



Brad Thompson, 21, prepares to practice water ski jumping at his family's lake. He will be competing along with his sister, Colleen, at the national water ski competition at Berkeley this year.

Bank tenants seek 20 parking spaces

Twenty public parking spaces will be leased for tenants in the Bank of America Tower, if the plan is approved by the Bakersfield City Council tomorrow night.

The spaces would be leased for \$10 a month.

The matter will be considered when the council meets at 8 p.m. in the City Hall council chambers.

Vandals strike residence of BC instructor

A Bakersfield College instructor returned home to find \$10,000 worth of spray-paint damage to his den and kitchen areas Friday.

The sheriff's department is investigating the vandalism at the Oildale home of Bruce N. Meier, a BC instructor and an attorney.

Deputies said vandals broke open the den door to enter the home. Using a can of black lacquer spray paint found in the home, they sprayed antiques, original paintings, appliances, walls and carpets and floors, furniture and books until the can was emptied.

The empty can was left outside the rear door of the home. Damage was estimated at \$10,235.

Deputies said the damage was done between 1:30 and 3:35 p.m.

Carpets ripped off

Thieves took 50 square yards of carpet from the Breezeaway Apartments, Aletha Delzer, manager of Realty Management, 2801 South H Street, reported to the police department.

Orange-tree-for-rent business starts slow

Some people rent houses. Some people rent boats. Norman Hartnett of Bakersfield rents orange trees.

The 49-year-old East Bakersfield High School special education teacher placed an ad in The Californian calling attention to his unique sideline as a landlord of orange trees which he rents for \$12 each.

"My son (Tim) and I own 19 acres of oranges in the Porterville area," he said. "These are mature orange trees which we fertilize and irrigate and they are rented for a year to those who wish to harvest them."

Hartnett estimates a renter will harvest about 250 pounds of oranges from one tree.

He said he and Tim, 27, decided to rent orange trees to allow consumers to become directly involved in the harvesting process.

"We just supply them with the ladder and equipment and they get the fun of coming up here and saying they've rented an orange tree," he said.

He hopes to rent 1,000 of his 1,600 navel orange trees. So far, he said he has rented 30.

"People out here aren't really quite used to the idea yet," he said. "But back East they rent everything. Why they even rent a row of string beans."

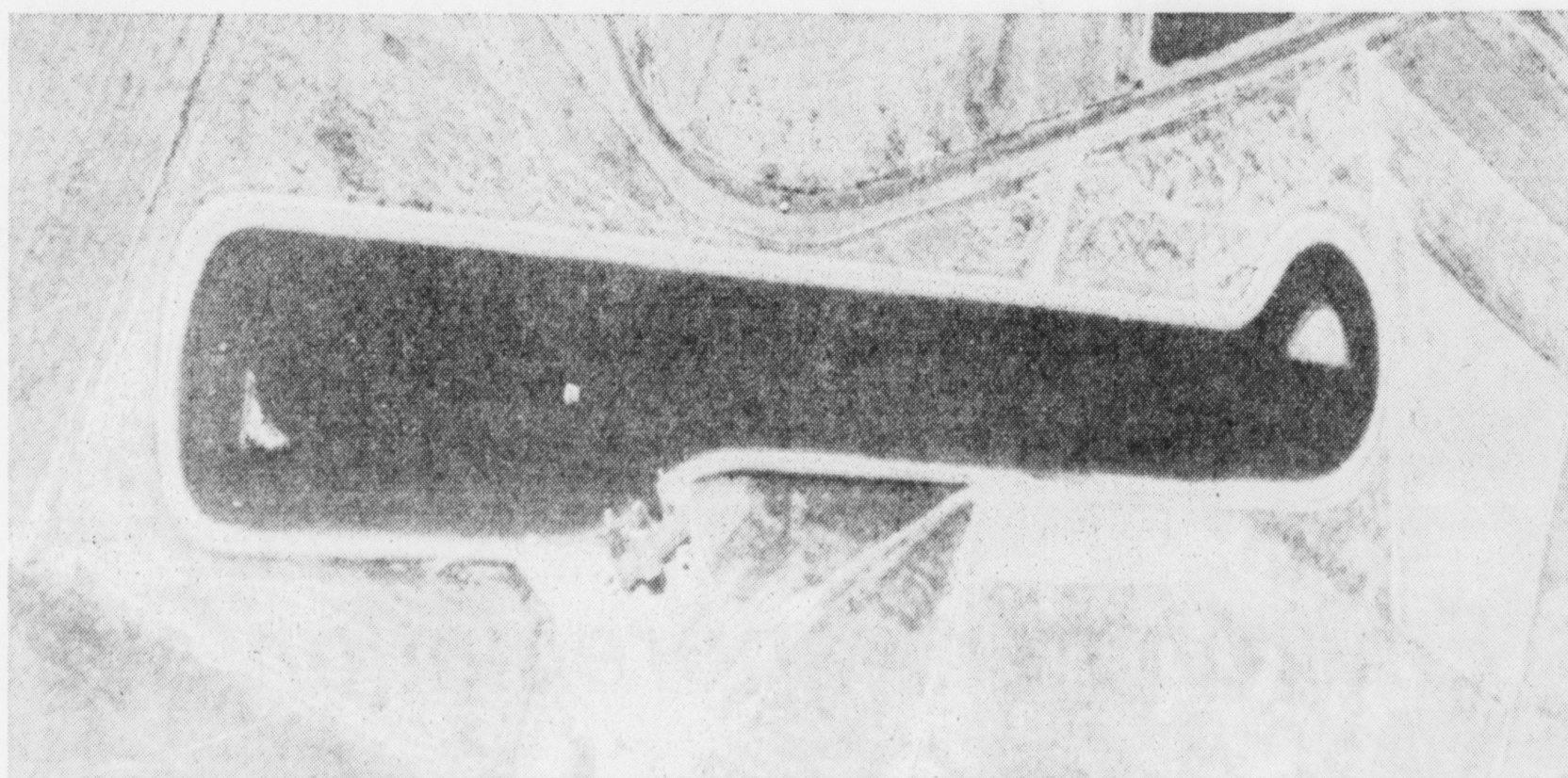
"When I told one guy how many oranges he'd get, he asked me if he could rent a limb."

Hartnett said the rent-a-tree business may not make much money, but he hopes renters will enjoy it.

He said orange tree renters pay \$12 now for a crop they will harvest in December and January.

"People rent everything else, so why not a tree?" he asked.

Those wishing to rent a tree from Hartnett may call him at 871-3015 after 6 p.m.



Aerial view of the Bob Thompsons' regulation water skiing facility on their property across from HART Park. The whale-shaped 12-acre lake measures 21,000 feet-long and 200 feet across. —(Aerial photo by Jack Knight taken from plane piloted by Bill Clark)

Nonteacher talks with KCCD open

Contract talks between Kern Community College District nonteaching employees and the board of trustees are scheduled to open tomorrow.

The negotiations follow a public proposal submitted by the classified or nonteaching unit. It included a request for an 18.2 per cent across the board pay increase and higher fringe benefits.

Trustees countered by offering to consider a pay increase. This consideration was conditioned on increases in the cost of living and how wages paid the unit employees compare with those in the private sector. The classified unit represents about 320 employees at Bakersfield, Porterville and Cerro Coso colleges. Under the state's recently enacted school employees collective bargaining law the employees organization must make a public proposal. The board then makes a proposal. Public hearings on each proposal also must be held.

Each side then enters into private negotiations. The classified unit is represented by the Californian School Employees Association.

Last week trustees approved pay increases for teachers and administrators. This included a dental plan, a fringe benefit which wasn't previously offered by the district.

Teachers and administrators were given 4 per cent increase and offered another 1.5 per cent depending on the district's financial condition. Annual cost for the increases is \$521,611, district officials said.

The package covered 341 teachers and 75 in the management and confidential group.

Winery earns okay for ads on own land

A. Perelli-Minetti and Sons Winery in Delano won the right to advertise on its property as a result of the company's presentation before the Board of Zoning Adjustment.

After a presentation which included maps, photographs, brochures and eight bottles of wine, the board granted a zoning variance allowing the winery to build four signs on its property advertising its winetasting room.

Wilbur Ricketts, representative for the company, introduced Tom Werdel, attorney for the firm, who discussed the language of the county ordinance.

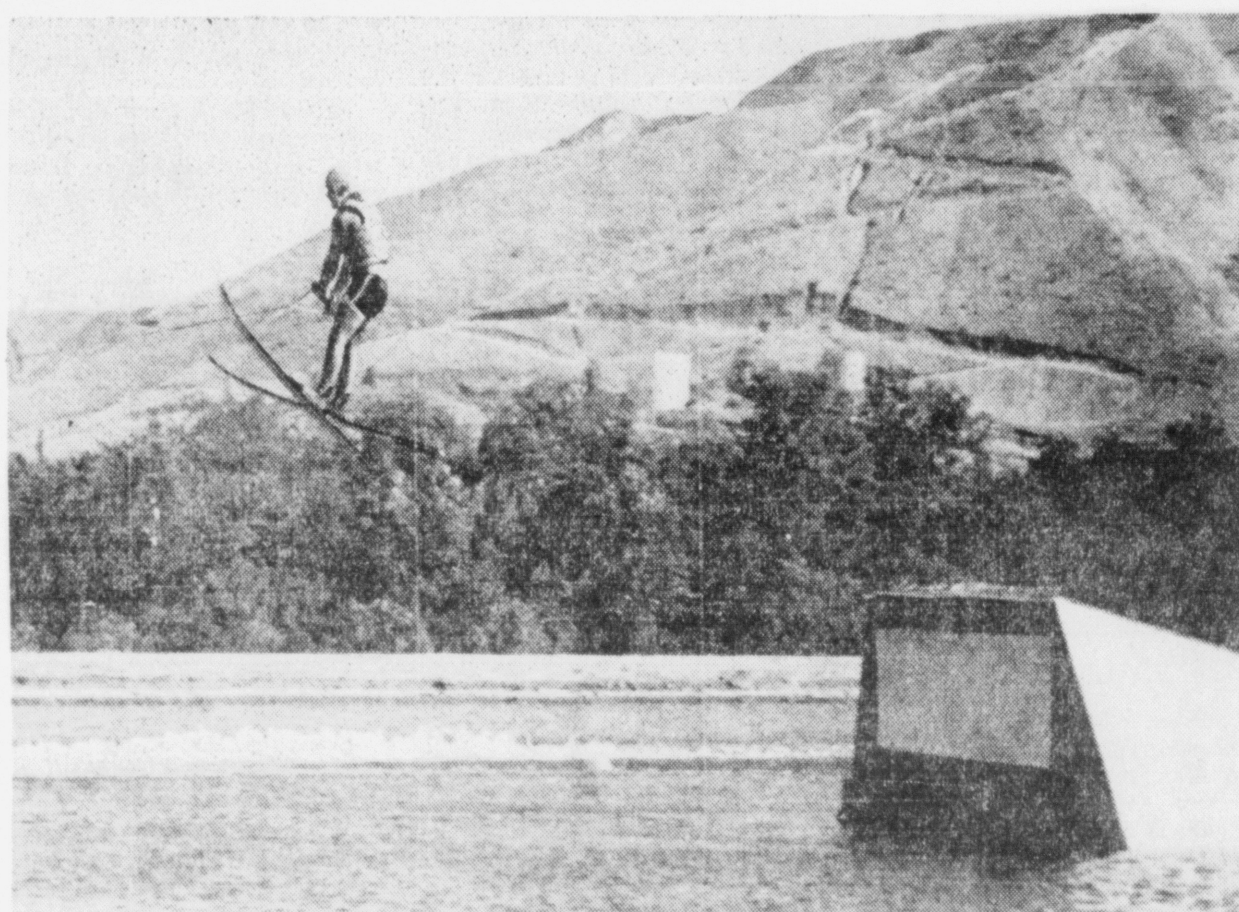
Mrs. Georgeann Perelli-Minetti passed out brochures to board members and discussed the quality of the bottles of champagne, brandy and wine displayed on the speaker's podium.

"They look beautiful in bottles, don't they?" So asked board member Walter Rowe.

The board ruled at the end of the presentation that the zoning variance could be granted because the winery is a business unique to Kern County.

TV set in loot

A color television set valued at \$1,000 was stolen from his father's East Bakersfield home, Bert Brewer reported to the sheriff's department. The burglar pried open a back bedroom window to enter the home, deputies said.



Brad Thompson sails a distance of 140 feet before landing squarely on the water from a six-foot ramp jump. He is towed around one end of the manmade lake before he makes another jump.

Water ski course has oasis-in-desert look

By KATHY FREEMAN
Staff Writer

It can't be seen from the sun-baked China Grade Loop.

But drive through the heat-mantled hills, turn into a private, neatly white-fenced road beyond Gordon's Ferry and the temperature drop is sudden and noticeable.

For there it is! Sitting unbelievably in the middle of flatness like an oasis in the desert.

It is the Bob Thompson family's 12-acre lake and someone is water skiing.

That someone is 23-year-old Mark Thompson, one of four sons and daughters. Mark competes nationally in water ski meets.

It is because of the Thompson family's interest in water skiing that they built the 21,000-foot-long regulation water ski course.

"We started water skiing shortly after the children were born," said Dona Thompson. "Eventually, we found the need to have our own course to practice on, since most of the boat and ski clubs are more oriented to

drag races and such and the kids needed a place to train competitively."

Mrs. Thompson said the family bought the 60 acres across from Hart Park and built a home there when they discovered an artesian well on the property that would provide them with enough water for the man-made lake.

"It's a sulphur spring," she said. "It picks up gases from the oil fields and while it isn't too pleasant to drink, it's okay to take a shower in."

She said the lake cools off the area by about 10 degrees, and the well also provides water for the family's home use.

Thompson, a Bakersfield realtor, said without the natural water supply the water ski course wouldn't have been possible.

"We use no power to maintain the water," he said. "The water flows from the well basin, fills the lake and any water that seeps returns to the water table. Theoretically, the lake is a holding basin, as the water used to flow into the Kern River."

"We just have a source of water that's unique for this part of the country. It's probably been flowing for about 100 years."

He said it took a year to get the zoning for the lake approved and to excavate it. The well filled the six-foot-deep lake in about three weeks.

"There aren't very many areas in California available for competitive training," he said. "Even though we just use the lake for our family and guests, we're still the only privately-owned skiing facility in Central California."

The area surrounding the lake has been landscaped, and Thompson said he plans to use the well water on the remainder of his property.

The lake has a six-foot ski jump as well as a regulation slalom course with buoys, in which the skier moves back and forth between each buoy and is rated on a point system.

An island at each end of the lake keeps the boat wake from bouncing back from the shore when the boat turns around, Thompson said.

Besides Mark, Brad, 21; Linda, 18; and Colleen, 16, have all participated in water ski competitions, in either jumping, slalom or trick skiing.

Skiers are towed at 36 mph in the slalom competition, 35 mph in the jump and about 17 mph in trick skiing, Mrs. Thompson said.

She said Colleen, a trick skier, participated in the national competition at Miami last year, and this year both she and Brad have qualified for national competition at Berkeley.

Mrs. Thompson said besides competing nationally, Colleen attends Highland High School and Brad has his own dry-well construction business.

Linda, a June graduate of Highland, will attend college in Norway this August as an exchange student and Mark works as a painting contractor.

Stiern packing shed bill gets governor signature

Gov. Brown has signed into a law a bill by Sen. Walter W. Stiern of Bakersfield that can expand the work force base for California packing shed operators.

The urgency bill goes into effect immediately.

Stiern's bill, SB 1187, establishes unlimited working hours in the sheds for 16 and 17 year old minors and erases previous limits of eight hours a day, 48 hours a week.

Stiern said the bill was written as an emergency measure so processors of perishable produce could move swiftly to increase the size of packing shed crews.

"With several crops now at or near peak harvest stages throughout California," he said, "it's necessary that shed crews can work extended hours. Maturing fruits and vegetables don't respect the eight-hour day."

Stiern emphasized parents of the minors can make private arrangements with shed operators to ensure their children are not overworked.

Stiern said in addition to support by growers, packers and shippers, high school counselors favored its enactment because of the summer job opportunities it could create for youth.