



April again, and a breeze is
coming fresh and warm from
the lands of the south..



Editorial on Spring



by Bob McAdams

(This is an editorial reprinted from a
1953 Pyles Camp Newspaper)

Spring is a special time! Spring is felt by every living thing that God created--man, animal and every single bit of vegetable matter in the world. For you see--Spring is a time of re-awakening.

When the Universe was created and the Earth began to revolve on its axis around the Sun, hot gases shrouded it like a super-heated steam jacket. When these vapors began to cool and hot lava beds began to lose their molten heat, plant life began to appear in very simple forms. God created animals to live off these plants and later to live off each other. All these plants and animals began to multiply and reproduce themselves. The Earth, in the meantime was rotating on a tilted axis, again in the master plan of things, and in its yearly journey around the Sun presented its surface to the Sun at different angles. In the Spring and Summer the rays of the Sun were direct and strong and very warm. Later on, in what we know as winter, the sun's rays were weak and the earth began to slow down in its activity because of cold winds and snow. Flowers would wilt and go into dormancy, the animals made caves and shelter their permanent abode and some would go into what we now know as hibernation. Man, when he came on the Earth followed the example of the animals and stored for himself food and warm skins to carry him through the winter times. When Spring came with its warm breezes and budding trees man came out and rejoiced in its presence.

Today, many years after those first cavemen, we are governed by the same instinct and are filled with a song at the approach of Spring. The first day of Spring is March 21st., but the first Spring Day may be some weeks late. It doesn't come heralded with bugle and drum but rather softly and gradually and surely. Those boys who live in city dwellings aren't as conscious of its arriving as is the man or boy who lives in the country-side and very close to nature.

The Earth is like a big cocoon. Its soil is filled with possibilities of fertile seeds. Its rivers, streams and lakes hold countless billions of nymphs who want to be butterflies and moths come Spring. Its cracks and crevices filled with snakes, salamanders and lizards in a semi-coma state, waiting. Its caves and holes teeming with animals of all descriptions whose heartbeats have slowed down so they can live without much food during the winter months. Its dense bushes crowded with half-frozen birds, flightless in the cold. Its stumps and hollows hold myriad small mammals in their cozy nests. When wonderful Nature knocks on all these little doors and proclaims Spring, they all burst forth in joy and color determined to make up for lost time spent in idleness. Flowering, mating and seeking of food become almost frantic for they know that winter will again come before long.

Those of us who want to observe all this natural phenomenon can do so very simply. Obey the dictates of your inner self, go out and look at the sky and watch the birds in their mating flights; look closely at the swelling of the leaf buds on the trees; smell the clean air filled with odors of opened flowers; listen very carefully to the sounds of all God's creatures and you will hear a chorus unequalled in the most magnificent Churches of Earth.

....THIS IS SPRING



To the Editors of the PYLET:

I have been a supporter of this R. M. Pyles Boys Camp for a number of years, and it continues to be my pet project.

Since the PYLET was begun last October I have looked forward to every issue. I see the names of my friends in it and enjoy reading about things our boys are doing through the winter months.

We in Ventura are going to have a big barbecue again this Spring and know that you will plug it in the PYLET, as all the proceeds go into this program. We are expecting even more than the 700 that attended last year.

Again my congratulations to the editor of this outstanding monthly; keep up the good work.

A friend,
Walter Hanline
Walter Hanline
Ventura

March Appearances

Radio Station KBIG, The Catalina Station, had two five minute interviews on the Pyles Camp this past month. Mr. Pyles was interviewed by Larry Borell, station announcer, Monday, March 24th, and Mr. Borell interviewed Bob McAdams and Benny Wharton on Tuesday, March 25th.

Oxnard Radio Station KOXR presented the Pyles Camp Program March 12th and featured an interview with Ben Wharton.

Ventura Radio Station KUDU hosted the Boys Camp March 3rd and Bob McAdams talked on the various aspects of the Camp.

A program for the Bakersfield Land Men's Wives was given by Bob McAdams, March 13th. Camp slides were shown and a lecture on youth work a-la-Pyles Camp was made for 28 wives of Petroleum Land Men. Meeting was held in the Hacienda Motel.

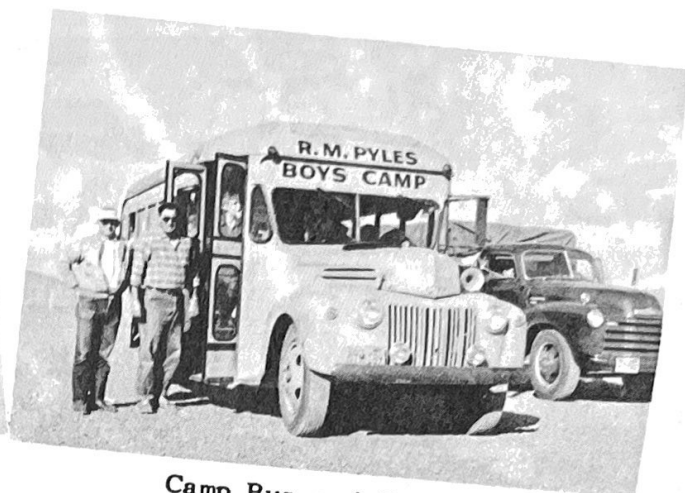
Slides and talks were made for the Orange County Peace Officer's Association March 27th. In attendance were the Chiefs of Police from O.C. as well as high ranking members of the other law enforcement branches in the County. The meeting was on the occasion of the monthly Ladies Night and each man was accompanied by his wife. Boys Camp guest speaker for the evening was Officer Andy Quinn of Orange Police Dept. Bob McAdams and Ben Wharton gave alternate slide talks.

Correction, please...

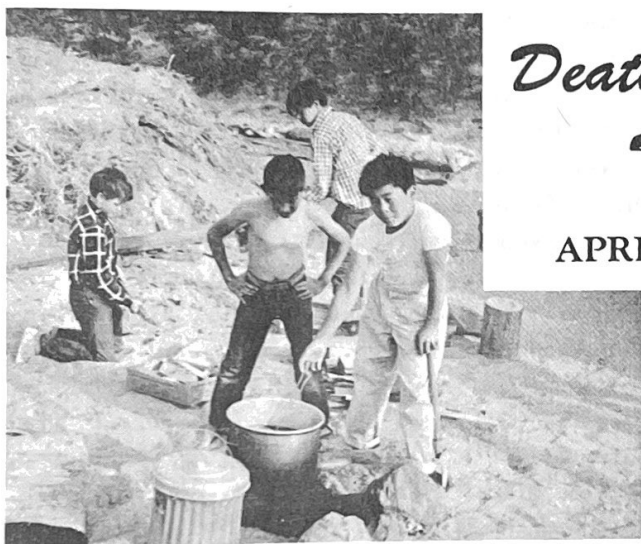
Last month we had time on KERO-TV not KBIS-TV



Scotty's Castle - a Highlight



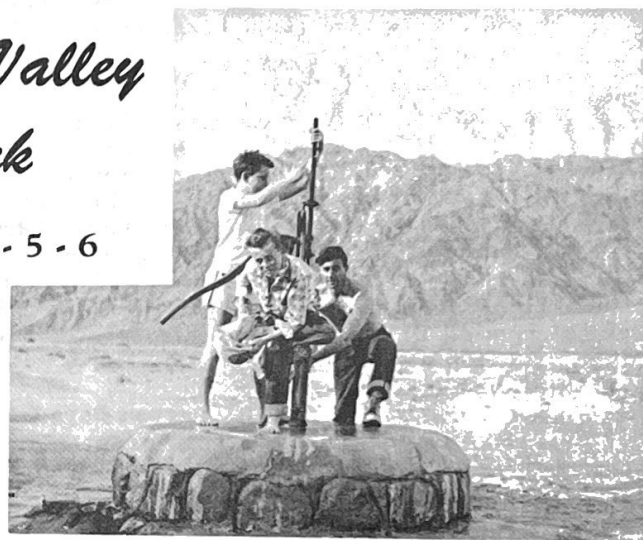
Camp Bus and Truck



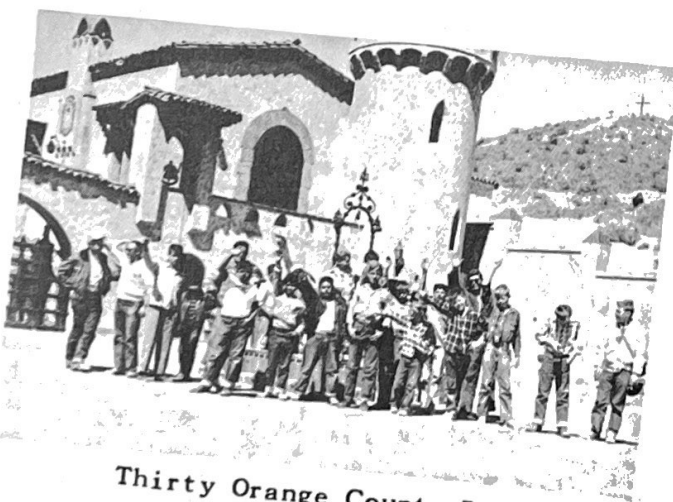
Boys Share Cooking Duties

Death Valley Trek

APRIL 4 - 5 - 6



A Rare Desert Water Well

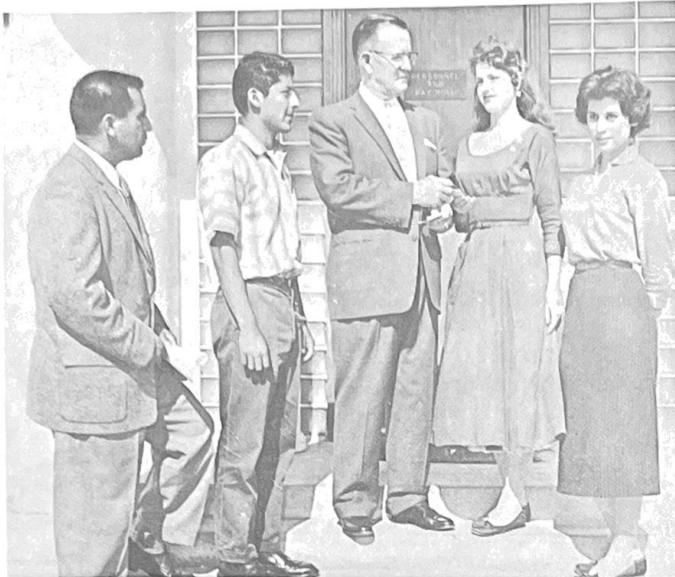


Thirty Orange County Boys



Easter Sunrise Services

Boys Camp Boosts LULACS



Ed Calderon, Pete Martinez, Mr. Pyles, Susan Brown and Shirley Zuniga... First ticket sold to Mr. Pyles!

In accordance with the established Camp policy of helping out other good organizations for the betterment of youth, R.M. Pyles assisted the Lulacs (Latin-American Organization) of Stanton in kicking off their scholarship drive to send deserving boys and girls to college.

A raffle is currently being promoted for the funds to accomplish this purpose and the winner of the contest will be given an air trip to Mexico, spending seven days in the Majestic Hotel in Acapulco.

Ed Calderon, leader of the Sparton Boys Club of Stanton, is coordinating this program with the Spartons. Many of the Spartons are also ex-campers of the Pyles organization.

Spring has sprung,
The grass has riz,
I wonder where
The flowers iz.



Master Word of Life

Dr. Osler once told a company of medical students the master word of life--the word which is the open sesame to every portal, the great equalizer in the world, the true philosopher's stone, which transmutes all the base metal of humanity into gold--the word which makes the stupid bright, the bright brilliant, and the brilliant steady, the word in the heart which makes all things possible and without which all is vanity and vexation, the word which brings hope to the youth, confidence to the middle-aged, repose to the aged. That master word is WORK; and if in the period of storm and stress it is written on the heart and bound on the forehead, all will be well.

--W. Robertson Nicoll

Happy Birthdays

Don Sherrill, Bakersfield.....	14 yrs.
Woody Mosley, Hilltop.....	16 yrs.
John Hill, Mojave.....	16 yrs.
Al Botkin, Santa Ana.....	14 yrs.
Pat Smith, Costa Mesa.....	14 yrs.
Harold Wicks, Costa Mesa.....	14 yrs.
Cal Chambers, Huntington Beach.....	13 yrs.
Ray Barger, Artesia.....	15 yrs.
Carlos Ortega, Los Angeles.....	14 yrs.
Tony Gonzales, Los Angeles.....	14 yrs.



Manuel Esparza, Los Angeles.....	15 yrs.
Milton De Lille, Los Angeles.....	16 yrs.
Jim Heffernan, Los Angeles.....	14 yrs.
Carl Borajas, Los Angeles.....	13 yrs.
Richard Cuevas, Los Angeles.....	15 yrs.
Ernest Paniagua, Los Angeles.....	15 yrs.
Harold Brown, Los Angeles.....	15 yrs.
Danny Pascoe, Long Beach.....	14 yrs.
Fred Howe, Jr., Long Beach.....	14 yrs.
Jim Ludington, Long Beach.....	15 yrs.
Bill Lucas, Long Beach.....	16 yrs.
Gordon Bramucci, Puente.....	15 yrs.
Earl Pike, La Crescenta.....	16 yrs.
Jerry Caldwell, El Monte.....	14 yrs.
Orville Sikes, Taft.....	16 yrs.
Walt Hudgins, Taft.....	15 yrs.
Joe Arcinega, Ventura.....	15 yrs.
Robert Adam, Santa Paula.....	14 yrs.



Congratulations to Otto Olafson

The Boys Camp wishes to congratulate one of our selectors, Sgt. Otto Olafson of Bakersfield on his election to State President of the Juvenile Officer's Association.

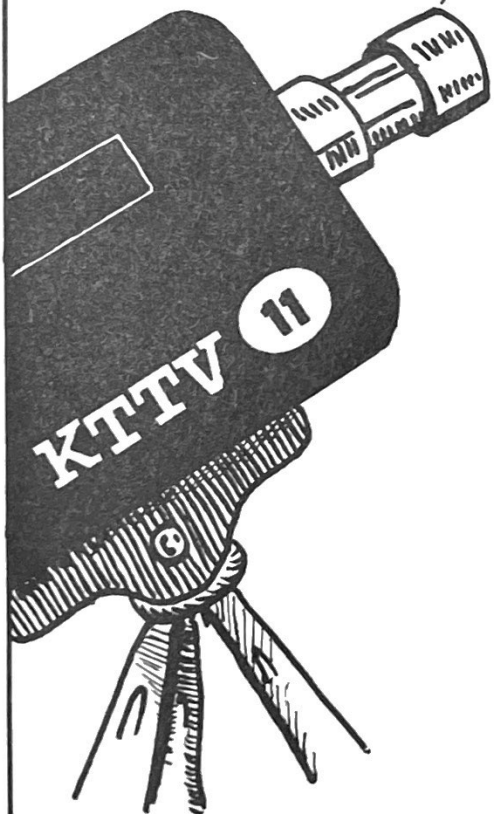
Oil Industry

'SALUTE TO YOUTH' DAY

April 20

Featuring

R.M. PYLES
Boys Camp



30 minute program on the
camp - 1:00 to 1:30

April 20th

BE SURE TO LOOK IN

Petroleum Fractions

by Dick Sneddon



(Ed. note) Mr. Sneddon is one of the most famous of the American Petroleum journalists. The material herein written is done especially for the 'Pylet' and for which we are duly honored.

Few pastimes are less expensive or more rewarding than chasing down word origins. All that is required to pursue this fascinating hobby is a library card, a well developed bump of curiosity, and an occasional bit of spare time on your hands.

And there is no more promising territory for the etymon hunter than the oil fields, refineries, and other haunts of the oil people. Etymon, by the way, is a word that we stole from the Greeks. It means 'word origin', so an etymologist is just a person who likes to track down the sources of words.

Petroleum has been popularly referred to as 'black gold', 'liquid sunshine', and sometimes by a name that would shame a stevedore. It was once known as 'rock oil' because our ancestors first noticed it seeping from pores or cracks in rocks. The name petroleum comes from the Latin 'petra, 'rock', and oleum, 'oil'.

The black, messy looking liquid has been known for thousands of years. The Egyptians are believed to have used it in the embalming processes for which they have become famous. Other ancient peoples employed it as fuel for sacrificial fires, wooing the favor of their particular gods by burning on sacrificial altars, sheep, goats, and sometimes even people. This practice was very popular with almost everyone but the sheep, goats, and people that were sacrificed.

Marco Polo, the great Venetian traveler, said he had noted that the Persians applied it to the sore backs of camels, and Indians in our own country employed it as an ointment for many years before its other qualities were discovered.

In the beginning, American Indians gathered oil from the seeps by soaking their blankets with it and then wringing them out into earthenware pots. Later, enterprising miners dug tunnels in an effort to increase the production. Then in 1859 came the drilling process with its growing forest of derricks, spreading out over the countryside and eventually out over the world.

It is difficult to believe but it is true nevertheless, that in certain parts of California and presumably other oil producing states, many of the old wooden derricks have been literally knocked down by little birds. Over the years, woody woodpecker has stuffed so many acorns in to the uprights and cross beams that they have finally either collapsed or have had to be torn down in the interest of safety.

Nowadays, practically all oil derricks are made of steel which explains why you see so many woodpeckers flying about with their bills in splints and bandages.

The derrick, incidentally, takes its name from a hangman at Tyburn Prison in England who was the first to use the device if he didn't invent it. His name was Derrick, and it is a nice thing that the gadget on which he strung up murderers and other men of ill repute, is now merely to hang oil tools.

♣ BOY of the MONTH ♣

Proving that love and affection works both ways, our Boy of the Month Ben Stokes has made a most successful experience out of an otherwise difficult situation.

Ben, at 15 years of age, was given a new mom and dad. The courts of Orange County suggested that Ben move into the James Sanders home in Anaheim and live as their son, along with two other boys who would be his foster brothers. Ben has had no mother or father since he was 3 years of age and has been living with first one aunt and the other, no one really wanting to take him as their own.

The situation that has been facing Ben for 12 years is not new to Pyles Campers inasmuch as over 100 of our boys have been foster children. Our Boy of the Month took love, cooperation and a real desire to adapt with him and today is our example of a successful replanting, a replant



that will take him into manhood with a feeling of having had a home as a young man. Jim and Beverly Sanders, who have two children of their own and two other foster children, consider Ben as their son and so does Ben.

Ben is working odd jobs around the neighborhood and will begin work at Disneyland this coming month. We are very proud of you, Ben.

The pipelines that carry oil and gas from the field to refineries or ship terminals, have to be checked periodically for leaks by a chap known as a 'line walker' who in these modern times does his walking in a plane or a helicopter, and has become amazingly expert at spotting pipeline trouble from the air.

But most interesting of the new era leak spotters are buzzards and coyotes. In some producing districts, sulphur compounds with violently offensive odors contaminate the raw gas. The odors are only offensive to the human schnozzola; however, in the nostrils of the two scavengers mentioned they are attar-of-roses. Thus, when a leak takes place, hovering buzzards or howling coyotes mark the spot. They haunt the vicinity of the leak in the belief that the odor comes from something that is dead and therefore should be eaten.

And don't forget, in conclusion, that oil is what your car won't go if it doesn't have any of in.



Ex Camper -- Builder of Roads, Bridges

Douglas Tugwell, Pyles Camp '52, is now a junior engineer with the State Department of Highways and aiding in the building of the San Diego Freeway, new super highway from Los Angeles to San Diego.

Douglas is currently working on the portion of the freeway that lies adjacent to San Juan Capistrano and his most recent job was aiding in the completion of the \$1,000,000 bridge spanning the San Juan Creek (pictured above). Douglas previously aided in the Long Beach Freeway project and because of his outstanding abilities was given office employment, and accompanying promotion, in the San Diego project.

A Civil Engineering Degree is being sought by Douglas in evening classes of Long Beach City College and a recent promotion was given through Civil Service Examinations.

Interesting highlights of the freeway work was discussed with the *PYLET* reporter among them being the million-dollar-a-mile, 4 mile section of the freeway near San Juan Capistrano. Douglas has the specific job of figuring time and costs and is given ample opportunity to observe and help the senior engineers in other planning.

'Tug' is one of their most promising young engineers and has been given a state car for transportation to and from his home in Long Beach and plans on making Civil Engineering with the State Highways his life's work.

With his next raise, expected very shortly, he is buying a ring for a certain girl's finger.

Our most heart-felt congratulations to another of our success stories, Douglas Tugwell.

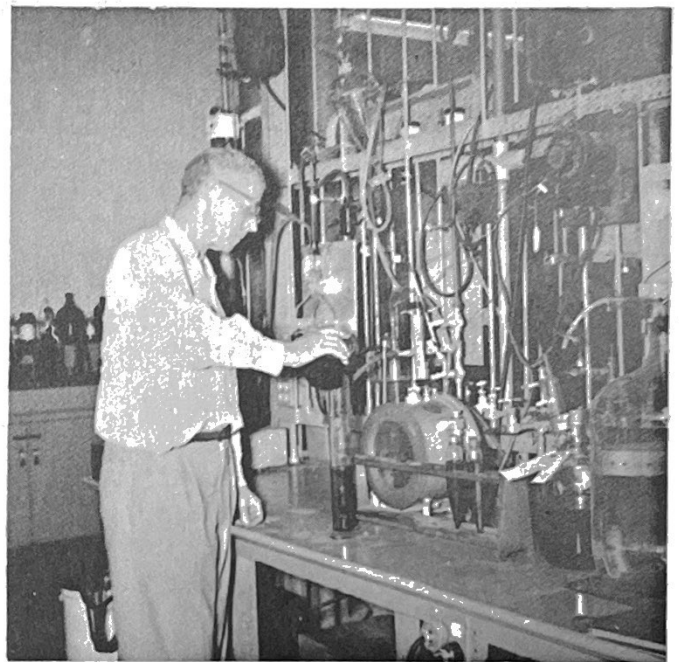
Jerry Rusk -- volunteer

Jerry Rusk, 4343 Pepperwood Ave., Long Beach, is an outstanding example of the type of oilman that has helped make the R.M. Pyles Boys Camp the outstanding organization that it is today.

Jerry has volunteered to assist the Camp in a counseling capacity for two years and served in such a useful and productive fashion that the '*PYLET*' wishes to recognize this contribution.

Mr. Rusk has served youth many years, not only in the Boys Camp, but as a Scout leader of distinction. Jerry was a Cubmaster for 6 years, a Neighborhood Commissioner for 1 year and a District Commissioner for 1 year.

Jerry has been a faithful employee of the General Petroleum Corporation of California for 29 years. He is employed currently in the Development and Experimental Lab in Vernon, is a member of the Petroleum Production Pioneers, a past president of the Mobile Management Association and currently a member of the Board of Directors of this association.



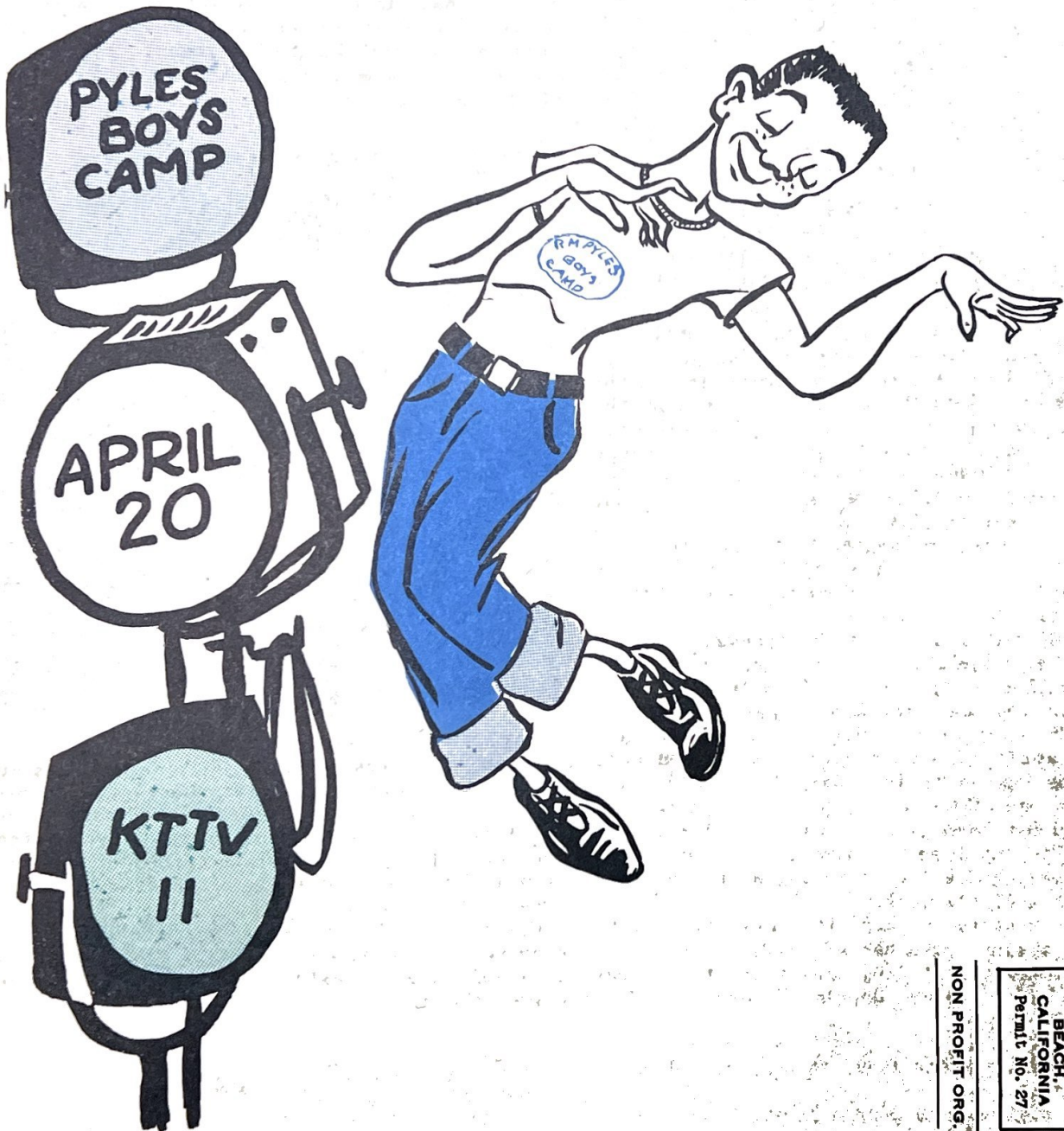
A member of Toastmasters, Jerry specializes in talks on juvenile work, particularly as it relates to delinquency. He has been a Sunday School teacher for 5 years and a grandfather for one year. Jerry is especially proud of his record in Scouting and tells of passing tests along with his son.

Pyles Camp, '58, is most fortunate in already signing up several volunteers of the Jerry Rusk mold and wishes to extend an invitation to other oilmen who might wish to do likewise.

- Q. What has sixteen legs, is purple, and eats people?
- A. A sixteen-legged purple people-eater.



Look, Ma! I'm on TV!



R. M. PYLES BOYS CAMP
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