

# China Lake Players Tentatively Select 'Night of the Iguana'

At their regular monthly meeting, held August 5, the Board of Directors of the China Lake Players tentatively selected "Night of the Iguana" by Tennessee Williams as the next Players' presentation.

Membership approval of the production will be asked for at the regular meeting, Wednesday, August 21, at the Players' Hut, 405 McIntyre on the Center at 8 p.m. A special building report and plans for

a camping trip also will be discussed.

Tryouts for the production of "Night of the Iguana," if approved by the membership, are scheduled for August 26 and 27 at the Players' Hut. A cast of eight men and six women will be required, plus much technical help. Anyone in the valley area is invited to attend these tryouts. Bob Pinney, who is well-known in Indian Wells Valley theatre circles, will direct the play.

# Soul Society Board of Directors Announces Kaffeehaus Schedule

The Soul Society is now going through a crucial transition period, reports Scott Shacklett, one of the Soul Society planners.

Tom Kleine, one of the founders, stated that, "Initial plans were for a summer program only. The popularity of the club and the successful acquisition of permanent quarters and furnishings, together with all the work and enthusiasm have resulted in making an attractive atmosphere which we would like to make a permanent part of the community. To accomplish this, much more participation by high school students will be necessary, stated Toni Guzzi, board member.

The Soul Society board of directors announce the following schedule at the Kaffeehaus, 730 N. Balsam, Ridgecrest, for the coming week:

Monday — Informal discussion and debate with various members of the community.

Tuesday—High School dance from 8 p.m. to midnight. Admission \$1.

Wednesday — Political panel discussion with representa-

tives for each of the presidential candidates.

Thursday — Folk singers, Jeff Parker and others.

The Kaffeehaus is open for young people of all ages from 8 p.m. until the discussions end.

Psychedelic shop workers, Kathy Wall and Jay Leininger, announce that the Psycho Cell is now open afternoons and evenings during Kaffeehaus hours and is selling black light posters, pictures, beads, incense, peace symbols, etc.

Hoping to raise enough money to continue special programs during the school year, the Soul Society is having special night club dances Friday and Saturday, August 16 and 17.

The Hustlers (playing together with repeated success since 1963) are scheduled for Friday and Saturday night at 8:30 p.m. Admission for Friday night has been dropped to \$1. Also appearing on Saturday night will be The Straight Jacket with Jim DeSanto, from Los Angeles. Saturday night admission is the usual \$1.50.



PSYCHEDELIC PERFORMERS — Pictured is "The Giant Crab" band which entertained at a recent Soul Society dance. The appearance of other popular bands is planned for future dances at the Soul Society Kaffeehaus.

From \_\_\_\_\_  
TO \_\_\_\_\_  
STAMP



DANCERS FROM HAWAII — These lovely Hawaiian entertainers are part of "Auntie Becky's" group of entertainers coming to the CPO Club Saturday, August 31. They will present colorful Hawaiian dances and songs, a daring fire and sword dance, and there will be a dance band. Delicious Hawaiian roast pig and prime rib with all the Hawaiian trimmings will be served. This annual Luau will be held at the CPO Club patio pool.

# Burroughs High Sets Pre-School Counseling Dates

Pre-school counseling at Burroughs High School has been set for August 27 through August 30. Students new to the area who have not been registered should report to the Administrative Office at 9 a.m. on August 27 for registration.

Program schedules will be mailed during the week of August 19 to all students who have been previously registered.

Students who must have program changes because of summer classes or course conflicts should report to their counselor or beginning at 9 a.m., August 28 and continuing through August 30.

Counselors this year are Mrs. Marjorie Heyhoe, freshmen; Dr. Ellis Tiffany, sophomores; Mrs. Lucretia Becker, juniors, and Mrs. Beverly Ahern, seniors.

# Assessments Due

Members of the Government Employees Benefit Association and the China Lake Mutual Aid Society are reminded that Assessments 158-86 are now due.

Assessments have been levied due to the death of Hugh W. Utterback, employee of the Public Works Electric Shop, who succumbed of a lengthy illness Wednesday, August 7, at the Long Beach Veterans Hospital, Long Beach, Calif.

Payments of \$1.20 may be mailed to Joseph M. Becker, Secretary-Treasurer, 77-B Renshaw, China Lake, Calif.

# SHOWBOAT

FRIDAY AUGUST 16  
"DON'T JUST STAND THERE" (100 Min.)  
Robert Wagner, Mary Tyler Moore  
7:30 P.M.

(Comedy) When a pretty tourist tries to get a handsome writer to finish a spicy novel for a friend of hers, she ends up getting the poor guy all mixed up in a French gangster mob, kidnapping and murder! But it's all in fun. (Adult, Very Mature Youth.)  
Short: "Faudin' Fightin' N' Fussin'" (7 Min.)

SATURDAY AUGUST 17  
—MATINEE—  
"FLUFFY" (92 Min.)  
Tony Randall  
Shorts: "Case of Cold Storage Yegg" (7 Min.)  
"Tractor Tom No. 10" (13 Min.)  
1:00 P.M.

—EVENING—  
"FIVE MILLION YEARS TO EARTH" (98 Min.)  
James Donald, Barbara Shelley  
7:30 P.M.

(Science/Fiction) Can the minds of ancient Martians still be active? Construction work uncovers a strange missile in the earth with precise records in it that—oh, it's too horrible to reveal! If you like suspense—this is it! (Adult, Mature Children.)  
Short: "Feud With a Dude" (7 Min.)

SUNDAY-MONDAY AUGUST 18-19  
"NO WAY TO TREAT A LADY" (108 Min.)  
Lee Remick, Rod Steiger  
7:30 P.M.

(Mystery) Who is the psychotic stranger who leaves a lipstick imprint on his victim's forehead? You'll know all along, but it won't blunt the suspense a bit as police track this killer. Academy Award Winner Rod is top! (Adult, Mature Youth.)  
Short: "Baton Bunny" (7 Min.)

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY AUGUST 20-21  
"WHERE ANGELS GO TROUBLE FOLLOWS" (94 Min.)  
Rosalind Russell, Stella Stevens  
7:30 P.M.

(Comedy) "Groovy" Sister George shows the Mother Superior and her pupils where the action is as she starts a mod movement at school. Their off-campus trip is filled with fun as the girls stay at a boy's school. A good sequel. (Adult, Youth, Children.)  
Shorts: "A Lad in Baghdad" (7 Min.)  
"Clay Birds" (10 Min.)

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 21  
—SPECIAL MATINEE—  
"TREASURE ISLAND" (96 Min.)  
1:00 P.M.

THURSDAY-FRIDAY AUGUST 22-23  
"COUNTDOWN" (101 Min.)  
James Caan, Joanna Moore  
7:30 P.M.

(Science/Fiction) Thrilling authenticity highlights a race to the moon against a similar Russian project. Tangle with excitement during training sessions, practice and the final countdown, and then... A big production. (Adult, Youth, Children.)  
Short: "Africa Yesterday and Tomorrow" (16 Min.)

# STAR-SPANGLED SAVINGS PLAN



Sign up for U. S. Savings Bonds, New Freedom Shares

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1-Dance step
- 4-Make amends
- 9-Sesame
- 12-River island
- 13-Paths
- 14-Beverage
- 15-Hold in greater favor
- 17-Empower
- 19-Young shrub
- 21-Lamprey
- 22-Bind
- 24-Title of respect
- 26-Clan
- 29-Slumber
- 31-Short sleep
- 33-Clean container
- 34-Three-toed sloth
- 35-Soak up
- 37-Cut of meat
- 39-Note of scale
- 40-Soak
- 42-Obstruct
- 44-Revolutionary
- 46-Break suddenly
- 48-Temporary bed
- 50-Sailors (colloq.)
- 51-Chart
- 53-Females
- 55-Whipped
- 58-Admonished
- 61-Everyone
- 62-Liquid
- 64-Period of time
- 65-Creat
- 66-Mixes
- 67-Society girl (colloq.)

DOWN

- 1-Soft food
- 2-Ventilate
- 3-Plain in Russia
- 4-Appellation of Athens
- 5-Mountain lakes
- 6-Preposition
- 7-Born
- 8-Slave
- 9-Articles of furniture
- 10-Sick
- 11-Confederate general
- 16-Escapes
- 18-Roman bronze
- 20-Metal
- 22-Former Russian ruler
- 23-Foreign
- 25-Cheer
- 27-Man's name
- 28-Caudal appendages
- 30-Seed container
- 32-Equality
- 36-Moccasin
- 38-Measuring device
- 41-Mexican dish
- 43-Cut
- 45-Prohibited
- 47-Stroke
- 49-Tall structure
- 52-Church benches
- 54-Planet
- 55-Flying mammal
- 56-Man's name
- 57-Man's nickname
- 59-Before
- 60-Bespatter
- 63-Note of scale

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LT. (jg) ROBERT W. CUMMINGS has reported to NAF for duty as Avionics Officer. His last duty was at NAS, Atsugi, Japan with FAIRECONRON ONE. Cummings has received the Viet Nam Campaign Medal, Viet Nam Service Medal, National Defense Medal, Good Conduct Medal and the European Occupation Medal. A native of Orange, California, he and his wife Toni reside at 59-A Vieweg Circle with their children, Judith, 20; Robert, 16; Deborah, 14; and Brad, 13. Cummings entered the Navy in February, 1950 and received his commission in March 1965.



LT. ISAMU KAWABORI recently joined the NWC medical staff. Although Long Beach, California is his birthplace, he claims Spokane, Washington as home town. A graduate of the University of Washington School of Medicine and Occidental College of Los Angeles, his residency in pediatrics was served at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center in San Jose, California. Lt. Kawabori received his commission in December, 1965 and began his first tour of active duty upon his arrival at NWC. He and his wife, Gloria, reside at 54-B Rodman on the Center.

TEMPERATURES	
	Max. Min.
Aug. 9	98 70
Aug. 10	97 72
Aug. 11	98 70
Aug. 12	94 70
Aug. 13	94 70
Aug. 14	88 52
Aug. 15	90 57

Vol. XXII, No. 33 Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, California Fri., Aug. 16, 1968

# Prominent Polymer Scientist Confers with Local Chemists

## Author, Lecturer Tells Progress in Plastics Use

"Research and investigation into the complex structural world of high polymers — commonly known as plastics, elastomers and fibers, cellulose, nylon, and polypropylene, to name a few — is being done in a more sophisticated way in order to determine if previously known, as well as newly discovered materials, are capable of even further practical use in industry," remarked Professor Paolo Corradini, guest scientist at NWC the past two weeks.

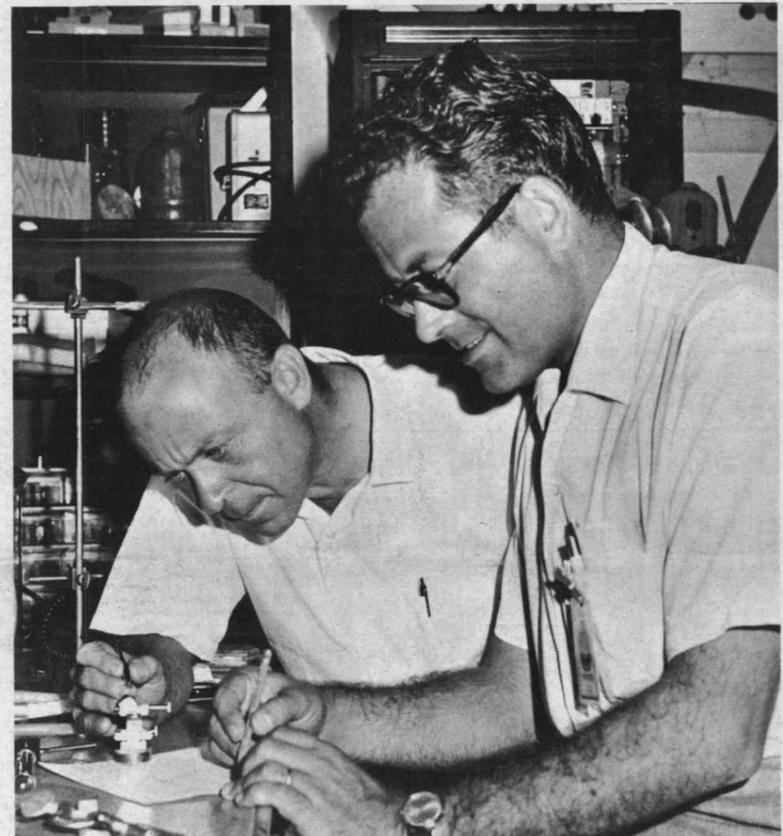
Since 1961, Professor Corradini has headed general and inorganic chemistry at the University of Naples, Italy, but has been loaned recently to the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn to establish a special physical chemical laboratory.

The 38-year-old Italian scientist received his Ph.D. at the University of Rome in 1951, and almost immediately became associated with Dr. G. Natta who won the Nobel Prize in 1963 for the discovery of stereoregular polymers, which not only revealed the very orderly structure of the materials, but unexpected, commercially valuable, properties.

Corradini was a member of the original research team that brought about the discovery. His outstanding work through analysis of the new polymers structures with X-ray techniques gave real physical meaning to the concept of stereoregularity. Corradini's newly published general chemistry book, "The Place of Chemistry in the Modern World," is expected to be used as a textbook in many universities and colleges throughout Italy. He is credited with authoring 120 scientific and technical papers, now published by world-wide science journals in French, German, Italian and English languages.

Professor Corradini's rise to prominence rapidly followed his elucidation of the structure of stereoregular polypropylene, which is presently being used commercially as the new "miracle fiber" for fabricating rugs and carpets.

It was Dr. Martin Kaufman, Head, Chemical Research Branch, Propulsion Development Department who met Professor Corradini in Italy, when Kaufman was pursuing an advanced research fellowship in 1966. Later, an invitational visit to the Naval Weapons Center was arranged by



CLOSE EXAMINATION — Professor Paolo Corradini (r) and Dr. Martin Kaufman, Head, Chemical Research Branch, Propulsion Development Department, are aligning a fibre of a fluorinated polydiene on an x-ray goniometer head. The first stereoreg-

ular polymer discovered at NWC by Dr. Kaufman forms very strong fibres and is believed to have other unusual properties. Professor Corradini and Dr. Kaufman are at present studying the structure and properties of the new polymer.

—Photo by PH2 D. E. Hart

Dr. G. W. Leonard, department head. While NWC uses polymers mainly as binders for energetic ingredients in the field of pyrotechnics, propellants and explosives, the materials' commercial uses are many, including rugs, fabrics, brushes, ropes, tires, contact lenses, and scores of household wares and appliances.

## Problem of the Moment

"The public is little aware of the big problem of the moment in the laboratory," explained Professor Corradini. "We are trying to understand why these large molecules behave as they do — how they build fiber-forming materials, elastic and plastic materials. It is my feeling that the general aspects of this problem are becoming more and more accessible."

In his several lectures on the Center, Corradini told of his experiments with new polymers dealing with variation in polymer properties in terms of

microscopic structure of how the atoms are connected, what forms the molecules take, and what forces are present between the atoms of different molecules. "When this is known, the industrial use of polymeric materials should make a tremendous leap forward — even beyond what already has been accomplished," he said.

In addition to his conferences at NWC dealing with the structure and mechanism of polymerization of a new, very strong fiber-forming, stereoregular fluoropolymer prepared at the Center, Professor Corradini has been discussing with NWC chemists specific polymers of interest to their R&D programs.

While at the Center as a visiting scientist, Corradini, his wife Brigitte (Brix) reside at 602-A Essex Circle. Their two daughters, Patrizia, 11, and Graziella, 7, are at summer camp in New York.

# Mental Health Contract Signed By Local Clinic

A. R. McCorkle, Director of the Desert Counseling Clinic at China Lake, received the signed copies of a contract with the Kern County Department of Mental Health Services and the County Board of Supervisors. This year's contract is for \$24,000 which is an increase of \$11,000 over last year's contract.

The new contract enables the clinic to increase the psychiatric time of Dr. Fred Feldman by one day, and enables the clinic to hire a full time bookkeeper - insurance clerk, plus maintain our present staff, McCorkle said.

"We will continue to provide out-patient services for (Continued on Page 3)

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Response to Need?

By Chaplain Robert D. Aldrich



"For I was hungry and you gave me food" — Why should I give up my hard-earned money to help feed all those people. Let them take care of themselves.

"I was thirsty and you gave me drink" — If they pass that bill to improve the slums, it'll mean higher taxes.

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me" — Invite him to go along? No. I'm afraid he wouldn't fit in.

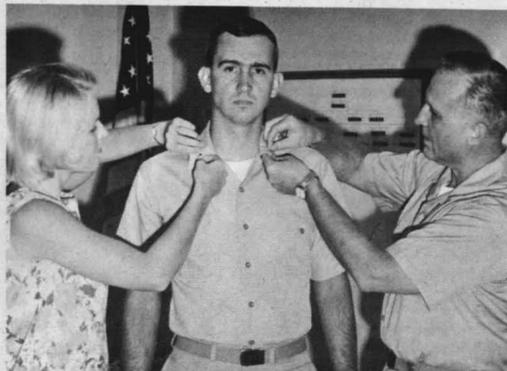
"I was naked and you clothed me" — Who was that at the front door? Some man collecting old clothes for disaster victims. I told him we didn't have any. They'll have enough with ours. Besides, I'm too tired to get them ready.

"I was sick and you visited me" — I meant to get down to the hospital to see him or at least send him a get-well card. I didn't know it was that serious.

"I was in prison and you came to me" — Our preacher wants a group of us to visit some of the prisoners at the jail. He's crazy if he thinks I'm going to waste my time like that.

Serving others means giving things and time and self. How do we respond to the needs of our fellowmen? Do we serve him in times of need? Do our actions support our words? Why not make action where it counts?

Silver Bars for NAF Officer



NAF OFFICER PROMOTED — Captain Rodney F. Schall, NAF Commanding Officer, is assisted by Mrs. Johnson as he presents the silver bars of promotion to Lieutenant, junior grade, William L. Johnson in a brief ceremony last week. Lt.(jg) Johnson serves as Communications and Security Officer at NAF. Johnson, a native of Hollywood, Florida, came to the Center six months ago from NAS, Pensacola, Florida. He and his wife, Martha Sue, reside on the Center at 307-A Groves.

PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Present Center employees are encouraged to apply for the positions listed below. Applications should be accompanied by an up-to-date Form 58. The fact that positions are advertised here does not preclude the use of other means to fill these vacancies.

The vacancies listed below are effective from August 16 to August 23, 1968.

Project Development Engineer, GS-9-11 or 12, Code 4563 — Incumbent is Project Engineer on FAE (Fuel Air Explosive) Program. He will design, test, and evaluate a low-speed FAE Weapon. A degree in Engineering and two years minimum related engineering experience is essential.

Clerk-Typist, GS-4, Code 4564 — The incumbent maintains records of cost, scheduling and test facilities. Prepares charts and graphs. Types reports and correspondence. Prepares time cards, stubs, travel orders and maintains files.

Mechanical Engineer (Ordnance), GS-12, Code 4561 — The incumbent in this position is a project engineer responsible for the advanced development of an air-to-surface cluster weapon and bomblet warheads. A degree in Engineering and two years minimum related engineering experience is essential.

Clerk-Typist, GS-4, Code 4574 — The incumbent is secretary for the Head, Engineering Projects Branch. The incumbent will perform secretarial and clerical duties for the Branch. Types technical and non-technical letters, memoranda, and reports. Maintains Branch files.

Clerk-Dictating Machine Transcriber, GS-4, Code 4535 — The incumbent serves as secretary to the Branch Head. The incumbent types correspondence, letters, memoranda, technical reports. Maintains standard and special files. Duties include typing, timekeeping, personnel and leave records, travel orders and mail collecting and distributing.

Clerk-Dictating Machine Transcriber, GS-4, Code 4543 — The incumbent performs clerical, stenographic and administrative services for the Branch Head. The incumbent types correspondence, letters, memoranda, appointments and meeting notices, letters, memos, reports and etc. Maintains files.

Clerk-Dictating Machine Transcriber, GS-3 or 4, Code 4581 — The incumbent serves as secretary to the Branch Head. She is responsible for maintaining a schedule of appointments, making arrangements for meetings, conferences, etc. The secretary types letters and all other forms of correspondence from hurriedly written drafts with many abbreviations, and from dictating equipment. Maintains Branch files.

File applications for above with Jim Bixler, Bldg. 34, Rm. 24, Phone 72723.

Fire Fighter (General), Driver Operator, GS-081-05 (one vacancy), Code 842 — Drives and operates a fire department structural pumper, combination structural and brush pumper or any type crash fire truck; participates in drills and classes; periodically inspects Center buildings and property; maintains records regarding the maintenance and service of assigned apparatus and equipment, etc. Qualifications: Three years' experience required.

File applications for the above with Carole Cadle, Bldg. 34, Rm. 26, Phone 71648.

Recreation Specialist (Sports), GS-188-5, 7 or 9, Code 855 — This position is located in the Special Services Division of the Command Administration Department. Plans, implements, directs athletic and physical fitness programs embracing intramural and varsity sports, and develops Center teams to compete with outside teams. Procures and controls the issuance of athletic equipment. Plans and monitors facilities, utilization and maintenance. Requirements for GS-5: (a) Four year course in an accredited college or university. (Note — Recreation majors with at least 15 hours in: Arts & Crafts, Dramatics, Music, Sports, Social Activities, etc.) (b) FSEE plus three years experience or (c) In addition to passing a written test (FSEE) a combination A & B is required. Requirements for GS-7: Three years general and one year specialized. Requirements for GS-9: Three years general and two years specialized.

File application for above with Sue Proszewicz, Bldg. 34, Rm. 28, Phone 71577.

Computer Specialist, GS-334-9, PD No. 890002, Code 90 — This position is located in Projects Department, VX-5, and prepares and modifies VX-5 computer programs. Also codes and debugs new project programs. Qualifications — Must have competence in efficient FORTRAN programming. Must have experience which demonstrates proficiency in developing computer programs, formats, and structures. Also, a general knowledge of typical computer system capabilities with respect to scientific and managerial data processing requirements.

File application with Mary Morrison, Bldg. 34, Rm. 32, Phone 72022.

Secretary or Clerk Typist, GS-5, Code 302 — Position is Secretary to the Head, Range Operations Division, Systems Development Department, spending 60 per cent in secretarial, receptionist and office management duties; 20 per cent in personnel, security and 20 per cent in general office duties.

File application for above with Fawn Haycock, Bldg. 34, Rm. 24, Phone 71514.

'DESERT PHILOSOPHER'

We Say Goodbye to Ballarat's Slim

By "POP" LOFINCK



For a long time the one-man population of the mining town of Ballarat, in Panamint Valley, Charles J. Ferge, better known as "Seldom Seen Slim," died last Sunday, August 11, at the age of 86.

He came to Ballarat in 1913, and made it his home ever since, when he wasn't prospecting or mining.

There will be simple graveside services at Ballarat's old Boot Hill tomorrow, Saturday, August 17, at 12 noon. Slim was known to spend hours tidying up the cemetery.

Time was when Ballarat was the rip-roaring 1897 recreation town for the miners working the mines up in the Panamint and Argus Mountains.

A few weeks ago I went over to see Slim in the Trona Hospital and was surprised to see him looking better than I had seen him in years. But that was an illusion. He had a terminal cancer from which he succumbed when it caused an internal hemorrhage.

When I ran across Slim in Ballarat one day he remarked, "I cut my beard with scissors; if I shaved you'd think I was a phony desert rat." But the real reason, I think, was because of skin cancers from long exposure to the actinic rays of the desert sun.

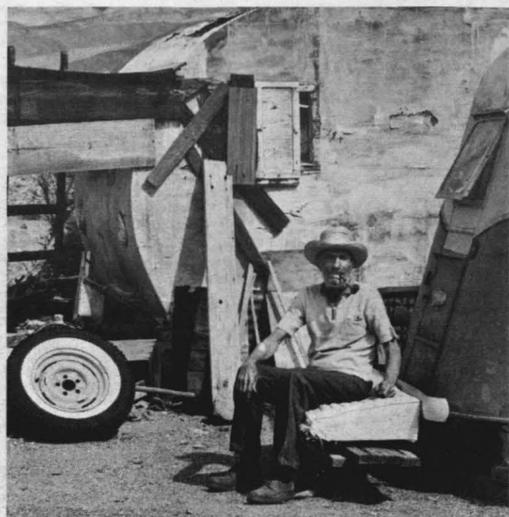
Some old desert rats enjoy solitude like some people enjoy music. Seldom Seen Slim's enjoyment was solitude — night stars — dreaming of the past — and getting his picture taken. Speaking of pictures, former Rocketeer writer, Milt Sheely, did a feature story on Ballarat in the paper May 3, this year, with photographs by Editor Fred Richards. The portrait of Slim was perhaps the most recent one to be published.

Probably hundreds of people have Slim's picture in their scrapbook at home. Some say his appearance reminded them of Abe Lincoln. They liked to get their picture taken with a real genuine desert rat. And for Slim, that was his contact with the world — so everybody was happy!

Slim lived his own life — the way he wanted it. There is something admirable about a character that lives his life the way he wants it. Bravo!

Seldom Seen Slim started from zero minus — his earliest memory of home was an orphanage in Springfield, Illinois — and without benefit of formal education, achieved a way of life that he wanted. Bravo!

For that, he has my sincere salute.



AT HOME IN BALLARAT — Among the lonesome adobe ruins, Seldom Seen Slim sits beside the trailer he called home. Visitors who flocked to the ghost town of Ballarat will no longer have the distinction of having their picture taken with Slim or the pleasure of buying the rocks and bottles he sold to supplement his income.

CENTER LIBRARY LISTS NEW BOOKS

- A complete list of new books is available in the library. Fiction: Cuomo—Among Thieves. Egan—A Serious Investigation. Green—To Brooklyn With Love. Kirst—The Wolves. Laumer—Planet Run. Non-Fiction: Adamson—A Lifetime With Lions. Ancient Hawaiian Civilization. Anderson—Principles of Navigation. Portisch—Eyewitness in Vietnam. Rose—The Legal Adviser on Home Ownership.

SHARE IN FREEDOM
★ U.S. Savings Bonds
★ New Freedom Shares

The Rocketeer

Official Weekly Publication
NAVAL WEAPONS CENTER
China Lake, California
Capt. M. R. Etheridge, USN
NWC Commander

DIVINE SERVICES
Protestant—(All Faith Chapel)—
Morning Worship—8:15 and 11 a.m.
Sunday School—9:30 a.m., Chapel Annexes 1, 2, 3, 4 (Dorms 5, 6, 7, 8) located opposite Center Restaurant.

"J." Bibby
Public Affairs Officer
Joan Raber
News Bureau
Frederick L. Richards
Editor

Staff Writer
Ed Rank, Sports
Staff Photographers
PH1 Gary D. Bird, PH2 Delmar E. Hart,
PH2 Kenneth Stephens, PHAN Mike F. Kraus.

DEADLINES:
News Stories—Tuesday, 4:30 p.m.
Photographs—Tuesday, 11:30 a.m.
The Rocketeer receives Armed Forces Press Service material. All are official U.S. Navy photos unless otherwise identified. Printed weekly with appropriated funds in compliance with NavExps P-35, revised July 1958. Office at Nimitz and Lauritsen.
Phones—71354, 71655, 72082

Roman Catholic (All Faith Chapel)—
Holy Mass—7, 9:30 a.m., and 12:30 p.m. Sunday.
Daily Mass—11:30 a.m. in Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Saturday, 8:30 a.m.
Confessions—7 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday.

NWC Jewish Services (East Wing All Faith Chapel)—8 p.m. every first and third Friday.
Sabbath School—10 a.m. to noon, every first and third Saturday.
Unitarian Fellowship—For information write P. O. Box 5436, China Lake, or phone NWC Ext. 725991.

Insurance Carriers Must Okay Private Vehicles for Business

Although it is entirely legal to authorize the use of privately owned vehicles in the execution of official travel orders, the traveler's insurance carrier must be advised that the vehicle is occasionally used for business purposes. Unless the insurance carrier has been advised of this fact, all liability may be denied by the carrier in the event of an accident. In the case of damage sustained by third parties due to the operation of a privately owned vehicle in the execution of official government travel orders, the insurance carrier would be mutually liable, with the government, if the carrier had been notified of the business use of the vehicle. However, the government very probably would not be liable to the employee for damage to his private vehicle, if that damage was the result of the employee's negligence. The damage would be an obligation of the employee's insurance carrier, if the carrier had been advised of the business use of the vehicle. Detailed information on insurance and liability considerations for use of private vehicles on official travel is contained in NWC Notice 4650 of August 7, 1968.

BEWARE!

The incident rate for minor offenses aboard the Center is greater during the summer than at any other time of the year. Unfortunately, that observation is especially true this summer season. A concerted effort by the police is not entirely successful in eliminating offenses such as vandalism, trespassing and petty thefts. Additionally, Center residents must realize that they can play an important role in the protection of their own property and, thereafter, effectuate that role. After all only the occupant can make certain that all the doors and windows in his house, garage and car are locked; only the owner can remove from the sight of passersby all articles of value from his parked vehicle; only the owner can effectively secure his personal gear when visiting Center swimming pools and the gymnasium; only the resident concerned can alert Security for periodic inspection of his premises when he is to be away for extended periods of time. As may be surmised from the foregoing, the principal target of the offender is cars and homes. Many stereo tapes have been stolen as well as other articles of value from vehicles. When a house or garage is unlawfully entered, money and/or alcoholic beverages seem to be the items of greatest interest to the offending person or persons. In essence the prevention of offenses such as noted requires the cooperation of all. Every person should consider himself a potential victim and resort to a constant effort designed to afford his property the greatest measure of security.

Ravens Hardest of 200-odd Species in High Desert Heat

BY DON MOORE

Midsummer heat proves too much for most of the 200-odd species of birds that pass through the Indian Wells Valley each year. Even though the mercury soars past the hundred mark, a hardy few seem to thrive in such temperatures and stay on to even raise families. On the other hand, when the Bible tells how the prophet Elisha was fed in the wilderness, it was a pair of ravens that delivered his bread and meat each day. History has tended to overlook this more praiseworthy reference.

Tribal mythologies attribute supernatural powers to the raven. Eskimos often adopted the raven as a clan totem and would not hunt the bird. Ancient middens disclose bones of several dozen species of birds that were killed for food, but the raven appears to have been significantly absent from the Eskimo diet.

Surprisingly this rather common and adaptable bird has faced near-extinction in the eastern U.S. Varmint hunting and destruction of original habitats reduced the raven population nearly to the vanishing point within the past 100 years. The species is now re-establishing itself with the aid of stricter laws.

Occasionally the big birds are kept as pets, but their mischievous habits combined with powerful beaks and talons usually prove too much for the keepers, and the ravens eventually win their freedom. Longevity is also in the raven's favor; a raven captured as a nestling may well outlive his captor.

One zoo specimen, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, lived 59 years.

Most noticeable, the sadly ill-adapted ravens in their coal black plumage remain when good sense would dictate a move to cooler climates. At high noon they perch on power cross arms croaking out their apparent dissatisfaction with desert life, or they patrol the roadsides with beaks agape like overheated dogs.

The desert must offer some compensations. Perhaps it is the several community garbage dumps, daily stocked with exotic forage from thousands of homes, or the miles of well-traveled roads that provide a steady supply of rabbits killed by cars. For the raven is a scavenger, preferring leftovers to fresh meat and content to let others do his hunting.

Ravens have received special notice since the days of Noah when a dove, a swallow, and a raven were sent out from the ark in search of land. The first two returned with the good news, but the raven never came back, and has had to live down a bad reputation ever since.

Tennis Tournament To Be Held

A Youth - Activities - sponsored Junior Tennis Tournament will be held August 28, 29 and 30 for high school and junior high school - aged boys and girls at the NWC courts, according to Dick Wadman, director. Registrations will be taken at the Youth Center through 4:30 p.m. Monday, August 26. Positively no registrations will be accepted after that time. A registration fee of 75 cents per participant will be charged, regardless of the number of events. Players will be limited to three events.

The games will begin at 8 a.m. each day and a 15-minute default rule will be in effect. Balls will be provided by Special Services, as well as racquets for those without them. Players must wear rubber-soled shoes to participate. They should also try to wear light, white clothing and a hat.

The Southern California Tennis Association's Code of Ethics, explaining court courtesy, will apply to all players. A limited number of copies will be made available to check out from the Youth Center.

To register, participants should have on hand their name, address, telephone number, some sort of age identification (such as a pass), registration fee, the name of their doubles partner(s), and a short description of their past tennis experience to help with seeding.

Trophies will be awarded to winners and runners-up in singles, and to each winner in doubles events. Tentative events include doubles, singles, and mixed doubles for each age division. Events are subject to cancellation by the tournament director if it is considered that there are not enough entries.

For additional information, contact Sandy Johnson, Tournament Director, at the Youth Center. The telephone number is Ext. 72909.

DOB's Kept In 2nd Place Tie

The steady pitching of Dick Reade, coupled with home runs by "Blind" Jack Brown and "Lacy" Lebow, kept the DOB's in a tie for second place in the league with the Maulers.

The Marauders were in the game all the way, led by home runs by Don Sherman and Philip Roper. "Chubby" Lalor also turned in a good performance behind the plate and at bat, going three for five.

The winning pitcher was Dick Reade; the loser was Leroy Marquardt. This game set the stage for the big game next week-end between the DOB's and Miller's Maulers for undisputed possession of second place in the league. This big one is scheduled to get underway at 8 p.m., August 17 at Reardon Field.

Boxers Needed

China Lake Athletic Director Ray Gier announced this week that at least 12 more amateur boxers were needed to round out the card for China Lake's upcoming boxing smoker. With less than two weeks remaining prior to fight time, Gier indicated that the show was in danger of being cancelled unless enough fighters were signed.

The boxing smoker is scheduled for Wednesday, August 28 at Schoeffel Field, with the first bout getting underway at 8 p.m. No prior experience is necessary for those who wish to participate and all weight classifications are open.

The program is available to all military and civilian residents of China Lake. Entries will be accepted at the Athletic Office, 77 Bard St., Ext. 72017, until 10 a.m. Monday morning.

MAULERS SPOIL WARRIOR'S BID FOR PERFECT SEASON

MAULERS-16, WARRIORS-13

Nothing lasts forever, and so it was proven again last Friday as the Watusi Warriors' perfect record was shattered by Miller's Maulers before a noisy (and biased) crowd at Reardon Field. The manager of the Maulers held a pre-game warm up which raised the enthusiasm of the members to a fevered pitch.

"Iron Arm" Davis responded to the effort in usual form by wacking a home run and a triple. Oz Ozunas socked a three-run homer in the seventh inning in a vain effort to try and pull it out.

The Maulers were not to be denied, however, as Dick Miller led a 17 hit attack with five hits. Louie "The Lip" Wincin pitched his best game of the year. The Maulers got help from two returning players, Jack Murray from the Army and Gary Maxwell from college.

STANDINGS

Table with columns: Team, Wins, Losses. Watusi Warriors 8 1, Miller's Maulers 5 3, DOB's 5 3, Lordos 2 6, Marauders 1 8.



CHAMPION CUBS OF THE FARM LEAGUE — Playing all season, this champion team only lost three games out of a total of 12 games played. The first half of the season the teams used the pitching machine. The Cubs are sponsored by the NWC Security Department, and Mildred Wilson is team mother. Cub players are (back, l-r) Jack

Herbstreit (coach), J. H. Lewis, B. Carle, P. A. Verich, A. Patterson, R. M. Campbell, S. Donohue, and Dean Ricketts (Manager). In front (l-r) are C. A. Pope, M. L. Chadwick, T. J. McLane, D. C. Schad, P. L. Winemore, T. Herbstreit, and D. R. McMullen. Kneeling (l-r) are M. A. Wilson, C. A. Ricketts, and C. A. Gilbert.

THE LOCKER ROOM

"Snakebite" Gets His Chance

By ED RANCK



Frank "Snakebite" Niblett, who came to this area recently with hopes of having some new life injected into a lagging boxing career, will get his first chance at a shot for the big money next week. Frank is scheduled to box Terry Lee for the vacated California light-heavyweight title next Wednesday night at the Oakland Auditorium.

Lest anyone scoff at the fact that only a state title is at stake, it should be remembered that California is not exactly the Outer Mongolia of boxing these days. A win for Niblett in this one should propell him into the top 10 of the light heavy class. Even more important, he could become main event material for one of the nationally televised cards at Los Angeles' Olympic Auditorium. The Olympic, having replaced Madison Square Garden as the prestige boxing club in the country, is the place where the big paydays could begin.

VETERAN OF 62 PROFESSIONAL FIGHTS

Although Niblett is a veteran of 62 professional fights with a 40-10-12 record, next week's match represents his first real chance to move into the limelight of the 175-pound division. In today's era of nearly instant success, when a fighter can win eight or nine bouts and become a headliner, you have to wonder what happened to Snakebite.

Obviously Snakebite began to wonder about it himself during recent months, and this is the primary reason why he now fights out of Ridgecrest under his old manager Joe King.

Managing boxers is not Joe King's only endeavor, but it has got to be one of the things that he totally enjoys. Not only does he enjoy it, but you get the impression that he has the savvy to take a fighter as far as the fighter's ability will allow. He has the disarming personality of a Siberian refrigerator salesman, plus the knowledge of how the fight game operates. A retired master sergeant, Joe has dabbled in boxing for about 40 years. He believes that now is the time for Niblett to make his move.

KING VOICES CONFIDENCE IN BOXER

King is confident that his boy will win next Wednesday. Lee and Niblett are one and one, plus two draws in their series of matches over the years, but Snakebite has a history of belting out a tough opponent after several rematches. Part of Joe King's current training program has been to enlighten Snakebite of this tendency, and the knowledge has done nothing to deter the fighter's confidence.

It would seem that the desert area is an unlikely place for a professional fighter to train, primarily because of the lack of adequate sparring competition. Questioned on this point, Joe minimized the problem. He allows that when a boxer has to whip himself into shape for a fight, then sparring might be necessary throughout the training period. "But Frank is always in shape," Joe says, "and our number one aim here is to have him maintain his edge." He was asked how the trainer could tell when a fighter was maintaining his edge. "When he is nasty and hard to get along with, then you know that he is just about ready," was the reply.

King feels that sparring against live competition is necessary, but when a fighter is in good shape a few days of this type of work will do the job. To complete the training for the Lee fight, Joe sent Snakebite to Oakland this week for several days of work with Oakland fight manager Tony Crabahlo's stable.

When you consider the fact that Frank Niblett is just a few weeks shy of his 27th birthday, you have to realize that he is getting on in years as a professional fighter. Undoubtedly, 62 pro fights have taken away some of the natural sharpness. But late-comers aren't that unusual in boxing, particularly in the heavier weight classifications. When you inspect the records of such fighters as Archie Moore, Sonny Liston and Harold Johnson, you realize that it isn't impossible to make a move when you reach your late 20s.

SKILL IN THE RING UNQUESTIONED

Niblett has always been a fighter whose skill in the ring was unquestioned. However, he has had a tendency to clown, and this may have hurt his chances of getting a good break over the years. Fight managers have been known to flee the scene when faced with the prospect of putting their boy in against a comedian who knows how to fight.

Snakebite came to Ridgecrest to team up with Joe King and make a bid for the light-heavyweight title. Apparently, the clowning days are over. Against Lee on Wednesday night he will be facing a comer who, like Niblett, is looking for a future shot at Bob Foster's crown. When asked about Niblett's future chances should he lose next week, King indicated that there was still plenty of time for Snakebite to come back even if he did blow the fight to Terry Lee. This could be true, but whoever wins on Wednesday will break into the top 10, and for the loser it could be a ticket to oblivion.

Final Week of Softball League Play Will Decide Championship

For the second consecutive year, the championship of the China Lake Softball League will be decided in the final week of play. With five days of competition remaining on the schedule, Ace TV and the Engineers remained deadlocked for the league lead. As of Tuesday evening, Ace and the Engineers were tied with identical 21-3 records. El Rancho remained in third place with 18-6, maintaining a slim chance of reaching the top spot. In Wednesday night's action, the Engineers faced the tough Magic Cleaners' Patriots, while on Thursday, Ace went against seventh place NAF.

The two top clubs each posted a pair of victories last week to remain tied for the lead. Ace downed Magic Cleaners 4-0, and Genge, 5-3, while the Engineers rolled over NAF and NWC by scores of 16-0 and 12-0. El Rancho also won a pair from the two tail end clubs while VX-5 lost a pair to Genge and Magic Cleaners.

Bert Andreassen limited the Patriots to four singles in Ace's 4-0 victory. Held hitless for three innings, Ace scored in the top of the fourth on runner-scoring base hits by Dennis Carson and Bob Palmer to take a 2-0 lead. Bill Marten scored on Andreassen's sacrifice fly and Harlan Hersley scored on an error to make it 4-0 in the seventh. Andreassen became the leagues first 20-game winner in this one, while Bob Kochman took the loss for the Patriots.

Andreassen defeated Genge's Tony Scanlan in a fine pitcher's duel as Ace downed Genge, 5-3. The Chaparrals jumped to a 3-0 lead in the first inning on Jerry Tyler's double, a walk to Dennis Henden, Chuck Blackman's triple and a sacrifice fly. Andreassen shut the door on the Chaparrals after that, allowing just one base runner over the final

six innings. Ace tied the game in the second on Andreassen's run scoring single and a two-run triple by Tommy Galyon. Two errors, Andy Gilpin's single and a sacrifice fly by Bob Palmer accounted for the final two runs in the third. Andreassen struck out seven in winning his 21st game of the year, while Scanlan fanned eight in a losing effort.

The Engineers took advantage of 15 walks as they downed NAF 16-0. Chuck Newmyer led the Engineer attack with two hits while Larry Buckley drove in three runs for the winners. The Engineers scored eight times in the second inning to take a 10-0 lead then finished it off with three in the fifth and four in the sixth innings. Bert Galloway went all the way to win it, striking out 14 and limiting the Hawks to three singles. Don Williams was the loser.

Jim Bevan cracked two homeruns and Jim Ball hit one as the Engineers downed NWC, 12-0. Bevan hit his pair in consecutive times at bat, driving in four runs as the Engineers jumped to an 8-0 lead at the end of four. The winners accounted for four more in the seventh on Ball's two-run shot and a two-run single by Ross Clayton. Galloway won his 19th game, allowing two hits and fanning 14 to boost his season's strikeout total to 237. Larry Byrd was the loser.

Roger Short, Jim Ayers and Lew Radcliffe all homered as El Rancho downed the Tigers, 23-13. Short drove in six runs and Radcliffe drove in five to lead the Bandito attack. Marv Johnson and Harold Beasley each collected three hits for the losers. Pete Klaseen was the winning pitcher and Fred Crenshaw lost it.

Bill Brown hit a grand slammer and Short connected for another homer as the Bandi-

tos won another wild game, downing NAF 28-14. Brown drove in six runs while Ray Kelly drove in five for the winners. NAF's Don Williams collected four hits and drove in five runs while Bob Loft had three hits for the Hawks. Brown was the winning pitcher and Don Sichey was the loser.

Mike Rowell had four hits to lead a 19-hit attack as Magic defeated the VX-5 Vampires, 21-7. The Patriots scored in every inning, breaking open a tight ballgame with six runs in the fifth inning. Dave Paradise had three hits for Magic Cleaners while Dick Braun had three for the losers. Kochman was the winning pitcher and Art Hickle was the loser.

Genge took advantage of six Vampire errors in the seventh inning to score six times in their 12-8 victory. Ahead 6-3, the Chaparrals collected just two hits during the late inning rally. VX-5 scored five in the bottom of the seventh, but were unable to overcome the lead. Scanlan was the winning pitcher while Jack Gann lost it.

Softball League

STANDINGS			
	W.	L.	GB
Engineers	21	3	.....
Ace TV	21	3	.....
El Rancho	18	6	3
Magic Cleaners	11	13	10
VX-5	9	16	12 1/2
Genge	8	15	12 1/2
NAF	7	17	14
NWC	1	23	20

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

August 19—Ace TV vs. VX-5, NAF vs. NWC.  
 August 20—Magic Cleaners vs. Genge, El Rancho vs. Engineers.  
 August 21—El Rancho vs. Magic Cleaners, Genge vs. Engineers.  
 August 22—Ace TV vs. NWC, NAF vs. VX-5.  
 August 24—El Rancho vs. Ace TV, Engineers vs. Genge.

BATTING AVERAGES

Brown, El Rancho	.448
Aucoin, VX-5	.421
Lyons, VX-5	.403
Palmer, Ace TV	.384
Dowda, El Rancho	.373
Sichey, NAF	.368
Newmyer, Engineers	.363
Smith, Ace TV	.351
Gilpin, Ace TV	.347
Moulder, Ace TV	.345

RUNS BATTED IN

Short, El Rancho, 29; Carson, Ace TV, 23; Aucoin, VX-5, 22; Palmer, Ace TV, 22.

HOME RUNS

Carson, Ace TV, 7; Smith, Ace TV, 7; Galvin, VX-5, 6; Beasley, NWC, 6.

PITCHING

Andreassen, Ace TV, 21-3; Galloway, Engineers, 19-3.

STRIKE OUTS

Galloway, Engineers, 237; Andreassen, Ace TV, 165.

Students Visit Corona

Thirty-six Math - Science-Industry honors students from San Bernardino high schools visited the Naval Weapons Center Corona Laboratories this week.

They saw the electronics equipment inside a missile, were told how the Laboratory uses analog computers in research, heard a presentation on operational analysis and how cost effectiveness is studied in relation to research methods, and visited the Digital Computer Center.

The Class, under the supervision of Mr. W. L. Krabill from Pacific High School, were welcomed aboard the Naval Laboratory by Commander R. E. Forbis, executive officer. Seven scientists from the Laboratory shared in presenting information to the group.

EDITORIAL

You Are the One

Wouldn't you think people would finally "get the word" about highway safety? With all the command bulletins and lectures, newspaper stories, advertisements, and radio and TV spots that continually emphasize safe driving, you'd think the traffic death rate would decrease.

But, there's always that 10 per cent — the ones who either don't pay any attention to the warnings or figure they can't possibly apply to them.

Well, it would sure be nice if all those guys paid some attention so the three-day Labor Day weekend this year wouldn't turn into another motorized slaughter. How many of the 604 people who were killed in traffic



accidents last Labor Day weekend didn't heed the warnings or were confident that tragedy would hit the other guys but not them.

Unfortunately, people don't change much. There's going to be a needless slaughter on the highways again this year because people just don't pay attention to cold, hard facts.

They are going to try and travel too far, too fast and to do too much in three short days. They're going to try and cram everything they've missed all summer into one last holiday fling — and for many of them it will be their last fling.

If they would only use their heads — if they just wouldn't enjoy themselves to the point of exhaustion so they're really too tired to drive long distances at high speeds. If they just wouldn't take that one small chance to save a couple of minutes — and end up losing everything.

But you've been saying that all along — if only people would learn. If they would just be like you, everything would be OK — they would remember to drive defensively and watch out for the other guy.

Well, remember, to everyone else, YOU are the other guy, the one to watch out for, the one that creates the problems — the one who will be a traffic statistic.

If you aren't careful, they will be right. (AFPS)

Mental Health Contract Signed

(Continued from Page 1)

persons suffering from mental illness, mental retardation, behavior disorders and emotional problems. At the present time we do not have a waiting list. Emergency patients will be seen the same day, if necessary. Others will be given an appointment at their convenience.

The fee for this service is on a sliding-fee scale. In no case would the Clinic want a patient not to apply because of inability to pay for the service. The primary concern is providing the service.

'Copters Aid Rescue

Kaman Aircraft Corporation recently revealed that its UH-2 Seasprite helicopters were used to rescue more than 140 persons during 1967, including 61 military personnel in South east Asia.

Since entering service with the U.S. Navy in late 1962, Seasprites have been credited with saving 634 lives and providing other rescue aid to 260 additional persons.

As the Navy's standard utility helicopter, the UHs also is used for personnel transfer, vertical replenishment and fire fighting.

Enlisted Men To Receive Briefing

Recently arrived enlisted men of NWC, NAF and VX-5 will be given an orientation of the Naval Weapons Center technical programs on Thursday, August 22, beginning at 8 a.m. in conference room A, Michelson Laboratory.

Capt. R. Williamson, II, NWC Executive Officer, will welcome the men and introduce the film entitled "The Laboratories of the Naval Weapons Center." A tour of the weapons exhibit located in the geodesic dome will follow.

Judd Smith of the Weapons Development Department will brief the men on the Shrike program and R. A. Wilson of the Aviation Ordnance Department will give them a review of the Walleye program.

After lunch the group will reconvene in Conference Room A for a presentation of the Free Fall program by Chuck Dye of Weapons Development Department and the Condor missile by Jack Crawford of Aviation Ordnance Department.

On August 26 there will be a similar orientation for all new officers recently assigned to NWC, NAF and VX-5; an orientation for the officer's wives will be held on August 28.



MISSILE RESEARCH — Members of the Naval Reserve Unit, OrdDiv 11-2, are introduced to missile research at the Naval Weapons Center Corona Laboratories, recently. Left to right are Cdr. Roger D. Orr;

LeRoy Riggs (Cdr. USNR, Ret.), head of the Missile Systems Department at NWC Corona; Cdr. Forrest A. Miller, commanding officer of the unit (behind Riggs); Cdr. Raymond W. Shupp, Jr.; and Cdr. C. R. Berg.



LLOYD H. SMITH

Thesis Written On Plexiglass By Lloyd Smith

"Hybrid Combustion of Plexiglass" is the title of the thesis written by Lloyd H. Smith of the Exploratory Development Branch, Propulsion Development Department in completion of requirements for an M.S. degree in engineering at UCLA.

Although Smith's studies were interrupted by two separate and extensive periods of official travel of three months' each outside the United States, he earned his degree through the UCLA Off-Campus Graduate Program at China Lake. He wrote his thesis under the guidance of Prof. William D. Van Vorst who was adviser to the program in 1964-65.

An aerospace engineer, Smith received his B.S. in June, 1964, from Cal Poly, Pomona. He then reported to the Naval Weapons Center as a Junior Professional. Later he joined the Exploratory Development Branch of the Warhead Division, Propulsion Development Department.

In January 1966 Smith married the former Beatrice Forshay. They live on the Center at 410-A McIntire.

NWC Corona Laboratories Brief Naval Reserve Unit on Missiles

Naval Reserve Ordnance Division 11-2 (L) spent Saturday, August 3, visiting the Naval Weapons Center Corona Laboratories, and the Fleet Missile Systems Analysis and Evaluation Group. They were greeted by Cdr. R. D. Orr, USNR, and Cdr. R. W. Shupp, USNR, members of the respective laboratories.

The Naval Officers were briefed on the mission and programs of the Missile Systems Department, including the Countermeasures Division, and were conducted on a tour of selected facilities.

In the afternoon, they heard an overview of FMSAEG by Capt. F. J. Heiler, commanding officer of the activity, and were briefed on the Fleet, Air-Launched, and Surface-Launched Missile Systems Programs. A short tour of FM-SAEG facilities concluded the visit.

Girls Compete in Tennis Meet



TENNIS TOURNAMENT COMPETITORS — Pictured are Debbie Huntley (center) and Kathy Ford (r) with Jerry Whitnack, local Kiwanis Club member who arranged for the girls participation in the National Junior Public Parks Tennis Championships recently held at Arcadia Park.

Debbie Huntley and Kathy Ford, members of the Burroughs High School Tennis Team this year, recently played in the National Junior Public Parks Tennis Championships at Arcadia Park Tennis Courts.

The two girls were sponsored in this annual event by the Ridgecrest Kiwanis Club. Many Kiwanis Clubs throughout the nation support this event by sending entries to the tournament.

Arrangements for the girls participation at the event were made by Jerry Whitnack, a member of the local Kiwanis Club and a member of the Chi-

na Lake Tennis Club.

Miss Huntley reached the quarter finals of the Junior Girls' singles before losing to one of the finalists. Miss Ford lost in a hard fought match to Joyce Jones of Glendale. The girls also played in the Junior Girls' Doubles event, but lost in the first round.

Debbie and Kathy, in addition to playing with and matching some of the best young tennis players in the nation were entertained by the Arcadia Kiwanis Club for the week with social events that included luncheons, swimming, barbecues, and a trip to Disneyland.

# Ancient Pine Trees Hold Secrets of Past Centuries

## World's Oldest Known Living Things Abound in Scientific, Esthetic Lore

Naval Weapons Center employees and their families are fortunate to be in an area of close proximity to some of the nation's important historic phenomena such as Death Valley National Monument, Big and Little Petroglyph National Landmark, and the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest.

Most of the sections are easily accessible by passenger car, and usually require only a one-day round trip from China Lake.

This week, with the aid of photographer William Fettkether's pictorial talents, the Rocketeer presents a few highlights of the bristlecone pine forest of the White Mountains of California. Here in Inyo County, northeast of Bishop, are to be found the oldest and most unique pines on the face of the earth.

These trees, sculptured and weathered by the elements, rooted in shallow, arid limestone soil and subjected to the most rigorous privation, have managed to survive and grow during a 4,000-year period. Picturesque and fascinating, some trees more dead than alive, reach skyward with knarled branches in a gesture of defiance to the elements.

### Data Through the Ages

In addition to their historical and esthetic value, the bristlecone pines are highly valuable to the scientific world in determining and discovering past climatic changes over the centuries, and perhaps may reveal secrets even further back in time.

The most effective and enjoyable way to visit the White Mountain Bristlecone Forest is through the local Maturango Museum's annual trek and highly recommended lecture series conducted by museum director Kenneth H. Robinson. In cooperation with the Forest Service, the entire area and its history is expertly reviewed and pointed out, assuring the visitor the utmost in orientation.

For your own self-guided tour to the forest, first obtain Russ and Anne Johnson's Chalfant Press booklet, "The Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest," from the Maturango Museum. This is your complete guide to all the points of interest, observation points, trails, picnic and rest areas. The bristlecone pine area may be visited from June 1 to October 30.

### Prepare Before Starting

It is suggested that you check your car's safety features, fill up with gas, water and the essentials, including a lunch, and head for the town of Big Pine on State Highway 395. One-half mile north of town turn east onto U.S. Highway 168 at the sign directing you to Westgard Pass. You travel on a paved road 13 miles to the summit of Westgard Pass to the Ancient Bristlecone Forest sign, then at Cedar Flat (Toll House Spring has the last available water), make a left turn into the White Mountain Road.

Shulman Grove, where bristlecone pines predominate, lies 10 miles ahead through forests of pinyon and juniper. To reach the Patriarch Grove area

of the bristlecone forest, continue on the White Mountain Road for 12 miles.

At the Patriarch Grove area, the road continues another two miles to 12,000 feet elevation, with an excellent view of White Mountain Peak at 14,246 feet elevation.

As stated in Johnson's guidebook: "So that these grand old trees continue to survive, it is important not to disturb or mutilate them. Now that Dr. Ferguson has extended the chronology back 6,600 years and there is the possibility of finding still older remnants, it is even more important that the dead and down wood not be disturbed."

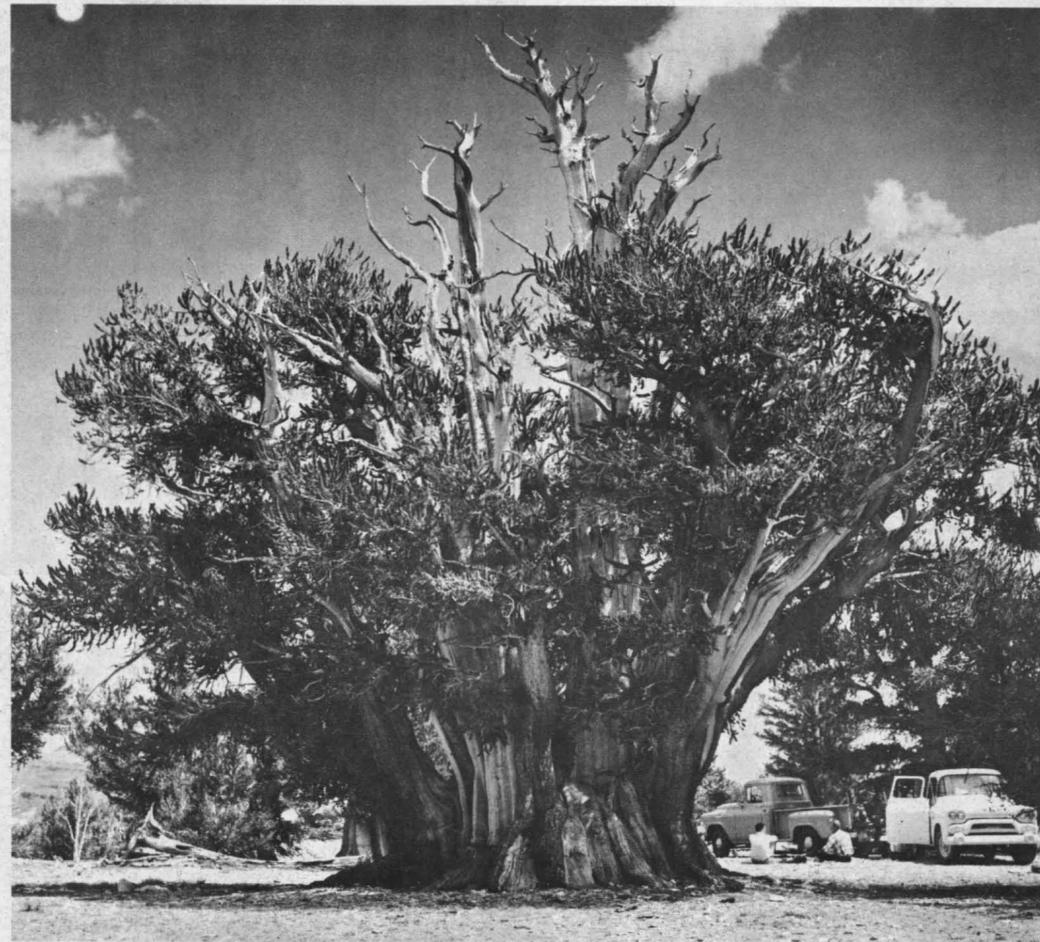
"All visitors are requested to drive their vehicles only on the established roads and are prohibited from traveling cross-country."

"Take no souvenirs of rocks, flowers, or trees so the area will be intact for future generations to enjoy. Take away only memories and photographs."



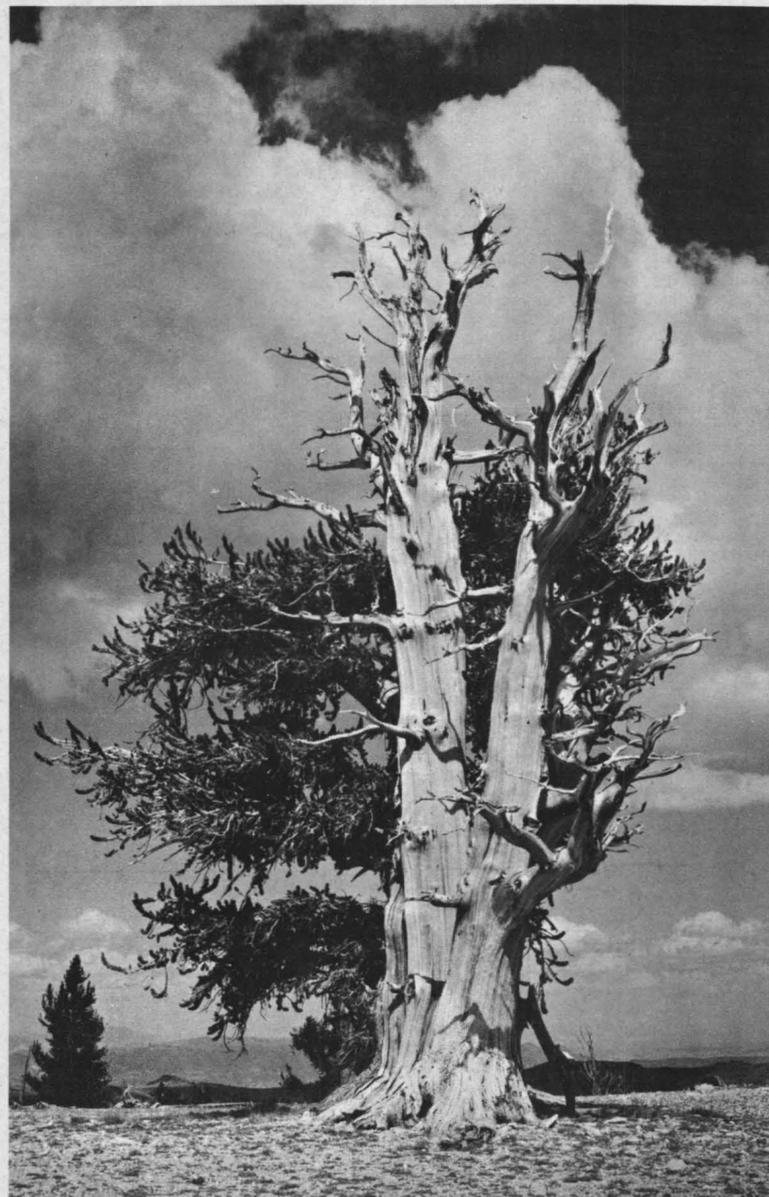
**WIND SWEEPED RIDGE** — As you drive higher into the Edmund Schulman Memorial Grove, the bristlecone pines become more plentiful. The size and condition of the pine trees depend upon their exposure to the elements, elevation, moisture, and favorable growing conditions.

Photography by William Fettkether

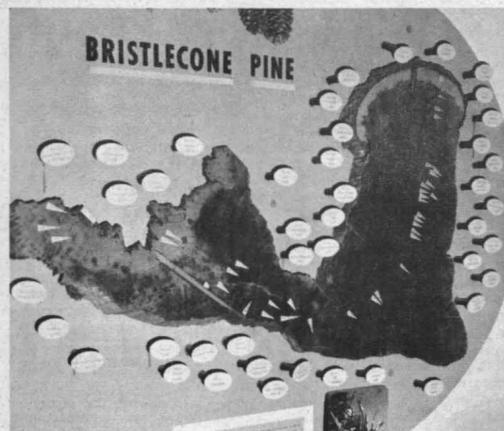


**WORLD'S LARGEST BRISTLECONE PINE** — Twenty years ago this multistemmed tree was discovered by Alvin E. Noren, then forest ranger, and named "The Patriarch," largest of its species. The tree has a circumference of 36 feet and eight inches. Each year, since 1965, from 18 to 20 thousand

people trek to the White Mountains of California to visit the bristlecone pine forest and view the ancient specimens, some 4,300 years old and still living. The best time of day to make pictures of this area, according to our photographer, is between 2 and 4 p.m. during the summer months.



**SENTINEL OF WHITE MOUNTAIN** — It is obvious that this bristlecone pine had good and bad years over the centuries. Typical of many pines in the forest, this tree is part dead and part alive, but still a thing of beauty.



**CHRONOLOGIC DATA** — This amazing cross section of a bristlecone pine tree with its microscopic growth rings may be seen at the Maturango Museum on the Center. Indicated are 45 historic happenings that are determined by tree-ring chronology, and cover thousands of years during the tree's lifetime. Plaque was a gift to the Museum by K. H. Robinson.



**SCULPTURED GRANDEUR** — Eroded by time and weather into a sculptured masterpiece, this long dead bristlecone pine now delights the eyes of artists and photographers.



**TEXTURAL STUDY** — Part of a dead limb in the bristlecone pine forest bears evidence of tortuous treatment from the elements, resulting in an attractive sculpturing.



**BEAUTY OF ISOLATION** — With its stark, weather-eroded branches etched against a background of primitive beauty, the remnants of this dead bristlecone pine still reach skyward as if protesting the elements

that destroyed its life. The secret of this pine tree's life span is still being pursued by scientists who are learning to read the tree's records of past environmental conditions. Swedish borer is used for sampling.