



Contact!

JULY 1999 ISSUE

Important Date: Make your Millenium plans now and don't say we didn't tell you soon enough. Our next Reunion Luncheon will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2000 at the Sportsmen's Lodge. Our very own adventurer and man from out of Africa, Hal Cope, will be our guest speaker. Enough said for now, just mark your calendar and stay tuned for more information. Anyone looking to contact Hal Cope can do so by e-mail at zebuone@africaonline.co.zw

Reunion Report: Our last reunion of the Twentieth Century, April 24, 1999, has come and gone. No rain, thunder or lightning - just a wonderful day of smiles, hugs and greetings - good cheer all around. The reception area found our meeters and greeters - Ed and Addie McAndrews, Jerry Senft, Bob and Marilyn Jackson - at the door to deliver the check-in packets, doing their usual efficient job. Thanks guys!

The reception was hosted, yet again, by George Batchelor, whose generosity arranged those little refreshment tickets in your envelope. George also supplied the excellent wine on the luncheon tables. You are always there for us, George and we really appreciate it.

Luncheon for 125 followed the reception. Our Chairman, Dave Simmons, gave a short welcome and announced a sad event - that our popular member, Jack Pedesky, was absent because of a stroke that happened as he was preparing to leave Hawaii for our event. He received immediate medical help. We are advised the stroke was mild and his recovery assured, that is if he follows doctor's orders. We know you are doing just that Jack and we expect to see you in 2000 in good health and in your usual good cheer.

Our President, Terry Dickason, then gave a greeting and Lee Cameron led the "Pledge of Allegiance"; invocation followed.

Music during our meal was provided by the Terry Case Quartet, courtesy of Ruby Mercer.

At the conclusion of the luncheon, Dave again took the mike to welcome attendees with special greetings to several members who had been unable to attend for some years past. These included Fritz Hutchinson, Roy "Blackie" Blackwell, Jan Wantink and Peggy Evans (Davis).

He thanked Paul Carlson for the current "Mr. Magoo" cartoon, drawn special for our event, as well as for those he has provided in prior years. Paul received a big hand from the audience. Also mentioned were those who hosted reserved tables for 8-10 friends including George Batchelor, Ruby Mercer, and Mary Lou Paulson. Dick Rutan was in attendance again this year. It was good to see you, Dick. Dave mentioned the Stan Dearborns, the Fred Wilsons and the Hogans - all traveling abroad. We missed you friends.

Our speaker, Clay Lacy, proceeded to give us a scintillating video account of his aviation experiences. We saw some of the Reno Air Races he entered in a purple P51 Mustang. One year he also entered in a DC-7, which he flew with Al Paulson. Although they didn't win, they did finish (that must have been a sight to see). We also saw many of the pictures he took filming various movies and commercials in his specially equipped Lear Jet. Planes, pilots - names known to all of us; much of the material covered earlier years when races/shows seemed more prevalent, creating yearning and nostalgia for those days when aviation was more personal - not so "Grown-up".

These were the pilots who brought our industry to the forefront and used their own money to foster their skills - soon needed to defend our country. Our military did not need to train them. They did that by working at any job to get their training/licenses and always a better airplane. Many became the original

WWII Ferry Command Pilots.

Thank you again, Clay. We look forward to your second appearance in Century 2000. You were sensational.

The meeting then proceeded to the Big Give-Away, mc'd by Bob Jackson, assisted by Al Oliver and Len Rosen. There were many wonderful prizes, including: A numbered Animal Photo Print by Hal Cope won by Elaine and Dick Draper, a numbered print from George Carroll won by Paul Carlson and the Grand Prize of Seven Days and Transportation for two to Royal Kona Resort in Hawaii from Pleasant Hawaiian Resort was won by Adrienne Rosen.

The prizes were donated by: Ed and Lyn Hogan - Pleasant Hawaiian Travel; Hal Cope; George Carroll; Ida Hermann; Sportsmen's Lodge Hotel; Sportsmen's Catering and Restaurant; Kim Scribner. We thank you all for your generosity.

Ed McAndrews then gave a charming old Irish Benediction and our event closed with applause, cheers and goodbyes - "See you next year" echoing throughout - and we hope to see all who attended and all who did not..... Your Board

President's Message: Old days, old times, old friends and all the stories that come back to my mind. These are what reunions are all about. These memories mean so much to me that I look forward to seeing each and every one of you again and again each year. Be sure to make your plans to attend our ninth annual reunion next year at the Sportsmen's Lodge. A special thanks to all of you who have paid your dues and made generous donations to our organization. Until next time - God Bless! -Terry Dickason

Bagattelle:

THE "ALTUS", AN UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE (UAV) HAS BEEN DESIGNED FOR DANGEROUS SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS LIKE DROPPING INSTRUMENTS INTO THE CENTER OF A CYCLONE TO PREDICT THE STORM'S PATH. IT'S ADVANTAGE? IT CAN STAY UP FOR MORE THAN A DAY, IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO SPOT ON RADAR OR TO HEAR, AND THERE IS NO PILOT TO BE SHOT DOWN. A UAV IS ALSO SUPERIOR TO A SPY SATELLITE AS WELL, BECAUSE THE ENEMY DOESN'T KNOW ITS ORBIT (THUS CAN'T TAKE EVASIVE MEASURES) AND IT CAN FLY BELOW THE CLOUDS IF THEY ARE OBSTRUCTING ITS VIEW. ANY DISADVANTAGE? YES... IT IS SLOW, A "FLYING DUCK" FOR ARTILLERY - NO ONE IS PERFECT.

Gem of the Day:

"IF I HAD EVERYTHING TO DO OVER AGAIN, I WOULD CARE 20 PERCENT LESS." (SARA WEINTRAUB, AGE 90, BOSTON)

YOU KNOW YOU ARE A SENIOR CITIZEN WHEN YOU DON'T CARE WHERE YOUR WIFE GOES AS LONG AS YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO WITH HER. (Ann Landers)

Good Thought:

Great Truths About Life That Little Children Have Learned...

- 1 NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY, YOU CAN'T BAPTIZE CATS.
- 2 WHEN YOUR MOM IS MAD AT YOUR DAD, DON'T LET HER BRUSH YOUR HAIR.
- 3 NEVER ASK YOUR 3 YEAR OLD BROTHER TO HOLD YOUR TOMATO.
- 4 YOU CAN'T TRUST DOGS TO WATCH YOUR FOOD.
- 5 READING WHAT OTHER PEOPLE WRITE ON DESKS CAN TEACH YOU A LOT.
- 6 DON'T SNEEZE WHEN SOMEONE IS CUTTING YOUR HAIR.
- 7 PUPPIES STILL HAVE BAD BREATH EVEN AFTER EATING A BREATH MINT.
- 8 NEVER HOLD A VACUUM AND A CAT AT THE SAME TIME.
- 9 SCHOOL LUNCHES STICK TO THE WALL.
- 10 YOU CAN'T HIDE A PIECE OF BROCCOLI IN A GLASS OF MILK.

Observers Analyses:

ABIGAIL VAN BUREN, A LONGTIME FAN OF "FORBES", BRINGS US THIS FROM A RECENT ISSUE. "GOLDEN OLDIES", A LISTING OF SOME PEOPLE WHO HAD BECOME SUCCESSFUL IN THE AUTUMN OF THEIR LIVES:

JOHN HUSTON DIRECTED JAMES JOYCE'S "THE DEAD" AT 80.

COCO CHANEL - DESIGNED HER FAMOUS WOMAN'S SUIT AFTER COMING BACK FROM RETIREMENT AT 71.

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT - DESIGNED THE GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM AT 76.

GRANDMA MOSES - BEGAN PAINTING AT 78.

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, LET US NOT FORGET JOHN GLENN - OFFICER, ASTRONAUT, SENATOR - WHO LITERALLY WENT OUT OF THIS WORLD INTO SPACE AT AGE 77.

Just for Fun:

THESE ARE REAL ANSWERS GIVEN ON A BIBLE KNOWLEDGE TEST PRINTED IN THE VANCOUVER SUN:

NOAH'S WIFE WAS JOAN OF ARK.

LOT'S WIFE WAS A PILLAR OF SALT BY DAY AND A BALL OF FIRE BY NIGHT.

JESUS WAS BORN BECAUSE MARY HAD AN IMMACULATE CONTRAPTION. THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT IS "THOU SHALT NOT ADMIT ADULTERY."

JOSHUA LED THE HEBREWS IN THE BATTLE OF GERITOL.

THE JEWS HAD TROUBLE THROUGHOUT THEIR HISTORY WITH UNSYMPATHETIC GENITALS.

A CHRISTIAN SHOULD HAVE ONLY ONE WIFE. THIS IS CALLED MONOTONY.

Reader's Digest printed this item:

"I overheard a man on a pay phone saying, 'But I don't think tattoos are a good idea, and as long as you're living in my house, you're going to respect my wishes.' I admired his parental firmness until he added, 'Besides, Ma, you're 75 years old. You don't NEED a tattoo.'"

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

William H. Bird - died May 7, 1997 as reported by his wife, Ruth.

Kenneth E. Bohns - died April 14, 1997, as reported by his wife, Mary Lou.

George C. Dade - Jean D. Tichenor writes; "My father passed away on May 27, 1998." (Thank you for notifying us, Jean.)

Rod Pittenger - His death was reported by his wife.

Cyrus Cassells, Jr. -died January 2, 1999 of lung cancer. He had an extraordinary career in the military and the aerospace industry. He spent a year at Wayne State University in ROTC and then became one of the first few black cadets to attend West Point. After graduation, he joined the Air Force, serving as a military air transport pilot. In 1963, he received a Masters Degree in Engineering from the University of Washington at Seattle and was assigned to Edwards Air Force Base, where he worked for 25 years - first as a Flight/Test Engineer and then as a Project Engineer for NASA. After retirement in 1988, he continued his love of aviation as a docent at the Aerospace Museum in San Diego and as an instructor and coordinator at Miramar College. He particularly devoted much of his time to the Tuskegee Airmen's Association, San Diego Chapter, often giving inspirational talks on aviation in elementary and secondary schools. He will be remembered as a brilliant engineer, a meticulous pilot, and a courageous pioneering African American man who helped to desegregate our society.

Robert Kincaid - a special note from Irmgard Kincaid: "Dear friends of my husband, Robert: Just a card to let you know that my husband passed away on October 8, 1998. He was 75 years old, and he wanted to live. He died of lung cancer. He had stopped smoking 25 years ago. Well, enough, I just wanted to let you know how Bob enjoyed yearly greetings from you. My regards to all of you, Irmgard." Our heartfelt condolences to you Irmgard. Thank you for your warm note.

Mark Edward Bradley, General, USAF (Retired)- December 10, 1907-May 22, 1999. A graduate from the United States Military Academy on June

12, 1930, and commissioned as second lieutenant of Field Artillery, he entered flying school in September, and was rated a pilot and transferred to the Air Corps upon graduation a year later. In 1943 he was sent to Europe where he noticed the terrible losses our B-17 bombers were taking due to lack of sufficient fighter protection, and he realized the Air Force needed a fighter that had long range escort capacity. Bradley used unconventional wisdom by using an already discarded idea, and had a 90 gallon gas tank fitted behind the pilot seat of a P-51. He knew that the extra weight would destabilize the aircraft, but he supposed that as the surplus gas was burned off, the aircraft would stabilize itself. He showed confidence in his theory by flying the first test plane himself. By fall of 1943, the P-51s were retrofitted in England. The new P-51 configuration was a huge success and the planes gave the bombers the fighter cover they needed to get to Berlin and back. There was never any certain way of counting the bombers and crews saved by those escorts, but the numbers could be staggering! The General was declared a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Institute of Technology in 1985. He was a Daedalian, an honored fellow of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots and was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame on June 20, 1992 for his contribution to the development of aviation. He was buried at the West Point Cemetery on June 4, 1999.

Robert S. Johnson - died December 27, 1998 at age 78. As a member of the 56th Fighter Group in the 8th Air Force, he made 27 kills in an 11-month period during World War II breaking the record of 26 kills set by the legendary Col. Eddie Rickenbacker in World War I. In 1943, a year after receiving his commission and pilot's wings, he was flying a P-47 Thunderbolt fighter and shot down his first, a Focke-Wulf fighter after breaking from his squadron's formation.

"I had a reputation as a wild man," he recalled in a 1996 interview about his days flying support for B-17 bombers as they flew toward targets deep inside Germany. "Other pilots would say 'Don't fly with Johnson, he'll get you killed.'" His book, "Thunderbolt", details his combat experiences.

See you next time, The APA Board