WHAT is more vital to the success of business enterprise than a proper understanding between all who are directly engaged in its operation. Our plant may well be compared to a ship, on a modern business voyage, with captain, officers and crew. To steam steadily ahead through varying weather it needs a minimum of restrictive regulations but a workable understanding, on all decks, of matters directly affecting the ship's progress.

This publication is designed to fill the needs of all Sprague workers in supplying timely information concerning plans and prospects for their business. Material describing products, policies, manufacturing processes, sales efforts, future markets, plans and ambitions, will be published, — that we may have a more complete picture of conditions effecting our future welfare and that of the community.

Considerable space will be devoted to matters of local interest. We want you to know more about developments that take place during the Sprague voyage. We also want you to become better acquainted with the entire crew. Clean-cut stories, pictures and news of athletic, plant and social activities will be published, and everyone is urged to submit such material. It is our wish to make this little paper of lasting value and constructive interest, not only to you, but to your families as well.

The Sprague LOG brings some news, some lighter paragraphs, and some interesting and timely special messages to its readers so that everyone may obtain a better understanding of policies and problems in the hope that we may make Sprague products so well and so efficiently that the market for them will constantly increase. If with this increase we could also accomplish a more uniform production volume, one of the greatest difficulties for all of us would be removed.

The Sprague LOG is hereby dedicated to the cause of progress, better understanding, and our mutual enjoyment.
MARY E. AVERY, — LONGEST ON SPRAGUE PAYROLL

"Mollie" — as she is affectionately known to her many friends, was born in Quincy, Mass. Her father was connected with the shoe business, — first in manufacturing and later as a shoe inspector traveling through all parts of the country for Uncle Sam’s Army. Miss Avery graduated from grammar and high school, later attending the Clark School and Barry Shorthand Institute. Her first position was as a secretary with the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation in Quincy. In August of 1926, she was employed on a part-time basis by Mr. Sprague, working two or three evenings a week in R. C. S.’s home (assisting Mrs. Sprague who was really employee number one!) In February of 1927 when Mr. Sprague opened an office in Quincy, Miss Avery then had a full-time Sprague job as bookkeeper, stenographer, payroll clerk, telephone operator and general office girl! As the business grew and more girls were taken into the office, she became Mr. Sprague’s secretary. Outside the office, Mollie engages in many activities. Being a native of Quincy, the old adage, “She’s a nice girl but she commutes”, is especially true of her! Much of her time lately has been taken up with theatricals, for she has played an important part in the management end of the North Adams group known as the “Playactors”. At the beginning of the summer, we understand she took some golf lessons, but had the unfortunate experience of turning her ankle, thus putting an end to what might have been a top-notch golf record! Music, reading and swimming are also among Mollie’s hobbies. Orchids to Mary E. Avery, — faithful, capable, co-operative.

LOUIS A. CRONIN — “DEAN” OF SPRAGUE FOREMEN

In point of length of Sprague service, “Louie” is tops. He was born in South Natick, Mass., thirty-three years ago. L. A. C.’s father and mother are both natives of the good old state of Maine. ‘Tis said that he is a direct descendant of a fairly well-known chap named Abraham Lincoln! He traces the Lincoln blood from the family tree on his mother’s side. Louie spent his early boyhood in Natick, but at seventeen felt the call of Maine’s soil. We then find him farming and lumbering until he clicked off his 21st year. (Don’t pay any attention to his description of Maine potatoes, because he’s too modest about it all!!) Returning to Massachusetts, he became employed as a shoe worker (making shoes for Maine farmers?!), but joined Sprague Specialties in the early Quincy days. Louis, therefore, witnessed and underwent some of the Company’s growing pains. It was during the early stages of Sprague growth that Louie met his wife, and a courtship (with benefit of motorcycle) ensued. His marriage was one of the first, if not the first of the now famous Sprague romances. L. A. C. lives in Vermont. He’s the proud papa of two lovely children, and the possessor of a sort of Will Rogers philosophy. Snap judgment isn’t a part of his makeup. Louie prefers to ponder and think things over “a mite” before he says yes or no. His decisions are pretty sound because of it. What he doesn’t know about impregnating condensers you can put into a buttonhole.

DID YOU TAKE VACATION PICTURES?

Many Sprague employees have been enjoying the good old summer vacations, — others are soon to do so. Why not give Miss Owen a few of the better “shots” you snapped, and possibly we can publish them later on? Incidentally, hourly paid workers who have been employed by the Company for three years are entitled to one week’s vacation each year with pay — and those with lesser service a correspondingly shorter number of days vacation.

MUSIC BREAKS THE MONOTONY

The three daily music periods of one-half hour or more each seem to be especially acceptable when the weather is hot. One of the loudspeakers, installed in all departments, can be seen in the opposite picture. Phyllis Bunting and Mary Bartlett alternate in playing the records, so tip them off as to your favorites. Also Eddie Goodman will welcome your suggestions as to new numbers, and as to those which have been played-to-death.
NEW ARRIVALS

A DAUGHTER on July 2nd, to Mr. & Mrs. Jos. Fitzgerald at St. Lukes Hospital, Pittsfield, Mass. Joe is employed in the Impregnating Dept.

A DAUGHTER on July 14, to Mrs. James Dilego of the main office.

A SON on June 21st, to Mr. & Mrs. Mathew Nazzewski. Mathew is employed in our Laboratory. Mrs. Nazzewski (Blanche Kruzel) was formerly employed in the Final Test Dept. A picture, daddy took of baby Frederick Mathew on July 2 appears on this page.

WEDDING BELLS

BOSCHETTI-MILLER
Miss Elinor Miller of the Wet Finishing Dept., was married to Mr. James Boschetti at a pretty morning wedding in St. John's Episcopal church, July 11.

KIRBY-Le SAGE
Miss Sylvia LeSage of the Boxing Dept., was married July 12, to Mr. George Kirby at an attractive ceremony at Notre Dame Church at 9.30 in the morning.

SCARBO-CHAPERON
On July 2, Mr. Earl Scarbo (Paper Assembly) and Miss Marie Chaperon (Paper Rolling), were married at St. Francis Church. We know you will be pleased to see a picture of this happy couple after the ceremony.

GIRARD-WALCZAK
Miss Mary Walczak of the Paper Rolling department was married to Mr. Joseph Girard on June 4. See picture of the bridal party after the ceremony. Our Miss Phyllis Bunting of Sample Dept., is bridesmaid.

TRIBETTE-LABONTE
The month of June was chosen by Miss Doris Labonte and Mr. Walter Duquette for their wedding. Both are employed in the Final Test Dept.

KING-CANALE
Miss Carmen Canale (Paper Assembly), also chose June for her wedding to Mr. Francis King.

There were three weddings of interest to Sprague employees on June 25th:

MR. MARTIN, foreman of the Mica Dept.
In Williamstown, JOS. O'BRIEN (Inspection Dept.) and DORIS O'MALLEY were united. Their attendants were Eloise O'Malley (Mica Dept.) and Thomas Cullen (Retail Sales).

At Mary of the Assumption Church in Cheshire, GERALDINE SANTOLIN (Paper Assembly), was united to BRUNO GUSTI.

Miss MARION MURPHY of the Mica Dept., announces that she has been Mrs. Andrews since Jan. 6, 1938.

On July 16, three popular Sprague employees took their wedding vows:

MISS ROMA DESROSIER (Paper Test) was united to MR. HAROLD SWEENEY (Impregnating Dept.). MISS MABEL LETOURNEAU (Mica Dept.), was united to MR. ARTHUR KELLAR.

OLIVER-DAVIS
On July 16, Miss Cyrillada Davis (Paper Rolling), and Mr. Edward Oliver were united in the bonds of matrimony.

MISS MABEL BUNTING (Boxing Dept.) and MR. BUSBY WILLIAMS (Oven Dept.), announce they have been Mr. & Mrs. since Jan. 9, 1938.

MISS DORIS BORDEN (Clerk in Dry Rolling Dept.), is to be married August 20th to MR. HENRY CONTOIS.

BLANCHARD-THEBERGE (Paper Test). Ralph and "Dot" plan August wedding.

BELLows-CIRULLo. Mary Cirullo (Boxing) to Leslie Bellows on September 7.

PUPPOLO-DEl DEBBIo—John Puppolo (Chemical Control) to Lena Del Debbio on September 24.
ETTA OWEN’S SKILL KNOWN TO HUNDREDS

On October 22, 1936, Etta E. Owen, trained nurse and extremely popular North Adams native, took charge of the new Sprague dispensary. Miss Owen trained three years at the Franklin County Hospital, Greenfield; a half-year in pediatrics at New York City’s famous Foundling Hospital; another half-year in X-ray work at Boston’s Massachusetts General Hospital; and still another six-months in infection diseases at the Providence, R. I., City Hospital.

The old dispensary consisted of two rooms on the second floor. Genial Nurse Owen’s present workshop has five rooms; office, surgery, cot room, examination room, and analysis room. She cared for more than 600 cases in June, alone—364 surgical and 276 medical. That includes dressings for injuries which occurred in the plant as well as many more which had no connection with plant activities. Dressings are done for all Sprague employees, whether injuries take place on or off the company property. Etta says little scratches need prompt attention,—even on “tough guys”,—and she means it!

SAFETY

Throughout a large part of American industry FIRST AID means exactly what it says. It means emergency help for emergency victims. It is the foe of accidents. It assures quick treatment of the right kind; it is not guesswork. Today, thanks to the strides of medical science, FIRST AID — especially in industry — has become a true benefactor to mankind. Insurance statistics show that a large number of persons are injured each year from splinters. Some of these cases result fatally, for small sliver wounds often lead to infection. While most sliver injuries take place in industry, a surprisingly large number occur in the home. Prompt and proper FIRST AID is the best way to head off infection.

Neglected blisters on the hands and feeted blisters on the hands and feet sometimes lead to painful and serious infections. Doctors tell us not to prick them open but to apply an antiseptic and cover them with a sterile bandage. They will either break themselves or dry up. If you will follow this simple FIRST AID procedure you may save yourself a good deal of trouble. A little knowledge may save a life where an accident has caused severe bleeding. You should know the six points to apply pressure on an artery to control blood flow. Ask Miss Owen about this.

Hand injuries occur through a number of causes. For example, a bad bruise may result from the simple act of striking the handle of a screw driver with the open hand. The remedy is simple; don’t use your hand as a hammer. There is a safer and surer way if you will take time to figure it out.

Old safety razor blades left lying loose about the house, office or shop are extremely dangerous. Put the old blades into the envelope from which the new one is taken, or a tin box. When a supply is accumulated, dig a hole and bury them. Do not under any circumstances let them lie about on the medicine cabinet shelves or window sills.

A Tribute to Doctor George L. Curran

Men are of two kinds, and he
Was of the kind I’d like to be.
Some preach their virtues, and a few
Express their lives by what they do.
That sort was he. No flowery phrase
Or glibly spoken words of praise
Won friends for him. He wasn’t cheap
Or shallow, but his course ran deep.
And it was pure. You know the kind.
Not many in life you find
Whose deeds outrun their words so far
That more than what they seem they are.

Men are of two kinds, and he
Was of the kind I’d like to be.
No door at which he ever knocked
Against his manly form was locked.
If ever man on earth was free
And independent, it was he.
No broken pledge lost him respect.
He met all men with head erect,
And when he passed I think there went
A soul of yonder firmament.
So white, so splendid and so fine
It came almost to God’s design.
TO ROBERT C. SPRAGUE, — A BIRTHDAY CAKE!

New York City's birth records list R. C. Sprague with the date, August 3, 1900. And the electrical industry will always proudly list Frank J. Sprague, — R. C.'s father, as a world figure in electrical development and "Father of Electric Traction." He pioneered with Thomas Edison, invented the trolley car, the electric elevator, multi-unit train control, and devised the automatic railway signal and safety system.

Robert C. Sprague, cordial President of our organization, attended schools in New York City and Connecticut. In 1920 he graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy (class of 1921-A). Then came service on the briny deep aboard battleships and destroyers as a junior engineering officer. Another year of post-graduate work at the Naval Academy was followed by special studies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, completed in 1923. We then find R. C. S. assigned to inspection service in connection with the building of Uncle Sam's great airplane carrier "Lexington". During the latter part of his "Lexington" service, he became interested in the development of a small electric condenser, and in spare time evolved a product and method of manufacture which he believed had advantages over existing products. Applying for patents, he outlined the possibilities to a small group of men in Quincy, — convinced them of the opportunities and enlisted their support. The present corporation was organized in June of 1926,— a "factory" in Quincy, Mass., was secured, and he resigned from the Navy to begin the long, hard grind. Mrs. Sprague was the first employee, doing the original correspondence, taking small orders from jobbers and doing the shipping. Then came "Mollie" Avery, whose typing was done on the dining room table in the Sprague home! The original manufacturing force included Mrs. Osborne and Miss Helfrich of Quincy, who cut, rolled, impregnated, assembled, tested, packed and shipped the first condensers! This was all done in a small room on Hancock Street, Quincy, and later in the back of the Aywon Storage Battery office on Washington Street. As business developed, a small office was rented in February of 1927. Then followed the use of an entire floor, — and later the addition of the largest part of another. Continued demand for Sprague condensers called for more expansion, and in the early part of 1930, the company moved to the present complete building, actual production having started in May of '30.

Mr. Sprague has a boy nearly 16 and another 8 years of age. Hobbies include golf, horseback riding, swimming, dabbling at the piano, — but principally trying to sell condensers.

BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST

1 Dorothy Macksey
   Jennie Mazza
2 Mabel Edmans
   Edward Goodman
   Edgar Remillard
3 Clara Lesage
   Dora Menard
   Robert Sprague
   Mary Wolfe
4 Lena Salari
5 Mary Currie
6 Melvin Lilly
7 Edward Fitzpatrick
8 William Allison
11 Elizabeth Catrambone
13 Ugo Milesi
   Edna Reardon
14 Nettie Angeli
   William Kerwood
15 Beatrice Pierce
   Harold Sweeney
16 Charles McCann
   Donald Micklejohn
   Elizabeth Shortman
17 Helen Albini
   Norman Benoit

20 Dorothy Theberge
   Godfrey Wells
21 Jack Faustine
22 Alfred Bergeron
   Mary Waleczak Girard
   Irene LaCross
   Georgianna Monette
   Helen Roy
   John Shields
23 Dr. Burnham
   Frank Chilton
   Fred Mazur
   Marie Scarbo
   Stephanie Szurek
25 Everett Brown
   Doris Duquette
   Ellsworth Griffin
   Maurice Le Mouy
   Angelina De Grenier
26 Ernest Haley
   William Pierce
   Roy Trotter
27 Olympia Gayda
   Margaret O'Leary
28 Dwight Root
   Virginia Thompson
30 George Beverly
   Mary Girgenti
   Donalda Sutliff
31 Ernest Purpura

The above was snapped in 1926,— when Mr. Sprague's son thought he'd be a camera man too. (At Scituate Beach, Mass.)

Here's the north parking lot, where we see Katie Bryce coming our way. Slipping out early, Katie??

A few generators on the ground floor. This is REAL equipment.
DO YOU KNOW – – –

That at present we are utilizing about 160,000 square feet of floor space? That there is another 100,000 square feet not now being used, but immediately available in the event that future demands for Sprague products makes expansion necessary?

That the Sprague Specialties Company is considered the country’s largest exclusive manufacturer of electric condensers?

That our condensers are produced in a large variety of types and combinations for use in radios, refrigerators, automobiles, electrical communications, public address systems, electric horns, calculating machines, electric oil burners, fans, capacitor motors, rectifying devices, inductance motors, Neon signs, experimental television apparatus, and many other products?

That we have fifteen graduate engineers on our engineering and research staffs?

That our business for the first half of 1938 was 56% less than our business for the first half of ’37? But we see signs of a good fall season ahead.

That on one day during 1937 we shipped fifteen tons of our product? That 40,000,000 units were shipped in 1936? That in one week last year, we produced 1,322,000 units of which 919,000 were small fixed paper condensers; 158,000 trimmers and padders; 147,000 wet electrolytics; 81,000 dry electrolytics; and 15,000 motor dry electrolytics?

That over $800,000 was paid in wages last year, making the normal Sprague payroll the second largest, on an annual basis, in North Adams?

That Sprague products are sold all over the world? About 7% of our dollar sales are to countries outside the good old U. S. A.

That sales for 1937 were 9% less than for 1936; that profits for 1937 operations were 40% less than for ‘36, because of increased competition?

That the important measurements really determining the quality of a condenser are 1. POWER FACTOR. 2. LEAKAGE. 3. CAPACITY. 4. VOLTAGE. In the future, we plan to tell you about each of these four measurements and the manner in which Sprague meets them.

SQUADS RIGHT!

The following employees, who are members of Company K, 104th Infantry, Massachusetts National Guard, attended the 15 day tour of duty at Falmouth:

First Sergeant Leonard Lewitt Corporate John Shields
Sergeant Charles Belouin Sergeant Laurence Lalliberti
Sergeant Harold Brown Corporal Harold Brown
Private Armand Gibeau Private Harold St. Denis

GROUP INSURANCE

Employees with six month’s Sprague service or less than 1 1/2 years are entitled to a $750 life and $750 accident, death and dismemberment policy. Those from 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 year’s service are rated for $1,000 life and $1,000 “a.d. and d.” Employees having over 2 1/2 year’s service can receive $1,250 life and $1,250 “a.d. and d.” protection. The Company regularly pays part of the premiums, and carries all the premium for 4, 5 and 6 months respectively when an employee is laid off work. This group policy is with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. All details may be secured through your foreman.

And, by the way, is the proper beneficiary named in your insurance policy, or have changes occurred requiring the naming of another person to receive the money in case you die? No one has yet found a way to telephone or telegraph your desires from the worlds beyond, so ask your foreman to fix any error in your group insurance records. Don’t put it off.

Plant photographs for this issue were taken by our own Fred Crosier.
NEWS ITEMS

Mr. Hoyt, plant engineer, is seriously ill at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

Mr. (Impregnating) and Mrs. (Dry Rolling) Louis Cronin spent their vacations in Nova Scotia.

Mr. (Dry Rolling) and Mrs. (Final Test) Harvey DeGenier spent their vacations in Atlantic City, N. J.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Teeple, spent their vacations visiting relatives in Ohio.

The following Sprague people were on vacations the week of July 18th:
Three from the Boxing Dept. — Mary Curie, Delia Atwood, Ray Cutler.
June Lamoureaux (Rolling Dept.), registered at Hampton Beach.
Nettie Angell (Rolling Dept.), enjoyed a trip to New York City.
Dorothy Davison (Impregnating Dept.), went on a bicycle tour of Cape Cod.
Rita LaPine (Sample Dept.), vacationed at Lake Lauderdale, N. Y.

Mrs. Rena Fachini (Main Office), spent her vacation in Maine.

Mr. Clarence Pratt (Maintenance), toured Maine and New Hampshire during his vacation.

Mrs. Alice Stevens (Mica Dept.), has returned to work after a long leave of absence due to illness.

Bill Brundige, Dwight Root, Fred Powers, Howard Sherman spent part of their vacations fishing in Vermont.

We are pleased to hear that Jimmie McDonough of the Sample Dept. is able to be around after being out about six weeks with a broken ankle.

Due to the efforts of John Puppolo (Chemical Control) a game has been arranged between the Brooklyn Dodgers of which Babe Ruth is manager and the local Sons of Italy teams. The game will be held Aug. 11 at Noel Field in North Adams. Babe himself will play.

On leaves of absence because of illness: Katherine Conrad, Boxing; Lillian Stickles, Paper Assembly; Stephanie Szurk, Paper Assembly.

Recovering from tonsil operations:
Elizabeth Roy
Phyllis Dubrowski

Ursula Marceau (Mica Dept.), underwent an operation at No. Adams Hospital, July 30.

The Mica Dept. will hold a picnic at Taconic Park Saturday, August 6.

SUGGESTION SYSTEM

The Company is constantly endeavoring to improve its product; to improve manufacturing methods and costs; to reduce waste; to eliminate the possibility of accidents, and to better working conditions.

Supervisory personnel has no monopoly on good ideas and is fully aware that many times an employee in the shop has definite and constructive thoughts in connection with the above aims.

We do not have a formal routine Suggestion System but do have a practical means for getting ideas across. Any suggestion should be taken up first with the closest supervisor and worked up through the regular channels. To insure proper credit for the original idea, it is only necessary to write out a brief summary of the item with date and signature, and turn same in promptly to Mr. Washburn. The help and criticism of the regular foremen and department heads is needed to make the idea move along, and the signed and dated paper is sufficient to nail down its real authorship.

Don’t be reluctant to show and discuss your suggestion, and don’t be discouraged if it has already been tried, proves too expensive, etc. It often takes a few fouls or strikes to lead up to a hit. Also in a fast changing business such as ours it is often necessary to wait some time in order to be sure the suggestion will not be superseded. Our organization is small enough so that credit for the original idea need not be difficult to prove, especially if a prompt filing is made with Mr. Washburn.

The Company wants suggestions. The money paid for proven suggestions, which has run as high as $250 for a single idea, is the best spent money paid out.

TALK ABOUT "STOP AND GO DRIVING!"

Our production activities being based upon special orders, as dictated by our customers, the red and green lights are forever changing on us.

Note that the volume of our production is practically never steady from one month to the next, with steep inclines or declines as indicated on the chart. The management even has a special "ticker" direct hook-up with our most important customers, as mail is too slow for their needs!

These sharp variations explain why our working force is not more uniform. Add to these changes in volume the frequent changes in design requested by customers and we have the explanation for many of the quick changes in decision made by supervisory personnel.

Also note how the dotted line representing number of condensers shipped, rises above the solid line (dollar sales), showing the reductions in our selling prices.
EDITORIAL

PHILOSOPHY OF A HUMAN BEING

Being just an ordinary human being, wandering along the pathway of life, I have evolved this simple philosophy to guide me:

To admit that being human I am bound to make mistakes, but to make as few as possible and to try to avoid making the same mistake twice;

To never be too enthused over success or too dejected because of failure, for both will pass away;

To consider the feelings of other folks as I should like to have them consider mine;

To go my way quietly and humbly and not worry too much about “mysteries” I cannot explain;

To do the best I can, here and now, and let the future take care of itself;

To help folks when I can and leave them alone when that seems best;

To pause in the wild rush of business and take time to enrich mind and soul through worship, reading good literature, looking at beautiful pictures; listening to inspiring music, and communing with nature;

To refrain from passing the buck, to take deserved blame though the heavens fall, and never to steal credit due another;

To promptly forget slights and insults, and to hope that others will not hold against me the winged arrows that may in anger or irritation escape my lips;

To share my courage and happiness with others, and keep my fears, heartaches and disappointments to myself;

To meet all the common experiences of human life bravely, and to so live that when the Great Caravan called Death draws up and announces this visit complete, I can leave without fear and trembling;

To admit it when folks tell me I fail to live up to my own philosophy, but to keep trying nevertheless.

OH, YEAH?

“My shaving brush is very stiff,” complained Dad. “I wonder what’s wrong with it.”

“I don’t know” said wifey. “It was nice and soft when I painted the bird cage yesterday.”

Teacher: Tommy, suppose there were five children and their mother had only four potatoes; how would she give each an equal share?

Tommy: Mash ‘em.

Customer: “Has this dog a good pedigree?”

Salesman: “Say, if he could talk, he wouldn’t speak to either of us.”

Angler: “Does this ‘No Fishing’ sign mean what it says?”

Native: “It sure does, stranger. There hasn’t been a fish in this creek for years.”

Smith: He must be doing well in languages. I just paid for three courses: $10 for Latin, $10 for Greek and $100 for Scotch.

“ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT”

The foreman of an electrical repair shop was interviewing a bright boy who was applying for a position.

“Do you know anything at all about electrical apparatus?” asked the foreman.

“Yes, sir,” was the prompt reply.

“What is an armature?” asked the foreman.

“It’s a guy who sings for Major Bowes.”

“Where is the cashier?”

“Gone to the races.”

“Gone to the races in business hours?”

“Yes, sir, it’s his last chance of making the books balance.”

An explorer was speaking at a dinner given in his honor before he embarked on a journey to Africa. In concluding his remarks he said:

“I thank you for your kind wishes regarding my welfare on my dangerous journey, and I want you to know that when I am far away from you, surrounded by ugly, grinning faces, I shall always think of you.”

“Miss Alice ain’t home,” said the colored maid to the caller.

“She’s done gone down to de class.”

“What class?” asked the caller.

“Miss Alice ‘gwine to be married, you know, an’ she’s taking lessons in domestic silence.”