



COMMITTEE OF COLLECTORS—A few of the desert artifacts to be exhibited at the 15th Annual Desert Wildflower Show on April 25-26 are shown with members of the Artifact Committee (l. to r.): Mary Lou Gott, Nettie Dunkel, Janet Hahn, Polly Connable, Rose Merriam—chairman, Mildred Paulsen, Marcella Engel, Hazel Turner and Tina Knemeyer. A large earthenware olla, an old phonograph, a rusting round-topped metal trunk, mounted collections of arrowheads and spears, "desert glass," woven baskets, a tomahawk, a metate and mano are just a few of the many artifacts to be displayed.

Annual Show Spotlights Colorful Desert Flowers

Timed to take advantage of the desert's annual "spring show," the fifteenth annual Desert Wildflower Show will be presented Saturday and Sunday, April 25 and 26, at the Community Center. Displays will be open to the public from 1-10 p.m. on April 25 and from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on the following day.

Spring brings a new life—Nature's way of painting the nearby drab, sandy hills and valleys—to the desert. Patches of varicolored flowers cover countless acres; the stage display to be placed on the stage of the Community Center building, Mel Braun, at the organ, will provide a special musical accompaniment to this display.

Among the exhibits planned is that of the Oasis Garden Club consisting of a miner's cabin constructed from a nearby canyon. This display has been set up in the Community Center patio and will include relics of the area's gold mining activities of years past. The Rockhounds will display some of the more spectacular of their collections, including a giant geode. Pebble Pups activities will also be featured, directed by Royal Gould and Pat Kleinschmidt.

Special no-admission-charge events preliminary to the Wildflower Show include: April 21—9:30 a.m. at the Anchorage. Flower arrangement demonstration. April 22—8 p.m. at the Community Center. Colored slides will be shown by Harold Hockett.

Flower Gathering Pam Jacobsen and Rita Huddleston are responsible for the field trips to be made next week to gather flowers. All gathering will be accomplished next Thursday and Friday and anyone interested in making any one of the field trips should contact Mrs. Huddleston at Ext. 725282.

Arrangement Awards In addition to the awards made to adult flower arrangers, there will be two junior sections this year for the first time. High school students will compete in Section "A" and junior high and elementary students will comprise Section "B." Ribbons will be awarded both students and adults in any or all of the different categories of arrangements which will include: "The Sleeping Desert"—arrangements of dried materials and may include wood or rocks or both; "The Awakening Desert"—theme interpretation with no limit as to materials; "Desert Rhapsody"—any or all colors of flowers in profusion; "Desert Gold"—an arrangement of yellow flowers, one kind or in combination.

Other categories include "Cactus Caucus," "Mojave Mosaics," arrangements in containers of various kinds, miniatures and arrangements of flowers with accessories. Judges will be: Mrs. Donald Garrett, Trona; Mrs. Alvin Jacobsen, Inyokern and Lynn Nowels, Ridgecrest.

Special shadow box exhibits will be executed by the NAF Wives under the leadership of Betty Hoffman.

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Past NOTS Pilot Listed In Top Seven For Space Flight

One of the seven Americans selected by the government from 100 applicants to be trained to man the first space satellite two years hence is former NOTS pilot LCdr. Walter M. Schirra.

A congratulatory message was sent from the Station this week to LCdr. Schirra which said: "NOTS proud to note that the first Side-



LCdr. Walter M. Schirra

winder pilot is still blazing illustrious trail. Good Luck and Best Wishes."

During his tour of duty here from April, 1952 to February, 1954, at the rank of Lieutenant, LCdr. Schirra served as Assistant Experimental Officer for Air-to-Air Guided Missile, Code 142, in addition to duties as Special Project Pilot. As the Sidewinder missile was in its experimental flight stages during this time, LCdr. Schirra was its first project pilot.

A graduate of the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., LCdr. Schirra is the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross.

The coveted decoration was presented to him during his NOTS duty by Major General William M. Morgan, USAF, at ceremonies in Los Angeles. He earned the honor from the Air Force while flying in Korea with that unit for "his exceptional airmanship and extraordinary achievement" during the Korean campaign.

He is presently stationed at the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Md.

All seven astronauts have been given until April 27 to transplant themselves and their families to NASA's Langley Research Center near Hampton, Va. where training for Project Mercury will take place.

Only one of the seven can make the first historic voyage into space. He will be picked on the day the first U. S. manned satellite is launched, but NASA officials promised that his colleagues will have their chance to contribute to the young art of astronautics in subsequent Mercury flights.

Players' 'Visit' Orbiting For May Presentation

The second stage has been fired and "Visit to a Small Planet" is going smoothly into orbit this week, according to the China Lake Players. The final stage rehearsals are proceeding under the direction of Mary Wickenden, and this brilliant comedy about a visitor from space will be clearly visible at the James Monroe School in Ridgecrest on the evenings of May 1 and 2 at exactly 8:15 p.m.

Tickets for the dramatic fiction about science are now available from members of the cast and at Robb's Hardware in Ridgecrest. The tickets are priced at \$1.

Heading the stellar cast is Phil Marsh as Kreton, the visitor who has come to our planet to learn how the upper primates (man) behave in the early stages of civilization. One of the finest examples of upper-primate thinking Kreton encounters is that of General Powers, whose alarmingly single-track mind is derailed by the unexpected event of the man from space. Lew Ward plays the comedy part of a military mind in a state of atrophy.

A current report on financing for 100 FHA Section 809 homes to be built in Ridgecrest for permanent employees of the Naval Ordnance Test Station was given this week by LeRoy M. Jackson, Associate for Community Relations, Personnel and Community Relations Department.

One hundred certificates were allocated to NOTS personnel for construction or purchase of existing homes in June, 1957. Under Public Law 574, the Department of Defense agreed to guarantee the Federal Housing Administration against mortgage insurance loss.

To date, of the original 47 certificates issued, only one has been used. The remaining 46 expired six months after issuance. An inquiry regarding the reason for failure to process the unused certificates revealed that: the initial down payments required were too high; that

the prospective buyers could not find adequate financing agents; and certificate holders could not build homes on their own lots if these were located outside of Ridgecrest proper.

FHA approval of the contractor's house plans has been received. Two locations have been designated as building sites. One group of 50 or 60 houses will be built on the west side of Norma Street across from the Ridgecrest Homes. The other 30 or 40 will be built in the vicinity of the Elks Lodge. Lots on both sites will be 60 x 130 feet.

Construction on two model homes is expected to start any day on Norma Street south of Argus.

The contractor plans to build a variety of three bedroom homes with one bath, and three bedroom homes with two baths. The proposed cost will be about \$13,500. Down payments will be from \$500 to \$600 and monthly payments will be about \$91, including mortgage, taxes, and insurance. The contracts will be for 25 or 30 year loans.

Other requirements which will be complied with are that the homes will be built on county streets with curbs, gutters, sidewalks, water, sewage system, and other utilities. After employees have inspected the model homes and talked with the builder or his representative, their commitment to buy will be processed by the builder. When the paperwork is completed, the builder will refer the buyer to C. J. Fallgatter, Head of the Housing Division on the Station, for certification.

Report Given On Home Financing for NOTS Personnel

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ROCKETEER logo with a rocket illustration and a table of temperatures for April 9-15, 1959.

Budd Gott, Editor. Phones 71854, 72082, 71635. Office, Housing Bldg., Top Deck. Vol. XV, No. 15. U. S. Naval Ordnance Test Station, China Lake, California. Friday, April 17, 1959.

A. T. Camp Leaves For Grand Central Rocket Company

Albert T. Camp, Head of the Propellants Division, Propulsion Development Department, leaves NOTS next Friday, April 24, to accept the position of assistant vice-president and director of research for Grand Central Rocket Company of Redlands, California.

A NOTS employee since December, 1950, Camp is a Yale University graduate with a degree in chemical engineering. For seven years before coming to NOTS, Camp was a rocket propellant engineer at the Hercules plant in Kenil, New Jersey, and at the Allegheny Ballistics Laboratory in Cumberland, Maryland.

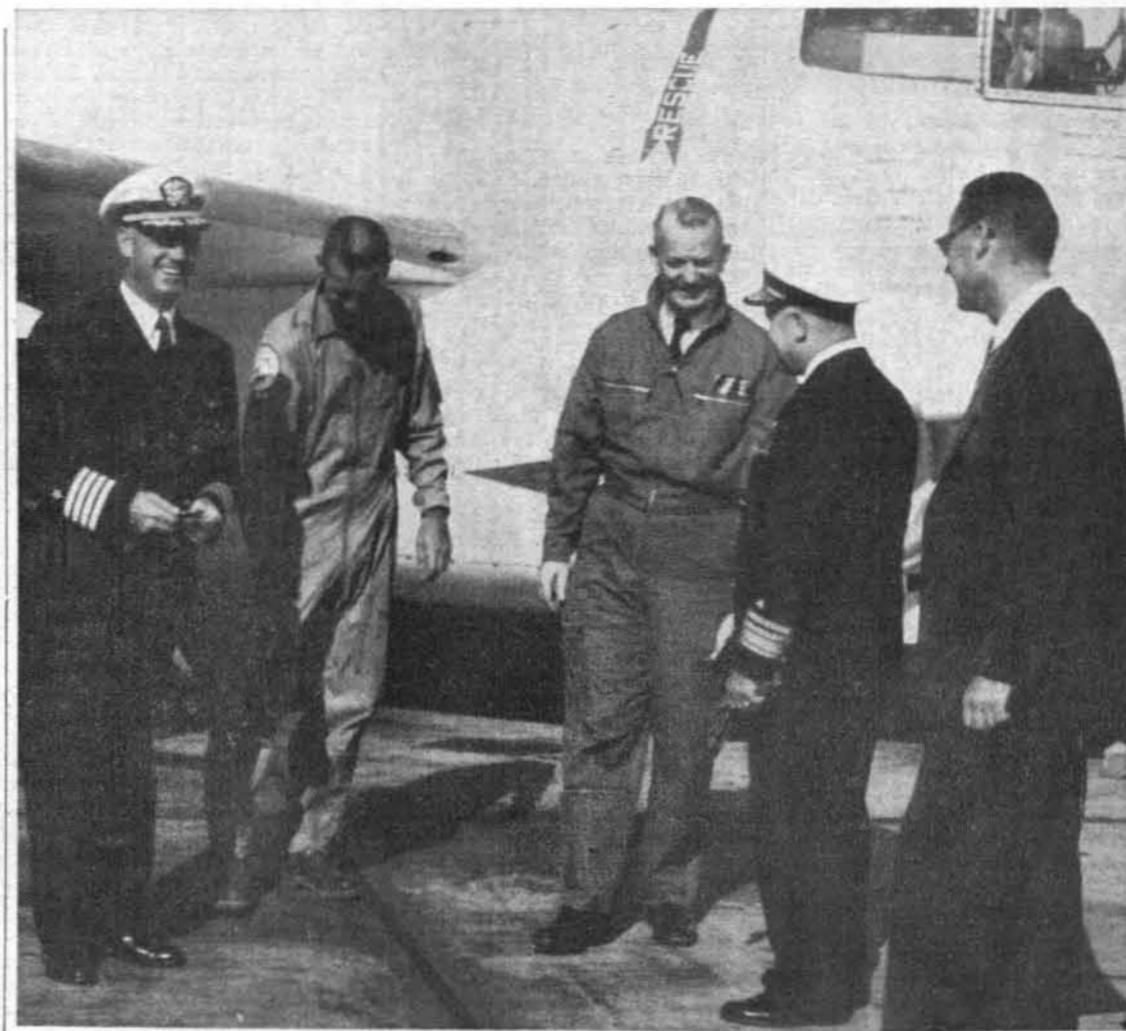


Al Camp

In 1955, Camp was one of 29 recipients of the Sloan Fellowship award selected to study for one year at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he earned his M.S. degree in Industrial Management.

He was nominated in 1954 to represent the United States in the Tri-Partite Conference on Ammunitions, Explosives and Rocket Propellants, held in Quebec, and again in 1957 in London.

Camp is rated as one of the most eminent solid propellant experts in the Western World. He holds title to an invention covering a flashless version of Mighty Mouse and is the inventor of the propellants used in ZUNI, ASROC, and GIMLET rockets. He has contributed to the development of propellants for Sidewinder and has been a regular contributor to the annual meetings of the Joint Army, Navy, Air Force Solid Propellant Group since 1947.



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED—Scoring a perfect hit with Sidewinder brings a smile of satisfaction as the missileers return to earth. Men in flight gear (l. to r.) are: Cdr. Selden May, pilot of the F3D, and Adm. A. A. Burke, Chief of Naval Operations who fired the missile. Capt. W. W. Hollister (left), RADM. P. D. Stroop, Chief of BuOrd, and Dr. Wm. B. McLean congratulate them on the successful mission.

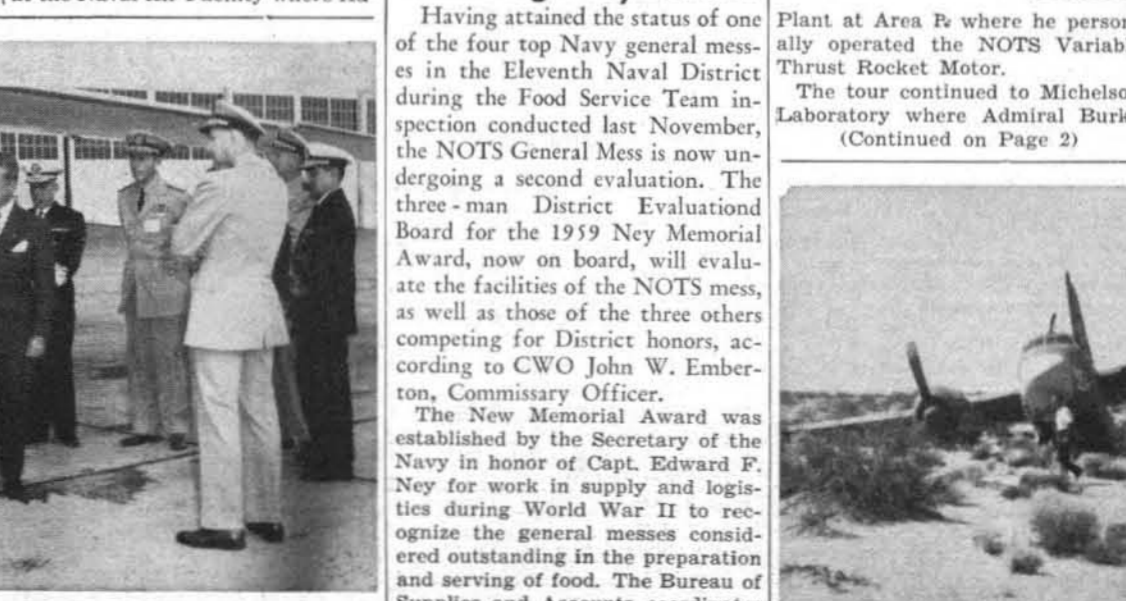
Admiral A. A. Burke Operates NOTS Hardware During Initial On-Station Visit

Admiral Arleigh A. Burke, Chief of Naval Operations, paid his first visit to the Naval Ordnance Test Station this week. Flying from Washington by way of Phoenix, the Admiral arrived at the Naval Air Facility at 6 p.m. Sunday evening, where he was met by Station Commander Captain W. W. Hollister, Station Technical Director Dr. Wm. B. McLean, and other high ranking military and civilian officials.

Rear Admiral P. D. Stroop, Chief, Bureau of Ordnance and former Station Commander from October, 1952, to August, 1953, and Rear Admiral C. C. Hartman, Commandant, Eleventh Naval District, were on hand to welcome the Admiral. The Admiral was accompanied by Mrs. Burke and his personal aide, Commander Raymond Peet.

Admiral Burke was honored at a reception and dinner at the Commissioned Officers' Mess Sunday evening where he viewed the Station movie describing NOTS.

The following morning the Admiral was given a 4-hour briefing and tour of the Station. Beginning at the Naval Air Facility where Ad-



SIDEWINDER EXPLAINED—Capt. W. W. Hollister points out heat seeking head of the deadly Sidewinder to (l. to r.): Admiral Manuel Zermeno, Secretary of the Marine of Mexico; VADM. Luis M. Bravo, RADM. C. C. Hartman, Commandant, IIND; Capt. H. B. Hahn; RADM. Antonio J. Aznar; and Capt. G. J. Anderson.

McCloud Area Lures Fire Chief A. C. Wright

Fire prevention and fire protection will remain a focal point in the interests of Chief A. C. Wright, when he accepts a new position with the McCloud Lumber Com-



Fire Chief A. C. Wright

pany, McCloud, California on April 27. Chief Wright will leave the Station next Friday after more than 14 years here with the Fire Department.

Wright was promoted to the Station's second Fire Chief in December, 1945, after serving as Assistant Chief for a ten-month period. He had previously worked at the Naval Air Station, Terminal Island, and for 22 years with the Los Angeles City Fire Department.

Stationaries may say "goodbye, sorry to see you go" to Chief and Mrs. Wright tomorrow evening, from 7-9 p.m. at the Community Center at a no-host reception.

Under his direction, the NOTS Fire Department has grown from two stations—one at China Lake and one at Inyokern's Harvey Field—to its present three-station organization. The most modern facilities and equipment are at Armitage Field, China Lake and the newest station at Randsburg Wash, manned by a total of 77 civilian and military personnel. The station once in use at the Pilot Plant is no longer active.

The first major fire during Chief Wright's tour was on March 8, 1946 when the building housing the then Officer in Charge of Construction burned. There have been no major

General Mess Has Good Chances For Winning Ney Honor

Having attained the status of one of the four top Navy general messes in the Eleventh Naval District during the Food Service Team inspection conducted last November, the NOTS General Mess is now undergoing a second evaluation. The three-man District Evaluation Board for the 1959 Ney Memorial Award, now on board, will evaluate the facilities of the NOTS mess, as well as those of the three others competing for District honors, according to CWO John W. Emberton, Commissary Officer.

The New Memorial Award was established by the Secretary of the Navy in honor of Capt. Edward F. Ney for work in supply and logistics during World War II to recognize the general messes considered outstanding in the preparation and serving of food. The Bureau of Supplies and Accounts coordinates selection of the award recipients, and the award, itself, is sponsored by the Executive Stewards and Caterers Association.



FIRST FOR THE NAVY—LCdr. Herk Camp (insert) piloted the first supersonic Lockheed F-104 Starfighter purchased by the Navy to NOTS on April 9 from the Lockheed plant in Palmdale. This aircraft was the second F-104 off the line and was one of the several such planes utilized in initial Air Force phase and acceptance tests at Edwards AFB. NOTS pilots qualified for F-104 flight are: Cdr. G. H. Duncan, LCdr. Camp, Lt. R. G. Pipkin and Capt. R. E. Howard. The Starfighter will be utilized for high altitude, high speed missile test programs and special projects.



LCdr. Herk Camp



ALL SAFE—An eight-man crew lands safely at the hands of pilot LCdr. Gordon Bailey when the P2V Neptune lost its left engine in the El Paso Mountains last Monday.

