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# ROCKETEER

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Vol. XVI, No. 35

U. S. Naval Ordnance Test Station, China Lake, California

Friday, September 12, 1958



**'FAIR' LADIES**—Two of the seven contestants vying in the "Our Fair Lady" contest to reign during the Desert Empire Fair in Ridgecrest, October 2-5, discuss plans with emcee Ernie George for a musical tribute honoring the contestants to be broadcast next Tuesday night, September 16, over radio station KRKS from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Shown (l. to r.) are: Phyllis Wair, Kern Desert Business and Professional Woman's Club candidate; Ernie George; and Doris Burton, sponsored by the American Federation of Government Employees and IWV Lions Club.

## Dr. Murray Speaks on American Ideal Of Our School System at Faculty Meeting

"Our American ideal is that each individual is a person, and the ideal of the schools is to educate and develop each individual to his capacity." This statement was made by Dr. Earl Murray, superintendent of China Lake Schools, at a joint orientation meeting of the elementary and high school faculty recently.

Dr. Murray continued by saying that other nations do not have this ideal, therefore apologize are not necessary for our American school system, because when education is being too severely criticized we are attacking our basic philosophy.

Russia is the only nation outside of the United States to offer universal education. However, statistics show that in Russia students are educated only through the tenth grade; only 50 per cent get past the seventh grade; only one-third graduate from the tenth grade; and only 15 per cent go to college. Today American colleges are faced with five times more students than attend college in Europe.

Dr. Murray stated that "we are producing more scientists and engineers, relative to our youth population, than Russia. The Russians exceed us in gross numbers because they have nearly twice as many young people than we do. We are producing scientists and engineers at a rate of 20 to 1000 students as compared with 17 per 1000 in Russia."

He continued by pointing out that in Russia 17 per cent of the national income is spent on education, whereas in the United States only 2 1/2 to 4 per cent is spent. Here 33 cents buys an hour of education per child, while baby sitters receive 50 cents or more an hour. The tendency of American schools is to keep education on a local level by using local and state funds, rather than trying to receive Federal funds.

Dr. Murray stressed there should not be a change of ideal of American democracy or education, but he feels we ought to live closer to it... of educating each child to his capacity. He concluded by saying, "there is no greater satisfaction than watching a child learn and grow."

## Sample Claim Shows PESA Benefits to Insurance Members

In order to help clarify the new Public Employees Service Association (PESA) group health insurance plan, a sample coverage claim designed to answer the most popular queries has been submitted for the benefit of interested personnel.

A three-day sample hospitalization coverage for members or dependents follows:

- Sickness**
  - If the room and board charge is \$15 per day: Member pays \$1 for each day; Insurance pays \$14 for each day.
  - For additional hospital expenses: Insurance pays up to \$500.
  - If surgery is performed: Member pays doctor's charge above schedule; Insurance pays as per schedule.
  - If no surgery is performed but doctor calls are charged: Member pays doctor charges above \$5. This
- Accidents**
  - For medical care following accidents whether requiring hospitalization or not: Member pays for drugs and medicines bought on prescription, if any, or any other costs excluded by the policy. Insurance pays benefits as scheduled in addition to the Accident Expense benefit allowance up to \$300 for charges other than or in excess of scheduled benefits.

## Burroughs Teacher Attends Institute to Revise Physics Text

John Trent, a Burroughs High School instructor, was one of forty high school physics teachers in the United States chosen to attend a physics institute this summer at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. The institute was sponsored and financed by the National Science Foundation.

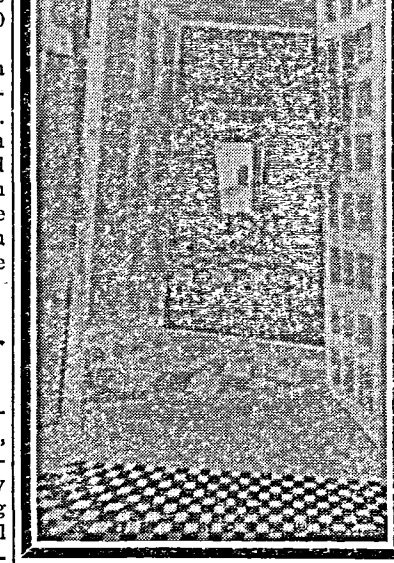
The Physical Science Study Committee, a group of Massachusetts Institute of Technology professors of physics working under the NSF, is writing and preparing a new course in high school physics, and the purpose of the institute was to acquaint these teachers with this material. The teachers were selected according to their academic background and proficiency in the fields of physics and mathematics.

According to Trent, the new course strives to integrate the various phases of physics and to develop a needed amount of concentration on the very basic foundations and principles of physics. For example, it is felt that it is necessary to concentrate heavily on phenomena such as wave theory, momentum, and kinetic energy rather than on technology. It also seeks to develop, in the scientific student, the ability to design much of the equipment which he will be needing.

This year, Burroughs High School will be one of 200 high schools in the nation which will offer this experimental course to high school students. Periodically, the students will be given standardized tests in order that the objectives of the course may be evaluated.

Occasionally, experts from the physical science study committee will visit the school to observe the progress being made. In return for being part of this experiment in upper grade physics, the class will receive all tests free.

## Artist-of-the-Month



**"DOORS OF LIFE"**—This thought-provoking abstract is one of five paintings displayed in the Station Library during September by Clayton Rippey, art instructor at Bakerfield College. The contrasting moods and medias reveal the artist's versatility of talent.



**COMPLETE COURSE**—Eight NOTS China Lake employees, three NOTS Pasadena employees, and eight employees from other government installations who completed the Procedures Analysis course conducted at Pasadena are shown above. Front row (l. to r.) are: Kay Erickson, course coordinator, LAOD; Fumiye Quong, P.; Virginia Bunn, C.L.; Hazel Coleman, C.L.; Ruth Luth, C.L.; Freda Kosakoff, NOLC; Mildred Ball, P.; Dorothy St. John, Norton AFB; Dick Podol, instructor, OMET; Mr. Thompson, Civilian Executive Asst., LAOD. Back row (l. to r.) are: Dick Hays, C.L.; Ray Sorenson, C.L.; Larry Elder, C.L.; Bill Specht, C.L.; Bill Clark, LAOD; Victor Bridges, Pt. Mugu; Margaret MacDonald, Norton AFB; Wayne Melton, C.L.; Bob Gardner, LAOD; Bill Steele, C.L.; L. Figueroa, Pt. Mugu; C. Gerbracht, P.

## Bowman Bags 3-Point Buck

**JOE STONE**, archery instructor at NOTS, bags a 160 lb. 3-point buck with a 53 lb. bow from a 35-yard running shot on opening day of the archery season last Saturday near Portuguese Meadows in the Greenhorn Mts. This is his first kill after 6 years of hunting with bow and arrow. Less than 1% of archers get their deer each year. Junior Archers Steve Martin and Brian Cowan witnessed their instructor's trick shot.



## Public Works to Install Engineered Performance Standards for Estimating

**Engineered Performance Standards for Public Works Maintenance Operations** are to be installed here by a team from the District Public Works Office, Eleventh Naval District. Beginning Monday, the team will be on the Station for about three months.

Engineered Performance Standards are a refinement of the Planning and Estimating Phase of the BuDocks Maintenance Management Program. They are a tool of the Planner and Estimator and are used to make realistic estimates of the time it should take to do maintenance work. More accurate estimates lead to better job planning, improved coordination of crafts, improved material support, and as a result, improved job performance.

Performance Standards have been successfully installed in a number of Naval activities, including BuOrd facilities at Indian Head, Crane, Yorktown, York, Hawthorne and NANS Seal Beach. The Standards are based on studies of actual jobs being performed by Public Works craftsmen.

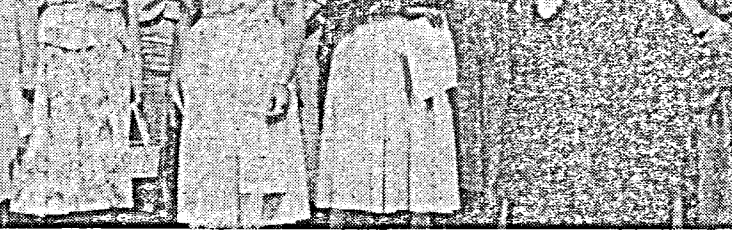
The team from San Diego will provide orientation and detailed training in EPS to personnel of the Public Works Department. Working closely with Capt. Carrithers, Public Works Officer, and personnel of the Maintenance Control Division, the installation team consists of Cdr. R. L. Hall, ADPWO for Maintenance and Operations, who will explain the program to command and department heads, H. O. Bishop, Director, DPWO Maintenance Division, S. A. Hoffer, R. P. Connell and J. V. Speciall.

## Science Instructor Returns from Leave

Leland Richardson, mathematics and science teacher at Burroughs High School, has resumed his teaching duties after a year's leave of absence. Mr. Richardson was one of thirty mathematicians and science teachers in the United States who received a scholarship grant from the National Science Foundation to study at the University of Chicago. The Institute is designed to increase mathematical powers and to further information in modern mathematics and statistics. His courses included modern algebra, modern geometry, mathematical analysis, and a seminar on high school math programming and organization.

## Navy Wives Baby Sit For Dependents' Kids

Free baby-sitting is offered by the Navy Wives Club on Wednesdays for children of military personnel whose mothers are attending "Dependent's Sick Call" or the Well Baby Clinic. This service is supplied only on Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m., in Rooms 547 and 549 at the back of the Station Hospital near the Well Baby Clinic. No sick children will be admitted to this nursery. Although the sitting service is free, the Club will appreciate donation of old toys, games or books for entertainment of the children.



## Hoyem to Head Recruitment Panel

Dr. Albert G. Hoyem, Head of Aircraft Projects Division, Aviation Ordnance Department, has been elected Chairman of the Station's Professional Recruitment Panel. He succeeds Richard T. Carlisle, who will serve until September 1, 1959. As Chairman of this Panel, Dr. Hoyem works in close coordination with staff officials of the Personnel Department's Employment Division and directs the special committee activities of the 35 engineers and scientists comprising the Recruitment Panel. These Panel members will personally conduct on-campus interviews in colleges and universities in various sections of the country during this academic year. Dr. Hoyem, since reporting to the Station in January, 1945, has been associated with many employee development programs and has actively served as Station representative on many special recruitment trips. Dr. Hoyem completed his undergraduate work at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, and received his Doctoral Degree from the State University of Iowa in 1931.

## Noted Speaker Stresses Today's Unlimited World Opportunity

Dedicated to helping the people of the world to acquire much needed medical services, Elsie M. Farris, Long Beach attorney, last Tuesday night challenged listeners: "Opportunity unlimited exists for Christians with concern. What are you going to do about it?"

Speaking to a capacity crowd in the Richmond School Auditorium, she related that in her eight trips around the world, she has visited areas where there is only one doctor for every 16,000 natives, and where it takes days or weeks to reach the nearest medical facilities. "Contribute to world peace," she said, "by educating those of foreign countries to raise standards of health and to utilize the energy of the youth of those countries to build."



Miss Elsie M. Farris ... speaks to Women's Guild

## Lee Humiston Finds Meteoric Specimen

An interesting little 9.6-gram aerolite was found on May 24 this year by Lee E. Humiston, Ordnance Technician in the Engineering Department, and confirmed Rockhound, in the desert approximately 5 miles east of Ridgecrest. This meteoric specimen is the third to be found by Humiston. To date, only 15 meteoric falls have been recorded to be found in the State of California.

The specimen was submitted for identification to Dr. Robert W. Webb and Frederick C. Leonard of the Department of Astronomy, University of California, Los Angeles. In their letter of verification to Humiston, the experts added: "Mr. Humiston is to be congratulated most heartily on his recovery and recognition of this tiny 9.6-gram aerolite, which, in spite of its minuteness, has made the record as the fifteenth meteoric fall reported for California."

A thorough search has been made of the area in the vicinity of this discovery to ascertain if any other material could be found. No other specimen being found, Humiston assumes this must represent a single fall, although the appearance of the specimen would indicate it was a fragment from a meteoric shower. Further work will be carried on in this area.

## Cornerstone Placed For New Burroughs High School Building

Cornerstone laying ceremonies for the new Burroughs High School were conducted last weekend by officials of the Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of California and the Indian Wells Valley Lodge 691. Mementos pertinent to the new structure were placed in a metal box and sealed behind the cornerstone.

H. E. Woodworth, president of the board of trustees of the Kern County Union High School and Junior College District, welcomed those attending and introduced Leo E. Anderson, Grand Master of Masons in California, who conducted the rites in accordance with accepted Lodge tradition. Officers of the Indian Wells Valley Lodge assisted with the ceremonies. Other speakers on the program were Theron McCuen, Superintendent of the Kern County Union High School and Junior College District, and Albert S. Gould, China Lake member of the high school-junior college board of trustees.

Grand Lodge officers who assisted the grand master in the ritual were Philip H. Myers, Los Angeles, deputy grand master; Alfred Breslaue, grand junior warden; John T. Bond, Los Angeles, grand marshal; Melvin A. Pixley, Huntington Park, grand orator, and Lynn Blackmun, Trona, inspector of the 503rd Masonic District. By special invitation, Jess R. Dorsey, State Senator; Jesse Stockton, Superintendent of Kern County Schools, and Dr. Dow Patterson, representing the State Department of Education, attended the Masonic ceremonies.

The new Sherman E. Burroughs High School is to be completed by September, 1959, and is located between the Station housing area and Desert Park.

## Former Station Editor Writes Story of Albert Michelson's Life

John H. Wilson, Jr., a Station employee from 1951-1957, will have his first book "Albert A. Michelson" published this month by Julian Messner, Inc., of New York. The former head of the Editorial Branch of the Technical Information Department at NOTS left the Station in March, 1957, to become affiliated with the Atlantic Research Corporation in Alexandria, Virginia.

His publication is a book-length biography of America's first Nobel prize physicist, Albert A. Michelson, for whom the Station's main installation, Michelson Laboratory, was named. The 11-acre structure houses some of the most powerful instruments available today for research in physical science. Although the publication date is set for September 22, the publishers forwarded advance copies this week to Burroughs Library and the Station Library. Copies have been ordered by all three Station libraries.

Article Published

Always interested in science, Wilson received his Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics and physics in his native Ohio. And for a while during World War II, he translated Japanese documents in chemistry, physics and atomics into English. Albert A. Michelson came to Wilson's attention while he was working at NOTS. Here, on the Mojave Desert, rose the Navy's appropriate monument to its greatest scientist, the Michelson Laboratory. How, John Wilson asked himself, had the Navy produced America's first Nobel Prize scientist? Was it true that Michelson had been raised in the wild west? A genuine American saga unfolded before his eyes as he delved into the scientist's life. Moving to Washington gave Wilson a chance to dig out from the Library of Congress more of the hidden details of the man's magnetic life. He says of the physicist: "Albert Michelson is one of the most inspirational figures in American science. My life is the richer for having known him."

## New Administrator At Station Hospital

Lt. David E. Becker, MSC, USN, arrived at NOTS last week from the U. S. Naval Hospital at Camp Pendleton to relieve LCDr. C. E. Neumecker as Medical Administrative Officer at the Station Hospital. LCDr. Neumecker is retiring after 30 years in the service. Noteworthy achievements have highlighted Lt. Becker's 15 and one-half years in the Navy. He was one of 15 selected out of all eligible HMI's and HMC's in the Navy to be sent to Officers Candidate School in Newport, R. I. and in May, 1953, he was commissioned as Ensign in the Medical Service Corps.

Career Program

This program was an officer career and promotional activity for enlisted Naval Reserve hospital corpsmen on active duty conducted by the Navy Medical Department. Of the original 16, he was one of six to be augmented into the regular Navy. During his tour of duty at Camp Pendleton, he served 17 months as Patient Personnel Officer and as

(Continued on Page 2)

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## Burroughs Hi Tops Past Enrollments

A new enrollment record was set at Burroughs High School last week as 875 students entered classrooms to resume academic studies for the 1958-59 school year. This is a .09 percent increase over the closing registration of 753 last year, according to Dr. Earl Murray, Principal.

A breakdown of class enrollment figures shows the freshman class holding a wide lead over the other classes with a total of 237. The sophomores have a total of 215, while the junior class comes in second totalling 224. The senior group has the least members with 179.

Last year's figures of class enrollment are as follows—freshman 212, sophomores 224, juniors 186, and seniors 131.

## Chaplain Robert Q. Jones Reports; Cdr. Hester Goes to USS Kearsarge

On September 15, Cdr. Robert Q. Jones, CHC, will relieve Cdr. J. D. Hester as Station Chaplain. Reporting aboard from NAS, Barber's Point, Hawaii, where he was attached to Staff, Commander, Naval Air Bases, Chaplain Jones brings an extensive background of education and experience to NOTS. He has completed two years work at Columbia University, New York, toward his doctorate.

Entering the Navy in 1943, Cdr. Jones has served as Chaplain for the Naval Academy Preparatory School, on the USS Franklin Delano Roosevelt, as well as on other ships and land-based Naval facilities.

Extremely interested in Little Theater groups, he has worked professionally and semi-professionally, in the theater.

Calling Niantic, Conn., his hometown, Chaplain Jones will be quartered at 310-B Fowler with his wife, Eddis and children, Robert Q., Jr., Pamela Lynn, Jay and Heather Lei.

Reporting to the USS Kearsarge, CVA-33, Chaplain Hester will leave NOTS next week after a two-year tour of duty.

Highlights of Chaplain Hester's assignment have been the beginning, completion and dedication of the All-Faith Chapel, the commencement of the Parish Hall, and the inception and actuality of the Theater groups, he has worked pro-RAFT, teen-age recreation club.

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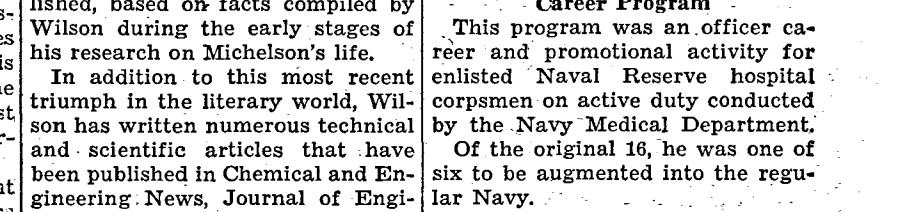
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## New Chaplain Welcomed to China Lake

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COMING AND GOING—New Station Chaplain, Cdr. Robert "Q." Jones, CHC, (r.), receives wishes for success in all his endeavors at NOTS from Chaplain Hester, who reports to the USS Kearsarge (CVA 33) soon.



