

87-51
December 21, 1987

Public Affairs Office
AWP-5

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

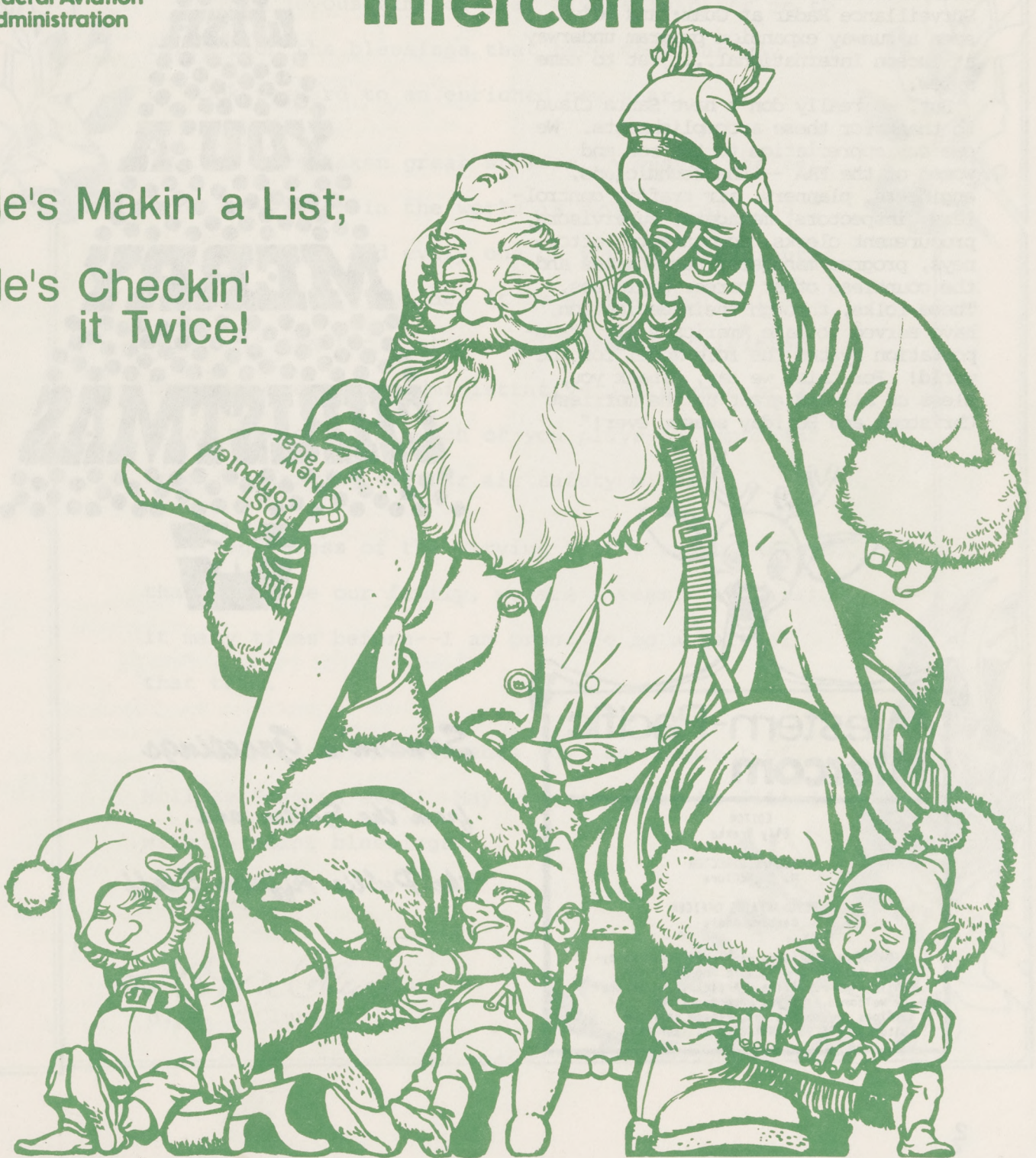


U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Western-Pacific Intercom

He's Makin' a List;

He's Checkin'
it Twice!



Cover Story

Santa Claus has been very good to the FAA. We've seen the Host computer on-line at Oakland Center; a new Air Traffic Control Tower in operation at Ontario Airport; an Automated Flight Service Station dedicated in San Diego; a new radar antenna delivered at Los Angeles International; installation of an Airport Surveillance Radar at Guam; and we've seen a runway expansion program underway at Tucson International... just to name a few.

But, we really don't have Santa Claus to thank for these accomplishments. We owe our appreciation to the men and women of the FAA -- the technicians, engineers, planners, air traffic controllers, inspectors, managers, supervisors, procurement clerks, accountants, attorneys, program managers, secretaries and the countless other career employees. These folks, through their dedication, have served to make America's Air Transportation System the role model for the world! For this, we say, "Thank you, Bless us all and grant us the merriest Christmas and Holiday season ever!"



Western-Pacific Intercom

EDITOR
Elly Brekke

REGIONAL DIRECTOR
H. C. McClure

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
Barbara Abels

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.



Season's Greetings

from the Editor and

the Public Affairs Staff

Happy Holidays

From
The Regional Director

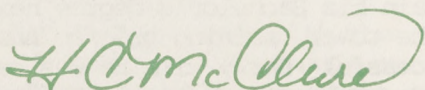
This joyous time of year always inspires me to reflect on the blessings that have come our way and to look forward to an enriched new year.

We have taken great strides to ensure the best aviation system in the world is even better, and I know that each and every one of you has contributed to our success. Whether it be airway facilities work, air traffic control, enforcement activities, inspection duties, administrative assistance or any other type of work, each of you plays an important role in carrying out our air safety mission.

Regardless of the varying faiths and backgrounds that comprise our family, we are a team. I've said it many times before--I am proud to be a part of that team.

My personal best wishes for the Happiest of Holiday Seasons ever! May your new year be filled with abundant blessings.

Sincerely,



H. C. McClure

Bill Edmondson To Retire

Bill Edmondson, Operations Center Manager is retiring from the FAA after 31 years of service. A luncheon is planned in his honor on Wednesday, January 27, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Proud Bird on Aviation Blvd. in El Segundo, Calif. The luncheon buffet price of \$15 includes an assortment of hot and cold entrees, salads and desserts. Tax, tip and gift are included in the price.

For reservations, contact Larry Berg at 213/643-3200 prior to January 15. If unable to contact Larry, reservations may be made with Elly Brekke or Carol Thomas at 213/297-1431.



Technician Needs Our Help

Employees of the Airway Facilities Sector Field Office and Tower of Moses Lake, Wash., and Grant County are organizing a fund for Herb Smith, a Moses Lake AFSFO Electronics Technician. Herb suffered a broken neck in an auto accident in November 1986, which left him almost completely paralyzed. Through therapy and a program in which Herb uses an Apple computer, he is again gaining use of his hands. He is home, now, but has no access to a computer.

Herb's friends and co-workers at Moses Lake Tower, through a cooperative dealer, are purchasing an Apple computer, so that Herb can continue his progress toward a normal lifestyle. Contributions in any amount toward the purchase of the computer would be greatly appreciated. Donations may be sent to: Grant County Tower, Attn: Jim Sibley or Moses Lake AFSFO, Attn: Don Dotson, Airport Terminal Building, Moses Lake, Wash. 98837.

Please designate "For Herb Smith Computer Fund" on your checks, payable to either Jim Sibley or Don Dotson.

Farewell Party Held In Phoenix

The beautiful Orange Tree Golf Club in Scottsdale was the setting for the festivities honoring four long-time air traffic controllers as they began new careers. Manager Stan Watt and Area Supervisor Frank Jonke are both retiring from Deer Valley Tower (DVT). Maurice "Dee" Thompson is taking the reins as DVT Manager while Ed Couch is the new Manager for Planning, Requirements and Automation Branch, AWP-510. Dee and Ed have left Phoenix Tower for their new assignments.

Many old friends gathered to gently roast these four, and it was good to see Loren and Betty Kirkeeng (he was formerly manager at Phoenix TRACON); Ken and Joan Carr (Ken is now America West Airlines Manager for air traffic control); and Lew and Gay Carrifee (former supervisor at Phoenix Tower). Stephanie and Richard Valentine flew in from San Luis Obispo; Airway Facilities was represented by Manager Riley and Maxine Porter; while Steven and Dorothy Bigg represented the City of Phoenix Aviation Department.

Personnel from Phoenix TRACON, Deer Valley, Falcon, Goodyear and Phoenix Towers seldom pass up a good party and several came by for a visit after finishing up their shift.

Hawthorne Happenings

Welcome to Hawthorne Tower Manager Wilbur Benner. Wilbur comes from Los Angeles TRACON, and tower folks are looking forward to his being there full time.

Hawthorne Tower has its own version of stay-in school--Tony Mccray and Mike Quesnell are enrolled in college. Tony is working toward completion of his Master's degree at the University of Southern California, while Mike hopes to obtain his Bachelor's degree next year.

The tower training program has been successful--Barry Wilhite was certified in September, with Gloria Ibarra and David Melechin completing training in November.

Sacramento/Fresno Federal Women Program Committees Meet

The combined meeting and luncheon of Sacramento and Fresno's Federal Program Women's Committee was recently held in Stockton, Calif. More than 35 members and supervisors attended. Deputy Regional Director Arlene Feldman was the guest speaker and was introduced by Cathy Trujeque, of the Regional Civil Rights Staff.

The importance of the Federal Women's Program and manager support was stressed as committee members enjoyed networking with their counterparts from adjacent areas.

Photos: Top--Attending the FWP Fresno-Sacramento Joint meeting in Stockton are (from left) Pat Davis, Associate FWP Manager, Fresno; Arlene Feldman, AWP-2; Marianne Soimmer, Associate FWP Manager, Sacramento; and Cathy Trujeque, AWP-9.

Below--More than 35 attendees enjoyed a day of interaction with fellow FWP members.



Headquarters Names James Jannette Public Affairs Chief

James Jannette is FAA's new Assistant Administrator for Public Affairs, moving over from the Pentagon where he was Chief of the Air Force News Desk in the Armed Forces News Branch.

A career Air Force officer with the rank of Lt. Colonel, he will remain on active duty during his FAA assignment. He succeeds Steve Hayes who left the agency in July for a public relations post in Industry.

Jannette joined the Air Force in Sept. 1970 and has served primarily as a public information officer for various commands, including a four-year tour (1978-82) handling press relations for the Thunderbirds. He also spent five years (1972-77) teaching English at the Air Force Academy.

His academic credentials include B.S. and M.A. degrees from Ohio University.

News In Brief

Op Errors Down

* For the fourth month in a row, operational errors by air traffic controllers were down in November when compared to 1986. Preliminary figures show 79 Op-Errors last month, a 20 percent decrease from the 99 in Nov. 1986. For the first 11 months of 1987, OpErrors were running about one and a half percent above the 1986 level, a significant improvement from the end of June when the increase was 20 percent.

NTSB Meets With FAA Attorneys

* FAA Chief Counsel Ted Ellett tried something different last month at his semi-annual meeting with FAA attorneys in Washington. He invited in the National Transportation Safety Board's panel of Administrative Law Judges to discuss ways and means the two agencies might expedite the appeal process on FAA certificate actions. Although FAA lawyers outnumbered their NTSB counterparts approximately 120 to five, Ellett said the meeting generated a "lively exchange" and produced some "positive results."

McArtor Interviewed By NBC

* Administrator McArtor and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev have something in common. Both were interviewed recently by NBC anchorman Tom Brokaw. The Gorbachev interview ran Nov. 30 on the network, whereas the McArtor interview will be included in an NBC "White Paper" on aviation scheduled for Dec. 22.

Grand Forks Tower Commissioned

* The agency commissioned a new control tower at the Grand Forks (ND) airport on Dec. 2. The 105-foot steel and concrete tower dwarfs the old three-story structure and will provide the Grand Forks controllers with an unobstructed view of the entire airport. Formal dedication of the facility is set for spring when all of the new furniture is delivered.

Records Set At McCarran

* Tower controllers at Las Vegas McCarran Field recently set a series of new traffic records, and they have the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association to thank for it. The large number of private aircraft flying in for AOPA's annual convention, together with a weekend air show at a satellite airport, gave McCarran an average traffic count of 1,416 per day during the Oct. 14-18 period and a single-day record of 1,509 on Oct 16. Not to be outdone, the radar approach control facility also established a new one-day high of 1,569 on Oct. 15 and averaged 1,170 daily operations for the five-day period.

Monterey Tower/ TRACON News

A warm congratulations from Monterey Tower personnel to Mark and Dorothy Thacker on the birth of their daughter Melissa Ann. Air Traffic Control Specialist Mark (the proud father) claims that two pounds of Melissa's seven pounds, 11 ounces has to be her long, dark hair!

Retirement Lunch Set For Wes Martyn

Program and Planning Branch Manager Wes Martyn has announced his retirement. A lunch has been planned in his honor on Friday, January 8, at Charley Brown's; 665 North Harbor Drive, Redondo Beach, Calif. 90277. No-host cocktail hour will begin at 11 a.m. with lunch at 12:00.

For lunch reservations, contact Deborah Maxwell in the Airway Facilities Program and Planning Branch at 213/297-1424.

Burnley Praises FAA Employees

The only reason the United States has the safest aviation system in the world is because of the way FAAers do their jobs.

That's the view of Transportation Secretary Jim Burnley who told an FAA headquarters audience on Dec. 3 that "what you call routine over here, I go around telling the American people is astonishing." Burnley's talk came only a few hours after he was sworn into the Reagan Cabinet by the President himself.

However, the new Secretary noted that the agency is confronted with new challenges daily and said, "I share your sense of frustration about how many hurdles we have to jump over just to keep up." And he added, "our responsibilities become even greater in an era of severe budget restraints. "We're going to have to make the most of limited resources."

Still, he assured his audience that he would not permit any compromise of safety programs. "Making sure you have the tools necessary to do your jobs and do them effectively is one of my top priorities. I'll be working closely with Allan (McArtor), industry and the Congress to keep your programs on track."

"Obviously," he continued, "we need to continue to beef up the controller work force and the number of aviation safety inspectors. We also need to be sure that the NAS Plan gets adequate funding to complete that monumental undertaking."

He concluded by noting, "I want to work with you, and I want to work for you in examining the entire spectrum of options available to us to enhance aviation safety, to enhance the air traffic control system, and to enhance the future of all forms of aviation in this country."



Burnley New DOT Secretary

Jim Burnley was sworn in as the ninth Secretary of Transportation by President Reagan on Dec. 3, just three days after his nomination was approved unanimously by the U.S. Senate.

Like his predecessor, Elizabeth Dole, Burnley is known as a strong advocate of air safety. He promised during his confirmation hearings to fight for the necessary funding to assure continued hiring of controllers and safety inspectors and maintain other vital programs.

No stranger to DOT, the 39-year-old Burnley served as Deputy Secretary to Elizabeth Dole from November 1983 until her departure on October 1. He then became the Acting Secretary.

A North Carolina native, Burnley came to Washington with the Reagan Administration as Director of Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) in 1981 and the following year joined the Justice Department as an Associate Deputy Attorney General. His first DOT job was that of General Counsel.

A Yale graduate with a J.D. from Harvard Law School, he was a partner in a Greensboro, NC, law firm before moving to Washington.

Blimp AC Issued

Responding to the first application for type certification of an airship since the late 1940's, the agency has issued an Advisory Circular (AC 21.17-1) spelling out how prospective manufacturers of these once viable aircraft can win FAA approval of their products.

Although the 1979 type certificate application is now moot because the sponsor dropped the project, FAA pushed ahead with the AC because of the greatly increased interest in airship development. It had to start from scratch, too, as the agency previously used the Navy's airship standards and had none of its own.

Nevertheless, the new standards do include, by inference, one of the lessons learned from the 1937 Hindenburg disaster by banning the use of hydrogen as a lifting gas.

Happy Holidays

