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Avion

Newspapers

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Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

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# the avion

The award-winning newspaper of college aviation

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

volume 32

Wednesday / 16 May 1978

Issue 1



## Max Conrad, Aviation Legend, Dies

Max Conrad has lived at the extremes of human experience. His life is a chronicle of personal courage, survival against the elements, loneliness and bitter defeat, triumphs, tragedies and, most of all, the will to keep living.

Born in 1903 to a moderately well-to-do family in Wintonia, Minnesota, he might easily have lived and died in that comfortable town on the upper Mississippi. Instead, in 1928, he learned to fly. A little more than a year later, his life changed dramatically. Trying to rescue a girl who was walking into a spinning propeller, he was hit himself, sustaining brain damage that affected his speech, reading and writing skills - but not his ability to fly. Clinging to that skill, he brought in six degrees of perfection that won him six distance and endurance records.

He has undoubtedly logged more time in the air than any pilot in the history of aviation - more than 50,000

first man to make the flight since Lindbergh. Out of this, he created a unique career. He has ferried more than 150 light aircraft across the Atlantic



Max Conrad [1903-1979]

and at least 30 over the Pacific. These deliveries in turn led him to extend his abilities to incredible limits in a bid for world records. He once flew along in a single-engine plane from Casablanca to Los Angeles, staying aloft for 38 hours and 38 minutes.

### MAX CONRAD — HIS CO-PILOT REMEMBERS]

To me, Max Conrad is one of today's living legends in aviation:

I first met him in 1949 when I moved from the National Aeronautics Committee for Aviation to The Honeywell Company as manager of public affairs. Max began flying Honeywell's Douglas C-47 Skytrain after it had undergone an unusual first flight - and then became their first commercial customer.

The Delta was a beautiful place, single engine, low wing, all metal airplane that looked like a large Spartan Executive with fixed gear. Max sold aviation to Honeywell with the Delta during World War II by moving salesmen, engineers, and technicians to critical assignments associated with war contracts providing automatic flight control systems for our B-17 and B-24 bombers. Honeywell appreciated this service, and as

gloves quit on the Delta above the ocean. In the Rockies, and Max had stuck it down through the clouds to a convenient landing in a valley pasture.

To this I had started to gain a few experiences with Max. One was on a trip from Minneapolis to Chicago's O'Hare. At that time, Max had a real reluctance to file flight plans . . . I realized why later. The ceiling went down and we with it. I was flying right seat and trying to be the good co-pilot. The lower we got, the more frequent I suggested to Max that we file a flight plan. I had passed the point of knowing where we were, but time on the seat of the pants made me feel we were getting close to Chicago.

I kept remarking to Max that the barn and trees passing the "windows" were poor navigation aids. He always responded with, "I know exactly where we are; this is Kek Sawyer's farm." Finally I got him to agree to a flight plan, and off we headed. Off As the lights of the airport came into view, I asked Max for a reaction from Max. . . . I realized that the ILS system was not a part of his repertoire at this point.

This was his first ILS approach.

When I returned from the trip, I remarked to one of the other Honeywell pilots that I thought Max had an uncanny ability to get himself out of tight situations. The response I received was, "Yes, but have you noticed his uncanny ability to get into tight situations?"

In the years that followed, I had the opportunity to learn more about Max. He was a most friendly, outgoing person, yet very much a loner and self-sufficient. We spent considerable time together; in the cockpit, on the ramp waiting in terminals, and evenings in a hotel. I had wondered about Max's sometimes hesitant speech, his strange eating habits, his need for physical activity, and his constant challenge in life. Little by little, I learned some of the story.

Probably the most traumatic event in his life happened late one afternoon when he was barnstorming with his biplane. He had returned from the last flight to unload passengers and be on his way. A woman passenger, although instructed otherwise, suddenly moved to disembark over the front of the wing. Max cut the engine and dove out of the cockpit to stop her. Both were hit by the propeller.

It was a long . . . and at first doubtful . . . recovery for Max.

There was brain damage that left him unable to speak. The base line of his eyes had been altered by the accident. He had lost his coordination. But there existed within him an unbelievably strong spirit. "With superhuman determination and a strenuous physical program, Max learned to talk, regained his strength, and coordination, and found he could fly again. I couldn't begin to recount the triumphs and tragedies that followed in his life, in this



Max Conrad receives "Eagles of Aviation" award.

brief commentary. But I highly recommend the book "Into The Wind" by Sally Bugelisen which covers it in more detail and is fascinating reading for all aviation people.

Max could fly needle ball and alighted like a fine autopilot, and alighted like a fine autopilot, and alighted like a fine autopilot. I believe in the system slowly, I believe Max thought the good Lord had issued him his own part of the sky, and we had a few disagreements over this.

Max did change, but while going through it, I did many sales talks on filling a flight plan. I believed in IFR flight plans and Max thought they were superfluous. Before a flight I would say, "Well, Max, I think I'll go down and check the weather." His normal response was, "Why do you want to do that? You know we are going to go away."

Max had another talent

pool. With it, he became a "hustler."

He found easy prey around the pool table and would gather the suckers with some poor shots, and an occasional good one. When he thought he had some interest generated, he would suggest some wagers on really impossible shot, . . . hit the 6 ball to hit the 4 ball and drive the 2 ball into the designated pocket. Impossible. Max would collect the bets, then do the impossible.

In his hustler role, Max read people and knew that if he was going to work with them, he had to keep their interest.

I was one of his choice suckers. Waiting for passengers on the ramp we pitched pennies to the line. I always lost and bought more pennies from Max to stay in the game. Max tried to keep my interest

*FILTER'S ROSARY*

*By night on swift enchanted wings I fly,  
Bright stars above become my Rosary,  
Each star a lonely prayer which bids me try  
To live in faith and hope and charity.  
At times I seem to question truth above  
And even doubt sublime eternity,  
Yet countless stars tell me a Holy Love  
Will watch and cure for me, Eternally.  
  
All through the night I prayed my Rosary  
On Heavenly Beads where only Angels tread.  
How can I ever doubt Life's mystery  
When first at dawn my humbled soul is awed?  
The generous sun gives me so tenderly  
Another day—that I may live for God.*

*Max Conrad*

hours — the equivalent of almost six years, twenty-four hours a day, always in flight planes and usually alone.

In spite of marriage and a large family, his life has essentially been solitary. Devoted to his wife and children, he nonetheless put an ocean between them in his efforts to support them in the only he knew.

In 1954 he flew solo, non-stop from New York to Paris to deliver a small plane and to see his family. He was the

His life became a series of undertakings in which part of him always remained aware of the constant possibility of sudden death. Spurning conventional enterprises where other men have succeeded, he has triumphed where most men would not even dare.

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In January, 1978, Bob Whetstone, E-RAU Continuing Education Special Projects Coordinator authored a Florida "Aviation" Journal article entitled

the end of the war bought two G-47's and put them to work transporting their people and developing new equipment. I remember my first impression of Max. He was a handsome man, lean and tan with clear blue eyes, crew cut and a smile that could disarm an irate FAA inspector about to award a violation.

As I started my flying at Honeywell, and with Max, I heard some of the stories about him. Such as the time the en-

NEW TAXIWAY is being constructed west of Embry-Riddle's Flight Line. The new taxiway is part of a 1.7 million dollar airport improvement project which runs from the end of Runway 16 to the end of Runway 34. The taxiway will allow direct access to runways 16 and 34, for Embry-Riddle and Nova Flite Center. The expected completion date is set for middle to late summer (Photo by Mitch Kadow).







## Wilber's Rights and Wrongs

One of the most misunderstood and misused devices in Riddle airplanes is the little red knob adjacent to the throttle known as the mixture control. Space limitations in this article will not permit a thorough discussion of the subject of mixture control. Technical concepts such as mixture ratio, stoichiometric, and chemically correct mixtures will have to be saved for hangar flying sessions in the engineering department. Here we will simply try to clear up some myths and misconceptions about how and when to use the mixture control on a modern, normally aspirated (unsupercharged), reciprocating engine.

The first myth is when to adjust the mixture to something from the full rich position. Many Cessna students think that the mixture should be "leaned" only at altitudes above 3,000-foot. Such belief probably comes from the takeoff and climb charts in the Cessna Owner's Manual which mention not to cruise. The mixture should be properly adjusted at any altitude when cruising at or below 75% break horsepower (BHP). The Mooney Owner's Manual does not suggest leaning the mixture for take off or climbs at higher altitude than the Cessna manual does. However, at density altitudes above 5,000 feet takeoff and climb performance may be reduced if mixture is too rich. To find "out" simply ease the mixture back from full, rich slightly. If the engine gets a bit smoother, you know the mixture was too rich. Lean to smoothest operation or proper exhaust



### Wilber's Rights and Wrongs

gas-temperature (EGT) at appropriate. The normally aspirated engine should always be a little on the rich side at power settings above 75% BHP for added engine cooling.

The second myth is that mixture is regulated primarily for fuel economy. Of course proper mixture adjustment is important to fuel economy, but improper mixture regulation can result in bullet valves, fouled plugs and combustion chambers, uneven and improper engine temperatures, and abnormal engine wear which often outweigh the fuel economy considerations.



One of the most common misconceptions of mixture management that contributes greatly to plug and combustion chamber fouling and also wastes fuel is the habit of advancing the mixture to full rich prior to a descent. Generally speaking, the lower the power setting the leaner the mixture that can be tolerated without harm to the engine. Therefore, a mixture that is appropriate for a cruise power setting of 65-75% BHP would certainly not be too lean for a reduced descent power setting of say 50% BHP. Not to mention the fact that the application of carburetor heat enriches the mixture some anyway. If we

throw that full rich dose of excess fuel in on top of the addition of carburetor heat and the power reduction, the poor plugs and combustion chambers begin to foul, the internal temperatures go berserk and the engine takes another giant step closer to the next overhaul. Now at the moderate altitudes where we normally operate that may be a little over dramatic, but the point is that a properly leaned descent will help keep the engine and plugs clean and extend the life of the engine.

At this point the question is often asked, "Won't you need a richer mixture at the lower altitudes?" As already mentioned, the carburetor heat effectively enriches the mixture some. If the descent is a very long one and the lower altitudes demand a richer mixture, the engine will let you know just as it does in the normal leaning procedure by starting to run a little rough. Keep it running smooth by adjusting the mixture as required. Of course the mixture should be enriched prior to advancing power at level off from the descent. Instructors often voice the fear that the student may forget to re-adjust the mixture when adding the power for level off at the lower altitudes. It would seem reasonable however that if a student can be taught the habit of always advancing the mixture to rich before reducing the power for descent, he could just as easily be taught the more correct habit of enriching the mixture before advancing the throttle for level off or climb. Naturally the pre-landing check list or GUMP

check will insure that the mixture is in full rich during the landing approach in preparation for a possible missed approach or go around.

So much for the "when" of mixture regulation. Now a word about the "how". There are generally two correct cruise mixture settings: best power setting and best economy set-

ting. The various owner's manuals describe the procedures adequately. The best power setting will be slightly richer than the best economy setting. These settings can be achieved with precision in aircraft that are equipped with an exhaust gas temperature (EGT) gauge. Without the EGT gauge it's a matter of leaning until the engine

tuns rough then richening just until the engine runs smooth for economy or to a peak RPM in fixed-pitch propeller aircraft.

For best power, in smooth air and with patience, you can adjust the mixture for a peak airspeed indication for best power, in both fixed pitch and constant speed propeller equipped aircraft.

## DISCOVER DIVING!



ERAU SCUBA CLUB OFFERS THE STUDENTS AND STAFF AT ERAU, AN "OPEN-WATER DIVER" INSTRUCTION COURSE FOR ONLY \$25.00, INCLUDES THE USE OF ALL SCUBA EQUIPMENT.

FINAL REGISTRATION: 5-16-79, 6PM IN CPR  
CLASSES BEGIN: 5-18-79 AND MEET EACH FRIDAY AT 8PM FOR  
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WET SESSION BEGIN: 5-25 AT ERAU POOL  
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## "LEARN to DIVE"



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PRESENTS

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Wednesday / 16 May 1979

5



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## Riddle intramural team advances in Shlitz Olympics

NEW YORK, March 30—Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's all-campus men's intramural team, travelled to Florida State University to compete in the Schlitz Intramural Olympic regional championships April 28 and 29.

This and 11 other regional competitions will pare the nation's top 200 men's and women's teams to 12, each that will advance to the Schlitz Intramural Olympics National

Finals at the University of Miami (Florida) on May 5 and 6.

The Schlitz Olympics began last September to determine the country's best college intramural teams for the current academic year.

Special scoring was used in selecting all-campus winners to reflect differences in the 200 participating school's intramural programs. The Schlitz regional and final championships will feature standard com-

petition in track, badminton, volleyball and swimming.

"Our goal is to have a vast representation of students who love sports but who cannot participate in inter-collegiate athletics," said William Corrigan, Schlitz Member of Special Events. "The Schlitz-Intramural Olympics is our special effort to recognize all these people and to encourage them to remain active in sports all their lives," he said.

## E-RAU Board of Visitors sponsors a 'Hanger Sale'

"A hanger sale is bigger than a garage sale," according to Mr. Robert Whiteside, Chairman of the Board of Visitors for E-RAU. "Therefore we need more items, hundreds more." If your Second Annual Hanger Sale is going to be as successful as the one last year, "Hundreds of people were on hand opening day last year to browse through the hundreds of items donated

by friends of the University.

"Although the Hanger Sale isn't scheduled until Saturday, May 19 and Sunday, May 20, we are starting our collection of items immediately," Whiteside said. "We can use an item that's clean or workable and all donations are tax deductible." Items should be marked, labeled and taken to the Shipping and Receiving Department

at E-RAU which is located just off the street leading to the Airport Terminal. If the item is too large for the donor to handle, a phone call to 352-5361, Ext. 333, will bring an E-RAU truck to pick it up. All donors will receive receipts for income tax purposes.

"A Dutch Auction will be held on some of the larger items," said Whiteside. "Bidders can look over the item, leave their bid in a sealed envelope and we'll phone the highest bidder after the envelopes are opened." Members of the Board of Visitors are contacting their friends for donations of even larger items than were available last year. The cut off date for donations is Wednesday, May 16, 1979 with the Hanger Sale from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday May 19 and from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 20.



## THE MAYAN INN FEATURING:

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★ ★ SPECIALS NIGHTLY!!!

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\*\*\* Good thru next issue of Avion 5/24/79 \*\*\*

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15% DISCOUNT  
DAILY ROOM RATE  
ON ALL ROOMS, EFFICIENCIES  
AND SUITES  
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10% DISCOUNT OFF WEEKLY RATE

★ SPECIAL

Pitcher Beer  
Pizza (large)  
\$6.95



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**FOR SALE-AUTO****FOR RENT - ROOMS****FOR SALE - MISC****PERSONAL**

**FOR SALE:** 48 Shady - Excellent condition \$4,400 250-4206 or 350-4461 Ext. 601 Ask for Don.

**FOR SALE:** 1976 Monte Carlo - original owner 22,000 miles, whitewall velour interior, vinyl top, leather seats, 1000 miles. \$1,500 ext. 609 ask for Don.

**ROOMS FOR RENT**  
2 - Second floor beautiful new house close golf course on North Rd. Garage and swimming pool. Rent \$110 a month.

Call 250-4206 or 350-4206 ext. 609 ask for Don.

**FOR SALE:** 1976 Monte Carlo - original owner 22,000 miles, whitewall velour interior, vinyl top, leather seats, 1000 miles. \$1,500 ext. 609 ask for Don.

**SUMMER TRIMESTER:** Short 2 bedroom very comfortable house in Holly Hill. Wall to wall carpet, central air conditioning, fireplace, kitchen, \$120. \$100 covers rent and utilities monthly. Contact Revive Box 4516 or 250-6145.

**FOR SALE:** 1976 Monte Carlo - original owner 22,000 miles, whitewall velour interior, vinyl top, leather seats, 1000 miles. \$1,500 ext. 609 ask for Don.

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**JEFFERSON APPROACH PLATES**  
All east of Mississippi plus Hwy 61, Hwy 21, Paul & Minnesota, S-20th Avenue, 2nd Street, 3rd Street & 4th Street. \$10.00 each with resolution to July 1979.00. Call Al 726-2800.

**FOR SALE:** Collier 115 X 187' - 1,100 ft. 1150 EMER - very impressive.

contact Jack McCannion (305) 456-2008 or (305) 656-7887.

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**CORRESPONDENCE WELCOMED:** We are looking for old photos and old ads used for over four years. We'd like exchanging letters with residents. If you have old photos or ads we'd like to have additional information. No strings with your ad!

John Williams, Pines Hill Station 100, Pines Hill Station, FL 32121-1300.

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**MIKE WILLIAMS IS COMING.**  
WHERE IS MIKE WILLIAMS?  
MIKE WILLIAMS WILL BURN US OUT AT THE CAMPFIRE.  
THE DOG WILL BARK AT THE CAMPFIRE.  
MARBLELLOWS WILL BURN AT THE CAMPFIRE.  
JUNE 1, FRIDAY NIGHT.  
WHO IS MIKE WILLIAMS?

**CHOCOLATE:** It was about 1964 in Barbados when I would have bought them. Thanks for the musical Zendo PD 1084, CHOCOLATE.

# WANTED

## COLLEGE SENIORS

AOC PROGRAM

THIS SPECIAL AVIATION OFFICER  
CANDIDATE CLASS (FOR PILOTS  
ONLY) WILL COMMENCE ON 25 JUNE  
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THOSE WHO DESIRE TO SUBMIT  
APPLICATIONS SHOULD CONTACT  
MAJOR RICHARD C. SLACK AT  
(305) 420-6461. CALL PERSON  
TO PERSON COLLECT.

**FOR SALE-AUTO****FOR RENT - ROOMS****FOR SALE - MISC****PERSONAL**

**FOR SALE:** 48 Shady - Excellent condition \$4,400 250-4206 or 350-4461 Ext. 601 Ask for Don.

**FOR SALE:** 1976 Monte Carlo - original owner 22,000 miles, whitewall velvet interior, leather seats, in excellent condition. \$7,000 ask for Don. 250-4461 Ext. 600 ask for Don.

**ROOMS FOR RENT**

2 - Second floor beautiful new house close golf course on North Rd. Garage and swimming pool. Rent \$110 a month. Call 250-4206 or 350-4206 ext. 600 ask for Don.

**FOR SALE:** Comes 1976-1987. 2,000 ft. + 1/2 acre. Call Bud: 250-4278.

**SUMMER TRIMESTER:** Short 2 bedroom very comfortable house in Holly Hill. Wall to wall carpet, central air conditioning, fireplace, kitchen: \$120. \$100 covers taxes and utilities. Call: 250-4206 or 350-4206 ext. 600 ask for Don.

**LOST:** 1976, prop. green coloration, large w/ over left eye, name to name of Myron; very valuable must have to work for Meets in schools. Reward offered. Please return to George in Room 1100.

**JEFFERSON APPROACH PLATES**

All east of Minneapolis plus Hwy 50, St. Paul & Minnesota, 5-20th Street blocks between 1st and 2nd Avenues & 1st and 2nd Streets with residence to July - \$100.00. Call Al: 726-2800.

**FOR SALE:** Comes 1976-1987. 2,000 ft. + 1/2 acre. Call Bud: 250-4278.

**CORRESPONDENCE WELCOMED:** We are looking for old photos and old letters received for over four years. We'd enjoy exchanging letters with residents! If you can't find a photo, we'll be happy to supply one. Please send your letter to: Mike Williams, Pines Hill Station 100, Pickney, Miss. 39065. Tel: 662-221-1380. PO BOX 84265, Memphis, Tenn. 38184

**MIKE WILLIAMS IS COMING.**  
WHERE IS MIKE WILLIAMS?  
MIKE WILLIAMS WILL BURN US OUT  
AT THE CAMPFIRE.  
THE DOG WILL BARK AT THE CAMPFIRE.  
MARBLELLOWS WILL BURN AT THE  
CAMPFIRE.  
THE BEER WILL STAY COLD AT THE  
CAMPFIRE.  
JUNE 1, FRIDAY NIGHT.  
WHO IS MIKE WILLIAMS?

**CHOCOLATE:** It was about 10 in Boston, Mass., when I was born. I was born in 1948. I would have turned 31 years old. Thanks for the invitation Eddie PD 1084, CIO, St. Paul, MN 55106.

# WANTED

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