

**GOVERNMENT SCIENTIST FOR 17 YEARS**

**N. E. Thomas, Jackson Springs Native, Invents Voice Communications Device**

Numa Eifort Thomas, a government scientist whose latest invention—a light beam voice communication device—has received wide attention, last week visited his native Jackson Springs where his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth C. Thomas, still lives. He has a sister, Mrs. Edna Ruth Green, who lives here and is employed by United Telephone Company.

With him was his wife, the former Miss Jean Watkins of Newport News. They have three children, Andrea, 11; Karla, 8; and John, 5. Their home is at Newport News.

Mr. Thomas, who is known as "Eifort" to old friends in this area, attended West End High School, joined the Navy in World War II and, after the war went to work for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics at Hampton, Va. This agency later became the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Mr. Thomas has continued his association with it as a scientist at the Langley Research Center, Langley Station, Hampton.

**Spacecraft Work**

With a number of patented inventions to his credit, he specializes in photographic and optical instrumentation and is currently working on space measurements. He was one of the early Mercury spacecraft researchers and worked extensively on optical equipment, including the periscope that was aboard the earlier version of the Mercury craft as well as a little mirror that went on the front of the space suit to reflect control panel operations into a television camera placed in front of the

astronaut. The light beam voice communications device is called a retro-reflector. It is a compact unit only a few inches long (it could be made even smaller) which contains a light source, collecting lens, and detector-amplifier. A beam of light from the handheld unit is directed toward a remote reflector-microphone which requires no power, no antenna and no wiring.

The reflector - microphone, which is small enough to be held in the palm of the hand, is designed as a corner-reflector and resembles one of the inside corners of a cube. All three of its surfaces are mirrors, one made of thin aluminized mylar, the same material used in the Echo satellites. The mylar film vibrates in response to sound pressures from a speaker's voice, thus modulating the beam of light which is sent directly back to the point of origin as a property of the corner reflector.

A photo-electric cell inside the unit measures the modulations in the light beam and its reading is translated by the detector-amplifier electronics into sounds reproducible through a speaker.

Communications by the retro-reflector are immune to interception and jamming and are completely private. Because the remote microphone requires no power, the system offers many possible applications in industry, at sea, and in air-sea rescue operations.

**Deering Painting In Rockport Show**

Roger Deering, the Kennebunkport, Maine, artist who has a winter studio and gallery on Midland Road, between Southern Pines and Pinehurst, is represented again this year in the 43rd annual exhibition of the Rockport (Mass.) Art Association, showing a painting, "Caribbean Marketplace," done during a visit to the West Indies last spring.

Last winter, Mr. Deering conducted painting classes at the Carolina Hotel, Pinehurst. He and Mrs. Deering operate a studio and gallery at Kennebunkport during the summer.

The Rockport exhibition will open Monday, to run through August 6.

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**Home Loan Plan Aids Minorities**

Negroes and members of other minority groups who have difficulty negotiating home loans can turn to a nation-wide organization established to help in such cases, according to Elwyn V. Hopkins of Atlanta, Ga.

Hopkins is executive secretary in eight southern states for the Voluntary Home Mortgage Credit Program, authorized by the Congress in the Housing Act of 1954. The program assists in making mortgage money available to members of minority groups who cannot obtain loans on terms as favorable as are generally available to others in an area.

The program is a unique partnership between private industry and the Federal Government. General supervision and operating policies are the responsibility of an 18-man national committee whose chairman is Robert C. Weaver, administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, Washington, D. C.

Mortgage money is made available through banks, insurance companies, savings and loan institutions and other home mortgage facilities.

Applicants can contact: Elwyn V. Hopkins, Executive Secretary, Voluntary Home Mortgage Credit Program, Room 645 Peachtree-Seventh Building, Atlanta, Ga.

**Moore Folks Buy Savings Bonds; Sales Drive On**

L. B. Creath of Pinehurst, volunteer chairman for the U. S. Savings Bonds program in Moore County, announced today that during May Moore County citizens purchased \$23,292 of U. S. Savings Bonds. For the year their purchases amount to \$223,120.

This is 38 per cent of the 1963 goal of \$445,280.

Bond sales in the State during May total \$3,875,007, being practically unchanged from sales of May a year ago which were \$3,901,384.

Totals for the first five months of 1963 show cash sales of E and H Bonds in North Carolina amounted to \$21,912,853. This is an increase of 3.6 per cent over sales of the comparable five month's period of a year ago.

Mr. Creath, in making this release pointed out that "The Freedom Bond Drive which is a highlight of the Savings Bonds promotion for 1963 began on May 1 and ends on July 4. Its objective is to sell at least one Savings Bond to every American family during these 65 days."

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