

Welcome Aboard



LT. WILLIAM J. MULLIGAN, JR., has reported to VX-5 recently from VF-102 out of NAS Oceana, Va., deployed aboard the attack carrier USS America. At VX-5 he is Legal Officer and Assistant Administrative Officer. The Brooklyn native received his B.S. degree in chemistry from St. Peter's College in Jersey City in 1963 and entered Navy service in July of that year. He brings his wife Regina to their new home at 40-B Sykes Circle.

'Closeup of Mars' To Be Presented To China Lakers

"Closeup of Mars," a 30 minute color film, will be presented by the China Lake Astronomical Society on Monday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m., 401 McIntire, China Lake.

The film focuses on a team effort of scientists at the California Institute of Technology and engineers of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at Pasadena, California.

It also examines the mysteries of Mars and the planning of the television camera system for Mariner IV that helped solve some of them. The general public is invited to attend.

Desert Community Orchestra Ready For 1968 Concert

Bill Ward, president of the Desert Community Orchestra Association announced early this week that the 40-piece orchestra, directed by Robert Cole, will make its first appearance for 1968 in the Center Theater, Sunday, March 10, at 8 p.m.

Admission for the more than 90 minutes of concert music is \$2; for students, \$1, and no charge for memberships.



SEEING IS BELIEVING — Foreign Exchange students enjoyed a day early last month touring the Naval Weapons Center facilities and visiting the Maturango Museum. Representing four foreign countries and Bakersfield, California, the students, sponsor and hostess are: (front row, left) Clifford Mark, Bakersfield, Calif.; Mrs. John R. King, American Field Services Board Member, and Mrs. Alice Dubin, Museum Curator. (Center row, left) Oloug Veduik, Norway; Kasper H. Jaggi, Switzerland, and Jim Foxe, candidate for Americans Abroad. (Back row, left) Alicia Ricke, Chile; Nancy Coleman and Marlene King, both from Bakersfield, Calif. Mrs. Dubin mentioned that the tour was part of the foreign students educational program while visiting the United States and that "the students were quite interested about the Center and the Museum and were completely delighted with the reception they received during their one-day stay here."

Form with fields for 'From', 'TO', and a 'STAMP' area.



NWC CORONA LABS RATED 'EXCELLENT' — An overall rating of "excellent" was given NWC Corona Laboratories following a two-day inspection recently by Capt. M. R. Etheridge, NWC Commander and his inspecting team. Part of the inspecting team (photo) at the closing conference held at Corona are (l-r) Dr. F. A. Atchison, Laboratory Director, Corona; Captain Etheridge, Chief Inspector; Capt. R. Williamson II, NWC Executive Officer; and Dr. Thomas S. Amie, NWC Technical Director (Acting), who

served as assistant chief inspector for technical matters. Also, D. J. Morrison, Head, Central Staff, Corona; K. H. Robinson, Head, NWC Technical Information Department; R. E. Droudt, Head, Public Works, Corona; Lt. I. R. Moore, NWC Communications, and Capt. C. R. Lee, NWC Supply Officer. Local areas of Corona Labs were inspected by counterpart functions from NWC. The technical program and all areas of support were included in the complete look at Corona.

To Honor Friends Of Local Museum

A recruitment tea, honoring "Friends of the Museum," and welcoming prospective "Friends," will be given by Mrs. M. R. Etheridge in her home at 1 Enterprise on the Center from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Friday, March 8.

As social chairman on the board of trustees of the Maturango Museum, Mrs. Etheridge is liaison officer between the administrative group and the Friends.

She and Mrs. Charles Van Hagan, president of the Friends, plan to enlist volunteer women for the WACOM sponsored Flower Show scheduled for May 4 and 5 in the Community Center. The show will run from 2 to 5 p.m., Saturday, and 10 to 5 p.m., Sunday, featuring desert wildflowers, paintings and other work by local artists.

The Maturango Museum will have its own section selling books about flowers found in the surrounding areas; publications of the Maturango Press; booklets and souvenir items found stocked in the Visitor's Center. Museum memberships also will be available.

The Green Grass Grows All Around

It's green - up time in the desert, but it certainly looked like Public Works was overdoing it this week spraying Naval Weapons Center lawns an emerald color. A curious snooper found out they are not really painting the lawns but applying a weed-control.

If you thought the grass was greener on one side of the street, you were probably right.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE section including a grid, clues, and an answer key for a previous puzzle.

SHOWBOAT

FRIDAY "THE LAST SAFARI" (109 Min.) Stewart Granger, Kaz Garas 7:00 P.M. (Adventure) White hunter tires of playing nursemaid to trigger-happy millionaires and sets out to kill a giant elephant that has plagued him for many years. A rich playboy follows him and the two find thrills and excitement. (Adult, Youth.) Show: "Merlin, Magic Mouse" (7 Min.)

SATURDAY —MATINEE— MARCH 2 "OUTLAWS IS COMING" (89 Min.) Three Stooges 1:00 P.M. Show: "Tale of a Wolf" (7 Min.) "Manhunt of Mystery Island" (25 Min.) (No. 1 of 15)

—EVENING— "KHARTOUM" (134 Min.) Charlton Heston, Laurence Olivier 7:30 P.M. (Adventure) Spectacular action fills the screen as a fierce Sudan chieftain lays siege to fabled Khartoum where General Heston tries to defend it despite being sold out by his superior. Historical epic with a cast of thousands. (Adult, Youth, Mature Children.)

SUNDAY-MONDAY MARCH 3-4 "FITZWILLY" (102 Min.) Dick Van Dyke, Barbara Feldon 7:30 P.M. (Comedy) Faithful butler turns super-crook to support his once-wealthy employer, but a new, very pretty, secretary almost upsets the plan. You'll howl as Dick robs Gimbels' at the height of the Christmas rush! A modern Robin Hood. (Adult, Youth, Mature Children.) Show: "Shocking Pink" (7 Min.)

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY MARCH 5-6 "WATERHOLE NO. 3" (95 Min.) James Coburn, Carroll O'Connor 7:30 P.M. (Western/Comedy) Give a dashing, care-free gambler a treasure map and add a partner who is a crooked sheriff with a sexual daughter, then tell a gang of thieves who has the map and you've got the plot of this wild, wacky and very spicy tale of the West. Slapstick and sex for the broadminded! (Adult.) Show: "AFM No. 660" (Armed Forces, 16 Min.)

THURSDAY-FRIDAY MARCH 7-8 "ROSE!" (98 Min.) Rosalind Russell, Sandra Dee, Brian Aherne 7:30 P.M. No synopsis available. Show: "On the Tee" (9 Min.)

Navy Relief Society Training Course Will Start at Center Mar. 6 The Navy Relief Society training course will be given on Wednesday, March 6 through Tuesday, March 19 at the Naval Weapons Center. Course instructor will be Mrs. Borsic from the Navy Relief Society Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Members Lauded, Get PTA Honorary Life Memberships The annual Founder's Day Meeting of the China Lake Elementary Parent Teachers' Association was held this year on February 22, 1968.

Two Life Honorary Memberships were awarded to a teacher and a layman for outstanding work with the youth of the community. Honored this year were Mrs. Lenora Palmer and Mrs. Ellen Werbach.

Center Receives 200 Certificates For FHA Housing

The Department of Defense approval for 200 Certificates under Section 809 of the National Housing Act has been received. These Certificates are available through the Center's Housing Office for Civil Service Employees and Contractors whose primary revenue in this area is from the Center. The 809 Certificates make it possible for these employees to purchase housing under FHA requirements and may be used on old or new homes that qualify for FHA.

The February 9 issue of the Rocketeer made the initial announcement for interested persons to place their names on the 809 list by calling Ext. 72222 or 72282. It is again requested that interested persons call this number for placement on the list or for information.

The next step prior to issuance of a Certificate is for the employee to present a deposit receipt or letter of agreement indicating your commitment to buy or build to the Housing Office. When this is received, the Certificate will be issued.

North Knox Road Widening Project Began This Week

Flow of traffic for outbound drivers will be greatly improved at Sweitzer Circle by the end of April says Public Works Department. Work is slated to commence this week to widen North Knox Road to two lanes from Blandly to the circle. Halsey will also be widened to improve entrance from that side.

Workmen of Asphalt Construction Company of Lancaster will be on the job this week to complete a \$3300 contract awarded by Captain K. C. Abplanalp, NWC Officer in Charge of Construction. Completion date for the contract, awarded on a competitive bid basis, is April 29.

While cutting back existing traffic islands and realigning and resurfacing parts of North Knox and Halsey are under way only a single lane will be open to traffic. The inconvenience will be temporary to accomplish an improvement that will speed up traffic flow at peak hours.

Public Works Department suggest NWC motorists may find it convenient to use alternate routes off the Center during rush hours.

Doctors Need Aid Giving Physicals To Area Students

All students in the China Lake area are reminded by medical personnel at the Drummond Medical Group in Ridgecrest, to get their annual school physical examinations during the month of their birth date. This action by the students will greatly prevent delay and overcrowding of the physicians office during the last week prior to the beginning of the new school year.



Navy's New A-7 Corsair II Gets Tough Check at VX-5



COMPLETE CHECKOUT — LCdr. L. B. "Lee" Keely, A-7A evaluation project manager, completes pre-flight checkout procedure with his plane captain, AN Daniel W. Barrett. Weapon system to be tested with

the new aircraft hangs from wing (r), the Mk 4 gun pod. Avionics systems and tactical maneuvers are also tested with the Corsair II, the A-4's successor. Commander Keely is project manager for the A-7A.

Team Evaluates All Systems, Combatability

While the Navy's new "workhorse" light attack bomber, the A-7A Corsair II, proves itself in combat over Viet Nam, Capt. W. B. Muncie's Air Development Squadron Five are flying five A-7As at China Lake to further test and improve the new craft. Every kind of flying procedure and combat maneuver is used with a wide variety of weapons in an evaluation program planned to continue through approximately another year.

"We are looking at everything in this aircraft," says Cdr. J. S. Clauzel, VX-5 Projects Director. "We're running the gamut of operational equipment and situations with the A-7A including all available weapons and nuclear configurations, and all maneuver tactics. We're looking at everything in the plane from its automatic carrier landing system to the CP7-41 automatic bombing system."

Team Scrutinizes Aircraft Under LCdr. L. B. "Lee" Keely, the A-7A project manager, the team of project officers at VX-5 evaluating the Corsair II include Major J. J. O'Brien, conventional weapons; Major A. R. Hickle, nuclear weapons; LCdr. C. J. Ward, electronic countermeasures; Major D. D. Lundberg, air-to-air weapons; Lt. W. B. Clark, enroute tactics, and Lt. E. D. Gilbertson, automatic carrier landing.



DAY'S WORK BEGINS — LCdr. Keely checks out A-7A aircraft on "yellow sheet" with AMCS Coy D. Hulín. Perhaps another year of evaluation flying remains on the Corsair II, during which time VX-5 will replace its A-4's with the new light attack bomber.

"This is the first aircraft we've scrutinized and evaluated so completely, under one project plan" says LCdr. Keely. He reports that the plane's avionics systems and flight range are significant improvements over the A-4 Skyhawk, which the A-7A is to replace in the Fleet. "We've found that the A-7A will carry roughly twice the ordnance of the A-4, and that its bomb and weapons systems are more advanced. It's a bigger plane by about 8,000 pounds, and has more hard points under the wings for weapons racks. "Our ground crews appreciate the fact that the A-7A is very good for routine maintenance and parts replacement — especially avionics parts," he adds. LCdr. Keely mentions that the aircraft requires more thrust from its engine — perhaps coming up in future development. (Continued on Page 3)





# Chiefs Host 13th Annual Military Ball At CPO Club



**CHIEF'S GUEST** — Master Chief and Mrs. J. R. Banker were hosts for Mrs. and Capt. M. R. Etheridge, NWC Commander, during the evening's festivities.



**OFFICERS HELP CELEBRATE** — Officers break away from their hosts briefly for a photographic record of their attendance at the CPO 13th Annual Military Ball held in the CPO Club, Saturday evening. CPO's hosted the officers and their ladies.



**DISTINGUISHED GROUP**—From left (front) Capt. Etheridge, NWC Commander, Capt. Muncie, Commanding Officer of VX-5, Retired Chief J. D. Hooper Sr., celebrating his 50th Enlistment Anniversary, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, D. D. Black, Capt. Schall, NAF Commanding Officer and Master Chief Banker. Back (l) Capt. Williamson II, NWC Executive Officer, Master Chief Dunn, Master Chief Tucker, and Master Chief Melson, all present or accounted for at the CPO Ball.



**GLAD TO BE HERE** — Master Chief B. Melson, Betty Kepler and Mrs. and Capt. R. Williamson II enjoy the get-together at the CPO Ball.



**MORE GUESTS PRESENT** — Capt. and Mrs. E. J. Jaruszewski and Mrs. and BMC B. Knox (Ret.).



**NAVY'S ENLISTED ADVISOR** — Master Chief D. Black (third, left) is welcomed by Capt. Etheridge, (l), Mrs. and Chief E. I. Jones.

Photographs by PH1 Phil Beard PH3 Ken Stevens



**ENJOYING THE BALL** — From left are Betty Kepler, MCPO B. Melson, Mrs. Williams, Chief J. A. Williams, Capt. K. C. Abplanalp, and Mrs. and Capt. R. Williamson II.



**NAF WAS THERE TOO** — Master Chief and Mrs. F. S. Tucker with NAF Commanding Officer, Capt. R. F. Schall, greeting each other.



**CAPTAIN'S HOST** — Chief and Mrs. W. Ascroft were the military hosts for Capt. and Mrs. J. A. Thimes at the Ball.



**CHAPLAIN PRESENT** — Chief and Mrs. P. Mengers (l) and Mrs. and Chaplain P. Romantum enjoy the evening.



**AIR FORCE BLUE** — Air Force MSgt. and Mrs. M. B. Burchett with Mrs. and Maj. J. M. Kirwin pay their respects to the Center's Chief Petty Officers.



**SMILE PLEASE** — Navy and Marine men with their ladies take a minute during the fun to pose for the photographer.



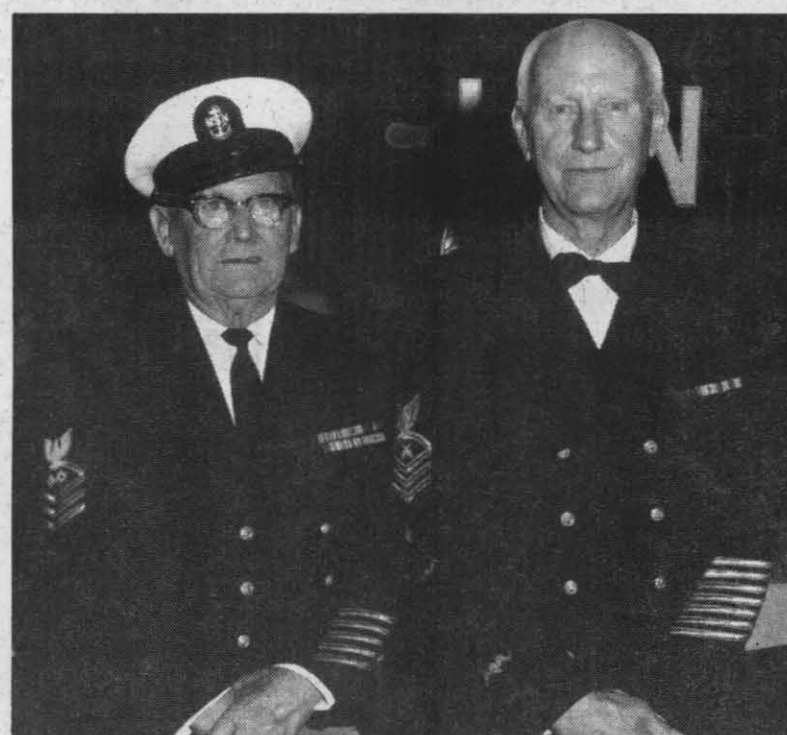
**PACKED TIGHT, BUT FUN** — Jimmy Whetmore and his 11-piece band provided the musical entertainment.



**VX-5 COMMANDING OFFICER HOSTED** — Master Chief and Mrs. R. W. Dunn enjoy the evening with Mrs. and Capt. W. B. Muncie, VX-5 Commanding Officer.



**RETIRED CHIEFS** — Tribute was paid to the many retired top-graders from local areas during the affair.



**PAST HISTORY FOR THESE CHIEF'S** — Two of the oldest retired Chief's to attend the Ball are Chief J. D. Hooper Sr. (l) celebrating his 50th Enlistment Anniversary, and Chief G. R. Schneider, marking 58 years since enlisting.



**ACTIVE DUTY CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS** — Special honors were paid to the majority of the Center's top enlisted men.