

# "Early Timers" Day, Friday, Nov. 8

The opening activities for the NWC 25th Anniversary will be the events of Friday, November 8, which is "Early Timers" day.

More than 200 guests are expected to arrive from out of the area to participate in these events and a like number of "Early Timers" in the local area will be participating.

The guests will include all the Center's past Technical Directors, many of the Commanding Officers, and a good representation of the early mili-

tary personnel, members of the wartime California Institute of Technology weapon programs, and the early civil service employees.

Because of the vast number of persons associated with the Center through its 25 years and the local limitations on facilities, the invitations were limited to those associated with the Center before the end of 1945 and whose names were sent in to the Anniversary Committee in response to earlier publicity and the May 17

Early Timers' meeting.

Center personnel who are "Early Timers" and who can be excused from normal duties on Friday are urged to join guests on the tours of Center facilities and at the Mix and Meet meetings listed in the accompanying program.

The highlight of the Friday afternoon events is an address by Vice Admiral Thomas Connally, who was in former years the Center's Experimental Officer and is now the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations

(Air). He will speak on "25 Years of Value."

At the Early Timers' dinner on Friday evening there will be the unique opportunity of hearing from a number of the key figures associated with the establishment and early growth of the Center.

On Saturday evening there will be the 25th Anniversary dinner featuring talks by Rear Admiral S. E. Burroughs, USN (Ret), the Center's first Commanding Officer, and Vice Admiral John Hayward, USN

(Ret) who was the Center's first Experimental Officer.

The 25th Anniversary Ball Saturday evening will in fact be four balls at separate locations. The joint NWC Anniversary Ball and Marine Corps Birthday will be a formal dance by invitation at the Community Center. Semiformal balls will be held for members and their guests at the Commissioned Officers' Mess (Open), Chief Petty Officers' Club, and the Chaparral Club.

## NWC 25th Anniversary Program

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

8:00 A.M.  
Reception Center for visitors open at Main Gate. All out-of-town guests other than those arriving at Air Facility are requested to stop here upon arrival.

9:00 A.M.-12:00 NOON  
1:00 P.M.-2:30 P.M.  
Tours for visiting and local Early Timers will leave from main lobby and conference rooms from the main entrance of Michelson Laboratory.

9:00 A.M.-12:00 NOON  
1:00 P.M.-3:30 P.M.  
Meet and Mix time at Weapons Exhibit Center. Weapons displays. Display of early time pictures. An opportunity for local persons and out-of-town Early Timers to meet and revive memories of early days. Pioneers of Indian Wells Valley especially invited to meet with NWC Early Timers from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

3:30 P.M.-4:45 P.M.  
Address of Vice Admiral Thomas Connally at the Center Theater on "25 Years of Value" and a film "25 Years of Naval Weapons." To be attended by Early Timers and other invited guests of the Center and spouses. In addition a number of personnel from each department will be invited under a departmental quota system.

6:30 P.M.-8:00 P.M.  
Informal reception at Community Center. For invited guests to the Early Timers events.

8:00 P.M.  
Early Timers' dinner at Community Center. For invited guests to the Early Timers events.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9  
9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.  
Open House:

—Buses leave from parking lot at main entrance to Michelson Laboratory.  
9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.

—Weapons Exhibit Center open with new weapon displays and picture display of early station.

9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.  
—Michelson Laboratory Exhibits.

9:00 A.M.-12:30 P.M.  
—Naval Air Facility activities including aircraft and weapons, and a balloon ascent.

10:30 A.M.  
—Fire fighting demonstration opposite Maturango Museum.

All Open House events open to the public with a special welcome to all of Indian Wells Valley and neighboring communities.

Informal Mix and Meet time at the Bar-foot Bar at the Commissioned Officers' Mess. Also an appropriate time for local persons to invite visitors for visits or receptions in homes.

6:00 P.M.  
Informal reception, Commissioned Officers' Mess.

7:00 P.M.  
25th Anniversary dinner featuring talks by Rear Admiral S. E. Burroughs, USN (Ret.) and Vice Admiral John Hayward, USN (Ret.). Attendance by reservation. (Phone 71739 in mornings.)

8:00 P.M.  
Anniversary Balls:

—NWC Anniversary & Marine Ball (formal) at Community Center. Building open at 8:00 p.m.; Ball begins at 9:00 p.m. For invited guests of Center and NWC Marines.

9:00 P.M.  
—Commissioned Officers' Mess (Open), (semi-formal). Open to members and guests of members by reservation.

8:00 P.M.  
—Chief Petty Officers' Club (semi-formal). Open to members and guests of members by reservation.

9:00 P.M.  
—Chaparral Club (semi-formal). Open to members and guests of members by reservation.

For additional information, call: Anniversary Chairman, K. H. Robinson, 71658; Early Timers Arrangements and Reservations, Lois Allan, 71759 (in mornings); Visitor Reception and Early Timers Tours, Dick Rusciakelli, 71370; Open House, J. D. DeSanto, 71504.

## Women's Bowling Association Will Meet November 16

Mrs. Irma Boyd, a national field representative of the Women's International Bowling Congress (WIBC), will be



IRMA BOYD

the prime speaker at an upcoming meeting of the IWV Women's Bowling Association.

The forum, to be held at the Hideaway Restaurant at 7:30 p.m. on November 16, is open to all members of the association, as well as the local American Junior Bowling Congress Officers.

Mrs. Boyd will narrate a slide program highlighting benefits of being a member in

## All DOD Labs Affected By Cutback

Military research and development is hurting for lack of money.

Washington's budget squeeze is causing the first Pentagon R&D employment cut-back of the postwar era.

By next June, 6,000 jobs must go. Some 2,000 civilian employees — many of them scientists and engineers will be given separation notices. The remaining 4,000 jobs will be accounted for by not filling them as they open up.

The trimback of military R&D jobs is part of a government wide cut of civilian employment under orders from Congress to get back to the

the WIBC. Services, procedures, policies and rule interpretations will also be discussed. WIBC is the largest organization of female sports participants in the world. Field representatives of the Congress travel thousands of miles annually throughout the United States to guide and counsel association members.

The November 16 gathering will be a dinner meeting. Deadline for reservations is November 9. For more information, contact Maggie Branson (77442) or Jan Howard (375-2026).

level of June 30, 1966. This means that a total of 244,000 jobs must be chopped.

The Navy intends to abolish 2,390 positions in 15 research centers now employing 23,902 civilians. Biggest Navy reduction — 416 jobs — will be at the China Lake, Calif., Naval Weapons Center

which employs 4,157.

The Air Force must slash hardest, cutting 3,489 jobs from the 22,421 at its 26 research centers.

The Army is spared the ax this time. It's below its 1966 civilian level of 37,788 civilians in R&D jobs.

## SHOWBOAT

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 1  
"THE YOUNG AMERICANS" (102 Min.)  
Themselves, The Nitly Gritty, Milton Berle

7:30 P.M.  
(Musical) This group of 36 young men and women build their talent into a national touring group. As the story follows their progress across the country, enjoy their fun and dramatic moments like you were one of them. (Adult, Youth, Children.)  
Shorts: "Duck Fever" (7 Min.)

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2  
—MATINEE—  
"TOMBOY AND THE CHAMP" (92 Min.)  
Ben Johnson, Candy Moore  
1:00 P.M.  
Shorts: "Dumb Patrol" (7 Min.)  
"Canadian Mounties" (No. 9, 13 Min.)

—EVENING—  
"FATHOM" (99 Min.)  
Raquel Welch, Tony Franciosa  
7:30 P.M.

(Adventure) Thrill-packed escapades of gorgeous Raquel as the helix NATO trace a secret nuclear trigger device but gets involved in a fortune of stolen jewels. From sky-diving, to yachting, to Alpine retreat, it's a wowl (Adult, Mature Youth.)  
Shorts: "Water Ski Champs" (10 Min.)

SUNDAY-MONDAY NOVEMBER 3-4  
"ANZIO" (117 Min.)  
Robert Mitchum, Peter Falk, Earl Holliman  
7:30 P.M.

(War Drama) A cynical war correspondent accompanies Allied troops in their drive to reach Rome, but where was the stubborn Elite Force defense? Was it a trap? The Rangers go into action on the original site. (Adult, Youth.)

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 5-6  
"BONNIE AND CLYDE" (110 Min.)  
Warren Beatty, Faye Dunaway  
7:30 P.M.

(Crime Drama) The wildest crime spree in history! The infamous couple rob and shoot their way through the depression of the 30's, and become the most wanted criminals of their day. A wild, way out, mod film—strictly ADULT.  
Shorts: "See Ya Later Gadiator" (7 Min.)

THURSDAY-FRIDAY NOVEMBER 7-8  
"BOOM" (109 Min.)  
Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton, Noel Coward  
7:30 P.M.

(Drama) Based on a Tennessee Williams play, Liz portrays Mrs. Goforth, an extremely rich but lonely and brutally indifferent woman. Her meeting with an impoverished poet at a fabulous island villa sets loose her violent tantrums. Here is a razor-sharp dialogue, psychotic drama, ultra-modern setting. (Adult.)  
Shorts: "Hiway Hacklers" (7 Min.)



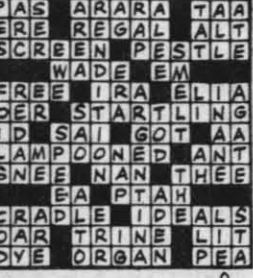
CDR. EDWARD L. SNOPKOWSKI is the new Military Advisor to the Earth and Planetary Sciences Division on the Research Department.

He reported to NWC from Alameda where he had been Commanding Officer of the Fleet Weather Center since July 1967. Cdr. Snopkowski's hometown is Pittston, Pennsylvania. He attended USNR Midshipmen's School, Columbia University, and the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, where he received a BS in meteorology. Snopkowski was commissioned an ensign in 1945 and has a special designation of Aviator/AEDO Meteorology. He, his wife Mary, and four younger children, Patrice age 15; John age 13; Barbara age 12; and JoAn age 11, reside at 617 Ticonderoga. Mark and Vicki, the two eldest children, are both at college.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answer to Previous Puzzle

- ACROSS
- Japanese sash
  - Hebrew month
  - Tails
  - Part of church
  - Chinese mile
  - Scot's
  - Teutonic city
  - Speechmakers
  - Babylonian deity
  - Pronoun
  - Exclamation
  - Let it stand
  - Female sheep
  - Possessive pronoun
  - Dirk
  - Before
  - Winged
  - Lampreys
  - College degree (abbr.)
  - Grant use of 36-Tropical fruit
  - Steamship (abbr.)
  - Wary
  - Direction
  - Frozen water
  - Lifeless
  - Reflect deeply
  - Extinct flightless bird
  - A continent
  - Compass point
  - Printer's measure
  - Byss back
  - Parent (colloq.)
  - Strike out
  - Crowns
  - Dinner course
  - Steward (abbr.)
  - Writing fluid
- DOWN
- Poem
  - Container
  - Prefix: not
  - Danish island
  - Unruly children
  - Go
  - Organ of hearing
  - Part of church
  - Chinese mile
  - Scot's
  - Teutonic city
  - Speechmakers
  - Babylonian deity
  - Pronoun
  - Exclamation
  - Let it stand
  - Female sheep
  - Possessive pronoun
  - Dirk
  - Before
  - Winged
  - Lampreys
  - College degree (abbr.)
  - Grant use of 36-Tropical fruit
  - Steamship (abbr.)
  - Wary
  - Direction
  - Frozen water
  - Lifeless
  - Reflect deeply
  - Extinct flightless bird
  - A continent
  - Compass point
  - Printer's measure
  - Byss back
  - Parent (colloq.)
  - Strike out
  - Crowns
  - Dinner course
  - Steward (abbr.)
  - Writing fluid



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# ROCKETEER

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NEXT WEEK  
The 25th Anniversary Issue  
of the Rocketeer

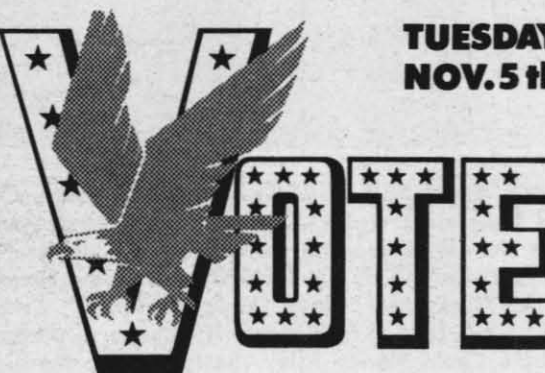
# AQ1 Royal B. DeLand of NAF Chosen 'Bluejacket of Year'



BLUEJACKET OF THE YEAR — AQ1 Royal B. DeLand, newly-named Bluejacket of the Year, is presented commemorative plaque by Howell Sumrall, president of the Indian Wells Valley Council of the Navy League. Center Commander Capt. Melvin R. Etheridge smiles his approval.

PHOTOS BY PHAN MIKE KRAUSE

CENTER'S FINEST — DeLand poses with Bluejackets of the Month (l-r) PH1 Gary Bird, AZ3 Dennis J. Rohwer, AE1 Carlton K. Savell, FTM2 George C. Johnson, AMH1 Eugene F. Boyts, and AMH1 Robert D. Plotkin, who were in contention for the coveted honor. Each selectee of the month received a \$50 cash award.



TUESDAY  
NOV. 5th

## RIF Date Postponed

Captain Melvin Etheridge, Commander, Naval Weapons Center announced today that official information has been received from Washington which reduces the impact of a Reduction in Force that was planned for accomplishment by January 31, 1969. Present information is that the new personnel Center-wide ceiling of 4,622 must be reached by June 30, 1969 instead of January 31 as had been the former instructions. The benefits of this new date will allow the Center to reach a portion of their new ceiling by normal attrition rather than almost entirely by the large formal Reduction in Force that had been planned.

The Captain emphasized that present information indicates the number of personnel to be reduced has not been affected but the change of dates for implementation of the reduction will reduce the number of people who will have to be involuntarily separated.

## Michelson Lab Employee Parking Limited on Nov. 8

On Friday, November 8, the south parking lot of the Michelson Laboratory (between TID and the Lab) will be restricted to use by visitors only. Excepted from this order are those employees who have been assigned resigned parking spaces in that area.



## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

## Your Vote Counts

By Chaplain Irvin H. Thompson



We might never have had a Second World War if it hadn't been for one person's vote. On November 8, 1923, the leaders of the little Nazi Party met in a Munich beer hall and, by one single vote, elected a leader. One single vote could have changed history for the better, because they couldn't have chosen worse than Adolph Hitler.

In 1839 Marcus Morton ran for Governor of Massachusetts and needed a majority of 51,034 votes. He got 51,034 votes precisely. But if the humblest little shopkeeper in Boston had changed his mind at the last minute, there would have been a different governor.

Douglas Storer cooperating with the American Heritage Foundation (an organization that campaigns to get people to vote) conducted a research and found out just how important one vote can be.

His research revealed that: (1) Charles I of England was beheaded in 1649 when a Tribunal of judges voted 68 to 67. (2) Oliver Cromwell won control of England in 1645 when the English Parliament voted 91 to 90. (3) Andrew Johnson escaped impeachment in 1868 by one Senator's vote. (4) Thomas Jefferson was elected President in 1800 after an electoral tie with Aaron Burr, one vote in Congress made the difference. (Could not this happen this year?) (5) Rutherford B. Hayes was elected President in 1876 when the electoral vote was 185 to 184.

The church sends out a clarion call for her members to get involved in the great game of Politics. Make your voice heard as an individual church member. The church must be careful about supporting one party. But, the church is aware that your personal vote could decide the fate of this nation.

## Former Presidents Send Message On Voting to Armed Forces

Every one of you as a member of the Armed Forces is serving our country in a special way. You are keeping America safe and secure.

One could hardly ask you to do more than that. But I'm going to anyway.

As a former soldier, and as a former Commander-in-Chief but most of all, as just a private American citizen, I'm going to ask you to carry out a special duty.

That is to vote in next month's national elections.

It doesn't matter where you are stationed, if you wear an American uniform you have the right and obligation to cast your ballot.

There is a Voting Assistance Officer in every military unit who can give you all the necessary forms.

Get in touch with him. Vote for the candidates you want in office.

There are a lot of countries where a citizen can't vote. Or, if he can vote, it really doesn't mean anything.

That isn't true of America.

We must never let it become true in America.

The way to keep it from happening is for you and me and all of us to vote.

I'm asking you to do just that.

S/Harry S. Truman

As one of you, I want to emphasize the importance of voting in the forthcoming national election — wherever you may be. All of us regard voting as a right. Too few realize that it is also a duty.

In these difficult times, the Nation and its Government need the guidance of its citizens. The proper and most effective way for all of us to be heard is through the ballot box. That is where our convictions must be registered.

Your vote will help determine who our leaders will be. It will affect the future course of our country.

I urge you not to fail to exercise your right to vote.

S/Dwight D. Eisenhower

## The Rocketeer

Official Weekly Publication

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China Lake, California

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NWC Commander

"Bibb"

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DEADLINES:

News Stories.....Tuesday, 4:30 p.m.

Photographs.....Tuesday, 11:30 a.m.

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Phones.....71354, 71655, 72082



## DIVINE SERVICES

Protestant—(All Faith Chapel)—  
Morning Worship—8:15 and 11 a.m.  
Sunday School—9:30 a.m., Chapel Annexes 1, 2, 3, 4 (Dorms 5, 6, 7, 8) located opposite Center Restaurant.

Roman Catholic (All Faith Chapel)—  
Holy Mass—7, 9:30 a.m., and 12:30 p.m. Sunday.

Daily Mass—11:30 a.m. in Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Saturday, 8:30 a.m.

Confessions—7 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday.

NWC Jewish Services (East Wing All Faith Chapel)—8 p.m. every first and third Friday.

Sabbath School—10 a.m. to noon, every first and third Saturday.

Unitarian Fellowship—(Chapel Annex 95, 95 King Ave.)—Sundays, 7:30 p.m.

## Capt. MacNeill Is New Senior NWC Chaplain

Capt. Harold A. MacNeill has assumed the duties of Senior Chaplain of the Naval Weapons Center. He relieved Chaplain Paul Romantum who has served as Senior Chaplain since



CAPT. H. A. MacNEILL

July, 1966. Chaplain Romantum left Oct. 14 to report for duty as Senior Chaplain aboard the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga (CVA-60).

Chaplain MacNeill comes to China Lake from duty as Senior Chaplain at the Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, Va. Capt. MacNeill has the distinction of being the only Navy chaplain certified by the American Protestant Hospital Association.

He took his training at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, under the sponsorship of VADM. George G. Burkley, physician to President John F. Kennedy.

## Native of Boston

A native of Boston, Mass., Chaplain MacNeill attended Gordon College, Boston; Brown University, Providence, R.I.; and Andover Theological School, Phillips Andover, Mass.

He was the first Navy chaplain selected to take postgraduate training at Harvard University. He holds a Bachelor of Theology degree, a Bachelor of Divinity degree, and a Master of Sacred Theology degree.

## Commissioned in 1943

It was from this pastorate that he entered the Navy to attend Chaplain School at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va. He was commissioned a lieutenant junior grade on Jan. 9, 1943.

His first chaplain assignment was with the Marines from 1943 to 1945 in the Pacific's Gilbert-Marshall area with the South Pacific Combat Air Unit, comprised of Marine and Army personnel, in the evacuation of the wounded.

## Fourth California Tour

This is Chaplain MacNeill's fourth tour of duty in California, having served as the first chaplain of the Naval Air Station, Miramar; Mare Island Naval Shipyard; and force chaplain on the Commander's Staff, Amphibious Force, Pacific Fleet, Coronado.

Chaplain MacNeill is married to the former Marion Kathleen MacAskill of Brookline, Mass. They will celebrate their 34th wedding anniversary

## 'DESERT PHILOSOPHER'

## More About Death Valley Days

By "POP" LOFINCK



Three thousand square miles in the Death Valley National Monument is too much to see in a week.

So here are some highlights on what not to miss if you attend the Death Valley Days' celebration next weekend.

At 8:30 a.m., Friday, November 8, breakfast at Stove Pipe Wells Village, for \$1.50. Death Valley will come alive through the eyes of a featured speaker, Matt Ryan, a long time resident of the Valley.

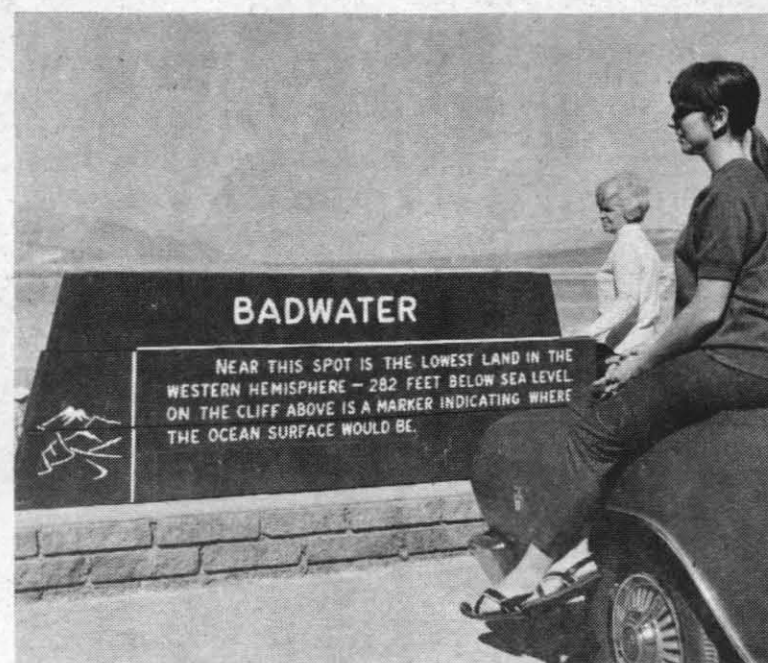
Get a program first at the counter in the Visitor Center's office.

There will be an outstanding show of gems and minerals by the Searles Lake Gem and Mineral Society. George Sturtevant is chairman.

Buy your Authors, Photographers, and Artists Breakfast tickets the day before at the information booths at Furnace Creek Ranch and Stove Pipe Wells Village.

There will be a naturalist's talk at 8:30 p.m. at the Visitor Center's Auditorium and Museum on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and at 7:30 p.m. on Monday. Very educational.

Be sure to get your picture taken beside the sign at Badwater so you can prove that you have been to the lowest



point in the western hemisphere.

And exercise your lungs on the adjacent rock cliffs — at 282 feet below sea level the echoes are very clear. Who knows, you might hear an echo from out of the past.



## NAVY EMPHASIS WEEK — The All Faith Chapel Choir

and Chaplain Irvin H. Thompson have been invited to conduct the entire evening worship service of the First Church of the Nazarene in Bakersfield on Sunday, Nov. 3 in honor of the Nazarenes' "Navy Emphasis Week." Choir members are: first row (l-r) Robert A. Leonard, Peggy Wandell, Debbie Cook, Nancy Riley, Betty Hefflin, Marvin Backman, third row (l-r) Jim Allen, Bill Davis, Robert B. Leonard, Ron Hise and Sam Haun. Choir members not present are: Margaret Ansell, Dee Burgess, Lorna Charlton, Maggie Etheridge, Lillian Folt, Kathie Foote, Beverly Glass, Dana Huilin, Mary Netzer, Susan Stalker, Charmaine Tucker, Betsy Von Huene, Gordon Wandell and Judy Weddle.

## Retired Officers Organize Local Chapter of ROA

With Capt. and Mrs. M. R. Etheridge as honored guests, a score of eligible retired officers — most of them already members of the national association — gathered last Wednesday evening at the Commissioned Officers' Mess to approve preliminary organizational plans to establish a local chapter of the Retired Officers' Association.

Retired CWO John Hartley, who has been working hard for establishment of a local group for some time, opened the meeting with a brief statement of the aims of ROA. He submitted tentative by-laws and a proposed schedule of activities that were based on his experience in organizing four other such branches.

At the meeting, Captain Etheridge spoke on the progress being made in implementing the Reduction in Force mandate at China Lake and Corona. He declared that the greatest problem was to overcome the discrepancy between the required reduction in budget and the cut-back in manpower.

Hartley acted as chairman pro tem for the election of officers, who were then duly installed by Capt. Etheridge. Those chosen to lead the chapter — tentatively named "The Indian Wells Valley Club of the Retired Officers' Assn." — until January, 1970, are: president, Hal Wilson; first vice-president, Dwight Atkinson; second vice-president and adjutant, Robert Zimmer; third vice-president, Richard Clark (who could not be present, but had given prior consent); and recording secretary — treasurer, John Hartley.

The next meeting is set for Wednesday, November 20, at 7 p.m. at the COM. Retired commissioned and warrant officers of any of the seven branches of military service are invited to join, and may get their names on the rolls by a call to the secretary — 377-3131.

## Presentation

In August of 1968, Hal and Jean Bennett, physicists of the NWC Research Department, launched two kayaks on the Colorado River below Moab, Utah. They drifted and paddled down the 50-mile red-walled canyon to the confluence of the Green River and then entered Cataract Canyon, one of the roughest stretches on the Colorado. The trip through the canyon was well documented with slides and movies now edited into a presentation.

On Wednesday, November 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the Weapons Exhibit Center, the Bennetts will share their adventures with interested members of the public.

In addition to the above presentation, slides of other areas of Canyonlands and the nearby San Rafael Swell will also be shown.

The program is free. The Maturango Museum will sponsor gate passes for off-station visitors.



LT. ALAN M. FOGELMAN arrived recently and is assigned to the Center's Medical Department. He was commissioned Lt.(ig) in December 1963. Although a native of Brooklyn, New York, he claims Los Angeles, California as hometown. Fogelman has an AB from UCLA, received his M.D. from UCLA Medical School, and served his internship and residency in internal medicine at the University of California Hospital, Los Angeles. He, his wife Judi, three year old John, and nine months old James live at 59-B Stroop on the Center.

## Old Timers Attend 25th Anniversary

The October 11 issue of the Rocketeer published a list of people who have indicated affirmatively that they will attend the 25th Anniversary affair. A supplemental list is published below.

Ashworth, VADM. F. L., USN (Ret), Commanding Officer, NOTS 1955-57; Baum, Dr. C.C., ColTech; Broshious, Marie, Wave — Early civil service; Cohen, Dr. N. W., early civil service; Cone, Cdr. Wade, Former military in Sidewinder program; Crain, Lee, Early military — pilot; Draper, Marion G., Early military — Early civil service — Department Head; Duncan, Mrs. James A., widow of Cdr. James Duncan, early planner for Michelson Lab and then Laboratory Officer; Gentry, M. B., ColTech; Hart, Lamar W., Early civil service; Hering, Carl; Hussey, VADM. Geo. F., USN (Ret), Chief, BuOrd during WW II; Irvin, John, Early ColTech; Kirby, Lela J., Early civil service; Kirkpatrick, Donald, Early military — AODU-1 Harvey Field; Klammer, Capt. R. G., USNR, Early military — AODU-1 Harvey Field; Koerper, P. J., Early military — AODU-1, Harvey Field; Lauritsen, Mrs. Charles C., widow of Dr. C. C. Lauritsen; Lowe, Capt. Grady H., USN, Officer in Charge, Pasadena — Commanding Officer, NOTS; McCreery, Capt. B. L., USN (Ret), Supply Officer, 1962-65; Murray, Dr. Earl, Early Supt. of China Lake Schools; Patton, H. H., Department Head; Pinyard, CWO; Early military — AODU-1; Plum, Dr. William, Early military — Early civil service; Stacey, Kent H., Assemblyman; Taylor, Colin A., Early civil service; Thomas, J. E., ColTech; Webb, Joe M., Early military — AODU-1; Wilson, A. Walter, Early civil service; Wright, A. C., Early civil service — Fire Chief; Young, Rodney, Early military — AODU-1 Harvey Field.



## Lagging Charity Drive Enters Its Final Week

Committee members for the 1969 Combined Federal Campaign expressed concern this week over returns to date. As the charity drive enters its final week, less than a fourth of the wage earners at NWC have turned in contributions, pointed out a spokesman for the CFC Coordinating Committee.

This will fall far short of the 100 per cent participation goal set in mid-October by Co-chairmen Captain K. C. Abplanalp and K. S. Skaarr. Analyzing causes for the slack-off in participation, the committee cited the current reduction in force as a possible deterrent to contributions.

The NWC RIF, they stressed, is small in proportion to total employment. It should not cause any individual to forego his contribution to charity. Anyone affected by the RIF may cancel his deduction authorization, or if he goes to other Federal employment may transfer his contribution to a new payroll.

CFC committee urges federal wage earners be mindful of urgent local needs for charity in addition to needs of national and international scope. Particularly, at a time of local stress, the Chairmen emphasized, there is a need for selfishness on the part of everyone to make and keep the community a better place to live and to give to those less fortunate.

With the Combined Federal Campaign going into its final week, Keymen are urged by the Chairman to make an all-out effort to bring participation up to the goal set at the outset of the drive. It would be a poor reflection on the public spirit of China Lake were the returns to fall far short of the CFC 1969 goal, said Captain Abplanalp. A community where personal income is triple the national average, he continued, should wholeheartedly support worthwhile causes represented by more than a score of agencies participating in the Combined Federal Campaign.

## No Payment No Reservation

Residents of Indian Wells Valley who have made reservations for the Early Timers' dinner and the 25th Anniversary dinner are reminded that payment for these can now be made at the office of K. H. Robinson, Technical Information Department, corner of Blandy St. and Knox Road. As there is a waiting list it will not be possible to hold reservations without payment after November 4.

Invites to the joint Anniversary Ball and Marine Corps Birthday are reminded that today, Friday, November 1, is the deadline for returning all reservation reply cards to either the Marine Corps Liaison Office, Code 142, or to Code 554 in Michelson Laboratory. Reservations cannot be accepted if received after Nov. 4.

## Captain Wessel Retires



Ending a 27-year Naval career, Captain Robert L. Wessel retired from the U.S. Navy today, November 1. Captain Wessel has been Commanding Officer of the Center's Corona Laboratories since November 6, 1967.

During Captain Wessel's command of NWC Corona, the Laboratories were commended, specifically, by the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Navy, the Chief of Naval Operations, and Admiral I. J. Galatin. Chief of Naval Material, Admiral Galatin's letter also mentioned that \$80 million worth of contracts, made during the Captain's tour, was the "first major award fee of this magnitude to be adjudicated by a government agency in the field."

The Admiral's letter concluded: "The personal satisfaction drawn from the respect you have earned at the Corona Laboratories and throughout the fleet is a most appropriate and valuable reward. I join in saluting your many accomplishments."

Captain Wessel's previous assignment was as Officer in Charge of the Livermore Division, Research and Development Group, Field Support Agency, at Livermore Radiation Laboratory. Other shore duty included Research and Development of Surface Fire Control Systems, Bureau of Naval Ordnance; Technical Training Group; Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, Albuquerque; and Air and Surface Weapons Applications, Naval Ordnance Laboratories, White Oak.

While Captain Wessel has not yet made any firm decisions for the future, he is considering a number of alternatives. The Wessels will continue to live in their Corona home until next June when the school term ends.

We hope to see all members at the COM on Tuesday, November 12 at 11:30 a.m.

val Ordnance Laboratories, White Oak.

He entered the naval service in 1941 and was commissioned in 1942. During World War II he served in motor torpedo boats in the South Pacific, at Guadalcanal and in the Philippine campaigns. He also participated in the Southern France campaign. After 1945 he served aboard heavy cruisers USS Toledo and USS Rochester, and destroyers USS N. K. Perry and USS F. E. Evans, and assumed command of USS Shields in September 1961.

Captain Wessel has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Letter of Commendation with Combat "V's" in addition to campaign ribbons of Asiatic - Pacific Area, European - African - Middle Eastern Area, World War II victory, Navy Occupation Service, China Service (Extended), Philippine Liberation, National Defense Service, Korean Service, and United Nations Service.

A retirement reception was held in honor of Captain and Mrs. Wessel at the Norconian Club in Corona Sunday afternoon, where they greeted the many friends they have made while at Corona. As a token of appreciation, employees presented the Captain with an attache case and a watch.

While Captain Wessel has not yet made any firm decisions for the future, he is considering a number of alternatives. The Wessels will continue to live in their Corona home until next June when the school term ends.

## WACOM Plans Luncheon

WACOM members are in for a gourmet treat at the November 12 gathering. Sue Byrd, Hospitality Chairman, refuses to disclose the very special menu.

The program should be of interest to all. Tom Senn of Senn's Coiffeurs will bring a number of wigs to style for us. A hairpiece will be awarded for the doorprize.

Reservations must be made by the Monday before the luncheon. If you find it necessary, cancellations will be taken until 9 a.m. Tuesday of the luncheon. Pat Williams, Telephone Chairman, is on Ext. 723104 and is handling the reservations.

We hope to see all members at the COM on Tuesday, November 12 at 11:30 a.m.



## THE LOCKER ROOM

## Super Bowl

BY ED RANCK



It was the weekend when it was all supposed to happen. With six of professional football's top seven teams in action against each other it had been assumed that by Tuesday morning a pair of teams would have gained the inside track in the race to Miami. It was the pivotal weekend in pro football and now that half of the schedule is completed nothing is solved. The clouds in the crystal ball are thicker than ever.

Few people were absolutely firm in their predictions regarding the outcome of the three big games, but the Rams, Cowboys and Chargers had to be slightly favored. All three teams took gigantic pratfalls.

Had the Cowboys and Rams fared better, than an LA-Dallas championship clash would have been virtually assured. San Diego certainly wouldn't have clinched their divisional championship but with two home games remaining against the Chiefs and Raiders, things would have looked rosy.

When you reflect on the proceedings that occurred on Sunday afternoon and Monday evening, a few basic facts became apparent:

(A) Green Bay is not a dead ball club. This team, which once upon a time did all of the small things that spelled victory had began to do the small things that led to defeat. But apparently the Packers are beginning to smell the Super Bowl money again, and because they are in one of the weaker divisions of the NFL, their earlier mistakes might be nullified.

(B) The Rams can be had by a good team playing it's best game.

(C) The Chargers can be had.

(D) The Cowboys can be had but maybe only by Green Bay.

It had been mentioned that with the Chargers and the Rams both on the tube, we were witnessing what might best be described as a dress rehearsal for the Super Bowl. This could be true, but there is reason to believe that neither team will get that far.

Los Angeles has been called a super team and the heir apparent to the Packers as the dominant team in football. San Diego is being considered in the same light as far as the AFL is concerned. Both clubs are tremendously strong in some respects, but they also have glaring weaknesses that have to be considered.

The Chargers have an explosive offense that may be the best in pro football. But although they have made a great improvement over last year, the defensive unit is still a patsy for a well executed sweep or the screen pass. San Diego's linebackers are small and possibly a little too slow.

At first glance it would seem that the Rams have offensive problems, but the fact is that they have a fine, although conservative offensive unit. Although few would agree with the theory, it seems to me that the Los Angeles weakness is also defensive.

The Rams have what has to be the best front four ever to play the game. But occasionally an offensive line will reduce the Fearsome Foursome to the status of mere mortals. On these occasions, Deacon Jones and Co. will perform with the efficiency of a good defensive line, providing a pass rush that is on a par with, say, Green Bay.

Given a chance to survive, the offensive quarterback will pick the Los Angeles secondary apart, proving that the pass defenders need a superior effort up front in order to perform effectively. It happened in San Diego two months ago and it happened in Baltimore on Sunday.

With these facts in mind, it is time to make our last annual pro football predictions, realizing of course that calling the winners of six divisions and five post season games is a bit hazardous, especially without the help of a guru.

In the Central Division, Green Bay, strictly because of their performance against the Cowboys on Monday evening. In the Capital, Dallas should breeze home by three games. St. Louis will win the Century, being the best in a group of so-so teams.

In the Coastal Division the Rams should make it with a win over Baltimore at home, then beat Green Bay in the semifinals. Dallas meanwhile should take St. Louis easily.

The NFL finale involving Dallas and Los Angeles is hard to pick. Both teams are hungry but the Cowboys have the home field advantage. Dallas should win but by no more than a touchdown.

While it is possible to guess on the outcome of the NFL with some clarity, the AFL is a different story. In the West, Oakland, Kansas City and San Diego are in the running. Figuring that Oakland will beat KC this Sunday, we would have to go with San Diego because they will play the Raiders and Chiefs at home later in the season. But the team that nobody is talking about, the New York Jets, will win the AFL championship.

After that it is on to Miami, with the Super Bowl outcome being Dallas 34, New York, 27. I think. Maybe.

## Youth Activities Prepare For Halloween Dance

There will be a Halloween party and dance for members of the Junior Student Union (seventh and eighth graders) at the Youth Center tonight, November 1, from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m.

All participants are asked to wear a costume and/or a mask. Cider, doughnuts, and apple dunking will be on the menu and music will be furnished by the "Majestic Purple."

Admission is free to members with dues paid; admission charge for guests is 75 cents.

## SENIOR STUDENT DANCE

The "Rusty Pickles" from Buena Park will furnish the music for a high school dance at the Community Center tonight, November 1, from 8 to 11 p.m.

Admission for members of the Senior Student Union, with dues paid, will be free; there will be an admission charge of \$1 for guests. Dress for the evening is casual.

## BASKETBALL LEAGUES

China Lake Youth Basketball Leagues, sponsored by Youth Activities of Special Services, are now being organized.

Managers, coaches, referees, and timekeepers are needed and all adults who desire to assist in these positions are asked to contact the youth director, Dick Wadman, at Ext. 72902.

The leagues will be divided into two age groups — one league for boys who will not be 15 years of age prior to December 1, 1968, and one league for boys who will not be 13 years of age prior to December 1, 1968. All participants must be at least eight years of age on the date of registration.

## Carl Sandburg's Works To Be Read

"The World of Carl Sandburg," a reader's theatre in two parts will be presented by Theatre 27 of the Desert Campus of Bakersfield College on Thursday, November 7, in the Burroughs High School Multipurpose Auditorium at 8:15 p.m.

The cast includes Ralph Schwarzbach, Jacqueline Jessberger, Wesley Willett, Mary Anne Wilkins, and Robert Gritton, who appear as various characters in the Sandburg work. Wayne Carpenter and Jeanne Gritton will provide the folk songs from "The American Songbag."

The production is being directed by Pat Schwarzbach, instructor of the theatre class.

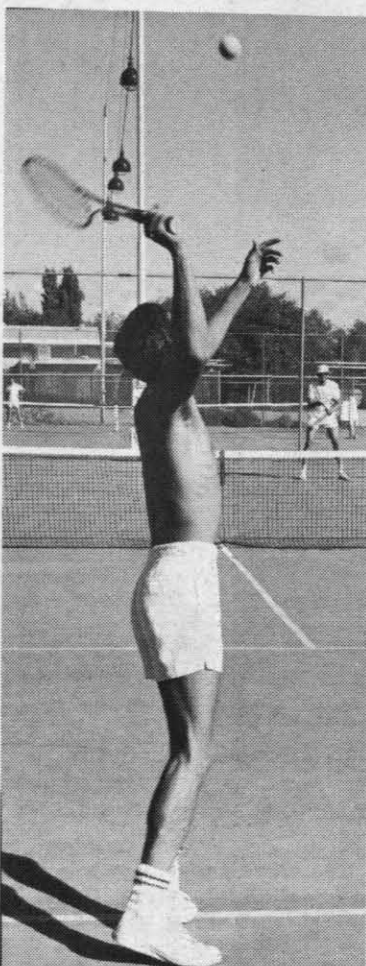
Admission is \$1.00 for adults and 50 cents for children and students. Members of the college's student body will be admitted with an activity card. Tickets are now available at the college office and from members of the cast.

STANDINGS				
	W	L	PF	PA
VX-5	4	0	110	30
Outlaws	2	1	52	32
NAF	3	2	127	70
Crabs	2	3	93	58
Gengo	0	5	19	205

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS  
VX-5 19, Crabs 6; Outlaws 25, Gengo 0; NAF 18, Gengo 7.

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE  
November 5—Outlaws vs. NAF.  
November 6—Gengo vs. Crabs.

## Annual Tennis Tournament



ACTION BEGAN at the local tennis courts this weekend on the occasion of the China Lake Tennis Club's Annual Fall tournament. Final rounds will be played this weekend. Awards will be presented at a party to be held at the COM, Saturday, November 2.

## Randy Stedman High Scorer Among Juniors

Randy Stedman rolled a 602 series last week to lead the way in the China Lake Junior Mixed League. Randy had games of 213-200-189 enroute to the series, one of the highest this year in the Junior League. Randy also, has a 254 game to his credit, having hit that mark during the previous week's action. Linda Cutsinger was high for the Junior Girls rolling 160-445.

In the Senior Mixed League, Mark Barkemeyer, Dale Dowd and Charles Goff all hit 203. Dowd had high series with 555 while Barkemeyer had 540. Bruce Pfau also broke the 500 mark, rolling a 523.

Fred Dalpiaz took high series honors in the Midway League with 643, hitting 234 and 231 along the way. John Ito was next with 215-204 and a 604 while Joe Chesney had high game with 235. Other top games included Bryant Ferguson 231; Roy Johanboeke 224; Ken Dalpiaz 221; Bob Owens 214; Bob Tegowski and Maury Coleman 212; and Mike Crom 209.

In the Desert League, Don Tucker led the way with 205-224-189 for a 618 series. Tucker shared single game honors with Bert Galloway who also hit 224. Dave Bonnema led the Military Handicap League with 235-607 and Ken Dukeshire had second high single game with 211.

## Partridge Hunters Ready Aim



Sportsmen are primed for opening day of upland gamebird season tomorrow, November 2, on NWC's north range. Last year more than a thousand hunters were logged through the Darwin Gate during early hours of opening day. Another big crowd is expected this year for the sixth consecutive year of open hunting at NWC.

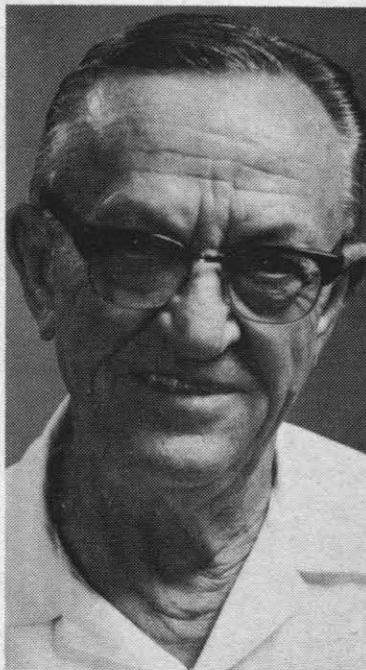
Legal species are red-legged partridge (picture), mountain and valley quail, cottontail and jackrabbits. Bag limits this year for chukar are five per day, five in possession. The ten per day, all species, limit for quail remains unchanged as does the ten in possession limit.

Opening of military lands whenever possible for general recreation or sportsmen's uses is part of the Department of Defense broad program of natural resource management. Upland game hunting on NWC ranges will continue on the weekends of November 16 and 17 and end on the weekend of November 23 and 24.

NWC Security police will check hunters in through the Darwin Gate from 5 a.m. and provide maps, fire permits and information. California Department of Fish and Game personnel will be on the range to enforce license and bag regulations, and assist in furnishing information.

Overnight campsites for the hunting weekends are at Junction Ranch and Burcham Springs. Running water is available at Junction Ranch.

## Comm. Council Candidates

SEARCY H. BROWN  
PRECINCT 5

The election of the Directors for China Lake Community Council will be held at the same time as the General Election, Tuesday, November 5. Ballot boxes for the Council will be in the same room as those for the General Election — but located a distance from the Registrars.

Registration is not necessary to vote for the Directors of the Council; however, the voter must live in the precinct in which he is voting for a director. Members of all precincts can vote for the Director at Large. Military and civilian newcomers are eligible to vote, even though they have only been on the Center one day.

Eight directors are seeking reelection; two are uncontested candidates in their precincts; and one incumbent is opposed by two candidates seeking office.

Precinct candidates are:

Precincts 1 and 10—George Ness, incumbent.

Precinct 2 — Ted Bergman, incumbent.

Precinct 3 — Chief Gerald Inmann, USN.

Precinct 4 — Wardna Abemath, Council Vice President, incumbent.

Precinct 5 — Bob Young, incumbent; Verne Tracey; Searcy Brown.

Precinct 6 — Lt. James Maslowski, USN.

Precinct 7 — Ruth Schuyler, incumbent.

Precinct 8 — Donald W. Copper, Council President, incumbent.

Precinct 9 — Larry Mason, Incumbent Director at Large, John D. Emery, is seeking reelection.

New Candidates

The four new candidates casting their hats in the ring for Community Council directors are:

Chief Petty Officer Gerald Inman, of NAF, is seeking election as director in Precinct 3. The 37-year-old career Navy man is a native of Corpus Christi, Tex. He has 17 years of Navy service.

His community activities have included posts of secretary and pistol executive of the Sierra Gun Club. He is a member of the NAF Rifle and pistol Team. He has served as Boy Scout Leader at Imperial Beach, Calif.

Verne C. Tracey is opposing incumbent Bob Young for director in Precinct 5. Born in Gerber, Calif., Tracey entered the Navy in December, 1941 and served until December, 1963, retiring as a Chief Petty Officer.

He was employed by the Rocket Propulsion Laboratory at Edwards Air Force Base until June, 1966 when he transferred to the Systems Development Department here.

Tracey is a member of the Board of Directors of the Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 95, at China Lake. He and his wife, Beatrice, have one son, Gregory.

Lt. James Maslowski, USN, of NAF, is an unopposed candidate for director in Precinct 6. A native of Virginia, Minn., he has seven years of naval service and is Free-Fall Weapons Project Officer at NAF.

He has served on Community Councils at Milton, Fla., and Kingsville, Tex. He has been a member of the Kiwanis Club and the Catholic Men's Club.

Lt. Maslowski and his wife, Priscilla, have one daughter, Michelle Kathryn, 16 months old.

Residents Urged to Vote

Members of the Board of Directors of the Community Council are China Lake residents' elected representatives.

All eligible residents are urged to exercise their voting privileges and show their interest in community affairs by voting in the Community Council election and the General Election.

All packages should be addressed correctly using the five-digit Army Post Office (APO) or Fleet Post Office (FPO) numbers. Mailing and return addresses should also be placed inside the packages.

The Defense Department asked that mail not be sent to the Pentagon for armed forces personnel serving overseas. All mail must be addressed to servicemen or women by name, and should include the individual's service number.

VERNE C. TRACEY  
PRECINCT 5

Chief Inmann and his wife, Mary Kay, have three children, Melody, 15, Maureen, 13½, and Gerald, Jr., 12.

Searcy H. Brown is opposing incumbent Bob Young and candidate Verne C. Tracey for director in Precinct 5. A retired Naval Weapons Center employee, Brown has lived at China Lake since 1945. He served on the Community Council in the early days at China Lake.

His wife, June, is employed in the Air Force Liaison Office at NWC. They have two daughters, Linda, a student at the University of California at Santa Barbara, and Sue, who is married and has five children and lives in Lafayette, Calif.

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A bus trip around the campus served to introduce the ladies to the college which was followed by an on-foot tour and inspection of the new language arts building.

Their campus visit was climaxed by an invitation to join 2,000 students and faculty members who were having a coffee following a convocation

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The ladies were met on arrival at Bakersfield College by Margaret Janzen, Women's Division Military Affairs Chairman and Tom Taylor, Associated Student Body President.

Taylor, the first Indian Wells Valley resident to be elected Student Body President at Bakersfield College, escorted the women on a tour of the campus.

At which Charles Evers, Mississippi civil rights leader was the speaker. During the coffee, the ladies met Burns Finlinson, Bakersfield College President, and Charles Evers.

After their tour of the college, the ladies were guests at the Chamber's annual military affairs luncheon held in the Valley Plaza Town Hall.

The luncheon speaker was State Treasurer Ivy Baker Priest, who assured her audience of approximately 120, that difficult as it was for her, she would not make a political address.

Mrs. Priest gave a general review of the functions and responsibilities of her office—then devoted the remainder of her talk developing the thesis that America is great because of its "intangibles."

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IWV LADIES GO TO COLLEGE — Ladies from various clubs and organizations of the area listen intently as Tom Taylor, Bakersfield College Student Body President, conducts them on a tour of the campus. The trip was part of a combined tour and shopping trip.

## Post Office Sets Rules For Early Mailing

The Department of Defense and the Post Office Department have announced their policies concerning the mailing of Christmas gifts to armed forces personnel overseas to insure delivery in time for the holidays.

Four methods of mailing are available and the following dates and rules apply:

**Surface Mail** — Parcels weighing more than five pounds should be mailed before Nov. 9. Packages must not weigh more than 70 pounds nor be more than 100 inches in length and girth combined.

**Space Available Mail** — Packages in this category must weigh less than five pounds and cannot measure more than 60 inches in length and girth combined. They should be in the mail from Oct. 21 to Nov. 23. This mail will receive air transportation on a space available basis from the East or West Coast of the United States to all overseas areas.

**Parcel Airlift** — For an extra fee of one dollar, parcels weighing 30 pounds or less will be airlifted, space - available, from the place of mailing to overseas areas. These should be in the mail from Oct. 28 to Nov. 30.

**Air Mail** — Parcels bearing airmail postage should be mailed from Nov. 30 to Dec. 11 to assure Christmas delivery.

All mailers were reminded that thousands of extra packages are mailed at this time of year and despite efforts of the Post Office and the military postal service, some never reach their destination because they are wrapped poorly or addressed incorrectly or illegibly.

Packages should be securely packed in cartons of wood, metal, or double faced corrugated fiber board. Fragile items should be surrounded by cushioning materials such as excelsior or shredded paper.

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# Secrets of Salt Wells Plant are Revealed

Now it can be told - - the story of the hush-hush Project Camel and the Salt Wells Pilot Plant at the Naval Weapons Center, China Lake.

Explosive components for many of the atomic bombs made after World War II were produced at the Salt Wells Pilot Plant for the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, initially under the Manhattan District and later the Atomic Energy Commission. The work of casting and machining extremely precise chemical explosive charges for atomic bombs was started at the Salt Wells Pilot Plant in July 1945, just 115 days after ground was broken for the new plant. Between 1945 and 1949 it was the only producer of certain chemical explosive components for the atomic weapons program. When operations ended on July 1, 1954, Salt Wells transferred its production techniques and know-how to other plants.

The story of the NWC role in the atomic bomb work has been cleared for publication by the Albuquerque Operations Office of the Atomic Energy Commission and the Directorate for Security Review of the Department of Defense.

## Story Begins in 1944

The story began in 1944, when the one-year-old Naval Ordnance Test Station (now NWC) was providing test support for the rocket development work that the California Institute of Technology was doing for the Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD). At that time the Manhattan Project was under intense pressure to produce an atomic bomb, and Dr. Vannevar Bush, the head of OSRD, believed that the project could benefit by using the scientific talent and facilities of the Cal-

Tech rocket group headed by Dr. C. C. Lauritsen.

Dr. Lauritsen established an office at Los Alamos where he maintained close and continuing liaison with Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer and essentially served as part of the Los Alamos management team. Thus he provided a ready channel for applying CalTech - NWC resources wherever needed on the top - priority Manhattan Project.

The main CalTech - NWC contributions to early nuclear weapons programs was in establishing production techniques and in manufacturing the explosive components for the early nuclear bombs of the implosion type. This work represented a uniquely new technical challenge in that it required casting and machining high explosives. These precise explosive components would perform the key function in an atomic implosion weapon by instantaneously bringing together under compression a supercritical mass of nuclear material.

The original experimental facilities for producing the explosive forms were in crowded temporary buildings at Los Alamos. It became increasingly apparent to Los Alamos management that the limited facilities were imposing a sharp limitation on the experimental effort. In particular, Captain W. S. Parsons, USN, (later Rear Admiral) who headed the Ordnance Division at Los Alamos, was concerned that there was not a permanent plant for manufacturing high-explosive components for the implosion - type weapons and for performing research to improve the technology.

In December 1944 the need for a pilot production plant for manufacturing the explo-



SALT WELLS Pilot Plant Guard Gate as it looked on July 31, 1945, 23 years ago.

sives was informally discussed between Dr. Lauritsen and Dr. Bruce Sage, the prime mover in the planning and construction of the China Lake Pilot Plant. Working with a minimum of information and a 24-hour deadline, Dr. Sage produced a proposal for the new plant, which he estimated would cost \$13 million for plant and equipment (the final estimate was \$15 million). Within two weeks the money was available; however, CalTech retained only the money for detailed engineering and process equipment, and the bulk of the funds were transferred to the Navy for construction contracts.

## Project Camel

In January 1945 a meeting was held at CalTech to outline the objectives of this new work which was to be called Project Camel. This meeting was attended by General Leslie R. Groves, U.S. Army, Captain Parsons, Dr. Lauritsen, and Dr. Sage. CalTech was given a free hand in designing, equipping, staffing, and operating the plant. The only qualifications were those of rapid completion date and permanency of construction. The plan was to construct the plant in 90 days. It was approximately 115 days from the time of the first ground breaking until the first explosives were cast. This historic day for Project Camel was July 25, 1945.

One of the major problems in meeting the tight deadline was that the processes and equipment were technically unique and untried. A problem faced by the designers of the plant was that as the building construction proceeded many of the manufacturing techniques had not yet been definitely established. The basic principle was to design buildings for maximum flexibility.

During the first few months of this project, only a handful of CalTech scientists and engineers were aware of its purpose. Thousands of construction workers and engineers were employed in the construction, but few, if any, knew the end product of their work.

The facilities of the Salt Wells Pilot Plant included ma-

ny specialized buildings within a 4.5-square-mile fenced area for the administration, service facilities, and main processing plant. The Camel test area and the magazine area occupied an additional 20 square miles.

In addition to the close scientific link established by Dr. Lauritsen between Los Alamos and the CalTech - NWC complex, there also was a strong military link through Captain Parsons, who was in charge of all work concerned with final preparation and delivery of combat bombs. It was largely Parsons' background of ordnance experience, which made him skeptical of untried paper studies, that brought about an extensive test program with the actual bomb shapes. The instrumentation and facilities at the NWC range made it a desirable place for a number of the drops for fuze testing and for penetration studies.

Within two days after the first successful firing of the atom bomb at the Trinity site in New Mexico, Captain Parsons was at China Lake giving an eyewitness account to Dr. Lauritsen and Captain S. E. Burroughs (now RADM. Ret.), NWC's first commanding officer, of the explosion as seen by him from the air. His next stop was to be Tinian where he would be in charge of the final preparations as well as bomb commander on the Hiroshima flight on August 6, 1945.

With the news releases on the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it became obvious for the first time to many a worker at the Salt Wells Pilot Plant what his project was all about, but in the years that followed the personnel of the plant and the rest of the station continued to guard with extreme vigilance information about both the plant and its product.

The group operating the plant was transferred to Civil Service under the Explosives Department in November 1945, and was later operated by the Rockets and Explosives Department. Between 1951 and 1954, the organization held department status as the Explosives Department.

As processing methods were

modified and expanded, there were three significant additions to the plant - in 1948, 1950, and 1951. A total plant evaluation, excluding equipment, ended up at about \$9.5 million with 52 permanent buildings. The plant operated as a contractor to the Atomic Energy Commission under the technical coordination of the Bureau of Ordnance.

The Atomic Energy Commission, in its desire to increase production, was generous in providing almost \$5 million worth of community facilities in support of the program. The Groves Street School, named for General Groves, is obvious, but not so well known are the following: 380 Normac houses, 15 groups of the Card Street apartments, extension of the runways at the Naval Air Facility, two barracks, two dormitories, three SSQ-type houses, half of the original commissary, the present barber shop, the material for a 14-inch water line, and telephone cable lines from Inyokern to the base. Between 1945 and 1954, the Salt Wells effort averaged from 15 to 20 per cent of the entire station budget. At the peak of operation, the plant utilized 550 employees plus an estimated 300 others in the support activities.

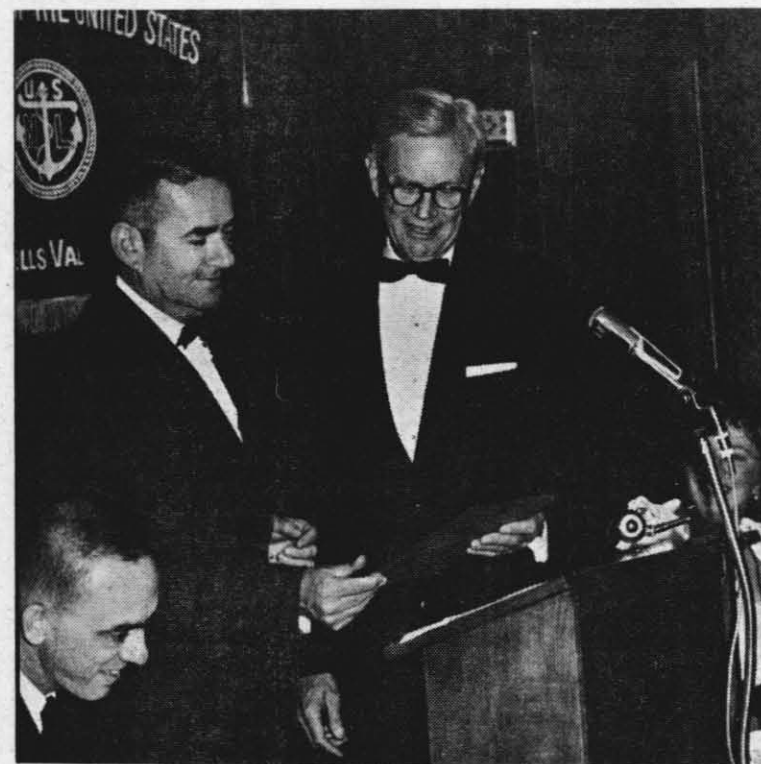
When the work started, little was known about fabricating bombs. It was definitely an art, not a science. The employees at Salt Wells turned this into a science and perfected the methods, tools, and techniques that, upon the closing of the plant in 1954, were turned over to AEC. The mission of the department was thus completed.



## NWC Commander Honored



HONORARY MEMBERSHIP in the Indian Wells Valley Council of the Navy League was presented to NWC Commander, Capt. M. R. Etheridge by Navy League president Howell Sumrall.



SPECIAL SCROLL OF HONOR in tribute to outstanding service was presented to NWC PAO "J" "T" Bibby.

### Navy League of the United States

## Scroll of Honor

The Navy League of the United States  
by authorization of the Board of Directors  
presents this Award

In testimony and tribute to outstanding service to the United States Navy and the Navy League and in recognition of achievements which exemplify the highest ideals of the Navy League

Presented this 26th day of October, 1968

*Howell Sumrall*  
President

*Arthur Meyer*  
Secretary

## DeLand Chosen As '68 Bluejacket, Wins Cash, Trip

(Continued from Page 7)

speak of a command as 'my command.' Well, a command belongs to every man in it," he emphasized.

Capt. Etheridge also paid tribute to the local Navy League Council, citing its Bluejacket of the Year Award as a program of substance. He commended the twin cities of Ridgecrest and China Lake for their community support of the annual banquet.

## Guests of The Hideaway

Other "Bluejackets of the Month," who were dinner guests of The Hideaway, present for the banquet were Photographers Mate First Class Gary Bird and wife Cecilia; Aviation Electrician's Mate First Class Carelton Savell and wife Rae; Aviation Structural Machinist's Mate First Class Eugene Boyts and wife Jeri; Aviation Maintenance Administrationman Third Class Dennis Rohwer and sponsors Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Stark; Aviation Ordnanceman Second Class Robert Plotkin and guest Miss Terry Fox; and Missile Fire Control Technician Second Class George Johnson and wife Judith.

The distinguished guest list included Capt. and Mrs. M. R. Etheridge, NWC Commander; Capt. and Mrs. Robert Williams; Capt. and Mrs. Lawrence A. Dewing, NAF Commanding Officer; Capt. and Mrs. Charles W. Fritz, VX-5 Commanding Officer; Senior Chaplain Harold A. MacNeill, who gave the Invocation and pronounced the Benediction; and Dr. and Mrs. R. W. Sheldon, president of the Bakersfield Council of the Navy League.

## George Whaley M.C.'s

Ridgecrest Chief of Police George M. Whaley adroitly handled the master of ceremonies' chores in the introduction of guests and Bluejackets to the over 100 in the banquet audience.

## 23 Firms Contribute

Twenty-three firms contributed to the Navy League making the awards and the Naval Birthday Celebration possible. They included Arrowsmith Tool & Mfg. Corp., Bakersfield Council, Navy League, COMARCO Inc., Computer Applications, Inc., Fedco, General Dynamics Corp., Fred Harvey Co., Genge Recreation Club, Hertz Rent-A-Car, Hideaway Steak House, Hughes Aircraft Co., K&R Market, Kiwanis Club of Ridgecrest, McDonnell Douglas Corp., Mercury Moving & Storage Co.

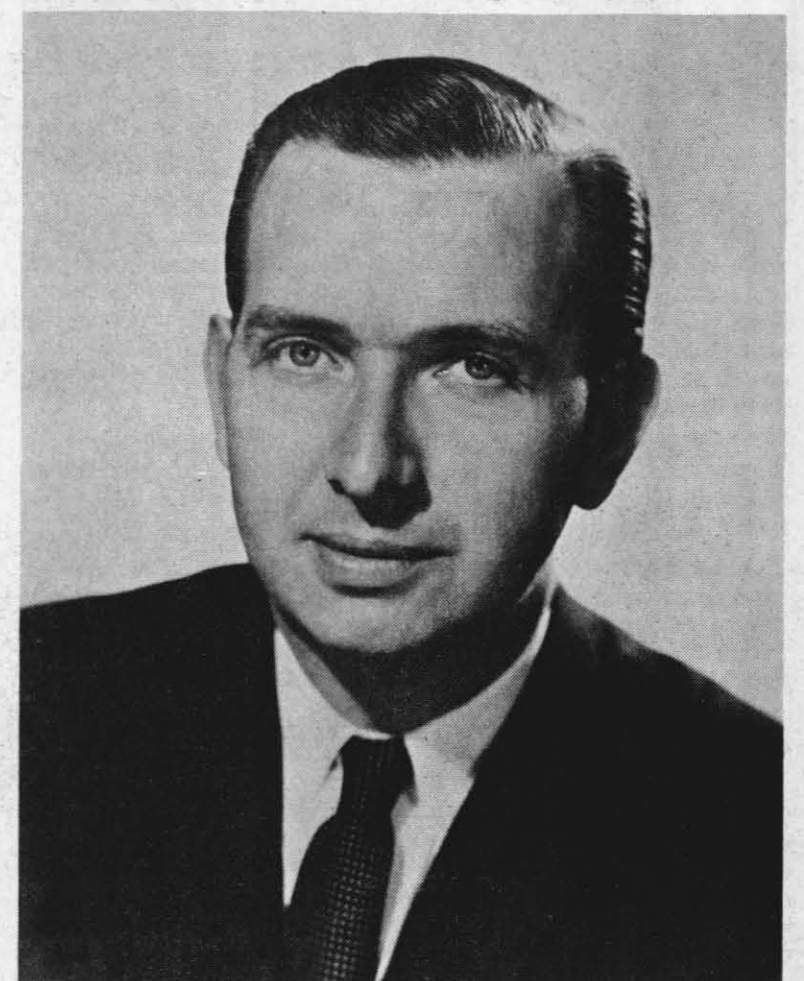
Also, Meteorology Operations, Inc., Mint Hotel, North American Rockwell Corp., Shopping Bag Food Stores, Inc., Texas Instruments, Inc., Valley Independent, Veterans of Foreign Wars Ship No. 4084, Western Auto Supply, and The Flower Shop.

## Polling Change

The polling location for Precinct Five has been changed from Murray School to the Youth Center.

The Youth Center is located behind the Post Office and Malt Shop at Bennington Plaza on the Center.

## Concert Association Hypes Sales



The China Lake Civic Concert Association will open its 1968-69 series of five concerts on November 25 with Grant Johannesen, internationally known pianist, on the stage of the NWC Theater. Other concerts will be Zara Nelsova, cellist, on December 12; the American Brass Quintet on January 29, 1969; the DeCormier Folk Singers on February 20, 1969; and Jose Greco and his Spanish Ballet on March 3, 1969.

Now in its 21st year, the China Lake Civic Concert Association has an especially great need for membership this year. Despite rising costs, membership prices remain the same as the last several years. Season tickets are priced at \$15, \$12.50 and \$10. Servicemen and children receive their tickets at half-price. All seating in the NWC Theater for the series is on a reserved basis.

This year the Board of Directors has moved the starting time for the concerts to 8 p.m., hoping that this will be an added inducement for parents to encourage their chil-

dren in the appreciation of fine music and dance.

Last year's patrons of the series have been mailed renewal cards to indicate whether they wish to reserve their same seating or select other seats for this year. The selection of new seating for renewal patrons will take place on Tuesday evening, November 5, at the Maturango Museum from 6-10 p.m. H. L. Bagge, ticket manager, has asked that any of last year's patrons who have not mailed back their renewal cards or have not been contacted by telephone, should call him at NWC 73341 before Sunday.

New subscribers to the series will select their seating on Wednesday and Thursday evening, November 6 and 7, from 6-10 p.m. at the Maturango Museum. The need for new subscribers is great this year and the current sales campaign continues until the time of new seat selection.

Persons who wish to subscribe to the series or who have questions about the series may contact Mrs. David H. Chapman at NWC ext. 723324 or Mrs. R. M. McClung at ext. 725811.

## CABLE COMMUTER PLANE SCHEDULE

Effective November 1, 1968

### Inyokern - Los Angeles International Airport

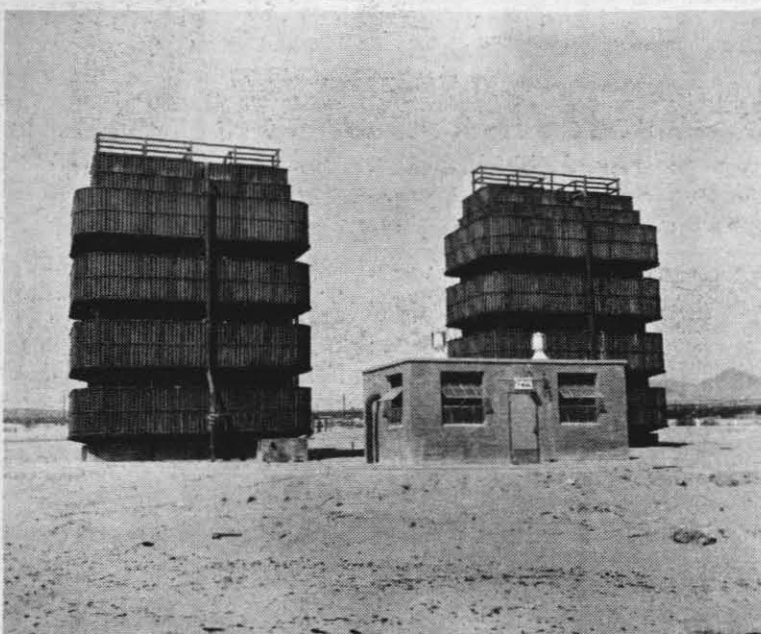
Cable Schedule (TR's or Tickets Required)

	Flight No.	Leave LAX	Arr. Inyokern
<b>Northbound</b>			
Monday through Friday.....	310	1000	1105
Sunday through Friday.....	328	2030	2135
<b>Southbound</b>			
Monday through Friday.....	412	1120	1230
Sunday through Friday.....	429	2140	2250

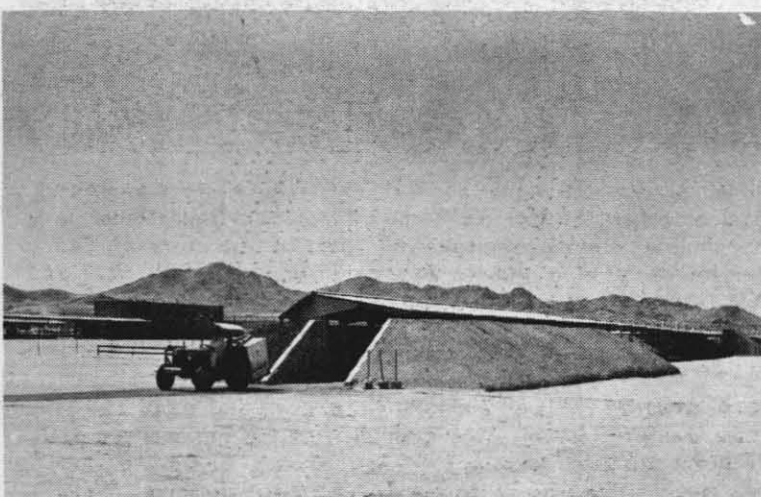
NOTE: All flights stop briefly at Lancaster.

Passenger transportation will be provided between China Lake and Inyokern Airport or visa versa Monday through Friday when requested.

Sunday travelers departing or arriving China Lake should make prior arrangements for transportation through the Travel Branch, Code 8517, Ext. 71378, China Lake.



FACILITIES IN USE at the Salt Wells Pilot Plant during Project Camel included these cooling towers.



A TYPICAL dock at the Salt Wells Pilot Plant in 1946.



# Bluejacket Mess Is Tops

## Quick Service, Home-Style Meals Order Of The Day

The Bluejackets' general mess — restaurant to the civilian populace — provides breakfast, dinner, and supper seven days a week in mess halls located at the enlisted barracks complex and at the Naval Air Facility.

The number of men fed per day averages 150 at the NWC galley and 100 at NAF, including VX-5.

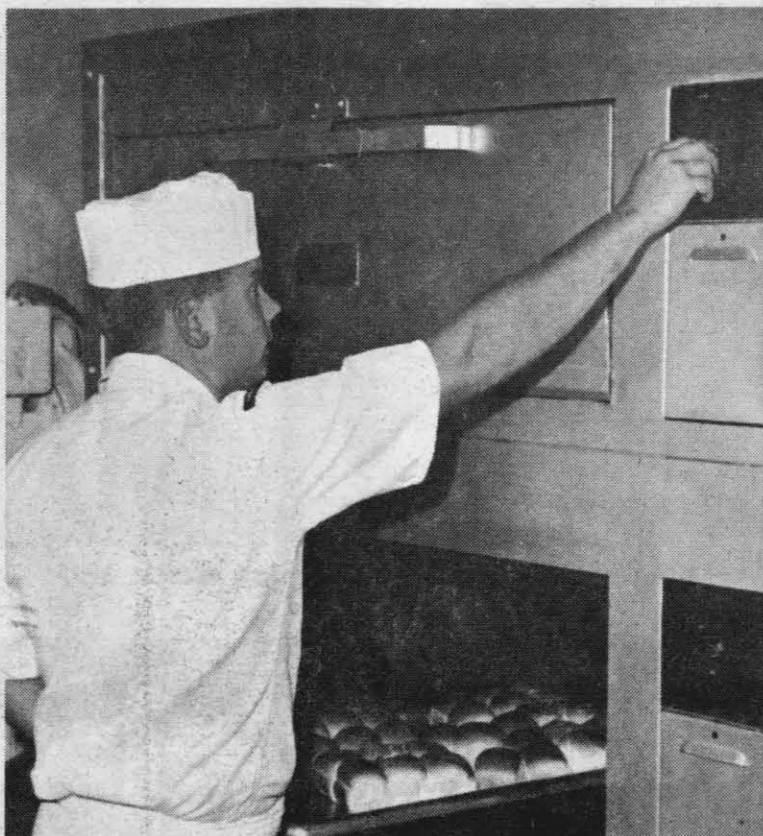
Nineteen messmen are assigned for three month tours to the general mess from the various divisions at NWC, NAF and VX-5.

On week-ends and holidays early and late brunches are substituted for breakfast and dinner. Monday through Friday at the noon meal the men may have their choice of a regular dinner menu or short-order fare as served on the new "express mess."

Both NAF and NWC mess halls have "restaurant" type atmospheres with individual tables for four, a smorgasbord salad bar and soft background music.

Periodically the mess features "Italian Night" with a complete Italian menu featuring spaghetti and pizza. Red and white checkered table cloths and candles at each table complete the scene.

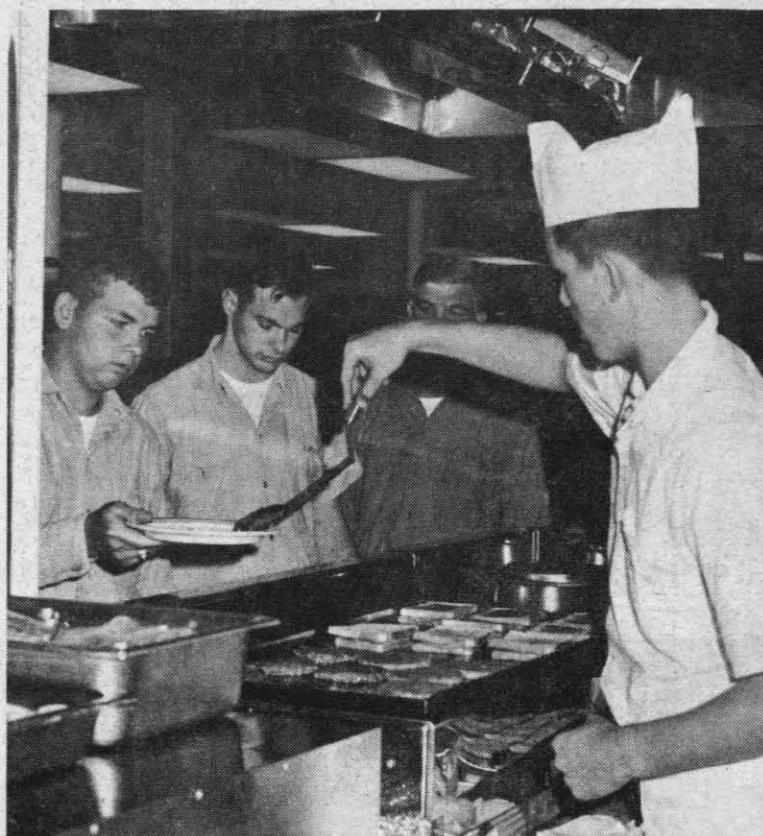
The general mess is a function of the Food Service Division headed up by Lt. C. L. Anderson. In addition to the above he is assisted by CSC J. R. Santos, chief-in-charge of general mess; SK1 R. K. Regan, administrative petty officer; CS1 C. S. Stone, galley captain; CS1 W. G. Saloninka, butcher; CS3 W. Bodie, jack of the dust; CS2 C. J. Barkley, NAF port cook of the watch; AQF2 S. F. Imms, port mess-hall master at arms; AT1 R. M. Clark, starboard mess-hall master at arms; and DC2 W. H. Lodovico, NAF.



CS2 G. DANIELS, baker at the enlisted galley checks the ovens used for baking pastries. Eighty pies and about 700 doughnuts, plus assorted breakfast rolls and cakes (cookies too) are baked daily. Cakes for the 25th Anniversary, including the Marine Ball, will be baked at the galley.



INDIVIDUAL TABLES FOR FOUR with white table cloths help create a restaurant-type atmosphere in the dining hall. Families of enlisted men are permitted to dine in the general mess on special occasions such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, and five other special holidays in the year.



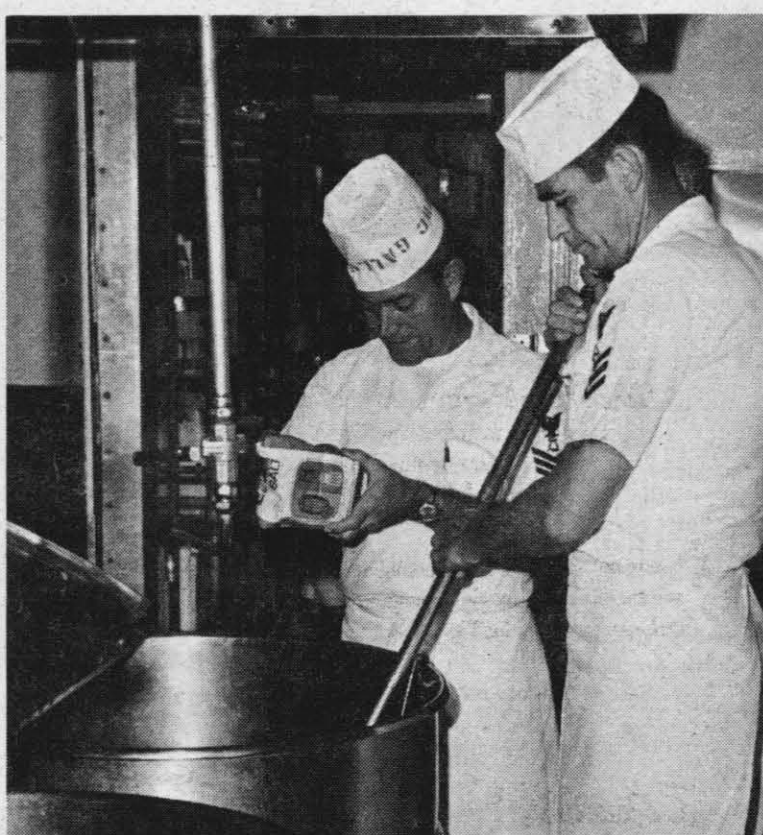
EXPRESS LINE is tended by SA J. H. Sanders. This new service permits a choice of short order fare such as the ever popular hamburger and hot dog, plus sloppy joes, pizzas, burgers, grilled ham 'n cheese or tuna, french fries, potato chips, chili bowl, egg salad, and "you name it."



MODERN "HEAT" LAMPS insure a hot meal in the regular chow line. CSC J. R. Santos (l), chief in charge of the general mess observes the serving of hearty appetites. AN D. L. Earle serves the especially prepared and nutritiously-balanced meals in true professional style.



SALAD BAR "A LA SMORGASBORG" — The well-balanced meal wouldn't be complete without that special salad. Four kinds of salad are prepared for every meal ranging in variety from chef's salad to perfection salad.



NO WITCH'S BREW HERE — CS1 J. D. Hedrick adds seasoning to the contents of the stainless steel kettle while CS1 C. S. Stone stirs with a stainless steel stirring paddle.

# NWC Weapon Exhibit Center Ready For 25th Anniversary Celebration

Just in time for the 25th Anniversary activities at China Lake major improvements in the Weapon Exhibit Center are being completed. Long-planned exhibits have been added and a major facelifting to the outside of the building have been accomplished. It is expected that many of the visitors to China Lake on the 8th and 9th of November will tour the refurbished exhibits.

Exhibits were developed by the Presentations Division of



SEVERAL OF THE new displays as well as some of those installed earlier can be seen in this view from the east end of the exhibit area. Additional units are planned and some older displays will also be refurbished.



THE REFURBISHED EXTERIOR of the Weapon Exhibits Center and the newly paved parking area present this appealing

view to visitors. The rehabilitation was accomplished in record time by the Center Public Works Department.

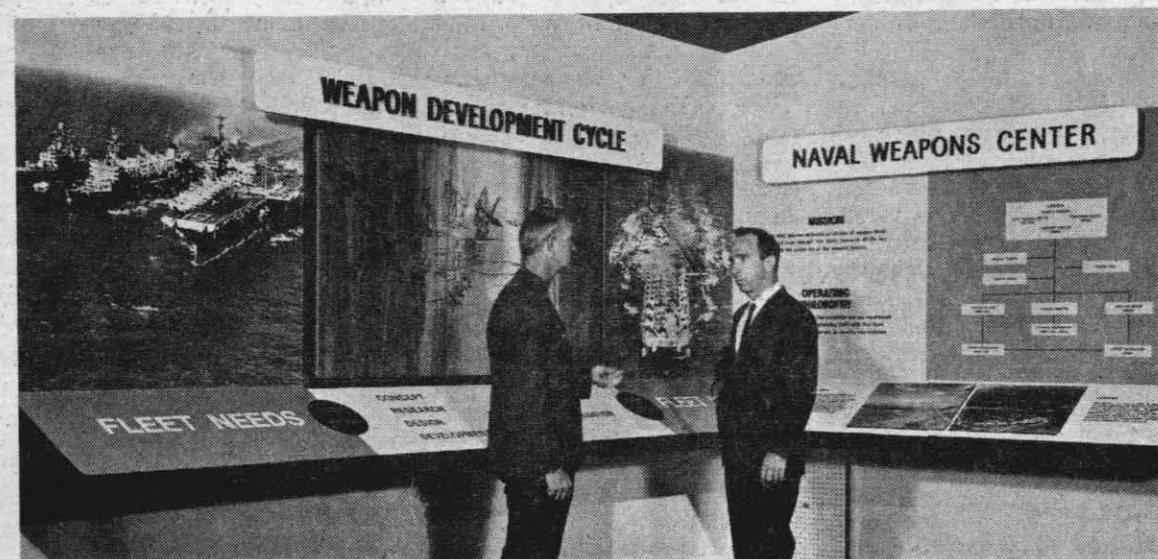
the Technical Information Department and built by a combination of in-house and contractor personnel. The extensive refurbishing of the building and paving of the parking area were accomplished by Public Works personnel.

In commenting about the Exhibit Center, Earle Kirkbride, Head of the Presentations Division said, "These new displays and the outside improvements make the Exhibit Center a place area residents can be proud of. It is a place where the history and contributions of the Laboratory can be seen. There are still gaps in the displays, but hopefully in succeeding years they can be filled and present displays updated."

The Exhibit Center is regularly open from 2-5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays in co-operation with the Maturango Museum.



BOTH OPERATIONAL and experimental ordnance developed at the Center can be seen on the modern displays in the Exhibits Center. On some displays space has been left for items presently classified but eventually planned for incorporation into the display.



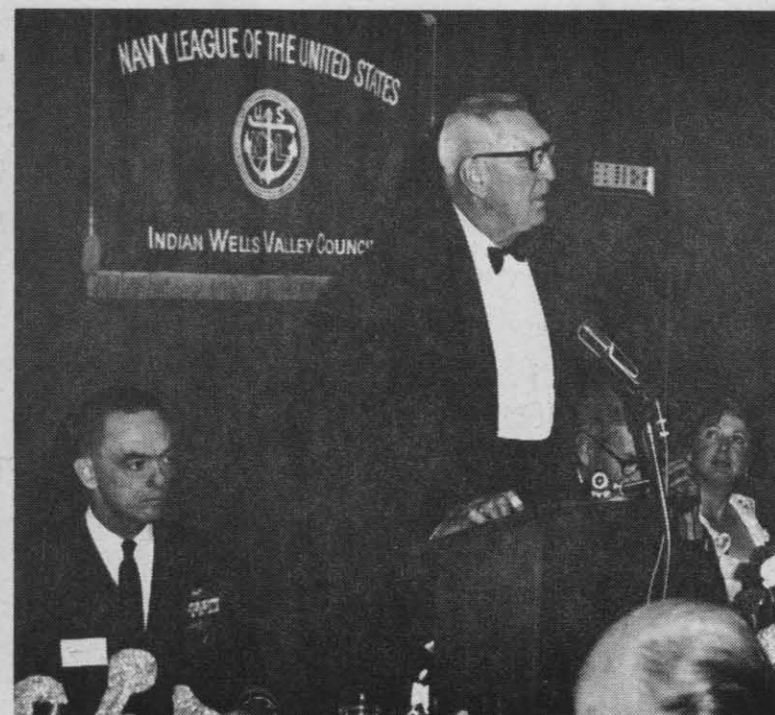
ONE OF THE recently completed displays commemorates the 1963 visit of President Kennedy. The President's flag is a part of the display. Ray Sinnott looks on.



K. H. ROBINSON, a former Salt Wells Pilot Plant engineer and now head of the Technical Information Department inspects the new display that tells part of the story of Center involvement in atomic weaponry up until 1954. Part of that story is told publicly for the first time elsewhere in this issue.

R. A. SINNOTT, Head, Exhibits Branch (l), and A. B. Christman, Senior Presentations Coordinator, inspect one of the recently installed displays in the Exhibit Center. Sinnott has been in charge of installing the new exhibits. Christman has been responsible over the years for a large part of the planning of the center.





MASTER OF CEREMONIES GEORGE WHALEY



OVER 100 COMMUNITY AND CIVIC LEADERS ATTENDED BANQUET



FELLOWSHIP AND ANIMATED CONVERSATION SET TONE OF BANQUET



MADGE HUCEK GIVES CAR KEYS TO AQ1 DeLAND

## Navy League Awards Banquet Salutes NWC Bluejackets



CAPT. AND MRS. ROBERT WILLIAMSON II



MRS. JIM WHEELER, PH1 AND MRS. GARY BIRD



MR. AND MRS. MILFORD CARLSON



AO2 ROBERT PLOTKIN AND MISS TERRY FOX



AQ1 ROYAL DeLAND, MR. AND MRS. HAROLD MUNN



CHAPLAIN AND MRS. MacNEILL, CAPT. C. W. FRITZ



MRS. MEYER, MRS. BURKE WEST, ARCHIE MEYER

### DeLand Chosen As 1968 Bluejacket

(Continued from Page 1)

In addition, Capt. M. R. Etheridge was presented an honorary membership in the local Navy League Council.

DeLand was selected by a 10-member panel composed of Officers and Chiefs of the Naval Weapons Center.

The 1968 Bluejacket of the Year was the Naval Weapons Centers "Bluejacket of the Month" in April of this year. A Texan by birth, DeLand enlisted in the Navy in January, 1963. He came to China Lake in November, 1965 from the Naval Air Station, Cubi Point, Philippines.

Since his arrival he has served on the NAF Recreation and Welfare Committee, the NWC Recreation and Welfare Committee, and is fire control representative to the NAF

Safety Council.

The son of a retired Navy warrant officer, DeLand has participated in the making of history at sea during his five years of service. He served with VF 143 aboard the USS Constellation from February, 1964 to May, 1965, and was in the Tonkin Gulf when the destroyers USS Maddox and USS C. Turner Joy were fired upon.

Capt. Etheridge Praises Guest speaker Capt. M. R. Etheridge, NWC Commander, told the banquet audience that the petty officer is still the "backbone" of the Navy. He noted that half of the crew aboard his previous command, the USS Wasp, were under 21 years of age.

"We skippers get over enthusiastic and are prone to



CAPT. AND MRS. LAWRENCE A. DEWING



FTM2 AND MRS. GEORGE JOHNSON



DR. AND MRS. RALPH SHELDON OF BAKERSFIELD



MR. AND MRS. HERB KING

PHOTOS BY PHAN MIKE KRAUSE

(Continued on Page 9)