

## WHO MISSELED WHOM?

Perhaps their first test was a fizzle. The silence is deafening. But M.I.T.'s newest department of space research perseveres. The lettering on the door appeared mysteriously, no one quite knows when, on the second floor of the Building 7 lobby. The first hopeful passenger appeared some weeks later. But the door remains closed. Whither it goes, nobody knows.

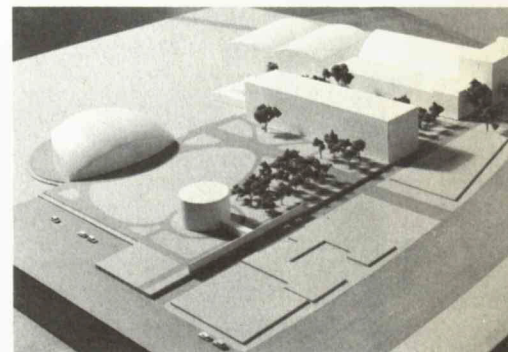
## HOW FIRM THE FOUNDATION

With the Compton Lab still waiting its first birthday, another building has put down one tentative toe in the sod beside the Armory. If completed on schedule, the David Flett duPont Athletic Center will open its doors in the spring of 1958. It is being built under a \$1,000,000 bequest by David F. duPont, an M.I.T. student who was killed in an automobile accident in 1955. Architects for the building: the firm of Anderson, Beckwith, & Haible.

Right now the question facing the George A. Fuller Company, general contractors, is how a new and revolutionary type of foundation will look in M.I.T. soil. Developed in Belgium some years ago and only recently introduced to the United States, the foundations boast the unique advantage (among others) of no excavating at all. The group responsible for this feat: the Franki Foundation Company, which has extended its range of underpinings to 39 countries throughout the world. This under such colorful names as Frankiphal Baugessellschaft, Fundaciones Franki, Société Française des

Pieux Frankignoul, and Pali Franki e Fondazioni.

Called "pressure-injected" caissons, Franki foundations are literally driven into the ground by a huge, Diesel-powered machine ("The Rig") much like a pile driver. Instead of digging a hole and pouring a concrete footing for each caisson, the Franki system makes use of a hollow, heavy-duty steel tube or casing, plugged at the lower end with concrete, which is sunk into the ground by a long, muscular drop hammer operating inside the tube. By an ingenious engineering trick, the plug is then forced out into the earth below to form part of the



footing or platform for the caisson. Simultaneously, more concrete is driven down through the top of the tube to enlarge the platform and fill up the shaft of the caisson. The advantages of this system: savings in time and manpower, plus stronger foundations. (In being pushed aside to make room for the caisson, the surrounding earth is squashed together more tightly and thus becomes capable of bearing a greater load.)

Last week one test caisson was installed close by the Armory. Its experimental load, borrowed from the Boston Sand and Gravel Company, tipped the scales at 150 tons -- or more than twice the "design load" for each caisson in the building.

Evaluations of the test are still being made, but this week Franki experts are likely to start sinking the first of 215 caissons, each 20-25 feet long, that will eventually support the Center.

Keeping a careful, long distance eye on the proceedings from his office in New York will be the president of Franki's U.S. operations, a man by the name of Leon Fraikin who has put to full use his S.M. in Industrial Management received from M.I.T. in 1931.



Test load arrives in two-ton blocks



Brubeck and the boys

40% of the seats committed, reservations for the three-month plan will be closed at the end of the month. All people interested in the five-week plan are urged to contact Stewart Mott (RE8-5271) before Feb. 20.

Prof. Carlton Tucker (Elec. Eng.) is still tinkering with the switchboard. Beginning Feb. 3, cab service was added to the automatic dial system. Central Taxi may be roused on Ext. 2301, Cambridge Taxi on Ext. 2303. Chief Operator Agnes Morrice reports that special allowance for 5 o'clock downpours was also made by waiting to install the system until four free lines were available -- two for each taxi service.

At the Cambridge City Council's annual Scouter's banquet on January 28, top honors went to M.I.T. Scout Troop #77. The troop, which was organized last spring as part of a fraternity project, won what Scoutmaster Alan Wheeler (Air Science) describes as the "very fancy" Storer Cup Award. The Cup is given annually to the troop showing the greatest individual and group progress.

#### HERE AND THERE

With the murmured apology, "Sorry, folks, we gotta catch a train," Dave Brubeck eased out of a full house in Kresge Auditorium a week ago. This Friday M.I.T. will receive another musical contribution in the form of a valentine. For their program on Feb. 14, Marais and Miranda have chosen "ballads of love in many aspects"--including, rumour has it, "such unlikely types as gastronomic, to be represented by the French "Song of the Potato.'" Dans l'amour, rien n'est impossible.

The M.I.T. Charter Flight to Europe is well on its way to full capacity booking. With

With a third new star circling the skies, the M.I.T. Computation Center is hard at work again on orbits. The 704 has been fed its minimum diet of three authentic observations -- two from Alamogordo, New Mexico, and one from Manhattan, Kansas. If it has not found the solution in the interim, the computer whirs on in an attempt to pinpoint the path of America's dizzied Explorer.

Recommended: today, at 5 p.m. in Kresge, Staff Photographer Luis Marden of the National Geographic Society will show color movies of his latest trip to historic Pitcairn Island. Through Marden's eyes, the island was equally interesting in terms of its terra firma population (mutinous English sailors from the Bounty, their heirs, and the ladies they kidnapped from Tahiti) and its underwater population (pieces of the actual wreck).

From our files: an ad in the Tech Show program of 1903 describing the virtues of Emerson shoes (price, \$3.50 and \$5.00). A glowing blurb concludes: "If you wear the Emerson you may have your feet treated free by our chiropodists."

### A SPOIL FOR BOYLE

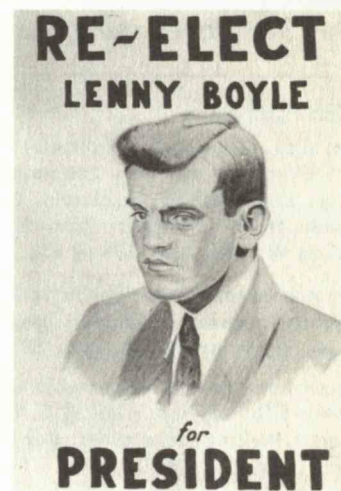
For the first time in its 12-year history, the M.I.T. Employees Independent Union ran off annual elections without any competition for the four major offices. Beginning today another term of one year is the popular quartet of Lenny Boyle (president), Charley Brooks (vice president), Bill Mosher (treasurer), and Alice Cox (secretary).

We've long since lost track of just what term President Boyle is now embarking on. Under pressure, he confesses it is his fifth. But his M.I.T. union activities represent an interest in the subject which goes back considerably more than five years. Lenny first became enlisted in the cause of labor as a youngster in Lawrence, where he grew up. In the early 1930's, he remembers, three quarters of the people staffing the big Lawrence textile mills were working an average of two days a week. His father was a truck foreman at the time, and once when he posted a notice for two truck drivers Lenny says solemnly that "13,000 applicants showed up for the job."

Lenny came to M.I.T. in 1941. Since 1946, when the Independent Union was founded, he has been an energetic and determined worker for its cause. With an unusual knack for keeping Union members -- and anyone else he runs into in the course of business -- very much on their toes, Lenny now enjoys an almost legendary reputation for tenacity, but seldom without snatches of humour along the way.

Not a believer in the Let-John-Do-It school, Lenny has also played baseball for the M.I.T. Rockets, captained the Bowling League, chaired the Credit Union nominating committee, and painted his own campaign posters, including a serious, but dapper, self-portrait (see right). The last of these is a talent that Lenny has been developing over the years, dabbling successively in charcoal, pencil, pen and ink, and oils, and turning out a considerable volume of everything from landscapes to portraits.

During daylight hours, Lenny is chief of the R.L.E. Stock Room, a busy corner of Building 20 which contains in its countless



An artistic president...

... leaves negotiations



floor-to-ceiling drawers some 10 - to 20,000 obscure electronic items, most of which Lenny can name and put a finger on blindfolded. The Stock Room, incidentally, reflects an unusual feature of the Independent Union as a whole. One of the biggest of its kind in New England (current membership 1,340), the M.I.T. Union draws most of its members from a staggering variety of lab service jobs, from technicians and machinists to aircraft mechanics, glass blowers, and photographers. For President Boyle the resulting responsibility is a big one. He has charge of what he calls "one of the most diversified organizations in the area" -- an area, he adds, that stretches from Cambridge and Lexington to field stations in remote corners of Alaska and Greenland.

### SOLE MIO ON SALE

The fourth experimental M.I.T. Solar House will make its debut on the real estate market this month. Located on 3/4 of an acre in Lexington's Sun Valley section, the house is a modern two-story structure which has been carefully designed for modern (and economical) family living. For any interested M.I.T. buyers or observers, it will be open for inspection on Saturday, March 1. Maps and other information may be obtained in advance from the Lincoln Lab Personnel Office (A-132), Instrumentation Lab reception desk, and Architecture Headquarters (7-345).

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### FOR SALE ETC.

Records. Classical (symphonic) library. About 80 albums, some singles, all 78's. Toscanini, Schnabel, Kentner, Gieseking, Koussevitsky, Bernstein, Fischer, et al. List on request. 50-75 cents per album or best offer takes the lot. Laura W. Hill, Ext. 875 or 851.

5-piece bedroom set. Double bed (complete with mattress combination), woman's dresser, man's 5-drawer chest, night table. Early American style. \$55. Dana, Ext. 5377 (Lincoln).

Apartment size (on retractable wheels) Kenmore fully automatic 8 lb. washer. Also 8½ ft. Coldspot refrigerator, 1941 model. Asking \$65 a piece. For further info. call J. Peter Anderson, Ext. 791.

Complete ham station: Hammerluno Super Pro SP200X receiver mounted in two-position wooden console. Excellent working condition, with spare tubes and manual, many more features in console. \$250 for receiver and console. Also, Heathkit DX100, all bands, T.V.I. proof transmitter with books and spares, also coax relay affixed, and astatic "Ax 10" mire. \$200. Call for other details. Will help out in delivery within reason. George Sallet, Ext. 461 (Lincoln).

Going out of business sale. Mavi Ceramics Studio (193 River Road, Hudson). All Greenware, paint, molds, etc. Very reasonable. Richard Sullivan, Ext. 461 (Lincoln) or HU4-11J after 5 p.m.

For Sale: 21" Motorola table model TV. Two years old, in perfect condition. Original cost \$200, will sell for \$90. Bobbie Parker, Ext. 2995.

Webcor Tape Recorder used ten times. \$125. Audio-visual service, Ext. 765.

Puppies. Due to small son opening the door at the wrong time, we have six black and white half-Springer Spaniel pups that will make wonderful pets. Priced at \$10, to cover veterinarian costs. Dave Moore, Ext. 7109 (Lincoln).

Lost: between room 10-345 & main M.I.T. parking lot. Lower part of earring, silver and Mexican jade. Size of a quarter. Nell Shirk, Ext. 7193 (Lincoln).

Wanted: 1 pair 6'9" skis. V. Morphett, Ext. 3701.

Get started in winter sports. Used ski boots, size 9½ D, Bass, \$5; size 8½-9 Le Trappeur double boot \$14, good condition; hockey skates size 9-Hyde, \$7.50, excellent condition. Erwin Schowengerdt, Ext. 383.

Adam sofa and upholstered arm chair (not matching). Good condition. Sofa originally \$350, now \$65; chair originally \$100, now \$35, or best offer. Call Ext. 870.

'38 Ford convertible. Terrific buy. For further information call Mrs. Cooper, RI2-1820 (days), LO6-1284 (evgs).

Cheap transportation. '50 Plymouth green coupe. Engine good, body poor. Does not burn oil. R & H. Records available. \$75. Wm. Jewel, Ext. 3604 or UN4-5317.

'51 Chevrolet sport coupe. 6 passenger deluxe model. Excellent running condition, turn signals. Asking \$150. R&H. Mr. Marko, Ext. 171 (Lincoln).

'53 Plymouth 4-dr. \$350. Motor newly overhauled. 4 brand new tires. Mrs. Mahoney, MI8-0357.

'53 Volkswagon sedan. Good mechanical condition. Must sell for best offer. L. Eyges, Ext. 5398 (Lincoln).

'54 Olds 98 convertible. All power accessories, many extras, good condition. Mrs. Conant, Ext. 765, or LA7-3612 (evgs).

Room for rent. 294 Harvard St. KI7-8183 after 5 p.m.

Business girl has four room apartment to share on Beacon Hill. \$12.50 per week. Call evenings, RI2-3078.

Apt. for rent, Oak Sq., Brighton. 4 rms. furn. (new), heated by tenant (oil), cab.K., porch, parking place, near schools, stores, MTA. Mrs. Kallmes, Ext. 4241 or BE2-5067 (evgs).

House for sale. Arlington Heights. 4 BR Cape with extra lot. Convenient to schools, church, & MTA. Ext. 4493 or MI8-0336.

Unfurn. house for rent. Stony Brook Village. 3 Brs, lg. lighted work or play area downstairs. \$120/mo. Avail. March 1, Charlie Stearns, Ext. 2414.

Wanted: used ladies' golf equipment. Matched clubs preferred. Bobbie Parker, Ext. 2995.

Wanted: Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th or 12th edition. Edward Romney, Ext. 7130 (Lincoln).