THEY CASHED IN ON THEIR IDEAS

FRONT ROW: Sam Troia, Frank Wotkowicz, Lena (Pat) Scarfone, Norman Benoit, Frank Gassett.

The above seventeen employees shared in the $240 in awards given in the last nine months for usable suggestions. Thomas Francis was top man this year, having received the largest individual sum. Thomas Dufraine and Frank Morandi were also in the 1938 group of "Idea Men" pictured in the LOG of January, 1939.

SUGGESTIONS, PLEASE

After all is said and done, a modern American business concern is, in reality, a group of people — every one of which is dependent upon each individual member. You can, if you wish, compare it to a football team, or any other kind of team which either sinks or swims, depending upon the entire outfit's work.

Like the coach of the team the management of the concern knows what is to be done and how to train men to do it. But, unlike the coach, because of such a diversity of jobs, materials, and processes to supervise, the industrial executive is often unable to study closely each minute detail in production. In fact, no one person could cover every detail. Each individual should know his own job better than anyone else. It is the possible improvements or short cuts seen by that individual that need to get up the line to the office.

In order to encourage suggestions from all Sprague employees our management is glad to compensate anyone for thinking and furnishing ideas, beyond the scope of his or her regular duties, that will cut the cost of operation, eliminate hazards, or prevent waste.

Just what is a suggestion? In short it is a positive, constructive idea for an improvement. If a new idea doesn't help to operate business more successfully, it is not likely to be adopted. Keeping the necessity for profit in mind, the following points will perhaps be helpful.

I. In your presentation make it evident that you recognize the necessity for either "breaking even" or showing a profit on the idea.

II. Try to measure in dollars and cents the saving or improvements that will result from the adoption of the proposal. If it is the type of idea which doesn't lend itself to exact dollars and cents measurements, gather all the evidence possible to show how the new idea can help toward profitable operation.

IV. A good idea need not involve actual expenditure or saving of money, but may deal with human relationships. (Continued on next page, left column)
Proper methods of operation are a determining factor in turning out good work. Improper handling of sections results in torn leads, dented cans, etc. No. 1 shows operator depressing each clip before removing section thus preventing a torn tab or lead. Also note the tray the right height so that it is not necessary to throw the units which may or may not land in the tray as shown in No. 2.

No. 2 illustrates a splendid way to reduce the waistline; but also reduces output!

SUGGESTIONS, PLEASE (Continued from page 1)
in the organization. Reasons should be presented to prove that it will better these relationships.

V. Remember: the test of practically every new idea is the question “Will the introduction of the idea yield a profit in money or better human relations?”

On what subjects are constructive suggestions particularly wanted?

I. Improving quality of goods: The sale of any object is governed by the demand for it. The continued sale of a particular brand of that object is governed by its quality. Past issues of the “Log” have explained the necessity for making the best condenser, as well as making that best condenser as cheaply as possible.

II. Appearance of finished job: Although the performance and price of the article chiefly control the re-orders, the general appearance has much to do with the first sale, and with its continued favor in the eyes of the workers and bosses in our customers’ plants.

(Continued, next column)
As you read about the wars on the other side of both great oceans, just give a thought to the fact that wars are not fought by people alone. The people who become involved in wars must have materials with which to operate. As "cold-blooded" as this statement sounds, it is nevertheless true. Obviously "a new market" for raw materials and certain finished goods is created by war, and everyone knows the unfortunate result. Certain raw materials most essential to war (and essential to defense against possible aggression) take on new value — a higher value. And so we find certain raw material prices rising.

In our country, the public continues to demand value, — which is a short way of saying “high quality at low prices.” Our manufacturing customers must meet the current public demand and we, in turn, must keep in line. The whole problem reminds us of an endless chain, — since each link is fully as important as the entire chain? Sprague Specialties Company represents a definite link in the current chain of events, as shown in the sketch at left, — and it can only be through the unqualified co-operation of every one in the Sprague family that profitable operation can be maintained.

DO YOU KNOW:

That the section of North Adams in which Sprague Specialties Co. is located is called the "Beaver" because years ago there was an unusually large beaver dam on the narrow gorge just below the Natural Bridge?

That in 1832 a carpenter and a machinist bought about 26 acres of land (the present site of our factory) and the water power rights for $500?

(Continued next page, right column)
Under which condition will the operator turn out the most work as well as the best work?

THE MONKEY'S UNCLE

Not to be outdone by any admirer of the lowly book-worm (see Mr. J. K. Sprague's riddle in September's "Log"), Mr. H. W. Whitby, our Midwest representative, sends us the following conundrum. Mr. Whitby dubs it a "simple algebra problem" and explains that this is not original with him,—feeling it is to be credited to one of the engineers employed by our friends, Utah Radio Products. Here goes for the problem itself. (We don't want to tell tales out of school, but we heard that "Whit" Whitby made the grade by solving this "terror" in about an hour!) Now, gentle readers, we plan to give you the answer in the next "Log." Mr. Whitby has asked us to refrain from supplying the solution the same time we put the problem to you. Evidently, he wants to see if you can beat the hour!

The problem: A piece of rope weighs four ounces per foot. It is passed over a pulley and has a pan attached at either end; one empty; the other containing a monkey. The system is in equilibrium. The weight of the monkey in pounds is equal to the age of the Monkey's Uncle in years. The age of the Monkey's Uncle is twice as old as the monkey was when the Monkey's Uncle was half as old as the monkey will be when the monkey is three times as old as the Monkey's Uncle was when the Uncle was three times as old as the monkey then was. The weight of the rope is one-half as much again as the difference in weights between the empty pan and the pan containing the monkey.

How long is the rope?

DO YOU KNOW (Continued from page 3)

That in 1833 they erected a stone mill, 40x80 ft. and 3 stories high; built several dwellings and with 20 looms started making print goods and more looms?

That in 1845 they had built or bought enough machinery to have 90 looms in operation, built an ell part of fifty feet and, because it was in such a secluded locality, built a general store?

That in 1850 the mill was wholly destroyed by fire?

That in 1851 a new firm erected a spacious stone mill, 104x40 ft. and 4 stories high, for the manufacture of satinet and cashmeres?

That in 1872 the inside of the building was completely consumed by fire. It was immediately rebuilt and enlarged?

That in 1877 the factory became part of the Gallup and Houghton Interests? It was at this time running 210 looms, employing 150 hands and turning out 1,500 pieces of print cloth a week.

That in 1909 Gallup and Houghton sold the Hoosac Cotton Co., and the Beaver Mill to the Hoosac Cotton Mills Corporation, which operated the two mills to-gether in the manufacture of cotton cloth?

That about 1917 the Beaver Plant was sold to the Beaver Mills, Inc., which made a fabric used in the manufacture of auto tires?

That in 1929 SPRAGUE SPECIALTIES CO. bought it and in January of 1930 started to move its business from Quincy, Mass., and started operations in May, 1930?

That in an early issue of the LOG we will tell how the SPRAGUE SPECIALTIES CO. has developed since 1930?
NEIGHBORS IN THE NORTH ADAMS BUSINESS SCENE

Continuing our interesting series of illustrated articles on North Adams industry, we come to an enterprise operating within a stone’s throw of our own plant, — the Hoosac Marble Company. Few people fully realize that, right up on the hill to the northwest of us is a granite quarry known throughout the country for its unusually high caliber products. It is doubtful if North Adams folk also realize that approximately ten thousand (10,000) tons of rock are taken annually from this great pit! The dark stone is thrown out and only the whitest stone retained for grinding purposes. This stone is ground, in some cases, as fine as milady’s face powder! Various grades or textures of powder are produced for shipment to manufacturers of many articles, including fertilizer, rubber products, putty, brushes, glass, buttons, chemicals, inside patent plaster, stucco, and, — believe it or not, grit for turkeys, chickens and canary birds! Hoosac Marble’s crushed stone is shipped to all corners of this nation, — into South American ports and elsewhere over the globe. Perhaps you’ve noticed the trucks coming from the quarry with their loads of bagged powder. This article gives you a brief idea of what it’s all about.

The company has been grinding stone since 1875, and the plant has been in operation practically 100 years. Today’s genial superintendent, Mr. R. MacDougall, guides the year round work of about twenty operatives.

LIFE

Life is like a journey
Taken on a train
With a pair of travelers
At each window pane,
I may sit beside you
All the journey through,
Or I may sit elsewhere
Never knowing you
But if fate should mark me
To sit by your side
Let’s be pleasant travelers,—
It’s so short a ride.

GLENN SAYS . . .

Daily news of the troubled events throughout much of the world drives home the realization that we, in American industry, have much to be thankful for and to preserve.

Yes, we have our problems and we have much room for improvement, but we are free men.

Think of your opportunities. Are you making the most of them?

NATURAL BRIDGE

Because there are so many beautiful points of interest in and around North Adams some of the most interesting and noteworthy are neglected or nearly forgotten. Among these is the Natural Bridge. (A natural bridge is an arch over a valley caused by erosion.)

North of our plant, emptying into the north branch of the Hoosac River, is the Hudson Brook. This little stream (on which is our dam, pictured in a previous issue) has worn a deep chasm for some distance thru coarsely crystalline marble. In one spot about five minutes’ walk from Sprague’s an arch was left, forming a natural bridge.

With the possible exception of the one in Virginia, this is the most interesting and unique in the east. The depth of the chasm under the bridge is 44 feet — the arch itself is 8 feet long and 25 feet wide.

Above is a picture of the Natural Bridge taken by Fred Crosier. Ray Bishop of the Sample Dept. is standing on the bridge.
First of the fall social activities was a dance at the Armory on October 6th under the management of "Hank" Gamari and "Jimmy" McDonough. Those attending reported they had a grand evening.

No foolin', — 'twas a grand and painfully glorious season! ! ! (These injuries did not all occur while playing ball, but did interfere with the scores)

BOWLING NEWS

The bowling season has begun and Sprague teams have ushered it in with a bang again this year.

Men have a fourteen team league and have all the alleys of one establishment on Thursday nights.

Girls have six teams in their league for interdepartment games and one team of the picked players of these six teams for out-of-plant contests. A few of the girls are showing up some of the men this year.

In the men's league the foremen are at present in first place but are closely followed by Local 249, with the Trimmers in third place.

The girl's league is very closely contested, but due to postponements (you know how these girls are!) it would be unfair to give standings until next issue.

Enthusiasm shown by everyone in bowling this season demonstrates the fact that whatever sport is in season, the Sprague people will compete — and take plenty of honors.

Every road leads to the bowling alleys and every match is rebowed in shop the next day.

THIRD ANNUAL MASQUERADE

The Third Annual Masquerade Ball was held Friday, October 27 at the Armory. Nearly 500 Sprague employees and their friends were present. Prizes were awarded to Winnie Edwards, Priscilla Little, Lawrence Laliberte and Theresa Landry. The committee in charge was Alice Senecal, Barbara Beebe, Lillian Stickles, Tina Turgeon, Margaret Lamberti, Schuyler Dean, Carmella Voghel, William Landry, Henry Gamari, and Walter Carpenter. The next "Log" will contain a scene or two of the affair.

The Paper Assembly Dept. also held a Costume Party at Wenzel's Farm in Adams, Oct. 27. A dance, informal singing, and a turkey dinner were enjoyed.

VACATION TRIPS


Others enjoying vacations recently were: William Bellows, Mary Daniels, Alice Gomeau, Lillian Boyer.

Convalescing from operations are: Yvonne Davison, Edward Lestage, William Nowak.

Tina Turgeon went coon hunting recently — she did not bag a coon but did shoot a rabbit and a pheasant.
Harry Haskins, Robert Teeple, Frank Godsey, David MacLelland, Lars Anderson, George M. Flood, and Jack Washburn spent the week-end of October 28 on a duck hunting trip.

We don’t know whether we have a second Benjamin Franklin in the plant or whether he is taking the advice of the popular song “Go Fly a Kite and Let Your Troubles Blow Away.” We do know that Jack Washburn has taken up kite flying in a big way.

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**NAME**

- Marjorie HIFKO
- Lawrence McCONNELL
- Dolores MILLER
- Wayne DAVIS
- Charles GAUDETTE
- Doris BLANCHARD
- Louis FOISY
- Caroline MEEKIN
- Henry LUCZYNSKI
- Pearl PELTIER
- Rita RHODES
- Thomas CULLEN
- Helen BUNTING
- John BRYCE
- Minnie YULIANO
- John DeROSA
- Emily CARDIMINO
- Raymond TREMBLAY
- Mary McGINNIS
- Frank VIENOTTE
- Marie KING
- George ROHANE
- George FORMHALS
- Florence PELTIER
- Kenneth HILL
- Beatrice CHAMPAGNE

**DEPT.**

- Mica
- Not employed here
- Paper Rolling
- D. C. Rolling
- Not employed here
- Paper Assembly
- Paper Test
- Paper Assembly
- Not employed here
- Retail Sales Dept.
- Final Test
- Not employed here
- Paper Test
- Not employed here
- Paper Test
- Not employed here
- Paper Test
- Not employed here
- Paper Test
- Not employed here
- Paper Test
- Not employed here
- Paper Test
- Mica Dept.
- Not employed here
- Not employed here
- Paper Assembly

**DATE OF WEDDING**

- Nov. 11, 1939
- Nov. 25, 1939
- Sept. 23, 1939
- Sept. 24, 1939
- Oct. 22, 1939
- Nov. 21, 1939
- Nov. 21, 1939
- Sept. 30, 1939
- Sept. 30, 1939
- Oct. 22, 1939
- Oct. 21, 1939
- Oct. 21, 1939
- Sept. 30, 1939
- St. Francis Church
- St. Francis Church
- St. Francis Church
- St. Francis Church
- Universalist Church
- Not employed here
- Not employed here
- Oct. 14, 1939
- Oct. 4, 1939
- Oct. 28, 1939
- Oct. 28, 1939

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**BIRTHS**

1. Vernon, son of Vernon and Mary King (Mica Dept.).
2. Dees “shot” by Emma Underwood (Sample Dept.). Let’s see if the men can do as well when the deer season opens next month.
3. Alice Faye Dustin, daughter of Arthur and Marion.
4. Ferris Ferris and Elizabeth Solomon.
5. Clarence Wells striking out.
6. Yankee Stadium, the day of N. Y. “Yankees” and Cleveland “Indians” game. Photo by Kenneth Russell.
7. Charles Anthony Desrochers, age 3, son of Charles and Julia.

- Sept. 25 A SON to Mr. and Mrs. Najib DAVIS. (Mother is Dorothy of Pretuner Dept.)
- Sept. 24 A DAUGHTER to Mr. and Mrs. Robert VEAZIE. (Mother is Dora of Paper Assembly.)
- Oct. 2 A DAUGHTER to Mr. and Mrs. Gerald LEBERT.
- Oct. 17 A DAUGHTER to Mr. and Mrs. Howard SHERMAN.
- Oct. 18 A SON to Mr. and Mrs. Earl ATWELL.
- Oct. 22 A SON to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur DUSTIN. (Father works in Wet Assembly. Mother is Marion, formerly of Paper Rolling.)
- Oct. 19 A SON to Mr. and Mrs. Crawford BELLOWS. (Father is in Check Inspection. Mother is in Mica.)
- Oct. 10 A SON to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur HEWITT.
AN AMERICAN
What it Means to be One

Some idea of what it means to be an American, to live in, to work in, and to enjoy the privileges of America, will be obtained from the following editorial which appeared in a recent issue of the “New York Sun.” It was entitled, “He Is An American.”

“He is an American.

“He hears an airplane overhead, and if he looks up at all, does so in curiosity, neither in fear, nor in the hope of seeing a protector.

“His wife goes marketing, and her purchases are limited by her needs, her tastes, her budget, but not by decree.

“He comes home of an evening through streets which are well lighted not dimly in blue.

“He reads his newspaper and knows that what it says is not concocted by a bureau, but an honest, untrammeled effort to present the truth.

“He has never had a gas mask on.

“He has never been in a bombproof shelter.

“His military training, an R.O.T.C. course in college, he took because it excused him from the gym course, and it was not compulsory.

“He belongs to such fraternal organizations and clubs as he wishes.

“He adheres to a political party to the extent that he desires — the dominant one, if that be his choice, but with the distinct reservation that he may criticize any of its policies with all the vigor which to him seems proper — any other as his convictions dictate, even, if it be his decision, one which holds that the theory of government of the country is wrong and should be scrapped.

“He does not believe, if his party is out of power, that the only way in which it can come into power is through a bloody revolution.

“He converses with friends, even with chance acquaintances, expressing freely his opinion on any subject, without fear.

“He does not expect his mail to be opened between posting and receipt, nor his telephone to be tapped.

“He changes his place of dwelling, and does not report so doing to the police.

“He has not registered with the police.

“He carries an identification card only in case he should be the victim of a traffic accident.

“He thinks of his neighbors across international borders — of those to the north as though they were across a State line, rather than as foreigners — of those to the south more as strangers since they speak a language different from his, and with the knowledge that there are now matters of difference between his government and theirs, but of neither with an expectancy of war.

“He worships God in the fashion of his choice, without let.

“He is a fortunate man.

“He is an American.”

GUESS WHO!
On the left: She works in the Wet Assembly Department and still looks like this picture.
Top, right: Are now Mr. and Mrs. Both work in the plant.
Lower, right: An employee of the Paper Test and his dog “Smiles”.

ANSWERS TO “GUESS WHO” PHOTOS IN AUG. & SEPT. ISSUES
Aug. issue: Crawford Bellows and his brother, Leslie.
Jack Sullivan in carriage.
Charles Dean in chair.
Harold Brown.
Sept. issue:
William Brundige and Aleathbelie Dow.
John O’Connell.
Irene Champagne La Cross and Beatrice Champagne Hill, sisters.

SPRAGUE EMPLOYEES SINCE 1930 OR BEFORE
Front row, from left to right: Amelia Biondelli, Ida Piaggi, Cecile Belanger, Doris Valliers, Sophie Embry, Eva Beilati, Mary Mancuso. Middle row, from left to right: Ellsworth Griffin, Clifford King, Hank Gumari, Henry Senecal, Leslie Kent. Back row, from left to right: Clayton Collins, Pete Mancuso, Edward Fitzpatrick, Alec Durant.

A SCENE IN THE WET ASSEMBLY DEPARTMENT. Starting at left and working back, the people in the above scene are: Helen Estes (back to camera), Clara Parrish (half hidden), Rose Gregory, Nelson Beverly (back to camera), Albert Zeplak (top of head showing back of Rose Gregory), Mabel Edmans (back to camera), Margaret Trottino, Alma Fisardu, Julia Dumoutauin, Evelyn Boulger, Mary Godel, Frank Puppolo (behind Mary Godek), John Sullivan (seated) Henry Senecal, Dave Puppolo, and Casmer Penczar.