

MARCH 1998 ISSUE

REUNION 4/25/98

Hello again, its that time - our 1998 reunion is set for Saturday, April 25 at Sportsman's Lodge complex restaurant area Waterfall Room. This is a new room site for us very lovely and overlooks the ponds / flora/ fauna with a deck for our use.

You will meet Mr. and Mrs. Black Seven and their quintuplets newly produced 5 downy cygnets being trained by Mom. Oh, Dad did his part warmed the nest each time mom needed to get out for a time for heaven's sake four followed Mom into the water and one little guy ran about on a tiny island yelling for help; nature immediately obliged; he fell in paddling off like an old pro. We hope they have not flown the coop with some no good girl/guy before you see them on April 25.

The Waterfall Room can be reached from the Coldwater Canyon parking area or the Ventura Boulevard front entry. Free self-park or paid valet parking will be available, and marker arrows in place to direct you to the Waterfall Room.

The pre-luncheon reception is set for 11:00 A.M. George Batchelor is once again

hosting this popular event and says "I hope those who could not attend last year will be "shows" this year. I want to meet and greet them one and all".

Luncheon will be served at 12:30 P.M. and the program will continue until 4:00 P.M.

Paul Carlson has given us a very apropos cartoon for your collection. You will love it. We owe this gentleman a really big THANK YOU. Tell him when you see him at the reunion.

The Friday evening (April 24) reception will be held in the Sportsman's Lodge lobby/bar area. 6:00 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. This is a "no host" bar and the hotel is giving us delicious trays of hors d'oeuvres for our enjoyment (see reservation form enclosed).

FRANK SINATRA

A.P.A. has awarded a Lifetime/Honorary membership to Mr. Frank Sinatra one of our guys. Were you aware of Frank's longtime interest in and friendship with many of our industry and aviation generally including Henry Price; Kirk Kerkarian; Irv Hermann; John L. "Bud" Winder; Terry Dickason to

name a few. In 1961, Frank organized his very own private airline refurbished and relicensed a Martin 404. Charlie Potter's Lockheed facility performed the job. (Terry Dickason did liaison time for Frank during this work); when all was completed, a big noisy christening party was held in the plane and hanger.

First flight left BUR for Palm Springs and with layover at each stop on to Las Vegas Monterey, then back to BUR. The flight manifest included some names Henry and Peggy Price; the J.L. Winders; the Peter Lawfords (Patricia Kennedy); "Prince" Mike Romanoff; Jimmy Van Huesen; Irving / Ida Hermann; and many others. Captain pilot was "Rummy" Rumberg. Frank's guests were always lavishly wined and dined and a charming memento given for remembrance in this case a gold keychain of a clown's head with a small charm dangling a horseshoe pull the chain and a red tongue flicked out and-oh-yes, engraved on the horseshoe were these words: "El Dago Maidenflight 1961". Another Sinatra star production a wonderful unique week for those who "boarded".

"ODE TO FRANK SINATRA"

In the wee small hours of the morning, in the still of the night, I thought about you.

What'll I do? I couldn't sleep a wink last night. Without a song, I'll never smile again. The song is you.

After you've gone, a hundred years from today, how do you keep the music playing?

Sunday, Monday or always, day in, day out, there will never be another you. All the things you are? I could write a book.

You make me feel so young. Night and day, day by day, I'm getting sentimental over you. You're sensational, too marvelous for words. I've got you under my skin. Call me irresponsible, I get a kick out of you.

I wish you love, the best of everything, a pocket full of miracles, from here to eternity, all the way.

Have yourself a merry little Christmas. I'll be seeing you. (BILL DYER-Venice)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"I'm looking forward to April 25; every year our reunion feels better than the last one, and a few more attend who have not appeared previously. These "reunioners" are always looking for old pals, happy to relive the good old days. Aviation people are a unique group, alike, but sharing different and unusual experiences; no better clan in the world! Be sure to stop

by and say hello and we'll swap a few tall tales. COME ONE COME ALL. Blue skies. (Terry Dickason)

EDITORS NOTE:

T.D. has had more than a few great aviation experiences. In 1936, he signed on with Pan American as a purser on the renowned "Flying Boats". In the 1965-75 decade he worked with Charlie Blair, a former Pan Am captain who owned the "Antilles Air Boats" operation in the Caribbean. After Blair's death, Terry gave assistance to Maureen O'Hara Blair, who took over the company. More recently, 1994, Terry had his "1951 Private Pilot Certificate; N01525572 Lighter Than Air Free Balloon, limited to "hot airborne heater" reissued. In 1951 he and that great guy Fish Salmon went to CAA Long Beach and asked for a check ride in a Balloon for a license. CAA went along with Fish's "joke" and gave them the licenses. Terry's old card is in his "warn/torn file". Says Terry "Just bring your card cases on 4/25 and we'll see who has done what/when/where. I'll be looking for you".

Many of you who worked with Hal Cope at North American Air in the 1950's are aware of his tremendous experiences in Africa; including an airline operation he initiated and operated. His good wife also works for organizations engaged in giving aid, sustenance and educational assistance to the

people of the Beautiful Bright/Dark Continent. We are working on a article about the Copes for our next issue.

BAGATTELLE:

LA times prints that former astronaut Edgar Mitchell believes "aliens have crash-landed on earth; the U.S. Government knows all about it; and some planes use technology derived from captured alien spacecrafts", and he's "pretty sure that's the same way they came up with SPAM". (Wheeler). Sounds reasonable to us.

Now that you mention it: I'm glad turkey isn't the national bird (As Benjamin Franklin had planned it) Imagine: When man reached the moon we'd have heard: "Houston, the Turkey has landed."

Have you heard about the latest in condoms? It plays "Dixie" and other tunes such as "The 1812 Overture", "Happy Birthday To You" and "The Anniversary Waltz" when in use. A gentleman named David Pressman, San Francisco, states he is the lawyer who obtained the patent for his client, Paul Lyons, who invented it. The patent was issued in 1992. (Courtesy Ann Landers column 12-7-97)

On October 19, 1977, Brigadier General Chuck Yeager kicked off the 44th annual Edwards Air Force Base open house and air show...with a sound barrier flight in an F.15 Eagle. This

Bush's "Millie" and her offspring "Ranger" who unattended followed the corridors to the oval office. Roosevelt's "Fala"; Lyndon Johnson's "Him" and "Her"; Carter's "Gritts" who refused to be housebroken; and its said that George Washington had 37 dogs; however, we think Chelsea's cat "Socks" can "take" any dog challenging the "First Pet" title. Groucho Marx observed: "outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend and inside a dog, it's too dark to read".

Bob Dole and his World War II monument committee hope to raise \$100 million by Veterans Day. Bill Clinton dedicated the site on the Mall in Washington, D.C. in 1995. Donations may be sent to the World War II Memorial Fund, American Battle Monuments Commisperformance ended his 55 year career as a military pilot. The crowd gave him a tremendous ovation. He is scheduled to deliver the historic planes to the Smithsonian Air/Flight Museum, Washington, D.C. for permanent display. A golden farewell to this popular American ace 55 years in the air.

Attributed to 16th Century writer and traveler John Florio: "If you will be a traveler", he wrote, "have always the eyes of a falcon, the ears of an ass... the shoulders of a camel, the legs of a stag, and see that you never want of two bags

very full, that is -one of patience and the other of money."

(Courtesy Traveler Insider L.A. Times)

Noted in "Kovel's Antiques and Auction Lists", a "Spot-A-Plane Board Game, World War II Bomber Over New York, on cover, 48 plane cards Toy Creations Second Series 1942 "recently sold for \$125.00.

Credit Dorothy Parker: "If you think there is some good in everybody, let me remind you that you haven't met everybody".

This is not political comment, but we recall President Harry S. Truman's famous observation "If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog". President Clinton's new pal, "Buddy", has arrived just in time. Other Presidential dogs were the sion, Department P, P.O. Box 96766 Washington, D.C. 20090-6766. They are getting many big chunks, but need those millions of smaller chunks to reach their goal).

Surefire formula for success "Rise early, work late and strike oil". (Billionaire J. Paul Getty)

Astute observation from Frank Sinatra: "If I had done everything I'm credited with, I'd be speaking to you from a laboratory jar at Harvard".

GEM OF THE DAY At any given moment during a 24-hour day, one third of the people are asleep. The other two-thirds are awake and creating problems. (Credit Admiral Hyman Rickover)

OBITUARIES:

Our member, Tony LeVier died February 6, 1998 of complications of cancer. He was 84. At age 14, thrilled by Lindbergh's transatlantic flight, he told his mother, "I'm going to become an airline pilot". By age 15 he had his pilot's license. Before joining Lockheed in 1941, his career included barnstorming, flight instructor, charter pilot, airline pilot, chief research pilot at General Motors, and a champion air racer. His first job at Lockheed was ferrying WWII Lockheed Hudson to Canada for Britain's Royal Airforce. By 1943 he was a Lockheed test pilot; among the aircraft he flew was the XP-80, which led to America's first jet fighter. He made the first-flight of 21 types of aircraft, including the U-2 Spy in 1955, and the XF-104 Starfighter, the first operational aircraft to fly twice the speed of sound. With Lockheed's workday he logged 10,000 hours of flying during 24,000 flights in 260 types of aircraft. Retiring in 1974, he continued as a flight safety consultant; he also ran his own organization called "Safe Action in Flight Emergency" to train commercial pilots in emergency procedures. Among the many honors accorded him are induction in the National Aviation Hall of Fame, the international Aerospace Hall of Fame, and the EX-5 Club's Aviation Pioneers Hall of Fame; he also received the Smithsonian Air Over Space

Museum's Lifetime Achievement in Aviation and Flight Safety award. He is survived by his wife Neva, two daughters and five grandchildren.

Carl Schipp - We have received a warm, loving letter from Margaret Schipp Carl's widow; "Carl died September 7, 1977, at Lake Isabelle, California. Carl's family had a tradition of writing farewell letters to friends/family of a deceased. Carl did this for his father but asked me to do it for him. Friendships were very important to Carl. I don't know what Carl would have said but I'm guessing "Goodbye old friend thank you for the good times. Sincerely, Margaret McAlister Schipp". "Carl and I were married 9 years, 11 months, 9 days. He also left two daughters and five grandchildren".

Harold Bromley - an aviation pioneer who was the first person to attempt to fly across the Pacific Ocean, has died at his home in Palm Desert at 99. In 1928 he became a test pilot for Lockheed Aircraft Company in Burbank and taught such famous aviators as Amelia Earhart and Wiley Post. The next year Bromley bought an orange Lockheed-Vega monoplane hoping to make the first transpacific flight from Tacoma to Tokyo. During Bromley's first attempt, 25,000 people turned out to see him take off after heading down a sloping elevated platform-built to

make higher speed possible-onto the short runway at Tacoma's makeshift airport. But the plane never made it into the air. The fuel tanks were so full that they overflowed, splashing gas into the cockpit and temporarily blinding Bromley as he was about to take off. The plane plowed nose-first into the runway. A few years later, Bromley tried another approach with an Emsco monoplane. He decided to fly from Tokyo to Tacoma to avoid the treacherous head winds of the Pacific. Bromley and his navigator flew almost 25 hours, halfway to the Aleutians, but were forced to return to Japan because of dense fog-and nausea caused by gas fumes. Bromley gave up on the transpacific effort and flew mail planes from El Paso to Mexico City. He also worked as a federal aviation inspector at the Oakland airport. In the mid-1950's, he retired to the California desert, where he worked as a real estate broker and grew dates and grapes.

Emma Morris - 84, a "Rosie the Riveter" who lived to realize her dream of flying in the type of World War II fighter plane she built. A native of Sindsor, Colorado, Morris moved to Los Angeles in 1941 to work as a riveter for North American Aviation, building wing components of the P-51 Mustang. Occasionally, she placed her name and address on the planes, and received appreciative letters from combat pilots. When she

was 82, Morris' four grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren arranged for her to take a ride in a P-51 cockpit. The single-seat warplane, which flew out of Van Nuys Airport, had to be slightly modified to add a passenger seat. The flight and following party, she said, provided closure for her memories of World War II. She passed away in Woodland Hills of congestive heart failure.

Mrs. Patty Barnett Johnson Passed away July, 1997 in St. Joseph Hospital, Burbank, California. She was formerly a stewardess with California Central Airlines.



APA REUNION 1998

Sportsman's Lodge Hotel
12825 Ventura Boulevard,
Studio City, California 91604,
has again very kindly
extended special room rates
to us:

\$89.00 Single/double PCC-
arrival April 24-25. \$10.00
Additional for poolview. One
or two nights.

You must make your own
reservation - toll free number
is (800) 821-8511 USA &
Canada. State your identity
as "Aviation Pioneers
Reunion". For preferred rate
no later than April 3, 1998
after April 3, reservations will
be accepted space available
only. A limited number of
rooms don't be late.