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12 August 1952

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TRIP REPORT

Project SCAMP has concerned itself principally with problems of the following type: To determine a permutation (or a set of permutations) which satisfy a large number of conditions, each of which is, in itself, very weak. Two classes of these problems have been considered. First, the determination of Latin squares, orthogonal Latin squares, and finite projective planes. This study has been carried on publicly and received the cooperation of mathematicians not attached to the project. The second class of problems has been along lines similar to wheel wiring recovery from isomorphs. Various aspects of the technique known as Roberts' method have been discussed in closed sessions.

It is difficult to assess the worth of SCAMP at this time since its value depends chiefly on whether or not we are able to attract and hold the interest of the mathematicians we have hired. At the time I left, I felt real interest in our problems was manifest. As a criticism of the project I would suggest that better arrangements concerning clearance are necessary so that we can discuss our theoretical questions in the proper practical background. On the question of location, the remoteness of our position certainly relieved me personally of many of the distractions which inhibit detached thinking, and I worked out a scheme (very tentative to be sure) which may be of considerable value in the attack on STURGEON. It is doubtful that I should ever have found two uninterrupted hours to devote to this problem here in Washington.

A. M. GLEASON
 LCDR USNR
 Head, 341

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