

## KEEP SMILING

With the first storm of winter,  
once again the Goodstone Aircraft Company machine shop roof  
lets water pour through in columns  
to collect in spreading puddles  
all over the building,  
and the machinists dust off the old jokes  
about machine operators  
wearing raincoats and standing under umbrellas  
as they work,  
nodding in familiar recognition as they look up at  
a particularly big leak in the ceiling and saying,  
"It rains harder in here than it does outside!"  
or pointing at a rapidly spreading puddle  
and saying,  
"If that water reaches 440 volts, it'll be the highlight of  
somebody's day!"  
as the Lead Man rides around on a bicycle  
with a basket full of plastic sheeting  
offering to sell it  
to machinists  
scurrying to cover up  
electrical boxes and circuit breakers.

## THANKS, WE NEEDED THAT

I guess we should be grateful  
that the Planning Dept.  
writes out all those sequences  
on the Manufacturing Orders telling us  
when to hold which dimensions  
as we carve blocks of aluminum or steel  
into aircraft parts.  
Those sequences ensure  
that we spend a lot of time  
trying to figure out how to translate  
their drawing-board never-having-run-a-machine  
fantasies  
into reality as we  
create immensely more complex and difficult than necessary  
set-ups,  
tearing down the set-ups  
only to have to rebuild them later  
as we are forced to get first-article parts  
inspected and approved  
for each planning sequence.

If it wasn't for the Planning Dept.,  
we wouldn't be nearly as skilled as we are.