

# Radar Squarron to March In Armed Forces Parade

A blip rather than a blop, chariot had better respond instantly with an identifying electronic blip. Otherwise, in a few moments she would be closely inspected by heavily armed fighter interceptor aircraft scrambled from one or more nearby bases.

SHARON NOW knows the versatile and lethal capabilities of the Air Defense Command: to detect, intercept, identify and, if necessary, destroy hostile aircraft.

Miss Florez found out that the Air Force's Radar Squadron shares its hilltop site with the Army and the Federal Aviation Agency. This jointly operated installation with three radar towers and radome can be readily seen by harbor and southern county residents. The 670th's orderly room and barracks are at Fort MacArthur.

The 670th and like AF squadrons function round the clock, seven days a week. The detection systems are manned by highly trained and dedicated airmen to provide constant watch over the western coastline, guarding against surprise actions by the ene-of local civilian aircraft which fly lower altitudes and slower speeds than military type aircraft.

MISS FLOREZ was told the Radar Squadron's equipment is capable of seeking out an aircraft at heights from 50 feet to 100,000 feet altitude and can determine its direction and speed, too. This detection information is automatically converted to usable digital data and transmitted via telephone lines to Luke AFB in Arizona. The detection system normally is not concerned with the flight habits

The Squadron's commander, Lt. Col. Lawrence E. Schutte, explained to Miss Florez that his San Pedro-based unit was out of several nearby radar squadrons—others being located at Mt. Laguna, Boron, Lompoc, and Cambria—that provide input of all significant aircraft traffic in Los Angeles-San Diego area to SAGE, an electronic computer command

Center, Luke AFB.

THE SAGE Direction Center at Luke AFB is responsible to provide air defense for Western Arizona, New Mexico, Southern Nevada, and Southern California. The center can control Air Force, Navy, and Marine fighter interceptor aircraft, Navy missile-launching ships such as the nuclear-powered cruiser USS Long Beach, and Army Nike Hercules missiles.

The Luke AFB Direction Center and its network of spectators, Grand Marshal coverage, as explained by Lt. Col. Schutte, is one of many such air defense systems that blanket the entire United States. All are under the command of NORAD, North American Air Defense Command, with its new underground Combat Operations Center deep inside Cheyenne Mountain near Colorado Springs, Colo.

MISS FLOREZ reminded the 670th's airmen that the AFD parade here, Saturday, May 21, is one of the largest in the nation and last year area on Armed Forces Day.



BLIP OR BLOP? Sharon Florez, a Torrance princess, gets a quick look at the Height Finder Scope during a visit to the U.S. Air Force 670th Radar Squadron at San Pedro. Explaining the function of the scope to Miss Florez is Airman 3/C Daniel Terwilliger of South Gate. Miss Florez visited the installation earlier this week to welcome the unit into the seventh annual Armed Forces Day parade here Saturday, May 21.

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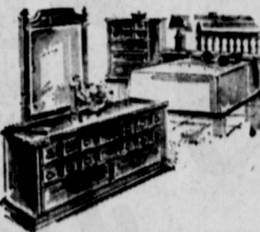


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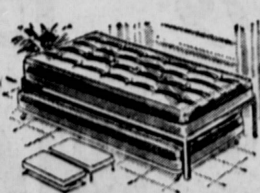
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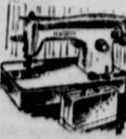
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