

# World's Noisiest Room Operated at U of Texas

BY HOWARD BLAKESLEE  
(United Press Science Editor)

Austin, Tex., July 21 (AP)—The world's noisiest room has just been built at the University of Texas. In it a slammed door sounds as loud as the bang of a nearby howitzer.

This room is a new method of studying soundproofing. The main difference is that this laboratory covers the silencing of a far larger range of noises than usual.

The room was designed by Dr. C. Paul Boner, dean of arts and science. It is operated by R. N. Lane and James H. Bolsford.

All four walls look like floors of solid pillars. Ceiling and floor are smooth. Everything is covered by a hard, white finish. The result is to spread sound evenly throughout the room and magnify the echoes.

The tests have found out how noisy any object is. The object may be you, a chair, window drapes, anything that adds to or subtracts from noise—and everything does just that.

You, for example, may be noisier in some clothes than in others. This loudness has nothing to do with gaudy suits or dresses. It comes from the texture of the goods.

In making the tests the object is placed in the room. Then a tremendous sound is turned on. It sounds like a big hiss, because it contains all the audible sounds, instead of the one-third commonly used in soundproofing tests.

While the big noise is on, nothing is done, but the instant the noise is shut off, electronic detectors inside the room go to work. They read the echoes and measure them. This reading shows whether the test object in the room adds to the echoes or subtracts from them. Changes in form and padding of chairs, for example, show how to make any chair quieter.

This noise room also shows how to add sounds that may be useful. Window drapes usually quiet a room while the drapes are drawn over the windows. When opened, the same drapes enhance the sounds of music, because they absorb less of it.

The university is cooperating in this work with the U. S. bureau of standards, the Universities of California and Michigan, Armour Research foundation at Chicago and the National Research council at Ottawa, Canada.

## Barbara Hutton Wins Divorce

Cuernavaca, Mexico, July 21 (AP)—Dime Store Heiress Barbara Hutton finally has her divorce from husband number four, the Prince Igor Troubetzkoy.

Judge Alfonso Roqueni said last night that he signed the decree July 14—four months and 18 days after the blonde, ailing 38-year old heiress to the Woolworth millions applied.

Miss Hutton has been in Europe recently where she has been photographed with German Tennis Ace Baron Gottfried von Cramm.

Divorce was held up after Miss Hutton asked for it February 26 because Prince Troubetzkoy claimed he had not been properly notified of his wife's action. Troubetzkoy lives in France and notification consisted of a note posted on the bulletin board of the dingy Cuernavaca courthouse.

Judge Roqueni, of the Morales state court, then ruled he was not competent to deal with the case: The Morales supreme court said he was and told him to act.

## Bids Called for on Idlewood Drive

Bids for the proposed improvement of Idlewood drive located outside the city limits of Salem to the southwest will be opened August 3, according to action taken by the county court.

It is estimated that the overall cost of the project will be \$6,635.55.

A previous bid by a single contractor was considerably in excess of the estimate which included asphaltic concrete surfacing. The new estimates call for an 18 foot wide road surface of oil mat construction.



Shelters Peacemakers—General view of the houses in Kaesong, Korea, where the United Nations peace delegates go for rest and relaxation during recesses in the current peace talks. The negotiators, as well as others of the United Nations group, also eat here while in Kaesong. (Acme Telephoto)

## Vital World War II Air Fields In Greenland Being Rebuilt

BY ELTON C. FAY  
(Associated Press Military Affairs Reporter)

Washington, July 21 (AP)—American military and civilian workers have started rebuilding some vitally important World War II air fields in Greenland, along the top-of-the-world bomber routes from Russia.

Equipment, supplies and construction workers started moving to Greenland several weeks ago, it was learned today. However, arctic ice in the Baffin Bay-Davis Strait area caused some delay.

A convoy was held up for about two weeks because of "adverse ice conditions," the navy said in answer to a question. It did not say where the conditions developed or where the convoy was headed.

However, pack ice coming down the east coast of Greenland during the late spring months rounds the southern tip and during the early summer months frequently shuts off approach to the Julianehaab district as the ice starts drifting toward Davis Strait. It is in the Julianehaab area that the biggest of the World War II air strips was located, at Narsarsuaq, with a 6,500-foot runway.

Presumably this is one of the points at which the defense department disclosed in a cautious statement recently that "rehabilitation and construction" work is being carried out. Actual construction work at the Greenland bases apparently is being carried on by private firms under contracts with the army engineers and air force. Organized under the name of "North Atlantic Constructors," with offices in New York City, are four firms: Peter Kiewit Sons; S. J. Groves and Son Company; Condon-Cunningham, and Al Johnson Construction Company.

The 6,500-foot runway at Narsarsuaq and the smaller strips at three other bases used by the U. S. during World War II would be too short for modern jet fighter or bomber aircraft or for B-36 bombers taking off with full load of fuel and bombs. The same situation would prevail in Iceland, where the U. S. recently began re-use of some wartime bases.

New construction work at Greenland bases obviously will include lengthening of runways to enable present-day and future warplanes and big transports to fly into and out of the arctic fields.

American return to the Greenland and Iceland bases was made possible by the conclusion, earlier this year, of long negotiations with the governments of Denmark, which owns Greenland, and of Iceland.

Access to the Greenland and Iceland bases would be needed critically by the United States for both defense and offensive warfare.

Greenland is at approximately the half-way point on the 4,000 mile air route between the Murmansk area of Russia and New York City. Similarly, almost any of the great port or industrial cities of the United States would be at the southern terminus of such a bomber route.

Because the Greenland and Iceland areas also could be of high value to Red planes, it was important that they neither be able to seize nor set up at remote points any airfield in the area. In "denying" use of the area to Soviet airmen a continued surveillance must be maintained. With bases back in use, U. S. planes can patrol the ice caps and hinterlands of Greenland and Iceland to guard against aerial infiltrations.

Should Russia attack and thus open herself to retaliatory air strikes by American strategic bombers, the arctic fields would become the take-off or refueling points for part of the long range air blows against Soviet targets.

## Lt. P. C. Rogers Medal Winner

With the U. S. Second Infantry Division in Korea—July 15, (delayed)—First Lt. Paul C. Rogers, 1180 Columbia street, Salem, Oregon, has been awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight in Korea.

Lt. Rogers is a member of the 37th field artillery battalion of the Second division. He distinguished himself in military operations from May 1 to 19, 1951.

The lieutenant's wife, the former Artie Phillips, who with the couple's daughter Paulette Elizabeth, has been residing here with her parents, Maj. and Mrs. Robert N. Phillips, while Rogers was overseas, said Saturday that her last letter from Lt. Rogers stated he would be leaving for the States soon.

Veteran of service with the Navy in World War II Rogers joined the Regular Army in May, 1949, and went to Korea with the Second Division in August, 1950. He expects to arrive home the latter part of August.

The Boston Braves are the only National league team the New York Yankees have not faced in world series competition.

## Outlook Better Says Snider

Although the situation is not entirely clear and the full effect of the latest pronouncement of Price Stabilizer Michael DiSalle cannot be determined until more complete information has been secured, O. E. Snider, president of Blue Lake Packers, Inc., said Saturday that it appears the canning industry will soon be able to price its products and move them into the markets.

DiSalle Friday signed an order permitting canners of green peas and snap beans to include cost increases since 1948 in their price ceilings. The order becomes effective July 24. It is expected it will constitute the basic regulation under which other canned vegetables will be priced and will be followed by another regulation covering canned fruits and berries.

Local cannermen have been apprehensive concerning their ability to find warehouse space and secure financing for this season's crop because of failure of OPS to fix a basic price for a number of commodities. Warehouses are jammed and little movement of canned goods has been possible.

Initial processing of the 1951 crop of snap beans took place Friday at the Blue Lake plant. The operation is expected to gain momentum until the peak of the harvest is reached within a few weeks. The crop is normal, reports Snider.

## To Check Indian Liquor Licenses

Portland, July 21 (AP)—Liquor license applications from Oregon Indians will be checked through the Indian service under a plan announced by the state liquor commission.

This will help solve the troublesome problem of sale of liquor to Indians, a commission spokesman said yesterday.

Some Indians who are not wards of the government are allowed to purchase liquor. Others are not. Under the commission proposal, Indian applicants for liquor licenses will be required to fill out a special certificate. The certificate will be sent to the Indian service for a check on whether the applicant is a government ward.

The commission also announced that after December 31, no more beer will be sold in the area around the University of Oregon campus at Eugene. The decision came after a commission study of the beer problem there, prompted by complaints minors were buying beer.

## Family of Six Drowned

Viroqua, Wis., July 21 (AP)—A farm family of six drowned today when a flash flood swept through a western Wisconsin valley, ripping their home to pieces and scattering remnants of it for more than a mile.

The bus company's safety regulations are pretty tough and even a scratch or a dent are enough to spoil a whole year's record.

The mayor of Shreveport proclaimed a "Shelly Liles day" before the driver left with his 20-year-old daughter for a holiday to watch the lights blink in New York.

## Mushroom Plant Destroyed by Fire

Oregon City, July 21 (AP)—Fire destroyed the West Food Co. mushroom plant at Oak Grove early today. The owners estimated the loss at \$80,000.

Firemen blamed the blaze on spontaneous combustion in a compost shed. It spread rapidly through five large two-story mushroom sheds. Firemen prevented the flames from reaching a nearby cannery.

## Aurora Borealis of July 1 Brings Questions, Answers

By J. HUGH PRUETT  
(Astronomer, Extension Division Oregon Higher Education System)

I hope that many readers of this column saw the beautiful display of the aurora borealis, or northern lights, the night starting July 1 and continuing past midnight.

An observer telephoned me shortly past 12 o'clock PDT when the white streamers were extending up from the north and reaching for the zenith in considerable abundance. The phenomenon seemingly lasted for four hours.

This was the first showing of the aurora I had seen since August 19-20, 1950. As is customary, I telephoned a few local enthusiasts, and even thought of making two long distance calls, but refrained when—as is usually the case—the celestial performance seemed to slacken as soon as I asked others to look.

After a widely-observed aurora, many ask me the cause of such appearances. Some seemingly still think the explanation lies in the old theory that this is simply the reflection high into the air from the polar icebergs of sunlight which strikes them at just the proper angle. It is true that there is now constant day in the far northern regions—plenty of sunlight. The iceberg theory this month might seem to have some argument in its favor despite the numerous objections to it. But there are also brilliant auroras seen in our midwinter when the polar region is immersed in continuous night for weeks at a time.

A great deal of scientific work has been done in recent years to determine the real cause of this beautiful and interesting nocturnal effect. For about 35 years, Prof. Carl Stormer and his assistants in Norway have determined accurate heights and obtained other valuable data. In America, Dr. Carl W. Gartlein of Cornell university has for several years directed the work of the National Geographic society—Cornell University Study of the Aurora.

## Dave West Will Sing At Silverton Show

Silverton—Among the individual attractions at the 5th annual Western Horse show, Saturday evening, Aug. 4, at McGinnis Field, under sponsorship of the Silverton Rotary club, will be the master of ceremonies, Dave West, Portland.

## Diminutive Bus Driver Wins Safety Award for Driving

Washington, July 21 (AP)—If little Shelly Liles hadn't fleshed up, as he puts it, he likely would have become a different kind of jockey.

As it turned out, he became a bus jockey instead of a horse jockey and has driven 1,500,000 miles for National Trailways without falling off his mount.

Organized under the name of "North Atlantic Constructors," with offices in New York City, are four firms: Peter Kiewit Sons; S. J. Groves and Son Company; Condon-Cunningham, and Al Johnson Construction Company.

The 6,500-foot runway at Narsarsuaq and the smaller strips at three other bases used by the U. S. during World War II would be too short for modern jet fighter or bomber aircraft or for B-36 bombers taking off with full load of fuel and bombs. The same situation would prevail in Iceland, where the U. S. recently began re-use of some wartime bases.

His regular run is between Shreveport and Greenville, Miss. And in two decades he figures he has carted over 1,000,000 people safely.

His remarkable record was compiled, he said, "because the Lord rode with me every mile of the way."

Shelly probably is the smallest bus driver in the nation, if not the world. He's lucky for having latched onto his job so long ago. Bus lines these days would not accept a man of his height and weight.

At age 49, the little man figures he can hold his own with

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