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

# Western-Pacific Intercom



Suggestor Of The Year — Bill McGraw

## Cover Story

Regional Director Mac McClure visited the Sacramento area to participate in an awards luncheon. The main event was the presentation of the 1986 Suggestor of the Year Award to William McGraw, an Electronics Technician at the McClellan Radar/ARTS Field Office. Bill's suggestion saved the FAA approximately \$53,000 the first year of implementation. One of the completely unique features of this presentation was the fact that the 1982 winner of the Suggestor of the Year Award, Jimmy Wilkinson, also at Sacramento Sector, was on hand to congratulate Bill.

Mac was very proud to present a 35-Year Career Service Emblem to Raymond Randolph, an Electronics Technician at the Stockton Airway Facilities Field Office. Ray's entire FAA career was in the Sacramento Airway Facilities Sector.

Two Certificates of Achievement were presented to Sector Manager Robert Lamora; one for his work as the Sacramento Area Coordinator and one for his work in the Management & General Training Program as a Leadership Effectiveness Training (LET) Instructor. Also receiving a Certificate of Achievement for his efforts as a Leadership Effectiveness Training Instructor was Henry "Hank" Bertuleit. Hank is currently the Manager of Stockton Airway Facilities Field Office.

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Cover photo: William McGraw (center) accepts the Suggestor of the Year Award from Regional Director Mac McClure. Supporting William is his wife, Judy.



Top, left == Sector Manager Robert Lamora, left, accepts the Director's Certificate of Achievement. Right == Hank Bertuleit, left, listens while Mac McClure reads the inscription on the award presented to him for LET instructor activities. Below, left -- Raymond Randolph is congratulated on 35 years of government service. Right -- 1982 Suggestor of the Year Jimmy Wilkinson, left, and 1986 Suggestor of the Year William McGraw proudly display the plaques presented by Mac McClure.

## Guam AFSFO Hosts Island Leadership Day

This year, the Central Planning Committee under the Department of Youth Affairs, Government of Guam, voted and approved 11 activities that were presented by respective chairing and co-chairing school representatives. One of these activities is the "Island Leadership Day." This activity provides youth a full day exposure as student counterparts to the real world of work and to a broader perspective on management daily decision-making process and operation.

Agencies such as the FAA, military and local governments were asked to support the program by allowing manager and supervisory counterparts to assume their roles for a day.

The Guam AFSFO hosted three future managers/supervisors. They were Nanette Guerrero (Resident Director's counterpart), Patrick Hogan (Nav/COMM Unit Supervisor's counterpart), and Llewellyn Young, Jr. (Environmental Systems Unit Supervisor's counterpart). After a briefing of the FAA's organizational structure, all three counterparts were briefed on everyday duties of the position, visited facilities and met with FAA employees on duty. They then returned to their respective offices to experience the infamous "in basket."

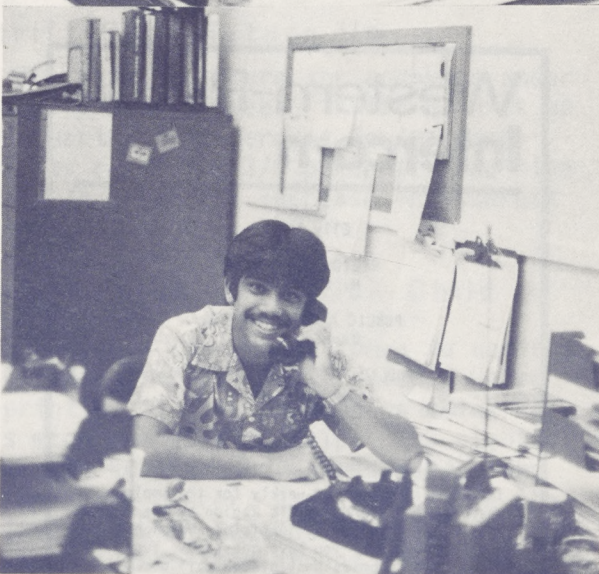
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Photos: Top -- Ron Riberal (left) goes over the in basket routine with Nanette Guerrero.

Next -- Llewellyn Young gets some hands-on experience by answering phone calls.

Below -- Patrick Hogan is ready to answer any questions from his unit employees.

(Photos by Ed Marion)



## Proud Parent Corner

Henry Pila, Environmental Systems Technician with the Honolulu Environmental Sector Field Office, can rightfully boast of his daughter Teddi, an exceptional and outstanding athlete.

Teddi, a five foot five inch senior at Kahuanui High School, plays a mean game of basketball, according to a recent article in Honolulu Star-Bulletin. Her coach admits she is one of the best guards to come along in a long time.

"I've been playing since I was about seven, but I really didn't want to in the beginning," Teddi said. But Dad Henry helped change all that. He would take Teddi, along with her brothers, to play at the local gym. She ended up sitting on the bench, but the coaches were friends of Henry. Soon, she was on a team. "Then I started to get into games, I got better and things fell into place. It's been basketball, basketball, basketball ever since."

Teddi, an all-state selection since her freshman year, has already been named Hawaii's top girl basketball player by USA Today and the Gatorade Circle of Champions. She has her eye on attending the University of Washington where she hopes to continue her education in the field of international business.

Congratulations, Teddi, and to your proud Dad Henry.

## Flight Standards Division Awards

Congratulations to the following Flight Standards folks who recently earned awards:

### Quality Increase (Outstanding Rating)

-- Robert Edwards, Oakland Flight Standards District Office; Robert Jones, Oakland FSDO; Margaret Pritchard, Riverside FSDO; Sheryl Hamman, San Jose FSDO; Rhuno Nelson, Scottsdale FSDO and Nancy McDaniel, San Diego FSDO.

Quality Increase -- Alvin Schene, San Diego FSDO.

Special Achievement Award (Outstanding Rating) -- J. Norman Wilkins, Fresno FSDO and Michael McCarthy, Los Angeles FSDO.

Special Achievement Award -- Katherine Quong and Janis Miller, Honolulu FSDO and Linda Silvertooth, Long Beach FSDO.

Special Achievement Award (Special Act) -- Marion Dittman, AWP-205.

Letters of Commendation -- Carl Borchers and Ellsworth Ritter, San Jose FSDO.

## Forms Required for Real Estate Transactions

When the Accounting Branch receives real estate vouchers that are incomplete, payment delays result. A major area of concern are purchase and sales agreements signed by both the seller and buyer.

These documents are a part of every real estate transaction and must be filed with the claim for reimbursement. Another document necessary is the truth-in-lending statement (Regulation Z), when applicable. The lack of these forms will delay payments, since Accounting must have them before the claims can be paid.

Approving officials and employees who move should be aware of these forms and insure that they are attached to vouchers sent to Accounting.

## Western-Pacific Intercom

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## Meet Leslie D. Rose Reno FAA Local Coordinator

Les Rose, Air Traffic Manager at Reno Flight Service Station, has been appointed as FAA Coordinator for the Reno area. In addition to his regular duties, he will serve as the local contact for the FAA with the public and news media.

Les was raised in Connersville, Indiana; he served in the U.S. Navy as a radar operator from 1956 to 1960. He returned to Connersville after discharge from the U.S. Navy for a short time before signing on with the FAA.

He began his career with the FAA in 1961 as a developmental Air Traffic Control Specialist at Indianapolis Flight Service Station. Other assignments have included tours as Air Traffic Control Specialist at Missoula, Montana, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, FSS. Management assignments include Area Supervisor, Fort Wayne, Indiana; Air Traffic Man-



ager, Lafayette, Indiana; and Assistant Air Traffic Manager, St. Louis, Missouri, FSS. Les was appointed Air Traffic Manager at Reno FSS in April 1985.

The Rose family includes wife Susan, sons Scott and John and daughters Kelly and Jennifer. Susan is employed by Sierra Pacific Power Company as a Customer Service Representative. All four children are students in Sparks local schools.

## News in Brief

### Harrisburg Tower Contract Signed

\* FAA has signed a contract with Daniel J. Keating Construction of Villanova, PA, to build a new airport control tower at the Harrisburg International Airport in Middletown, PA. Construction of the new 109-foot high structure is expected to begin immediately. The building is scheduled to be finished in November 1987, but additional time will be needed to install radar and other electronics. The recently renamed airport is on the site of the old Olmsted AFB and was once called Olmsted Field.

### Willow Run Controllers Move

\* Air traffic controllers at Detroit Willow Run Airport have moved from the oldest tower in the Great Lakes Region to the newest. The move to the mid-field, \$1.3 million structure was made May 26. According to tower Manager Robert Beatty, controllers "clearly get a much better view of the airfield from the new location."

### FAA/AOPA Exchange Awards

\* The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) President John Baker

and FAA Administrator Engen presented one another with surprise awards recently. Engen gave Baker FAA's Distinguished Award and Baker reciprocated by presenting Engen with the AOPA's Presidential Citation.

### Thrift Plan Return Up

\* The rate of return for accounts under the Federal employees' thrift plan is up one quarter of a percent in June over the May rate of 8-3/8 percent. The rise reflects a general increase in interest rates.

### FAAers Can Help Sick Child

\* This is a story that comes to us from a Canadian service publication. We're reprinting it here because we think FAAers might be able to help. "An eight year old Scottish boy named Buddy, who is dying of cancer, wants to get in the Guinness Book of Records by receiving the most postcards from around the world." FAAers can send their cards to Buddy, P.O. Box 76, Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland, UK.

## Loan Rates Drop Again

On May 6, FAA Western Federal Credit Union lowered all variable loan rates another 1/4 percent. This was an "across-the-board" variable rate adjustment that affected both new and existing loans. If you already have a variable rate loan that was in existence prior to May 6, you are now paying 1/4 percent less in interest.

For more information call FAA Western Federal Credit Union, 5400 Beethoven Street, Los Angeles, CA 90066, phone 213/306-4262; 800/352-7431 (Calif. outside 213 area); 800/521-5611 (Alaska and Hawaii) or 800/421-7111 (all other states).

## Red Bluff FSS News

Welcome to Jerry Judd, new Red Bluff Air Traffic Manager, who will report for duty in July. Congratulations to Gary Olson on his recent Outstanding Rating accompanied by a Quality Step Increase. Also receiving awards were Chris Reid and Roxann Meguire.

The annual northern California Job Fair was recently held in Redding, Calif., and representing the FSS option were Gary Olson and Bill Kersey.

Mid-June will mark the beginning of the FAA (Killer Bees) softball team. The team will be comprised of various FSS and AFS employees. Good Luck Bees!

## Los Angeles Center AFS News

Los Angeles Center Airway Facilities Sector welcomes Bill Powell, Communications Technician; Bob Malesza, Computer Display Channel Technician; and Timothy Jung, Electrician.

John 'Mike' Spilman, Electronics Technician/Instructor, was recently honored at a buffet luncheon in Lancaster. Mike had been detailed to Headquarters, APM-250, and has now accepted a permanent position there.

On-the-Spot awards were presented to Eligio "Leo" Arizmendiz, Electronics Technician Developmental, Roland Demond and Douglas Palmquist.

Leo, who was recently assigned to the CDC Display Unit, quickly picked up the Preventive Maintenance task on the Plan View Displays (PVDs) and, in all instances, did an outstanding job and provided service far beyond what is normally expected of a developmental in this short time period.

During a two-week period when the F&E crew had a full schedule of projects, Roland and Doug volunteered to install 75 replacement time clocks. Their engineering and installation plan was exemplary and deserving of this recognition.

Jack Melano, CDC/DARC Systems Performance Specialist, received a Special Achievement Award based on a Special

Act. The Air Traffic Operations Service, ATO-1, requested each NAPRS collection site to collect data in time for the early morning presentation before the National Air Traffic Management Team Conference in Washington, D.C. Jack's efforts were acknowledged by a Letter of Appreciation from the Director, ATO-1.

Letters of Appreciation were received by Hazel Elling, Shirley MacFarlane, Don Stoppelmann, and Jo Frances Lotts, all Computer Operators, from Mel Yoshikami, APM-200, for their outstanding support to the site acceptance test team. The letters were endorsed by Airway Facilities Division Manager Alex Hammond.

Gary Meyers, Assistant Manager for Training, received a letter from the Director of Air Traffic Operations, ATO-1, for his participation as a facilitator and member of the design team at the Traffic Management Conference. The letter was endorsed by Alex Hammond and Acting Sector Manager Burt Jones.

The Sector is proud to recognize the following people for their U.S. Government and FAA service: William Harper, Engineering Technician - 25 years; Jesus Marin, CDC Display Technician - 35 years; Fred Dalton, Systems Engineer, CDC Display - 35 years and Myron Shreves, CCC Electronics Technician - 30 years.

## FWP Hosts Secretaries Appreciation Day

The Federal Women's Program Committee recently sponsored a Secretaries Appreciation Day for Regional Headquarters Personnel. Approximately 100 employees attended the ceremony which included a message from the Deputy Director Arlene Feldman; a presentation by Regional Director Mac McClure to Iris Noguchi for "Secretary Longevity"; and speeches from Barbara Abels, AWP=5, and Cathy Kivitt, AWP=52, on how career opportunities for secretaries are available for those who seek them. Refreshments were served following the ceremony.



Photos: Left -- Marcie Thomas acted as emcee for the festivities.

Right, top: Director's Secretary Iris Noguchi receives flowers from Regional Director Mac McClure. Iris was singled out for her many years of dedicated secretarial service.

Next -- More than 100 FAAers joined the crowd to show appreciation to the secretaries of the agency.



## Jim McMeans Recouping

Retiree Jim McMeans is at home, recovering from recent open heart surgery. Jim recently retired from the FAA as manager of Palo Alto Tower, and had also served as San Carlos Tower Manager.

Friends who would like to send get-well wishes to Jim may write to him at 18025 Farm Hill Lane, Salinas, Calif. 92907.

## Phone Trouble Number

The new telephone number for reporting FTS long distance problems is FTS 295-8500. If there is a problem with the FTS line, callers should use the commercial number 301/295-8500. These are numbers for the Trouble Handling Information System in Rockville, MD. A trained professional will record the complaint and pass the report on to the responsible vendor. He or she will call back after the problem has been resolved.

Typical problems that should be reported are failure to get a dial tone, no connection after dialing, echoes on the line and cut offs in the middle of a conversation. Employees whose local service is provided by GSA also can use this number if they have trouble with that service.

## Young Space Artists Cited

FAA and the National Aeronautic Association (NAA) have selected U.S. winners of the Young Aviation and Space Artists Contest which is sponsored by the agency, NAA, and the Federation Aeronautique Internationale. Winners are: eighth grade up, James Stoterau, St. Mary's School, Annapolis, MD; grades four to seven, Mike Woodruff, Melwood School, Upper Marlboro, MD; and Kindergarten to grade three, Dereck Cleveland, Forest Avenue School, Fort Payne, AL.

Winners received certificates signed by Administrator Engen and NAA president General Von Kann. Their pictures have now been sent to Paris where they will be entered in the international contest.

## Harris Named Director Of FAA Tech Center

Former controller Edward Harris has been named Director of the FAA Technical Center in Atlantic City, NJ. He succeeds Larry Williams.

He was a Navy pilot before joining CAA in 1958 as an air traffic controller at the Washington Air Route Traffic Control Center.

Currently, he is the Director of the Air Traffic Plans and Requirements Service (ATR) and tentatively will report to the Tech Center in August. From 1972 to 1975, he was Chief of the Los Angeles Air Route Traffic Control Center. Mr. Harris was with Management Systems for ten years prior to returning to Air Traffic.

## Controllers Vote For Union

By a vote of 7,494 to 3,275, the nation's air traffic controllers voted for union representation by the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA). Of the approximately 12,800 eligible controllers who will be included in the unit, 10,769 cast valid ballots in the election conducted by the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA). Ballots were counted by FLRA June 11, and results were announced that afternoon.

Barring objections to the election, FLRA will certify NATCA as the exclusive representative of all GS-2152 series air traffic controllers located at FAA terminal and center facilities. This is expected by mid-June.

FAA issued an official statement following the announcement of election results saying, "it intends to fully honor its obligations under the Federal Service Labor Management Relations Statute and will strive to establish a positive and productive relationship with NATCA. The FAA is prepared to work with NATCA to build an organization which nurtures achievement of people's aspirations and provides a management process that will help to realize individual as well as organizational goals."

## Faulty Cabin Heater Cited in Ricky Nelson Crash

A faulty cabin heater in his chartered DC-3 may have been the cause of the accident that killed singer Ricky Nelson on Dec. 31, 1985, near DeKalb, TX.

The National Transportation Safety Board's final report said NTSB investigators could not definitely determine the source of the in-flight fire that led to the crash. However, it noted that considerable evidence pointed to the heater, despite some contradictory statements by the surviving captain.

Nelson, his fiancée, and five band members were killed in the accident. The pilot and copilot escaped through the cockpit window.

## Smoking In FAA Space

The GSA smoking regulation applies to all GSA-controlled buildings and facilities, including leased space and delegated facilities. Since our Regional Office is located in a Government-owned federal office building, we are clearly covered by the regulation. Many of our offices and facilities throughout the Region, although not in federal buildings, are in space leased either by GSA directly or by the Agency pursuant to a GSA delegation of leasing authority. The GSA regulation also applies to these offices and facilities.

The Secretary, Department of Transportation issued a memorandum on February 3, 1987, that delegated to the FAA Administrator the responsibility for designating smoking areas in FAA space. A subsequent message from the Assistant Secretary for Administration asked that the Administrator not issue directions or guidance on implementing the GSA smoking policy until the Department had an opportunity to hold additional discussions. Our most recent information was received on May 29 when we were told that the Department is in the process of coordinating the policy with the concerned unions. The date the policy will be implemented is still unknown.

Further information will be published in the Intercom as it becomes available.

## Carry-On Rule Tightened

FAA has directed U.S. airlines to exercise increased control over carry-on baggage so excess items won't become safety hazards in an emergency.

The new rule requires the airlines to establish an "approved program" to control the number and size of items passengers take on board their flights. Operators also must establish an "approved program" to control the number and size of items passengers take on board their flights. Operators also must establish at least one baggage control point outside the aircraft to prevent carry-on abuses. Finally, a designated crewmember must verify that all carry-on items are safely stowed before flight.

The airlines have until Jan. 1, 1988, to comply with the new requirements.

## Committee To Draft Airline Handicapped Rule

A government-industry advisory committee has begun drafting a rule that would prohibit the airlines from discriminating against disabled persons.

The committee, which includes representatives from organizations of disabled persons, held its first meeting June 3 and 4 and expects to have a proposed rule ready by the end of the year. Other committee members represent the airlines, airport operators and flight attendants.

Discussion items at the meetings include advance notice requirements for travel by disabled persons, seating policies, requirements for an attendant and uses of crutches and canes.


**FAA CONSUMER**

Hotline

**1 (800) FAA-SURE**

Toll-free,  
from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Eastern time, Monday  
through Friday, except  
holidays.

Consumers may call this number if they have  
problems with services provided by FAA. Do **Not**  
call with complaints about airline service.



## Los Angeles Center Pilot Familiarization Program

Fourteen United Airlines flight operations personnel recently attended the new Los Angeles Pilot Familiarization Program at Los Angeles Center. Among those present was United's Chief Pilot, Gary Meermans.

The six hour program included one hour of classroom and Dy-Sim familiarization with the remainder of the time spent monitoring with a controller at a sector.

Members of the group expressed their thoughts that this was an excellent program and hoped that more pilots would attend in the future.

This program is offered Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for all Air Carrier and Air Taxi pilots. For further information or reservations contact Pilot Controller Relations at 805/265-8310.

## Hayward To Las Vegas Air Race Successful

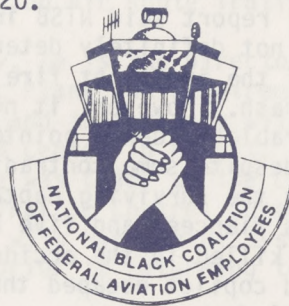
The Hayward to Las Vegas Air Race recently hosted over 70 aircraft which departed Hayward, landed at Bakersfield, and completed the race at North Las Vegas Air Terminal.

The scheduled stop at Bakersfield was up to two hours longer than originally planned for 50 aircraft due to extensive military operations in the Trona Corridor.

Excellent cooperation and coordination were exhibited by the race organizers, airport management, Tower/TRACON and Flight Service. FSS Air Traffic Manager Mike Lammes and Specialist Byron Sako provided weather briefings for the pilots, while Specialist Jerry Lamb verified race aircraft over the check point at Rio Bravo Airport. Specialist Bill Duran and Developmental Barbara Bradshaw enabled their co-workers to be involved by handling all other operations. Teamwork truly contributed to a safe and successful race.

## NBFCAE Meets Monthly In R. O.

All FAA employees are invited to attend the monthly meetings of the National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees (NBCFAE) in the Regional Office. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month, beginning at 4:30 p.m., in Conference Room 4W3. For further information, contact Glenn Cross at 213/297-1120.



## Red Bluff Fishing News

The 1986 Red Bluff Flight Service Bass Tournament is history with Chris Reid the big loser. Three boats and six anglers hit Lake Shasta on an ideal spring day. Several limits were caught with most "bronzebacks" (smallmouth bass) going from 1-1/2 to 3 pounds. Ron Tener and Chuck Kuennen teamed up for the heaviest boat with Gary Olson the largest fish. Also participating were Jack Smeltz and Rod Durkee. Chris Reid, although catching 15-20 fish, could not negotiate a single fish of legal size -- one actually being smaller than his lure!

Closer to home, the Shad Derby is scheduled for June on the Sacramento River. In May, a lot of fish were caught up to 5 pounds until cool weather slowed the bite.

This summer, the salmon competition starts in earnest. Several fish last year topped the scales at more than 30 pounds, and Chris Reid, having better luck than with the bass, landed the biggest Chinook at 44 pounds.

With vacation time upon us, anyone passing through northern California and wanting information on fishing, drop by the Flight Service Station. They have resident experts (of varying degrees) on duty most every day.

## Director's Awards Presented

The Third Annual Director's Honorary Achievement Award presentation was recently held at the Regional Headquarters. Regional Director Mac McClure conducted the ceremony with assistance from Barbara Abels, Manager, Office of Public Affairs and Earl Portlock, Incentive Awards Office. Forty-three employees were selected to receive the Director's Certificate of Achievement in four categories. The recipients are:

**JAMES ARTHUR** = Full Assistant Principal Operations Inspector, Oakland Airport Flight Standards District Office: In recognition of participation as a member of two regional inspection teams and one national inspection team.

**PATRICIA FAUX** = Administrative Officer, Edwards Air Force Base: For leadership, community awareness and public relations in bringing out the best in employees of the FAA in general and Western-Pacific employees in particular.

**HOWARD HINTON** = Air Traffic Control Specialist (Retired), Traffic Management Branch, Air Traffic Division: In recognition of outstanding achievement in the activities of the Air Traffic Division which has contributed significantly to the overall success of the Division's programs.

**HENRY BERTULEIT, JR.**, Manager, Stockton Field Office; **MERLE CLURE**, Manager, Airspace and Procedures Branch, Air Traffic Division; **SANDRA COUVERLEY**, Air Traffic Control Specialist, Lancaster Flight Service Station; **JAMES DEA**, Manager, San Diego Tower; **CHARLES FOLEY**, Manager, Santa Barbara Tower; **MELVIN HAWORTH**, Manager, Golden Gate Airway Facilities Sector; **DOUGLAS JOHNSON**, Manager, Reno AFS; **THOMAS KAMMAN**, Supervisory Air Traffic Control Specialist, San Diego TRACON; **ROBERT LAMORA**, Manager, Sacramento AFS; **FORNEY LUNDY JR.**, Manager, Monterey Tower; **RICHARD MUCKLE**, Manager, Los Angeles AFS; **LOUISE STILES**, Administrative Officer, Los Angeles AFS; **MARTHA THOMAS**, Program Analyst, Airway Facilities Division; and **GARRY WOHLLEIB**, Electronics Technician (Technician-In-Depth), San Diego AFS: In recognition of initiative, dedication

and outstanding service as volunteer instructors of Management and General Training Programs in the Western-Pacific Region.

**JOHN CLANCY, MATTHEW FLETCHER, BRUCE GREER, JOHN HOFFMAN, DAVID SMITH and JAMES SNAVELY** = Supervisory Air Traffic Control Specialists, Edwards RAPCON: In recognition of total dedication to the air traffic system at Edwards RAPCON and the mission of the United States military at Edwards Air Force Base.

**RICHARD DILLEY** = Supervisory Air Traffic Control Specialist, Los Angeles Air Route Traffic Control Center: For dedicated involvement with the youth of southern California.

**JAMES BERQUIST, JENNIFER DOTSON, KENNETH FLAHERTY and BARRY GAMBLIN** = Air Traffic Control Specialists: For furthering the Aviation Education Program by volunteering during off-duty hours to participate in seminars that promote air traffic control and the FAA.

**LAWRENCE LEIFRIED** = Supervisory Air Traffic Control Specialist, Los Angeles Center: In recognition of efforts to further the healthy development of youth in a meaningful sports program through community volunteer work.

**MARK RADABAUGH** = Air Traffic Control Specialist, Los Angeles Center: In recognition of life-saving effort involving a swimming mishap on August 2, 1886, in which quick action prevented a possible tragedy.

Employee Letters of Appreciation were presented to the following supervisors: **WAYNE BAIR** = Manager, San Francisco FSDO; **HENRY BARBACHANO** = Manager, Palo Alto Tower; **BRUCE DOWHAN** = SATCS, San Diego Tower; **PHILLIP EDELMAN** = Supervisory Engineering Technician, Burbank AFSFO; **SUSUMU FURUIKE** = Manager, Mount Kaala SFO, Honolulu AFS; **MICHAEL GONZALEZ** = Manager, NAV/LANDING Program Section; **CHARLES HALTERMAN** = Montgomery Tower; **ALEX HAMMOND** = Manager, Airway Facilities Division; **JAMES HOLWEGER** - former Manager, Los Angeles TRACON; **DONALD MYERS** = SATCS, Los Angeles Center; **JAMES STAGNER** = Manager, NAS Coordination Section Staff; **DONALD TOM** - Assistant Manager, Airway Facilities Division and **JACK WASHINGTON** - Supervisor, Oakland FSDO.



# Fantastic flight

*"Fort Payne, Alabama, is known for three things...Fort Payne is home to the band, Alabama. Fort Payne calls itself the Sock Capital of the World. And Fort Payne is where an innovative educational program called Fantastic Flight originated."*

Such are the words — or something to that effect — that lead into one of the hottest videos playing in schools around the country. A video about Fort Payne, that mentions the band and socks only in passing. Because this video is about Fantastic Flight, a shining example of what one teacher with an idea can accomplish.

That teacher is Iris Harris. And while she's not traveling the country talking about Fantastic Flight, Mrs. Harris hangs her shingle on a first grade classroom at Forest Ave. School.

Fantastic Flight started as just a sideline, an extra curricular activity, so to speak. But it has mushroomed into a full blown curriculum of its own, it seems. Involving the rest of the first grade staff and students at Forest Ave., Fantastic Flight goes beyond teaching children only about the marvels of flight. It has become a total teaching tool...the impetus upon which so many other principles and basics find meaning for our first graders.

Aviation is used to convey the importance of math, for example. Or the importance of good health (you can't be a pilot unless your body is as sharp as your mind). Geography and map reading are an important chapter of Fantastic Flight's curriculum, too. And the list goes on.

At such a tender age, first graders begin thinking about careers and the preparation that must go into career planning. Not that Mrs. Harris intends to graduate two dozen aviators from her first grade class every year, but the impressions of career planning remain with students that have been touched by Fantastic Flight. The students begin to see a purpose in their studies, a practical application to those things they learn in school. And that is the ultimate goal of Fantastic Flight.

The air show held annually at the Fort Payne Airport is the climax to months of study involving aviation. It's the air show that you've probably heard or read about. The FAA and numerous other big wheels have heard about it, too. And they've been so impressed by it, that they now take an active part in the festivities. And then use the experience to tout the Fantastic Flight concept to other schools, in other cities, all across the country.

Like many good and worthwhile things, Fantastic Flight depends on volunteers, too. And contributions. Fantastic Flight doesn't occupy a place in the state's education budget. But Mrs. Harris isn't bashful, and willingly asks for assistance when she speaks to civic groups and others in a position to help. I can think of no more worthwhile project in our schools deserving of assistance, either.

One teacher. One idea. That's where it started. One person doing just a bit more than they were expected to do. Going that extra distance for our children. Certainly, there are others who do the same. But few have met with the success of Iris Harris and Fantastic Flight. An exceptional teacher, whom we're fortunate to have right here in Fort Payne.

The Alabama band. Socks. And now one more claim to fame for Fort Payne...Fantastic Flight.

Gary Gengozian, Editor and Publisher

## Editor's Note:

Ms. Melba Harris of Fort Payne, Alabama, recently received the prestigious A. Scott Crossfield Aerospace Education of the year Award at the 20th National Congress on Aviation and Space Education.

Fantastic Flight started five years ago with a zero budget. In 1986 the FAA in Washington discovered the program. Their excitement resulted in a video of Fantastic Flight that is now being used nationwide as a model school program. The Fantastic Flight video was produced by the Southern Region, and copies are now available for loan in the Public Affairs Office, AWP-5, to share with your favorite teacher. The tape runs 15-20 minutes.



**Reach Out And Touch A Teacher.....  
You'll Be Glad You Did !**