







# China Lake, Ridgecrest firemen stage training exercise

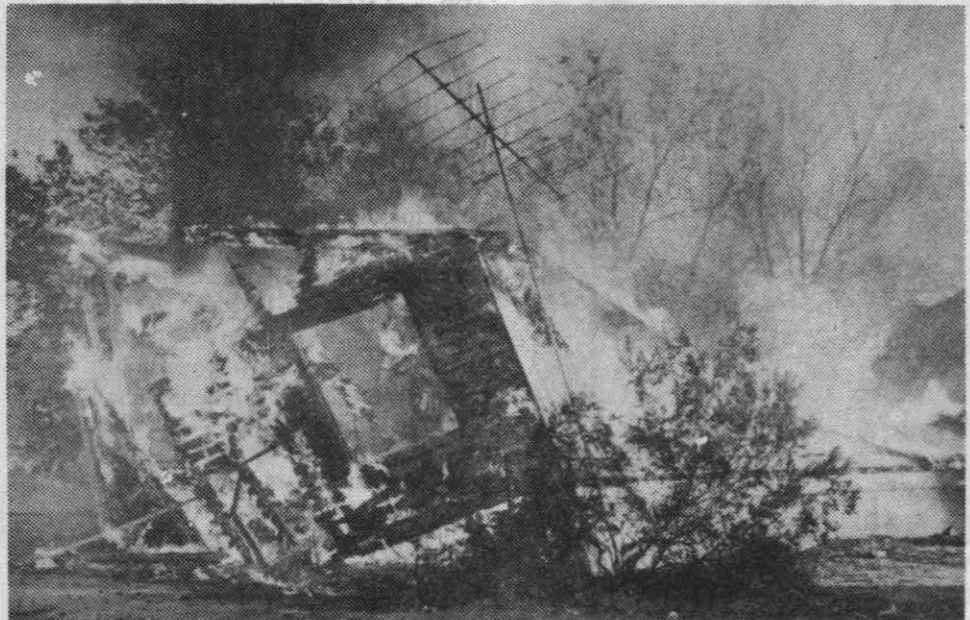


**SMOKE GETS IN YOUR EYES** — Firefighters from the China Lake Fire Division, hoses charged and held at the ready, move toward the front porch area to begin the task of knocking down the first fire set as part of last weekend's practice drill. At this point, the fire was probably at its highest temperature.

Photos by Don Cornelius



**SAFETY LINE READY** — While two China Lake firefighters battle the flames, a Kern County fireman (at left) stands by with another fire hose ready should it be needed to douse a sudden increase in the intensity of the flames caused by a backdraft. The safety line is also a precaution in the event that a hose being used to fight the fire bursts.



**WIPED OUT** — To gain experience battling a blaze that fully engulfed a building and where there was lots of heat, China Lake firefighters and their Kern County and Ridgecrest volunteer counterparts for awhile had a go at the fire when it reached its final stage. They then withdrew a safe distance to let the blaze burn itself out.

A dozen members of the China Lake Fire Division were joined by a similar number of Kern County firemen and volunteer fire fighters from Ridgecrest during a training exercise that was held for a good part of the day last Saturday.

The drill involved setting a fire and then extinguishing the blaze in a modest-sized wood frame building located near the intersection of Gateway Ave. and Saratoga Ave. in the unincorporated area southeast of Ridgecrest.

According to Assistant Fire Chief Fred Whitnack, who also is the China Lake Fire Division's Training Officer, the purpose of the exercise was to continue the joint training of the two groups of fire fighters in order to familiarize them with the operations and equipment that each of them use.

Before the old barracks-like building was allowed to burn itself out and be consumed by fire, six fires were set and then extinguished in different parts of the structure. Fire fighters from China Lake and Ridgecrest alternated as the initial fire fighting or backup crew for each of the operations. Capt. Daryl Moore was in charge of the fire fighters from Ridgecrest.

The first fire was ignited using solvent and combustibles to set ablaze some old couches and wood furniture that remained in what had been the living room area of the abandoned building. It was deliberately permitted to burn until the fire was going strong before the fire fighters moved in to extinguish the blaze.

"It was extremely hot inside the structure, with temperatures ranging from 1200 to 1500 degrees initially," Assistant Chief Whitnack said. Even at that, however, the hottest blaze was knocked down in between 2 and 3 minutes. After that it was a matter of checking to make sure that all of the hot spots were completely extinguished.

Another fire was started in the kitchen area of the old building, and the procedure of setting fires in one or another parts of the building was followed until the danger of the roof caving in made it necessary to concentrate the fire fighting effort exclusively on the exterior of the building.

While it was still safe to enter the fire-gutted interior, the fire fighters were afforded an opportunity to detect where the fires had been set and see how the flames had spread — all useful information when it comes to investigating a possible arson-caused fire.

The drill also enabled the fire fighters to stand by and observe the various stages in the development of a fire before they went in to extinguish it. Clearly observed was what firefighters call "flashover," a phenomena that occurs when a room overheats to the point that it suddenly bursts into flames.

The fire fighting drill was started at about 10 a.m Saturday and the last of the China Lake fire fighters returned to the main station at around 6:30 p.m. During the day, the first crew of China Lake fire fighters was relieved by a second one to give more fire fighters the experience of battling this kind of a fire.

A fire hydrant about 900 ft. away from the old building that was targeted for destruction was the source of water used to fight the fires. Kern County fire fighters ran a 4 in. hose from the hydrant to one fire engine that served as a backup unit for the operation. Hoses connected to it by both China Lake and Ridgecrest fire fighting units were then used to spread water for battling the blaze.



**EXTERIOR ATTACK ON FIRE** — The smoldering roof signals the likelihood that it could burst into flames at any time. For this reason, fire suppression efforts are carried on from outside by directing a stream of water through a window.

# Seabee of Year honor goes to CM2 Morrison

More than 120 Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) officers, Seabee Reserves and guests attended the anniversary ball held last Saturday at the VFW Hall in Ridgecrest to commemorate the 114th and 39th birthdays of the CEC and Seabees, respectively.

Among highlights of the evening was the presentation to CM2 Jerry L. Morrison of the "Seabee of the Year" award for 1980 by EO1 Cy Ebersberger, USNR-R, officer-in-charge of Reserve Mobile Construction Battalion 17's Detachment 0217 at China Lake.

The Seabee of the Year Award is given annually to a member of the local Seabee Reserve Detachment who demonstrates a superior quality of leadership and professional competence, as well as a continuing and enthusiastic support of the Naval Reserve Program.

CM2 Morrison received a plaque and a letter of commendation signed by EO1 Ebersberger for being selected as the Seabee of the Year.

In the letter of commendation, CM2 Morrison, who has been a Seabee Reservist for 10 years, was cited for the work he has performed during the past year in the capacity of public affairs representative for Detachment 0217, Delta Company, and RMCB 17.

In the letter of commendation, it was noted that CM2 Morrison's talents as a

## Plans being made for 2nd annual IWV Health Fair April 11

Plans are well underway for the second annual Indian Wells Valley Health Fair, which will be held on the afternoon of Saturday, April 11, at the Senior Citizens' Building, 120 S. Warner St., Ridgecrest.

Preparations for this event are being coordinated by Dan Banks, an electronics mechanic in the NWC Fuze and Sensors Department's Design and Fabrication Branch.

Banks has lined up the help of the Ridgecrest Kiwanis Club and the Indian Wells Valley Lions Club in setting up and later moving out tables that will be used as display booths by organizations participating in the Health Fair.

In addition, members of the Junior Women's Club will welcome and provide a luncheon for representatives of some health agencies from the Bakersfield area, who are coming here to participate in the Health Fair as a way of showing their appreciation for the support they receive each year from the Combined Federal Campaign at NWC.

The Health Fair, which is to run from 12 noon to 4 p.m. on April 11, will feature demonstrations and films. In addition, groups taking part in this activity will have a wide range of information on health care problems and services that will be available for distribution to all interested persons.

Demonstrations of cardiopulmonary resuscitation, blood pressure screening, blood-sugar tests (fasting for 2 hours prior to the test is mandatory), and demonstrations of equipment used to aid those with impaired hearing, as well as the showing of films are just a few of the activities planned during the Health Fair.

Participants from the local area will include the Ridgecrest Community Hospital, NWC's Employee Assistance Program, Tri-County Ambulance, the Ridgecrest Nutrition Program, the Action Committee for Extended Care, and the local chapter of the California Association of the Physically Handicapped.

National Health Agencies represented by units from the Bakersfield area that will have booths set up and informational material to distribute are the Arthritis Foundation, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, the Society for the Prevention of Blindness, United Cerebral Palsy, Multiple Sclerosis Society, American Cancer Society, Mental Health Association, Easter Seals, and the National Association for Retarded Citizens.



**SEABEE OF YEAR** — CM2 Jerry L. Morrison, singled out for recognition as "Seabee of the Year" during the annual Civil Engineer Corps-Seabee Ball, is congratulated by EO1 Cy Ebersberger, USNR-R (at right), officer-in-charge of Reserve Mobile Construction Battalion 17's Detachment 0217 at China Lake.

photographer, scriptwriter and film slide producer resulted in the production of a narrated, automated film slide presentation on training accomplishments by Delta Company. This presentation covered all aspects of a training cycle, with primary emphasis on firing range activities.

The presentation that CM2 Morrison helped to develop, it was added, has proved to be helpful to RMCB 17 and to Detachment 0217 for recruiting new personnel, the retention of personnel and for community relations. In addition, it was put to good use to augment the "welcome aboard" presentation that is used by RMCB 17 during periods of active duty for training.

EO1 Ebersberger went on to say that CM2 Morrison's superior performance of duties is typical of the outstanding group of petty officers affiliated with Detachment 0217 of RMCB 17.

Capt. Jon R. Ives, NWC Public Works Officer, presided over the festivities as "King Bee," and master of ceremonies for the evening was Vet Payne, the NWC Public Affairs Officer.

As a part of his duties, Payne read a letter congratulating the Seabees on their birthday that was received from Rear Admiral William Zobel, CEC, USN, Chief of Civil Engineers for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command in Alexandria, Va.

During 1980, RAdm. Zobel wrote, the Seabees provided Fleet support and responded rapidly and effectively to emergency situations around the world. Mentioned specifically were aid and comfort given to earthquake victims in Algeria, assistance following a typhoon that struck the Island of Saipan, and help provided to flood victims at Point Mugu, Calif.

"You succeeded in building a 5,000-man refugee camp in 30 days to shelter homeless refugees from Cuba, and continued your

outstanding efforts in Diego Garcia and other deployment sites.

"Once again," RAdm. Zobel wrote, "you 'have done' with your traditional 'can do' spirit that has flourished and grown for nearly four decades."

A large birthday cake, baked especially for the occasion by the Ridgecrest Bake Shop, was cut by Capt. Ives, who was joined by EO1 Ebersberger. First to be served a slice of the cake were the oldest and youngest Seabees in attendance at the anniversary affair. They were BU2 Harold Schneider and SW3 Greg Reed, respectively.

The gala evening was topped off by listening and dancing to the tunes of a local musical group called "Sunshine."

Table decorations included arrangements of fresh flowers donated by Hazel Barber, a plant account technician in the Office of Finance and Management. Door prizes that were given away included 10 bottles of champagne; a sugar-cured ham donated by BU1 Bob Burkhart, who operates the Onyx Store; and a two-day overnight stay at the Jordan Hot Springs Lodge in Kennedy Meadows.

## Talk on women's rights slated at F.E.W. meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of Federally Employed Women will be a brown bag luncheon that will take place at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 9, in the Community Centers' Cactus Hall. The public is invited to attend.

Belle Herve, NWC Federal Women's Program Manager, will be the featured speaker. She will present a brief history of women's positions in America and their struggle for equal rights, discuss myths about what the Equal Rights Amendment will and will not do, and answer questions from the audience.

## Police reports . . .

China Lake police last Friday received a report that a government-owned camera is missing from its customary storage place in Michelson Laboratory. The camera, which is equipped with a zoom lens, is valued at \$500.

**MARINE'S WALLET DISAPPEARS**  
A wallet containing between \$120 and \$150 was stolen late last Friday afternoon from an unlocked locker in old Barracks 880. Victim of the theft was a member of the 1st Marine Division band from Camp Pendleton, who had been here to participate in the VX-5 change of command ceremony. The wallet, which was taken while its owner was eating dinner at the Enlisted Dining Facility, was found later in a trash can, but the money it had contained was gone.

**MONEY POUCH MISSING**  
A pouch containing \$190, which had been dropped by the bar tender at closing time around 2 a.m. Saturday into the safe at the Enlisted Mess, turned up missing when the safe was checked at the time the EM was reported for business later in the day on Saturday. There was no evidence of forced entry into the safe.

**HOME BURGLARIZED**  
A burglary over the past weekend at a residence in the Capehart A housing area resulted in the disappearance of a ring valued at \$750. There was no evidence of forced entry.

**ANOTHER BIKE GONE**  
A bicycle valued at \$80 was reported stolen Sunday afternoon by a resident in the Capehart B housing area. The bicycle, which had been left unlocked near the front door of the residence, was taken while its owner was eating dinner.

**VANDALISM AT EM**  
An act of vandalism occurred early Sunday evening at the Enlisted Mess, where an ash tray receptacle was thrown against the front door glass. Estimated cost to repair the broken glass is \$50.

**CYCLE HELMET STOLEN**  
Theft of a motorcycle helmet from an unlocked luggage compartment on the motorcycle was reported at around noon-time Saturday. The motorcycle had been parked at Schoeffel field when the helmet, valued at \$90, was stolen.

**THIEVES HIT RESIDENCES**  
Two occupied residences at China Lake last week were the targets of thieves who, in one instance removed a back screen door valued at \$100, and in the other took a kitchen window screen worth \$15.

**SWIM TRUNKS SWIPED**  
Theft of a pair of swimming trunks that had been placed inside a bag left in a locker at the Center gym was reported last week to China Lake police. Value of the swimming trunks was set at \$18.

**VALUABLE PEN TAKEN**  
A petty theft incident was reported Tuesday by an NWC employee who returned from travel to find that a 24 karat gold fountain pen, valued at \$72, was missing from his desk. The theft occurred in the Warhead Building.

