

The Rotarian

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Our green and fragile earth

- Fantastic trees
- Friendship garden

Midori-no-Oka (green hill) and accumulated a fund of 500,000 yen to restore it. In addition, all the Rotarians worked for two hours each morning to create the park: bulldozing the earth, weeding, digging out rocks and stones, smoothing the ground. Their work attracted the attention of other townspeople who also volunteered to work. Some 3,000 persons took part in all, sowing grass seed and planting trees. Today, the Green Hill is the favorite recreational spot in the city.

Children play there, oldsters stroll there, and now the Citizens Committee of Rikuzen-Takata is amassing a 10-million-yen budget to create a nearby "forest for birds."

- A leaping blue dolphin, a swashbuckling steed, and other colorful mounts with saddles and fittings specially constructed to accommodate physically handicapped child riders whirl in colorful splendor on a "mini" merry-go-round on the grounds of Balboa Park in San Diego, California. A few wheelchair-turns away, a robin's-egg blue swing with high-backed chairs and wide armrests flies gaily back and forth, its pint-sized passengers laughing happily. This first-of-its-kind wonderland in the San Diego area is a project of the Rotary Club of Kearny Mesa (San Diego). The club developed the playground with a \$17,000 memorial gift from late charter member Arthur P. Pratt. Rotarian Pratt left the club a number of stocks whose dividends are to be used for programs geared to the handicapped, and the club is full of plans to carry out his wishes and enlarge on them with additional club funds in the years ahead.



California—From her wheelchair, little Marjean Parker peeks through a play wall in a special playground for handicapped children provided by Rotarians of Kearny Mesa (see item).

- Since 1954, some 30 million dimes have moved from the eager hands of youngsters to the concession boxes at Fresno (California) Rotary Playland. Here boys and girls can climb aboard a world

of fantasy, soaring into the blue yonder or roaring down a rickety track on a ride of their choosing. The playland, sponsored by the four Rotary clubs of Fresno, was conceived by the late Dr. Joe Logan, a past president of the North Fresno club. The basic idea was to create the park on city property and then let it pay its own way—at 10 cents a ride—any accruing profits going into a fund for additional city park and recreational facilities. Playland was a success from the first ride onward—the first year's net profit was a merry \$33,000. Within three years, all accumulated debts had been paid with money left over for additional rides and other attractions. True to the original plan, Playland profits have spiraled into many other amusements: another city park, a Rotary sports center, a neighborhood center for disadvantaged youth, and a good neighbor project to help a struggling Storyland play area get back on its track. Fresno Rotarians happily offer their entrepreneurial secrets to other interested clubs. See the R.I. *Official Directory* for the addresses.

- There'll be no more raindrops falling on the heads of city park picnickers in Fairfax, Virginia. Fairfax now has weather-proof shelters in both of its city parks, instead of just one, thanks to the Rotary Club. Hearing that the city planned a shelter for one park but lacked



Hawaii—Kahului Rotarians just couldn't bear the bare look of Maui High School (see item).

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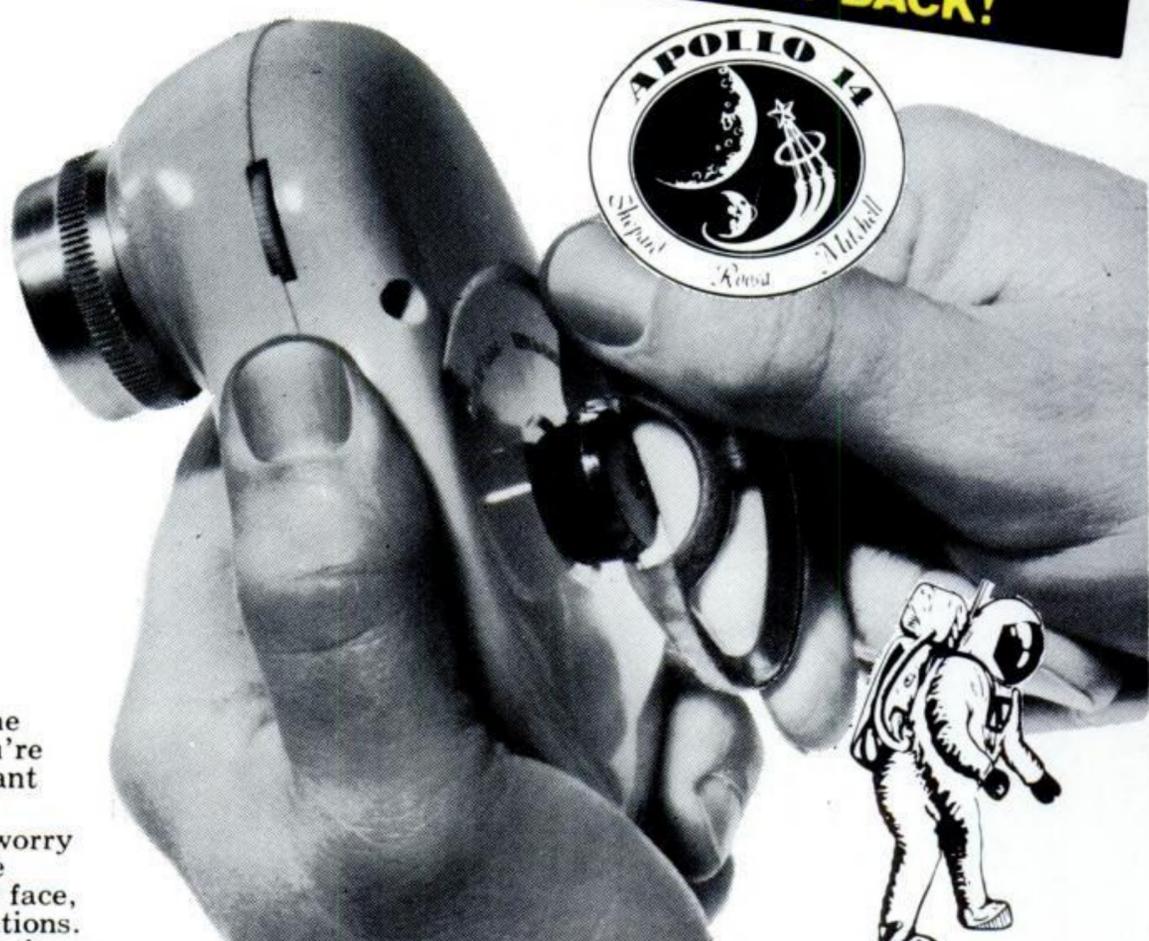
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