

87-23
June 8, 1987

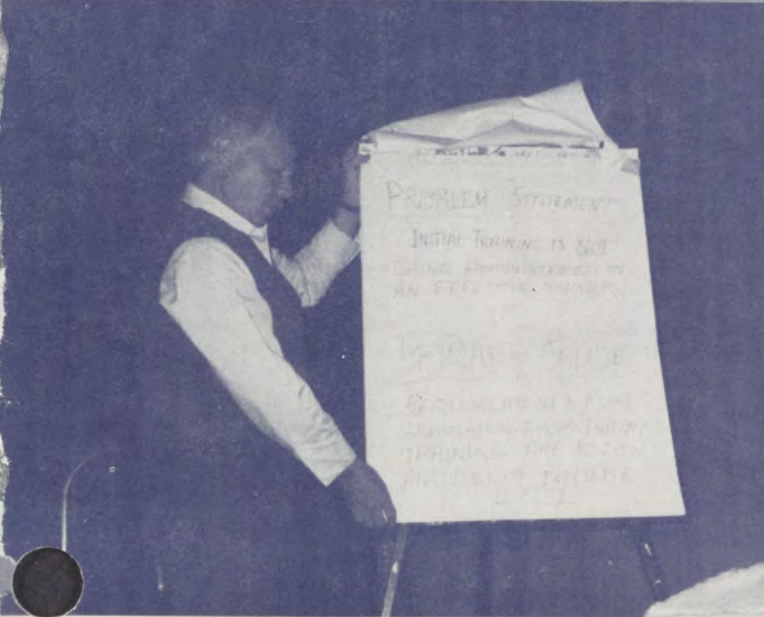
Public Affairs Office
AWP-5

FAA
Western-Pacific Region
Los Angeles, CA 90009
(213) 297-1431



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

Western-Pacific Intercom



Air Traffic Managers Meet In Las Vegas

Cover Story

"WELCOME AIR TRAFFIC MANAGERS," was the greeting on the marquee of the fabulous Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada, as the managers from all Western-Pacific Air Traffic facilities gathered to attend the Regional Air Traffic Managers Conference. Nearly every flight arriving at McCarran International Airport on Sunday, January 11, and Monday, January 12, had at least one FAA manager aboard.

Although Las Vegas claims the title of entertainment capitol of the world, the managers put in long days with hard work. From the problem solving sessions conducted by our able facilitators, to the long periods in briefings and instructional meetings conducted by the design team and Regional officials, our "Chiefs" listened, contributed and participated in one of the most comprehensive conferences ever held among FAA managers.

Reported By Bill Maloney
Manager, Las Vegas Tower

Western-Pacific Intercom

EDITOR
Elly Brekke

REGIONAL DIRECTOR
H. C. McClure

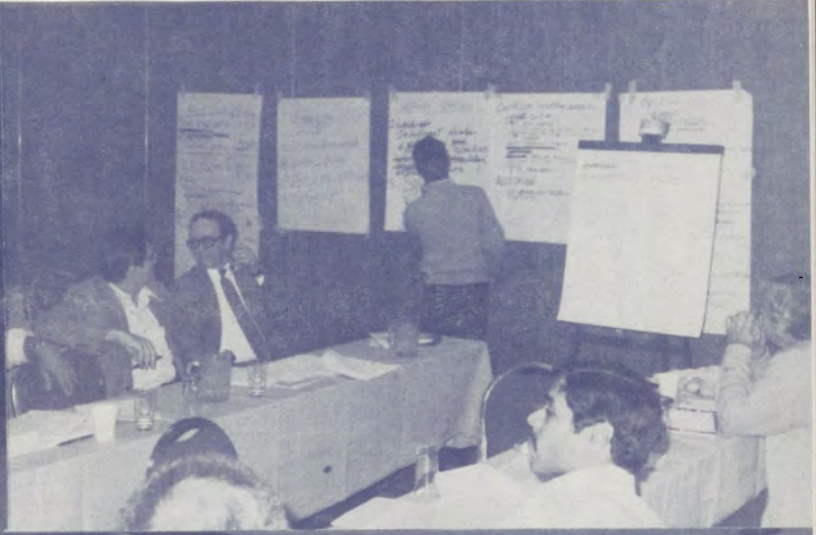
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
Barbara Abels

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST
Russell Park

INTERCOM is published weekly for the employees of the Western-Pacific Region by the Public Affairs Office. Articles and photos are welcomed. If you have questions, suggestions or submissions, please call the Editor at FTS 984-1431/COMM 213/297-1431.



AT Managers Get Together For Problem-Solving Sessions



AT Conference Wraps Up With Awards Banquet



Toastmasters Mark Milestone

Congratulations to Cathy Kivitt of the regional Logistics Division, and Elly Brekke, Public Affairs Staff, for successfully earning their status as Competent Toastmasters (CTM). Cathy and Elly are the second and third members to reach this stage in Toastmasters development in FAA Club #3449, following closely at the heels of Area Governor and club member Glenn Cross.

In a recent meeting, Cathy and Elly presented that last of ten required speeches. Both speeches were to be seven minutes in length, plus or minus 30 seconds, and were to be read from a prepared manuscript. Cathy, speaking on the U.S. Savings Bond Campaign, clocked in successfully at seven minutes, 29 seconds. Delivering a speech on the plight of the California Condors, Elly finished in seven minutes, 19 seconds.

Following the formal speeches, Administrative Vice President and Former President Bob Kivitt presented the two women with rose bouquets.

Both members will now begin work on advanced Toastmasters manuals and strive to achieve the rating of Able Toastmaster (ATM).



Photo: Cathy Kivitt, left, and Elly Brekke recently earned their ratings as Competent Toastmasters after successfully completing the outlined requirements of Toastmasters International.

(Photo by Bill Cater.)

Wohlleib Presented Director's Award

Garry Wohlleib, San Diego Airway Facilities Sector, recently received the Director's Award for his voluntary support of the regional training program. Garry used his training skills over the last eight years to teach courses in Electrical Principals I and II, VASI, MALSR, PCS for RML, Remote Monitor Systems, Management Team Action Seminars, and Quality Circle Training. It is estimated that more than 400 Western-Pacific employees have seen Garry in action. Presenting the award is Arlene Feldman, Deputy Regional Director.



Retiree's Corner

David Whitehead, air traffic controller who retired from Las Vegas in 1976, writes to INTERCOM from Florida:

"In 1983 or '84, an Empire Airlines flight was on final approach to Syracuse, N.Y., when a beserk passenger lunged into the cockpit. Another passenger pulled him off, and the flight crew was able to recover and make a safe landing. A TV crew happened to be aboard the aircraft and filmed a portion of the incident. ABC covered it in their evening news.

"The FAA in New York is presenting the captain of the flight with an award for heroism. He is Capt. J. B. Whitehead, now a DC-9 captain with Continental Airlines.

"So, Capt. Whitehead is my younger brother. I worked for FAA in air traffic control. I started at Long Beach Tower in 1956 and a year later went to Los Angeles Tower as controller/crew chief until 1966, then to Guam CERAP as watch supervisor until 1974. I retired in Las Vegas in 1976 and am living happily at 2810 Waxwing Lane, Englewood, FL 33533 from November through April, and at 126 Beach St., Massena, NY 13662, the rest of the year. I enjoy very much receiving the INTERCOM, although almost everyone I knew is now in the retired section.

"Sincerely, David Whitehead"

Thanks for the nice letter, David, and congratulations to your heroic brother.

Los Angeles CASFO News

Charlie Williams and Joe Gieniec of Los Angeles Civil Aviation Security Field Office received Letters of Commendation from Administrator Engen for their work at Manila Airport last year. Congratulations!

Congratulations also to Edward Ridel and Mardy Franks who both received Outstanding Performance Awards.

Three inspectors, Bryant Chevalier, Margaret Violi and Don Libby just returned from training at Glynco, Georgia, and all successfully completed a six-week course. Welcome back!

Civilair Sponsors Gershwin Concert At Hollywood Bowl



Civilair is sponsoring an evening at Hollywood Bowl on Friday, July 17, with the concert beginning at 8:30 p.m. The Bowl is featuring a Gershwin Anniversary Concert to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of this giant among American composers. Tickets are \$7.50 = that's a \$1.25 discount from the regular admission price.

Tickets must be reserved by June 12 with payment received before June 19. For more information, contact Elly Brekke, Civilair Publicity Chairperson, at 213/297-1431.

Don't miss this memorial tribute! Get your reservations in right away; seats are limited.

Bakersfield FSS People Report

Bakersfield Flight Service Station welcomes Barbara Bradshaw on board. Barbara came to the facility from an Air Traffic Assistant position at Houston Intercontinental Tower via the FAA Academy.

Congratulations to Bob "Ole" Olson for a great job during his four-month stint as Air Traffic Manager. Bob's effectiveness during his temporary promotion was acknowledged by a Letter of Commendation.

Paul Stempel received a Letter of Appreciation for the outstanding visual displays he prepared for the Facility Employee Survey discussions.

Jerry Lamb's efforts have resulted in good public relations for the FAA. He has had over 40 slides used as a background drop for the weather segment on Channel 23 (KERO). The TV station graciously acknowledges Jerry as an FAA employee at the Bakersfield FSS. Jerry has also been visible as a pledge phone participant during the Jerry Lewis Telethons.

Bill Duran, George Fourchy, Reuben Jolly and Byron Sako all did a great job handling the increased activity during the Shafter Airshow.

Gwen Marshall Earns Award



Gwen Marshall was recently given an Outstanding Rating and Superior Performance Award for her work as a Personnel Management Specialist in the Air Traffic Support Team of the Operations Branch within the Human Resource Management Division.

Gwen, who has been honored as one of the Outstanding Young Women of America by the Jaycees, far exceeded all elements of her performance standards in supporting Guam CERAP, the Bay and Ontario TRACON Air Traffic Hubs.

In addition to the staffing, wage and pay administration support she gives to her assigned facilities, she handles all applications for reinstatement and all hiring of Air Traffic Assistants.

She has been cited on numerous occasions for her responsive and quality work as well as her personable approach to her job. Gwen has been credited with the organization and efficient handling of the reinstatement and Air Traffic Assistant programs. These programs are examples of personnel management efficiency at it's best.

This award is in keeping with Gwen's career pattern of awards, Outstanding Rating and a tremendous ability to take on new programs and responsibilities.

Photo: Gwen Marshall (right) is presented an Outstanding Rating and Superior Performance Award from Supervisor Todd Pearson as Marilyn Neff and Melinda Marquez of the Air Traffic Section, Operations Branch, look on.

Maintenance Operation Branch Presents Awards



The Airway Facilities Maintenance Operation Branch recently presented awards for special recognition for outstanding performances.

Lillian Lessler received a Quality Increase with an Outstanding Award; Barbara Kish received a Special Achievement Award for Sustained Superior Performance from Barry Brayer, former Operations Section Supervisor; Kim Nguyenphuoc received an On-The-Spot cash award for her outstanding work; and Gert Williams received a Special Achievement Award for Sustained Superior Performance from Paul Collander, Manager, Maintenance Operations Branch.

AWP-464 received a Letter of Appreciation from John Faletti, AWP-450, for various members of the Facility Maintenance Party Crew and also Letters of Appreciation from John Carlson, Las Vegas Airway Facilities Sector, for various members of the same crew.

Wayne Olson, AWP-464, also received a Letter of Appreciation from John Faletti, for his efforts in the Reno conference.

Paul Picchi received a Letter of Appreciation from John Parsons for his resident engineering efforts, causing a very difficult contract job to turn out well for FAA.

Photos: Barbara Kish, top, and Lillian Lessler recently earned awards. Making the presentations is Barry Brayer (now of the Planning and International Aviation Office).

NAS Plan Revision Issued

Another edition of the National Airspace System Plan, commonly known as the "Brown Book," rolled off the presses on May 26. This is the fifth update of the NAS plan, which was first published at the end of 1981 as a 20-year blueprint for modernizing and upgrading the nation's air traffic control system.

The 1987 edition reflects the continuing progress in the implementation of the Plan. More than 70 percent of the approximately 90 projects now are under contract and 12 projects actually have been completed. The revised NAS Plan includes a new chapter describing projects that were not contained in the original document, such as the expansion of the En Route Flight Advisory System (EFAS), replacement of outdated TACAN antennas, and the expansion of Computer Based Instruction (CBI) to all A.T. and A.F. field locations.

New long term projects include the enhancement of data-link equipment to provide additional weather related information for pilots; installation of additional Airport Surface Detection Equipment (ASDE) at newly qualified airports; and the replacement or modification of long range and terminal radars.

Final Model 1 System Up

The 13th and final Model 1 Flight Service Data Processing System (FSDPS) was commissioned at the Atlanta en route center on May 14.

On that date, Model 1 equipment also was commissioned at the Nashville, TN, Automated Flight Service Station (AFSS) making it the 31st station to go operational with this equipment. To round out the Atlanta family, two other stations—Anderson, SC, and Jackson, TN—are scheduled to be commissioned June 30 and September 30, respectively.

In all, 37 stations are scheduled to get the Model 1 system. The final four with their scheduled commissioning dates are: Fort Worth, TX, July 1; Grand Forks, ND, August 4; Princeton, MO, June 16; and San Diego, CA, June 8.

Some ILSs Allowed

A limited number of Instrument Landing Systems (ILS) will be installed at medium and large hub airports between now and the time Microwave Landing Systems are in place, Administrator Engen announced recently.

"More ILSs will help address the problem of limited airport capacity," Engen said. However, he emphasized that he and the agency "remain committed to the MLS as the precision landing system of the future."

FAA Reports On Airport Capacity Projects

Somebody is doing something about airport congestion and flight delays.

That somebody is FAA's Airport Capacity Program Office which has just published a revised version of its Airport Capacity Enhancement Plan. The 82-page report identifies the causes and extent of current capacity and delay problems and discusses various planned and ongoing projects designed to improve the situation. These include capacity enhancement and planning studies, airport construction and expansion, revised airspace control procedures, and installation of new and replacement equipment and systems.

For example, the report identifies nine airports that could benefit from construction of new parallel runways. It also lists 30 airports that could gain capacity from improved airspace control procedures such as instrument approaches to non-intersecting converging runways.

Additionally, the report discusses the impact of various National Airspace System (NAS) Plan projects on capacity, including the microwave landing system, Mode S data link, and the next generation of weather radar (NEXRAD). Copies are available for FAA employees from the Airport Capacity Program Office, FTS 267-8789.

Prescott AFSS Celebrates Second Anniversary



Two years ago, an initial crew of nine specialists moved into a brand new building and opened the region's first Automated Flight Service Station in Prescott, Arizona.

In commemoration of this event, the day shift showed for work in traditional 1950's FAA work attire — dark pants and white shirts, along with narrow and wide neckties. Also to commemorate the "paper-free" operation, charts and teletype printouts literally wallpapered the facility.

Prescott FSS activity has been increasing at a rate of seven percent since commissioning. For the 12-month period ending March 31, activity included 536,220 flight services and 162,000 transcribed services.

The crew of the FSS has worked very hard to meet the demand for services and the FAA's goal of equal or better service than the old system.

Photo: In celebration of Prescott AFSS's second anniversary, specialists arrived for work in "early-controller" attire.

Fresno Super Stars Honored

History was in the making in Fresno recently when the "Fresno Super Stars" were honored in an awards ceremony.

The ceremony, sponsored by the Fresno Environmental Unit Supervisor, and the Fresno AF Sector Field Office Manager, was complete with a "Vision of Excellence" cake and coffee affair.

Dave Bomann, the Environmental Supervisor presented a Sustained Superior Performance Award to Dave Swart, Environmental Technician at Fresno, and an Outstanding Performance Rating with Quality Within Grade to Bill Vinson, Environmental Technician, Bakersfield.

Jay Jacobsen, Fresno AF Sector Field Office Manager, presented an Outstanding Performance Rating to Willis Matteson, Fresno's Senior Super Technician, and Outstanding Performance Ratings with Quality Within Grade to James Currier, James Bly and Bill Gorman. Not present, but also receiving Outstanding Performance Ratings with Quality Within Grade were Tamio Karasuda and Robert Yuenger.

Bill Turner, Operations Manager, Sacramento AFS, aka "Mom," was also present during the festivities. Bill oversaw the ceremonies and was kind enough to remind us when to go back to work.



Photo: Pictured above from left to right are James Currier, James Bly, Dave Swart, Willis Matteson, Bill Gorman and Bill Vinson.

News In Brief

* Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Hanford Dole has squelched rumors that she plans to leave her job to help her husband, Sen. Robert Dole, campaign for the Republican presidential nomination. She also told reporters that she has no plans to seek national office herself.

* Secretary Dole has told the nation's airlines that they need to take immediate action to stem the rising tide of passenger complaints. In a May 20 letter, the Secretary offered to work with the carriers to resolve outstanding problems but warned that DOT, if necessary, "will not hesitate to refer a matter to our enforcement office for action." Among the most frequent passenger complaints are delayed refunds, delayed baggage claims, overbooking and smoking.

* The members of the American Association of Airport Executives have cited poor scheduling practices as the major cause of flight delays in the nation's air transportation system. They also cited inadequate runway capacity at major airports, the uncommitted balance in the Aviation Trust Fund, and FAA/DOT. In other words, they think there is enough blame to go around.

* The National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees is 10 years old. NBCFAE members celebrated the milestone recently at a convention in Jamaica, NY, and elected Evelyn Washington, an area supervisor at the Tulsa, OK, Flight Service Station, to lead them into the second decade. Ms. Washington was a 1986 Recipient of the Secretary's Award for Outstanding Achievement in EEO.

* Speaking of anniversaries, San Francisco's famed Golden Gate Bridge marked its 50th birthday on May 24 with help from FAA. The agency established temporary flight restrictions in the vicinity of the bridge to ensure that the celebration went safely and smoothly.



Engen Urges Employees Educate Public On Safety

FAA employees don't have to take unfair and inaccurate criticism lying down, Administrator Engen told the Professional Women Controllers recently.

"We need to sustain public confidence in air safety, not only because it strengthens public support for aviation, but also because adverse press coverage is bound to affect the atmosphere where each of you work," he said.

"There are many great stories to tell the public about the work you are doing," he added. "Public confidence in aviation depends on the people getting the accurate information about the accomplishments of the system. People should learn about the 'saves' as well as the 'near mid-air's'."

Urging FAAers to "pull together" in a common cause, the Administrator concluded saying, "The future prosperity of all aviation depends on each of us contributing to the job of sustaining public confidence in the performance of the air traffic control system ..."

In Memoriam

John Pearson

We are saddened to report the death of John Pearson on May 27 after a lengthy illness.

John retired as an auditor from the Western Region's Audit Division in 1975. He had served his country in the Air Force, earning the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. His service included duty in the South Pacific during World War II.

After the war, John worked with the Veteran's Administration before joining the FAA in 1965.

John is survived by his wife Helen and two daughters. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Pearson, 2646 Midvale Avenue, Los Angeles, Calif. 90064.

Oakland Tower Report

by Mike Motta
Oakland Tower HRC

Contrary to the popular rumor, Oakland Control Towers...yes, two towers, is still standing! During 1986, we saw numerous personnel changes at the facility:

Arrivals - Judy Opperman and Guy Heney from San Carlos Tower, Hank Lopez from Palo Alto Tower, Doug MacCaulay and Kevin Duffy from Reid-Hillview Tower, Brian Spencer and Steve Faraday from Concord Tower; Ken Andrade from Hayward Tower, Ken McNeil from Livermore Tower, Lisa Daubemire from Ontario Tower and Joper Velasquez, Clerk-Typist.

Farewell - Wade Graves, Mark Sherry, Don Brown and Joy (Reed) Johnson, who departed for San Francisco Tower; Ed Enkerud to Oakland Center; Ron Willis to Bay TRACON; and Ron Franson to Reid-Hillview (now Manager of San Carlos Tower).

Retirements - Those hanging up their headsets and retiring were Richard Crockett and Lloyd "Brar Rabbit" Falls.

Both the Human Relations Committee and Facility Advisory Board have been hard at work achieving their goals! One of the Facility Advisory Board's projects included the implementation of the Oakland Airport Radar Service Area (ARSA). In addition to formulating plans and procedures, board members and our Quality Assurance Training Specialist, Antonette "Toni" Redman have been conducting numerous local area pilot briefings to help ensure a smooth transition. Committee members are Chairperson Michael Jones, Norfina "Fee" Velasquez, Dale Bush, Charles Henson, and Mary Goshern. A tremendous amount of hours have gone into the ARSA project and all who were involved deserve recognition.

The Human Relations Committee spent 1986 achieving the goals they had set early in the year -- implementation of our Employee of the Quarter Program. This program enables the facility employees to recognize an outstanding coworker. Another committee goal was

the formulation and implementation of our Quality of Worklife.

The Improvement Program provides a forum in which facility problems are discussed and solved. Committee members are Chairperson Michael Motta, Norfina Velasquez, Jerry Egan, Jesse Gaines and Lynn Shoemaker. Many facility employees were recognized for their contributions to the facility. On-the-Spot Awards were presented to Rus Cerretti, Kevin Duffy, Michael Motta, Dale Bush, Yvette Sharp and Antonette Redman. Special Achievement Awards were presented to John Macht, Norfina Velasquez and Yvette Sharp. Quality Within Grade Increases were presented to Antonette Redman and Michael Motta. In addition to the facility's Employee of the Quarter Award, facility secretary Yvette Sharp was named Woman of the Quarter by the Federal Women's Program. Congratulations to all!

During 1986, the facility participated in numerous activities. These included a facility open house commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Air Traffic Control; tailgate party at an Oakland Athletics Baseball Game. Oakland was also a stopping point for both the British Airways and Air France Concordes while they were on the way around the world in November. Air France returned in January and offered Bay Area residents tickets at \$900 per person, destination to...No Where! The facility was also very active with Aviation Education. Facility employees attended numerous career fairs and conducted classroom presentations for several schools.

The Oakland South Control Tower will finally undergo its long awaited rehabilitation beginning in April 1987.

Appreciation expressed to all who help make Oakland Towers' first semi-annual Reno Bus Trip a success. We are planning another trip in the fall. A Day at the Races, Golden Gate Fields, is scheduled for June. A tailgate party at an Oakland A's Baseball Game and a possible 50th Anniversary Reunion for all current and former Oakland Towers employees is in the makings. Sunday, April 12, is the 50th Anniversary of Oakland Towers!

San Diego Zoo Safari To Be Hosted By Civilair

Why not start your summer off with a day of fun at the San Diego Zoo? Civilair is sponsoring FAA Day at the Zoo on Saturday, June 27, beginning at 9 a.m.

The admission price of \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 3 - 15 years old includes admission to the zoo (including Children's Zoo), guided bus tour and a complete lunch. The bus tour lasts about three hours; lunch will be served between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. at the Raintree Grove picnic area.

Reservations are required by June 19. Contact Joi Mulhair at 213/215-2150 or Elly Brekke at 213/297-1431 for tickets.

Join us on the "Civilair Safari" and start your summer off with a family fun day!

Norma Milinski Earns Award



Norma Milinski, left, Administrative Officer at Scottsdale/Phoenix Flight Standards District Office receives an Outstanding Performance Award and Quality Within-Grade increase. Manager Eldon Gubler is presenting the award to Norma.

(Photo by Chris Kandziora.)

Airport Execs Honor Engen

Administrator Engen was the honored guest at the first dinner meeting of the newly formed Society of Senior Aerospace Executives (SSAE) on May 29 at the National Press Club.

A non-profit membership corporation, SSAE provides a forum for senior executives to continue personal contributions to flight progress. More information is available from SSAE Vice President, former FAAer Lou Davis, on (703) 591-3580.

Smoke Gets In Your Eyes

This time it wasn't clouds that cut the pilot's visibility but smoke from an oil fire in the engine. Not surprisingly, he was looking for a place to land ... and fast.

Memphis Center controller Lester Kuehne fielded the pilot's call for help and assured him that the nearest airport was only 12 miles away at Tahlequah, OK. He then gave the near-blinded pilot vectors to the airport and cleared him to descend and also took care of the landing clearances with the airport.

Following the successful conclusion of this "flight assist," Memphis center evaluation specialist Jeff Call said, "The pilot was really with it, partly because he had been calmed by the competent manner in which Kuehne had handled the emergency."

The Memphis center flight assist was one of 105 recorded in the air traffic control system during April. There were 226 persons on board the aircraft involved.

Bon Voyage To Ernie Landers

After 34 years of government service, Ernie Landers, Logistics Management Specialist at the Los Angeles Airway Facilities Sector, has decided to lead a life of leisure. Ernie's co-workers and friends are invited to attend a retirement luncheon in her honor on Friday, June 19 at 11:30 a.m. at Charlie Brown's Restaurant, 665 N. Harbor Dr., Redondo Beach.

For additional information contact Verna King at 213/215-2119 or Thelma Finley at 213/215-2130.

Air Traffic Trophy Symbol of Excellence

By Mike O'Brien
Associate Editor, Hughesnews

What was described as "a longtime dream" became a reality three weeks ago when the first national trophy honoring individual achievements in air traffic control was presented at the Smithsonian Institution Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

"We're very pleased to finally have an award to recognize individuals for their excellent work and outstanding achievements in the field of air traffic control," said Gabe Hartl, president of the Air Traffic Control Association (ATCA), which sponsors the award and selects the annual recipient. Hughes is a corporate member of ATCA.

"A longtime dream has come true," he added. "This award helps greatly in our efforts to gain more professional recognition for all air traffic controllers throughout the nation."

Hughes' Senior Vice President Blaine Shull, Ground Systems Group president, presented the trophy to the Air and Space Museum during ceremonies. GSG designed and crafted the 32-inch-high trophy and donated it to the ATCA. It is named after Glen A. Gilbert, a pioneer in the development of modern air traffic control systems.

"We are extremely pleased to have the opportunity to participate in this most worthwhile project," said Mr. Shull. GSG is a leading supplier of air traffic control systems throughout the world.

The Air Museum will display the trophy, which was designed by GSG's Stan Cutter and Dale Peche, near the air traffic control exhibit. Each year's recipient will have his or her name inscribed on the trophy and also will receive an individual medallion.

Mr. Cutter and Mr. Peche worked as a team to create and design the trophy, which one Smithsonian official described as "magnificent, setting a new standard for trophies at the museum."

The first name to be inscribed on the trophy will be Dave Thomas, a former acting administrator of the FAA. Mr.



Thomas, who attended the ceremony, is acknowledged by the air traffic industry as the "principal architect of the modern U.S. air traffic control system."

He has received nearly every distinguished honor awarded to civil service employees and was presented with a medallion at last year's ATCA conference, signifying him as the inaugural Glen A. Gilbert Award winner.

As an American Airlines employee in 1935, Mr. Gilbert, the award's namesake, was instrumental in the development of a special communications system that enabled airlines to track flying aircraft. This first air traffic control system was eventually adopted by other airlines in the east and midwest. When the federal government assumed air traffic control functions in 1936, Mr. Gilbert was appointed the first chief of the Bureau of Commerce Airway Traffic Control Section, a post he held for more than a decade.

--reprinted by permission
from Hughesnews

LaJuene Is DOT Handicapped Employee Awardee

Michael H. LaJuene, the Milwaukee Mitchell Tower controller who came back to work after a diving accident which almost totally paralyzed him, has been named by FAA as the number two Handicapped Employee of the Year.

Because he was confined to a wheel chair, Mike could not climb either to the old or new tower cab at Milwaukee's General Mitchell International Airport so became an able air traffic assistant.

"Nowadays there is the 'me' generation," said LaJuene. "Now, I realize there's more than just myself. I also realize how lucky I am as I could be stuck in some nursing home with tubes stuck out of me."

The same love of air traffic control that brought him back to work also takes him out to schools, where he passes on that appreciation to students who might otherwise never show an interest in air traffic control.

"I really enjoy telling the controller story to students," he said.

LaJuene also tells the story of spinal injuries, bringing a measure of hope to others who suffered injury as he did. "It's good for people to know there's some hope out there."

During the past year he served as spokesperson 13 times for Feet-First-First-Time, a spinal injury group, at high schools in the Milwaukee area. He brought his compassion six times to families who have members with spinal injuries, acting as a counselor.

He also regularly appears in advertisements in national magazines for Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Hospital.

But, most of all, Mike's heart is dedicated to air traffic control. He now works as an air traffic assistant in Milwaukee's TRACON, because he no longer can climb the stairs to the cab, but hopes that soon he will qualify for the FAA Academy so he can become a radar controller.

Mike's motorized wheel chair takes him wherever he needs to go on the ground floor of the tower and he has been exercising so that his arms will carry his splinted fingers to the switches and buttons used by radar controllers. He

needs no assistance inside the tower or in getting to the tower in his specially-equipped van.

"Michael has tremendous courage and initiative to overcome his handicap and has served as an inspiration to others that has resulted in a positive influence for others to overcome their handicaps," it was stated in the tower's nomination of LaJuene for the Outstanding Handicapped Employee of the Year award. He "is an asset to the facility and the FAA. Because of his job performance and community involvement, he transmits a positive influence on other individuals, inspiring them to overcome their hardships."

LaJuene recently took the physical exam which, if he passes, will be an entry to the Academy. He is not the only one praying for that pass, as the entire staff at Milwaukee Mitchell Tower is backing him to win out over what could have been a thoroughly debilitating handicap.

"It's amazing how the Lord puts us in difficult positions, then helps us out," LaJuene said.

—Reprinted from Great Lakes Intercom

Edward Owens Retires



Edward Owens (right) retired from the Miramar Airway Facilities Sector Field Office recently. Presenting his retirement certificate is John Tompkins, Manager of the San Diego Airway Facilities Sector. Your 30 years of dedicated service to the FAA are appreciated.

Jim Polhamus Retires

Story And Photos By Chris Kandziora

After approximately 34 years of combined military and federal service, Scottsdale/Phoenix FSDO Avionics Inspector, James Polhamus has retired.

Jim's career began while he was in the U. S. Air Force performing maintenance on jet fighters. In June 1974 he was hired by the FAA as an Airworthiness Inspector at the Phoenix General Aviation District Office. When the Avionics position was created, Jim was selected in November 1979 to perform those duties. He had continued his Avionics Inspector career until his retirement on May 2.

Jim holds an Airframe and Powerplant certificate, Master of Arts degree in Industrial Arts Teaching and teaching certificates in History and Industrial Art.

His retirement plans include substitute teaching, golfing and creating with glass. His latest stained glass artwork is a grand piano, which he is making for one of his granddaughters.

Scottsdale FSDO presented Jim with a new golf cart for his retirement.

Photos: Top — Jim and his wife Evelyn enjoy the retirement luncheon held at Scottsdale FSDO.

Middle — Manager Eldon Gubler watches as Jim opens his retirement present from the office.

Below — Enjoying the retirement party are (from left) Norm Mecklenburg, Jim Polhamus, Ken Meyer and Eldon Gubler.



Hawthorne Air Faire Slated For August

The City of Hawthorne and the Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce have announced the theme for this year's Hawthorne Air Faire and History of Aviation Banquet.

"Test Pilots: Moving Back the Frontiers of Aviation" is the theme for the fourth annual air faire which will be held August 29 and 30 at Hawthorne Municipal Airport, 12101 S. Crenshaw Blvd. The air faire will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days with plenty of free parking. There will be a \$2 admission charge for adults.

Air faire organizers have again arranged for the appearance of over 30 vintage WWII era aircraft and flying antique planes, and with the cooperation of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots will also have a host of test pilots in attendance.

Visitors to the air faire will also be treated to aerial demonstrations of remote controlled model aircraft and a variety of aeronautical displays from southland aerospace corporations; the U. S. military; and various agencies such as FAA, Northrop University, Southern California Historical Aviation Foundation, Tuskegee Airmens Association, Civil Air Patrol, Academy of Model Aeronautics, International Plastic Modelers Society, the Ninety Nines and the Vintage Aeroplane Association of California.

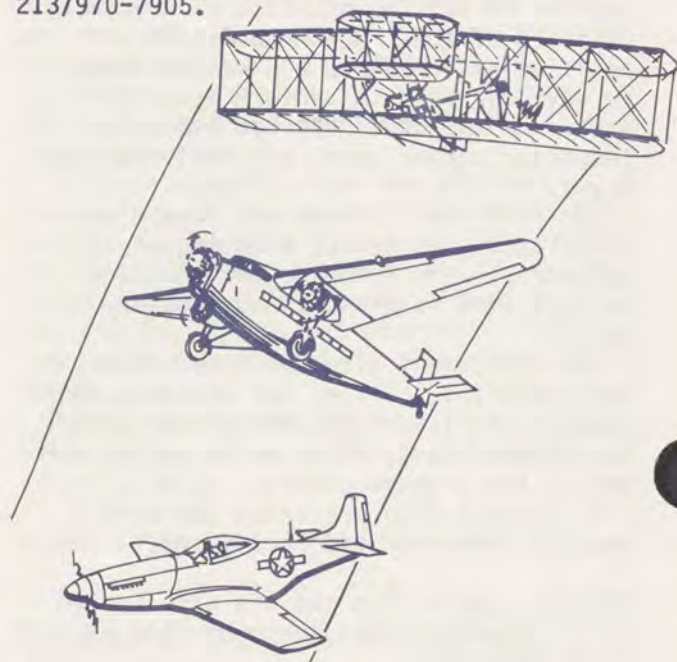
Adding to the carnival atmosphere of the event will be souvenir stands, refreshment booths, airplane rides, two chili cook-offs (August 29 is a sanctioned chili competition), and an exhibit of vintage and classic cars.

The Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce will hold its second annual History of Aviation Banquet on Saturday evening, August 29 at the Proud Bird Restaurant, 11022 Aviation Blvd. (near L. A. International Airport).

During the banquet, the chamber will pay tribute to the many achievements and contributions of both military and civilian test pilots over the years. Among the honorees will be internationally famed test pilots Chuck Yeager and Tony LeVier. A special salute to the

40th anniversary of the North American F-86 Sabre will also be presented.

Reservation information for the History of Aviation Banquet is available through the Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce 213/676-1163, or write to: History of Aviation Banquet, 12427 Hawthorne Blvd., Hawthorne, Calif. 90250. For information about the Hawthorne Air Faire, telephone 213/970-7215 or 213/970-7905.



4th Annual ATC Academy Instructors' Reunion

Plans are being finalized for this year's Air Traffic Control Academy Instructors' Reunion to be held October 9 and 10 in Oklahoma City. This reunion is open to past, present or possible future ATC Academy Instructors. We welcome retired or contract instructors, friends or representatives of organizations that work closely with the ATC program.

If you would like to help with the activities, or to receive information concerning the reunion (and are not already on the mailing list), please contact Laurie Tester, 112 Chickasaw Lane, Yukon, OK 73099, 405/354-2216.

Plan on attending!