

## Something out of the Baux.

The whole of the Gove Peninsula area under development by Nabalco has a network of radio communications linked with the local telephone system so that key men can constantly contact one another.

The system also permits the work vessel "Royal Mark" to link up with shore control while assisting with the berthing of the huge bauxite carrying vessels.

While loading operations are under way site manager Mr. Allan Coogan can keep in touch by radio telephone with control personnel even while he is driving his car from one point to another.

Mr. Coogan operates this way. He is everywhere the action is and at the same time has the happy knack of attending to matters of lesser importance.

He was at the airport to watch the unloading of power station equipment from a Hercules aircraft because such tonnage had never before been flown into Gove.

Mr. Coogan meets all members of news media who visit Gove and some of these have been the top men from newspapers, television, radio, film companies, as well as authors, from all over the world.

## • THE SPORTING SCENE

# Souths tie up Red Cravats

The first organised sporting event on the new Town Oval, a Rugby League match between the Red Cravats and Nhulunbuy South, thrilled the 250 specators who saw a tough battle.

The newly-formed Souths — Gove's answer to the "Rabbit-toes"—beat Cravats, renowned for their fierce reputation, 14 points to 6.

It was one of the best matches seen at Gove and players who could still walk gathered round for cold beer and a barbecue.

### Diamonds dimmed

The strong Nhulunbuy squad took out its second premierships by defeating Diamonds in the grand final of the women's basketball premierships.

At half time Nhulunbuy led by a wide margin and the situation looked hopeless for Diamonds who fought back determinedly. Just when they were bridging the gap in the scores Nhulunbuy applied the pressure again and forged ahead to win convincingly 43 to 25.

### Thunder in the West

Yet another thriller was the men's grand final. Hot favourites, Thunderbolts captured the 1972 Wet Season Premierships with a convincing win over the Govetrotters, 54-35.

Thunderbolts completely overwhelmed the opposition in the second half and controlled most of the play. Spectators saw plenty of fast action and excitement.

Typical of the high standard of basketball now played in Gove was our first representative side who flew to Darwin over Easter to compete in the N.T. basketball carnival.

The team was: R. van Oostrum, R. Chapman, B. D'Ambrosio, P. Luke, W. Scott, R. Martin (captain), R. Houghton, V. Costello, R. Jenkin (vice captain), and I. Hatfield. Coach, Leon Noone.

After arriving in Darwin with barely time to unpack and get settled, Gove played two matches, winning one.

Next day they had to play three matches in five hours, and the same evening, in a semi-final against Tennant Creek, they were closely defeated by five points.

### Sailing opens

A stiff breeze and sparkling blue skies made conditions perfect for the opening of the sailing season for Gove Boating Club on Melville Bay.

H.M.A.S. Attack, a patrol vessel on exercises from Darwin, was flagship for the occasion. With all flags flying she made a picturesque backdrop to the flotilla of 50 small craft participating in the regatta.

About 300 spectators watched from Pioneer Beach.

## Roving at Gove

Gove's Inaugural Ball, held in the School Assembly Block, was one of the events of the year.

The Brisbane Troubadour Quartet was flown in especially to provide the music.

Many guests brought along their own table decorations to add to the carnival effect of the already well-decorated hall.

Weeks of preparation went into making it a night to remember for all the people of Gove.

Arriving ahead of schedule on Sunday, April 23, Anthony Henry Willebrand (9 lb 1 oz) became the first delivery at Gove District Hospital.

His mother was scheduled to fly to Darwin the following morning for her confinement!

Anthony is the second child of John and Shirley Willebrand who came originally from Sydney and have been at Gove almost two years.

John is a cargo supervisor with the Nabalco Shipping Department.

Mother, son, Dr. Gavranic and hospital staff have now recovered and are doing well.

When Renata and Peter Boehi and their children left Gove to return to Switzerland in March, there were so many friends to say farewell to them that colleagues in the Civil Engineering Section hired the Transfield bus to take them all to the Gove Airport!

The Boehis first came to Gove in early construction days, and during their two years here, they lent their great energy and vitality to many activities.

As Section Head of the Civil Engineering Section, Peter's duties included supervision of the earthworks and vast structural steel and concrete erections of the processing plant.

Peter was an inspiration to those who worked with him and amazed them at times with his command of so many languages.

Peter's artistic and fashionable wife, Renata, also contributed her energy to the Gove community. Mother of Daniel and Peter Jr., she found time to play her part in much of the social life in Gove, helping to organise festive occasions for the Swiss community.

Peter and Renata also taught gymnastics to the Youth Club of Gove.

After a holiday in Asia and Southern Europe, the Boehi family are now at home in Zurich, where Peter has returned to work with Aluisse.

Start-up of any chemical plant, especially one the size of the Gove alumina plant in such a remote area, is the culmination of years of research, evaluation, design, construction and a tremendous effort.



Walter Koepfel

# COUNT DOWN FOR START-UP OF ALUMINA PLANT

By WALTER KOEPEL (Operations Manager)

By the time this issue of PROJECTOR reaches you we shall know how careful our planning has been and how successful we were in commissioning our alumina plant.

We have every reason to believe that it will be a very successful start-up, but there will be teething troubles which are part and parcel of any big plant commissioning.

The four major ingredients for a successful start-up are:

- A carefully thought out process.
- A well designed plant.
- Adequate raw materials.
- Trained and dedicated people.

We know we have all four of these prerequisites.

### Not in vain

Without people to operate the plant, all our efforts would have been in vain. The number of people required to operate the plant was established with the technical manning schedules in 1967.

But the strength is not always in numbers.

We took some brainy young chemical engineers, some smart technicians and a bunch of experienced supervisors and exposed them all to an alumina plant atmosphere in Europe for a period of three months to two years.

As a result we had a team that formed the backbone of our start-up force.

In 22 years of industrial experience I have never come across a group of people who have been more dedicated to their job and more determined to take a plant off to a flying start.

But backbone alone is not enough, meat and muscles are just as important.

The men to operate and maintain all the individual pieces of equipment are also an indispensable part of the whole operation.



The alumina plant, almost ready to commissioning.

Successful start-up could not be possible without a design and construction crew who were of such tremendous help in getting us away from the start-up post.

To all of you people: "I dips me lid."

One of the most significant cargos yet discharged at the general cargo wharf was the seed hydrate required for the

plant start-up which came from the Kikumoto works in Japan.

The first 7,000 tons came aboard the "Oriental Crown" and later 8,000 tons was discharged from the "Oriental Hawk".

Unloading of these two ships was effected by two-ton clamshell grabs and it was transported to a sump in the hydrate filtration area to be slurried

with fresh water and pumped to the precipitation area.

This once-only consignment of alumina hydrate crystals is used in the initial pregnant solution.

The major portion of the alumina hydrate is continuously recycled to the precipitation area to be used as seed hydrate.

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A tense scene during the Souths v. Red Cravats league match.

## THE FIRST WEDDING...



Peter and Diana Meier

When her wedding dress, due from Sydney, did not arrive on time Nhulunbuy's first bride, Diana Catterns, made a last minute purchase from the town's only boutique — a white linen hot pants suit — for her marriage to Peter Meier.

The civil ceremony at which Mr. Geoff Loveday, J.P., and N.T.A. Gove Project liaison officer officiated, lasted only a few minutes.



## The bride wore hot pants

It was held at the home of Nabalco senior quality control engineer Mr. Kevin Grant of Wallaby Beach.

Best man was Charles Dickinson and Kevin Grant gave the bride away in her father's absence.

Guests included Mrs. Grant, Mr. & Mrs. Barry Clarke and Mr. & Mrs. Lindsay Rohde.

The bride and groom were previously from Sydney and Peter has been in Gove for 15 months running his own earth-moving business.

There had been previous marriages in Gove at Yirrkala Mission chapel but this was the first in Nhulunbuy.

### Dawn and Geoff

Around the same time a couple well-known in Gove, Dawn Lowe and Geoff Dixon, were married in Sydney at the Wayside Chapel by the Rev. Ted Noffs.

They are now living in Canberra where Geoff has a top position in the News and Information Bureau.

Dawn now works in the Department of Interior.  
 • Dawn is pictured at left signing the register with Geoff.

## ...and first apprentice

At the age of 16 John Tichbourne has become an apprentice electrician, the first trainee tradesman employed at Gove by Nabalco.

He is attached to the alumina plant.

John is one of five children of Grace and Jim Tichbourne, who has been employed by Nabalco as a unit operator in the Steam Power Station since last November.

The family lives in a new air-conditioned house in Chesterfield Circuit, Nhulunbuy.

### From Innisfail

John's sister, Dawn, works at the new hospital, his other sister, Queenie, and brother, Richard, are at Nhulunbuy Area School.

The Tichbourne family came to Gove from Innisfail where John obtained his Junior Certificate.

During holidays John assisted his uncle in his electrical business at Silkwood, Queensland. It was there that he learned enough about the electrical game to choose it as a trade.

In his spare time John plays soccer or goes fishing.

• The picture below shows Site Manager Allan Coogan congratulating John Tichbourne on commencing his apprenticeship.



## ALUMINA START-UP

• Continued from p. 1

Another vessel of special interest which berthed at Dundas Jetty was the Korean-crewed "Nadine" of 26,434 dead weight tons, the largest ship so far to berth at the General Cargo Wharf.

She carried 23,000 tons of limestone from Susaki, Japan.

After plant start-up, the limestone will be reclaimed for processing through the lime burning and slaking plant and thence as milk of lime, into the caustification area.

During digestion, a proportion of the caustic soda is degraded to sodium carbonate and to maintain an average causticity level, in the main process stream, side stream caustification, by the addition of the lime solution, is used to reconvert sodium carbonate to caustic soda.

It is estimated that about 80,000 tons of limestone will be required in three or four shipments a year.

## TOP AWARD TO NABALCO

Nabalco has won one of Australia's most coveted awards for materials handling the H. A. Ritchie Memorial Trophy.

The silver trophy was presented to the company at a ceremony organised by The Institute of Materials Handling.

The award was made in recognition of the complete engineering of the bauxite handling project at Gove.

It was presented to Nabalco's Chairman, Mr. David Griffin, by Sir Alan Westerman, Chairman of Directors of the Australian Industry Development Corporation.

In making the award the Institute said the Nabalco project, carried out in a remote geographical location, exemplified every aspect of materials handling from design through to final installation and test running.

Completing the project within 18 months of inception was said to have called for extreme co-operation and planning by the many people and companies involved.

The presentation was made at a dinner in Sydney attended by more than 300 people prominent in materials handling, transport, shipping, rural industries and mining.



Mr. David Griffin, Nabalco chairman, receives the award from Sir Alan Westerman.

## School's in...and it's a new one!



The science lab. at the new Nhulunbuy Area School.

The first school year at the new Nhulunbuy Area School began in February when 400 students, 120 of them new, were enrolled.

When the school was officially handed over to the Department of Education and Science, students and staff moved over from the Nhulunbuy South Temporary School.

In the new school which stands in 14 acres of ground, there are 21 classrooms and student capacity is 650.

### "Un-graded system

Headmaster, Mr. Sam Cozens, has a staff of 23 who teach the South Australian system. The school takes pupils from first grade (five years of age) through to third year of secondary school.

Students are classed in an "un-graded" system according to age and grouped in ability levels within the age groups, so that students may be doing different work although in the same class.

The school's facilities include: Two science laboratories, large library and resources centre, specialist art room, girls' craft section, boys' craft block.

The school oval is adjacent to the school grounds, which provide tennis and basketball courts.