

A Holiday Wish



Christmas Around The World

The months of December and January are marked by celebrations and festivities throughout many parts of the world. Many countries who celebrate the Christmas season have traditions in common but each country has a few that are unique.

Among the Laboratory's employees are representatives of many nations, willing to share the Christmas traditions of their countries with the BNL community. Many admit that some of the traditions have been lost or modernized in the large cities but in the countryside they are often preserved.

Trinidad

Preparations for the Christmas season begin early in Trinidad. According to Charles Seaton, Plant Engineering, a native of that tropical island, houses are cleaned and painted and furniture is varnished. Three months before Christmas, casks of homemade rum known as mountain dew, are buried in the rich moist soil under fig trees. The large fig leaves provide ample shade to ripen the rum in time for Christmas.

On Christmas Eve, Trinidadians go on a parang. From seven in the evening through Christmas Day, they go from house to house singing and playing musical instruments. The parangers are invited into each house for food and drink. It is customary for each family to have a table laid out with ham and mustard, home baked bread and fruitcake for anyone who might stop by. The traditional drinks of the season are ginger beer and a juice made from the red sorrel berry.

Because evergreen trees are not indigenous to the island, lights are arranged on trees in the conical design of a Christmas tree. Before the availability of artificial trees, Trinidadians used to make their Christmas trees from hemp wrapped around a wooden trunk. Of course, a few evergreen trees are imported from Canada but they are very expensive.

The day after Christmas, known as Boxing Day, is a holiday the British left behind. On this day the people of Trinidad usually attend the races or other sporting events.

Sweden

In Sweden, the official Christmas season begins on December 13 with St. Lucia Day, says Janet Silas, Director's Office, who grew up in a Swedish neighborhood in New York. Because her parents were Scandinavian her family stuck very close to Swedish traditions.

On December 13, the eldest daughters of many families in a town compete for the title of Lucia. The competition is a combination of beauty and talent contest. The one selected performs and sings at various functions throughout the Christmas season which lasts from December 13 through January 13.

At 6 a.m. Christmas morning, the eldest daughter of a household wakes up and is helped by her brothers and sisters into a white gown and crown of candles, representative of St. Lucia. She then serves coffee and a cake known as *Luciabrod* to her parents. After coffee, the whole family goes to church for a dawn service.

The Swedish celebrate Christmas on Christmas Eve. It is then that they open the presents and sit down to a traditional Swedish smorgasbord.

Netherlands

Sam Goudsmit, Physical Review, claims that it was 50 Christmas ago when he last celebrated a Christmas in his native Netherlands. But his memory of a Dutch Christmas is still intact. December 25 in the Netherlands is purely a religious holiday when people go to church. Gifts are exchanged on December 6, St. Nicholas Day. It is on the eve of the sixth that Dutch children believe St. Nicholas comes riding a white horse aboard a steamship from Spain. A Moorish servant accompanies him to punish all the bad children.

On the night of December 5, the children put wooden shoes around the fireplace and when they wake up in the morning, the shoes are filled with candy and small presents.

(Continued on page 2)

Site Planning Committee Formed

Laboratory projects needing conceptual studies with alternative solutions will now be handled by a Site Planning Committee formed by the Plant Engineering Division.

The committee, under the leadership of Louis Harson, Principal Architect, will coordinate and expedite work that goes beyond the area of small alterations, equipment modifications, and ILR work which will be handled as in the past. Larger projects necessitating conceptual studies with alternative solutions and associated budget development will be the responsibility of this committee, which shall also submit to the

Directorate guideline designs and budgets for further design authorization and funding.

Department and Division Administrators and other personnel involved in the initiation and developmental phases of space requirements should contact and work with the Site Planning Committee to insure success of the venture and the improvement of planning interaction.

In addition to the Chairman, Harson, other members of the committee are: H.G. Bornbusch, J.B. Deitz, S.N. Earle, J.F. Iulo, A. Mahlmann and E.E. Shelton.

No Bulletin Next Week

Due to the Christmas Holiday, the *Brookhaven Bulletin* will not be published next week.

No More Bottles Needed

Thanks to the cooperation of BNL employees, the DAS Polymer Concrete Group now has over four tons of glass, enough to make 150 pieces of pipe measuring 4 feet long and 8 inches in diameter.

Six weeks ago, the group asked for donations of used glass bottles to be crushed and polymerized into pipes. The response was overwhelming. But storage space has grown scarce so they are setting January 3 as the deadline for any more donations.

The group would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to bring in old bottles and deliver them to Building 526.

Two Physics Lecturers Needed

The University of Western Australia, Perth, invites applications for two positions of Lecturer in the Department of Physics. Appointments are for one year with the possibility of extension for an additional year. Details at Office of Scientific Personnel, 40 Brookhaven Avenue.

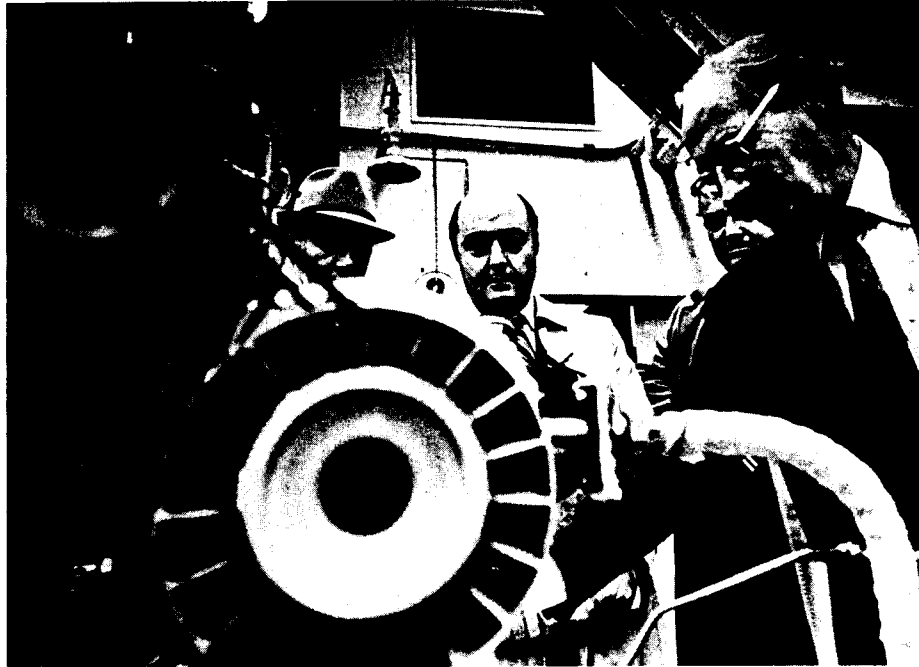
1975 BNL Holidays

New Year's Day	Wednesday	January 1
Washington's Birthday	Monday	February 17
Memorial Day	Monday	May 26
Floating Holiday	Thursday	July 3
Independence Day	Friday	July 4
Labor Day	Monday	September 1
Veterans' Day	Monday	October 27
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday	November 27
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday	November 28
Christmas Eve	Wednesday	December 24 (½ day)
Christmas Day	Thursday	December 25
Floating Holiday	Friday	December 26

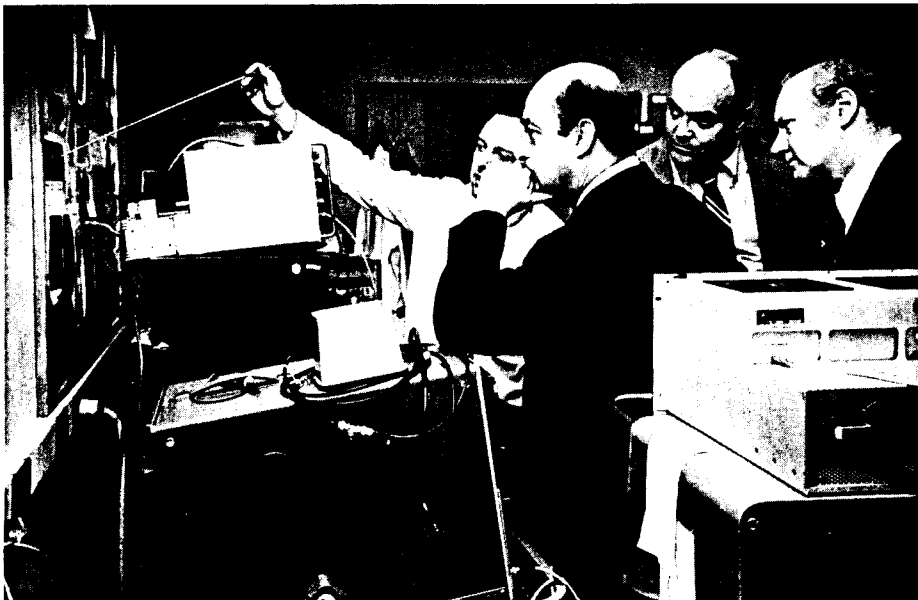
Congressman-Elect Visits Lab



Congressman-Elect Jerome Ambro of the 3rd Congressional district visited the Laboratory last Friday. Sau Lan Wu, one of the principals in the J-particle discovery, gave him a tour of the MIT/BNL trailer where the particle was found.



DAS Chairman Warren Winsche (right) shows Ambro the Wankel engine which is being run on hydrogen.



During a tour of the Medical Research Center, Ambro gets a description of the nuclear medicine program from Dr. Harold Atkins. From left to right are Dr. Atkins, Ambro, Associate Director Vincent O'Leary and Ambro aide Donald Dilworth.



Following the tour, Ambro joins Laboratory Director George Vineyard and those who accompanied him on the tour, for a discussion of BNL research programs. Clockwise from top are: Dr. Vineyard, Kenneth Hoffman, Ambro, Donald Dilworth, Meyer Steinberg, Warren Winsche and Vincent O'Leary.

Christmas

(Continued)

ents while the larger gifts are arranged around the fireplace. The gifts are all anonymous and part of the fun of St. Nicholas Day is guessing whom the presents are from. A practical joke attached to each present gives a clue whom it is from. A traditional gift received by all children is their initials or whole name spelled in chocolate letters. Some rivalry does arise when one person gets more chocolate because his name is longer. The parents get their initials made out of an almond paste filled cake.

There is no traditional Christmas feast in the Netherlands, but Marzipan (almond candy) and *pepernoten* (pefferneuse) are Christmas confections.

Poland

In Poland the celebration of Christmas begins with the appearance of the first star on Christmas Eve, says Chester Dolinski, Physics. Children always wait anxiously for the stars so they can open their presents. Before the presents are opened, the family sits down to a big meal of ham and kielbasi. Prior to eating, the head of the household breaks a type of wafer known as *oplatek* and gives a piece to each family member.

On Christmas Eve, men and women in their early teens to late twenties get together and make a star out of any materials available. Then they carry the star from house to house and sing. The families they visit invite them in for refreshments.

Rather than send Christmas cards, the Poles visit one another. Cards are sent only when it is impossible to go in person. All visiting is done before Christmas Eve, which is spent only with the family. Christmas day is purely a religious day when everyone goes to church. Two traditional Christmas dishes are *Kucia*, a honey and wheat dish, and *Uszka*, a beet soup with ear-shaped dumplings filled with meat and vegetables.

Germany

In Germany, the Christmas season is heralded in one night in early December when city lights are turned off for a few minutes and then relit, says Helga Pirozzi, Photography & Graphic Arts. On this same night the *Chritkindlmarkt* opens. The market, which lasts through Christmas Eve,

is where one can buy such things as ornaments, pottery, and a spiced pumpernickle bread filled with fruits.

It is traditional in Germany to have an Advent wreath either suspended by ribbons from the ceiling or suspended from a table stand. The four red candles are lit consecutively during the four weeks before Christmas.

On Christmas Eve, the tree is lit and presents are exchanged. The German children believe that the Christ Child brings the tree and the presents. To the adults gifts are exchanged in celebration of the birth of the Christ Child. Gifts are placed unwrapped around the tree. It is customary to go to church on Christmas Eve and sometimes even visit the grave of a loved one.

On Christmas Day the family joins in a meal of roast goose. Santa Claus does not enter the picture during a German Christmas; St. Nicholas, as he is known in Germany, appears on December 6 dressed as a monk (usually a family member impersonating the saint). The children recite poems to St. Nicholas and he gives them little sacks filled with nuts, fruits, and cookies.

Ireland

At Christmas time, the houses in Ireland are decorated with holly tree branches, says Patrick Glynn, Staff Services. In each house, candles, some measuring 3 feet high, are placed in every window and on every table and dresser. The candles are lit each night from Christmas Eve through January 6 which is called Little Christmas.

On Christmas Day, presents are opened before going to early morning mass. The traditional Christmas meal in Ireland is roast goose.

The 26th of December, St. Stephen's Day, is also celebrated in Ireland. On this day, children dress up in old clothes and put on masks. They then go from door to door collecting money, while singing and playing accordions or mouth organs. They are invited into the houses where they dance and sing and are served refreshments.

Canada

The Canadian Christmas is not too different from the American Christmas. But Jean Bussiere, Accelerator, who grew up in

the province of Quebec, remembers some traditions that are different. Christmas Day is observed strictly as a religious holiday. Traditionally gifts of oranges were exchanged. This was because they were scarce and expensive but today they are readily available so the custom has changed.

Children receive gifts on New Year's Day rather than on Christmas.

Greece

In Greece, Christmas is not celebrated as much as Easter, says Constantinos Varmazis, DAS. Christmas Day is a religious holiday and a family day. On Christmas Eve, the Greek children go to different houses and sing songs about St. Basil, who is the Greek counterpart of St. Nicholas and Santa Claus. It is St. Basil who brings gifts but on New Year's Day rather than Christmas.

Latin America

Christmas traditions are quite similar throughout the Latin American countries. Customs tend to be more traditional in the countryside than in the big cities, says Cesar Sastre, DAS, a native of Argentina.

In Argentina, Christmas is celebrated on the night of December 24. Children do not receive gifts until January 6 which is Epiphany. This was the day that the three wise men brought gifts to the baby Jesus.

The children believe that the three wise men bring gifts to them on the eve of Epiphany. On that night, they leave their shoes outside the doors of their bedrooms. In the morning the shoes are filled with candy and gifts.

Christmas Day is strictly a religious celebration and is marked by processions and the chanting of Christmas carols. It is customary to have a nativity scene on display in the courtyard of each church.

Italy

In Italy, the building of a *presepio*, a miniature scene of Bethlehem, by each family, is one of the most emphasized Christmas traditions, says Joseph Mazzarella, Staff Services. For a year in advance, children collect newspapers. The paper is dipped into spackle and molded into figurines, mountains, buildings, and grottos. The completed *presepio* occupies almost half of one room in each house.

Two weeks before Christmas, shepherds from surrounding mountains come into the Italian towns. They go from house to house playing bagpipes for small donations of money.

On Christmas Eve, the Italians fast all day until evening when they eat a huge meal of fish. Before dinner, the family gathers together and plays *tombola*, a form of Lotto, while the mother makes *zeppole*, a kind of donut.

Gifts are exchanged on January 6, Epiphany, rather than Christmas Day. According to legend, *La Bafana*, a kind of aged fairy queen, riding a broomstick comes down the chimney on the eve of Epiphany and brings gifts to the children. Children do not give gifts to their parents but write letters in school which they give to them instead.

England

In England it is traditional to burn a yule log through Christmas Eve and Day, says Kenneth Batchelor, Accelerator. In October or November, the whole family gets together to make the Christmas pudding into which are put charms. The English children believe that Father Christmas comes on Christmas Eve.

The day after Christmas is a holiday in England known as Boxing Day. The name dates back to when families in England had many servants and gave them presents in boxes on this day.

Norway

In Norway, Christmas is chimed in by church bells at 6 p.m. on December 24, says Kari Johannesen, Medical. It is believed that little elves called *Julenisse* who live in the mountains, bring gifts to the children on Christmas Eve. When a *Julenisse* (usually the father disguised) rings the doorbell he is usually given a gift by the children also.

A bowl of porridge and rice is put outside for the *Julenisse* or else he will do mischief. On Christmas Eve, the Norwegians buy oats which they put outside their windows for the birds.

A big dinner is served on the 24th which features either codfish or pork ribs. On Christmas Day a very light dinner in comparison is served. A traditional Christmas beverage is *aqua vitae*, a type of anisette

(Continued on page 3)

Christmas (Continued)

drink. In Norway, a "good housewife" always makes seven kinds of Christmas cookies.

Puerto Rico

The Puerto Rican Christmas is similar to those in South America. Christmas is a religious day while Christmas Eve is very celebrated. People go from house to house on Christmas Eve toasting the season, and at midnight they sit down to an elaborate meal of roast pig, says Ruth Gonzalez, Applied Math.

Children receive gifts on Epiphany, January 6. They believe that the three wise men come under the door and bring them gifts. The children leave shoe boxes under their beds filled with hay for the wise men's camels.

Chanukah

While Christians around the world are celebrating the birth of Christ, in December people of Jewish faith are celebrating the Jewish Feast of Dedication, Chanukah, instituted in 165 B.C. by Judas Maccabaeus. Chanukah lasts for eight days and is characterized by the lighting of the menorah. On each of the eight nights, usually the father of a household lights one of the candles. The ninth candle is used to light the others.

The symbolic lighting of the menorah dates back to the rededication of the temple in Jerusalem after the Maccabaeus brothers recaptured the city from the Syrian Greeks in 165 B.C. says Herb Susskind, DAS. There was only enough oil in the temple to burn a lamp for one day but miraculously, the oil burned for eight days. The root of the word Chanukah means rededication.

Sometimes, small gifts are given to the children each night a candle is lit. A traditional game on Chanukah is with the dreidle, a four sided top inscribed with Hebrew letters. Money is placed in an ante and each person has a turn at spinning the top. Depending on which letter the top stops at, a certain amount of the ante is won by the player.

Holiday Food Service

The Vended Food Service in Building 912 will be open at all times, and will be serviced regularly throughout the Christmas and New Year's Holidays.

Selected Reading

- BioScience 234, November 1974**
Human values in science. A. Palm. 657-9
- NewSci. 64, October 10, 1974**
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Soviet change and the West. Z. Medvedev. 113-15
- New Sci. 64, October 24, 1974**
Towards novel plants. J. Burgess. 242-4+
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Nobel prizes 1974. M. Sherwood, R. Lewin and S. Mitton. 254-7
- New Sci. 64, November 7, 1974**
The hungry planet:
The Green Revolution is over. J. Tinker. 388-93
Protein deficiency or starvation? P. Payne. 393-5+
Aid, corruption and waste. M. Muller. 398-400
Turning platitudes into policy R. Allen. 400-2
Fertilizers: The holes in the bag. M. Allaby. 402+
Looking for bread and not the crumbs. R. Allen. 408-9
Sayed Marci: The aristocratic revolutionary. T. Loftas. 409-11
- Phys. Today 27, December 1974**
The past and future of American astronomy. C. Sagan. 23-8+
Origins of the American Astronomical Society. R. Berendzen. 32-9
- Science 186, December 13, 1974**
Copyright: Its adequacy in technological societies. N.L. Henry. 993-1004
EPA cites errors in AEC's reactor risk study. 1008



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Arrivals & Departures

Arrivals

Walter Bernatzky	Medical
Vincent J. Garafola	Plant Engrg.
David C. Judins	App. Science
C.R. Krishna	App. Science
Thomas M. Ricciardello	Medical
Gulzar Singh	App. Science

Departures
NONE

Holiday Operations

- Accounts Payable**
Closed December 26
- Payroll**
Closed December 26
- Office of Scientific Personnel**
Closed December 23-27
- Purchasing**
Closed December 23-27*
- Photography & Graphic Arts Bldg. 197**
Business as usual
- Photography & Graphic Arts Bldg. 109**
Closed December 24-January 1*
- Photography & Graphic Arts Bldg. 118**
Closed December 24-29*

*Services provided on emergency basis only

CREF Unit Values

1974			
January	\$40.75	February	\$40.83
March	39.32	April	37.58
May	35.11	June	34.29
July	31.71	August	29.09
September	25.39	October	30.27
		November	\$29.23

December Retirees



Edmundo Fernandez Horner Kuper



Mariette Kuper Edward D. Michaelis



Katherine Sumrow Mia D. Williamsen

Edmundo Fernandez, Dietary Services Assistant in the Medical Department, who has been employed at BNL since May 31, 1949, will retire on December 31.

Horner Kuper, Assistant to the Director, who has been working at the Laboratory since February 1, 1947, will retire on December 31.

Mariette Kuper, Staff Assistant in the Director's Office, who has been employed at BNL since March 27, 1946, will retire on December 31.

Edward D. Michaelis, Senior Accountant in the Fiscal Division, who began work at BNL on December 1, 1947, will retire on December 31.

Katherine Sumrow, Secretary in the Reactor Division, who has been working at BNL since January 18, 1960, will retire on December 31.

Mia D. Williamsen, Hospital Services Assistant in the Medical Department, who has been employed at the Laboratory since September 24, 1958, will retire on December 31.

BERA Election

The BERA Nominating Committee has selected the following slate of candidates for the 1975 BERA Board election.

Kenneth Batchelor - Physicists, Accelerator. Ken has participated in BERA bowling and softball as well as being one of the organizers of the soccer league. He has acted as Chairman of the soccer activity for the past three years.

Graham Campbell - Computer Scientist, Applied Math. Graham is very active in the BNL Theater Group both behind the scenes and as a performer. He is also a member of the Art Exhibits Committee.

Jack Detweiler - Reactor Operations Engineer, Reactor. Jack's BERA credits include past-president of the Golf League, ex-captain of a basketball team and participation in badminton and softball.

Josephine Gazzola - Office Services Assistant, Fiscal. Jo was elected to the BERA Board in 1973 and served for one year. She has been a bowling team captain and has played softball and volleyball.

A change of election procedures has been voted upon by the BERA Board. Ballots will not be mailed to employees as in previous years. All voting will be done in person at voting stations in designated buildings on site. A complete list of the voting stations will be published in the *Brookhaven Bulletin* prior to election week. The election is scheduled to begin on Monday, January 20th and extend through Friday, January 24th.

Bank Notice
The on-site branch of Bankers Trust of Suffolk will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24.

Extension Course in Combustion Theory

The Department of Mechanics, Stony Brook University, has announced plans to offer a graduate course in Current Problems in Combustion (ESC 696, Special Problems in Mechanics), to be held at the Laboratory next semester.

The course will be taught by Professor Abraham Berlad of Stony Brook. It will include: combustion phenomena; experimental methods and results; theory as experiment; thermal, kinetic, and photokinetic processes in gas phase and two phase combustion problems; current problems in ignition, auto-ignition, extinction, deflagration, detonation, and other combustion phenomena; gravitational effects; and applications to technologically important systems.

Classes will be held every Monday from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., starting January 13, at a BNL location to be announced later.

Students who successfully complete the course will receive 3 credit hours. BNL employees can qualify for tuition refund under Laboratory policy.

All persons interested in enrolling in this course should call Glenn A. Price, Office of Academic Relations, Ext. 3336.

Stage II It's Official!

Building 184 on the inventory of structures at Brookhaven National Laboratory, has been described as the Exhibit Hall ever since it was de-consecrated as the Chapel from World War II days.

Recently, the little-used Exhibit Hall has been used by the Theatre Group after the main theater was converted to a warehouse for use by the Accelerator Department.

Now, after a long and careful selection procedure, a name has been found to direct playgoers to the BERA Theatre Group's dramatic productions. Short, and to the point, the new sign outside the building will read - Stage II.

Those entering Stage II for the first time will see many changes since the building was last used for exhibits. Risers for seating the audience have been installed, and a curtain, stage, and complete lighting system is in operation.

Stage II is ready.

NOVA Programs On Anesthesia and Animal Filming

On Sunday, December 22, at 7:30 p.m. on Channel 13, NOVA will present "Strange Sleep," the story of the men who discovered anesthesia and changed medicine in the 19th century.

"Strange Sleep" spans the years from 1840 to 1904. The program begins in Boston where anesthesia was discovered, then travels to Edinburgh where the fight for anesthesia in childbirth was fought against Victorian morality. Then it moves to New



York and Baltimore where the fight for cleanliness and asepsis was fought while thousands died in the wards from hospitalitis and doctors laughed at the notion that germs existed on their hands and garments. "Strange Sleep" ends back in Boston in a modern and sterile operating room. While their work made modern surgery possible, most of the pioneers of anesthesia died forgotten or ridiculed and hopelessly addicted to the drugs they experimented with.

"The Making of a Natural History Film" is a film about how to make films about nature. It will be presented by NOVA on Sunday, December 29, at 7:30 p.m. on Channel 13.

"The Making of a Natural History Film" was a labor of love by five zoologists turned cameramen, who have produced a most technically accomplished and beautiful animal filming. The film shows the work of the unique Oxford Scientific Films Unit and how it tackles such problems as filming a wood-wasp laying its eggs inside trees, the hatching of a chick, and the courtship rituals of the stickleback. The film is the winner of numerous awards, including the International Emmy and the Prix Italia.

If you miss the Sunday showings of NOVA, "Strange Sleep" can be seen on Tuesday, December 24, at 8:30 p.m. on Channel 21; and "The Making of a Natural History Film" can be seen on Tuesday, December 31, at 8:30 p.m. on Channel 21.

Hospitality News

For the convenience of those who have to meet early school buses, future morning coffees will begin and end a half hour earlier. The next morning coffee will be held on Tuesday, January 7, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., in Apartment 2A.

Mrs. Phyllis Vineyard will show slides taken during her recent tour of China and will share some of her impressions of that country with us.

Bring the children to the Recreation Building Lounge in the Apartment Area. Babysitting will be provided at no cost.

A New Year's Eve party is being planned. If you're interested, call Ruth Dimmler, 751-6342 or Rosemary Jewett, 345-3089.

Moriches Choral Society

The Choral Society of the Moriches will present its 36th annual performance of Handel's "Messiah" on Sunday, December 22, at 3:00 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church of the Moriches, located on the corner of Main Street and Railroad Avenue. Admission is free. All are welcome.

