



By Jack Lindsey

The China Lake Tennis Club will sponsor six tournaments this season.

The tentative schedule, which club officials have given me, is as follows:

A "fun" doubles tournament is set for Sunday, May 11; on June 14-15, a singles and mixed doubles competition is planned; another "fun" doubles competition is slated on July 12;

Aug. 16 and 17 have been set aside for a men's and women's doubles and mixed doubles competition; a third "fun" doubles tourney is set for Sept. 14, and the final event of the year — a singles, and men's and women's doubles tournament — is planned for Oct. 11-13.

The three "fun" tournaments are open to players at any level who are members of the China Lake Tennis Club.

The other three tourneys are open to any resident of the Indian Wells Valley. All entrants will pay a fee of \$1 for any event entered. An additional \$3 will be charged anyone who is not a member of the CLTC.

The club's annual membership fee is \$5 for adults and \$1 for students through high school.

Persons who want to join the club are asked to contact Charlene Newmeyer, treasurer, by calling 446-2845.

A Super Trio

Three young gymnasts finished competition last weekend in the Class II division of the Southern California State Gymnastics meet, hosted by the world famous KIPS team of Long Beach.

Kyra Specht recorded a spectacular 9.1 on the balance beam during the compulsory events, and racked up a 33.8 all-around score to finish very high on the list after one day.

However, on the final day, doing optional routines, Kyra notched only a 29.15 score and failed to place among the top 10 gymnasts. Her scores, however, were high enough to qualify her for next year's Class I state trials.

Competing for the first time at the state level, Mary Knemeyer and Patty Parks both turned in promising performances. Mary's 29.65 all-around score is the highest she has ever achieved, while Patty posted totals of 29.9 in the compulsory events and 24.95 in the optionals to demonstrate her great potential in future state meets.

As a dad with a girl enrolled in the local gymnastics program, I feel especially proud of these three girls and wish them much success in the future.

Registration open for youth softball leagues

Registration for both girls' and boys' softball leagues, sponsored by the NWC Youth Center, will open on Friday, May 2.

Sign-ups will close on June 6. All dependents of military or civilian personnel at the Center, regardless of their place of residence, are eligible to participate in these leagues. Play will begin on June 9.

A registration fee of \$5 will be charged the girls, while boys must pay \$10. The fee is payable at sign-up time.

The girls' league will be for youngsters in grades four through high school. Boys must be fifth graders through high school.



A FRIENDLY GOLF MATCH—Capt. R. D. Franke, NWC's Deputy Commander, is shown preparing to tee off during the annual Bakersfield / China Lake home and home match, conducted last week at the local golf links. In the background are (l.-r.): Dr. Rex Shacklett, Mayor of Ridgecrest; Morry Morrison and Jack Davenport, both members of the Bakersfield Trade Club, sponsors of the event. The Bakersfield team won the tourney, 25-5. China Lake's only bright note was Bob Moore's low gross round of 73 which — after his 4 handicap was applied — was also the low net round (69) of the day.

Center sports notes

The NWC Youth Center will stage a worm fiddling and spin casting contest on Saturday, May 17. In addition, youths of the area should begin looking for a prospective champion frog for a frog jumping contest to be held in August.

Rules for the three contests mentioned above are available at the Youth Center.

A few openings still exist in the martial arts classes — judo, wrestling, boxing and karate. All interested youths are asked to contact Carol Hape at the Youth Center, by calling NWC ext. 2909 or 2259.

Mrs. Hape also is looking for volunteers willing to supervise activities at the youth gymnasium. Interested persons should contact Mrs. Hape.

Golf tournament winners

The team of Bob Moore, Curt Bryan, Gary Castor and Phil Sprinkle won the low net prize in last Saturday's "Specialist Tour-

nament" at the China Lake Golf Course.

The four combined to shoot a 70 low net to edge out the second place team of Dick Clay, Fred Anderson, E. B. Earle and Lynn LeBertoux by one stroke.

Moore, a former China Lake Men's Club champion, hit the woods during this tournament, while Bryan struck the short irons, Castor the long irons, and Sprinkle putted.

Taking third place in the competition was the team of John Emory, Rex Kaylor, Jack Richards and Ed Judge. Low gross winners were Dick and Dave Seeley, Jim Hall and Jack Basden, who turned in a score of 85 for the 18 holes.

Larry Cardinal, tournament chairman, handed over a check in the amount of \$100 to the TV Booster fund that was raised from entry fees paid by the 48 golfers who took part in this unusual event.

Wilt's Corner

Volleyball for fun planned for women on Monday nights

By Wilt Wyman

The volleyball league is more than half over. The women's season will end on May 1, with the Open Division scheduled to conclude on May 21.

The Department Division will finish on May 22. The top four teams in the Open and Department Divisions will begin play-off competition on Tuesday, May 22.

A women's volleyball night will be offered on Mondays following the conclusion of the women's league. If there is enough response, games will be scheduled. However, the main objective of the program will be to encourage regular physical activity through participation.

The women may form their own teams or sign-up individually at the gymnasium and be placed on a team later.

All women who are currently competing in the Women's Division should take this opportunity to improve their volleyball skills for next season.

NWC in Second Place

The Naval Weapons Center is in second place in the Mojave Desert Inter-Service League in overall standings. We rank behind March AFB.

March AFB won the basketball and volleyball competition, while NWC did not place in basketball, finished second in volleyball and won the bowling tournament.

The next MDISL competition will be held on June 20 to 22 when a tennis tournament will be held at China Lake.

The Center's team will have an advantage under the new format of allowing both open and senior players to compete, which puts us in an excellent position to close the gap on March AFB.

Pool To Close

The gymnasium swimming pool will be closed for draining and clearing at 4 p.m. next Friday, May 2. It will remain closed both May 3 and 4 and will reopen at 9 a.m. on Monday, May 5.

Little League tryouts

Tryouts for both the Farm and T-Ball divisions of the China Lake Little League will be held tomorrow and again on Saturday, May 3, at Diamond No. 4, beginning at 9 a.m.

These tryouts are for 8 and 9 year olds and those 10 year olds who weren't chosen for teams in the Minor Division.

Hot/Gold Line team wins NAF Spring Olympics

Five days of athletic events were completed with a tug-o-war last Friday afternoon — the final event of the annual NAF Spring Olympics. Following the tug-o-war, won by the Hot Line / Cold Line team, all hands turned to for a picnic at the NAF swimming pool.

The Hot Line / Cold Line men were crowned winners of the Olympics — an event held each year for the past five seasons. They were victorious in the swimming, track, 8-ball (pool), bicycle racing and tug-o-war competition. In addition, the team placed third in basketball.

Second place went to Team 7, composed of men from the Dispensary, Explosives Ordnance Demolition Team, cooks' and stewards' divisions. Team 7 won the bowling competition and placed second in the swimming, basketball, 8-ball, bicycle race and tug-o-war. In addition, Team 7 finished third in track and volleyball.

Team 5, made up of men from the Ordnance, Material Control and Maintenance Control shops, was third. Team 5 won the basketball tourney, and was second in volleyball and track. It also placed third in the tug-o-war.

Others competing were the members of Team 1, composed of sailors from the Para-Loft, GSE and Safety and Survival shops. This team was third in the bicycle race.

Team 3 (Airframes, Power Plants and Check Crews) finished third in swimming

and bowling. Team 4, which was staffed by men from the Quality Assurance, Avionics and Ground Electronics shops, won the volleyball competition and was second in the bowling matches.

Team 6, composed of white hats from the



HEAVE-HO, MY HEARTIES — The tug-o-war is one of the more popular events in the annual NAF Spring Olympics. Above, members of the Dispensary, EOD, cooks and stewards team (foreground) are shown as they won the tug-o-war event in competition with the Ordnance, Material and Maintenance Control squad. The winners above were defeated for the title by the Hot Line / Cold Line representatives. —Photo by Maurice Dias

Workshops slated covering both sides of Arab-Israeli conflict

An all-day workshop presenting both sides of the conflict between the Arabs and Israel has been arranged by the Cerro Coso Community College.

This information program, which is open to all interested persons, will be held at the college lecture hall on Thursday, May 1, beginning with registration at 9 a.m.

Following a welcome and introductions by college officials, headed by Dr. Richard A. Jones, president, there will be presentations by two of the featured speakers prior to a break for lunch.

During the two morning sessions, workshop attendees will hear from Dr. Daniel Crecelius, a professor of history at Cal-State University in Los Angeles, whose subject will be "A Look Backward - History of the Area to 1948," and from Dr. Ralph Kaplan, columnist and lecturer, who was an officer in the Israeli Army during the 1948-49 war. Kaplan will discuss "The Israeli Viewpoint."

After lunch, the workshop will resume with Dr. Zahi Kamal at the podium. A native of Palestine, Dr. Kamal is currently chairman of the Department of Sociology at the University of Northern Colorado. His subject will be "The Arab Viewpoint."

VAdm. W. J. Moran, ex-NWC Commander, to retire on May 1

Vice Admiral William J. Moran, a former Naval Weapons Center Commander who has been serving since November 1972 as Director of the Research, Development Test and Evaluation in the Office of Naval Operations, will be retiring from the Navy next Thursday, May 1.

VAdm. Moran's post in OpNav will be taken over by Rear Admiral Parker B. Armstrong, who has been nominated for promotion to vice admiral.

The former NWC Commander can look back upon a military career that began early in 1941 when he joined the Navy as an aviation cadet.

In addition to serving as NWC Commander from October 1970 to October 1972, VAdm. Moran served two earlier tours of duty at China Lake. During the period from 1949 to 1952, he was the Operations Officer for the Naval Ordnance Test Station, and from 1955 to 1958 was the Assistant Experimental Officer at NOTS.

A panel discussion on "The Role of the Super-Powers in the Middle East" is scheduled from 2:15 to 3:15 p.m. Frank Dickey, an instructor of philosophy at Cerro Coso College, will be the moderator for both the panel discussion and a debate on the issues in which Drs. Kamal and Kaplan will participate as the finale to the workshop.

An optional event—an Arab dinner to be served on the north lawn of the college — is planned from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

There is a registration fee of \$3 each for non-students at the college, while holders of student body cards will be charged \$2 each to attend the seminar. For those who also remain for the Arab dinner, there is an additional cost of \$2 per person.

Seminar registration forms can be picked up at China Lake now at the Community Center, Administration Building, Bank of America and Center Library.

They also are available at the college office.

Rotary Club seeks Kraus Memorial Fund applicants

Applications are now being accepted for the China Lake Rotary Club-sponsored Edward Kraus Memorial Fund.

High school graduates from the Indian Wells Valley are eligible for financial assistance to enable them to obtain additional vocational or scholastic training.

Any student who will be graduating in June is eligible to apply by writing a letter to Don Padgett, chairman of the local Rotary Club's memorial fund committee, at 409 N. Helena St., Ridgecrest. The deadline for applications is Friday, May 9.

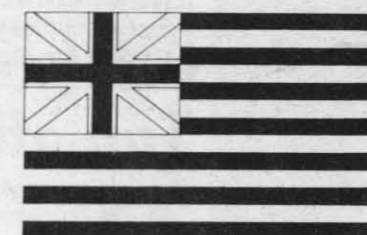
The letter should state the applicant's goals for academic or vocational advancement; plans showing how the applicant expects to achieve the goals; what financial assistance is needed and how it will be utilized.

In addition, the applicant should provide a brief biography covering his or her age, birthplace, skills, interests, and hopes for the future. A transcript of all high school work completed also should be submitted.

The Kraus Memorial Fund was established by the China Lake Rotary Club to honor the memory of Edward Kraus, a local youth who suffered a fatal illness in 1973.

U.S. NAVY'S 200th BIRTHDAY 1775-1975

These important events in the history of the U.S. Navy are recounted here for the purpose of calling attention to the U.S. Navy's 200th birthday on Oct. 13, 1975, as the entire nation prepares for the Bicentennial observance during the year 1976.



Grand Union Flag
Navy ensign, 1775-1776

"I hoisted with my own hands the Flag of Freedom the first time it was displayed on Board the *Alfred* on the Delaware; and I have attended it ever since with Veneration on the Ocean."

—John Paul Jones—

On Oct. 13, 1775, Silas Deane moved that Congress outfit a 10-gun warship for "intercepting such transports as may be laden with stores for the enemy", and the United States Navy was born.

In the winter of 1775-1776 when the fledging Navy captured one such transport, the ordnance brig *Nancy*, it contained ordnance and munitions that could have taken the colonists 18 months to make.

Former Kern Valley resident reports for duty as head of VX-5 Administration Dept.

LCdr. Rod Bankson has reported for duty with Air Test and Development Squadron Five (VX-5), following his transfer here from NAS Oceana in Virginia Beach, Va. LCdr. Bankson was head of the Attack Squadron 35 Safety Department.

The new arrival has replaced LCdr. J. W. Randall as head of VX-5 Administration Department, and also will be involved in project flights. LCdr. Randall was moved to the Project Division.

This is something in the nature of a homecoming for LCdr. Bankson, who is a graduate of nearby Kern Valley High School, as is his wife, Patti.

LCdr. Bankson joined the Navy as an enlisted man more than 19 years ago—immediately following his graduation from high school. During the next eight years he worked his way up through various grade levels and was a chief petty officer specializing in anti-submarine warfare

when he applied for and was accepted for Officer Candidate School.

After his graduation from OCS at Newport, R. I., in 1964, he attended legal school before entering flight training. LCdr. Bankson received his Navy "wings of gold" at Kingsville, Tex., in September 1966 and was immediately assigned to an A-6 Intruder squadron.

Two combat cruises to Vietnam followed before he returned stateside for duty as a

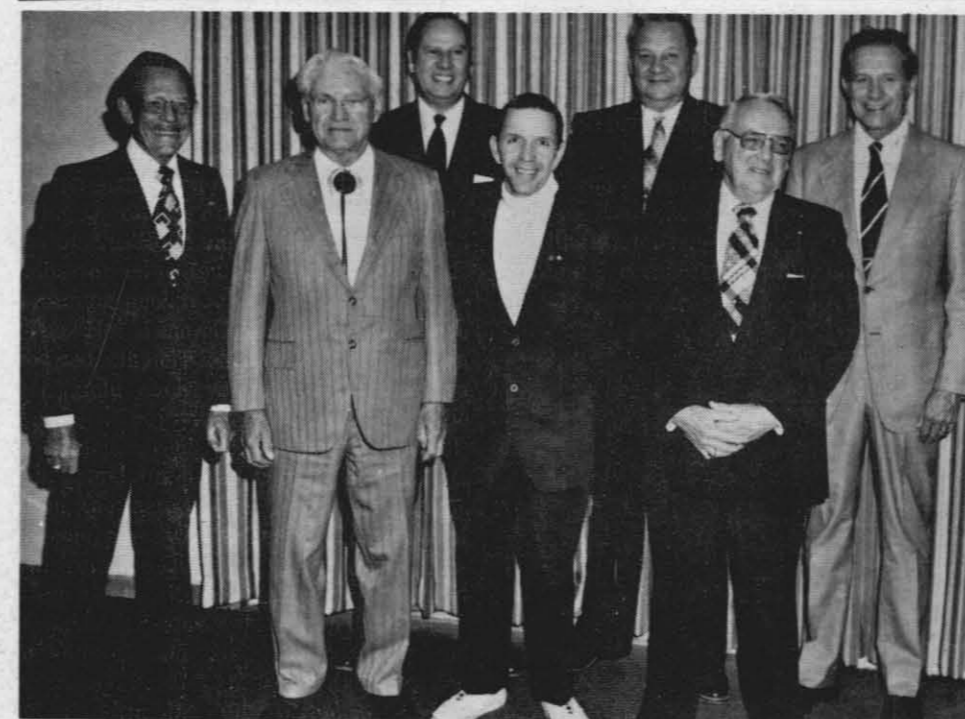


LCdr. Rod Bankson

flight instructor for the Training Command at Pensacola, Fla. LCdr. Bankson left Florida to spend two years (1970-72) at the Navy Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., where he received a bachelor's degree in international science before being assigned to VA 35 at NAS Oceana.

While serving as a pilot with VA 35, the squadron shipped out on cruises to both the Mediterranean Sea and to the North Atlantic.

LCdr. Bankson and his wife are the parents of two children—a son, Brent, who is 14 years old, and a daughter, Shanie, who is 5 years of age.



NEW OFFICERS INSTALLED—Milford Carlson (at left), a regional director of the Navy League, officiated last week during the installation of new officers of the Indian Wells Valley Council of the Navy League. Those installed and the offices they now hold are (from left) Dr. Ray DeHarrold, treasurer; Jack Strayer, judge advocate; Robert K. McKnight, Jr., 2nd vice-president; Mike Molner, president; Vernon Smith, 1st vice-president, and Ralph Herrick, secretary. Molner, a former president of the Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce, is heading into his second term as president of the local council of the Navy League. Guest speaker for the evening was Capt. E. M. Crow, Commanding Officer of Air Test and Evaluation Squadron Five, who discussed the purpose, programs and accomplishments of Squadron VX-5 of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, which is sponsored by the IWV Navy League.

Costly fire...

(Continued from Page 1)

bedroom windows, except for two who exited via the front door. Mr. Dye, who is employed as acting head of the Aircraft Systems Department's Aircraft Interface Division, crawled down the hallway from room to room to make sure no one was left behind before leaving the burning dwelling.

In the meantime, another son, Dickey, had rushed outside to pull the handle on the nearest fire alarm box to summon Center firemen to the scene. Neighbors also called the fire department when they awoke to discover that a nearby residence was in flames.

Fellows, whose hair was singed, later was taken to the Ridgecrest Community Hospital for treatment of a few minor burns. Dye, whose community activities include serving as president of the China Lake Little League, was extremely grateful that no one was injured as a result of the fire. He and his family have been moved to other quarters temporarily, and are being well taken care of, the fire victim added.



CHAMPAGNE AUCTION — Members of the China Lake Branch of the American Association of University Women and their guests raised \$267 for the AAUW's scholarship fund this past Saturday night during a champagne auction...

Young musicians 'tuning up' for May 11 concert

Four promising young students of music, selected from auditions held last December, began rehearsals with the Desert Community Orchestra last month for the annual Youth Concert, set for May 11. It will begin at 3:30 p.m.

This will be Lutjens' second appearance as a Youth Concert soloist. Last season he played the piano solo in Gershwin's 'Rhapsody in Blue.'

Top officials field variety of questions ...

(Continued from Page 1) Dr. Hollingsworth's response was that past estimates on the Center's ability to reach a given level of employment by a certain date haven't been too accurate.

answer is yes," RAdm. Freeman replied as the audience applauded his forthright answer.

of developing a reasonably standardized plan that can operate equitably for all. As an example, he said, it's proposed that for a promotion to the GS-13 or above level, employees be required to have either work experience in a different department, in Washington, D.C., or somewhere else.

Asked if employees could come directly to him with work-related problems which couldn't be resolved through regular channels, Dr. Hollingsworth replied with an emphatic yes.

"He (the military man) may be hypercritical of the work that's being done, and that's good," he added. "Any turnaround in personnel isn't necessarily bad, while feet stuck in concrete aren't necessarily good," the Skipper also observed.

RAdm. Freeman assured his listeners that he would do something if any discrimination was found to exist in the promotions of technicians compared to staff personnel, as one questioner alleged was the case.

"I'll talk to anyone at any time on any subject," the Technical Director stated, "but don't just bring a gripe, bring a real problem." He also advised anyone proposing to do this to inform his own department head.

At the Naval Air Development Center in Warminster, Pa., where he served as Technical Director before coming to China Lake, military men headed two of the departments and were backed up by assistant department heads who were civilians, Dr. Hollingsworth said. "I see no harm at all in this," he stated. "While they do move from place to place, military personnel don't vanish. They are part of the system wherever they go and can be contacted for helpful input on Fleet problems."

RAdm. Freeman was asked if there is a trend toward a more militaristic attitude today at NWC, and if so why?

"I don't feel like a shadow. I do the things I do best in my own way, and may not be too visible. My style is a low key operation. You can have credit for an operation or cooperation. I'd rather have cooperation. That's not a visible way of management, but I happen to enjoy it."

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"We are trying to establish standards, but at the same time be flexible," the Technical Director added while informing his listeners that meetings are being held for the purpose

Contest to select 1975 rodeo queen is now under way

The ninth annual Desert Empire Rodeo Queen contest is now under way with six high school girls vying for the title.

The entrants are Jennifer Lee, Deborah Meggers and Ann Mettenburg, all seniors at Burroughs High School, and Sue Porter, Jerri Butler and Carolyn Bracken, who are juniors at BHS.

The six young horsewomen will be judged on their personality (25 per cent), horsemanship (35 per cent), and ticket sales (40 per cent) to decide who will be queen.

Chairman of the queen contest is Dick Mahan, a member of the China Lake Community Council. He has handled this chore for the past three years.

During the next two weeks, the candidates will be appearing at various civic and social functions throughout the valley.

The six queen candidates will be at Joshua Hall today, tomorrow and Sunday to participate in the annual Home Show.

On Sunday evening, the girls will be at Bottom Acre Stables for a horse show planned that day.

At noon on Monday, they will be guests during the Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce luncheon meeting at The Hideaway Restaurant.

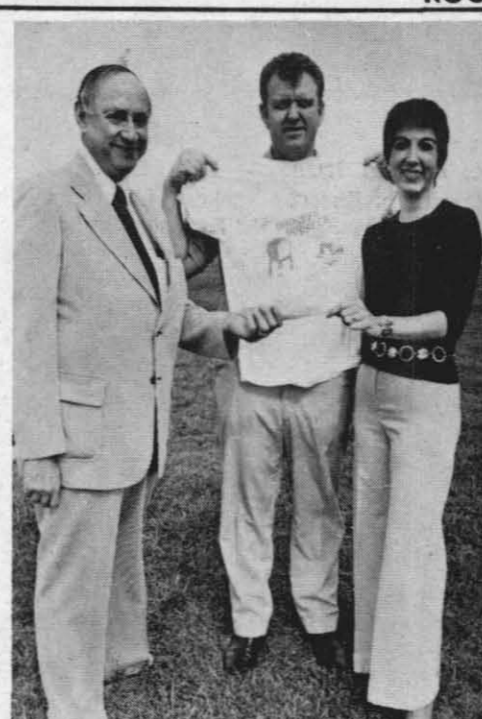
One of the ticket holders will receive his or her choice of either a 19-in. color television set or a check for \$200.



VISITORS FROM NEVADA — Personnel from the Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) at Hawthorne, Nev., are shown discussing Center programs in the field of high explosives with NWC personnel during a visit on April 15 and 16.



TV FUND DRIVE CONTRIBUTORS — Pat Leopard, coordinator of the TV Booster Fund Drive, collected another \$355 from two local organizations earlier this week.



New UHF translator installed ...

(Continued from Page 1) auction to help raise funds for the drive. In the April 18 issue of The ROCKETEER, the story on the current status of the work going on at Laurel Mt. pointed out that KABC (Channel 7) would be translated and rebroadcast to the valley over UHF Channel 63.

Don Stanton, head of the China Lake Community Council's TV-FM Committee, said that the picture of the bird was being transmitted in lieu of Channel 7 programs until a pre-amplifier could be installed at Laurel Mt. that boosts the signal being received from Los Angeles.

strength of the present VHF transmission it was advisable to wait until the pre-amplifier was installed. "We will have that accomplished by this weekend," Stanton

The translator installed on Channel 63 is on loan from EMCEE Corp., of White Haven, Pa. Three more "borrowed" translators will be installed within the next few weeks at Laurel Mt. in order that operators of the booster stations can evaluate them prior to the purchase of new translating equipment that will be installed at Laurel and "B" Mts.

"We expect another one in this weekend," Stanton said. "It was shipped more than a week ago and should be in anytime now," he added.

Once again, the TV-FM committee head pointed out that the China Lake Community Council would appreciate hearing comments from residents who are receiving the telecasts on channel 63.

The latter noted that since KABC is the weakest channel received from Los Angeles, he felt that rather than reduce the

Most summer school sign-ups end May 2; primary concludes today

Registration for the Sierra Sands Elementary School District's summer school program will conclude today for the primary program and on May 2 for elementary electives and the high school program.

Registration at that time will be limited to the classes not yet filled.

The primary program at Murray School will be held from 8 a.m. until noon from June 23 to July 25, with the time off for the July 4 holiday.

Bus transportation will be available for some. An attempt is being made to conduct the primary program classes at the neighborhood schools. However, if busing is required, schedules will be sent to the homes of the students. It is required, in the elective program, that children who are bused must take four classes.

High school summer session is scheduled during the same hours from June 9 through July 25, also observing the July 4 holiday.

Some of the classes to be offered in the primary program include arts and crafts, literature (classic and non-classic), music, physical education, dramatic play, and subject unity interests such as reading, language, and arithmetic.

An elective program at Murray School will be offered from 7:30 a.m. until noon, including a mid-morning nutrition break. This activity will begin on June 23 and end July 25.

The elementary school elective program includes a wide range of subjects offered. These include algebra, archery, arts and crafts, auto mechanics, gym activities, folk dancing, electronics, drawing and painting, music instrumental classes, speech, debate, languages, journalism, table tennis, tennis, typing, woodshop, softball, and many more.

They are priced at \$2.50 for everyone, with the exception of the May 8 performance, when children under the age of 12 will be admitted for \$1

At Burroughs High School, classes range from drama, guitar, stage band, teacher aide, driver and traffic safety, to health, physical education, swimming, literature for fun, lexigraphy, and gourmet cooking, to name just a few.

Top director arrives to take over reins of 'Fractured Follies'

John Bell, who has spent the past seven seasons directing for the Jerome H. Cargill Producing Co., of New York City, arrived in Ridgecrest Tuesday evening to meet representatives of the Sierra Sands Unified School District's PTA, sponsors of the 1975 version of "Fractured Follies."

A get-together of those working on the "Follies" was held at The Hideaway. Many of the actors, actresses and singers who will be performing during the show also were present, along with the planners of this event, the proceeds from which will benefit the IWW Campership Fund and the IWW Leukemia Fund.

Bell, who has directed more than 50 shows for Cargill, attended Central State College in Edmond, Okla., and has worked with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, 20th Century Fox, United Attractions Theatrical Agency in Dallas, Tex., and many other producing organizations.

Question, answer session held ...

(Continued from Page 4) Command, such as through a column in The ROCKETEER.

RAdm. Freeman acknowledged that he wasn't sure what constituted the best channel of communication. He's opened up about this matter, and hoped that meetings such as the one being held would help to meet the need for communication both up and down.

Experimenting on Communication The audience was asked by Dr. Hollingsworth how many of them took the Center newspaper home to be read by others in the family, and about 60 per cent of those in the theater indicated by raising their hands that they did.

Q: "What is the time frame for removing the fence?" A: When the fence around some portions of the Center is to be relocated depends upon action taken by others — such as the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and the General Services Administration.

Q: "Why are so many R-rated movies, instead of those rated G, shown at the Center theater?" A: RAdm. Freeman, who admitted to a preference for Walt Disney films, said he would look into the question of why so many R-rated movies have been booked at the Center theater in recent weeks.

Q: "What is the Command doing about the early morning traffic congestion at the Main Gate?" A: While traffic congestion is not seen as a serious problem, photos will be taken from a helicopter and studied to determine what can be learned from a look at the traffic patterns shown.

Q: "Why are so many R-rated movies, instead of those rated G, shown at the Center theater?" A: RAdm. Freeman, who admitted to a preference for Walt Disney films, said he would look into the question of why so many R-rated movies have been booked at the Center theater in recent weeks.

A: Adding another gate poses the problem of manning it. This matter should be resolved in about 12 to 18 months.



CONTINUING A TRADITION — Rear Admiral R. G. Freeman III, NWC Commander, was present at the Court of Honor, held on April 14 at the All Faith Chapel, to congratulate Mike Chartier upon the young man's attainment of the rank of Eagle Scout.