

NEWSLETTER OF THE AVIATION PIONEERS ASSOCIATION

CONTACT

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APA Officers and Directors: David M. Simmons, Chairman & Director; R. Terry Dickason, President & Director; Ida H. Hermann, Treasurer & Director; Nancy H. Anton, Secretary & Director; Roland Ginsburg, Director; Joseph Kristof, Director; Edward McAndrews, Director; Ruby Mercer, Director; Leonard Rosen, Director

DECEMBER 1994 ISSUE

Hello to all!! We haven't forgotten you and apologize profusely for the lateness of this newsletter. Things have been very hectic since the earthquake last January and we are still in the process of trying to get back to normal. Many of us had a lot of damage and have had to move a couple of times. The pits!! But aside from the inconvenience, we are still alive and kicking, thank God!

First of all, we want to tell you about the last reunion, held on Saturday, June 18, 1994, at the Sportsmen's Lodge in North Hollywood. IT WAS GREAT! We were told it was the best ever and we agree -- they seem to be more fun each year.

We were particularly lucky to have APA member Buddy Brown as our main speaker. He gave a very informative, interesting and humorous account of his flying experiences. You will remember Buddy Brown was complimented by President J.F.K. for his high-altitude aerial reconnaissance photographs of Soviet military installations in Cuba.

Buddy flew U-2 missions from 1957

until 1965, and then piloted the SR71 Blackbird until 1971. He said the missions over Cuba and Vietnam were not as "dicey" as those over the poles. The Cuban missile crisis wasn't that unusual, he said. "We flew over Cuba all the time."

Flying at three times the speed of sound, Buddy logged 900 hours in the SR71 Blackbird. "You've never been lost until you've been lost at Mach 3," he said. "If you're flying from point "A" to point "B", by the time you realize you're there you're already gone!"

Buddy retired as a Colonel in the SAC in 1983. Now he works behind the "Black Doors" at Lockheed. And if anyone knows about fliers and flying, it's Buddy Brown.

You all know that 1994 was the 50th anniversary of the invasion of Europe. We had asked for those of you who participated to let us know of your experiences. APAer Winfield Goulden took a few minutes during our reunion to recall the Allied Forces' invasion on D-Day, June 6, 1944, of which he was a part.

Winfield was a glider pilot who landed troops behind enemy lines at Utah Beach. In addition to the Normandy landings, he saw action in Southern France, the relief of Bastogne and in Germany.

Win said he thought he would never go back there, but he did "make my pilgrimage" in 1990. He described the experience as "intimate and personal."

Gordon and Vivian Loxton also attended the reunion (Vivian won a trip at the 1993 event). Gordon starting flying with Captain Irv Hermann in 1958 and is still at it. He was glad to see so many familiar faces at the reunion and wondered how many of you are still airborne.

Gordon now flies a Boeing 727 corporate jet (complete with master bedroom and showers) for a client in Las Vegas. However, he and Vivian are considering relocating to China where "she could come over and work while I fly to Mongolia."

Gordon said he loves the Boeing jets, but his favorite planes are the DC6s

and Connies.

It was a pleasure to welcome new APA member James Gilmartin. Jim became a Navy pilot at 19 and was part of the first group to go through the jet pilot program at VA 125, which later became Miramar.

As with many APA members, flying is in the Gilmartin family blood. His brother flew in Vietnam, his son flew Mach helicopters in Beirut and Libya, and his daughter was a candidate for the astronaut program.

Jim has a law practice in Santa Clarita, CA, and was a candidate for the 25th Congressional district, which includes Santa Clarita and Palmdale.

The reunion audience was entertained by DANCING GIRLS in sparkling costumes, a comedian, a very good singer, a band, good food, etc., etc., etc.

Did we say dancing girls? Yes, and they were absolutely sensational, headed by our very own Addie McAndrews. She and other former show girls from such as the Latin Quarter have a small group called Dotties' Dancers who entertain at functions in the Los Angeles area. Dottie's husband, Jim, has a beautiful voice and sang some songs for us which brought back lots of good memories. And "Happy", a wonderful comedian, had us in stitches.

Ed McAndrews (with a glint in his

eye and a grin on his face) tells of seeing Addie for the first time when he went, as a young serviceman on his own in New York City during WWII, to see the shows. He was immediately smitten and won a real prize when she said "yes".

The cocktail reception on the Friday night prior to the Saturday reunion was also lots of fun, although there was some television distraction. That was the night of the infamous O.J. Simpson freeway chase and had many glued to the set in the bar.

Paul Carlson did his annual cartoon for us, but with a twist. Instead of Mr. Magoo, he had APA President Terry Dickason in the pilot's seat! Very amusing, as they always are. Thank you, Paul.

Generous George Batchelor hosted the bar tab for us again even though he and Maryanne were not able to attend.

Special thanks go out again to all who donated door prizes. It is a pleasure to be able to award prizes to those who attend, and we are very grateful to the donors.

Buddy Brown and Jeff Carlson (Paul's son) each won a commemorative stamp set -- 1994 ROAD TO VICTORY -- donated by Anonymous. George Carroll, Dick Rossi and Alex Senko won THE FACES OF WAR - OUTLINE AND MAP OF D-DAY, donated by Bill Heller; Bob Grider won a copy of

ADVENTURES IN AVIATION donated by Kim Scribner; Ramona Thompson (wife of Bill, and a bride of 2 weeks) won a framed print of the SQUADRON HAWK, NORTH AMERICAN SNJ-5, donated by artist Robin Clark and George Carroll.

A copy of Joe Cristy's AMERICAN AVIATION was donated by The Aviation Book Company and won by JoNell Kocisko; Carol Chambers Kopp won a copy of AVIAN DREAMER, a limited first edition, autographed by author Jerry Gildemeister; George Finn won a copy of THE BEST OF THE PAST by Brian M. Silcox and donated by The Aviation Book Company.

The Aviation Book Company also donated a copy of Smithsonian Institution's AMERICAN AVIATION. Katie Guillot won this prize and Buddy Brown autographed his picture in the book for her. Bret Hart won overnight accommodations for two with cocktails and breakfast, compliments of the Sportsmen's Lodge Hotel.

Ed and Lynn Hogan and their Pleasant Hawaiian Holidays donated hotel accommodations for 7 nights at the Erawan Garden Hotel in Indian Wells which was won by Harrison Bemis. They also contributed hotel accommodations for a four-night stay at the Royal Kona Resort on the island of Hawaii, won by Barbara Simmons.

Again, special thanks to all of our dear friends and donors for

remembering the APA with their generous support.

Something very special happened at the conclusion of the reunion. If we had known about it, everyone could have run outside to see eight SNJ-5s (the same airplane as in the print given as a door prize) fly over the Lodge in tight formation. They were accompanied by a B-25. It was as if they knew we were there and were honoring our AVIATION PIONEERS with a fly-over!!!

We are happy to report that we are working on our May, 1995, get together. More on this after the first of the year, but mark your calendars and plan to be there.

We conducted a survey last year on whether you wanted the reunion moved to Las Vegas. Some were interested, but most respondents preferred leaving the reunion in the Burbank area. Some comments: "I like the reunion just like it is" and "Burbank is where it all happened and that's where we should stay". So, for now, we have no plans to move.

FYI

Pleasant Hawaiian Holidays opened a new unit, Pleasant Mexico Holidays, in February, 1994, which will actively market its tours to those wishing to investigate opportunities south of the border. Because of NAFTA, it is expected that more business as well as vacation travelers will be heading south.

In anticipation of increased business in Mexico, Pleasant Travel has added three airlines and six hotels and resorts to its program there. They started with Mexicana Airlines and Delta, United and Alaska Airlines have now signed deals. The newly added hotels and resorts bring the company's number of stops in Mexico to 63. All are in beach areas on the country's east and west coasts.

And Pleasant Hawaiian Airlines now flies vacationers to Hawaii in its own planes.

MEMBERSHIP

Again, it is time to mention membership in the Aviation Pioneers Association. The last page of this newsletter is a Membership Form and we would appreciate having you support the Association by completing and returning the form to us at your earliest convenience.

Remember, your contributions help pay expenses such as stationery, postage, printing, deposits, etc. We do appreciate your support and thank you for your continued interest in your Association.

OBITUARIES

We regret to let you know that Mary Lou Monroe, age 75, died on April 19, 1994. She is survived by three children, Coleen Judge, of Jefferson City, Missouri, Robin Monroe-Levitt, of Granada Hills, California and Scott Monroe, of Reno, Nevada. Mary Lou died just five weeks after Hugh, her husband of 45 years.

Hugh flew for Great Lakes Airlines.

Mary Lou was active in community service, including 17 years as a Red Cross first-aid instructor. She was very active in the local school system which she served as PTA president.

Known for her humor, friendliness and dedication, Mary Lou will be missed by all.

We have also been advised that Albert L. Bresnik died on October 2, 1993, during a cruise out of New Orleans. He was 79.

Born February 3, 1914, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Al was a professional portrait photographer. During his career he served as personal photographer for Amelia Earhart.

Al and his wife Gabrielle attended the 1993 reunion at which he donated several photos of Amelia which had never been published.

Gabrielle's note told us how much they enjoyed the reunion.

THANKS to Capt. H. McNichol, Jr. for mentioning our Association and reunions in the FCI Newsletter. We appreciate it.

DID YOU KNOW?

APA member Ralph Cox -- that fine gentlemen -- born and bred in the Pittsburgh area, has a plethora of talents. He was a member of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra by

age 16 (violin), completed college (preidental), and dental school by age 21. He then entered the US Navy, receiving his officer's training at Pensacola.

Post WWII, he formed USOA and was ever a stalwart member of our Air Carrier Association, contributing thoughtful presentations supportive of our positions at Congressional hearings. It is a certainty that Ralph would be out in front carrying our banner if there was a way to fight on. You're a good man, Ralph Cox.

THE GOOSE

Evergreen AirVenture Museum, McMinnville, OR, (home of the Spruce Goose), is publishing a super quarterly -- "AIRVENTURE NEWS". For information about plans and scheduled events of the museum, contacts are: 3850 Three Mile Lane, McMinnville, OR 97218. Telephone 503/472-9361. FAX: 503/434-4225. Letters and articles to the editor Peggy Nuetzel are welcome.

FAT CAT

Do you remember last year's story of the little cat trying for Frequent Flyer miles when she escaped from her carrier, hid in the cargo area of a 747 for 12 days and logged 30,000 miles? After being rescued and reunited with her owner, the Los Angeles Times printed a very funny cartoon which showed a cat looking out of a picture window and thinking "The long delays, the lost luggage, the bad

food, the uncomfortable seating...Next time I'm taking the bus".

BREAK THE PIGGY BANK

For an initial payment of \$333,000, Executive Jet Aviation in Montvale, NJ, will sell you one-eighth share of a Cessna Citation S-II. This allows the buyer to fly about 100 hours a year. Then you are charged a monthly "maintenance fee" of \$5,765 and flight fee of \$1,090 an hour. Pilots, insurance, fuel and airport and navigation fees are included. Guaranteed is a seven-seat jet and pick up on four hours' notice. Going price for a Cessna Citation S-II is about \$3 million.

Approximately 125 clients are split between corporate users and individuals. The company has a fleet of 55 planes nationwide, so has no real problem getting a plane to a location in time.

HANGAR 14

Despite valiant efforts by locals and officials of the Burbank Aviation Museum to preserve Hangar 14 for its historic significance at the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport, the hangar was demolished last April in just 5 days. This in spite of being designated an "historic point of interest" by the state Historical Resources Commission.

It was the last, fully intact original hangar left at Burbank Airport. Built in 1930, when the airport was newly

opened, it had housed planes for Amelia Earhart, Charles Lindbergh, Howard Hughes (and his famous H-1 racer) and Roscoe Turner.

Hughes built his racer there and Jimmy Doolittle used the hangar to start the Bendix Trophy race from Burbank to Cleveland. Even Wiley Post used the hangar at one time.

Members of the Burbank Aviation Museum had hoped to preserve the hangar to be used as a museum site to commemorate the legacy of Burbank's contributions to aviation.

A sad day.

ARLINGTON CEMETERY

For those of you who are hesitant to arrange a burial service in Arlington National Cemetery for a loved one, we offer this synopsis of the recent interment there of Mary Heakin Halperin on April 8, 1994 -- a glorious, sunny, balmy, cherry-blossomed day.

The military/government representatives who oversee these services are very efficient, dedicated, compassionate and courteous.

Funeral services, with organist, are conducted at nearby Fort Meyer Chapel by an Army Chaplain. After the service a full military band and honor guard lead the horse-drawn caisson in its return to the cemetery, followed by family and friends who are given the option of following on foot or riding. The interment service,

complete with taps and volley takes place at Columbarium III pavilion, with final prayers at the assigned niche. A brass door is installed after selected engraving is completed.

Mary was a 1st Lt. Flight Nurse in the Army Air Corps, WWII, assigned to the European/African/North Atlantic theater. Her funeral was conducted with all the solemnity and elegance accorded high ranking officers.

It was a most fulfilling final mark of honor, respect and thanks by military representatives on behalf of the U.S. citizenry, for the dedicated, loving care Mary accorded their wounded and dying sons and daughters.

Mary's family and friends from Florida, California, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Hong Kong were most gratified. We promise you will be, too.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was a pleasure for me to be able to attend the reunion last June. I was shot down by a virus at the time of the 1993 bash, so I was especially happy to see so many of you again. We had a wonderful time.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our guest speaker Buddy Brown for his very interesting talk on his aviation experiences and Paul Carlson for his contribution of the cartoon for our program cover. When I saw the cartoon I thought Mr. Magoo was looking just

wonderful. Then someone told me it was a picture of ME and darned if Magoo didn't start to look even younger and better.

And my very personal thanks to: Our Chairman Dave Simmons for his usual masterful job as MC for the event; to Ida Hermann for a moving Invocation, to Ruby Mercer, Leonard Rosen, Ed McAndrews, Roland Ginsburg, Joe Kristof and Nancy Anton for all of their efforts in taking the ball and running with it to make our annual meetings so memorable. To Addie McAndrews goes my gratitude for suggesting such lively entertainment and to all who contributed door prizes, you have my heartfelt thanks.

George Batchelor, Ruby Mercer and Bob Hanley have been under the weather lately and I want to take this opportunity to send them our very best wishes for speedy recoveries and continued good health.

And to all who attended, thanks for coming. You are the reason behind this Association and it is always good to see you.

I can't wait for next year!

Love to all, Terry

Remember, keep those cards and letters coming. We are always anxious to hear from you with your news, comments and suggestions.

Please return your membership form

to us at your earliest convenience.

'TIS THE SEASON ...

LET IT SNOW, LET SNOW, LET IT SNOW because HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS to OH LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM led by RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED REINDEER with tinkling JINGLE BELLS 'round his neck and OH TANNENBAUM in his sleigh.

The LITTLE DRUMMER BOY will play ADESTE FIDELES on that SILENT NIGHT in memory of THE FIRST NOEL.

If you should see MAMA KISSING SANTA CLAUS, wish her well on this WHITE CHRISTMAS, THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR.

We will have a BLUE CHRISTMAS WITHOUT YOU but remember -- OH COME ALL YE FAITHFUL to the next reunion for AULD LANG SYNE.

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY HOLIDAYS to all!!

GEM OF THE DAY

From speaker Buddy Brown at the reunion on June 18 -- "You can always tell a pilot, but you can't tell him much."

UNTIL NEXT TIME...