



# THE CHINA LAKER

Vol. 11 No. 3

Newsletter of the China Lake Museum Foundation

Summer 2005

## Recollections of the Central Computing Site at China Lake

By Lee Iakin

*Lee Iakin is a physicist by training and came to China Lake in 1946. He first worked in the Test Department where he was associated with meteorology and later metric photo operations. During this time he received training in programming the original IBM 701 computer and became intrigued by the infant world of computing. After a short stint in the Sidewinder Testing Program he joined the China Lake computing community in 1959 where he worked until his retirement in 1980. Lee would like to thank Fred Weals for his assistance with these recollections.*

During the period 1946-1981, China Lake was able to procure and operate a succession of the nation's newest large digital computers. These computers were operated as a utility where every organization at China Lake could bring their computing problems to the large computer and have their jobs processed. The work included test data from the ranges, scientific simulations, supply, personnel, management, payroll, etc. This article represents my recollections of the Central Computing Site during the period when I was working at China Lake.

**1946 to 1953.....**The main calculating machines

one would see in all the Labs, Offices, and Quonset huts were the mechanical calculators mainly the Marchants and Friedens. They cost about \$1000 (about 1/2 a years salary for a new professional employee in those days), if you were lucky enough to get one with a square root capability it cost about \$2000. Harley Tillitt installed some IBM card machines and a lot of effort was made to have our machines read our measurements directly into IBM cards rather than writing down by hand the measurements and hand calculating our final product. Harley was able to get the Station and our



Washington Bosses to order an IBM 701 electronic Computer. China Lake got the 8<sup>th</sup> one built and it installed at China Lake in 1953. IBM constructed a total of 19 machines in this series. See Fig 1. Since the IBM rental was \$15,000 a month (about 50-60 Man Years of salary at that time), a lot of project people had to learn to use this Machine quickly so the IBM bill could be paid. A major effort was made to teach everyone how to program the IBM 701 using the 1's and 0's

method. When you finished your Program you went up behind the Michelson Lab Cafeteria where the IBM 701 was installed and ran your own program when it was your turn.

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## China Lake Museum Foundation

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### *President's Report*, by Paul Homer

Lee Lakin's lead article on the history of computing at China Lake causes me to make the comparison of a home computer upgrade I did recently with a Cray Super Computer China Lake acquired about 15 years ago. My upgrade is a 120 GB (yes, that's 120 billion bytes!) hard drive, and the cost of the unit was a little over \$100. The Cray machine (I think it was a XM-P model), strongly supported by Dillard Bullard and I at the time, and badly needed by the engineers and scientists doing computational fluid dynamic work in aerodynamics and warhead/explosive phenomena, cost about \$10 M. While the performance in terms of computational speed and usable memory may not be directly comparable, for around \$1,000 one can buy a portable laptop with the performance equal to my unit, so for the money that a 1990 Cray cost, one can buy 10,000 laptop computers or twice that number of desktop PCs. That's technological progress!

My attempt in forecasting a caterpillar and bug

invasion, noted in the Spring 2005 China Laker, did not come about. I hardly saw a worm, so lots of early birds must have been out. After the heavy winter rains, there has hardly been a drop since April, so the desert "soft" vegetation that the caterpillars thrive on dried and died quickly.

Readers are encouraged to attend the Museum's fifth anniversary celebration and hear about Volume III of the China Lake history. I note in Volume II that on 25 July, we will be at the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Salt Wells Pilot Plant first casting of high explosives for use in atomic bombs. Two weeks later, on 6 August 1945, the first atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Capt William S. Parsons, USN, served as the weapons officer on this mission, and later contributed greatly to the NOTS organizational structure and philosophy. Parsons Street aboard China Lake is named for him.

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## Frontier Encore

by Roy Colgrove

*Roy Colgrove was a freshly graduated 22 year-old mechanical engineer from upstate New York when he landed at China Lake in 1949. He remembers living in a "barracks" for \$8.00/month and working on Project RAM during the Korean Conflict. In 1951 he transferred to the Pasadena Annex where he worked until leaving government service for industry in 1953. Shortly after arriving at China Lake Mr. Colgrove had occasion to tour the Indian petroglyphs located on the ranges and he subsequently wrote this article detailing his experiences and impressions of that tour for a long-forgotten publication. Today Mr. Colgrove is 78 years old and resides with his wife, in the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles. He is active in the San Fernando Valley Historical Society and has granted his permission for us to reprint his article from 55 years ago.*

I've been to a place that not more than a few hundred White men have infiltrated. It's Carricart Valley-- by the dry lake bed of China Lake near In-yokern, in California's Mojave Desert. The valley itself is a small portion of the Naval Ordnance Test Station, itself larger than the state of Rhode Island and bounded on the North, South, East and West by diamond-patterned steel chain-link-a tract long closed to the public. Although there are thousands of people now residing on the base (and over the Southern fence in Ridgecrest), the upper reaches, including Carricart (sometimes referred to as, Petroglyph Canyon), are restricted area even to them.

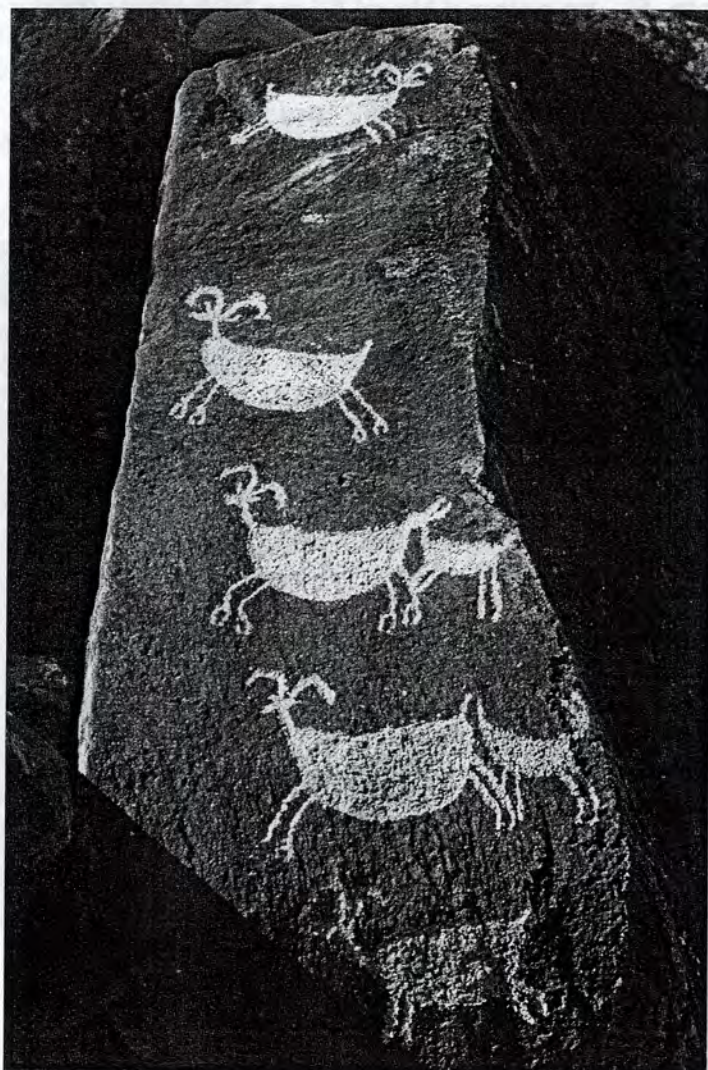
The visit took place shortly after I'd arrived in the Golden State. At that time the region off the parched lake was available to residents who obtained proper permission after going through the customary "channels" (after all, it is a Navy base!). It had been open to Navy employees and their families for a short time only, and weeks after my trek it became forbidden ground once again because of the very real possibility of stray rockets penetrating therein. Even: when I went, it was open only on weekends and holidays but, due to an acceleration of the rocket program it closed "Until Further Notice

Almost immediately having become a rock hound, I assembled a number of people that dug

archeology (pun intended), Indian lore and just snooping in general. One of the fellows had an "in" with the motor pool so we were able to garner four-- count 'em, four-- Navy four-wheel-drive carryalls as our caravan. So, attired variously in jeans, Levis and the like, and gathering available rock picks, shovels and grub, we literally hit the road one particularly Sunday morning!

Over rock-marked terrain our safari (safari, so good...) clung to old trails, cutting a swath through

(continued on page 7)



## A Marine Remembered

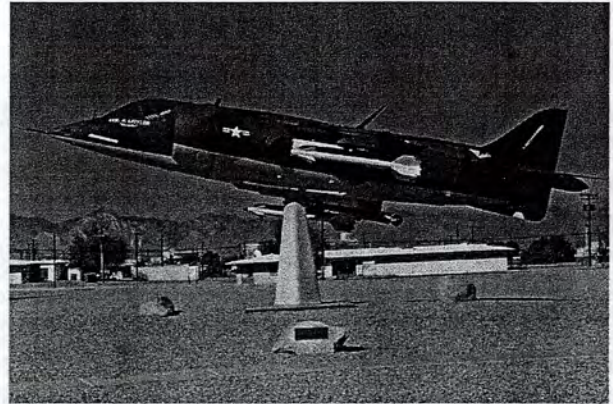
Compiled from the September 2, 1999 issue of the *Weaponer* and the Harrier Dedication Program

*When you drive down the main street of China Lake towards the Museum, look off to your left as you approach the stop sign near Lauritsen, and you will see something special. It is a Harrier mounted on a pedestal to honor the memory of Col. Kevin Leffler – and, at the same time, all the others who have given their lives while serving their country at China Lake.*

Col. Leffler started life in Quincy, Illinois, and received his degree from Northern Illinois University in 1973. In June of that same year, he received his commission in the United States Marine Corps. After an initial assignment at Pensacola, FL, he entered Naval Flight Training at Beeville, TX, and was designated a Naval Aviator in 1975. He served in the Marine attack Training Squadron 102 at Yuma, AZ and then the Marine Attack Squadron 223 where he also served as Personnel Officer. In July 1976, the squadron transferred to Japan where he participated in operations in Korea, Okinawa, and the Philippines as well as Japan. He completed carrier qualifications with the USS Enterprise.

He returned to Yuma in May of 1979 where he served as Flight Officer and later as Director of Standardization and Safety. After a stint in the A-4 section of the Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactical Squadron, he returned to Japan again as Executive Officer of MARS-12. He attended the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, VA, graduating in January 1986 and then deployed to Germany. After that tour, he was selected as Lieutenant Colonel and transitioned to the AV-8 Harrier. He then joined VMA 542 in West Pac as Executive Officer.

He served in Desert Shield and Desert Storm before returning to the States to attend the Army War College. His next station was MCAS, Cherry Point, where he was Operations Officer for MAG-32. He made full Colonel in 1995 and transferred



to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as Commander Joint Task Force Bulkeley and Commander Marine Forces 163. His next assignment was to Marine Corps Headquarters in Washington, D.C., where he was the Branch Head for Space Integration and Information Warfare and later Deputy Director for Strategy and Plans. He came to China Lake November 5, 1998 as the Commandant of the Marine Air Detachment. In addition, he was the military deputy to the Director of Research and Engineering Competency.

He was on a routine test flight over Saline Valley when the crash that took his life occurred – August 30, 1999. He is survived by his wife Kathy and two sons – Brett and Nicholas.

The above words state the facts; but they do not describe the man. That can only be done by his family and those who knew and worked with him. We join them in honoring this man who gave his life in the performance of his duty for all of us.



## Recollections of the Central Computing Site at China Lake (continued from page 1)

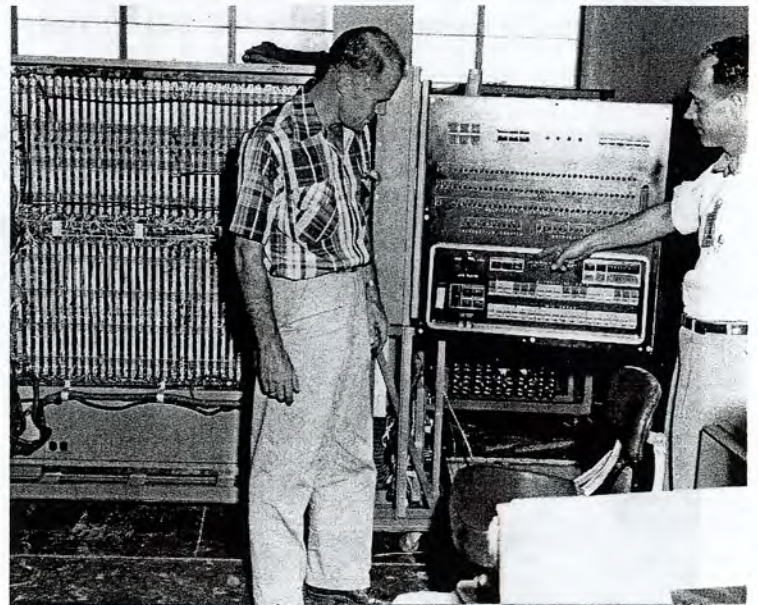
**1953 to 1961.....**The NE part of wing 5 of Michelson Lab was modified to install the newer Models of IBM machines that were becoming available. Public Works built a raised floor to put these machines on so that all of the electronic and electrical cables would be under the floor. These were all vacuum tube machines and generated a lot of heat. Public Works built a building outside of wing 5 and installed about 75 tons of air conditioning to cool the air in the computer room. The machines took this room air into the cabinets to cool the machines. This also kept the operators in the room very cool. During this time the machines got the new magnetic core memories and the Software progressed to different assembly languages rather than the 1's and 0's. About this time, Bob Herman started the Data Automation Branch which designed many special purpose digital systems for projects at China Lake. In 1959 Lee Lakin joined Harley Tillitt, Bob Bracken and others in the China Lake Central Computing Site.

**1961 to 1971.....**A new IBM machine was installed in 1961. It was the first transistorized IBM machine. During this period, FORTRAN (FORmula TRANslation) was established as the software for scientific work and COBOL (COMmon Business Oriented Language) was established as the software for business use. These languages were the best available at the time and they subsequently became industry standards. During the mid-60's Congressman Brooks got a law passed that allowed him to micromanage all computers in the U.S. Government. Brooks once even inspected our China Lake Central Computer Site. He wanted to minimize the number of computers in the U.S. Government. This law required a lot of extra effort by Station representatives in Washington to continue to get the best computer equipment for China Lake. Also in the mid 60's the newest machines were built to do many jobs at the same time, so we could do a lot more work in the same time. Circa 1965 IBM made a major change in the character size and word size (from a 6 bit character to an 8 bit character and from a 36 bit word to a 32 bit word) which caused significant trouble in adaptation. Fig 2 shows the lineage of computers we had at China Lake, when they were installed and the relative amount of work each could do compared to the IBM 7094. During this

period the Pasadena Annex would collect their computer work at 3 PM and have it driven to China Lake, we would process the work overnight and have it back by 7 AM the next morning. Management Data processing started using the Central Site in the late 1960's. That meant that our pay checks were processed at Central Site as well as the Station's business records. Congress wanted to know where the money goes. A payroll was never missed!

**1971 to 1981.....**The new Computer building was finished about 1971. It was built on the South side of Michelson Lab. You will notice that the enlarged Michelson Lab Lobby has fire safety sprinklers in the ceiling. That is because the enlargement was part of the computer building contract. Hack Wilson said that he could get approval to build a new computer building from the Washington bosses. So he played an important part in the design. The new building had the air conditioning air come in under the floor, up through the machines and be warmed by the machines and then out into the room. This made the operators very happy and they threw away their long underwear. We moved the complete

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*Recollections of the Central Computing Site at China Lake* (continued from page 5)

Univac 1108 over a weekend from wing 5 to the new Computer building and were up and running from a Friday to a Monday. The tape vault was designed to hold over 10,000 tape units. Early in the 1970's China Lake was part of a computer project to connect the Navy Labs to the ARPA (Advanced Research Projects Agency) Net. John Zenor was responsible for connection of the China Lake computer to the ARPA net. After running the China Lake part of this project for some months between the Labs, he said they found that most of the information transmitted over the net were messages, thus making it a forerunner of today's Internet. The early 1970's also marked the introduction of integrated circuits in all digital computers. As Lee Lakin retired in 1980, Gene Anderson was planning and designing the installation of the Univac 1100/82 for November 1982 and was pre-planning the Univac 1100/83 for installation in the 1983 time frame. This was a wonderful time to be involved with digital technology. For thirty-odd years it seemed like there was something new and exciting every day. The progress didn't stop. Twenty-five years later in 2005, we can do the same thing on a laptop computer that we carry around that we did on those huge machines.

1	IBM Technical Computing Bureau
2 & 13	Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory
3 & 18	Lockheed Aircraft
4	NSA Defense Calculator 1952-53
5	Douglas Aircraft, Santa Monica, CA
6	General Electric
7	Convair, Ft. Worth, TX
8	U.S. Navy China Lake Installation
9	United Aircraft
10	North American Aviation
11	Defense Calculator at the Rand Corporation
12	Boeing Aircraft
14	Douglas Aircraft, El Segundo, CA

Figure 1

Computer	Date of Installation	Comparison with 7094 Capability
IBM 701	Sep-53	1/35
IBM 704	Jul-57	1/7
IBM 709	Jan-60	1/5
IBM 7090	May-61	1/1.5
IBM 7094	Jan-64	1
UNIVAC 1108	Jan-67	4X
UNIVAC 1110	Jul-74	8X

Figure 2

**Frontier Encore** (continued from page 3)

the desert growth that was successfully choking the road's progress-- and ours. Can you imagine what Sigalerts must've sounded like back then?!! An occasional clearing afforded us opportunities to glimpse wild burros, left to propagate and fend for themselves by miners, prospectors and claim-jumpers long ago.

At one spot through a particularly narrow stretch of road (and I use the term loosely), a 'burro family-- sire, dam and youngster-trotted sure-footedly in front of us for maybe a hundred yards, only to veer off quickly to a rise, and quicker than you could scream "Gold", turn about as one and watch our laborious pilgrims' progress. Being unaccustomed to men, they had no fear of our dusty bunch.

We tarried briefly at an ancient-- though1 nondescript-- Wells Fargo Stage stop before we inched along what had once been their freeway on our passage to Petroglyph Canyon. The past had come to me, whether I'd unknowingly beckoned it or not.

At the canyon we alighted, stretched, scratched-- and, by simply disturbing a few rocks with our boot toes, were able to bring to view tiny bits and chips of obsidian and other minerals the Indians had used to make utensils and arrowheads.

The canyon itself is a dry riverbed-- hence the markings so far up on the side-- along one bank only and well above the old water line. The petroglyphs, sort of "Indian hieroglyphics"—or graffiti--wear their age well since they're reputedly over a thousand years old and still distinct-- unworried by blazing sun and Nature's sandblast. The resultant rock etchings are of family groups and hunting incidents, being assumed they were formed by Red Men from canoes, chipping away a little at a time.

Grudgingly departing, we set out for more of a Cook's Tour on the lumpy, bumpy way back. We soon spied a couple of abandoned mining operations (long since healed) -- where relentless winds had eddied up dust drifts in the silent shafts-- and a few once-profitable ranches with their current crop of tumbleweed. It was at one of these deserted sites we "broke camp"-- that is, stopped to eat--everything tasting exceptionally great just then. Leaving, the area once again became as a street after a parade has passed...

It was only a few arrow-flights south where the 20-mule team wended its way through some of this rugged country and, as we were reminded of

the pioneers who trekked westward to settle new lands, the hard seats of our vehicles became much softer. Also, we were about two water canteens from Last Chance Canyon where the big Borax mine is. Jawbone Canyon's a couple of grubstakes and a coyote howl away, and on the eastern edge of the Naval Base is Trona, western gateway to Death Valley and a wealth of more intrigue.

The tract abounded with mesquite, chaparral, sage and a profusion of Joshua trees, spiny leaves pointing to every compass indication. Once we paused to gather handfuls of the growth once used to make the commercial Ming trees.

We saw more hippie-appearing burros and, homely as they are, one silhouetted near a gnarled Joshua by the setting sun gave me an appreciation for the beast-- as symbolic as the expressive "End of the Trail" painting. Then, as we labored over another rise, the group in the lead carrier motioned us to look to the left. Following a burst of dust to its origin, we began to make out some horses -- one white and four darker ones-- as they sped across our path a few lariat tosses ahead... No "Equestrian Crossing" sign here!

Not daring to hope, seeing anything such as wild horses when I left New York, here they were in their uninhibited glory of freedom... And then they were gone-- more than symbols-- like the old west revisited. A standing ovation to one of Nature's glorious but all-too-rare glimpses of our heritage.



## Volunteer Profile: Jerry Saholt

Do you know? A Big Eye in a large eastern city with conventional explosive might destroy one block. With a nuclear device – perhaps three blocks. However, as a biological or chemical weapon, possibly five states! That is one of the stories Jerry Saholt tells visitors to the museum. He adds that in traditional warfare, strength is a deterrent to such attacks.

Jerry loved his work on base and now he enjoys passing on bits of information to visitors as he relives his experiences. His wide exposure to various projects at China Lake makes him an ideal person to guide museum guests.

Jerry is a native Southern California who, among other things, delivered papers in Los Angeles as a young man. He had the longest route and thus made the most money – an advantage he split between helping his family and taking extension courses in mechanical engineering. High school for him did not have enough challenge. Also at this time, he participated in the 4-4 program – four hours in school and four hour working which qualified for school credits.

As World War II drew to a close, he joined the United States

Coast Guard specializing in modernizing lighthouses and designing water systems. His father was working at China Lake and when Jerry visited in 1947, he renewed his childhood love of the desert and came to work as a draftsman. In October of 1953, he took the U.S. Government Educational Equivalency Test which enabled him to be designated a Mechanical Engineer. This in turn allowed

him to take extension courses from UCLA, Berkeley and George Washington University under Navy sponsorship. By 1958, he was a part time instructor for Bakersfield College.

When the Navy offered him a management position, Jerry decided it was time to leave and in 1960, he went to work for Ryan Aircraft in San Diego as a senior advanced design engineer. He enjoyed himself working on future projects and trouble shooting current efforts.

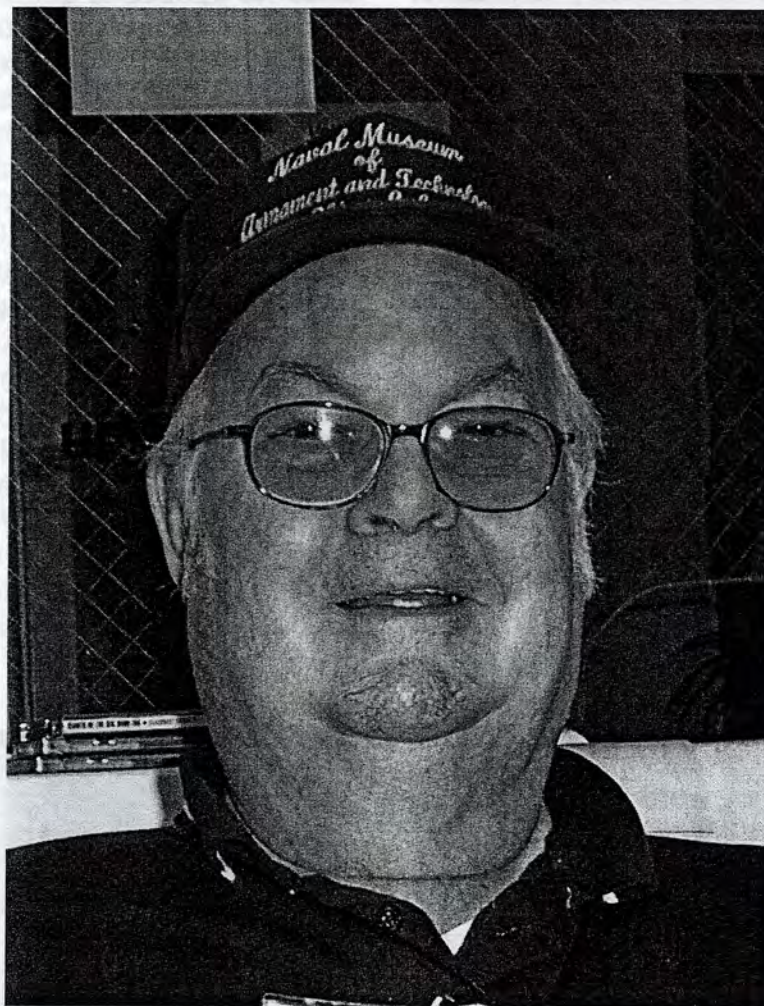
He missed the desert so returned to China Lake

in 1963 working for a contractor and then as a civil servant in 1965. He retired in 1985 and then worked for a contractor for another seven years. His main responsibilities included Systems Safety but, most enjoyable of all, “fire drills” – a task which exposed him to most of the department programs on base. Some of his most enjoyable tasks were with “Bugs and Drugs” as he calls it – biological and chemical weapons. This wide experience has made him an especially valuable volunteer at the museum.

Jerry’s hobbies have included four-wheel backcountry exploration, photography and shooting. He has been a volunteer com-

mander of the police reserves in Ridgecrest.

He believes the museum must be more accessible to the public. It is important to provide an understanding of the real work at China Lake that gives our country war making capability but, more importantly, protection through strength. The museum is fortunate to have volunteers like Jerry Saholt.



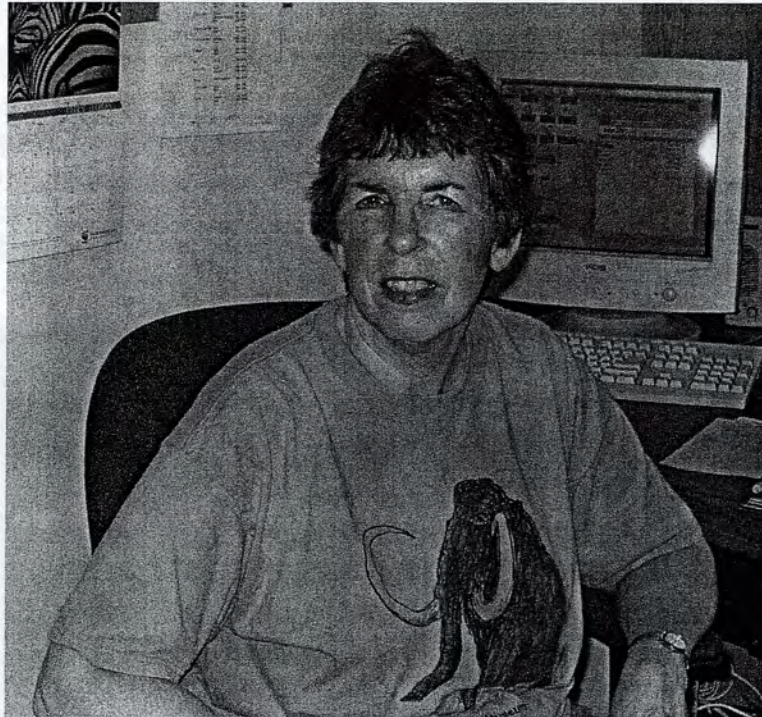


### ***Liz Babcock Speaks!***

Mark your calendars and plan to attend a special lecture as part of the celebration of the Museum's fifth anniversary. July 28, 2005 marks the fifth anniversary since the Naval Museum of Armament and Technology was officially dedicated as the newest Navy Museum.

Liz Babcock will provide a presentation and summary of the third volume of the China Lake

History series. Her book, *The Magnificent Mavericks*, covers the era of China Lake history from 1948-1958. The book is in the final editing stages in preparation for publication. Plans are to have the book published by the end of calendar year 2005. The book addresses the era during which the scientists, engineers and military at China Lake were doing pioneering work in rockets, fire-control systems and propel-



lant and explosive technology. The heart of China Lake's success was the philosophy of military and civilian partnership articulated in the Principles of Operation and exemplified by the Commanding Officer and the Technical Director Leadership team.

The special lecture will begin at 1300, on Thursday July 28, in the NAWS theater. A video compila-

tion of some of the early testing and special presentations which were filmed during the 1948-58 time period will be shown as part of the program. After the lecture is completed, everyone is invited to reconvene at the Museum for a reception and opportunity to view some special exhibits which the Navy Museum Staff has been setting up in acknowledgement of this fifth Anniversary Celebration.

***Don't forget the***

***5th Anniversary Celebration  
of the establishment of the***

**U.S. Naval Museum of Armament and Technology**

***Thursday 28 July 2005***

***Call the museum at 760-939-3530 for further information***

**President's Report** (continued from page 2)

Three days later, 9 August 1945, the second atom bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, with CDR Frederick L. Ashworth, USN, serving as weapons officer. Sixty years later, now VADM Ashworth, USN (RET), has written the foreword to Liz Bab-

cock's Volume III of the China Lake history. Adm. Ashworth, for many years a life and founding member of the China Lake Museum Foundation, and we thank him for his continuing contributions to the Museum and the rich China Lake history.

**Foundation Recognizes Donors**

(The following press release was issued by the China Lake Museum Foundation on 30 April 2005)

The China Lake Museum Foundation held a reception recently at the U.S. Naval Museum of Armament and Technology to recognize several categories of donors.

A new donor wall now being completed recognizes primary donors and life members of the foundation. About 70 donors attending the reception enjoyed one another's company and stories by Board President Paul Homer of a similarly wet year in 1952 when the caterpillars were so numerous that the roads were paved with them.

"Foundation members are enjoying Paul's detailed article on caterpillars in the foundation's spring 2005 newsletter, 'The China Laker,' which was just mailed to all members," Vice President for Membership Alice Campbell pointed out. Homer also showed the delighted crowd a new museum acquisition: a weather vane given to Capt. Fred Chenault upon his 1971 retirement as head of the China Lake Engineering Department. The vane, which incorporated a replica of the Sidewinder missile, was made just for Chenault by the China Lake machine shop.

Also on view was the new donor wall, which, Campbell explained, "has been set up as a sample, so errors can be easily corrected and format reviewed."

reviewed."

A new Donors Circle recognizes Jacobs Sverdrup Naval Systems Group and John & Christel Chesney for a cumulative donation of \$25,000 or more. Other donor categories include Platinum, Gold and Silver at \$5000-\$24,999, \$3000-\$4999, \$1000-\$2999 respectively, with 10, 5, and 13 donors in each category respectively.

The foundation recognized 181 contributors for the 2004-05 year, with most of this year's contributions designated for the Building Fund. "Focusing on accumulating funds for a building in Ridgecrest is an often-proclaimed desire on the part of donors," said Campbell. "This year we have had a ground-

swell of support to help do that, and we and are very grateful."

Food and drinks for the April

22 reception were donated by Carriage Inn and members of the Foundation Board of Directors. The museum's current location is at One Pearl Harbor Way, at the end of Blandy Street, China Lake. Visitors with pass access to the base are welcome between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday. To learn about these arrangements or about base access to visit the museum, call 939-3530.



Major Donors to the China Lake Museum Foundation Are Recognized on the Donor Wall

**Message From The Director**

By Debbie Rios, NAWCWD Museum Director

Well, summer is here and it is time for all of us to spend a little time browsing through the Museum on those hot afternoons!

Excitement is growing about the upcoming 5th anniversary of the Museum opening its doors. There are a lot of exciting things being planned for the July 28th celebration.

We have also started opening the Museum on Saturdays. We have been getting a pretty good group of visitors so far. Now is a good time for you to bring those weekend visitors to the Museum to enjoy the history of China Lake.

We are still looking for volunteers, too. Help us work on our aircraft. We

currently have 1 helicopter team and 2 air plane teams working on restorations. If you are interested in helping us out, please contact me at 760-939-0414 or at [debra.rios@navy.mil](mailto:debra.rios@navy.mil). You don't have to have any special skills, just be willing to lend a helping hand.

We can also always use more volunteers to be docents, greeters, or to work in the gift shop. Please give Dotsy Cronin a call at 760-371-7527 or on her cell at 760-793-2082.

The Navy Team is looking forward to seeing all of our Foundation members at our 5th anniversary celebration. Please come and join us for the afternoon.

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**CLMF MEMBERS:  
WE NEED YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS IF YOU HAVE ONE**

from Alice Campbell, V.P. for Membership

To keep you better advised of socials and other happenings in between Newsletter announcements, we would like to send you e-mail messages. If you did not receive two e-mails recently, one about the Christmas party and one about the Dinner Auction, we don't have your e-mail address.

Please e-mail Alice Campbell at [alicerbob@verizon.net](mailto:alicerbob@verizon.net) and I will add you to the CLMF Members E-mail List in our Membership Database.

If you don't have e-mail and would like to be contacted by phone about such events, call Alice Campbell at 760-377-0056.

For those of you who would prefer to receive the quarterly Newsletter by e-mail rather than bulk mail, let us know that too. Reducing the number of mailings saves money and trees, and is more reliable time wise than Bulk Mail with the US Postal Service.

**Thank you for your support of the Museum and the Museum Foundation.**

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BARBARA BOXER  
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AND PUBLIC WORKS  
FOREIGN RELATIONS

### United States Senate

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(202) 224-3553  
<http://boxer.senate.gov/contact>

October 15, 2004

China Lake Museum Foundation  
Post Office Box 217  
Ridgecrest, California 93556

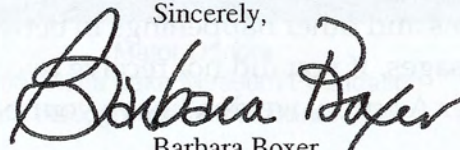
Dear Friends:

I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings as you celebrate the dedication of a Memorial in honor of the men and women who lost their lives while performing their duties at China Lake. Their distinguished service and significant contributions to our nation will continue to be remembered and greatly appreciated throughout the years.

This dedication serves to remind each one of us of the sacrifices made by men and women in defense of our nation. I commend the China Lake Museum Foundation and the many supporters of this dedication for your ongoing commitment to preserve the accomplishments of many individuals.

In honor of this special occasion, I have taken the liberty of enclosing a United States flag that has flown over the Capitol in Washington, D.C. With it, I send my congratulations and best wishes.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator

BB/e/e

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(559) 497-5109

600 B STREET  
SUITE 2240  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101  
(619) 239-3884

201 NORTH E STREET  
SUITE 210  
SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92401  
(909) 888-8525

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**The City Of Ridgecrest, California**

**China Lake Memorial**

**WHEREAS, the Naval installation at China Lake and its predecessor at Inyokern have existed since 1943 and have served our county during peacetime and wartime; and**

**WHEREAS, the base at China Lake was created "having for its primary function the research, development and testing of weapons, and having additional function of furnishing primary training in the use of such weapons"; and**

**WHEREAS, the work done at China Lake can often be very dangerous as revealed by the accidental deaths of at least 73 persons in the line of duty serving here since that time; and**

**WHEREAS, this memorial being dedicated on October 15, 2004 will feature a tablet containing the names of these persons who were our friends and colleagues; and**

**WHEREAS, these heroes are diverse – men and women, military and civilian, each with their own story of service – they all served their country with pride and distinction; and**

**WHEREAS, we remember the fifty five military personnel, including one woman and the eighteen civilian workers, including one woman, who lost their lives while working at the installation at China Lake; and**

**Whereas this memorial will help ensure that future generations will visit this museum and be reminded of the sacrifice made by these men and women in the defense of our freedoms; and**

**WHEREAS, be it known that America, the citizens of the Indian Wells Valley and the members of the Ridgecrest City Council will be forever grateful for the sacrifice made by these heroes.**

**October 15, 2004:**

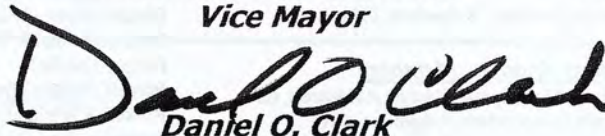
  
**Ronald H. Carter, Mayor**



**Marshall "Chip" Holloway  
Mayor Pro Tem**

  
**Richard "Duke" Martin  
Vice Mayor**

  
**Steven P. Morgan  
Council Member**

  
**Daniel O. Clark  
Council Member**

Letters of recognition for the China Lake Memorial dedication were received from all of our elected government representatives federal, state and local. These have been printed in the China Laker as space has permitted over the last several issues.

**New Members, New "Lifetime Members", and omissions in the Spring 2005 Newsletter:****"MAJOR DONORS—Annual"****Platinum Donor (\$5,000 and above)**

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Parsons, Gary - Ridgecrest, CA  
Patterson, John & Pauline - Solvang, CA  
Patton, Harold H. - San Rafael, CA  
Purcell, Judge Catherine - Ridgecrest, CA  
Russell & Vivian Van Devender - Inyokern, CA  
Serpanos, Jim - Ridgecrest, CA  
Van Devender, Russell & Vivian - Inyokern, CA  
Walters, Bill & Jeri - Ridgecrest, CA

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**Museum Happenings** by Barry Lowry, CLMF Museum Manager

As has so often been the case, this column starts with a treatment of the latest changes at the museum. After much planning and some negotiation with the NAWS Base Command, Debbie Rios was able to acquire support from the security department to allow civilian visitors access to the base to visit the museum on Saturdays. In May of this year the NAWS Command staff agreed to a test period to evaluate the benefit that would accrue from Saturday opening of the museum. Later this year the museum staff will meet with the Command Staff to evaluate Saturday openings after a few months of experience. We're confident that the result will be a permanent Saturday schedule. Should you desire to visit us on Saturdays call us for access information at 760-939-3530.

Opening on Saturdays puts a whole new wrinkle into volunteers to man the lobby and the museum store. Jerry Saholt, our stalwart Monday afternoon docent, is seeing to the lobby activities on Saturdays as well. Two new volunteers, Liz Monahan and Freddie Wilson are swapping off shifts in the museum store. Most of our volunteers during the week are retired folks with lots of schedule flexibility. But we've discovered that there are folks with full-time jobs during the week who like to volunteer also and Saturdays give them that opportunity. Freddie works for Jerry Kileen, CPA and Liz is a contractor employee at Michelson Laboratory here on base. Freddie says

that she has "fallen in love with the museum. Her goal is to become as knowledgeable as Jerry Saholt and challenge him as a docent".

The museum store continues to perform about 15% ahead of last years sales. Dotsy Cronin in consonance with your truly has worked diligently to broaden the mix of merchandise available in the store. Customers continue to offer ideas on what merchandise they would like to see and we try to honor their requests within our purchasing constraints. Recently we have been working with various China Lake personnel to acquire various base related logos and artwork for customizing a broader range of merchandise items.



Freddie Wilson and Liz Monahan

The museum has recently seen a lot of closet and storeroom cleaning in order to identify materials available for display in the museum. Leroy Doig, the Museum Curator/Command Historian, has some great ideas about an exhibit dealing with the uniqueness of the original China Lake community. Cleaning up our storage areas has produced some good items for such an exhibit and yielded much needed space for storage of operational materials. Eric Bengtson has been designing display cabinets and stalwart volunteer Carl Kumano has been donating the materials and doing the actual construction.

That's the story from here. See you next quarter.

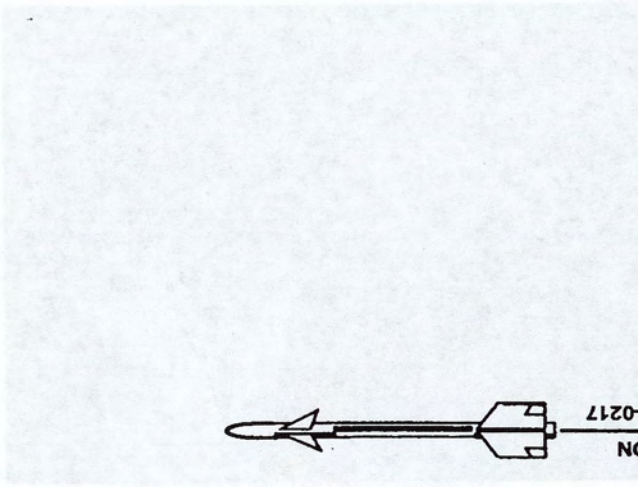
Visit our Website

**[www.chinalakemuseum.org](http://www.chinalakemuseum.org)**

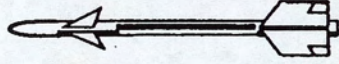
September 2006

China Lake Museum

As has so often been the case, the volume of the latest changes at the museum is a testament to the staff's dedication and commitment to the museum's mission. The staff has been working hard to ensure that the museum is a place where everyone can learn and grow. The staff has been working hard to ensure that the museum is a place where everyone can learn and grow. The staff has been working hard to ensure that the museum is a place where everyone can learn and grow.



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# China Lake Museum Foundation

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