



SOFT AND BARE—The annual WACOM Spring Fashion Show was held April 9 in the Mojave Room of the Community Center. Theme of the show was "Soft and Bare"—the "Gatsby Look." Doe Keihner (top, left) wore a 3-piece double knit pant suit, ranging in color from soft pink to shocking pink, with matching hat. Jean Boyd (center, top) dazzled everyone in her shocking-shocking pink, one-shoulder bare, chiffon evening dress (super-soft and ultra-bare). Dianna Sherman (top, right) looked very feminine in her green and white double-knit polyester dress. In fact, most of the "Gatsby Look" was composed of easy-care polyester knits. One of the professional models from The Broadway Department Store in Bakersfield (bottom, left), caught everyone's eye with a black slip dress covered in orange, yellow and white flowers, with a dash of green leaf every now and then. Linda Spane (bottom, right) and daughter Michele showed-off outfits that proved it paid to be soft. Michele's floor length dress was an ever-so-soft blue with a pink ribbon tie belt, while Linda wore a beige linen-look shift, trimmed in dark brown soft vinyl at the neck and pockets. Mary Beth Walker (center insert), a fashion coordinator from The Broadway, was the commentator. She wore an empire black and white print dress, with floaty elbow length sleeves. The music was provided by the Dan Lydon Combo. Hair styles for the models were by Senn's Coiffures & Boutique in Ridgecrest. —Photo by PH3 S. K. Reed

Wildflower Festival To Be Staged Here April 26, 27

The annual WACOM Wildflower Festival will be staged in the Community Center from 1 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, April 27, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, April 28. The event, which is celebrating its 27th year, is chaired by Clarine Pugh. Mrs. Pugh is a novice to the show and feels that the women working with her are the real know-it-alls, when it comes to the wildflower festival. "I feel very lucky to have them with me," she added.

Mrs. Pugh reports that Lorraine McClung has been appointed business manager and that Eileen Bright, Marianne Kistler and Shirley Stephenson will be handling, along with their groups, all the staging of the show.

Other committee chairwomen are Barbara Alderton, wildflower stationery; Tillie Barling, who is responsible for obtaining the wildflower picking permits; Dr. Kristin Berry, wildflower identification; Sue Byrd, the tea room; Donnie Goettig, programs; Mary Lou Jones, musicians; Doe Keihner, prizes; Tina Knemeyer, dismantling; Mef McAllister, publicity; Ditty Riggs, registration; Ada Scarborough, wildflower receiving; and Betty Sturman, handling the wildflower pickers.

The picking crew, according to Mrs. Pugh, is one of the most important aspects of the show. "Our success will depend on what flowers they gather," she said. Mrs. Sturman will lead 50 pickers, from WACOM, in their search of the surrounding canyons and plateaus for a wide variety of flowers. "WACOM has already received the special permits required to collect wildflowers, which are protected by law," Mrs. Pugh pointed out.

Petroglyph Tours
In connection with the 1974 festival, the Maturango Museum will run field trips for passenger cars to petroglyph sites on the Center each day. These trips will be led by James W. Baird and J. Kenneth Pringle, co-authors with Campbell Grant, of "Rock Drawings of the Coso Range," a booklet available at the Museum. Vehicles will meet each morning at the museum at 8:30 with a picnic lunch and lots of water. The six to seven hour round-trip covers approximately 100 miles over partly unpaved mountain roads. A fee of \$2 per car will be charged. Reservations must be made in advance by telephoning 939-2368 from 10 a.m. to noon or 3 to 5 p.m. weekdays.

Artifacts Shown
The petroglyphs have been chosen as the theme for this year's festival and exhibits related to the early inhabitants of the Indian Wells Valley will be presented by the Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Society and the Maturango Museum.

Gemstones familiar to the area and stone implements found on the benches and plays of the once water-filled lakes of the region will be exhibited by members of the rockhound group, while the Museum will exhibit for the first time artifacts excavated from the Ray Cave site on the Center, near Little Petroglyph Canyon. This work was done under the auspices of the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History.

The center of the main auditorium at the Community Center will be covered with a paper-mache model of the basalt cliffs on which the petroglyphs are found, with patches of wildflowers placed here and there. Bouquets of wildflowers, labeled by common name, also will be displayed in this room against maps showing the areas where the wildflowers are to be found.

Refreshments Available
Always popular with the public will be the slide show of desert flowers and the wildflower identification room, showing 200 to 300 species of wildflowers, identified by common name and arranged by family. Homemade pies and cakes, as well as sandwiches, will be available at a nominal charge in the tea room, next to the stage, and visitors will be able to find a chair and may sit and listen to continuous instrumental piano and organ music, performed by musicians from the community. Sue Byrd, director of the Maturango Museum's popular Museum Mondays luncheons, will supervise the tea room. Admission and parking are free.

Visitors Welcomed
"Creosote Chris," a wild burro born in a desert wash and caught in infancy, now six years old, will welcome visitors to the Maturango Museum which will be open during the hours of the festival. Signs will be posted directing visitors to the Community Center and the Museum. Food and lodging are available in neighboring Ridgecrest.



WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL NEARS—Members of the Wildflower Festival committee recently met to discuss some possible wildflower identification matters as a prelude to the annual WACOM Wildflower Festival at the Community Center on Saturday, April 27, from 1 to 9 p.m. and Sunday, April 28, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Shown in a discussion about wildflowers are (l. to r.) Mrs. Betty Sturman, who is in charge of the wildflower picking crews; Dr. Kristin Berry, leading authority in the area on wildflower identification; and Mrs. Clarine Pugh, festival general chairwoman. The Indian Wells Valley Gem and Mineral Society and the Maturango Museum will contribute special displays of gemstones and artifacts for viewing by visitors to the Wildflower Festival and tours will be arranged to the petroglyph sites on the Center. —Photo by PH3 S. K. Reed

HAPPENINGS AROUND NWC

Military shoppers at the Naval Weapons Center will receive a bonus beginning on April 29 when the Navy Exchange, Exchange Annex and the Commissary Store will stage their annual Spring Sale.

For that week, until May 4, many items throughout the stores will be discounted, including clothing, sundries and beauty aids. During the sale, items selected by store managers may be purchased anywhere from 10 to 40 per cent off regular prices.

Further details on the sale will be published in the Plan of the Day and The ROCKETEER next week.

Navy Wives Plan Meeting
The Desert Flowers Chapter No. 125 of the Navy Wives Club of America will hold its monthly social on Thursday, April 25, starting at 7:30 p.m. at the 415 McIntire St. clubhouse.

The guest speaker will be Alvin Henderson, alcoholism program coordinator for NWC. He will show a film entitled "Chalk Talk" that will be followed by a question and answer period.

Refreshments will be served and all interested Navy wives are urged to attend. Further information can be obtained by contacting Rita Harper, at 446-5919, or calling Barbara McKee, the organization's president, at 375-8594.

May 5th Fete Slated
Plans are moving ahead this week for the Cinco de Mayo celebration that will take place on Sunday, May 5, at Cerro Coso Community College.

A committee composed of Judy Auger, Margaret Cothran, Victor Casados, Andy and Audrey Ledesma, and the Rev. Ray Ortiz of Trona are assisting Bob Rafal, the college's Dean of Extended and Community Services, with preparations for this event.

Spanish-speaking persons with special talents are being sought to participate in the Cinco de Mayo fete. Those interested are asked to contact the chairman or any of his committee members no later than next Friday, April 26.

National Library Week Scheduled April 21-27

By Don Cook,
Center Librarian

The week of April 21-27 is set aside this year to celebrate National Library Week—to point out a community service normally taken for granted. The theme of the annual celebration is "Get it all together with books."

This past year has seen substantial changes and improvements in the Center's library's services and arrangements. To accommodate a greater number of new books, the children's and new literature sections have been moved to a new location and tripled in size. A total of 4,028 new volumes have been added to these collections in the past year.

More New Books Obtained
Also, with justifiable pride, the staff points out that the library's inventory of leased McNaughton Co. books, has been raised from 250 to 600 volumes. This literature, all just off the press, is rotated or purchased at the rate of 60 new volumes each month.

Polywog floor lounges, a new development in library furniture, have been placed



"GET IT ALL TOGETHER WITH BOOKS"—The theme of National Library Week, April 21-27, points out how useful books can be. The Center Library stocks more than 34,000 volumes, plenty of reading room, good lighting, and a capable, talented staff of personnel. Children find the library a suitable place to study and gather material for projects.

for the folks running our library service. The section for younger adults has also received special attention. The available literature has been doubled with carefully selected adult literature that has special appeal to younger readers whose interests have outgrown the children's section. A number of other improvements for their interests are in the planning stages, including a separate area for them and their literature.

A word on the unseen costs of having a book available on a library's shelves that is retrievable within two minutes of a patron's request. This availability requires organization, careful analysis of contents, and classification of every one of the 34,000 plus volumes in our library's collection. Translated into the actual costs of manhours devoted to building and maintaining a collection, every lost book costs between \$75 and as high as \$150 per volume by the time it has been replaced, processed, catalogued and placed on the shelves.

Help Is Appreciated
However, library users are only asked to pay the publisher's cost of usually \$6.95—a bargain for a careless user—but not for the library. So, be careful, your help is appreciated.

1974 Art Festival Slated This Weekend

Local art-lovers will have an opportunity to view the works of talented amateurs and professionals at the Area IV show of the Kern County Art Festival, to be held on Saturday and Sunday, at the China Lake Community Center.

Sponsored throughout Kern County by the Kern County Parks and Recreation Department, this annual event is now in its 26th year. Each of the 11 areas of Kern County has its own show, winners from which compete in the county finals held in May in Bakersfield. Entry stickers for the Area IV participants have been mailed to them since the March 1 entry deadline.

The local show includes entries from Ridgecrest, Inyokern, China Lake and the portion of the Rand District that is located in Kern County. There are separate divisions for elementary school, junior high school, high school, and adult amateurs. Professional artists also exhibit in the local show, but on a non-competitive basis. All professional competition is judged at the county finals.

Helen Morrin is the chairman of this year's Area IV show, sponsored by the Desert Art League. Miniature paintings will again be sold at the show by the Art League. Merle Rivette is in charge of this portion of the show, which features original works by League members. These paintings will be sold both with and without small easels.

Several large paintings are being donated by talented members of the Art League to be given away to Art Festival attendees. Local artists donating their work for this venture are Ruth Mayer, Mary Polk, Martina Camphausen, Merle Rivette and Beth Allen.

An invitational creative crafts display will be under the direction of Dr. W. S. McEwan. There also will be a snack bar serving punch, coffee and cookies, with Vonnie Bennett and Joyce Seibold in charge.

Hours for the public to view the show will be from 2 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, and from 12 to 6 p.m. on Sunday.



ART FESTIVAL OPENS THIS WEEKEND—Talented amateurs and professionals will display their works of art on Saturday, from 2 to 8 p.m. and Sunday, from noon to 6 p.m. in the Community Center for the enjoyment of interested persons. There is no admission. The entries will include the Ridgecrest, Inyokern and China Lake areas, as well as the portion of the Rand District that is located in Kern County. Miniature paintings by members of the Desert Art League will be offered for sale and a snack bar will be open. Shown with just a few of the miniature paintings that will be up for sale are Merle Rivette (at left) and Helen Morrin, who are members of the Desert Art League.



CHILDREN'S SECTION ENLARGED—Betty Wilkie helps Vicki Coleman to select a book in the recently enlarged children's section at the Center Library. The chair Vicki is using is called a polywog floor lounge. It allows browsers to recline in a near-horizontal position and has been called "super neat" by the children using them.

in the children's section. They went over so big, the staff even put one by the mystery section for adult customers who like to browse through the whodunits in semi-horizontal comfort.

Another new arrangement has made the availability of magazine back issues close to instant service. They are now within arm's reach behind the checkout counter so the staff doesn't have the back-and-forth hassle that used to occur.

Prompt Service Stressed
Pleasant and prompt service is emphasized as a first priority among our friendly Center Library "buchklatchern." Card catalogs and reference volumes have been moved to within a few steps of the checkout counter with the objective of providing quicker service, assistance in more depth when needed, and saving a difference of several miles of travel per staff member, per month. It is expected to utilize this savings in other ways to improve the library and its services.

Another change now in operation is the one closest to a bookman's heartstrings. It has reduced the monthly volume of "friendly reminders" (overdue notices). Due dates, instead of being every two calendar weeks, now fall on the 1st and 15th of each month, making them easier to remember. The grace period before notices are sent out has also been extended, thus making for less typing and kinder feelings

Authority on Art Of Maxfield Parrish To Present Program

Paul W. Skeeters, an authority on the work of Maxfield Parrish, will be the guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the Desert Art League.

The meeting is scheduled for Monday, at 7:30 p.m. at the Murray School auditorium. A retired English teacher, Skeeters appeared on NBC TV on April 17 on The Collectors program. Author of "Maxfield Parrish: The Early Years 1893-1930," Skeeters will show colored film slides of the plates used in this book on Parrish's work. One of the leaders in illustration in the early 20th century, Parrish had an equally famous career as a landscape painter, using cool blues as his hallmark.

Skeeters' talk will begin at 8 p.m., after the Art League's annual business meeting. Business will include election of officers and a report on the Area IV show of the Kern County Art Festival.

Dance Band To Play On Wednesday at COM

Drake Dierkhising, manager of the Commissioned Officers' Mess, reminds patrons that the Good Times Music Band will play a dance next Wednesday evening from 8:30 to midnight.

All members and their guests are invited to attend. Shrimp Curry will be the specialty for family night in the restaurant that evening.