

Civil Air Patrol Members Drill

Every Sunday, and from three to four nights every week, some 150 determined men and women have been studying, drilling, and working without parade, fanfare, or applause, for nearly three months here in Reno. They are the first Nevada units of the Civil Air Patrol. Others are to follow in Battle Mountain, Las Vegas and possibly other cities.

The Civil Air Patrol is composed of civilian pilots, mechanics and observers who work closely with the Army Air Corps. A part of the national civilian defense organization, they take most training and orders from the army. They relieve army planes and men for courier and transport service, patrol vital defense areas, check sabotage, rescue lost people, and locate crashed planes.

Because Nevada is such a huge state to cover, and so many areas are rugged and without roads, national C. A. P. headquarters has given the Nevada Wing special permission to establish horse, or mounted auxiliaries. First in the United States, these Nevada units of the CAP Mounted Command are being studied by officials from other western states as a pattern for similar organizations. They have excited much comment and considerable praise.

Composed for the most part of ranchers who can take care of themselves in rough country, there are now four troops, composing

Squadron No. 2 based in Reno. Under retired cavalry officers, drill and maneuvers are hard and all troops are beginning to show snap and precision. Much help in training has been given by various regular army units stationed in this area.

Sunday maneuvers usually include a problem whereby two or more mounted troops are directed to points in the mountains by radio, the directions coming from planes in the air. Such joint maneuvers include exercises in map reading, aerial observation, radio communications, wig-wag signaling, cross country drill and riding and first aid.

Enlistments are not complete for the plane units, including Flights "A," "B," "C" and "H," as well as the mounted command, Troops "A," "B," "C" and "D." Training, however, is well under way, instruction having been given in infantry and cavalry drill, guard duty, radio communications, first aid, gas defense, military courtesy and discipline, crash procedure, map reading, aerial observation and photo reading. Special instruction has also been given certain groups in wig-wag signaling,

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