



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

Western Intercom



Cover Story

The Reno Air Traffic Control Tower is located on Cannon International Airport in Reno, Nevada. It is a Level III Tower/TRACON, operating 24 hours a day, and serves 10 scheduled airlines and numerous supplemental air carriers.

Chief of the tower is Edward C. Arri.

The seven team supervisors are: Phillip Clark, Donald Doolittle, Michael Fitzgerald, James Lindsey, Laurence Martin, Douglas Mott and Kenneth Pender. The rest of the tower roster includes: Mozelle Burr, Secretary; Robert Hoffsetz, Evaluation and Proficiency Development Specialist; Jimmy Shaw, Plans and Procedures Specialist; Robert LaChance, Data Systems Specialist; and the following Air Traffic Control Specialists: Sherill Bland, James Brenner, James Brownfield, Richard Bullock, John Chase, James Chivers, Junior Donner, Timothy Grady, Dale Green, Lorin Hansen, Craig Hillman, Edward Hughes, Leslie Johnson, Jr., Mike Laird, Marvin Moeller, Michael Moran, Rober Nyberg, Erik Sandberg, John Sanders, Dale Schatz, John Shaw, John Skinner, Edward Stoddard, Robert Stoneman, Gary Wolf and Frederick Booker, Jr. In Fiscal Year 1980, Reno Tower handled 270,373 takeoffs and landings. Tower equipment consists of an ASR-8 radar, ARTS II with four Radar Arts Display Systems in the TRACON and one BRITE-2 in the tower cab.

The solid state transmitters and receivers at two remote sites are maintained by Reno Airway Facilities Sector personnel.

Reno Tower has come a long way since Cannon International Airport was known as Hubbard Field. The airport now has an Instrument Landing System, Distance Measuring Equipment, a VORTAC, Visual Approach System Indicator (VASI) and Automatic Direction Finding equipment.

Pay Hike Passes First Test

President Reagan's proposal for a 4.8 percent Federal pay raise in October of this year has been approved by the Senate Budget Committee. The 4.8 percent cost-of-living raise is now expected to be okayed by the House Budget Committee and subsequently by the full Congress.

OPM Set to Help

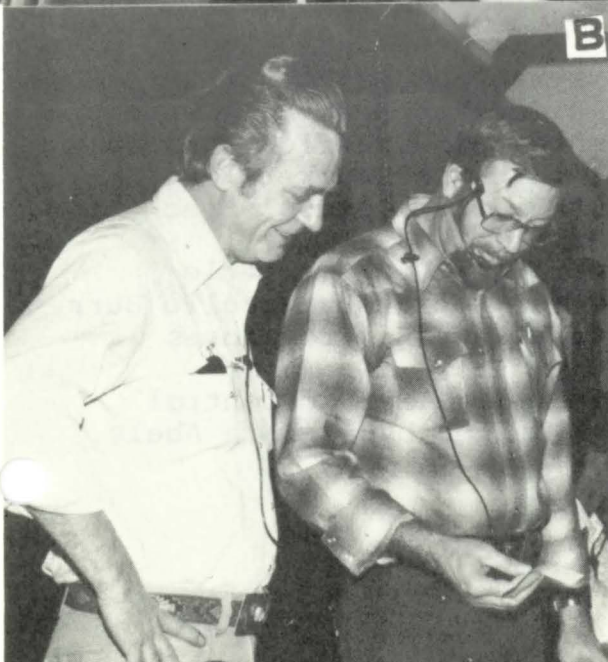
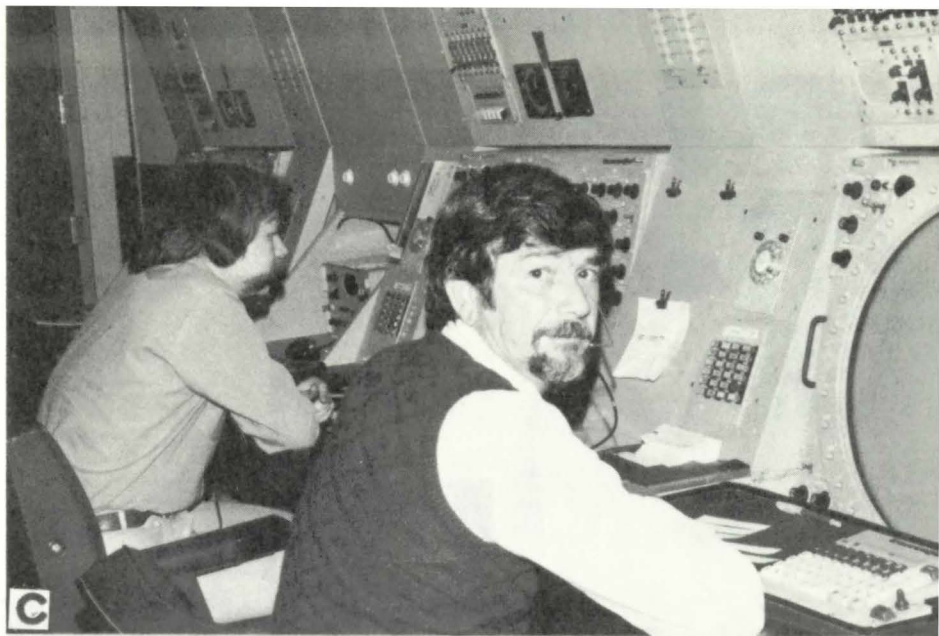
The Office of Personnel Management has announced that special efforts will be made to find jobs for Federal employees affected by the government-wide reduction-in-force (RIF). Donald J. Devine, director of the office, said, "While the President is clearly determined to reduce the size of Government, there is no desire or intention to hurt individual employees." He then went on to outline programs being set up to help persons affected by the RIF. The first of these programs, which are already in operation, insures that vacancies within Federal agencies, whenever possible, will be filled by persons who lost their jobs because of RIF.

The first tower was operated by United Airlines in 1942 for pilot training. CAA/FAA assumed operation of the tower in 1949 and began operation in their new building in 1976.

Many of today's Reno Controllers hold pilot certificates ranging from student to type ratings in jet aircraft.

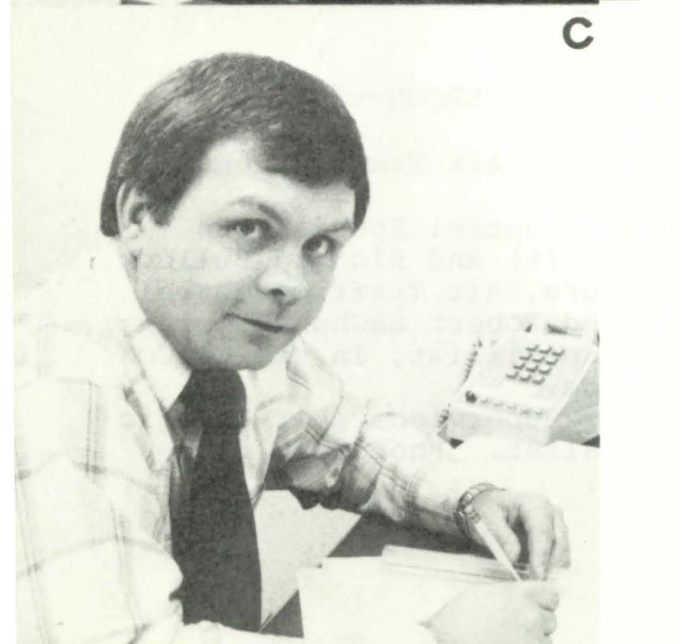
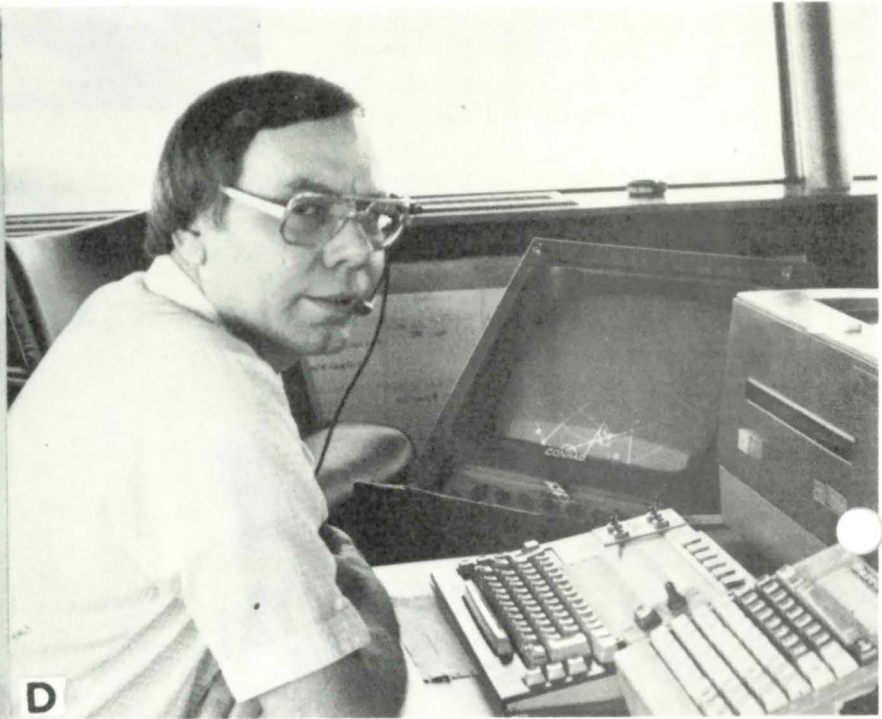
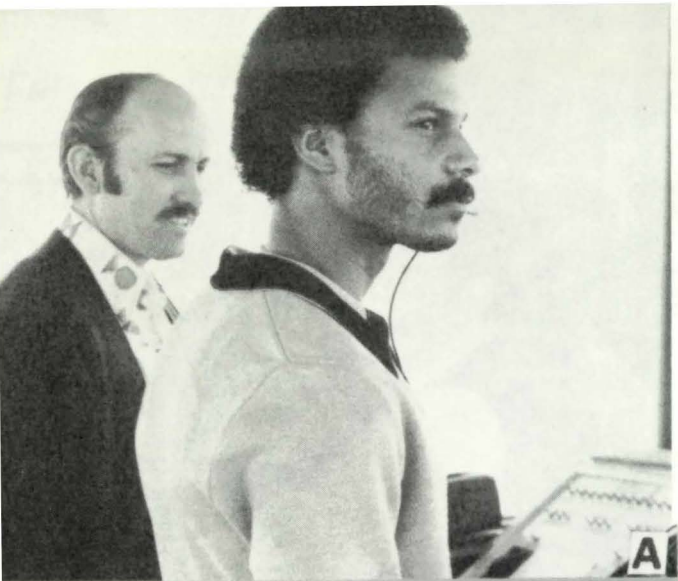
Cover photo shows Chief Ed Arri in front of Reno Tower. Cover photo by Barbara Abels.

Air Traffic
Controllers
At
Reno Tower



On duty the day INTERCOM visited Reno Tower were:
A--Sherill Bland, Air Traffic Control Specialist.
B--Air Traffic Control Specialists Ed Stoddard (left) and Richard Bullock.
C--Erik Sandburg, Air Traffic Control Specialist, and Robert LaChance (right), Data Systems Specialist, in the TRACON Operations Room.
D--Phil Clark, Supervisory Air Traffic Control Specialist. Photos by Barbara Abels.

More
Reno Tower
People



Other Reno personnel on duty when INTERCOM visited the Reno area were:
A--Gene Hughes, Air Traffic Control Specialist, with Fred Booker, Jr., (right), Air Traffic Control Specialist (Trainee).
B--Team Supervisor Don Doolittle with Reno Tower Secretary Mozelle Burr.
C--Jim Shaw, Plans and Procedures Specialist.
D--Dale Green, Air Traffic Control Specialist. Photos by Barbara Abels.

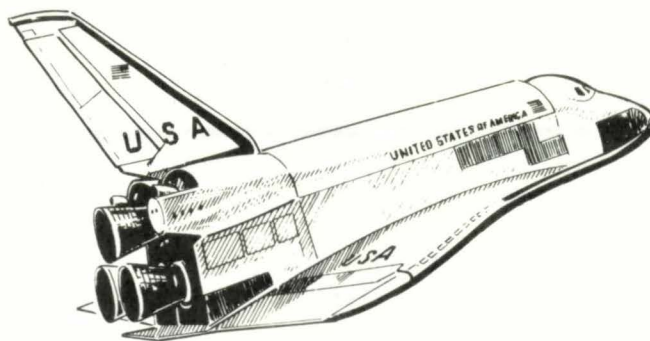
Western Region Teamwork For Space Shuttle

"I never saw anything move that fast on the radar before" is what John Clancy of the Edwards RAPCON said about the recent space shuttle landing. "Of course," he went on, "it was a kind of vague target. The Columbia has no transponder, and all we were getting was a primary radar return." Team supervisor Duane Rakotz also reported that the target was moving fast, but he wasn't sure how fast. "We were too busy making sure other airplanes stayed out of the way," he said. RAPCON deputy chief Ed Custer said employees, families and guests had a good view of the historic landing from the facility, which is on a hill overlooking the airbase. He also reported that the FAA building was shaken perceptibly by two sharp sonic booms while Columbia was making its approach.

Many Western Region people had a part in the Columbia's safe landing, involving coordination and cooperation at all levels.

The Los Angeles Center at Palmdale provided Johnson Space Center with support in critical monitoring of navigational aids and also supported Johnson Center and Edwards AFB in their airspace needs, including practice intercept missions during the week prior to launch. The Center also cooperated with Johnson Space Center in the preparation of contingency plans in the event of an early landing.

Flight Service Station specialists from the following stations monitored critical navigational aids and reported any changes in monitor indications: Douglas, Phoenix and Tucson, Ariz.; and Bakersfield, Oakland, Ontario, Paso Robles, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Salinas and Wm. J. Fox in Lancaster, Calif. Technicians from Airway Facilities Sectors at San Francisco, Oakland,



Fresno, Lancaster, Phoenix and San Diego were responsible for insuring that 14 of the Region's Tactical Air Navigation (TACAN) facilities were operational from the space shuttle's launch to recovery. As the shuttle approached the California coast at about 120,000 feet, it tuned into the TACAN facilities to receive ground navigation information to guide it to Edwards AFB. It also began to be tracked by the Paso Robles Long Range Radar system. Edwards Radar Approach Control (RAPCON personnel were mostly concerned with the coordination of air-space and keeping unauthorized aircraft clear of the airspace to be protected for the Columbia. Although Edwards RAPCON was busy, Edwards Controllers had the situation well in hand. Dave Smith, Plans and Procedures Specialist, did the coordination with Team Supervisors Duane Rakotz and Jan Redditt. Controllers Robert Worthington and Bill Shelton had the responsibility of maintaining a clear path for the Columbia in the Edwards RAPCON airspace.

Western Region Space Shuttle Coordinators were: Sam Tyson for Air Traffic Division and Bill Lindsey for Airway Facilities Division. It was FAA Teamwork with a capital "T". A "very well done" to all FAA personnel involved in this moment in history.



Western Intercom

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LAX Improvements To Be Discussed At Luncheon Meeting

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) is being improved with several large construction projects. If you would like to hear the Project Manager, Larry Heimerl, describe these projects and their schedules, mark your calendar for Tuesday, May 12. Mr. Heimerl will make the presentation at an 11:30 a.m. luncheon meeting of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Air Transport Group. The price is \$5.25 and it is not necessary to be an ASCE member to attend. For reservations, call Royal Mink, Regional Planning and Appraisal Officer, on 536-6231. The next program, scheduled for July 14, will be a field trip to LAX to view the projects discussed at this meeting. The field trip will be an evening function which will not include dinner. Make it a point to come to this meeting and see how this tremendous, complex facility is being made even better.

The News In Brief

Air traffic delays over 30 minutes were down 8.2 percent for the first three months of 1981, as compared with the same period in 1980. Weather-related delays accounted for 80 percent of the 1981 total in contrast to 87 percent last year and the historical average of about 85 percent. ● The Fort Worth Center is making noises like it wants to be No. 2 in the center rankings. It's moved from the seventh busiest in 1978 to fourth in 1980 to second so far in 1981. Maybe everyone is moving to the Sunbelt, because over-all center operations were off one percent in 1980 and were down another one percent in the first quarter of 1981. ● Low-level windshear alert systems are being installed at airports around the country at the rate of one a week. By this fall, 34 additional systems are expected to be operational, bringing the total operational systems up to 58. The system detects hazardous low-level windshear by continuously comparing the winds around the periphery of an airport with the wind measured at the center of the field.

Aviation Medical Division News

The Medical Division bid farewell to its Assistant Regional Flight Surgeon, E. "Bob" Carlson, M.D., with coffee and cookies on April 8. Many friends came by to wish him well as the Regional Flight Surgeon for New England. Congratulations to Lela Campbell in the Medical Office, Los Angeles Center, who was recently promoted from Secretary to Medical Records Technician. Harlan Sexton, son of Dr. Sexton, is a recent Ph.D. Math graduate of Stanford University and also was recently employed by the Naval Ocean Under Sea Research Center in San Diego.

Bernie Padget Earns Quality Within-Grade

Bernie Padget of the Las Vegas Airway Facilities Sector was recently presented with a Quality Within-Grade Increase Award by Sector Manager James Webb. Functioning as the Environmental Technician-In-Depth, Bernie plays a vital and influential role in the Sector's environmental program. He consistently exhibits a direct, no-nonsense approach to technical problems, which, augmented with a genuine desire to assist other technicians, has greatly enhanced environmental operations throughout the Sector. Photo by John Katsigenis.



Bernie Padget and Jim Webb



Paul Milani; Francis Osgood, Award Recipient; and Bob Nelson.

Oakland Airway Facilities Sector Awards Ceremony

Francis Osgood, Maintenance Mechanic from the Concord Sector Field Office, recently received a Special Achievement Award based on superior performance of assigned duties. The award was presented by Bob Nelson, Environmental Support Unit Supervisor. Also present at the awards ceremony was Paul Milani, Concord Sector Field Office Chief. The following Letters of Appreciation were also presented: From Bob Lamora, Manager, Sacramento Airway Facilities Sector, to Glenn Cross, Chief, Moffett Sector Field Office, and to his technicians, Pat Lucas, Paul Terry, Ernest Hicks, John Lavery, Ron Oberlercher and Harry Nieland, who provided in-depth and extensive training to one of the

Sacramento technicians on the ASR-5 radar; from Chief, Maintenance Engineering Branch to members of the Intergroup Working Relationships Group for their development of the draft index to Airway Facilities Division Engineering Notes, and from Jerry Long, Manager, Oakland Sector Office, to the same group, expressing his appreciation for their fine work. Photo by Jim Hansen.

Panel Studies Age 60 Rule

A National Academy of Sciences panel that spent 10 months studying the FAA rule requiring airline pilots to quit flying at 60 has found no medical basis for linking retirement to chronological age. The 21-member panel organized by the academy's Institute of Medicine said, "present knowledge is still too limited to permit a medical examination program that would detect all the aging-related changes that might be of importance to pilot safety and performance." It conceded that at least some pilot skills deteriorate with age, but said there is a great variation among individuals within any age group. What FAA should do, the panel noted, is develop a battery of medical tests that would weed out medical risks at all ages. It said the present semi-annual physical required for airline pilots should be less frequent but more thorough to detect possible crippling or incapacitating illnesses or tendencies. And it called for a thorough analysis of health data for pilots both over and under 60 in an effort to predict when chronological age increases the risk of accident and who is most likely to be affected. The panel's report is the first step in a review of FAA's "Age 60" retirement rule ordered by Congress in December 1979. The panel's report now goes to the National Institute of Aging of the National Institutes of Health, which will hold a series of public hearings on the subject beginning later this month. A report is scheduled to go to the Congress by September 1, recommending whether the "Age 60" rule should be abolished and what, if anything, should replace it.

Logistics Division

Beth Rollins was selected as Realty Specialist in the Real Estate and Utilities Branch. Beth had been occupying a temporary Joint Surveillance System position under the Airway Facilities Division, by physically located in the Real Estate and Utilities Branch. Congratulations, Beth. Chauncey Walker, Services Branch, received two Letters of Appreciation: one from Robert A. Vaughn, Chief, San Diego TRACON, for "above-average service" during the past few months, when a large amount of printing had been requested; the other from R. L. Devereaux, Chief, Flight Standards Division, for his support during the division's preparation for the recent Flight Standards Field Office Supervisor Merit Pay Performance Standards Meeting. Congratulations, Chauncey. Mario Holley and Michell Anderson, both Stay-in-School employees in the Services Branch, were presented with Career Service Emblems for having completed three years of service with the FAA. Congratulations Mario and Michell.

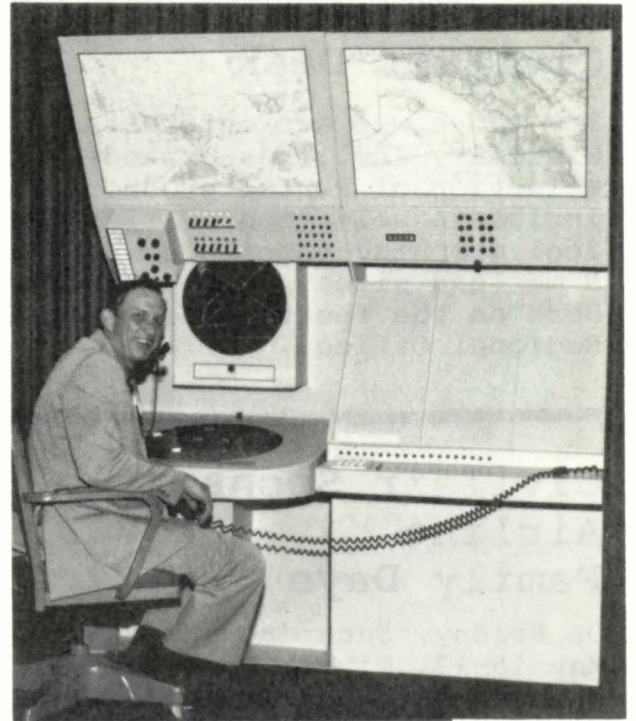
Sacramento Flight Service Station News

John South, Air Traffic Control Specialist, recently received a letter of congratulations from Wayne Rodrigues, Chief, Sacramento FSS, for completing 30 years of Federal service. The letter said, in part, "Dedication for 30 years of one's lifetime to a single career is a tremendous accomplishment. Your perseverance, daily devotion to your responsibilities, and your ability to strive for bigger and better things, I am sure, has been a tremendous help in attaining your desired goals."

Los Angeles Center

1963 Reunion

Over a year of planning culminated recently as an enthusiastic crowd of over 320 joined to celebrate the Los Angeles Air Route Traffic Control Center 1963 Reunion. Attendees from as far away as Washington, Atlanta, Kansas City, Denver, Seattle, Portland, Reno, San Francisco, Phoenix, San Diego and Los Angeles area welcomed local personnel at the Lancaster Elks Lodge. Those unable to come sent letters and telegrams wishing all an enjoyable evening.



Upper right-- The "63" theme prop--a replica of a 1963 radar sector constructed by Richard Cooper.

Middle--Part of the crowd of over 320 who renewed old friendships and reminisced about the "good old days."

Bottom--The Reunion Committee: (left to right) Bob Milligan, John Brown, Lee Joe Brown, Bob Drewlo, Kay Drewlo, Barbara Milligan, Maurine Eggers and Doug Eggers.

Photos by Eldred C. Reddick.



Civilair Desk

For those who are interested, Civilair, Inc., has expanded its selection of Pentel products to include a selection of fine mechanical graphing pencils using 3, 4 or 5 mm lead sizes. Visit the Civilair Desk on the fourth floor of the Regional Office.

Civilair Sponsors Airline Family Days '81

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 15-17, Civilair, Inc., will sponsor Airline Family Days '81 at Magic Mountain. Price of admission is \$7.50 (regularly \$10.50) for adults and \$5.95 for children. The one-price ticket buys a full day of fun. Unlimited use of more than 100 exciting rides, adventures and new shows. Tickets will be honored any one of the three days. Tickets must be purchased in advance. There will be no discounts on admission at the gate. Purchase your tickets from the Civilair Desk, Regional Office, 644-8525, and/or Valerie Sparks, Los Angeles Center, Palmdale, FTS 799-1011.

Reno AFS Awards

Two Special Achievement Awards were recently presented by Bill Dickinson, Assistant Manager, to Marvin Jensen and Ernie Morgan, Electronics Technicians, for commendable performance. Both of these technicians work at the Fallon Air Route Surveillance Radar. Several letters of commendation have been presented for excelling in performance. These were presented to Warren Tetz, Technician-in-Depth (Nav/Com); Phillip A. Utter, Maintenance Mechanic; Jack D. Neely, Engineering Technician, and Fred E. Holmes, Electronics Technician.

GSA Proposes Moving Allowance Hike

The General Services Administration has proposed higher relocation allowances for Federal employees transferring to a new job "in the interest of the Government." GSA said it is taking this action because of complaints by Federal agencies that financial hardships on employees were making it difficult to get well-qualified and experienced personnel to relocate. The proposals would hike the amount allowed an employee for the sale of a residence to \$15,000 or 10 percent of the sale price (whichever is less) from \$8,000 or 10 percent. And the limitation on reimbursable expenses for the purchase of a residence would jump from \$4,000 or 5 percent of the purchase price to \$5,000 or 10 percent. Also increased would be the expenses allowed while living in temporary quarters, and the maximum time allowed for a house-hunting trip would be extended from six to ten days.

FAA Bowling Banquet To Be Held May 15

The FAA Mixed Four Bowling Banquet will be held at Del Conte's Restaurant in Torrance, Calif., on May 15, 6 p.m. All substitutes, spouses, etc., who wish to attend may purchase tickets from Eileen Colligan, Air Traffic Plans and Programs Branch, ext. 6343, for \$11.25. Please make checks payable to Irene Smith or FAA Bowling League. Your banquet ticket will be your door prize entry. No tickets will be sold at the door or after May 8.

Thanks From Retiree

Madelene Babin, recently retired Flight Standards Division secretary, wishes to thank all of her FAA friends for the coffee hour, lovely Lennox vase and serving plate, and all the good wishes, cards and special thoughts. Madelene says, "I have met some fine people and made some very good friends. I have enjoyed all the great people I have worked with during the past nine years with the FAA Western Region."

Records Supplement Cancelled

The following has been cancelled and should be removed from the directives system: WE Supplement 1 to Order 1350.15A, Records Organization, Transfer and Destruction Standards.

Payroll Number Needed

During the week of April 27, a payroll report will be distributed to all employees whose salary check is going to a financial organization. All employees receiving these reports must verify the accuracy of their financial institution account number on the report. If there is a discrepancy, they must advise their payroll offices.

Don't Forget To Set Your Clocks Ahead

Just a reminder--don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, April 26. Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. on Sunday. If you prefer, however, you may turn your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night. This does not, of course, apply to Arizona which will remain on Standard Time.

Community Outreach and Aviation Education Go Hand In Hand

Vic Katz, Sacramento Tower Chief and Aviation Education Specialist, has discovered that Community Outreach and Aviation Education go hand in hand. One hundred and five students at Sacramento City College recently signed up for an Air Traffic Control career exposure course sponsored by Vic. The class, 16 weeks of Air Traffic Control overview, taught by Art Grueneberger, Executive Airport Tower Chief, began February 3 and will run through June. The course material is designed to make students aware of FAA hiring practices, special programs and recruitment policies with special emphasis on gaining minimum hiring qualifications. "How can I get there from here?" Of the three community colleges in the area, Sacramento City College was chosen because of its large minority enrollment. Sixty percent of the class are either women or minorities. The unusual high interest in this course was made possible by the assistance of the Sacramento Bee newspaper who agreed to promote the class with a two-page news article highlighting the career field and the City College class.

Burbank TRACON To Cut Over

The Burbank TRACON is now scheduled to cut over to a new building at 12:01 a.m., April 27. The new facility, built on a 1.96-acre plot at the airport, will house the latest Air Traffic Control equipment, including ARTS III and solid-state air/ground radios. The tower, including the TRACON, is headed by Dean R. Cooper and is staffed by 52 controllers and 10 team supervisors.

Watch Those Telephone Calls

DOT currently is conducting an all-out campaign to reduce the costs of long-distance telephone service. Employees are reminded that they must use FTS instead of commercial long distance whenever possible. Moreover, DOT notes that a little advance planning will help keep calls short and to the point. And it should go without saying that FTS is for official government business calls only. An employee who must make a personal long distance call during business hours should dial nine for an outside line, then zero, and then the area code and number he or she wants. The operator will come on the line next and can be given the home telephone number of the person making the call. In this way, the employee will be billed by the telephone company and not disciplined by the Federal government.

Sexual Harassment-- Fact or Fiction?

Is sexual harassment a serious problem in the Western Region? The Civil Rights Staff, with the aid of the region's Federal Women's Subcommittee, is conducting an employee survey to find an answer. A short questionnaire was recently distributed to approximately 1500 employees chosen at random by office chiefs. The survey includes both men and women, supervisory and nonsupervisory employees. Answering the questionnaire is purely voluntary on the employee's part. A recent study by the Merit Systems Protection Board revealed that sexual harassment in the Federal government is widespread, with 42 percent of the government's women workers and 15.3 percent of its men

Los Angeles FSS Participates In Career Awareness Week

Jim (JZ) Gomez and Leroy Hilton of Los Angeles Flight Service Station recently assisted Albert Monroe Jr. High School during their Career Awareness Week. The Flight Service Specialists showed the FAA film, "How to Succeed Without Really Flying" which deals with choosing air traffic control as a career. Following the film there was a question and answer session. In all, 102 pupils from the seventh, eighth and ninth grades attended the showings.

workers claiming some form of sexual harassment in the past two years. While it is believed that sexual harassment is not as widespread in the Western Region as it is government-wide, this survey is an effort to determine if, in fact, problems do exist, and what corrective, preventive measures are needed. The Office of Personnel Management and U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission have issued guidelines to Federal agencies which stress preventive measures. Under the guidelines, Federal employers are held liable for sexual harassment committed by their agents, supervisors and coworkers unless it is shown that employers took immediate and appropriate corrective action. In recent cases involving employers who were unaware of specific sexual harassment acts, the courts still found employers liable because they could not demonstrate that conscious, preventive measures were in place to preclude such acts from occurring. Results of the survey will appear in a future INTERCOM. If you did not receive a questionnaire and want to complete one, contact the Civil Rights Staff, AWE-9.