

THE BREEZE

IN BRIGHT SUNLIGHT and with the majestic panorama of snow-capped mountains as a background, the second graduating class of student pilots to complete their training at this school was bid good luck and Godspeed last Friday in a graduation ceremony on the tarmac.

The departing trainees were flanked on each side and to the rear by students of other courses drawn up in hollow square as they heard the congratulations of General Manager Stewart McKercher on the successful termination of their studies at No.24 EFTS. S/L M. Gain, chief flying instructor, commanded the parade and, together with the general manager, personally commended each graduate as the roll was called by F/L Bryans, adjutant, and the airmen advanced to the front.

Cited as honor student for the class was LAC V.E. Hanson, who topped his fellows in his final standing in ground school and flying here. Laidlaw was also his class' Breeze correspondent.

Perfect weather favored the occasion, in contrast to that suffered by the first graduating group at this station, when rain forced the holding of ceremonies in the canteen. Aircraft were arranged in a single line facing the tarmac for the ceremonies and two were brought up on each side of the parade after the hollow square had been formed to complete the impressive scene.

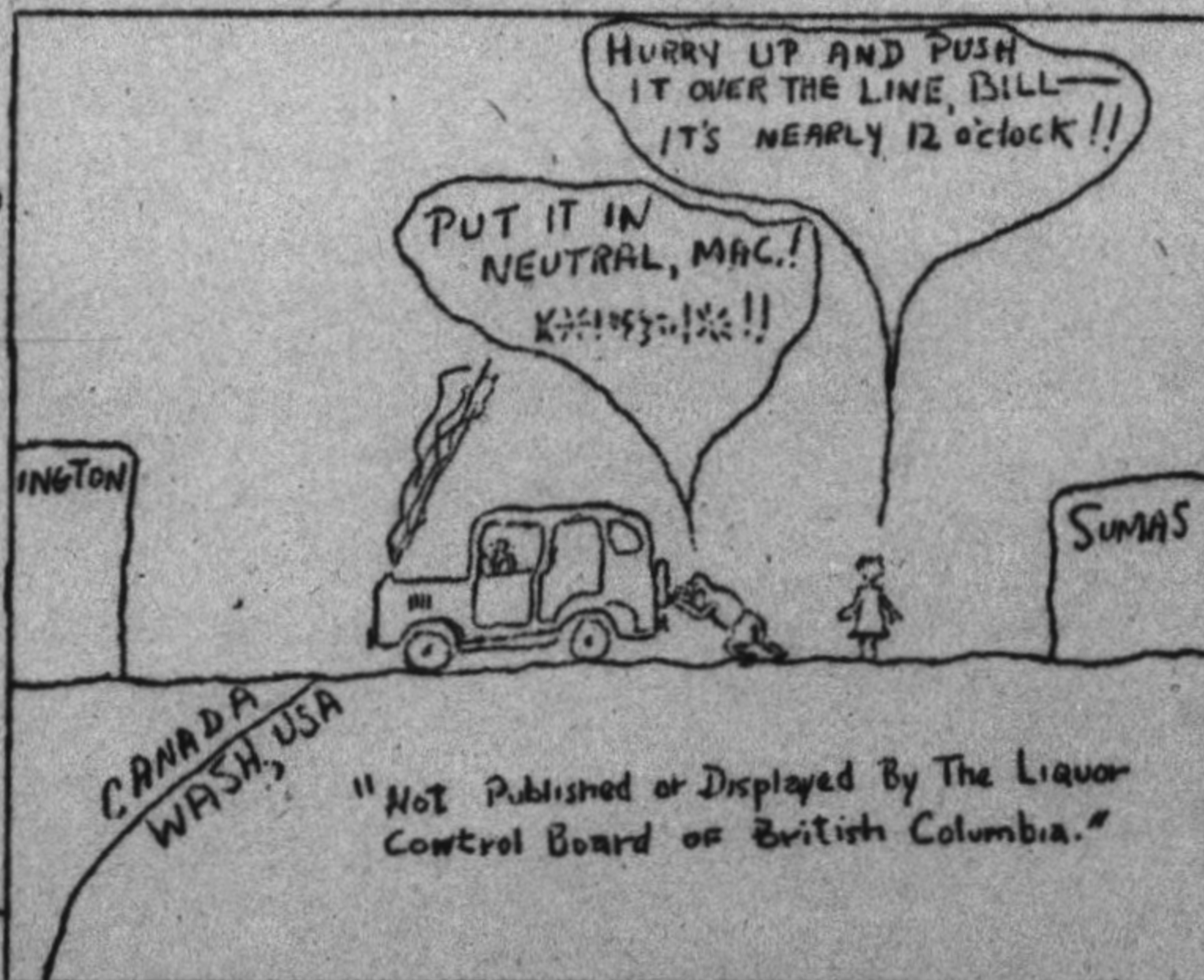
Visitors invited by the graduating students and dignitaries of nearby communities, together with members of the civilian staff, made up the group of spectators who witnessed the affair from a point of vantage behind the station's leaders. RCAF flags on standards to each side of the center of activities marked the reviewing stand where the CFI took the salute as the squadrons marched past at the conclusion of the parade.

"YOU CAN BE PROUD of this station," Mr. J.L. Apedaile, financial advisor to civilian-operated RCAF flying schools, told the weekly meeting of the school council Monday in the administration building. "So far as I can see, you can have here the finest elementary flying training school in Canada."

Speaking at the second meeting of the new group, made up of RCAF and civilian department heads here, the financial advisor voiced his regret at the loss of the late Leslie J. Martin, formerly general manager. He recalled however, the good will and esprit de corps of the Prince Albert, Sask., EFTS when it was under the direction of Stewart McKercher.

Meetings of the EFTS council will be held every Monday morning with all station leaders present. Discussion will center on current problems and their elimination, according to the introductory last week.

ORGANIZATION MEETINGS for both the officers'



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moss and the sergeants' mess are to be held within the next few days, according to F/L Bryans, adjutant, and WOI Art Bell. The adjutant declared the gathering of officers is due "shortly" but the date has not yet been set. WOI Bell has called the sergeants' meeting for Monday evening at 1800 hours in the south room of the airmen's canteen.

Setting the time for the session at the behest of numerous senior NCO's who feel that such is necessary at this time to iron out certain difficulties which have confronted them for some weeks, WOI Bell acceded to the request of WOI George Latimer, senior NCO on the station, that Bell become chairman of the mess.

An Election to fill the posts of president, secretary, treasurer and executive committee members will constitute the chief business at the Monday session. F/S Gordon Gauley, station sergeant major who has just returned from a four-week refresher course in PT and drill at Trenton, Ont., will present to the members all information he has been able to gather on the facilities to be provided for the sergeants' mess.

FROM OVER THE BORDER for the next station dance, to be held in the mess building next Tuesday night at 8, will come those score or so comely American lassies who were prevented from attending the Hallowe'en dance because of the paralysis epidemic. F/O Ralph MacDonald has promised on behalf of the station entertainment committee.

The rafters will ring with the joy of the affair, for the Abbotsford and station girls will also be present to cut to a minimum that ever-present stag line which has been the fly in the ointment at past gatherings. The station orchestra will play for the dances, and all hands of the entertainment group have vowed to make it a gala affair.

Thanks for arranging the attendance of the Lynden girls go to the chief of the border patrol, Captain Moore, who also made the previous arrangements which met such an unhappy end. Because their anticipation has been whetted by the waiting, however, local lads are really expecting 20 dreams to walk through the dancehall door Tuesday night.

Inadvertently omitted from last week's issue was the list of those workers who made the Hallowe'en party such a success. Decorations of orange and black were the work of Evelyn Gould, Betty Martin, Laura Smith, Dorothy Mowatt, F/O Don McIntyre, F/S Frank Lould, LAC Bob Tipple, and LAC Brand, all under the capable direction of Mary Smith.

Refreshments were due to the extra work of Miss Agnes Green, Bill Shortland and Jack the pastry cook. Their buffet supper brought them much commendation from the dancing crowd.

Planned at a meeting of the entertainment committee this week was the big Christmas dance, for which it is hoped the new recreation hall will be available. December 20 is the date set for the celebration, so all personnel will be able to enjoy it before going on holiday leave. Favors and all the trimmings are scheduled to make the dance the greatest success yet achieved by the committee, to which, incidentally, another member will soon be named to represent the station's junior course.

Possibilities that wrestling shows will be staged in the recreation hall are far from remote, according to the chairman, since a Vancouver athletic club has offered to bring the shows here to entertain the personnel.

WINNERS AGAIN in the Abbotsford league basket ball game played Tuesday night in town against a Navy five from Aldergrove were the stalwarts who represent No.24 EFTS, according to F/O Tex McGill, sports officer. Score at the end of a fast but sometimes rough tilt was 56 to 18, in our favor.

Ken Becott lifted quite a few through the net during the four periods, as did other players of the local aggregation - Herb Lotimer, Roger Dinelli, Keith Young, Bob Hamilton, Joe Mosdell, LAC Deane, Al Puttonen and Ralph Burton. Another game with a navy outfit was scheduled for last night in Aldergrove and the station team will battle the Pro-Rec group in Abbotsford Tuesday night.

Sole supporters of the school representatives at the fray Tuesday were Cpl. Ray Cornock and LAC Johnny Trofanuk, who did their best to out-cheer a group of teen-aged girls who thought the navy boys were the finest in the land. Again we offer the suggestion that attendance at the Tuesday game would make an interesting evening, as well as give moral support to our champions.

The station sports program is currently marking time until the completion of the recreation hall, but courts and equipment for handball, basketball and badminton have been arranged for that time.

LIBRARY FACILITIES for station personnel have been arranged by YMCA Supervisor Harvey Orr with the cooperation of the Fraser Valley Union Library, which has its head office in Abbotsford and serves the entire valley with branches and travelling book collections, according to an announcement by the genial Y man.

The books, which are on loan to Harvey personally, will be available in his office off the south room of the canteen from 7:30 to 9 p.m. every night in the week, except movie nights. (These, incidentally, are now Tuesday and Friday, because of schedules which make it impossible to obtain films for Sunday showings such as the highly successful one this week.)

Books will be mostly fiction and may be taken out for 14 days, although renewals may be made if the volumes are returned ahead of time. A board meeting of the

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library association on Wednesday granted the extension of its facilities to this Station, placing the YMCA supervisor in charge.

Sports equipment, including balls, nets, baskets and boxing gloves, is now on the way and expected to arrive any day. This is in addition to the gear being obtained by the station, the supervisor says, adding that a public address system is coming too, for use at our dances and other public functions.

CREATION OF NEW FLYING AWARD AND A NEW COLUMN FOR THE PAPER
"MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES"

The Order of the Prominent Finger, a highly derogatory award to be made available to all those pupil pilots who win citations for extraordinary ineptitude as evidenced by their displays of ability on and around the aerodrome while on active service, was announced today.

The distinguished dishonor has not yet taken full form, since no suitable medal has been designed or produced for presentation to those who are cited and mentioned in despatches (from the control tower), but it is believed the full import of the move will become evident in coming weeks. Control Officer Jiggs Harrison, aided by flight commanders will administer the organization which will grant awards to the lucky few.

Pilots can qualify for the OPF for all aerodrome boners, particularly those which upset the efficiency of flying control. Diddling along the runway and thereby forcing other aircraft to go around again, turning off the wrong way, taxiing with flaps down and similar acts of courage will be well rewarded, it is believed.

At present it is undecided whether bars may be added to the decoration, though instructors have pointed out that possible overloading of the aircraft may occur because of the number of bars certain students may accumulate during their stay here. Creation of a first class to the OPF is under consideration, it will be awarded those who say their prayers or count their beads (or whatever it is they do) after getting out onto the runway to take off. Provided they are still living, those who turn off the runway to the right will be cited for the same high honor.

Seriously, the belief here is that such a system of awards will go far to reduce the minor errors which are made carelessly and thoughtlessly on the aerodrome. It will serve to increase the efficiency of pilots and flying control alike and will be a powerful force in bringing about full compliance with traffic rules.

Who will be first to be cited for the OPF??

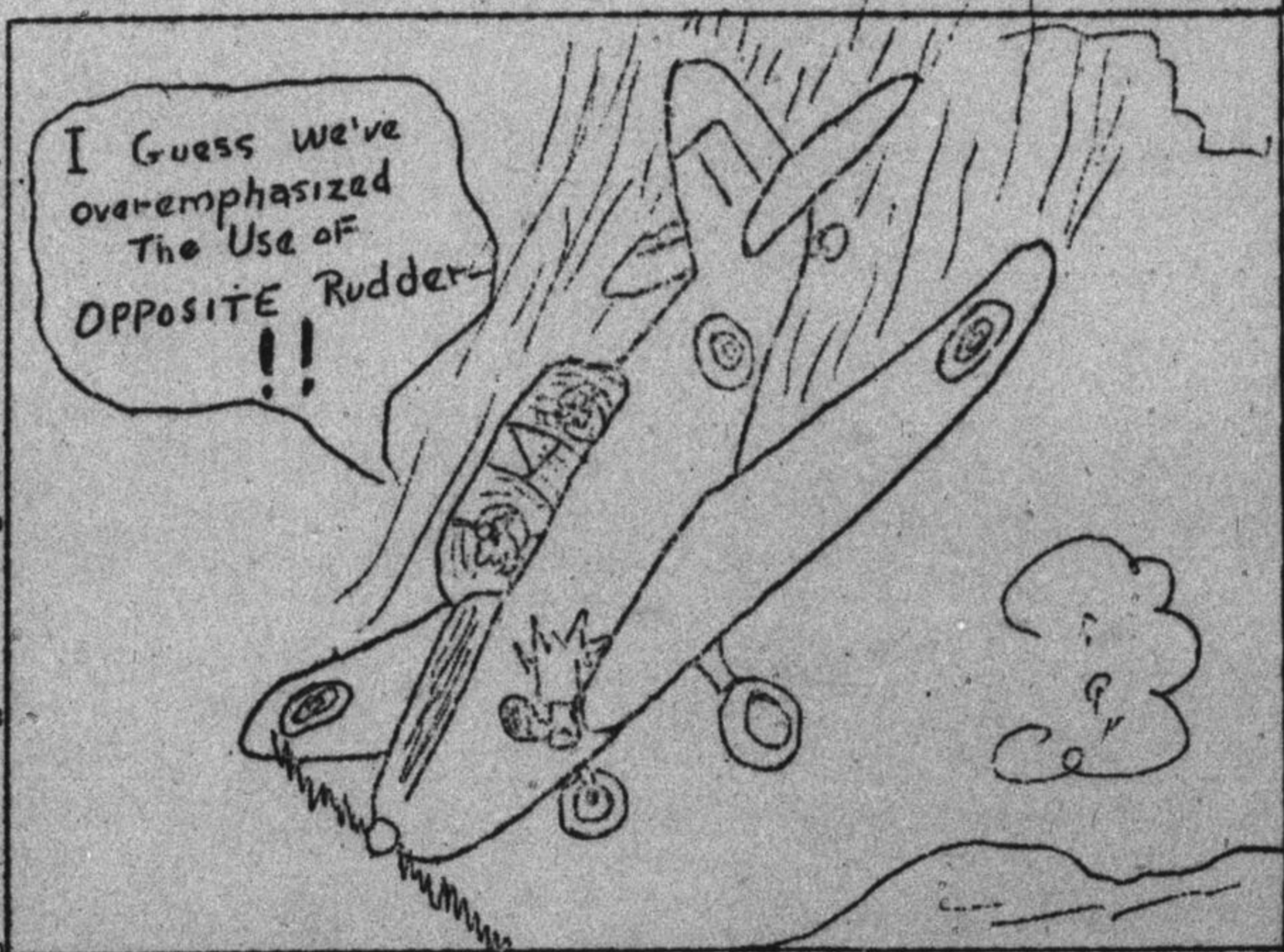
A MODEL-BUILDING CLUB for any guy or gal here who has the model aircraft bug is in the process of formation with P/O Bob Waltham as the guiding genius. First meeting of the new group will be held in the south room of the canteen at 7 Monday night and all enthusiasts are invited.

Already the club has received the backing of the company and the RCAF in its move to make materials, a workshop and tools available for all those who enjoy this hobby. Quarters for the club are being furnished in the second floor of ground school and workbenches will be ready for use just as soon as activity gets under way.

Everybody and anybody have been offered the hand of welcome into the club, whose policy will be strict informality. Students and staff have evidenced interest already and a heartening turnout is expected at Monday's session. At the start, scale models of the Cornell will be turned out for use in the flights and in ground school for instructional purposes, but personal models can

also be built with materials secured through the club and with cutting and shaping equipment to be obtained for use by all members.

Let's go, model builders...



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BITS... Sgt. Pilot Bill Ellis, whose home is in Port Colbourne, Ont., is advance guard for nine new instructors due to arrive here this weekend from Arnprior... F/L Forster and P/O Statham new flying control officers here to replace F/L Bruce and P/O Jones... Gladys Cave is new employee in canteen, working alongside Gertrude Rosencrans, Laura Smith, Bernice Glendenning, Beverly Martin and Margaret Smith... Instructors' meetings in Sumas carrying on successfully... Chief Engineer Joe Bertalino conducted meeting this week for all apprentices to discuss increased line efficiency... Welders working on hangar doors, soon to be hoisted into place... Pretty hostesses on TCA and CPA planes which landed here the object of all attention... Time-keepers' pencils disappearing to such an extent they now tie them on strings... Red flags on tarmac have short life, what with gas trucks and aircraft moving around... Control Officer Jiggs Harrison looks as though he has mumps, with that tooth trouble... Tower wants Mrs. Jackson to deliver those registered letters personally, but the long climb to the lookout's perch fazes her somehow... Rocky road to Dublin has nothing on us, what with all the stones and gravel being used to improve local cartpaths... Improvements around include more paint, hot air pipes in hangar and boardwalks to tarmac and outside sergeants' mess... F/L H.E. Woodruff and F/S Roy "Butch" Baird, admin men, here from command headquarters in Calgary to help out with organization of orderly room... F/O Jim Shaw and P/O Ed Brock at Arnprior on testing officers' course...

NEW TELEPHONE SYSTEM for the station was cut into service on Wednesday afternoon, after weeks of intensive work by a construction and maintenance crew of air force personnel. Boasting an ultra-modern switchboard and a large number of phone installations, the service will replace the temporary lines used since the first days of work here.

F/S Bill Salter, who will be leaving when the work is finished next week, Sgt. Jock Ness, Dick Morgan, Tom Birkhardt, Saunders, F/S Juncau and Cpl. Law, the latter two cable-splicers, made the installations on the local job.

HUMOR this week in the flying end of the business included several laughable events:

For five minutes the other day, one of our new flying control men was trying to get the welding machine on the radio from the tower, thinking it was an aircraft lost in that pea-soup fog. Bill Wadman, that control man who used to have such a mop of curly black hair, finally put him wise...

Some students get so hep to the fields over in the forced landing practice area that they don't even have to look for them any more. F/O Ralph Burton cut the throttle of one trainee the other day and asked him for a forced landing demonstration. Immediately the boy was inside his cockpit doing a thorough check, as required. Ralph inquired, "Where's your field?" Still not looking out, the lad replied, "It's that light green one over to the right, with a line of poplars on the other side!"

Somebody even wants to buy F/O Lloyd Godfrey's ancient jalopy! Dating back to sometime about the year of Noah, the Wolf Wagon, as it has been christened (without a bottle of champagne across the prow), is in the process of being bought by P/O Keith Young and P/O John Chapman. In their dual check with Godfrey in the ponderous vehicle, the thing vented its spite on its unappreciative owner and caught fire; never have four men left a car so fast - Barry Palmer was the other man. Lloyd blew out the fire, with one breath.

LAC Bob Mitchell, acting as MT driver these days, had to drive that big station bus all the way back from Matsqui the other day in low gear, because of a faulty clutch. Only way he could start the thing was to put it in gear and use the starter to get it rolling.

P/O Bert Price was teaching a student how to use the trim. Changing from a climb to a glide, he told the UT pilot that use of the stabilizer would take pressure off the stick. "Oh, that's all right," quoth the lad, working against the pressure, "I need the practice!"

Evidently serious in their intentions of organizing the WOLF PACK here, three senior wolves held a meeting Wednesday and emerged from the session with the resolve that the aim of the group would be the promotion of bigger and better wolfing. They're restricting membership...

ADD NOTES... S/L Lawrie, command personnel officer, F/L Kerley, training, and F/L Wittup, link trainer branch, arrived here yesterday morning for a routine visit of the station and a discussion with officers here on local matters connected with training.

Wednesday was the first day since this station first opened as an EFTS that flying training could not be carried out. That established some kind of record for weather.

FIRSTHAND ACCOUNT OF THE BOMBING of Rome, Naples, Tunis, Bizerte and other important enemy centers in the North African campaign was given instructors and students here yesterday by Captain Ken L. Tudor, USAAF pilot whose home is just over

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the line in Sumas, Washington.

Captain Tudor held his listeners' fullest attention as he told of his experiences with the B-26, Martin Mairauder, for a full year of operations over enemy territory. Special gatherings were arranged by S/L Morley Gain, CFI, for staff and students to hear the American pilot.

A discussion of the relative merits of British, German, Italian and American planes and pilots proved especially interesting, as did the explanation of evasion and bombing tactics used in the blasting of targets.

Praise for the work of gunners and bombardiers filled Capt. Tudor's talk; he mentioned specifically the work of his tail gunner in manually loading and firing his twin .50 caliber guns after they had been damaged by an attacking Me 109.

Speaking of evasive action, the captain said, "If you don't know just what you're going to do in advance, Jerry certainly won't, so there is no set plan of action." He declared, "We were always more scared when we got back home than we were over the target."

Close formation is the best defense, he told instructors, adding that formation flying is done from the time of takeoff to the return to the base after the mission is completed. Of Italian pilots he said, "They do wonderful aerobatics, but it takes a German pilot to fly an Italian ship."

Captain Tudor received his training in Cornells as well as other types used in the RCAF, at training fields in Texas. He is currently on leave which is due to end shortly. F/L Bill Bonn, CC of No.2 Squadron, reintroduced him to the Cornell in a flip here yesterday afternoon.

ADD BITS... P/O Don Boutwell is currently passing out the cigars on the birth Monday morning in Vancouver of an 8 lb. 5 oz. daughter, Heather Anne. Mrs. Boutwell is the former Irene Stevens of Edmonton. Everybody's doing nicely, including daddy... A certain orderly room clerk must have had a whopper of a 48 last week-end as he is currently warming the bed situated at the north end of room 3 in station hospital - a familiar phrase is "Come on, George !"

-----THAT'S ALL FOR THIS TIME, CHUMS - KEEP AN EYE PEELED FOR ISSUE NEXT FRIDAY-----

