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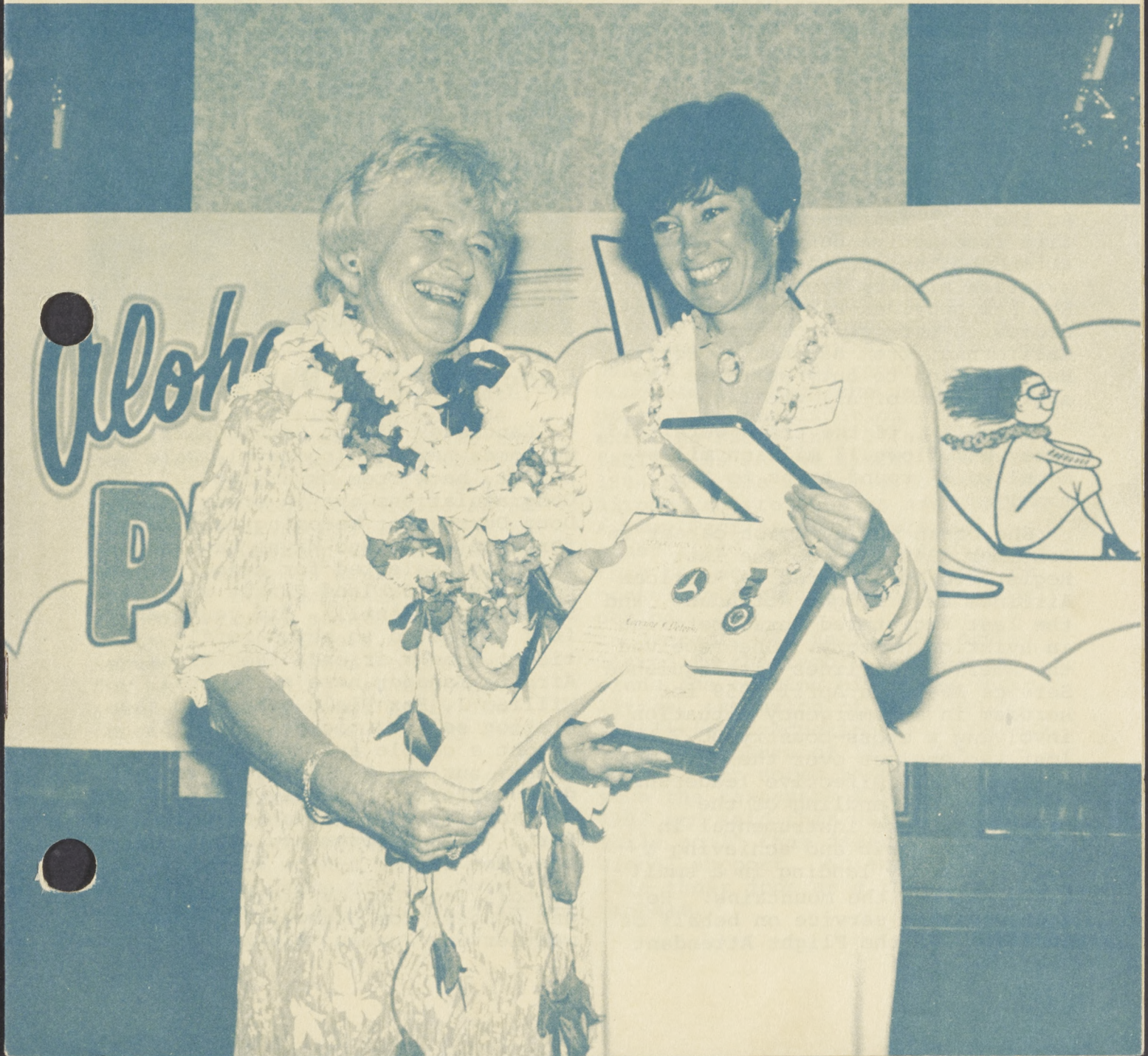
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U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Western-Pacific Intercom



Cover Story

Lorraine "Petey" Peterson, American Airlines' oldest stewardess, has retired after nearly 43 years of service.

At a gala retirement party held by fellow flight attendants in her honor, Peterson was awarded the FAA Award for Distinguished Service along with a personal note from FAA Administrator J. Lynn Helms. Presentation was made on behalf of the Administrator by Sharon Barthelmiss, Aircraft Cabin Safety Specialist, Office of Aviation Safety.

The citation read:

"In recognition of her distinguished career spanning 43 years as a flight attendant with American Airlines. As the last registered nurse to retire from active duty as a flight attendant, her career spanned aviation history from props to jets. She has provided air travelers with dedicated service from Maine to California, from Bangkok to Berlin. Her devotion to duty warrants the appreciation of all who fly."

Actually, if the truth were told, Petey has flown 13 million miles--equal to 27 round trips to the moon!

She began her aviation career in December 1940 and was the last Registered Nurse hired by American Airlines as a Flight Attendant, and the last Registered Nurse retiring in aviation history. She received the American Airlines Distinguished Service Award in April 1959 for heroism in an emergency situation involving a cross-country DC-7 that lost two engines over the Colorado Rockies. Her effective leadership and skillful handling of the passengers were instrumental in preventing panic and achieving a safe emergency landing in a small field between the mountains. Her distinguished service on behalf of aviation and the Flight Attendant

profession fully warranted special recognition by the FAA.

Cover photo: Lorraine I. "Petey" Peterson (left) receives the FAA Award for Distinguished Service from Sharon Barthelmiss, Office of Aviation Safety, Washington headquarters. Photo by Barbara Abels.



Lancaster FSS News

Lancaster Flight Service Station welcomes new developmental, Dale Conner, back from Oklahoma..... Congratulations are in order for Doug Dorrow for becoming full performance level and Wayne Hawkins for being selected for a journeyman position at Oakland Flight Service Station.....Finally, did you ever feel obligated to buy a raffle ticket from a friend? Bob Slade, Airport Manager here at General William J. Fox Field came into the station selling tickets. We all bought a couple and, to our surprise, our own Tom Bramwell won the darn contest. A 10-day cruise for two to Alaska is not a bad prize for a \$5.00 investment. Bon Voyage, Tom.

Photo: Dale Conner (foreground) and winner, Tom Bramwell, checking weather for Juneau, Alaska.

New OPM Rules Affect Pay, Promotions and RIFs

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has issued new rules governing the pay, promotion, and job security of Federal employees. In general, the rules put more emphasis on job performance and less on seniority in determining who gets a within-grade raise and who survives a reduction in force. The new rules, except those pertaining to merit pay, will go into effect November 25, unless blocked by Congress.

Under the new system, employees will be rated as either Outstanding, Exceeds Fully Successful, Fully Successful, Minimally Satisfactory, or Unsatisfactory. Within-grade pay increases will require at least a Fully Successful rating. Higher ratings will be eligible for other cash awards.

Also, under the new pay rules, merit pay employees performing fully successful will receive full annual comparability raises as well as raises equal to within-grade increases when appropriate.

Some promotions also will be linked to these ratings under the new system. In addition, the system sets up a job-security point system that would determine an employee's ranking within his or her retention subgroup in the event of a RIF. Employees would receive one point for each year of service with additional points for good ratings. For example, 10 extra service points would be awarded for an Outstanding rating, seven points for an Exceeds Fully Successful and five for a Fully Successful.

This means that an employee with six years service and three Outstanding ratings in each of the past years would stand higher than a fellow worker in the same retention subgroup with 20 years and three Fully Successful ratings.

Consolidation Cuts Costs, Administrator Says

The consolidation of the present flight service station network into 61 automated facilities--to quote the Administrator--"is the only cost effective means of meeting the growing demand for flight services."

Testifying before a Congressional subcommittee on October 25, the Administrator said the automated systems of flight service stations "will provide a level of service which is equal to or better than that currently available for over 300 labor-intensive facilities located throughout the country."

In addition, he noted the unit cost of flight services will decline significantly under the new system. He estimated that automation will permit the number of flight services per position to increase from the present average of 13,900 to 29,700 in 1993.

The Administrator's testimony before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation expanded on a recent report to the Congress in which the agency proposed the consolidation of 104 existing FSS's into 37 automated facilities in the fiscal years 1984-86. The report also covered airport control towers and TRACONS, Airway Facilities Sectors and other field offices and facilities that the agency plans to close or consolidate during the three-year period.

Overall, 252 facilities are listed in the report. These include the opening of 41 new facilities, expansion of 24 existing facilities, reduction of 15 others and the closure of 172. The Administrator noted that this would save the taxpayers \$250 million by 1993 and said this was a "worthwhile goal" that deserved Congressional support. No employees will lose their jobs as a result of the program.

Second Annual Airport Safety Seminar - Reno

The Reno General Aviation District Office recently conducted the Second Annual Airport Safety Seminar with the Nevada Air National Guard as the Host. The following guest speakers participated in the seminar: Alan Crawford, Senior Air Safety Investigator, NTSB, presented Accident Investigation - Responsibilities; Bruce Wick, Special Agent, FBI Reno Office, presented FBI's Responsibilities - Aircraft Hijacking; George Workman, Aero Info Service, presented the Density Altitude Display; Raymond Lubowski, Manager, Planning and Engineering, Reno International Airport, presented future plans for Reno International Airport; Brent Shiner, Airport Manager from South Lake Tahoe Airport, presented a briefing on the South Lake Tahoe Airport Safety Committee; Art Bergman, Accident Prevention Counselor, gave a briefing on the Mammoth-June Lakes Airport Safety Committee activity; Ernest McIntosh, Airport Certification Safety Inspector from Los Angeles R.O., presented Airport Safety and Certification; Carl Borchers, Reno Accident Prevention Specialist, presented Airport Safety, Airport Safety Committee Operations, and recent aviation accidents; Dennis Cameron, Special Agent, U. S. Department of Justice, presented aircraft/drug enforcement; Joe Brownlee, Accident Prevention Counselor, presented a briefing on the Reno/Stead Airport Safety Committee; George Edmondson, Airport Manager, Truckee-Tahoe Airport, gave a briefing on the Truckee-Tahoe Airport; Major Richard Hoadley, Chief of Safety, Nevada Air National Guard and Host for the seminar, presented the Mission of the Nevada Air National Guard; and Captain Darrel Cain, Reno International Airport Fire Department Captain, presented a demonstration of Crash/Fire/Rescue equipment.



The Second Annual Airport Safety Seminar was attended by Airport Managers, Fixed Base Operators, Accident Prevention Counselors, Police and Fire Departments, and the U. S. Air Force Auxiliary - Civil Air Patrol from Nevada and California.

Above photo: Edge Ritter, Manager, Reno General Aviation District Office, preflights an F-4 aircraft at the Nevada Air National Guard Hangar at the Second Annual Airport Safety Seminar in Reno.

Below: Reno International Airport Fire Department personnel demonstrate their fire equipment to the news media and guests.



Left photo: From left--
June Borchers, Accident
Prevention Counselor;
Lila Ferrel, Chairperson,
Reno 99s; and Mildred
Freeman, Reno GADO,
register guests to the
Second Annual Airport
Safety Seminar.

Right: Major Richard Hoadley, Chief of
Safety, Nevada Air National Guard, was
host and one of the guest speakers. Here
Maj. Hoadley explains the operation of
the aircraft (F-4s) in the Nevada Air
National Guard. Maj. Hoadley is also an
FAA Accident Prevention Counselor.



Alan L. Crawford, Senior
Air Safety Investigator
for the National Trans-
portation Safety Board,
Los Angeles, one of the
guest speakers.

More Airport Seminar. . .

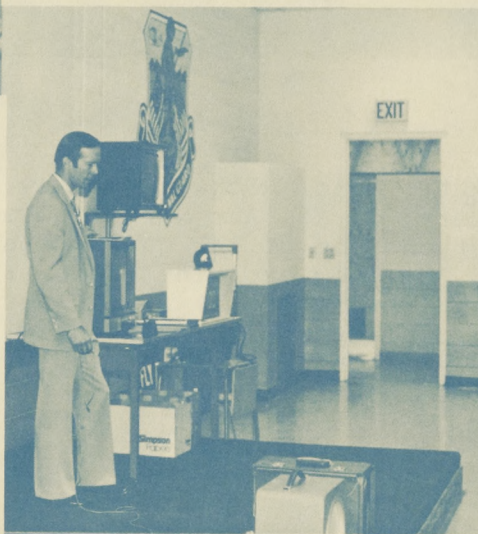


Left: Some of the many attendees at the Airport Safety Seminar at Reno which included airport managers, fixed base operators, fire and police departments, accident prevention counselors, the FBI, Department of Justice and the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary - Civil Air Patrol.

Right photo: Bruce Wick, Special Agent, FBI Reno Office, one of the special guest speakers at the seminar.

Below: Left--Ernest McIntosh, Airport Certification Safety Inspector, Regional Office, addresses the attentive group.

Story and photos courtesy of Carl Borchers, Reno GADO.



Art Woolston

Retirement Dinner/Dance, Jan. 21, 1984

The one and only Chief of Palm Springs TRACAB, after a mere 41 years of Government service, including 17 years at Palm Springs, is leaving. Yes, Art Woolston is retiring. We who care about him are hosting in his honor an evening of merrymaking and hope all his friends will be there to share the joy with him. The evening will start with a no-host cocktail hour at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. Chicken, baked and stuffed with apples and almonds, and Red Snapper, Mexican style with melted cheese, are the entree choices. There will be a fantastic band and dancing, dancing.

The place: The Gene Autry Hotel; the cost: \$20 per person, including tax, tip and gift. For reservations, please make checks payable to Art Woolston Retirement Dinner and mail to Palm Springs TRACAB, 210 N. El Cielo Rd., Palm Springs, CA 92262.

Paid reservations must be received by Dec. 22. A limited number of rooms have been reserved for our overnight friends. For further information, call Geri Sporman, 619/327-1546.

Guam AFS News



Congratulations to the following Guam Airway Facilities Sector personnel who recently received Career Service Emblems: 3 years - Elizabeth Matanane, Administrative Services Clerk; 25 years - Pedro Pascua, Supervisor, NAV/COMM Unit, Samoa Sector Field Office and James Ching, Electronics Technician, Radar Unit.

AF Division

Christmas Luncheon

The Airway Facilities Christmas luncheon will be Friday, Dec. 16, at the Hawthorne Moose Lodge, 13212 Inglewood Ave., Hawthorne, CA. A no-host adjustment period will begin at 11:30 with lunch and professional entertainment to follow. Cost = \$6.50/person (includes lunch and entertainment).

If you would like to attend, please contact Gayle Hodges, AWP-400a, 536-6150. Reservations must be made and monies paid No Later Than Monday, Dec. 12. Please make checks payable to Gayle Hodges. You won't want to miss this one - get your reservations early!!

Beatrice (Bea) Heil Gala Retirement Party

The Training Branch has set Dec. 16 as the BIG DAY for Bea at the Hacienda Hotel, North Starlite Room. Make your plans now to attend and don't forget to mark your calendar. Reservations are now being accepted by Liz Lewis at Ext. 6220. Flyers will be coming around soon.

Employee Benefits Update

Blue Cross of California

Effective August 1, 1983, Federal Employees in SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Tulare and Ventura Counties) can have their HOSPITAL CLAIM questions answered by simply calling 800-622-3360 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

AETNA

The phone number has changed for the Employee Benefits Division, FEHBA Unit. As of October 14, 1983 you may reach them on 203-636-7557.

Two More Towers Open

Two more airport traffic control towers closed since the August 1981 strike reopened for business in mid-October.

The Santa Fe, N.M., tower reopened October 16 and will operate from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. 7 days a week. Detailed to the tower are an acting manager and four controllers, two of whom came on board after the strike.

The Hawkins Field Tower in Jackson, Miss., reopened October 17. Its hours are 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. 7 days a week. All five controllers and the ATC manager are FAA veterans.

Other towers scheduled to reopen in the near future include San Antonio, Texas, November 20; Shreveport, La., December 4; and Albert Whitted Field, St. Petersburg, Fla., and Tuscaloosa, Ala., both of which are scheduled to reopen in early 1984.

Smoke Detector Rule Being Drafted

The agency is developing a notice of proposed rule making (NPRM) that would require smoke detectors in lavatories and galleys on airline aircraft. Issuance of the NPRM would be the third major action by FAA in recent weeks to improve fire safety in airline operations. The agency previously issued NPRMs that would require installation of (1) seat cushions covered by a fire blocking layer and (2) an additional emergency escape path lighting/markings system.

In a letter to Representative Elliott H. Levitas (D-Ga), the Administrator noted that the agency had issued a series of Airworthiness Directives several years ago "to correct deficiencies in cabin lavatory fire protection," but said more recent events indicate that additional measures may be necessary. Therefore, he added, FAA is proceeding "on a priority basis" to draft an NPRM requiring the installation of smoke detection systems.

You Can Take a Good Photo

A snapshot is not a photo. By just observing a few simple rules of thumb, you can very easily take better photos for yourself and for submission to INTERCOM.

In the Sept. 5, 1983 Ragan Report, Phil Douglis gives three tips for photographers:

- First, get closer to your subject. He quotes photojournalist Robert Capa as saying, "If your pictures aren't any good, you're not close enough."

- Second, shoot up, not down, on your subjects. "One of the greatest problems we find among beginners is the 'shoot-from-shoulder-high' disease." He explains that by shooting from a lower camera position, you can get the floor out of the picture and lose some of the background clutter.

- Third, open up your lens as far as it will go. This will soften the background and make your subject stand out more.

Finally--remember that INTERCOM needs black and white glossy photos. The identification should be clearly indicated on a separate sheet of bond paper. You may tape this sheet to the back of the photo. Never, never, however, staple the sheet to the photo -- and also, never paperclip the photo. It will leave a mark that might show up in print.

Keep the photos and articles coming. Send all submissions to: AWP-5.



FAA INTERCOM is published weekly for Western-Pacific Region employees of the Department of Transportation/Federal Aviation Administration by the Public Affairs Office. Articles and black and white photographs should be sent to Barbara Abels, Editor, or Beth Caughey, Assistant Editor, AWP-5, 213/536-6431 or FTS 966-6431.

Herman Bliss Honored

During the Annual Southwest Chapter, American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) Regional Conference, the Robert H. Wanamaker Award was presented to Herman Bliss, Manager, Airports Division, Western-Pacific Region. The award is made on a selective basis to those individuals who have had an extensive and significant role in programs which aided aviation; made major contributions toward the solution of airport problems;

contributed to the advancement of airports in engineering, design or innovative concepts; and provided leadership in establishing programs which have bettered Southwest Chapter AAAE airports or aviation in its entirety. The citation recognized the efforts of the Airports Division in improving airport safety and capacity. The Robert Wanamaker award was established by the California Association of Airport Executives (CAAE) to honor the memory of Robert Wanamaker, a long-time member of the Association and executive emeritus, who lost his life in flight. He was past president of CAAE and owner/operator of El Monte Airport. The California Association of Airport Executives prizes this award very highly and it is awarded only to those candidates that CAAE feels to be deserving of the honor. Our FAA family is proud of Herman and extends congratulations on the receipt of this prestigious award.

Above photo: Herman Bliss receives congratulations from Regional Director "Mac" McClure as his secretary, Iris Noguchi (right) and Summer Aid Lilia Vega admire the plaque.



Red Bluff Sector Letters of Appreciation

Congratulations to the following employees who recently received Letters of Appreciation: Marvin Walker, Electronics Technician, Red Bluff Airway Facilities Sector Field Office Nav/Com Unit from the Field Office Manager at Ukiah; Ronald Riberal, Technical Support Officer, Red Bluff Sector and Robert Warnke, Technician-In-Charge, Crescent City Airway Facilities Sector Field Office Unit from As-

sistant Manager, San Francisco AFS; Fredrick Cox, Electronics Technician (Relief), Red Bluff Sector and Robin Lampson, Electronics Technician, Marysville Airway Facility Sector Field Office from the Manager, Santa Barbara AFS; Felix Schneider, Technician-In-Depth Radar, Red Bluff Sector and Jack Feather, Electronics Technician, Crescent City Radar from the Manager, Mill Valley Field Office.

Marysville FSS News

Marcia Sessions transferred to Marysville Flight Service Station from Yuma FSS. Since her arrival, she has received outstanding briefing remarks from the Regional Office National Weather Service and a Letter of Appreciation from the Area Supervisor for her sustained quality weather briefings. She is a valued employee and an asset to this facility.....Bob La Bonte is trying to beat all records at this facility; his youngest daughter just had her first child which makes Bob "Grandpa" with all his children. We keep telling Bob there's no need to set a big record as no one else has children beyond the grammar school age. Bob is a proud grandpa and we are proud of him.....Gerry Marenich is busy trying to maintain a straight "A" average in a computer class at Sacramento's new University; good going, Gerry.....Congratulations to Bob Thompson who received a Quality Increase Award for outstanding performance. Bob was presented the award by Susan Gilliland, Area Supervisor. This outstanding performance will soon be our loss and Fresno FSS's gain; Bob was recently



selected as the Evaluation and Proficiency Development Specialist at Fresno.....Our thanks to Chuck Raper, Henry Dyer and Orv Nelson for helping out during a staffing shortage while some of the Specialists took a needed vacation. These Specialists are assigned to the Sacramento FSS.

Photo: Marcia Sessions (left), and Bob Thompson, Air Traffic Control Specialists, Marysville Flight Service Station.



Helen Swift

Friends of Helen Swift will be saddened to hear that she passed away suddenly on October 31. Helen was formerly in the Training Branch, and was a long-time member of FAA Toastmasters. She will be missed by her many friends in the Western-Pacific Region, and those now retired. Cards and remembrances can be sent to her daughter: Mrs. Jeanne Dailey, 25033 South Beeson Road, Beaver Creek, Oregon, 97004.

Airport Safety Examined

It takes a lot of planning to change a Federal Aviation Regulation. FAA will propose changes in the airport certification rules, (Part 139) next year, and already is holding workshops to discuss these changes and the other matters that affect operational safety.

On October 4-6, airport inspectors and supervisors from nine regions and headquarters met to cover such topics as airport crash/fire rescue, aviation fuel handling, and runway marking and lighting. Participants also heard from representatives of the National Transportation Safety Board and the Air Transport Association.

New "Sister Tower" Program

El Monte Tower has come up with a refreshing and new idea that we thought we would share with other Towers and Flight Service Stations. Everyone is familiar with the practice of cities adopting a "SISTER CITY" with which to share a common-bond relationship, to share ideas, practices, etc. El Monte has initiated a "SISTER TOWER" program with a like-level facility somewhere within the United States. As far as we know the program is a new one and we certainly support the idea. For example, candidates can be chosen from the Operational Activities Register that are similar to your facility. Then have the facility's HR committee formulate a listing of these facilities for all controllers to make their choice. A letter can be formulated to the facility chosen asking their support in the program, along with a biography of your facility. If your facility is interested in such a program, please contact El Monte Tower for more details.

Hatch Act Reviewed

The political season is upon us once again, prompting a reminder from the Office of Labor Relations that certain partisan political activities in both primary and general elections are governed by the Hatch Act.

Here is ALR's list of what Federal employees may do:

- register and vote,
- assist in voter registration,
- express opinions,
- participate in non-partisan campaigns,
- attend fund-raising functions and contribute money,
- display political badges and attend political rallies,
- join a political club and sign nominating petitions.

On the other hand, the Hatch Act says Federal employees may not:

- campaign for partisan candidates or political parties,
- register voters for one party only,
- make partisan speeches,
- be a partisan candidate,
- organize or manage rallies,
- be a political party officer,
- participate in fund raising.

Dale Kuhn Receives 40-Year Pin

Dale Kuhn (left), Supervisor, Systems and Programming Section, Management Systems Division, was recently presented his 40-year Career Service Emblem by Western-Pacific Region Director "Mac" McClure. Congratulations, Dale!



THANKSGIVING



It's thanks giving time again. It is a time for taking stock of ourselves and giving thanks for our good fortune, for our families--both at home and at the FAA--and to express appreciation to those around us who have enriched our lives. Let us, indeed, celebrate this Thanksgiving Day by giving thanks for all our blessings!