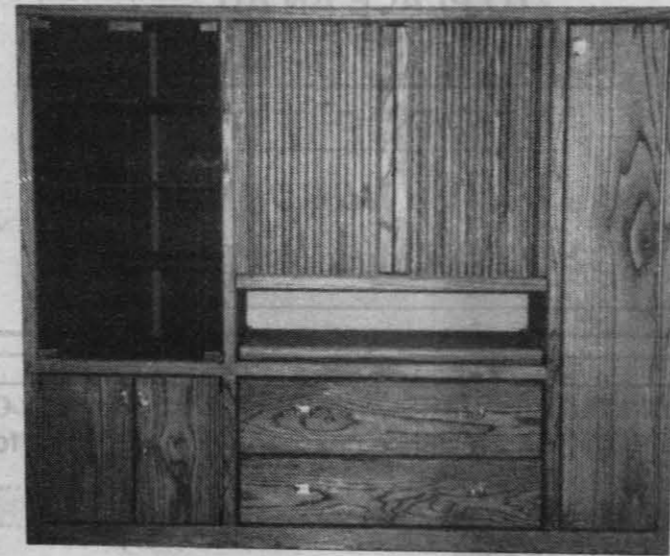


# Fantastic February SALE

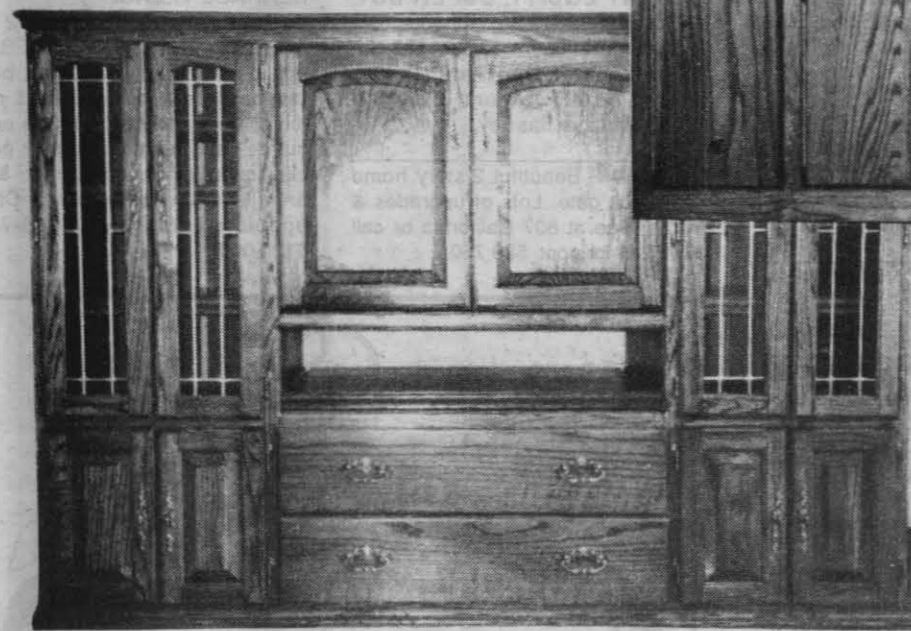
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# NWC Rocketeer

Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, California 93555-6001

Vol. XLV, No. 5 February 2, 1990

## China Lakers salute Black History Month

Deciding the basis of racism lay in ignorance, and seeing that there was a dearth of knowledge about the history of the Negro, Carter Godwin Woodson, founder of Negro History Week (which evolved into Black History Month) researched and stimulated research of this history and made the information available to the public at every educational level. This year, Black American History Month's theme, "The Father of Black History: Carter G. Woodson, a Living Legacy," honors this man who inaugurated and perpetuated the accomplishments of colored people in all parts of the world.

The observation of Black History began in February 1926 when Dr. Woodson launched the celebration of Negro History Week. . . a short period devoted to public

exercises emphasizing the salient facts of history influenced by the Negro. . . mainly facts brought to light by the research and publications of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH)), of which Dr. Woodson was the director.

The enlightened public responded warmly to this observance. The effort was widely supported by schools, churches and clubs among Negroes, and the movement gradually found support among institutions and other races in America and abroad. Today, the celebration enjoys widespread participation.

From 1926 through 1975, the observance occurred each year about the second

Sunday in February. The objective was to select a week which would include both



Feb. 12 and 14 since Negro History Week was meant to embrace the birth dates of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

In 1976, the association expanded the week's celebration to include the entire month to provide more time for programs, observances and celebrations for America's Bicentennial celebration. The idea of the entire month caught on and the ASALH was besieged with requests from all over the country to continue observing for one month so as to provide more time for the nation and local communities for Afro-American History programs.

In observance of this month, many activities are being planned for the residents of the Naval Weapons Center and the (Continued on Page 6)

## Vampires announce top sailor

AQ1 G. Poindexter

Being named Air Test and Evaluation Squadron Five (VX-5) Sailor of the Year is a special honor for Petty Officer Gerald Poindexter who has never before attained 'celebrity' status. The Aviation Fire Control Technician First Class (AQ1) was selected from among nearly 300 enlisted personnel serving with the squadron. The Sailor of the Year selection board reviewed nominees from each division, making their selection based on consistent performance during the year and accomplishment above and beyond the call of duty. Capt. Raymond Kellett, VX-5 commanding officer, presented the award at 'quarters' in mid-January.

As night shift supervisor in the VX-5 avionics shop, Poindexter is responsible for maintaining electronic systems on the full-spectrum of attack aircraft at the squadron. Formally schooled in avionics for the A-6 aircraft, his 12-year Naval career has exposed him to a variety of aircraft, culminating in his duty at VX-5. "I work on eight different aircraft (Continued on Page 3)

## Tests explore propellant potential

Tests began this week to determine what happens in shipboard compartments when missile propellant burns in an uncontrolled situation. The Naval Weapons Center's Research Department's Engineering Sciences Division is conducting tests on the K-2 Range in a facility built to replicate a ship's compartment.

Kent Farmer of Code 38904 says this joint project between the U.S. Navy and the British Navy is designed to provide a solid data

base to work with when designing new ships or in developing insensitive munitions for fleet use.

Farmer notes no one has done this kind of live testing before; all previous attempts to define what kind of reaction comes from burning propellant in a ship's compartment have been through computer modeling. "These tests are going to be more conclusive than modeling could be. A lot of the models are likely to go out the window after all the tests are

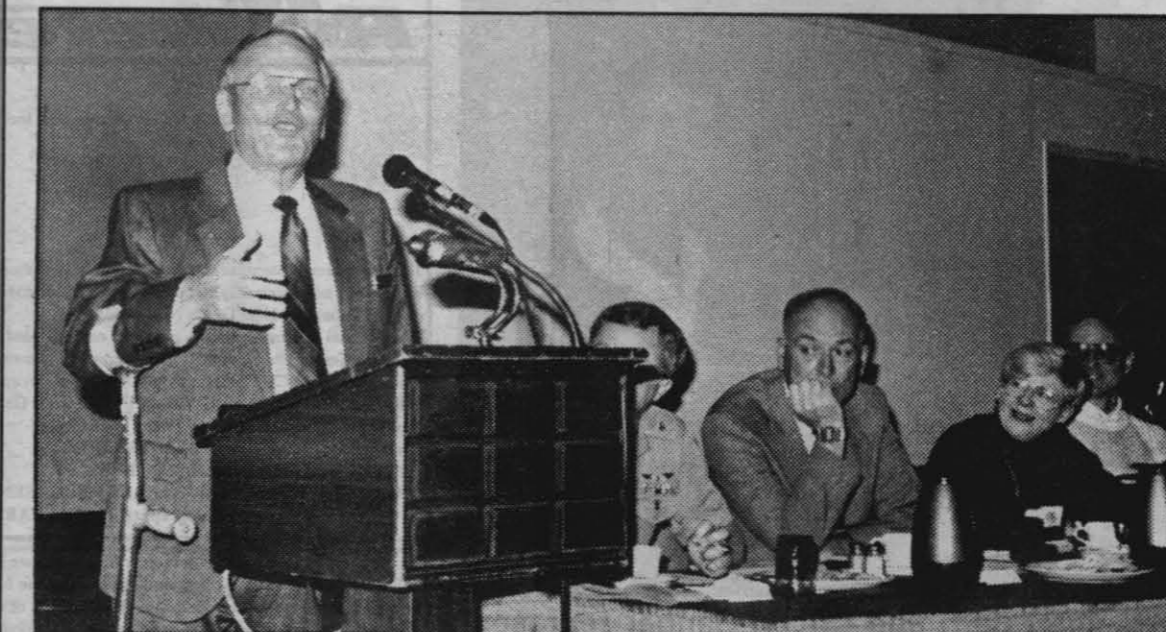
completed," added Farmer.

Initial tests in the K-2 facility will be of small amounts, about 10-20 pounds of propellant. By the end of the test series, Farmer expects they will be burning 200 pounds of propellant in the compartment.

The test facility constructed in the K-2 area is made of sheet metal and consists of a compartment to contain the burning propellant, an adjoining compartment and one built above the burn

chamber. All the compartments are heavily instrumented, including video cameras, to allow the gathering of data.

Once the test series at China Lake is completed, additional tests onboard a British ship are scheduled for later this year. This series of tests has been in the planning stages for more than a year, according to Farmer. He added that it took about three months just to construct the test facility.



## LCdr. Miller takes over XO's post

"As a Naval officer my job here is to do what I can to further the careers of young sailors and set a good example," says LCdr. Leon Miller, the Naval Weapons Center's new Military Administration Officer and executive officer of enlisted personnel.

Arriving at China Lake in December of last year, LCdr. Miller recently finished a tour with the Black Panthers of VA-39 at NAS Oceana, Virginia. He finds the desert a lot different than Virginia or his home town of Fort Lauderdale, Fla. "People here are extremely nice and extremely professional. I really (Continued on Page 3)

OVERCOMING THE ODDS--Gene Benson, founder and director of God's Drill Team, an organization dedicated to drilling water wells in underdeveloped countries, was guest speaker at Thursday morning's 37th Annual National Prayer Breakfast. A program featuring music and prayer of diverse ethnic and religious groups was hosted by NWC for the community.





















