

87-40
October 5, 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



Airports Bikers Climb To The Top

Cover Story

by Les Hopkins

San Francisco ADO

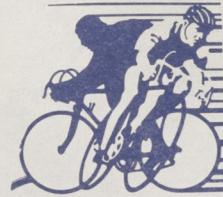
While taking a coffee break from duties at San Francisco Airports District Office (ADO), Les Hopkins--who bicycles 40 miles home from the office a couple days a week--suggested to John Pfeifer (ex-marathon runner) that they organize a bicycle ride from Les's house in Sunnyvale to John's house in Livermore. To make the ride more interesting, they decided to go via Mt. Hamilton which rises to an elevation of 4200'. The two urged Dave Cross, a recent convert to bicycle mania, into going along. Also invited were Ralph Tonseth, Fresno Airport Manager, (a real animal on a bicycle) and three of John's riding buddies from Livermore. San Francisco ADO Planner Sheryl Scarborough--not wanting to miss the fun--volunteered to drive a "Sag Wagon"--a car loaded with food and extra water.

"D-Day" finally arrived. The group departed from Sunnyvale, and within four hours made it to the top of Mt. Hamilton. There the group caught up with Dave Cross who had an early start. After lunch Les announced, "It's all down hill from here! Just a few more small hills and valleys."

The undulations turned out to include 1,800' of climbing. Ten hours after the start, the entire group made it to John's house (some with a little help from the Sag Wagon and Les's continuing announcement that "It's all down hill from here!"). The total trip covered about 85 miles--depending on where the cyclists got lost. And although it was not a race, the two oldest and heaviest bikers (Les and Ralph) were the first ones to reach John's house!

Asked why they did it, they suggested it was like hitting your thumb with a hammer. "It feels so good once it's stops hurting!"

In case anyone is interested, San Francisco ADO plans to make this an annual affair. Contact the ADO for details of next year's ride.



Cover photo: And they're off... Getting ready to start the 85-mile trek are (from left) Jim Flanerty, Jim Boehmke, Ken Jones, Les Hopkins, Sheryl Scarborough, John Pfeifer and Ralph Tonseth. Dave Cross got an early start and missed the group shot.

"They decided to go via Mt. Hamilton...

elevation 4200'...The total trip

covered about 85 miles."

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.

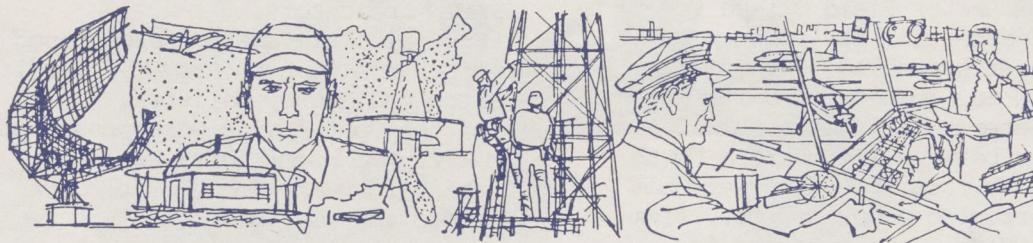
Verna King Honored

At LAX AFS

Verna King, Supply Specialist at Los Angeles Airway Facilities Sector, received a promotion to Logistics Unit Supervisor and a Quality Within Grade Award, during the LAX AFS Managers/Supervisors meeting. Verna was instrumental in keeping the Logistics Unit operating smoothly during the hectic consolidation period of Los Angeles and Lancaster AFS's. Verna is also very active with the Civilair Board.

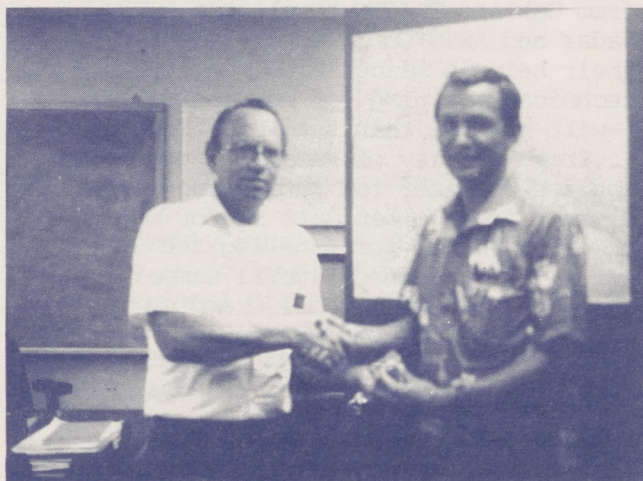
Photo: Verna King (left) receives Certificate of Quality Performance from Jim Loughheed, Assistant LAX AFS Manager.

(Photo by Don Hayes.)



Charles Bryan, Maui Tower, Earns 35-Year Pin

Charles Bryan (left), Quality Assurance and Proficiency Development Specialist at Maui Tower, is presented with his 35-year Career Service pin by Bob Rabideau, Air Traffic Manager.



Golden Gate AFS News

Facility tours were conducted at Crescent City Air Route Surveillance Radar Sector Field Office for the Crescent Elk School, Azalea Middle School of Brookins, Oregon, and California Conservation Corps. Conducting the tours were Dave Dunlap, Jack Feather, Rudy Rugenstein, Warren Moell and Roy Hiner.

Good wishes to Floyd Sam and Bob Hubbard who recently retired.

Letters of Appreciation were received from Monterey Tower to John Larson for providing temporary tower assistance during the 23rd Annual Watsonville Antique Aircraft Fly-in...from Sacramento AFS and AWP-400 to Ron Oberlercher for participating in the field-conducted radar course at Edwards AFB...from Ukiah FSS to Irene Reese, Fred Twigge and Ed Wilcox for their consistent willingness to assist...from Oakland FSS to Joe Bettencourt and George Wong for the multidrawer map cabinet they constructed...from Mill Valley ARSR Sector Field Office to Maurice Shwetzzer for assisting with an interference problem...from Oakland TRACON to Bob Leone and Tex Murnert for determining that critical telco lines between the Oakland North Tower and the radar position were not on an interrupted power source...from Honolulu AFS to Francis Osgood for his assistance while at American Samoa SFO...from San Francisco Tower to Tony Beals for participating in the San Francisco approach staff study...from Oakland TRACON to all the ARTS/-Radar and ARTS/Comm Technicians for their help in maintaining quality technical training for new controllers --with special thanks to Dick Fong ...from the City of Vacaville to Maurice Shwetzzer for conducting a CPR class...from Golden Gate Sector Manager to Celia Alonzo for handling the Sector's 1986 Combined Federal Campaign...from Oakland FSS to Paul Crampton for the improved responsiveness to the FSS concerns while Acting Sector Field Office Manager...from Oakland TRACON to Jack Borrego for his excellent briefing to the Bay Area Working Group on the possible LDA Antenna site selection to service Runway 28R at San

Francisco...from Fremont AFS to Maurice Schwetzer for conducting Granger System Monitor and Control Panel Training.

Career Service Emblems were presented as follows: 35-year emblem to Clarence Bryant; 30-year emblems to Merrill Scott, John Bowman, Jimmy Johnson, Leonard Hogan, John Smith, Daniel Hill and Bill Chinn; 25-year emblems to Michael Borgeson, Neil Folden, Fred Lavell, Rudolf Regenstein, Charles Waters and Thomas Loo.

Special Act Awards went to George Kirkwood for developing locally developed alphanumeric and keyboard entry capability as part of implementing the Airport Radar Service Area program. In addition, George developed a low cost subcarrier system for the Communications Microwave Link Terminal to transmit alpha numeric keyboard entry information from the North Tower to the TRACON's alphanumeric BRITE equipment; to Ralph Humphrey for work accomplished on the RCL project; and to Floyd Sam for modifying the RVR Tasker 500, making it compatible with the TRACON indicators.

Special Achievement Awards based on performance went to Art Day, Varti Patton and Mickey Wallwork.

On-the-Spot Awards were presented to Irwin Johnson, Larry Rengstor, Curtis Alderman, John Adsit, Jack Borrego and Tony Beals.

ChemExec Services Discontinued

Property Management and Rental Home-finding services under the FAA's contract with ChemExec Relocations Systems, Inc., have been immediately suspended, according to a memo issued by AAA-300.

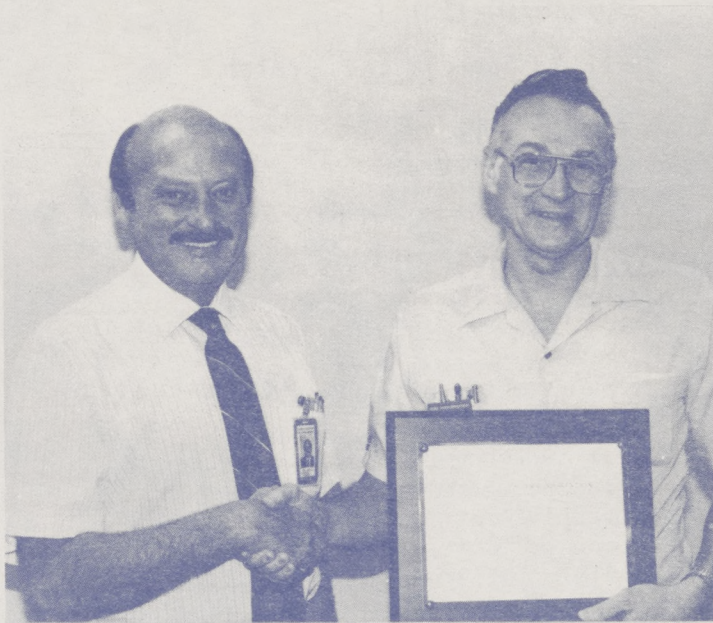
For the time being, these services are temporarily discontinued. Employees will be notified if these services are to be permanently excluded--pending a determination from the Office of the Secretary.

If you have any questions, please contact Natalie Greenberg, Regional Coordinator, at FTS 984-1831 or 213/297-1831.

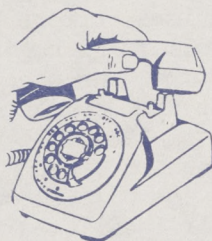
Los Angeles Center AFS Presents Awards

Congratulations to Los Angeles Center Airway Facilities Sector folks who recently earned awards. Some of the recipients are (top photo) Karl Jarvis (right) and (photos below, from left) Leon Chadwick, Tommy Coats, Luis Espinosa and Richard Meyers. Making the presentations is Eurt Jones, Acting AFS Manager.

Other award recipients at the sector include Anita More, Daryn Rasch and Patricia Hughes.



HRC Hotline



The Human Relations Committee advises that one of Regional Director Mac McClure's goals is to have the opportunity to meet as many employees in the region as possible. He is interested in knowing how regional office employees feel about participating in some type of brown-bag lunch session with him. This would allow Mac to meet employees on an informal, personal basis. Let your HRC Rep know your

thoughts on this idea so they can be passed on to Mac.

HRC recently finalized its mission statement as follows: "The mission of the Regional Office Human Relations Committee is to encourage employee participation in the planning and decision-making process. With open communication and commitment, we can effect a positive impact on employee morale growth, and development."

News In Brief

Hecker Joins Wicat Systems

* FAA Deputy Administrator designate Lawrence Hecker has asked the White House to withdraw his nomination for the agency's No. 2 job because of the long Congressional delay on his confirmation hearings. The former TWA pilot and executive has joined Wicat Systems as Vice President for Aviation Affairs.

Releases Issued For ATC Graduates

* The Aeronautical Center has begun mailing "hometown" news releases on graduates from the FAA Academy's air traffic control initial training course. Initiated by the AAC Public Affairs Office with the Sept. 1 graduating class, the program is similar to ones the military services have been using successfully for years. For the Sept. 1 class of 93 graduates, Public Affairs staffers mailed out 164 releases to the hometown newspapers of 74 class members who authorized the stories.

British CAA Annual Meeting Slated

* Air navigation systems, satellite navigation issues, and the FAA National Airspace System Plan are among the topics to be discussed when FAA and the British CAA hold their 27th annual meeting Oct. 1-2 in Washington. Administrator McArtor will head the FAA team and CAA Chairman Tugendhat will lead the British delegation. This will be the first meeting between the two aviation chiefs.

Retirement Contributions Earn Interest

* The interest on retirement contributions required to credit post-1956 military service for retirement begins to accrue on Oct. 1 for employees hired before Oct. 1983. For all other employees, this occurs on the third anniversary of their Federal employment. For both groups the interest rate on or after the accrual date will be 11.125 percent for CY 1987. Inquiries should be directed to the Human Resource Management Office.

Newman Named Manager Of New Training Center

FAA veteran William Newman will be the manager of the new Center for Management Development (CMD), when it opens for business next month in Palm Coast, FL.

An FAA employee since June 1966, Newman has been Assistant Superintendent of the FAA Academy at Oklahoma City for the past three years. He began his career with the agency as an Employee Development Specialist in Atlanta, GA.

In addition to a change of name and location, the new CMD will be staffed by a new instructional contractor, University Research Corp. (URC) from Chevy Chase, MD. URC will be responsible for developing new courses and delivering management training.

The official dedication ceremony is scheduled for Oct. 15 with Administrator McArtor as the featured speaker.

OP Errors Drop In August

FAA's on-going program to reduce operational errors by air traffic controllers is beginning to pay off. The number was down 14 percent in August when compared with the same month in 1986. It was the first monthly decrease since November 1986.

The agency's enroute and terminal control facilities reported a total of 111 operational errors in August 1986. For the year, controller errors still are 12 percent above the 1986 figure, but that's down from 20 percent at the end of June.

Operational errors declined by 25 percent in 1985 and another 14 percent in 1986. However, a reversal of that trend this year prompted FAA to initiate a special emphasis effort to identify and implement corrective actions.

New Air Surgeon On Board

Colonel Robert R. McMeekin of the U.S. Army Medical Corps was sworn in on Sept. 15 as FAA's new Federal Air Surgeon. McMeekin will remain on active duty with the Army during his FAA assignment.

A former Director of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) in Washington, DC, he was counselor to the Undersecretary of Health and Human Services before moving to FAA.

As Federal Air Surgeon, he will be responsible for the management of FAA's aviation medicine program. He holds an airline transport pilot's certificate and is a recognized authority on aircraft investigation.

McMeekin is a graduate of Yale Medical School and received a law degree from Georgetown University. He is a professor at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md.

Secretary Dole Resigns

Elizabeth Dole may be the first woman as Secretary of Transportation, but she has more than made up for the delay by serving in the job for longer than any of her seven male predecessors.

On Oct. 1, Mrs. Dole will step down from the Secretary's post after four-and-a-half years to devote her formidable talents to the Presidential campaign of her husband, Sen. Robert Dole of Kansas, the minority leader in the U.S. Senate. The move could be the first step in transforming Washington's foremost "power couple" into the nation's first family.

In accepting Mrs. Dole's resignation with "deepest regret," President Reagan praised her leadership of the Department and singled out her commitment to improving safety for special mention. "Because of your personal emphasis on transportation safety, it is now a national priority," the Chief Executive said. "Countless lives have been saved and crippling injuries prevented on our highways, railroads, and in the air because of your leadership."

PWC And McArtor Meet

True to his pledge to improve communications will all segments of FAA, Administrator McArtor recently met with Rose Marino, President of the Professional Women Controllers (PWC). Discussions focused on the career challenges facing women in the air traffic control field.

Marino reported that the Administrator congratulated PWC for its hard work in promoting professionalism among controllers and said that he would like to see more women in ATC. He also pledged his full support and assistance to PWC in meeting mutually beneficial goals and promised to maintain a continuing dialogue.

The organization, which includes men as well as women, will hold its 10th annual convention in Arlington, VA, next April.

Health Plan Open Season Announced by OPM

The Office of Personnel Management has set Nov. 9-Dec. 11 as the dates for this year's Federal Employee Health Benefits "open season."

Although OPM said the general trend will be for increased premiums -- an average of 31 percent for non-postal employees -- there will be many exceptions, particularly pre-paid health maintenance organizations. Also, 92 new pre-paid plans will be joining the FEHB program in 1988.

During the open season employees not registered in a health plan can join and those already registered can change plans. New enrollments and changes will be effective on the first day of the first pay period in 1988.

Jan. 29, 1944

Sent to:

Mr. O. M. Kemp, Pres.
American Airlines, Inc.
100 E. 42nd St., NYC

Capt. E. D. Rickenbacker, Pres.
Eastern Airlines, Inc.
10 Rockefeller Plaza, N Y C

Mr. J. T. Trippe, Pres.
Pan American Airways System
135 E. 42nd St. NYC

Mr. Jack A. Frye, Pres.
Transcontinental & Eastern Air, Inc.
30 E. 42nd St. NYC

W. N. Coverdall, Pres.
American Export Airlines, Inc.
25 Bway, NYC

Mr. Sigmund Janice, Pres.
Colonial Airlines, Inc.
536 Fifth Ave. NYC

Mr. W. Patterson
United Airlines Transport Corp.
80 E. 42nd St. NYC

Dear Sir:

This is the last call on the matter of the runway layout at the new Airport.

Thursday, February 3rd, 1944, at my office, City Hall, at 2:30 pm o'clock, come prepared to make any suggestions or forever hold your peace. I have heard some grouching about the present layout which I know is not justified. If you have any cockeyed ideas on tangent runways that have not yet been tried out, keep them for some other time.

I am willing to hear constructive criticism and to receive helpful suggestions. I cannot compete against white tablecloths and soft pencils. Everyone who gets two drinks under his belt is now designing runway layouts on restaurant tables.

We will have a map here, our consulting engineer will be here, and I expect to have the matter finally, completely and definitely settled.

You may bring anyone you desire from your engineering, technical and piloting staff. Lawyers cannot contribute anything. This is not a legal matter.

Very truly yours,

(sgd). F. M. LaGuardia
Mayor

(Editor's note: This 1944 letter was authored by Mayor LaGuardia to seven airline presidents regarding Idlewild Airport, now JFK. We thought you might enjoy reading it here in INTERCOM.)