



**STUDY SPECIMAN . . .** Examining a specimen of special interest to geology students at El Camino College are Instructor Amil Cockrum and Miss Katherine Horne, an enthusiastic student of the science.

### Spirit of '49ers Lives on With Minerology Classe at El Camino

California's gold prospecting 49'ers have long departed, but that their spirit lives on is evidenced by the students attending El Camino College's evening course with the quiet title Minerology 5.

Beneath its academic name is a course designed for the adventure-minded mineral ore prospector, the gem-seeking lapidary or that person who simply wants to be known as a "rockhound."

It is a course that answers questions about where mineral and gem material may be found, how to recognize types and how to process the finds.

"LAPIDARIES and prospectors take the course together," Amil Cockrum, earth science instructor, said, "because their purposes so often overlap. The lapidary is somewhat of a prospector at heart and at least wants to be in a position to recognize any ore material he might see."

In turn, the modern prospector realizes that gem ma-

terials, even the common ones, have a high market value — \$2000 a ton ore would be rare, but that would still be a low price for good agate."

**MINERALOGY 5** provides an opportunity for learning to recognize 45 different gem materials and 25 different ores. Lectures deal with special tests, common imitations, and localities where materials may be found.

Other subjects for lecture include basic geology, the use of special maps, and the rock types in which the different ores and gems are the most likely concentrated.

**COURSE** laboratory work centers around the preparation of materials. Slabbing, trimming, grinding, and sanding, as well as polishing are available techniques taught to the interested.

Advanced work is carried on with the use of dichroscopes, refractometer, polariscopes, and polarizing microscopes. Gems are also treated with plastic surfacing and methods of embedding.

**THE AMATEUR** prospector has great prestige, Jessie G. Johnson of the Atomic Energy Commission contends. "We still need the prospector to find mineral deposits. The trained geologist's technical knowledge is no substitute for the optimism and persistence of the prospector . . ."

"Local teachers may also find the course helpful," Cockrum said, "since they can use much of the information in their high school and elementary classes when they are faced with the familiar question, 'What is it?'"

**COCKRUM**, following his studies at the University of Texas, became a petroleum geologist for Standard Oil of New Jersey. His work has been primarily "hard rock" mineralogy and his interest in gems is concentrated upon "star stones" or those that give off variations of light play.

"The greatest benefit to the prospector and lapidary is recreation," Cockrum says. The second is profit. Strategic materials such as chromium and zirconium are still needed, and the successes made in uranium discoveries were not exaggerated."

The course is offered each semester and meets one night each week; and, as Cockrum likes to suggest, when the roll is called, there may at times be a slight echo from the voice of '49.

The California Highway Patrol is charged with the enforcement of the State Vehicle Code and all laws governing the operation of vehicles on public highways.

### Navy Opens Recruiting Station Here

The opening of a Navy Recruiting office in downtown Torrance was welcomed by recruiters of the other services last week. Now anyone interested may obtain information from any of the services within a one block area.

The Navy office is located at 1520 Cravens Ave., next door to the Grand Theatre. The phone number is FA 0-3141.

The office will be manned by Thomas A. Coleman, Boatswain Mate First Class, who is well known in Torrance and has been active in the American Legion for several years.

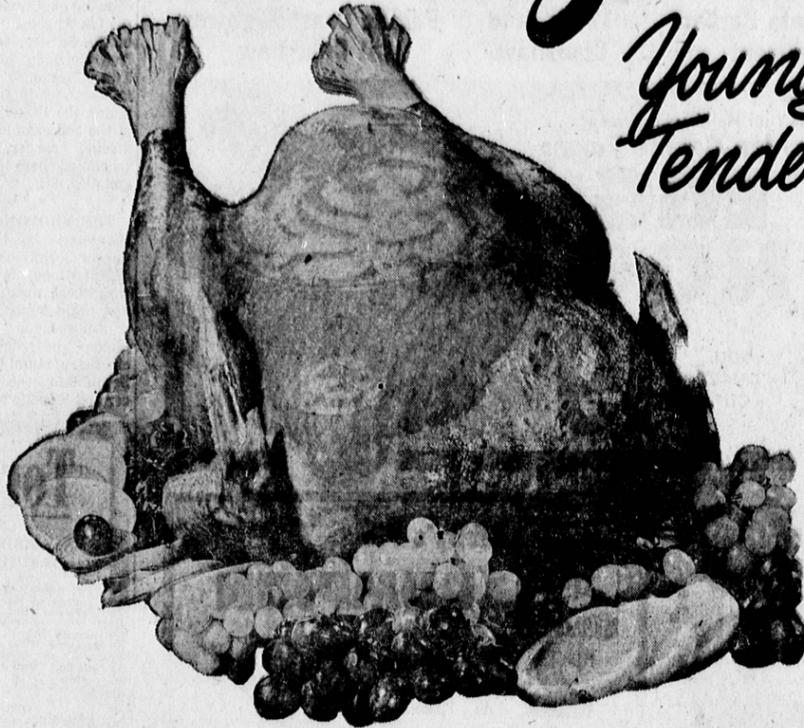
Beginning Jan. 1, the Torrance office will be the main Navy Recruiting office for Torrance and the South Bay area. Chief Gunner's Mate M. D. Bradley is recruiter in charge of the area and will make his headquarters here.

"We will be very glad to answer questions pertaining to any program offered to young men and women who are interested in fulfilling their military obligation by serving in the Navy," Chief Bradley said. "Other services for which we may be called on are talks to groups of young people, clubs and service organizations or to provide and show movies to interested groups. We will furnish film catalogues to groups who request them." The Chief further stated, "Parents are more than welcome to accompany their sons and daughters to the office when they come in for information or enlisting."

The office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and at night by appointment.

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