Merry Christmas

...and the Happiest New Year ever!
One of the real joys of the Christmas Season is the opportunity we have to express to our friends and associates our feelings of fellowship and good will.

At this season of the year we feel a keener appreciation of the spiritual values and we are more mindful of the welfare of our fellow men. Moved by the Spirit of Christmas we more openly give expression to our deeper sentiments with acts of kindness and words of love and friendship.

Christmas, more than any other holiday, strengthens our faith and trust in our moral and religious feelings. Inspired by the momentous event which it celebrates, the Christmas Season lifts us all a little closer to God and gives us a glimpse of how life might be if we could sustain the true Christmas spirit throughout the year.

Let us each resolve that the Christmas Motto "Peace on earth, good will to men" be our motto every day of the year. In this spirit I sincerely wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

[Signature]
The Midland Shop is

Deep in the Heart of West Texas

The Midland District Office was established in December, 1949, when Supervisor George J. Shoup was transferred to Midland to supervise two of our West Texas seismograph crews. W. T. Ross, observer supervisor, joined George in Midland in April, 1950. Later that year the building housing the offices and shops was completed. By the end of 1950 the other staff members began calling Midland “home.” They are Fred J. Di Giulio, supervisor; Delbert (“Red”) King, drilling supervisor, and Jay H.Fraizer, shop superintendent. The five members of our Midland “family” are all old timers with Western and represent a total of 75 years of service.

George, who joined Western in 1941, has had more than six years of service in West Texas and New Mexico, in addition to four years in the Eastern District of the Mid-Continent Division and almost three years in the Rocky Mountain Division.

Traveling three to four thousand miles a month, George visits three crews. These three crews operate in some of the most difficult seismic prospecting areas of Texas and New Mexico. All of the work which George supervises is of the “problem” type. Not only are interpretation problems involved, but the field conditions require specialized and highly versatile equipment and techniques. Air drilling in the limestone outcrops of West Texas and New Mexico is arduous and requires much supervision. The results obtained by pattern techniques are difficult to interpret, and useful and definitive maps can only be obtained after consultation and collaboration between the supervisor and the party chief.
George carries out his assignment at the cost of many a week end away from home. For a short time this year he enjoyed the novelty of having all his crews located near Midland. This gave his family a chance to get to know him a little better. His family includes his wife, Betty, daughter Nancy, now away at the University of Texas, and son Mike, 12, whose big passion just now is football. All enjoy their new home, which was built in the summer of 1952.

 Supervisor Fred DiGiulio often takes the air to visit his crews, which are usually located in opposite directions from Midland. Fred began his continuous service with Western in 1939. He worked in the Mid-Continent Division for 12 years and has been a party chief in Georgia, Mississippi, Arkansas, Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York. The DiGiulios moved to Midland from Edmonton, Alberta, where Fred spent about two years as a supervisor.

Fred is Western's top expert on the San Juan Basin. His four years of supervisory experience in that desolate and remote area have familiarized him with the complex geology and velocity problems of Navajo land. As a matter of fact, Fred has had to learn a smattering of the Navajo language to help him find his way around the roadless "Four Corners" area.

In sharp contrast to the arid San Juan Basin is the Gulf coast port of Morgan City, La., from which one of Fred's crews operates in the Gulf of Mexico. Fred's versatility is called into play in keeping up with the diverse problems of marine operations in the salt dome country.

Needless to say, Fred is seldom home except on occasional week ends. A many-times interrupted, long delayed one-week "vacation" recently gave his wife, Aline, a chance to put Fred to work on their new house and garden. Fred had to come into the office once or twice during his vacation and carried abundant evidence of his gardening chores on his khakis. Aline and Fred have four sons, John, Bob, Fred, and Richard.

W. T. Ross has been with Western more than 13 years and has supervised recording operations for nine years. Because of his varied experience, Ross, as he prefers to be called, often is asked to help our crews get started in difficult areas. He ranges far and wide, since his territory not only includes the Midland District, but the Shreveport area as well.

Ross is the "newest" father of the group. Sarah Frances will celebrate her second birthday next March. Ross and his wife, Elizabeth, have a new home, but Ross has not been able to enjoy it much as he is almost always out of town helping his observers keep their trucks in "A-1" condition. In addition he is called upon to sit in on the various experimental and special problems assigned to his crews.

"Red" King, with over 12 years of drilling experience with Western, always visits a crew when a prospect presenting unusual or difficult drilling problems is started. His territory includes Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. He is out of town most of the time helping the crews with
their drilling problems and supervising the maintenance and repairs of the drilling equipment. He also helps Jay in the shop when there is a “rush” job to be done.

"Red," his wife, Velma, and their daughters Delphine and Sharon, came to Midland from the Rocky Mountain Division. They have their own home in Midland and enjoy it very much. Delphine, the girl who takes the honors in spelling, is in junior high. Sister Sharon shines on the track field. Both are making a collection of ribbons.

Just down the street from the Kings live the Fraizers, who also own their own home in Midland. Their daughter, Janis, 16, is now a senior in high school and her sister, Beverley, 13, finds life in junior high very exciting. Like Sharon, Beverley loves her sports and has her "ribbons," too.

Jay, who joined Western in 1933, spends most of his time in Midland, and is kept busy building and maintaining equipment for our field crews. He is a good machinist with the skill and shop equipment to make almost any required part. On several occasions he has made special equipment for Western's water crews in the Gulf. He builds shooting and water trucks, compressor and cable trucks and in his spare time completely overhauls drills. He keeps in stock a good supply of special parts and complete units for our equipment and is usually the one who is called when there is an emergency. Often entire component units are shipped via air freight to keep crews operating at top efficiency.

Once in a while Jay finds time to pursue his hobby of photography, and in the winter he bowls on a local team. With his partner he was one of the top winners in doubles in a tournament last spring. Before coming to Midland Jay spent six and one half years as shop superintendent in the Natchez shop.

Pride in their accomplishments and in their association with Western characterizes the Midland staff. In this, the heart of the West Texas oil industry, some 250 oil company offices are located. Accessibility to clients and a central location enable the Midland shop to render exceptional service to the Company and to the industry.
WESTERN OF AMERICA RECEIVES
NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL
AWARD OF MERIT

"Congratulations — the heartiest and very special congratulations of the directors and staff of the National Safety Council on your fine safety performance. Truly a job well done!”

These words opened a recent letter from National Safety Council President Ned H. Dearborn, announcing that Western Geophysical Company of America had qualified for the Council’s Award of Merit. This award is the second highest that the Council gives.

Awards of this grade were presented to ten per cent of the companies reporting in all industrial groups. Only five per cent of the companies in the exploration division which reported received Awards of Merit — in other words, it was twice as difficult to qualify for the Award in the smaller group.

Western qualified by establishing injury rates significantly lower than its PAR rates, which are the rates computed from the Company’s record in other years and from the rates of the exploration division.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All exploration units,</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Severity</th>
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<tr>
<td>1950-1952 average</td>
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<td>1.15</td>
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<td>Western’s rates for 1950-52</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>.17</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAR rates</td>
<td>15.0</td>
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<td>Western’s rates for 1953</td>
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<td>Percentage better than PAR</td>
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<td>95%</td>
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HENRY SALVATORI, right, accepts the Award of Merit from M. A. Koffman, vice president for Industrial Safety, Los Angeles chapter of the National Safety Council, and vice president, Southwestern Portland Cement Company.

Henry Salvatori accepted the Award on behalf of Western of America field employees during a brief ceremony held in his office. The Award was presented by M. A. Koffman, vice-president for Industrial Safety of the Los Angeles chapter of the National Safety Council and vice-president of the Southwestern Portland Cement Co.

SEPTEMBER FORTUNE DESCRIBES
WESTERN LEAVE-OF-ABSENCE PLAN

The following article on our new leave of absence plan (see The President’s Page, July-August, 1954) was published in the September, 1954, issue of Fortune, a monthly business magazine published by Time, Inc. The article was entitled “Golden Fetters” and appeared on page 99.

“The company store of the type that once bound workers to their jobs with chains of debt has all but vanished from the American scene, with few to mourn its passing. But now the bosses have devised a new method of keeping employees in peonage—the profit-sharing fund. The gimmick, of course, is that an employee who leaves may have to give up all or part of the profits that the company has set aside for him. In other words, he can’t quit because the boss owes him too much money.”

“One boss, however, has now made a stab at freeing employees from this sort of economic servitude. Henry Salvatori, president of the Western Geophysical Co., Los Angeles, has announced that any of his 900 profit-sharing employees who has been with the company five years may take a year’s leave of absence, during which time he will be off the payroll but will continue to maintain his interest in the plan. If he decides to return at the end of the year he will be welcomed with open arms.

“Salvatori, when he was twenty-eight, quit a good job to go into business for himself, and he wants other young men to feel free to take the same chance. “The freedom to experiment, to venture, and to risk must not be fettered by anyone or anything,” he believes. ‘Not even by a good-intentioned profit-sharing plan.’

“Ironically, though, the first employee to consider taking Salvatori up on his offer was not a youngster eager to have a fling at self-employment but a company veteran in his fifties who wants time off to fix up the farm on which he plans to live when he retires. Post-retirement projects are not exactly what President Salvatori had in mind, but there may yet be some risks taken and free-enterprise experiments tried by venturesome souls at Western.”
PARTY PICKINGS

Introducing three of the Western International crews in Italy

These Western International trucks were parked by the historic Leaning Tower of Pisa when this photograph was taken a few years ago.

PARTY F-5 — PESCARA, ITALY . . .

E. TRUCCHI, Reporter
A. CHIARI, Photographer

His experience with Aramco in Saudi Arabia makes Antonino Bucarelli a valuable addition to Western International. "Buc," as he is called, studied mining engineering at the University of Rome before tangling with geophysics. Bachelor "Buc" favors bridge and tennis during his spare moments and, according to Reporter Truccchi, is a hard man with a work schedule.

Antonino Bucarelli

Party F-5 was the pioneer of postwar Western geophysical activity in Italy. The party started operations in June, 1947, in Ferrara, a city which lies in the northeast valley of the Po river. MICHAEL A. BOCCALEXY headed the party, with DON B. HEANEY as chief computer and ALBERT B. BARLOW as observer. The other crew members were hired locally.

Party F-5 has worked in Forli, Novara, Mantova, and Pisa. In December, 1953, it started operations with new equipment in Pescara in the province of Abruzzi. It is from this location on the Adriatic coast that its staff sends a hearty greeting to all the other Western parties in the Old and New Worlds.

We had to forget the nice plains of the Po valley when we came south to Pescara. What impresses us most about Abruzzi are the narrow, steep, and curving roads. In addition the ground is subject to slides at many places and this makes life quite exciting when one has to drive a 20-ton spudder machine right on top of a steep hill.
Let me now introduce you to the members of our crew. Our party chief is ANTONINO BUCARELLI, whose principal activity consists of studying work schedules more and more complicated. Computer L. BARBERIS is a deep connoisseur of any kind of winged animal and is quite a fisherman. Then there is Computer I. CAPPPELLI, a remarkable glottologist (linguist) and purist. Our draftsman is V. ZAMPACORTA and our “Jack of all Trades,” A. MASSACESI.

Observer E. TRUCCI’s greatest effort in the last few months has been the compilation of this article. His helpers are A. OBSATTI and A. CANTONI. The latter gave up a brilliant movie career to devote his ability to geophysics, but he does not regret this.

A. CHIARI is the surveyor and he offers the most peculiar phenomenon on the crew — he fattens when we shoot refraction and grows thin when we shoot reflection. His helper is A. BAROZZI.

Our shooter is R. FONTANA and his helpers are I. TROTTA and P. FUSCHI. The drillers, E. GUARDIANI and F. BARONE, are both mad about motorcycles, especially the very noisy and fast ones. All the crew members mentioned above, whose ages vary from 23 to 34 years, are at present single, although some are engaged and seriously preparing for the “big step.”

The married ones are represented by Drillers D. PIAZZA, E. CORNAGLIA, and B. DELLE VEDOVE.

Life in Pescara is quite agreeable, I should say. There is a nice beach, and if we had time we might enjoy a dip. No more news for the present — farewell until the next occasion.

A typical scene in the province of Abruzzi features sheep, mountains, and when Western International is in the area, drills and other geophysical equipment. The crews in Italy have learned not to be surprised when uninvited spectators come along to watch them at work.

FORLI, ITALY . . .
JOE ROSS, Reporter-Photographer

Four years ago Joe Ross accepted an offer to go to Italy for Western where he is now chief of Party F-57. Joe started as a computer in 1948 and worked for two years in Texas and New Mexico before his transfer to Western International. He is a graduate of Oregon State and served in the Air Corps during the war as one of the flight officers on a B-29 crew. Joe and his wife, Felicita, whom he met and married in Italy, have a young son, Joe, Jr.

JOSEPH ROSS

Party F-57 was started in Forli, a city in northeast Italy not far from the Adriatic coast, in June, 1950. After four
years in Forli F-57 is beginning to have trouble finding places to drill new shot holes. So far the party has participated with its client in the discovery of five gas fields and three additional prospects are to be drilled soon.

Party F-57 began its life with a fleet of five new trucks from the United States and a crew of five experienced men including two Americans, Party Chief Joe Ross and Observer Lonnie Johnson. The party has grown gradually until it now has seven vehicles and eleven permanent crew members.

The chief addition to the crew is the spudder, which is kept busy in the mountains south of Forli and along the sea. This machine drives stem into the ground with a beating weight and can drill eight 40 to 50-foot holes a day in sand or loose gravel. After the charge has been placed, the stem is withdrawn. Drilling with the spudder eliminates the problem of hole caving, which is quite important in a large part of this area. In addition, this machine can operate on uneven ground where a rotary drill would have to be levelled.

When we first came to Italy we found it hard to get used to the large audiences of children and natives who line up along the cable spread for every shot. Now the crew has become quite adept and authoritative in stopping all movement in the area before each shot. It is necessary to place the recording crew at intervals along the cable to halt all bicycles and carts until after the shot.

In introducing the permanent crew personnel, we start with our Italians, who feel very much a part of the Western family. Handling the recording truck is Gianluigi Dona who replaced Lonnie Johnson when he returned to the States for an assignment in Korea. Dona’s ambition is to learn English and follow Ruggiero Timo and Renato Rusticali to Canada. He is doing an excellent job of handling the men.

Junior observer is Goffredo Zambelli, a newcomer to the crew. Rotary drilling is handled by Francesco Bezzi, who has no trouble turning out ten 60-foot holes in a day with the assistance of Terzo Pratt. The spudder is operated by Paolo Pasini and his assistant, Carlo Lega.

Ercole Canali and his assistant, Silvano Natalini, are the shooters. Palestino Villa is surveyor. In the office Joe Ross is party chief, with Giorgio Masotti as chief computer and Vittorio Pasini as draftsman.

Most recent crew activity was a soccer game with F-12 last summer when that crew was temporarily at nearby Ravenna. F-12 won the game.

On December 9, 1950, Joe Ross married Felicita Ferrari, and now little Joe Ross III is 19 months old. The Rosses rent the ground floor of a villa with a large garden.
on the edge of Forli and have settled down comfortably amid rumors that the crew is soon to make its first move. However, no one takes them seriously.

PARTY F-79 — NOTO, SICILY . . .

JOHN J. AMATO, Reporter-Photographer

John Amato has enjoyed having the opportunity, during the last four years, to visit some of the most famous cities in Italy. John joined Western in 1947 as a computer and his first assignment was with Party 9 in Wasco, Calif. Previously he had studied chemical engineering at the University of Pittsburgh and was graduated with the bachelor of science degree. As might be expected, photography is one of "Tourist" John's favorite hobbies.

JOHN AMATO

Party F-79 is located in Noto, Sicily, which lies about 20 miles southwest of Siracusa. Noto is located in the southeast segment of Sicily, about four miles from the sea, and has a population of about 20,000 people excluding the surrounding suburbs.

Our trucks were shipped from the States on the SS "Stromboli" and arrived at Palermo in July, 1954. The five crates containing the drill, the mast, the water truck, shooting truck, and recording truck were shipped on flat cars to Noto where we uncrated the units. F-79 began operations on August 2.

The present site of Noto is in reality New Noto, for in 1693 Old Noto, which stood about five miles north of here, was destroyed by a three-day earthquake. Old Noto was founded in 488 B.C. by the famous King Ducezio, a Sicilian who constantly waged battles against the Greeks of Siracusa for a united Sicily.

To the northeast of Noto we have Siracusa, the home of Archimedes, who formulated and proved the law of buoyancy. Siracusa is also famous for the Greek Theater and the prison called the "Ear of Dionisius," where even a whisper can be heard from the listening post.

About 50 miles to the north of Siracusa, we have Catania, the second largest city in Sicily. Catania is historically rich and lies at the base of Mt. Etna, an active volcano. Between Catania and Messina is Taormina, the world-famous tourist resort.

The main roads in Sicily are paved and are in good condition. If one wishes to travel by air, one can go from nearby Catania to Palermo, the Italian mainland, Malta, or Africa. As for boat service, one can easily go from
Palermo to Naples, Malta, Africa, and I believe, the Middle East also. Trains are ferried from Messina across the Strait of Messina to the Italian Peninsula. For the tourist the traditional donkey and painted horse-cart is a favorite souvenir.

The chief crops in the area of Noto are wheat, walnuts, almonds, olives, tomatoes, carob, and grapes. In summer the days in Noto are rather hot, but at night cool sea breezes lower the temperature. In winter, days are warm, but at night one needs a light topcoat.

Sicily in general is a mountainous country. In many parts, rock and clay cover the ground, hindering the absorption of water.

Our crew leaves for work at seven in the morning and puts in an average of twelve hours each day, five days a week. We are somewhat limited by the cultivation and stone fences which compel cable drag-outs. The dry climate forces us to drive long distances for water.

Since Noto does not catch the tourist eye, living accommodations are not "A-1." There are three third-class hotels in town. We have running water from 6:30 a.m. until one p.m. and from 5:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. The meals are wholesome and consist of three dishes: pasta, fish or meat, and fresh fruits. These are accompanied by one-quarter of a liter of wine and bread. This meal costs about 75 cents.

For entertainment there are three outdoor theaters in the summer and two indoor theaters in the winter. A band plays in the town square on Sunday nights. Every night the people stroll up and down the main street for their "passeggiate" (walk) before supper. By 11:00 p.m. the streets are bare.

For reading material we buy Time and Newsweek in Siracusa, and we also receive by mail the Rome Daily American from Rome and the New York Times from Amsterdam. Even though we get the New York Times about five days late, it's good reading with the cold German beer which we had our local bar "import" from Siracusa.

With Thomas P. Maroney as supervisor, F-79 consists of the following: John J. Amato, party chief; Russ Kaminsky, observer; Clivio Antoni, driller; Mario Pescina, assistant driller; Andrea de Stefani, surveyor; Liborio La Rosa, helper; Roberto Rossi, shooter; Sergio Cantarelli, shooter's helper; Francesco Risino, Giuseppe Iacono, Corrado Arena, Carmelo Lorenzano, Antonio Cordeschi, Corrado Guarraisi, Giorgio Masotti, helpers; Beniamino Gugnoni, computer, and Salvatore Calogero, draftsman.

The Milan office personnel and Italian operations in general will be featured in a future issue.
PARTY 74 — LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA ...

HUBERT MOSS, Reporter
JENNINGS G. SMITH, Photographer

JENNINGS G. SMITH

Jennings G. Smith joined Western in 1946 and worked for two years on a gravity crew. He then enrolled at the University of Tulsa and, with the aid of a partial Western scholarship, finished his university work and in 1952 was graduated with honors in geophysics. He continued to work for Western during the summers while attending the university. "Smitty" was with the Air Force Weather Service during World War II. He and his wife, Nita, welcomed a son, Davey, early this year.

Take a number of computers, several plotters, and some seismologists; add to this a college professor, several teachers and other professionals. Move to some distant locality, shaking up well while doing so, then pour in several thousand mixed and unmixed records. Agitate with a faulty air conditioner and presto! a new party is born to Western.

The new party is 74 and the "distant locality" is Lake Charles, La. The many lakes, bayous, rivers, forests, swamps, and mosquitoes make this a sportsman's paradise. The navigable streams and proximity to the natural resources have drawn, and continue to draw many large industries to this area. The resulting rate of growth gives the young city the air of a boom town — it is a veritable paradise for the real estate men.

As party chief we have JENNINGS G. SMITH. "Smitty" has been with Western since 1946 and has had considerable experience in the gravity and seismic departments. He has seen service in California, Montana, Oklahoma, Texas, Mississippi, and Louisiana. His office manager is WILBUR GREEN. BILL KING, JOHN WHITE, and GERHARD SCHUSTER handle the mapping.

Friends on other crews will be glad to hear from EXO SIMPSON, BOB CREWS, JOE FEFER, RAY BOURG, and JOHN MEeks. Party 74 also boasts some new men, some with considerable geophysical and geological experience. They are BILL BUDD, BOB CHENNEY, HAROLD BELL, LOWERY LANE, CHARLIE ROSE, RAY KILCHRIST, DAN WEEKLEY, JOHNNY TREGILGES, BILL KNIPMEYER, DELBERT REED, WILL COX, DORMAN SCHOCKLEY, MURDOCK NICHOLSON, and HUBERT MOSS.

BILL KING and RAY BOURG wasted no time settling down. BILL took a vacation down Port Arthur, Texas, way and returned with a bride, the former MAMIE DEVILLIER. RAY tied the knot September 25 with MARY ELIZABETH JACKSON in Hattiesburg, Miss.

EXO SIMPSON and his wife, FAYE, welcomed a son, RICHARD WAYNE, on August 5. Proud papa is still trying to get used to the many "changes."

JOE FEFER, alias "The Brooklyn Kid," recently bought a shotgun and has been busy hunting squirrels in hollow logs! He has been pestering everyone to take him snipe hunting. It's a little early in the season, but perhaps the fellows will oblige him before the season closes.

All kidding aside, JOE is not the only one who is finding hunting in and about the swamps of southwest Louisiana a completely new and intriguing experience. But before the ducks come, it is hoped all will have acquired their webbed feet and will be able to open the season with a bang!
PARTY 51 — WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA . . .

MRS. CLEO MELENDEZ, Reporter
KENNETH YUENGER, Photographer

Party 51’s chief, Jack Holbrook, began his Western career ten years ago as a rodman with Party 8. Jack has worked in California, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, and Montana. A graduate of Occidental College in Los Angeles, he majored in economics. He and his wife, Joyce, have two children, Donnie and Linda. Santa Barbara, where they bought a home, is the Holbrooks’ headquarters, at least until Linda is graduated from high school. Jack puts golf and tennis on his “favorite sports” list.

Hello from Party 51 in Woodland, Calif. The party was reactivated July 14, 1954, and had its first home, this time, in Tulare, Calif.

The office staff is composed of ex-Santa Barbarans from Party 74. Jack Holbrook is the party chief, Joe Melendez is chief computer, Obis Mahan is the computer, and Robert Anthes is the draftsman.

Our efficient field force consists of the following personnel:

Fred Ferguson, observer, who comes to us after brief stays with Party 9, Party 66, and in Los Angeles. Prior to this Fred worked for five years with Western of Canada.

Fred is very ably assisted by Junior Observer Gerald McQuilliams. From Party 74 come Kenneth Yuenger and Ed West, helpers on the jug-line. Our shooter, Milford Rhoades, is a former Western employee, and his helper, William Newton, comes to us from Party 9 in Taft, Calif.

Surveyor T. D. Rhoades was with G-1 before he joined us in Tulare. Rodman Charles Lewis was hired locally in Tulare.

Driller Charles Martin journeyed to Tulare from Party 1 in Fort Morgan, Colo. From Cody, Wyo., and Party 58 came Warren Tufte, another of our drillers. Driller Richard Long is a former Party 9 man from Taft, Calif. Helping on the drills are two former Party 31 men, Gordon Pendell and Howard Quam, from Cortez, Colo.

So much for the Breadwinners. The following mob are the Breadeaters: First, in Santa Barbara, are Joyce Holbrook and Donnie and Linda Holbrook. Joe and Cleo Melendez have three sons, eleven-month-old twins and one four-year-old. Obis and Lou Mahan have a seven-year-old daughter and are hoping for a son in the near future.

Bob and Dorothy Anthes are definitely assured of another deduction in about four months. Fred and Ellen Ferguson have one son just under two, and by the time this issue is published will have another deduction.

The McQuilliams have one son; the Yuengers, three. The Tuftes have one daughter and two sons. The Lewises are hoping for a boy, too, but they may get a surprise since
THE PHOTOGRAPHER CAUGHT these Party 51 members just before they left for work. They are, seated, left to right, Charles Martin, Ed West, Milford Rhoades, and Fred Ferguson. Standing, left to right, are T. D. Rhoades, William Newton, Kenneth Yuenger (in back), Gerald McQuilliams, Gordon Pendill, Charles Lewis, and Warren Tufte.

the doctor is promising twins.
Since September, Party 51 has been making its home in Woodland, Calif. Because the party is new there is not too much news to relate.

PARTY F-62 — GRANDE PRAIRIE, ALBERTA . . .
STANLEY V. EMERSON, Reporter
JOSEPH R. KOT, Photographer

The surveyor position was Dick Bearisto’s introduction to Western life when he joined the company in 1949. Dick is a graduate of the University of Alberta where he received a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering. A flight lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Air Force in World War II, Dick flew with a Canadian bomber group during the invasion period in Europe. Bruce, 3, and Ricky, 2, are Phylis and Dick Bearisto’s candidates for future positions with Western.

From the busy little town of Grande Prairie, from the land of muskeg and timber, and from our snow-covered tents on the banks of the Little Smoky — Party F-62 sends a hearty “hello.”

This is the fall season, which starts somewhere in the north and travels south to meet our southern crews. We have discovered that fall unfortunately begins south of Grande Prairie, and that in this area, just for simplicity, the change is directly from summer to winter. This sudden change accounts for the startled-looking ducks and geese which we see heading south toward your expectant shot guns.

Members of this crew who have suffered from this short hunting season are Party Manager Stan (One Shot) Emerson, Observer William (Wild Bill) Henkle, Shooter C. E. (Shaky) Jacobsen, Shooter’s Helper Paul (Frenchy) Pearson, J.O. and hunting adviser Philip Hudz, and Seismometer Engineer Arnold Kot.

Our ten-gauge drillers, Allan Nordlund and Les Burrows, are included in the above group as are our twelve-gauge helpers, Melvin Watson and Ray Pickering. We also have transit shooters Syl Krevenchuk and Gene Lobas. Mechanics Stan Nordlund (Al’s twin) and John Nordlund (the other brother) are too busy to hunt. Camp Boy Cliff Green is our only hunter of geese.

The office is headed by Party Chief Dick (Ten Shot) Bearisto, aided by our slightly more accurate experts, Senior Computers Joe Kot, Don Stiles, Harold Bush, and Harold Eurchuk.

Starting in June, 1952, using hand augers, pack horses, and portable instruments, this crew took off from Otter
Lake, a point about 100 miles northeast of Peace River. We have since then been working our way south through endless muskeg. In the process we have become a completely mechanized bombardier group. During the summer in places where it is too soft for cats or trucks, in the winter where hills are too steep for standard equipment—there you will probably find our track-mounted crew. In many ways we are a twin crew to Party F-63. Winter operations are usually straight time and summer operations see the crew out for “twenty and ten.” Bush camps are the normal practice and these are supplied by truck, bombardier, or air only. Social activities go into high gear when the crew hits town. We will present the “social picture” in our next appearance in the Profile.

PARTY 8 — DOUGLAS, WYOMING . . .

C. N. ANDERSON, Reporter
VINCENT RAAEN, Photographer

Canadian-born G. O. Miller attended the University of Toronto, where he majored in mechanical engineering. After spending a few years with Canadian geophysical operators, “G. O.” started as a computer with Western and has worked in Montana, Mississippi, Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, and California. Automobiles and dogs rate high with Party 8’s chief, and he and his wife, Sunny, own a “whopper” of a boxer, according to Reporter Anderson.

G. O. MILLER

Party 8, last heard from in Plentywood, Mont., has moved to Douglas, Wyo., after a short stay in Williston,
N.D. Douglas, 50 miles east of Casper and 240 miles north of Denver, is a fine location geographically, since it is within week-end range of excellent hunting, fishing, skiing, golfing, scenic, and shopping areas. We also are within a few hundred miles of the Universities of Wyoming and Colorado and are planning to attend a few major football games this fall.

G. O. MILLER has taken over the party chief's duties in the place of H. F. MURPHY, who was promoted to supervisor on April 1. We still see a lot of Murphy, his wife, Florence, and children, Davy and Kathy, as they are living in Douglas. G.O. and his wife, Sunny, came to this crew from Party 66 in California. They brought with them a large and friendly boxer named Sarge who has grown from a whelp to a whopper since their arrival.

We held our third consecutive safety dinner at the Townsend Hotel in Casper on April 24 and will be eligible for the fourth this fall, marking a two-year period without an accident.

W. M. (“Bill”) SKAGGS, observer, and C. N. (“Andy”) ANDERSON, chief computer, are proud recipients of recently awarded ten-year and five-year service pins.

MAX STEWART, surveyor, and his wife, MARY JANE; C. C. (“Chris”) SCHMIDT, computer, and his wife, Jo, and BILL and RUBY SKAGGS are this crew's most avid golfers. Chris won a first prize trophy in the “D” division of tournament play in Cody, Wyo., last July 4.

Photography also has a wide following on Party 8. VINCENT H. RAATEN, computer, uses a Speed Graphic press camera and is the local authority on the subject. MAX, Chris, and Andy have 35 mm. cameras and are color and candid enthusiasts. Vince also is a radio “ham” and operates a mobile unit in his convertible.

STANLEY KOPPER, shooter, has recently started a hobby in lapidary. Stan, a native son, ranges far and wide in pursuit of trout, game, and rocks.

M. J. (“Romance”) LARSEN, recording helper, is recuperating at his home in Medicine Lake, Mont., from injuries suffered in a recent automobile accident, but is expected to return soon.

Recent additions to Western from the Douglas area are FRANK D. SMITH and LLOYD UPTON, recording helpers, and ARTHUR SIMS, rodman. Art has recently been transferred to Party 36 in Browning, Mont., and has been replaced here by EDWARD L. STEVENSON, surveyor, from Party 34.
PARTY F-10 — MELVILLE, SASKATCHEWAN . . .

F. L. WARREN, Reporter-Photographer

After spending some three winter months in the bush north of Athabasca, Alta., F-10 wandered eastward again, in the manner peculiar to geophysical crews, to the land of sky-blue waters and the home of the little white cloud that cried.

In other words we find ourselves in mid-eastern Saskatchewan, north of the 49th and south of the 52nd, with most of the cold from the north but none of the warmth from the south. Since spring break-up, more rain has fallen in this area than has been previously recorded. To make matters more interesting, last year was a near-record for precipitation.

In ancient geological times, this part of the world was the bed of Lake Agassiz. Though millions of years have passed since then, the surface is still much like the bottom of a sea. The farmers are tearing their hair trying to get a crop in and, if the crop withstands the weather, to get it out. Notwithstanding the rain, F-10 has not done too badly in over-all production, but there isn’t a man in the crew who isn’t hoping and wishing that frost will soon make foot-slogging a little more fun.

F-10 now includes ROGER ANGUS, party chief; HUGH FUCHS, assistant party chief; WALLY OTTO, observer; JACK LEVINS, junior observer; FRED WARREN, surveyor, and ORVILLE McDIARMID, helper — all of whom were with the party when we last reported.

New additions include ARNOLD AYLESWORTH, a computer from the Calgary main office; TOM WONG, computer; BUD CALDWELL, our capable shooter from all parts of Alberta; JOE CLOUTIER, head driller; LINK WEAVER and JOE ROBBINS, drillers.

F-10 greets BRYAN ESPLEN who hails from Regina and is working as surveyor’s assistant; DON GOOD, our jug hustler and a fast one, too, who comes from Balmoral, Man.; SHOOTER’S HELPER ED SCHMIDT who joined us in his home town of Moosomin, and RUSSELL KALAKAILO, who after eight grueling months as a surveyor’s helper, has found a haven in the office as a computer. RUSSELL is a graduate of Brandon College, a subsidiary of the University of Manitoba.

ROGER ANGUS, party chief for four years, and LINK WEAVER, driller, have both qualified for the five-year service pin.

COMPUTER TOM WONG was hard at work in the F-10 office when this photo was taken. “Rain, rain, go away,” is F-10’s theme after a record rainfall in the Melville area since spring breakup.
BILL ROSSER APPOINTED SUPERVISOR IN CANADA

Bill Rosser, formerly chief of Party 54, was recently appointed to the position of supervisor with Western of Canada. Bill will supervise Parties F-10 and F-60 and will have his headquarters in Regina, Sask.

Bill is a graduate of Texas Technological College and has a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering. He is an Air Force veteran and in 1944 piloted a B-24 with the Eighth Air Force in Europe.

Bill, a Texan, joined Western in 1948 and his first position was assistant computer on Party 37. He worked in the Mid-Continent Division before his transfer to Canada.

Bill and his wife, Loletaha, have two boys, Ricky and Jerry, who make good models for Bill, a photography enthusiast, and his camera. Bill participated in football and track during his junior college days and now is a bowling fan.

Douglas, Wyoming Newspaper Praises Party Eight’s Fire Fighting

Party 8’s office and field crew last July rated special mention in the columns of the Douglas, Wyo. Budget when they joined the fight (and brought their water trucks with them) against a forest fire in the area which burned 300 acres before it was controlled. Editor Keith Rider had this to say about the fire:

“...we would like to give public recognition to the management and employees of the Western Geophysical Co. and the Big Horn Shot Hole Drilling Co. for their important part in the battle. While everyone in the state has an indirect interest in our forest and range lands, quite naturally the people who make their permanent homes in this community should have the greatest interest in our own adjacent forest and range lands. Nevertheless, the men of these two companies turned out en masse to fight the Squaw Peak fire, and on top of that, brought along four water trucks which were indispensable in fighting the blaze, which...might have devastated thousands of acres of precious watershed in the Laramie Peak country. In our way of thinking, the officials and men of these crews are entitled to the especial thanks of every citizen in the community.”

Best wishes to:

Perusings....

By Bill Farmer

Bill Farmer recently returned to the States after completing an assignment in Talara, Peru. Bill was the only American on the crew—the other members were Peruvians. He sent this interesting report on his experiences in Peru:

“The area around Talara lies between the Pacific and the Andes mountains and is mostly desert country. A fairly high wind blows almost constantly during the day, and there is a fine powder-like dust in some areas that penetrates even a tightly closed car.

“The terrain is odd, perhaps best described as a huge shelf which projects an average of 600 to 900 feet above sea level. The surface of the shelf appears to be smooth at first glance, but actually it is very sharply eroded by numerous gullies and canyons ranging from a depth of a few feet to as much as 500 or 600 feet. These canyons seem to start from nowhere on the shelf and may drain in any direction.

“I had to go shopping for high-heeled field boots after scrambling up and down the goat trails that lead where even a four-wheel drive Jeep wouldn’t go. I thought of purchasing a burro until I discovered they were too closely related to their United States cousins in regards to slowness and obstinacy.

“I lived in a comfortable three-bedroom house with a nice view out over the ocean past Punta Parinas, the westernmost point of South America. The waters in this area are famous for deep sea fishing and many world record catches have been made off Cabo Blanco, a few kilometers north of Talara.

“The Peruvians are a polite, Spanish-speaking people. The Spanish is pure, with no slang expressions. I did not master much of the Espanol, but also did not have too many awkward moments.

“The major industry, in fact the only industry of any importance in Talara, is oil exploration and production. The field is quite extensive and has been producing for many years. Incidentally, a gallon of gasoline costs about eight cents in American money in Talara.”

Bill enjoyed his stay in Peru, particularly a visit to Lima, where he found bullfights, ruins, beautiful parks, and (in a show at his hotel) Miss Universe of 1953.

NEWS BREAKS

Western’s California marine crews were the subject of a slide-illustrated talk by Carl H. Savit at a recent joint session of the AAPG-SEG-SEPM during the annual meeting in Los Angeles. An audience of over one thousand members heard Carl’s discussion of the instruments, techniques, and equipment currently in use off the Pacific Coast. Carl heads the mathematical research group in the main office.

Karl Krug, office manager in the Western of Canada headquarters at Calgary, visited the Los Angeles office during his vacation. Karl worked in Los Angeles before being transferred to Canada, and he and his wife, Dolores, have many friends in the area. Left, Karl discusses Canadian operations with Richard Trippel, right, who handles Western of Canada business in the main office.
Is there a Santa Claus?

Many years ago the editor of the New York Sun received a letter from a small girl asking him if there really were a Santa Claus. His reply is a classic, as convincing today as it was when he wrote it.

"We take pleasure in answering at once . . . the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun.

Dear Editor: I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun it's so." Please tell me the truth: is there a Santa Claus?

VIRGINIA O'HANLON

"Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about us, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

"Not believe in Santa Claus? You might just as well not believe in fairies! You might get papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down the chimney, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in life are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

"You may tear apart the baby's rattle to see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, life or romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

"No Santa Claus! Thank God, he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."
BUY AND USE
CHRISTMAS SEALS
FIGHT TUBERCULOSIS