

# LIFE

A BRAVE WOMAN'S OWN STORY  
**MISS BOURKE-WHITE'S FIGHT  
AGAINST CRIPPLING DISEASE**

**HOFFA'S SMART MOUTHPIECE**

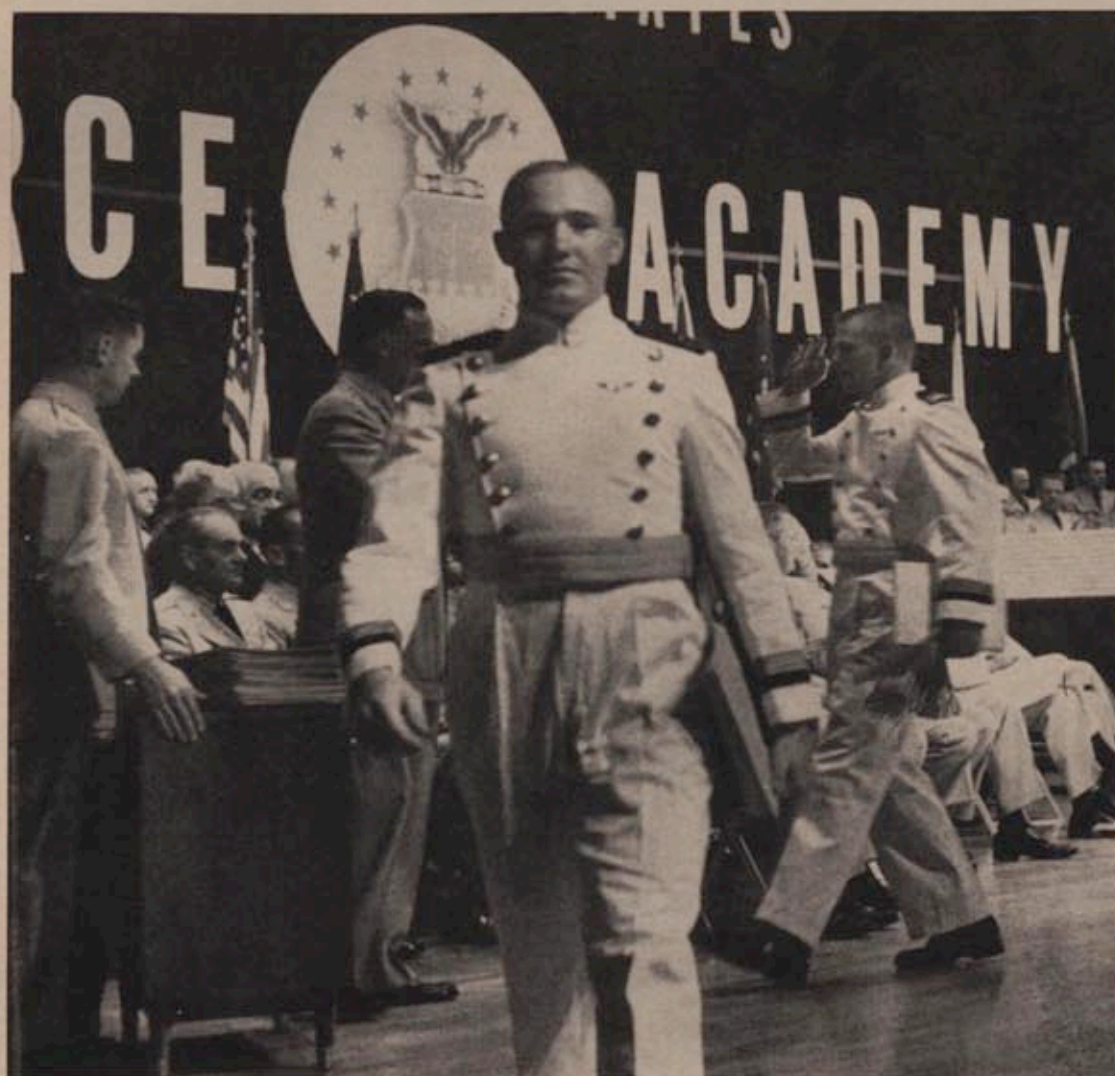


**FIRST AIR ACADEMY  
GRADS WITH GUESTS**

**JUNE 22, 1959**



# Festive Week at the Air Academy



## GIRLS AND WEDDINGS GRACE A GRADUATION

In Colorado the U.S. Air Force held one of the most lavish social affairs the Rockies had ever seen. The occasion was June Week and marked the graduation of the first class of cadets from the new Air Academy at Colorado Springs.

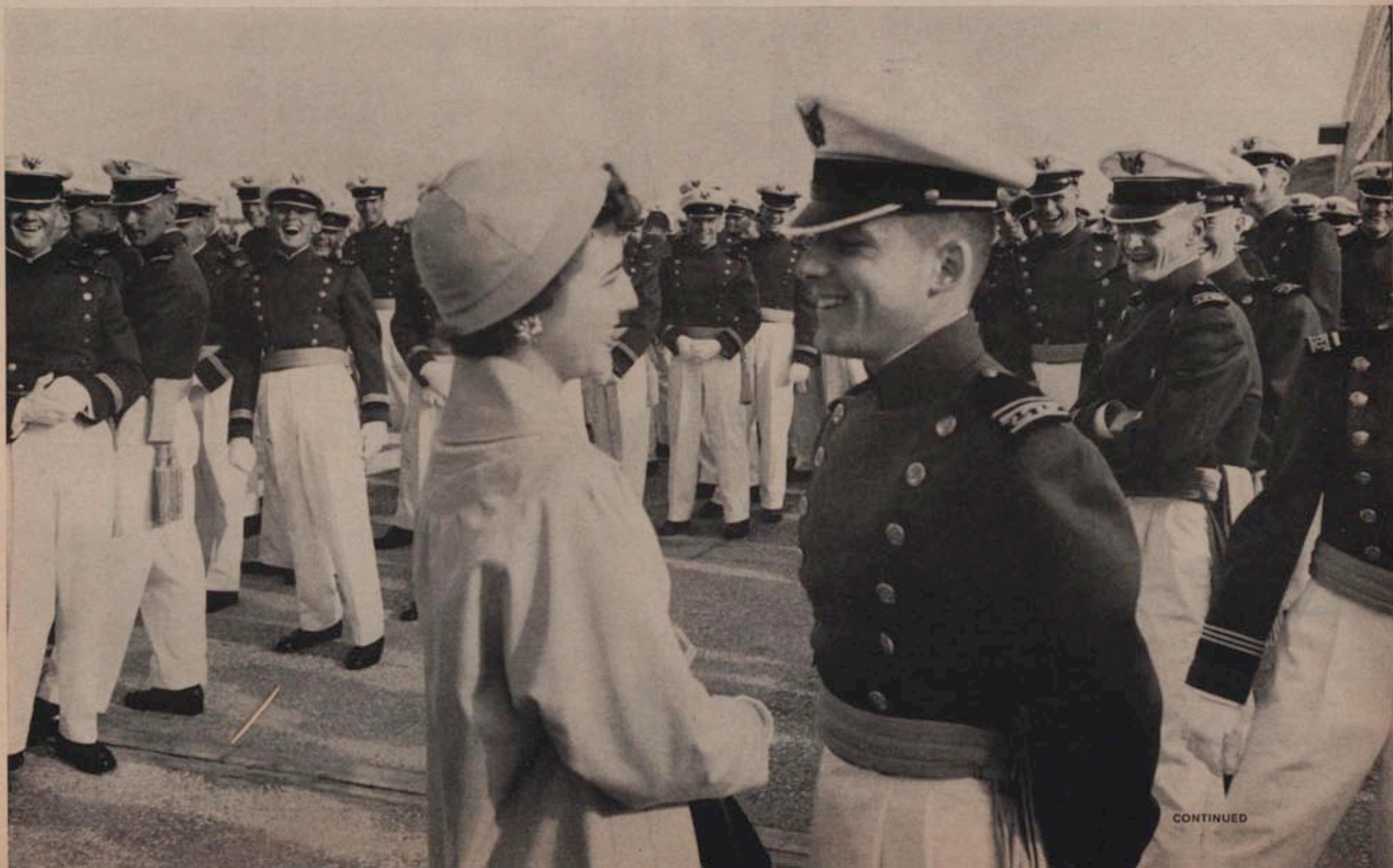
The cadets had moved only last year (*LIFE*, Sept. 15) into the shiny, new academy—whose \$270 million cost has aroused Congress and may bring on an investigation. The men had spent their first three years in makeshift quarters at Denver and the Air Force decided they deserved a rousing send-off. The five days of festivities were packed with dress parades, air shows, a tea dance, two formal balls.

The affair was also dressed up by the presence of the cadets' pretty girl friends (*see cover*), who came from all over the U.S. to bask in the romantic atmosphere of dress uniforms and military flourishes. Seventy-two of the new officers had announced their engagements and before the week was over 50 were married.

The 206 second lieutenants graduated with B.S. degrees and navigator's wings. None were flight-trained at the academy and those who planned to fly for a career still faced some more training in order to win their pilot's wings.

← **NEW LIEUTENANT**, Charles Meier leaves stage with wings on his jacket and diploma in his hand.

**BREAKING INTO RANKS** to visit fiancé, Jon Shaffer, Nancy Meredith gets laughs from his class.

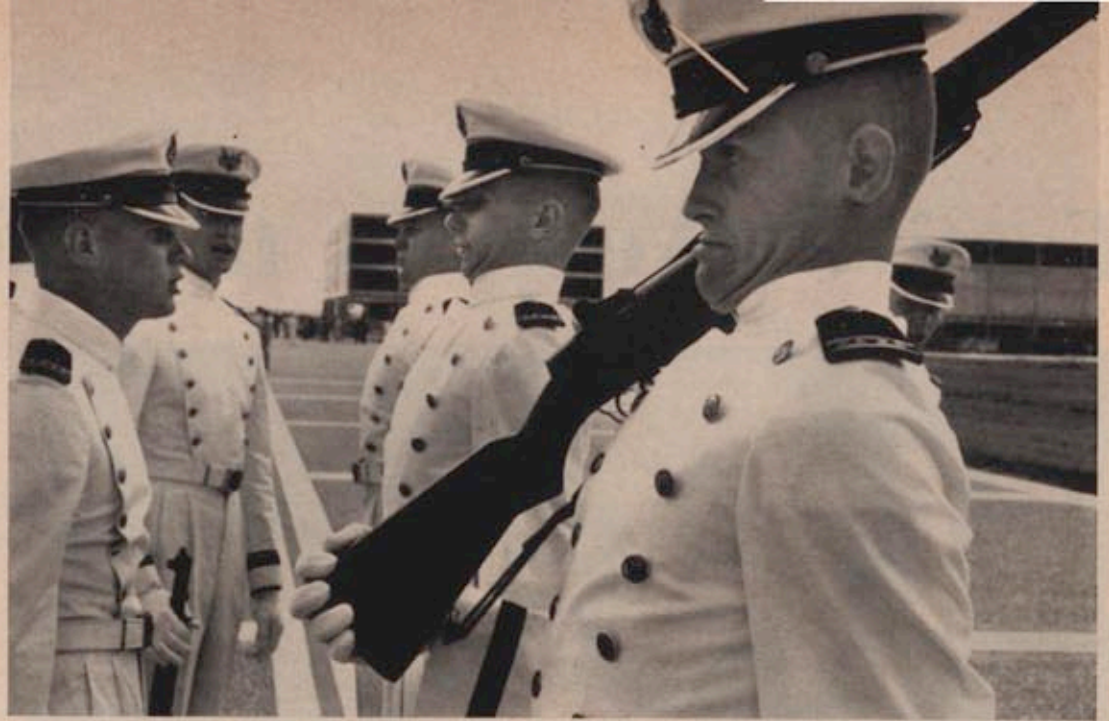


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IN GIANT RING a cadet and his date pause for a kiss during academy ring dance for the junior class.



A FINAL RAZZING is given by seniors to first-year men including Michael Butchko (right). A few

minutes later, the traditional ceremony over, seniors went down the line to wish the new men well.



ARCH OF SABERS is formed for newlyweds Paul and Barbara Jean Lasen at nearby air base chapel.

RENDEZVOUS FOR DATES, stairs in recreation hall are crowded with graduates and girl friends.

