

Redstone Rocket

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Old farmstead recalls arsenal's pre-Army days

BY ED PETERS

When spring comes to the arsenal, it appears first in unexpected places.

The jonquils, bridal wreath bushes and other old-time decorative yard plants that signaled spring's arrival to the people who farmed this fertile, red-dirt land before the Army came still show their bright colors each year as they have for generations but they "blush unseen" at old farmstead sites now grown up in woods.

These enduring flowers and shrubs are just about all that's left to recall a way of life that existed on this land and changed little over a century-long period until about 1940 when the Army came and bought these 40,000 acres as the site on which to build Huntsville Arsenal.

Practically overnight, the land was transformed from family farms into the home of the world's largest chemical manufacturing arsenal. The people on the land when the Army came were allowed to stay only long enough to make their crops. Families no sooner vacated their places than bulldozers arrived to level houses and barns whose usefulness had ended.

Today, perennial spring flowers that keep coming back year after year are the most visible remnant of these old home places scattered over the arsenal, many hidden from view in remote or restricted areas. Occasionally you can find a rough-barked old apple or pear tree in bloom at this time of the year. In most locations if you look carefully you can also find old foundation rocks, maybe a scrap of roof tin and, in a few instances, a well or a privy pit. Sometimes the old oak or maple shade trees that were in the yard are still in place. Sometimes a family graveyard may be there too.

The world was at war when the Army came to the area and perhaps it is the speed with which the transformation from farm community to military complex took place that has resulted in the arsenal being an area that seems to not have much history except that which the Army has made.

But more may become known about pre-Army days in the area as the result of federal regulations and the National Historic Preservation Act which require some preservation of the history of an area when it is impacted by a construction project or similar undertaking.

Facilities Engineering's environmental office is working on a proposal to have an old farmstead west of Anderson Road studied so its history can be recorded before it is obliterated by a planned construction project.

"We hope to compile enough research, mapping and photographs of the area to preserve any historical significance," said Bill Schroder of the FE environmental office staff.

Schroder said the study would be done by professionals under contract and would include trying to contact people who used to live on the place.

This farmstead, of which only a few foundation remnants and other traces remain, is still far more intact than most others here. Known as the "Hertzler place", it was once the base of a farming operation that spread over more than 1,000 acres.

(See Farmstead cont'd on page 10.)



A HONEYBEE visits bright yellow jonquil blossoms that herald the arrival of spring at the arsenal as they've done for many generations. Year after year, the enduring flowers show their colors around the homesites on farms that were here before the Army came.

Inside:

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Flight experiment results analyzed

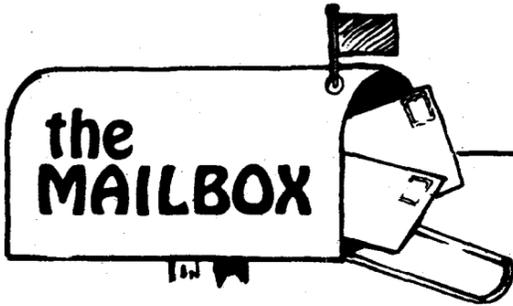
The second flight experiment of a program in which the Army is exploring technology for non-nuclear "kill" of strategic nuclear missiles within the atmosphere was conducted March 15.

The flight at White Sands Missile Range was intended to demonstrate execution of programmed maneuvers by the small radar homing interceptor technology flight vehicle.

Preliminary indications are that the first two planned maneuvers were completed. After the second

maneuver, the vehicle exhibited unexpected aerodynamic instabilities which resulted in departure from the planned flight profile. Analysis is under way to determine what caused the departure.

The experiments are being conducted by the Army's Ballistic Missile Defense Advanced Technology Center to determine the miss distance that can be achieved with an agile homing interceptor operating within the atmosphere.



Report violations

Editor:

This letter is in response to the letter "Traffic enforcement" in the March 14 issue of the **Redstone Rocket**.

The Military Police enforce all state traffic laws as well as military regulations and directives. There is no latitude to authorize enforcement for select groups of personnel.

There are numerous MP patrols on Redstone Arsenal at any given time. Their mission includes law enforcement, and security. We rely on the persons working and living on the arsenal to report any observed violation. All reported violations will be promptly

handled. If you observe a violation, please immediately notify the Military Police at 876-2222. Please provide the following information:

- Time and date of incident
- Nature of the violation
- Location of incident
- Description of vehicle/person
- License number
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Robert L. Amick Jr.
Colonel, GS
Director of Security

Letters to the editor should be signed (name withheld on request) and sent to: **The Redstone Rocket, DRSMI-G.** Unsigned letters will not be used.

Old Nike Hercules site in Germany converted to Hawk improvement depot

An old Nike Hercules tactical site near Mainz, Germany is now being used as a depot for improving Hawk missile systems.

Tracking and radar modifications under Hawk's phase two product improvement program are being accomplished at the deactivated air defense site, as are some other scheduled modifications.

Letterkenny Army Depot in Pennsylvania established the repair facility at the old missile site, completing the five-month conversion late last year. Letterkenny now has 40 people working there and expects the number to rise to 60 by summer, according to facility production manager Robert Sanford. The first three systems modified at the facility were deployed in January and others have been completed since.

The Letterkenny people took over work being done

by a contractor and the change is expected to save a substantial amount of money, say officials in the Hawk project office here.

The second phase of Hawk's product improvement program involves refurbishment and modification of more than 40 high power radar illuminators to make them more reliable. It also involves the addition of an optical tracker that can find targets in spite of enemy use of electronic countermeasures.

The Hawk system has been in use more than 20 years and the phase two improvements will render it useful into the next decade.

The Hawk project office located in building 4488 has about 150 people managing the system. Col. Samuel Liberatore recently was named to replace Col. John Drosdeck as project manager.

Troops parachute into Honduras

WASHINGTON—Some 40 U.S. soldiers and 150 Honduran troops are involved in an exercise about 25 miles north of the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa, according to Pentagon officials.

The American troops are from the Third Battalion, Seventh Special Forces Group, stationed at Fort Gulick, Panama. They were deployed by parachute and later linked up with the Honduran forces.

This type of deployment exercise, say Army of-

officials, tests capability to deploy on short notice and operate under realistic conditions.

Defense officials said that during the next two months U.S. troops will participate in a series of small-scale exercises in conjunction with Honduran troops. These exercises, they said, will bridge the major six-month exercise that ended in February and another major series scheduled to begin this summer. (Arnews)

Ordnance Ball set for May 19

Retired Lt. Gen. Harold F. Hardin will be special guest and speaker at the first annual Ordnance Ball to be held here May 19.

"We particularly want retired ordnance officers and warrant officers to know about the celebration," said Col. Michael Cody, who with Col. Regis Dietrich co-chairs the committee for planning the ball. "Retired officers who want to attend should give us their addresses by the April 3 cutoff." They should call 876-4887 or address their intentions to MMCS, ATSK-M, Ordnance Ball, Cody said.

The first annual Ordnance Ball is being held to honor the formal organization by Congress of the Ordnance Department in 1812. Brig. Gen. Charles Murray, MICOM deputy commanding general for readiness and procurement, is hosting the ball.

Hardin, the guest speaker, was an important figure in ordnance activities in the Army, and is a former deputy commanding general for readiness at DARCOM.

The ball will be held at the officers club and include a prime rib dinner with dining and dancing to the "Pershing's Own" combo, from the Third Infantry Division.

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Director takes 'we care' approach

Readiness continues at all-time high

BY ED PETERS

During a visit to Europe last year Col. Billy Sharp talked to a commander who said he wished all commands supporting the brigade did as good a job as MICOM. "If they did, I could play golf all the time," the brigade commander joked.

Sharp, director of Missile Systems Readiness Directorate here, says he's been hearing a lot of good things lately from soldiers all over the world who look to MICOM for missile system support.

"I'm hearing nothing but good words and compliments from the field. Every time we go out and visit with units that have our missile systems, they're extremely pleased with the support they're getting from MICOM," said Sharp.

This support likely won't ever be comprehensive enough to allow missile commanders to play golf all the time but it's probably saving them lots of work and worry by helping keep their missile system readiness at an all-time high.

The composite readiness level of MICOM-managed missile systems in the field continues to meet or exceed the Army's 90 percent "condition 1" goal as it has every month for almost two years. The 90 percent mission capable level was attained for the first time ever in July 1982 and that accomplishment has been sustained every month since.

"I think it's a very, very significant accomplishment because readiness of MICOM systems is running higher right now than it ever has," Sharp observed.

"In 1981 we had 12 systems reportable for readiness purposes and at that time in any given month about six of those were meeting the DA goal of 90 percent mission capable time. Now we have 16 systems reportable for readiness and in the latest reporting period we had 13 of those systems at 90 percent or better."

Sharp's directorate has 237 people. More than half of that group are actually stationed with Army missile units wherever they are in the world while the others work out of building 5250 performing readiness analysis.

Readiness is rated based on a list of components that must be operational if the missile system is to be considered mission capable.

Monthly reports

Monthly reports from units having MICOM-managed missile systems are analyzed for trends and problems which, when identified, are reported to the appropriate agency at MICOM for action.

"Then we monitor to make sure that action is taken to correct the problem and, secondly, to make sure that the action taken has the desired effect; that is, to improve readiness," Sharp explained.

"This directorate is not a doer in the sense that we actually do something to improve readiness," Sharp emphasizes.

"We identify and try to report problems to the appropriate agency within MICOM and then we act as a catalyst to make sure action is taken to correct the readiness problems we've identified."

The "actual doers", says Sharp, are the Missile Logistics Center and project management offices and

staff activities his group calls on for solutions to the problems.

"Once we've identified the problem and reported it to them we get good, solid action, quick, and we can see the effects these actions have on readiness."

Master technicians

Missile Systems Readiness Directorate furnishes a logistics assistance representative to all units using MICOM missile systems. There are about 70 of these civilian representatives in Germany, four each in Korea and Hawaii and approximately 75 serve at missile sites throughout the United States. These "master technicians" know more about the missile systems than probably anybody and are there to help soldiers with maintenance or supply problems of any sort.

"We also have a few people that we call field supply technicians," Sharp said. "Their primary job is to expedite repair parts the units need and to provide supply systems training for the people in units who do the actual requisitioning of spare parts." There are two field supply technicians in Europe, one in Korea and three here at Redstone Arsenal who take care of units in the United States.

Sharp said repair parts problems are the most troublesome aspect of maintaining readiness because there are so many places where delays can occur in the supply chain.

A telephone ordering system lets units anywhere in the world place repair parts orders with the national inventory control point here. "We've found that's the only way we can do it and meet the 90 percent goal," said Sharp.

Three-day delivery

The directorate strives for three-day delivery of repair parts. "We don't make that goal all the time but the quicker we get it there the less not-mission capable time they have for that reporting month," Sharp said. "We sort of work on a theory for most of our systems that a system can be down three days in a given month and still be barely above the 90 percent mission capable goal."

In many instances parts have been moved to units in the continental U.S. within 24 hours of a failure and in a recent instance two-day delivery to Korea was achieved.

Sharp, a logistics management specialist 2 1/2 years into his first missile assignment, has set up an awards program to recognize the best and most improved missile system readiness in air defense and land com-



"MICOM CARES" is the message Col. Billy Sharp and his people are taking to missile units in the field. They've also begun a recognition program for the units known as the "Toftoy awards" after Maj. Gen. Holger N. Toftoy who Sharp reveres as the father of the Army missile program. He keeps the late general's portrait on his office wall.

bat units. The awards have attracted a lot of interest in the field and created a healthy competition, according to Sharp. Two of the awards were presented earlier this year and the remaining two are scheduled to be presented this month in Germany by Maj. Gen. Jerry Max Bunyard.

To help units in the field feel closer to MICOM, Sharp has established a field visit program in which personnel from Missile Systems Readiness Directorate travel to the units at least once a year "to ask, What can MICOM do for you?," Sharp said.

"We want to let units in the field know that we care about them and can help them if we know their problems.

"We're also trying to show the field that MICOM is enthusiastic about readiness. I tell my people that enthusiasm is contagious and we need to start an epidemic," the colonel said with a grin.

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Parade for tots set during military child month here

Various events to recognize and entertain local military children have been scheduled here in connection with the arsenal's observance during April of the Month of the Military Child.

Army Community Services and the Recreation Center are offering programs of family entertainment for children of all ages. There's even a contest tiny babies can enter.

An "Easter Bonnet and Top Hat Parade" is being sponsored by the Officers Wives Club in conjunction with ACS. This parade for ages baby through kindergarten is scheduled in front of the Recreation Center on Saturday, April 14, at 11:30 a.m. with registration at 11:00. Prizes will be awarded for the best homemade and store-bought bonnets and hats. The parade will be over in time for children to attend a puppet presentation of "Sleeping Beauty" at 2 p.m. at the Recreation Center.

Also on April 14, ACS is sponsoring putt-putt golf and bowling tournaments for children age first grade through high school. A booth will be set up at the post shopping mall on March 31 for preregistration for these tournaments. Children may also preregister at the ACS office on Honest John Road.

A family "Fun Fair" with refreshments April 28 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. will feature a variety of entertainment including games and a pet show. Information booths will be set up and military police will be offering a fingerprinting identification service for young people.

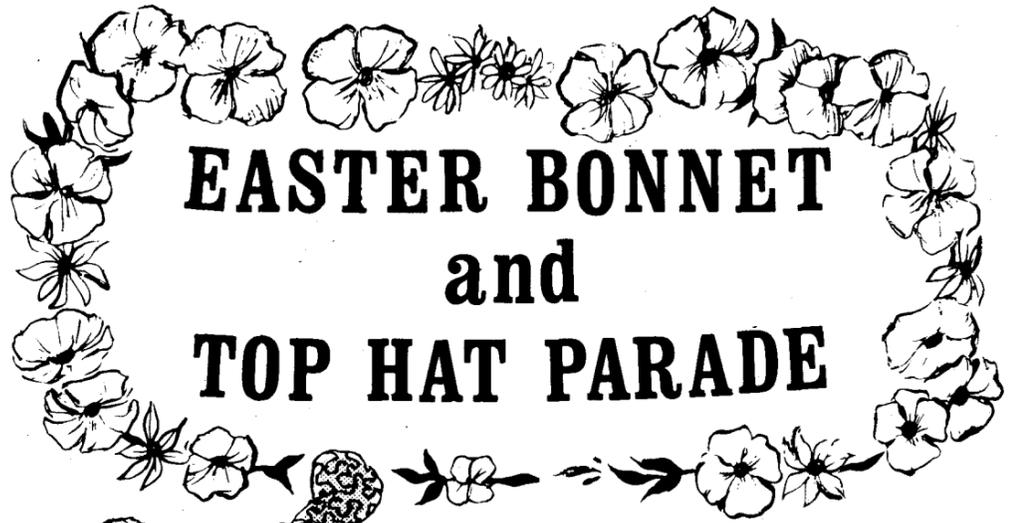
ACS is also sponsoring a display of art work on the theme "What it means to be a military child" that will showcase youngsters' drawing talents. Military children may submit their drawings for this display through the first week of April. For more information call ACS at 876-2859.

Special programs being offered by the Recreation Center for the Month of the Military Child begin April 7 with the showing of Lewis Carroll's "Hunting of the Snark" from 2-3 p.m.

On April 14 there will be a marionette show "Sleeping Beauty" with a new twist: it's told from the Prince's point of view. The story is brought to life by professional puppeteers with handcrafted string and rod puppets. The show begins at 2 p.m.

The Recreation Center is sponsoring an Easter party on April 15 from 2-4 p.m. featuring the Easter Bunny, games, prizes and refreshments.

Mini-golf for children at 50 cents per game will be offered during the week April 22-28.



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Big air deployment a first for local Seabees

A Huntsville-based Seabee battalion, Reserve Naval Mobile Construction Battalion—24, is the first reserve battalion to test its capabilities to deploy a construction force from its permanent drill site by air.

In a complex, multi-service exercise last weekend dubbed "Exercise Green Stinger 1-84", RNMCB-24 sent its 89-man air detachment from Redstone Arsenal to Fort Benning, Ga. utilizing Air Force and Air National Guard transport planes.

The Seabees were accompanied by their allowance of 42 pieces of construction equipment with all the tools and supplies they need to live in the field and undertake a variety of construction projects.

The air detachment is from the Carolinas. Its members reported to Huntsville to ready themselves for the exercise. Seabees from Huntsville, Birmingham and Chattanooga areas converged on Huntsville to

prepare the equipment, tools and supplies for air shipment. Planes from Air Force and Air National Guard units in Dallas, Texas, Mansfield, Ohio, and as far away as Cheyenne, Wyo. transported the approximately 30 plane loads of gear to Fort Benning.

There, the air detachment convoyed its gear from the dirt, "tactical" airfield to a remote portion of the base and set up its operations. The work sites had periodic attacks from "aggressor" troops supplied by the Infantry Training School at Fort Benning. The Seabees were expected to "defend" their sites while accomplishing repair projects on the training ranges for Fort Benning.

Battalion Commander Noah Long of Marietta, Ga. said, "Exercises such as this provide vital training to all aspects of the military, not only our 89-man detachment. In preparing for the exercise we train all the

staff members of the battalion in planning management skills. The various services learn to work together in a realistic way and everyone benefits. The Air Force is training their pilots and ground crews, the Army is training ground troops, we are training our construction troops, and the taxpayer is getting some needed construction accomplished."

The exercise was observed by Rear Admiral Thomas S. Maddock, commander of the 20,000-man Reserve Naval Construction Force.

RNMCB-24 is headquartered at Redstone Arsenal and is composed of Seabees with detachments in Huntsville and Birmingham, Ala.; Atlanta and Columbus, Ga.; Knoxville, Nashville, and Chattanooga, Tenn.; Greensboro, Charlotte, and Asheville, NC.; and Greenville, S.C.

Defense systems college opens branch on arsenal

The Defense Systems Management College has opened a branch on the arsenal and is looking for students interested in learning more about weapon system acquisition.

The branch of the Fort Belvoir, Va.-based college recently graduated its first class and others will be offered throughout the year.

Dr. Jay Billings, the college's southern region director, who is in charge of the local branch, said three, three-week courses — business management, technical management and policy and organization management — will be offered here. These are sub-courses of the college's 20-week program management curriculum taught at the Fort Belvoir campus.

The local courses, according to Billings, "make you aware of the whys of defense acquisition policies and how they work and give you a broader perspective of what top management looks at."

He recommends the courses for "anybody in the weapon system acquisition business" who meets the prerequisite grade level of GS-7 or above for civilians and O-2 and higher for officers. Civilians and servicemembers from all of the military services may enroll. So may people from defense industry.

Each of the courses will be offered here twice a year,

Billings said. They will be taught by Defense Systems Management College faculty and local experts in particular subjects. Class size will be about 40 students.

The local branch is the first of four the college plans to open. Others will be in Boston, Los Angeles and St. Louis.

Classes are held on the arsenal in building 7446 where Billings' office is located. The phone number there for more information is 876-2730. Apply for the three management courses using a DD form 1556 through a training coordinator.

Military engineers' conference slated

Experiences of the 46th Engineering Battalion in Honduras during the Big Pine II readiness exercise will be discussed by a local panel next week.

The panel, meeting as part of the Alabama-Tennessee regional conference of the Society of American Military Engineers, will also discuss procedures for combat readiness evaluation. The discussions will begin at 2 p.m. on April 5.

Interested persons are invited to attend the discus-

sions and other activities of the SAME regional conference April 5-7.

SAME's executive director, retired Brig. Gen. Walter O. Bachus, will be keynote speaker. Various other speakers from engineering, architectural and academic groups will speak on topics such as concrete technology, changing technology and engineer education, and computer-aided design. For more information call 895-5370.

Exchanges recall toy xylophone

DALLAS—Army and Air Force exchanges have recalled a Gordy International Toy, the Flintstones xylophone.

The orange plastic xylophone, which sold for \$1.25 in exchanges, has metal keys, two plastic mallets and three legs (to be attached by the customer). The Army and Air Force Exchange Service found the toy failed the consumer Product Safety Commission's small parts hazard test.

The legs of the flintstones xylophone can be removed easily, presenting a hazard for very young children who could swallow the pieces. Toys that pose such a hazard are supposed to carry a warning that the toy is recommended only for children older than three. However, the xylophone's packaging does not carry the recommendation. For this reason, AAFES has pulled the toy from its shelves and encourages parents to return the xylophone to an exchange for refund.

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Historian marks 40 year career

In the 40 years Mary Cagle has worked for the federal government she has seen history made and has recorded and documented every minute of it.

Cagle, MICOM historian, literally watched Redstone grow from infancy. She started with the contractors building the Huntsville Arsenal, then in 1943 began her federal career at Redstone as a clerk typist.

Since then Cagle has worked her way up "the hard way." She remembers when there were no women's or minority action groups to help insure equal opportunity and attributes her progress to "a lot of ambition."

"I had to do it the old fashioned way," said Cagle. "I would hate to see people have to make it like I did."

Cagle started as a clerk typist with a high school and business college education. Before she officially took the command historian job in 1953, Cagle worked in various jobs that prepared her for her prospective career.

She worked as the historian five years before she was promoted to the position's GS-11 grade level. In 1960, Cagle was again promoted to GS-12, a grade she held for nearly 20 years, then again in 1979 to her present grade GS-13, a grade few women held.

"I graduated from the school of hard knocks," said Cagle. "I had to teach myself the mechanics of writing history and the art of footnoting. You have to have an innate talent for it."

In addition to booklength monographs covering specific weapon systems, she compiles an annual history noting MICOM's significant accomplishments and events from documents collected daily from arsenal organizations.

In fiscal 1983 the historical office screened 2,274 documents for use in the annual history.

"You have to like history to perform the job. There's a lot of detailed work in documenting history," said Cagle.

She has documented visits by U.S. presidents and other dignitaries and the vital work Werner Von Braun and a team of German scientists contributed to the early stages of the missile programs here.

Cagle's hard work and dedication has not gone unnoticed. The MICOM historical office is well known and has a reputation of being one of the best in DARCOM and the Army. She attributes her success to the quality and timeliness of her histories.

"You can write history but if it is not used you wind up reinventing the wheel," said Cagle. "I've written about everything. I've seen the wheel come to full cycle so many times that no one thing stands out as more important than the other."

Cagle, with 40 years federal service, was recently presented the Commander's Award, the second highest, locally approved award a civilian can receive. The honorary award is given to recognize accomplishments and for setting examples of achievement to be followed.

The highlight of Cagle's 40-year career occurred recently when higher headquarters approved a justification for a distinctive unit insignia for MICOM.

Of all her accomplishments she is most proud of this one. The pin will be worn in place of the DARCOM distinctive unit insignia on military uniforms.

It will identify individuals as part of the MICOM family who are proud of its history, mission and accomplishments. Because of Cagle's efforts, MICOM set precedent for other subordinate commands to apply for distinctive unit insignia proving once again "MICOM leads the pack" according to Cagle.

Recognition of achievements is rewarding to Cagle but that does not make her job any easier. She remembers when she was just writing monographs and loving it. "It's all hard now, but the administrative

part is the most frustrating because it delays the primary mission," she said.

"If I were back just writing monographs I'd be much happier," said Cagle.

Her plans to retire will not go to the drawing board until she is confident there is a fully-qualified staff to carry on what she has worked so long and hard to accomplish.

Cagle's husband and son would like her to retire and indulge herself in her love for writing local history and volunteer work.

After all, 40 years of federal service on an installation nearly the same age warrants some time of leisure as reward.

"I don't think there are very many of us from the old Huntsville and Redstone Arsenal days left," said Cagle. "We're rapidly becoming an endangered species."

Lebanon, Grenada duty gain veterans preference

WASHINGTON—Veterans preference for the purposes of U.S. Civil Service employment is being extended to servicemembers who served in Lebanon and Grenada, according to a recent announcement by the Federal Office of Personnel Management.

Officials say preference will now be given to eligible veterans in competitive civil service examinations, in appointments to civil service positions and in reductions-in-force.

Currently, federal agencies grant veterans preference to those persons who "served on active duty in the armed forces during a war, in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized..." The U.S. Office of Personnel Management is issuing a change to the Federal Personnel Manual to extend veterans preference to those who served in Lebanon and Grenada.

Specially, this means military personnel awarded a campaign medal for their involvement in Lebanon operations since August 20, 1982, are eligible for the preference, as are servicemembers receiving the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for service in Grenada since Oct. 24, 1983, to Nov. 21, 1983.

OPM officials explain, "Any person proving receipt of either campaign badges and separation under honorable conditions should be eligible for veterans' preference." (Arnews)



MARY CAGLE received Commanders Award for achievement during her long tenure as command historian.

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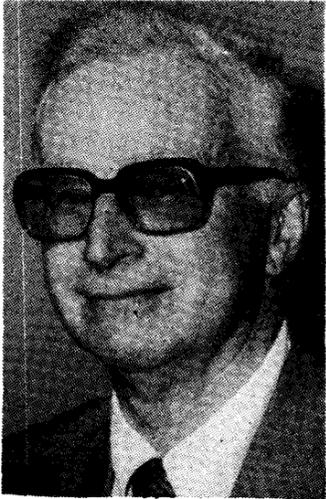
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Large alligator seen in test area

BY ED PETERS

Two maintenance mechanics working in Test Area 1 on March 19 saw a large alligator in a backwater area of Huntsville Spring Branch.

J.D. Ford and Robert Brooks had driven out onto a flood control dike about 1:00 that Monday to service pumps at a floodgate when Brooks noticed the big reptile.

"I said, my God, there's an alligator," Brooks recounted.

"And I looked in that direction and there he was," added Ford.

The men remained in their service truck and used the radio to contact their work section at utilities branch which called a photographer.

By the time he got there the alligator had left its place on the shoreline and was swimming away, still visible but out of camera range.

Earlier, Brooks and Ford had watched the alligator for more than 30 minutes as it lay motionless in the sunshine on a mound of earth jutting out from the shoreline of the backwater.

Both men estimate the alligator to have been between seven and eight feet in length. Their observation point on the dike was probably not much over 100 feet from the alligator. "He just laid there basking in the sun," resting within a few feet of a beaver dam, Brooks said.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in summer 1979 released on Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge more than 50 alligators from Louisiana in an experiment to see if they could adapt to this climate and prey on beaver colonies growing out of control. Thirteen of those alligators were turned loose in the arsenal's Swan Pond, which is several miles west of where Brooks and Ford saw their alligator.

Some of those alligators remain in the area although Wheeler officials say it isn't likely that a great number have been able to survive the north Alabama winters. There have been repeated sightings of an alligator at the mouth of Limestone Creek and of another on the Flint River near Wheeler Refuge headquarters.

There is also one that habituates the arsenal river bank near the civilian recreation area boat dock. This four to five foot alligator has been seen by fishermen,



SAW ALLIGATOR - Robert Brooks points toward the spot where he and J.D. Ford saw a large alligator.

marine police and state conservation officers.

Alligators in the past several years been brought back from near-extinction and are protected by state and federal laws that provide stiff penalties for anyone molesting them.

Wheeler Refuge officials say alligators are shy and in all likelihood would run away if approached but

nevertheless should be left alone.

Brooks and Ford, who must make weekly service calls to the spot where they saw the alligator, don't intend to test that theory. "Man, we're going to be careful from now on, I'm telling you," Brooks said, sharing a laugh with Ford.

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Sergeant says duties as soldier and mason similar



SSGT. LARKIN PARKS doesn't fit the drill sergeant stereotype

BY MAGGIE CUMMINS

A soldier at the missile school who sometimes answers to the nickname "Godfather" finds that being a sergeant in the Army and a noble in a masonic lodge are duties that have a lot in common.

In both capacities, says SSgt. Larkin Parks, "My personal goal is to spread as much love, peace and hope as I possibly can. I have no other choice. That is my mission in life."

You likely wouldn't hear that kind of talk from a godfather-figure of the type popularized by movies but Parks is just the opposite of that. "I was nicknamed the Godfather at DOL (Directorate of Logistics) for the simple reason that I always set out to aid the personnel there," says Parks.

"I try to make sure that those I work with and that are in my rein will have hope and peace and the security that goes with it, with every breath I take and every prayer I make," he said, somewhat poetically.

If Parks doesn't come on like a godfather, he doesn't sound a lot like a drill sergeant either but that he has been before and is about to be again. In April, he is moving to Fort Dix, N.J. where he will be a drill instructor for Army recruits. He served as one for two years in an earlier assignment at Fort Benning, Ga.

He emphasizes the importance of education to every soldier who will listen. "A good education is the foundation for everything and we as military personnel can't make sound decisions without a good education," Parks believes.

He believes too that his mission as a soldier and his

mission as a mason (he belongs to Prince Hall Masonic Lodge in Huntsville) are similar.

"As masons our pledge to God is to aid and assist all people regardless of race, color, creed or religion. That is how my job (as a soldier) and my pledge as an inspector general in the masonic lodge coincide. We have a universal brotherhood and our mission in life is to help our fellow man whenever and wherever we can," Parks said.

At the missile school, Parks is a heavy vehicle driver. He has misgivings about leaving that job and giving up his "godfather" role with the troops. "I am kind of sad to be leaving Redstone in April," he said. "There are too many things left undone here."

Astronaut program picks reservist

WASHINGTON—An Army reservist has been picked by NASA to train for the flight of Spacelab 4, now scheduled for January 1986.

Capt. Millie Hughes-Fulford, an individual mobilization augmentee with the U.S. Army Health Services Command, was one of four candidates chosen for the seven-day mission.

Two selectees will actually fly; the other two will serve as alternates and members of the team controlling and directing operations from the ground.

Hughes-Fulford is assistant professor of biochemistry at San Francisco's Veterans Administration hospital and associate professor at the University of California.(Arnews)

Special Forces Group activates and deploys

WASHINGTON—The initial company of the First Battalion, First Special Forces Group has been activated and is begin deployed to Okinawa.

This action, announced by Army Secretary John O. Marsh Jr., follows through on the Army's plan to activate the First Special Forces Group during fiscal 1984.

The company and its support element of about 150 soldiers will deploy to Torii Station, Okinawa as part of what Army officials call an ongoing program to improve the readiness and capabilities of the Army's special operations forces.

The Army plans to station the entire battalion overseas activating two more companies and deploying them to Okinawa by September. The remaining two battalions of the Speical Forces Group will stay at Fort, Lewis, Wash.(Arnews)

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Dr. Gilbert is Senior Vice President for Dynetics, Inc., and is a recognized authority in radar systems. He has worked in the field of radar for over 22 years, previously holding positions with Teledyne Brown Engineering, Bell Telephone Laboratories, Cornell University, and Hughes Aircraft Company.

The fee is \$350, and includes a full set of lecture notes. Reservations are required. For additional information or reservations, telephone

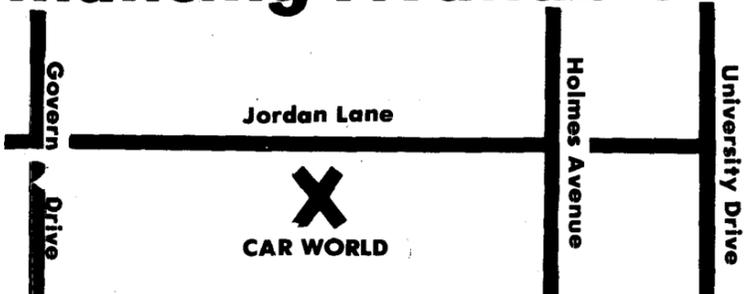
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Soldiers give about 108,000 pints of blood a year. It's estimated that only two percent of all eligible donors give their blood. If all qualified soldiers would donate, they'd meet the Army's blood needs by giving just once in two years.

As modern technology gets greater, the need for blood gets greater. There are, today, many more ways of treating patients by using blood or parts of the blood. Your blood is made up of several elements that each perform a special function in the body. The elements are red blood cells, white cells, plasma and platelets.

Red cells transport oxygen from the lungs to all the other tissues in the body. They pick up carbon dioxide from the tissues that they then carry back and release in the lungs.

The white cells are the body's defenses against disease. Some travel throughout the body and surround and destroy bacteria; others produce antibodies against bacteria and viruses.

Platelets are small parts of cells that repair damaged blood vessel walls and work together with other elements in the blood to stop bleeding.

Red cells, white cells and platelets

account for about 45 percent of the volume of blood in your body. The remaining 55 percent consists of plasma.

Plasma is a straw-yellow fluid composed of about 92 percent water and seven percent vital proteins such as the one that produces the clotting factor. The remaining one percent of the plasma consists of mineral salts, sugar, fats, hormones, vitamins and the like.

Sometimes whole blood is needed by a patient who may be suffering such a large blood loss that his or her total blood supply is threatened. More often, a unit of blood is separated into its parts to meet the needs of several patients. The average unit of blood goes to three people.

Giving your blood is easy. Your body quickly replaces the blood if you're in good health. Before you give, you'll be asked to answer a few questions about your medical history and current health.

A medical assistant will take a small blood sample to check your iron level. If it's low, in protection of your own health, your blood won't be taken.

If you pass the iron test, you'll be taken to a bed or cot where you can lie back, relax and let the nurses or technicians do the rest. It takes about 6 to 8 minutes for a pint of blood to flow into a plastic container that also holds about 2 ounces of a solution that keeps the blood from thickening.

After you've donated, you'll rest for

15 or 20 minutes. You'll be given refreshments such as juice and cookies to help your blood sugar rise. After you've finished your refreshments, you may leave. Remember to drink plenty of fluids and go easy on physical activity for the rest of the day. The next day you should be able to go back to your normal schedule.

If you donate regularly, your body conditions itself to quickly replace the blood. The total volume is replaced in 24 to 48 hours. Your body replaces the blood cells in about two weeks and you're able to donate again in eight weeks.

If you think you're ready to donate your blood, consider the Army Blood Program. The Army Medical Department runs its own blood collection program from either a permanent collection center on post or a mobile unit that moves from location to location. The blood collected is given to soldiers or their family members who may need it and to other branches of the service and the Veteran's Administration as needed.

Ask your first sergeant to tell you where the Army Medical Facility Blood Program Donor Center is located on your post.

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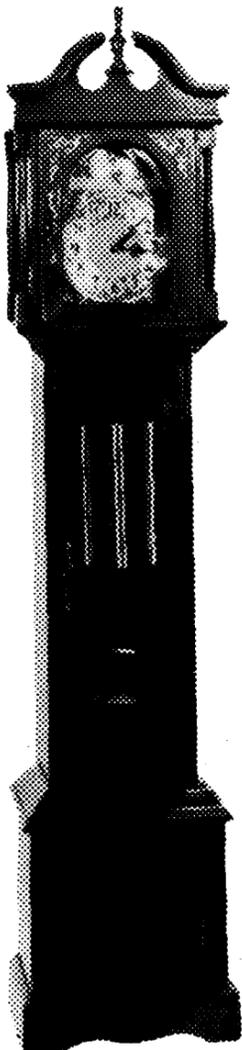
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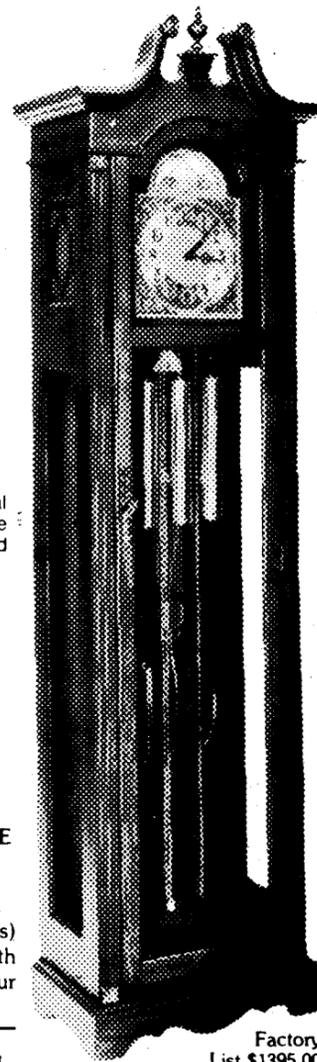
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Farmstead

(Cont'd from page 1)

The old house had a partial basement, rare for a farm house in those days. The rock and brick basement walls are still in place.

An old privy hints at the affluence of the owners since it has a manufactured toilet with a seat.

Below the house site a silo foundation is still in place along with rock pillars that once supported an out-building.

A large barn of a type rarely seen in this area was on the place. The barn had a drive-in loft. A rock wall supporting the drive-in ramp still exists. Some of the woven wire that fenced stock away from the house still stands on rickety cedar posts.

Two roads passed near the house. Across one of them is a hand-dug well, its inside lined with carefully fitted limestone rocks. Not far from the house is the remains of a rock dam in a spring that formed a pond which is visible in an aerial photograph taken in 1939.

A big sugar maple which shaded the house still stands and is budding. Nearby, bright yellow jonquils bloom in the yard just as they did when people lived there before the Army came more than 40 years ago.



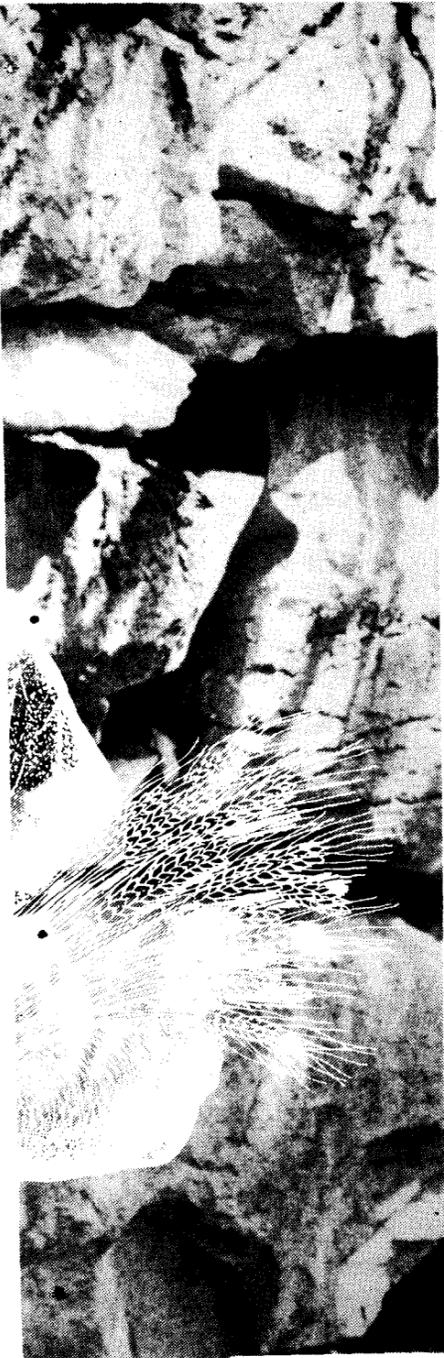
DOUBLE EXPOSURE places old-time farmer figures in front of a wall of rock that buttressed a wall of earth used as a drive-in ramp. Such structures were a rarity in the area.



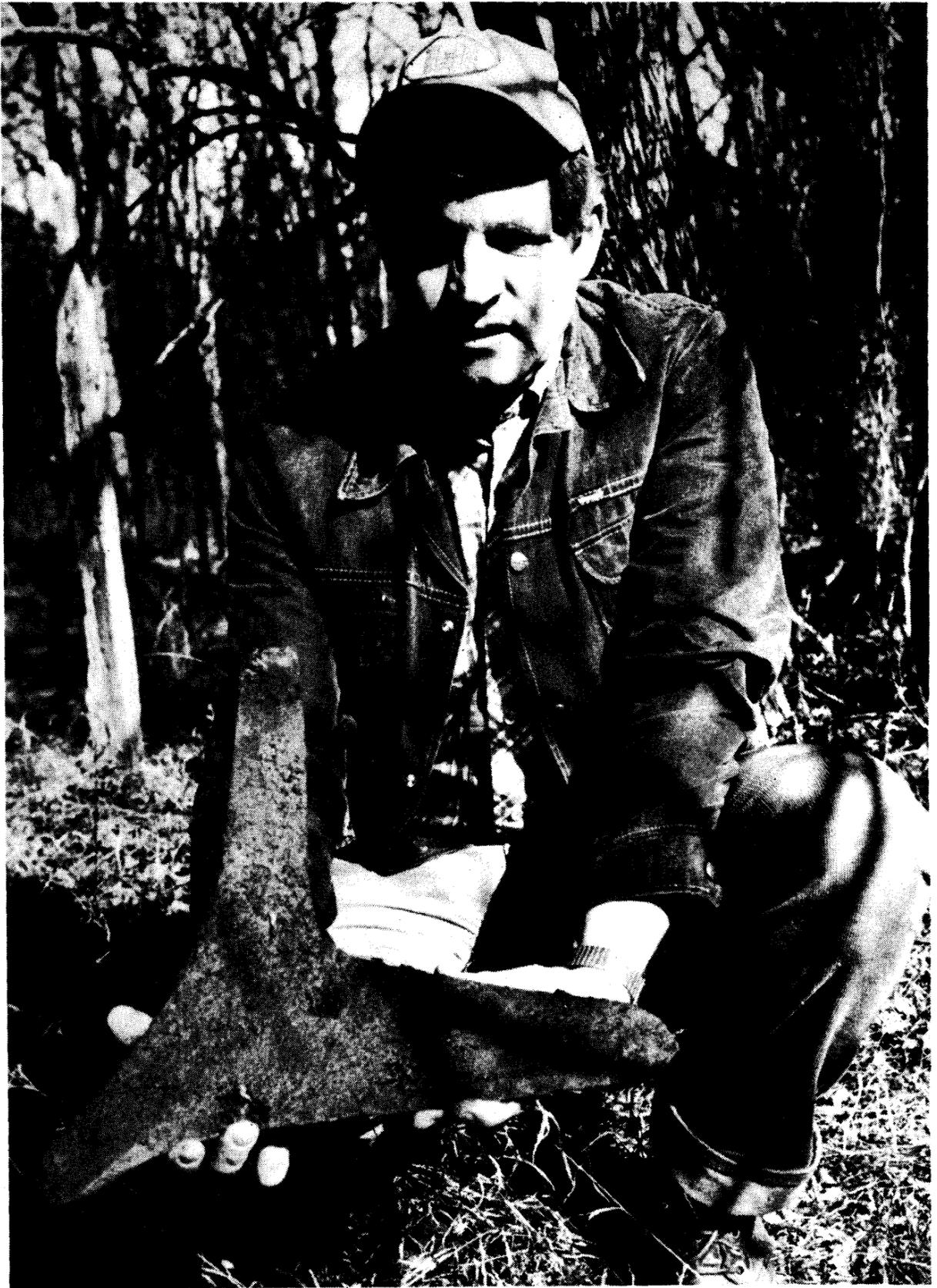
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Cowboys		1		0
Golden Eagles		1		0
Eisenhower league				
Eagles	1			2
Scorpions			1	1
Wildcats			1	1
Panthers	Did not play			
Warriors		1		0
Bradley league				
Panthers	1			2
Tigers	1			2
Vipers	Did not play			
Rangers			1	0
Strikers			1	0
MacArthur league				
Cosmos	1			2
Renegades	1			2
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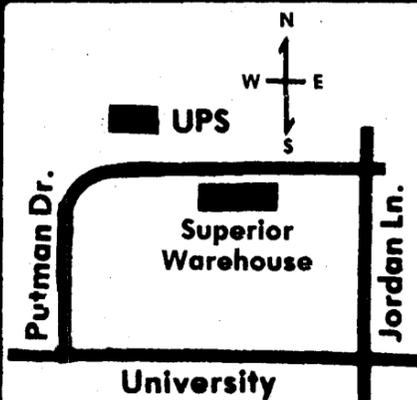
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Pentagon portrait honors Alexander

WASHINGTON—Before an audience of family, friends, and associates, former Secretary of the Army Clifford L. Alexander Jr. witnessed recently the unveiling of his official portrait taking its place among the 12 others adorning a special area of the Pentagon's third-floor hallway.

His successor in the Army's top civilian post, John O. Marsh Jr., opened the March 14 Pentagon ceremony with words of praise and admiration for Alexander's help during the transition between the Carter and Reagan administrations.

"He was enormously helpful to me. He is truly a man for all seasons," Marsh said of Alexander's record in academia, public service and business.

Noting that each Army secretary leaves his mark on the service as an institution, Marsh cited Alexander's mark as bringing substance to the "All-volunteer force" concept and as advancing the "quality of life"

for soldiers and their families.

Marsh's comments were echoed by Harrison E. Benton Jr., the portraitist. He said, "It was my dream to paint Mr. Alexander. I view this portrait as an embodiment of an uncompromising professional and a sincere humanitarian."

In reminiscing over his four years in office (1977-81), Alexander characterized the post of Army secretary as the best job in government. "It was a chance to protect the freedom we so much believe in."

He acknowledged the honor bestowed on him by the "handsomely done" portrait, saying that, "I hope that it stands for the future of this nation and not its past—that you'll see some women's portraits in this building, that you'll see some Hispanics' portraits in this building, and that you'll see more than this black man's portrait." (Arnews)

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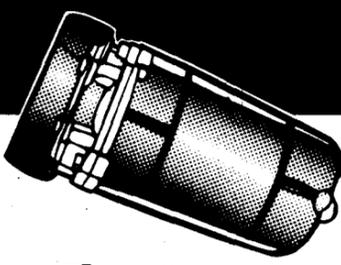
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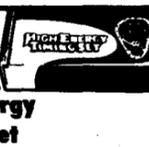
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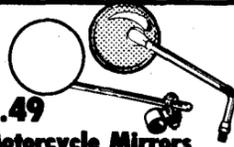
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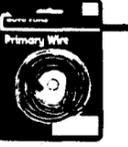
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'It's Your Move' pamphlet revised

WASHINGTON—"It's your move." That phrase has been a double-entendre around Army transportation circles for several years. In fact, since 1981 it's been the title of a Defense Department pamphlet published by the American Forces Information Service.

The pamphlet, available as DA pamphlet 55-2, recently underwent complete revision bringing prospective movers up-to-date on the basics of shipping household goods. Its introductions says this latest guidance will "help you understand your entitlements and responsibilities."

Here are some of its practical tips for soldiers on permanent change of station orders:

- Start with planning, which includes making the appropriate arrangements with your local transportation office;

- Assemble the necessary documents and determine the weight allowances set for your pay grade;

- Consider storage needs early;

- Categorize your household goods as to both legality of and practicality of shipment;

- Arrange the details of the move in a logical order and fill out the necessary forms;

- Coordinate any do-it-yourself moves with the local transportation office;

- Follow the pamphlet's check-list on preparing, packing and pickup;

- Note the carriers' responsibilities at origin of the shipment and at destination;

- Check out the contingencies of loss or damage including the carrier's liability, the government's liability, and the matter of insurance coverage;

- Report the pro's and con's of the shipment promptly, and be aware of the requirements for filing claims;

- If you plan to ship your car, study the entire chapter on "shipping a privately owned vehicle."

The pamphlet is rounded out by three tables at the end: Maximum allowable loss or damage payments, maximum unaccompanied-baggage weight allowances and joint travel regulations' weight allowances.

Copies of the new edition are available at local transportation offices or by ordering through regular publication channels. (Arnews)

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\$38.00 — Tails \$39.00, if reserved by March 31st. Tuxedos can be used any time until Dec. 31st, as long as they're reserved by Mar. 31st. (Rentals only)
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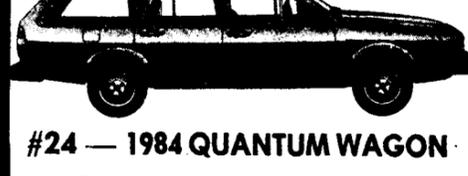
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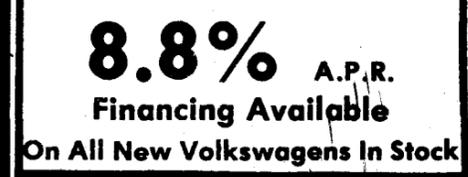
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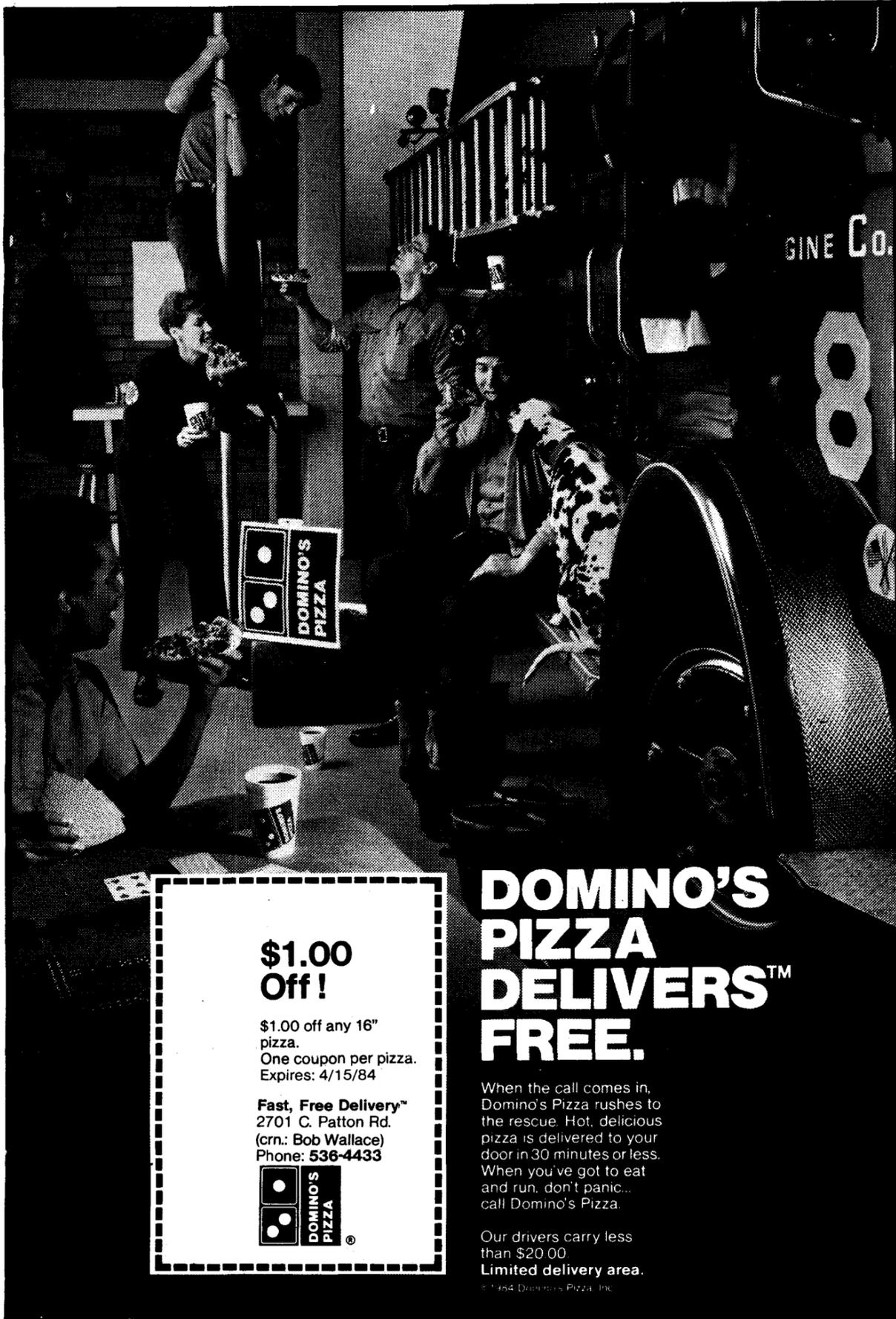
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ANTIQUES include kitchenware, glassware, victorian youth bed, walnut plantation desk, wall telephone, pine table, water bench, and many other primitives and collectables. Other items priced to sell include bicycles, furniture, kitchenware, silver, clothing and much, much more. Friday, March 30-10 AM til PM Saturday, March 31-9 AM til 5:30 PM, 4022 Dotson Drive SE (East off Drake).

1-Commodore pet 4032 with 32 K-Bytes, \$600.00. 1-Commodore pet 8032 with 32 K-Bytes, \$600.00. 1-Commodore drive 8050 with 1 Meg Bytes dual drive, 900.00. 1-Commodore pet RS-232 output, \$89.00. Call 852-7371 for complete information.

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For sale: Go-kart with 3.5 HP engine, \$125, 232-5994.

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The Redstone Rocket provides the Rocket Classified section as a free service to active duty military personnel and army civil service personnel at Redstone Arsenal.

To place a Rocket Classified ad:
• Type or legibly print a brief description of what you want to sell on an 8 1/2 x 11 inch piece of paper (no 3 by 5 cards or torn paper accepted). You must list a price, your home phone number, your home address and your duty status (active or civil service).

• Sign the ad.
• Deadline is 9 a.m. on the Thursday before the ad will appear. Ads will run for only one week. You may resubmit them.

The Redstone Rocket will not accept ads concerning real estate, mobile homes, or apartments for rent, or businesses.

Conditional statements as "like new," "excellent condition," "runs well," will not be printed.

If you submit more than one classified at a time, place each one on a separate piece of paper, unless they fall in the same sales category, (miscellaneous, vehicles, etc.).

Mail Rocket Classified ads to Sara Grant & Associates, Atten: Redstone Rocket Classified, P.O. Box 5351, Huntsville, Alabama 35805.

The Redstone Rocket will not accept free classified ads by telephone.

The Redstone Rocket is not responsible for typographical errors or for omissions in this section.

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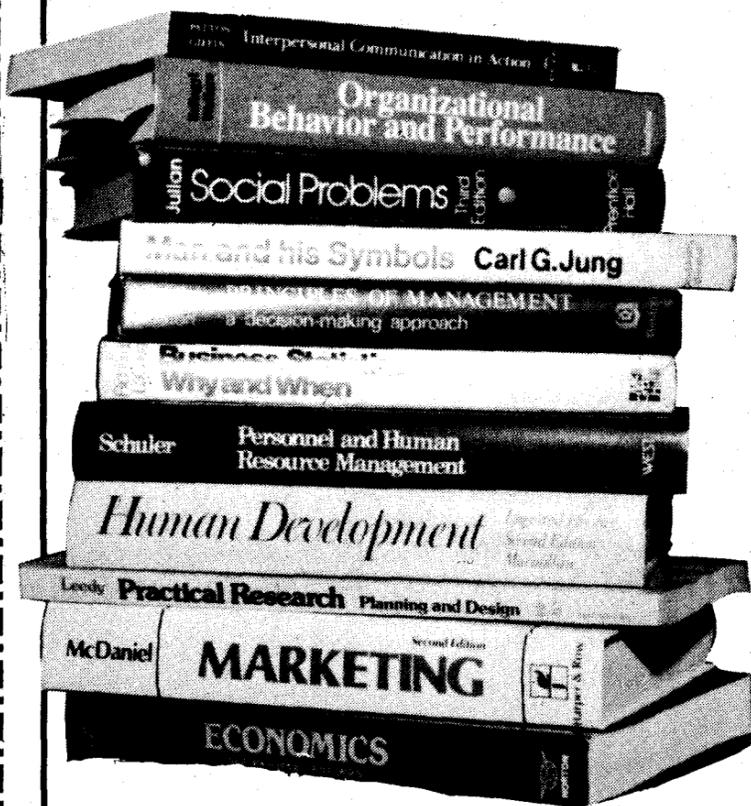
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Generics save up to 33 percent

FORT LEE, Va.—Commissary customers seeking ways to cut their food bills could buy generic goods and save 12 percent to 33 percent when compared to similar national brands, according to officials of the U.S. Army Troop Support Agency.

Generics are "no frill" products that are easily identified by their white or yellow labels with bold, black lettering describing product contents. The majority of commissaries stock generics in "Special Buy" sections usually located near the beginning of the shopping pattern.

The number and variety of generic items stocked depends on commissary size, customer demand, price and quality. The most prominent items are baking needs, breakfast foods, beverages and juices, canned fruits and vegetables, paper and plastic products, dog food, health and beauty aids, household cleaning products and cigarettes.

Although these products do not always offer the consistent quality of brand name items, generics are essentially equivalent in terms of nutrition. They also give customers another advantage: substantial savings.

Troop issue subsistence training course offered

WASHINGTON—Field commanders are being encouraged by Army logistics officials to take advantage of the opportunities to train troop issue subsistence activity, or TISA, personnel.

Officials say that, although there is no formal TISA course, the Quartermaster School periodically conducts a two-week training module in conjunction with other courses.

TISA training modules are scheduled for April 23-May 3; July 16-26; and Oct. 29-Nov. 8. Quotas are announced about 30 days prior to the course, and are filled by the major commands. (Arnews)

Some mail now free for soldiers overseas

WASHINGTON—Servicemembers authorized to use overseas military post offices will no longer have to pay postage on personal correspondence weighing less than 12 ounces mailed within the same geographical area.

The new policy, effective April 2, stems from a recent agreement between the U.S. Postal Service and the U.S. Army-operated Military Postal Service Agency.

The three affected geographical areas include the Atlantic zip codes beginning with 09, Latin America zip codes beginning with 34 and Pacific zip codes beginning with 96 or 98.

The agreement allows postage-free mailing of letters, postcards, audio cassettes and other forms of personal

communications less than 12 ounces in weight. The correspondence must originate in and be addressed to military post offices within the same geographical area. Procedure calls for users to annotate "MPS" in the upper-right corner of the envelope or wrapper where postage normally would be placed.

Officials say the new privilege excludes personal correspondence originating at USPS facilities or military post offices located in the United States or its territories.

Also not included are such special mail services as registered, certified or insured mail. In those cases, full postage and other special-service fees still apply. Mail that must be entered in international postal channels is excluded from the free service, too. (Arnews)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Publicity workshop

Army Community Service is conducting a Publicity Workshop for interested organizations and individuals on April 18 at 9:30 a.m. in the Bicentennial Chapel on Goss Road. Pre-registration is required. Areas to be covered include the purpose of publicity, means of publicizing, rules, where to start, and what to do when you think you're all done. There will be a question period and exchange of publicity ideas. The editor of the Redstone Rocket will be a guest speaker at the workshop. For further information and reservations call ACS at 876-2859.

Supply management intern program

Application periods for federal workers to apply for the DARCOM supply management intern program are scheduled in April and October. April applications must be submitted to DRSMI-JTE by April 27. Copies of the announcement PSA 1-74 may be requested from DRSMI-SS, Willena Richardson or Vickie Springer, 876-1531/1411.

Youth film at chapel

The film, "Rock: It's your Decision," will be shown at the Wednesday night Protestant youth meeting at the Bicentennial Chapel on Wednesday, March 28, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The youth group is for ages 8-17 and parents are invited to attend. The film won the 1983 best picture award in the best youth film category from the Academy of Christian Cinematographic Art. It was produced by the Olive Film Company of Madison, Ala. The story is about decision making and teen conflict over rock music. Will McFarlan, a local musician, will perform following the movie.

Parenting classes

"Positive effective parenting" classes are offered weekly through the ACS Army family advocacy program. They are held in building 3491. Parents may attend on Tuesdays or Wednesdays from 4-5:30 p.m. Parents with children having discipline, behavior or school problems or those wanting to improve relationships with their children should contact Dr. Resha at 876-3704 for details. The parenting classes are for military family members and Defense Department civilians on a space available basis. There is no charge and a textbook is provided.

UNCF banquet

The local United Negro College Fund benefit banquet will be held April 19 at 7 p.m. at the Civic Center. Marla Gibbs who plays Florence on "The Jeffersons" television show will be special guest plus a "surprise" guest is scheduled. Tax-deductible tickets for the benefit banquet are \$30 for adults and \$25 for students. For more information call Emmett Florence, 876-7222. Tickets may be obtained by calling 837-1630 extension 251, or 536-2486.

Wine tasting

The Huntsville Chapter of Les Amis du Vin (Friends of Wine), an international wine tasting society, will meet at the Hilton on Monday, April 2, at 7:30 p.m. Kenneth Lapham, regional director of Dreyfus, Ashby and Co. will present wines from the Burgundy region of France. For information or reservations call 837-0886 or 883-2572 (nights.)

98's

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Benefit for the blind

A barbecue and dance to benefit the Alabama Council of the Blind will be held Saturday, April 7, at the Moose Lodge on Jordan Lane. The event will run from 8 a.m. till midnight with the dance beginning at 8 p.m. For advance orders or more information call 837-1267.

LRC

The MICOM Learning Resource Center is offering the course Introduction to Computers. The course includes topics in the use and history of computers, how computers work, computer terminology and social implications of computing. It provides a foundation in computer concepts and terminology. For more information call 876-1416/1061.

Flea market

Army Community Services at Redstone Arsenal is sponsoring a flea market on Saturday, April 7, in the First Alabama Bank parking lot at the PX mall. Spaces can be reserved at the ACS office in building 3491 on Honest John Road. Call 876-2859 for more information.

Warrant officers

The monthly meeting of the Redstone Arsenal Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association will be held April 4 at 11 a.m. at the officers club. All warrant officers including non-members are invited. For more information call WO Edward Banville 876-1461/1591.

Dance marathon

A "dance for heart marathon" to benefit the American Heart Association will be held March 31 at the UAH Spragins Hall gymnasium, with registration at 8:30 a.m. and dancing at 9:00. Dance students throughout the area will be soliciting pledges for every half hour of aerobic dancing completed during the event which is being sponsored by Sandee's Aerobics. Participation is open to all community members. Dancers with pledges will be admitted free of charge. There will be a \$3 donation for other dancers and observers. Dancers will receive a gift pack and be eligible for doorprizes. All proceeds from the event will be used by the American Heart Association.

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Ride wanted from Wall-Triana highway in Madison to 3495, hours 7-4:30. William Young 876-6521.

CWF Softball

The CWF softball league will meet in the Rocket Auditorium, second floor conference room, at 11 a.m. on April 3. All team managers or their representatives are urged to attend. For more information call Ron Walton at 876-8590.

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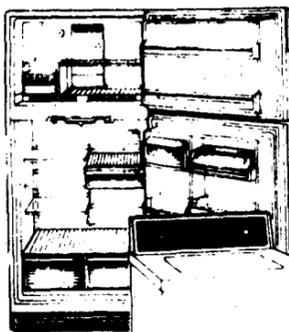
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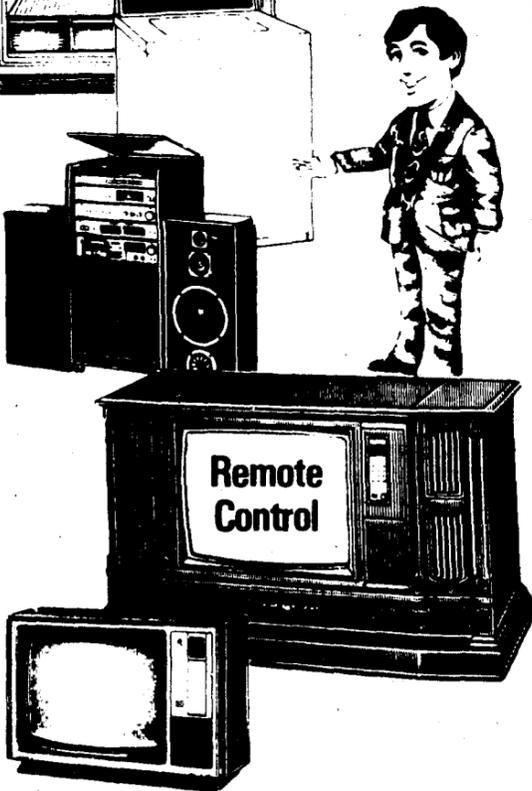
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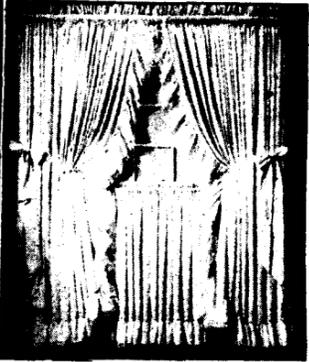
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Disabled veterans' pensions increased

President Reagan has signed legislation approving a 3.5 percent rate increase in compensation for service-connected disabled veterans and in dependency and indemnity compensation for widows and children of veterans who died from service-connected causes.

The increase will be effective April 1 and means an increase in monthly compensation payments VA makes to veterans and their survivors, according to George B. Shellman Jr., chief of veterans services at the VA Regional Office in Montgomery.

He said the legislation also increases benefits for a few service-connected blinded veterans who also suffer from service-connected deafness. In addition, it in-

creases the membership of the VA Board of Veterans' Appeals in Washington from 50 to 65 to ease and ever-increasing caseload and expedite appeals.

Disabled veterans and survivors affected by this legislation will receive their increased benefits for April in their May 1 checks, Shellman noted.

The bill also extends for five years the VA program which helps finance state veterans' cemeteries. Since its inception in 1980, the state cemetery grants program has awarded matching funds totaling \$4.1 million to six states for establishment, expansion or improvement of state veterans' cemeteries.

New sentencing procedures for capital offense cases

WASHINGTON—In response to sentencing deficiencies noted by the U.S. Court of Military Appeals, President Reagan recently signed an executive order amending procedures involving the death sentence in courts-martial.

The executive order, signed on Jan. 24, 1984, corrected the deficiencies and applies to offenses committed on or after that date. It also provides special procedures that must be followed before the sentence of death may be adjudged in a court-martial.

Army legal officials explain the process this way:

—If the accused is found guilty of one or more capital offenses, then the sentencing procedures are conducted before court members;

—The members may not adjudge death unless they unanimously find, beyond a reasonable doubt, that at least one of the aggravating circumstances listed in the amendment existed;

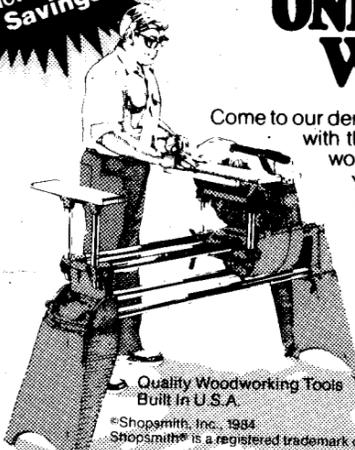
—And that any extenuating or mitigating circumstances are substantially outweighed by any aggravating circumstances in the case.

In the instance of rape, for example, the amendment requires, for the death sentence, a finding—beyond a reasonable doubt—that the victim was under age 12 or that the accused maimed or attempted to kill the victim.

Officials say that the new executive order, No. 12460, ensures that, in addition to the accused's protection already provided by the UCMJ and the MCM, all currently known constitutional requirements are met in capital cases.

Under the UCMJ, capital offenses consist of such actions as murder, rape, mutiny and aiding the enemy. Capital offenses in time of war include spying, striking or willfully disobeying a superior commissioned officer, improper use of countersign and desertion.

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