

# argus eyes

Volume 7, No. 24

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

August, 1951

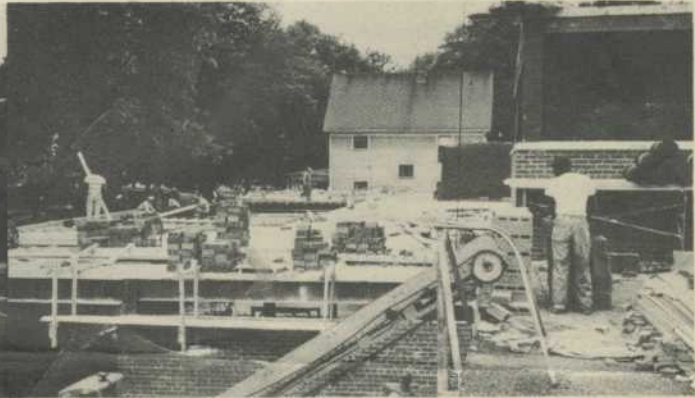
## NEW ADDITION WILL BE COMPLETED AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

At the end of August the new addition to the Optical Plant neared completion ahead of schedule. When completed it will be used to expand production for our government contracts for optical fire control instruments. The building and its equipment will be the most modern optical plant of its size in the country.

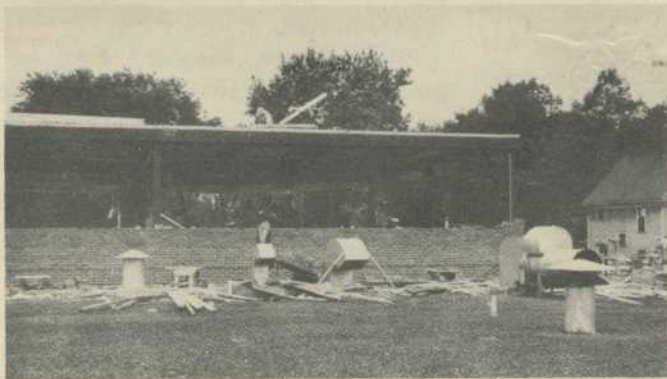
The many new faces in Plant II are the new members of the Argus family. They have come and more will come as a result of our expansion.



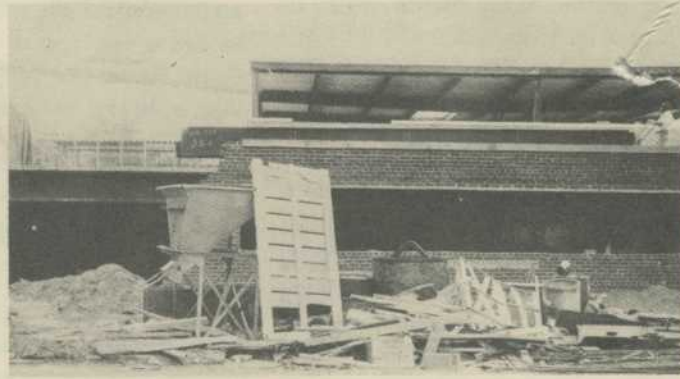
Steel framework for second floor.



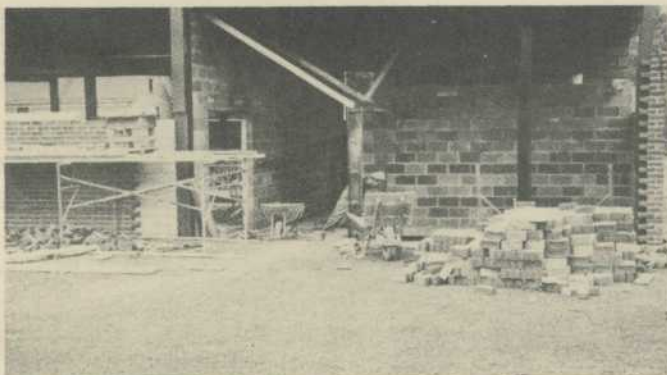
Blocks go up ramp to second floor.



Outside bricking begins.



Wood frame for air-conditioning unit.



Future hall elevator shaft and stairway to second story.



Windows complete inclosure.

# ARGUS EYES

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: James Meldrum, Bob Wollam, Olin Robinson, Bill Courtright, Babe Peterson, Bob Isaacson, Jim Rohrbaugh, Bob Allan, Don Crump, and Betty Shattuck.

## HERE AND THERE

Ed Blattenberger decided the best way to get rid of trouble was to sell it, so he got rid of his old Ford and bought a Dodge. Another new car buyer is Esther McAuliffe who has a nice new Mercury. A potential new car prospect is Don Hochgreve who just had a rod changed in his Nash.

We have a new father in the Service Department. Bob Lucas made the traditional rounds passing out the cigars and candy on the Monday morning following Friday, July 20, when his daughter, Mary Martha, was born.

Louis Birch, looking chipper as ever, came to see us during his furlough. He departs soon for New York.

Edna Bourdelais had the misfortune of breaking a bone in her foot while on vacation.

## STATISTICS FOR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

It seems rather early to begin talking about Christmas, but plans must be made well ahead of time for our annual Children's Christmas Party. We must have some idea of how many children will attend the party, so that toys can be ordered.

Please fill out the form below, and turn it in to the Personnel Department.

All children of Argus employees are invited.

|                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Children's Christmas Party |            |
| Number of Children         |            |
| Boys.....                  | Ages ..... |
| Girls .....                | Ages ..... |
| Name of Employee           |            |
| .....                      |            |

## REVIEWING ARGUS PROGRESS

by Robert E. Lewis

I have just returned from a trip through the midwest. At the Professional Photographers show in Milwaukee and at the many camera dealers I called on in the Milwaukee and Chicago area, I was continually impressed by one fact. Argus has the reputation of maintaining the high quality of its camera. The additional efforts and costs of the Inspection and Production departments has not been without gain. The efforts of everyone in the plant are helping do the job of keeping our sights on high quality cameras. Actually I look forward to a buyers market when our quality and prices will help us even more than today.

Our sales last year hit a record high of 8,882,000 against the previous year's 5,334,000. This excellent performance was aided by the scare buying immediately following the Korean war. Interestingly enough our high level of sales continued even after the scare buying spree was over. This was not true in the majority of the consumer durable lines, such as electrical appliances.

August shipments were off somewhat this year compared to last year as a result of the two week vacation shut down. We are still backordered in all of our major camera lines. The dealers I talked to during my recent trip are crying for C-3's. Blower 200 projectors are also getting a heavy play after a fairly slow spring.

## METAL SHORTAGE MAY HAMPER PRODUCTION

The most serious obstacle in our future production is the current metal shortage. Brass and aluminum are in extremely short supply at the present time. We are fortunate to have government contracts on which directives can be issued for metal. This is particularly helpful now that military contracts are at the beginning stages of heavy production. Within a few months military production will be a significant part of our overall sales. In the meantime the Purchasing and Planning Departments are doing everything in their power to maintain our current commercial production level. The strikes in the copper and brass industry have reduced metal production when it has been most needed. You can do your share by doing everything possible to reduce scrap--particularly of brass and aluminum parts.

The new plant addition was substan-

## MAC McCOY TO LEAVE ARGUS

At the August 15 Key Man dinner, it was announced that Mac McCoy plans to resign as Advertising Manager. He will assume the duties of Advertising and Sales Promotion Manager at Graflex, Ind., in Rochester, N.Y.

We have all enjoyed working with Mac during the past ten years. He has been instrumental in increasing the coverage of Argus advertising to the current all time high. Everyone wishes him the best of luck in his new venture.

tially completed and turned over to the Company on August 28. Machinery has already started to come in and the first moves into the new building have started. It is hoped that we will be in production by the middle of October.

## AVERAGE EARNED RATE UP SINCE LAST YEAR

The question has come up as to how well we at Argus have done with respect to Wage Stabilization Regulations. Actually, we have been able to give greater increases than most. Our average hourly earned rate in January 1950 was \$1.51. This is the base figure used for stabilization calculations. The general increase regulation allows increases of 10% from January 1950. The 10% of \$1.51 is just over 15¢ per hour. This amount is the allowable general increase from January 1950 to the present date.

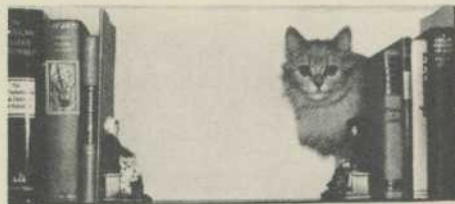
During 1950, however, Argus gave general increases amounting to 15¢ for skilled trades and 10¢ for all others in the factory. Under the cost of living plan, Argus has given an additional 9¢ per hour. In addition to that, the Annual Improvement Factor of 4¢ per hour has been added to your earnings.

As a result, instead of granting the allowable 15¢ per hour, more than 23¢ per hour has been added to the average earned rate. This of course has been made possible because Argus voluntarily adopted the General Motors' plan before the wage freeze date. The General Motors' plan allowed Argus wage rates to pierce the ceiling.

In addition to raising our rates substantially, early estimates indicate the company's contribution to the Profit Sharing Fund will be the largest in the history of the Plan. Payment will be made to the Profit Sharing Fund late in September. By the time of the annual banquet, the booklets will be ready showing the balances credited to each individual's account. Many who have been in the plan since the beginning will have balances of over \$7,000 to their credit.

# JULY WINNERS

Class I (Any Snap with a person or animal as the main point of interest)



First Prize  
Amy Jacobs



Second Prize  
Ralph Merrill

Class II (Any other snap)



First Prize  
Cecille FitzGerald



Second Prize  
Cecille FitzGerald

**Rules:**

All club members are eligible except those who have any income from photography. Pictures may not be larger than 4" x 5" and must have been taken this year. Enter your picture TODAY. Appeal is what counts, not technical quality.

ENTER THE CONTEST NOW

Turn prints in at Personnel Department.

**Don't Forget**

**ARGUS FAMILY PICNIC**

**Sunday, September 9**

**Dexter-Huron Park**

**Bring Your Family and a Picnic Lunch**

**Fun Begins at 1 o'clock**

## ARGUS GOLF NEWS

Argus Team Championship Trophy  
Won by Pfabe and Schlenker

Congratulations to the Argus team champion of Herb Pfabe and Lefty Schlenker. This team won the coveted title as well as the beautiful trophies when, after winning the Thursday night league, they met and defeated the Tuesday night championship team of Berkimer and Fraser.

The big news at this time is that of the Argus Field Day which was held at the Plymouth Country Club on August 17. Chairman Bob Isaacson and his committee members of Joe Dobransky and Carlos Chapman arranged a day that left nothing to be desired by the fifty members who attended the affair. Nine hole rounds of golf were played to establish the low net winners on the front and the back nine. On the front and tougher nine the low net prize was won by Merle Myers with a score of 29.6. The winner was pushed heaviest by Bob Lewis who took second place. Jack Grimston got into the act by taking third place, and Bill Courtright, who had the lowest round of the day with a par 36, was the fourth place winner.

After the winners of the golf rounds had been determined, the Hole in One tournament was held. Dave Lowber, who had not won a match all year, really showed the boys how it should be done when he planted his tee shot only four feet from the pin. Willy VanDyke was the only other golfer who approached Lowber's accuracy when he placed his shot six feet from the hole.

To conclude the golfing events, the members were given a good dinner in the dining room of the club house. The very talented and capable Eddie Girvan acted as MC in the presentation of the golfing awards for the season as well as for the Field Day. Eddie did a wonderfully smooth job and kept the members in an uproar throughout the proceedings. One of the bright spots of this part of the program was the presenting of a special trophy to Bill Besenick and Dave Lowber. All in all the day was a complete success and sincere thanks are given to Joe Dobransky, Bob Isaacson, and Carlos Chapman for a job well done.

The Argus Open is now being played, and this event will close for this year the golf for this season.

**THANK YOU**

"I want to thank each and everyone of you for your kindness and thoughtfulness during the sickness and death of my husband."  
Gertrude North



**ARGUS GOLF LEAGUE  
1951**

GENTLEMEN



Chief Sitting "Bull"  
On the Wisconsin Reservation  
(Red Conway)



Lincoln Memorial  
- Art Parker, Jr. -



Jones Beach, New York  
- Del Maple -



Canadian side of Niagara Falls  
- Hank Christopherson -



Mesa Verdi, Colorado  
- Cecille FitzGerald -



Grace and Charlie Drechsel went to Melvin, Illinois. If you don't believe Charlie's mother can fry chicken, look at Grace's waist.

Audra and Paul Stotts made a leisurely trip to Columbia, Kentucky. They timed it just right so that they got to attend the local county fair where they saw more old friends and acquaintances than they would have ordinarily.

Frances Riggs visited relatives in Middleville, Ohio.

Charlie Miller went to Arcadia, Michigan, to see his sister.

Bill Martin took his wife back to Hartford, Connecticut, to visit her parents.



Cecil Lewis would just as soon not be reminded about his vacation at Hubbard Lake. The weather was cold most of the time and, as a result, Cecil picked up a cold. Then, to top it all off, he had to come home early because his dog jumped out of the boat and got caught in the propeller of his outboard motor.

Hector Haas and his family rented a cottage at Vineyard Lake.

Pat Yek rested, swam and went sailing while staying at a cottage on Portage Lake. She drove back and forth to work.

The State Amateur Golf Meet at Charlevoix attracted Gerry Space and husband.

Bill Armstrong went to New York to meet his wife and mother-in-law. Gee, Bill won't have to cook his meals anymore. I'll bet he'll miss that.

Don and Peggy Crump went to see Larry and Susie Jones. Report an excellent time.

Carolyn Dancer vacationed in Northern Michigan. She said they had a lot of fun and wished she didn't have to come back.

Red Peterson saw "Red" Conway and Norm Hartman in Wisconsin. Speaking of "Red," he sent his picture (in Indian head gear) by way of "Doc" Benson for all his friends at Argus.

Doug MacPherson went to Lions Head, Ontario for a two weeks of rest.

Blanche went to her home town in Iowa.

Wilmot Gray is going to Calumet, Michigan for two weeks. She says she will probably work harder there than she does at Argus.



The Army has taken care of two week vacation plans for some of the fellows in Engineering. Maynard Wellman and Jim Lodwick, both in the active reserves, spent two weeks at Camp McCoy in Wisconsin. They came back all tanned, tired and toughened-up from the rough army life. Dick Delano went to Camp Grayling.



For Shirley and Art Dersham and Helen Mull and family, it was Mackinaw Island. Helen was on the ferry at the same time Governor Williams was, although she didn't know it at the time. The Dersham's went over to the Island in a speed boat which may have thrilled Art and Shirley but left their daughter so unimpressed that she fell asleep in spite of the salt spray.



The "wide open spaces" of the west attracted Cecille Fitz-Gerald. She started with the Bad Lands and Black Hills of South Dakota, went on to Yellowstone National Park, Salt Lake City, Grand Canyon, Petrified Forest, Painted Desert, and Denver, Colorado.

Irene and Walter Root got as far as Tennessee when car trouble sent them back north.

Trudie Studer visited her mother in Missouri.

Becky Thomas visited her mother in Tennessee, then headed for Pike's Peak, Colorado; Cheyenne, Wyoming; South Dakota, and Minnesota.

Dick Keeton and his family visited relatives in Kentucky.

Florence White went to Silverwood, Michigan. We think she has a boy friend there, but she isn't talking.

Vince Swickerath covered the Black Hills and all points west. Jimmy and Donny met American Horse, Chief of the Sioux. Also, the cowboys sang Happy Birthday to Jimmy.

Jim Meldrum visited Mammoth Cave, in Kentucky, and the Smoky Mountains.



Others spent most of their vacations at home taking care of incidentals that one never seems to find time to take care of at any other time of the year. Such was the case with Ed Nimke, who put his free time to good use by working in his flower garden, although he found time to slip in a couple of fishing trips on the side.

Bud Farrel's vacation allowed him to build a fence for his dog, as well as take a trip through Petosky, Charlevoix and Houghton Lake.

Eric Soderholm spent his time perfecting his already nearly perfect home.

Ruth Beckman loafed the first week, but plans something very exciting for the remainder of her vacation.

Jack Pelton painted his house. Looks very nice Mr. P.

Barbara Spradlin moved into her new home on Sunnyside Drive.

Jean Camelet rested so that she could tear into her work when she returned to Argus.

Carolyn Cole gave her attention to her house and garden, but took a few days to go with her husband to visit relatives in Greenville, Ohio.

Barbara Titus had a bad-luck vacation. She cut her finger very badly, but it's healed now. She had a previous week of enjoyment at a friend's house.

Margaret Sargent went apartment hunting. Can anyone help her find one?

Laura Gaiser, husband and son flew to Wannwill, Germany for a few weeks.

Luella Bafs also took to the skyways. She made a flying trip to Long Beach, California.



Dick Cutting vacationed in Charlevoix and saw a lot of friends. While fishing, he caught a hook in his thumb and it became infected. Oh yes, he also caught some fish.

The Gillen's visited Fork Wilkins and Copper Harbor. They also caught 150 fish at Stoner's place on Saginaw Bay. Now Naomi believes Leola's stories.

Bob Gramprrie fished at Camp Interlochen, while Herman Bauer and Del Cooper tried their luck at Brophy Lake.

It was two weeks in Tampa, Florida for Harry DeBruyne. He went deep sea fishing in the gulf.



"The Andy K."  
Pride of the Kendrovics'



Bad Lands, South Dakota  
- Rosetta Smith -



Canadian Horseshoe Falls  
- George Harden -



New York Skyline  
- Del Maple -



Mt. Rushmore, Black Hills  
South Dakota  
- Cecille FitzGerald -

### ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

In our last issue, we acquainted you with the general duties of the Accounting Department. Now let's look at some of the people who are primarily responsible for our accounting activities.

Roy Craik, our Chief Accountant was with us during the last war, and has a wealth of experience with material shortages and government purchase requirements. Under his direction, a set of standard costs are established for each part made or purchased and a continual comparison between our actual costs and the established standards is maintained throughout the year. At the end of each month, the profit or loss resulting from our operations for that month, together with a set of reports outlining our performance, is prepared and submitted to management and our Board of Directors so that whatever steps necessary to improve or correct our operations may be taken.

Mary Jane Rutledge is in charge of our Accounts Payable operations. Under her direction, an accurate record is maintained of the amount that we owe to other companies for the purchase of materials,

supplies, or other items. Following established business practice, she makes sure that we have a copy of our Purchase Order authorizing purchase, a copy of the vendor's invoice billing us for a definite amount and a copy of our own Receiving Report proving that we received the material. With all this at hand, she will allow the bill to be paid.

The Accounts Receivable Department, headed by Roger Westphal, is concerned with the recording of the amounts owed Argus by dealers to whom we have shipped our products. Seeing that each dealer's account is properly credited for any payment that he makes is a major effort of this department handled by Milly Jones. Roger also acts as Cashier, controlling our petty cash disbursements and general bank account disbursements.

Our Credit Manager, Kirk Fisher, is charged with a knowledge of the financial condition and the payment record of every customer. It is his responsibility to determine to whom we may safely ship on credit, and he is also the one who follows up past due accounts.

### SUGGESTION PLAN NEWS

More and more money is being awarded for suggestions each month, but the number of people participating is still small. Our machine shop turns in more suggestions than the rest of the plant combined. If you have an idea in your head, it's costing you money to keep it there. TURN IN YOUR SUGGESTIONS.

In the last month \$119.61 was paid out for suggestions. Max Robinson collected \$37.32 on one idea and \$21.84 for another. Louis Davis's proposal paid him \$20.00. Tom Loy, Henry Smith, Tom Doll, and Juanita Tweedy all received \$10 apiece for their suggestions.

Many persons are interested in what happens to a suggestion after it is turned in. Watch for our pictorial story in the next issue.

### LADIES' BOWLING GETS UNDERWAY

The annual fall meeting of the Argus Ladies' Bowling League was held August 16, at the Twentieth Century Bowling Alley. Twelve teams entered the league, and will start bowling on September 5, at 6:45 P.M. Old and new members of the league are looking forward to a year of fun.

## Anniversaries



ROBERTA JONES  
Service  
15 years



ART GERSTLER  
Inspection  
20 years



HELEN BREINING  
Salvage  
20 years



ERNEST BILLAU  
Polishing  
10 years



ANDY KOKINAKES  
Production Planning  
5 years



DORIS LYONS  
Camera Assembly  
5 years



CHARLES DRECHSEL  
Machine Shop  
5 years



NETTIE SPONAUGLER  
Paint Shop  
5 years



ALEX KREZEL  
Service  
5 years