



TALOA NEWSLETTER

July 2002

Jeff Nelson, Chairman
P. O. Box 5301
Ketchum, ID 83340
(208) 578-5200

Arue Szura, Editor
4021 Meadowlark Court
Castro Valley, CA 94546
(510) 538-4822

Reunion 2002

Sat. Sept. 7, 2002

See page 11 for
details & reservation form

Smile!

A group photograph will be taken of those who attend the Transocean Air Lines 2002 Reunion.

It will be announced where we should gather for the photograph BEFORE the buffet is served, so please be there and put on your best smile!

75th Anniversary of the Oakland International Airport

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Oakland Airport and an exhibit featuring milestones during these years will be sponsored by the Oakland Airport and produced by the Oakland Museum of California.

in addition to other airlines once headquartered at the airport.

These will be displayed in the connecting corridor between Terminal 1 and Terminal 2. If you have a ticket to fly into or out of Oakland be sure to see the Transocean Air Lines exhibit.

Many interesting items from the Transocean Air Lines collection will be displayed in secure cabinets



Oakland Airport the place for aviation museum

Op-ed reprinted with the permission of the ANG Newspaper Group

It's not often we hear about a great idea for a public attraction that won't cost the taxpayers a bundle.

itself is so rich in history it has been designated a historic district by the city of Oakland.

That's why we're intrigued with the idea of the Western Aerospace Museum expanding its existing aviation museum at historic North Field at the Oakland International Airport.

At this time the museum is still a dream in the making, so it is amenable to all possibilities. One that's logical is the inclusion of a wing dedicated to women in aviation, in the planned new terminal for the airport. This has the active support of Port Commissioner Darlene Ayres Johnson, also a supporter of the Western Aerospace Museum idea.

A highly successful symposium on the unsolved mystery of Amelia Earhart's disappearance into the Pacific Ocean was held there last month, sponsored by the Amelia Earhart Society, the Western Aerospace Museum, the Port of Oakland and the International Organization of Women Pilots.

Since the planning for the terminal is still in infancy, the concept of a museum or major permanent exhibit should be on the table as the plans are refined by the port staff and board commissioners.

The two-day event drew Earhart researchers, historians and aviation buffs eager to hear and examine any new information on the 65-year-old mystery.

As the new terminal is discussed, port officials should keep in mind that air travelers with two- to three-hour waits would have something interesting to do if there were an aviation museum.

Many of those who attended also toured Oakland and Alameda sites, where Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, were frequent visitors with many local friends and contacts.

The museum's board is aware that money will have to be raised for the undertaking, but with help from the port the prospects are good.

There is a wealth of material on pioneers in aviation that could be tapped for such a museum, including the artifacts and airplanes now on exhibit at the Western Aerospace Museum in an authentic hangar. North Field

We encourage the port and the museum to engage in some serious discussion about the possibility of a fascinating addition to a new terminal at the airport.

TALOA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION YEAR 2002 REUNION

DATE: September 7, 2002

PLACE: Western Aerospace Museum
8260 Boeing St., North Field, Oakland International Airport
(Take Earhart Drive past Hangar 5. Museum is across the street from Alaska Airlines Maintenance Hangar, behind the FAA Building)
Telephone: 510-638-7100

DRINKS & MEMORIES: 12:00 Noon - 6:00 PM - Wine, beer, soft drinks compliments of your TALOA Alumni Association

DINNER SERVED: 3:00 PM - GRAND CATERING

COST FOR DINNER: \$25.00/Each - Adults \$10.00/Each - Children under 12 Years

MENU

Tossed Garden Salad/Assorted Dressings

Fresh Fruit Salad

Seashell Macaroni Salad

Baked Beans

Garlic Roasted Potatoes

B.B.Q. Chicken

B.B.Q. Tri-Tips

INCLUDES: Rolls, Butter, Condiments, Beverages & Desserts

INFO FOR OUT-OF-TOWNERS: Several hotels are in the vicinity of the Museum. A sampling: Hilton Oakland Airport (510-635-5000); San Leandro Marina Inn (510-895-1311) (NOTE: YOU MUST MAKE YOUR OWN RESERVATIONS!)



Clip & fill out this reservation form. Make check payable to "TALOA Reunion" and mail check & form to: Ed Landwehr, 1502 Shannon Ct., Benicia, CA 94510.

Reservation Deadline: August 31, 2002

YES, I WILL ATTEND -Number of Persons in my party _____ Adults _____ Children _____

Amount of Enclosed Check _____

Name _____ Address _____

Telephone Number (include new area code) _____

IN MEMORIAM



T. Edward Peiffer

Wallace (Buster) Merritt



T. Edward Peiffer

From the Valley Times

T. Edward Peiffer, a native of Iowa and 35 year resident of Livermore died Thursday, May 16, 2002. He was 91. He is survived by his wife of 50 years Olga (Valenta) Peiffer. He was born July 21, 1910 in Keota, Iowa.

A pioneer aviator, Mr. Peiffer had a long and distinguished career as a commercial aviation pilot. He began flying at age 17 by soloing in the World War I Jenny biplane. He barnstormed all over Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas for a few years. Later he became a flight instructor at the University of Iowa at Iowa City in the Civilian Pilot Training Program. Over the years he flew not only the biplanes, but commercial airliners and even an ultralight most recently. He came to California in 1940 with Cal-Aero to train Royal Air Force (RAF) pilots before and during World War II as well as American cadets. He later joined the Army Air Corps and piloted P-63, P-51, B-25, C-47 and C-54 military aircraft. After discharge in December 1946, he began his commercial career with the Flying Tigers. Next he flew for Transocean Air Lines, Japan Airlines, and Capital Airways. During his career he logged some 25,000 air

hours and landed in 47 countries.

Forced into retirement by a heart attack at age 56 on Wake Island, he and his wife moved to Livermore in 1967 and he started a second career utilizing his hobby of photography which he had begun in the 1930s. He became the photographer for the Livermore Chamber of Commerce as well as freelanced for local newspapers. In 1969 he used his cinematography skills to produce the city's Centennial movie "A Century has Passed", with his wife Olga. They were recently featured in the documentary film "Livermore: The Movie" for their work on the Centennial and other community activities.

He always remained interested in aviation and helped a friend, the late Jim Nissen, restore a 1917 Jenny biplane which they flew again in 1978.

Mr. Peiffer's memberships included the OX-5 Pioneer Pilots Association, Quiet Birdmen, Aviation Pioneers Association, the VFW and Livermore Heritage Guild.

Did You Know?

Park statues of men on horses tell something about the person:

If the horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle.

If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died of wounds received in battle.

If the horse had all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

The term "the whole nine yards" originated with World War II fighter pilots in the South Pacific.

Their .50 caliber machine gun ammo belts measured exactly 27 feet. Many pilots, when they fixed on a target, fired all their ammo -- the whole nine yards.



Flag Trivia Quiz

(Author unknown)

1. Betsy Ross worked together with the Continental Congress to create the first American flag. T or F?
2. It is against the law to burn the flag. T or F?
3. The Pledge of Allegiance was written in 1892 but was not adopted by Congress until which date?
A. 1912 B. 1934 C. 1942
4. In which year was the Stars and Stripes officially adopted by the Continental Congress? A. 1776 B. 1777 C. 1787
5. A new star is added to the flag when a state is admitted to the Union. T or F?
6. The flag that sparked Francis Scott Key to write The Star Spangled Banner flew over Fort McHenry in what year? A. 1776 B. 1812 C. 1861
7. The flag has seven red and six white stripes. T or F?
8. The 49th and 50th stars were added to the flag on July 4th, 1960, with the admittance of Alaska and Hawaii. T or F?
9. During the Civil War, the first Confederate flag

was created to look different from the Union flag. T or F?

10. The star-spangled banner of Fort McHenry fame has how many stars and stripes? A. 13 stars, 13 stripes B. 15 stars, 13 stripes C. 15 stars, 15 stripes

ANSWERS
1. False. Documents prove it was Francis Hopkinson (a member of the Continental Congress), not Betsy Ross, who designed the original stars and stripes. 2. False. "The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning." Flag Laws and Regulations-Title 36, Chapter 10, Section 136(k). 3. C. 4. B. 5. False. A new star is not added until the July 4th following the state's date of admittance to the union. 6. B. 7. True. 8. False. Only Hawaii, the 50th state, was added in 1960. Alaska's 49th star was added in 1959. 9. False. The original Confederate "Stars and Bars" was designed to show the link between the warring states. It was so close, in fact, that the generals often couldn't tell their forces apart. The Confederate Battle Flag was created to remedy the situation. 10. C. At that time, a new stripe and star was added with each new state and the number of stripes would return to 13, representing the original colonies.



Mail Pouch

JOE DE LAZERDA: Another year and we are still here. I am looking forward to another reunion so here are my dues for 2002.

Recently a friend of mine flying his Cessna 182 in the Napa area, collided with a large bird causing extensive damage to his aircraft leading edge. This incident reminded me of a story told to me many years ago by my foreman at Transocean.

A British Commonwealth Airways DC-6 flying from Honolulu to San Francisco missed approach at San Francisco due to fog and low visibility. The Captain diverted to Oakland. The aircraft was parked on the flight line. The Captain gave instructions to the foreman to fuel and service the aircraft while they waited for the weather to improve in San Francisco. As an afterthought the Captain mentioned that they might have hit a bird on descent and would you please check for possible damage.

The foreman put a ladder up to the wing and climbed up to check for damage and came down holding a tree branch about six feet long. "Yes, you did hit a bird Captain," he told him, "but you got him while he was still in the nest."

ALYS KENDALL: Hope this will catch me up if I am behind in dues. Your newsletter brings back some wonderful memories.

JOHN PIDCOCK: My address is changing to : 3078 S. Plateau Dr., Salt Lake City, UT 84109. My

new phone number is: 801-484-9113. Please change the records accordingly. Enclosed is a check for membership for Mr. Keiichi Kato. He lives at 12-26-5-Chome Ohsawa, Mitaku-Shi Tokyo, Japan. His phone number is: 1-81-3-3334-0876 when dialed from the USA. Many will remember his help and good work at the Tokyo offices.

CAROLYN BOVAT LUNDELL: So appreciate the newsletter! Tom reads every issue too. Hope we get to see you all this year.

EUNICE HOENNINGER: Enclosed is my check for Taloa Alumni dues. Even tho I don't attend the dinners, I enjoy reading the newsletter. Many names are still familiar. It's 20 years in May since John passed on.

TED CAMPBELL: Sorry to be late with dues. Have been in hospital twice. Was operated & now better. Hope all is great for you and yours.

SHERRY PARKER: Sorry my dues are late. I wrote the check weeks ago, then forgot to mail it. Thanks for the reminder and keep those great newsletters coming.

LIZ KEARNS: Here are my dues for 2002. Many thanks for your hard work and for helping us all keep in contact with one another. My last years letter published in the newsletter had really good results.

Address Updates

Mildred J. Good
HC 70 Box 351
Greenough, MT 59823

Nyla Christensen
1621 Anapuni St. , Apt. D
Honolulu, HI 96822-4405

Mary Rodenbaugh
147 Wehmeyer Loop
Mountain Home., AZ 72653

Robert Judd
1919 Bailey Jill Road, Apt. 254
Eugene, OR 97405
(541) 681-3254

The Flight Galley Cookbook Recipes Wanted!

The Western Aerospace Museum is publishing a cookbook as a fund raiser for the museum. "The Flight Galley" -- A collection of Favorite Recipes from the Trustees, Members, and Friends of the Western Aerospace Museum at the Historic Oakland International Airport.

When the book is published the museum will hold a black tie Gala with a 1940 swing era theme with a big band for dancing and the attendees will be encouraged to attend in 1940's black tie attire. There will be a fashion show with prizes for the woman and man who best represent the 1940's in their dress and

other categories to extend the evening of fun and frivolity.

The cookbook gala (date to be announced later) will start with a cook off, judged by some celebrity judges. They will choose winners and a grand prize winner for the evening of the best dishes submitted. Anyone can submit a dish if they have submitted a recipe for the cookbook.

So get your recipes dusted off and mail your favorite recipe to Arue Szura, 4021 Meadowlark Court, Castro Valley, CA 94546.



Senility Prayer

(based on the Serenity Prayer, Mrs. Charles Benton)

God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I *do* like, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

Some old Friends



Frankfurt, Germany, 1954- (L to R) George Pohle, Station Manager; Kurt Ermer, Station Mechanic; Barbara Kleinert, Secretary; Danny Befulco, Resident Engineer.



L to R- Jim Corbett, John Maxwell, Wally Kyse
At Charlie Gabeler's house in Tehran, 1959
Photo by Pohle

A PILOT EARNS HIS ETERNAL WINGS

The Robert McIntosh Obituary
(excerpted from Kai Teraji's column, The Dispatch, and submitted by Jim McIntosh)

A pilot got his wings today - and not just any old ordinary wings, either.

Robert McIntosh was born in Bozeman, Mont., On Nov. 13, 1912, the son of an R.N. and a well-educated Canadian Scotsman. [After high school] Robert decided to take the advice of the famous saying, "Go west, young man."

Aided by a talented thumb, Robert hitchhiked 2,000 miles to a job on a sawmill's loading docks in Oregon during the Depression, where he made three dollars a day and the day lasted 10 hours. I'll let you do the math! One year and 50,000 pounds of wood later, he went off to seek adventure in riding the rails by refrigerator car rooftop, enjoying the fresh air all the way.

Then came Pearl Harbor and patriotic instincts began to stir in the hearts of the century's greatest generation. Robert began pilot training in St. Paul, Minn., to fly the Piper Cub, a small plane that was power-boosted by rubber bands for take-off. He so excelled that he became a flight instructor almost overnight. Flying PT-19s in Uvalde, Texas. His sweetheart, Ruth Sharp, joined him in Texas and they were married.

Robert was commissioned a Flight Officer in the U.S. Army Air Corps, attached to the Air Transport Command. He flew B-25 bombers to various training bases and earned \$260 a month, outfitted in stylish uniform of the forest green jacket and pink pants. From there he learned to fly the C-46 for the North African Transport Command, a huge transport plane with twin 2,000-

horsepower engines, to places like Brazil, Liberia, Cairo, Marrakesh, Morocco, and Casablanca.

Flying was his passion, whether evacuating troops from the CBI theater (China, Burma, India); delivering supplies to Japan; flying cattle to Chile to improve the herds; flying monkeys from India for the Salk vaccine; or buzzing fields to drive off herds of camels to deliver supplies to drilling crews in Saudi Arabia - he loved it all.

He stayed home long enough for the birth of his only son, Jim, in 1947, and then he was off to fly charter tours all across the U.S. and Europe. He joked that he dropped off gamblers on the way west and picked up losers on the way back.

As captain of a Constellation, he flew marchers from Chicago to the south for Martin Luther King's march on Selma.

Robert's adventures in the sky totaled 25,000 hours of flight time, a record rarely held by military or even airline pilots: "When I was a lad, I never dreamed that I would leave Cavalier and fly the world in a DC-8 jet airplane."

On the night he died, Robert called the nurse and requested a different bed. "I need to change beds," he kept insisting, so finally to placate him, she got him up and walked him around to the other side of the bed. He sat down on the "different" bed, and then he died. It was as if he knew it was time for take-off and he was anxious to get going on his final trip.



Internet Users

If you have an e-mail address please send it to Ed Landwehr,
1507 Shannon Ct., Benecia, CA 94510 or telephone 707-746-5544



Citizenship Test

From Family Circle Magazine

Would you pass the U.S. Citizenship exam? Test your national know-how with a few of the exam's sample questions:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. What do the stripes on the flag represent? | |
| 2. What is the introduction to the Constitution called? | 10. Nine |
| 3. How many amendments are there to the Constitution? | 9. 435 |
| 4. What are the names of the 13 original states? | 8. Republican (The U.S.A. is a Republic, not a democracy) |
| 5. Who said, "Give me liberty or give me death"? | 7. 1787 |
| 6. Who was the main writer of the Declaration of Independence? | 6. Thomas Jefferson |
| 7. What year was the Constitution written? | 5. Patrick Henry |
| 8. What kind of government does the United States have? | 4. CT, NH, NY, NJ, MA, PA, DE, VA, NC, SC, GA, RI, MD |
| 9. How many representatives are in Congress? | 3. 27 |
| 10. How many Supreme Court justices are there? | 2. The Preamble. |
- ANSWERS:**
1. They represent the 13 original states.

BY DEAD RECKONING

Ralph Lewis's Book Sale

As Ralph Lewis's book will soon be withdrawn from the catalog, Paladwr Press is offering it to all members of the Transocean Air Lines Alumni Association fraternity at a special price of \$15.00 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling (the book originally sold for \$25.00). Order from: Paladwr Press, 1906 Wilson Lane, Apt. 101, McLean, VA 22102 R.E.G Davis Paladwr Press.



Eternal Truths

From the internet

- | | |
|---|--|
| If it weren't for STRESS I'd have no energy at all. | Junk is something you've kept for years and throw away three weeks before you need it. |
| Everyone has a photographic memory. Some just don't have film. | Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again. |
| Dogs have owners, cats have staff. | By the time you can make ends meet, they move the ends. |
| If you're too open minded, your brains will fall out. | Once over the hill, you pick up speed. |
| If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip. | I love cooking with wine. Sometimes I even put it in the food. |
| Men are from earth. Women are from earth. Deal with it. | Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks. |
| A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand. | Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself. |
| Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places. | |