

January 1974



TRAPLINE...



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TRAPLINE is an informal publication of the Federal Aviation Administration, prepared by and for, employees in the Alaskan Region. It features news of a social nature and supplements the employee information publications, the Alaskan FAA INTERCOM and FAA WORLD. Deadline for items is the close of business on the last Friday of each month.

SISTERS ISLAND

WE ARE REALLY GLAD for the return of TRAPLINE. Our summer was quite pleasant here on the island. Though fishing wasn't the best, the berries surely were abundant and we laid in a good supply and variety.

Bob and Margaret Schmidt took a hunting (profitable) and visiting vacation in August. My family took the ferry to Skagway then the railroad to Whitehorse, Y.T. in September for our vacation.

In October Bob Mell, Schuyler Smith, Gordon Meyers, Lyndol Pruett, Billy Trent, Jess Jones, Stan Dale, Dudley Clark and Mike Weller were out to the island helping to accomplish several jobs. Also in October the "Anna Jackman" stopped. Red took the children and me out to the ship where we enjoyed a nice visit with the Murrays and the Doigs. This was their last trip till spring.

Another ship came to our port, too-- just a couple days later in fact. The Fed Air I brought a few items to us. Frieda Hunter flew out the day before to be here so she could visit with Emory Hunter who was aboard. He came ashore for an hour when the ship was tied and the stuff ashore. They cast off for Hoonah in some pretty rough sea. The next day the Fed Air left for Sitka-- we saw them pass the island in mighty rough water.

Margaret made an emergency trip to Oregon. While she was gone, Bob was called out. They both returned early November.

I took Nels and Nina to Tulsa, Oklahoma in late October to spend a month visiting my parents, relatives and friends. After five weeks out, we were so glad to get back to the quiet and cold.

In November Jim Oliver and Bob Mell came out. Floyd Lindholm, Terry McCormick & Toivo Olson (Anchorage) came out to install a new sewer system for us. A couple days later Frank Norton (also of Anchorage) arrived to assist. Cal Gamble and Thor Weatherby (Anchorage) were out for a brief visit. Sorry to have missed you, Thor.

Now in December we've had Gordon Meyers and Dean Stewart, electrician, out for several hours. Steve Lewis, trainee mechanic, came out to spend several days to work with Bob Schmidt in order to learn the generators. He left for the holidays but will be back.

What has happened to our snow? The island is bare. Hope you folks to the north aren't hoarding it. We'd like a white Christmas, but most of all we'd like to have our mail. Perhaps after the first of the year our mail service will improve -- even temporarily.

Schmidts will have guests for the holidays. A son and daughter-in-law, Larry and Carol and Carol's mother (all of Juneau), and son Gary of Yakutat are coming. We hope the weather is good long enough for them to have a fairly smooth flight out.

Happy New Year to everyone from all of us on Sisters Island.---Virginia Tomlinson, Sisters Island.

JUNEAU

GREETINGS FROM the Juneau Airport FSS/TWR and Airways Facilities Subsector.

For Southeast Alaska we had an unusual cold November with -2 degrees and 18 inches of snow. Just enough for those with snowmobiles to get their engines warmed up. December warmed up and rained to produce icy conditions.

With the transferring of personnel in and out within the last 6 months, we have as the new FACF, Robert E. Major, arriving in August from Nome to replace Robert Davis who transferred to Merrill Tower. Harold Davis arrived for the FSS in July from Wink, Texas; Bradford Levy from the Detroit area in August. With Frank Sims, tower operator, leaving for the warmer climate, Kona, Hawaii, we have Harry Fluharty coming on board from King Salmon.

HAPPENINGS: Dan Murray has the luck of the Irish with his new Scout. How many times HAVE you frequented the doctor shop, Dan? And no payola???? (Some people!!)

Bob Wanker is so busy trying to become a millionaire, with his wife in the Secretarial Services and after Bob's last home study course-----Watch out Howard Hughes!!!

Dan Kubitz, motorcycle enthusiast, is our TV celebrity for the improvement and advancement of better racing grounds for all big and small cyclists. You looked great on the picture box, Dan.

Congratulations to Harry Fluharty on the birth (Harry's wife that is) of a baby girl in October.

Wonder what's with the Weather Bureau and those flying objects we have witnessed. Maybe trying to start a rumor of an UFO?

Stan Munson, in AF, is attending school at Ok. C. for a spell. Stan was one of those whose name was drawn for a moose ticket and got one.

Sevard (Waggie) Wagenius had a beautiful week while moose hunting so consequently came home with a suntan. Oh well, you can't win'em all.

Jim Oliver traveled to Homer to go hunting with his brother, Rocky.

Guess that's all for this time. Get the other ones next time.---Juneau Airport

This first working day of the new year finds Juneau's barometer at a record "31 and rising" and the sunny 25° bringing on early spring fever to some.

Seems like there's no time to lose in ordering seeds for that now-necessary garden and in cluttering the window sills with tomato starters. Less-than-sunny gardening in Juneau--a perplexing challenge.

This fall has seemed quiet here at Flight Standards, what with 3 of our desks empty for some time. These have been our "people changes" since May's Trapline:

Mack Tittle, well-remembered from FSS days at McGrath around 1961 and later at Annette, has taken return rights near to his native Texas--Little Rock. He and Martha are really sold on the sunshine, golfing, yard work and finding those "40 acres with a catfish pond."

Grace Butts is busily retired. We're glad that she has the good health and enthusiasm to be able to fully enjoy retirement after 17 years of "opening up shop" at the airport.

Grace's successor is Virginia Fiehler. Hubby George is a relief GFET. They came up from Colorado Springs about 15 months ago.

Maintenance Inspector Vic Gadbois took a promotion transfer to Anchorage. His replacement has just arrived from Seattle--Ralph (Pete) Petersen. Although this is Mr. Petersen's first government assignment, some of you Fairbanks folks may know him from the early 60's with Alaska Airlines. The family includes his wife, Pam, and two boys--teenager Gary and pre-school Donald.

The revival of the Trapline is welcomed. Juneau expects to make more appearances this year. Our Flight Standards reporters will be taking turns, so you'll get a rest from my slanted writing.

One of my obsessions is finding and buying favorite out-of-print Alaskan or aviation books (non-fiction). So this month, may I ask if anyone has a spare copy of Icicles on the Roof by Dorothy Les Tina, or of Molly Bernheim's A Sky of My Own. Also, if anyone has had experience getting Alaska books reprinted through one of the reprint publishers in Seattle, please drop me a note at Box 541, Juneau 99801. I'm interested in seeing Four Fares to Juneau reissued.
---Gloria Fullinwider, Juneau.

NORTHWAY

MUCH HAS HAPPENED since the last edition of TRAPLINE, so will just try to cover as many of our "highlights" as we can.

We welcomed three new families to ORT during the summer months; Claude ("J.R.") Welch joined our ATC crew, bringing with him wife, Jeanne, sons David and Dale, and daughter Tina. Bill Nelson, also an ATCS came up from Tennessee with his wife, Carolyn, sons William and Ronald, and daughter, Tracey. Our SET AL Egge-brotten arrived in August, from Middleton Island, with wife, Sharon, and sons Robbie, Buddy and Duane.

Doug and Betsy welcomed the arrival of a son in September, born in Seattle rounding the family of Hudson's to an even "6". The Hudson's household has since relocated in Gulkana, and we certainly wish them every happiness. A farewell dinner was held for them on December 1st with one of the nicest buffets we've had here, and they were given an engraved Gold Pan from their friends in Northway.

Amidst the many and various treks into Fairbanks and Anchorage, there were a couple of longer runs. John Scrivner spent a few weeks in Kotzebue during the month of October and Stephen Ruks has just returned home from six-weeks in OKC, thus keeping our ET section pretty much on the move.

This winter has set a new emphasis on outdoor activities; there is an obvious growth in our snowmachine population and a trend in cross-country skiing has gotten many of us out in the brisk fresh air. Ice skating is still popular with the kids, whether it be on the roads or the lakes.

The holidays all went well observed and enjoyed. The children had a very nice Halloween Party sponsored by the Homemakers and Boundary Clubs, the Adults Halloween Party came in with a touch of novelty and enjoyed their dance music from a live band.

Bill and Carolyn Nelson entertained "unexpected guests" on Thanksgiving, when a couple came in to Northway off the Alcan and ended up stranded, due to car trouble.

Our compound and station trees went up early in the season this year and put us all in the spirit of Christmas. Fewer lights went in windows this year, but many window paintings appeared and brought pleasure to all. The children once again enjoyed the Community Children's Christmas Program annually sponsored by the Homemakers and Boundary Clubs, with the local businessmen. They were treated to the movie, "Dumbo", followed by a fun visit from Santa Claus who distributed gifts and candy to each child. Another unique "happening" for Northway, was the Christmas Carolling performed by the Bible Club children on Christmas Eve. It seemed that one factor after another contributed to making it an especially nice Christmas for us all.

NORTHWAY Cont'd

It has been such a busy and full year, it doesn't seem possible that we should be "ringing in a New Year" already. But with that thought, on behalf of all the personnel at ORT, I would like to extend sincere wishes for happiness, and lots of love in the New Year.

"HAPPY NEW YEAR!!" from the families of Northway.

ATCS: Chief "POPO" Richardson, Claude Welch, Bill Nelson, Bill Clark, and Tony Glazer

ET's: SET AL Eggebrotten, Stephen Ruks, and John Scrivner.

PLANT: Ray Clark, Roy Eskilida, Roy Sam, and Charlie Williams.---Betty Ruks, Northway.

KOTZEBUE

OTZ FSS---With the arrivals of Stan Jones and Dwight Kramer from FSS training in OKC, which they completed Oct. 11, OTZ FSS is now at full strength (if you count trainees...) with Chief Buddy Bayeur, ATCSs Warren Thompson, Ed Ward, Gordon Stewart, Tim Leary, Bill Tobin, and the redoubtable trainees Kramer and Jones.

Aurora Club---With OTZ back to full strength, the Aurora Club is back in business and movie showings have resumed.

Stewart's Stinson---G. Stewart reports that after 6 difficult months of gestation, Voyager 8578K has been reborn and is airborne. It doth, says he, fly more sweetly than an angel in its latest reincarnation. Eat your heart out, Mahoney!

Population Boom---Kotzebue FSS's complement of junior birdmen and birdladies was expanded recently by the addition of Ms. Shannon Nicole Kramer, born to Mrs. Dwight Nov. 17.

The Hungry Sea---Kotzebue suffered a heat wave between Christmas and New Year's with temperatures soaring into the low thirties. The result of this case of Arctic balmies was that the flock of light aircraft which habitually roosts for the winter on the ice at Kotzebue began to sink. Thru the strenuous and united efforts of their owners all were saved, but not before several were inundated with frigid salt water, as were their shivering owners. Old Kotzebue hands maintain that a yearly dunking in a chilled salt bath is good for an airplane. Cleans the grit, grime and accumulated detritus out of'em they say, but one wonders.---J. Jones Kotzebue

MIDDLETON ISLAND

WE, THESE INHABITANTS OF MIDDLETON ISLAND---the four families, the Beyers, the Kims, the Dracopouloses, and the Gluds who are away at school; the two bachelors, John McGhee and Tim Farley; two dogs, Pete and Whistle; one cat, Mishka; one bird, Dobie---do, indeed, send our greetings to all and express our delight at being able to visit with you via the TRAPLINE.

It does seem as though we "islanders" have been doing a great deal of celebrating and enjoying these past few months. It all started with the arrival in November of our new S.E.T. and his family, the Terry Beyers, which we heralded with a dinner at our "Cabana" by the sea. November was also happily punctuated with a pre-holiday flight to Anchorage by both the Kim and Dracopoulos families.

Now on to the holidays we merrily sailed with decorating and cooking and baking. We planned, and whispered, and wrapped, and struggled, and struggled some more with catalogs and orders galore. We then waited most impatiently to see just what the mail plane might bring. For some of these things we are still waiting, of course; while some of the things ordered we didn't receive at all; and some things to our dismay, we received in duplicate; and we are wondering why we did receive some of the things we did! But, this is just one of the joys of "island" living.

As for that celebrating.....we started with our Christmas "Office Party" held in the Beyer's basement with the lovely warm refreshments provided by John, one of the above named bachelors. We all went home whispering after a very lively game of "Pit" to prepare for Santa's arrival. Christmas Eve was celebrated by one and all at the home of the Dracopoulos family. Christmas morning, after leaving our disheveled homes strewn with wrappings, we all gathered at the Kims for a most marvelous Champagne brunch. Before we realized, it was time to separate for Christmas dinner with the Beyers hosting John McGhee and Tim Farley, and the Dracopouloses having the pleasure of entertaining the Kim family. Once again we all joined together on New Year's Eve to celebrate and welcome in the new year with such a delightful party that everyone hated to leave! AND THEN, on New Year's morn, much to our surprise, the monthly mail plane arrived with Christmas all over again! (That is also this reporter's excuse for this article being somewhat delayed!)

Now, although, it is back to the books for mothers and kids while the dads struggle with the usual after Christmas "dues," we all send our best wishes to all of you out there and hope that your holidays left you with as many happy memories and soaring spirits as ours did us.----Bernice Dracopoulos, Middleton Island.

KODIAK

UNFORTUNATELY, we are losing our Chief, Darrell Patterson, the end of this month. Pat will get a promotion by becoming Chief of AKN TWR; and will be living at the location he and his family enjoy the most in Alaska. We hate to see him leave and we'll miss him, Jeannie, and the kids very much. We plan to have a farewell party for him on January 12th.

In December we acquired two tower controllers, Denny Laughlin and Holly Robbins. These gentlemen replaced Don Gebhart (now at ANC FSS), Gary Price (now at ENA FSS), and Mike Burns (now at AKN FSS). Also in December, Patricia Moore became dual qualified, as she earned her Control Tower Operator's Certification.

Bill Schwaab is getting married and just became a private pilot. He met Jeannie Hameister, a dispatcher for Kodiak Western Airlines, this past summer; and they plan to marry sometime after March. Wally & Carmen Johnsons' daughter, Donna will graduate from high school this semester and is working part-time at Sutliff's. Al & Willy Wilderson gained a daughter the day after Christmas, as his son Gary married a Kodiak girl, Olga Malutin. Gary & Olga have moved to Denver. Gary was hired by the Rocky Mt. Region as an ET.

FAA Kodiak has a charming new secretary, Gail McWethy. Gail is married to Keith, a Coast Guardsman, and they have two children. Bill & Kathy Cordry gained a son during the holidays, as their daughter Norma married Arthur Lavine here in Kodiak. Eanner Smith is still Captain of the unsinkable Fedair 4, which still makes its daily runs to Woody Island dropping off the men who service the Navoids and RCO.

Rick Hiellmann & Starr-Bresette have been serving as relief personnel to certify the TACAN at DLG. Kenny Lester is going to Radar ET School at OKC for 4 months starting January 19th. He'll be taking Ellen and their 6 mo. old daughter Becky with him. Terry Duffy went back to Pittsburg & Michigan for Christmas to see his young daughter and family on 737.

Following is a list of our personnel to get everyone up-to-date:

CONTROLLERS: Darrell Patterson, Chief; Terrance Duffy, GCA; Denny Laughlin, TWR; Patricia Moore, TWR/FSS; Holly Robbins, TWR; Bill Schwaab, TWR; Gene Wehe, TWR/FSS; and Al Wilderson, GCA.

ELECTRONICS: Wally Johnson, SET; Don Huitt, Radar ET; Rick Hiellmann, ET; Ken Lester, TWR ET; Jim Payne, ET; Gil Twiss, Radar ET; George Starr-Bresette, ET; and Gail McWethy, Secretary.

PLANTS & MAINTENANCE: Bill Cordry, Eanner Smith, and Floyd Ward.--Patricia Moore and Bill Schwaab, Kodiak.

BETHEL

HAPPY NEW YEAR GREETINGS from Bethel! Our field station has been a lively one this past year. Facility Chief William Coates says the air traffic services have doubled, exceeding 100,000. Air traffic specialists are Larry Fosson, Conrad Hill, Doyle Werner, Olaf Smith, and Clarence Brandley. Dave Campbell just recently transferred to ANC. The Bradleys are seeing their first Alaskan winter after life in Miami.

David Bartholomew is our very busy AF Chief; Jan Baird, Clerk/Typist. Ralph Underwood, Matspec, has been to OKC for two training sessions in the last few months. He, wife Mary, and two children enjoyed an October vacation with the Underwood family clan back in Kentucky.

ET David Fish took his return rights back to OKC last summer and Dale Fullmer, ET, accepted a position in sunny Phoenix, Arizona. Roy F. Deal came here as a Relief ET and decided to stay. He and Sandra have been great help in planning, decorating, and chaperoning Bethair Club activities. Other ETs are Stan Hoffman and Jerry Majestic. Jerry transferred back to FAA from NWS. Harold Anderson, ET Trainee, was married recently and took a position in Bettles. Best wishes, Harold and Mary. Fred Jack is our new ET Trainee, transferring from Galena.

Irvin Kreider is beginning his second year as GFET Foreman. His hard working plant crew includes Charles Gilmore, Bob Atkins, Elias Venes, Steve Kochutin, William Stuart, and Alexander Oscar. The Gilmores have the newest family addition on the compound, a baby girl named Jill born last September.

The NWS people are finally settled in their newly remodeled living quarters. OIC Charlie Klunder and Gerri spent the summer packing and moving from one place to another until the rehab crew finished their house. The Monte Mastick and Joe Alexie families, Charles & Geri Kashatok, and James Landlord all moved out temporarily, but having everything new was worth the inconvenience.

A new paint job on all the FAA houses, facility and site buildings has brightened the area, and the transient quarters are presently being remodeled.

The Bethair Club has sponsored numerous social activities. We all had fun at the old-fashioned Labor Day picnic; plenty of hot dogs & watermelon. The weather was beautiful for pitching horseshoes, races & fun games for the kids, and a softball game with everyone, young and old, joining in.

The Christmas party for the kids was exciting with Santa and gifts for everyone. The decorations and treats were lovely; thanks to the efforts of all our friendly gals. Again this year we prepared Christmas packages for three needy local families. Some new clothing was purchased for each family member; also food and toys. All was distributed with a wonderful spirit.

We had a bang-up New Years party and now we're going dry with the rest of Bethel. It should be an interesting new year.---Jan Baird, Bethel.

FAIRBANKS

IT HAS BEEN SOME TIME since Fairbanks Tower has contributed to the TRAPLINE. It would seem to be a good idea to start by giving a run down of our present crew.

Chief: Allen T. Hartliep, Assistant Chiefs: Martin Ondra and Firman Brooks, ATCS Journeymen: Fred McGuire, Clyde Wenger, and Audree Knutzen, James Henry-Glenn Green, and Jim Clark, ATCS Developmental: Jerry Garton, John Ginder, Larry Sustrick, and Pete Bradley.

In addition to the above we are scheduled to pick up John Baleski from Fairbanks FSS, and William Drake from Anchorage IFSS. Both of these gentlemen are expected in sometime in January. We have had several departures during the past year. The two most recent of these was Denmon Laughlin to Kodiak C/ST, and Gill Strickland to Salinas Tower in California.

We have been enjoying a mild Fairbanks winter this year with very little snow or ice fog. January of course is usually our coldest month, but we all have our fingers crossed. Marty Ondra is trying to stir up some interest in forming a facility hockey team, and challenge the other local facilities. This is going to be some undertaking since most of us either don't know how to skate or haven't been on skates in years. We will let you know how this crazy idea works out.

Everyone here had a very enjoyable holiday season, and we hope all of you had the same. We all think the TRAPLINE is a good idea to help us keep tabs on our friends all over the region. We encourage all facilities to join and really make it a success. Next month we promise to have more news, until then Happy Holidays.---Fairbanks Tower, Jim Clark.

GALENA

SINCE PUBLICATION of the last TRAPLINE the following people are now in Galena: Ed Kiss, SET, Dave Baker, Rudy Demientieff, Walt Daigle, Luther Nagaruk, Harding Sam, John Mack, Barner Paul, Al Yatlin, and Agnes Sweetsir.

Rudy and Alice welcomed Chad Daniel to the family in early November.

Al joined us just recently from Bettles. They also have an addition to their family, Angela Faith, born in early December. Eleanor and their two daughters are visiting relatives in Huslia right now while Al is in Oklahoma City.

Dave and Nora are also expecting a baby. Nora is in Anchorage right now waiting for it. Dave had to stay home and babysit.

Fred, Tiny, and Andrea Jack left us December 10 for Bethel. Jim Leslie is packing his bags also, he'll be leaving for Yakutat.

Pat Daigle is in Fairbanks now. At least, Walt had a chance to stay behind and say good-bye.

Luther will be leaving us for a few days. He'll be in Elim for his sister's wedding.---Agnes, Galena

GULKANA

BRINGING THE STATION ROSTER UP-TO-DATE---We've had many changes since the last issue. Elmer Knox, GFET, transferred to Big Delta several months ago (and has since moved to Fire Island, we hear.) A locally hired man, Tom Neeley, filled the position here.

Dale Steckel, ET, accepted the SET position in Kotzebue, and he and wife Barbara and children Leeana, Debbie and Richie moved there in July. Tom Burris, ET, arrived to replace Steckel. It was a sort of homecoming for him because he had been stationed here for several months before being transferred to Nome in 1972. Glad to have him back again!

The new state airport manager is Bert James. He and wife Ruth and David and Lisa came from King Salmon. Daughter Cheryl is attending the University of Alaska this year.

In October the Brown family arrived from Northfield, Minnesota. Bob is the new AT specialist, and he and wife Lidia and son Robert had an enjoyable trip driving up the Alaska Highway.

Dan Truesdell, AT, and family (Lucille, Theresa and Cindy), have been our most recent transfers, moving in late November into Anchorage, where Dan will be working at Merrill Flight Service. His replacement was Doug Hudson, from Northway. He and wife Betsy and children Paige and Clifford arrived in early December. They're looking forward to a family reunion of sorts, as their sons Grant and Gerry will be returning soon, after spending the school semester with Betsy's parents in Seattle, Washington.

Our final arrivals have been John Wesley, ET, wife Laura and son John, Jr. The Wesleys were formerly at Yakutat, and will be living off the Station.

And now a quick run through of the rest of our current Station Personnel:

Cecil Hinshaw, AT, and wife Millie, son Cecil, Jr. is now in the Navy at the Great Lakes Training Center, Illinois and daughter Lucienne is attending the University of Alaska in Fairbanks.

Chuck Popp, GFET, and family Frank, Tommy, Debbie, and Brian. Daughter Janie graduated from high school in May and is now working as a secretary in Anchorage.

Frank Devlin, ET, and wife Agnes and Joey, Rhonda, and Pamela.

Merlin Oyoumick, GFET, and wife Millie and children Merlin, Jr., Kevin, Melvin, Leslie, and John. Leila, the oldest daughter, is attending Covenant High School in Unalakleet this year.

Karen Steen, Clerk-Typist, and husband Nick, who also live off the Station.

Pete Davidson, ATCS, and wife Nancy and children Glenn and Lisa.

Phil Ahlstedt, SET, wife Katie and daughters Cheryl and Wendy.---Kathie Ahlstedt, Gulkana

ILIAMNA

FAREWELL AND HELLO--our transfer from UNK (the howling North) landed us here in ILI (the coconut belt) also known as the sunny spot and a few other aliases. We hope all in UNK had a happy holiday as we here in ILI and a hardy hello to the Gold Dust Twins.

Our weather has been anything but boring, although never very cold. We have had a little of all the rest, like snow, wind, rain, freezes and thaws.

Commissary came in time for the holidays and also half of our household goods. We did get all that was needed so all is well.

All is jolly and well here in the high rent district and Spring will come again. How do I know? The seed catalogs are out, orders are in the making in at least two houses or is it three?

I understand ILI's top horticulturists are none other than our own dedicated young ladies Tish and Sara but my husband hopes to give forth with some competition to uphold the male ego and he is no drag when it comes to gardening, so he says, but does most of it during the winter months around the coffee table. Oh! what great crops have been produced there. On the other hand we supplied the table with some pretty fair dishes last summer and fall--helps cut down on the you know what bill.

Our flying ace and No. 1 controller has been almost too busy to fly, but better days are coming Howard.

A big thank you to our topnotch snow removers and runway keepers Bert and Max. Even the dump road is kept clear, thanks fellows., we appreciate.

Birthdays this month goes to Ronnie Horn celebrating his 8th with a party.

So long till next month from Lake Iliamna, and remember,
Don't sweat the small stuff---Jeanne Coffey, Iliamna.