

# argus eyes

Volume 7, No. 17

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

January, 1951

## ASSEMBLING THE CAMERA



A VIEW OF THE C-3 LINE WHERE THE SHUTTER IS BEING ASSEMBLED AND ADJUSTED.



BERNIECE KEARNEY AT THE RANGEFINDER COLINATOR WITH FLORENCE SCHWEMMIN AND LOUIS BETKE INSPECTING FOR QUALITY AND ACCURACY.



HERE THE SHUTTER NUT IS BEING ASSEMBLED TO THE 75 FILM TRACK BY LOIS READ.



A RIVETING OPERATION IS BEING DONE ON THE 75 CAMERA BY BERTHA DUEDE.

The assembly of an Argus camera is in a sense the "proof of the pudding" of all of the designing, product engineering, tooling and planning that has gone before.

Contrary to popular conception, a camera, or any product for that matter, is not merely the sum of its parts. If it were, the making of cameras would be simple; we would just make machines to

make the camera and assemble the parts. It is necessary for the people assembling the camera to use judgement and intelligence in placing the various parts in their proper order at the proper time.

Here on the third floor where the cameras are assembled there are about three major divisions of operations that go into the finished cameras. These are:

(1) sub-assembly (2) semi-machining of parts (3) final assembly.

Of the seven different models of cameras that are assembled here the two that have the highest production are the "75" and the "C3". It is on these lines that mass production of a camera can best be appreciated. The necessity for careful design, planning, etc., are needed in

# ARGUS EYES

## REVIEWING ARGUS PROGRESS

by Robert E. Lewis

*Argus Eyes is published for the employees of Argus, Incorporated and their families.*

*It is intended to be a means of friendly communication between them, and to provide a reliable source of information concerning the company's business.*

*Beverly Bullis of the Personnel department makes sure that news is gathered and that pictures are obtained and arranged in readable fashion for publication about the 10th of each month.*

*Charles A. Barker, "Jimmy" to all, is Art Director and Art Consultant. The profiles are done by Harry Rookes.*

*Sam Schneider of the Photographic Department furnishes pictures.*

*Reporters for this month's Argus Eyes were: Ethel Huffman, James Meldrum, Delton Maple, Geraldine Space, Eddie Girvan, Alice Weir, Harold Bailey, Norm Symons, Olin Robinson, Bill Fike, and Roy Craik.*

the utmost for high production.

(1) Sub-assembly: The various parts that are sent up from raw inspection are assembled into larger units on the assembly line. While sometimes the least appreciated toward the production of a camera, sub-assembly of the components is one of the most important. In reality, all of the various steps of assembling a camera are sub-assembly. On the "75" line for example the plastic frontplate that contains the shutter mechanism is sub-assembled. This requires riveting to the plastic many levers and springs and electrical contacts. The people on the main assembly line are dependent on the proper installation of these parts in order to achieve the daily production. On the C3 line the sub-assembly area is greater than the final assembly area. Here they sub-assemble rangefinders, adjust frontplates, leather backs and frontplates, assemble the firing mechanism, etc.

(2) Semi-machining: On every line at Argus there are certain machine operations that are performed right on the assembly or sub-assembly lines. Such operations include, buffing the base for the rangefinders on the C3, fitting of backs for the "75", soldering and filing electrical contacts, off-hand grinding, drilling and other operations that have proven best to be performed right on the same floor where the cameras are assembled.

(3) Final assembly: On the final assembly lines, of course, all of the sub-assemblies and parts are put together in sequence to make the finished product. On the C3 line for instance the basis for starting the camera is the heavy plastic case into which are placed the many parts, such as, film spools, shutter, frontplates, objective lens assemblies,

Our orders for the first part of January have been heavier than is customary right after Christmas. This bears out the results of our last inventory survey, which showed that dealers' inventories were about at minimum at the end of December.

We are still producing cameras and projectors at a relatively high rate, but it is impossible to tell what problems may arise in the near future. The scarcity of various parts is becoming a common occurrence, and we are all very conscious of the possibility that further material restrictions could seriously interfere with production. We are gradually increasing our volume of Government business, which we hope will ease this situation.

Even though the demand for cameras should exceed the supply, we do not intend to stop our advertising program. We are now in the process of preparing three films for television spot announcements which can be used by dealers throughout the country. We are also working on our display for the annual Photographic Show to be held in Atlantic City, in March. In addition to the featuring of the Model C-4, we intend to set up a television set and simulate the televising of the spot announcements.

As you know, we have formed a group of our key men who meet once a month to discuss various Company problems. I

rangefinders, etc.

After the parts are placed in their respective places, it is necessary to adjust the camera so that it will function properly. This requires setting the speeds, focusing the objectives, setting the rangefinders and other adjustments. After completion, the camera is inspected for proper firing, rangefinder setting, synchronization of the flash to the shutter opening, and general appearance.

When inspection has passed the camera, it is placed in a leather case and packed in a box together with price tag and instruction book. The shipping department then takes over and takes the cameras to shipping and prepares them for sending out to the many dealers.

The above description of the assembly of a camera may sound very simple and cut and dried. It is seldom that. There is another aspect of making a camera

want to reemphasize that one of the major purposes of this group is to facilitate the flow of information in both directions among employees and the management group. The key men are continually informed about the operations of the Company and the progress we are making. Please feel free to talk over your problems with any of them at any time.

We are all becoming increasingly conscious of the high tax rates, and the probability of a still higher rate sometime this year. The Excess Profits Tax will definitely limit the profits which can be made by our Company during the emergency period. According to the present rates, 62% of our entire net profit will be absorbed by Income and Excess Profits Taxes, and it is expected that this percentage will substantially increase. This is all in addition, of course, to the Federal Excise Tax of 25% which is imposed on all cameras we sell. I want to remind you, however, that the Company's contribution to the Profit-Sharing Fund amounts to 10% of the Company's profit before Income and Excess Profits Taxes, so that these taxes do not penalize you as a Fund member. Furthermore, you do not have to pay Income Tax on the amount of the Company contribution allocated to you until you actually receive the cash at time of retirement.

that is most exasperating; this is what might be known as diseases of camera lines. There are times when troubles with making the cameras function properly seem to pop up out of nowhere and cause endless obstructions to getting the cameras to the shipping room. Many of them are obvious such as a forgotten burr or some other slight malformation of a part. It is almost impossible to find a logical cause for other troubles. Some of them come and go in definite cycles and before the cause can be discovered they are gone. Others may be caused by an odd accumulation of tolerances on parts; in which every part may be to print but because they are all on the high limit or low limit they will not function together properly. It is here that a troubleshooter goes into action to try and find the cause of trouble and to eliminate it as quickly as possible.



**YOUR FUTURE WITH UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS**

Millions of Americans are buying Savings Bonds systematically as personal reserves and to add regularly to their funds for important lifetime purposes, such as buying a home, farm, or business, sending children to college, providing for retirement and travel. No matter what your particular family program calls for financially, the best possible way to get the money for it is to save regularly. A convenient way to do this is to buy Savings Bonds on the Payroll Savings Plan where you work or the Bond-a-Month Plan where you bank. United States Savings Stamps, which may be purchased through many schools, offer young people a convenient way to accumulate the purchase price of a Savings Bond.



**MOBILE X RAY UNIT**

Have you had your picture taken lately? Probably not, at least, not the kind of picture that I am speaking of.

These pictures are of your chest, more commonly known as x-ray pictures. They are provided for your benefit at no cost to you, and are taken as a safeguard against T.B. Some of our older employees have the satisfaction of knowing they have had an x-ray every two years since the fall of 1943.

Through the co-operation of the Michigan Department of Health, our local Washtenaw County Medical Society and Dr. Otto Engelke, our good friend and health officer, this service is made available to us. In the past, we have had 100% participation. However, this is purely a voluntary program, and no one is compelled to have an x-ray taken.

We are going to have the unit here at our plant sometime in January. Notices will be put up later so you will know the exact day and time. It will be set up in the First Aid room and I'm sure you all know where that is.

The actual taking of pictures is very simple. All you do is stand in front of the x-ray machine, in street clothes, take a deep breath and hold it for a few seconds - and that's all. Easy, isn't it?

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the First Aid room to have your "picture" taken.

**TOOL RUMORS**

Harold Sweet, who was confined to his home for a few weeks due to illness, is back with us again. He looks just as chipper as ever.

Harley Boughner is basking in the sunshine, or relaxing under a palm tree in Florida. Harley has the right idea - winter vacations.

Santa was nice to all the boys in the Tool Room. They all had a wonderful Christmas. On behalf of our youngsters, we wish to thank Argus for the nice Children's Christmas party. Even the Moms and Dads enjoyed Santa and the show.

Jimmy, what happened to your car?

**PROFILE**



August H. Krumrei

Born in Ann Arbor in the latter part of the Nineteenth Century which is as far as he will go in stating his age. Has a son thirty-eight years old, however, and lives now at 622 Hiscock in Ann Arbor. Is employed in the Paint Shop here although he spent several years in the carpentry shop, bringing with him over eighteen years of experience in the same trade before joining Argus six years ago.

**CALLED IN MILITARY SERVICE**



Robert Barsantee Jr.

Bob left for the Army Tuesday, January 16.

He was graduated from Ann Arbor High in February, 1950 and has been working in our Machine Shop since April.

In 1947, Bob was Junior Golf Champion of Ann Arbor, and was runner-up in the 1948 and 1949 tournaments.

Bob is the son of Bob Barsantee Sr. of the Engineering Department.

BALANCE SHEET  
AS OF OCTOBER 31, 1950

ARGUS, INCORPORATED  
PROFIT SHARING RETIREMENT FUND

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>LEDGER VALUES</u>	<u>APPRAISED VALUES</u>
Cash	\$ 8,594.00	8,594.00
Note Receivable - Member	350.00	350.00
Accrued Interest Receivable	2,442.35	2,442.35
Investments		
U.S. Sav. Bonds Series G - 2-1/2%	\$ 449,000.00	449,000.00
U.S. Treas. Bonds - 2-1/2% - 72/67	101,494.95	100,722.22
Argus, Inc. 5% Cum. Pfd.	<u>200,000.00</u>	<u>200,000.00</u>
	<u>750,494.95</u>	<u>749,722.22</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 761,881.30</u>	<u>761,108.57</u>
 <u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Members' Contributions Unallocated	\$ 15,921.03	15,921.03
 <u>MEMBERS' EQUITY</u>		
Contributions by Argus, Inc.	\$ 325,399.16	325,399.16
Contributions by Members & Wage Awards	241,588.35	241,588.35
Accumulated Income and Equity relinquished by members as of beginning of Fiscal Year	\$ 176,068.23	176,068.23
Net Earnings Aug. 1 thru Oct. 31	2,904.53	--
Valuation Adjustment	--	<u>2,131.80*</u>
	<u>745,960.27</u>	<u>745,187.54</u>
Total Equity	<u>\$ 761,881.30</u>	<u>761,108.57</u>
 *Net Earnings Aug. 1 thru Oct. 31 Deduct: Adjust U.S. Treas. 2-1/2% Bonds 72/67 to Market		
		<u>772.73</u> <u>\$ 2,131.80</u>

The appraised value of Members' Equity as of October 31, 1950 was 100.2869% of the ledger value.

Valuation Approved:  
Managing Committee

by L. F. Schwanbeck  
Secretary

Certified Correct:  
Ann Arbor Trust Company, Trustee

by [Signature]  
Vice President

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR



Santa, his entire supply of toys depleted, is off for his home, the North Pole.

We were fortunate to get this photograph of him just as he was about to leave. He wished us all a Merry Christmas, and warned us to be good through the coming year.

It was so nice of Santa to make an extra special stop at Slauson School for us. We hope he will want to come to our party again next year.

ENGINEERING

The holidays were wonderful, but it certainly seems good to have them out of the way and everything back to normal again -- well, almost normal.

The engineering department did not have much of a holiday. Most of the people were called in and kept busy by all the contracts. I think a few of them had time for some of their turkey and a little bit of time for Santa Claus. Happy New Year to everybody anyway.

An old face returned to Argus after several years. Bill Besenick is now working in the Engineering Department. Also, a new face, Ken Bernard, is in the Drafting Room. Welcome to both of you.

That flash you see going by the plant lately is Rodney Mast sporting a new hard top convertible Pontiac. Some class, Rod.

SERVICE SCOOPS

Three members of the Service Department enjoyed a longer than usual holiday this past Christmas and New Year period. Thelma Burke, Jim Rohrbaugh and Roberta Jones tied in some of their allotted vacation time with the holiday season and thereby visited their relatives in a more leisurely fashion.

Oh yes! I must mention Jim R. had his flivver repaired, but only when it had let him down somewhere between Ann Arbor and Napoleon, Ohio. The motor required extensive work, but fortunately everything was finished in time for his planned vacation to Wisconsin.

We would like to introduce two new members who have just recently joined our happy service group, Guy Levleit and

Bill Martin. Guy has had U. S. Army training in an instrument control section in far off Japan and comes to us well qualified for his present position as focometer operator and projector repairman.

I just have to mention the Christmas party that was held at the Masonic Hall. Everyone had a most enjoyable evening. Why one just couldn't miss having a good time since the talented master of ceremonies and official bartender, Bill Murphy, was giving his all for the gang. Among the group present were: Mr. and Mrs. Tom Kentes, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Purdy, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Nimke, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Farrell, Roberta Jones, Lida Hackbarth, and Dorothy Lixey.

**MEN'S BOWLING LEAGUE**

**LADIES' BOWLING LEAGUE**

	Won	Lost		Won	Lost
Argus Camera	55	17	Schmidt's Beer	49	31
Pressmen	44	28	Card & Camera	48	32
Paint Shop	40	32	Ten Pins	48	32
Warehouse	37	35	Erle's Hi-Speed	48	32
Skunks	36	36	Spitfires	46	34
Projectors	35	37	Blue Front	46	34
Maintenance	35	37	Brown Keg	39	41
Conf. Xperts	33	39	Graves Barber Shop	38	42
Lensgrinders	32	40	Purchase Radio	37	43
Tool Room	31	41	Paint Shop	35	44
Screws	30	42	Happy Gang	25	55
Ten Pins	26	46	Atom Busters	21	59

# Anniversaries



**HARRY BATES**  
Tool Room  
5 years



**SAMUEL NEUSTADT**  
Machine Shop  
5 years



**PHIL STREET**  
Machine Shop  
5 years



**CAROLYN DANCER**  
Sales  
5 years



**GERTRUDE GUY**  
Service  
5 years



**HELEN KENNEDY**  
Camera Assembly  
5 years



**SHIRLEY STEWART**  
Camera Assembly  
5 years



2004.3.4