



NAF Jumps Into Tie For Second; ACE-TV Leads

After losing their first two games of the season, the NAF Hawks have rallied to win six of their last nine games. And last week they jumped into a tie for second place by topping A & L Tire, 12-8, in a head-to-head challenge.

NAF trailed, 7-6, after two innings, but a two-run rally in the third put them ahead to stay as Steve Wittrock held A & L to one run over the last five innings.

The Hawks jumped off a 4-0 lead in the top of the first on two walks, an error and Jack Andrews' two-run double. A & L stormed back and scored three in the bottom of the first and five in the second including two on Andy Gilpin's first of two homers.

A walk, a single and two wild pitches by A & L pitcher Dale Britton brought in the lead runs for NAF in the third and the Hawks added runs in the fifth and seventh and two in the sixth to put the game out of reach.

Gilpin's solo homer in the bottom of the fifth provided A & L's final run.

The Maulers had their finest week of the season (in fact, their only week of the season) and won twice in slugfests, their first when they dropped A & L out of sole possession of second place with a 11-10 extra inning triumph.

A double by Gary Maxwell and triples by Tony Cozzucoli and Paul Amundson drove in five runs in the second to put the Maulers in front, 7-2.

Gilpin provided the fireworks for A & L again by drilling two home runs and a single as A & L rallied for three runs in the fifth and seventh and two in the fourth to tie the Maulers, 10-10.

The Maulers, however, had learned their lesson after losing twice in extra innings the week before. After retiring A & L in order in the top of the eighth, the Maulers scored the winning run with two out when singles by Joe Kovar and Denny Johnson and a wild throw produced the winning run.

The Maulers also surprised the Valley Merchants, 12-7, as Amundson held the Merchants scoreless over the last four innings. Cozzucoli slammed solo round trippers in the first and second innings as the Maulers grabbed a 9-4 lead.

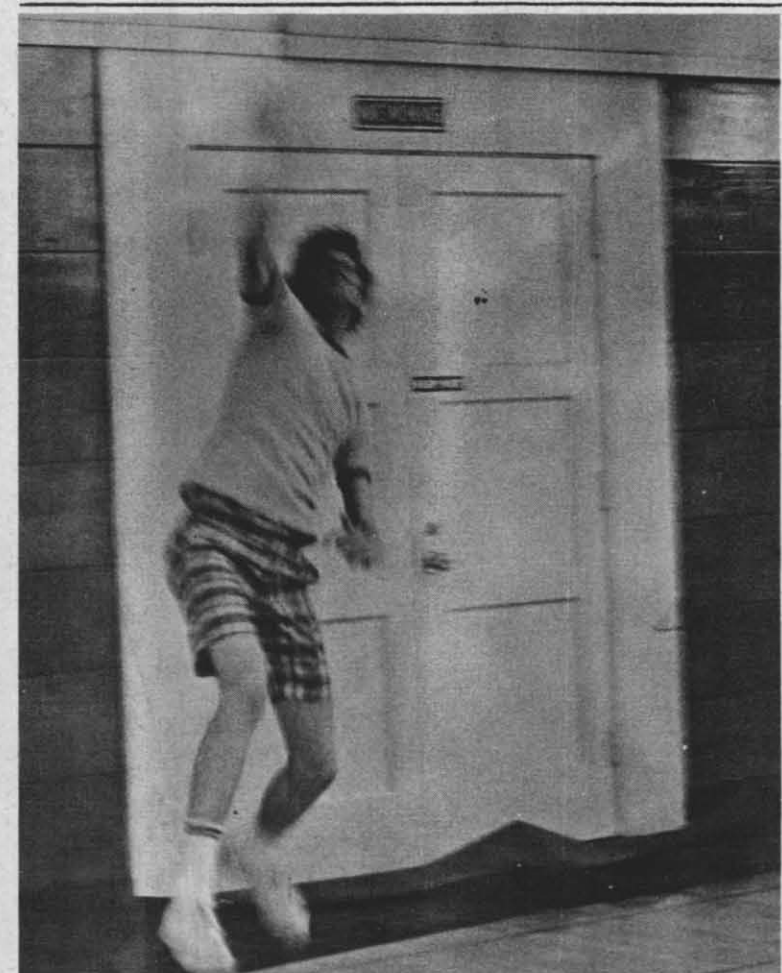
The Merchants rallied for three runs in the third including Cary Dabbs home run, but never recovered from the early deficit and fell 7 1/2 games off the Ace TV pace.

Bud Eyre kept in the race for second by pounding the Valley Merchants, 18-3, in five innings.

Tom Haus gave Bud Eyre a 2-0 lead in the first on a homer with Buddy Deffes aboard, but the Merchants took the lead in the second of three runs.

Bud Eyre did not score for three more innings, but in the top of the fifth scored—and scored—and scored—16 runs, as Wally Parmenter, Tom Short and Jim Bradberry all reached base three times in the inning.

Ace won its only game of the week 5-1 over A & L and opened up a 3 1/2 game lead on the rest of the league. Gilpin's seventh inner homer provided A & L's only run, as Bert Ballway allowed only three hits.



BADMINTON CHAMP—Blaine Davies displays the smash that carried him to the NWC badminton championship last week. He defeated Bob Corzine twice in the double-elimination finals to take the title.



LOSING EFFORT—A & L Tire's Mike Albers round third to score as coach Tom Taylor watches in A & L's three-run fifth inning against the Maulers June 22. Despite the rally, A & L lost to the Maulers in extra innings, 10-9.

Discrepancy In Point Count Corrected; Rocketeers Take Four

According to Bob Young, captain of the Code 30 team, a discrepancy in the number of points won occurred in last week's Rocketeer for the total number of teams. Counting play on June 29, the total number of points won should read 256. After checking the records kept by Special Services, the revised and correct standing are printed below.

In action on June 29, the Rocketeers took four points from the Iron Men, three of them by default. Jack Lindsey won his match from Don Banks for the final point.

The league leaders, Code 5563, managed to win only one-half point from a charging Code 551 four-some, and the two teams are now tied for the league championship, one-half point ahead of the Duffers and NAF. The Duffers took three from the Officers; Tsubakihara, Eyre and Smith winning those points, while Ed Brooks took the lone point for his team. Code 551 teammates Nelson and Lloyd won a point each, while Wiggins tied with Chris Peterson. NAF took 2.5 points from the Chaparrals. Blue won for the Chaps and Sanitate tied with Larry Boyd. Heflin and Gire scored victories for NAF.

Joe Dorgan tied his match with Clark and Bob Young won his game to keep Code 3563 from

making a clean sweep of their match. Easley and Seibel won for 3563. Palmer, Wolfson and Morey each took a point in the match between the Sandbaggers and Transportation. Elmer Davis scored the lone point for the Transportation crew. Central Staff split with Code 3532, Kaylor winning a point and Warren Stelmiller and Ed Sopke splitting with Jones and Newkirk. Thomas won a single point for 3532. The Bat Chiefs took 2.5 from the General Engineers; Faberman and Davenport each won a point and Harris and Chamberlain split their match. Kruse took one for the Engineers.

Code	Points Won
Code 5563	19.5
Code 551	19.5
NAF	19
Duffers	19
Code 30	18
Chaparrals	17.5
NWC Officers	17
Transportation	17
ROCKETEERS	16.5
Sandbaggers	14.5
Central Staff	14.5
Code 3532	14
Bat Chiefs	12.5
General Engineers	12.5
Titleists	11
Code 3563	11
Iron Men	3

Davies Wins NWC Badminton Title

After losing in the second round of the NWC badminton championships, a determined Blaine Davies fought through the losers bracket and returned to defeat Bob Corzine twice for the singles title.

Davies, the Sacramento State badminton champion, fell to Corzine early in the tournament, but went undefeated through the losers bracket to confront Corzine in the finals.

Davies won the first match 15-12, 13-15, 17-15 and then took the rubber match and the championship 15-9, 15-10.

Corzine was not to be denied in the doubles, however. He and partner Everett Hill did not lose a game in going undefeated through the tournament.

They defeated Jim Amparano and Les Basemore in the finals 15-4, 15-6.

League In Search Of Fall Bowlers

Women bowlers are needed to compete in the Women's Scratch League at the Hall Memorial Lanes. Any woman interested in joining this league, the finest women's league in the Valley, (which begins competition in the fall), are asked to contact Jeanne Crom, League president, at 375-9626.

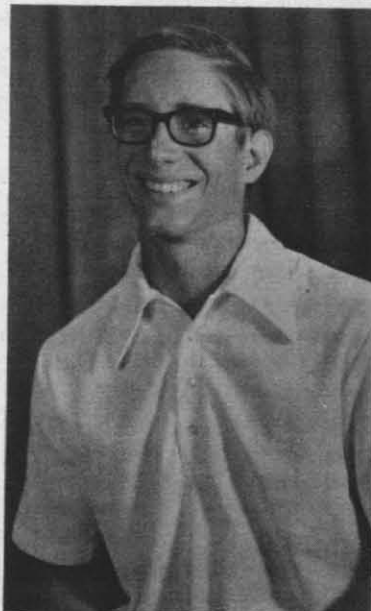
Beatty's Tennis Win Nets Him 'Athlete' Honor

Quiet, modest Chuck Beatty, who ranked as the finest singles player in Golden League tennis this spring and then won the men's singles crown in the China Lake Tennis Club's spring tournament, has been selected NWC's Athlete of the Month for June.

Seeded fourth at the start of the tournament, Beatty won easily through the quarterfinals before pulling the upset of the tournament to defeat defending champion Dick Boyd in the semifinals. The following day he defeated Gary Fry in the finals to climb to the top of Indian Wells Valley tennis in a mere two years.

An occasional player until the spring of his freshman year, Beatty began playing in earnest with the Burroughs High tennis team.

"I hadn't really played seriously



Chuck Beatty

before then," he says. "I was lucky enough to make the varsity and played doubles with Ted Ribultan. We won about half of our matches."

Beatty and Ribultan improved in the year that followed, and as sophomores were the best doubles team in the Golden League. They went 11-2 and journeyed to the CIF championships where they lost in the first round to a team from Santa Monica.

"It didn't really matter that we lost. If we'd won, we would have had to play the No. 1 seed anyway."

As a junior Beatty switched to singles and compiled a 13-1 record—the best in the Golden League.

But because of a last-minute change in league rules, Beatty was not allowed to play in the CIF championships without first defending his title in a post-season Golden League tournament. Beatty and the rest of the team—the best in Burroughs history—protested the tournament.

"The team got together with Coach Bob Gilkinson and we decided we wouldn't go to the tournament. It was a group decision."

With the CIF disappointment still vivid, Beatty began the China Lake Tennis Club tournament.

In singles and doubles, he and Ribultan quickly made their presence known, as they topped seeds in both singles and doubles. Together they went to the semifinals in doubles and then Beatty went on to take the men's singles title.

"During the tournament I played (Continued on Page 8)

NWC Inspection Marks Retirement Of Three

More than 90 years of active service to the United States Navy culminated Wednesday, June 30, when three NWC officers retired from duty. Officers and enlisted men from NWC stood inspection in honor of the traditional ceremony for Capt. K. C. Abplanalp, CEC, USN, Cdr. S. S. Bates, USN, and Lt. Richard I. Taylor, USN. RAdm. W. J. Moran, NWC Commander, officiated at the ceremony and presented each officer with a Letter of Commendation. In addition, Cdr. Bates received the Meritorious Service Medal.

The retirement ceremony, which was held on the lawn of the Administration Building, began when officers and enlisted ranks formed on the Administration Circle, followed by a concert by the U.S. Marine Corps Supply Center Band, from Barstow.

Following the trooping of the colors RAdm. Moran and the retirees inspected the troops. This was followed by remarks by the Commander and the presentation of retirement certificates and correspondence to the retirees.

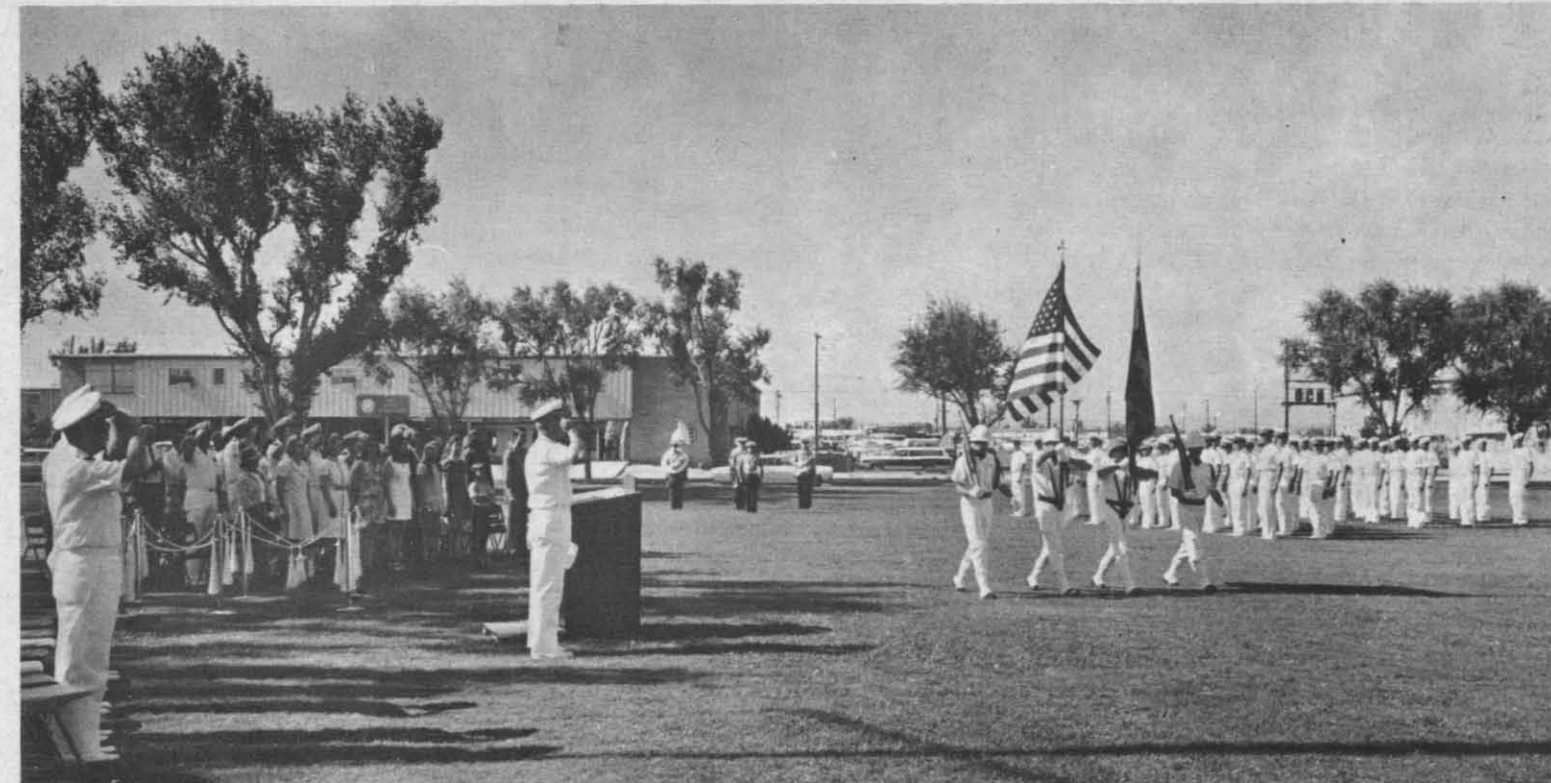
The time-honored tradition of "piping the retiring officers over the side" took place and "side boys" for the ceremony were: Capt. G. W. Jauchler, MC, USN, Senior Medical Officer; Capt. A. E. May, USN, Deputy Commander of NWC; Capt. R. S. Moore, USN, NWC Technical Officer; Capt. T. D. Stephenson, DC, USN, Senior Dental Officer; Capt. E. M. Wieseke, SC, USN, NWC Director of Supply; and Capt. W. H. Sturman, CEC, USN, the new Public Works Officer, who will replace Capt. Abplanalp.

Capt. R. E. Osman, NWC Chaplain, closed the ceremony with a benediction.

Friends and families of the three officers then took part in a reception held in the Conference Room of the Headquarters Building.

Cdr. Bates, who served as Head, Command Administration at NWC, officially retired June 30, 1970, but was extended for one year in order to continue at NWC. The Meritorious Service Medal citation presented him read in part: "For outstanding meritorious service as Head, Command Administration on the staff of the Commander, Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, California, from July 1969 to

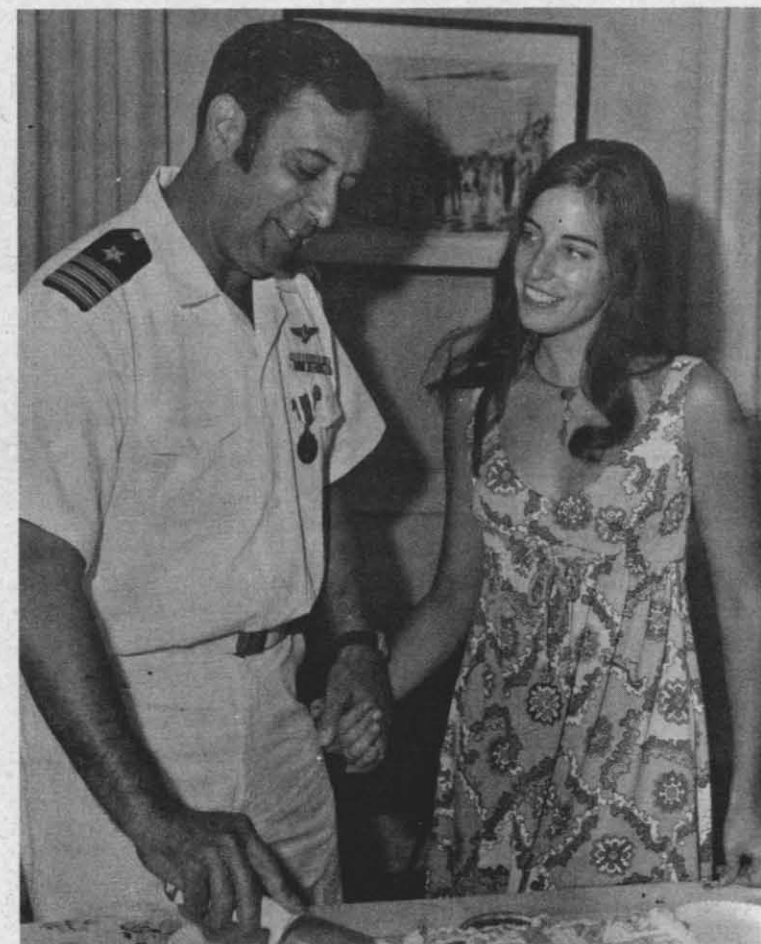
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TROOPING THE COLORS—Prior to the retirement ceremonies for Capt. K. C. Abplanalp, Cdr. S. S. Bates and Lt. R. I. Taylor, officers and men of NWC stood at attention while the colors were marched past the reviewing stand. The three retiring officers later inspected the

ranks along with RAdm. W. J. Moran, NWC Commander. Families of the retirees attended the ceremonies, held on the Administration Building lawn.

Photos By PH3 Ronald Gray Mills



FATHER AND DAUGHTER CUT CAKE—A reception was held in the Conference Room of the Administration Building for the three retirees and their families and friends. Cdr. Bates and his daughter Shelley Lynn Bates cut the cake.



CAPT. ABPLANALP SERVES HIMSELF—Former Public Works Officer, Capt. K. C. Abplanalp helps himself to a piece of cake at the reception. RAdm. Moran, NWC Commander, coffee in hand, awaits his slice.



CDR. BATES DECORATED—RAdm. W. J. Moran, NWC Commander, decorates Cdr. S. S. Bates with the Meritorious Service Medal during the retirement ceremony. Cdr. Bates was honored for his work at NWC while Head of command Administration.



LT. TAYLOR JOINED BY FAMILY—Lt. R. I. Taylor, his wife, Elsie and son, Richard I. Taylor, Jr., attended the reception. The Taylor's have made no plans as yet for his retirement, other than relaxing. Lt. Taylor's service began as an enlisted man just three weeks prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor. A second son, Lt. (jg.) Robert B. Taylor, was not able to attend the ceremony.

Serviceman's Benefits

Customs Breaks

(This is the sixth in a series of articles on the breadth of servicemen's benefits available to members of the Armed Forces with which they and their dependents may or may not be familiar. In this context, the ROCKETEER will be featuring detailed subject explanations of various related topics in upcoming future issues.)

It just doesn't seem possible, that day is almost here. "That day" being the day you get on a jet and head for home after a tour of duty in the Armed Forces overseas.

If you're single, packing for the trip may consist of throwing the threads in a suitcase, putting the uniforms in a duffle bag, and mailing those souvenirs ahead so you don't have to carry them.

For a family, the move back to the States and a new assignment is a lot different. You sort out the things you will need in the new house, those that will go into storage for the "home to call our own" part of your life's plan, and decide what exotic souvenirs you want to display from the overseas stay.

Whatever your packing and shipping problems, one of the many benefits you receive from service in the Armed Forces is the duty free entry of your personal and household effects when you return to the States from an overseas assignment. Even if you mail your effects home ahead of your trip, they will be admitted duty free if you have made the proper arrangements.

You play a very important part in claiming this service benefit. When you get ready to ship or mail personal or household goods, you must fill out Customs Form 6061 or Department of Defense Form 1252, "Declaration and Entry for Personal and Household Effects." A copy of this form and a copy of your orders must accompany mailed items and be included in any shipment made for you.

Remember now, there are no customs exemption if you are returning to the U. S. of temporary duty, on leave, or for personal reasons before the end of your overseas tour. This holds true whether you are on orders or not.

Management Is Discussion Topic At ASPA Meeting

The China Lake chapter of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), will present a panel discussion on Management at the Naval Weapons Center, with E. V. Alden, Moderator, at the group's next meeting Wednesday, July 7 in the Mojave Room of the Commissioned Officer's Mess. The meeting will get underway at 7:30 p.m. Top management personnel from NWC will respond to questions put them by recently hired professionals in an effort to promote a free flow of information on current management topics.

In addition, officers and Council members for the coming year will be introduced, followed by the presentation of the Bjorklund Management Innovator Award. All ASPA members and other interested parties are invited to attend.

The China Lake Golf Course will be open Monday, July 5, but will be closed Tuesday, July 6.



BIRTHDAY -- VX-5 Commanding Officer Capt. Tex Birdwell cuts the quadron's 20th anniversary cake during VX-5's birthday party at the Community Center last week. Joining in the ceremony is David Hull (right), the third man to check into VX-5 when the quadron was formed at Moffett Field in 1951.

(Photo by PH1 D. L. King)

VX-5 Commendation . . .

(Continued from Page 1) tactics for delivering nuclear weapons from light attack aircraft, VX-5 expanded its role over the years to become the Navy's premier test and evaluation unit. By the early 1960's, VX-5's scope had expanded to include evaluations of conventional weapons and aircraft tactics, as well as continuing work on its original mission.

Today VX-5 (with its detachment at Oceana, Virginia) is the Navy's only activity directly responsible for the operational evaluation of weapons, delivery systems and aircraft for air-to-ground warfare.

"VX-5's twenty-year history of being in commission is not unique, but it is a hallmark of the need for VX-5's mission," said Capt. Birdwell. "To the Fleet, VX-5 is the source of all technical know-how

for weaponry, targeting and other tactical aspects of Naval attack aviation. The Fleet uses VX-5's publications as a Bible."

The awards ceremony also served as a piping-over-the-side for VX-5 Maintenance Control Officer Lt. Frank Nelson, who reported to China Lake in August, 1970, and retired with 28 years of Naval service.

Recipients of other awards included ADJ1 Renton Feller (Good Conduct Award), AT1 Charlie Wassom (Letter of Commendation from Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet) and VX-5 Sailor of the Month YN1 Frank Cruz.

Advanced at the ceremony were AO2 Phil Keeper, DP2 Kerry Stone, AE3 James Byrd, ADJ3 Mike Gregory, AME3 Pat Johnson, AE3 Maurice LaFlamme and AMH3 Dennis Rich.

Three Retire At NWC . . .

(Continued from Page 3) July 1971 . . . Commander Bates showed remarkable ability in ensuring the effective administration of a diverse and complex research and development laboratory . . . (Cdr. Bates) significantly contributed to the improvement of morale and welfare of military personnel at the Center. . . . By his personal dedication, leadership, and professionalism, he rendered invaluable support to the Naval Weapons Center Command at China Lake, and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

The citation was signed by Adm. E. R. Zumwalt, Jr., CNO, for the President of the United States.

Capt. Abplanalp served as Public Works Officer for four years. His Letter of Commendation read, in part: ". . . Your performance here as the Naval Weapons Center Public Works Officer has been most commendable in all respects. Your

personal leadership and great technical competence have been invaluable to the Navy and this Center. . . ."

Lt. Taylor, who served as an enlisted man for 20 years, joined the Navy just three weeks prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor. His commendation from the NWC Commander read, in part: ". . . Your retirement today means that the Navy is losing the services of an extremely competent and talented specialist. . . . serving as a military assistant to the Atmospheric Applications Research Project (you contributions) are indicative of the valuable service you have given this Nation and the United States Navy. . . ."

Retirement plans for the three officers are still being made. Capt. Abplanalp and his family will take an extended trip across the United States; Cdr. Bates will retire to Huntington Beach, where he might enter business; and Lt. Taylor stated he has not yet made any plans.

County Health Officials Caution Against Pastries

Owen A. Kearns, M. D., County Health Officer, reminded the public at large that between now and September 1, all cream-filled pies and pastries, including those filled with custard, must be kept under refrigeration at temperatures of 50 degrees Fahrenheit or less. State and local health regulations make this a requirement for bakeries, retail grocery stores, delivery trucks, restaurants, and charitable organizations. The same safety precautions should be applied to home-cooked products.

"High summer temperatures make unrefrigerated cream-filled pastries an excellent growth media for bacteria that can cause serious illness," Dr. Kearns explained. "Such contaminated foods often give no warning signs, such as changes in taste, appearance, or odor, and can cause severe illness for anyone unfortunate enough to eat them."

He also warned people to refrigerate such pastry foods immediately after purchase and not to leave them in a hot car while performing other shopping or social chores. Cream-filled pastries should be the last item on a shopping list so they can be taken home and placed under refrigeration soon after purchase.

The Health Officer added that the same danger of bacterial contamination applies to foods high in protein and moisture content, such as milk and milk products, eggs, meat, poultry, fish, shellfish, and dishes containing salad dressings, such as potato salads and sandwich spreads. Therefore, during hot weather they should be served either hot (at least 140 F.) or cold (at least 50 F. or below).

According to Dr. Kearns, the bacteria that cause food poisoning exist throughout man's environment and on his person and therefore easily find their way into his food supply. With these facts in mind, one can readily see why the use of clean utensils to handle food is very desirable. Hands should be washed frequently and kept away from the face if their use in food handling is unavoidable.

Dr. Kearns urged the observance of the following rules for safe food handling:

- 1. Keep cold foods cold-hot foods hot. Temperature control is the first line of defense.
2. Keep hands clean and touch food with hands as little as possible.
3. Don't let anyone with a skin infection, cuts, or an illness handle food.
4. Keep kitchens, dining rooms, or food sale booths in clean, sanitary condition, free of insects and rodents.
5. Protect foods from dust or droplet infection by proper protective covers or shields.
6. Be sure poisons are well labeled and far away from the place where food is prepared or stored.
7. Wash dishes, glasses, and silver thoroughly and store in a clean protected place. When serving large crowds or there is an illness in the family, use a sanitizer such as household bleach.



NEW EDUCATION DIRECTOR—Dr. Gilbert J. Plain has been appointed to serve as the Education Director, Code 04, replacing Dr. Albert G. Hoyem, who will retire. In addition to these duties he will serve as a Center consultant in physics, and will review and/or arrange for review of Industrial IR&D proposals forwarded to the Center for evaluation, and will also continue as Chairman of the Publications Security Review Panel. The position of Education Director will be redesignated as Education Director-Consultant, Code 6009. The office will be relocated from the Training Building to Room 1019, Michelson Laboratory.

Housing Lists New Schedule For Sweeping

Effective July 6, 1971, a new schedule will go into effect for the sweeping of streets in various housing areas on the Naval Weapons Center.

In the Wherry and Capehart Site "B" housing areas, there will be no parking on the even numbered side of the street between 7:30 and 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays. There will be no parking on the odd numbered side of the street between 12:30 and 4 p.m. Tuesdays. Since water running or standing in the street prevents the sweeper from removing refuse and dirt at the curbs, there is no watering from Noon Monday to 4 p.m. Tuesday.

In the Capehart Site "A", Hill Duplex, JOQ, and SOQ housing areas, there will be no parking on the even numbered side of the street between 7:30 and 11:30 a.m. Thursdays. On the odd numbered side of the street there will be no parking between 12:30 and 4 p.m. Thursdays. Watering is prohibited between Noon Wednesday to 4 p.m. Thursday.

These new schedules are being put into effect to make it easier to clean the streets in the affected housing areas while posing less of an inconvenience to the residents. Persons with any questions should contact Larry Sullivan, extension 2227.

The Board of Directors of the Naval Weapons Center Federal Credit Union at their last monthly meeting on June 17, 1971 declared a quarterly dividend for the Second Quarter 1971 for members' shares at a rate of 6 per cent per annum.

New Data Retrieval Service To Be Initiated At NWC

For the past ten or more years DDC (Defense Documentation Center), Cameron Station, Alexandria, Va. has been performing a bibliographic service for its users in response to questions asked about research and development activities. System experimentation began in 1967 with prototype equipment to determine the technical feasibility of remote on-line data retrieval utilizing the DDC data base. Feasibility was established and currently there are seven remote terminals operating in a time-sharing environment at various locations throughout the U. S.

Since the Navy had only one such terminal, additional usage was needed.

NWC appeared to be a desirable location for a terminal for evaluation purposes due to its broad range of technical disciplines and its geographical location.

In July, a DDC terminal will be installed in the NWC Communication Center in the Administration Bldg. This on-line system will be considered an experimental prototype (thought 30 June 1972) for providing direct laboratory access to the DD 1498 Work Unit Information, DD 1634 Project Planning, and, to a limited extent, DD 1473 Technical Reports.

The terminal will be a UNIVAC Uniscope 100 with associated paper writer for hard copy if desired. NWC wants to operate in an open door environment and allow users to browse at their own leisure. This approach requires that the user understand what the system can and cannot do, generally how the system functions, and how to structure meaningful search questions. After installation, DDC will train a few NWC personnel in these techniques. Then these few will, in turn, train other interested users.

Since the NWC terminal will also be accepting classified in-

formation, it will be manned by one operator who will not only be expert in search techniques, but will be assigned to monitor and control all classified information according to security regulations.

After the year of experimentation, DDC will be very interested in our comments and recommendations concerning the remote-terminal. Whether or not the terminal is kept at NWC will depend to a great extent on the systems attributes, deficiencies, reliability, responsiveness, and customer reaction.

DDC will work jointly with NWC to develop a system test plan that will be the basis for system evaluation.

DDC has published a report on this subject titled "Development of the Defense Documentation Center Remote On-Line Retrieval System, Past, Present and Future" Report DDC-TR-71-2, dated March 1971. In this report objectives, such as those listed below, are included.

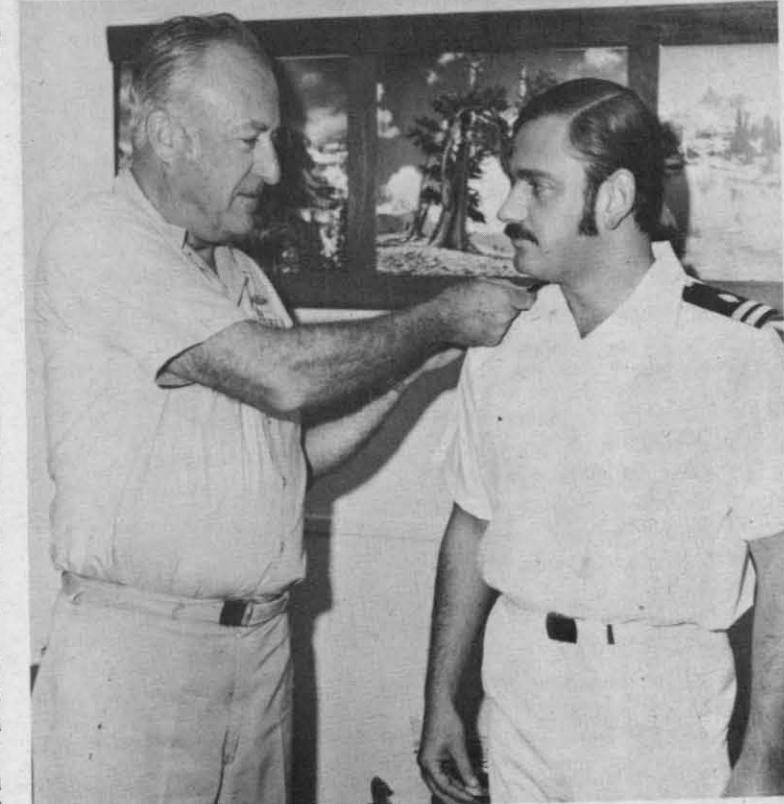
- Objectives
a. Expand system network to include several major laboratories.
b. Redesign and rewrite system to improve operating efficiency and effectiveness and accommodate input as well as retrieval processing.
c. Experiment with remote hardware devices, data management systems and computer-to-computer hook-ups.
d. Design, develop, and implement an unclassified-classified data transfer network.
Anyone who would like a copy of the report or who would like to be considered for training may call Donna Glaviano at Ext. 2945 or 3921.

Metal Trades Council Information 446-4776



DDC TERMINAL TO BE INSTALLED—Donna Glaviano (l) of Central Staff acquaints Rita Lane with a piece of equipment similar to the UNIVAC Uniscope 100 that will soon be installed at NWC which will give the Center instant access to data

stored at the Defense Documentation Center (DDC). The service is a temporary setup for evaluation purposes. For more information on the system and its use, see page 3 of this issue.



NEW LIEUTENANT COMMANDER—Capt. A. E. May, NWC Deputy Commander, pins Lieutenant Commander boards on newly-designated Lcdr. Stanley F. Roth, who was promoted on June 28. Lcdr. Roth is a Medical Officer at the NWC Dispensary. He reported aboard October 29, 1970 for his first active duty assignment in the United States Navy Reserve. Lcdr. Roth will leave NWC in August for the Naval Hospital, NAS Jacksonville, Florida.

Hunting Licenses Go On Sale

License agents throughout California have received the first shipment of 1971-72 hunting licenses, deer and bear tags and the new hunter safety validation stamps, and they are now on sale.

James Christopher, Department of Fish and Game license chief, said that the statewide mailing covered approximately 2,600 license agents. More than three-quarters of a million hunting licenses were sold in California last year.

First of the 1971-72 hunts is rabbit season, which opens tomorrow (July 3). The early archery deer season opener follows on July 10, and the early deer season on August 7, which is also opening day for the tree squirrel season in

Lake, Marin, Napa, Solano and Sonoma counties.

The \$1 hunter safety validation stamp must be purchased by applicants who qualify for licenses by presenting the hunter safety certificate of competence.

As a special service to hunters this year, Christopher added, a larger, more legible map of deer hunting areas will be provided in addition to the map regularly carried in the hunting regulations booklet. These will be available from license agents at about the end of July.

Pheasant and duck stamps will go on sale about September 1, Christopher said.

Rabbit Season Open The statewide rabbit hunting season opens Saturday (July 3) and prospects are rated good in most areas of the state.

Hunters are reminded by the Department of Fish and Game that the daily bag and possession limit has been increased from last year's five to eight this year.

Most of the activity in the season that runs through January 30, 1972 will be concentrated on cottontails, although brush, pigmy and snowshoe rabbits also will be fair game. The jackrabbit season runs year-around.

Jack Slonson, associate wildlife manager-biologist with the DFG's Wildlife Management Branch, said that prospects in the northeastern area are not as good as they were last year because of reduced populations due to winter die-offs.

And prospects in southern California are rated only fair because of the lack of rainfall, a continuation of a dry weather cycle over the last few years, in some areas.

In the balance of the state, however, hunting should be equal to the situation last year when the take was up 15 per cent from that for 1969.

About 120,000 hunters took 728,000 rabbits in the season last year.

Best counties for rabbits are Kern, Fresno, Riverside and San Diego.