

contact!

DECEMBER 1998 ISSUE

Important Date: Our next reunion is scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 1999, at the Sportsmen's Lodge, Studio City, California. Details to be announced early next year. See you there!

WWII Memorial Fund: We have received a Certificate of Appreciation and lapel pin from the Fund, for our donation in support (\$100). They have raised millions and need many more. The color print shows a magnificent project for the mall (DCA). Address: World War II Memorial Fund, American Battle Monuments Commission Department P, PO Box 96766, Washington, DC 20090-6766.

'tis The Season for some outstanding Aviation related and other fantastic stuff - see the J. Peterman Company Christmas '98 Gift Book No.3 - Telephone: 800/231-7341 (7am to 2am) - Page 64 offers a Vintage Stearman PT-17 "Baby" - \$125,000 smackers; also available; Leather helmet, goggles and flight jacket and the famous silk twill aviator's scarf. Yes, this is the J. Peterman visited recently in a "Seinfeld" episode.

President's Message: I can hardly believe it, another year has gone by. It seems like every year just goes by faster than the last one. If anyone knows why, please tell me the secret. I hope 1998 was a good year for you and 1999 will be even better. Coming up will be our eighth annual reunion at the Sportsmen's Lodge. I'm looking forward to seeing each and every one of you, so save the date, Saturday, April 24, 1999 and watch for further announcements. To all of you who have paid your dues and made generous donations, thank you! Have a great holiday and stay well -Terry Dickason

Our friends abroad: Ed and Lyn Hogan sent a card from Finland. They were on an "Around the World" trip aboard and ATA private L-1011 jet; and having a marvelous time. They wished we were with them and so did we. Have fun for all of us, friends.

More friends abroad: Hal and MK Cope advise they are returning to Africa for a year or two - departing December 29, 1998 from their Winchester, Kentucky home. MK has accepted a position with IESC (International Executive Service Corps) as Director, Business Development Sub-Saharan Africa. They have been volunteers for this organization since 1990. Hal did airline projects for them (Croatia, Belize, Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe) and was the Country Director for Botswana. MK was called out of Zambia by IESC a couple of years ago to establish a Washington, DC office to coordinate IESC activities with the World Bank, IMF, IFC, State Department, USAID, foreign governments and a host of NGO's. Now they want her to develop business in Africa below the Sahara Desert. Hal is investigating several airline consulting possibilities in the offering (Mongolia, Italy and Zimbabwe). He also is pulled to be in the bush photographing "my beloved elephants" or "terrorizing the locals on the tennis courts" - both of which "will keep him out of bars and off the streets." Hal says he hopes some of our old timers might find the "Get up and Go" to visit the Dark Continent. He has given us a list of their mail and other contacts which we will copy and send to anyone requesting same. Hey Hal and MK, we admire and love you for your dedication. Keep in touch - you will be hearing from APA-ers, et al.

Observers Analyses

Pilot ...A PILOT IS A MAN WHO KNOWS A GREAT DEAL ABOUT VERY LITTLE AND WHO GOES ALONG KNOWING MORE AND MORE ABOUT LESS AND LESS UNTIL HE BECOMES A CAPTAIN, HE KNOWS PRACTICALLY EVERYTHING ABOUT NOTHING.

Mechanic ...A MECHANIC IS A MAN WHO KNOWS VERY LITTLE ABOUT A GREAT DEAL, AND GOES ALONG KNOWING LESS AND LESS ABOUT MORE AND MORE UNTIL HE BECOMES A LINE CHIEF, HE KNOWS PRACTICALLY NOTHING ABOUT EVERYTHING.

Dispatcher ...A DISPATCHER STARTS OUT KNOWING PRACTICALLY EVERYTHING ABOUT NOTHING, BUT WINDS UP (AS CHIEF DISPATCHER) KNOWING NOTHING ABOUT EVERYTHING, DUE TO HIS ASSOCIATION WITH CAPTAINS AND LINE CHIEFS. (Courtesy Cal Beckley, Port Hueneme, California)

Bagattelle:

*THERE WAS A YOUNG GIRL FROM ST. PAUL
WHO WORE A NEWSPAPER DRESS TO A BALL
BUT THE DRESS CAUGHT FIRE
AND BURNED HER ENTIRE FRONT PAGE,
SPORTING SECTION AND ALL.* (Bennett Cerf - Dear Abby)

*IF YOU FIND MISTAKES IN THIS PUBLICATION, PLEASE CONSIDER
THAT THEY ARE THERE FOR A PURPOSE. WE TRY TO PUBLISH
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE, AND SOME PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS
LOOKING FOR MISTAKES.* (Kay Dickinson - Ann Landers)

*IT IS NOT TRUE THAT LIFE IS ONE DAMNED THING AFTER
ANOTHER. IT'S THE SAME DAMNED THING OVER AND OVER
AGAIN.* (Poetess Edna St. Vincent Millay - Ann Landers)

*A DIPLOMAT IS A MAN WHO CAN CONVINCHE HIS WIFE THAT
DIAMOND JEWELRY MAKES HER LOOK CHEAP AND A SABLE COAT
MAKES HER LOOK FAT.* ("Daily Reader" - Ann Landers)

*FATHER TO SON: "WHEN GEORGE WASHINGTON WAS YOUR AGE,
HE WAS A SURVEYOR."*

SON: "AND WHEN HE WAS YOUR AGE, DAD, HE WAS PRESIDENT."
(Ann Landers)

*MEN WHO HAVE PIERCED EARS ARE BETTER PREPARED FOR
MARRIAGE. THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED PAIN AND BOUGHT
JEWELRY.* (Rita Rudner)

*THE MAN WHO CLAIMS HE IS THE BOSS IN HIS OWN HOME WILL
PROBABLY LIE ABOUT OTHER THINGS, TOO.* (Prairie Rambler)

Gem of the Day:

*A YAWN MAY BE CONSIDERED BAD MANNERS, BUT IT OFTEN IS
THE SILENT EXPRESSION OF AN HONEST OPINION.*
(Ann Landers)

Good Thought:

*"THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO BUSINESS BEING NEAR YOUR
UNDERPANTS."*
(Gail Zappa,
widow of Rock Musician and Composer, Frank Zappa)

Obituaries: Our sincere condolences to the families of our deceased members, friends and aviation enthusiast...

"Tommy" Thompson died suddenly on November 8, 1998 of a massive stroke or heart attack. Lee Cameron, his employer, called authorities to check Tommy's home, when he was absent from work. Tom was a longtime pilot with the Burbank based independent carriers, in the 1950/60 era, including a stint as Chief Pilot at Great Lakes. Tom's wife Barbara, predeceased him many years past. He left one son who resides in Arizona.

Obituaries:

Doris Milligan Bud wrote us that his dear wife, Doris, died in May 1998 of cancer. You have our sympathy, Bud.

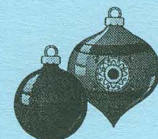
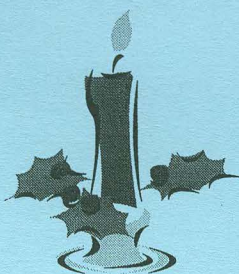
Retraction Richard Martiss writes us that - like Mark Twain - "the report of my death is greatly exaggerated."; and that he is very lively and plans to stay with us for a long time. He also thought some prankster (?) was playing a joke on him. We did receive a short letter notice, and we are so glad you are still aboard, Dick.

Rutan Projects:

Bert Rutan, who designs spectacular air/spacecraft has the "Proteus" in the air. This new bird took off in September 1998 and gave a beautiful show (see www.scaled.com). It is designed to space launch; carry a satellite on its belly; high altitude loitering; telecommunications; UAV missions, etc. So if you have need to see what's going on here and there, this is your guy. Dick Rutan and cohorts are working 20 hours a day on the planned launch of a new balloon in July 1999 from Santiago, Chile. Dave Melton, who was with Dick when their last launch in January 1998 ended by a helium cell rupture, is recovered from his serious injuries as is Dick. The new balloon design is actually 4 balloons - three under a top one - and a newly designed capsule. Their major problem - like all aviation/aeronautics dreams is money. They have a commitment from Barron Hilton for the last 25% - but the first 75% is theirs to find. Their friends and supporters are helping, but they need much, much more. It is named "World Quest" and can be reached at PO Box 964, Mojave, California 93502; phone 805/824-1021; fax 805/824-1035. Their web site can be visited at www.transglobalballoon.com. If you can't be a primary sponsor, you can help with their quest to capture the last great aviation feat of the 20th century. They have many interesting items available for modest sums, which are perfect for collectors and children's education and interest. For information on all projects "Rutan", Girl Friday, Kelly Hall's phone numbers are: 805/824-1021 and 805/824-4608.

See you next time, The APA Board

MERRY CHRISTMAS



MELE KALIKIMAKA

Joyeaux Noel



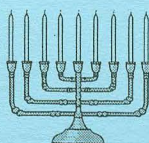
FELIZ NAVIDAD

BUON NATALE



CELEBRATE KWANZAA

HAPPY HANUKKAH

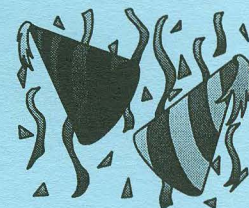


Frohliche Weinacht

GOD YUL



Happy New Year!!!



Greetings From all of the Aviation Pioneers Association Board Members

**Terry Dickason
Dave Simmons
Ida Hermann**

**Ed McAndrews
Ruby Mercer
Leonard Rosen**