Western Profile
In a recent letter to our editor, Mrs. Pat Kirst, who is with Party R-2 in Canada, suggested that the Western Profile give more recognition to the Western wives since they play such an important role in the maintenance of their husband's morale.

Mrs. Kirst's letter struck a truly responsive chord within me as I have always believed that the welfare of our Company is as much influenced by the wives as by the men who work for Western. I quote some excerpts from her letter:

"This note is impromptu but the idea has been brewing in my mind since we joined Western almost eight years ago.

"The average man or woman at any time of his or her life gets little or no 'outside' recognition for the things they may accomplish or give thought to. Western as a whole is made up of average men and women except in one outstanding way—the devotion of the women to their husbands and hence to Western.

"What woman, especially with a family, doesn't long for a chance to be settled, to have her children go to one or two schools, at the most. Day in, day out, year in and year out, the women of Western do not complain or nag at their husbands for their choice of jobs. And that is the devotion this company is made of. For no man can give his best to his job with the inner knowledge of strife and misery at home, unless he be a man of exceptional fortitude.

"The average woman or man may become discouraged and often no one outside of the immediate family can recognize it. Small articles on individual people sometimes can give hope, for in reading someone else's story your own thoughts often soar and become lifted.

"As an example, there is Mrs. Edith Thompson, mother of David Thompson (now surveyor on Party 68—Ed.) She is somewhere in her 70's in age. We were all on a crew together at one time. Friction often develops on crews, but on that one each woman was trying to 'live up' to Mother Thompson's conception of her. She never criticized, condemned or complained. On occasion, when trouble was brewing, Mother Thompson quietly set things on an even keel. Here is a woman who, by instinct, never did wrong.

"Mrs. Thompson was a leader in every sense of the word and yet I'm sure she was not aware of it. She just loved everyone and it was natural to help them. A woman of her character in this life of ours is almost a rarity. To preach an idea and to practice it are poles apart. She never preached. She lived her example I haven't heard from Mother Thompson in several years now, but know that to each person she's come in contact with, life is somehow a bit different to them."

We are indeed grateful to Mrs. Kirst for writing this letter to us. I wish to express to her my sincere thanks and appreciation for suggesting an idea which, I am certain, will help to make the Profile a more human and more worthwhile employee magazine. In fact, we are so enthusiastic about Mrs. Kirst's suggestion that, beginning with this issue, we shall feature a page in honor of 'Western's First Ladies' whenever a worthy candidate is brought to the attention of the Editor.

Mrs. Kirst has described beautifully Mrs. Thompson's goodness and virtues, proving her eminently qualified to be the first of "Western's First Ladies." We are happy to honor Mrs. Thompson by presenting her in these pages.

Each of us has known a woman such as Mrs. Thompson, who, unknowingly perhaps, has set for us an example by which we are able to live better, happier lives. Among the crews are many women who have helped others by kind deeds or encouraging words in times of stress or sorrow. These are the women who know how to smile when others frown, who act cheerfully when everyone about them is dejected and who face adverse circumstances with courage and hope. With Mrs. Kirst, I believe that our recognition and praise of these women will not only honor them but also will inspire and encourage every reader of this magazine.

I strongly urge everyone to consider their experiences and bring to the attention of our Western Profile editor the name of any Western lady whom you believe worthy of recognition as one of "Western's First Ladies." It is only in this way that the Editor can learn about these women and thus be in a position to write about them in future issues of the Profile
Western's First Ladies:

WESTERN PROFILE introduces the first of Western's First Ladies

Mrs. Edith V. Thompson

The story of Mrs. Edith V. Thompson is the story of a woman whose main interest is to enjoy life through her associations with people. Since joining her surveyor son, David Thompson, who now is on Party 68, in September, 1951, 82-year old Mrs Thompson has enjoyed "every blessed moment" of life and travel along the "doodlebug trail".

During her five years with son "Dave" and Western, Mrs. Thompson has lived in Mobridge, South Dakota, Wolf Point, Montana, Plentywood, Montana, Fort Morgan, Colorado, Green River, Utah, Douglas, Wyoming, and Greeley, Colorado. Accompanying Dave on his move to California in 1955, she has made her home in San Juan Capistrano, Coalinga, Artesia, Lynwood, Santa Paula, Shafter, Montebello and currently is living at Silver Strand Beach near Oxnard.

Mrs. Thompson considers her many moves as gratifying experiences which she relates in her hearty and humorous manner. She describes her most distressing experience as the first day of her move to California when she suddenly was exposed to the wild rush of traffic on Highway 101 while driving through Los Angeles.

Western's first "First Lady" graciously confirms that she was born on March 12, 1874 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Hope, Arkansas, was her home for fifty years following her marriage to Postmaster David Thompson in 1901. After her husband's death in 1938, Mrs. Thompson continued to live in Hope until she left to join her son in Montana. Mrs. Thompson's other son lives in Dallas, Texas, and her two daughters are in Little Rock. She also has two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

In Oxnard, as in the other towns she has lived in since joining Western, Mrs. Thompson keeps busy in and about her home, which in Oxnard is a beach cottage. A warmth of hospitality always is present wherever she lives. Enjoying people as she does, she makes new friends everywhere she goes and everyone she meets is captured immediately by her youthful spirit. Her cheerful greeting, her pleasant conversation and her understanding charm are wonderful qualities.

Those of us who consider ourselves young in years can seek guidance from one of Western's First Ladies — Mrs. Edith V. Thompson — who is so young in heart.

The lure of the West Indies apparently has overwhelmed Western Geophysical as some 31 of its United States personnel and a number of their families currently are listing their return addresses from Cuba and Jamaica. Other Westerners have been navigating the offshore areas of the Bahamas. Unlike most visitors to these tourist centers, the Western crews are not enjoying vacations-with-pay, but are part of an intensive program of exploration in the West Indies.

For over 400 years, almost since the discovery of the West Indian islands by Christopher Columbus in 1492 and 1494, these sparkling green islands have depended upon one major source of income — sugar — with tourists as the next most important activity. With this background it is easily understood why the possibility of developing natural resources other than those of climate and geography should create widespread speculation about the future of the Island groups.

Cuba, Jamaica and the Bahamas, as well as the other West Indian islands, are renowned as "island paradises." Each is a refuge for those who crave a leisurely manner of living in a comfortable, year-round climate coupled with exotic tropical scenery. Each of the islands is rimmed by placid bays and shining white beaches, although in many places, especially in Jamaica, the coastline is rugged and rocky.

Culturally, Cuba, Jamaica and the Bahamas are the results of Old World cultures — English in Jamaica and Bahama and Spanish in Cuba — superimposed upon native customs and modified by the technical advances of the Twentieth Century. Cuba particularly shows its cultural heritage in the graceful architecture of its many beautiful and historic churches. The heritage of several hundred years, however, today serves as background for the activities of our modern age. Currently the Caribbean is the scene of the same type of seismic exploration which can be seen in Nevada, Texas, Louisiana or almost any other area. Western crews are enacting their part surrounded by all the elements of travel folders and picture-postcards.

Western's role in the Caribbean began in September, 1955, when V. E. Prestine, vice-president, and H. L. Murphree, supervisor, with the client representatives, made their first research trips to the Cuban area. Their purpose was to establish the type of operations possible in the new prospects, if any special equipment would be needed and how government regulations and restrictions could affect Western's entry and work. They checked into the availability of living quarters near the prospects and, with some of these questions answered, Western was ready to begin the next phase of preparations.

Arrangements were begun at once to assemble the necessary equipment and special supplies for a Cuban land crew, with enough spare parts to meet any emergency over a period of a year. A complement of two recording trucks, two drills, two water trucks, and one shooting truck, a survey vehicle and a personnel carrier were augmented by an air compressor for drilling in the ca-
Explores the West Indies

vernous reef-limestone formations and portable recording cables with flyers and multiple seismometers for pattern shooting in possibly poor record areas. Portable equipment—a drill and recording instruments—was included for work in swamps and other inaccessible areas where standard truck-mounted equipment would be a liability.

Cable adapters and jumpers were made to co-ordinate the recording of the portable instruments with Western's standard FA-32 instruments, thus providing 48-trace recording for dual records or for simultaneous recording of cross-spread dips.

In all, six carloads of seismic equipment, including

A famed Cuban landmark commemorating the liberation of Cuban slaves on October 10, 1868. The wheel is from the La Demajagua Sugar Mill owned by Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, who began the era of freedom by being the first to free his slaves. The wheel had been turned by slave power and was made part of the monument built to de Cepedes. Note how the tree has grown around the wheel.

Contributors to "Western Explores the West Indies" include:

Photographers—James Reinstead, F-64
Willis Skaggs, F-13
J. A. Guess, F-28
Charles E. Martin, F-28

Reporters—Thomas Bauchillon, F-13
George Neuber, F-64
Don Vodopich, F-28
J. A. Guess, F-28
Albert C. Parr, F-28
several thousand individual items, were shipped for the use of Western's first crew in Cuba, Party F-13.

While the equipment was being collected for shipment to Cuba, Dean Jackman, who was Western's early representative in Havana, prepared the way for the Company's legal entry in the country for seismic exploration. It was found that no precedents existed for geophysical crews and each situation required that a new procedure be decided.

In the meantime, Western crews in the United States had been notified of the Cuban assignment and volunteers were plentiful. By November, personnel selected from among volunteers from widely scattered Western parties were converging upon the staging site at Hattiesburg, Mississippi, where they helped in the final processing of the equipment and supplies. These men, and C. Q. (Quin) Williams, party chief, and Ira Cram, chief computer, who preceded them to Cuba by a few days, were the nucleus of F 13. Among them were Thomas Boucillon and Bill Skaggs, observers, W C. Nelson, driller;

del Letourneau, surveyor, and Everette Brelan, shooter.

On Thanksgiving Day, these men joined Quin and Ira in F 13's first Cuban home, the inland city of Ciego de Avila. They later were joined by Charles Bing, junior observer, and Darrell Clapsaddle, driller.

Ciego is situated almost midway in Cuba's 767-mile length. It is typical of Cuban cities in its strong adherence to its Spanish traditions, although everywhere on the island the old buildings are contrasted with the modern architecture and industry which indicates Cuba's rapid progress in recent years. The largest of the West Indian islands, Cuba is only 90 miles from Florida. Despite this close proximity to the United States, the country is as different in its heritage and customs as is Spain, which was Cuba's "Mother Country" until the Cuban War of Independence in 1899.

In Ciego, the small band of Westerners and their seven families encountered the first of these differences in their efforts to provide housing for themselves. Furnished apartments are almost unheard of and if furniture is not bought outright, it is rented from a furniture store. This includes everything, even light fixtures. Other hazards encountered by the crew were the language barrier and becoming accustomed to the native foods. In these instances the local residents regarded the newcomers in the same way that the newcomers regarded them — with great curiosity.

By Christmas, the crew was settled and enjoyed a Caribbean fishing trip by way of celebration. Luck was with the fishermen not only on that day but three days hence when Ciego de Avila was gripped by a strike which stopped completely all business and traffic in the city.

The crew and families ate well with the help of the fish caught on Christmas Day.

Shortly after this, F 13 moved to Guantanamo near the east end of the island. The journey was hindered by the necessity of hauling the furniture acquired by the crew in Ciego and by the unimproved roads on their way to the new location. Five creeks were forded; two bridges repaired and some of the vehicles were winched a few times before Guantanamo was reached.

In December, F 13 was joined in Cuba by the field crew of Party 64, whose office is located in Hialeah, Florida. A water crew, F-64 began operations from Manzanillo on the south coast of Cuba. Led by Lloyd Logan, party manager, the crew includes Loy E. Renick, co-ordinator;
James Reinstein and Willis Smith, observers, Brunner Goff and Clyde Guidotti, shooters, and George Neuber, computer-clerk. Calvin Kirby is party chief operating from Hialeah.

One of the major problems on land for the seismic workers in Cuba is the presence of coral deposits which are almost pure limestone, either in outcrops or bare inches beneath the surface dirt. The water crew found the same difficulty at sea in that frequently the “bottom is too close to the top” and the boats must maneuver among coral outcrops and in very shallow water. Lines are pre-plotted in the field office and the F-64 crew members occasionally feel that they are being asked to navigate through knotholes.

Shoran often is used to guide the boats through narrow passages and on foggy nights to detect reefs breaking the surface of the water. If the reefs are one foot below surface, radar, which also is used as a navigational aid, is ineffective.

On one occasion not even Shoran saved F-64 from an unusual encounter. Intent upon shooting profiles through Cuban waters, the crew failed to see a blinker signal to stop. When two shots were fired across the bow of the Red Creek, the seismic shooting came to an instant halt. This was F-64’s first and, to date, only encounter with the Cuban Navy. The minor skirmish was settled amicably but reports to the office brought forth such comments as, “Are you going to fight or surrender?” and “Don’t give up the ship!” Time has taken care of crew demands for combat pay, five-inch guns and air cover.

In April, F-64 moved to Surgidero de Batabano, which is only 50 kilometers (about 30 miles) from Havana. Surgidero is a modern city as compared with Manzanillo and the crew members found the customs and living standards more like their own. The main advantage was that they had access to shops and markets in Surgidero and Havana where foods from the United States can be purchased. From this haven, F-64 moved to Casilda, a small port in south central Cuba. Casilda is located near Trinidad, a town of about 40,000 population. Trinidad is noted for its centuries-old churches and its cobblestone streets. Here, F-64 crew members enjoy the scenery, which they term the “most attractive in Cuba,” and a cool summer climate. The crew had found Surgidero quite warm.

Although required to navigate occasionally hazardous waterways, Party F-64 does not encounter the problems of difficult roads and absent landowners. With the exception of the central highway and a few short graded or paved highways, country roads in Cuba generally are unimproved trails, worn down by cars, trucks and all kinds of horse or ox-drawn carts. Many of the better roads are privately-owned toll roads. However, F-13 has not found the cross-country terrain to be as rough as some prospects in the United States. It is necessary to work.
The produce of a rich, agricultural country appears in casual street displays in Cuba’s open markets.

Around cane fields, banana and orange groves and other field crops by private trails or by crossing pastures with trees and sharp brush stumps hidden in the waist-high grass. Driving across the pastures is slow work as the stumps cut the tires. A scout walks ahead of the trucks to reduce this hazard to a minimum.

The permitting problem is to find the landowner, who usually lives at an unknown address in a nearby city or town. With the granting of a permit often goes a key to open locked gates on the fenced farms and pastures. When several small farms are to be crossed, this becomes a game of “pass-the-key” with each working unit handing a bunch of keys to the next unit as they move along.

Explosives require special handling by the Cuban crews. A licensed Cuban shooter under the protection of an armed soldier is detailed to assist Western’s shooter. Another armed soldier guards the explosive magazine. All explosives shipped or used in Cuba must be signed for each day to avoid any chance of loss. In addition to the military personnel, other Cubans have been added to Western’s crews in Cuba as interpreters and helpers.

From Cuba the West Indies exploration program extended to Jamaica, a beautiful mountain island about 45 miles wide and about 150 miles long in the heart of the Caribbean. Early in February, 1956, a new Western crew — F-28 — was activated at Kingston, capital of Jamaica.

To equip the new crew, Western again shipped a full complement of seismic equipment and 35 large crates of supplies, including skillets, scrub brushes, pancake turners, a sieve and sundry other items needed to maintain a field crew in a tropical wonderland. Again the crew was manned by volunteers from the many Western parties. The computing office, including W V Mickey, party chief, Herman A. Semeliss, chief computer, and Donald R. Vodopich, draftsman, remained in Kingston while the field crew, led by James A. Guest, party manager, journeyed to Savanna-la-Mar, 120 miles west of Kingston. Albert C. Parr, observer; Charles E. Martin, Rudyard D Carrington and Thomas G. Sergeant, drillers, John Hollander, surveyor; Melvin Rix, shooter, and Ovie Woolverton, Jr., junior observer, completed the field crew Raymond Narlock, chief computer, and James Moore, driller, were later additions to the party.

The distance between Kingston and Savanna-la-Mar
can be covered in approximately four hours over a narrow and winding road which passes through some of the loveliest and most colorful scenery in the world. Both Cuba and Jamaica are covered with a dense, luxuriant growth with endless varieties of tropical flower and fruits. Jamaica is not as motorized as Cuba and public transportation is limited. The chief mode of transportation is by “shank’s mare” with the bicycle and the donkey in close competition. These methods of travel probably account for the Islanders’ practice of carrying everything on their heads. Crew members have reported a cyclist carrying a table on his head and another carrying a 12-volt battery in the same manner. On another occasion, a true headlight was observed when a woman was seen carrying a lighted lantern on her head.

Native customs, however, were no more bewildering to the crew members of F-28 than their unexpected confusion with the language. Jamaica has been a British Crown Colony since 1655 and, although the population is almost 99% native, the island is as British as Great Britain itself. As one crew member stated, “There is no doubt about the isle being British, for where else could you see a sign reading, ‘This space reserved for four-wheel hackney carriages’ when ‘cab stand’ would do.” In addition to the King’s English, a native dialect is in popular use and the two are often combined to make a language with which the Westerners struggled for some time.

Driving habits in Jamaica called for considerable adjustment by the members of F-28. The major requirement apparently is to have a loud, operative horn on your car. A car without a horn is ignored completely. Drivers compete with their horns against all other traffic, such as, in the order of priority, trucks, buses, carts, bicycles, pigs, and goats. All driving is done on the left side of the road in the British fashion. On market days in Kingston, driving is especially exciting as all the rural people come to town to sell their produce. Shops are set up on sidewalks or in the streets within the market area. Outside of this area, a vendor can be arrested for obstructing traffic.

In Jamaica, Kingston is the only acknowledged city; the rest of the island, including the second largest city — Montego Bay, is known as “the country.” Kingston probably has one of the best, if not the best, natural harbors in the world. It is a city of 300,000 people and no traffic lights. As an experiment, one stop light was installed for a week but fatalities increased at that corner and it was discontinued. Many brightly uniformed policemen wearing long, white luminous gloves and large, white helmets handle the traffic competently. As with all policemen in the United Kingdom, they do not carry sidearms but this doesn’t hinder them in enforcing the peace.

Savanna-la-Mar has a population of 5000. It is a port town with a harbor large enough for fair-sized ships. The town is surrounded by cultivated cane fields, swamps and mountains, which are not high but quite rugged with thick brush and rough limestone ledges. For a time the field crew of F-28 lived in an old guest house with the whole Caribbean for a swimming pool.

The crew members with families in Jamaica live in private houses known as one-maid or two-maid houses,
depending upon the number of servants needed to keep up the house. Maid service at $4.50 a week per maid is a must. At first the Westerners tried to train the Jamaicans to prepare foods in the American manner but these efforts failed. Jamaican foodstuffs proved to be cheaper, particularly bananas which can be fried, baked, stewed or served on cereal.

Despite the unaccustomed new ways found in Jamaica and the fact that a longshoremen’s strike and then a holiday, not to mention such essentials as clearing customs, obtaining licenses for both men and vehicles and installing “trafficators”, interfered with the unloading of the seismic equipment, the F-28 field crew had set up camp and was operating in the field within seven days of arrival in Jamaica.

Government regulations in Jamaica require that all vehicles be inspected and licensed upon delivery on the island. Trafficators — signal arms with lights — were added on the right side of each truck and car. This is necessary as American vehicles have left hand drives. Most vehicles in Jamaica are of British manufacture and have right hand drives for operation on the left side of the road.

At Savannah-la-Mar the field crew learned that the local customs were the least of their problems. Jamaica is almost completely mountainous, rising ruggedly and abruptly from sea level to an altitude of 7,520 feet, and is covered with a deep layer of cavernous limestone. The terrain, with its jagged peaks, heavily wooded areas and vast limestone and boulder outcrops, complicates the work of the recorders, surveyors and drillers. Another difficulty is the practice of enclosing each farm plot — usually only one or two acres — with a sturdy fence. As many as 15 fences have had to be crossed on a single setup. In the jungle areas, machetes, in the hands of brush cutters, are used to hack a passage through dense, thorny thickets.

Early last spring, another Western crew, Party 73, with James A. Dees as party chief, Henry F. Davis as operations co-ordinator and William K. Miller as observer, entered the West Indies scene, working out of Miami, Florida, under the supervision of Booth B. Strange, vice president, and C. W. Nichols, supervisor. The operations of this water crew were conducted in the waters surrounding the Bahama Islands. To this prospect the 30-man crew brought the experience of the previous year’s operations in Venezuela and the southern Caribbean areas. Conducting a completely U.S.-based operation, the field crew of Party 73 followed a routine of ten days on the water and four days in Miami, without any member of the crew having set foot on the Islands. A Bahamian official boarded the boats once during each trip to issue a clearance into and out of the area. Party 73 since has returned to Venezuelan waters.
Island resort fame notwithstanding, it is the factor of difficult and variable operating problems which has made Western's entry into the West Indies and the Caribbean a challenge. Some of the Company's most experienced men are concentrating their combined years of experience upon the seismic problems involved, which are being solved as part of each day's routine.

Many areas where Western has worked previously have contributed some part of the answers to the seismic riddles of the West Indies. Among the crews are several men whose broad experience has made them especially valuable in the West Indian prospects. C. Q. Williams, for example, has had experience in Canada, the Rocky Mountains, Alaska, Pennsylvania, California and Pacific offshore. Willis M. Skaggs has worked for 15 years in California, West Texas, the Rocky Mountains and Canada. W. V. Mickey's almost ten years with Western have been spent in New Mexico, the Rocky Mountains, West Texas, Pacific offshore and Canada. Lloyd Logan brings to Cuba 14 years of work in the Philippines, Alaska, the Gulf Coast, Rocky Mountains and offshore and land operations in California. Thomas Bouchillon has a broad background of ten years of seismic work in the southern United States. J. A. Guess and Rudyard Carrington both have 11 years with Western—Guess in Texas, Nevada, California, Canada and the Rocky Mountains, Carrington in Canada, the Rocky Mountains and New Mexico. Albert C. Parr has worked the Rocky Mountains, California, Canada and Nevada.

These eight men have a combined experience of more than 86 years in almost every type of terrain and climatic conditions. They and their fellow seismic workers in the West Indies, relying upon this wealth of experience and using tested, proved equipment, are the solvers of the riddles, the searchers for the pieces needed to complete the jigsaw puzzle of the area. From their efforts in Cuba, Jamaica and the Bahamas, may come a new future for these island playgrounds of the world.
PARTY PICKINGS

PARTY 64 — HIALEAH, FLÓRIDA...

CHUCK ELRICK, Reporter

SCOTTY WALLACE, Photographer

Few crews can boast of arrival in one of the most fabulous play spots of the world during the height of the tourist season, but Party 64 began operations in late December in a new, modern, air-conditioned edifice just a few blocks from the famous horse track in Hialeah. Despite the attractions of the 82 windows of Hialeah, Gulfstream, Tropical Park and the exciting Jai Alai games (a Spanish import), Party Chief HAL KINNY and Supervisor HAROLD MURPHY made the get operations underway in short order.

For a full-scale interpretation of the sub-surface in this particular offshore area in the Caribbean, a good percentage of standard seismic methods were employed. Mapping procedure ran from base maps to contour maps showing several horizons. The use of plotted cross-sections, photographed record sections and Reynolds records were necessary to obtain reliable information.

Back in the office, we see GEORGE (Pete) PETERSON handling the record counting department with the assistance of JEANNE CLARK, IRENE NENO, JUDIE WEBB and HOWARD DOLINGER. HOWARD and the girls were hired locally and we were fortunate enough to acquire the use of Howard's 19-foot Lightning class sailboat for use on weekends.

DICK ILSE keeps the drafting department moving with the help of all locally-hired people. ELVA O'NEILL, BARBARA WEBER, GERTRUDE MCCULL, PATRICK HARDY, OSCAR AUER, WILLIAM TREBLAS, WILMA SCHUCK and PAUL WIDESS. PAUL is planning to begin his higher level of education at CalTech this fall. WILMA'S skill as a linguist (she's expert in English, German and Spanish) comes in handy when we are trying to interpret some of the Caribbean maps. CHRIS HILMER, one of our old hands, and son JURGEN, are on temporary leave of absence visiting their family in Bremen, Germany.

Quite a round of sports and hobbies occupy the off-duty hours of the picking and mapping departments. Chief Computer CLAUS OESTERWINTER and Pickers "Monty" SAMWELL, SCHUYLER (SCOTTY) WALLACE, JACK PEDEN and your reporter are readying for the Olympic swimming championships, some with the aid of masks, fins and snorkel tubes. The waters of both the Gulf and the Atlantic enveloping the Florida Keys south of here are purportedly the finest in the country for skin diving.

MARCILLA MANNING, our payroll clerk, and her husband have introduced several of us, including our review clerk, MARION ANDERSON, to the thrill of skinning over the waters of Biscayne Bay on water skis. Our enthusiasm is dampened only slightly by the sight of a good-sized
dorsal fin following along. Both Marcella and Marion were among the first hired locally.

The camerabug logically captured the fancies of a number of the mappers including William Scott and Arthur Bates. Supervisor Murphy turned up with a handsome Bolex 8 Millimeter wth more gadgets than a recording truck. When not trying to capture this Florida scenery on film, "Murphy" is often found trying to birdie under Bill Young, Western's gift to the golfing world.

Jim Sickles serves as first class sports reporter and commentator, having transferred his avid attention and loyalty to the activities of the Miami Marlins, who are top contenders in the International baseball league. Our other chief sports fan, Verne Brown, currently is subbing for a vacationing Westerner down Cuba way. Joining our ranks recently from New Mexico is Alan Winfrey, who calls his home Washington, D.C., although he hasn't seen it in some ten years of doodlebugging.

This just about covers the crew of Party 64 and their multitude of activities here in "Sunny Florida" (temperature currently in the 90's) and now it is time for coffee (or iced tea).

It's a foregone conclusion that anyone with the surname of Anderson would be nicknamed "Andy" and this is C. N. Anderson's fate as well. Despite a service date of April, 1949, and service in seven different oil areas, Andy is one of those rarities in Western—an unmarried party chief. Coming from Minnesota, Andy was a natural for the U. S. Navy and remembers particularly Navy Day in New York City 1945, when he was part of the largest armada ever assembled. Since leaving Oregon State, Andy has concentrated on the Navy doodlebugging and photography.

have abided, we are following the lead of Driller Bill Anton and wife Shirley, along with Shooter Chester Armstrong, spouse Joyce and their three boys, Roydean, Danny and Wayne. Each of these families has found trailer living to be comfortable and convenient and we are becoming an increasingly mobile crew. Recent additions to the ranks of the trailerites have been Surveyor Don Bowhay, his wife Jeanette and daughters Loraine and Lorna, Computer P. B. (Balady) Gislason, with wife Phyllis and sons Jimmy, Tommy and Skippy; Computer Frank Versteegh, wife Rose Marie and daughters Lorna, Darlene and Thelma, and newly-married Driller Ron Murrell and bride Phyllis.

Chief Observer Steve Novak, wife Stella, daughter Donnie and son Mickey are living seven miles away in Forget, Saskatchewan. Joan Schmidt, wife of Chief Computer C. C. (Chris) Schmidt, presently is vacationing in Minneapolis. Chris will be leaving us soon to enroll in the University of Oklahoma.

The remainder of the crew includes die-hard bachelor, C. N. (Andy) Anderson, party chief, Jim (Red) Luft, assistant observer, who may not enjoy single blessedness...
for very much longer; Jim Crozier, surveyor; Jim Metheral, drill helper, whose home is in nearby Weyburn, and recently hired helpers Dean Brown, Norman Gentes, Jim Henry, Frank Bouchard and Cliff Simpson.

An intra-party picnic with Party F 10 was held in early June at Kenosee Lake in the Moose Mountain Provincial Park and featured fried chicken, softball, golf, swimming and the aerial acrobatics of Don Bowhay's model planes. We are unable to remember which of the two crews won the softball game. Another recent social event was the party Steve and Stella Novak held in honor of Ron and Phyllis Murrell, who were married on July 14. An almost hundred percent turnout of the crew attended and everyone enjoyed an evening of gaiety, chatter, food and refreshment and dancing.

To close, we would like to say, "Hello" to all our friends and former crew members and also take advantage of the opportunity to wish you all a "Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year!"

PARTY 72 — GALVESTON, TEXAS . . .
BETTY LOU WILLIAMS, Reporter-Photographer

"I suppose that I am the most important member of Party 72. That may sound conceited but the fact that I am a shotpoint makes me very important indeed. Since we are to be close friends and although my appearance and identity change from time to time, just call me 'Shotpoint Sam'.

"Now, let me see you want to meet the rest of our crew, don't you? I think that the best way is to follow me through a typical 'run' starting at the dynamite explosion —

"Ouch, Oh, well, such is the life of a shotpoint. Here we are, going down. You'll see the strangest things down here, but just wait 'til we get back— woops we're on our way back up now, so stand by for a shock. We've just hit the cable and my life is no longer my own. Come along with me through this wire and, as we go through the machines, we'll see who is aboard the recorder boat. You know, the shooter crew has done its part so I'll tell you who they are. C. H. Gibbons, shooter; J. F. Dorman, assistant shooter; J. F. Grimes, helper, W. Breland, helper; George Little, helper, and P. A. Clark, cook.

"Here we go through the recorder and out there we see H. T. Blevins, co-ordinator, B. D. Bosworth, recorder, Byrl Sallee, observer, Eddie Wilkerson, assistant observer; W. A. Jones, helper; F. M. Solliday, helper, and Laurence Cousins, cook.

"There's Loren T. Harsh, party manager! He will carry me to the boys back on shore in the counting room.

"Into the counting room and we meet Jim Beal, Don Feueh, Billy White, Dave Lewis, Don Bomar, Erik Jacobsen, Bob Neelands and Carl Nichols. Here comes Ray Liles who will transport me to the boys in Reproduction.

"No sooner said than done and here we go from one machine to the other. Looking out, we see 'Bubba' Southwick, boss of the Reynolds Plotter, and Ralph Lewis and Frank Macaluso. They make quick work of me and here is Ray Liles again to take me to the picking department.

"Here we are in the picking room so let's see who is
in here. There is Rich Brunet, office manager, with Bill Hudson, Louis Fore, Lewis Adams and Dan Weekly, who are all old timers with P 72. Ray Louks, Don Byrd, Joe Coates and Shelby Dark are the younger set.

"We are almost to the end of our trip because here is the mapping — sorry, I forgot that we must go to the drafting room first. Here we are — oh, oh, wrong room. No, it's the right room, it's just that Party 72 has a lady draftsman, Betty Lou Williams. So, with drop bow pen in hand, she carefully places me on a map and, now, at last, to the mappers.

"In here we find that there is no one quite like a mapper. Good examples of what I mean are Gene Schnieder, Bob Neal, Charles Yates and Jim Anderson, who are all top-notch mappers. So, now that they have had their way with me, I must be approved and we go to meet the top man on the party totem pole, Party Chief W T Buckingham. And we're in luck, Fred DiGiulio, supervisor, is in the office today and you can meet our complete crew. I hope you have enjoyed our trip and that you will let me show you through again. That is all for now. I am on my way to the client."

PARTY 68 — OXNARD, CALIFORNIA

DERRY AMES, Reporter

JACK MILLER, Photographer

Here we are spending another summer in Oxnard and "Beach Party" 68 is about to embark upon a frolicking

California, while in search of those quaint little items sometimes referred to in geophysical circles as reflections.

As we kick off our shoes and stroll down the beach — being careful not to stub our toes on a jug (the seismic variety), which has been placed carefully by Warren (Wind) Selman and Richard Rodriguez, we come upon the recording and shooting crews. In this happy group we can find such men as Gerald McQuilliams, our observer, and his able assistant, John Crane. Standing a short distance away, a preoccupied shooter named Oliver Kein is trying to hook up his jugs to a six hundred-foot strand of prima cord.

Soon we're blasting off down the beach to meet Mr. Howard Henry, notable driller and poker player. Wallowing knee deep in the slush pit is "Big Ed" Redenius, helper first class. An alternate member of this crew is Lawrence Moor, driller second, who takes the controls in Henry or Ed's absence.

Dabbing a little more suntan lotion on my sunburned proboscis, we run across Western's only surveyor with calibrated eyeballs — Dave Thompson, who recently exchanged crews with Jack Patton. Not to be forgotten is "Long, Tall Billy" Burgess, our rodman, who can look over the top of the stadia rod he is holding.

On our way back to the office, we'll take the scenic route along the golf course and, if we look carefully, we can see our permit man, Max Stewart, taking five to dig divots in preparation for his coming weekend match with other such divot-diggers as Tom Mitchell, party chief; Art Hiwi, chief computer, and yours truly.
Stepping into the office, you are apt to trip over one of the “Seven Wonders of Western” — a draftsman with an arm like a plotting machine and a hand like a LeRoy set and a name like Francis Treisault. Looking behind us, we’re blinded by the flashing flashbulbs of our computer, and photographer, Jack Miller. Another Westerner is Jim (Hootin’) Holler, senior computer. He’s usually huddled over a hot “comp-sheet” or an overdue expense account.

Peering into an adjoining office, we’re greeted by a Powell named Richard, who handles a pair of human dynamos of production, namely, Marshall Burstad, chief computer, and Peruvian import, Robert Milla, computer.

At the time of writing every member of the crew has buckled on their safety belts as an added precaution in attaining our sixth consecutive safety dinner.

Rimini is an historic city as well as a popular beach resort. During the first part of our stay there, we did not find the beach too attractive with several centimeters of snow on it. Before we left Rimini to return to Foggia, however, we had a picnic on the beach with plenty of hotdogs, pizza Napolitana and a soccer game.

A few miles from Rimini is a famous place — the Republic of San Marino. San Marino is famous for its history, its castles and cakes and wines. However, some of our men admit they went there not only for its beauty, but for the tax free cigarettes and some stray stamps for the stamp collectors.

After our return to Foggia, Guido DelMonte, Canzio Trombini, Livio Cantarelli and Luigi Agnelll were presented with five-year service pins. We remained in Foggia throughout the wet and cold winter of 1955-56, then moved to our present location, Termoli, in late April. Termoli, a city of about 15,000, is almost halfway between Foggia and Pescara. The main activities here are fishing and wheat farming. We are all well pleased with the beach.

Old timers on the party are Luigi Agnelll, chief driller; Menotti Maddi, surveyor; Albino Parrilla, assistant surveyor; Torquato Bucciarelli, driller, and myself, chief computer. Guido DelMonte, Livio Cantarelli and Bill Cavicchi were transferred to other parties and Canzio Trombini went to the Lab-Shop in Pescara.

Our regulars not previously mentioned include Giulio Cesare Checchia, computer; Eduardo Macchia, draftsman, Giuseppe Gentile, assistant draftsman, Quintilio Petricola, observer; Francesco Checchia, J O, Giuseppe Creatore, observer’s helper; Vittorio DeLuca.

PARTY F-12 — TERMOLI, ITALY . . .

ETTORE D'AMBROSIO, Reporter
ALBINO PARRILLA, Photographer

More than a year has passed since Party F 12 has reported to Western Profile. Our last report was from Castrovillari, a small city which we all liked. From Castrovillari we moved to Foggia, a growing city in the Puglia region. Foggia is an important railroad hub where the principal industry is farming, particularly wheat. In the province there are many olive orchards and grape vineyards which make the Foggia area famous for its olive oils and local wines.

The wet winter during our stay in Foggia was responsible for our pleasant move to Rimini for several months.
assistant surveyor; Bucciarelli Claudio, driller; Nicola Antonio Giannotti, rodman; Ciro Palumbo, battipalo operator; Raffaele Russo, assistant driller; Roberto Piroli, shooter (with writer's cramp from signing documents regarding explosives), and Enrico Bertolini, assistant shooter. We all join with Party Chief Don Heaney to send you our best regards.

PARTY F-39 — ROCKGLEN, SASKATCHEWAN...

STAN SALOFS, Reporter
ELDRED WON, Photographer

Harvest time is at hand in Saskatchewan and once again, Party F-39, after spending the winter in northern British Columbia, has returned to southern Saskatchewan to see another crop seeded, grown and harvested.

Although not a farmer at heart, Party Chief Dick Mercer has been leading the “harvesters” of F-39 in their year-round harvest of records. Between seasons, moreover, Dick and wife Evelyn have managed a crop of their own — Lorine (4), Billy (3) and Jim (1).

Chief Computer Eldred Won also had a good season. He and wife Helene added a daughter, Pamela Carol, to the F-39 family.

For 39-ers it is not all work and no play. Ample proof of this is Observer Jim Jensen, wife Shirley and daughter Lynn and Driller-mechanic Dan Barne, wife Marie and daughters Connie and Janie, who can be seen frequenting the local beach every spare moment they can.

The highlight of Party F-39’s social life was the weiner roast held in honor of Surveyor Ken Dobson, wife Kay and sons Roddy, Keith and Stewart, on the occasion of Ken’s transfer. Held on Rockin Beach, the party was one to be remembered and was highlighted by a farewell speech given by Shooter Stan Stevens and a presentation by Stan’s wife Susan. Following the presentation, Computer Stan Saloff and Driller John Schultz put the gift, a decanter, to proper use by filling it for the guests.

In losing Ken and family, F-39 lost five from its roster. However, replacement Roy Rault brought with him wife Ann and son Brian to bolster our ranks.

It is only after good times like that that Shooter Mark Lariviere, Rodman Dewey Holt, Helpers Tom Shadbolt, Jim McKinnon and Ovila Bilodeau — all natives of Saskatchewan — have little or no trouble convincing Helpers Gordon Johnson, Alex Santa, Bill Lilly and Tom Menduk (native Albertans) that, despite its dry and windy climate, Saskatchewan is a good place to spend the summer.

—Continued on page 18.
If you were to place 25 silver dollars on a table before you, you would have a stack a little more than two inches high. If you were to place ten thousand silver dollars beside the two-inch stack of 25 dollars, your second stack would be about 75 feet high or the height of a six-story building.

The first stack of $25.00 represents the comparatively small amount you would need to pay on a medical bill before you could begin to draw upon the 75-foot stack of $10,000.00, which is reserved for you by the Fireman’s Fund Indemnity Company, insurance carrier of Western’s Blanket Medical Expense Plan.

Western of America’s Blanket Medical Expense Plan now has been in existence for over a year. During that time, over 165 Western employees have been paid medical benefits. Several of these cases had claims, which were paid to the employee involved, in excess of a thousand dollars, or about seven feet of that 75-foot stack of dollars. Despite this record, the plan is still so new, not only to Western but to companies throughout the country, that Western Profile, in this article, appraises how it works and what it can do for you.

To understand the Blanket Medical Expense Plan, it must be remembered that the basic purpose of insurance is to safeguard your earnings and savings against sudden expenditures for unexpected illness or accident and to eliminate the necessity of borrowing money in such times of emergency. A small bill should not disrupt a family’s economy but a huge bill could. No insurance plan is meant to be the payer of bills. Instead it is meant to protect your income from “big bills,” particularly when they are not planned for or expected.

This new type of medical insurance, which basically provides for long-term illnesses or large medical expenses and is designed to protect you from possible financial ruin, is known variously as “major medical” insurance, “catastrophe” insurance, “package protection” or, in Western’s case, Blanket Medical Expense. Western’s name for this advanced form of medical insurance means simply that there are no pre-determined benefit limits as are contained in most plans. It also means that you may choose your own doctor and hospital and that you are fully protected, limited only to the extent of $10,000.00 for any one illness or accident. As members of Western’s Blanket Medical Expense Plan, in any instance of illness or accident to you or any member of your family, exceeding the basic cost of $25.00 to you, the Plan comes to your rescue by assuming the bulk (80 per cent) of the remaining medical charges up to ten thousand dollars for each incident.

To explain how the Blanket Medical Expense Plan works can best be illustrated by the actual experience of a Western employee. This Westerner, whom we shall call Mr. O......, was working in an area outside of the United States when Mrs. O........., who had remained at their Stateside home, suddenly became seriously ill. Her doctor contacted the Western office, which in turn notified the insurance carrier Mrs. O......... was hospitalized and, shortly, tests and observation determined that an operation was necessary. The operation was performed at once and, almost before Mr. O....... could be notified, his wife was convalescing in the hospital. In the husband’s absence, Western’s insurance department made all the necessary arrangements. Unfortunately, before Mrs. O......... was discharged by her doctor, she suffered recurrent pains and it was found necessary to perform a second operation. Again, the Western insurance staff took care of all the required details.

The bills covering Mrs. O.........’s two operations, hospitalization and all attendant expenses over a three-month period totaled $1567.16. Of this, our Westerner paid the initial amount of $25.00 and 20 per cent of the balance, or a total of $308.43 plus $25.00, and the insurance carrier paid the remaining $1233.73. To compare the benefits under Western’s former medical plan, which is the plan still most commonly used by companies throughout the country, only about $475.00 would have been paid by the old plan, while Mr. and Mrs. O......... would have had to pay the balance of $1092.16 instead of only $333.43.

Another Western family experienced the shock of discovering that one of its members was the victim of a disease requiring complicated, expensive treatment. Immediate treatment resulted in first bills totaling over $1000.00, which have been paid to the employee. This claim is not yet closed, but, as is its practice, the insurance company has evaluated the ailment and its necessary treatment and has established that additional care to the extent of a possible one to two thousand dollars more
will be needed to affect the patient’s complete recovery. Such an amount has been placed in reserve for this patient. Should a later re-evaluation indicate further treatment, more funds to cover such care will be added to the reserve.

The coverage provided by the Blanket Medical Expense Plan covers many more types of treatment and medication than is possible or practicable under less broad plans. For example, Westerners can count upon reimbursement for treatment and doctor’s visits made in the home. In instances where there is no doctor in town or where a doctor refers a patient to a specialist in another city, the necessary expenses of travel, as one Westerner can attest, are considered as part of a medical claim. In this actual case, a crew man’s wife had to travel several hundred miles for consultation, treatment and hospitalization. This phase of insurance is not a standard feature of major medical plans but was included in Western’s insurance plan to cover any employee working in an isolated area.

Another advantage of the Blanket Medical Expense Plan is its simplicity in making a claim. To present a claim under Western’s Plan, all that is needed is to complete a one-page form with seven brief questions for the individual to answer and three brief questions for the doctor. With these questions completed, the form is ready to be sent to Western’s Los Angeles Office. The originals or photostatic copies of all bills and statements relating to the claimant’s illness or accident are sent with the form. These papers then are forwarded to the insurance carrier. Usually the claims are processed and the checks mailed to the claimants within less than two weeks.

Blanket major medical insurance still is a comparatively new type of insurance. In preparing a medical insurance plan providing such broad coverage, Western was careful to establish clauses which would include the special working conditions and circumstances of Western employees. The result is one of the best plans in existence, as it compares favorably with any of the plans provided by companies anywhere in the United States. In order to provide this plan to all Western employees at the same cost of the former limited medical plan, the Company assumed the increased premium cost. In this manner, each Western employee is offered excellent protection at reasonable cost.

After one year of operation, the Blanket Medical Expense Plan proved itself by saving hundreds of dollars for individual Westerners. It is a security which it is hoped you will not need to use, but if you do, you know that there is a stack of silver dollars 75 feet high available to care for you and each member of your family.

(Ed. Note — As this issue of Western Profile is being printed, Western’s management has completed negotiations, subject to the approval and acceptance by the employees, for the extension of a comparable major medical plan for the employees of other Company units in the Western family.)
PARTY PICKINGS —Continued from page 15.

PARTY F-28 — KINGSTON, JAMAICA

DON VODOPICH, Office Reporter
ALBERT C. PARR, Field Reporter
J A. GUESS and CHARLES E MARTIN, Photographers

Right now it’s children who have precedence in Wendell V Mickey’s life, especially son W V II, who was presented by wife Veda last August 2, in time to cheat “Mick” of his first holiday in Jamaica. Daughter Lynette, 11, continues with her pre-occupation with swimming, horses, dogs, cats and mongooses. Mick started with Western in October 1947 after preparation for a career in mechanical engineering at Texas Technological. With Western, he has worked from Canada to Jamaica, his current assignment.

W V MICKEY

Despite the fact that Party F-28 has been in the tropics for over six months, it cannot be said that each member has become thoroughly Jamaicanized. Attitudes toward the island range from mild enthusiasm on down.

F-28’s headquarters are in Kingston, the largest city on this Caribbean island. We work midst a tropical setting of banana trees, calypso music and a multitude of very British natives. Driving in Jamaica is second to none, especially in downtown Kingston. Each driver contends with bicycles, mule-drawn carts, pedestrians with 50 pounds of mangos or bananas in a basket perched precariously on their heads, as well as other automobiles. As one wag put it, if your auto horn goes dead, you might as well pull over to the side of the road and park it.

Six members of the crew now have foreign-make automobiles. Among the autos are a low-slung Citroen, a French car owned by Shooter Pete Rix, and an equally low-slung MG, owned by Party Chief and sports car enthusiast W V MICKEY Observer Al PARR, Party Manager J A. GUESS and Pete RIX leave their cars with their respective wives while in the field. However, the ladies are somewhat wary of Kingston driving. The most adventurous among them is Bonnie RIX, who darts in and around bicycles, push carts and wide-eyed Jamaicans with the skill and determination of a hotrodder on the Californian freeways.

HERMAN SEMELLISS, chief computer (owner of an Anglo), recently came out on the short end of a battle with a shark on a deep-sea fishing trip. Considering that the shark was reported as being larger than the boat, Herman must be excused.

Round out the office staff, while claiming to be Western’s only office force composed entirely of non-smokers, are RAY NARLOCK and DON VODOPICH, computers.

Jamaicans themselves seem to regard Western’s field operations as something very mysterious, almost esoteric, as indicated by the following comments from the local newspaper (about the drillers) “earth-caked, keen-eyed men, peering at the outpourings of black slime from the bowels of Jamaica.” And about the recorders, “scarce-speaking men with caravan-like grey vehicles.” However, they have a different attitude about drilling. “Drilling is a rough, dirty job. The noise of the drill discourages talking. It is sheer, unadulterated monotony”

Jamaica’s weather is ideal the year around. As proof, very few of Kingston’s modern theaters have anything but the stars and moon overhead. The outside appearance is like that of any American theater, but roofs are considered quite unnecessary.

FIELD, PARTY F-28 — BLACK RIVER, JAMAICA

Seismographing on the Island of Jamaica is very rough from time to time. Every day the mighty band of Westerners battles the rugged banana and coconut tree-covered hills, brush ticks and mosquitoes. One of the most irritating and sometimes dangerous things encountered in the jungle areas are the thorns and stickers of all shapes and sizes. Then the machete proves valuable. The machete is a long, heavy knife with a curved blade used for cutting sugar cane, hacking one’s way through the thickets or disposing of a foe. Many headless corpse mysteries are among the unsolved crimes of Jamaica. Machetes are standard equipment on Western vehicles as well as standard equipment for most of the rural population.

There is very little wild life in Jamaica. In the past six months we have seen only one snake and a few mongooses. According to the natives, the snake was one commonly known as the Yellow snake, which sometimes attains a length of seven-and-one-half feet. The mongoose is a small animal imported from India for the express purpose of killing the snakes.

Party F-28 began arriving in Kingston on February 6, 1956. In Kingston all the equipment was unloaded and made ready for seismic use on the island. Our first assignment carried us to the west end of the Island to the town of Savanna-la-Mar, where we made ourselves at home in a guest house. During our stay at SavLaMar, we spiked
Treasure Beach, which had a swimming pool and beach for our pleasure. Following this prospect, we went to Portland Ridge on the southernmost point on the Island and from there to Black River—a name which aptly describes the locality. At the time of writing, we are still in Black River.

Making up our crew are Party Manager J. A. Guess with wife Jean and son Jimmy; "Copper" Carrington, driller-mechanic; Charles Martin, driller; John Hollander, surveyor; Jim Moore, permitman; Ovie Woolverton, assistant observer; Tom Sergeant, driller; Pete Rix, shooter, with wife Bobbie, and Observer Al Parr with wife Helen, son Ronald and daughter Lynette.

Party Chief C. Q. Williams completed a hitch with Party 64 in Alaska just in time to accept his present assignment in Cuba. "Quin" received his B.S. degree from Mississippi State College and his Masters degree in math from the University of Mississippi. He joined Western in June, 1948, and since has seen service in nine states with a two-and-one-half year hitch in Canada. Quin and wife Billie currently are trying to keep up with children David, Mark and Susan in mastering the Spanish language.

Looking as if he never knew that Jamaica is a resort island for relaxed living, Driller Charles E. Martin, F-28, heads for his quarters after a long hard day.

Newcomers to Western are the Jamaican helpers, including Llewellyn Johnson, Karl Hylton, Cecil Clarke, Winston Higgins, Albert Steward and Desmond Randel, who get a workout on the recording and shooting units. Helping the drillers are Albert Allwood, Osbourne Scott, Roy Davidson and Lloyd Johnson. Assisting the surveyor are Audley Daley and Percival Rowe.

PARTY F-13 — GUANTANAMO, CUBA . . .

THOMAS BOUCHILLON, Reporter
WILLIS SKAGGS, Photographer

"Buenos Dias" from your Cuban neighbors in the land of the cha cha cha. We are Party F 13—Western's first crew in the Caribbean area.

Since our arrival in Cuba in November, 1955, we have traveled most of the length of this long island from our port of entry in the capital city of Havana to our present "home" in Guantanamo. Our initiation to working and living in this tropical island country was two-month assignment near Giogio de Avila, a small city in the central plains farming section.

Original members of the crew are Surveyor Del Letourneau, Shooter Everett Breland, Driller W. C. Nelson, Observer Bill Skaggs with wife Ruby, Observer Thomas (Cueball) Bouchillon (who was joined recently by wife Ruth and children Rebecca, Gary and Cary), Party Chief C. Q. (Quin) Williams with wife Billie and children David, Mark and Susan, and Chief Computer Ira Cram. Ira's wife Bette had returned to the States for a visit from the stork and we are now looking forward to Bette's early return with their new daughter, Melinda. We recently welcomed the following reinforcements to the crew: Assistant Observer Charles Bing and bride Joyce, Business Manager for Cuban Operations Mario Duque from Los Angeles, and Driller Darrell Clapsaddle with wife Joan and baby son Dwain.

Our Cuban shooter, Perico Robaina, is an old timer in seismic work, having worked as a helper on a seismic...
crew in the '30's, with a J. O. by the name of Ross. (Attention Senor W T Ross. Could this have been you?) Other Cuban members of our crew are: Gerardo Bendig, Moises Valle, Pedro Berenguer, Sergio Jimenez and Jose Vasquez, drill helpers; "Ben" Rodriguez, William Alvarez, Pedro Dioco, Juan Lecourtis, recording helpers; George Bendig and William Reid, permitman and survey helpers; and Juan Lopez, office computer; Enrique Mendez, draftsman, and Manuel Cuetara, interpreter.

We have just completed a two-months spike job in the picturesque village of La Maya. In this area of rolling hills and young mountains, we encountered many of the operational problems which may be considered more or less typical of Cuba: rough, rocky hills, narrow trails, valleys full of mudholes and "impassable" creek crossings. After a flash flood made transportation a problem. On several occasions we finally reached home in the wee hours of the morning.

"When it rains, it pours"—the old phrase is literally true here where rain showers of three to four inches are routine and the heavy rains run from six to eight inches.

We are very sorry that we couldn't enclose a snapshot of the goats and chickens going into and being chased out of our temporary office in La Maya, but at the time there was no camera available.

PARTY F-64 — CASILDA, LAS VILLAS, CUBA...

GEORGE NEUBER, Reporter

JAMES REINESTO, Photographer

After some months of work in Cuba, Party F-64 still is in a state of semi-shock. Things are a little different here. This was discovered immediately upon our arrival.

Of course, the fact that no one understood Spanish very well was the main source of difficulty. The different type of government also has caused some confusion, consternation and even complete bewilderment upon several occasions.

The Western crew here consists of Lloyd Logan, party manager; Loy Evon Renick, co-ordinator; James Reines and Willis D Smith, observers; Brunner Goff and Clyde Guidotti, shooters, and myself, computer-clerk. Jim Reines brought his family. His three school-age children — Mike, 13; Sharon, 12, and Jimmy, Jr., 9 — were having holiday from school while the crew was in Manzanillo, as there were no English schools available. However, they studied at home under the iron eye of their mother, Charlyn, and attended Spanish classes one hour daily. The crew is aided and abetted by several Cubans...
who cook, load powder, watch the cable, develop records and paint everything that doesn't breathe.

We were located in Manzanillo from December through March. At the beginning of April, our operational base was moved to Surgidero de Batabano, which was only about 40 miles from Havana (Habana to the Cubans). Everyone liked it a great deal better than Manzanillo because it afforded the chance to see the big city and because good food and shops were available there. Habana has numerous supermarkets where American food can be obtained at a price that can be afforded by all.

Surgidero was much more modern than Manzanillo and the customs of the people were more in conformity with those prevailing in America. Americans were not such a curiosity in Surgidero as it is one of the best spots in Cuba for pleasure fishing and many sportsmen from the U.S. come there, especially in the winter, to pursue the finny devils. The bonefish, which is a renowned battler, is prevalent in the Gulf of Batabano.

On July 23, we once again pulled up stakes and headed for Casilda, a small port in Las Villas Province, located very near Trinidad, a town of approximately 40,000 population. Trinidad is famous for its many churches, most of which have been standing for several hundred years. It has cobblestone streets which are a tourist attraction but which also are an abomination to tourists with cars. Trinidad appears to be the cleanest town in which we have been so far. The hotel is better than any others encountered outside of Habana.

The countryside around Trinidad is mountainous and scenes of great beauty can be viewed by those who trouble to go up into the hills. Not very many American tourists come to the area, but hundreds of Cubans use Trinidad and Casilda as a vacation land. There is a large beach on a small peninsula just a short distance from Casilda and every weekend, hundreds of excursionists come from as far away as Habana on trains. Little water taxis take the people out to the beach, charging 20 cents for a round trip. About ten of these boats operate on the weekends and move about 4000 persons every Sunday.

Operational problems encountered here have been mostly in the obtaining of various items necessary to keep the work progressing. One of the main problems is that no powder is permitted storage space and it is extremely difficult to make sure that there always is an adequate supply on hand. The powder, when it is admitted, is always accompanied by naval or military police. Another problem encountered for the first month or two on the boats was the fact that the local help did not speak English and only two of the American personnel were familiar with Spanish. This was overcome in a few weeks as the two groups exchanged linguistic information. However, it must be harder to speak a language than to understand one as most of the conversations now are conducted with each person speaking his native tongue.

Members of Party F-64 found the donkey to be as much a part of the Manzanillo market place as the people and produce.

Getting ready to move divides the attentions of Party 73’s computers. From left, John McCarthy, Gil Chin, John Sarallo and Carlos McQueen.

PARTY 73 — MIAMI, FLORIDA . .
JIM DEES, Reporter
W F BARNIDGE, Photographer

From a teacher of math to party chief of a water crew is a simple switch for a man such as Jim Dees. Jim joined Western as a computer in April, 1951, and has completed tours of duty in West Texas, New Mexico, Mississippi, Gulf Coast, Venezuela and now the Bahama Islands. A native of Louisiana from the town of Many. Jim is a graduate of Centenary College with a B.S. degree in mathematics. He is a good golfer scoring in the low 80’s. Jim and wife Essie have two daughters, Nena Diane, 11, and Debra Jean, 2.

Greetings from this vast aggregation of motels and hotels known as Miami. Party 73 has been operating since
April in this spot where some people spend a life’s savings for a one-month vacation. It is a place geared for recreation and entertainment. If a person can’t find his brand of recreation in Miami, he is in the wrong world.

Boating, fishing and swimming are the major attractions, but there also are excellent facilities for golfing, tennis and other sports. Some of the many interesting places to be visited and enjoyed by young and old alike are the Seaquarium, the Serpentarium, Monkey Jungle, Parrot Jungle and Orchid Jungle.

Bill Barnidge (L) and Ed Marchand stop for a chuckle or two. Bill was tape technician and picker and Ed was picker for Party 73 while in Miami.

In spite of all these outside attractions work does go on in the office. Counting the records, assembling them into record sections and operating the printing machines are computers Bill Dowling, Ed Wilcox, John McCarthy, Carlos McQueen and Gilbert Chin. They are all new additions to the Western family and, with the exception of Gil, all are eligible bachelors.

The drafting department is composed of Dick Kalinay, who just became the proud father of a baby girl. Ed Marchand, Niles Curthods and Ralph DeVore are engaged in following those crazy wiggles across the records with a pencil. Joining them on this little project when he is not occupied on the playback crew is Bill Barnidge.

To Vic Boyd and Russ Steele falls the task of putting all this information together and coming up with the right picture on the required number of maps. The various duties of the office manager are assigned to Paul Scheueller. Party Chief Jim Dees is on hand as party chiefs always are. Jim Ives is the crew’s able party manager.

Co-ordinating operations in the field and making sure that the boys in the office realize they are not on vacation is that slow-talking, fast-shooting man from Texas, Ford Davis. Assisting him in that beehive of activity, the recording room, are Observer Ken Miller and Assistant observers Ray Jones and Carl Scott. Also helping with the chores are Gene Brannon, Wayland Smith and Ed Scheel.

Bob Nungesser finally heard the clarion call of his draft board and rushed off to do his duty.

Over on the shooting boat, Shooter Vernon (Cowboy) Kennedy keeps things popping with the help of his brother Claude, Harvey Hearn and R. M. Britner.

Any readers who have friends on this crew and think that they would be a fine time (or place) to spend a vacation with them, forget it. Before this article goes into print, the crew will be split up more ways than a doodlebugger’s pay check. The field crew will be in Venezuela, while the office force will be in New Orleans, with the exception of Wilcox, Kalinay, Steele, Boyd and Dees, who will be in Havana on a special assignment.

So we interrupt our packing long enough to say, “So long” from memorable Miami.

EDITOR’S REVIEW of the COVER CONTEST

Western Profile’s Board of Judges has received a number of fine photographs for consideration as Profile covers. Each photograph judged worthy of use as a Profile cover will be held until it is used and the contest award will be made at that time.

At this writing, cover photographs for the Christmas issue are being considered. Your choice of a Christmas cover can win $50.00 — send it in now.

We wish to thank each person who submitted photographs and urge that you continue to submit any photograph which you believe would make a suitable cover for Western Profile.

HALE ALTRUSA PREXY

Miss Margaret Hale, office manager of the Shreveport office, recently was installed as president of the Altrusa Club of Shreveport. She will serve as president of the group for one year.

A classified women’s service club, Altrusa Clubs, which number 390 located in Bermuda, Canada, Great Britain, Guatemala, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the United States with a membership of 13,000 members, draws its membership from among women leaders in business and the professions. Only one representative of a specific business or profession in a club area is invited to join.

Miss Hale joined Western in 1942. Her 14 years with the Company gives her the longest service record among Western women.
WESTERN VISITORS

During the summer months, Western was host to several officials of oil companies in foreign countries. France, Italy and Germany were represented.

Dr. Edoardo Merlini, Director of the Research and Development Department of AGIP, an Italian government-controlled oil company, was an August visitor to the Los Angeles Laboratory. On a tour of the major American manufacturers of seismic tools, Dr. Merlini conducted a survey of available equipment in preparation for projected large scale exploration by AGIP in Africa’s Somaliland.

During his ten days of observation with Western, Dr. Merlini discussed recent developments in seismic technology with Dave Sheffet, Research Director at the Los Angeles Laboratory, and others of Western’s executive staff. He made extensive visits to Western field crews as well as the Laboratory facilities. After leaving Los Angeles, Dr. Merlini spent two days with Fred Dr. Giulio of the Mid-Continent Division visiting one of Western’s Gulf Coast offshore crews.

Louis H. Nardone, geophysicist with Société Cherifienne des Petroles, French Morocco, spent some time at Western consulting with Carl Savit, head of the mathematical research department, and other members of the technical departments while observing field operational techniques and equipment. He planned to remain in the United States for a month.

Another August visitor, Dr. Lothar Bisewski, Chief Geophysicist with a German company — C. Deilmann Bergbau, Osnabruck, Germany, came to Los Angeles to meet with Western’s executive department, to inspect the Laboratory facility and Western’s seismic equipment and to discuss mathematical approaches to geophysical problems with Mark Holzman of the Laboratory staff and Carl Savit.

PRODUCTION RECORD

Congratulations!

Joyce and Troy Keithley, a daughter, Ellen Kay, 6 lbs. 3 oz., May 24, Party 54 • Mr. and Mrs. Maston Thompson, a daughter, Kay Frances, 7 lbs. 12 oz., July 6, Party 75 • Ilia Marie and M. J. Larson, a daughter, Kathleen Marie, 5 lbs. 7 oz., December 29, 1955, Party 34 • Donna and J. P. Holder, a daughter, Paula Jane, 8 lbs., June 18, Party 4-4 • Bette and Ira H. Gram, Jr., a daughter, Melinda Cathryn, 7 lbs. 11 oz., June 23, Party F-13 • Petricola Dea and De Massis Sergio, a son, Pietro, 11 lbs. 4 oz., June 20, Party F 12 • Virginia and Ben V. Evans, a daughter, Cathy Louise, 7 lbs. 4 oz., July 9, Party 78 • Laurie and Randolph Cummings, a daughter, Debbie Kay, 5 lbs. 13 oz., August 1, Party 7 • Mr. and Mrs. Paul Jones, a son, Paul Randolf, 8 lbs. 12 oz., Party 78 • Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Jarens, a son, Tony Bernard, 8 lbs. 6 oz., May 31, Party 65 • Elise and Rudolph Herrmann, a daughter, Dennis-Lynn, 7 lbs. 13 oz., July 7, Party 70 • Mavis and Ralph Overstreet, a daughter, Sharry Lynn, 8 lbs., July 16, Party 52 • Betty and Jay Vialpando, a son, Dennis, 7 lbs., August 10, Party 67 • Inga and Ernst Kreibom, a daughter, Margaret Anne, 7 lbs. 8 oz., July 11, Party R-2 • Mr. and Mrs. Roy Morris, a son, Roy Allen, 7 lbs. 8 oz., May 21, Party 58 • Maria and David Scharf, a son, Anthony 7 lbs. 4 oz., March 8, Party F 79 • Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Harper, a daughter, Jowell Ann, 9 lbs. 3 oz., April 1, Party 74 • Mr. and Mrs. Ben Beauchamp, a daughter, Louise Ann, 7 lbs. 8 oz., August 7, Party 58 • Niesie and Art Kakooske, a son Ralph Hermann, 7 lbs. 10 oz., December 11, 1955, Party F-60 • Paola and Benno Malardirza, a son, Massimiliano Giovanni, 6 lbs. 10 oz., June 22, Party F 79 • Joyce and A. D. Dyche, a daughter, Debra Lee, 7 lbs. 8 oz., July 16, Party 36 • Carrie and Tom Courtney, a daughter, Catherine Florence, 6 lbs. 4 oz., Party F-60 • Ruth and Danny McDaniel, a daughter, Danni Ruth, 7 lbs., October 13,

1955, Party 36 • Ethel and Jack Trotter, a son, Douglas Frederick, 5 lbs. 12 oz., July 17, Party F-60 • Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy J Anderson, a daughter, Keri Denise, 7 lbs. 13 oz., June 14, Party 77 • Sandy and Carl Savit, a daughter, Judith Robin, 6 lbs. 10 oz., July 22, L. A. Office • Veda and Wendell V. Mickey, a son, W. V. II, 6 lbs. 7½ oz., August 2, Party F-28.

WESTERN WEDDINGS

Best wishes to

(Right) With mother’s help, Christina Timo makes an early start on the telephone. She is the daughter of Claretta and Ruggero F. Timo, Party F-79.

(Above) A barbecue at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Whitt, Party F-53. From left, Dolores Krug, son Karl III, Karl Krug (Calgary Office), with Mike, Sylesia, Steve and Ray Whitt.

(Below) All in a row, Karen (top), five; Rita, four, and Janice, one-and-a-half years, daughters of Lee and Jim Robinson, Los Angeles Office.

(Above) From left, Roydean, Wayne and Danny, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Armstrong, Party F-61, at Danny’s second birthday party.
THEY SERVE

Service Anniversaries  June, July, August

23 YEARS
McGrady, H. Dupree
Salvatori, Henry

22 YEARS
*Crosby, Russell T

20 YEARS
Strange, Booth B.

19 YEARS
Holton, Joseph A.

15 YEARS
*Stigale, Carl B.
*Skaggs, Willis M.

14 YEARS
*Hale, Margaret

12 YEARS
*Barthelmes, Joe
Buckingham, Walter T
Chester, S. J
*Hilburn, James C.
Powell, R. J.
Quinn, Adrian L.

11 YEARS
Aronow, Norman
Hird, Arthur E., Jr
Rix, Melvin J. Jan.
Sickles, J. W.
*Young, William H., Jr

10 YEARS
Brooks, Wm. T.
Davis, Amon W.
Hancock, J. W.
*Leary, H. L.
*Patton, Wylie J.
*Smith, Jennings G.
Whitt, Rayburn H.

9 YEARS
*de Jong, Aart
*Henry, Howard L.
*Hershkowitz, E. A.
Rogers, Richard
Wells, Melvin J.
Zaldizar, William V.

8 YEARS
Browder, Walter C.
Calleclaire, William C., Jr.
Dingman, M. Howard
Johnson, James H.
Kirst, William J., Jr.
Ross, Joseph C.
Rosser, Billy A.
Rosson, Hubert E.
Savitt, Carl H.
Stephan, P. C.
Williams, Cecil Q.

*Interrupted Service

7 YEARS
David, Vernon B.
Grantham, Henry L.
Hopp, Reinhard W.
*McCutchen, Edgar O.
Nichols, C. W.
Scott, William T., Jr
Taylor, N. Dalton

6 YEARS
Bender, Edward
Holtzums, Charles E.
Newman, Albert H.
Richard, Carl R.
Scott, Robert D.

5 YEARS
Brustad, John T
Chadwick, Earl D.
Dunlop, John
De Vaan, Walter H.
*Ervin, J. W.
Hammonds, J. P.
Harris, John
*Howell, Franklin D.
Howell, Woodie B.
Hughes, Leslie C.
Kawabe, Eugene
Kawecyk, Wasyl
*Kirk, Alva M.
Klinkert, Eugene J.
Koshure, James A.
Lewis, Maurice
*Miller, G. O.
Nakoneczny, Andrij
Quintana, Bennie
Robinson, James E.
Schultz, John G.
Treadway, W. Loy

4 YEARS
Boyd, V. C.
Daugherty, Alfred V
Denniston, J. P
Fournier, M.
*Goff, Brunner E.
Gribbin, J. H.
Harper, Lenoy
Henley, William H.
Houston, Robert C.
Keithley, T. L.
King, B. F.
Knutsen, John C.
*Langston, J. S.
Moor, L. L.
Morgan, D. D.
Rutsecal, Renato
Selnick, Charles
Walling, V. A.
Watson, Jerry A.

3 YEARS
Aud, Billy W.
Brunet, Richard D.
Caldwell, Duane A.
Carter, Robert A., Jr
Coker, Roger M.
*Covey, William O.
Crom, George C.
Drennon, Paul
*Feld, Gilbert A.
*Gaulke, Edgar T
Gilliland, Richard D.
Ives, James B.
Jones, George W
Little, George E
*Johnston, David
*Meeke, Don
Meeks, John F.
McClure, Roy J.
Neal, Robert
Niet, James V
O'Leary, Timothy D.
O'Neill, James L.
Rankin, David
Riddle, Herschel L.
*Sawell, Maurice O.
Semelis, Herman
*Steadham, Moody
*Templer, Eual L.
*Wallace, Schuyler
Woodrow, Rose

2 YEARS
Armstrong, Chester A.
Birmingham, Robert R.
Brannon, W. G.
Brenner, LeVarne M.
Budd, William R.
Cook, Raymond
Grane, F. J.
Darnell, Vercie A.
Exlpen, Brian C.
Gossecker, Sammy
Goodgame, James O.
Green, James J.
Hammons, Lowell
Harris, Harold R.
*Helms, Kenneth E.
Kleebaum, Lawrence L.
Kostuk, John
Lane, Lowery E.
Miller, James A.
McClure, Donald M.
M'Neil, Louis G.
Nicholson, Murdock A.
Powell, Bobby L.
Reed, Delbert F.
Sanchez, Abelino
Schmidt, Edward J.
Scott, Carl W.
Southwick, Hillman
Steele, E. R.
Tom Dieck, Detmar F.
Weekley, Daniel L.
Wells, William J.

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IDA KEHL MCCREERY, Editor
1. Be sure you're registered.
2. Know the issues
3. Look at the records of the parties and candidates
4. Get active in politics
5. Talk up the need to register and vote
6. Start at the bottom with local issues and candidates
7. Decide for yourself
8. Mark up a sample ballot in advance.
9. Allow time to vote. Make a date with yourself and keep it.

VOTER'S CHECK LIST