



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

Western Intercom



Cover Story

Sonoma County Tower (also known as Santa Rosa Tower) is a Level II Visual Flight Rule (VFR) tower and has a facility chief, one team supervisor and nine controllers. The chief is Sam Fabela, the team supervisor is Joe Parker, and the controllers on board are: George Daniels, Ron Davidson, Julie Lagan, John Mueller, Ted Rydberg, Janet Scott, Walter Smith and Mel Tindall. Facility secretary is stay-in-school student Candi Hall. Sonoma County Airport is located in the heart of the Redwood Empire, five miles north of Santa Rosa. It is about 60 miles north of San Francisco and operates the only FAA control tower between that city and the Oregon border. Sonoma County Tower has automatically become the aviation hub of the area. Besides its beautiful location, the facility is also well known for its yearly Bohemian Grove Encampment, its annual well-attended aviation forums and is home base for Sis-Q Flying Service, a fire tanker base for aircraft that fight fire throughout the state. It is also the home of some very active aviation organizations such as the 99's, Experimental Aircraft Association, Civil Air Patrol, Aeronautics Department for the Santa Rosa Junior College, and some other local highly visible and active fixed base operators. The tower was commissioned in 1962. Of the five original controllers, only Ted Rydberg remains--and he plans to retire this year. Cover photo by John Mueller.

From The Regional Director:

Last summer the Region contracted with Dr. Garrett to study the attitudes and opinions of employees at our Regional Headquarters. In general, the findings showed most employees were satisfied with their jobs, the hours of work, physical surroundings, fairness and competence of supervisors, friendliness of fellow employees, and the quantity and quality of work they produced.

However, there was general criticism of some environmental factors, lunchroom facilities and general management areas, and 20 recommendations were made by Dr. Garrett to deal with these issues. Management has taken these recommendations very seriously and has tried to deal effectively with each one, although recognizing that some are beyond the control of the agency and others will need to be dealt with on a continuing basis. Feedback to employees has been provided periodically in Western INTERCOM on these recommendations. Although this is a final report on the study, we will continue to provide information on those matters of interest to employees.

We congratulate all employees for their cooperation with Dr. Garrett and pledge ourselves to make the Western Region a better place to work.



Director, Western Region

Santa Rosa

Tower

Personnel

A



B

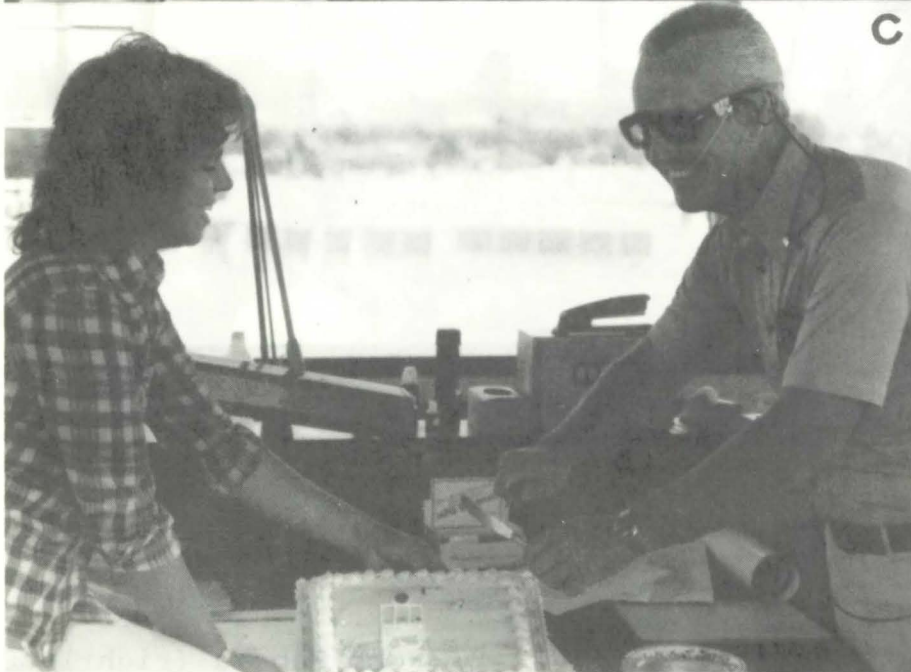
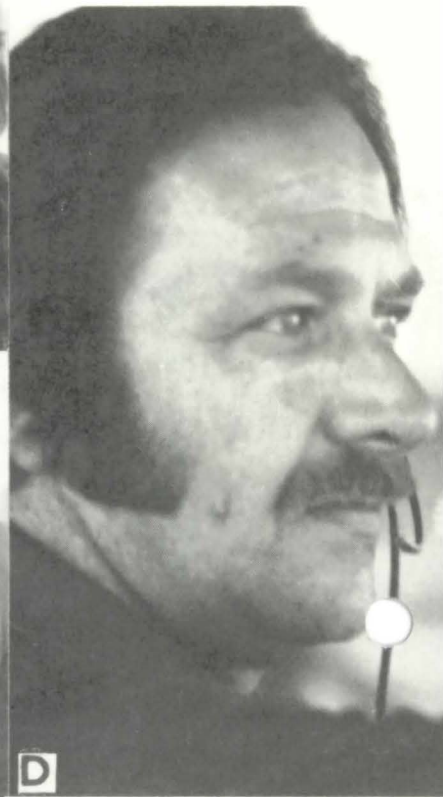


C

D



A--Sam Fabela (right), Chief, Santa Rosa Tower, presents Stay-in-School Secretary Candi Hall with a Special Achievement Award. B--Developmental Controller Linda Howerton, who was recently promoted to Controller at Napa Tower. C--A busy day in the tower cab during the recent Ninety-Nines' Pacific Air Race. D--Controller Walter Smith. Photos by John Mueller of Santa Rosa Tower.



More Santa Rosa People

A--Santa Rosa Tower Air Traffic Control Specialist Julie Lagan, soon to transfer to Hayward Tower.

B--Stay-in-School Secretary Candi Hall.

C--Controller Ted Rydberg (right) and Secretary Candi Hall getting ready to cut the Santa Rosa Tower's 18th anniversary cake.

D--Last year recipient of a Special Achievement Award, Controller George Daniels.

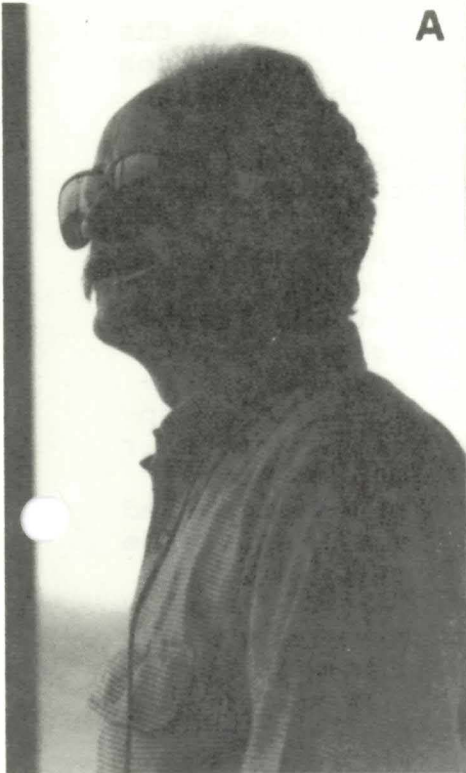
Photos by John Mueller, Santa Rosa Tower.

More

Santa

Rosa Tower

People



A



B



C



E



F



D

A--Controller Mel Tindall, recent recipient of a unique Letter of Commendation from Oakland Center.
B--Newly-retired Controller Chet Ennis.
C--Ted Rydberg, a Santa Rosa Controller for 18 and a half years.
D--Controller John Mueller, whose fine work in organizing an emergency handbook earned him a Letter of Appreciation.
E--Controller Ron Davidson, recent recipient of a Quality Within-Grade Increase Award.
F--Controller Janet Scott, also a recent recipient of a Quality Within-Grade Increase Award.
Photos by John Mueller, Santa Rosa Tower.



Western Intercom

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Fresno Flight Service Station Facts

Facility Chief Ken Mays and Air Traffic Control Specialist Bob Murray are glowing with pride as Ken's sons, Steve and Mike, and Bob's son Pat participated in the Presidential Inauguration Parade at the Nation's Capitol as members of the Clovis High School Band. Local TV and news media daily chronicled their activities as the group visited the historical sites of Washington, D.C. The students and their sponsors received tremendous community support in their fund-raising projects to pay for the week-long trip.

Al Docken attended the annual Fresno Civil Air Patrol Special Awards Banquet held at the Fresno Air National Guard cafeteria. Awards were presented to the members of the Civil Air Patrol, support agencies and others for their personal contributions. Support agencies included the American Red Cross, the Air National Guard, the FAA, Fresno FSS, Fresno Tower and Fresno GADO office.

Welcome aboard to Norma Gomez who was selected for employment at the Fresno FSS under the Youth Employment Training Program administered by the Fresno Unified School District. Letters of appreciation were presented to Sandra Moore, Bill Hoffberg and Tom Petrakis. Fresno City College expressed their gratitude for the support received by the staff of the Fresno FSS during their Career Day Open House. The facility tour proved to be popular and attendance was more than expected. Letters of appreciation were presented to Al Docken, Gene Devlin, Bob Murray and Carl Olsen for their excellent informative presentations. Other organizations visiting the facility include the Clovis Adult School Private Pilot Ground School class, Cal State University Aviation Department, as well as numerous pilots.

"Women in Science" Career Workshop

A career workshop for "Women in Science" is being sponsored at The Aerospace Corporation funded in part by a grant from the National Science Foundation. The workshop is intended for those women having or obtaining a degree in physical sciences. The day-long session will explore (1) issues confronting women in science; (2) career planning strategies, (3) opportunities in science, (4) contacts, and (5) networking with other women. The career workshop is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, 1981 in El Segundo, Calif. For more information, contact Yvonne Gibson, Regional Planning Office, AWE-4, 213/536-6231 or FTS 966-6231.



Black History:

A Profile In American Courage

Top left: Shirley James is a Program Analyst with the Air Traffic Division, responsible for classification of 106 Air Traffic facilities in the Western Region and Operational Budget. Her career started in 1957 with the Internal Revenue Service, then with the Division of Disbursement, coming to the FAA in 1960. She has also worked in Airway Facilities, Accounting and Airports. Shirley is active in her church, both locally and regional. She serves as treasurer of the Women's Classical Union of Southern California which services 33 churches in this area, and also Assistant Treasurer of her local church. She loves to cook and to bowl. Currently she is an EEO Counselor and recently became a Notary Public.

Top right: Easley Larkin is a Team Supervisor at the Los Angeles Flight Service Station. He began his Government service as chief of Air Force MARS Communication Center at Maywood Air Force Depot, Maywood, Calif. He transferred to CAA/FAA in 1957 as an Air Traffic Control Specialist trainee. During Easley's tenure with the agency, he has worked his entire career in the flight service station option. In 1960 he was certified by the Federal Civil Service Commission as a member of the New Employee Air Traffic Interview Panel. He has acted as EEO staff since its inception. In 1973 he was appointed recruitment representative for the Los Angeles Basin. Easley enjoys participating in community activities and is very active in community and city politics. He is married and says his wife Estella has spent the past 40 years looking after him, their three children and 11 grandchildren. Easley's hobby is compiling excerpts on Blacks and reconstructing the information in book form. He would like to take this opportunity to salute all his friends within and without the Region. Photos by Barbara Abels.

Black History:

A Profile Of American Courage



We are proud to spotlight our Black American FAAers during February--Black History Month.

Above: Ralph White is a General Aviation Maintenance Unit Chief at the Riverside General Aviation District Office. He received his first training as an aircraft mechanic when he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942, where he served until 1946. Ralph then enrolled in Boston University School of Aeronautics (formerly New England Aircraft School) where he received technical training in preparation for his CAA/FAA mechanic certificate-airframe powerplant rating. He graduated in 1948 and has since used his training to the utmost. He has been employed by the U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force and Western Airlines. He returned to active duty with the Air Force during the Korean War. Ralph joined the FAA family in 1963 as a mechanic at the LAX Hangar. In 1973 he was promoted to General Aviation Maintenance Inspector at Van Nuys District Office, later serving as a Principal Maintenance Inspector at the Long Beach Flight Standards District Office. Ralph completed a one-year tour of duty at the Regional Office as a General Aviation Maintenance Specialist before being selected for his present position. Ralph's hobbies are restoring antique automobiles, fishing, gardening and playing the hammond organ. His philosophy of life is to keep a smile in your heart and it will manifest itself in your daily contact with others. Above all, Ralph says, never give up!

Las Vegas Tower Assists Helicopter Rescuers During Second Hotel Fire

Air Traffic Controllers at the Las Vegas Tower immediately set special rescue efforts into operation after being alerted by a Pacific Southwest Airlines (PSA) crew that the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel was on fire. Instantaneously, tower personnel called the airport's city/county fire department, began notifying all helicopter operators at the airport and the U.S. Air Force at Nellis AFB, helped set up a temporary emergency helipad near the hotel, set into motion air traffic procedures to keep all aircraft away from the fire scene, and established special control measures for the helicopters participating in the fire rescue operation.

John Grady, one of the team supervisors on duty at the time of the fire on Feb. 10, said that he and his crew were able to move swiftly once Controller Al Leddy received the initial report. "Probably what helped us the most was the experience we received during the Nov. 21, 1980 fire at the MGM Hotel," John said. The tower's 12-man crew, led by John and Ron Wilson, the other team supervisor on duty, took measures to establish a special radar position and a special radio frequency to handle only the helicopters involved in the rescue operations. The first helicopter was at the scene within 15 minutes and before 45 minutes elapsed, there were 11 copters rescuing more than 110 fire victims from the roof of the hotel.

Regional Director John D. Mattson commended the Las Vegas Tower controllers who did such an excellent job handling their part of the helicopter rescue operations.

Tower personnel on duty at the time included: Team Supervisors John Grady and Ron Wilson; Controllers Ken Henderson and Carl Robinson,

Management Systems Division News

Congratulations to Mat Pespisa and Mateel Johnson, Computer Specialists, and Shirley Reed, Computer Operator, of the Data Processing Branch, on promotions they received since our last INTERCOM article. At a recent staff meeting, Walter Moon, Division Chief, presented a Quality Within-Grade Increase Award to Betty Hall, Computer Operator, Documentation Center; and a Quality Within-Grade Increase with an Outstanding rating to Sandy Monge, Clerical Assistant. Marilyn Ramsey, Documentation Center Supervisor, received a Career Service Award for 15 years of Government service. Special recognition was given to Don Heady, Supervisory Computer Specialist, Data Processing Branch, who did not use any sick leave during 1980. Lee Johnston, Management Analyst, received a Letter of Appreciation from Bob Smith, Chief, Air Traffic Division, for Lee's participation as Management Systems Keyperson for the 1981 Combined Federal Campaign. Congratulations to all!

who worked on the special radar position, assisted by Sidney O'Brien who took care of the handoffs; and Al Leddy, Mike Anderson, Bill Heyer, Dennis Kessler, Dennis Martin, Bill Hamnett, Gerry Doughty and John Preston.

Unfortunately, despite the rescue efforts of the FAA, the helicopters, police and fire department, there were eight persons killed and over 200 injured in the fire that was reportedly set by an arsonist.

The News In Brief

The Super Bowl in New Orleans and a construction equipment exposition in Houston generated a record busy day for the Houston En Route Center on Jan. 26. In all, there were 6,725 operations on that day. The previous record high was 6,365 operations set on March 19, 1980.

● Wake turbulence from a Boeing 727 caused the July 25, 1980, crash of a commuter flight at Philadelphia International Airport, the National Transportation Safety Board has concluded. The two-man crew and a single passenger were killed when the plane rolled and crashed nose first about one-half mile from the runway threshold. The Board said the pilot of the 10-seat Piper Navajo had accepted a VFR clearance and failed to maintain proper separation which is the pilot's responsibility when accepting a visual clearance or instructions to follow an aircraft. ● For his pedal-operated planes, Paul B. MacCready of Pasadena, Calif., has been named Inventor of the Year by the Association for the Advancement of Invention and Innovation. His "Gossamer Condor" was the first successfully flown person-powered plane. It is now on permanent display in the Air and Space Museum. His "Gossamer Albatross" was the first and is still the only person-powered plane to cross the English Channel. ● Despite the change in Administrations on Jan. 20, pilots still aren't free to fly low and rubber-neck over the home of former President Carter in Plains, Ga. At the request of the Secret Service, FAA is retaining the prohibited area around the Carter residence for six months at which time the situation will be reexamined. The agency also has established prohibited areas around President Reagan's Pacific Palisades home and his ranch in Santa Ynez, Calif. The action supersedes the temporary restrictions placed on flights over the President's homes after the November election. ● The ARSR-3 long-range radar program moved one

step closer to completion last month with the conditional acceptance of the Mt. Laguna (Calif.) site. Mt. Laguna was the last of 21 ARSR-3s to be installed by the contractor, Westinghouse Electric Co. Two additional ARSR-3s purchased from Westinghouse under the same contract will be installed by FAA technicians at Mt. Kaala, Hawaii, and Lake Havasu, Ariz. Of the 23 fixed ARSR-3s included in the contract, 14 have been commissioned and six are in the site integration phase. Westinghouse also delivered four mobile units. ● Ten years, more or less, after the American SST was shot down in flames, it now appears that environmentalists were using a lot of dud ammunition. At least that's the consensus that emerged from a recent meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Even long-time SST foes conceded that many of the environmental arguments used against the Mach 2.7 jet were specious or just plain wrong. For example, theories that SST flights would deplete the ozone layer and increase incidents of skin cancer were given wide publicity and contributed to the anti-SST sentiment. However, later studies showed SST flights might actually increase ozone levels. ● The General Accounting Office thinks the country would be better off if more government employees used bicycles and mopeds on official business. It would even compensate those who used their own two-wheeled vehicles--four cents a mile for bikes and eight for mopeds. GAO noted that these vehicles would be especially useful on large military bases and in national parks, as well as in large cities with congested downtown traffic. Another government agency, the General Services Administration, took issue with the findings, pointing out that switching Federal workers to bicycles would not be efficient because it would take them more time to get from place to place.

Santa Monica Tower News

Congratulations to Charlene Royer on her Special Achievement Award; and to Byron Pfeifer, Jim Kayser and Neil Bennett on their Letters of Commendation; also to Romeo Howe who was recently facility rated. Next month we lose three full performance levels: Jeff Camara, Greg Calcara and Wes Smith; and this month we lost Jim Kayser, Team Supervisor, to Tucson. We'll miss y'all. In January, the controllers gave California Aviation the Fixed Base Operator (FBO) of the Year award, and Steve LaLonde, an executive pilot, the Pilot of the Year award. The idea was Jeff Camara's, the speech written by Neil Bennett, the presentation made by Janice Champion, and fun was had by everyone.

Recently, the tower was given kudos from the Santa Monica Police Department in letter form, stating:

"The fine treatment and service we have had while operating N120PD has been better than anyone has a right to expect. The expeditious departures that we have requested occasionally have always been granted and have often resulted in arrests that might not have been made without 'air support.' In my experiences in working with the Santa Monica Tower crew, I have found them far above average when compared to similar facilities."

We at Santa Monica pledge to continue our high standards.

Sylvia Kraan Earns Special Achievement

Sylvia Kraan, Secretary, Airway Facilities Maintenance Operations Branch, AWE-460, recently received a Special Achievement Award. Congratulations, Sylvia!

Sacramento Executive Tower Talk

We recently bid a fond farewell to Mel Ayers upon his retirement. Mel served at Executive Tower for all of his 22 years spent in the FAA. A gala dinner party was held for Mel, and attendees included representatives from all of the Sacramento area FAA facilities, past retirees, and numerous local area pilots. Good luck, Mel, and thank you for your dedicated service! Congratulations are in order: To Linda Briggs for her selection by her peers as the "Executive Tower Controller of the Year" for 1980; to Tom Dairiki for his Quality Within-Grade Increase, awarded for sustained, superior service during 1980; and, last but not least, to Jeanne Hamel for earning her recent Facility Rating.

Lancaster Airway Facilities Sector News

Congratulations to John Bowman for the Quality Within-Grade Increase he received for doing an excellent job as our Technical Support Officer. We wish good luck to Cassius Brookshire who is now working in the Regional Headquarters, AWE-430, and Don Torchio who will be an Academy instructor. Our eleventh grade stay-in-schooler, Debra Gray, has completed a semester at Quartz Hill High School with five A's and one B. Congratulations, Debra.

Watch Regulations On Government Purchases

Field offices and facility chiefs are reminded of their responsibility to have purchases of goods and services made only in accordance with approved procedures and regulations. Purchases up to \$150 may be reimbursed from the imprest fund when they meet the requirements of the Imprest Fund Manual Order DOT 2770.7 (implemented by FAA Order 2770.4) - Small purchases up to \$2,500 using SF-44, may be made by persons granted small purchase authority by the Chief, Procurement Branch, under the conditions and limitations of Order WE 4433.1D. When purchases may not be made in accordance with the above, the facility must then complete a Procurement Request (see Order 4400.42 for instructions). It is important that purchases be made only by persons having express authority to do so. Persons acting without such authority may be required to pay for the purchase out of their own pockets. For assistance in procurement matters, call the Procurement Branch, AWE-55, or the General Supply Specialist located in the Airway Facilities Sector Office in your area.

The Search Goes On

An "Aircraft Systems and Equipment--Electrical/Electronic" specialist is the object of this week's ICAO talent hunt. The job is in San Jose dos Compos, Brazil, and pays \$38,190 with a tax-free net of \$24,298 to 26,299. Qualifications for the 18-month assignment include an engineering degree or equivalent and aircraft certification experience. Applications are due in Washington headquarters, API-19, by June 19.

High Altitude EFAS

The agency has begun a formal six-month test of a new high altitude En Route Flight Advisory Service (EFAS) at the Oakland, Las Vegas and Phoenix flight service stations. The test is aimed at improving service by relieving a frequency congestion problem caused by aircraft operating above 18,000 feet. These aircraft now will have their own EFAS frequency--134.825 MHz. Regular EFAS operates on 122 MHz. Specially-trained flight service specialists at each of the test facilities will coordinate pilot reports of in-flight weather conditions with National Weather Service forecasts and other meteorological data and provide flight advisories to high flyers on 134.825 MHz. After the test is completed, FAA will evaluate the results and decide whether high altitude EFAS should be implemented nationwide. The agency presently provides regular EFAS on a coast-to-coast basis from 44 selected flight service stations.

New FAA History Out

FAA has published the fourth and last volume of the 50-year history of FAA and its predecessor agencies. Entitled "Safe, Separated and Soaring," the book traces the fortunes of FAA over the 12-year period between John F. Kennedy's inauguration and the end of Richard M. Nixon's first term. It was written by Dr. Richard J. Kent, Jr., a professional historian, under contract with the agency. The three previously published volumes are "Bonfires to Beacons," 1918-1938, "Turbulence Aloft," 1938-1952, and "Takeoff at Mid-Century," 1943-1961. Copies of the books may be purchased at any Government Printing Office bookstore.

San Grillo Retirement Luncheon

A retirement luncheon to honor Sam Grillo of the Airway Facilities Program and Planning Branch, Operations Program Section, AWE-423, will be held on Friday, March 27, 11:30 a.m., at the Hacienda Hotel Crystal Ballroom. Menu is buffet and includes tax, tip and beverage at \$7.85 per person. Gift contributions are gladly accepted. Don't forget to sign sheets in each folder for Sam's memory book. All reservations and monies for the luncheon should be paid before March 23 to Ruby Ross or Marge Booth. If more information is needed, please call 213/536-6416.

Merle Nichols Says "Thanks"

Merle Nichols, recently retired Air Traffic Evaluation Branch Chief, wishes to thank all those who were responsible for his great retirement party. Merle says, "To those who made presentations I am most grateful for their kind and thoughtful remarks. It was great to see so many old friends; thank you for coming. It was a party that my wife Rose and I will never forget. The gifts were so appreciated; thanks from the bottom of my heart. May I express my appreciation to all the great people I have worked with during the past 37 years with CAA/FAA. Their cooperation, assistance, advice and comradeship will always be remembered. The close friendships I have shared with all will be greatly missed."

Phoenix Flight Service Station News

On Jan. 31, three score peers and friends gathered at the Felsen Haus to bid bon voyage to Tom Parnell, off to retirement's verdant pastures, and Ed Bell who headed north to Bethel, Alaska. Tom's more than 32 years service included tours as fighter pilot in World War II and the Korean Conflict. His FAA career ended with a long tour as Evaluation and Proficiency Development Specialist at Phoenix FSS. A very mobile Ed Bell has served at more than a dozen facilities in four regions.

The FSS bowling team, skillfully led by Claude Cole, won the first half of the season by three games. Anchorman Scotty Hyslop is also league secretary. Other team members include Tom Flowers, Dennis Stockl, Doug Young and J. R. Armistead. We welcome Mary Miller back from the Academy. A native of Detroit, Mary worked several years at the Los Angeles Center in Palm-dale. New hires Rodney McNutt, Ira Wright and Timothy Buchanan are doing well in school and will return from Oklahoma City in March and April. Karl Snyder is back working half-days after major surgery, and Howard Kennedy, who is on extended sick leave, visited the station recently.

Retiree Death

Friends of FAA Retiree Dudley Rider will be saddened to learn that he passed away on February 12, 1981 from cancer. At the time of his retirement from the agency several years ago, Dudley served as Air Carrier Maintenance Inspector at Burbank, Calif. Our sincere condolences to his family.

One Thousand Western Region Employees Complete EEO Program Seminar

As of January 1981, about 1,000 regional employees had completed the agency's latest Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Program Seminar, "Equal Employment Opportunity - A Perspective." This is the largest number of employees in the Region's history to have personally participated in a seminar devoted entirely to the EEO Program. The first seminar was conducted in September 1980 by Deputy Director Mac McClure, with program division chiefs, staff officers and the Executive Officer in attendance. The seminar, which includes a videotape presentation, along with group discussion, is now being conducted throughout the region. All employees will be given an opportunity to participate. Evaluations and reactions of participants have been overwhelmingly positive and favorable, rating the seminar from good to excellent. A few employees believed the seminar was a waste of time, but did not explain why. A large majority recommended follow-up seminars annually. Some recommended the seminar be mandatory for all new supervisors. Without exception, all employees felt they had every opportunity to freely participate in group discussions. A large number of employees commented that the program appeared to be aimed at managers and supervisors. While it is true that one of the seminar's objectives is to raise the level of managerial commitment and involvement in the agency's EEO efforts, all employees --supervisory and non-supervisory-- benefit from informational programs of this nature, as evidenced by seminar critiques. As one employee in Las Vegas commented: "A very well done program, a must for every employee."

Brackett Tower Now A Dual Runway Airport

We are now back in the permanent Tower. It has been moved 380 feet north of the old location with no damage--and are we ever glad to be back. The new north runway and taxiway are completed and operational. With two runways our work is somewhat easier with heavy traffic. Tom Twadell, Rick Zaunter and Jim O'Such from Ontario Airway Facilities Sector are working hard on getting our second local control position in and operational. Tom Looney and Joe Starr are re-working our BRITE. Since you last heard from us we have experienced many personnel changes. A hearty welcome to Brian McGuirk from Sacramento Executive and to Bill Petras and Jesus Padilla, rounding out the trio of newly checked out controllers. Terry Schomburg, our new team supervisor from Coast TRACON, is checked out and in the saddle. John Ambro completed Oklahoma City training with flying colors and is deeply entrenched in the training program. Helen Copley comes to us from Flagstaff, Ariz., and Lloyd Newell from the Los Angeles Center. Both are progressing in the training program. Team supervisor Ralph Hiller is the recipient of a Quality Within-Grade Increase Award. Congratulations to Tom Shippey and his new bride on their recent marriage.

FAA and PATCO

FAA and PATCO began negotiations on a new labor agreement last week in Washington headquarters, with both sides pledging good-faith efforts to resolve outstanding issues. The current contract runs through March 14. However, it contains a provision that says it "shall remain in full force and effect (except for the immunity provision) until a new agreement is reached."