

news

NHTSA



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Editor M. J. Noll

June 1976

Twenty-Three Participate In Unique English Workshop



Susan Fletcher, Executive Secretariat, receives Certificate of Training from Mrs. Wynn Baxter (right), course instructor. Assisting Mrs. Baxter with the course was Cal Swenholt (left).

Susan Fletcher, Executive Secretariat, was one of the twenty-three employees who attended the workshop on "Magnetic Patterns of the English Language." Following are her impressions of the training.

Twenty-three employees from various offices in NHTSA participated in a thirty-four hour training workshop, "Magnetic Patterns of the English Language." The instructors for this training workshop were Wynn Baxter and Cal Swenholt. The course was sponsored by the Office of Personnel Management.

In this workshop, we learned things such as sentence structure fragments, run-on sentences, clauses and phrases, essential and non-essential sentences.

We also worked with

parts of speech--verbs, adverbs, pronouns and nouns--in connection with sentence structure.

One of the most important parts of this workshop was the discussion of prefixes and suffixes. There are many prefixes in the English language. Prefixes also enable you to spell many words. Most prefixes are Latin and Greek words.

A suffix is anything added to the end of a word to give it grammatical function or to form a new word. For example, the word "part," if you add the prefix "de" to "part" you come up with "depart." You can add several suffixes to make other words like department, departmentally, departmentalization and depart-

(See Magnetic Patterns on page 2)

Engineering Facility Receiving Equipment and Staff

With the initiation of necessary finishing of the building space to be occupied by the Engineering Facility and with completion of the first phase of staffing, NHTSA has continued to develop an important new testing capability at the site of the Transportation Research Center of Ohio. NHTSA personnel will be on site by the end of June to direct the receipt and, ultimately, the installation of testing equipment. Initial testing is expected to begin in September.

The governing board of the Transportation Research Center of Ohio, lessor to NHTSA of the building space that will house the Engineering Test Facility, began finishing the building space to NHTSA specifications in May. Temporary offices have been reserved at the Transportation Research Center to house the initial Engineering Test Facility staff of eleven persons. In FY 1977, it is expected that 15 persons will be added to the initial staff. Maximum staffing of the Engineering Test Facility will be approximately 56 persons.

Development of the Engineering Facility is important in the work of the Office of Defects Investigation. (ODI), "In-house" testing of motor vehicles and items of motor vehicle equipment for possible safety defects, in support of ODI investigations, will permit faster resolution of the potential hazards to

traffic safety represented by such possible safety defects. To the extent that the volume of defect testing permits, a small volume of compliance testing, testing of vehicles and vehicle equipment to the performance requirements of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, will also be performed by the Engineering Test Facility. The facility is responsible to the Associate Administrator of Motor Vehicle Programs for performance in these areas.

In future issues, we will introduce the members of the Engineering Test Facility organization and present pictorially the principal features of this important new NHTSA operation.

Magnetic Patterns (from page 1)

mentalism. As you can see, just taking the word "part" you can add a prefix and several suffixes and make several different words.

A spelling test was given each week. It consisted of words that we use in our everyday speaking and letter writing. Just to keep us on our toes with prefixes and suffixes, those words with several suffixes and prefixes were also on the spelling test.

As Wynn Baxter, the instructor, says, "There are four Patterns to the English Language; Pattern I connects, essential; Pattern II, introduces adjunct to

essential; Pattern III, separates elements within Patterns I & II; and Pattern IV is the conclusion of Patterns I & II.

The fun part of the workshop was the section on double, drop, or nothing. Most of the words that we use everyday are the double, drop, or nothing words. That means that some of the words ending in the silent "e," the "e" is dropped and whatever ending that you want can be added.

The double means that if a word ends in a consonant, then the consonant is doubled and you should add the ending that you want.

The nothing words are the words that you do not have to do anything to. You just add the ending that you want.

At the end of the workshop, we were supposed to be able to understand and communicate through words.

Mrs. Baxter would like to come back and teach a follow-up workshop in the fall. And, she mentioned that she would like to have the same employees attend. The follow-up workshop would consist of letter writing, proof reading and pronunciation.



Mrs. Wynn Baxter, developer of the "Magnetic Patterns" course, assists Prentis Winslow (left) and Cora Gibson, both of OPM, during one of the workshop sessions.

Civil Servants Present at Nation's Creation

Some 200 years ago, when a new nation was founded on this continent, civil servants were there, helping to build the foundation.

The first civil servant, Charles Thomson, was secretary of the First Continental Congress. He even served as president of the Congress "for a time."

He also kept "The Congressional Journal," managed printing, worked on treaties, and signed press releases.

At its peak his office had two clerks, a deputy secretary and a messenger—"all overworked."

Thomson continued as a civil servant until 1789 and carried the first official notification of Washington's election to the Presidency to Mt. Vernon.

The earliest woman Federal employee appears to be Miss Mary K. Goddard who first became postmaster for Baltimore in 1773 under the colonial government of Maryland, then continued in that post under the Revolutionary government.

By 1784, however, the central government had grown further. John Jay, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, had a staff consisting of an under secretary, door keeper, messenger, clerks, and three interpreters.

As one writer commented on the Revolutionary Period, "working for a government that was still in the formative

stage, the civil servants of this period, far from constituting an entrenched bureaucracy, were actually self-sacrificing novices lacking even the benefit of precedent."

Then as the country became organized under its new constitution, of course, its staff of civil servants grew accordingly, with U.S. Marshals playing an historically well-known role. President Thomas Jefferson even delegated census taking to them, a task which they performed until 1880.

That year, 1880, is also a significant one for civil servants because it marks the nadir of the spoils system with the assassination of President James A. Garfield by a disappointed job seeker, an act that aroused public sentiment for civil service reform and led to passage of the Civil Service Act of 1883.

The concept of a civil service based on merit continued to expand as civil servants demonstrated their capabilities in World Wars I and II.

During World War II, the civilian workforce increased to its record level of 4 million. Two subsequent wars brought somewhat smaller peaks.

Federal employees have figured prominently in many national endeavors. After the Louisiana Purchase, the government-funded Lewis and Clark Expedition opened the Northwest. Although not civil servants in the

usual sense, Lewis and Clark were clearly agents of the government.

In World War II, Government scientists made crucial contributions including the development of radar. More recently the space race put the first man on the moon, Neil Armstrong, a civil servant.

The fourth quarter of the 20th Century appears to mark a world in which civil servants still face historically unprecedented challenges to bring the nation fair, effective, and responsible government. But now, of course, they build on a 200-year-old foundation.

Editor's Mailbox

All NHTSA employees are invited to submit their views, questions, observations or suggestions to the Editor's Mailbox, NHTSA News, room 5215, Nassif Building. Topics can cover any facet of NHTSA's day-to-day activities.

Those letters with broadest interest to NHTSA employees will be published, either in full, or in part, as space permits.

Although all letters must be signed, your name will be withheld from publication upon request.

The use of travelling is to regulate imagination by reality, and, instead of thinking how things may be, to see them as they are.

--Dr. Samuel Johnson

She Makes Every Minute Count

Paulette Twine, a docket clerk in the Technical Reference Branch, is an attractive young woman who seems to thrive on a full schedule. Mother of 7-year-old Maurice, night school student at Prince George's (PG) Community College, a full-time job, and--believe it or not--even time for some favorite hobbies too. To name a few, there are sewing, bowling, karate, bicycling, reading, art--painting, sculpturing, and sketching. Recently she has also been doing some fashion modeling for a

photographer and tennis has been added to her night school curriculum.

Paulette has been attending PG, a 2-year junior college, since January 1975, taking a number of courses toward an Associate of Arts (AA) Degree in Business Management. She has already completed her spring semester in Business Math and is now attending the summer session 5 nights a week. She has also taken English, Accounting, Speech Communications, Business Communications, and Automated Data Pro-

cessing (ADP). Next semester she hopes to take Business Organization or Personnel Management. She particularly enjoyed Business Communications where they learned to write and analyze various types of business letters.

Over two years ago Paulette began studying karate in the evening and on weekends. She strongly believes that this training is important to a woman in self-defense. She explains, "You learn to use your attacker's body force against him, and also how to use your hands and feet as weapons. You learn where some of the sensitive parts are located on a person's body. After developing various techniques, one can then use this knowledge in defense. Without this training, most females don't know how to properly defend themselves."

In the more advanced forms of karate, meditation is a part of the program. "Before you strike an object, you think of going beyond that object. For instance, in striking a board stacked up on bricks you try to chop through the board to the floor below." This is one reason for the meditation--the deep, quiet concentration of the performer before he strikes the boards. Paulette has broken boards, a feat that is hard to imagine, in

looking at her slim, but strong young hands. Karate can also help a person to improve his coordination. A case she mentioned was that of a young 10- or 11-year-old girl in her class who had muscular in-coordination and who, through karate, learned to improve somewhat the control of her movements. Paulette said "In the early stages of karate, some styles have different colors of belts before acquiring the brown and black belts." She has a couple of belts in the Goju School of Karate.

In Paulette's Speech Communications class at PG this past year she demonstrated the effectiveness of safety belts and air bags. From her work in the Docket Section (first in the Legal Office for 3 years, and in her present office for 2 years) she had learned quite a bit about cars and safety. In addition, she researched the topic on her own. No wonder she was proud when her teacher and class told her that she gave a very interesting presentation. She said they "seemed surprised and fascinated" with her knowledge of these safety features--surprised, we guess, that a young lady would know so much about them!

Her son Maurice, who will be 8 years old in September, seems to be as active as his mother. She has taught him some karate, which he likes, and he plays football and bowls. This next fall Paulette hopes to get him in the Junior Bowling League.

Sewing, also, is among Paulette's many pastimes. She has made such things as the attractive skirt, jacket and blouse she is pictured in. She likes to sew and says her mother helps her with the problems that arise.

In art she has done a little of everything--water colors, oils, sketches, and ink. In high school she did sculpturing and wanted to continue, but, it is very expensive, she notes, and it was but one of many other interests. Some of her drawings hang over her desk.

Moreover, she also enjoys light reading--stories of romance, some short novels, and magazines--things she can finish. There is not time for heavy reading, she says, and we believe her! A working mother, a college coed, and hobbies on the side--Paulette has filled her time creatively. She seems especially proud to be continuing with her education and hopes eventually to get her degree in Business Management. And we think you will, Paulette. Good Luck!

'Round About NHTSA Baby Talk

Their firstborn! Congratulations to the new parents. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Martus have been blessed with a bouncing baby boy, Joseph. Joseph was born on May 30, weighing 7 lbs. 7 oz. Nancy Martus, who is a secretary in the Office of Defects Investigation, plans to return to her position.

Keeping in Shape

Gals! Do you know that the gym is providing additional hours for women. Until recently, it was open to women only on Thursdays, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., then it provided an extra day, Tuesdays, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. And now it is also open to women on Wednesdays, from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. The gym is located on the penthouse. It has recreational facilities such as track, sauna bath, and physical fitness exercisers.

Welcome Back

Welcome back, Sandy! It's nice to see you back and feeling fine again. Sandy Miller, secretary in AD, has been out on sick leave for some time and came back to work on June 7.

Job Openings

For complete details, see the official vacancy announcements. Vacancy announcements are posted on the NHTSA Bulletin Boards at both the Nassif and Transpoint Buildings. They are also distributed to each Office Director.

Highway Safety Management Specialist, GS-2125-12, TSP. Opens: 5-28, Closes: 6-17. NHTSA 76-84.

Evaluation Clerk, GS-301-5, TSP. Opens: 5-27, Closes: 6-17. NHTSA 76-85.

Management Analyst, GS-343-9, AD. Opens: 5-27, Closes: 6-17. NHTSA 76-86.

Printing Assistant, GS-1654-5, AD. Opens: 6-4, Closes: 6-24. NHTSA 76-87.



Sewing is but one of many interests of Paulette Twine, Technical Reference Branch. Here she poses in one of her chic creations.

OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Are you an inveterate shower singer? Do choruses of "Singing in the Rain" echo through your home every evening? If so, we want you to keep on singing. Follow these safety tips from the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and you'll never need to sing the blues.

Falls

To make your footing more secure, use a suction-cup rubber mat or rough-surfaced adhesive strips. If you're planning on installing a new bathtub, many tubs are now manufactured with slip-resistant surfaces.

There should be at least two grab bars securely mounted on the wall beside a bathtub, at different heights, and one in every shower stall, to help break falls. Similar accessories—towel rings, towel racks, shower curtain rods—should also be mounted securely as a falling person will grab at the first available support to break his fall.

Be sure that all tub and shower accessories are free of sharp edges. They should be constructed of materials that will not break in use.

Burns

Never leave a baby or small child alone in a bathtub—or even the bathroom—for any reason at all. A child can easily be burned if he turns on the hot water faucet or falls into a

tub of hot water.

Always test the bath water before bathing an infant or a small child.

Your bathtub and shower should have a faucet that mixes hot and cold water. Another way to prevent hot water burns is to control the temperature at the hot water heater or install thermostatic or pressure regulating control valves in showers.

Electrocution

Water and electricity have often been a fatal combination. When you use any electrical equipment in the bathroom, you are taking a serious risk.

Many electrical accidents would be prevented if electrical appliances were kept out of the bathroom. Examples of such equipment are radios, phonographs, hair dryers, and sun lamps.

Never touch any electrical fixture or appliance with wet hands or while in the bathtub or standing on a damp floor.

Drowning

Again, never, under any circumstances, leave a small child unattended in the bath. Children can drown in very small amounts of water. Even allowing a small child in the bathroom alone can be dangerous.

Close watch should also be kept over the elderly and the physically and mentally handicapped. It is advisable, in fact, to be aware of any family member's

overly long stay in the bathtub. Always keep a duplicate key to the bathroom available in case of an emergency.

Personnel

Welcome Aboard

Belinda Brewer, Clerk-Typist, MVP, 5-23

Ping Chien Chuang, Oper. Res. Analyst, Reg. VI, 5-23.

Stephen Cohen, Oper. Res. Analyst, RD, 5-23.

Antonio Esteve, Math. Stat., RD, 5-23.

Dennis Flemons, Math. Stat., RD, 5-23.

Sidney Kelly, Math. Stat., RD, 5-23.

Debra Newman, Clerk (DMT), MVP, 5-23.

Susan Reynolds, Clerk-Steno, Reg. III, 5-23.

Julia Skipwith, Clerk-Steno, Automotive Fuel Economy Work Group, 5-23.

Gerald Uhlhorn, Position Classification Spec., AD, 5-23.

Stuart Weisman, Math. Stat., RD, 5-23.

Robert Plessner, Program Analyst, TSP, 6-1.

'Bye and Good Luck

William Sellers, Exec. Corres. Specialist, Exec. Sec., 5-18.

Bonnie Johnson, Clerk-Steno, RD, 5-28.

Helen Wortman, Clerk-Steno, MVP, 5-31.

Congrats on Promotion

Barbara Hansberry, Secretary (Typing), AD, 5-23.

Delores Hodges, Secretary (Typing), RD, 5-23.

William Searcy, HSMS, TSP, 5-23.

Edwin Waterbury, Mech. Engineer, TSP, 5-23.

Time and Interval

The Technical Committee of the Eighth Annual Precise Time and Time Interval (PTTI) Applications and Planning Meeting has put out a call for papers by those interested and working in this field. The presentation of the papers selected will be made at the conference to be held at the Naval Research Laboratory on November 30 through December 2, 1976.

The primary purpose of the meeting is to exchange practical information in the use, generation and dissemination of PTTI. It is also intended to provide education and training to persons who could use time to an accuracy of better than 10 milliseconds or frequency to a precision of better than a part in 10 to the ninth.

The conference is jointly sponsored by the Naval Electronic Systems Command, the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, the Naval Research Laboratory, the Naval Observatory, and the Defense Communications Agency.

Interested authors should submit an abstract of approximately 500 words for consideration by July 16. Submissions should contain the authors' affiliations, addresses, telephone numbers and identification of responsible author (if co-authored). They should be sent in duplicate to Mr. Andrew R. Chi, Chairman of the Technical Committee, Code 810, Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland 20771, Phone: (301) 982-2502.

Monkey Business

A Study in the Wild

The University of Puerto Rico's Caribbean Primate Research Center, supported by the National Institutes of Health Division of Research Resources (DDR), offers Federal scientists an opportunity to study groups of monkeys in the wild.

Nowhere else can researchers find a stable, wild monkey population plus a "ghost" troop of boxed, labeled skeletons.

One of La Parguera's islands houses the breeding colony developed in 1974 under the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's first contract to domestically breed rhesus monkeys. The project is aimed at offsetting an anticipated shortage of primates from Asia and South America. The 1,000 primates should eventually produce 500 young rhesus a year for vaccine testing and other research purposes.

Cayo Santiago, oldest of the primate center island colonies, is less than a mile from Puerto Rico's southeast coast. Started in 1938 when 400 rhesus monkeys from India were tattooed and released on the island, research is devoted to observational investigations of the primates. Handling is restricted to an annual trapping session when yearlings receive identification tattoos and blood samples for genetic and other studies are taken.

Research policy at the La Parguera site, which consists of two other small primate center islands on Puerto Rico's southwest coast, allows experimenting including surgical and drug procedures, particularly when scientists plan to observe subsequent social behavior.

Research by resident and visiting scientists at the Caribbean Center includes the following work:

In an investigation of the effects of a marihuana component on social and sexual behavior of semi-free-ranging rhesus monkeys, Dr. John Vanderbergh, a North Carolina scientist, expects to aid in the development of animal models for testing heroin and other drugs of abuse.

Using the skeleton collection, blood samples drawn during the annual trapping season, and other sociometric and genealogical data, three scientists are confirming the presence of inherited traits among nonhuman primate social groups.



The Office of Crash Avoidance Makes It Six in a Row

In a closely contested golf match, the Office of Crash Avoidance edged out the Office of Standards Enforcement team by one stroke to win the Sixth MVP Associate Administrator's Golf Cup. This is the sixth straight year that OCA has not been defeated, and the motto of the other MVP offices remains, "Wait until next year!"

The Associate Administrator's Cup was established in 1972, when fourteen golfers "got-together" one Friday afternoon at Reston, and has grown until now there are over 40 golfers with established handicaps with the tournament. The Associate Administrator's Cup is presented to the office director whose team of golfers scores the lowest best ball-net and the office maintains possession of the cup until the next match. The original rotating AA Cup was retired on June 14, 1974, after the third straight victory by OCA, as is customary. The current AA Cup is now on display in OCA. In addition to the office maintaining the cup, individual trophies are awarded to team members. The Associate Administrator's office has a wall-mounted plaque, properly engraved with each year's victors. As with golf tournaments, awards for low gross, low net, closest-to-the-pin and longest drive are also made. From the past records, ODI, with the

lowest handicappers, dominate the low gross and longest drive. The precision of OSE can be noted in their dominance in closest-to-the-pin. Over the years, the higher handicappers of OSE and OCA have shared the low net.

This year, the Associate Administrator's Golf Tournament was held at Reston South Golf Course on May 14, on what started out as a cold, damp day. Even though many automobiles had to operate the windshield wipers on the Dulles Airport road, the Tournament Director indicated that there is no such thing as rain on the golf course--only lightning would halt play.

Twenty-eight golfers participated in this year's AA Cup--with a new milestone established--the tournament finally

had a woman golfer. Gay Strong, Secretary, Office of Standards Enforcement, was the latest "strategy" employed by Frank Armstrong, in an effort to win the match. By mid-afternoon, all golfers had retired to the 19th Hole and the winners were announced. Bill Risteen, ODI, captured low gross with an 80. Kevin Cavey, OCA, had a low net of 56, with Clive Van Orden, OSE, 2nd low net of 61. The longest drive was made by Scott York, ODI. Frank Armstrong and Gene Laskin, both OSE and Harry Rowe, ODI, won closest-to-the-pin. Addition, our woman golfer won the Perseverance award.

The AA Golf Tournament rotates sponsorship within the offices of MVP, and the Office of Defects Investigation will conduct the Fall Tournament.

I.F.O.'s (IDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS)

HELP STAMP OUT SHELF PANEL MISSILES!!

