



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

intercom:

Office of Public Affairs
Alaskan Region
701 C Street, Box 14
Anchorage, Alaska 99513
(907) 271-5296

JE 12/31

December 1987 #87-12



MERRY
CHRISTMAS

1

Season's Greetings

Watch out for reindeer. We have reports the little critters are getting pretty anxious -- dancing and prancing all over the place. You can recognize this gang because the leader of the pack has a red nose. Also, some jolly old man with a white beard, red flannel suit, and big belly yells "Ho Ho Ho" and off they go. There are no reports of this group ever getting violent but, just for safety's sake, I'd be careful about how much reindeer sausage I'd eat this month.

intercom:

Office of Public Affairs
Alaskan Region
701 C Street, Box 14
Anchorage, Alaska 99513
(907) 271-5296

ACTING EDITOR
Pauline Steffy

REGIONAL DIRECTOR
Franklin L. Cunningham

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
Paul Steucke

PUBLIC INFORMATION SPECIALIST
Ivy Moore

PRINTER
Anne Lewis

INTERCOM is published for the employees of the Alaskan Region by the Public Affairs Office. Articles and photographs are welcomed.

If you have questions, suggestions, or complaints, please call the Editor at 271-5293.

FAA Career women move up

Two FAA career women have been appointed to key executive positions. In the Western-Pacific Region, Jacqueline Smith is now the manager of AWP's Air Traffic Division, and the first woman to hold that position in any region. At the Aeronautical Center, Vina Showers is the first woman to hold the manager's job at the FAA Depot and also the first minority female in the Senior Executive Service.

National Black Coalition Of FAA Employees

Ms. Rosalyn R. Ashbury and Mr. John A. Clayborn are the Public Affairs Officers for the NBCFAE. Requests for information concerning the Coalition should be routed to them through the respective Public Affairs Office. Addresses are: Ms. Rosalyn R. Ashbury, 208 Park DeVille Place, Columbia, MO. 65203 (314) 445-9986 and Mr. John A. Clayborn, P.O. Box 2757, Aurora, IL. 60507 (312) 384-2484.

Theresa Clark receives medal

Theresa Clark, AAL-55A, has been awarded the Alaska Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service for her duties as Petty Officer First Class in the Shipping Control Unit of the Alaska Naval Militia. The award cites Terry's superior performance, exceptional dedication and commitment to excellence in support of her unit.

Be Careful What You Call Your Boss

A Navy Department civilian employee was suspended from his job for 20 days for calling his supervisor names. He shouted out the names in a loud and aggressive tone in front of other employees while on duty. He appealed his suspension to the MSPB and the Administrative Judge overturned the suspension; meanwhile, the Navy appealed to the full board which reversed the AJ's decision and upheld the suspension. The Board ruled that such statements, used in that tone, are intended to impugn character and should not be tolerated in the workplace. Okay, what do you call a grouchy supervisor? A "cross boss."

Northway Students Honor FAAer

The 1986-1987 Walter Northway School yearbook was dedicated to Pat Kerber, ATCS/S, who recently transferred from the Northway FSS to Deadhorse FSS. Pat lived and worked in Northway for 3 1/2 years and, through his tireless efforts and volunteer duties, won the hearts and respect of the local community. Besides his duties at the Northway FSS, Pat was constantly involved with students at the school, an EMT for the community, and a volunteer fire truck driver. The yearbook dedication to Pat describes him as someone "special" and someone "one-of-a-kind."

Where's Your Part 1 ?

In June, all Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) employees received a "FERS TRANSFER HANDBOOK" and OPM Form 1555. Part 1 of the form was to be completed and returned to AAL-16 verifying receipt of the election form.

All CSRS employees must be given the opportunity, during the open period ending December 31, 1987, to elect or decline to transfer to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). To change from CSRS to FERS, you must complete "Part 2" of OPM Form 1555 and return it to AAL-16 as your positive election. It is required that by December 31, 1987, we have the receipt of "Part 1" filed in each employee's Official Personnel File.

Please make every effort to return Part 1 as soon as possible, and if you decide to transfer to FERS coverage, submit "Part 2" prior to the December 31, 1987, DEADLINE. If you need additional forms or information, contact Jean Pershall, Employee Relations Specialist, AAL-16B, at 271-5804.

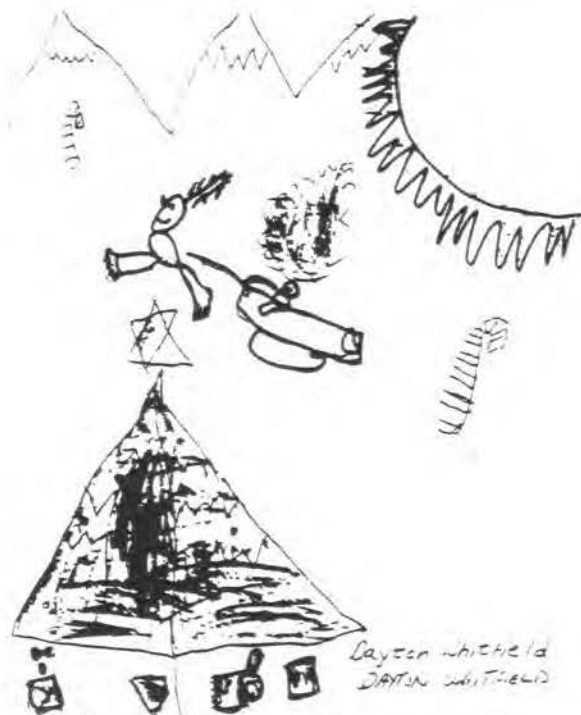


Too Many Or Not Enough ?

And now comes the burning question...are the field facilities receiving too many copies of the "Intercom"? I know it seems impossible (at least from my view point), but if you're at a field facility and agree you're receiving too many copies, please let us know. We can fix that, no problem.

Professional Women Controllers Hold "Coffee break"

The Professional Women Controllers held a "coffee break" at the Anchorage ARTCC on Friday, December 4, from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. The purpose of the event was to promote good will and recruit new members among the Center's personnel. For information about the PWC group, contact Linda Craig, Alaska Area Director, PWC, at Anchorage FSS, 2016 E. 5th Avenue, or telephone 263-6528.



Civil Rights Welcomes New Employees

The Civil Rights office has two new employees. Chris Williams replaces Rosetta Robinson. Chris was formerly with BLM where she worked for the past 3 1/2 years as a land law examiner, and a collateral EEO Counselor. As a land law examiner she worked with the lands program which involved a great deal of writing. Chris has over 7 years of experience working with the public sector. She is extremely positive and people-oriented, and her "people orientation" will certainly be advantageous while she works as EEO specialist and FWP manager.

The second "newcomer" to the Civil Rights Staff is Frank Austin. Frank is returning to the FAA after a 5 1/2 year stint with the Municipality of Anchorage. He resumes a career with the agency that began in 1956 in the Eastern Region Air Traffic Program. His first Alaskan Region assignment was at the Nome FSS in May 1958. After 12 more years in the FSS and Tower programs, he was reassigned to the Alaskan Region Civil Rights Staff as an EEO Specialist in 1970. His next assignments took him to the Airports Division, Planning Branch in 1973, and Planning & Appraisal Staff in 1975. He then accepted a position as Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity with the Municipality of Anchorage. After 6 months in that position, he was appointed Director of the Department of Employee Relations, the position he held until his resignation to return to the FAA. Frank is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and has just under 31 years of Federal service.

Medical Notes - Reviewing Health

by: Mary Grindrod

Before we make our beginning into 1988, we have to put 1987 to rest. We have looked back over the past year and reviewed some of the health issues that we have been faced with. Most of the topics have been at the suggestion of the employees and we hope that some of you have received information that has been of some value to you or your friends or family. We have discussed hypothermia, exposure to ultraviolet rays, relationships with others, hearing conservation, and stress management. The top three health topics for 1987 were drugs, smoking, and AIDS. Even though we may get tired of hearing about them, they are still with us and, of course, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Drugs are one of the most beneficial medical tools of our times. Their proper use cannot only improve life but save life. However, their abuse can destroy life. One way to prevent drug abuse is through education. In the U.S., drug abuse is higher than in any other country. Some signs of drug abuse are:

- * Changes in attendance at school or work
- * Change from normal capabilities (work or school performance)
- * Poor physical appearance and inattention to dress and physical hygiene
- * Unusual effort to cover arms
- * A change in eating or sleeping habits
- * Association with known drug abusers

In regard to smoking, the Surgeon General has indicated that one way to help improve the health of our employees is to assist those who want to stop smoking. We want to help anyone in their efforts to kick the habit. AAL-300 has information available on smoking and heart and lung disease. We have certificates for people who are able to stop smoking and we welcome the names of coworkers who have been successful.

AIDS is an issue that will be with us for many years to come. At the rate the disease is spreading, chances are that within the next five years, someone we know will have AIDS. Unreasonable fear can be as debilitating as the disease itself. Once again, the Surgeon General reports that AIDS is not spread through casual contact, but the majority through intimate sexual contact, and use of contaminated needles common to drug abusers. It can happen to any one of us, so practice safe sex and common sense in all health issues.

Do the best you can with your health. Eat sensibly, exercise, don't smoke, and if you drink, do so in moderation. If you must take medication, take it correctly. Life is precious, and we only have one chance.



EAP

Employee Assistance Program

The following information is provided with the approval of Human Affairs of Alaska (HAA).

HAA has developed an Employee Assistance Program to help our employees and their families deal with personal problems which may affect their productivity, health, or continued employment. As a part of this Employee Assistance Program, Human Affairs of Alaska has been retained as an outside resource to which employees and family members can turn for confidential, professional counseling and referral service. HAA is the largest, most experienced organization of its kind. Their counselors are experienced professionals, with a masters degree or above in social work, psychology, marital, and family therapy.

HAA offers counseling and referral for such problems as:

- * Family/marital conflict
- * Emotional stress
- * Adjustment problems
- * Financial problems
- * Alcoholism
- * Drug abuse
- * Legal problems

Services provided by HAA also include:

- + Confidential problem evaluation/counseling
- + Referral to community resources
- + 24-hour crisis intervention
- + Consultation with supervisors

For any assistance or information about HAA programs, phone 562-0794 or contact HAA at:

Human Affairs of Alaska
4300 "B" St., Suite 606
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

FWP Honors Veterans

The FWP sponsored a cake and coffee function to honor our Veterans on the 10th of last month. A "guess who?" collage was assembled and displayed at the AFOB and received a good deal of attention from employees guessing who those very young-looking soldiers were. Over 500 ribbon pins were assembled and distributed to wear in honor of our veterans and beautiful red-white-and-blue cakes were provided by Be Wenzel of the South Alaska Sector. Needless to say, we take a great amount of pride in our veterans. Also, a special thank you to all who participated and supported this effort.

MAYDAY! MAYDAY!

Mark McClure and Judy Petrie recently received spot cash awards of \$100.00 each from their supervisor, Jerry Jones. Mark and Judy were working the radar sector at Anchorage Center when they received a MAYDAY call and report of a mid-air collision between two Navy aircraft. Mark continued to handle the emergency aircraft and the subsequent search and rescue operations while Judy handled the coordination activities between numerous FAA and military entities.

Both Mark and Judy did a superb job during a very tense and critical situation. They remained at their positions long after being offered relief in order to see the matter to its conclusion. Thanks, Mark and Judy, for being the professionals FAA is so proud of.

NEW EMPLOYEES, TRANSFERS/PROMOTIONS, RESIGNATIONS, ETC: Okay, once more for old times. To all new employees: Welcome Aboard! To everyone who got transferred: Good Luck! To anyone who got promoted: Congratulations! To anyone who retired: Enjoy your well earned rest. And, to those of you who resigned thinking there's something better: Ha!

*** SERVICE PINS ***

Glen Sisson, Anchorage ARTOC Sector, 25 years
Henry A. Elias, AAL-500, 30 years
Robert Baker, Juneau SFO, 40 years
Ray Durham, FAI SFO, 30 years
JoAnn Thomas, ANC FSS, 25 years
Bob Tarr, AAL-516, 35 years

** LETTER OF COMMENDATION **

Lisa Welsh-Workman, Dillingham FSS
"Pappy" Slagle, Dillingham FSS

SERVICE AWARD

Marylyn E. Alfsen, AAL-55B, Logistics
Service Award

ON-THE-SPOT AWARD

Helen Couey, AAL-452a
Michael O'Donnell, Juneau FSS

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Richard W. Brindley, AAL-60
Leon Greenlund, AAL-452
James Browning, AAL-452

ATTA BOY/ATTA GIRL: Steven E. Paul, Bethel FSS; Dillingham FSS received a letter of appreciation from a private pilot impressed with the friendly, helpful attitude of all personnel.

Stork Report



Congratulations to ATCS Mark Kytönen of McGrath and his wife Laurel on the October 29 birth of their son.

Also from McGrath, ATM Earl Scott was a grandfather again. Earl's son Jim and wife Jennie are the proud new parents of a baby girl born October 29.

Steve and Clare Paul of Bethel FSS welcomed their little girl, Carolyn Vanessa, November 1.

Marsha J. Brown of Cold Bay FSS became the grandmother of Amanda Lynn Brown on September 29. It is reported that Grandma is going to Germany in December to spoil little Amanda as much as she can. Well, grandmothers do that, it's their job.

ATCS Jo Gable of Anchorage Tower introduces her newest developmental Benjamin James Gable born on the 13th of November. It will be a couple of months before Benjamin can read radar, but it's my bet he's already making headset noises.

Helen Couey of AAL-452a is a grandmother again this month. Tyler James Hampton weighed in at 8 lbs. 7 3/4 oz. on November 24.



Those Who Give...

Once again, the spirit of giving is illustrated in the FAA family. Recently, a controller at the Anchorage Tower received a hardship transfer, and fellow employees assisted with moving expenses by donating a total of \$2,100.00. It is a reminder to all of us that there is always something we can do to lighten another's load.



This Old House

You tell me I am getting old
I tell you that's not so
The "house" is just a little worn
And that, of course, I know
It's been in use a long, long time
Beset by time and tears
I'm not surprised that you may think
It's getting on in years

The colors have been changing
The windows now look dim
The siding has that weathered look
And seems to be quite thin
The foundation's not as steady
As once it used to be--
My "house" is getting shaky
But my "house" just isn't me

You'll have to look inside the door
To see what's really there
Come in, sit down, and rest awhile
There's much this home can share
The rooms are bright and cheery
There's life and love and truth
The outside may be worn and torn
But inside there is youth

You see, the dweller in my "house"
Has hope and love to spare
That doesn't change by weathering
Or what a person wears
If you only see the outside
(Which is what most people see)
You will think I am getting old
But you'll have mixed my "house"
with me

Best Wishes to all FAA'ers

Piper Cub Christmas

by: Duane McEwen
Crew 4, ZAN AF

The year was 1961 or 1962, and I was in the Army ACS stationed at Tok. It was a long, lonely midnight shift sometime around Thanksgiving in a very cold and dark, and snowy winter. In the stillness of the early morning the quiet of the equipment room was broken by the chattering of a teletype machine. After the machine had finished, I got up from my workbench, walked over to the teletype and looked at these words:

I bought me a Piper, she was 65 horse
Learned to fly cause I took a short course

Thought I was the greatest--real hot on the stick
Boy, I could do anything, even a few spin tricks

I wanted to celebrate cause Christmas was near
So I bought me a case and drank half that beer

I got in that Piper, feeling no pain
And I flew that Cub like it was a jet plane

It's sad to say, but it happened to me
My brand new Cub hit a very old tree

Now if I hadn't been drinking, I'd still be flying
So I'll give you some advice and I won't be lying

If it happened to me it could happen to you
So if you're going to drink, stay in your igloo

And I'm just lucky that I'm still here--
To wish all of you a safe and a happy new year

The verse was unsigned and the teletype was connected to about 15 or 20 stations so I have no idea who sent the poem. I do know that it is still good advice today. There aren't many Piper Cubs left today, but you can just as easily substitute the terms car, snowmachine, or 3-wheeler. If you plan to drink this Christmas season, please plan to "stay in your igloo." You'll want to be around for future Christmas's.



The Christmas Spirit

By: R.A. McConnell
AAL-421

The Christmas Spirit is in the air
If it hasn't caught you yet --
Hang onto your chair!
It changes a soul with mysterious
clout, and opens our hearts
For our arms to reach out

Reach out to give warmth in ways that
aren't typical
With smiles on our faces that are
always reciprocal
The Christmas Spirit gives us ideals
that we ponder
Which if we would follow, would make
us much stronger

The little things in life become so
apparent
With emotions that suddenly now seem
coherent
There's a joy in our lives when we
pay some attention
And there's something else--
Our family's love -
I must mention

So if the Christmas Spirit hasn't
caught you yet-
You're in for a thrill,
and that you can bet
The only disappointment that this
Spirit has, I fear
Is that it only lasts about three
Weeks out of the year!

A Healthy Gift

Another year will soon be gone
Another year will come along
We must take care for dare we miss
The simple joy of a loved one's kiss
The happy laughter of a child at
play
Who treats each morning as a brand
new day
All this and more is our true wealth
Which we can't enjoy without good
health

The Staff of AAL-300 wishes everyone
GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS



A Christmas Card

The FAA is a family and nothing highlights this faster than when one of us is in need of assistance. Fellow employees, people we see each morning in the hallways and on the job, respond immediately when someone needs help. Frequently that request for help is no more than a card passed around from one person to another with an envelope attached. Contributions in these envelopes range from prayers, well wishes and notes of cheer, to cash, checks or the volunteering of personal time to help someone lighten their load. This spirit of giving, so apparent all year round, should make all of us feel so very, very proud.

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE FINANCIAL
MANAGEMENT DIVISION

For just a moment...

I'd love to have just a moment...

For each of us to think, to
remember love...for just a moment

To laugh, to thank, to give...
For just a moment

To boost others, to forget self,
to really care...for just a moment

To pray, to join hands, to
unite...for just a moment

And to put these moments together
For a lifetime.

Ken Smith

May you have the gift of peace.

