Thursday, July 9, 1953

Section Two WSPG Anniversary Edition Thursday, July 9, 1953

AR-63-12

'The Miracle of the Tularosa Basin'

WSPG Has Colorful, Fast-Developing History

By EVE E. SIMMONS Post Historian

TULAROSA BASIN."

The legend began back in June, 1945, when Lt. Col. Harold R.

serve only as a temporary testing for July 4, 1945.

Solution Support serve only as a temporary testing for July 4, 1945. The history of White Sands and importance increased until Forces, authorized the installation the capture of the German V-2 much of the post's activities were noted on Nov. 6, when four men Germans shopping for clothing in Proving Ground might aptly be September 16, 1948, when it was via ASF Circular 269, 13 July rockets. Arrangements were concerned with the initial arrival of the 1st G. M. Bn. were placed Las Cruces. entitled "THE MIRACLE OF THE re-classified as a Class II Ord- 1945, effective as of 9 July, as a quickly made to transport the of necessary technical equipment on TDY at Las Cruces "to guard" nance installation.

Now Valuable Facility

Turner, now retired, accompanied buildings, many transported from mand Unit, ASF, was activated WSPG. a group of specially selected of-ficers and civilians, representing assembled here, the Proving SCU, effective 1 Sept. 1945. It WAC Corporal, was fired at the William Holmes, 9393rd TSU, was the War Department and Corps Ground has grown to be a self- was attached to the 1852nd SCU, Proving Ground. Six similar mis- making personal delivery of "notof Engineers, to the Tularosa sufficient facility comprising an Fort Bliss, for administration and siles were fired within the next ices to vacate" to landowners in ment for the missile program was already landing planes at Con-Basin. There Colonel Turner, later estimated value in excess of 43 supply.

roving Ground."

of necessary buildings, roads, etc., When activated, White Sands for the original Proving Ground.

of necessary buildings, roads, etc., dusted at WSPG by the Chief of nance activities of the Army and Post Exchange were transported to the present time follows:

— 1946 —

placed his foot at a given spot and C. Crook, CE, submitted a memo 69th Anti-Aircraft Battalion, was larger type missiles. declared: "Here we will build the to the District Engineer, Albu- assigned on Aug. 10, 1945, to asheadquarters of White Sands querque, N.M., covering a review sist in guided missile work con-

Class IV activity under the con- rockets from Nordhausen, Ger- and housing materials, coal, lum- captured railway equipment." On trol of the Chief of Ordnance. At many, to Las Cruces and over the ber and freight, the latter con- Nov. 23, enlisted men were as-From a handful of temporary the same time, the Service Com- San Augustin Pass, via truck, to sisting largely of research equip- signed to "guard a German V-2 chairman.

60 days and modification of ori- the area who would be affected to be the first commanding officer of the Proving Ground. firmly On June 12. 1945, Maj. Richard Personnel from "C" Battery" the firing of the V-2 and other of the V-2 and other of the Proving Ground.

Naval Facilities Built The ·1st G.M. Battalion, AGF, and Oscura, N.M.

Proving Ground was meant to Construction was then scheduled Actual construction began on construction of Naval facilities from Fort Bliss Oct. 25, 1945.

conducted at WSPG. The area in- Biggs Field to bring back bombs. cluded Alamogordo. Three Rivers

on the railway siding at Las Cru-

The first equipment for the Post Engineers and testing equiptransported on 13 Dec. 1945, from dron Field. Hobbs, N.M., and on 10 Jan. 1946, 9393rd TSU men were sent to A brief review of other highlights in the post's history up to

Additional German personnel

The first WSPG Planning Board was established Aug. 6, 1946. Lt. Col. Harold R. Turner was named

A written request was made in August, 1946, for "Liaison Aircraft and Assignment of Pilot Personnel." Douglas Aircraft was

Colonel Turner made a request Nov. 14 for a Forecasting Unit to be added to the Rawinsonde Unit already on the post.

1st Lt. Robert Updegrove arrived to be assigned as Post Surgeon Nov. 27, 1946 and Medical Services for WSPG were inaugurated at Headquarters, Fort

Chapel equipment was obtained from Tulsa, Okla., and Columbus, Ohio, during October, 1946.

The 4119th Army Service Unit Medical Detachment was activated by General Order No. 4, Ordnance Headquarters, and authorization was sought for construction of a chapel and photographic laboratory.

— 1947 —

Brig. Gen. Philip G. Blackmore assumed command of the Proving Ground on Aug. 4, 1947, and Lt. Col. Harold R. Turner was assigned as Executive Officer.

The Suggestions Committee was organized June 30, 1947, with Lt. Col. H. L. Karsch as chairman. Wayne Roemersberger was a member of the committee.

Government-owned buses to transport personnel from El Paso, Alamogordo, and Las Cruces, was authorized by regulation early in

— 1948 —

The highlight of the 1948 records was General Order No. 59, authorizing the redesignation of WSPG as a Class II activity effective September 8.

(Continued on Page 2)

White Sands, but at Camp Irwin,

near Barstow, Calif., 16th December, 1944. In all, 24 rockets

were fired with an average range

The first firing tests of the Cor-

poral were at White Sands, be-

tween 26th September and 25th

October, 1945. The first missile

fired reached an approximate al-

V-2 Program Begins

had been fired early in 1946, of-

ficials were ready for the V-2

program. The Ordnance Depart-

ment was to do the actual firing

to gain experience in the handl-

ing of the huge missiles. Various

scientific institutions were to

furnish instruments to be carried,

as well as government agencies.

and the whole was coordinated

by the Naval Research Labora-

tory which also issued later re-

Actually the British had fired

two V-2 missiles some time ear-

lier. The firings were accomplish-

ed by German crews under Brit-

ish supervision. They were simply

repetitions of wartime operation-

The first firing, over the Bal-

tic Sea, took place on October 15.

1945, but one of the rockets put

together from captured enemy

parts balked, so only one was fir-

After several more "Corporals"

of 18,000 yards.

titude of 47 miles.

ports.

al firings.

Col. G. G. Eddy was named



PICTURE OF POST'S GROWTH-A partial idea of the way White Sands Proving Ground has grown can be obtained from these two pictures. The one on the left, showing the original temporary buildings constructed in the summer of 1945, was

-U. S. Army Photo

taken in May 1946. The one on the right was taken more than six years later from approximately the same place and facing in the same direction (looking due north over Headquarters Building toward Gate No. 1 along the main Highway 70 Access Road). All of the main base at that time was shown in the first

picture. The second one shows only a portion of the present main base, through necessity excluding the Technical Area, the Navy Area, the missile launching area and the Army, Navy and Wherry housing areas.

By M/Sgt. E. M. Huston

It is the opinion of many persons that rockets and similar missiles are the product of the Twentieth Century and are a distinct innovation of our modern generation. This conception is very definitely incorrect.

The first recorded use of rocket power occurred seven centuries ago when Ogdai, the son Ghengis Khan, employed two weapons which were described by historians of that time as "heaven shaking thunder" and "arrow of flying fire."

Descriptions of these devices indicate that one was an explosive bomb and the other a rocket -or at least the ancestor of all off. rockets. It is not definitely known if the weapons, and the powder which powered them, were invented by the Chinese but evidence indicates that this was so.

'Chinese Arrows'

There seems to be some evidence that gunpowder was known to the ancient Byzantine Greeks, and rockets as well. It is known that eight years after the first reported use of these "terrifying" instruments, an Arabian writer wrote a book in which he gave a complete description of saltpeter, the oxygen-producing ingredient of gunpowder and rocket powder. He termed it "snow from China."

About 1280, or approximately 48 years after his countryman quite similar to our modern gunwrote his theories on the "Chinese snow," another Arab pro- gunpowder age came into being. New Overtime Ruling for mixing gunpowder, and directions for making rockets. The latter he referred to as "Chinese arrows.

Introduced to Europe

Rockets soon became more-or-

ally crude and it is believed that the powder-filled arrows were made during the British camlaunched from bows in the con- paigns in India in 1799. The In- tive immediately.

have originated when some surprised bowman noticed his arrow turn in mid air and come hissing of this type should have given the hapless archer a glimmer of an idea. This revelation supdiscarding their bows as launchunder their own power.

First Attempt at Flight Another tale from those an-

cient times concerns a venerable mandarin, one Wan-Hu, who allegedly made the first attempt at a human engineered rocket take-Sometime around the year

rockets to a sedan chair. The kites were sent aloft and the daring Oriental fastened himself in the chair shouting the Chinese version of "let her go, boys" to 47 coolies stationed at the rockets with blazing torches. The servants applied the flames and the rockets promptly exploded. Needless to say, the dauntless mandarin departed very abruptly and was never seen again—at least by mortal man.

Europeans were enlightened on the proper method of mixing gunpowder by Roger Bacon around 1250. His mixture was powder formulas and the true duced a book containing recipes Thereafter, rockets were widely used in warfare and by the year 1500 virtually all of the "modern" forms of dry fuel rockets had been developed.

Used at Ft. McHenry

Rockets and their usage really less standard weapons of war hit an all-time high for that time throughout the East and Middle early in the nineteenth century. East. In 1240 a European writer All familiar with the words to produced a book on fireworks our National Anthem will recall and combustibles, clearly indicat- the line, "and the rocket's red ing that explosives had been introduced into Europe from the air. . "These words pertain to

for personnel in excess of eight hours per day until 40 hours have the bombardment of Ft. McHenry The earlier rockets were natur- by the British, firing war rockets. been worked in the basic work Widespread use of rockets was

were iron tubes, weighing six to towards him. At least an incident by long bamboo poles. The stories reached London on the employliam Congreve, a young law stuposedly ended in the warriors dent, became extremely inter- rockets with their wooden tails. ested. He started experimentaers and dispatching the missiles tion on rockets about 1804 and his first products had a range of approximately 600 yards, which was later increased to about 2.000

Rockets Burn Capital

These rockets were later used by the British in their campaigns rifled gun. against the French in 1805, but perhaps the most effective use oc-1500, it is reputed that Wan-Hu cured later in 1807 when the secured two large kites and 47 English besieged Copenhagen. They fired between 25,000 and 40,000 missiles. A large area of city was set afire and burned to the ground.

Later the British formed regular rocket brigades and provided proximately 15,000 lives. In the their missiles with bursting charges, including both incindiary and fragmentation pellets. The burning of our capital at lete Washington by the British in the war of 1812 is attributed to the effective use of Congreve's rock-

The rocket itself weighed from missiles were manufactured of search is not known. However, he air, guided jet propelled missiles Firing tests of the first "Pri-

For W. B. Employees

Officers of Civilian Personnel

ler General's Office, revealed that

authorization will not be given

The new ruling became effec-

ventional manner at first. Rockets dians employed as high as 1,200 steel and were fired from launch-odid inform friends in 1908 that he used operationally during the vates" was not carried on at traveling "on their own" may rocket throwers which proved to ing tubes or racks resembling a was carrying on static tests with war. be highly effective. Their rockets ladder. Congreve's rockets were very inaccurate due to the fact twelve pounds, and were guided that he had been unable to improve on the "guide stick" principal, many of his sticks being ment of these missiles and Wil- fifteen feet long, much in the manner of our fireworks display

Guidance Improved

Guidance was finally improved by William Hale in 1850, by the installation of three small curved vanes in the propulsion stream which caused the rocket to spin rapidly in flight in much the same manner as a bullet from a

Rockets were also employed not to destroy, but to save lives, following the perfection of a line carrying rocket. This missile could be fired over a floundered ship providing a line allowing the the shore. In 1855, lifesaving rocmeantime, rifling had so much improved artillery weapons that by 1900 war rockets were obso-

Goddard Renews Testing

small rockets in the basement of Worcester Tech, the school he

was attending at the time. Goddard was the first to definitely set down the laws governing rocket propulsion in mathematical form. He conducted countless experiments with powder rockets at Roswell, N. M., and in 1926 fired the first successful liquid fuel rocket. The doctor conducted numerous other tests with small liquid filled rockets and concentrated upon finding some method of stabilizing the

rocket in flight. 'Father of Rocketry'

Dr. Goddard worked on the applications and principles of research motors during World War II and made many valuable contributions in this particular field. He is truly called the "Father of passengers to reach the safety of Modern Rocketry." Following the war he continued in his research kets were credited with saving on high altitude rockets until his death in August 1945.

The Germans far outshone any during the last World War. In different anti-aircraft missiles at ket research after Congreve's man rocket and guided missile final experimentation, but it was research and development prolater renewed by Dr. Robert Hut- ject. Their developments, the V-1 from 2,500 to 3,000 yards. The erican. The date he began his re- surface to surface, or surface to Sands.

Components Brought Here

At the end of the war the Nazis were speeding against time to produce a surface to air guided missile capable of combatting Allied bombers. They were concerned with bomber speeds of 500 miles per hour and altitudes up to 50,000 feet. It is an established fact that the Germans would have met with success in their attempt if the war had not suddenly come to an end. They did, however, give us-although unwillingly-many valuable bits of information and material to work

In July 1945, 300 freight cars loaded with German V-2 components were sent to White Sands Proving Ground, and a test stand for a whole V-2 rocket was built.

American Rocket First

However, the first rocket to be fired at the Proving Ground was not a V-2 rocket as many believe. An American rocket was fired other nation on rocket research approximately six months before the first V-2 shoot. It is interest-1943 they were working on 48 ing to note that early missiles of American design were named There was a decided lull in roc- Peenemunde, center of the Ger- Privates. Evidently worthy of promotion, these rockets were raised in grade to Corporals, i. e. the Wac Corporal, which gained 13 to 42 pounds and had a range chings Goddard, a young Am- and V-2 rockets, were the only an excellent reputation at White

Project Engineers, Public Works Employ Five-Year Workers

Mrs. Mary (Woolridge) Mc-Daniel heads the list of "firstcomers" for the Project Engineers Branch.

Others in the unit who have more than five years' service are R. B. (Chief) Osborne and 1st Lt. Ross Pettijohn.

Women employees of the Public Works Department head the long-time list with Mrs. Martina G. Guerra and Miss Bell Thompson rating honors.

ed that day. Fumes Kill Worker The one designated to fire first

developed a leak and one of the Germans crawled into the motor through the exhaust nozzle to repair the damage. However, enough of the alcholic fumes had escaped to, as a British officer aplty put it, "do the blighter in." But that rocket performed in the expected manner a few days later -sans the deceased worker, of course.

At White Sands there was some difficulty with the assembly of components which had been collected from various factories and storage sites throughout Germany. However, the first shoot" of a V-2 took place at the Proving Ground on April 16, 1946, and a new American rocket

30 Get Promotions To Sfc., Sgt., Cpl.

porals received promotions which ston, Ronald L. Hall. became effective June 29.

Branch, WSPG, this week an-Promoted to sergeants first nounced a new ruling with reclass were Guy W. Huey, Det. 1, gard to overtime rates for hours 9393rd TSU, and George Lazur, worked by Wage Board person-138th. Ord. Co. Norman L. Hansen, Det. 1, was promoted to The ruling, from the Comptrolgrade of sergeant.

Detachment 2 rated a pair of new corporals, John T. McGiver- John W. Weingaertner. an and John Skellchock.

New corporals in Det. 1 are John D. Bruton Jr., Richard E. Coffman, Floyd E. Curfman, Lloyd C. Dansby Jr., Steven E. Denmon, Peter B. Dupre, Vincent | map.

A trio of sergeants and 27 cor- D. Enright Jr., Howard L. Gold-

Lester Harrell, John W. Harrigan Jr., Jack E. Henrich, Lawrence R. Keeley, Dennis B. Larson, David P. Martin, Robert A. Mellendick, Clair V. Ochs, John Papa, John B. Rawlings, Troy L. Reese Jr., Keith A. Schneider, Carlton F. Schrimpf, James J Slater, Herbert W. Thomes and

"What makes you think your wife is getting tired of you?" "Every day this week she's wrapped my lunch in a road

WSPG Has Colorful, **Fast-Changing History**

(Continued from Page 1) \$52,000 Deputy Commander on Jan. 12,

military service. Col. Eddy assumed command of the post on Feb. 1.

of the 9393rd TSU, was made on guards \$73 each. July 27, 1950.

established Sept. 21, 1950.

The post held its first Easter Sunrise Service on the football field, which was decorated by huge paintings depicting the Crucifixion and Resurrection.

General Jonathan Wainwright the eve of the eighth anniversary of the fall of Bataan.

Fire Chief Ernest Boyd was planning to occupy "the finest Pfc. Lary and Seaman 1c Poe. Army fire house in the Fourth Army Area" within two weeks.

Capt. W. A. Gorry, USN, Commanding Officer of the USNOM-TF, was honored May 25 at a formal review before his retirement.

1st Lt. Harry Haspett was readying the new QM Clothing Store for its opening on July 1.

Nursery, Bank Open WSPG troops marched in the

Cruces May 20.

on June 10 by Mrs. T. H. Lewis. It was opened without funds and in July the Woman's Club donated \$75 to keep the facility op- room to a unit consisting of five erating. In September, 1950, it booths, waiting and reception was necessary for the Woman's rooms. Club to take over the sponsorship of the nursery.

ed its doors on July 20, the first O. MacGaffick and James Goforth Aug. 1.

S/Sgt. Onore E. Case for indef- site to the new building area. inite re-enlistments in August.

hit WSPG July 26 to flood sleepstalled by the flood on the El banks, of Las Cruces. Paso desert road.

Frank Mayes.

Post Theater Planned

The new 10-target firing range opened August 9, with the 169th Sig. Const. Co. the first to fire. "Wind and Sand" went from

size paper on Aug. 31, 1950.

with 80 students enrolling Sep-Roger Ratliff and Jasper Robin-

The largest and heaviest rocket yet fired from WSPG went up to 85 miles Aug. 31.

Military personnel on the post went on a 44-hour work week on Nov. 1st. Sept. 4. They had previously worked a 40-hour week. Plans were made for the con-

struction of a 518-seat theater to cost \$253,000. The Post Bank had 165 accounts

in their September statements with total assets of \$4,231,412.57 Sept. 19.

The new Post Headquarters Building was nearing completion Oct. 3, and was expected to be El Paso Sun Carnival. She was occupied in mid-November. Jules Moch Visits

The 1st G. M. Bn. celebrated its fifth anniversary Oct. 31. Lt. Col. Leonard C. Cooke was Battalion Commander.

Jules Moch, French Defense Minister, visited WSPG Nov. 6. The Navy's Viking-V smashed

all previous records with a 107mile peak on Nov. 21. The 169th Sig. Const. Co. was observing its first birthday at WSPG. The entire unit has been

moved from Camp Gordon via a 66-truck and trailer convoy, covering 1,614 miles in eight days. The Navy BOQ with 50 rooms, costing \$415,000, was nearing com-

pletion Nov. 28. WSPG's only Catholic Chaplain, Louis G. Miller, arrived for duty

at WSPG and Holloman Air Force Base, the week of Dec. 12. The missile booster igloos were

completed Dec. 26, at a cost of

Photostat

is offered by the LAS CRUCES ABSTRACT & TITLE COMPANY 1291/2 S. Main St.—Las Cruces

Keep an exact copy of your important documents.

Post Signal planned "C" Dayand Brig. Gen. Philip G. Black- a cutover to the dial phone sysmore retired after 38 years of tem. Capt. William T. Reid was the Cost -Consciousness Program. the public. Signal Officer.

The Security Guard donned new Activation of a Provisional Ord- uniforms Jan. 23, 1951. The uninance Guided Missile Service forms were individually tailored Unit, designated as a detachment by an El Paso firm and cost the

The Office of Comptroller was old Headquarters Building Febru- visor. ary 1st.

On Jan. 24, the 169th welcomed ens, Mass., and Fort Sam Hous- and Junior High School. ton, Tex.

WSPG placed second in the visited the post and ex-POWs on Cruces, Feb. 17th. Team members and attached to the 4119th ASU. were Sgt. Poteat, Cpl. Palmiere, Pvt. Herzog, Sgt. Ponce, Capt. B. Barr, Lt. (jg) Skartland, Pvt. Silk, Ground.

> Las Cruces received the first Treasure Flag from Governor Edwin L. Mechem on Feb. 22, when 800 WSPG troops marched in the Treasury Day parade.

The Post Motor Pool's bus fleet marked up 270,000 miles for a year without accident on April 4. Plans were completed for seven

new E. M. Barracks, April 18. TI&E opened college courses in Armed Forces Day parade at Las physics of rockets and plans were

made for other courses in funda-The Post Nursery was opened mentals of rockets at a later date. Wild Lynx Killed The WSPG Dental Clinic was expanded during May from one

Pfc. James G. Williams, 1st G.

M. Bn., killed a wild lynx June The Otero County Bank open- 20 near the Army Blockhouse. such facility on the post. Mrs. C. Filling Station was planned for The new Operations Building,

Capt. Dorothy Wood, WAC, Condron Field. was set for comswore in Sfc. Floyd T. Herrick, pletion by Aug. 1. The control M/Sgt. Gilbert L. Thomas and tower was moved from its former The 1st Ordnance-fired rocket,

A deluge of 1.09 inches of rain a V-2, was fired Aug. 22 at WSPG. WSPG's dry cleaning plant was Beard was in charge. ing quarters, offices and mess scheduled for operation by Nov. halls ankle deep. Vehicles were 1. The manager was Steve Eu-

Construction and furnishing of Safety classes were inaugurated the new wing on the NCO Club in August by Safety Director was completed Aug. 25, at a cost of \$3,000, which came from club

The first student training program, under the Department of Army Student Aid Training Protabloid size to a seven-column full gram, began with five students of science and engineering at in June. The WSPG Dependent Elemen- New Mexico A&M College. Studtary School registration was held with 80 students enrolling Sep-

Navy Tech Lab Built

was scheduled for completion by

College registration began at WSPG with more than 100 prospective students.

The Post Kindergarten classes got under way Sept. 25, with 50 students. Mrs. Jennie Fine was the teacher.

The WSPG Thrift Shop observed its first anniversary Oct. 12 with an open house.

Miss Nelda Jo Cothern was selected to represent WSPG at the named "Miss Guided Missile." Brig. Gen. G. G. Eddy dedi-

cated the new Post Theater on

to the old theater space on Nov. April.

Dispensary Separate Unit

R. Wayne Ashby, Shops and at the Proving Ground.

The WSPG U. S. Army Dispensary, 4119th ASU, was actition was established June 12. vated as a separate unit on Dec. 7. It was formerly attached to the was honored with a retirement 4052nd ASU, Fort Bliss.

A new printing press was in-Branch Dec. 19. T. R. Thayer, the Staff College, Logistics Division took over the Photo Lithographer, was super-

Ground was broken Jan. 7, 1952, 238 new recruits from Fort Dev- for the new \$217.000 Elementary

The 84th M. P. Criminal Investigation (CID) Detachment, W. S. AAU Basketball Tourney, at Las P. G., was formed in January Col. John G. Shinkle was assigned to White Sands Proving August operation.

> have carried 229,000 passengers ground at Carlsbad Caverns on took second place and Oscar Wells over 232,000 miles during 1951 July 17. without accident.

Front door mail service was established by the Postal Branch for residents of the Trailer Courts. Capt. M. G. Leindecker was assigned to Logistics Division after reporting from Germany.

The Visitors' Bureau observed its first anniversary Jan. 23. Classes for "ham" radio oper-

ators were begun by W/O George B. White, Jr., at MARS. Maj. Gen. E. L. Ford toured

Headquarters Enlarged

The 9393rd TSU was reorganized to make three new units, De- ship Tourney. tachments 1, 2 and 3. The El Paso Chapter of the

American Ordnance Association was installed at WSPG with Col. a section of Personnel and Admin-ruary. Construction of the new P.X. H. E. Minton president-elect for the local chapter. Architects' drawings of the new permanent-type barracks were

featured in "Wind and Sand" Feb. 13, and the occupancy date was set for April 13. A Woodworking Hobby Shop was opened by the Navy for use

Plans were made for letting a Aug. 28. contract March 25, for construc-

nal Wing. Douglas Aircraft organized a the completed Elementary and pensary during the latter part of branch of the Santa Monica Rod Junior High School on Sept. 10. February. funds managed by M/Sgt. David and Gun Club at WSPG on March

Co-op Program Planned

Student Co-operative Training Program plans were outlined in the process of being coordinated

The Navy EM Club was renovated by its personnel during personnel began at Post Head-Sgt. Kenneth Watkins, 9393rd

blood to the ARC drive on April The new Navy Tech Laboratory 21. Col. A. W. Reed was the first were formed under Special Servblood donor in 1951.

PIO published 5,000 copies of an

The 137th and 138th Ordnance completion on Feb. 18, 1952, ac- week of May 14. They were for- the week of Nov. 27. cording to "Wind and Sand" Dec. merly a part of Det. 2, 9393rd

A 7-grenade burst Aerobee was The new Post Dry Cleaning fired by SCEL May 19 as one of in December. Plant was in operation on Dec. 5. the most impressive night shoots

Services Branch, was presented a The Post Library moved to its Suggestion Award by Brig. Gen. present location the week of May of Las Cruces on Dec. 7. They G. G. Eddy Dec. 5, as a part of 28. An Open House was held for

WSPG's Civilian Payroll Sec-Capt. A. E. Uehlinger, USN

parade June 27. Lt. Col. P. H. Scordas, Execu-

stalled at the Tech Information tive Officer, was transferred to the western Organ Mountains. The Housing Development construction was set for Aug. 1.

Formation of a WSPG Garden Club was being planned July 24. Civil oaths were taken at New for remodeling into a cafeteria.

The annual offiical reception Mexico A&M College by the first contingent of Co-op students dur- for officers and Las Cruces guests ing mid-July.

Wherry Project Begun A Federal Employees' Credit G. G. Eddy. Union was planned July 31, for

The General's Glee Club pre-WSPG buses were reported to sented a concert 700 feet under-

Col. Earl F. Cook assumed duty as Commanding Officer of WSSCA the week of Aug. 7.

Brig. Gen. G. G. Eddy broke ground for the Wherry Housing Development on Aug. 1. Brig. Gen. G. G. Eddy officiated the Intelligence and Security Diat the opening of the new EM vision on Jan. 5.

Barracks on Aug. 14. The P.X. Food Store was being enlarged to become a commissary during the last week of August. Pfc. Donald H. Dettman, Hq. Btry., 1st G.M., was named out- sary Sales Store on Feb. 2.

standing softball player to appear in the Fourth Army Champion- M/Sgt. G. M. Smith, 1st GM Bn., on Jan. 30. Civilian Personnel Branch was made a Staff organization the week of Aug. 28. It was formerly

istratio.n. Seven University of Michigan students began their Co-op train- Billeting Office during late Januing Aug. 25.

Col. Homer D. Thomas took over as WSPG Executive Officer the week of Aug. 28. School Building Finished

SCEL was designated as the 30-minute show. by all post personnel. Chief C. R. 9577th TSU, White Sands Signal Corps Agency, during the week of 357 pints of blood at WSPG on

Lt. Col. Robert G. Van Ness tion of a second story to Head- was assigned Pr Complaints Of- for 1953 netted \$4,053.70. quarters Building above the Sig- ficer. The Post School Board accepted ing installed at the WSPG Dis-

> M/Sgt. Leroy M. Lewis was appointed Military Fire Chief for were set for occupancy the first The WSPG-HAFB ranges were

March 26, for operation to begin under the command of Brig. Gen. G. G. Eddy. Mass movement of offices and

quarters Oct. 16. Lt. Karl Rolls, MC, was assign-TSU, donated the 1,000 pint of ed to the WSPG Medical Staff.

Ceramics and modeling classes ices direction. More than 400 visitors were in-

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 8th ANNIVERSARY

CANADA DRY

Bottling Co.

EL PASO, TEXAS

THE PERSONNEL OF W. S. P. G. ON THEIR 8th ANNIVERSARY!

We invite all of you to drop in and visit our new soda fountain. Now serving Breakfast, Lunches and Dinners.

Las Cruces Drug Co.

103 S. MAIN

LAS CRUCES

informational brochure for post | vited to WSPG Nov. 7, for the week in March. The Main P.X. Store was moved personnel and visitors during meeting of the American Ord-Miss Margaret A. Stearns was

won written commendations from

Mayor Samuel Klein and the Me-

silla Valley Chamber of Com-

— 1953 —

Bliss, arrived to complete com-

muications lines from WSPG to

A new annex for housing X-ray

The P.X. Snack Bar was closed

was held at the Officers' Club on

Jan. 17, by Brig. Gen. and Mrs.

B. L. Baluorsen was awarded

first place in the Yule Lighting

Contest which was held in the

James G. Blaine, Las Cruces,

was appointed eighth grade teach-

er and physical education super-

Lt. Col. Richard I. Newcomb

was assigned to duty as Chief of

Commissary Opens

D. Quirk officiated at the opening

ceremonies for the new Commis-

A/WSPG missile was named for

More than 50 G.I. students reg-

istered for the first television

classes ever held on post in Feb-

WSPG commissary cards were

ssued to eligible personnel by the

WSPG activities were featured

on TV for the first time at El

Paso's station KROD on Feb. 8.

Lt. Hugh Greenwald presented a

The ARC Bloodmobile collected

The March of Dimes campaign

New X-ray equipment was be-

The first Wherry Housing units

ary and early February.

Feb. 2.

Mrs. G. G. Eddy and Mrs. P.

visor for the WSPG school.

third place.

equipment was under construc-

tion at the Post Dispensary Janu-

The 41st Sig. Const. Bn., Fort

nance Association. Samuel Teitelbaum arrived to Club Hostess during the first The Navy's BOQ was set for Companies were activated the assume duty as Post Comptroller week in March.

Cafeteria Opening Set "Wind and Sand" began its Pfc. Donald J. Eberly won the Cost-Consciousness Program es- fourth year of publication March say writing contest the first week | 26.

Dr. Saul Sternberger Jr., arrived on post to assume duty as WSPG firemen aided in fight-Post Surgeon. ing fire in the business district

> set for April 17, with official ceremonies for the occasion presided over by Brig. Gen. G. G. Eddy. The 96th Ord. Co. was on orders for transfer to Fort Bliss.

The P.X. Cafetria opening was

Capt. Clair R. Sweeney, MPC, was assigned as Post Provost Marshal. Dudley M. Cottler was named

Chief of the Signal Engineering years in the Far East. Division, WSSCA. Dale B. McGrath, BMC, was

USNOMTF. WSPG troops, comprising 183 men, fought forest fires in the Sacramento Mountains during the

week of April 30. Contracts for three million dollars were awarded to contractors for an engineering test laboratory, extension to the present laboratory, and a data reduction build-

housing area Lt. G. L. Thomas ing. Members of the Army War College toured the post April 28. Plans were being completed for the Armed Forces Day parade at

(Continued on Page 8)

Electrical Engineers welcomed as the new Service Hear British Officer At Meeting in El Paso

A regular meeting of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, El Paso Section, was held Thursday night, July 2, at the

Wyoming Inn in El Paso. Col. Geoffrey L. Brewster, British Liaison Officer stationed at Fort Bliss, was principal speaker on the program. Colonel Brewster presented information on two subjects, "England's Efforts During and After the War," and England's Industries."

Colonel Brewster has been a member of the British Army for 18 years. Before his assignment to the U.S., he spent a number of

"Thinking twice, once for yourssigned as PIO Specialist for the self and once for the other fellow is a good safety habit."

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LAS CRUCES

Dry Lake in '44, Busy Air Field in '53 Is Condron History

Traffic at Proving Ground's Aerial Facility Is Increasing

By Ruth A. Mabe

In writing a history, a writer faces one of two problems, either nothing of interest has happened, or so much has happened that it is impossible to relate all of the events, thus resulting in the sacrifice of some events for others. Such is the history of the development of Condron Field. From a dry lake bed, in 1944, to a busy air field with a permanent operations building and control tower in 1953, is not a short story.

Today, Condron Air Force Auxiliary Field, official designation, is under the direct control and operations of Holloman Air Force Base, as an auxiliary field to Holloman AFB. Capt. Dennis W. McCarthy, Base Operations Officer, Holloman AFB, is the immediate supervisor and re- and the plane could land. Time sponsible officer.

The field is operated by sixteen airmen (four AACS Tower Controller, four alert-crewmen, seven firemen) under the supervision of M/Sgt. William A. Witt, NCOIC, and one civilian aircraft dispatcher. Traffic for the first six months of 1953 has averaged four hundred operations per

Named for Crash Victim

smugglers used the site that is Section for WSPG. now Condron Field for their illegal traffic. That may or may not be true. But, in 1944, liaison aircraft flying anti-aircraft missions for Ft. Bliss used the dry lake bed at the base of the Organ Mountains on the east side as an emergency landing field. Drone aircraft, targets for Ft. Bliss antiaircraft gun crews, were landed and taken off on the comparatively smooth surface of the dry

In the early part of 1945, 2nd Lt. Max E. Condron, L-5 Pilot, flying an anti-aircraft mission for Ft. Bliss, lost his life when his aircraft crashed as he attempted an emergency landing on the dry

During 1945, the area we know as White Sands Proving Ground was included in aeronautical and navagational charts as part of the Ft. Bliss "Danger Area." As part of that "Danger Area," aircraft were not authorized to fly through nor over the area without special permission from the Commanding Officer of Biggs Air Field. Because the dry lake bed was direly needed as an emer-gency field for the drone and liaison aircraft, it was officially named "Condron Field" in honor of 2nd Lt. Max E. Condron. Runways were leveled off, and the field was listed in navagational emergency landing strip only.

No Facilities at First

White Sands Proving Ground, siderably. With the constructing and building of White Sands Proving Ground, and the high priority of Condron Field was imperative.

craft with official orders or business were cleared to Condron

Air Section Founded

Operations office at Condron Field at that time consisted of a telephone attached to a pole at the north end of the North-South runway. Pilots, the ones who remembered, used this telephone to call Biggs Field Operations to Army Air Field. close their flight plans by giving their arrival, and to gain clearance for departing Condron Field. This entailed countless troubles and delays to pilots as well as to Biggs Operations personnel and Flight Service. It was very unsatisfactory and unsafe.

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7000000000000000000000000

For incoming aircraft to get the field open and get the crash equipment at the runway to land, the pilot circled the Post and "buzzed" Headquarters Building. Within twenty-five or thirty minutes, the field would be open

nor rank made no difference. In August 1946, 1st Lt. Richard C. Shangraw, Air Force pilot formerly stationed at Biggs Air Field where he flew missions for WSPG, was assigned to Condron Field on DS from Walker Air Field, Roswell, New Mexico, as Air Operations and Liaison Officer for White Sands Proving Ground. It was Lt. Shangraw and the four Army enlisted men and three Navy enlisted men as-Rumor has it that long ago signed to him that started the Air

The Army enlisted men assigned to the Air Section were from 9393 TSU, with S/Sgt. Juan J. Blea as NCOIC. Sgt. Blea became M/Sgt. Juan J. Blea, but held the same position from that date until his departure for overseas in April 1953.

First Planes Assigned

In 1946 a T-11 type aircraft was assigned White Sands Proving floor laid flush on the ground, Ground on a lone basis from the then the walls of the Army bar-Air Force, Air Material Command. Later the same year a cargo type aircraft, C-47, was procured on the same basis.

A formal request was submitted for the fiscal year of 1948 for funds to improve Condron Field, including an operations building,

control tower and night lighting. Due to the expanse of the WSPG range, the firing range of the missiles being tested and the nature of the terrain, recovery of spent missiles, upon which the depended, had proved almost impossible to accomplish by ground.

Briefly, it was wall and roof.

WSPG missile firing schedule possible to accomplish by ground. So, on September 6, 1946, five L-5 type aircraft, with pilots and crews, were assigned WSPG, on ing around one hundred hours DS from Ft. Riley, Kansas, with flying time per month. the primary duty of missile recovery. The pilots, four Master Sergeants and a Staff Sergeant, with their mechanics and planes, and aeronautical charts as an were assigned Biggs Air Field for quarters. Daily the aircraft were flown to Condron. Recovery, which was still in a "needle in the July 1945 marked the birth of hay stack' 'stage, improved con-

Field Is Improved

Funds were appropriated for the improvement of Condron its mission, air traffic to and from Field. So, by 1947, it began to shape up more or less as an air The field was an air field in field. A Forest-Ranger look-out name only. There were no faci- tower was bought and converted lities at all. Aircraft desiring to into a control tower. In May, a land at Condron Field were re- radio frequency was officially quired to land at Biggs Air Field assigned to Condron Control Tofor clearance and briefing before wer. A rotating beacon was erectproceeding to Condron. Only air- ed on the top of the Control Tower. Temporary night lighting was installed on the runways, and a wind tetrahedron was put on the field.

An Army surplus barracks building was bought and moved to Condron Field to be converted

into an operations building. Condron Field was listed in all Air Force Facility Charts as an

Lack of facilities, however, did

Douglas Aircraft Company's tributed to the difficulty of injury and only minor damage to the plane. weekly trips between Santa Monica and Condron Field at that time. There was a regular weeking Ground, Maryland, and Condron Field. Scarcely a week passed without the arrival and de-

Telephone Line Leased

Many of these aircraft arrived unannounced due to lack of comly with Flight Center, March Air Field, Riverside, California, was installed in March 1948.

The Air Force enlisted pilots were still flying missile recovery missions. To handle local and transient traffic, Condron Field personnel had increased to 23 en-Army officer in charge of supplies, and 1st Lt. Richard C. Shangraw, Air Force Officer, Air Operations and Liaison Officer.

In compliance with a request from the Flying Farmers Association of America, Highway #70 from Las Cruces to Alamogordo, New Mexico, was made an Air Corridor. At times other than when a missile was actually being fired at WSPG, members of this association could obtain clearance to fly through the corridor by calling long distance to Condron Field, or at the other end by calling Holloman Base Operations.

Wall, Roof Only

A reasonable facsimile of an operations building for Condron Field was nearing completion. It was constructed with a concrete

racks set on top of the floor. The space between the floor and the walls served as a vent to let in the sand when the wind was blowing, water when it was rainblowing, water when it was raining (and it did rain that year,) cold air in the winter and hot air in the summer.

There was no running water, except that which ran in the building during and atter a rain.
Drinking water was hauled in a trailer from the post; hot and rusty. There were no indoor latrines nor an air conditioner. success and progress of research trines nor an air conditioner.

had been speeded up. Pilots fly-ing recovery missions were logg-

Lack of impact data made re-covery a matter of searching until

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High Recovery Average Aircraft with sharp-eyed pilots and observers flew over some of ly trip between Aberdeen Prov- the sought parts for as long as seven months before actually seeing them. Part of one missile aircraft had been flying right over it. But, in spite of the difficulties, Recovery Section, under munications. To alleviate this the direction of Lt. Col. (then problem, "Plan-62," long line Major) G. P. Grant, with the astelephone leased by Air Force sistance of the L-5 aircraft and connecting Condron Field directpilots, had a very high average

on missile recovery.
In September, 1948, Capt. Cassius C. Davis, Walker AFB, Roswell, New Mexico, replaced 1st Lt. Richard C. Shangraw as Air Operations and Liaison Officer for Condron Field. Capt. Davis was assigned Condron Field, on listed men, eight civilians, one DS from Holloman AFB. Condron Field was put under Holloman AFB for operational control.

Many Changes in 1949

The year 1949 brought many changes in the development of Condron Field. The enlisted pilots who had been flying recovery missions were replaced by officer pilots. The L-5 type aircraft were replaced by L-13 type aircraft.

The L-13 aircraft were very unreliable, and gave very poor mechanical performance. Rarely a day passed without an emergency landing. Emergency landings were made in the "bundocks," on the highways, and at the field. The only good feature about them was that they could be landed safely practically any-

This was proved countless and observer flipped over on its

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not deter aircraft from flying in the spent missile was found. Desand out of Condron Field. The ert shadows and drifted sand contact the field. There was no personal shadows and drifted sand contact the field. There was no personal shadows and drifted sand contact the field. There was no personal shadows and drifted sand contact the field.

On the other hand, the only major accident to an aircraft on a WSPG mission beautiful and the only major accident to an aircraft on a WSPG mission beautiful and the only major accident to an aircraft on a WSPG mission beautiful and the only major accident to an aircraft on a wsp of the other hand, the only major accident to an aircraft on a wsp of the other hand, the only major accident to an aircraft on a wsp of the other hand, the only major accident to an aircraft on a wsp of the other hand, the only major accident to an aircraft on a wsp of the other hand, the only major accident to an aircraft on a wsp of the other hand, the only major accident to an aircraft on a wsp of the other hand, the only major accident to an aircraft on a wsp of the other hand, the other hand a WSPG mission happened to a safe, reliable L-5, piloted by 1st Lt. Vernon D. Reirson. Lt. Reirson and observer, Sgt. George H. Rowe, were on a search mission in the Sacramento Mountains. The pilot flew in too close to the mountain, was caught in a downdraft, and went down. Neither pilot nor observer was seriously hurt, but the plane was a complete loss.

Personnel Reduced

Because there were no hangars at Condron Field for protection of the aircraft assigned WSPG, the C-47, T-11 and B-26 were moved to Holloman AFB. Moving the aircraft to Holloman for maintenance necessitated the reduction of Condron Field personnel. Shortly after the move, personnel was reduced to six Army enlisted men, Capt. Davis, Air Officer, and the civilian aircraft dispatcher.

With December came Capt Davis' orders for overseas. His departure marked the end of an Air Officer being assigned Condron Field. The organization still defied classification. Increased activities were carried on under the supervision and direction of M/Sgt. Juan J. Blea, 9393 TSU. and Ruth A. Mabe, Aircraft Dispatcher, and five Army enlisted men.

During a week-long wind torm in May 1950, Condron Field storm in May 1950, Condron Field had its second loss of aircraft. Three L-13 that could not be flown to Biggs AFB nor Holloman AFB, due to a storm that came up suddenly, were tied down on the ramp at Condron times. One day, one with pilot Field. The last day of the storm, (Continued on Page 4)

There are a number of longtime employees and military personnel assigned to the WSPG Systems Test Division, with the Shops & Services Branch having

Maj. N. A. Armstrong heads the list of STD military personnel. Other STD "old-timers," all in Shops & Services, include the following:

Bill Ashby, Branch Chief; Fred Malone, Carpenter Fore-man; Harry C. McManus, Millwright; Sidney F. Sanders, Electrician; Julian Casius, Carpenter sives Foreman; Raymond Barrera, Maintenance Mechanic.

And Daniel Helper; Ruben A. Crosby, Branch

rera, Maintenance Mechanic.

And Daniel A. Guerrero Jr.,
Electrician; Charles D. Palles,
Millwright Helper; R. E. Tidwell,
Welder; Horace M. Johnston, Millwright Foreman.

"I run things in my house," declared the husband as he went from the vacuum cleaner to the lawn mower.

Thursday, July 9, 1953

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Thursday, July 9, 1953 Dry Lake in '44,

Is Condron History (Continued from Page 3)

the wind blew a steady 75 to 80 mph, with gusts topping 100 mph. The planes were tied down, had sand bags on the wings, and heavy motor vehicles parked around them to break the wind. One aircraft, anchored to a jeep, tipped up on a wing, lifting the jeep up in the air, and held the front end of the jeep suspended in mid-air. Parts of the planes were salvaged, but none of the three was ever flown again.

New Operations Building

Funds were appropriated for a new, permanent Operations Building. A site on the west side of the runway, on higher ground, was selected for the building, in hopes to minimize the blowing sand in the building and eliminate water coming in when it

The new building was completed in August 1951. With an air conditioner, running water and indoor latrines, working at the field was indeed a pleasure.

Air traffic at Condron Field was still increasing. The average for 1952 was 400 operations per month. October 1952 set an alltime record with 612 operations.

Until June 1952, very few noticeable changes were made. It was then that the Air Force replaced the L-13 aircraft used for recovery with L-20 type aircraft.

New Ordnance Pilots

The L-20's, miniature air-liners, captured the fancy of the observers from Recovery Section. But it was too good to last. Came July, the Air Force aircraft and pilots were released, and replaced with Ordnance L-19 aircraft and

The L-19 flight, with Capt. William C. B. Wheeler as Officer in Charge, reported to WSPG on 19 July. Soon, personnel of the kets, and electronics. flight became Det. 3, 9393 TSU, with Capt. Wheeler Commanding

After three months, Det. 3 was moved from Condron Field to Holloman AFB. Again, Condron was carrying on activities with four Army enlisted men and the civilian aircraft dispatcher.

In March 1953, Holloman AFB assumed control of Condron Field. It was then that air persel from 6580th Air Support Squadron replaced Army personnel, and Condron became Condron Air Force Auxiliary Field.

We're Stiffed Nosed

BOSTON, MASS (AFPS)-So called deodorants affect the smeller, not the smell, the New England Journal of Medicine reported recently. It said they don't paralyze the sense of smell. They cited that goats eat chlorophyll (in grass) as an argument.

Advertising Doesn't Cost, It Pays!





Typical of the "old-timers" at WSPG, those who have been here since the early days of the post, are these three members of the staff of the Tech Information Branch. Left to right are Mrs. Gladys M. Denney, who has been employed on the post continuously since April 1946; Fred A. Koether, now Chief of the Tech Information Branch, who was stationed at WSPG as an Army sergeant in 1946 and later returned as a civilian; and Mrs. Isabel Benavidez, who first came to the post in 1947 when she was Miss Isabel Ontiveros.

New Pattern for Nation Set By WSPG Education Program

Educational opportunities at WSPG have set a national pattern for bettering the serviceman's future when he returns to civil life and providing an opportunity for civilians to obtain a college degree they could not otherwise afford.

The success of the Proving Ground's educational program is proven by the fact that the installation led the 4th Army Area for participation during the

WSPG began in July, 1947. The groundwork was laid in a single plywood hut with 11 students who comprised the single class in typewriting.

Facility Is Expanded

was expanded to four classrooms and instruction was begun in subjects relative to the mission of the installation, physics of roc-

There are now 11 classrooms which are also used for military training, civilian employee training, and general education. The rooms are seldom unoccupied.

The college courses, in cooperation with New Mexico A&M College, began with the fall semester of 1951. The first student to register was Pfc. Floyd F. Twight, now 2nd Lt. Twight, of the Systems Test Division. An estimated 15 per cent of the entire post personnel, from colonels down to buck privates, registered for the first courses. To date, several hundred have been enrolled at one time and many have completed their chosen subjects and received their degrees.

Co-Op Program Starts

This year, basic television classes were added to the convenneutralize the smell, rather they | tional college and post-graduate | bi-lingual area, Spanish is the most popular.

inaugurated the latest wrinkle in from her."

Sears Salutes

White Sands

Proving Ground

on its

Anniversary!

latter part of 1952 and early 1953. learn-while-you-earn education. The educational program at The Co-op Student Trainee Program was conceived and put into operation by Civilian Personnel's Training Section. The 6-6 program, six months academic training at New Mexico A&M College and six months practical on-job-The Army Education Center training at the Proving Ground, on salary, attracted some of the nation's finest embryo mathematicians, physicists and engi-

> of trained, experienced personnel for the future. The success of the program is indicated in the enrollment this month of 400 students at the New Mexico college. Those students who have been attending classes will now begin their practical training and the newcomers will begin their academic training for the first six months of the five-year program.

The plan provides for a continual turnover of student-employees who have, already, impressed supervisors and Proving Ground officials with the worth forced concrete with a maximum of the new method of training thickness of 25 feet.

your new place, Norah?"

"I think I'm going to like it. courses. Foreign languages are Yesterday I overheard the misalso taught, among which, in this tress say I performed my duties in a very perfunctory manner. Last year the Proving Ground That's the first praise I've had

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Still Growing WSPG Looks Back On 8 Years of Steady Progress

menal—growth and development. In those eight years the U. S. Army Ordnance Corps' principal rocket testing facility, literally springing up out of

9, 1945—the base was officially opened. Only a few days before, on June 25, 1945, the first actual storage and offices. construction work had been started. By the time the first troops arrived, on August 10, the new post consisted of a few wooden frame buildings, one large hangar still under construction, and a number of Army tents, some of them equipped with wooden

Fitted Requirements

entire country was surveyed for a suitable location for the work door activities as required. which was planned. The flat, spaces of open range country, and checked prior to firing.
most nearly filled all the requirements.

In the spring of 1946, the Navy sponsored the construction of living quarters, shops and additional facilities for their own use. The Proving Ground was made a permanent Class II activity on September 16, 1948, when it became increasingly evident that the rocket program could be expected to become a permanent activity within the Armed Services.

Firing Site Built

As soon as the first preliminary settling"-such as well drilling, barracks building, establishment of workshops, assembly halls and The purpose of the program is communication—was completed, to provide a professional back-log a firing site was built. It consisted of a large patch of smooth concrete in the middle of the des-

At a distance of 350 feet from that firing site the Fortification Division of the Corps of Engineers built the world's most massive building. This building was named the "Block House" and is the nerve center of althe communications mines which are large "shoot." The Block House has walls ten feet thick and its pyramidal roof is of solid rein-

Dust-Free Laboratory

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today looks back upon eight construction. It is completely air plans and provides the most suityears of steady—if not pheno- buildings, with individual room reduces flight data to a form usetempérature selection.

There are no windows in the luation of flight tests results. building and all entrances are made through an air lock in an attempt to make a dust-free laboratory. The basement of the the barren desert at the foot of structure contains 13,378 square the Organ Mountains, has taken feet and in addition to mechaniits place as one of the nation's cal equipment rooms for heating, most important guided missile in- cooling, and providing service to the building, provides air-condi-Eight years ago today—on July tioned film storage, optical *esting, machine shop, battery con-

Fenced Technical Area

The first floor of the building is divided into four suites of laboratories, each suite consisting of two units, each unit having two laboratories, an office and associated storage room. The second floor is for the exclusive use of the ballistics research laboratory and even the roof is utilized as a Prior to the establishment of laboratory providing a line of White Sands Proving Ground, the sight to firing and instrumentation control points or other out-

Missile assembly buildings are treeless, sandy, sparsely populat-ed White Sands desert area, with the Technical Area. In these huge its cloudless skies and great buildings, missiles are assembled

Static Test Stands

For testing assembled rocket and missile motors, two huge staic test stands are utilized. The larger of the two has a 500,000pound thrust capacity, and the smaller 100,000 pounds. Other stands are also used for smaller

The Army and Navy maintain their own respective launching sites on the sprawling desert floor and each site is prepared for the type of missile undergoing testing. Control leads in the Army system all extend from the launching sites to the Block House for the purpose of central control.

Shops and Services

Another large installation is the Shops and Services Branch, which is equipped to handle machine shop services and to field construction. This branch renders invaluable service to various agencies by making emergency repairs and supplying fuel and compressed air to missile agencies, as well as maintaining varineeded for the observation of a ous launching facilities in proper working condition.

Flight Determination

Among the laboratories, the Flight Determination Laboratory plans and provides the most suitable instrumentation and techni-Among the recent improve- ques and gathers data on missiles "How are you getting on in ments in operational facilities is in flight-from time of launching a two-story laboratory, with up to and including time of in-

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White Sands Proving Ground pasement, of monolithic concrete treception and/or impact. It also conditioned, as are most WSPG table devices and techniques and ful to those responsible for eva-

Fast-operating cameras take many thousands of feet of film which are processed in the photographic laboratory to determine the characteristics of a missile in

Environmental Lab

The Environmental Laboratores plan and conduct the ground or engineering requests. tests of major units and components of guided missile systems. It tests. In addition, it provides calielectronic and mechanical instruments, and designs and procures specified instruments.

TEP Branch

Plans Branch, which provides fundamental engineering and includes frequent sight-seeing planning for all technical facili- tours, special classes for hobbyists branch is equipped to render an social gatherings engineering service of considerable latitude from its inception to other important facilities will of the final stages of construction or necessity be omitted from this provides an adequate engineer said that White Sands Proving survey for range triangulation re- Ground is growing—"by leaps quirements and other surveying and bounds.

August. At the beginning of WWI the Aviation Section of the Army had 131 officers and slightly more than 1,000 enlisted men. However, only 78 of the officers were fliers.

Through the years White Sands Proving Ground has steadily instruments and reports on such grown with new, modern barracks, offices and an extremely bration and repair services for attractive modern school building for pupils of grade school age.

Armed Forces Newsmap

Changes Name to 'NOW'

Armed Forces Newsmap will be revised in format and title during the coming fiscal year. The title

of the map will be "NOW."

WASHINGTON (AFPS)—The

The new edition will shift the

emphasis from news items of par-

ticular concern to military per-

sonnel to items which are of

general interest. Distribution of

the first issue is scheduled for

Recreational facilities and activities include a swimming pool, post theater, bowling alleys, ath-Linked in with these activities letic facilities, a gleaming service is the Technical Engineering club, officer and NCO clubs, a Special Services program which ties at the Proving Ground. The and numerous opportunities for

For reasons of brevity, many completion. This branch also account. But it can be truthfully

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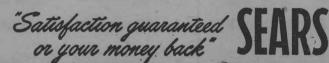
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Part of the office staff of the White Sands Signal Corps Agency's Supply Division is shown with Maj. Edward O. Ringland, Chief of the Division (seated). Standing, left to right, are R. L. Lemon, Chief of the Requirements Branch; M. L. Lucero, Chief of the Agency M/R Section; Mrs. Joan Biewener, Requisition Clerk; Max Loya, Posting Clerk; Mrs. R. Luteman, Posting Clerk; Miss E. Moreno, Clerk-typist; Mrs. D. Hornbeck, Posting Clerk; Mrs. Anita J. Ohlson. Posting Clerk; Miss Kay Lyle, Chief of the Stock Control Section; Mrs. Betty Martin, Editing Clerk, and H. W. France, Civilian Chief of the Supply Division Office staff members, not shown are Cont. R. C. France, Civilian Chief of the Supply Division. Office staff members not shown are Capt. R. C. Glenn, Accountable Property Officer; Miss Angelina Corral, Chief of the Procurement and Requisition Unit; Samuel Sierra, Posting Clerk; Albena Ganske, Clerk-typist; Marcia B. Perkins, Clerk-typist; Miss Inocenta Valadez, Clerk-typist; Mrs. Beverly Winters, Clerk-typist; Mrs. Hazel M. Astry, Voucher Clerk; Capt. Horace McGahee, Chief of the Station M/R Property Section, and Mrs. Dorothy Canon, Clerk-typist.

Signal Corps Supply Division One Of Post's Fastest Growing Units

ganizations on post today is the Supply Division of the White Sands Signal Corps Agency, which has tripled its staff and operations in the past year.

Just 12 months ago when the Signal Corps Agency was reorganized from its old classification as SCEL Field Station No. 1, the Supply Division comprised 12 military and civilian employees and handled approximately 4,500 line items. Today the division is made up of 51 military and civilian employees and houses over 13,000 line items of Signal Corps and related items of equipment.

Supplies 60 Activities

The division has the mission of supplying White Sands Proving Ground activities with Signal Corps and related types of equipment in the communication and electronic fields as a responsibility of the Chief Signal Officer. This mission is carried out by supplying more than 60 activities here on the Proving Ground and at Holloman Air Development Center, Oscura Range Camp, Oscura Peak and Alamo Peak.

To keep these activities supplied on a daily basis, the division receives an average of 150 tons of equipment each month from the various depots and commercial concerns throughout the country. This equipment is stored and issued from a large warehouse and 28,000 square foot outside storage yard here at

WSPG and three smaller warehouses located at Holloman Air Development Center.

Has Three Branches Headed by Major Edward O. Ringland, Division Chief, and Harold France, Civilian Chief, the division is made up of three branches. Heart of the organization is the Property and Stock Control Branch with Capt. Richard C. Glenn as Property Officer. In charge of the Stock Record Section is Miss Kay Lyle, while the Procurement Section is head-

ed by Miss Angie B. Corral. Capt. Horace S. McGahee is in charge of the Station Property Section, which handles issues of Quartermaster, Ordnance and Engineer property for adminis-

trative use. The Requirements Branch, which aids the various activities with their special problems on availability and sources for equipment, is efficiently run by Roger I. Lemon. Mr. Lemon, since his arrival in the division last January, has established probably the most complete library of commercial catalogues on the post in the field of radio and

Expansion Continues

The Storage Branch, headed by Lt. Robert K. Illingworth, has 13 civilians and seven enlisted men to handle the heavy work-load of warehouse activities for the division. Willard C. Spear is the civilian assistant for the branch, while the Receiving Section is handled by Sfc. Claud J. Miles and the Storage and Issue Section by Leonard J. Manzenberger.

Employees working in the various sections of the division have homes scattered all over the country. In all, 18 states are represented. Today the expansion of the division is continual. Plans are presently in the making for the division to take over the administration of the Signal Sec-

tion of Post Property Branch. From desk to warehouse, supplying anything from a 90-foot telephone pole to the smallest electron tube, the WSSCA Supply Division is a hard-working family—ready to serve the Proving Ground in every capacity related to Signal activities.



Scene during a storage operation in the warehouse of the WSSCA Supply Division. In the loft at upper left, left to right, are Leonard J. Manzenberger, Pfc. Stanley Sienkiewicz and Sylvester Ballestros. Below are Sfc. Claud J. Miles with check sheet and Pfc. Robert L. Bean driving the fork lift.

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Army of Experts Tests Missiles Before Firing

is an army of scientists, engi- dollars worth of electronic equipneers, mechanics and support ment for the instrumentation of personnel who have spent count- test range, and have supervised

taining the instrumentation mechanics. equipment.

Must Be Perfected

This equipment must be perfected to the point that it will measure the speed at which the missile is traveling, the height to which it ascends, will take pictures of the missile while it is in flight, and must even control the missile to such an extent that its course can be changed or it can such action is deemed necessary. This equipment must measure the missile performance to a menting the WSPG test range.

The STD and FDL staffs wor

Equipment Is Costly

Determination Laboratories have Lab, Engineer-User Test Unit,

Back of every missile launching@contracted for many millions of the White Sands Proving Ground less hours in the preparations necessary to fire the missile and to record the course of its flight.

They have checked and re-

record the course of its flight.

They have checked and rechecked and modified this equipthe Flight Determination Labor- ment where necessary, in order ateries are important parts of to assure maximum performance that group. They are responsible in securing the data from the for designing and/or selecting, different missile tests. They have procuring, installing and main- trained operators and electronics

> Systems Test Division is headed by Lt. Col. M. R. Collins, who will be succeeded by Lt. Col. Frank E. Napper on August 1. missile firing, civilian employees Flight Determination Laborator- work right alongside Army (or ies are headed by Lt. Col. W. O. Navy or Air Force) personnel. McDaniel.

Staffed by Experts

Their staffs include many nationally recognized authorities in the field of guided missiles, be automatically destroyed when who are outstandingly qualified to perform the task of instru-

The STD and FDL staffs work high degree of accuracy and reliability, be easy to maintain and operate, and be able to hold up Army Ordnance Corps' Technical under the rigors of the desert's Staff, which is headed by Lt. Col. winds, dust storms and high tem-

Under the Systems Test Division are such branches as Missile During the past three years Test Unit, Ground Guidance Unit, the scientists and engineers of Firing Circuits Lab, Autopilot Systems Test Division and Flight Doppler Lab, Radar-Telemetry



A section of the 28,000-square-foot outside storage area of the White Sands Signal Corps Agency Supply Division, where hundreds of types of non-perishable signal supplies and equipment are stored, is shown here. From this storage area and its big warehouse, the WSSCA Supply Division serves more than 60 WSPG activities with signal and communications supplies.

Ground Guidance Unit, Handling | & Propulsion Unit, Telemetry Unit, Modification & Maintenance Branch, Shops & Services Branch and the various missile

Civilian and Military

Under the FDL are such branches as the Electronic Reduction Section, Data Reduction Branch, Optical Reduction Section, Bowen-Knapp Unit, Theodolite Unit, Reports & Computing Section, Measurements Branch, Central Timing, DOVAP Branch, Electro-Mechanical Lab, Film Processing Branch, Optical Measurements Branch, Geodetic Control Branch, Planning Branch, Research & Evaluation Branch and the many departments under those units or branches.

Throughout this army of mechanics, scientists, engineers and support personnel, who do their work before, during and after a work right alongside Army (or



"Piker!"

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Regular Price	Sale Price	Regular Price	Sale Price
5.95 to 6.95	5.00	14.95	9.00
10.95	7.00	17.50	10.00
12.95	8.00	Come in today and select yours!	

Children's Dresses

A special group of children's fine dresses in all the wanted summer materials and through fall. . . .

uy for school now and save!	
egular Price	Sale Price
2.98	2.00
3.98	2.50
4.95	3.50
5.95	4.00
7.90	5.00

LADIES'

Skirts and Blouses

A special rack has been arranged for these fine quality skirts and blouses.

Regular I	Price	Sale Price
5.95		4.00
7.95		5.00
8.95		6.00

MANY OTHER UNADVERTISED VALUES!

HE BUDGET SHOP

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Las Cruces

Commissary Store Does \$4,345 Business in Day

Less than six months in operation, the WSPG Commissary Sales Store has already out-ranked its parent facility at Fort Bliss, from which its supplies are obtained. A normal day's stout one. "Well, I'm a banker, cash sales have totaled as high as \$4,345, according to figures and would you believe it, I havecompiled by 1st Lt. Luis M. Maese, Commissary Sales Officer. n't been near a theatre for over

The local commissary further out-ran the neighboring facility in sales per permit card issued for purchases at the local the actor breezily. "I haven't been

facility. The rate per permit issued at Fort Bliss is only \$19.98, whereas the Proving Ground's permit rate is \$48 per person eligible to buy at the store.

Figures for food sales from the opening day, Feb. 2, 1953, show a staggering progressive growth. Increase Each Month

February's total sales, with only one less working day than in succeeding months, was \$21,841.52. March sales were jumped by an added \$3,960.65. The April figures for sales were increased over March by \$9,158.52. May's sales total was \$38,891.17, and June, through the end of the business day June 22, were listed at \$32,481.89, with the last civilian employee payday for the month, June 26, yet unaccounted for.

Under-staffed by six civilian personnel spaces, the dollar sales for the month of May alone were \$3,535 per working employee. Other figures revealed that sales of \$13.57 are generated monthly for each of the 2,867 square feet of floor space now in use.

Commissary personnel anticipates a monthly total of \$50.000 by the end of July. The expected new high will result, officials stated, from increased on-post personnel who will occupy Wherry Housing units already allocated but not yet occupied.

New Warehouse Used

An additional factor in expected future increased sales will be due to the new warehouse space which was taken over Monday. The building, formerly utilized as an Ordnance warehouse, will be used for additional staple food storage, permitting a wider variety and quantity to offer patrons.

Perishable foods are transported daily from Fort Bliss by refrigerated van due to the fact the post does not have sufficient cold storage space for such edibles

Commissary employees revealed that Monday and Friday top the rest of the week in sales. Army paydays are exceptions to the slower sales on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Paydays for civilian employees, eligible for purchases at the government facility by reason of being housed on the post, aid considerably in boosting the cash intake and cutsomer rush on Fridays. The peak rush hour, any week day, is simultaneous with the 4:15 whistle when military and civilian personnel make food purchases en route to their homes.

Suggestions Invited

While the WSPG Commissary is operated by experienced staff personnel, officials admit the new operation is still subject to improvement. Customer suggestions for items not yet stocked are welcomed. Such items will be available insofar as storage space permits, officials promised.

Commissary personnel, in addition to Lieutenant Maese, includes M/Sgt. William A. Williams, store manager; Sgt. John A. Moore, assistant manager; M/Sgt. Dwight J. Gard, chief clerk.

Civilian employees include William Cobb, warehouseman, Las Cruces; Rudolph Gamboa, Las Cruces, chief butcher; Ruben J. Garcia and Augustin Gonzales, butchers, both of Las Cruces; Mildred M. Covington, stockwoman, WSPG; Audra B. McConnell, cashier. WSPG; Grace R. Perry, cashier, WSPG; Mary Ann Melinski, requisition clerk, Las Cruces; Betty Doil, clerk, Las Cruces; Bertha E. Raab, accounts clerk, WSPG; and Patricia Maker, clerktypist, Las Cruces.

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Section 2 WIND & SAND Thursday, July 9, 1953

That's Nothing, I...

The two men were in the club car talking over a drink as they sped over the countryside in a westbound streamliner.

"So you're an actor," said the

near a bank for over ten years.'



Army and civilian pay days mean stocking up on staples for the kitchen pantries in the WSPG housing areas and trailer courts. Name brand staples available in the WSPG Commissary include all types of baby foods as well as canned meats and vegetables, dairy products, fresh meats and ice cream.



Fresh vegetables are brought in daily by refrigerated vans to provide WSPG personnel with a well balanced food supply. Complete stocks are sold to Proving Ground residents at the Post Commissary. Shoppers are shown here as they select items



A variety of fresh meats and dairy products are available to WSPG personnel at the Commissary. Meats, as well as other foods, are rigidly inspected at the source of supply and at the Proving Ground. Meat handlers are given regular physical exam-

J.P.L. Among Original Proving Ground Units

By R. B. RYPINSKI

The long association between White Sands Proving Ground and Cal Tech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory goes back to the very beginning of rocket testing in this area. A look at some of the older maps will show boundary lines marked "ORDCIT" RANGE" ("Ord" for Ordnance and "CIT" for California Institute of Technology), for it was by that name the first rocket testing facilities were established early in 1945.

It was in that year that the Jet? Propulsion Laboratory first made Propulsion Laboratory first made use of this range for early tests 10 Employees Spend of the WAC Corporal, launching prototypes of this pioneer American missile from the Hueco Range at Fort Bliss. Since that time, the field testing activities of JPL have expanded in scope and importance until today JPL maintains a permanent crew to carry on the field test program necesdevelopment.

Fired WAC Corporal

In 1946, while the technical facilities such as the Army Blockhouse were still under construction, JPL launched a series of WAC Corporal flights, one of which established an American record of over 43 miles altitude. These tests continued into 1947. It was in July of 1947 that a scaled-up version, known as the Corporal-E, was first flown. Since then, the latter missile has been developed into the present surface-to-surface guided missile with each step of its development proved by flight testing at the Proving Ground.

In 1951, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory was assigned the development responsibility for another missile, the name of which is still classified

Crew of 23 Persons

The present JPL Field Test crew, assigned to White Sands Proving Ground, consists of 23 persons. Most of them live on the post in the White Sands Housing area, the Post Trailer Court, or the WSPG Billets. In addition to the permanent group, personnel of the Laboratory visits the Proving Ground from time to time to direct or assist in field test acti-

Dr. L. G. Dunn, Director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, is a frequent visitor. Others are Dr. W. H. Pickeing and Dr. J. E. Froelich, Uniers of Electronic and Engineering Divisions of JPL. Another familiar figure from JPL is Dr. H. J. Stewart, Chief of the Research Analysis Section.

Rypinski Heads Station

The Field Test Station at White Sands Proving Ground is headed by R. B. Rypinski, who is assisted by A. G. Devirian. One specific missile's Propulsion and Handling Section is headed by Allyn Hazard and an Electronics Section by R. Williams. Secretary for the WSPG JPL section is Mrs. Betty

Future plans for JPL activities indicate a contiuned requirement for field testing and the continued association of these two Ordnance

Joy—"I gave him my best years and now he's run off with another woman. I... oh, I just can't control my emotions.'

Wanda—"Why bother? You'll feel better after a good laugh."

Week-ends at T or C

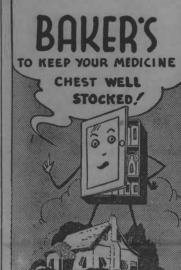
Ten Proving Ground employees trek weekly to Truth or Consequences and adjoining communities each Friday evening and return Sunday. The group travels sary to rocket and guided missile in two or three vehicles and seldom misses the weekend jaunt.

The weekenders include Eugene Montoya, Security Guard, who spends the weekend with his parents. Sipriano Abila, WSSCA employee, visits his wife. Trudy McMillen, of BRL, spends the weekends with her The weekenders include Eu-

Trudy McMillen, of BRL, spends the weekends with her three children.

Lloyd Hillen, EML, and his wife, who is employed at the Tech Information Branch, and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Oliver spend the weekend with the women's parents who operate Elephant Butte Lodge. Mrs. Oliver works with Logistics Division and her hus-

GUARD YOURSELF AGAINST EMERGENCIES - GET THE THINGS YOU NEED AT





band with Systems Test Division.

Dave R. Hillger, a Co-op student, and Jeff Clark, Douglas Aircraft employee, visit their

Winona Walden, supervisor of ilian Personnel, visits her parents and her 15-year-old daughter, Rozann, at Williamsburg.

Incognito

BRIDGEPORT, N. J. (AFPS-After Tinco Epeus Andringa Van Hylckama Vlieg, a native of the Netherlands, became naturalized the Administrative Branch, Civ- he received the court's permission to change his name to Tinco Epeus Andringa Van Hylckama.

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on the Celebration of the 8th Anniversary

of the founding

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Anniversary To the Personnel of White Sands Proving Ground on their 8th Birthday From The

WE GIVE S&H GREEN **STAMPS**



HEADQUARTERS, THEN AND NOW-On the left above is the old WSPG Headquarters Building, now occupied by the Logistics Division. The wooden frame building was adequate in the early years of the post, but by 1949 was being outgrown and a new



Headquarters Building was planned. The new Headquarters (above right) was completed late in 1950 and occupied early in 1951. Logistics Division moved into the old Headquarters Build-



FIRED BY E. M.—The first V-2 rocket ever fired as a result of exclusive efforts of enlisted personnel soared to a height of 132.6 miles above the desert at WSPG in April 1946. The flight demonstrated the skill of enlisted technicians who had mastered the maze of electronic, physics and electrical engineering problems preliminary to the firing. The enlisted men are shown in front of the missile prior to the shoot.

Guided Missiles Do Warfare Jobs with Minimum Manpower, Equipment Losses

ment of guided missiles has our Air Force. reached the stage where unbelievably fast warbirds with electronic brains can destroy enemy targets without ennow makes it possible for the program. automat to perform the jobs heretofore requiring pilots and crews.

Guided missiles fall into four

Unmanned Vehicle

A guided missile can best be defined as an unmanned vehicle moving about the earth's surface, by a mechanism within the vehicle remotely controlled by instruments on the ground or in poses another aircraft. A missile may be rocket-powered or it may be a

can be launched, flown, maneuvered and "homed" on a target. The missile itself, however, is aided in its takeoff by a rocket engine which drives it into the air until such time as its own ramjet engine begins to operate. The rocket assembly is automatically jettisoned when the jet engine takes over.

Under Constant Control

phase of a pilotless bomber, the "payload" consists of telemetering and radar equipment instead of the lethal warhead of the finished product. From the time a missile is launched, constant con trol is maintained over the missile by range stations on the ground and throughout the mis-

The missile is guided through a pre-determined flight path and electronically operated telemetering devices record the precise position of the craft at all times during the flight. If at any time the missile gets out of control of one of the range stations, a remotely controlled destructor can destroy the missile before any damage can be done.

Perhaps the best argument for guided missiles at the present time is the fact that they are capable of carrying a high explosive payload directly to a target with a minimum of expense in men

and equipment. The principal mission of the guided missile program is to assist in destroying enemy targets that are heavily defended and to give America a strong air arm

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In recent years the develop- comparable to the present cost of destructive purposes of war.

Material for Lives

Some missiles may cost more than the conventional piloted variety, but the net worth is regarded as money well spent. In short, we are trading material for dangering the lives of crew- lives. Several economic advanmen. In short, automatic pilotage tages will come with the new

materials will be used up for the Proving Ground.

Since missiles do not require

long, heavy runways, the cost of ter, Bob Bolls, Gene Bender and launching bases will be reduced. Leo (Pappy) White. And since guided missiles don't return once they are fired, costly repair and overhauling facilities are no longer necessary.

There are, of course, certain videz. shortcomings in guided weapons as in all weapons, but overcoming these shortcomings is one of the Smaller quantities of strategic main purposes of White Sands

main types: surface-to-air, surface-to-surface, air-to-air, and NAVY TRAINING POOL ONE OF POST'S

WSPG, unofficially called the The cost included the bath house, whose flight path can be altered "Post Pool," serves the entire post showers and a custom filter syspersonnel for recreational pur- tem that provides pure water 24

The pool was built primarily for training purposes, however, 21 yards wide. It has a capacity cross between a jet plane and a and is used by the U. S. Naval of 480,000 gallons of water. Ordnance Missile Test Facility for When not being used for train-A missile like the Matador con-ists of a jet engine capable of training its personnel. Such training purposes by the Navy, the pool ing, held regularly when missile is open to Army Navy and Air driving it through the air. projects permit, is for the purpose Through a complex system of of improving the swimming abiliguidance and control, the missile ty of seamen who have received

basic swimming at boot camp. Completed in 1948

The desert sailor is required to swim under water for given periods and specific distances as training for emergency abandoning of ship in wartime. Regardless of where its men are stationed, the Navy never forgets that for the most part its element is the water, and consequently it In the experimental testing endeavors to keep water training up to date.

The WSPG Navy Training Pool was completed on Sept. 14, 1948. Since that date it has proved to be one of the post's most popular recreational spots during the warm months.

Capacity 480,000 Gallons

The pool was built at a cost of \$89,945. The money was provided

The Navy Training Pool at by the U.S. Navy Department. hours per day.

The pool is 50 yards long and

open to Army, Navy Force men stationed at WSPG, to civilian employees living on the post, and to the families and guests of post personnel.

"There is only one way to handle a woman; the trouble is, nobody knows what it is."-Sammy Kaye.

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Games SATURDAY, JULY 11—1300 Chess, Croquet SUNDAY, JULY 12-1000

Coffee Hour 1330—Trip Radium Springs, Croquet, Classical Music. MONDAY, JULY 13—2000

TUESDAY, JULY 14—2000 Show Shop

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15—1800

Technical Offices Have Long-Time Employees

The Technical Staff of White Sands Proving Ground has its share of "old-timers," among whom is its Chief, Lt. Col. W. P. Patterson.

Others in the "old-timer" category include Maj. F. V. Carpen-

Early arrivals in the Technical Information Branch are Fred A. Mrs. Isabell (Ontiveros) Bena-

Mrs. William Wachtler, nee bored listener. Rosella Curry, is the lone pioneer

Silkiner Sees Pool Of Vehicles Grow From Only 6 to 550

M. D. Silkiner, presently employed as Assistant Civilian Personnel Officer, and former Post Adjutant of the Proving Ground, can provide further evidence of the startling changes that have occurred during the past eight years.

Assigned to the Proving Ground as a First Lieutenant October 1945, his first duty was that of Post Motor Officer. He had plenty of time to devote to "additional" duties since the total number of vehicles was six. At the end of June this year, there was a total of 550 vehicles of all types at the Post Motor Pool.

Coming to the post only three months after its activation, Mr. Silkiner left later and then returned to the Proving Ground in 1947, following his discharge from military service.

The Civilian Personnel Branch, to which he is now asigned, was authorized as such in 1946. The staff included one personnel officer, Capt. George J. Zils. He acted as Personnel Officer for both military and civilian offices. After two months two civilians, Robert Clements and Ray Dean, arrived to make up a complete staff. Capt. Zils was replaced by Lt. Silkiner as Personnel

The physical changes on the post, from the time of Mr. Silkiner's arrival, were stressed most by the completion of the new housing area. The first enlisted men's housing, in 1948, consisted of 135 old-type Army duplexes and a few houses which were occupied by officer personnel.

"We were surrounded by natives," related the explorer. "They uttered savage cries, Koether, Mrs. Gladys Denney and danced madly and beat the earth with their clubs."

"Sounds like golf," said the

in Troops and Training Division. Advertising Doesn't Cost, It Pays!

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THE FINEST CARHOPS IN THE SOUTHWEST

SWANKY FRANKY DRIVE INN'S 5419 Dyer St. on Hwy. 54 and 6980 Hwy. 80 East

6 Douglas Workers WSPG 'Old-Timers'

Douglas Aircraft Corporation employees, including six WSPG 'old-timers" who have been on the post for five years or longer, are carrying on highly important work for the Army Ordnance Corps under contract to the government.

The Douglas company has had an important place in the Army's guided missile program for more than eight years.

The six Douglas "old-timers" nave been employed continuously at WSPG since their arrivals. Three of them have been here as long as seven years. The six and their arrival dates are:

William A. Duval, Field Station Representative, 1947; T. King, Assistant Field Station Representative, 1948; R. F. Wiggs, Foreman, 1946; Bob Dobzien, Assistant Foreman, 1946; R. D. Tregilus, Leadman, 1947; and J. Haak, Assistant Foreman, 1946.

Post Motor Pool Has 3 'Pioneer' Employees

three "pioneer' 'employees, outranks the Post Exchange, Postoffice, Provost Marshal's Office, Purchasing and Contracting Branch, Ration Breakdown Branch and Security Division, which have one each.

The Motor Pool employees are Vic Serna Jr., George Portan Jr., and Sam Carpio.

The other long-time employees, from the units named and in that order, are Quintin Garrison, Glenn O. Filkins, Miss Pearl Mayberry, Mike Elarreaga, WOJG Grady W. Mabe and Rudolph Fox.

ment for keeping flies in the

Thursday, July 9, 1953 FDL Employs Many **WSPG 'Long-Timers**'

The Flight Determination Labatories, with at least 32 "longtimers" at WSPG-employees with five or more years of service on the post—probably list a greater percentage of their total personnel than any other divi-

The FDL "old-timers" include the following:

Wayne M. Roemersberger, Clyde W. Tombaugh, Ben Phillips, Art Dittmar, Mike Krivanich, Carl Bundschuk, Robert Nelson, John Phillips, Winston Shillite, Ruben Gonzales, William Miller, Keith Humphreys.

And Darrell Lassiter, Lester Christensen, Wilmer Édwards, Demetrio E. Garcia, Wilbert Johnson, Ralph Konegan, Leonard Lane, Alfred Perkins, Henry L. Shields.

And Albert J. Zappelli, Frank Hemingway, Orlando Unruh, William Hiltz, Russell Goff, Vernon Miller, George Wright, Placito Trujillo, Malcolm Mullin, Ralph P. Komgam, M/Sgt. R. D. Van Landuyt.

A thing of beauty may be a jaw forever.-Republican, Fair-



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"A Wherry Housing Project of Better Homes"

THE UNITED, Inc. APPRECIATION DAYS at the UNITED!

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101 NORTH MAIN

LAS CRUCES, N. M.

land, take off, circle around

again, etc. So what is different

To Maj. Louis Benne, who is

the leader of the drone squadron,

this is fascinating work. Perhaps

a few miles or so away is the mother plane in which the "beep-

plane by radio controls. What

happens on the missions when the

drone planes become targets for

the guided missiles is "classified,"

'restricted" and "under wraps'

Successful in Korea

jet fighter is a 2-seated Lock-

head T-33 jet, while the 4-engine

B17 has another B-17 as the

mother plane. On the jet oper-

ation the "beeper" pilot is at the

controls of the mother plane until

'beeper" pilot takes over the op-

eration of the drone and the other

Operation of aircraft by radio

as a result of long experiments

and was proved successful in Ko-

rea when single-engine fighter

planes were equipped for radio

operation from a mother plane,

then loaded with bombs and di-

rected by the mother plane into

Jato Target Planes

offs are almost common-place.

Serving under Maj. Benne is Maj.

officer and Capt. William F.

siles or what have you.

used for gunnery practice.

First Opened in 1942

over a pilot.

human pilot.

were no crews aboard.

Mountain of Work Done Before Missile Is Fired

Section 2

ment Center was written by the Aviation Editor of the Kansas City Star, who visited Holoman to gather material for a Sunday feature article in his paper. The article also ran in the "Rocketeer," Holloman newspaper, and is reprinted here for "Wind & Sand" readers.)

By JUSTINE D. BOWERSOCK Aviation Editor, Kansas City Star

Firing an Aerobee rocket into the sky is not as simple a matter as you might think, Capt. D. J. Coleman, Chief of the the perfect site for the guided Rocket Sonde Unit, pointed out.

"It might finally simmer down to the pushing of one button

or throwing a lever, but there are four men in the block- of the 3225th Drone Squadron. house, each performing an important duty at a maze of Lockheed F-80 jet or Boeing B-17 control boards," the captain said. go flying around above and then

Five Hours to Prepare

"Aside from all the other work about that? Well, you see, there ahead of the launching which might have taken weeks, months or years depending on the phase of the work, there are six men dressed in asbestos suits who work five straight and nervous hours preparing the rocket for er" pilot is operating the pilotless launching before the four men in the blockhouse take over their jobs," he said.

The load of instruments in the rocket weighs well over 200 pounds. The Aerobee is an unguided rocket which goes up and down. It is not controlled after it leaves the launching tower. The distance where any parts may fall on the 38-by-64-mile proving ground is not made known.

After the nose cone is automatically released and starts to earth the ground operators get the drone into the air. Then the via the parachute route, the remainder of the rocket is set to blow itself up. The progress of the rocket is followed on the ground by radar and various pilot in the mother ship takes other instruments.

Recovery Is Rapid

Shortly after the rocket is launched, the next phase is to find the cone and for that operation there is a recovery unit composed of small planes and helicopters which can land on the

An idea of the speed in which the recovery teams work came from Lt. J. L. Hartman Jr., of Kansas City, Mo., Assistant Director of the Space Biology Lab, who played an important part in the rocket project which carried the monkeys.

"One hour after the rocket was launched, reached its height of 40 Green who are qualified experts miles and the cone returned to in the field of pilotless aircraft the earth, the monkeys and mice operations. were back in the laboratory," Lt. Hartman said. "There was an ex- fully now is the take-off of small tra recovery program that morn- (11½-foot wingspread) target ing because it was important to planes with Jato assist from a get the monkeys as fast as pos-sible and not let them be sub-pound Jato thrust sends the plane jected to the heat of the desert down the track until the plane ground."

Holloman Is Unique

The monkeys, and the mice 210 miles per hour, zig-zagged which were considered of secondary importance, were picked up by a helicopter and rushed to the space lab and not long afterwards were rushed to the aeromedical laboratory at the Wright Air Development Center, at Dayton, Ohio, where today they are under observation.

Holloman is different from most military bases. There are plenty of aircraft stationed here. Each one has a certain duty to perform; they are working planes Lt. Col. Frank D. Sharp as deon a working research project.
There is no chance for the GI to hitchhike a ride home from this pioneer in the guided missile rebase when he gets a leave. There are no transient planes.

There are so many projects in the aircraft research development field, as well as the many other rocket projects on the double hush-hush, that Holloman is buzzing with activities at all hours throughout the day.

Operated by Radio

The roar of jets and the big 4-The roar of jets and the big 4-engine transports, as well as the buzz of the small recovery planes, is almost constant and keeps the bright New Mexico sky well activated. But most interest in the aircraft field is in the operation

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The base is 90 miles north of El Paso, Tex., and nine miles west of Alamogordo, N. M.

Formerly known as the Alamogordo Army Air Field, it started to take shape in early 1942. To the southwest lies the Army Ordnance Corps installation, White Sands Proving Ground. It was in the northwestern corner of the air field's bombing range, which is now the missile testing grounds, that the first atomic bomb was exploded July 16, 1945.

Reactivated in 1946

After the war was over the air field was inactivated and all but forgotten in the post-war planning until late in 1946. It was then someone happened to think that the huge land area used as a bombing range earlier would be missile test range.

The Holloman Air Force Base was then reactivated. In March, 1947, preparations were made for the new program of "pilotless aircraft, guided missiles and al-In this operation it is not unlied equipment in support of the tion. common to see, which we did, a Air Material Command research and development."

The first rocket was launched Sept. 17, 1947.

No Country Club This base is anything but a country club. Most of the living quarters are of wood construction, built in a hurry during the war. Lots of construction has been going on since the base has been made a permanent facility. New paved roads are being built, new sewer and water mains help to give the place an appearance of being in a turmoil.

Morale is just on the medium size for the enlisted personenl, and the quarters they have for The mother plane for the F-80 their families are not far from dron and those based at Hollo-Even officers' quarters lack a lot field probably is busiest after a of conveniences found at other military installations.

Despite all the secret work going on at Holloman ther has been little trouble about too much talking at bars when off duty in and there are other unmention-El Paso or Las Cruces, which is abels which automatically ex-60 miles to the west.

Townspeople Don't Talk

While the rest of the nation is constantly seeing "flying saucers," here in the area where such a thing might originate, you hear little conversation from townspeople. They will tell you in Las Cruces about the time four years ago when a rocket went out of control and struck a mountain four miles out of town.

the target. It is the blueprint of the future for the safety of the Then there was a time they tell about when one landed in a cemetery in Juarez. Before the base officials could get there, hot dog, Successful landings and takesouvenir and hamburger stands were in operation at the scene for the curious visitors. But all in all those "neighbors" 50 to 100 miles Charles S. Wolfe as operations away don't worry much any

(from Holloman Air Force Base) Condron Field Named Nine Pfcs. Promoted last October. For Nebraska Airman

Condron Field, WSPG, was dron of Valley, Nebr.

The naming of the field was featured in the Douglas County of Det. 1, 9393rd TSU. Gazette, Waterloo, Nebr.. Nov. 3,

The "Cornhusker State" airman also added corporal stripes. was killed Dec. 3, 1942, when the 0-46A aircraft which he was pilot- 2 was George L. Willis. ing crashed in the course of a searchlight tracking mission on the New Mexican desert. The field, at the time, was used only as an auxiliary emergency land- Fast-Changing History ing strip.

Capt. William Smith, commander of the airman's squadron, informed Condron's parents it was the desire of his squadron that the field be named in honor of the Nebraskan. Officials of the U. S. Army Air Forces, Washington, D.C., concurred with the sugges-

Letters were also sent the Condrons by Colonel G. G. Eddy, commanding officer of White Sands Proving Ground, and Maj. Bun Penland, inviting the bereaved couple to visit the Proving Ground.

Condron Field was used during the war by Army Air Force organizations, including the 6th Tow Squadron, in conjunction with anti-aircraft units stationed at Fort Bliss. The field became the WSPG aircraft facility after establishment of the Proving Ground in July 1945.

Condron is used by both Army and U.S. Air Force pilots today, including planes stationed at Conlooking like a tenement district. man Air Development Center. missile firing, when pilots flying

> There are 70,000 miles of communication wires on the test area plode any missile which might have a tendency to go AWOL. So as you leave this base of

mystery you read this sign: What you see, what you hear, When you leave, leave it here.





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welcome for nine privates first class who added a corporal's stripe to their sleeves.

The new promotees included named for Lt. Max H. Condron, Son of Mr. and Mrs. Glen D. Con-Kopelman, Howard M. Ray, Gil-Kopelman, Howard F. Sware bert L. Stachar, Richard E. Swadener and Donald E. Whitsen, all at WSPG.

Howard G. Lahman and Nichnamed Chief of the Training olas W. Maine Jr., 138th Ord. Co., Branch, Civilian Personnel.

The sole corporal made in Det.

The first eighth grade students were graduated from the WSPG Junior High School on May 28. There were 14 graduates.

WSPG Has Colorful

(Continued from Page 2) Las Cruces on May 15. Construction Under Way

A convoy of enlisted men from the 138th Ord. Co. journeyed to Sierra Ordnance Depot, Herlong, Calif., to display the V-2 in special Armed Forces Day observ-

Maj. Harold A. Mercier, new L-19 aircraft and helicopters carry out recovery missions.

Post Chaplain, arrived for duty with a goal of \$5,000 set. during the week of May 21. Maj. Walter Records replaced

The Army's smallest unit, 163rd Capt. Raeburn Stiles as OIC of Ordnance Integrated Fire Control Weather Services for WSPG. Repair Detachment, was featured in "Wind & Sand" May 21.

The Army Emergency Relief

Drive for the post was under way

Brig. Gen. G. G. Eddy was n "Wind & Sand" May 21.

Herbert L. Karsch announced New Mexico A&M College on that a five-million dollar con- June 8. struction program was under way

Hotel Herndon

Clyde W. Tombaugh was guest peaker for the newly organized William Bailey, El Paso, was Mesilla Kiwanis Club on June 16.

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