

### Reservations Needed For Elegant Museum Luncheon

Reservations are already coming in for the first Museum Monday, an elegant luncheon planned by the Friends of the Maturango Museum. The luncheon, scheduled at 11:30 on July 16, will be held in the Sidewinder Room of the Community Center.

Mrs. Pat LaBerge, planner of the Museum Mondays, suggests that anyone wishing to attend the luncheon make reservations as soon as possible by calling NWC extension 2368, between 8 a.m. and noon, on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays. No "drop-ins" will be served; reservations must be made beforehand.

Modestly priced at \$2, the luncheon will be catered by Mrs. Sue Byrd, a renowned local cook. Volunteers will prepare all food especially for the occasion. "We're getting wonderful cooperation from almost 60 people who are donating their time toward the success of Museum Mondays," Mrs. LaBerge said. She explained that volunteer helpers will be organized into teams of dessert-makers, bakers, salad-makers, waitresses, etc.

The menu for this first Museum Monday will feature Chicken

Crepes Florentine, an avocado pineapple salad with chutney dressing, home-made rolls, and chocolate mousse for dessert. Coffee or iced tea will also be served. "This hot-weather menu will appeal, I think, to the tastes of both men and women," Mrs. Byrd stated.

The east entrance of the Community Center leads directly to the Sidewinder Room. A display of paintings by Desert Art League members will give Museum Monday patrons opportunity to cultivate the sensitivities of the eye, while the menu pleases the palate.

Mrs. LaBerge pointed out that this is an endeavor of the entire community. The second Museum Monday is scheduled for Aug. 6, with the luncheons planned on a weekly basis beginning on Sept. 10. The Friends of the Museum will turn over all money raised by the luncheons to the Maturango Museum building fund.

Future plans are to locate the museum in a permanent building in Ridgecrest where access to an Indian Wells Valley heritage will be readily available to everyone.

### Selfless Work for Blind Gets 4-H Honor for Kristina Fowler

A young lady who believes in doing good deeds has been selected for the 4-H Club's highest honor at the county level. Kristina Fowler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fowler of China Lake, was recently notified that she has been named a 4-H County All-Star.

As an All-Star Kris will go to State Leadership Conference and All-Star Conference at the University of California, Davis in August, as well as assume positions of leadership in 4-H county events throughout the coming year.

Kris, who has been in 4-H for 6 years, will be a junior at Burroughs High School in the fall. Her main projects in 4-H have been in the areas of guide dog training and clothing construction. She has won numerous honors and awards for her finely sewn clothing. Four

thopedically handicapped class at Groves School for the past two years. Next year Kris will continue as an elementary school aide.

As a result of her work with guide dogs, Kris became interested in learning Braille so that she could further help the blind. After an intensive study of Braille this past year, Kris has been accepted as a Volunteer Braille Transcriber by the Twin Vision Transcribers Guild, American Brotherhood for the Blind. She has just finished brailling her first book—a Dennis the Menace story.

Learning Braille has made it possible, too, for Kris to correspond in Braille with a lady in Alameda, Calif., who now uses one of the dogs Kris has trained.

How did Kris get involved in this unusual, beneficial hobby? When she was a third-grader she watched a Walt Disney movie about the training of guide dogs and that later inspired her to take the opportunity to perform this service. Her work with guide dogs, in turn, led to her further involvement in projects to help the blind.

A versatile young lady, Kris is interested in gymnastics and sports of all kinds. She hopes to go on to college, perhaps U.C. Davis, with a possible career in veterinary medicine in the offing.

### New Chick Inn Grand Opening Set Next Week

Thursday at 11 a.m. the Navy Exchange will hold grand opening ceremonies for the new Chick Inn. Located on King St. and Richmond Rd., across the parking lot from the Bowling Alley, the Chick Inn will feature broasted chicken, pizzas, hot dogs, and delicatessen items to go.

Hours of operation for the new eating establishment will be 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays.



**TITILLATING THE TASTE BUDS** — Albert Gould, George Silberberg, Eileen Gravelle and Ken Robinson (l.-r.), the treasurer, president, secretary of the Maturango Museum's board of trustees, and the Director of the museum, respectively, sample some of the gourmet food that will be offered in the Museum Mondays, beginning in the fall. Catered by Sue Byrd, with volunteers from the Friends of the Museum acting as waitresses, the tea room will be open for lunch on July 16, Aug. 6, and Aug. 20, in a special preview of things to come. Luncheon will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Sidewinder Room of the Community Center. Beginning in September, the luncheons will be served one day per week. If interest in the community is high, there is a possibility of that schedule being broadened. The trustees are sampling chicken strata (chicken soufflé with mushroom sauce), one of the many entrees being planned by Mrs. Byrd.

### Booklets Distributed On Community Fair Displays

Willie Johnson, competitions chairman for the fine arts, hand-crafts, and domestic arts displays at the 23rd Annual Desert Empire Fair, announced this week that premium booklets containing detailed instructions for these competitions are now available. Potential competitors are asked to obtain copies of the booklet and begin making plans for their entries. The annual event is scheduled for Sept. 19-23.

With a bright new orange cover and appropriate cartoons, designed by Patty Musser, the booklet constitutes a complete guide for Desert Empire Fair competitors in all areas of original amateur workmanship. All classes, divisions, and sections of competitive areas are listed, as well as rules and awards. Booklets are available at the Studio, Thompson's Shoe Repair, Buttons and Bows, Fabritique, Wagenhals' Book Store, Barton's Men's Shop, the Ridgecrest County Library, and the Chamber of

**SHOWBOAT**  
 MOVIE RATINGS  
 The objective of the ratings is to inform parents about the suitability of movie content for viewing by their children.  
 (G) - ALL AGES ADMITTED  
 General Audiences  
 (PG) - ALL AGES ADMITTED  
 Parental Guidance Suggested  
 (R) - RESTRICTED  
 Under 17 requires accompaniment of Parent or Adult Guardian  
 CS - Cinemascope  
 STD - Standard Movie Screen  
 Regular starting time — 7:30 p.m.  
 Matinee — 1 p.m.

**FRI. 6 JULY**  
**"THE WORLD'S GREATEST ATHLETE"** (93 Min.)

Jan-Michael Vincent, John Amos (Comedy) Coach John Amos leaves Merrivale College after a losing streak in which every team under him loses, no matter what sport is involved. Amos travels to Zambia where he discovers a remarkable athlete and tricks him into competition. The youth finally returns to Zambia and Amos finds another athlete in China. (G)

**SAT. 7 JULY**  
**MATINEE**  
**"A BOY NAMED CHARLIE BROWN"** (97 Min.)

Animated (G)  
**EVENING**  
**"THEY ONLY KILL THEIR MASTERS"** (98 Min.)

James Garner, Katherine Ross (Suspense) In a small Pacific coast town a dead woman, fully clothed, is pulled from the ocean by her own Doberman. The dog is a prime suspect for her murder. James Garner plays the police chief who believes the animal is innocent and seeks other clues to the crime. (PG)

**SUN. & MON. 8-9 JULY**  
**"LOLLY MADONNA"** (105 Min.)

Rod Steiger, Katherine Squire (Action Drama) A mistaken identity kidnapping causes a violent clash between two families. Rod Steiger plays the head of one family, Robert Ryan, the other. A dispute over a meadow grows to open warfare when Ryan's daughter is raped by two of Steiger's sons. Season Hubley, the kidnap victim, develops a romantic attachment for one of Steiger's sons while violence is erupting around them. (PG)

**TUES. & WED. 10-11 JULY**  
**"THE GREAT WALTZ"** (135 Min.)

Horst Bucholz, Mary Costa (Musical) The life and music of Johann Strauss set in 19th Century Austria, opens with young Strauss' debut as a ballroom orchestra leader, follows him through his musical triumphs and romantic conquests and concludes with Strauss playing his immortal "The Blue Danube" at the Boston World Peace Jubilee in 1872. (G)

**THURS. & FRI. 12-13 JULY**  
**"SCORPIO"** (114 Min.)

Burt Lancaster, Alain Delon (Mystery) In Paris, CIA agent Burt Lancaster arranges the assassination of the Fascist head of Eritria. Cat lover and professional killer Alain Delon handles the job, but fails to kill Lancaster, whom agency chief John Colicos has branded as a double agent. (PG)

### Weekly Folk Dance Classes To Begin

A series of six weekly folk dance classes for beginners, sponsored by the Desert Dancers, will get under way on Thursday, July 19, starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

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# nwc rocketeer



## Seven NWC Employees Receive Advanced Degrees

Three NWC employees received PhD degrees and four others were awarded Master's degrees after completion of graduate work during the past year.

Those receiving Doctor of Philosophy degrees are David B. Fenneman, Lonnie A. Wilson, and Ronald Dean Painter.

Master's degrees have been awarded to Carl S. Kumano, Jon D. Bumgardner, Merritt D. Mullen and Henry J. Eberhart.

### Receive Doctorates

Fenneman, a physicist in the Applied Technology Branch of the Propulsion Development Department's Propulsion Systems Division, received a PhD from the University of Illinois, Urbana. His dissertation was titled, "The Ion

Acoustic Instability in the Helium Positive Column:" a comparison of the experimental properties of a current driven instability found in a helium discharge with predictions from a kinetic theory formulation.

Fenneman received his Master's degree in physics from the University of Illinois in 1965, and earned a Bachelor's degree in physics from the University of California, at Berkeley, in 1959.

He and his wife, Marjorie, have one daughter, Rebecca.

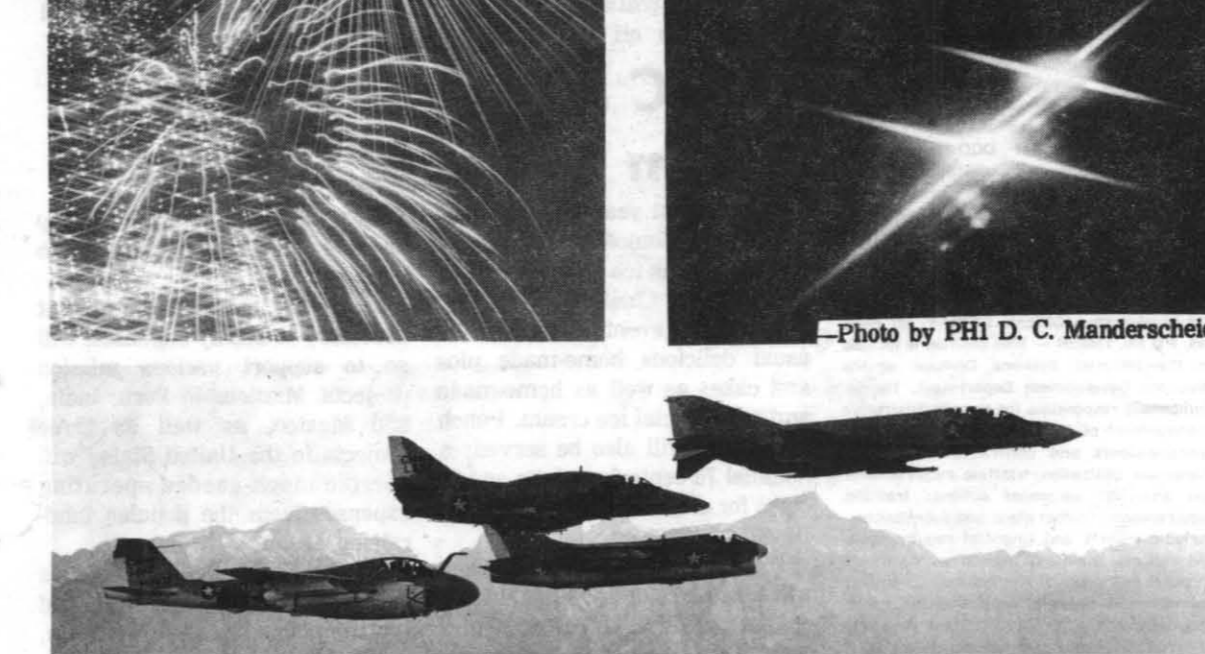
Wilson's PhD was awarded from the University of California, Los Angeles, in the field of Electronics Systems. Wilson, an electronics engineer in the A-7E

program office of the Weapons Development Department's Avionics Division, wrote a dissertation that dealt with "High Frequency Transistor Power Amplifiers."

He was awarded a Master's degree in electrical engineering from UCLA in 1969 and received his BS Degree from Walla Walla College, College Place, Wash., in 1965.

An NWC employee since August 1966, Wilson and his wife, Bonnie Jean, have one daughter, Meredith.

A PhD in theoretical solid state physics was awarded to Painter from Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich., in May.



**NWC CELEBRATES JULY 4** — Fireworks at Mirror Lake lit the sky on Independence Day at NWC. The show was touched off by a fly-over of four NAF jets after they returned from performing an air show at Independence. —Photo by PH2 D. W. Yeatts



**DR. CURRIE VISITS NWC** — Shown at NAF last Monday are (l.-r.) Dr. Walter B. LaBerge, NWC Technical Director; VAdm. W. J. Moran, Director, Office of Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, CNO; RADM. Paul E. Pugh, NWC Commander; and Dr. Malcolm R. Currie, the new Director of Defense Research and Engineering, Department of Defense. Dr. Currie, who is about to leave his present home in Palos Verdes for his new position in Washington, was on a familiarization tour of this primary naval research and development laboratory. While he was here, he toured displays at Hangar 3 and listened to presentations in Michelson Laboratory of a number of the Center's important ongoing programs. He was accompanied on his visit here by VAdm. Moran, a former NWC commander.

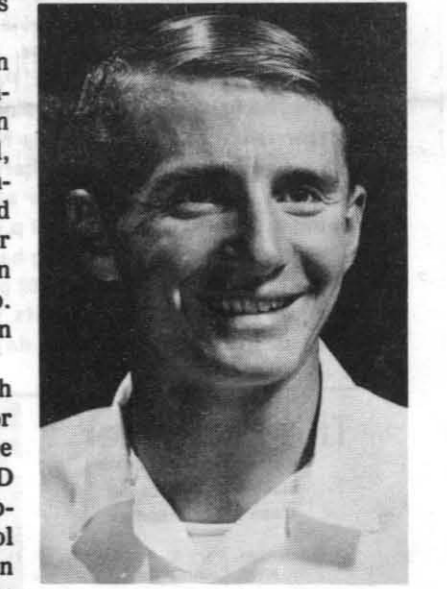
## Phillips Tapped As July Bluejacket of the Month

Bluejacket of the Month for July is an earnest young aircraft mechanic, ADRAN Mark Phillips. Phillips is stationed with the NAF Transport Group, where he has been for the past two years.

Cottonwood, a small town in Arizona, is the spot Phillips considers home. "It's hard to pin down one place," Phillips explained, "because my dad was a construction worker and we moved around quite a bit, all over Arizona, California, and Oregon during the time I was growing up. But a lot of my relatives live in Cottonwood."

Phillips dropped out of high school in the middle of his senior year to enlist in the Navy. Since then he has gotten his GED (General Educational Development) diploma for high school graduate equivalency. He has been taking correspondence courses to satisfy these requirements while stationed at NAF.

with her parents in Los Angeles for this short time, pending reassignment to another duty station. While he is in Memphis,



Phillips plans to take flying instruction. "I really enjoy working with airplanes and I love flying," he said.

As Bluejacket of the Month, Phillips will be loaned a new automobile by Desert Motors to use during an all-expenses-paid weekend in Bakersfield on July 27 through 29 for himself and his wife.

While they are in Bakersfield, the Phillips will stay at the luxurious Holiday Inn. The Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce will present them with a packet of gift certificates and discount coupons from merchants participating in the Bluejacket of the Month program.

Phillips met his wife, Nancy, in Los Angeles. They now reside at 209-B Hornet with 10-month-old Jim. "I met Nancy on a blind date my grandmother set up for me," he said. "I used to play with her when we were 7 or 8 but I hadn't seen her for about 10 years."

Nancy Phillips shares her husband's enthusiasm for the local area. They both enjoy hunting, fishing, and backpacking in the Sierras. "We like it very much here. It reminds me of home in Arizona." Phillips enjoys riding in motocross events, and has even gotten his wife to try a motorcycle a few times.

Future plans include a 12-week stint at ADJA school in Memphis, Tenn., beginning in September. Phillips will leave his wife and son

### Waiting Time Waived

The two-year occupancy period required before applying for other housing is temporarily waived for employees in Category II who wish to apply for 2-bedroom Old Duplexes and 2-bedroom Old Duplexes LBP. Applicants will be placed on a waiting list from which assignments will begin subsequent to the two-week announcement period.





# Man Fascinated for Centuries by Bubbling Mud, Scalding Steam of Coso Hot Springs

By Elizabeth Babcock  
History, danger, and fascination—these words are evocative of the complex geothermal area known as Coso Hot Springs.

Located on NWC ranges, the springs have been associated with magic and healing for centuries. A fascinating destination for a one day trip, this is not a place to explore carelessly. The fumaroles (volcanic vents) at Coso Hot Springs send out vapors of at least 204° temperatures, and at least two painful accidents have occurred recently when people broke through the surface crust to the hot mud below. Still, despite the danger, the fascination of these springs has led men to use them for centuries. One Indian legend says that man and woman were first created from the red earth at Coso Hot Springs.

The prehistoric people of the Coso Range, living there perhaps as long ago as 1000 years, were probably Western Shoshoni, speaking a Shoshoni-Comanche dialect. Because men had to roam over great areas to find sufficient food, the population was never very large. A. E. Kroeber, a recognized authority on indigenous cultures of California, felt this region would not have supported more than 500 people. The population around Coso Hot Springs was estimated at approximately 100 in 1938.

These Indians practiced a transient way of life. People were constantly on the move, foraging from each food-gathering area in turn as native plants came into season. In the winter, people lived in pit houses in the hot springs area, eating stored seeds and hunting rabbits. In the spring, many families would go to Owens Lake to harvest fly larvae, considered a great delicacy.

Early summer would often see a communal antelope or bighorn sheep hunt. Antelope, now locally extinct, were fairly common in Indian Wells Valley before the turn of the century.

Midsummer to fall would find families ranging over large territories, sometimes as far away as Death Valley, to harvest many varieties of seeds, to eat immediately and to store through the winter. When pinon nut time came in September and October, all families would move to higher elevations to harvest this most important food staple. Ducks from Owens Lake and rabbits were also hunted at that time. People would come from great distances to take part in big communal rabbit drives.

As in so many other cultures, a big fall festival would follow the harvest. With an ample supply of pinon nuts gathered and with a rabbit feast behind them, people would gather at the springs to celebrate and to observe the annual mourning ceremonies.

Activities during this combination of Memorial Day and Thanksgiving Day were gambling, singing, and dancing a slow circle dance to bring general well-being to the tribe.

Now the only remnants from this subsistence-level civilization to be found are obsidian arrowheads and the name Coso itself, meaning "fire" or "broken coal."

Although Coso is a Shoshone word, it was actually applied to the region first by Dr. Darwin French in March 1860. Dr. French and his party came through these mountains searching for the famous Gunsight Mine, named cause a prospector is reputed to have made what turned out to be a silver gunsight from a hunk of metal he picked up on the desert.

One of the members of Dr. French's party, Dennis Searles, later came back to these regions with his brother, John, to mine borax in the lake now bearing their name.

The French party's discovery of silver in the Coso mountains led to extensive mining activity—300 miners and prospectors were in the area by that July! San Francisco and Visalia newspapers spurred on this mining activity with reports of silver ore at the Coso ledges assaying at over \$2,000 a ton. By May 1862, however, white men abandoned the region because of Indian hostilities. By 1867 Coso was known as "the Spanish mines" because of its small permanent Mexican population.

In the 1920's and '30s, a small resort was located at the main hot springs. The spring waters and the hot mud again assumed a ceremonial function, this time to promote good health. A 1921 entrepreneur advertised Coso Hot Springs as the "Greatest Natural Radio Hot Spring in America," guaranteeing that the springs would effect almost miraculous cures of stomach diseases, rheumatism, and kidney trouble.

Some attempts at mining the thermal area were made at the same time. During World War I, an unsuccessful attempt was made to mine sulfur at the Devil's Kitchen. Later mining activities produced cinnabar and small amounts of mercury.

Now the remains of the resort, which ceased to function in the mid-'30s, fall into ruin, while the hot springs and fumaroles bubble on, just as they have for possibly thousands of years.

Although the Coso Hot Springs area is extremely dangerous, careful visitors are allowed. The approximately 50-mile trip also takes visitors past Glass

Mountain, an obsidian dome used extensively by the Indians to make arrow points. Permission to visit the area must be requested from the NWC Public Affairs Office. Any group visiting the springs must take at least two automobiles and must be accompanied by a NWC employee. Only visits of one day's duration are allowed.

The springs may be reached by driving 37 miles north of China Lake on US 395 to Coso Junction (Gill's Oasis), and then taking the narrow paved road turning off to the east. Coso Hot Springs is located about 11 miles from Coso Junction.

Two publications, both available from the Maturango Museum, will enhance the visitor's appreciation of this geologically complex area. A pamphlet by Dr. Carl F. Austin, "Coso Hot Springs, a Guide to Geology in Action," contains a concise historical account of the area as well as an informative road log, useful for the trip. "Rock Drawings of the Coso Range," by Campbell Grant, James W. Baird, and J. Kenneth Pringle, not only has an informative discussion of local Indian culture, but contains extensive information on petroglyphs, useful for another trip that can be taken on NWC ranges—this one to Petroglyph and Renegade Canyons. Both publications were used in preparation of this article.



UNLIKELY JUXTAPOSITION — Looking strangely out of place against the soft contours of the desert landscape, a building from the Coso Health Spa is seen through the graceful arched portico of another of the resort's abandoned structures.

Photos By  
William Fettkether



STEAM AND SNOW — Intense heat to freezing cold are shown in this photo, taken last winter of the principal site of Coso thermal activity.



COSO IN WINTER — Snow-covered mountains of the Coso Range are seen through the doorway of an old bath-house.



NATURE TAKES OVER — Debris of the Coso health spa falls into the boiling mud and is changed by the mineral action of the springs.



DESERT PANORAMA — Several volcanic cinder cones loom above the abandoned buildings of the Coso Hot Springs resort. Faucet in foreground, once used to regulate steam baths, now stands as mute monument to change.