New Hampshire Association of Commerce and Industry, is making available a 720 hour program in Electronic Technology. This 36 week course to be conducted at Nashua High School, is designed to provide a working background in electrical/electronic fundamentals, digital electronics, and microwave equipment.

These training opportunities are meant to satisfy two needs; first, the need of employees to learn useful skills and subsequently be prepared to take advantage of opportunities and grow with the Company; and second, a need for the Nashua plant to meet the skill level requirement of a rapidly expanding firm in high technology business.

Sprague Hillsville employees held a Flea Market recently in the plant parking lot. More than 50 employees had a display and everyone was pleased with the sales volume for the day.
HILLSVILLE PLANT CELEBRATES

Continued from page 1

Gasket Assembly Machine is being operated by Judy Gardner while Dennis Melton checks the tolerance of the Gaskets.

Jack White, Vice-President, Passive Operations. Dr. John L. Sprague, President & Chief Executive Officer and James F. Dwyer, Plant Manager, observe a Testing operation being performed by Ms. Helena Pettry, a long term employee.

Mrs. Agnes S. Long, was the first employee hired at the Hillsville Plant. She began her employment August 21, 1961. Her first responsibility was Industrial Relations Clerk. She continued in this position until January 26, 1967 when she was promoted to Employment Interviewer. On Sept. 16, 1976 she was promoted to Employment Manager. Mrs. Long, in addition to her responsibilities, is very active in Church and Community. Mr. & Mrs. Long reside in Hillsville, Va.

Mrs. Long was the first employee hired at the Hillsville Plant. She began her employment August 21, 1961. Her first responsibility was Industrial Relations Clerk. She continued in this position until January 26, 1967 when she was promoted to Employment Interviewer. On Sept. 16, 1976 she was promoted to Employment Manager. Mrs. Long, in addition to her responsibilities, is very active in Church and Community. Mr. & Mrs. Long reside in Hillsville, Va.

Zula Martin, Receptionist, has completed more than 12 years without being absent a single day. She represents the Hillsville Plant on the telephone and in greeting visitors.

A view of the Plant Cafeteria which is serviced by the Macke Vending Company.

2300 ATTEND SANFORD OUTING

Sprague Sanford employees and their families spent a fun filled day at Funtown, U.S.A. The large amusement park located close to Sanford and the Maine rocky beaches was reserved on July 28 for the exclusive enjoyment of the Sprague group. The management team and other volunteers donned “SPRAUGE IS REALLY COOKING” aprons to provide a barbecue feast. Sanford employees have pronounced this outing as Sprague Sanford's “best” yet.

From left to right: David Guimond (Lead Person, Pelleting Dept.), David McMullen (Mechanic, Pelleting Dept.) and Sandra Howard (Group Leader, Pelleting Dept.)

IMPROVE U.S. ECONOMY BY $710 BILLION DURING THE NEXT 20 YEARS!

Robert C. Sprague, founder and Honorary Chairman of the Board of Sprague Electric, believes a new report on "U.S. Energy Strategies: Some Options for Eliminating Oil Imports by the Year 2000" by the Energy and Resources Division of The MITRE Corporation recently released is of national importance.

MITRE is a technical research group with offices in Bedford, Mass. and Mclean, Virginia. A not-for-profit firm, it came into being in 1958 and performs both government and independent research, much of it for national security and under contract to the Air Force. Next year it will spend about $5.1 million on independent research. Last year MITRE's IR&D committee recommended a study of the possibility of eliminating oil imports by the year 2000.

A team of 18 professionals in energy research, headed by Dr. Edward G. Sharp, director of MITRE's energy division, spent about eight months amassing information. The team also included two non-specialists, a MITRE vice president, and Mr. Sprague.

Mr. Sprague stated that the MITRE report is optimistic, unlike a draft report of the National Energy Plan, which says, "Reducing oil imports to the U.S. regardless of the cost of doing so, could damage the economy, interfere with efficient use of the Nation's resources, lower our standard of living, and provide little additional security." The study leading to the MITRE Report arrives at quite a different conclusion—that we can, by adopting the strategies outlined in the report (which is of national importance) maintain a healthy economy, while cutting oil imports.

If the highest cost of carrying out "reasonable choices" to eliminate the need for importing oil by the year 2000, $790 billion, and the lowest estimated saving during the next 20 years from eliminating the need for importing oil of $1.5 trillion are used, the savings to the United States during this 20 year period would amount to about $710 billion, all in 1980 dollars. As the savings would not start immediately and would be maximized towards the end of the 20 years, an average saving per year is not meaningful. However, such a figure emphasizes the importance of the total saving when compared to large annual unfavorable trade balances and budget deficits. So dividing $710 billion by 20 equates to $35 billion.

In addition to conventional production, MITRE envisions fuel recovery from natural gas liquids, enhanced oil recovery, coal liquids, shale oil, biomass liquids and gasoline from natural gas, all through methods now technically feasible. And the contributions from alternative energy systems, such as solar and wind power, for example, were not included.

It is Mr. Sprague's sincere belief that the United States can, if it chooses, entirely eliminate the need for importing oil by the year 2000 and at a large net saving in 1980 dollars, ($710 billion 1980 dollars), which would substantially improve our economic position and help restrain inflation.

Mr. Sprague's knowledge of this study and report and his special interest in it evolved from his membership on the MITRE Corporation Board of Trustees since it was founded in 1958 by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, incorporating in toto the former Division 6 of the Lincoln Laboratories, at the request of the U.S. Air Force. He has just recently been named an Honorary Trustee of MITRE Corporation and is the first person to be named an Honorary Trustee, and was Chairman of MITRE's IR&D Committee which recommended the study.
DAVID H. DERRICK, JR.
WICHITA FALLS
MARKETING MANAGER

David H. Derrick, Jr. has joined the Sprague Electric Company's multilayer ceramic capacitor operations here as division marketing manager. He succeeds Jack R. Bush, who is now marketing manager for Sprague Electric's aluminum electrolytic capacitor operations at Clinton, Tenn. Mr. Derrick was with Cornell-Dubilier Electronics at Sanford, N.C. for the past 7 1/2 years, most recently as marketing manager for electrolytic and plastic-film capacitors.

He had previously held various technical and marketing posts with the General Electric Co. at Salem, VA; Dayton, Ohio; and Irmo, S.C. Prior to that he was a capacitor components engineer with Honeywell, Inc. at St. Petersburg, Fla.

Mr. Derrick is a graduate of the University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C. from which he received the degree of bachelor of science in electrical engineering.

BEATTIE LEADS UNITED WAY

Paul Beattie, Product Specialist at the Sanford Plant, has been appointed United Way Campaign Chairman of the 1982 Sanford-Springvale United Way Fund Drive.

Paul joined Sprague Electric Co. in 1977 after deciding to leave an established career with a local banking institution. Paul was seeking to join a manufacturing facility which would provide challenge and growth opportunities. In keeping with the Sprague tradition of promotion from within, Paul joined our Third Shift production ranks in August of 1977. Paul's ability was quickly noticed and one month later he was promoted to Department Leader over the Second Shift Formation Department.

Paul's aim from the beginning was to progress steadily upward. With this in mind, Paul continued to look to the future, and proceeded to look at other opportunities at Sprague. Paul recalled a series of psychological tests, taken during his earlier banking days, which resulted in recommendations to enter the field of Marketing. Following that lead, Paul approached Robert Marlowe, Marketing Manager, to discuss the possibilities, and took courses that would make him an eligible candidate for future positions. In December, 1978, an opening occurred in the Marketing Department and Paul applied. He was the successful candidate and assumed duties as a Product Specialist. Paul remains in this capacity and is looking toward continued advancement in Marketing or perhaps Operations Management.

Paul is a native of Sanford and attended Catholic University in Washington, D.C. for three years. Paul returned to Sanford and married Elaine Boutot, also a Sanford native, and obtained his BA (Cum Laude) in Economics at Nasson College in 1974. Paul is a goal setting, successful Sanford native. It is easy to understand why United Way President, Geoffrey Titherington, selected Paul to lead the 1982 United Way Campaign.

As Chairman, Paul will lead and direct four fund raising committees to achieve the 1982 fund raising goal of $150,000. The fund drive will run from October 1st through November 13th. Approximately 90% of the goal will be obtained through contributions by area industry and commercial establishments.

Since Sprague came to Sanford, the Company and its employees have contributed nearly $100,000 to the local United Way. A substantial contribution is also anticipated this year.

FIRST AID CLASS
ANNAPOlis JUNCTION

GK TECHNOLOGIES OFFERS
MATCHING GIFTS PROGRAM

A Matching Gifts Program in aid to education is being offered by The GK Technologies Foundation, Inc. The Foundation will contribute, to a qualified educational institution, a sum equal to the amount contributed to such institution by eligible employees. A contribution must be at least $10 and cannot exceed $2000 in any one calendar year. It may be made by an eligible employee more than once during any calendar year and to more than one qualified educational institution. The term “eligible employee” means any individual who is, and has been for at least one year, employed as a full-time permanent employee of GK Technologies, Inc. and/or one of its wholly-owned subsidiaries.

SOFTBALL TEAM CAPTURES FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP

The Sprague Sanford Women's Softball Team captured its first championship in the recent playoffs of the Sanford Parks and Recreation Women's Slow Pitch softball league.

Sprague Electric, the fourth place team going into the finals with a 6-8 record, defeated Central Furniture, the previously undefeated and defending champions 7-6 to meet third place Shaw's for the final game of the championship. The game was won 8-6, but it didn't come easily. The game was broken open by Sprague's 4-run, fifth inning, but it took 2 runs in the top of the 7th to insure the win. Shaw's scored 4 runs and had runners on second and third before third baseman, Linda Mathieu, grabbed a line drive and stepped on third for a game ending double play! It was a great season for the team and pitcher, Muriel Dube. Top hitter for the team this year was Debbie Tefft, who had 5 homers and scored 23 runs.

EMPLOYEES ARE THE KEY!

It is often said that in a labor intensive industry such as electronic components, experienced employees are the company's most important asset. This is certainly true at Sprague Electric Company and a recent survey of long-time employees shows that of just over 8,000 United States employees, 3,056 of those employees have over ten years. In addition to R. C. Sprague, who founded the Company 55 years ago, there are 29 employees with over 40 years' service, 436 employees with over 30 years, 853 employees with over 20 years and 1,737 employees with over ten years' continuous service. Since 1951, the Company's 25th anniversary, 1,781 employees have received gold watches commemorating their 25th years of continuous service. In 1981, 62 employees are being inducted into our Quarter Century Club.

These employees and the Company's many other experienced employees are the key to success for all members of the Sprague Electric team. The Sprague Electric LOG takes this opportunity to say "Thank you" for your many contributions.
MARATHON TENNIS TOURNAMENT OVER

Clinton’s injury prone (softball) Plant Manager, Charlie Parke, was finally healthy two weeks in a row as he came from the loser’s bracket to defeat his worthy opponent who had waited nearly a month for the match. Charlie Parke defeated Warren Willis (6-2, 7-5) (6-1, 6-2) to claim the trophy in Clinton’s first Annual Tennis Tournament.

The tournament, which lasted over four months, was fraught with injuries and excuses. Jack Taylor (Marketing) almost made it in the semifinals, in the loser’s bracket, without playing a game, but Bob Holmes (Division Controller) waited him out before defaulting to QAR’s Bill Novacek. Bill Williams (I.R.), who hadn’t played tennis in three years, narrowly defeated Gary Johnson who hadn’t played in five years, then claimed lameness and some excuse about too many kids as he defaulted to Jack Taylor (remember him?). Sherrill Dutton (Division Engineering) rode his bicycle nearly five miles to the match, then was too tired to play, while Don Riley, initiator of the tournament, tired of waiting for it to end played most of the leaders before leaving for his new job (he lost).

All in all, sixteen employes had fun in one of the longest tennis tournaments in memory (Guinness Book of Records?). Next time we’ll probably leave the dates off the trophies!

Participants in the tournament were Bill Pellerin (Manufacturing Engineering), Warren Willis (QAR), Curt Gilbert (Division Foil Engineering), Dwayne Cutshall (Marketing), Sherrill Dutton (Division Engineering), Mike Bullock (Etch), Jack Taylor (Marketing), Bill Novacek (Division QAR), Gary Johnson (Etch), Bill Williams (I.R.), Bill Mills (Division Engineering), Bob Holmes (Division Controller), Don Riley, Mack McGuffin (Division Product Engineering), Charlie Parke (Plant Manager) and Andy Lauber (Division QAR).

QUALITY CIRCLE LEADER TRAINING BEGINS IN WORCESTER
Richard Kneeland, Quality Circle Facilitator

It was just a short time ago that the Quality Circle concepts were first introduced to the employees at Sprague Electric in Worcester. I am very pleased to say that the response has been overwhelming. It won’t be long before all Sprague employees will have the opportunity to take part in this extremely rewarding program.

Briefly, a Quality Circle is a small group of people—anywhere from 3-12, who voluntarily meet, on company time, to identify and analyze obstacles that make the job less enjoyable, reduce the quality, or raise the cost of our product... things that make a difference in how much we like our jobs, how we satisfy our customers and how we do against our competition. Circle members receive special training in problem-solving techniques which are helpful both on and off the job.

On September 28, the first Quality Circle Leader Training Course began in Worcester. The first session contained eight people who will, upon completion of their training, return to their areas to begin Circles. An additional twenty three people have requested that they be included in the next training class.

We look forward to the same success that Quality Circles are enjoying in the North Adams plant. IT REALLY WORKS!