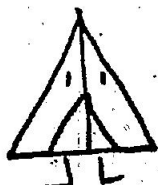


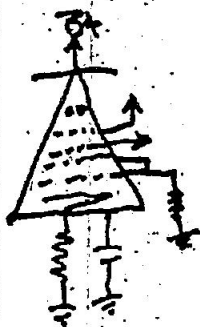
Uni-Mungtion
Mungsistor



Peace Mung



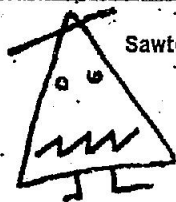
Munger



Multigrid Mung



Flying Mung



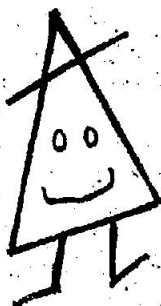
Sawtooth Mung



Ho Chi Mung



Mungconi



O M Omar
Himself

Omar Mung's

Batten down the hatches—there's a Mung among us! In fact, truth be known, there are probably thousands of the strange little critters prowling about. For the Mung Dynasty knows no geographic boundaries. Mungs have been spotted from the North Pole to the South Pole, from the Greenwich Meridian to the longitude 180 line, and heaven only knows how many points between. Prolific as all get out, Mungs are also multiplying like crazy!

But the real hotbed of Mungism is the U.S. Navy's Electronic Technician School at Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Illinois.

The Mungs, headed by clan patriarch Omar Mung, are triangular, cartoon-like characters who have quickly become the mascots of the Navy's electronics technicians. A Mung, it is said, is as unpredictable as a gremlin; as ubiquitous as World War II's Kilroy. The ET trainees at Great Lakes have discovered that Omar and his kin are friendly and helpful—at times. But like a pair of hot leads, they're dangerous when crossed.

Omar Mung, known as Ming to sailors stationed on the West Coast, turned up alive and well at the Naval Base near Chicago several months ago. At first the Mung sightings were only occasional. But it wasn't long before Omar's brothers and sisters, cousins and uncles, began popping up throughout the A-2 Branch of the electronics school.

Initially, it was the electronics branch of the Mung family tree—Multigrid Mung, Electromungnet, and



Mungtini



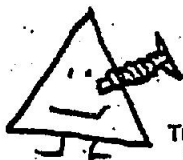
Dipsey
Mungster

Thunder Mung





Uni-Mung



Tunable Mung
(Inductive)



Charles
de Mung



Metramung

Dubious Dynasty

Tunable Mung (Inductive)—who turned up at Great Lakes to make their home with Omar. Then came their non-technical relatives—Batmung, Mickey Mung, Humpty Mung, and all the rest. Now, Mungs can be found everywhere and anywhere. After the noon lunch break, they appear mysteriously, chalked on classroom blackboards. They regularly crop up between columns in the base newspaper.

Electronics Technician First Class Timothy Gough, an instructor at the Navy school, says the most extraordinary thing about Mungs is their habit of appearing in the most unexpected places.

"You'll find them inside equipment chassis, under gear that hasn't been moved for years . . . everywhere. Remove 38 tight-fitting screws on a receiver's base plate. Inside, in the heavy layer of dust, a Mung has been drawn!"

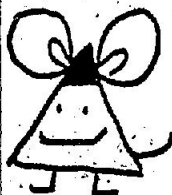
At any given time, there are about 2000 sailors attending the electronics school. Each week, some of these technicians graduate and go on to ships and shore stations around the world. And with them go the Mungs.

The history of the family, not surprisingly, is obscure. Chief Electronics Technician David Penney, another instructor at ET school, believes the pointy-headed characters evolved from the schematic symbol for the Zener diode. He vaguely recalls seeing a forerunner of the Mungs, doodled by an unknown sailor, about six years ago when he entered the Navy. But according to Penney, Mungism in its present form really caught hold in, of all places, Antarctica during the Navy's Operation Deepfreeze early in 1968.

(Continued overleaf)



Antenna Mung



Mickey Mung



Atomic Mung



Munguide



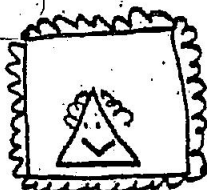
English
Bar Mung



Mung Paper



Mungey



Munga Lisa

e/e OMAR MUNG

After months of duty at an isolated field electronics base, the Navy men were getting restless prior to their departure for home. In an attempt to control this restlessness and keep the men busy, a certain division officer split the sailors into work crews, issued them brushes and various colors of paint, and sent them out to decorate the rocks cluttering the station's antenna farm.

The paint details were followed up by crews instructed to collect all rocks of a particular hue. Bugged by the senseless chore, members of the red-rock-gathering detail retaliated. In doing so they gave Omar Mung his rebirth.

One morning, to his surprise, the division officer spotted Omar's likeness painted on a pole right outside his window. He ordered the seamen to paint over the cartoon character; but the next day Omar had again appeared on the pole. Again and again the drawing was daubed over with black paint, only to mysteriously reappear the following morning.

Then, Mung began to show up all over the polar station—in desk drawers, between pages of instruction manuals, even on the metal flagpole that marks the southernmost spot on the globe.

According to Penney, there are two Mungs painted on the steel post erected at the South Pole, a quarter mile from the Navy station. It seems that a couple of electronics men, after a few beers, decided that Omar should have a permanent place on the polar continent.

But in March of this year, following a year in cold storage, Omar and his Mung

family set out for pleasanter climes. In addition to their invasion of Great Lakes, the triangular tribe has turned up in Vietnam (would you believe Mao Tse Mung and Ho Chi Mung?) And it is reliably reported that at least one Mung family member has been seen on each new piece of electronic gear taken aboard the USS *Tacoma* during her last stay in the shipyards.

All Mungs, of course, bear a certain basic family resemblance, notably their geometric shape. But sophisticated Mung creators at Great Lakes insist on specific physical characteristics.

For one thing, they will not accept a Mung who does not have an upward twist to the left corner of his' mouth. And, the purists contend, Omar himself must have his pointed hat cocked rakishly to the left, its brim line forming what the ETs term a "positive slope." When his brim tilts down on the right, watch out! It means he is in an exceedingly unfriendly mood. However, when Omar's hat is at a "negative slope," he supposedly becomes invisible to human eyes. As a result the ET students find it convenient to blame any misfortune, from a failing test grade to a burned out resistor, on an ill-tempered but unseen Mung.

Penney claims to have heard rumbles of Thursday prayer meetings, at which harried sailors plead for Omar's help with the weekly proficiency tests given the following day.

The inventiveness of the trainees doesn't surprise Master Chief Electronics Technician M.H. Neiss, supervisor of the school's A-2 Branch, who noted that the young sailors in his outfit rank among the Navy's top 20 percent in intelligence.

"They're sharp! Many of them go on to become electronics officers," says Neiss. The 27-year Navy veteran, dubbed the Chief Munger by the school's commandant, is amused by the growth of Mungism.

"I wish I were a cartoonist," he says. "The Mungs should be in a comic strip!"

But Neiss is considering signing an Omar and his crew as technical instructors, using them to illustrate Navy electronics teaching manuals.

Whether the Mungs would instruct or intimidate the ET students isn't clear. Already, ET/1 Gough cautions his classes to "treat Omar right or he'll get you!"

One thing is clear. In just a few months the Mung Dynasty has pretty well taken over one major Navy installation. What's next—the world?

—Don Jensen ■

May the Best Mung Win!

The Editors of e/e are looking for the most original, most unusual Mung (they already have some pretty cool creations of their own). All entries must be accompanied by this coupon, with no more than one Mung per entry. The decision of the Editors will be final; winning entry and winner will be announced in a forthcoming issue of e/e. First prize will be a shortwave receiver; other prizes to be announced. All entries become the property of e/e and cannot be returned.

Mail your Mung to Mung Editor, ELEMENTARY ELECTRONICS, 229 Park Ave. South, New York, N.Y. 10003.

May the best Mung win!