



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Western Intercom

**54 Retirees =
1500 Years Service**



Good Life Insurance News

Based on a change in the law governing the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) program, basic regular insurance coverage will increase for eligible employees under age 45 at no additional cost. In addition, the law will also allow all employees to purchase additional optional insurance and buy life insurance to cover family members. An open season is scheduled to be held throughout the month of March. Additional information will be distributed as it becomes available from the Office of Personnel Management.

Cover Story

1980 was a heavy year for retirements in the Western Region greatly due to the change in retiree cost-of-living adjustments by Congress. Western Region had 207 employees retire between Jan. 1, 1980 through Jan. 18, 1981, the majority leaving in August, December and January. Additional retirement applications were processed which are not included in this issue. Frank Cleary, Employee Services Officer, and Ninfa Rivas, Personnel Assistant, have the responsibility for handling retirements, Federal health and life insurance, death benefits and blood donor drives. The Civil Service Retirement program includes counseling, either individually or in seminars, reviewing and processing applications for the various types of retirement such as optional, disability, discontinued service and PL-92-197 retirements for Air Traffic Controllers. Also included are the many other aspects of retirement such as deposit, re-deposit and survivor benefits. Featured in this issue is a list of employees who retired in December 1980 and early January 1981. Also featured are a few FAA retirees who paused for a few moments to have their pictures taken. Only the years, not the months, of Federal service are shown. On the cover are Frank Cleary and Ninfa Rivas preparing to process some of the many retirement applications. Cover photo by Barbara Abels.

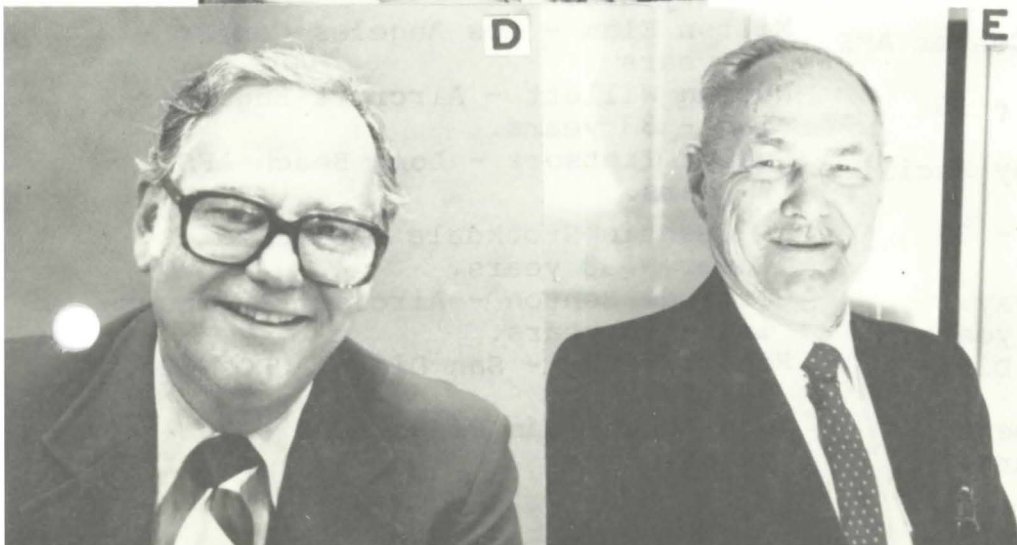
New Part 125 Implemented

The new FAR Part 125 went into effect on Feb. 3 under an exception from the 60-day White House freeze on new Federal regulations. Part 125 upgrades the safety standards for large airplanes operated by aviation service firms, aircraft leasing companies and other non-airline operators. The new rule closes a loophole in the regulations that permitted some unscrupulous firms and individuals to operate under the Part 91 rules for private aircraft because the agency couldn't prove they were really running a business. This won't be possible under Part 125 because it makes the size of the aircraft, rather than its use, the basic criterion for determining the applicable safety standards. It covers all aircraft capable of carrying 20 or more passengers or a maximum payload of 5,000 pounds or more.

1500
Years
Of
Service



A few of the recent FAA Retirees paused for a few moments to be captured on film. They are: (months not included)
A-- Joe Tymczynszyn, Aircraft Engineering Division - 37 years
B--Bob Frehse, Chief, Airway Facilities Division - 34 years (leaving in mid-April)
C--Mabel Brand, Airway Facilities Division - 26 years
D--Merle Nichols, Air Traffic Division - 37 years
E--Dick Key, Regional Duty Officer - 25 years. Photos by Alex Garvis and Barbara Abels.



Recent Retirees

The following list includes retirements during December 1980 and January 1981. Only the years of Federal service, not the months, have been listed:

Melber Ayers - Sacramento Executive Tower - 26 years.
Arthur Linn - Las Vegas FSS - 12 years.
Earl Holliday - Oakland Center - 33 years.
Ronald Cates - Edwards RAPCON - 30 years.
Michael Wandrick - Orange County Tower - 35 years.
Keith Bangerter - Las Vegas FSS - 31 years.
Dale Michaelson - Los Angeles Center - 28 years.
Richard Key - Regional Duty Officer - 25 years.
James Williams - Los Angeles Tower - 29 years.
Thomas Parnell - Phoenix FSS - 30 years.
John Dunham - Los Angeles Center - 38 years.
Allen Degner - Ontario Tower - 26 years.
Nolan Tucker - Edwards RAPCON - 29 years.
Robert Dulaney - Lancaster FSS - 33 years.
William D. Lynch - San Diego FSS - 30 years.
Joe Burris - Napa Tower - 38 years.
Larry Morey - San Diego FSS - 23 years.
John Barney - Battle Mountain AFSFO - 25 years.
Roy Griffin - Oakland AFS - 27 years.
George Hammond - Oakland Center AFS - 36 years.
Wayne Booth - Phoenix AFS - 16 years.
Salvador Claramunt - Airway Facilities Division - 30 years.
William Pan - Oakland AFS - 39 years.
Raymond Van Buskirk - Airway Facilities Division - 30 years.
Ramon Borrero - Logistics Division - 37 years.
Walter deGuehery - Management Systems Division - 16 years.
Cleda Douglas - Payroll Branch - 24 years.
Charles Rutledge - Scottsdale GADO - 11 years.
Margaret B. Clark - Flight Standards - 22 years.
George Bernard - San Diego GADO - 31 years.
Earl W. Mason - Flight Standards - 25 years.
William Houston - Los Angeles ATSF0 - 32 years.
James O'Neill - 2nd Career Training - 32 years.
Ethel Lawson - Civil Rights Staff - 32 years.
Virgil Tinkler - Fresno GADO - 10 years.
William R. Frehse - Chief, Airway Facilities Division - 34 years.
Robert Krass - Sacramento GADO - 30 years.
Merle McIntire - Civil Aviation Security - 26 years.
Joe Pelzel - Marysville FSS - 40 years.
Norman Merkel - Oakland Bay TRACON - 36 years.
Leonard Skityski - Tucson FSS - 31 years.
James McFarland - Red Bluff FSS - 25 years.
James Western - Phoenix AFS - 33 years.
Paul Crowley - Ontario TRACON - 29 years.
Robert Lofte - San Francisco ACDO - 20 years.
Richard Hyde - Airway Facilities - 30 years.
Arnold Seifert - Los Angeles Center - 40 years.
Donald Yungman - Los Angeles Center - 32 years.
Milton Elam - Los Angeles Center - 28 years.
Norman Willett - Aircraft Engineering - 33 years.
Evelyn Tietsort - Long Beach AFS - 9 years.
W. Quentin Stockdale - Concord Tower - 38 years.
Gertrude Benton - Aircraft Engineering - 23 years.
Robert Young - San Diego ACDO - 32 years.
John Long - San Diego ACDO - 23 years.



1500
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More Regional employees who decided to embark on their new career--Retirement! They are:

A--Richard "Dick" Hyde - Airway Facilities Division - 30 years of service.

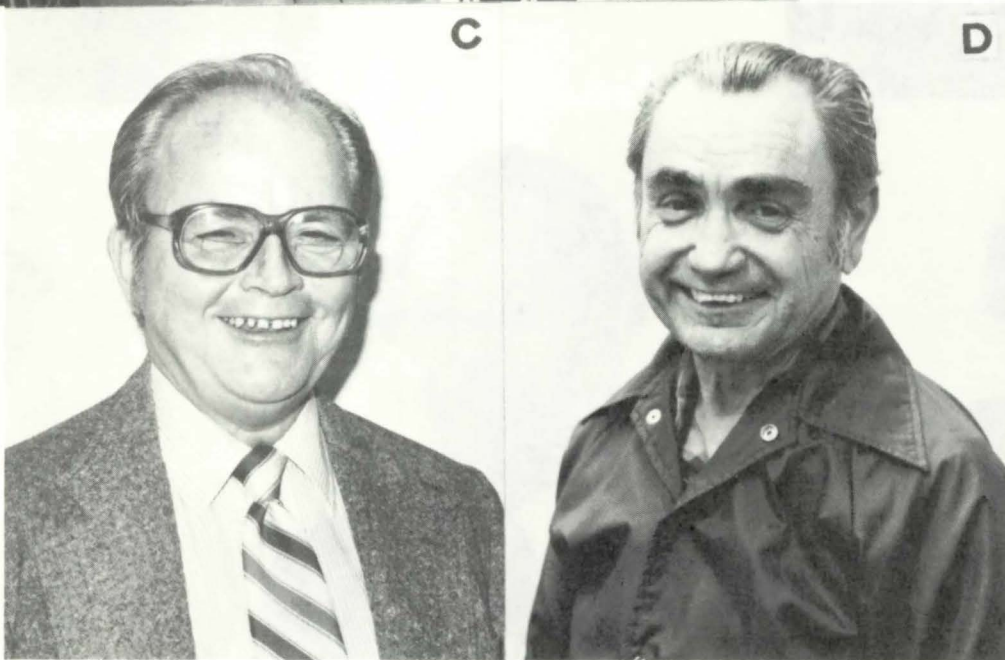
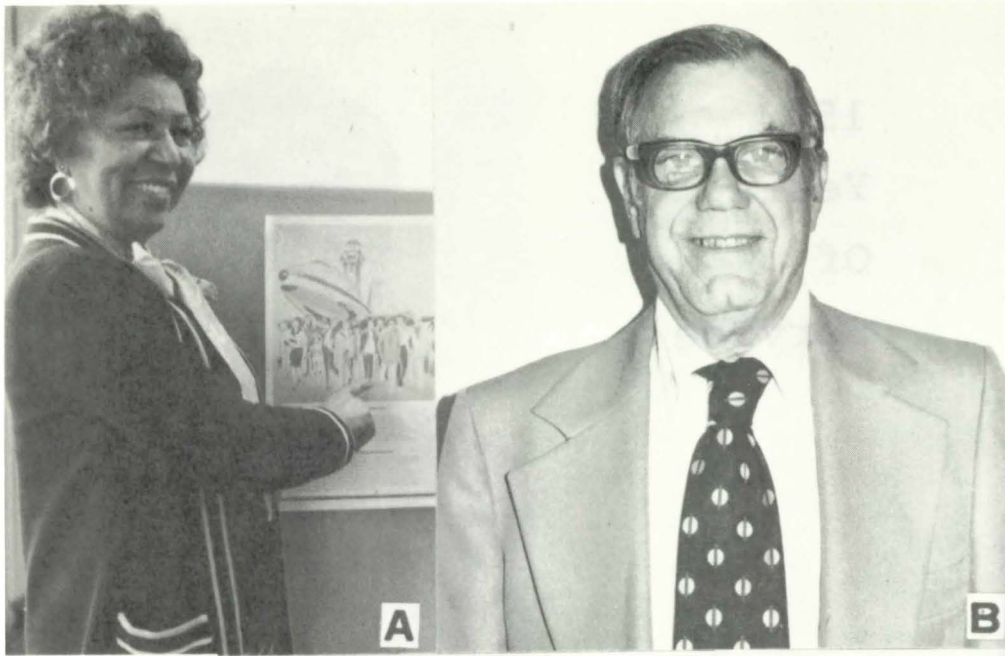
B--Dennie Hall - Aircraft Engineering - 19 years of service.

C--Merle McIntire - Civil Aviation Security Division - 26 years of service.

D--Salvatore "Sam" Grillo - Airway Facilities Division - 34 years of service.

E--Walter deGuehery - Management Systems Division - 16 years of service. Photos by Barbara Abels.

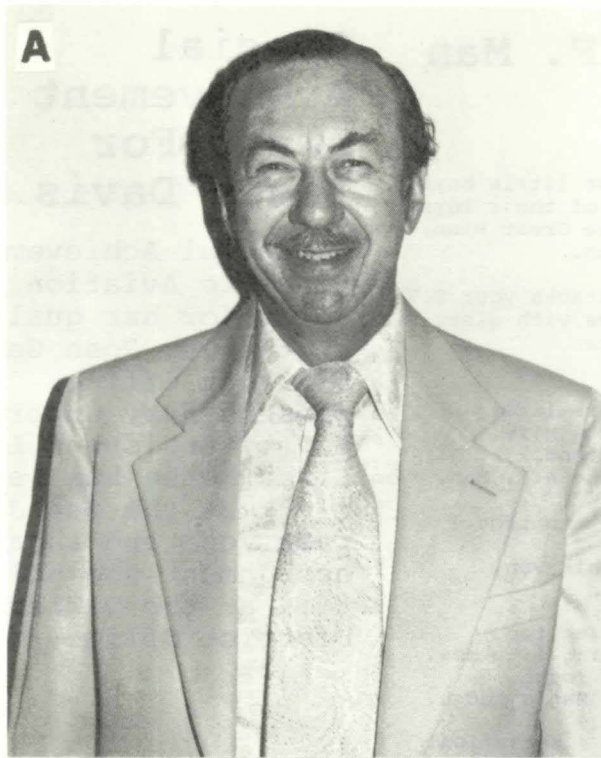
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More Western Region new retirees are:

- A--Ethel Lawson, Civil Rights Staff and Federal Women's Program Manager, - 32 years of service.
- B--Norm Willett - Aircraft Engineering - 33 years of service.
- C--Ray Van Buskirk - Airway Facilities Division - 30 years of service.
- D--Ramon Borrero - Logistics Division - 37 years of service.
- E--Barbara Clark - Aircraft Engineering - 22 years of service. Photos by Barbara Abels.

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Still more Regional employees who recently retired from the agency. They are:

A--Martin Elliott - Airway Facilities Division - 30 years of service.

B--Cleda Douglas - Payroll Branch - 24 years of service.

C--Ross Burnett - Personnel Management Division - 31 years of service.

D--Sam Myers - Airway Facilities Division - 39 years of service.

E--John Franklin - Airway Facilities Division - 25 years of service. Photos by Barbara Abels.

Portrait of an A.F. Man

By Gayla J. Rich

It seems to show up when they're just little boys.
Doing preventive maintenance on all of their toys.
You'll know in an instant it's in the Great Plan.
Your son's destined to be an A.F. Man.

When he's bored with his toys, he attacks your T.V.
After removing the tubes, he exclaims with glee.
"I have to fix every device that I can.
It's in my blood--I'm an A.F. Man."

You'll think electronics is his entire life.
You'll wonder if he'll ever look for a wife.
But girls will worship him, I understand,
For there's no one more macho than the A.F. Man.

He constantly studies to fulfill his ambition.
To be an FAA Electronics Technician.
With an arsenal of tools stashed in his van.
No one works faster than the A.F. Man.

Sometimes he has callbacks and overtime too.
But he always gets the facility running like new.
No outage is too big, no road is too rough.
At work he means business--that A.F. Man's tough.

Around the Sector he's popular, what a sensation!
He's first at the punch bowl for each celebration.
He shows off his smile and sometimes his tan.
He's the life of the party, that A.F. Man.

There's just one more thing that's left to say.
Especially to the one who is retiring today.
From Radar, Nav/Comm and the rest of the clan.
"You're the greatest, we'll miss you, you A.F. Man."

About The Poetess:

The poem was written by Gayla J. Rich, a General Supply Clerk with the Las Vegas Airway Facilities Sector Office.

Gayla has been with the FAA for the past six years, the first four of which were spent as an administrative clerk in the Central Region Airports Division.

Gayla reports that her writing interests have developed over the years despite a rather disastrous beginning. It seems that the first thing that Gayla ever wrote was a Valentine love poem for her fourth grade sweetheart.

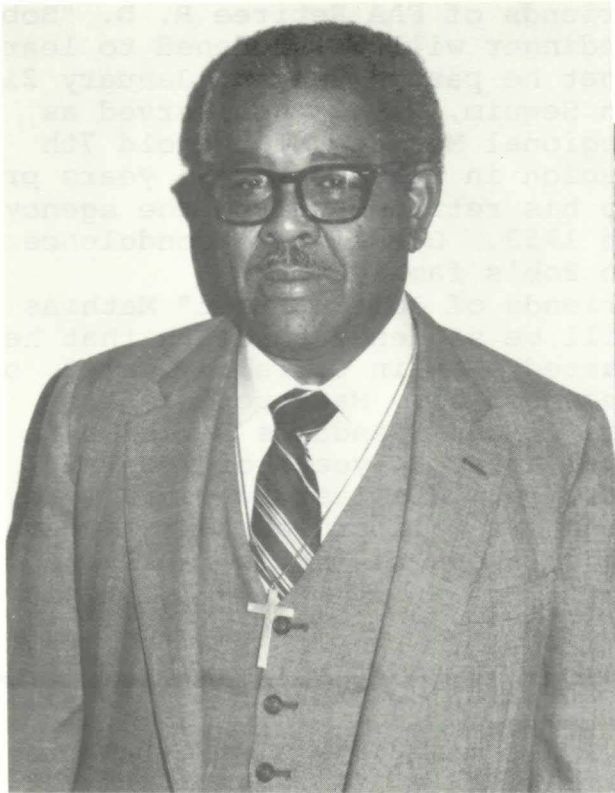
"When he opened it and read it,"

Special Achievement Award For Linda Davis Merza

A Special Achievement Award was given to Aviation Clerk Linda Davis Merza for her quality performance at the San Jose General Aviation District Office. The award was presented by Supervisory Aviation Safety Assistant Linda Birk. Linda Merza has been an aviation clerk at the San Jose GADO for the past year and a half. Prior to this assignment she held a similar position at the Oakland Flight Standards District Office.

Gayla recalls, "he laughed and threw it in the trash!" Well, they say that time heals all wounds--or is it wounds all heels? In any event, Gayla continued with her endeavors and took Creative Writing in both high school and college. She has written several short stories and plays, but her favorite creations are humorous poems. She writes personalized poems for relatives, friends and co-workers. When she worked in the Central Region, she became known as a "Retirement Book Specialist", including pictures with appropriate captions, biographical sketches and a special poem for the person retiring. This poem was given to James A. Thomas, Las Vegas Sector Manager, who recently retired with 36 years of government service.

Black History: A Profile In American Courage



We are proud to spotlight our
Black American FAAers:

Top left: Pervis Story is an offset pressman with the Regional Print Shop. Pervis retired from the U.S. Army after 20 years of service and has worked under Civil Service for 15 years, making a total of 35 years of Government service. Pervis is the seventh of 14 children. He was unable to finish high school because he had to go to work to help support the family. He volunteered for the U.S. Army in 1941 and received his basic training with the 9th Calvary at Ft. Riley, Kansas. He completed high school while in the service and later attended Compton College. He is a very close family man and he and his wife, Pearlie, have a son, a daughter and one grandson. Pervis loves people and sports--especially football and basketball. In his spare time he pastors a church in Long Beach. He also plans to continue his education in the near future.

Top right: Helen Harris is a General Supply Specialist, GS-11, in the Airway Facilities Establishment Engineering Branch. She was born in Columbia, S.C. and attended high school and college there. She worked as a credit clerk for General Motors Acceptance Corporation for several years. Then, in 1973 she decided to venture west to California with her family looking forward to challenges, new faces and interesting places. Her FAA career began in March 1974 in the Establishment Engineering Branch as a GS-5 clerk-stenographer. Through the Upward Mobility Program she was able to progress from Branch Secretary, GS-6, to a General Supply Specialist, GS-9, and on to her present GS-11 position. Helen believes the FAA is a great organization and says she is proud to be a part of it.

More Feedback On Dr. Garrett's Study

Periodic INTERCOM reports will be made on the 20 recommendations made in Dr. Norman Garrett's study until all have been addressed.

- It is recommended that the Employee Development Plan be broadened to include tuition reimbursement in order to enable specialized training for engineering and technical employees not available through the Training Branch.

Status: The Training Branch has coordinated an after-hours training program with California State University, Dominguez Hills, to provide training for FAA employees on a tuition reimbursable agreement. Pending the outcome from this experimental training course, we plan to offer other programs on a reimbursable basis. Provided funds are available, we will expand this program to include tuition reimbursement for specialized training courses.

- It is recommended that salaries and benchmark positions be compared periodically and efforts maintained to have comparable salaries for positions in the competitive hiring area.

Status: Both salaries and positions are periodically reviewed by several methods. For example, each immediate supervisor must periodically review all positions under his jurisdiction to insure that position descriptions (including "benchmark" positions) clearly show the kind of work being done, the knowledge and skills required to do the work, the difficulty of the work and the type of supervision and/or guidance provided to employees. Additionally, positions are reviewed by position classification specialists of the Compensation Branch

Retiree Deaths

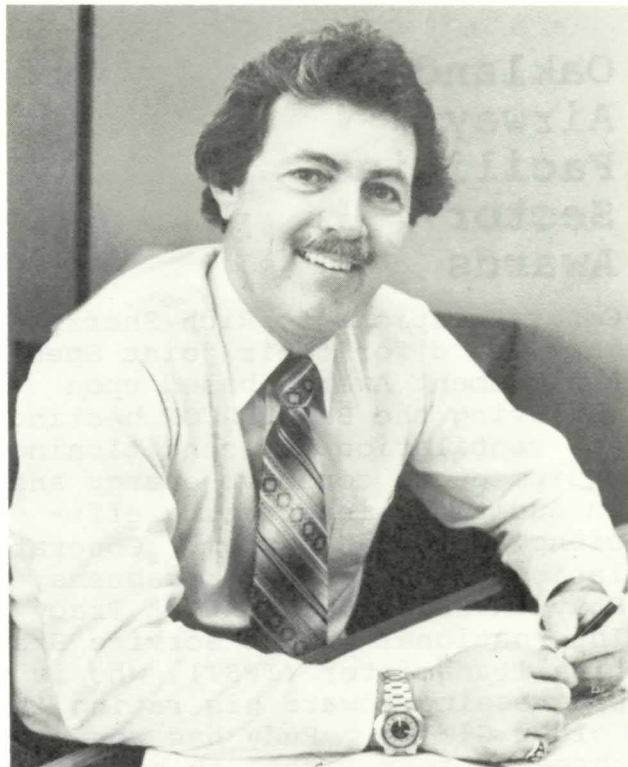
Friends of FAA Retiree R. D. "Bob" Bedinger will be saddened to learn that he passed away on January 21 in Sequim, Wash. Bob served as Regional Manager of the old 7th Region in Seattle for 15 years prior to his retirement from the agency in 1953. Our sincere condolences to Bob's family.

Friends of Julian "Matt" Mathias will be saddened to learn that he passed away in Carlsbad, Calif. on December 21. Matt retired from the Flight Standards Division in 1971 after 34 years of Federal service. His last 10 years were spent in California. Our sincere condolences to Matt's family.

who assure that positions are classified at the grade level specified by appropriate classification standards. Salaries are also reviewed when the General Schedule (GS) pay rates in specific geographical areas prove inadequate to recruit and retain qualified personnel in that area. The objective of the reviews is to establish Special Rates which are high enough to permit the staffing of Federal activities with competent personnel. For example, special rates for positions requiring stenography and typing skills are now in use in the greater San Francisco/Oakland Bay area. The Los Angeles Area Manager, Office of Personnel Management, is currently conducting a special salary rate study to determine the need for a special rate for positions requiring stenography and typing skills in the greater Los Angeles area.

Bob Vaughn New Chief At San Diego TRACON

Bob Vaughn, former Air Traffic Operations Specialist with the Air Traffic Operations Branch, has been selected as Chief of the San Diego Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON). Bob has been with the FAA 17 years and has previously served as an Air Traffic Controller at Santa Barbara, Burbank and Los Angeles Towers; a Data Systems Specialist and Team Supervisor at Los Angeles Center; a Data Systems Officer at Oakland Center; and Deputy Chief of Los Angeles Tower/TRACON. Photo by Barbara Abels.



Fresno Airway Facilities Sector

Congratulations to Bill Kirkconnell on completing 25 years of government service and Gary Wissink for completing 15. Sector Manager Mel Haworth presented Bill and Gary with their service emblems. Letters of Appreciation were presented to Charles Raley and John Vaegele, Electronic Technicians at Merced, for their excellent services and "esprit de corps", from the Controllers at Merced Tower. Also, the Technical Support Unit issued a Letter of Appreciation to Gary Wissink, John Doty, Ron Rich and Bob Leitko from Bakersfield for

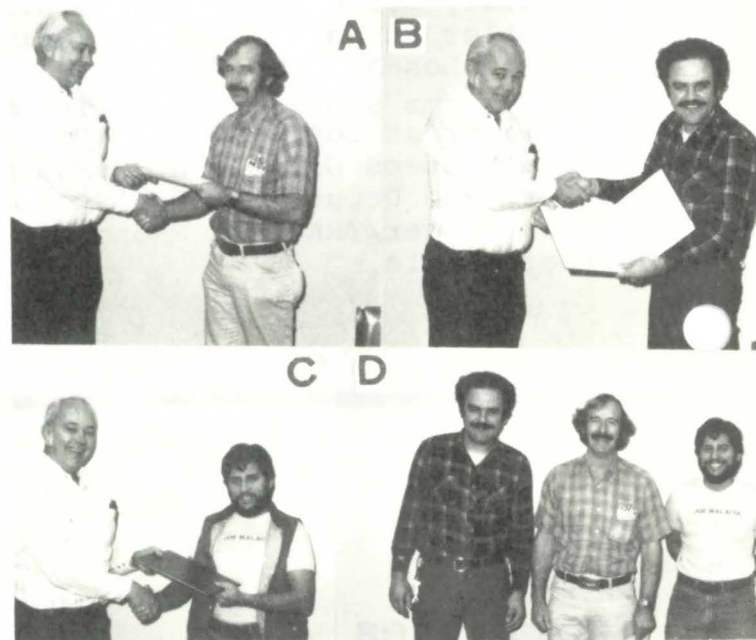
their cooperation and timely completion on installing new simplified short approach lighting runway (SSALR) cable which had been given a short deadline. We bid a warm welcome to Laralee Seargeant from Lancaster Sector, and bid a sad goodbye to Elaine Holguin, Stay-In-School Aid in Bakersfield. Elaine plans to graduate in June and go on to college. All of us will miss you, Eliane, and wish you good luck for the future. Congratulations to Curtis Alderman and Frank Gann on their promotions. Terry Swart has been promoted to General Supply Specialist, Jimmie Timmons to Relief Training Officer, and Bill Weeks to Radar Technician-In-Depth. During this month, Bill will also be converted to an Electronic Engineer. Congratulations, Bill!

Terry Jiron Says "Thanks"

Terry Jiron, Transportation Officer, Logistics Division, Procurement Branch, recently transferred to El Paso, Texas. She wishes to thank all those who sent and called in good wishes and special thoughts to her during her last week in the Western Region. Terry says, "Keep in touch whenever you are in the El Paso, Texas area." Her address is: Villa Sierra, 2415 McKinley Ave., D37, El Paso, TX 79930.

Oakland Airway Facilities Sector Awards

Congratulations to Rich Sherry and Wain Beard for their joint Special Achievement Awards based upon modifying the Bay TRACON heating and ventilation/air conditioning equipment to conserve energy and, in addition, integrating efficiency into the system. Congratulations also to Rudy Horabuena, Stay-in-School student at Tracy International Flight Service Station Transmitter (IFST), who is progressing toward his rating in Golden Gloves. Rudy has won three of four fights in his welter weight division; to Chuck Cage who did an outstanding job in installing the modified Tasker 400 Runway Visual Range (RVR) system between the TRACON and San Francisco Tower; to Peter Givens for assuming primary responsibility in correcting a long-standing noise problem (reduction of -62 decibels below one milowatt (dbm) to -80 dbm) on the Saratoga link; to Glenn Cross, Dick Fong, Bob Chilcott, Fred Lavell, Mario Romero, Rich Sherry, Oliver Wiita and John Smith, all members of the Reliability Improvement Group (RIG), who were recognized in a letter from Bob Frehse on their work to date; to Bob Leone and Rich Sherry on their Beneficial Employee Suggestion Award on Power Conditioning System (PCS) Battery Charger Failure Indicator; and a Letter of Commendation from Jerry Long, Oakland AFS Manager, to Francis Osgood in recognition of his work on the replacement and repair of down guys at the Tracy International Flight Service Station Transmitter (IFST).



Recent recipients of awards at Oakland Airway Facilities Sector are:

- A--Francis Osgood (right) receiving a Letter of Commendation from Bob Nelson, Environmental Support Supervisor.
- B--Rich Sherry (right) receives a Beneficial Suggestion Award from Bob Nelson.
- C--Bob Leone (right) receives a Beneficial Suggestion Award from Bob Nelson.
- D--Happy award winners: Rich Sherry, Francis Osgood and Bob Leone.

Red Bluff Airway Facilities Sector News

The Red Bluff AF Sector is now on FTS. The number is 449-6452. This was accomplished by tying Red Bluff AFS into the Oakland Center telephone system as an extension (452) via the Red Bluff RML system. During occasional periods, the Radar Microwave Link (RML) path fades and the quality of the line will deteriorate. This sometimes causes conversations to be interrupted or disconnected. Under these conditions, it may be preferable to call us on commercial or through an FTS operator. A letter was received by the Red Bluff Air Route Surveillance Radar and Red Bluff Nav/Comm from the Red Bluff AF Sector Manager thanking the technicians for the excellent performance of the communications and radar systems which made the flight assist on Jan. 9 possible. Special Achievement Awards have been given to the following deserving employees: Rick Auville, Red Bluff Nav/Comm Field Office, for his outstanding work done in the installation of the Arcata Distance Measuring Equipment; Felix Schneider, Radar, Technician-in-Depth, Red Bluff AFS, for his involvement in the Sector Certification Program; David Vodden, Arcata Field Office, for his outstanding work on numerous special projects in addition to his routine and corrective maintenance. Also, congratulations to David for having his recent suggestion for improving operation of GET-030 Module Test Set approved. Letters of commendation have been received by Robin Lampson, Marysville Field Office; Chris Mickelson, Santa Rosa Field Office; Charles Cornelison, Red Bluff Nav/Comm Field Office; James Azevedo, Marysville Field Office; and Ron Riberal, Technical

Braniff Pays Up

The agency has accepted a payment of \$400,000 from Braniff Airways in full settlement for maintenance-safety violations. In a letter to Braniff's chairman, Southwest Region Director C. R. Melugin, Jr., explained that the sum would be accepted in full settlement because of "Braniff's current financial situation and because of the airline's substantial improvements in maintenance and operations." The improvements mentioned by Melugin have been well documented by an FAA Continued Action Surveillance Team which has been overseeing Braniff's operations since November 1979. The original fine assessed against Braniff was for \$1.5 million.

Support Officer, Red Bluff. Ron McGaw, General Supply Specialist, Red Bluff, received his 15-year service pin. Congratulations for recent promotions: Mike Merrill (Red Bluff ARSR) to a GS-11 and Bill Lind (Red Bluff Environmental Support Unit) to a WG-10. Two losses to the Sector are Charles Epps of our Marysville Field Office who is transferring to Monterey Field Office, and Danny Kemp of Red Bluff AFS who is transferring to the Regional Office, AWE-453. Welcome to Gerald Goren, who is now heading up our Santa Rosa Field Office, and Don King who is transferring from Phoenix to Crescent City Field Office Unit.



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Articles and photographs should be received by the Editor, AWE-5, extension 6431, by 11 a.m., Thursday, for publication in the following week's issue.

Bob Frehse Retirement Party

W. R. "Bob" Frehse, Chief, Airway Facilities Division, is retiring from the FAA after 35 years of service. You are invited to join in wishing Bob and his wife, Dorothy, best wishes and a warm "aloha" as they depart on a wonderful new career--retirement! The party will be held on Thursday, April 16, in the Hacienda Hotel Crystal Ballroom. Cocktails, 6 p.m.; Dinner, 7 p.m. \$12.50 per person includes tax and tip. For reservations, please contact: Mary Andrews, FTS 8-966-6152 or 213/536-6152, or Gayle Hodges, FTS 8-966-6153 or 213/536-6153. Reservations and money must be in by March 30. Make checks payable to Mary Andrews.

Regional Employees Help Crippled Children

For the past several years, Regional employees have contributed money to the Valley Orthopaedic Clinic in lieu of exchanging Christmas cards. This year, a check in the amount of \$726.00 was donated to the clinic in Calexico, California. A special "thank you" to the many employees who helped to make this gift possible.

Dick Hyde Retirement

Dick Hyde, Airway Facilities Maintenance Operations Branch, AWE-460, has retired after 30 years of Federal service. A luncheon in Dick's honor is planned for Wednesday, Feb. 28, 11:30 a.m., at the Los Angeles Air Force Station, Officers' Open Mess. A choice of chef salad or beef stroganoff will be served for \$6.00 per person (includes tax, tip and gift). Reservations are due by Feb. 13 with Joan Grimm or Sylvia Kraan, AWE-460, ext. 6316. Checks should be made payable to "Dick Hyde Retirement."

Norm Willett Retirement

After 34 years of keeping the Western Region "free from flutter" Norm Willett is retiring. Join his many friends in bidding Norm a fond farewell on Feb. 24, at the Hacienda, 11:30 a.m. \$7.25 per person. For further information and reservations, contact Charles Blomer, ext. 6359, or Cynthia Almanza, ext. 6354, prior to Feb. 20.