

## INTERESTING PEOPLE

## Charles VanDercook: 'Old Timer' at Indy 500 Race



Charles R. VanDercook, of T&E's Structural Dynamics Branch, has just been elected a member of the Indianapolis "Old Timers Club." To win this honor, a man must have worked at the track during the famed Memorial Day 500 Mile Race for at least twenty years.

For the past 21 years, Mr. VanDercook has been an official on the track's Technical Committee, a post in which he monitors the pit mechanics during the race. He is proud of the fact that he has not missed a single race since 1935.

He says, I became interested in racing in the early '30's when Bill France, now owner of the Daytona Speedway, came into the machine shop where I was working to have some work done on an engine for a dirt track racing car. In 1935 I went to my first Indianapolis race with a friend who had been a riding mechanic in an earlier race."

During the race on May 30, Mr. VanDercook will be on duty when his assigned car is driven into the pit for checks and fuel.

Three pit stops are required during the race. Mr. VanDercook will time these stops to the second and keep a record of added fuel or water, tire changes, repairs and whether a driver change is made. He will be responsible for meeting pit safety precautions which include limiting the number of men in the pit to five and allowing no oil to be added to the car once it is on the track.

If his car finishes among the top ten, he will stay with it until it is checked by the certification committee. In past races two of his cars, driven by Shorty Templeman and Dennis Hume, placed fourth.

"I have seen a lot of action from the pit area," he says. "To name a few happenings: a car's axle once split as the driver brought it into the pit, and the following year this same driver died of heat exhaustion during the race; and once a mechanic working on the car I was assigned to in the pit area had his leg broken by a spinning car although the car being worked on was not touched."

On the job at Goddard, Mr. VanDercook is an Engineering Technician who assists in testing spacecraft and components in the Launch Phase Simulator. He came here in 1960 from the Naval Weapons Plant where he was an Ordnance Inspector, and on April 23 of this year he completed 35 years of Government Service.

## Three Goddard Men Run in Boston Marathon



WILLIAM H. MISH (from left) Dr. Kenneth H. Schatten, and Kenneth W. Behannon prepare for the marathon.

On April 21 William H. Mish, Dr. Kenneth H. Schatten and Kenneth W. Behannon of the Extraterrestrial Physics Branch were among 1152 long distance runners competing in the 73rd Annual Boston Marathon from Hopkinton, Massachusetts, to the Prudential Center in downtown Boston. They all completed the 26 miles 385 yard course within the four hour time limit, with Behannon finishing in 3 hours 42 minutes, Mish coming in in 3 hours 50 minutes, and Schatten finishing in 3 hours 55 minutes.

All three began jogging for exercise less than 2 years ago and now regularly participate in highly competitive long distances races of various lengths. This was the second marathon for both Behannon and Schatten and the first for Mish. It was the first try for all of them in the Boston classic.

The three runners are colleagues of Dr. Norman F. Ness in the Extraterrestrial Physics Branch. Mr. Mish, a mathematician, is senior data analyst for the branch. Dr. Schatten is on a Post Doctoral Fellowship and is working on problems concerning the sun's magnetic field and its extension into interplanetary space. Mr. Behannon has been analyzing and interpreting magnetic field data from the vicinity of the moon and in the earth's magnetic tail. He is also a Three-Quarter Program PhD student at Catholic University.

## Monsters and Bombers Basketball Champs

The Goddard Basketball League ended its 1968-69 season in exciting fashion when the Green Monsters under Captain Tom Canning defeated the Spoilers under Captain Larry Sapper in the final game of the season by a score of 78 to 74. Division championships were won by the Green Monsters in the East and the Bombers in the West under Captain Jerry Jester.

The teams in the East Division in order of their final standings are: Green Monsters (15/1), Spoilers (14/2), Astros (13/3), Thundering Herd (9/7), C&S Tarantulas (6/10), and the Mighty Mites (2/14). In the West Division they are: the Bombers (10/6), Upsetters (9/7), Scorpions (7/9), Eagles (7/9), Ringers (3/13), and the Weirdos (1/15).

BASKETBALL CHAMPS. From left are Tom Channing, Captain of the Green Monsters; Mike James, All Star MVP; Denny Carluzzo, All Star MVP and high season average scorer at 35 points per game; and Joe Guida, Co-Captain of the Bombers.

