



NWC RECEIVES SAFETY AWARD — Gera Thomas, manager of the Ridgcrest service office of the Automobile Club of Southern California, presents the American Automobile Association's pedestrian safety award to Capt. K. A. Dickerson, NWC Commander, in a ceremony on Dec. 21 during the first DUI Alert open forum held at the Center theater. This award was in recognition of the excellent record NWC has achieved in the area of pedestrian fatalities (none for the 26th consecutive year) and no pedestrian injuries (for the third consecutive year). Nationally the average is two pedestrian deaths and 33 pedestrian injuries per 100,000 residents during 1982. This record placed the Center in the top bracket of cities having a comparable population size.

Public invited to participate in alcohol/substance abuse meeting

A town hall-type meeting aimed at arousing community interest in the need for combating alcoholism (or other substance abuse) in Ridgcrest will be held on Tuesday, starting at 7:30 p.m. in the Heritage Village clubhouse.

All interested persons are invited to attend in order to learn about the causes and effects of alcoholism in the local area, community programs that might offer an alternative to drinking as a social and recreational activity, and resources that are available to help those already affected by alcoholism.

The "Ridgcrest Roundtable on Navy Tenants' Community Council seeks members

Any occupant of Navy housing — military or civilian — interested in serving as a member of the Tenants' Community Council is asked to telephone Sybil Cope in the Housing Office, at 3411, ext. 330.

Volunteers are needed to serve as officers of the group, which will receive full administrative support from the Housing Division.

"Alcoholism" is sponsored by the Daily Independent Newspaper and the Council on Alcohol Awareness. Data gathered from a questionnaire on alcoholism published in the Jan. 9 issue of the Daily Independent will provide a starting point for discussions Tuesday night on the major needs identified in this survey.

Panelists who will open the evening's program by discussing the problem of alcoholism from their points of view are Larry Brunson, Ridgcrest Chief of Police; Nancy Swallow, Council on Alcohol Awareness; Bob Hammond, of the Kern County Probation Department; and the Rev. Edgar Parrott, a chaplain and counselor at the Kernview Hospital in Bakersfield; and a local high school or college student.

NEX reduces prices on eyeglass frames, selected merchandise

Lucky patrons of the Navy Exchange can take advantage of a special "Friday the Thirteenth" sale today. Selected merchandise throughout the store will be offered at reduced prices, with some items as low as 13 cents.

In addition, a 40 percent off pre-inventory sale on eyeglass frames will be held Monday through Saturday. The sale prices apply only to frames presently in stock. The NEX is open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. every day except Sunday.

Center Library features books to aid enjoyment of leisure time

January is National Hobby Month, and the Center Library would like to remind readers that the library has many books to enhance the hobbyists' favorite pastime.

For those who enjoy needlework, the library's shelves contain many volumes on crocheting, knitting, weaving, tatting, macrame, quilting, embroidery and hooking rugs. These books give instructions for the basic stitches, designing your own items, and care of the finished product.

Model makers will find information on building trains, automobiles, airplanes and ships. There are books on radio controlled models, and instructions for animated scale models.

Collectors will find materials on stamps,

Military Officers' Wives Club to hold Creative Auction

The Military Officers' Wives Club will host its fourth annual Creative Auction dinner on the evening of Jan. 27 at the Commissioned Officers' Mess.

Prior to the auction, there will be a social hour (starting at 4:30 p.m.), followed by a taco buffet dinner that will be served from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Cost of the dinner is \$3 per person.

After dinner, auctioneers Deen Poe and Buz Massengale will start the bidding for any items or services donated by those in attendance.

In the past, there has been bidding on such items as a dinner at the donors' home, a sailboat cruise to Santa Catalina Island, or whatever the creative imagination can dream up.

The dinner and auction is open to the public, but dinner reservations must be made no later than Jan. 25 by calling the COM, phone 446-2549.

Ice cream parlor moved to snack bar in Bennington Plaza

The Desert Freeze ice cream parlor has been moved to the Plaza Snack Bar in Bennington Plaza.

Ice cream lovers can now purchase their favorite treats, along with the regular food and drink items at the Snack Bar. Beginning on Jan. 16, hours of operation at the Snack Bar will be extended to 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Tomorrow and every Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., sundaes on Saturdays will be offered at a special price of 99 cents.

Snack bar hours changed
Beginning tomorrow, the Aerodome Snack Bar at Armitage Field will be closed on Saturdays.

On weekdays, the Snack Bar will maintain its usual hours of operation: Monday through Thursday, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

postcards, coins, antiques of all kinds, dolls, books, and automobiles.

Those who enjoy woodworking will find books on simple wood projects all the way up to fine furniture.

Artists will find instruction manuals on watercolor, oil and acrylic painting. Information on drawing or painting human figures, landscapes, marine scenes, animals, still life and plants also is included in the large collection of art books.

Other fields of interest to the hobbyist are gardening, cooking, sewing, writing, ceramics, sculpture, interior design, photography and music.

The Center Library's collection covers a great diversity of hobby information, and hobbyists are invited to visit the library and delve into the riches to be found on the shelves.

—By Elizabeth Shantler
Center librarian

CLOTA schedules awards banquet on Jan. 28 at CPO Club

Plans have been announced for the annual awards banquet held by the Community Light Opera and Theatre Association (CLOTA), which this year will be held on the evening of Saturday, Jan. 28, at the Chief Petty Officers' Club.

This event is being planned to honor actors, actresses and backstage workers who have been selected for their outstanding achievements during CLOTA's 1983 season.

In addition, announcement will be made of the judges' choice of the best production of the year, and the coveted Jane Bugay Award will be presented to an individual who has shown strong support and dedication to CLOTA over the years.

The evening will begin with a no-host social hour at 6 o'clock, followed by a turkey and beef buffet-style dinner at 7.

Following the award presentations, the evening will be rounded out by dancing and listening to the music of "Sunlight," a popular local band, from 9 o'clock until midnight.

Tickets, priced at \$11 per person, can be obtained in Ridgcrest at The Booklet and from Farris' Restaurant, or ordered by calling Suzanne Koerschner (446-3964 evenings) or Vivian Childers (375-8745). The deadline for making reservations is Saturday, Jan. 14.

Winners announced in Christmas home decoration contest

Although the Yard-of-the-Month program does not carry through the winter, the Housing Division sponsored a Christmas decorating contest in December for residents of Center housing. Winners were selected on the basis of exterior decorations that passers-by and neighbors could enjoy.

The prizes for having the best decorations brought a pair of free steak dinners at the Enlisted Mess, the Chief Petty Officers' Club or the Commissioned Officers' Mess.

The winners were Thomas J. Ruane, for "Hill" housing; Edward Murray, Old Duplexes; and Edward C. Ratto and Michael J. Murray, who shared the award for Capehart "B" housing.

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Weekend Roundup

Tonight, following a dinner featuring entrees of prime rib of beef or Icelandic cod, the Chief Petty Officers' Club will be sparked by the contemporary music of "TNT." Dinner will be served from 6 to 8:30 p.m. with dancing until 12:30 a.m. In addition, the CPO Club will be featuring a seafood platter dinner special on Saturday from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

A local country-western band, "Rambling Fever," will provide musical entertainment tonight at the Enlisted Mess. The music and dancing will start at 9 p.m., following a seafood plate dinner, served from 6 to 9 o'clock. The music by "Rambling Fever" will continue until 1:30 a.m.

The Commissioned Officers' Mess will host its first Membership Night of 1984 this evening. A buffet dinner, featuring chicken a la Kiev, will be served from 6 to 9 p.m., followed by dancing to the music of "Sunlight," a popular local band, which will begin playing at 8 o'clock.

Tickets for this dinner and dance must be presented at the door. The bar will be closed to the general public.



NAVAL WEAPONS CENTER
CHINA LAKE
CALIFORNIA

Helium kite balloon is available for meeting variety of test needs on ranges

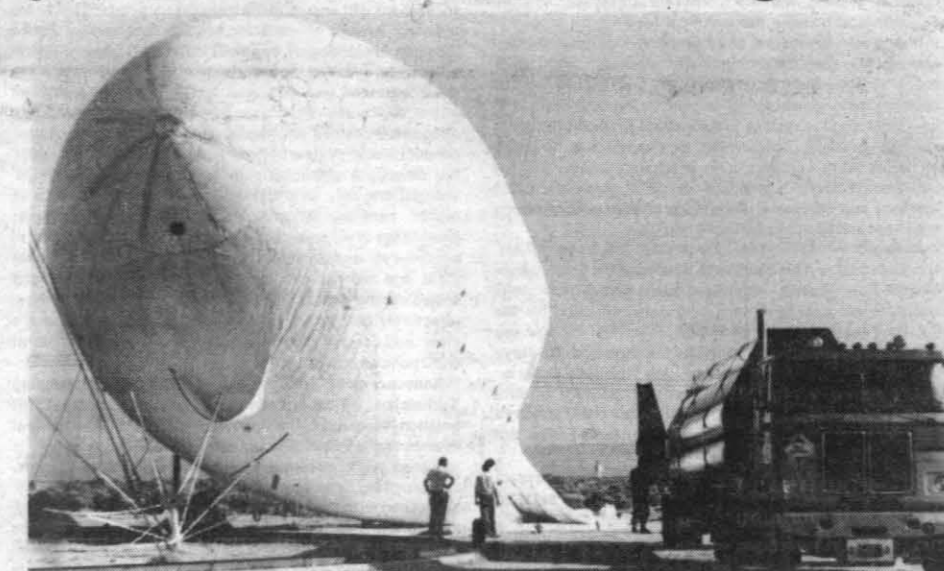
The sight of the Center's helium kite balloon bobbing over the ranges indicates that another test series is underway for which its special capabilities are needed. The balloon has been inflated and is being used currently for tests on the TPS-59 Marine Corps radar system.

The system is being tested against two kinds of missiles: Shrike and generic ARM (antiradiation missile). The Shrike tests are completed; the system in the gondola of the helium kite balloon had to be changed so that the other tests could be conducted. The second test series is underway in an aircraft because of weather damage to the balloon.

The advantage of the helium kite balloon is that it provides a stable platform for testing of seekers and other weapon components. It can actually be kept to within 20 to 40 feet of the desired location during tests, and can be tethered at altitudes up to 2,500 feet above ground level.

The helium kite balloon can be used for tests in considerably stronger winds than a tethered hot air balloon: the helium kite balloon is operable for tests when the wind blows up to 40 knots, while any hot air balloon will ground when the wind over 8 knots will ground the tethered hot air balloon.

Once the balloon is filled with helium for use during a test series, it is moved from its mooring mast daily to the test site. Generally, tests are conducted at sites about a mile from the area where the balloon is



NEARLY FULL — Helium is filling the giant envelope of the kite balloon. A relatively windless day (and time of day) must be chosen to complete this operation.

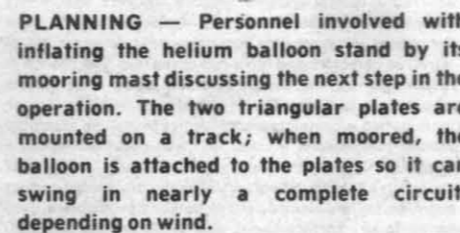
moored.

For this particular test series, however, the balloon has had to be tethered at altitude because some damage was sustained by the nose of the balloon when it was caught in a thermal. The damage will not affect its capability for the current test series.

The balloon is filled only when a test series is planned because of the cost of the helium and the number of man-hours required for such an operation. Because

NWC is an industrial user of helium, the cost for the helium currently runs about \$7,000. Each time that the balloon is filled, roughly 100-man-hours of intensive labor are required.

The current test series will mark the first time that the Center's new helium kite balloon is being used. Its predecessor had reached the end of its service life after about six years, and was recently replaced with this new balloon.



PLANNING — Personnel involved with inflating the helium balloon stand by its mooring mast discussing the next step in the operation. The two triangular plates are mounted on a track; when moored, the balloon is attached to the plates so it can swing in nearly a complete circle, depending on wind.

Director of Navy Laboratories post goes to Gary Morton

Gary W. Morton has been selected as Director of Navy Laboratories, replacing Bob Hillyer, who is now Technical Director at the Naval Ocean Systems Center, San Diego.

Morton will take over his new responsibilities on Feb. 6. Currently he is Technical Director of the Naval Training Equipment Center, Orlando, Fla., a position that he has held since April 1982.

He began his federal career in 1962 when he joined the Federal Aviation Administration as a communications/radar systems engineer, and began his work with the Navy in 1965 as a logistics support engineer at what was then the Naval Training Device Center and is now the Naval Training Equipment Center.

After a two-year interruption of his government service from 1968 to 1970 when he was employed by Goodyear Aerospace Corp. in Akron, Ohio, Morton became Deputy Naval Training Device Center

(Continued on Page 4)

Keep umbrellas handy, weather forecaster advises

Don't put away that overcoat and keep umbrellas handy, says John Gibson, forecaster for the Naval Oceanography Command Detachment at China Lake.

Despite the beautiful weather here since the start of the new year, winter is not yet over, he warns, reminding local residents that the same sort of weather was present last January before the skies opened up and brought both rain and a touch of snow to the Indian Wells Valley.

Gibson notes that with all the storm systems showing around the globe, some of these will undoubtedly move to this part of the state before long. He expects rain locally and a lot of snow in the mountains before spring arrives in late March.

Precipitation locally last year totalled 10.53 inches, making it the second wettest year since records have been kept. Wettest year was 1978, when 11.36 inches of precipitation dribbled on residents of the Indian Wells Valley.

Fire in Machine Shop causes extensive damage

A fire, believed to have originated in the Printed Wiring Board Shop (Rm. 140-K) in the Michelson Laboratory Machine Shop complex, caused extensive damage during the early morning hours of Monday, Jan. 9.

Fire fighters at Station No. 1 were called at 1:07 a.m. Monday by a Pan-Am security guard who saw smoke.

Three minutes later, two 750 gallon-per-minute pumper trucks and an ambulance reached the scene to find that dense, black smoke from what was described later as "an extremely hot chemical fire" clogged the high-ceiling machine shop from the highest point in the shop to a few feet above

the level of the floor. Fire fighters, under the direction of Assistant Fire Chief Fred Whitnack, slipped on their self-contained breathing apparatus and set about searching for the source of the fire.

The blaze, which was restricted to its point of origin in the Printed Wiring Board Shop, was nearly extinguished by 2:04 a.m. and was finally knocked out at 2:15 a.m., according to Deputy Fire Chief Darrell Johnson, who arrived at Michelson Lab at around 2 a.m.

After that, it was a matter of clearing the smoke from the building — a job that

required nearly three hours, permitting the last piece of fire fighting equipment to leave shortly after 5 a.m.

Eight firefighters from the two pumper (Continued on Page 3)

No pay raise for those in 'special salary' category

Although the majority of personnel at China Lake will receive a slightly larger check because of the 3.5 percent pay raise agreed upon by Congress and the Reagan Administration, this raise does not affect any employees who fall under "special salary rates" controlled by the Office of Personnel Management.

Locally, this group includes those who are DP-1 or DP-2 under the Civil Service Reform Act Demonstration Project and China Lake police.

Scientific and technical personnel who elsewhere are at GS-5, -7, -9, or -11 grades and here are DP-1 or DP-2 are awaiting further action for the third year in a row. The first year that their raise was delayed, they received a raise four months later. Last year, the raise was delayed only a few weeks and was made retroactive.

Eva Bien, the Center's Civilian Personnel Officers, is in Washington this week trying to get further clarification about when or whether this group will receive a raise, and, if it does, what the raise will be. (Special salary rates are used as a recruitment device, which is why they are considered separately.)

For the second year in a row, China Lake police in grades GS-3 through GS-6 are not included in the general salary adjustment.

The increase that was due to wage grade personnel last November will become effective as of Feb. 19. It will not be retroactive.



FOCUS OF ATTENTION — Efforts of those investigating the possible cause of the early Monday morning fire in the Michelson Laboratory Machine Shop complex is being concentrated on this room that housed equipment and chemicals used for tin/lead and copper plating of printed wiring boards. The fire door in center of photo served its function of keeping the blaze from spreading.

—Photo by Gerry Boylan

Handwritten notes: 2/15/84

