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Cover Story

"Our rural ancestors with little
blest,
Patient of labor when the end was
rest,
Indulged the day that housed their
annual grain,
With feasts and offerings, and a
thankful strain."
-- Alexander Pope

Americans have progressed by leaps and bounds since the days when Pilgrims relied heavily on the annual grain yield to prepare them for the long, harsh winters ahead. Yet, these plain and simple people were thankful for the meager existence to which they were accustomed.

We in the FAA family have much to be thankful for. We have our careers; we have each other, and we are doing our part to serve by striving to ensure continued aviation safety for all those who fly in these United States.

As we celebrate November 26 as a day of feasting, relaxation and celebration, let us remember the advancement of America over the years and be thankful for our abundant blessings.



Western-Pacific Intercom

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News In Brief

* Both the House of Representatives and the Senate now have passed bills that would extend the Airport and Airways Improvement Act of 1982, and the next step is a joint conference to iron out differences in the two versions. One of the points to be settled is the length of the extension since the House bill specifies five years and the Senate version only three. Conferees also must agree on annual authorization levels for funding key FAA programs and decide on a long list of amendments covering such items as collision avoidance systems, cockpit voice and flight data recorders, life vests, access to the National Driver Register and noise abatement.

* For FAAers, perhaps the most important amendment to the Airport and Airways legislation is one giving additional protection in job-related lawsuits. It would give the FAA Administrator authority to indemnify agency employees for damages they might incur in a lawsuit, provided the litigation arises from activities that were within the scope of their employment.

* FAA has put the airlines on notice that 80 percent isn't good enough anymore when it comes to detecting weapons at airport screening points. On Oct. 22, Civil Aviation Security Chief Ray Salazar told a Congressional subcommittee that the agency is not satisfied with the current 80 percent success rate on weapons detection and has amended airline security standards to strengthen requirements in this area. He added that the agency is prepared to take enforcement action against those who do not meet the new requirements.

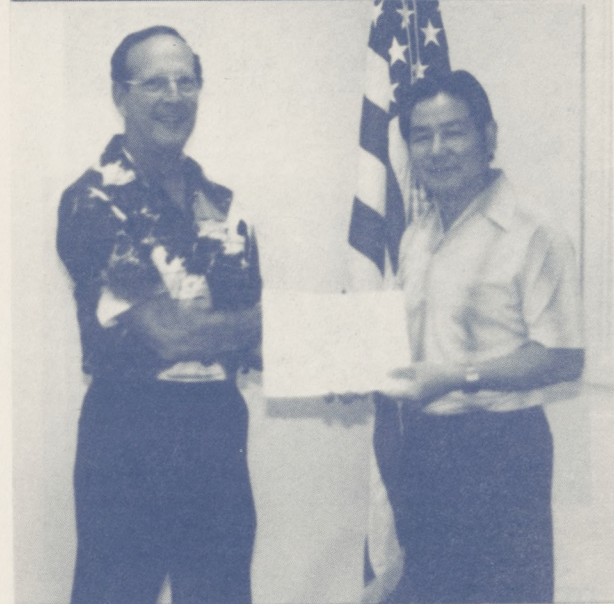
* Southern Region Assistant Public Affairs Officer Roger Myers has won a first prize in photography in an area somewhat far afield from his aviation duties. His photo of an old mill was judged the top entry in a contest sponsored by the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills. On second thought, old mills and old airplanes aren't that much different after all; they both have propellers.

Honolulu FSDO Awards

Top--Honolulu Flight Standards District Office Aviation Safety Inspector John Mapel (right) shares a happy moment with Airworthiness Supervisor Richard Teixeira as he receives a Certificate for Outstanding Performance.



Next--Aviation Safety Inspector Yoshio Ito (right) accepts congratulations and a Certificate for Outstanding Performance from Airworthiness Supervisor, Richard Teixeira.



Below--Gilbert Dela Cruz, Western-Pacific Aviation Maintenance Technician of the Year for 1987, proudly displays his certificate. He is the President, General Manager, and Chief Inspector for Rotorwing Hawaii, Inc., in Honolulu, Hawaii.



In Memoriam

Wallace C. Gilleo

We are saddened to report the death of Wallace Gilleo. Wallace died at home in Honolulu, Hawaii, on November 5 at age 59. A 20-year FAA veteran, Wallace was employed at the Honolulu NAV/COM Airway Facilities Sector Field Office.

Our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

AT Facilities Cited For Forest Service Support



Sacramento Air Traffic Hub facilities received recognition for their efforts in the recent fire fighting campaigns. Awarded by the Regional Air Traffic Division, the plaques read, "In recognition of all personnel for their unselfish support of the USFS during the devastating California forest fires of 1987."

Those honored include, from left, Rick Frank, Redding Tower; Neil Bettenhausen, Fresno Tower; Burleigh Stokes, Sacramento TRACON; Buck Dodson, Chino Tower; Jim Brown, Sacramento Metro Tower; and Jim Faucett, Modesto Tower. Unavailable at photo time is Jerry Martin, Stockton Flight Service Station (FSS).

Fresno FSS Happenings

Fresno Flight Service Station (FSS) recently went through a two and one-half day Systems Performance Analysis (SPAT) coordinated by the Regional Air Traffic Division. The SPAT process was found to be interesting and educational. The Region's explanation of the FSS/SPAT and the explanation of new acronyms such as Critical Flow Control Facility (CF squared) and Traffic Management Unit (TMU) were useful.

Fresno FSS was recently evaluated on its 1986 Employee Survey Action Plan. All on-duty personnel had the opportunity to talk with the Region to discuss views concerning the survey.

The FSS Employee Participation Group (EPG) finished up the facility's plan concerning the Employee Survey. Thanks to Fresno Airway Facilities Sector's Dave Bomann who assisted by facilitating the EPG. Bob Murray assisted the Region and Washington by participating in a two-day work group to access the Employee Survey in Southern California.

In the area of training, the facility thanks Stephan Shackelford and Robert Sherrard for their efforts in training George Bellah. Thanks also to Bob Thompson for conducting a training class on Instrument Flight Rules for students at the Tulare Airport. Ruth Bellah attended the Management Team Action course and reports it to be a positive experience. Congratulations to Jim Shingledecker for obtaining a private pilots certificate and to Ruth Bellah for receiving her certificate from the San Joaquin College of Law as a certified paralegal.

Congratulations also to those receiving Letters of Appreciation--Kenneth Mahorney, Norman Davis, Harry Yoneda, James Shingledecker and Robert Thompson. Air Traffic Manager George Hioco extends his thanks to Fresno FSS employees for a job well done.



AF's High Desert Area Office Closes Shop

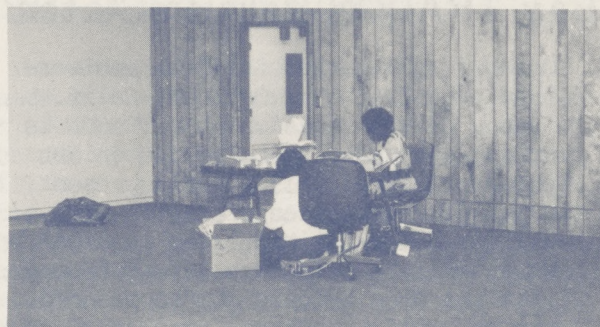
When the FAA opened its office at 660 West Avenue "J" in Lancaster, Calif., it was known as the Lancaster Airway Facilities Sector Office. A year ago, the office was renamed the High Desert Area Office. The office was to remain open during the transition period of the Los Angeles and Lancaster Airway Facilities Sector consolidation. On September 30, 1987, the transition period ended as did the FAA's presence at 660 West Avenue "J."

Photos: Top--Delores Turner, High Desert General Supply Specialist (GSS), and Jo Wilkerson, High Desert Administrative Officer, finish the last work assignments at the High Desert Area Office.

Next--Delores Turner, locks the back door for the last time.

Next--John Marley, Acting High Desert Area Manager removes the FAA logo from the office front window.

Below--Mark Isberner, Lancaster Sector Field Office (SFO) Electronics Technician, removes the FAA logo from the High Desert Area Office front door.



Bay TRACON Reunion Slated

October 1987 marked the 20th anniversary of Bay TRACON in Oakland, Calif. In honor of the occasion, the TRACON is planning a reunion to be held the last weekend of February 1988. All present and previous employees of Bay TRACON and friends are invited. The reunion banquet will be held Saturday, February 27, at the Blue Dolphin in San Leandro. A one-day golf tournament is planned for Friday, February 26. Costs for the events are still being finalized, and will be announced soon.

For further information, contact Charlie Moore at Bay TRACON, 415/273-6005. Please plan to attend, and help the TRACON celebrate this auspicious occasion, and meet the fine people that have contributed so much to the facility during the past twenty years.

Monterey Tower AT Hub News

Congratulations to controller Alan Staabs on obtaining full performance level radar controller status in five months at Monterey Tower/TRACON. Also, congratulations to Cindy Bacon for becoming fully certified at Salinas Tower.

Civilair To Host Christmas Boutique

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, December 9. That's the day of the Civilair Annual Christmas Boutique. Artists will display their crafts in the lobby of the Regional Office from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Take this opportunity to do some Christmas shopping while meeting your fellow FAAers. All proceeds will go to the Civilair Social Activities Fund.

For more information, contact Linda Murray, Civilair Chairperson, at 213/297-1697.

Success At First "FOCUS GROUP" Session

It was difficult to tell who was more enthusiastic about the first Employee Focus Group (EFG) problem solving session in Atlanta, Oct. 28-30, Administrator McArtor or the working-level participants.

McArtor told a Nov. 3 press briefing in Washington, DC, that the 15,000 air traffic controllers in the field make up one big "Tiger Team" for the agency.

"I am convinced that they have the solutions to our system problems, and all we need is someone who is smart enough to ask the right questions and then write down the answers."

He noted that the group of 27 full performance level controllers and three National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) representatives at the Atlanta meeting were "extremely enthusiastic" and came up with many excellent recommendations, some of which we implemented on the spot. He cited the example of overlapping shifts where facilities now will have greater flexibility to adapt the national policy to specific circumstances.

Fred Spencer from the Miami Tower, who was one of the NATCA representatives, agreed with the Administrator's assessment. "We were very pleased that McArtor wants to go directly to the front-line for feedback with no filters in between," he said. "I don't think anyone came away from the meeting without positive feelings and the idea that we had accomplished something."

Similar views were expressed by Donna Kitta of the Dayton Tower. "I thought it was great," she said. "It really showed a sense of enthusiasm for FAA and within FAA. I think we came up with some viable alternatives to the problems they gave us, and the Administrator was very open to our suggestions."

McArtor says he hopes to convene three EFG meetings, which are part of his IMPACT 88 package, before the end of the year as the first step in institutionalizing the process. The next meeting is set for Nov. 18-20, also in Atlanta, and will involve Flight Standards personnel.

By The Numbers

* Operational errors by air traffic controllers were down again in October for the third consecutive month. The 25 percent drop last month followed declines of 14 percent in August and 10 percent in September when compared with the same months in 1986. For the first 10 months of 1987, operational errors still are running four percent above the 1986 level but--to put that in context--the figure was +20 percent at the end of June.

* Flight delays dropped a whopping 45 percent in October following a 41 percent decline in September as compared to the same months last year. Over the past six months (May-October), flight delays of 15 minutes or more were down 21 percent from the same period in 1986. For the 10 month period, the drop is 12 percent measured against last year.

* Accidents are running below last year's levels which represented one of the safest years in the history of aviation. Preliminary National Transportation Safety Board data shows total fatalities in all segments of U.S. civil aviation down two percent from 1986 through the end of September, going from 809 to 783. General aviation fatalities were down from 759 to 558, whereas air carrier fatalities were up from 50 to 225, primarily due to the August Northwest Airlines accident in Detroit. The total number of people killed in aviation accidents in the U.S. last year was 1,030, which was about two percent of all transportation fatalities and was less than the total (1,066) for recreational boating accidents.

* The in-depth inspection program of air carriers and other aviation organizations will expand in FY 1988 to include several new categories such as four Part 135 helicopter emergency medical evacuation service operators, three Part 133 rotorcraft external load operators and two Part 147 aviation maintenance technician schools. Also on the FY 1988 schedule are eight Part 121 air carriers, six Part 135 scheduled commuters, 12 Part 141 pilot schools and eight Part 145 repair stations. In FY 1987, the agency checked 30 air carriers, 27 repair stations and 14 pilot schools under the officially designated "National Aviation Safety Inspection Program."

ASR-9 In FAA World

The November FAA WORLD, now in the hands of the U.S. Postal Service, offers an advance peek at the new ASR-9, dual-channel airport surveillance radar that will begin moving into the FAA inventory this fall. There also are articles on the agency's little known Aircraft Evaluation Groups and the much misunderstood Aviation Trust Fund. Also look for a photo spread on FAAers honored at the recent Secretary of Transportation's Annual Awards Ceremony, and don't neglect the regular features like People, Federal Notebook and Feeling Fit. What do you have to lose: It's free.

FAA Grants Reprieve To 160 Airports

FAA has cancelled an Advisory Circular that could have led to the abolition of instrument approaches at up to 160 airports that lack on-site or nearby weather reporting capability.

A.C. 91-64 originally was scheduled to take effect on Jan. 1, 1987, but was postponed for one year because of concerns expressed by general aviation pilots that the action would severely limit their operational flexibility.

Airports that would have been affected by the A.C. are those located in "areas of precipitous terrain" that get meteorological information for altimeter settings from a source more than five nautical miles away. FAA currently is studying the accuracy of remote altimeter setting data and expects to decide late next year if any additional action is required.



McCarran Airport Tower Sets Flight Operations Record

-- Reprinted From
Las Vegas Review Journal

The flight control tower at McCarran International Airport set records for flight operations handled during the recent Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association convention.

William Maloney, FAA air traffic manager at McCarran, said Tuesday that from Oct. 14 to 18, controllers handled 7,084 takeoffs and landings, an average of 1,416 per day.

That figure was 300 per day more than the average of 1,116 during that same five-day span the previous week.

Maloney said that on Oct. 14 and 15, traffic totaled 131 operations during the peak hour each day.

On Friday, "We set an all-time high for McCarran of 1,509 operations," he said.

On Thursday, an all-time high of 1,569 operations was recorded for the radar approach control facility in the McCarran flight control tower, which handles McCarran traffic as well as other traffic passing through the airport's terminal control area.

The average figure is 1,170 daily operations for radar approach control.

Maloney said the high traffic volume was further complicated by the fact that the supersonic Concorde was operating out of McCarran.

In addition, an air show took place Saturday and Sunday at Sky Harbor airport, which lies in McCarran's general aviation departure route.

Controllers worked overtime during the busy five-day period, when "the major impact was felt because traffic was heavy throughout the day, instead of experiencing normal peaks and valleys," he said.

"All of these operations were handled without incident," said Maloney, who praised his controllers for doing "a fantastic job."

The only troublesome situation involved a man who successfully landed a plane he was unfamiliar with, after the pilot collapsed during the flight.

Logistics Division Awards Presented

Congratulations to the following Logistics Division folks who earned awards:

Career Service Emblems: 3 years--Drucilla Koide, Real Estate & Utilities Branch, Honolulu; Brian Thomas, Material Management Branch and Judy Stone, Real Estate & Utilities Branch. 15 years--Stan Duarte, Real Estate & Utilities Branch. 25 years--Jim Champagne, Materiel Management Branch. 30 years--Robert Moline, Real Estate & Utilities Branch. 35 years--Larry Kruse, Materiel Management Branch.

Outstanding Rating With a Special Achievement Award: Paul Giras and Larry Kruse, Materiel Management Branch.

Special Achievement Award - Special Act: Marie Peters, Materiel Management Branch.

Special Achievement Award On-the-Spot Cash: Lorraine King, Vivian Green, Hector Placencia and Chauncey Walker; Materiel Management Branch.

Outstanding Rating: Donna Custer, Bill Lindsay, Marge Booth, Etta Green, Cheryl Petersen and Barbara Bennett; Acquisition Management Branch.

Letters of Appreciation: Michael Terry, Donna Custer and Etta Green; Acquisition Management Branch. Ronald McGaw, Larry Kruse, Sheri Creighton, Ernest Foster, Paul Giras, Vivian Green, Dave Morgan, Chauncey Walker, Morris Owens, Emilio Saint Julian, Ralph Johnson, and La Wanda Carter; Materiel Management Branch.

Welcome aboard to: Mont "Bill" Strickler, Acquisition Management Branch; Ron McGaw, Materiel Management Branch; Olga Eiben, Real Estate & Utilities Branch; Tai Nguyen, Acquisition Management Branch; Jacqueline "Jan" Masters, Materiel Branch; Alice Kimura, Materiel Management Branch; Micki Hines, Acquisition Management Branch; Judy Stone, Real Estate & Utilities Branch and Carla Dobison, Materiel Management Branch.

Farewell to: Ted Campbell, Lorraine King, Shari Creighton, Brian Thomas and Marie Peters, Materiel Management Branch; Dorothy Gragg, and Geneva Davis Acquisition Management Branch.