

## AIR FLOTATION

John Morralee of the Design and Technical Services branch at Atomic Energy of Canada Limited's Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories, Ontario, has been exploring the potential of air-flotation for relocating experimental equipment around the National Research Universal (NRU) reactor. Air-film handling is the flotation of a heavy load in a thin film of air; controlled leakage of air diaphragms reduces the moving power required to one tenth of what it would be if the load was on wheels.

One experiment at NRU has a five-ton shielding block that must be relocated in a new position that is inaccessible to the overhead crane, and air-flotation may solve the problem.

In the photos, Mr. Morralee checks the air casters on the bottom of a pallet (*below*), switches on the air (*upper right*) and he's off on his magic carpet ride (*lower right*).

