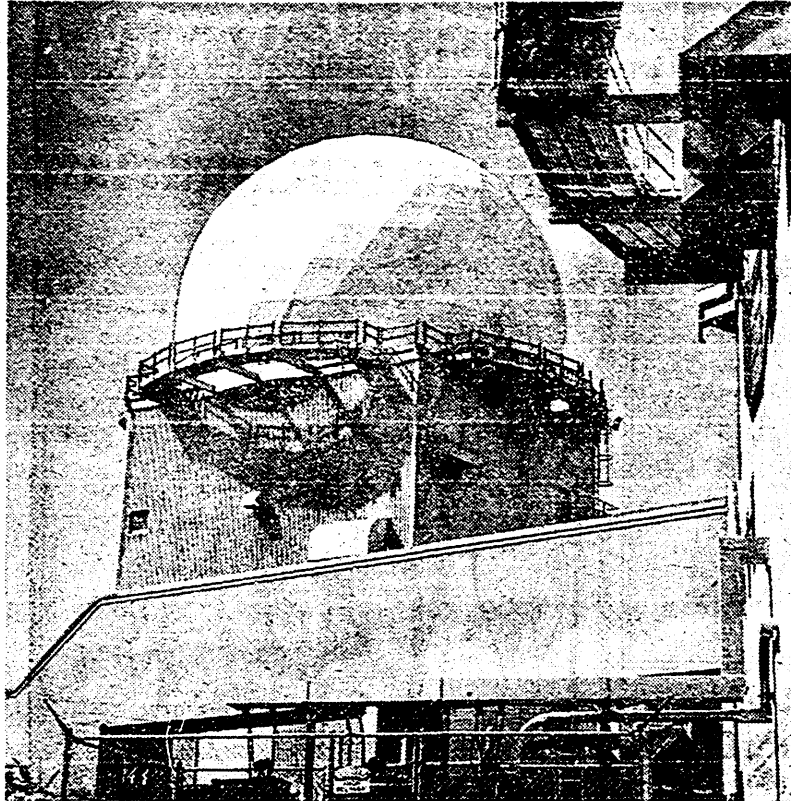


# Mt. Laguna Base Keeps Sky Watch



Three eye-catching radar bubbles, such as the one in the panel at left, dot the skyline at Mt.



Laguna Air Force Station. Center, Airman I.C. Todd C. Maddox works at the plotting board in



operations. At right, Capt. Lymon E. Jones, left, stands at a weapons control console while Capt. John Salamone works at the unit. Three times a week, Mt. Laguna takes over U.S. air defense.

## AIR DEFENSE BACK-UP SYSTEM

### Radar Station Grows In Size

By BETTY LUBRANO

MT. LAGUNA AIR FORCE STATION — There are three radar bubbles atop Mt. Laguna that resemble vanilla ice cream cones, two with bits of banana, maybe, and one with a single swirl of chocolate.

Everything looks fresh. The sky is clear, the air is clean and the view is endless.

You can almost see San Diego 60 miles to the west, and to the east, about 35 miles away and more than 6,000 feet below, the ripples of the Salton Sea are sometimes visible.

And although the pace appears easy, the ice cream cone bubbles and other buildings house \$16 million of sophisticated radar and computer equipment vital to the defense of the Southwestern United States.

In July, manpower at the station was boosted from about 200 to 300. In March, the 751st Radar Squadron became known as the 751st Air Defense Group, said Capt. Daniel Franklin, a senior director in operations.

#### Mt. Laguna Station's Importance Grows

As manpower was increased, so was Mt. Laguna's importance as part of the back-up system for the air defense of the Southwestern United States. The territory covers 500,000 square miles and includes six states.

The station's function, in Air Force jargon, is known as BUIC for "Back-Up Intercept Control" for SAGE or Semi-Automatic-Ground Environment system.

As part of BUIC, Mt. Laguna has the equipment and the men with the technical know-how to take over defense of the Southwestern United States should anything happen to the SAGE system at the Luke Air Force Base in Arizona.

To be prepared in the event anything happens to the SAGE system, three times a week the men at Mt. Laguna take over responsibility for air defense from SAGE. The remainder of the week, the equipment is maintained and used for training and other purposes.

The maze of corridors in the buildings the men call "topside" lead to the computer room in operations. The machinery there is versatile. Men with knowledge can program the computer to play music, work complicated mathematical problems or print sheets of paper with amazing rapidity. However, the primary function of the computer is for air defense, Franklin stressed.

#### 'Dumb Machine Receives Information'

Capt. Frank D. Abbott, who majored in English literature in college, says the computer functions as it does because of the skill of the men who operate it.

"It's a matter of a dumb machine receiving information," he said. "It takes the information and presents it to smart people who tell the computer what to do," he said.

In a room to the right of the computer center, men sit at consoles where they can track the flight pattern of an airborne object with use of a "light gun" and the computer's memory system. The "light gun" is used to track a pattern on the screen.

Capt. Lymon Jones, information officer, said the men watch for aircraft penetrating the U.S. air space. Air attack is not likely to come from within, he pointed out.

In the event an unidentified aircraft is spotted, the men working at consoles can track it with the light guns and then push buttons to ask the computer for information about it.

If there is some question about an aircraft, said Capt. Patrick Fernandez, a senior director in operations, the computer feeds information on where the aircraft can be intercepted by American planes.

Franklin said the need to "scramble" — to send aircraft up to intercept unknown planes — is infrequent. "It could happen for a variety of reasons," he said, "erroneous flight plan, an aircraft pilot being off his flight plan or not filing one in addition to the possibility of any enemy aircraft trying to penetrate."

#### Tours Arranged Once A Month

To show the public how Mt. Laguna functions, the station is arranging tours each third Saturday of the month. The first one will be next Saturday and will be open to groups, schools, service clubs and other organizations that make arrangements with the station beforehand.

The road that visitors will take to the Mt. Laguna station is a familiar one to the men who make the trip from El Cajon and vicinity each day.

Col. Fred C. Faupel, commander of the station since February and described as "quite a guy" by his men, says more than 1,000 persons are linked with the station.

Although Faupel and his family live in housing on Mt. Laguna provided by the Air Force, 125 men and their families live in the El Cajon Valley area.

To accommodate the men who live in town, the Air Force has contracted a bus company to pick them up 6:15 a.m. each day at Second and Oakdale streets in El Cajon for the hour trip up to the mountains.

Buses make the trip five times a day to accommodate the various shifts, Jones said.

Locating adequate housing in town for the Air Force families is not a simple task said Jones, who has been assigned the duty. Men at the station are making an effort to be associated with the El Cajon Valley area by participating in civic activities in their communities.

The tours, he hopes, will be another way of acquainting the people of San Diego county with work that is being conducted there to help insure national safety.

## SCHOOL PLANS JAZZ EVENT

CHULA VISTA — More than 21 colleges, high schools and junior high schools have entered the Southwestern College Jazz Festival scheduled next Saturday.

Competition will start at 8 a.m. and wind up in the gym at 8 p.m.

An Academy Award winner, Elmer Bernstein, will conduct the Southwestern College Stage Band in several of his arrangements.

## San Diego Girl Color Guard Wins Trophy

DEL MAR — The sharp, smart stepping Golden Statesmen, San Diego County's all-girl color guard won first place yesterday in the Fifth Annual Negrette Memorial Competition at the County Fair Grounds here.

The girls, from 14 to 21 years of age, received a standing ovation when the winner was announced. Over 800 persons watched hundreds of bugle corps and color guard members vie for trophies in Bing Crosby Hall. The units came from throughout the state.

The Golden Statesmen, led by Marcia Langer, guard captain, won over the Anaheim Kingmen, present state champions.

San Diego's Statesmen wore high black boots, black skirts trimmed in gold, gold blouses, green shakos topped with white ostrich plumes.

Both the color guard units and the drum and bugle corps are affiliated with veterans organizations.

The Diplomats from Lynwood won third place.

# Area Cities Open Polls On Tuesday

## MAYTIME EVENT

### Arcadia Girl Named Majorette

NATIONAL CITY — Cindy Harms, a 17-year-old baton twirler from Arcadia, was selected Miss Maytime majorette yesterday in the annual contest in the Sweetwater High School gym.

Miss Harms, winner of 310 majorette awards and more than 50 titles over the past 4½ years, was selected from a field of 12 majorettes from throughout Southern California.

Her past awards include the Miss American Majorette contest of 1969-70 in Houston, Maytime Band Review princess for four years, and All-Western Band Review queen.

Chosen as runners-up were Shari Baker, 17, of Norwalk, and Jeannette Frederick, 17, also of Norwalk.

Miss Maytime Majorette and her two princesses will lead the 23rd annual Maytime Band Review here May 2. Fifty-nine bands from throughout the state will take part.

Frank Giardini, chairman of the majorette contest, introduced each of the 12 contestants.

Judges were Sylvia Mazza of Pasadena, Linda Gorman of El Cajon, and Patty Pearson of San Diego.

## Mayor, Council Races Highlight Vote Issues

By JERRY REEVES

Eleven mayoral candidates are seeking election in four south and east county cities while 26 candidates are vying for city council seats in five cities.

Nine ballot propositions will be voted on in three cities in the April 14 municipal elections.

### CHULA VISTA

Three candidates are running for mayor to fill the remaining two years of former Mayor Daniel A. McCorquodale's unexpired four-year term. McCorquodale resigned from the post Nov. 5 and was replaced by Will T. Hyde, a council appointee.

Mayoral candidates are Councilman Thomas D. Hamilton, 38, David F. (Bud) Wilson, 31, and Charles Mackres, 52.

Incumbent councilmen John H. Sylvester and Robert McAllister are facing challenges from Hyde and James Habel, a supervisor of finance at Rohr Corporation.

Chula Vistans will also be asked to vote on seven proposed amendments to the city charter which include increasing the mayor's salary three times the amount authorized by state law, increasing the salary of city councilmen to one and a half times the amount authorized, paying board and commission members up to \$50 per meeting, eliminating the so-called "freeride" provision, changing the selection procedure for a council vacancy, eliminating special levies and setting a general levy maximum of \$1.80 per \$100 assessed valuation, revising procedures for public works contracts to accept informal bids under \$5,000 and deleting a section establishing a water department for the city.

## GIRL, 14, DIES AFTER PARTY

CHULA VISTA — A 14-year-old girl who collapsed Friday night while attending a party in Imperial Beach, died yesterday in Bay General Hospital.

Paula Rene Mapps, daughter of Mrs. Jean Mansker, 1275 Third Ave., Chula Vista, died at 4:30 p.m. according to Deputy Coroner David Stark.

She had been attending a party with friends, Stark said, and sniffing fumes from an aerosol can of vegetable base coating for cookware.

After collapsing at 7:45 p.m., she was taken to the hospital by fire department ambulance and regained consciousness before dying.

An autopsy will be performed today to determine the exact cause of death.

surer and city clerk should be elective or appointed.

### LA MESA

Two candidates, J. Robert Heland and Arthur M. Dalquist, both city councilmen, are seeking the post of mayor vacated by Mayor Ray Fellows who did not file for re-election.

Two council posts will be filled by one of seven candidates. They are Roy F. De Turi, Paul A. Jensen, Edward V. Marikle Jr., Robert J. Ogden, Stanley W. Schwab, William L. Timm and Markancel (Mark) Uselton.

City treasurer Charles J. Lebew is opposed in his bid for re-election.

### IMPERIAL BEACH

With Mayor Bill Blank and two city councilmen not seeking re-election, three candidates are seeking the post of mayor and eight are running for City Council seats.

Mayoral candidates are J. Dennis Ord, 34, Lionel L. Rowe, 37, and Councilman Leebert L. Stites, 44.

City Council candidates include Henry A. Andrade, Errol O. Bennett, John B. Bennett, Peter C. Collins, Henry R. McCarty, Elvin C. Ogle, Marcus S. Renaldi and Sidney Robbins.

### EL CAJON

Three councilmen will be elected from a field of seven and voters will be asked to decide whether the offices of city trea-

### L.A. Fire Kills Woman

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — A woman was killed in an apartment house fire here yesterday. Firemen said the victim, Mrs. Marvilla Newsom, was suffocated by heat and smoke.



## LIBRARY DEDICATION TODAY

Myrtle Wirth, left, assistant city librarian in National City, goes over plans for the dedication ceremonies with participants. They are Christopher Sue, 6, center, Roslyn Sue, 10, and Stefanie Sue, 3. The dedication of the Ellen Baeder wing of the library will be at 2 p.m. today.

## Head-On Crash Kills Woman

LAKESIDE — A woman was fatally injured in a head-on collision of two autos on Winter Gardens Boulevard south of Golden Ridge Road early yesterday.

Mrs. Virginia Louise Nielsen, 44, of 8219 Winter Gardens Blvd., was dead on arrival at 2:40 a.m. at El Cajon Valley Hospital of multiple injuries, Deputy Coroner William Sousa said.

Her husband, Vernon Julius Nielsen, 49, a bus driver of the El Cajon Valley School District, who was driving their car, was treated at the same hospital for major injuries. He was pinned in the wreckage and she was ejected.

Sousa said it appeared they were on their way home when the accident occurred at 2:05 a.m.

The California Highway Patrol said Nielsen was southbound when a northbound car driven by Paul Martin Doering, 28, of 786 Lingel Drive, El Cajon, crossed the double center lines and collided with the Nielsen car in the southbound lanes.

It was the 63rd death in San Diego County traffic this year. A year ago the toll was 69 dead.