



July 12, 1974

## Plum Brook phased down; but most placed in other jobs

Plum Brook Station, which once was manned by approximately 600 employees, has been phased down to 54, primarily to operate facilities for other government agencies.

Most of the facilities have been placed in standby condition. "Standby" means they have been closed down in such a way that they can be reactivated when the need arises with minimum effort and cost. This method of operation has been used for many years with specialized facilities.

The phasing down of Plum Brook was ordered by NASA Headquarters in January 1973 because of

budget considerations. The nuclear reactor facility was de-fueled and placed in standby on June 30 last year and the station staff reduced to approximately 275.

The largest facility still in operation is the Space Power Facility, because a number of other government agencies have indicated an interest in using it. The SPF contains probably the world's largest hard vacuum chamber measuring 120 feet in height by 100 feet in diameter. Fifty employees have been retained to operate this facility. An additional four employees are

assigned to supervise maintenance and security of the 8000 acre station.

Although the traditional NASA work at the installation has been phased out, the emphasis on energy research shows promise of affecting the future of the station. Some new installations are already underway. Instrumentation for the large 120 foot diameter, 100 kilowatt experimental wind generator is presently being installed. Ground will be broken for the tower later this year.

Other government agencies using facilities at the station include the U.S. Army, Ohio National Guard and two groups of the Department of Interior.

Because of the higher attrition rate, primarily retirements, at Cleveland, more Plum Brook employees were offered jobs there than originally thought possible. A breakdown of the approximately 250 employees at Plum Brook as of March 1 of this year shows that 54 are remaining at Plum Brook, 74 have accepted new assignments at Lewis in Cleveland, 49 are accepting early retirement benefits, and 30 have accepted other positions

## Employee elected to national library post

George Mandel, Chief of Information Services and Publications at NASA-Lewis Research Center, and who has spent more than a quarter of a century in publications and library work both as an administrator and lecturer, has added another honor to his professional career. He was recently elected national treasurer of the Aerospace Division of the



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Special Libraries Association (SLA).

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with private industry or other government agencies. The job placement office at Plum Brook expects that a number of the 43 remaining employees who are leaving will receive job offers as the result of efforts still in progress.

Although the Plum Brook Outplacement Office has closed its original office, a

limited number of services will be maintained. An information room is now open at the SPF, adjacent to an office with a phone for calls to the personnel office at Cleveland or outside contacts. The services will continue to be overseen by William J. Brown along with his new duties in development of future activities for SPF.