

It's Senior Master Sergeant Now For Munitions Supervisor Burchett

An Air Force munitions supervisor assigned to the Air Force Systems Command Scientific and Technical Liaison Office at Naval Weapons Center recently received a set of stripes signifying his promotion to Senior Master Sergeant.

Sergeant Martin B. Burchett, affectionately known to many of his friends at this Center as "Sarge," also received official congratulations from Brig. Gen. Raymond A. Gilbert, Director of Laboratories at Andrews AFB, Washington, D.C.

General Gilbert's letter reads: "Congratulations on your selection for promotion to Senior Master Sergeant.

"As you know promotion to this grade is limited to individuals who have compiled a record of outstanding duty performance and demonstrated the potential to serve as senior leaders in the airman corps of the United States Air Force.

"This well - deserved recognition gives evidence of your capability to assume senior leadership responsibilities. I am pleased to have you as a member of this Command.

"Best wishes for continued success."

Thirty-seven years old and 17 years of active service with the Air Force certainly is evidence that "Sarge" has demonstrated his potential as a career airman.

Sergeant Burchett was raised in Emma, Kentucky by his parents Mr. and Mrs. Belvard Burchett.

He was graduated from Prestonsburg High School in 1949 and on April 21, 1951, enlisted in the Air Force at Lexington, Ky.

Talking about his basic training experience, he vividly remembers that he was the 21st airman to arrive at Sampson AFB, located in New York State. No push quarters or even typical open - bay barracks for the new airman; instead he recalls spending the first night sleeping in the base dining hall.

The proud wearer of the Air Force Commendation Medal, earned for service rendered during his last overseas assignment at Udorn Air Base in Thailand, Sergeant Burchett has seen a variety of duty assignments during his service career.

All his assignments have been with the Strategic Air Command (SAC) until the one here where he is presently replacing a project engineer's slot in free-fall weapons in the Air Force Liaison Office.

Stateside and overseas tours of duty since 1951 have included such places in the SAC organization as Bergstrom AFB, Tex.; an isolated tour in French Morocco; back to Lake Charles, La.; then to the far north with a stint of duty at Goose Bay AB, Labrador, and later returning to Lockbourne AFB,

Blue Cross Ins. Agent

Norman R. Smith, Blue Cross Blue Shield (Service Benefit Plan) representative from Bakersfield, will be aboard the Center on Thursday, March 14, at the Community Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., according to T. J. Haycock, Head, Employee-Management Relations.

Ohio, then to Westover AFB, Mass., before departing for Kadena AB, Okinawa. Returning from this assignment he was stationed at Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C., and completing this tour was once again reassigned to Udorn AB in Thailand.

He arrived back in the states and was assigned to his present position on February 13, 1968. The "Sarge" was recently informed that his tour of duty at this Center has been extended until February, 1969.

An all-around sports enthusiast, the senior master sergeant was assistant manager for the Center's Little League last year. This year he takes over the added responsibility of manager for the competitive leagues. Fishing and hunting, anytime and anyplace, always seem to beckon the "Sarge" to his favorite pastimes. "I'm interested in participating in all sports, but also thoroughly enjoy watching sports events on television or just as a spectator," he commented.

Commenting about the relationship with his boss, Maj. James Kirwin, his co-workers and other Center people Sergeant Burchett said, "They're all just great."

Sergeant Burchett is married to the former Mary Adkins of Louisa, Ky. She is employed on the Center as a secretary with Code 5516, Material Processing and Evaluation Branch.

The Burchett's, with their son, Bland, 12, a student at Murray Elementary School, reside at 203-B N. Dibb on the Center.



PROMOTED TO SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT — Mrs. Martin B. Burchett (r) proudly admires the new set of Air Force Senior Master Sergeant stripes signifying the recent promotion of her husband, Sergeant Burchett (c), while Maj. James Kirwin, Air Force Liaison Officer beams his approval. Major Kirwin and Sergeant Burchett are assigned to the Air Force Systems Command Scientific and Technical Liaison Office here.

A form for a mail-order service. It includes fields for 'From', 'TO', and a 'STAMP' box. Below the fields is a line for an address and a line for a city/state/zip code.

SHOWBOAT

FRIDAY MARCH 8
"ROSIE" (98 Min.)
Rosalind Russell, Sandra Dee, Brian Aherne
7:30 P.M.
(Comedy/Drama) Wealthy widow decides to buy a run-down theatre, rich in memories of her former husband, but her mercenary daughters are fearful of losing their potential inheritance. Join the madcap with that merry widow, Rosie! (Adult, Youth).
Short: "On the Tee" (9 Min.)

SATURDAY MARCH 9
—MATINEE—
"BOY WHO CAUGHT A CROOK" (72 Min.)
Don Beddoe
1:00 P.M.
Shorts: "Lambert, Sheepish Lion" (7 Min.)
"Mammut" No. 2 (13 Min.)

—EVENING—
"THE COBRA" (94 Min.)
Dana Andrews, Anita Ekberg
7:30 P.M.
(Crime Drama) Middle East smuggler plans to flood the U.S. with dope so our government agent seeks out his intended shipping plans and supply sources. Pretty Anita aids him, but the Cobra is a mighty foe. Violent action thriller. (Adult, Very Mature Youth).
Short: "Winter Paradise" (17 Min.)

SUNDAY MARCH 10
DESERT COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA
PRESENTATION

MONDAY MARCH 11
"ROUGH DAY IN JERICHO" (105 Min.)
Dean Martin, Geo. Peppard
7:30 P.M.
(Western) Dino plays the villain who runs a small western town with an iron fist until a pretty little lady tries to start a stage line, and his former buddy helps her battle against him. It's rough and tough sizzler of the West. (Adult, Mature Youth).
Short: "Hell Drivers" (10 Min.)

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY MARCH 12-13
"TONY ROMEO" (110 Min.)
Frank Sinatra, Jill St. John
7:30 P.M.

(Mystery) Private eye tries to find the reason for strange behavior of a tycoon's daughter and winds up in a maze of blackmail and murder. This above-average eye film has rapid thrills and action all the way. Jill heads cast of beauties! (Adult).
Short: "Lighthouse Mouse" (7 Min.)

THURSDAY-FRIDAY MARCH 14-15
"FURTHER PERILS OF LAUREL & HARDY" (99 Min.)
7:30 P.M.

(Comedy) Complicated! The silents and talkies of yesteryear show slapstick comedy at its funniest and the best of all is in this laugh riot. (Adult, Youth, Children).
Short: "Air Racing" (17 Min.)



TURN-AROUND-THE-CLEAT — China Lake Coast Guard Auxiliary members of Flotilla 76 and special guests during a recent training session are (l) Vance Holley, Courtesy Boat Examiner; John Talley, Operations Officer, Flotilla 76; Mrs. Betty Hart, a new member; Bob McKnight, Public Education Officer, Flotilla 76, and Tommy Hilborn, Commander, Flotilla 76, watching as Ed. Vacin, past commander of Flotilla 71, Santa Barbara, demonstrates a turn-around-the-cleat. Fifteen members of the local flotilla took examinations for various phases of the Coast Guard Auxiliary program. Main purpose of the total program is to provide members with instruction in the operation and navigation of small craft with emphasis on safety.

CENTER LIBRARY LISTS NEW BOOKS

A complete list of new books is available in the library.

Fiction
Ashe—A Taste of Treasure.
Bowles—The Time of Friendship.
Cooper—All Fool's Day.
De Vries—The Vale of Laughter.
Horwitz—The W.A.S.P.
Jones—An Exile.
Shannon—Rain With Violence.
Wainwright—The Crystallised Carbon Pig.

Non-Fiction
Bowen—Miracle at Philadelphia.
Clark—Sea Power and Its Meaning.
Eckert—The Frontiersmen.
Fargo—The Broken Seal.
Goetzmann—Exploration and Empire.
Jastrow—Red Giants and White Dwarfs.
Rickenbacker—Rickenbacker.
Smith—Treasury of Name Lore.
Stephens—Who Needs a Road?

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ACROSS

1-Meadow
4-Subject of discourse
9-In favor of
12-Goal
13-Term of endearment
14-Uncooked
15-Sham
17-Encomium
19-Flower
20-Fluent
21-Malice
23-Looters
26-A step
27-Unexplored land
28-Latin conjunction
29-Collection of facts
30-Caverns
31-Confederate general
32-Symbol for tellurium
33-Roof edges
34-Join
35-Soft shoe
37-Hebrew festival
38-Antlered animal
39-Edible fish
40-Mohammedan noble
42-More dismal
45-Ocean
46-Roman official
48-Plaything
49-Carpenter's tool
50-Affected with narcotics
51-Compass point

DOWN

1-Once around track
2-Goddess of healing
3-Land of the free
4-The ones here
5-Sharpen
6-Finish
7-Pronoun
8-Part of face (pl.)
9-Investigation
10-Tattered cloth
11-Be in debt
16-Carry
18-Covers
20-Strong winds
21-Quarrels
22-Jury list
23-Body of water
24-Pee Wee of the old Dodgers
25-Beef animal
27-Flicker
30-Pranced
31-Follower of Ned Lud
33-Fencing sword
34-Fright
36-Model of perfection
37-Fragment
39-Edible fish
40-Man's name
41-Cry like cat
42-Drink slowly
43-Vast age
44-Grain
47-Note of scale

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14
15 16 17 18
19 20
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49 50 51

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Dr. Thomas S. Amlie Becomes NWC Tech. Director March 7



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Former Sidewinder Project Engineer Appointed to Top NWC Civilian Job

Captain M. R. Etheridge, Naval Weapons Center Commander, announced the appointment of Dr. Thomas S. Amlie as Technical Director for the Center on March 7, 1968. Dr. Amlie has most recently been Head, Development Division IV, Aviation Ordnance Department.

Dr. Amlie realizes that every one on the NWC team plays an important role in the overall mission. He states, "I'm going to need all the help I can get from the people I have known here for a long time and I fully expect that I will receive this help. I have no specific plans or schemes right now to redirect the technical effort of the Center. I think we have done well in the past, particularly in the recent past.

"The conduct of the war in Southeast Asia indicates that substantially more attention should be paid to the air-to-ground attack weapons.

"The speed and maneuverability of present day aircraft require that a second generation air-to-air missile should be considered. The Sidewinder has been extremely successful, but technology now permits the building of a missile with better performance, although certainly not better in terms of simplicity and low cost. I think, though, that the major effort of the Center must be aimed more at the air-to-ground warfare, because the events in Viet Nam have shown that is really our most pressing need."

Dr. Amlie continued, "It's indeed a great honor, and more than that, it shows the merit of being in the right place at the right time when the action is going on. The Naval Weapons Center is highly reputed and is probably the most successful Navy laboratory. I don't know exactly what the reasons are for this success, but I'm going to resist any temptation to make changes for a change sake, because whatever we are doing now, even though it may not appear perfect, seems to be better than what anybody else is doing. When you have a good thing going, the obvious thing to do is to take great pains to make sure that it keeps going as it has been. So, the plan is not to rock the boat in any way. Any changes that I propose will, of course, be discussed with all the department heads and the Commander before they are implemented."

Dr. Amlie continues his personal reactions to his new position, he related: "In terms of what I personally expect to contribute, my hope is to be what the title implies, a Technical Director, i.e., to observe what people are doing, possibly to make suggestions, and probably the most important of all, to act as 'chief salesman' to sell programs at the appropriate levels in Washington.

"I'm depending directly on Hack Wilson to continue giving (Continued on Page 3)

Public Works Handy-Men Prepared For NWC Spring Clean-Up Program

With the official beginning of spring just two weeks away China Lakers are looking at yards and trees with spruce-up and gardening projects in mind.

To hasten lawn beautification, Public Works Department announced this week lawn feeding will commence March 18. A contractor will apply pellet-type fertilizer to front lawns in all residential neighborhoods between that date and April 5.

While the application is going on, tenants are advised to remove lawn furniture and other items from front yards so thorough coverage can be effected. Children and dogs should be kept out of the way of machinery during application of the fertilizer to avoid any danger of injury.

Meanwhile, tenants will soon receive notices of dates a pest control contractor will be working in their areas. A call to

Navy Enlisted Advisor Hosted At NWC



VERY DISTINGUISHED GUEST — Master Chief Delbert D. Black (c), Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, receives a friendly reception during his arrival at Naval Weapons Center, Friday night, February 23, to help the Center's Chief Petty Officers celebrate their 13th Annual CPO Military Ball the next evening. Greeting Master Chief Black are (left) Master Chief J. R. Banker; Chief E. I. Jones; Mrs. E. I. Jones, and AEC Hal Schmeer, assistant CPO Mess treasurer. Saturday afternoon, Master Chief Black was given a tour of Junction Ranch, the Crystal Silver Mine and the Little Petroglyphs.



GRADUATION DAY — M. R. Sorge (l) Head, Central Staff and Larry Buckley (r) Division Head, Personnel Division 1, were among the well-wishers extending congratulations to 3 recent graduates of the Center's six month Administrative Management Internship pro-

gram. Receiving graduation certificates from Capt. M. R. Etheridge, NWC Commander, are: (second, left) William Shaner, Budget Analyst, Central Staff; Stephen Sanders and Jerry Maxwell, both assigned as personnel management specialists to Code 656, Div. 1.

Center Library Has Latest Source Available for Summer Employment

Latest information on 50,000 summer jobs throughout the United States and Canada has just been received by the Center Library, according to Mary-on Ward, librarian.

The new 1968 "Summer Employment Directory" lists specific openings, salaries, dates of employment, names and addresses of employers and helps on making application. Employers invite applications from high school seniors, college students and teachers.

Also available this year at the Library is the Summer Employment Guide, 1968, published by Doubleday and Company, Inc. This guide includes jobs available abroad as well as in the United States.

Outlook for 1968 summer jobs is cheerful! There are 12 per cent more jobs than last summer; salaries are \$50 to \$200 higher for the season.

Camp counselors and resort workers continue to be greatest in demand; students for camps of special children and adults are increasingly needed. Also, for the more unusual jobs, counselors are wanted for fly-tying, origami, judo and karate, fencing and puppetry.

College students are the most sought - after summer workers, followed closely by teachers; high school seniors are a definite third.

Information on summer job openings is obtained from extensive research conducted among many thousands of potential summer employers throughout the country. Included are camps, resorts, resort hotels, national parks, ranches, restaurants and summer theaters. Findings are compiled before December for each annual edition of the book.

Yellow Aster Mine—Historical Past

(Continued from Page 4)

in the earth without tunneling or shafts for operating the mine. This enabled the operators to mine the ore at a minimum cost. The richest ore, however, was deep underground, going far back into the hills and under the dwellings. It has been said there were about 80 miles of underground mining in the townsite.

In 1895, the first frame building was constructed and was soon followed by a hotel and saloon with more structures cropping up in what is now known as Randsburg.

Boom Town—Busted Town

Boom town to busted town, from the liveliest town to what many folks might refer to as a typical ghost town is the historical past and record of Randsburg today. But the people inhabiting the dwellings and other structures in this town now don't believe this one bit for they still have "high hopes" of making other prosperous finds in the area.

Roving gangs of toughs, demonstrations or riots were unfamiliar to the Randsburg old-timers working the gold strikes, but they managed to pull through a time of disorder with a rough and tumble gang known as "The Dirty Dozen." Their control of terror over the town was short lived, however, because the law of the land was in the hands of the citizens who called the gold strike area their home. A group of people formed the only type of law they knew in the wild west in these early times and came up with what was known as a Vigilante Committee who quickly disorganized "The Dirty Dozen" bringing peace once again to the town's people.

Closing Down

Another change took place in the town in the early 1900s for this is when the mines closed down and Randsburg became a much smaller town without a paying industry to support its displaced miners and other businessmen depending on the resources of the mines for their living.

Even so, the Yellow Aster continued to produce its ore until sometime in 1942. Forty-seven years of digging extracted some \$16 million from the mine which produced a healthy profit for the operators. Something else happened also to keep the mine going more or less on a shoe-string operation. Tungsten was discovered and the owners were then able to realize a profit from the gold over and above their mining expenses. When things were really booming in Randsburg, there were more than 4,000 people living in and around the Randsburg strike area.

Today, Randsburg's Desert Museum is probably one of the most noted of its kind anywhere in this country. Small, it may be, but it is of paramount importance, not only to the town itself, but to miners throughout this area. In the museum is maintained a complete history of the Yellow Aster mine and its successes and important, irreplaceable information about other mining operations, such as the Kelly Mine, noted for its silver bonanza find, and a complete record of mineral history. The records of other mining activities nearby such as the towns of Red Mountain, Johannesburg, Atolia and Goler and the other El Paso operations may be easily referenced in this unusual and complete historical museum.

Some boom towns throughout our history have exploded into larger cities and have continued to increase in size; others have had their day of infamy only to slide back into the waste-lands of our deserts to become dusty, ramshackled reminders of the almost forgotten past. Not so for Randsburg and her people today, for Randsburg is very much alive, alive with hope for the future, alive with people who can recall the glorious days of the big strike and alive with more hope for the near future which may once again bring thousands, maybe hundreds of thousands of people to her mines at the other end of the rainbow.

'Game Warden' Small Boat War Coming on Film

The mission of America's small-boat Navy in the Mekong Delta region of South Viet Nam is described in a 30-minute documentary movie to be shown here at the Center Theater this coming Monday and Thursday.

The film "River Patrol" was aired recently on network television. It presents vividly the dangers, tensions and routine of our small-craft Navy in action in the continuing "Game Warden" interdiction campaign.

The theater showings are free, and both Center personnel and the general public are invited to attend at 1:00, 2:00 and 3:30 p.m. Monday, March 11, and Thursday, March 14. The 3:30 showings were set especially for the convenience of high school and elementary school students.

Contractor Saves Cash Bundle For NWC Corona Labs

A saving of \$63,000 on the Target Detecting Device for the Phoenix missile, achieved for the U.S. Navy by a contractor, Bendix Corporation, was recently reported by R. R. Emerson (Code 50) NWC Corona Laboratories.

Twenty-one changes on the original design suggested by D. A. Roos, project engineer, Corona Labs, and Bendix personnel reduced the production cost to effect the savings.

Value Engineering, "The same performance at a lower cost," is reported under the Cost Reduction Program of the Department of Defense. Bendix people participated actively in this program.

In reporting the savings, Emerson, who serves Corona Labs in this capacity, said the total amounts to over \$1,000 per unit in the contract.

The only other value engineer assigned to Corona Labs is J. B. King (Code 4203).

Roadrunners One-Day Trip

China Lake four wheelers and their families are invited to join the Roadrunners, Kern River Valley four-wheel drive club, for a one-day run into east Red Rock Canyon this weekend. Sunday, March 10, the Trail Master will start the trip at 8:30 a.m. from the east entrance to Red Rock Canyon from State Route 14. It's a rough, four-wheeling route most of the way.

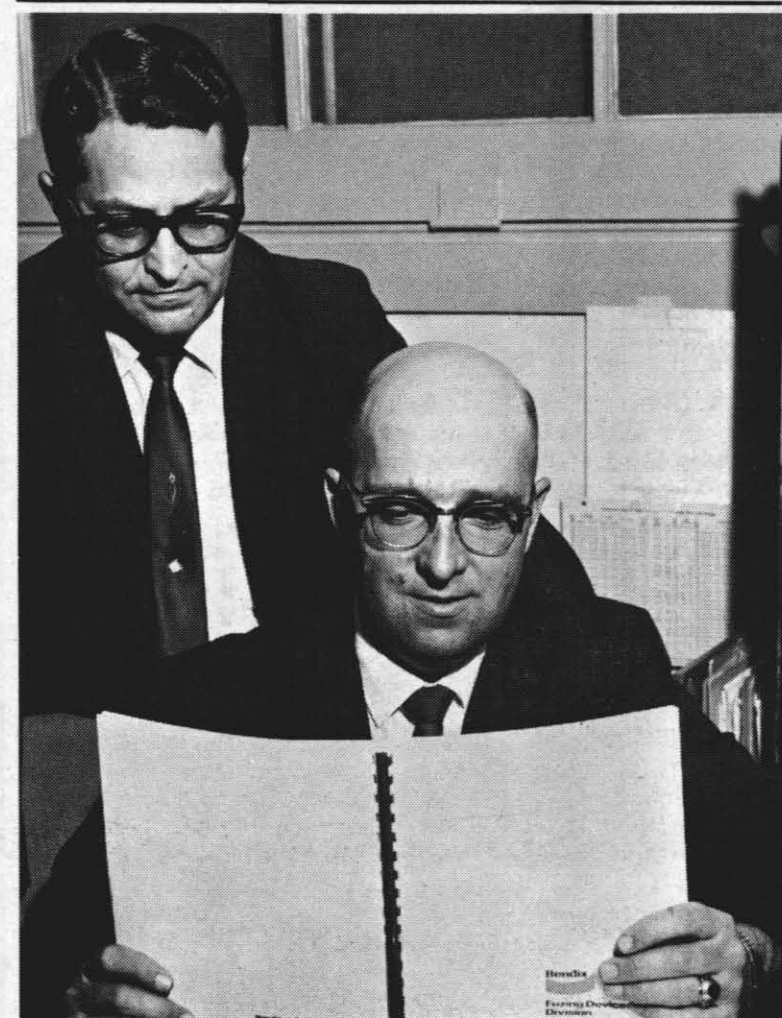
Bring your own lunch, drinking water, extra gasoline and a shovel. Picture taking opportunities are plentiful in this area.

At the meeting place, watch for jeeps with Roadrunner emblems, a yellow triangle with a red and black roadrunner sprinting across it. Additional information may be obtained from Tilly Chamness, residence phone, Ext. 73414.

McManee Special Guest at Meeting Of ASPA Chapter

Norman A. McManee, Kern County Administrative Officer, will be the guest speaker at the ASPA China Lake Chapter luncheon on Friday, March 15. The meeting will be held at Officers' Club Mojave Room at 11:30 a.m. McManee will discuss "Politics and Administration in Kern County Government."

The talk will begin with brief survey of the Kern County government scene, covering organization, financing, and inter-governmental relationships. He will also discuss such current issues as use of the one-half cent sales tax money and relationships between elected and appointed county officials.



COST EFFECTIVENESS SAVES BUNDLE — R. R. Emerson, Value Engineer (Code 50), NWC Corona Laboratories and D. A. Roos (seated) Engineer Head of Fuze Project II, scan the recent report from Bendix Corporation which showed a \$63,000 saving on the Phoenix Target Detecting Device.

Former Sidewinder Project Engineer Appointed to Top NWC Civilian Job

(Continued from Page 1)

me the same magnificent support he has given Dr. McLean. Those of you who have known me for a long time know that I do get enthusiastic about my work. I hope in my new position that if I am wrong, people will tell me so, because I believe that is the greatest single service anyone can do for me. Therefore, anyone who doesn't agree with me is more than welcome, in fact, is requested, as part of his normal duties to tell me he doesn't agree with me."

Dr. Amlie is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Amlie of Madison, Wisconsin. He graduated from West High School in Madison, Wisconsin in 1943 and entered the University of Wisconsin to study mechanical engineering. In March 1944, he entered the Navy V-12 college training program at the same university.

Receiving his degree and Navy commission in February 1946, he was assigned a four-month training cruise aboard a light cruiser. Six months later he was released to inactive duty and returned to the University of Wisconsin to study Electrical Engineering. Just as he finished the requirements for the doctorate in 1952, he received orders to report to sonar school in San Diego prior to reporting aboard a minesweeper.

Captain Thomas Moorer (presently Admiral Moorer, Chief of Naval Operations) who was then the Experimental Officer, heard about Dr. Amlie's assignment to San Diego and arranged to have the orders rewritten to report directly to China Lake.

Dr. Amlie's arrival at China Lake in July of 1952 was one he remembers vividly. He recalls the first sight of miles of desert and the heat of July, and on the night of his arrival the Tehachapi earthquake. "Had I been a civilian," he said, "I would have left, but I had no option so I simply had

to stay. Of course, by the end of two years when I was released to inactive duty, I had come to love the place."

On reporting to China Lake, Dr. Amlie was assigned to work with the Sidewinder program and did the original systems analysis for the Sidewinder. With no previous experience in an airplane, he drew the interesting assignment as Sidewinder project observer to fly with the now famous astronaut, then Lt. Walter (Wally) S. Schirra.

After being released from active duty in 1954, Dr. Amlie joined the civilian work force at China Lake in charge of the Sidewinder flight test program. This included readying missiles for firing, performing necessary modifications and repairs, planning flight tests and assessing the data. "In those days," he continued, "working on the Sidewinder was a thoroughly wonderful experience, because it was a new and successful program."

As development of advanced versions of the Sidewinder began, Dr. Amlie became project engineer for the radar guided Sidewinder and Head of Development Division IV in the Aviation Ordnance Department. He recalls a period of long, frustrating hours working with the radar missile before it went into Operational Evaluation in January 1964 and emerged with very successful results. Since that time, Dr. Amlie's division has continued to work on the radar Sidewinder production support as well as undertaking new designs in the field of airborne radar and assisting in other programs such as Walleye and Condor.

Dr. Amlie met his wife, the former June Townsend of Glasboro, New Jersey, at China Lake. Mrs. Amlie earned a Ph.D in Analytical Chemistry from Rutgers University. They live at 112 Blueridge Road with their three children, Tommy, 6; Laura, 9; and Marcie, 10, who attend Richmond Elementary School. Dr. Amlie's hobbies are working on old cars and particularly 16-cylinder Cadillacs, swimming, and playing an electronic organ. Concluding the interview, Dr. Amlie stated, "The committee selecting the technical director must have been looking for a man with rare judgement, and when they found a man who had two Irish Wolfhounds, ten cats, and seven disreputable cars, they may have decided you couldn't get judgement like that hardly anywhere... and that's probably the reason I was selected."

PW Handy-Men Prepared For Spring Clean-Up

(Continued from Page 1) will be made once a week.

Public Works reminds China Lakers to keep streets dry for the street sweepers so a good clean up job can be accomplished. Don't water lawns from noon of the preceding day. Park in driveways and off the street on the days slated for your neighborhood.

Caphart "A" streets are swept each Monday; Caphart "B" on Wednesday and Desert Park (Wherry) on Tuesday. Remember your clean-up day for a better looking home and neighborhood.

Grass clippings, leaves or other rubbish should not be put in gutters where they will stop the flow of run-off water. During warm weather puddles along the streets quickly spawn algae and even mosquitoes.

Any questions about lawn fertilization between March 18 and April 5 or the pest control service may be referred to Ext. 72636 or Ext. 72652.



LCDR. ROBERT G. CONAUGHTON reported to VX-5 for duty recently. His hometown is Miami, Florida, and before his arrival at the Center Conaughton was serving duty with the Seventh Fleet Staff. Conaughton is a graduate of the US Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., and has been in the service since June, 1949. Conaughton and his wife Shirley reside locally with their four children Gail, 12 years; Gary, 10, Kim, nine and Kelly, six.

Commander-in-Chief Pacific Due To Arrive Monday for Conferences



ADMIRAL U.S.G. SHARP, USN Commander-in-Chief Pacific

Admiral Ulysses S. Grant Sharp, Commander-in-Chief Pacific is scheduled to arrive Naval Weapons Center, Monday morning, March 11 for a conference with Capt. M. R. Etheridge, NWC Commander and his staff in Michelson Laboratory.

The morning program for the admiral includes briefings by Center representatives on activities involving the Echo Range, the Focus Program, Air Launched Ship Attack Missile (ALSAM), Rockeye II, FAE, the status of Walleye, Shrike and the Standard ARM programs.

Admiral Sharp has been Commander-in-Chief Pacific since June 30, 1964, and directs United States military operations in the U.S. Pacific Command — a unified military command covering an 85 million square mile area extending from the west coast of the Americas into the Indian Ocean, and from the Aleutian Islands down to the area of the South Pole.

As commander of all U.S. Armed Forces assigned to the Pacific, he is responsible directly to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

As CINCPAC, Admiral Sharp is also the U.S. Military Adviser to the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO), U.S. Military Representative to the Philippine - United States Mutual Defense Board, the U.S. Military Representative to the Australia-New Zealand-United States Council (ANZUS), and Military Adviser and Member of the United States-Japanese Security Consultative Committee.



YOUNG GOLFERS GET STARTED — China Lake youngsters absorb instruction in the game of golf from China Lake Golf Club pro Paul Someson near the clubhouse. This youth golf clinic, now in progress, is the latest in an annual series sponsored by the Club.

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds

Yellow Aster Mine—Randsburg's Historical Origin

Town's Hallmark Friendly People, Historical Past

BY MILT SHEELY

Randsburg, California, is located over the hills from the Naval Weapons Center as the crow flies or down the road away's if you're not equipped with wings. Most of us headed in that direction will use some type of motor transport, but regardless in which direction you drive from the China Lake area if you remember to take a left turn onto Highway 395 and proceed for approximately 25 minutes you'll see the Randsburg sign pointing to a most interesting and unusual area for people wanting to sight-see or explore.

Just up over the hill on the turn-off and Randsburg will pop into sight. Don't forget your camera for use in capturing some quaint and historical keep-sakes of your trip.

Friendly People

The people of Randsburg are friendly and always ready to greet visitors to their town and if you're lucky some will even relate stories about the town's adventures and historically rich past.

The trip we're on is dealing primarily with the famous Yellow Aster Mine located in Randsburg at the base of Rand Mountain and once hailed as California's largest gold mine.

Historically speaking, in 1895, three prospectors were scraping for pay dirt at a site known then as Summit diggings at the eastern end of the El Paso Mountains.

Charles A. Burcham, John Singleton, and Frederick M. Moorers were the men who became completely disgusted with the hard work and no profit for their digging labors. They finally moved closer to a place near the Rand Mountains where Moorer had remembered seeing earlier unusual coloring in the rocks.

The Big Break

After days of discouraging prospecting, Singleton knocked off a corner of a rock outcropping and to his astonishment saw bright ore from the break. Other similar tests were made in the area and all proved the same results — they finally had their big break and had located gold. They gave the place the name of Rand Mine, but the name was later changed to Yellow Aster.

According to Russ Leabrand's article in Westways, "Let's Explore a Byway," the Yellow Aster would become the major mine in an area of many miles. The mine had miles of tunnels and diggings with a giant stamp mill and recovery plant. Tailings from the Yellow Aster would run down across the face of the Rand Mountains to leave an indelible stain.

"Glory Hole" mining was practiced from the early days of the Yellow Aster strike. A "Glory Hole," described by Erma Peirson in her book, "Kern's Desert," is an open excavation

Photography by
Frederick L. Richards



RANDBURG — Created as a result of the April, 1895, gold discovery at the Rand Mine, later named Yellow Aster Mine. The Mine produced an estimated \$16 million. It closed in 1942, and has not operated since. At the peak of activity more than 4,000 people lived in this area.



DESERT MUSEUM — One of the many features in the Town of Randsburg is the Desert Museum, a branch of Kern County Museum and is open Saturday, Sunday and Holidays to the public.



COMPARE NOTES — Charles Bishop (l) holding gold ore from the Yellow Aster Mine and Edward Sweeney, owner of the King Solomon Mine, holding a vial of recovered gold. The Yellow Aster was hailed as one of California's major gold mines.



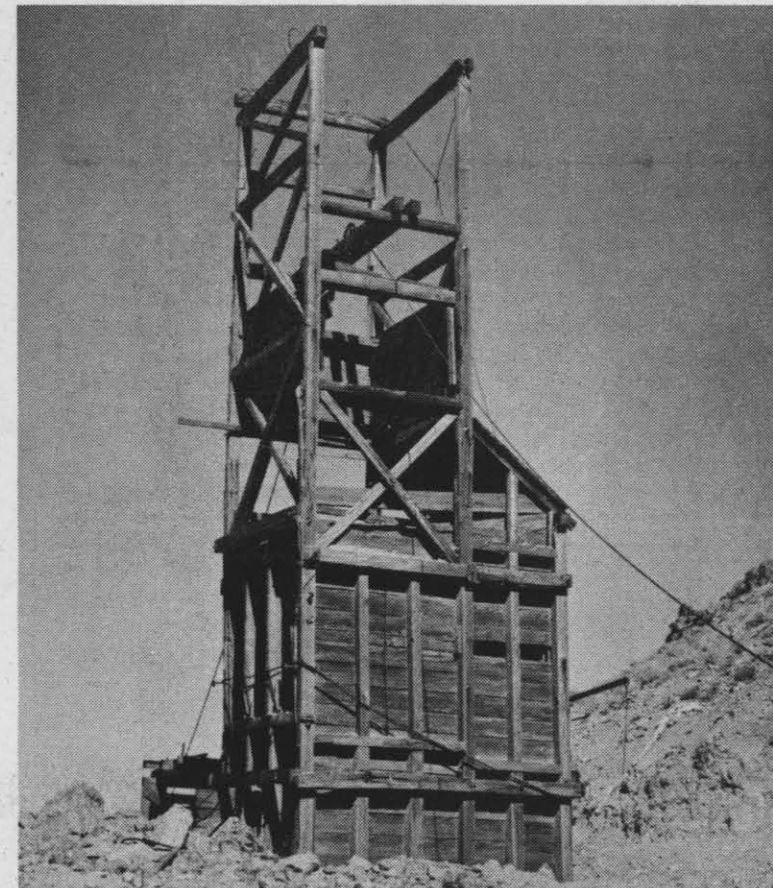
MUSEUM CURATOR — Harold Beck, longtime desert prospector and curator of the Desert Museum explains the weighing process of placer gold finds on an old pair of scales in the museum. Other reminders of days long-past are seen surrounding Beck.



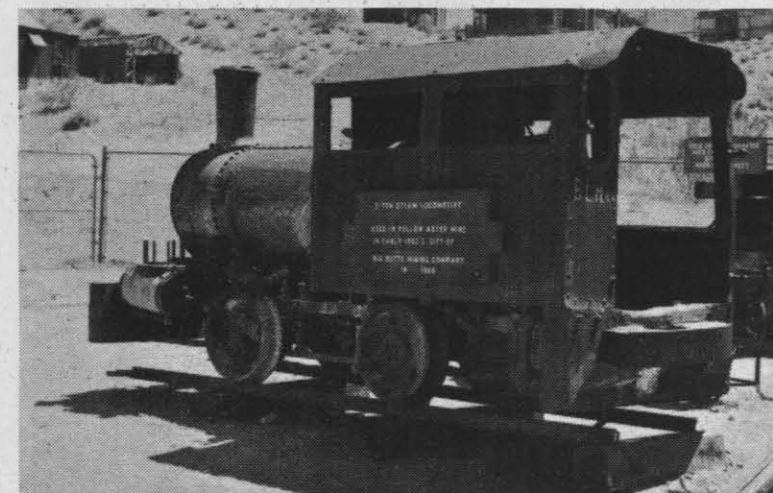
ANTIQUÉ COLLECTOR'S DREAM — Captivated by the unusual musical sounds emanating from this old relic (over 100 years old) a cherrywood, hand-carved organ in the famous Whitehouse Saloon, are Hughie Johnson and his wife, Alpha, keeping the keyboard in working order.



HISTORIC CHURCH — The Santa Barbara Church, located on the main street in Randsburg still holds regular services for the local population. Note reinforcing at side.



ONCE UPON A TIME — Standing today as a reminder as "how it used to be," is the ore bin and headframe of the Hercules Shaft at the Yellow Aster Mine where millions of dollars in gold ore was brought to the surface.



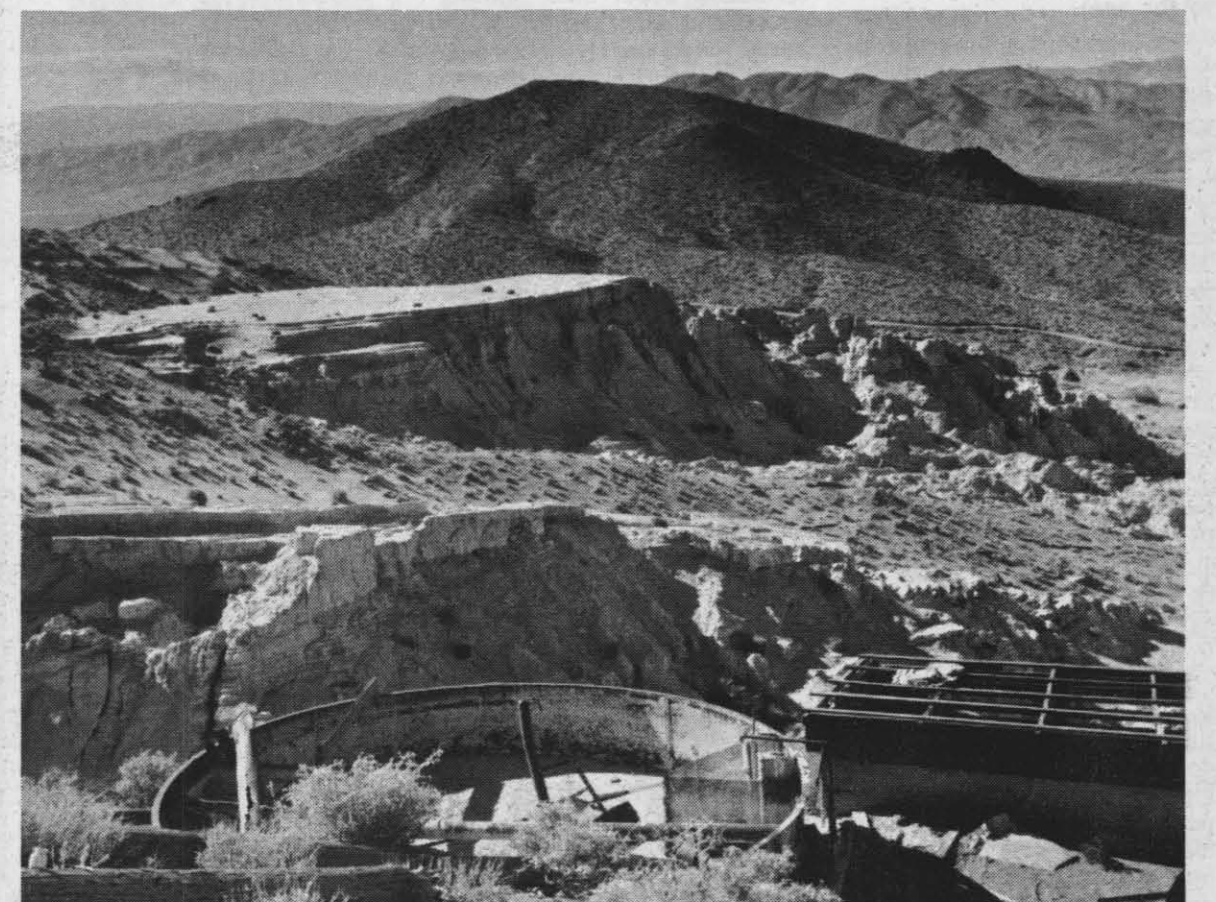
A REAL OLD TIMER — A five-ton steam locomotive used in the Yellow Aster mine in the early 1900's was a gift of the Big Butte Mining Company in 1956, on display at Randsburg's Desert Museum.



SILENT SENTINEL — Like a silent sentinel was, in its heyday, an elaborate facility of a long-gone, exciting past, the giant mill and engine room at the Yellow Aster Mine with gold filigree design still to be seen in the spokes of the steam engines flywheel.



THE GLORY HOLE — Two visitors take in the wonders of nature as they stand on the floor of this gigantic open pit mining operation. A "glory hole" is an excavation in the earth with tunneling beneath for removing broken ore. George Post, longtime resident of Randsburg, was our gracious host for this trip.



SERVED THEIR PURPOSE—Eroded tailings bear sculptured evidence of the Yellow Aster's voluminous gold ore processing. Looking like abandoned battle arenas are sections of the mine's recovery plant, seen in the foreground of photo.