



The NEW BERN

MIRROR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY
HEART OF NORTH
Mr. Mrs. A. N. Murphy
2000 Arendall St.
Morehead City, NC
5¢

VOLUME 8

NEW BERN, N. C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1965

NUMBER 37

No one watching Gemini 7 astronauts Frank Borman and James Lovell, Jr., zoom into space last Saturday could have been more interested than New Bern's Edmund J. Habib.

Ed is Associate Chief of the recently formed Information Processing Division of Goddard's Space Flight Center, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, at Greenbelt, Md.

He not only has the distinction of being one of Goddard's earliest employees, but also was a member of the original Project Vanguard team. He transferred to Goddard after 8-1/2 years in the Rocket Sods Branch of the U. S. Naval Research Laboratory.

At NRL, Habib held positions of progressive importance to the space effort, and chalked up a number of outstanding achievements. He worked on the Viking rocket instrumentation, helped design the Mini-track Tracking System, developed the Time Standard System and the Optical Calibration System. The techniques used today are based on some of his original work.

On arrival at Goddard, he was Head of the Systems Evaluation Branch and was responsible for the calibration techniques and accuracy of the Mini-track Tracking System. While also serving in this position, he originated Goddard's Range and Range Rate System, which is fast becoming STADAN's principal and most accurate tracking system.

The super-accuracy of this system was verified from its first application on Syncom when it provided the orbital position of the satellite at a height of 22,000 miles to an accuracy of less than 50 feet.

Ed's accomplishments as Branch Head precipitated his rise in October 1961 to Assistant Chief of the Space Data Acquisition Division. In this capacity, his development of Goddard's telemetry data processing facilities led to his appointment in July 1963 as Assistant Chief of the Data Systems Division.

Getting Habib to talk about himself isn't easy. We've been privileged to spend several hours in his company during recent months, and chatted with him for awhile last Sunday, but he is much too modest to crow over personal achievements.

Talking in general about his department, he says, "We provide advanced planning for ways and means of tackling the billions of data points of information transmitted from the Goddard satellites.

"The division is charged," says Ed, "with the implementation and operation of data processing for the telemetered data from Goddard scientific satellites. It also constructs and plans advanced techniques for onboard data processing of the information gathered from the experiments.

Although he lives in District Heights, Maryland, at 7908 Lansdale Street, Habib still calls the house next to ours, at 708 Chattawka Lane, his home. Whenever the opportunity arises, which under the circumstances isn't often, he hurries here to visit his mother, Mrs. Joseph Habib.

Ed's wife, Mary Lou, and
(Continued on page 8)



EDMUND JOSEPH HABIB

(See Looking Glass)