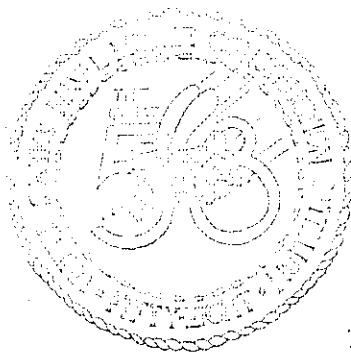


FIFTY EIGHT



FAMILY GRAM

29 June 1966 I
Davisville, Rhode Island

Greetings:

As promised in our last Family-Gram, I'm going to describe the technical training programs being conducted for us here at Davisville. The schools are many and varied, covering all of the construction trade skills needed by modern Seabees. The schedule is rugged, with both day and night schools scheduled. Day school runs from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., and night school from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. Examinations are frequent. A total of about 250 students are enrolled at one time, receiving 50 instructors, most of whom are provided by the Battalions while in home port.

As an indication of the variety of the training, this is a partial list of the courses offered: Light Building, Heavy Building, Concrete Placing, Wood Framing, Steel Erection, Steel Fabrication, Gas Welding, Arc Welding, Inert Gas Welding, Sheetmetal Work, Track Laying, Tractor-scraper Operation, Crane Operation, Gravelwork, Pile Driving, Asphalt Paving, Rock Crushing, Ditcher Operation, Trench Operation, Well Drilling, Automotive Mechanics, Diesel Mechanics, Automatic Transmissions, Multi-fuel Engines, Interior Wiring, Shop Electronics, Power Distribution, Communications, Basic Electricity, Electrical Mathematics, Split Phase Motors, Hot Line Construction, Generators, Boilers, Refrigeration, Plumbing, Water Distribution, Sanitation, Drafting and Surveying. With all of these schools available, you can easily see how busy we are as we make use of the opportunities afforded us.

Along with individual classroom training, several training projects have been assigned to our Battalion. The major training project has been the remodeling of warehouse S-16 mentioned in a previous Family-Gram. This project is nearly completed. Other projects include a boundary survey of the Sun Valley Military Training Area by our Engineering NCOs, improvements to the exterior of our Battalion Headquarters Building at Davisville by our Builders, and building a swimming beach at a VMOA Summer Camp nearby. This last project, which included dredging and spreading sand, was just completed after 3 weeks of hard work by our Equipment Operators. It was certainly a most rewarding undertaking.

The Battalion conducted a personnel inspection on Saturday morning the 18th of June. Our men looked excellent in their service dress white summer uniforms. To give everyone a rest from their main activities, we had a Battalion Picnic in the afternoon, with plenty of food, refreshments and activities to keep everyone happy. The weather was perfect, about 500 of us attended and from all indications, a good time was had by all.

The long days of summer are great for outdoor athletics, and the Battalion has formed a Great Fifty-Eight Softball League for inter-company competition. Each of the five companies has a team and all show a lot of enthusiasm. Other team sports sponsored by the Battalion include bowling, golf and volley-ball. With these opportunities for relaxation, everyone has a chance to combine hard work and pleasure, making our Home Port stay most enjoyable.

Sincerely,

W. W. DeGroot III
CDR, OEC, USN