

# CONTACT

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APA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS: David M. Simmons, Chairman & Director; R. Terry Dickason, President & Director; Ida H. Hermann, Treasurer & Director; Joseph Kristof, Director; Edward McAndrews, Director; Ruby Mercer, Director; Leonard Rosen, Director

## JULY 1997 ISSUE

### REUNION 5/3/97

Members and guests began to assemble at 11:00 a.m. in our Sportsman's Lodge party rooms in the area of ponds/flora/fauna (with swans); a private bar was hosted by George Batchelor of world-renowned generosity. Thank you, thank you George!!

The hum of greetings, conversation, laughter and toasts soon took over as the attendees checked in, spied one another, and renewed old acquaintances.

At 12:30 the group convened for luncheon in our large Regency Room. Dave Simmons said hello with a short program introduction; the invocation offered, followed by Terry Dickason's always cheerful, witty welcoming speech. Stanley Dearborn then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Luncheon, accompanied by wine, courtesy of George B. was then served. Throughout the meal, and later for dancing, "Lloyd Baskin Trio" played old and new favorites -- liltingly pleasing as always.

After luncheon Dave performed as emcee in his usual charming manner, introducing many of the attendees by name and recollections of their place in our aviation history, including Dick Rossi, AVG/Tigers; George Patterson, Slick/ Great Lakes/Admiral; Ralph Cox, USOA. George Finn (his twin brother

Charles is deceased) whose almost altercation with the U.S. Dept. of Justice was shown and told in a LIFE Magazine story; George Batchelor was accompanied by his wife Marianne and his brother Charles; and Fred Wilson, who was instrumental in securing insurance coverage and aircraft financing for at least half of our carriers. (Fred looks same as he did 20 years past.)

Other attendees were: Bob Davis, from England; Al Oliver, from Austria; Jack Pedesky, Hawaii; Ralph Cox, New Jersey; Luther Johnson, Texas; several from New York, Nevada, Washington, Colorado, Oregon, and dozens from every area of California including Roy Blackwell of Seven Seas Travel. So you see, many were from hither and many from yon -- all looking for their buddies -- all saying they will be back next year -- looking for YOU!!!

Dave then read his brilliant airline overview essay entitled "A Proud Look Back" -- his analysis of the events that molded our industry from 1946-1962. He was there to see and live it all from his position with Lockheed Terminal. This paper tells the story of our birth and demise with his honest appraisals of the forces at work. It is a stirring, emotional experience to hear him relate the story.

Many thanks, Dave

Dave attended the reunion despite his shoulder surgery a few days before, wearing straps and padding. He is always there for us in his poised, kind, intelligent, stalwart manner. We are so fortunate to have him as our chairman. This true-blue-one-of-a-kind fellow. We admire him, love him, respect him; they do not make them like Dave anymore. Thank you, "Our Leader". Thank you.

Prize drawings followed. There were more than 25 items donated by: Nostalgic Aviator; Mr. Anonymous; Mrs. Anonymous' Dick Rossi; Joe Kristof; Kim Scribner; Sportsman's Lodge Restaurants; Sportsman's Lodge Hotel.

The final prize ticket drawn was for round trip air transportation and a week's stay for two in Hawaii, donated by Ed and Lynn Hogan, Pleasant Hawaiian Holidays.

Other prizes included:

\* Ten wrist watches with our APA logo on the watch face.

\* Several copies of Kathy Kristof's new book entitled "Complete Book of Dollars and Sense" (Kathy is the beautiful, brilliant daughter of our Joe and Fran Kristof)

\* Three copies of Story of AVG and Flying Tigers, including last reunion in Texas in December, 1996, text and photographs, donated by Don Rossi.

- \* Two stunning antique belt buckles - anonymous;
- \* Sunday Brunch for 2 - Sportsman's Restaurant;
- \* Hotel stay for one night/breakfast for two-Sportsman's Lodge Hotel;
- \* Spotter Cards from WWII to identify aircraft - and deck of cards (2) from Anonymous;
- \* Letter opener replica of propeller from Spirit of St. Louis - Anonymous;
- \* Silver metal airplane desk clock - Nostalgic Aviator;
- \* Signed autobiography by Kim Scribner;
- \* Sets of old blueprints of L1049 military aircraft.

Dave then concluded our event with closing comments followed by Ed McAndrews who offered the benediction, a pleasing Irish prayer.

Our heartfelt thanks to all donors for the wonderful prizes. A special thanks to the Hogans for their exceptional generosity over the years.

And thanks to:

Bob Jackson and Tibby Max who handled the raffle drawings like a pair of well-rehearsed old pros. We look forward to their performance in 1998.

Tommy Thompson who helped set up the easels and information sheets.

Ed and Addie McAndrews, Jerry Senft, Joe and Fran Kristof who so competently handled the check-in area.

Lloyd Baskin Trio who played the excellent music.

Barbara Simmons, Dave's good wife, who assisted him in dressing because of the bandages and straps.

Paul Carlson who gave us the wonderful "Mr. Magoo" cartoon yet again.

Al Senko who always assists with last minute problems.

If anyone has a special invocation or benediction prayer, please send us a copy.

If you have a request for prayer for anyone ill, please send information.

See you next year.

APA Board

### OBITUARY

Charles Enz - died suddenly during a treadmill workout - advisory by widow.

Tony Johanson - died 1994 (advisory by widow).

Captain I.F. (Bud) Klumb - died 10-25-96 (advisory by widow).

Sears McCorrison - died 3/7/96 - advisory by widow.

Bill Reinhart - Our newsletter returned by U.S.P.O. marked "deceased". Unable to get any other information.

We join the world in saying a sorrowful goodbye to our member, that stalwart American, Brigadier General James M. Stewart. Son, Father, Husband, Grandfather, Friend, Citizen, Soldier, Pilot, Actor, Gentleman and exemplary member of the Human Race. Our heartfelt condolences to the family.

### ILLNESS

Paul Crowley - could not attend reunion due to emergency surgery. He sent regards to all. Hope you are recovered, Paul.

Carl Schipp - his wife advises he is in hospice care in his home. He is very ill; he sent a message that he was very disappointed that he could not attend the May reunion "one of my favorite things to do." You are in our thoughts and prayers, Carl.

Nancy Anton continues her recovery from surgery; David Simmons is also progressing well and his arm straps are gone.

### GENERAL AVIATION ITEMS

Do you ever wonder about the fate of our work-horse Douglas DC-4's - the planes that operated so faithfully for us through the late 40's/50's/60's? As reported in the L.A. Times, some are now known as "Heavies" -- fire engines of the sky - in the U.S. Forest Service. Last year two of the tankers, based at Lancaster, CA, flew more than 300 missions each in 11 western states, fighting fires from Texas to Washington. They carry a retardant mix of a dry powder and water, fed from a master vat into the planes, via a series of pipes. Their pilots refer to the "dropping" as a full-blown air show. Well, done, our good and faithful servants -- we miss you.

"If you have the money, honey, they have the time" -- a new group of pilot enthusiasts is buying WWII fighter planes from NATO countries - such as the MIG-17 - to use as a recreational vehicle. The FAA applies very strict guidelines and tests to the pilots and the aircraft -- no, you cannot just hop in for a joy ride.

Many of these aircraft are based at Van Nuys, CA Airport. The planes are "demilitarized" so that "dog fights" are not possible; they still have great speed and maneuverability capabilities. Other plane models used are a Northrop T-38 trainer jet; a Northrop F-5A fighter, and an Italian trainer - a Siai Marchetti S-211, and a MIG-21. Many of the owners/pilots are members of the Classic Jet Aircraft Association. Its President is Don Kirlin, who flies for US Air. He says the two types of pilots who are interested in these planes are the "nuts about aviation" seeking the ultimate flying thrill of flying a jet, and the former military pilots who want a chance to climb back into the cockpit. Why? Why not?? (As reported by the LA Times).

Bob Hope has recently received more honors for his holiday visits to generations of our military troops over a period of 50 years, giving up his family Christmases to do so. McDonnell Douglas, in a ceremony at Long Beach, christened the 31st C-17 off the M-D assemble line - an Air Force C-17 Globemaster as "The Spirit of Bob Hope." Hope and 8,000 M-D employees were present, as well as Air Force Secretary Sheila Widnall who said "the Air Force was, in a sense, giving him an airplane -- which, like you, will go visit troops in some of the least enviable locations on the planet".

In May in Avondale, LA, the Navy christened a 950-foot long, 33,000 ton support vessel the USNS Bob Hope. The ship is designed for rapid deployment of tanks and helicopters. Where there is Hope there is life.

## SOME GOODIES FROM ANN LANDERS

DEAR ANN: I have read definitions of conservatives and liberals sent in by your readers. I hope you will print the enclosed copy of "ISMS," which was passed around by students in my history class in Tekoa, Wash., in 1942. I believe these definitions are still applicable today and may help young people understand the types of governments in the world. (Signed Rosalia, WA)

DEAR ROSALIA: It is amazing to me that the article you sent was written over 50 years ago. Some of those "isms" fit today.

### ISMS

**Socialism:** You have two cows. Give one cow to your neighbor.

**Communism:** You have two cows. Give both to the government, and they may give you some of the milk.

**Fascism:** You have two cows. You give all of the milk to the government, and the government sells it.

**Nazism:** You have two cows. The government shoots you and takes both of the cows.

**Anarchism:** You have two cows. Keep both cows, shoot the government agent and steal another cow.

**Capitalism:** You have two cows. Sell one cow and buy a bull.

Another from Ann:

In colonial days, free-roaming hogs were notorious for rampaging through the grain fields of New York City. The residents of Manhattan island chose to limit the damage caused by those roamers by erecting a long, permanent wall on the northern edge of what is now lower

Manhattan. A street was built along the wall and was named appropriately "Wall Street."

This story is from the Farmer's Exchange and was reprinted by the Prairie Rambler, which added, "They may have put up the wall, but the hogs are still there."

## RECIPE

This cake was made for neighbors with a death/burial pending -- part of the gifts of food prepared by friends. It was expected for serving with the meal offered by the bereaved family in the 18th/19th centuries in pioneer America. It will take a little research on your part, but is interesting enough for the effort:

The cake is called:

### SCRIPTURE CAKE

1st Kings 4:22 - 4 1/2 c.  
Judges 5:25 - 1 c.  
Jeremiah 6:25 - 2 c.  
1st Samuel 30:12 - 2 c.  
Nahum 3:12 - 2 c.  
Numbers 17:08 - 2 c.  
1st Samuel 14:25 - 2 T. Leviticus 2:13 - 1/4 t.  
Judges 4:19 - 1/2 c.  
Amos 4:5 - 2 T.  
Jeremiah 17:11 - 6 med.

(c = cups;  
T = tablespoon;  
t = teaspoon  
med = medium size)

If you try it, please let us know the outcome.

## MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Dar Kindred, longtime member of APA and aviation, is still flying at 82- probably the oldest flight instructor in the nation. From his earliest attempt - at nine years of age with a homemade glider - Dar has flown with the Royal Air Force, Army Air Corps (WWII) - was in the Ferry Command - was a transport pilot and literally flew all over the world in many capacities in a variety of aircraft.

In our industry Dar worked with North American and Air America.

His aviation experience was recently profiled in "The Orange County Register" (5/12/97) accompanied by wonderful photos. We hope to reproduce it in a later paper. Dar, you are a remarkable man and we are proud of your accomplishments. The newspaper article was perfectly entitled: "Kindred Spirit". Keep'em flying friend!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, we did it again -- the reunion was really great. My thanks to the APA Board members who worked so hard to make everything work perfectly. Thanks to all of those who were there. It was so good to see you!

Make plans now to try your best to attend the next reunion, scheduled for SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 1998 at the Sportsman's Lodge. We wanted to give you as much advance notice as possible. The date is a week earlier than usual, but the Lodge is already booked for every Saturday next May. We hope this won't cause you any inconvenience. Please, write it down, mark it with a X, and circle it on you calendar.

The reunions are great fun, you will have a wonderful time.

There will be a change of scenery for us next year. We have reserved the WATERFALL ROOM at the Sportsman's Lodge. So remember - Saturday, April 25, 1998 in the Waterfall Room. Same time (start to gather at 11:00 a.m., lunch at

12:30 p.m. More info will come your way early next year.

We have enclosed a copy of the membership form for this year. If you have not already done so, please complete and return your membership to us ASAP. A reminder -- membership is by the year, from May to May. We need your support to continue. Love to all, Terry

**IF YOU MOVE LET US KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!** Remember to send your new address to us to ensure delivery of your newsletters and reunion information. Our address is:

APA  
P.O. Box 1724  
Studio City, CA 91604-0724

## GEM OF THE DAY

It is not essential that you be an authority on music to know that the most difficult instrument to play with grace is second fiddle.

UNTIL NEXT TIME.....

Van Nuys Airport salutes...

## **THE 50th ANNIVERSARY**

## **UNITED STATES AIR FORCE "WINGS OF GOLD"**

### **AVIATION EXPO 1997**

**JULY 19 THROUGH 26 - 9 AM TO 5 PM**

#### Free admission includes:

AV-8B Harrier Jet demonstration • Pitts & Sukhoi Aerobatic demos • U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute team and other-the-field demons • Displays of the F117A Stealth Fighter • B-52 Bomber • Luftwaffe Tornado • Top Gun Military jets • Warbirds • Simulator Rides • A radio Controlled Model Airplane Show • Business Jets -Exhibits • Live entertainment • Refreshments •

• LA Councilman Joel Wachs is Grand Marshal •