



ALOHA NUI LOHA — A capacity crowd at the Chief Petty Officers' Club last Saturday night feasted its eyes on a spectacular Polynesian extravaganza after a meal of pit-barbecued pork and other island delicacies during the club's annual luau. In the top row of photos (from left) grass-skirted beauties perform a paddle dance; next, master-of-ceremonies Pete Seanoa gives a hula lesson; and grass sways to the rhythm of drums. In the bottom row (from left), Seanoa thrills the crowd with his Samoan fire dance; then, island dancers sway onto the club's dance floor for their finale; and volunteers remove the pig from its pit after nine hours of roasting. Centerites who missed this South Seas splash will have a second chance Friday, Sept. 15, when the Commissioned Officers' Mess will stage its annual luau with a different bevy of hip-swinging, drum-thumping Polynesian entertainers. Tickets for the COM event are now on sale to members for \$10 per person at the club office. — Photos by Ron Allen



In anticipation of an exodus of Centerites over the Labor Day holiday, the Commissioned Officers' Mess and the Chief Petty Officers' Club have not scheduled any special activities this weekend. The Enlisted Mess, however, is featuring the first Center appearance of the local "Thin Ice" music group this evening. Well known for its performances at the Joshua Hall bi-weekly teen dances in Ridgecrest, the group will play rock, disco and oldie melodies from 9 p.m. until 1:30 a.m.

The "Thin Ice" will play following the club dining room's Friday "surf and turf" supper special.

Commissioned Officers' Mess Tickets are being sold for the Commissioned Officers' Mess annual luau which will be staged Friday evening, Sept. 15. For \$10 per person, patrons may enjoy a sumptuous Hawaiian feast and six hours of entertainment and fun, including a spectacular Polynesian floor show.

Also slated this month is another ever-popular "Membership Night" on Sept. 29, which will feature a return engagement of the "Sounds of Country" from the group's successful Las Vegas run.

Folk dance classes start this month

Local residents interested in learning the fundamentals of folk dancing are invited to attend a folk dance class for beginners that will get underway on Wednesday, Sept. 13, at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center. The classes, sponsored by the China Lake Desert Dancers, will be taught by Bob Brown. There is no charge for the first lesson. The fee for the remaining nine weeks is \$5 per person.

Further information can be obtained by calling either 375-8744 or 375-4381, or by visiting one of the China Lake Desert Dancers' regular Thursday night sessions from 7:30 to 10:30 o'clock at the Community Center.

Tryouts set for cast of 'Charlie Brown'

Tryouts for the China Lake Players' production of "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the Players' Hut, 405 McIntire St., China Lake, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

This highly successful show is based on the comic strip "Peanuts" by Charles M. Schulz. Clark Gesner wrote the book, lyrics and music for the small cast musical which states the time of acting for the play is "A day in the life of Charlie Brown."

The cast consists of two women and four men who will be playing the roles of Charlie Brown, Linus, Schroeder, Lucy, Patty and Snoopy. This show is not strictly for young people, but for the young at heart.

Those trying out for the various roles are requested to bring a vocal solo of their choice for tryouts. There will be a tryout pianist available.

"Charlie Brown" will be directed by Pat Schwarzbach, well-known to local theatergoers both on-stage and as a director. She will be assisted by Judy Vuono. Sue Fischer will be the rehearsal and performance pianist, and Ralph Schwarzbach will be technical director.

Rehearsals will be held on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 7:15 to 10 p.m. The comedy is to be presented on Oct. 19, 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28.

Additional information can be obtained by calling Mrs. Schwarzbach at 375-9056.



WACOM TO RESUME ACTIVITIES — First activity on the fall season's schedule of events planned by the Women's Auxiliary of the Commissioned Officers' Mess will be a membership coffee from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 12, at 1 Enterprise Rd., the residence of Rear Admiral and Mrs. William L. Harris. Shown making preparations for this annual affair are (l.-r.) Shirley Sutton, Sharon Zabel and Darlene Killoran. Former members of WACOM and prospective new members are invited to attend the membership coffee and hear about plans for such activities as monthly out-of-town tours for pleasure and shopping, meetings of the WACOM bridge group, and other events that will add up to another successful year of WACOM activities in 1978-79. While the membership coffee is in progress, free babysitting service will be provided at the Chapel Annex. Additional information about WACOM can be obtained by calling Vicki Crume, membership chairman, at 446-4861. — Photo by Clare Grounds



Regular starting time—7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY Sept. 1
"The Big Sleep" (100 min.) A retired, expatriate American general, James Stewart hires private eye Robert Mitchum, who is also an American living in London, to investigate John Justin, a book dealer blackmailing Stewart's youngest daughter, and to locate his oldest daughter's missing, gun-runner husband. (Mystery drama, rated R)

SATURDAY Sept. 2
"The Evil" (89 min.) Despite the creepy forebodings of a guarding spirit, Richard Crenna opens a trap door in a haunted house and unwittingly releases Satan from 1,000 years in the bottomless pit. As the Devil wreaks death among devotees of the occult who are trapped in the house, the spirit possesses Joanna Pettet, and through her, it helps Crenna lure the Evil One back into the pit. (Horror drama, rated R)

MONDAY & TUESDAY Sept. 4 & 5
"American Hot Wax" (91 min.) New York's top disc jockey of the mid-50s, Tim McIntire, is caught in a web of personal problems and a payola scandal which threatens his career. McIntire stages a rock concert, despite a district attorney's investigation. The concert features Jerry Lee Lewis and dozens of rock hits; it ends in mayhem with a police raid. (Musical comedy drama, rated PG)

WEDNESDAY Sept. 6
"The Manitou" (104 min.) Doctors are prevented by a mysterious force from removing a tumor from Susan Strasberg. The tumor, it turns out, is the fetus of a 400-year dead Indian medicine man. Tony Curtis, Ann Southern, Burgess Meredith, Lurene Tuttle, Hugh Corcoran and Stella Stevens are involved in seances and other shenanigans to prevent the birth of the "Manitou" and save Strasberg's life. A laser operation on Strasberg only deforms the creature, which is born in grotesque form. Efforts are then directed by this all-star cast towards its destruction. (Horror drama, rated R)

FRIDAY Sept. 8
"Here Come the Tigers" (90 min.) A Little League baseball team made up of misfits and characters with a juvenile delinquent as a star player is sponsored by rookie policeman Richard Lincoln and James Zvanut. The team starts the season in the cellar but moves up to finals via the poolhall, where the star pitcher dislocates his shoulder in a fight just before the big game. (Comedy, rated PG)

SATURDAY Sept. 9
"Get Charlie Tully" (97 min.) Two London con men, Dick Emery and Ronald Fraser, try to get their hands on 500,000 pounds in negotiable bonds that a wealthy Italian has stashed in a Swiss bank safety deposit box. Fraser discovers the box number but is shot for messing around with a mobster's sister. Emery finds out that his dead partner had parts of the box number tattooed on the derrieres of several girl friends and tries to get the bonds before the Mafia does. (Comedy, rated PG)

Program subject to change without notice. For further information call NWC ext. 3097 or ext. 2411.

Square dance club to teach beginners

Plans have been announced by the Jim Dandies Square Dance Club for sponsoring both a square dance class for beginners and a basic class in round dancing. The square dance class for beginners will be taught by Jim Brown and is scheduled to get underway on Tuesday, Sept. 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the Richmond School auditorium. A basic class in round dancing will be held at Pierce School beginning Sept. 14.

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Contracts let for construction work on Center

Construction, maintenance and service-type contracts totalling a little more than \$1½ million have been awarded for a wide variety of work on the Naval Weapons Center.

According to Lt. Charles Schneider, CEC, USN, head of the Contract Division in the NWC Public Works Department, the largest single contract was the one awarded to the Fox Roofing Co. of Lancaster, Calif., for re-roofing of homes in the Site A and B Capehart housing area. This work, which will cost \$673,790, is scheduled for completion in November. It is now about 45 per cent complete.

This same contractor, Fox Roofing, also is handling the coating and re-roofing of duplexes in the "hill" area around the Commissioned Officers' Mess. The amount of this contract is \$98,771, and the work is now around 50 per cent complete.

Another sizeable contract — this one in the amount of \$259,952 — was awarded to the Asphalt Construction Co. of Lancaster, Calif., for resurfacing roads in the range area, the Salt Wells access road, and parking areas in the Center's main warehouse storage areas. Once the roads and parking lots have been resurfaced, it will be necessary to paint the centerlines of the roads and re-stripe the parking lots as well. This work, which is scheduled for completion in November, has just been started.

Also barely underway is the job of repairing the roof of Michelson Laboratory. A contract for this work, which will cost \$89,000, was awarded to Antelope Valley Roofing of Lancaster. It is to be completed in November.

Approximately one-fourth completed is the rebuilding of four elevators in Michelson Laboratory, and a fifth elevator in a hangar (Continued on Page 3)

Visitors given briefings on Coso geothermal area proposed energy development program

A group of distinguished visitors, headed by Russell L. Schweikart, a former astronaut who is currently serving as the Assistant for Science and Technology to Jerry Brown, Governor of California, spent a good part of the day here Tuesday gathering firsthand information on the Coso geothermal area.

Before getting a look at the Coso Known Geothermal Area, where a test well which has been capped off has been dug to a depth of 4,825 ft., the visitors were welcomed in the Management Center of Michelson Laboratory by Capt. F. H. M. Kinley, NWC Vice Commander.

Intent of the various presentations which followed were to provide the visiting state officials and others with a comprehensive briefing on the proposed geothermal energy development program, as well as about the mission and workload of the Naval Weapons Center, which is the Navy's principal research, development, test and evaluation center for air warfare and missile weapons systems.

NWC Mission Described
Information on the Center's mission was provided by Capt. R. B. Wilson, Public Works Officer at NWC, while W. R. Hat-tabaugh, head of the Test and Evaluation Directorate, talked about the Center's ranges, the number and variety of tests conducted, and the importance of keeping the ranges intact.

Emphasized during the presentations were the challenge that exists to find the methods and means to continue to accomplish the military mission of test and evaluation, while at the same time proceeding with the orderly development of the geothermal area and, simultaneously, preserving the cultural and natural resources of the region.

The overall geothermal area encompasses 450 sq. miles within a geologic "ring fracture" that spreads from Inyo



OLD HOT SPRINGS RESORT EXPLORED — Russell L. Schweikart leads the way as a group of visitors, and the Centerites who accompanied them, have a look around at the old Coso Hot Springs area. In addition to Schweikart, who is the Assistant for Science and Technology to California Governor Jerry Brown, others behind him who are visible in the photo are Suzanne Reed, a commissioner on the State of California's Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission; Tom Dodson, of NWC, and Loyal Blackwood (partially hidden), the NWC Counsel. Trailing the group is Syd Willard, a member of the state's Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission. —Photo by Clare Grounds

County into a portion of Tulare County, but the most promising resource within the Coso Known Geothermal Area lies inside a sector of approximately 80 sq. miles. However, it was explained by Dr. Carl Austin, head of the Geothermal Utilization

Division in the NWC Public Works Department, the test well which has been drilled is located adjacent to a 4½ sq. mile area where the Navy purchased the mineral rights at the time the Naval Ordnance Test (Continued on Page 5)

Navy search, rescue helicopter crew commended for daring effort

A Naval Weapons Center search and rescue helicopter crew has been commended for the daring rescue on Aug. 10 of an elderly hiker near Onyx, Calif.

The hiker, 69-year-old Alvin Majors of Onyx, and his son Kenneth Majors of Los Angeles ran out of water on a back packing trip up 6,000-foot Pilot Knob, two miles northeast of Onyx.

Navy reenlistment ceremony delayed by emergency call

A funny thing happened to AD1 Sam Weaver on the way to his reenlistment ceremony . . .

AD1 Weaver, leading petty officer of the NWC Aircraft Department's cold line, had requested that he be reenlisted hovering in a helicopter at an altitude which is below sea level over Death Valley.

En route to the scene on Aug. 10, the helicopter pilot, LCDr. Dale Haan, who is Operations and Air Space Officer, received an emergency call diverting the aircraft to a search and rescue mission.

LCdr. Larry Crume, the co-pilot and NWC Helicopter Projects Officer, signed AD1 Weaver up for another hitch as the "chopper" turned back to the Center to pick up a medic and head for the rescue of 69-year-old Alvin Majors on 6,000-foot Pilot Knob near Onyx, Calif. —Photo by Ron Allen

On their return down the peak across hazardous, rocky terrain, the elder Majors became exhausted and sent his son on for help. The younger Majors contacted Kern County Sheriff's Deputies, who requested assistance from NWC search and rescue.

In the course of the rescue, a sudden thunderstorm, accompanied with high winds, rain and lightning, enveloped the peak. The rescue is dramatically described by Majors in his letter thanking the NWC crew for rescuing him:

"It was more than an ordinary rescue. "The courage and daring of these men flying into the heart of a lightning storm, holding the helicopter over a cliff above the canyon with wind and rain driving down; lightning striking very close . . .

"They could have waited 'til it was safer to come in, but . . . they came right in, disregarding their own safety.

"It was definitely above and beyond the call of duty, and it's gratifying to see that the same Navy spirit exists today that won the battles of the Pacific. . .

"Your helicopter rescue group is a crack outfit. . . They are tops." Major's praises were repeated by Kern County Sheriff Al Loustalot in his letter of commendation. "It is the opinion of the officers and citizens present nearby the rescue scene that members of the crew of the helicopter (Continued on Page 3)



RESCUE CREW COMMENDED — Cdr. Rodney Knutson (right), head of the Military Administration Department, reads a letter of commendation from Kern County Sheriff Al Loustalot and its forwarding endorsement by RAdm. William L. Harris, NWC Commander, to the search and rescue helicopter crew that rescued a hiker from Pilot Knob, a mountain peak near Onyx, during a severe thunderstorm. Crewmembers are, left to right, LCDr. Dale Haan, HM3 Rick Peterson, AD1 Bill Hornbacker, AMSAN Fred Schloesser, LCdr. Larry Crume and civilian photographer Sam Wyatt. —Photo by Ron Allen

