



NAVY WIVES SPONSOR'S TEA—Mrs. Charles (Rhea) Blenman Jr., wife of the Station Commander, is served the first cut of cake by Maryland Rogers, president of the Del Yermo Navy Wives, at the Club's annual sponsor's tea honoring Mrs. Chester W. (Jeanne) Heck at left. Over 200 attended the event which was held at the Community Center on Wednesday of last week. The Club meets on the first and third Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Navy Wives Hut on Halsey.

Community Council Reports . . .

Procedure of Raising Utility Rates Studied

The Community Council has been invited by the Executive Officer to voice their opinion on the proposed incrementing of the increases in utility rates for tenants in Station housing instead of making the entire increase payable the first month it becomes effective.

Following a meeting of the Council's Executive Committee to discuss the matter, the ensuing conclusions were submitted:

"It is noted that utility rates are apparently now being computed on a basis other than their actual cost. We are concerned about the possible ramifications of this change and would like to request that a presentation be made on this subject at the Board of Directors meeting on August 8.

(It has since been announced that LeRoy M. Jackson, Head of Community Relations Dept. will make the presentation.)

"It is unfortunate that the new utility rates must be implemented before the shelter rent issue is decided. However, it is recommended that, if the shelter rents should be decided before the increased utility rates actually go into effect, steps be taken to integrate the two schedules into one.

"It is recognized that incrementation of the new rates tend to keep the issue of increased cost before the tenants for a longer period of time. It is also realized that incrementation imposes administrative problems and costs on the Housing Office. Despite these effects we feel that it is our obligation as representatives of the tenants to recommend the incrementation plan on the basis of it being the least cost to the tenant.

"Where the amount of increase is small or where 'straight line' variation is not practical from the collection or accounting point of view a compromise would be in order.

"Our recommendation, then, is incrementation of increases to minimize the increase in cost to the tenant, consistent with necessary administrative practices associated with collection."

Raft Club

Excellent progress in the formation of adult and youth groups that are interested in and will work toward the establishment of a youth center on the Naval Station was reported at Tuesday night's meeting of the China Lake Community . . .

Last week a steering committee composed of Community Council representatives John Strommen and Bill Hattabaugh and Lt. Cmdr. Jack Griffin met with an adult group of nearly 20 persons in order to establish five committees and appoint interim chairmen to head each committee.

The five committees that will work on various aspects of the program to develop a youth center are ways and means, publicity, constitution, fact-finding and a program committee.

Second Meeting Held

Later in the week, another meeting was conducted by the three steering committee members, together with the five interim committee chairmen and a group of 19 youngsters from throughout the community.

It is the hope of those in charge that, eventually, the youth of the committee will take over the committee work and that only a minimum of adult guidance will be required in connection with the youth center.

Yankees Snag LL "A" Team Lead Title

Champions of the China Lake Little League "A" teams for the 1961 season were determined when the Yankees beat the Dodgers in a single sudden-death playoff game on July 11. Both teams were tied for first place with 7 wins and 3 losses each at the end of the second half of the season. The Yankees were undisputed winners of the first half.

Final Standings table with columns: Team, Won, Lost. Yankees 17 4, Giants 12 8, Tigers 11 9, Pirates 9 11, Dodgers 9 12, Red Sox 4 16.

Highest hitting averages for the season were Yankee players John Martin, .542; Bobby Jones, .534; and Mike Mead, .482. Leading pitchers were John Martin with 9 wins and 0 losses; Teddy Sprouse (Giants) 6 wins, 1 loss; and Mike Mead, 5 wins, 2 losses.

Babe Ruth League Elects New Board

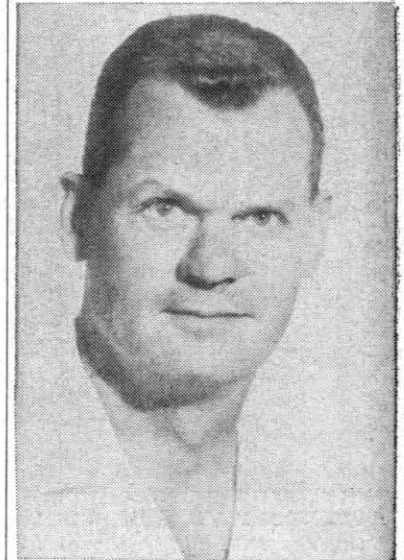
A new slate of officers for the coming year was elected at the general meeting held in the Community Center last Friday night. Cdr. Irv Robinson, who has been very active in Babe Ruth League affairs this year, is the new president.

Other officers elected were Mel Sorge, vice-president; Charlie Martin, treasurer; and Bernice Reger, secretary. The new board of directors consists of Linc Lippincott, outgoing president; Jack O'Brien, Jim Sims, Mike Rambis, and Frank Barney.

A new constitution and bylaws were accepted at Friday's meeting. Although there were no major changes, these vital documents were brought into closer conformity with the actual operation of the league as the majority wants it to be.

AOD's Larry Nichols Goes to England On Special Exchange-Scientist Program

Larry W. Nichols, Head of Division II of the Aviation Ordnance Department, left China Lake for England on July 18 to begin a one-year special assignment as an exchange-scientist under the Tripartite (Canadian-British-United States) Technical Cooperation Program. He was accompanied by his wife Ruby and their son Richard.



Larry W. Nichols

He will spend the first month in London, at the Office of U.S. Naval Research and with the U.S. Naval Attache and Defense Ministry representatives. During the balance of his assignment he will be located at Malvern in Worcestershire, where he will be attached to the staff of the Royal Radar Establishment.

His work abroad will entail continuing research in the field of infrared radiation, wherein he is a well-recognized authority.

Nichols was nominated for this assignment by the Infrared Sub-Group of the Tripartite Committee on Guided Missiles and was selected following strong endorsements by NOTS, BuWeps and ONR. Nichols has been at NOTS since 1948. For the past three years he has been the United States representative on the Tripartite Committee's Sub-Group J.

The Nichols flew to New York and there boarded the liner United States for the trip across the Atlantic. They are scheduled to return in the Fall of 1962.

Garb Acceptance, Housing, Has Yardstick, EMCO Told

Acceptable on-the-job dress was given special emphasis during the last Employee-Management Council meeting and the opener for this discussion drew a reply that the Command has no objection to the use of standard Bermuda length shorts by male civilian employees.

Governing the female attire, however, are restrictions which are dictated by "social custom." It was stated that women employed in office areas should be conservatively dressed and that the standard of dress for any particular area is determined by the supervisor.

He has the power to take disciplinary action in order to enforce

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Conclude Second Week of Sessions

Today brings to a close the second of four community relations workshops planned for the Indian Wells Valley this summer. Approximately 40 persons from China Lake, Ridgecrest and Inyokern participated in each week-long activity.

About two-thirds of the participants were housewives, youth of the community, or Ridgecrest businessmen; the remainder were Station employees.

A considerable portion of the time was spent developing the kind of personal relationship which facilitates the exchange of ideas about the community and its problems. It was observed that a mutual examination of life histories and community backgrounds promoted a greater degree of trust and confidence in each other, from which evolved more flexible attitudes.

Real Issues Probed

With this improved personal understanding, it was possible to proceed with an examination of the basic issues in community life which underlie the subjects of everyday conversation. People discover that they are often discussing symptoms of the basic problems rather than the causes.

Failure to make this distinction has led to wasted effort in many instances and might well be the case in the Indian Wells Valley unless the insights gained in these sessions can be communicated to a wide segment of the population.

Interested persons may call Ext. 7-2005 to submit their name for consideration no later than August 3. The next workshop begins August 7, continuing through August 11. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Crew's News

By B. C. Sipin, PNI

We welcome aboard Tommie McDow, AKCA, who reported for duty with Aviation Material Division; he has just completed a tour of sea duty with VA-115 at NAS Miramar.

The Commanding Officer, Enlisted Personnel, has returned from a two-day cruise — on TAD at sea on board the Ranger. That sea breeze was probably an ideal tonic after coping with the tasks of personnel administration.

Aspiring for a high school education through GED are Chester Konopko, Jr., ET2 and J. F. Heise, ETNSN, who have just completed five sets of tests. Also starting the GED High School level tests are S. W. Hutcheson, Jr., HN, and S. E. Sampson, SA.

Trying for a one-year college equivalency test is W. K. Trenchholm, BTCA, who will apply for a civil service position after his "20 years" in the naval service. Higher education acquired through the facilities of USAFI will always come in handy. Let's hope others will follow these examples.

Aspirants for advancements through the competitive examinations next month are busy browsing on every training course materials they can set their hands on. While a few are aware of the publications as a part of their reading materials, others are very reluctant on what specific manuals they should concentrate. Some have commented, "I knew the answers but still I was not promoted even with a high multiple" — a high multiple is not the major factor in these examinations; it's how you fared in the examination subjects.

In answer to queries, EMCO was advised that the Station has received approval from BuWeps to proceed with disposal of Station land requested by Kern County for recreational purposes. A final decision will not be made for some time.

Swim Team Makes Excellent Showing

Thirty-seven Indian Wells Valley swimmers brought home 56 ribbons from the Annual Kern County Swim Championships held at Bakerville on July 22. Those participating in this meet had to win a first or second place in the local and district meets in order to qualify for the County Meet.

Anna Kay Anderson, Diane Batty and Chris Leininger each won a 1st place gold medal. Other winners of medals and ribbons were: Barry Boyer—two gold medals and a second place ribbon, Marcy Delancy—two gold medals and a second place ribbon, Cheryl Campbell—one gold medal and two second place ribbons, Barbara Sutherland—one gold medal and a second and fourth place ribbon.

Others on the team bringing home 2nd, 3rd and 4th place ribbons were: Ann Allan, Lynn Campbell, Ann Nelligan, Leslie Carlin, Jane Winward, Leanne Lippincott, Phyllis Haig, Regina Hupka, Greg Holladay, Martha Williams, Donna Brunton, Christine Auld, Ron Martin, Tom Holladay, Carl Anderson, Kay Beresford, Arnold Adams, Mike Ayres, Nancy Nelligan, Kreig Campbell, Larry Hengl, Barry Adams, Jim Keosky, Mark Cartwright, Paul Hupka and Pat Ayres.

Final Standings For Youth Leagues

Babe Ruth League

Table with columns: Team, Won, Lost. Tigers 12 3, Cardinals 10 5, Cubs 9 6, Indians 7 8, Reds 5 9, Yankees 1 13.

Little League "AA" Teams

Table with columns: Team, Won, Lost. Indians 10 0, Athletics 7 4, Braves 5 5, White Sox 5 5, Eagles 4 7, Cardinals 0 10.

"AAA" Teams

Table with columns: Team, Won, Lost. Hawks 6 1, Angels 6 1, Buccaneers 5 1, Padres 5 2, Terriers 5 2, Mounties 3 4, Ducks 2 4, Reds 2 4, Senators 1 5, Cubs 1 6.



Budd Gott, Editor Office, Housing Bldg., Top Deck Phones 7-1354, 7-2082, 7-1655 Vol. XVII, No. 30 U. S. Naval Ordnance Test Station, China Lake, California Friday, July 28, 1961



RECEIVES 20-YEAR PIN—Technical Director Dr. Wm. B. McLean, who has presented pins to many Station employees, finds himself on the receiving end as Station Commander Capt. Charles Blenman, Jr., affixes the 20-year Federal Service pin to his lapel. Dr. McLean began his Civil Service career with the National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C. He came to NOTS in December, 1945.

Year's Outstanding Ratings Laud Work Performance

Leading the NOTS organizational field, the Research Department demonstrated appreciation of employee productivity by extending outstanding performance ratings to 25 employees during the period, April 1, 1960 through March 31, 1961. Such recognition promotes a favorable climate for high quality

3 Die Following Shooting Affray

One woman and two men are dead following a shooting affray which occurred in the Station's trailer park area Tuesday at 7 p.m. Dead in what County investigating authorities termed a double murder and suicide are Norma N. Davis, 36, Nicholas C. Okler, 42, and Robert A. Davis, 46. All three were Station employees.

Witnesses told investigators that Davis used his car to force the sports car driven by his estranged wife, Norma, with Okler as a passenger, to a stop, then jumped out of his car with a .22 caliber revolver, shot his wife, fatally wounded her male companion, then shot himself.

Mrs. Davis died instantly. Okler and Davis, both mortally wounded, were taken to the Ridgecrest Hospital. Okler died about an hour after reaching the hospital and Davis at 4:36 a.m. Wednesday.

Mrs. Davis was employed in the Test Department, Okler in the Supply Department, and Davis, who was off-duty, in the Security Division.

Authorities who conducted the investigation for the County were coroner Stanley Newman, Dep. Coroner Richard Gervais, and District Attorney's Office Chief Investigator John Wertz, and his deputy, Bill Sprague.

Acting Chief of the Security Police V. A. (Slim) Cummins conducted the investigation for the Station, assisted by Sgt. Frederick Graham and Investigator R. F. Kline.

Coffee Slated For JP Wives Wednesday

Mrs. Wm. B. McLean will host a coffee hour for the wives of the Junior Professionals and summer employees at the Officers Club pool Wednesday, August 2, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Bathing suit attire is appropriate. Wives of civilian and military personnel are invited.

It Pays to Read —The Rocketeer

Last Friday, Franklin Lydon, apprentice electronic mechanic in the Servomechanics Branch of Engineering Department, was reading his copy of the Rocketeer when he spotted his name as the recipient of a Sustained Superior Performance award in the quarterly report of Incentive Awards for the period April 1 to June 30 of this year.

This would not ordinarily have been too earthshaking as there were 172 recipients named, but to find out there is a \$100 award due you somewhere on the Station, that does pique one's curiosity.

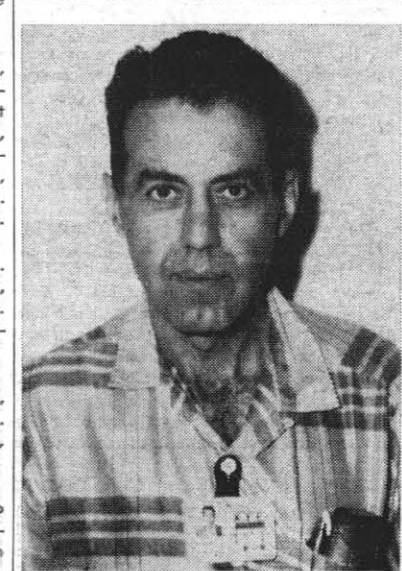
A phone call to Personnel Department's Employee Development Division which administers the apprentice program launched a search which quickly verified his eligibility for the award. A second phone call revealed that the certificate and check had arrived too late to be presented at the last Division meeting and was scheduled to be presented at the next "Hot Scoop" Division meeting of Code 4051, where he had earned the award before his rotation to the Engineering Department last April.

The incident has been resolved satisfactorily, but it did bring out a noteworthy coincidence. According to the records of the NOTS apprentice program, Lydon is the first apprentice to receive a Sustained Superior Performance award during his freshman year. He entered the program last September and is presently serving on the second rotation of his freshman term.

And there you have it — one never knows how or when it will pay off — but it is good judgment to read the Rocketeer to keep well informed.

Dr. Gordon Invited To Int'l Symposium

The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry extended Dr. A. S. Gordon an invitation to attend their annual conference to



Dr. A. S. Gordon

be conducted this year at McGill University at Montreal, Quebec, on August 6-12.

Dr. Gordon, Head of the Combustion Branch in the Research Department, was further informed that he is the recipient of an honorarium. Although he will represent the government's efforts in this field, the honorarium provides financial means for attending the symposium, obviating the necessity for a government subsidy.

The only U. S. scientist proffered an invitation, his paper is a discourse on "Some Reactions of Cyclo-Alkyl Radicals." Professional colleagues joining in presentations represent universities at Chicago, Cambridge, Brussels, Moscow, and Feiberg University in Germany.

Launch Facility Finished at San Clemente Island

PASADENA—The completion of a unique underwater launching facility for testing of the Polaris missile at the NOTS Pasadena San Clemente Island Test Range was announced this week by the Navy Department.

The facility, technically called the "Variable Depth Launch Facility," will be used in test firing Polaris from various depths, according to RADM. J. R. Davis, Director South-west Division, Bureau of Yards and Docks.

It consists of four separate movable steel spools, stacked on top of each other to form a tower, which is anchored to concrete steel pilings set deeply in the ocean floor.

The spools are buoyant welded pipe structures, forming the underwater launch tower capable of withstanding a 300,000 lb. eccentric load.

Camera Towers

Located about 25 feet from the launcher are two telescoping camera towers equipped with 12 high speed underwater cameras for recording trajectory data of firings of the Polaris missile.

Three television cameras are also located at strategic points to provide surveillance of the underwater operations from the staging vessel and the instrumentation barge which controls the firing of the missiles.

The \$900,000 facility was jointly designed by the Engineering Division, the Public Works Department, NOTS Pasadena, and Moffatt and Nickol, Engineers.

This facility, the first of its kind, was constructed and installed by Consolidated Western Steel Division of the United Steel Company and Global Marine Exploration Company.

Close Tolerances Consolidated Western Steel fabricated the towers under contract specifications calling for each component to be stress relieved with the mating surfaces of the spools held flat and parallel within very close tolerances.

The gross weight of the assembled launching tower is approximately 120,000 pounds. The base structure is 20 feet square, with 20-inch diameter pipe sleeves at the corners to fit over 18-inch diameter piles. Projecting

upward are eight equally spaced 14-inch pipe columns to form a base for the spools.

Extending outside the base is a machinery platform on which is mounted a movable hydraulically operated hauldown winch.

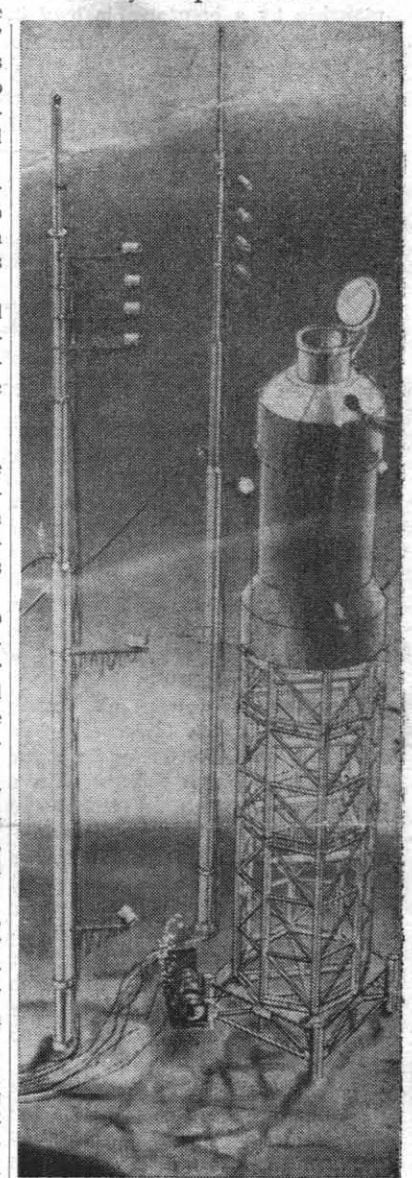
Drilled and grouted-in 20-inch piles with swivel connections provide fixed moorings for the purpose of limiting movement of the moored vessels to a minimum valve not hitherto obtainable with conventional anchors.

Drilling Techniques Installation and undersea foundation for the launcher facility were provided by the Global Marine Exploration Company. Drilling and anchoring techniques which were originally pioneered for offshore oil exploration were used.

For drilling the foundation holes, the Los Angeles firm employed the Humble SM-1 drilling vessel, which carries rotary drilling equipment developed for drilling underwater oil wells from a floating vessel.

According to Navy specifications, cementing of the foundation was carried out in the approved oil field method which fills pile and the annular space between the hole and the pile with grout. Exact positioning of the base platform had to be situated within one foot of its predetermined location and angular tolerances were 1/2".

Drilling holes with such exactness into the ocean floor from a vessel floating on the surface was a unique challenge.



ARTIST'S SKETCH—Movable platforms enable test firing of Polaris from various depths while high speed underwater cameras on telescoping towers at left record trajectory data.

upward are eight equally spaced 14-inch pipe columns to form a base for the spools.

Extending outside the base is a machinery platform on which is mounted a movable hydraulically operated hauldown winch.

Drilled and grouted-in 20-inch piles with swivel connections provide fixed moorings for the purpose of limiting movement of the moored vessels to a minimum valve not hitherto obtainable with conventional anchors.

Drilling Techniques Installation and undersea foundation for the launcher facility were provided by the Global Marine Exploration Company. Drilling and anchoring techniques which were originally pioneered for offshore oil exploration were used.

For drilling the foundation holes, the Los Angeles firm employed the Humble SM-1 drilling vessel, which carries rotary drilling equipment developed for drilling underwater oil wells from a floating vessel.

According to Navy specifications, cementing of the foundation was carried out in the approved oil field method which fills pile and the annular space between the hole and the pile with grout. Exact positioning of the base platform had to be situated within one foot of its predetermined location and angular tolerances were 1/2".

Drilling holes with such exactness into the ocean floor from a vessel floating on the surface was a unique challenge.

NEW TECHNIQUES USED—Shown is the Humble SM-1 drilling vessel. Offshore oil drilling techniques were used in drilling the foundation holes.

