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Nov. 3, 1986

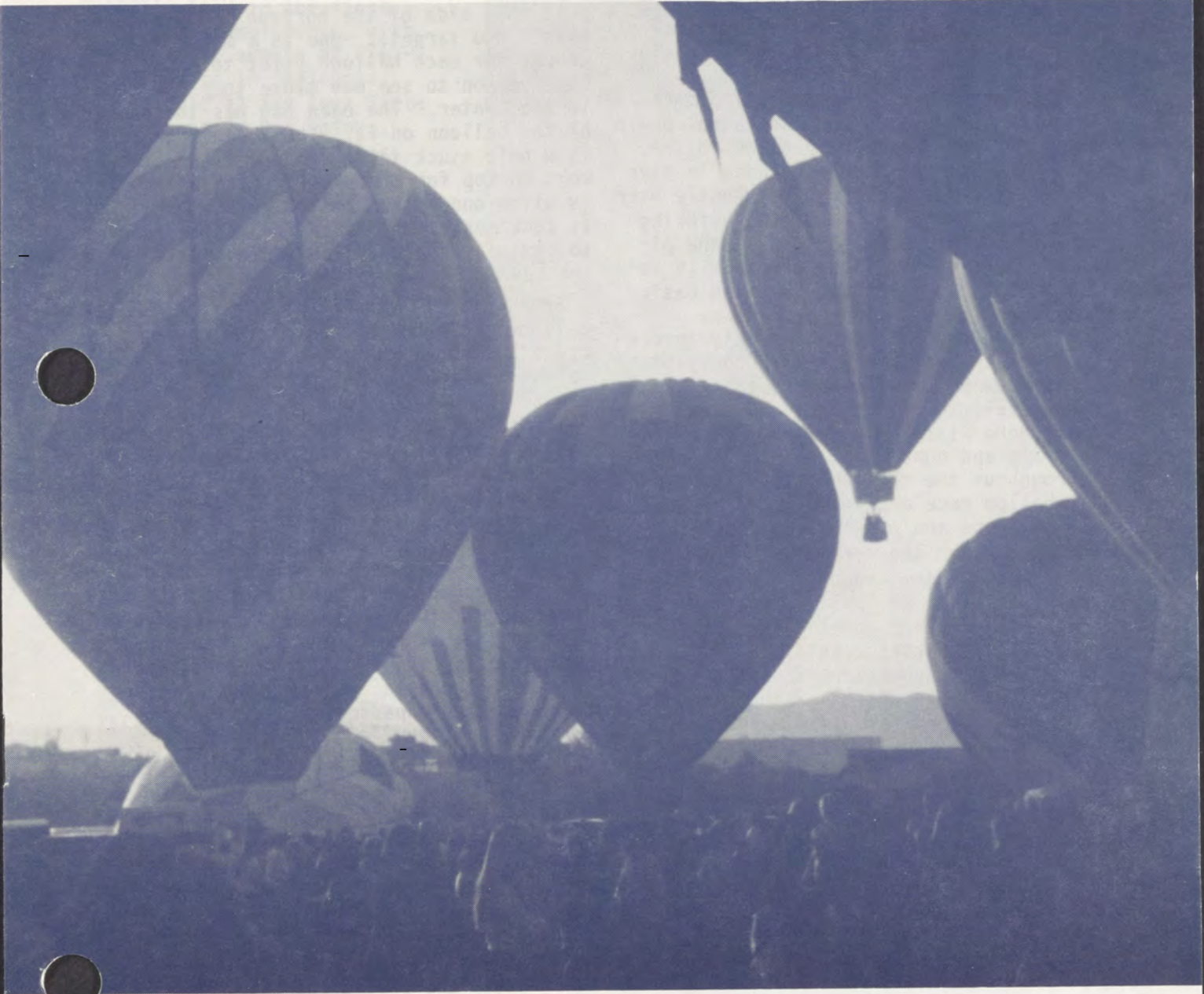
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AWP-5

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

Western-Pacific Intercom



UP, UP AND AWAY
WITH THE FAA

Cover Story

by Russ Park

The scene is Rancho San Rafael Park, one mile north of downtown Reno, Nevada, the temperature is cool (in the high 30's) and it is still pitch black at 5 a.m. It is the first Sunday in September and the last day of the Fifth Great Reno Balloon Race. Around the race headquarters, the FAA has been working quietly doing the job it's been doing for many months. There's an organized frenzy as 114 Balloons, their crews and support groups go about their business of preparing for competition for the \$10,000 prize money.

In the background, three specially-equipped balloons designated the Dawn Patrol begin their ascent. As they slowly climb in the darkness, the bag gasses are changed to give off a white glow as they move out gently over the Reno sky. Small FAA certified blinking lights hang beneath each gondola as the pilots guide them in the light breeze. In actuality, a balloon pilot only has two basic controls over the vehicle--up or down.

The night before, the park had only traces of the first two days events with concession stands restocking for the anticipated record 82,000 people three-day crowd, a barren stage where the Reno Dixieland Band, the Sierra Nevada Chorale and numerous cabaret acts entertain throughout the mornings, displays and a special balloon race art exhibit. The area is base of balloons and people.

But then through the morning darkness, the public address system announces "there will be a pilot briefing at 5:45 a.m. at the race headquarters," and the morning crowd starts to move a little faster. Gathered in the crowd near race headquarters is Frank Kellogg, Manager of Reno Flight Standards District Office. He and Ron Steele and Bill Spooner have been checking pilot certifications, registrations, log books. They work around the year with the race committee to determine and monitor crowd control and monitor all safety. Valentine "Ski" Pisarski, Manager of the Reno Flight Service Station also works around the year with the race committee and provides information for the pilot briefings and coordination in the Reno area. Jim Panter, Manager, Reno Air Traffic Control Tower and Larry Martin provide information and coordination throughout the year and in the morning darkness brief pilots on frequencies for towers and give out

guidelines on in-flight altitudes, directions and obstacles in relationship to airport approach and airspace.

Safety is the main theme of the FAA people at the event and it has proved to be very successful over the five years of the west.

Shortly after 6 a.m., the area north of race headquarters takes on a completely new shape as 114 hot air balloons start to take shape as gas is burned into each colorful bag.

About 6:15, the hare balloon takes off and heads out to the North East. At a location just this side of the horizon it hovers and plants two targets. One is a mark on the ground for each balloon pilot to drop a bean-bag on to see how close they can come to the center. The bean bag has the number of the balloon on it. The second "target" is a pole stuck in the ground with a set of keys on top for a new car. Each balloonist is given one "pass" at the pole. As it was, it took most of the race for one balloonist to get near the pole and successfully "grab" the keys.

From 6:45 till shortly after 7, these 114 balloons "climbed out" over the waving crowd and above the music of the Reno Philharmonic which played appropriate background music throughout the morning.

Throughout the morning, the crowd listens to the music of the assembled bands, moves from booth to booth looking for race souvenirs and getting something to eat, as the race announcer gives out details on the public address system on details of the event.

By 10:30, most of the balloons are down and the ground crews have returned the balloon and pilots back to the race headquarters for the award ceremony. The crowd is waking-up for the second time this morning and the FAA people are happy that another major event has passed with a safe time for all.

HISTORY OF BALLOONING

The Montgolfier brothers of France are credited with development of the hot air balloon, and the first flight was recorded in Paris 200 years ago on November 21, 1783. For the next 180 years gas balloons, which offered increased lift and endurance, were used in science, war, commerce and sport.

Not until the 1960's, with the development of lightweight synthetic fabrics and onboard propane-fueled heater systems, did hot air ballooning experience a dramatic revival.

America led the resurgence of hot air ballooning and today it has become one of the most rapidly growing sports in the nation.

As in almost any sporting activity, enthusiasts developed competitive events to demonstrate their skill. In 1966 the Balloon Federation of America (BFA) was formed. In 1970 sixteen balloons participated in the first national championship, with preliminary events at Simpson College in Indianola, and finals at the Iowa State Fairground in Des Moines.

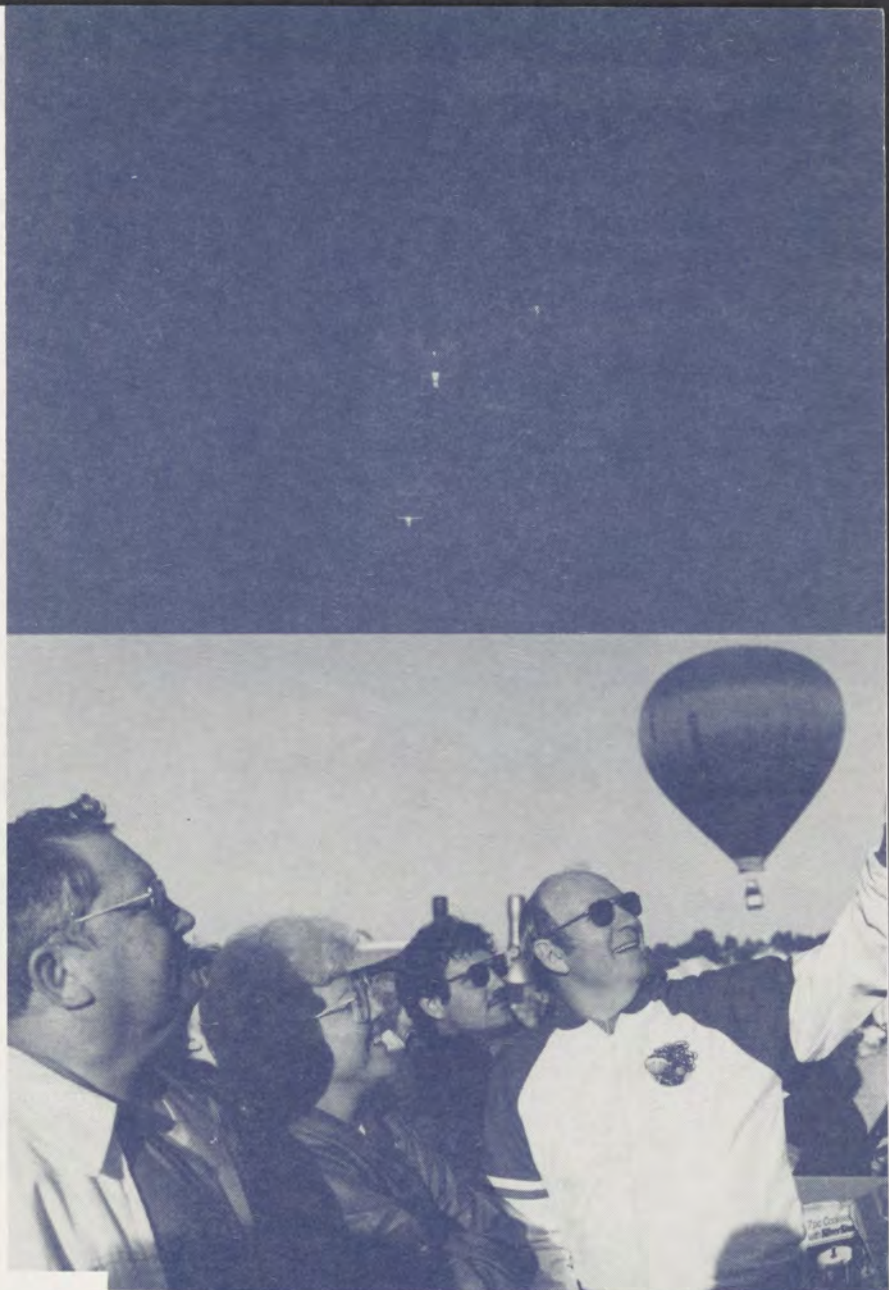
Each year the event has grown, with increased numbers of pilots, balloons and spectators. Each year over 200 pilots register for competition and pleasure flying, and crowd estimates exceed 250,000.

The U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championship, which has had its permanent home in Indianola since 1978, is the premier competitive hot air ballooning event in America. It has been named an event that is truly "ABOVE AND BEYOND THE EXPECTED."

Top: The balloons of the Dawn Patrol, a small group of specially-equipped balloons that fly in the dark, lift off over the city of Reno.

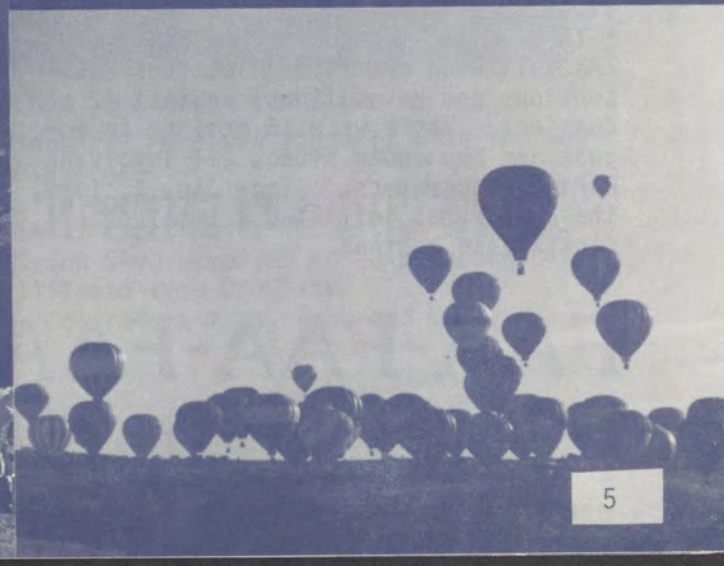
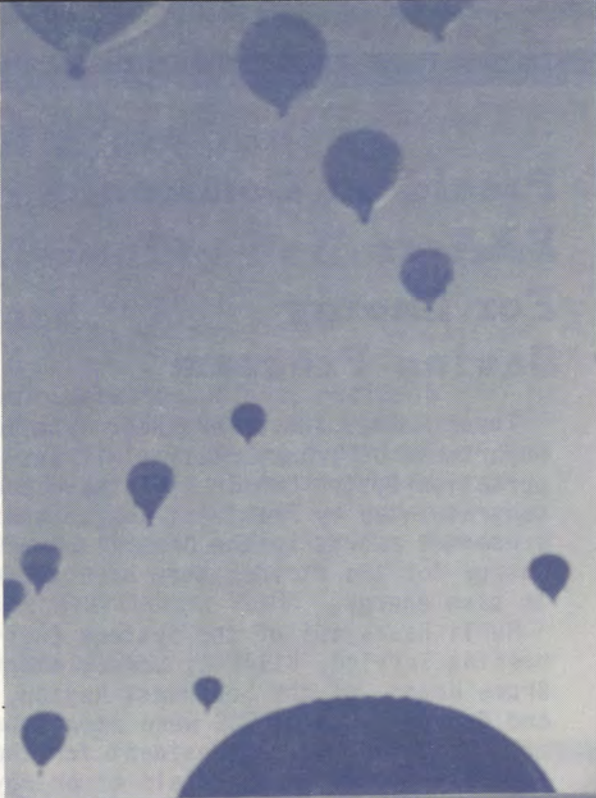
Middle: Frank Kellogg, Manager of the Reno Flight Service District Office, left, and Ron Steele, right, and his wife Shirley, monitor balloons in the morning light.

Bottom: Part of the 114 balloons lift off as the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra plays for the assembled crowd.



ABOVE AND BEYOND . . . MORE BALLOONS





The News In Brief



* With a group of top FAA managers standing by, ground was broken for the New Management Training School buildings in Palm Coast, FL, on October 16. Among those attending the ceremony were Administrator Donald Engen, Associate Administrator Charles Weithoner, Howard Richardson, Director of Organizational Effectiveness, Southern Region Director Garland Castleberry, and Aeronautical Center Director James Richardson. The three buildings being erected at the new site are expected to be completed in about a year.

* The FAA rule which requires smoke detectors to be installed in the lavatories of large airliners went into effect on October 29. These devices must be designed to warn pilots or flight attendants of undetected first burning in the closed lavatories. The rule was adopted when inspections following the June, 1983 fatal fire on Air Canada jet indicated that trash receptacles had lost their capability to contain fires with normal wear.

* The first FY-87 session of Equal Employment Opportunity Counselor Effectiveness Training was held October 6 through 10 at FAA's Management Training School in Lawton, OK. EEO counselors from facilities across the country learned to handle discrimination complaints at the informal level and about counseling procedures and FAA regulations.

* Through the first nine months of 1986, FAA initiated certificate actions (suspensions and revocations) against 62 air carriers. There were 15 actions in August and September alone, all involving Part 135 operators. Since Jan. 1, 1985, the agency has initiated a total of 114 certificate actions.

President Commends FAAers For Energy Saving Program

Three FAAers and an engineer from the Department of Transportation's Transportation System Center (TSC) have been congratulated by President Reagan and presented awards by the Department of Energy for the strides they have taken to save energy.

Murli Hasrajani of the Systems Engineering Service, Billy L. Landes and Bruce Unger, of the Southwest Region, and George Byron of TSC were among those congratulated by the President for their accomplishments in the field of energy conservation in government.

The program for which they were commended is the Energy Management Reporting System (EMRS), which monitors energy use at FAA facilities around the country and identifies areas in which energy can be saved. Hasrajani was the project manager while the system was designed by Byron and uses software developed by Landes and Unger which instantaneously transmits FAA energy consumption information to appropriate field and headquarters offices. It monitors current energy consumption, compares it with historical data, and records all energy conservation activities.

The system was created and implemented exclusively by FAA and TSC employees and not by contractors. It is working effectively, and in less than a year FAA has recovered the total cost of its development.

Over \$600,000 in utility billing errors have been discovered through the system, and it is estimated that when it becomes fully operational, FAA will realize energy savings of more than \$2 million through elimination of excess billing.

FAA-FAA-FAA-FAA-FAA-FAA

Paul Stebelton Earns Outstanding Performance Award

Paul Stebelton, right, Accident Prevention Specialist at Long Beach Flight Standards District Office, recently earned an Outstanding Performance Award. Making the presentation is Regional Director Mac McClure.

Congratulations, Paul!

Photo by Russ Park.



Honolulu AFS Awards



In the photo at left, Fano Bingham, left, Maintenance Mechanic with the Samoa Standard Flight Office, receives his 25-year Service Pin and congratulatory letter from Assistant Manager, Dan Sato, of Honolulu Airway Facilities

Sector. Fano was formerly with the San Diego AFS.

In the right photo, Curtis Behrens, left, Electronics Technician with the Samoa SFO, receives an Outstanding Certificate from Dan Sato.

Congratulations, Fano and Curtis!

Professional

Women

Controllers

Notes



On May 1-4, 1987, the Western-Pacific Region will have the opportunity to host the Professional Women Controllers (PWC) annual convention at the new Ramada Renaissance in Long Beach, Calif. The theme will be "California Dreamin' = Sharing for Success." The convention will address personal, social, and technical issues through briefings, workshops and panel sessions. Full convention information will be available in January 1987. Be sure and register early! The first 50 people who make hotel reservations will receive a free commemorative pin. Also, the first 50 people who register for the convention will be eligible for a special drawing. The winner will have their convention registration fees reimbursed. PWC cannot mention any names yet, but they are in negotiations for a great entertainment package for the banquet on Saturday, May 3. So plan to attend the entire convention for an exciting and informative time.

As a footnote, Los Angeles TRACON is hosting an area PWC meeting on November 12 at 2:30 p.m. in the Los Angeles hangar. If you'd like more information on what PWC is all about, please join us. Also, the next convention planning committee meeting will be held on November 20 at 4 p.m. in the Gold Room at the Regional Office. Anyone who would like to help with the convention is welcome to attend.

Training Modules Available

The Office of Personnel and Technical Training has announced that Classification and Position Management training modules will be available at the Management Training School before the end of the year. The modules, which are self-contained training aids, are used to give instruction to off-campus students and contain information on how to go about classifying a position, how to write position descriptions, and how to design position and organizational structures.

The modules, which will be distributed through the Stand-alone Module Program, were developed by the Position and Pay Policy Division, APT-400.

Hotline Down

After more than 170,000 personnel hotline calls, this part of the employee information system is temporarily out of service.

As a result of technical limitations in the new telephone system, APT cannot use the hotline to keep employees up to date on the status of revisions or proposed changes to the civil service personnel system.

Equipment that would be compatible with the new telephones is being sought. However, there is no firm acquisition date. Intercom will keep you informed of the progress.

Chemical Abuse Meetings



Chemical Abuse Meetings are being held at the Regional Headquarters. Old and new members are welcome. For more information, please call Anne Clayton at x1300 in the Aviation Medical Division.

Jim Welton Retirement Party December 5, Chino, Calif.

After nearly 36 years of government service, Jim Welton, Chino Tower Manager, has announced he's enjoyed all he can stand and will retire the first of the year. In 1961, after serving nine years as a controller in the U.S. Marine Corps (where he says he was often shot at by his own men), Jim was then hired on at Oakland Center, where he quickly distinguished himself as one of the finest coffee makers in the facility. Believing that mobility would be the key to his success in the FAA, he transferred to Ontario Tower and eventually, Ontario TRACON. At this point, he admits he may have taken the mobility thing a little too far. He went back to Ontario Tower as a supervisor, then down to Chino Tower as a supervisor, over to Riverside Tower as the chief and, finally, back to Ontario as a supervisor.

After then serving as Chief of El Monte Tower, Jim settled in as facility manager of Chino Tower where he has served for the past six years.

Jim lives in Riverside with his wife, LaMar, and plans to spend his retirement "ignoring telephone calls and being rude to people on the freeway." A farewell dinner is planned in Jim's honor for Friday evening, December 5, at the El Prado Country Club, 6555 Pine Ave. in Chino. A no-host bar will open at 7



p.m. and buffet dinner (choice of chicken or roast beef) will be served at 8 p.m. -- \$14 per person (tax and tip included). RSVP by November 21, Chino Tower, 7000 Merrill Ave., Box #2, Chino, Calif. 91710. For more information, call Chino Tower at 714/597-1703.

Brackett Tower Award

photo and story by
Kim Schmidt
Controller, Brackett Tower

Brackett Tower was pleased to present a Special Achievement Award recently to Controller Robert "Bob" Young (left) for his performance from 3/3/85 to 8/26/86. The award was presented by Tower Manager Mateo Palenzuela.

Bob came to Brackett in January 1983 from El Monte Tower and we at Brackett are very pleased to have him as part of our team.

Congratulations, Bob!



Diners Club Late

The Department of Transportation (DOT) has agreed that the various operating administrations, including the FAA, will assist Citicorp Diners Club on employee delinquent accounts. As a result, the Accounting Office will be periodically sending out letters to those employees with seriously overdue Diners Club card balances. Any questions regarding these delinquent accounts should be discussed with the Diners Club representative and hopefully reach a mutually acceptable resolution. The toll free telephone number is 1-800-525-5289.

Oakland Center Awards

Congratulations to Oakland Center folks who recently received awards:

Outstanding Performance to Controllers Wesley Hall, Raymond Hardy, Grover Corcoran and Jon Semanek and to Airspace and Procedures Specialist, Robert Park.

Special Achievement Awards to Controllers William Callahan, Forrest West, Charles Williamson and Ross Tanner; Plans and Programs Specialist Terrence Duffy; and Computer Programmer Analysts, Charlotte Eutsey and Roy Strandberg.

Western-Pacific

FAA INTERCOM is published weekly for Western-Pacific Region employees of the Department of Transportation/Federal Aviation Administration by the Public Affairs Office.

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Please submit
material and
photos to AWP-5.

FAA World Makes Comeback

Beginning in November, the agency will publish a new 12-page tabloid version of FAA World. The new monthly publication not only will present news and features in a livelier and more readable format, but also will significantly reduce printing costs in comparison with the old magazine format.

Articles in the November issue will focus on FAA's new drug testing program, improved surveillance and communications on the North Pacific (NOPAC) routes, FAAers honored at the DOT's annual awards ceremony, the Air Traffic Facility of the Year winners and the opportunities afforded by ICAO job assignments. There also will be a new "Federal Notebook" feature designed to keep employees up to date on changes in personnel and retirement programs.



Thought For The Week

Bones To Pick

The body of every organization is made from four kinds of bones...

There are the WISHBONES, who spend all their time wishing someone would do the work.

Then there are the JAWBONES who do all the talking but very little else.

The KNUCKLEBONES who knock everything anybody else tries to do.

And, but fortunately, every organization has some BACKBONES, who get under the load and do most of the work!

--Fresno Squadron
CivilAir Patrol

Red Bluff Picnic

a Huge Success

Frank Urriolagoitia, Red Bluff Airway Facilities Sector; Jerry Walker, Redding Air Traffic Control Tower and Ron Tener, Red Bluff Flight Service Station, combined efforts to sponsor one of the most successful Red Bluff picnics in history, with approximately 130 in attendance. The picnic, held at Wiskeytown Lake in the Redding area, included waterskiing, volleyball, swimming, horseshoes and canoeing. The menu consisted of barbecued pig and chicken, with assorted side dishes and deserts.

A wide array of facilities were represented including Redding Air Traffic Control Tower, Redding National Weather Service, Red Bluff Airway Facilities Sector, Red Bluff Flight Service Station, Chico Air Traffic Control Center, Marysville Airway Facilities Sector, Sacramento Flight Service Station, Ukiah Airway Facilities Sector and Stockton Flight Service Station.

As successful as this year's picnic was, next year's is already in the planning stages. Mark your calendar for August 22, 1987. Everyone is invited. Overnight camping will be available for those from out of town. See you there!



Photos: Top -- Sacramento FSS Manager Ben Marcello holds up a tree.

Next -- Frank Urriolagoitia and Rich Auville shoot the breeze.

Next -- Holy smoke! Frank at the barbeque.

Next -- Frank Gutierrez and T.C. Williams take a refreshment break.

Below -- Ron Riberal, Red Bluff AFS, with Gary "Rambo" Zodda in the background.



FAA/Civilair Chorale Warming Up For The Holidays

The FAA/Civilair Chorale has begun practice sessions for upcoming holiday performances, including a concert at the Regional Office on December 8 and an appearance at the Civilair Christmas party on December 20.

Those wishing to join the choir should join practice sessions in the Gold Room on the 6th floor from 12 noon to 1 p.m. on November 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 24 and 26. More practices are scheduled for December.

Instrument musicians are also welcome. For further information, contact Janice Beccue at 213/297-1107.

Continuing Resolution

Congress recently agreed to language in the Continuing Resolution calling for the FAA to reach a level of 15,000 air traffic controllers by the end of the 1987 fiscal year, with 70 percent of them to be full performance level. It also said that 60 percent of the controllers at "critical facilities," Level III towers and above, enroute centers and TRACONS, should be full performance level. As of the end of September, the agency had 14,803 controllers with 64 percent of them being full performance level.

Congress did not adopt proposed language that would have called on the agency to rehire controllers fired as a result of the PATCO strike in 1981.

Managers And Supervisors Hear Engen At Banquet

Three separate groups of air traffic managers and supervisors met in the Washington, DC, area the last week of October. The groups which will be meeting in area hotels are: Air Traffic Management Team (ATMT); Air Traffic Managers Committee (ATMAC); and the Air Traffic Supervisors Committee (SUPCOM). These groups all facilitate team building within Air Traffic and provide direct lines of communication between managers at all levels.

Although each group will be holding its own individual meeting, there will be some combined sessions when groups get together to hash out problems that affect them mutually.

In addition, all three groups will be together for a final banquet at which Administrator Engen will speak.

PMRS Payout Due Nov. 4

On November 4 employees covered by the Performance Management and Recognition System (PMRS) should see the results of their past year's performance in their paychecks according to the Office of Organizational Effectiveness. In the November 4 paycheck, employees will receive merit increases and those who were rated Exceptional or Outstanding should see their lump sum performance awards.

Since this is the third annual payout, problems are expected to be minimal. However, any employees who believe that their merit increases or performance award amounts are incorrect should contact their servicing Human Resources Management Division for assistance.

San Diego Facilities Participate in Career Exploration Day

FAA was represented at the annual Career Day Exploration recently held by National University at their San Diego campus.

The program has been designed to introduce students and graduates to career opportunities in various fields such as government, banking, telecommunications and finance.

The students are at the bachelor and master degree level with emphasis in Airway Science Engineering, Computer Science, Telecommunication and Management. Many participants held considerable interest in the agency's Air Traffic career field.



Photos: Career Day Exploration at National University, where FAA folks advised students.

Top -- Jim Snow, Assistant Air Traffic Manager, San Diego TRACON discusses air traffic control careers.

Next -- Ron Rudolph, Assistant Manager for Technical Support, San Diego Airway Facilities Sector, explains opportunities in FAA.

Next -- Henry Harris, Assistant Sector Manager, San Diego Airway Facilities Sector, chats with an attendee about training programs offered by FAA.

Below -- National University students and graduates take advantage of the opportunity to learn about various career fields.

Photos by Hank Harris.



PAN AM

September 28, 1981

Mr. James A. Holtsclaw
Tower Chief
One World Way
Los Angeles, California 90045

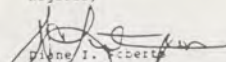
Dear Jim:

I want to thank you for inviting myself, as well as my boss and Bill Martin, to your Basic Air Traffic Control Course - 101. It was most informative and interesting and provoked more questions which, hopefully, someday over lunch I will have the opportunity to pose to you. But in the meantime, my thanks, as well as those of Jim Baxter, for having taken the time to develop this course and to offer it to people such as myself.

I look forward to the Intermediate Air Traffic Control Course being offered in January although I am not so sure I can pass the final exam of ATC-101.

I wish that all of your cohorts throughout the country were as creative and as generous as you have been in this particular avenue of trying to cement good relations with your fellow co-workers who operate the airlines and interface with you daily.

Regards,


James I. Roberts
General Manager
Los Angeles

DIR:ja

cc: J. Baxter

Los Angeles Tower Hosts Air Traffic Awareness Seminar



Over 20 participants from pilot groups, airlines, airport administration and the news media learned all about the basics of air traffic control at an Air Traffic Awareness seminar recently hosted at the Los Angeles Tower by Manager Jim Holtsclaw, who also serves the Regional Director as FAA Coordinator for the Los Angeles Area.

After a brief overview of how the FAA fits into the scheme of the federal system, Mark Washam, Los Angeles Tower Quality Assurance Training Specialist, kicked off the program. Los Angeles TRACON Training Supervisor John McCartney then presented the FAA film Flight 52 which outlines the involvement of Air Traffic Control and Airway Facilities people from the time a plane leaves a terminal gate until it reaches its destination.

Not only did these FAAers explain in laymen's terms (not an easy task) the meaning of ground and local control, but they expounded on the responsibilities of towers, TRACONs and centers. Also discussed was the significance of Terminal Control Areas, as well as the different types of operations conducted during visual or instrument weather conditions.

Speaking of weather conditions, the scheduled tower/TRACON tour had to be scrapped due to a storm which knocked out power for the entire airport area. John McCartney and Mark Washam persevered, and not missing a beat, continued the seminar in the dark! Meanwhile, Jim Holtsclaw valiantly climbed 12 flights of stairs (three times) to ensure everything was in order, both in the tower cab and at the seminar.

Hats off to Jim, John and Mark for outstanding performances and an enlightening briefing for the airport community.

GIVE LIFE



ROD STAHL RENEWED AS APC



Paso Robles Flight Service Station Manager Rod Stahl, right, receives a certificate renewing his appointment as an Accident Prevention Counselor. San Jose Flight Standards District Office Accident Prevention Specialist Carl Borchers makes the presentation.

Rod, an APC since 1985, also serves the Regional Director as FAA Coordinator for the Paso Robles/Santa Barbara area.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION ROD STAHL <i>Is recognized for outstanding support and participation in the General Aviation Accident Prevention Program for the District Office at SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA in the WESTERN-PACIFIC Region</i>   Date SEPTEMBER 6, 1986	
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BREEZE EASTERN BPC
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7 September 1986

Federal Aviation Administration
 800 Independence Avenue, S.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20591
 Attn: Mr. Donald D. Engen - Administrator

Dear Mr. Engen,

I would like to take this opportunity to personally inform you of the outstanding contributions Mr. Rod Stahl, Manager, Flight Service Station, Paso Robles Municipal Airport, Paso Robles, California has made to promote flight safety, public awareness of the FAA in general, and to pilot proficiency in the region.

On Wednesday, 3 September 1986, Mr. Stahl was a guest speaker on the local radio station "KPRL", on a telephone-call-in program. His obvious concern for safety combined with his ability to communicate to the public effectively was a perfect match of skills to handle the questions presented to him "live", on the air (especially difficult to handle, due to the recent accident in Los Angeles!)

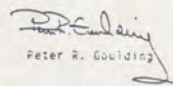
Saturday, 6 September 1986, Mr. Stahl and the Paso Robles Flight Service Station hosted a flight safety seminar. Once again Mr. Stahl not only organized this seminar, but as well was one of the key note speakers during the all day presentation.

Today, Sunday 7 September 1986 Mr. Stahl and his associates at the Paso Robles FSS are handling all the responsibilities of the Annual Paso Robles Air Show!

I was pleased to witness Mr. Stahl's acceptance of a special "Certificate of Appreciation" presented to him by the Senior Officials of the FAA in this Region in recognition of all his efforts, yesterday afternoon. I wanted to inform you personally of this gentleman's contributions to the general public and aviation community.

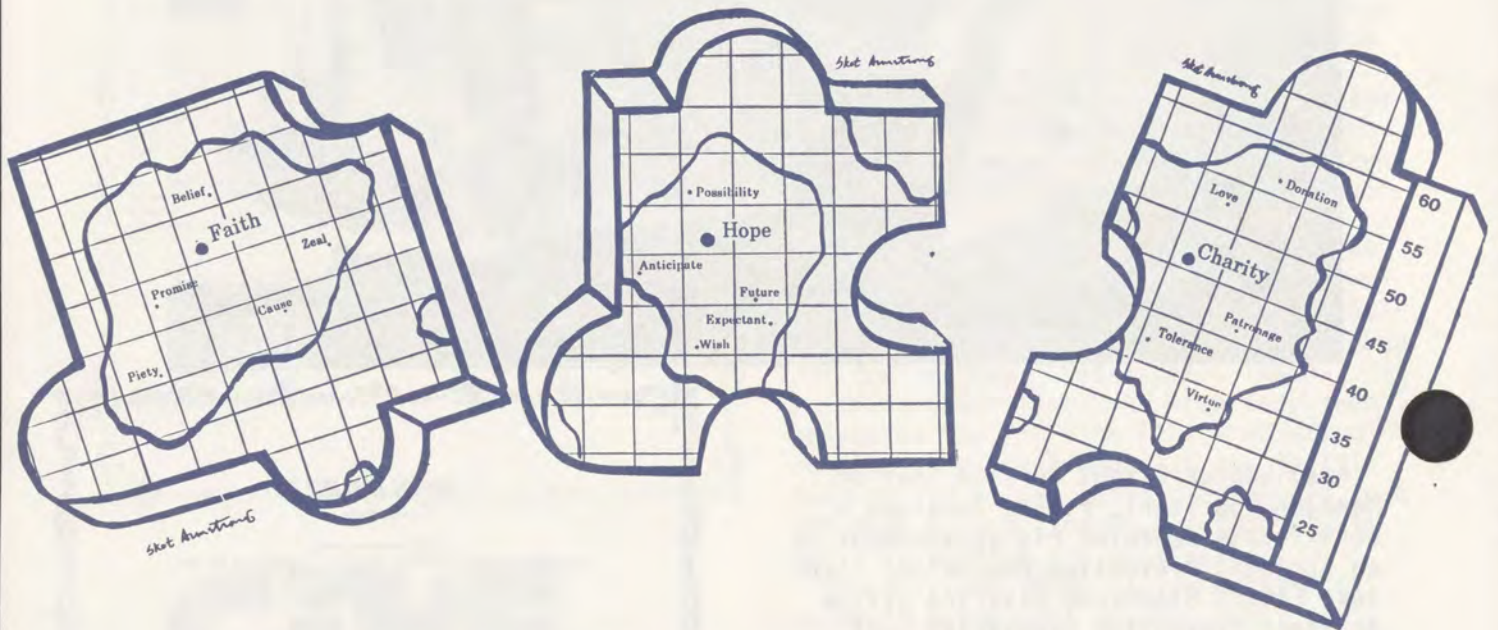
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


 Peter R. Goulding



Combined Federal Campaign



Let us lead the way.