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Capt. Devine Heads NALF



Capt. and Mrs. Devine and their children Ginny and Richard

Photo by Joe Lockett

Upon entering the living room of Quarters H, across from Herrman Hall, the visitor is immediately attracted to the uniquely beautiful tables which adorn the room. With painstaking care Hawaiian monkey pod has been crafted into most attractive coffee and lamp tables. It is clear the creator spent many hours sanding and polishing the monkey pod to achieve the wonderful sheen it possesses.

The same hands which patiently created the handsome tables have also deftly maneuvered countless aircraft in flight and brought them to rest on the decks of numerous carriers. They are the hands of Captain Richard O. Devine who is currently the Officer in Charge of the Naval Auxiliary Landing Field, Monterey.

Captain Devine comes to Monterey from Hawaii where he was Chief of Staff for Personnel on the Staff of the Commandant, Fourteenth Naval District as well as Inspector General on the staff of the Commandant, Hawaiian Sea Frontier. He and his family, Arline, his wife, Virginia and Richard, their children, spent a delightful three year tour in Hawaii. Each of them bears a healthy tan acquired in the warm island climate.

During their stay in Hawaii the Devines live on Ford Island in Pearl Harbor. On the island was a small community of Naval Personnel somewhat isolated from the huge Navy contingent at Pearl Harbor Navy Base. The island has its own commissary, exchange and dispensary and in many ways resembles a small town where everyone knows everyone. "Can you imagine," asks Mrs. Devine, "walking into a commissary and being recognized and having the butcher remember what cuts of meat you prefer?"

Going to school required four bus rides and a boat trip each day for Virginia and Richard. A bus picked them up at home and took them to the boat dock for the short ride across the harbor where

another bus met them to complete the trip to the schools. They both agree it was a unique experience. It is evident that the Devines consider Hawaii a real paradise and hope to return some day.

It was while on Ford Island that Captain Devine created his monkey pod tables. "The hobby shop was so near," he modestly explains. But the tables are clearly a labor of love. They are large crosscut sections of the monkey pod tree and the "rings of life" of the tree are clearly visible in the asymmetrical shapes. After sanding and polishing them Captain Devine coated each with a liquid resin which hardened into a clear plastic-like finish that is heat proof, burn proof, liquid proof, and judging from the fine appearance after being moved such a distance, they are even "mover proof."

In one of the tables Captain Devine has put to good use the type of collection which all too often is stored in a box to be looked at only at moving time. Encased under the resin, clearly visible, is a collection of unusual sea shells, tiny starfish, and other mementos accumulated by the Devine children over several years.

Both Captain and Mrs. Devine are from Walla Walla, Washington. He is a graduate of Whitman College and did graduate work at the University of California School of Engineering. In 1940 he en-

tered the Naval Aviation Cadet Program and was commissioned Ensign the following year. In June of 1942, in Pensacola, the former Arline Kinman became Mrs. Devine. The Devines first came to Monterey in 1948 when Captain Devine attended the General Line School which was then new to the area.

Golf is the favorite leisure time activity for both the Devines and Captain Devine would like to find more time in which to hunt. But spare time is a premium when one is Officer in Charge of the landing field at Monterey. Militarily, Capt. Devine is under the command of Naval Air Station Alameda. However he has additional duties on the Staff of the Superintendent. Meeting the aviation requirements of the students and instructors at USNPGS is no small task. Together with his staff of 25 officers, approximately 450 enlisted men, and 16 civilian employees, Captain Devine is responsible for operations involving more than 800 pilots each year. The NALF is an unusual naval installation and to keep it running smoothly is a demanding job.

Demanding jobs seem to be Captain Devine's forte, however. He cited his two years as Commanding Officer of a jet attack squadron as his most rewarding tour. From 1956-58 he was CO of a Cougar squadron based at Miramar which deployed to WestPac aboard the Bon Homme Richard.

Mrs. Devine finds little time for one of her favorite activities—sewing. She is an active member of the wives' groups and these activities and managing a household with two teenagers keeps her forever on the go. Virginia Devine, 18 years old, is a sophomore at Monterey Peninsula College and is interested in languages. Richard at 15 is a student at Monterey High School. Mrs. Devine and Virginia recently modeled in a Staff Wives Fashion Luncheon.

Completing the Devine family is "Duke" the family dog. "Duke" is a black and white springer spaniel whose friendliness is exceeded only by his enthusiasm. These are traits he has learned from his masters, it is sure.

—Ona Trautz

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