

## An Impressive Sight

Dale Nielsen, Jr.

*Lab employee Nielsen remembers watching atmospheric tests from Mount Charleston with his father, a Nevada Test Site manager in the 1950s.*

**m**y father joined the Lab in 1952. He first worked on test diagnostics, and then became involved in the operational aspects of the test program. For many years, he was the Lab's resident manager at the Nevada Test Site (NTS). He was working so much that our family moved to Las Vegas and lived there between 1956 and 1960.

Once my father took us up Mount Charleston to a place where we could overlook the test site to watch a night-time atmospheric test. I was about 10 years old at the time. It was pitch black until the test, and after that, it was just like daylight for a few seconds and then it gradually dimmed to black. As children, we were trying to manage some goggles that my father provided, which didn't fit well. My youngest brother got tangled up in his goggles and saw very little.

The test made a great impression on me. I thought the work that my father was doing was important, and so I prepared myself to do it, too.

**"I remember, when I was about 10 years old, reading Newline whenever my family members brought it home from work. I always loved reading the "Giveaway" and the "Pet" sections. Now here I am: working on the Newline staff!"**

*Julie Korhummel*

## Blood Work Leads to Star Gazing

Priscilla Gede

*Gede became hitched to more than a job soon after her arrival at the Lab.*

I had recently graduated from Tufts University and was hired in 1953 by Lawry Dobson at UC Berkeley's Donner Lab to be part of the first medical department at Livermore. There was only one hitch—there was no location for a medical department, so I went to work at Donner Lab. Later on (late 1953 or early 1954), we set up the first medical department in one of the old barracks of the former

Naval Air Station at Livermore. It consisted of three offices. Mine had a desk and a portable table for equipment.

It was here that a cute chemist named Vic Gede came in to get some blood work done. Vic was with the first group who came out to Livermore from the UC Berkeley Radiation Lab. He announced that he was leaving shortly for the Marshall Islands. After I drew his blood, Vic hung around, and we seemed to be immediately attracted to each other. After he left, I did his blood work, which showed that his blood count was 50% of normal. Instead of

leaving for Enewetak, he landed in the local Livermore hospital getting blood transfusions.

"I kept him from leaving," I thought. "He'll never speak to me again." However, shortly after that, he got to participate in Operation Castle (1954) at the Enewetak Proving Ground. When he returned, he came to my lab to give me an orchid lei and asked me to go to Lick Observatory on Mount Hamilton to view the planets through their telescopes. We were married in Berkeley in November 1954.

## All in a Day's Work

Gordon Longerbeam

*In the 1980s, Longerbeam found himself in an interesting dilemma when his daughter joined an anti-nuclear protest outside the Lab's gates. Most of those early demonstrations had "rules" that both sides tended to stick to, and little or no violence or serious exchanges between demonstrators and employees or security forces occurred.*

during the protest days of the early 1980s, my daughter was a student at UC Santa Cruz. On one occasion she showed up with a group of friends to protest at the Laboratory. I probably wasn't the only Lab employee with family or friends demonstrating outside the gate.

At the time, I was a Division Leader in Engineering and was sitting in on a number of meetings where the Lab's response to the demonstrations was being planned. For one of the demonstrations, she had been to a few planning meetings, and she'd call me and tell me what they were planning.

As a matter of fact, the demonstrators would frequently give the Lab advanced notice of exactly how many people were going to show up and how many had agreed to be arrested. The Lab would tell them "Okay, we'll do that, and we'll take them to Santa Rita." There was a lot of exchange going back and forth.

The day of the demonstration, my daughter showed up with eight or ten of her friends at 4:00 o'clock in the morning. They came into the house, had breakfast and coffee, and then went off to demonstrate. A little later I left the house to go to work.

And there was my daughter on the picket line. So I stopped my car, jumped out, ran over, and gave her a big hug. Then I went off to my job. Fortunately, my daughter was not among those who had decided to block Lab entrances and be symbolically arrested.



Demonstrations are a regular occurrence at the Lab, and were particularly numerous and large during the 1980s.



Family days have always been an opportunity for Lab employees' families to tour the latest technologies at the Lab. Here a family tours the Nova laser bay.

## A Great Idea

Chet Fankhauser

We had the first Family Day in 1957, when we had Building 111, now 121, opened up. I always consider that one of my major contributions—instituting Family Day at the Laboratory.

People by that time, particularly the families, knew very well what was going on. But they were never given a chance to see where Daddy worked or what was going on. Your wife would bring you up to the gate, and there you bade farewell.

Six or seven hundred people came to the first Family Day. It was a huge turnout for the Laboratory at that time. That was a good-sized crowd, and it was a smashing success. We ran it just one day. We then went ahead and began scheduling them every 2 years.