



RUPANEWS

Journal of the Retired United Pilots Association

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October, 2005



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RUPANEWS

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Now Listen UP!!!

There is a new Secretary/Treasurer in town starting this month. Jim Olson is taking over this position and so from now on please send your checks and other information, such as mailing address changes, E-mail address changes, telephone number changes, etc. to him.

Send your checks & info. to:

James E. Olson

PO Box 20634

Sarasota, FL 34276-3634

Phone 941-921-7959

E-mail jimboyfl@verizon.net

You can still notify us of changes by calling 800-787-2429 and leaving a message on our answering machine.

Snow Birds

Snow Birds remember that the Post Office will only forward the *RUPANEWS* for 60 days and then they return the back page to us with your forwarding address. If we don't have any old issues left you won't get a new copy.

Our Computer had a bad day!!!

Our computer had a bad day in August and some of the updated information we received was lost. If you sent in an address change or other changes during that period please inform us again.

Thank you for your cooperation. *Cleve*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

RUPA is still looking for a new Webmaster! Surely there is someone among our ranks who could take over from Bruce McLeod. We have any number of members who are well qualified and computer literate. What we need is for someone to step forward and take over. Bruce will be more than happy to give you all the training necessary.

If any of you sent in a change of address to Cleve last month, would you please re-submit your information. Cleve's computer has apparently stored that information in a location Cleve can't find. At any rate, send in your address change again.

Information for the RUPA Caribbean Cruise is in this issue. You all know that if you want to reserve one of the popular verandah cabins, you must put in your reservation early. Last year's cruise to Alaska was very well received and everyone had a most enjoyable time. It's always more fun to cruise with a group of your friends, so if you want to see the southern Caribbean, this is your chance. This should be a very relaxing trip. I hope to see many of you there.

This is my last President's Message to you. My two year term has stretched into almost four years. It has been a pleasure serving in this capacity. We, as a group, have been through an unbelievably rocky time these last few years. Now, it looks like the rest of the major airlines in the industry are going to follow United into bankruptcy. Hopefully, all the uncertainty and chaos will come to an end someday; United will exit bankruptcy, and we can all go on with our lives.

I want to thank all of you for putting up with me during my term. It has been a pleasure meeting many of you at various luncheons around the country. It was my intention to visit all the luncheon groups, but circumstances prevented me from doing that. Perhaps, I can complete the circuit this coming year on my own. I would like to thank all the Board Members for their help and understanding; they truly have been a great help. I would be remiss if I didn't thank my wife, Georgia. She is the one who kept me on the ball with all her reminders and prodding.

I hope to see you all at the Convention.

Rich

PILOT LIFE INSURANCE?

The other day I was sorting through some old material left over from when I retired and came across a form indicating that the Connecticut General policy (which is now Met-Life) for \$50,000 would reduce each year until down to \$10,000. I seem to recall that UAL dumped all this life insurance. Anyway I called the benefit center and dialed the number to report a death for I felt if this insurance were still in effect, the person handling reports of deaths would have the real "skinny" on this. I was told any pilot's beneficiaries would still receive the benefits of this policy if they retired before Jan. 2005. Now I'm not "DYING TO FIND OUT" but perhaps someone in the RUPA membership could shed some light on this. Perhaps some person recently widowed would be able to verify this. Thank you.

Marv Kruskopf
International Falls,Mn.

How to renew your subscription to the *RUPANEWS*

The date to renew your subscription is always printed on the address label on the back page of your most recent copy of the *RUPANEWS*.

**Send a \$25 check to:
James E. Olson, PO Box 20634, Sarasota, FL 34276-36346**

DANA POINT RUPA LUNCHEON

Sixteen stalwarts RUPA guys showed on a unsettled day. Night before all of southern California was 'entertained' by Lightning/Thunder and yes Rain!. The open deck, at the Wind and Sea Restaurant, was still our choice being that it was warm and not raining... We had to talk our serving crew into opening the 'Deck' for our traditional preferred seating. Then, out of the blue, came more rain and we dived into the main windowed and covered area. Weather was the subject for the initial few minutes.

Present were: Park Ames, Carlos Bernhard, Bruce Dunkle, Bob Fuhrmann, Pete Hansen, Jack Healy, Ed Judd, Bob McGowan, Jerry Meyer, Bill Rollings, Ted Simmons, Bill Stewart, Tony Testa, Joe Udovch, George Webster and Snuffy Smith.

Special welcome to Snuffy...longtime 'no see' him for many of us. Hard to believe that he has been retired 17 years! Before we knew it we were back 40 years and remembering the good old days like the great time had at the Vail Airline Skiing Party. What a deal that was. Never to be seen again. Like so many of the things that we of the Legacy Airlines took for granted. Glad we had those days.

We all tried to puzzle out the 9/14/05 URBPBA web letter. In particular "United indicated in their Disclosure Statement that they intend to satisfy retired pilots' claims for non-qualified pension benefits, in the event the non-qualified benefit is terminated, and medical benefits by issuing "New United stock to retired pilots."?

Related to this the Retired United Airlines Employees NEWSLETTER stated that United cannot cancel or change our current medical insurance, as long as "United is a viable company". So says the President of the RUAEA in their September newsletter.

Once again more to be revealed and soon.

Next Luncheon October the 18th at 1200 Regards, *Ted*

DEN GOOD OL' BOYS

The September mtg. of DEN Good ol' Boys occurred on a delightful fall day and a good turnout eventuated. The obligatory feeble attempt at humor by the coordinator was supplanted by a good 'un related by our companion from the far north, Rick Madsen, and the meeting thereby got off to a rousing start.

A brief recapitulation of the situation in the courts was offered with little in the area of enlightenment. All were however, admonished to write their Senators and Congresspersons about the pending pension legislation, as it is especially topical now with the bankruptcy of Delta and Northwest.

The recent demise of Jim Goody due to cancer and kidney failure was noted as was the final flight west for Dave Pope from leukemia. Our best wishes go to their respective families.

A brief recap of the Cypriot airliner crash on Aug. 14, wherein the cockpit crew apparently not being sufficiently fluent in a common language led directly to the deaths of 121 people.

The meeting ended at an early hour and substantial time was available for the usual fertilizer slinging. The meeting adjourned at a respectable hour.

The attendance roster reflected the following: Larry Walters, Dick Shipman, Rick Madsen, Bob Sannwald, Bill Hoygaard, Maury Mahoney, Phil Spicer, Dick Garbrick, Bob Deitrich, Al Snook, Jim Hixon, Bob Blessin, Bob Clipson, Jack Davis, Dave Murtha, Tom Gordon, Jerry Baer, Ed Riehl, Hugh Moore, Ralph Wright, A. J. Hartzler, Fritz Meyer, John Allen, Duane Searle, Bill Fife, Charles Fellows, Jim Jenkins, Laurie Cannon, Warren Mugler, Russ Ward, Ed Cutler, Cliff Lawson, Bay Bowman, George Maize, Bill Matheny, Gary Siebold, Jim Harris, and the scribe and coordinator, *Ted Wilkinson*

United Airlines Retired Pilots Foundation, Inc.

Send all donations for the United Pilots Foundation to: Capt. T. S. "Ted" Bochniarz, Treasurer
11165 Regency Dr., Westchester, IL 60154-5638

UNITED RETIRED PILOTS BENEFIT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

URPBPA UPDATE

Litigation:

At a two-day trial ending on September 22, 2005, the Pension Benefits Guarantee Corporation (PBGC) presented their case for the involuntary termination of the United Airlines Pilots Defined Benefit Pension effective December 30, 2004. URPBPA and ALPA appeared in court to oppose the December 30 termination date and the termination by the PBGC. Bankruptcy Judge Wedoff will present his ruling regarding this matter on September 27, 2005.

If Judge Wedoff should rule against the PBGC, it is virtually certain that the PBGC will appeal.

If the PBGC's suit is granted, then that ruling will allow termination of the Pilot Plan sometime after September 27, 2005. However, based on his August ruling on the PBGC's motion for summary judgment, the effective date of the termination will be December 30, 2004. **URPBPA will certainly appeal such a ruling.** URPBPA will continue to do everything it can to protect its members' pension benefits. In either case, there will undoubtedly be a number of further steps to be taken before any final resolution.

URPBPA has also moved to annul the agreement between UAL and ALPA which allows pension plan termination. URPBPA's motion was denied at lower courts and has been appealed to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, where it is now pending. Currently, it appears that this appeal will be heard sometime in November.

Note that the only retired UAL pilots who would not be affected by the termination of the Pilots Defined Benefit Plan are those whose pension checks come from an annuity and not from UAL (The Northern Trust Company). Retirees from Pan Am and U.S. Air had to sue to get the correct benefit after the PBGC took over those pension plans. Retiree organizations at those airlines carried the lawsuits for their members. URPBPA will provide this function at UAL **for its members in good standing.** Go to www.ualpilotpension.com for membership information.

Legislative:

The U. S. Senate Finance Committee and Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee are considering pension legislation. The Senate and House bills currently under consideration are not helpful to UAL retirees. Your communications with members of the House and the Senate Committees could help preserve your pension. **URPBPA has posted legislative alerts on our website at www.ualpilotpension.com, and will update them as additional information becomes available. Check this site often. There will be easy-to-follow instructions to assist you in communicating with the appropriate legislators.**

If you haven't already done so, you should additionally go to www.congress.org to send E-mails to your two U. S. Senators and to your Congressperson asking that they support amending the pension bills to force the PBGC and UAL to consider alternatives, such as URPBPA's "Split/Freeze" proposal, to prevent the termination of the UAL pilots pension plan. California retirees should telephone, fax and E-mail Sen. Feinstein that UAL will **NOT** be forced into Chapter 7 if the pension plans remain. Her refusal to support UAL retirees is an anti-labor position.

Fraternally,

Jerry Terstiege
URPBPA Secretary
Foster City, California

*The Third Annual SFO Area
RUPA
Holiday Party*

All Members and Friends Welcome

This party was such a hit last year, were going to have it again
You are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy, for the Toys for Tots Program
We will have the same orchestra as last year for your dancing pleasure

Wednesday December 7, 2005
Sheraton Gateway Hotel
600 Airport Boulevard
Burlingame, California

6:00 to 7:00 Cash bar with dinner to follow

\$50.00 per person includes wine at the table with your choice of

Prime Rib, Salmon or Chicken with Scampi. Please indicate your meal choice.

Rooms are available at \$89.00 for the night. Call the hotel direct at **1-800-827-0880** to make your
reservations, mention RUPA to receive this special rate.

We will accept monetary donations for Toy for Tots if you are unable to attend.

RSVP Deadline Wednesday, December 1, 2005

Make check payable to: RUPA

Mail Registration to: Richard Bouska
2734 Crater Road
Livermore, CA 94550

Last Name

First Name

Spouse/Guest Name

Meal Choice (Indicate #): _____ Prime Rib _____ Salmon _____ Chicken with Scampi

Check enclosed for the amount of \$ _____

United Airlines Historical Foundation

Send donated artifacts to: United Airlines Flight Center Mail Room, Attn: Tom Angelos
7401 Martin Luther King Blvd., Denver CO 80207 Phone 303-780-5537

LOS ANGELES VALLEY LUNCHEON

We had very few attending the luncheon today, for there were only eleven who were there. Normally the third Thursday of the month follows the third Sunday of the month. This September with the first day of the month being Thursday, the third Thursday of the month followed the second Sunday of the month. I hope that is clear or as Abbott & Costello would say "Who's on First." Hope some don't show up next Thursday.

Those there today were, Doug Rankin, Marcene Rankin, Gerry Beyer, Jim Day, Herb Goodrich, Bob Mosher, Jack Moore, Joyann Moore, Gene Biscailuz, Rex May and Mike Herriott.

Rex May welcomed Gerry Beyer back to the luncheon; Gerry had missed our last few luncheons due to having triple bypass surgery last May. Since Lee Cameron was not there with stories from the past, Mike Herriott had some for us.

The November Valley Luncheon is the 17th, which again is the third Thursday after the second Sunday so mark your calendar. That's all folks. *Doug Rankin*

NORTH BAY RUPA LUNCHEON

The September gathering for the North Bay RUPA luncheon was held on the first Wednesday, September 7th, at the *Petaluma Sheraton*. Customary remarks included the news that Sam Cramb had been injured in a glider accident. The good news was that he was expected home soon, and a card was sent from the group. Other good news was seeing Jim Mansfield and Kel Carson, both recently in treatment, attending! On the sadder side, information on a memorial service for Mike Melin was passed, and also of the illness of Ed Payne, retired Manager at LAXFO. Friends of Jim and Patti Perkins were pleased to hear that they had weathered hurricane Katrina successfully!

An enlarged overhead picture of SFO today was on display, courtesy of Ken Trahan, and compared with some old postcards of "the old days"...some changes!

Those not attending were talked about, as is also customary, and Bill Smith's legend was enhanced. We were informed the restaurant is to be changed considerably for the better, before our next meeting, something we'll look forward to. Attending were Ken and Shirley Corbin, Tom and Joyce Grey, D.L. "Larry" Wright, Leon Scarbrough and his Granddaughter, Rick Saber, Bruce Milan, Gardner and Sheila Bride, Dick Hanna, Jim Mansfield, Grant Adams, John and Dianne Bacznski, Norm DeBack, Bill Greene, Barney Hagen, Dan Bargar, Kel Carson, John Chyle, and this one. *Bob Donegan*

Address changes, Snowbirds & Others:

The Post Office will forward the *RUPANEWS* for only 60 days. We can keep two addresses in the database for each member. If you want your address changed, just let us know by one of the following methods:

Write: James E. Olson, PO Box 20634, Sarasota, FL 34276-3634

Or: Phone 800-787-2429

Or: E-mail jimboyfl@verison.net

Check the RUPA Directory and make sure we have the correct information listed for you.

LAX HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Mark your calendars now. The holiday get together will be early this year to avoid the rush. Thursday, December 8th. No host bar at 1100 followed by lunch at about noon.

All retired or active flight officers, retired or active flight office personnel, retired or active flight attendants and widows or widowers and friends of any of those mentioned are invited.

Information will follow in the next newsletter as to the price as I haven't signed a contract yet. I assume it will be in the \$22 to \$24 range.

I really hope to see you there as old age is depleting the ranks and it may be your last chance to visit someone.

Best wishes. *Rex May*

SAN DIEGO LUNCHEON

We hold our luncheons at the *San Marcus CC* the second Tuesday each month. This luncheon, present were: Paul Witby, Bill Pauling, Bob Harrell, Hugh Wilson and myself. We need some new fellows with new stories. *Bob Bowman*

TUCSON LUNCHEON

Hello, Tucson. The date and location for our next luncheon has been set for Thursday, December 8th, at the Tucson Country Club. Any retired pilot (and spouse) is more than welcome to join us. We will have a speaker that I think will be of interest to men and women living or visiting the Tucson area.

If you will be nearby on the 8th and would like to attend please call me (Randy Ryan) at 520-797-3912 or email me at randyryan40@msn.com. We would like to have you join us.

Randy

ABOUT THE COVER

Aircraft: Boeing 737-322; Number N337UA

On short final for landing at TPA

Tampa International, Florida--June 1991

Photographer: Frank C. Duarte, Jr.

2006 RUPA CARIBBEAN CRUISE
Date of Cruise: October 14, 2006
11 day Roundtrip out of New York
To the Southern Caribbean
On the Brand New
Holland America MS NOORDAM

Check out deck plans and staterooms on the Internet
www.hollandamerica.com, Click on Fleet, ms Noordam,
To check out the Itinerary, go to Destinations, Caribbean,
And enter the date and ship, hit view and again on the
following page.

Depart New York with stops at: Tortola, B. V. I., St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.,
Dominica, Barbados, St. Maarten, San Juan, Puerto Rico and
Return to New York.

All prices include the \$200 port charges and fees imposed by the cruise line.
Taxes, which are \$87.85 pp, are not included and are additional.

Category K Inside Cabin	Main Deck Fwd & Aft	\$1299
Category J Inside Cabin	Main Deck midship	\$1334
Category G Outside Cabin	Upper Promenade Deck	\$1539
Category D Outside Cabin	Main Deck midship	\$1639
Category C	Main Deck Midship	\$1689
Category VD	Verandah Deck Aft midship	\$1869
Category VC	Verandah Deck and	
	Upper Promenade Fwd & Aft	\$1939
Category VA	Upper Verandah Deck Fwd & Aft	\$2079
Category SS	Upper Verandah Midship	\$2639
Suite SA	Navigation Deck	\$4419

All cabins are subject to availability
A deposit of \$600 person is due at the time of booking
and is fully refundable until 76 days prior to the cruise.

**If you want verandah cabins, it is important to book early,
as they are the first to sell out.**

The above prices include at least one cocktail party
and two bottles of wine per stateroom.

Send all correspondence to:

Jerry's Travel Service
36 Mark Bradford Drive
Holden, MA 01520
1-800-309-2023 ext.33
1-508-829-3068
Gpsp@aol.com

2006 RUPA CARIBBEAN CRUISE BOOKING SHEET

October 14, 2006 Caribbean Cruise 11 Day Southern Caribbean
MS NOORDAM, HOLLAND AMERICA CRUISE LINES

NAMES _____

ADDRESS _____

Telephone(s) _____

Mariner Numbers _____

Dining Preference: Early _____ Late _____

Inside Cabin Category _____ Cabin Number _____

Outside Cabin Category _____ Cabin Number _____

Price includes \$200.00 in port charges and fees. Taxes of \$87.85 pp are extra

Total Price per Person _____ Total Price per Cabin _____

Deposit \$600.00 per person _____ Due at time of reservation

Balance _____ due on or before 15 July 2006

Make check out to Jerry's Travel Service

Credit card MC VI AMEX DIS (circle one)

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on Card _____

Cancellation Penalties:

75-46 Days before sailing \$600 per person

45-16 Days prior to sailing %0% of gross fare

15 days or less 100% penalty

BOOKING NUMBER _____ BOOKING DATE _____

CONFIRMATION SENT _____

Other Information:

Cabin selection is based on availability at time of booking.

Prices subject to change until booked.

If there are any singles looking for a companion to share a cabin, call Jerry

LETTERS

DICK ANDERSON—Kirkland, WA

I have plenty of time to write the annual message as I'm at home recovering from total knee replacement surgery. I'm told I'm coming along fine...and it does improve day by day. I expect to be fully recovered to attend the convention. And, Laurie will be happy to give up being a caregiver and go back to a normal routine, whatever that is!

We have taken two absolutely wonderful cruises this past year: In December we were on Silverseas "Silver Cloud" on a 10 day cruise from Hong Kong to Singapore with stops in Viet Nam. During the Viet Nam war I flew troops in and out of the airport so it was fun to finally be able to get to parts of Viet Nam other than the airport. Hanoi was very interesting; got to the Hanoi Hilton where Senator McCain's flight suit was on display. Also enjoyed Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon).

Then this past spring we took the Radisson "Voyager" from Rome to Fort Lauderdale. It was the last leg of the world cruise so it was really first class. Everything was included (as it was on Silverseas).....no signing for drinks or extra-cost dining rooms. Yes, we probably paid up front but, if we don't go first class, the kids will! In Rome we were fortunate we had made hotel reservations for a few days prior to the cruise because about the time we left Seattle the Pope died. We were in Rome for the funeral but watched on TV. The crowds were huge; people from all over the world. However, the Vatican City and Rome authorities handled the crowds very well with camps set up in parks, port-a-potties, bottled water and big-screen theater-type services for the people who could not get into the Vatican. It was quite an experience. We did see Rome but could not buck the crowd to the Vatican. About the time we left Rome for Monte Carlo, Prince Rainier died so there were black ribbons all over that city! However, the rest of the trip was just pure pleasure.

We are still waiting on the pension decision and appreciate all the effort that has been taken to protect our interests. Also, a big thank you to everyone who works so hard to put the *RUPANEWS* together and to our officers and committee chairs. *Dick*

PAUL G. ANDES—Stuart, FL

Cleve; Very busy and running late. Trying to get ready to visit our son and his family in Almaty, Kazakhstan (look it up, 9th largest country in world) where he works as a missionary church planter. Hoping to use a ZED fare on LH, MIA, FRA, ALA and return. Halfway round the world.

Check enclosed. *Paul*

DON BARNHART—La Center, WA

Dear Cleve, Enclosed is my annual check for *RUPANEWS*. Yes, I am still alive! I am about to celebrate my 86th birthday on September 1st and I still look forward to receiving the magazine.

Thank you for all the updates and information. Our little City of La Center continues to grow and fewer and fewer farms are left. While old timers have been outnumbered by young families and empty nesters, there is a desire by most to maintain the small town atmosphere, including summer celebrations and old fashioned parades.

Our twenty acres will soon be encroached upon by nearby housing developments but Barbara and I will continue to enjoy the pastures with cattle, the view of Mt. Hood, our own woods with bald eagles circling, and our usual martini on the deck with the neighbors on Friday nights.

Best wishes to all our friends at United.

Sincerely, *Don*

LOIS BENEDICT—Glen Ellyn, IL

It's Lois Benedict...not being the former employee, but the wife of Captain Ross Benedict (deceased), I don't have "airline memories" to talk about, soooo, guess I'll just have to talk about myself and my family...this will be more of interest to the women.

Anyway... my wonderful family, eight daughters, their husbands and grandchildren, planned an 80th birthday for me. They surprised me by having my three sisters there also. The women "whisked" me off to Kohler, Wisconsin from Glen Ellyn to the beautiful five-star American Club Resort for the weekend. It was fabulous! They made sure it was the "Chocolate Fest" weekend at the resort (which happens once a year), because I'm a definite

“Chocoholic” and they knew I’d love it. The women all showed up Friday night for this elegant “dress-up” sit down event...white linen tablecloths, ice sculptures, champagne, flowers, a band and the room all silver and white. Each corner of the room held a different chocolate station, with the chefs doing their own thing. There were tables loaded with chocolate delicacies...even chocolate beer...yuk! Then the husbands and the grandchildren arrived Saturday morning. We did a tour of the fabulous Kohler Company...wonderful displays! If you need a new “toidy” or something...that’s the place! All of us went to town for a movie in the afternoon and we had a delicious evening meal there at the resort. We then went to a special private room for a party. We all played “crazy” games, we toasted drinks and had two beautifully decorated delicious cakes...one was not chocolate...some people don’t care for it...I don’t know what is wrong with them! Then...they presented me with a huge vase and everyone lined up and approached me with a flower, or flowers and placed them in “my” vase...eighty beautiful flowers. There were roses, alstroemeria, lilies, carnations, etc. etc...I loved it

If you have to be “80”...that’s the way to do it...with your loved ones gathered around you...with chocolate... and... with flowers. I am blessed!

Thanks for the great work on the “Newsletter” ...it’s much appreciated.

Lois

COURT BENNETT—Sunnyvale, CA

Fellow Retirees and the important guys who run the show for us all.

Well another birthday today. I sure don’t like getting older, but you know what they say; “It’s better than the alternative”!!!

We spend most of our time in our home in Sunnyvale to be close to our daughter, son-in-law and two perfect grandchildren. The balance of our time is spent at our second home in Oceanside where we have a son and 11 cousins who we call the “Oceanside Eleven.”

Thanks to all the folks who do the work to keep us older fellers informed and in touch.

Kathy Bennett, Aide d’ Camp to Court

TOM BETTIS—Davis, IL

Sixty years ago I returned home after flying B-29s in India and China.

Twenty-seven years old, dumb as dirt, and not a clue as to my future.

A group of super UAL pilots, some younger than I, taught me how to fly a DC-3 and how to become an airline pilot with the #1 airline in the world. I had a great ride!

Regards,

Tom

P.S. The Hi Tech generation and politicians wanted change and accepted a bus with wings. They even named some of them "Air Bus".

A sad result for a historic era in aviation.

ALAN L. BLACK—Kent, WA

Dear *RUPANEWS*, Seven years into retirement and still flying Lears in Midivac and organ donation flights.

The work of the section 1114 committee, of which I am a member, is nearly done. Final numbers should be available at that time.

The *RUAEA* Newsletter states that our benefits are secure unless United files chapter 7, or exits bankruptcy and refiles chapter 11. Further, the newsletter states that our medical benefits package under United Airlines is the best plan in terms of benefits and costs available to our retirees.

My thanks to all who are responsible for this fine magazine.

Alan

JERRY BRADLEY—Boca Raton, FL

Cleve, I am so sorry. I can’t believe I missed the birthday letter and check this year. I wondered why I wasn’t getting the newsletter. Now I know.

We had planned to come to the convention and my wife kept asking me about it. Had no idea the subscription had lapsed. Won’t do it again.

I hope all is well with you. We still may see you in Washington.

Jerry

TOP HOAXES OF ALL TIME

SAN SERRIFFE

In 1977 the British newspaper *The Guardian* published a special seven-page supplement in honor of the tenth anniversary of San Serriffe, a small republic located in the Indian Ocean consisting of several semi-colon-shaped islands. A series of articles affectionately described the geography and culture of this obscure nation. Its two main islands were named Upper Caisse and Lower Caisse. Its capital was Bodoni, and its leader was General Pica. The Guardian's phones rang all day as readers sought more information about the idyllic holiday spot. Few noticed that everything about the island was named after printer's terminology. The success of this hoax is widely credited with launching the enthusiasm for April Foolery that then gripped the British tabloids in the following decades.

NIXON FOR PRESIDENT

In 1992 National Public Radio's Talk of the Nation program announced that Richard Nixon, in a surprise move, was running for President again. His new campaign slogan was, "I didn't do anything wrong, and I won't do it again." Accompanying this announcement were audio clips of Nixon delivering his candidacy speech. Listeners responded viscerally to the announcement, flooding the show with calls expressing shock and outrage. Only during the second half of the show did the host John Hockenberry reveal that the announcement was a practical joke. Nixon's voice was impersonated by comedian Rich Little.

ALABAMA CHANGES THE VALUE OF PI

The April 1998 issue of the New Mexicans for Science and Reason newsletter contained an article claiming that the Alabama state legislature had voted to change the value of the mathematical constant pi from 3.14159... to the 'Biblical value' of 3.0. Before long the article had made its way onto the internet, and then it rapidly made its way around the world, forwarded by people in their email. It only became apparent how far the article had spread when the Alabama legislature began receiving hundreds of calls

from people protesting the legislation. The original article, which was intended as a parody of legislative attempts to circumscribe the teaching of evolution, was written by a physicist named Mark Boslough.

THE LEFT-HANDED WHOPPER

In 1998 Burger King published a full page advertisement in USA Today announcing the introduction of a new item to their menu: a "Left-Handed Whopper" specially designed for the 32 million left-handed Americans. According to the advertisement, the new whopper included the same ingredients as the original Whopper (lettuce, tomato, hamburger patty, etc.), but all the condiments were rotated 180 degrees for the benefit of their left-handed customers. The following day Burger King issued a follow-up release revealing that although the Left-Handed Whopper was a hoax, thousands of customers had gone into restaurants to request the new sandwich. Simultaneously, according to the press release, "many others requested their own 'right handed' version."

HOTHEADED NAKED ICE BORERS

In its April 1995 issue *Discover Magazine* announced that the highly respected wildlife biologist Dr. Aprile Pazzo had discovered a new species in Antarctica: the hotheaded naked ice borer. These fascinating creatures had bony plates on their heads that, fed by numerous blood vessels, could become burning hot, allowing the animals to bore through ice at high speeds. They used this ability to hunt penguins, melting the ice beneath the penguins and causing them to sink downwards into the resulting slush where the hotheads consumed them. After much research, Dr. Pazzo theorized that the hotheads might have been responsible for the mysterious disappearance of noted Antarctic explorer Philippe Poisson in 1837. "To the ice borers, he would have looked like a penguin," the article quoted her as saying. *Discover* received more mail in response to this article than they had received for any other article in their history.

R. L. "LAURIE" CANNON—Centennial, CO

All is well now, but my 63rd year has been interesting medically. It started with a seizure as I was taxing out for takeoff while checking out to instruct at the Air Force Academy. All tests proved negative so medication keeps me fine with no problems since.

Then in August I was diagnosed with prostate cancer. After laparoscopic surgery to remove the prostate and 24hrs in the hospital I came home to a quick recovery. All the cancer was encapsulated in the prostate so all seems fine.

Still riding my bicycle and doing the Ride the Rockies for the 16th year. Also trying to learn to play golf, skiing, hiking and spending three months at our farm in NH pretty much takes up the rest of the year.

I enjoy the news as it helps to keep me up to date with the industry and friends. *Laurie*

DONALD DIEDRICK—Carol Stream, IL

Greetings Ted.

Apologies for late renewal-check was posted today. Thanks to you all for keeping us informed- appreciate the cartoons and the variety of aviation articles. Now three years since retirement, we visited Kailua Kona (Big Island Hawaii) again late last year, but fairly limited travel with Jen still working- plan to enjoy our first cruise in the near future. Hopeful for a reasonable Pension settlement with UAL/PBGC-pleased that so far the non-qual checks are still being received. We all watch escalating energy prices with some trepidation, and the hurricanes compound the issue-there is a need for much better planning, economically & socially in our Country! Best wishes and regards to all.----

Don

ED DUFFY—Bodega Bay, CA

Dear Cleve, Thanks again to all the folks who put out the *RUPANEWS*. It is always a joy to read.

Our family is well and we enjoy seeing our many friends around the system.

The events of the past year sometimes makes me feel like a duck who just found out it's open season and we are the targets!!

OH Well!! Thanks for your efforts.

Regards, *Ed & Peg*

ROD FARLEY—Longview, WA

Hi Cleve, Looking at the calendar I see that it is time for my renewal check. As I look through last years check register I can't seem to find one for last year so I am including a double payment.

Jan and I continue to enjoy good health and great happiness, despite all the uncertainty surrounding United. In anticipation of our pension implosion we have just completed a move to Longview, WA, and are loving it here. Our new address is at the bottom of this message.

My thanks to you and to all of the helpers at RUPA, your efforts on our behalf are much appreciated.

Sincerely, *Rod*

DOROTHY GATES—Pleasantville, NY

I'm trying hard not to fall into the gloom and doom going on in our country today, UAL included.

RUPANEWS is great, I'm still chuckling over the AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL EXCERPTS from the June 2005 issue. Keep up the good work.

Check in the mail to Cleve.

PEACE, *Dorothy*

JERRY HATHAWAY—Blaine, WA

I have enjoyed the news coming from so many familiar names and decided it was time to add my two cents worth, and thank everyone that keeps the magazine coming.

This year is the big 65 for me. Been retired for 7 years now, having gone a bit early on a medical. We have enjoyed every moment thus far, but this trying to reinvent ourselves has been a bit tough at times. We think we've finally hit on the right solution.

We have lived in the Great Pacific Northwest for 28 years now. After three moves, steadily northward, we are now as close as we can get to Canada, living in a great spot, just this side of the border, Blaine (Birch Bay to be exact). We built a new home here just 18 months ago. After condo living for a couple of years, we like having our own home (and rules) again.

We boated for many years with the coup de gras being a 4 month trip to Alaska and environs a couple years back. Would really like to have done that one more time but Bonnie wanted to have a summer at home. One thing led to another and we sold the boat and are now motor homing at \$3.50 a gallon for diesel.

The gated community we live in has a nice 9-hole golf course and a great marina. I am brushing up on my game and looking for a small fishing boat in my spare time. I must admit I am also loving the honey-do's around our new home and walks on the beach with Bonnie and the dog. How much better can it get? Well, I guess it would be better if UAL hadn't dumped on us but we're not going to let that ruin what time we have left.

My best to you all and Bonnie says "hello" to everyone as well. She's been putting up with me for 31+ years now so I guess it's going to last. *Jerry*

DAVID AND PAULETTE HEILBRUN—
Huntingdon Valley, PA

Aloha to all,

Mike Gallagher's letter of 8/2005 hit the nail on the head. He is right, where is the justice? The current MEC seems to have forgotten that the '85 pilot group made a stand. Even at their own potential and personal sacrifice, so that the younger pilots would have a fulfilling and rewarding career. Now, these are the pilots that have turned their backs on us. It makes you lose faith in your fellow man.

Anyway, enough of the negative thoughts. Paulette and I are trying to enjoy life as it comes. We are extremely busy working to keep Paulette's mom's farm in Oregon in order.

I've been very busy working on the renovation project at the Mana Kai Maui. Seems like we could use a few more hours in the day. Even with our busy schedules, we are fortunate to be in good health.

Thanks for your continued hard work and keeping all of us informed.

Paulette and David

POSS HORTON—Virginia Beach, VA

Dear Cleve, Another birthday and I'm still kicking. I broke a hip May 7 and am still using crutches but will be off them soon. I want to thank all my friends who called and visited while I was in the hospital and rehab.

We moved from Orange, VA to Virginia Beach last October and am enjoying not having to fix fence and bush hog. There is a large variety of fishing right at hand and wonderful seafood everywhere. Our daughter and five grandchildren live right across the cul de sac so we are never bored. Our son lives just north of New Orleans. He evacuated for Katrina but has returned home. No electricity or phone but his house is still there.

Thanks to you and all the other officers and volunteers who make all this happen. *Poss*

WILLIAM R. KNIGHT—Walnut Creek, CA

Hi Ted & Cleve: I think this is about my 88th year. Finally, I realize that I have to send this letter and check in a month early to be on time for my birth month.

This year has been a little wilder than most. Rene broke her hip and I broke my shoulder helping her, and had another short trip to the hospital with an allergic reaction to shellfish.

Our kids are getting around on the airlines. Katie is getting home from a trip with four other mothers she joined in Italy and France before school starts. Stan and his son made a quick trip to Africa before Marshall starts UCLA.

We enjoy our apartment in Kensington Place here in Walnut Creek. Our little Toyota Camry sits in the parking place wondering where everyone has gone.

We appreciate all the work done by RUPA volunteers, Folding & Stuffing etc.

I read the *RUPANEWS* back to front. If I'm not listed in the back I go down the alphabet to the beginning.

What a guy, Howard Reid! I was his MEC Copilot Rep. when he was MEC Chairman. I never knew where he was, but he was always busy!

Computers, Cell phones, cameras, gas prices and bankruptcies are trying to run off and leave us, but we're hanging in there! *Bill*

HISTORY OVER HIROSHIMA

BY JAMES V. CARROLL

All the pilot had was the word of engineers.

They believed he would have less than one minute to escape the blast. He twisted hard into a diving 60 degree turn. He needed to instantly change course of the lumbering Flying Superfortress, by 155 degrees. The gigantic shockwave was closing at 1,100 feet per second. If he failed to turn and outrun it, the plane and its 12-man crew would be consumed. Forty-three seconds into the evasive maneuver, a blinding light flashed through the cockpit. The tail gunner stared in awe. A 100-million-degree fireball billowed up from below.

They braced themselves to ride its wake. The pilot's teeth began to tingle; his fillings were introduced to radioactivity. Nine miles from ground zero, the shockwave caught and enveloped them. The moment of truth was at hand. The plane bounced through the air. The pilot and co-pilot fought to keep it airborne. A second echo-effect shock hit. Crewmembers would later compare the experience to the feeling of receiving heavy, heavy flak. The engineers had theorized right. The bomber beat the bomb.

He gazed through the cockpit window and saw a giant purple mushroom cloud. Even at 45,000 feet and rising, he feared the cloud would engulf the plane. On the ground, fires belched dense smoke. The city was blanketed from view. "Fellows," announced Army Air Corps pilot Col. Paul Warfield Tibbets Jr., "you have just dropped the first atomic bomb in history."

Copilot Capt. Robert A. Lewis simply scribbled into his logbook two words: "My God!"

It was Aug. 6, 1945. Tibbets and his crew aboard the B-29 bomber Enola Gay had just delivered the first blow of a one-two punch to end World War II, by dropping the first atomic weapon over Hiroshima, Japan. The uranium-based bomb exploded approximately 1,900 feet above the city, unleashing the destructive power of 40 million pounds of TNT. "Little Boy," as the bomb was called, flattened and burned 4.1 square miles, or 60 percent of the city. More than 66,000 Japanese citizens perished in the blast. Thousands of others were injured. Ultimately 200,000 people are estimated to have died as a result of the explosion.

Three days later, Aug. 9, 1945, a 10,800-pound plutonium-based bomb - also with the explosive power of more than 40 million pounds of TNT - was dropped over the city of Nagasaki, Japan. Fifty percent of the city was destroyed. More than 39,000 Japanese were instantly killed. Some 70,000 people ultimately died as a result of the nuclear explosion.

Japan formally surrendered six days later.

Duty, Honor, Country. "I've never given a minute's thought to regret," Tibbets says today at age 90, 60 years after one of history's most profound moments. "I was an American airman charged with a momentous duty whose purpose it was to do everything possible to shorten the war. It was an honorable endeavor, and it succeeded."

Tibbets, who retired from the Air Force in 1966 as a brigadier general, is mindful of the thousands who died as a result of the two bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He is quick to point out, however, that had the Japanese not surrendered when they did, the planned invasion of Japan would have resulted in the deaths of more than a million lives.

"Understand, the job of every wartime soldier, sailor, Marine or airman is to win and win as quickly as possible," Tibbets says. "The way I look at it, 'Little Boy' and 'Fat Man' saved more than a million lives. There's no shame in that. There's no shame in saving lives."

Most historians agree that dropping the uranium and plutonium bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki shortened World War II, thereby avoiding an inevitable Allied invasion of Japan and its predicted carnage to both sides. There are historians and ethicists who hold a dissenting opinion, but Japanese aviator Mitsuo Fuchida is not among them.

Fuchida, Tibbets says, approached him at a military reception sometime after the war and said, "I'm Fuchida. Shall we talk about it?" Apparently recognizing that the American aviator did not understand what he was talking about, Fuchida told Tibbets that he had led the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.

"You sure did surprise us," Tibbets recalls saying.

"What the hell do you think you did to us?" Fuchida replied.

The two war-hardened aviators and survivors chatted a few minutes when Fuchida confided to Tibbets, "You did the right thing to drop the bombs. Japan would have resisted an invasion using every man, woman and child, using sticks and stones if necessary."

"That would have been a slaughter," Tibbets says. "I believed at the time, and I believe now, that President Truman made the right call."

Baby Ruth Bomber. As a boy of 12, Tibbets couldn't have known he had a date with destiny as he tossed Baby Ruth candy bars from the passenger seat of a biplane into the bleachers of Hialeah racetrack in Miami.

His parents, Enola Gay Haggard and Paul Warfield Tibbets, had hoped their first son might someday become a physician. But that day, as pilot Doug Davis throttled back the engine of his Waco 9 and tipped its wing, young Tibbets thrilled at the sight of earthbound revelers scrambling to grab candy bars parachuting toward them. It was his maiden flight. The boy knew then it would not be his last. "I tried to honor the wishes of my mother and father," Tibbets says. "But the attraction of flying was too much to resist. The truth is, I guess I really didn't attempt to resist all that much."

Tibbets enlisted as a flying cadet in 1937 and a year later received his pilot wings at Kelly Field. In 1942 he was appointed commander of the 340th Bomb Squadron, 97th Bombardment Group, where he later flew the B-17 Flying Fortress in the first daylight bombing raid over Europe. He had 25 combat missions before being transferred to Algeria to lead air attacks in the North Africa Theater. In 1943, Tibbets returned to the United States to test the combat worthiness of Boeing's new B-29 Superfortress.

It was his familiarity with the B-29 that ultimately earned Tibbets command of the top-secret 509th Composite Group. His responsibility was to train flight crews to deliver "Little Boy" and "Fat Man" and to supervise modifications to a number of B-29s to make them capable of carrying and delivering the two weapons. In spring 1945, the 509th – with 1,500 enlisted men, 200 officers and 15 B-29s - secretly set up shop at North Field on Tinian Island in the Marianas.

Tibbets talks freely today when asked about "Little Boy" and "Fat Man" and his role in loosing the atomic age. He did it. He's proud he did it. Move on, he says.

The retired general more easily discusses other adventures in his 29-year military career, like in 1938 when he, a young second lieutenant, wiled away Sunday mornings shooting skeet with then Lt. Col. George S. Patton, "who hated to lose even a 25-cent bet," Tibbets recalls. Or the time he flew the lead B-17 in the first daylight-bombing raid over Nazi Germany. Or summer 1944, when he taught two Women's Air Service Pilots, Dora Dougherty and Didi Moorman, to fly the B-29 Superfortress to shame male airmen reluctant to fly the accident-prone bomber. The two WASPs were the only two women ever rated to fly the aircraft.

Tibbets' intimate knowledge of tactical atomic bomb delivery and his expertise in testing new aircraft served him well after the war. In 1946, he served as technical adviser to the commanding general for the Bikini Island bomb tests in the South Pacific. He also played a significant role in promoting and testing the B-47 Stratojet, America's first pure jet strategic bomber developed in the early 1950s. He did a stint in France at NATO and established the national Military Command Center at the Pentagon.

In civilian life, Tibbets flew Lear jets in Switzerland and later hooked up with Executive Jet Aviation in Columbus, Ohio. He performed a number of tasks for the all-jet air taxi service prior to becoming EJA board chairman in 1982. When he retired from EJA in 1985, Tibbets had acquired nearly 400 hours in Lear jets and had an Air Transport Pilot rating. He is enshrined in the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

Tibbets also had a brief brush with the Hollywood crowd. Actor Robert Taylor played him in the 1952 film "Above and Beyond." The movie types did a pretty good job, Tibbets wrote in his 1995 book "Enola Gay." "When history is transformed into entertainment, it's not unusual to jazz things up a bit to heighten suspense and excitement - but usually within the framework of probability," Tibbets wrote.

The movie did not exactly get everything right, he explained. "'Above and Beyond' scriptwriters put the words 'Oh my God, what have we done?' into my mouth," Tibbets says today. "I never said that. Bob Lewis wrote 'My God!' in a journal he was keeping on the flight. That's how I remember it, anyway."

A tape recording of cockpit conversation aboard the Enola Cay during the Hiroshima raid disappeared after it was turned over to an Army information officer, he adds.

Tibbets understands he will forever be known as the pilot who transported mankind's first atomic bomb to its destructive destination. He doesn't revel in, or hide, his role. He is, however, grateful for the words President Truman shared with him after the war: "Don't you ever lose any sleep over the fact you planned and carried out that mission ... It was my decision. You had no choice."

James V. Carroll is an assistant editor at The American Legion Magazine.

UAL's LAST TWO CONVAIRS

The beautiful photograph of the Convair "340" in the September, 2005 issue of the *RUPANEWS* brought back some fond memories. I was fortunate enough to have flown 3,850 hours in this type aircraft in the 1950's.

She was a "fun" airplane to fly with lots of take-off and climb performance, and the controls were very responsive. In icing conditions, the crew was pretty busy adjusting the augments vanes, the cowl flaps, the CAT, the airfoil anti-icing temperature. All of these were inter-related and the adjustment of any one caused all of the others to change. Once these systems were mastered, the airplane was a "piece of cake" to fly.

By mid 1968 most of the Convairs had been sold to "Frontier" and other small airlines. However there were two last airplanes sitting in the corner of the "B-29" hangar at the San Francisco, maintenance base. On October 1, 1968, one of them had been sold and was to be ferried to Johnson Associates, at Santa Barbara to be retrofitted with "turbo-props".

By this time no one had a "current" qualification in the "Convair", and I had been flying the "DC-8" for several years so it was enjoyable duty, getting back into a "prop" and flying #8009 from SF0 to SBA. During the flight, our observer, from EXO Surplus Sales, told me that no one was interested in buying that last airplane sitting in the hangar.

The airplane was delivered and the Johnson group proceeded to convert it to a "Turboprop". On the initial test flight at SBA, a few weeks later, a "wheels-up" landing caused severe damage to the airframe, the props and the engines.

Johnson Associates then contacted UAL and bought the last Convair. This time, however, it was to be delivered to Air Associates at Burbank, who were commissioned to do the retrofit and the test flying.

On November 4, 1968, I ferried #8010 from SF0 to BUR, and UAL's "Convair 340" became aviation history. *Frank Egbert*

CLAUDIA KOEHLER—Titusville, FL

Dear Cleve, All is well in Titusville. Storms have been kind thus far. Ophelia is rallying around our coastline as I write, so I guess it's time to move things from the pool deck.

I send a hello to all who remember Fred and thanks to all who work on the *RUPANEWS*. *Claudia*

BILL LAMBERTSON—Barrington, IL

I have just completed my 8th year of retirement, and it has been one of my busiest. Nancy and I continue to be very involved in our church, and are planning to lead a short-term mission team to the Dominican Republic in November. Our three grandsons live nearby, and they are very active athletically - - so there is never a shortage of soccer games to attend. This summer my brother and I rode our Harleys to Anchorage, Alaska, and back - - 8500 miles in 21 days. I was also able to hike and camp into and out of the Grand Canyon with my grandsons and son-in-law - - it was a wonderful experience. And right now, Nancy and I are patiently waiting to see what kind of a pension we'll end up with - - it looks like we'll soon know. Keep up the great work you are doing with *RUPANEWS* - - it is much appreciated.

Bill

HERB MARKS—Federal Way, Washington

Greetings to all you other nail-biters:

Once upon a time we had an airline. But not just an ordinary airline but a GREAT airline. We were number two behind American but we still had the respect of our passengers, who also thought we were great. And we made money!

What happened? I was going through some old letters in my United File recently and came across a letter dated April 1990 from a Mr. Thomas Ahern, Manager of Pension Plans, responding to my asking why our retirement plan could or should not be annuitized. His response was that United wouldn't do that because they could not control that retirement fund to be used in investments if it were in annuities. He also wrote that there was nothing to worry about because companies like United rarely if ever went into bankruptcy and terminated their retirement plans.

What happened? We bought a hotel chain and a car rental company and we lost money. The company blamed their losses on the pilots. At this point we were forced into a strike in order to point out to them that we were their greatest asset. We expanded ourselves to become the world's biggest airline with world wide service. And we lost more money. We tried to buy an airline (USAir) that was in the process of bankruptcy and we lost more money. We didn't buy future fuel contracts with the refiners as we did so well in the past, and as Southwest has done so successfully the past couple of years, and well, you guessed it, we lost more money.

So what happened? We had a succession of CEO's appear at our corporate doorway with the golden parachute already strapped on waiting to get things really messed up and then get out.

My history with United goes back to 1952 when we had a real gentleman and effective manager named Pat Patterson. We worked with Pat, not just for him. Too bad we can't bring him back.

Now I know that fuel prices have skyrocketed and there's not much we can do about that. But when was the last time you saw an ad on TV for United? And those things they've put in the newspaper in the past couple years look like they were put together by a couple of kindergartners with crayons. How about more of Beethoven's 5th, or Fly The Friendly Skies? And if all else fails, raise the fares to cover the cost of fuel. And stop trying to compensate for management's screw ups by taking away any more from the employees and us retirees. We can only bleed so much.

For those of you still with me, Ruthann and I have had a decent year. Still looking down at the grass and my golf is in the toilet. Haven't had the motorhome out except for a couple of local trips. Six mpg and gas getting near \$3 a gallon doesn't make for a fun outing.

Next year I'll take up that dumb, dumb war in Iraq. Hoping for some help from congress,

Herb

GEORGE & JACQUIE MATHES—Woodstock, IL

Seven years since retirement from UAL (2-1/2 years for Jacquie) and waiting for the CH11 resolution on our pensions/benefits with everyone else.

Still working in the retirement job...both of us blessed with decent health and good friends. Jacquie lost her father this year and a few of our airline friends have flown west, but overall we are doing well.

We live in an area with lots of UAL retirees. Between that and my job (dealing with retired airline pilots) we keep a pretty current perspective of the UAL situation and the effect on all of us. We are concerned about the long term effect of the disconnect between the active and retired pilots on RUPA as an organization.

We are very grateful for the efforts of you and all the volunteers who make RUPA and *RUPANEWS* a reality.

Check and a little extra on the way.

Best regards, *George*

DON MERUCCI—Pleasanton, CA

Hi, Cleve and fellow Ruparians: First of all, Cleve, congratulations on a fine job done on the behalf of all of us. We will still be seeing you at Fold & Stuff won't we? *Yes Don, you'll still see me as I couldn't get rid of that job.* I am glad to be able to attend those sessions and enjoy the company of fellow retirees and friends.

We were in the travel mode this past year. Trying to make up for missed opportunities and stave off the aches and pains of advancing age I guess. Or maybe just spending the money we have before the pensions are yanked. We spent Easter in Scottsdale, AZ with our son and our new daughter-in-law. Sure enjoyed the mild weather.

In May we flew to England, UAL First class over and Economy back. I was very impressed with the cabin crew on both legs. In spite of all the turmoil with UAL, they did a great job and presented excellent service. We spent 5 days with a friend near Nottingham. We then picked up a car drove up to the Lakes District and then into Scotland. The trip was going very well until it came time to buy the first tank of petrol. We were driving a 4 door SAAB, mid sized, with a 4 cylinder, turbo charged engine. The bill came to \$75.00 US!

After doing all the conversion from pounds and liters to dollars and gallons, the cost per gallon came to \$6.25. I didn't know that this was to prepare me for the \$3.00 gas we have now. We stayed mostly at country bed & breakfasts and got an up close and personal look at rural Scotland. We did have two nights in Edinburgh in a first rate Radisson Hotel. In Edinburgh I got to sip a wee bit of Scotch Whisky. A bar-keep laid out a sampler for me. Boy was it good. All stuff I probably couldn't afford here, but quite reasonably priced there.

We hit most of the touristy spots, except Loch Ness, on the way over to Glasgow. On the way, Mary had the urge to see Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, Scotland's first National Park. She was driving, so off we went along a road that had me mumbling, not quite under my breath, "I'm glad this isn't my car, I'm glad this isn't my car." After some minutes of this, it occurred to me that we were spending \$6.25 a gallon for gas to see what we've seen many times at Lake Tahoe. With some maybe not so gentle persuasion, we turned around and headed toward Glasgow. It was a great trip, with the wonderful people met making it all the better.

In June we went back to my home town of Detroit for my 50th high school reunion. It was sad to see how the city has deteriorated. In contrast, the ole school, a Jesuit institution, was in fine shape, with new sections added and lots of refurbishing. They have had and expect to continue to have full enrollment. Maybe the Jesuits should take over the city!

Next stop, August in Hawaii, the Kona Coast. Sure it was hot, but we weren't digging any ditches, so we sat back and enjoyed the 5 Star timeshare. Once again, UAL's First Class service (one way only) started the trip off very nicely. A highlight of the stay was a trip around the island and over the volcano in a single engine turboprop Cessna. I sat in the right seat. Thanks to my airline training, when the pilot asked me if I knew what my co-pilot duties were, I knew the answer: Don't touch anything and say "Yes Sir a lot." There was no food aboard so I didn't have to take the chicken.

We just returned from a convention in Fresno, CA (we know how to live) for the Italian club we belong to. It was fun. In October, a 5 day trip for our annual search for culture at the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, OR is scheduled.

Our daughter-in-law is expecting our 3rd grandchild. Baby Girl Merucci, (they couldn't wait to find out) is expected around Christmas day. And that brings us to our last trip of the year, one more visit to Scottsdale for the birth.

I seem to have rambled on. This should take up some space in the Journal.

Here's to another year of retirement, with or without our pensions! *Don & Mary*

BW. J. ROGER MILLER—Palm Desert, CA

Hello to Ted, Cleve, and all, It has been a few years since I haven't written anything for the *RUPANEWS* and I am almost a year late on the dues.

One year ago my beloved wife, Charlotte, passed away unexpectedly. Although she had a few problems I was expecting her to be around for quite a few more years, in fact we had taken a trip to Berlin to visit her birth place and relatives a few months before she died.

As for me, I will be 84 this year and still in very active and in good health. I now am a legal resident of the Republic of Argentina. I plan to continue to live in Buenos Aires for at least six or more months a year and the rest of the time in Palm Desert California. Buenos Aires is truly a world class city and I enjoy life there. I bought an apartment on Av, Santa Fe, near 9 de Julio, not far from Plaza San Martin which is not far from the area where the United crews stayed when I used to fly there. And yes, United does still fly to Argentina.

I want to thank everyone involved in the production of *RUPANEWS*, it really is appreciated by those of us who are sometimes far away and a little out of touch.

My best to all, *Roger*

CHICK MORRILL—San Juan Cosada, Mexico

You know you are losing it when you're not sure you wrote or sent your annual letter and check. We've had a lot going on this year. Sold the farm, all the horses, all the birds, most of my work shop and gave away most of our furniture. Moved to Mexico. Traveled there for years. Knew we loved it, weather perfect, cost of living so low you can actually afford if necessary to live on Soc. Sec, or

less. Now we thank god we have no mortgage or bills-no real worries. We're back in S.C. now staying with our daughter and husband. Visiting till October then back to our hacienda till Christmas.

Still can't believe our proud UAL is doing this to all of us. We paid our bills, served our country and worked with pride for our company. Now with very little voice and no clout, all the promises that we based our golden on, were planned on, are being broken. Sad for us. Sad and wrong for all our working and retired friends. Thanks for all the hard work and keeping us Informed. Hasta Luego-

Chick and Mawrita Sending another check just in case.

BOB NICCOLLS—Medford, Oregon

Greetings from Southern Oregon. We were wandering B.C., the Yukon and Alaska last Summer so I missed sending a note in '04 thus will play catch-up with this year's. We're still enjoying the beauty and liveability of this part of Oregon and divide our time between homes in the Rogue Valley and Brookings on the ocean plus our camp on the Chetco River. It's a nice combination with wonderful variability and a diversity of things to do. The building at Camp is about complete and should be a great addition for the salmon and steelhead plus great swimming in the warm months. Here in the Rogue Valley, in addition to my activities with commercial real estate, I try to help out with the local Civil Air Patrol where we have put together a very successful program and built a first rate facility. It's time well spent and a good group of folks with which to work.

This Spring we headed to Sydney for a week then to New Zealand for some five weeks of travel and delight in a beautiful country. Happy to report the Hero of Waterloo still has the old folks musical group playing amid the many cheers and clinks of glasses. New Zealand was wonderful. Spent three weeks on the south island then two on the north. A real pleasure was connecting with Bill Charney and seeing his beautiful Staggerwing as it is being restored plus getting a ride in a Tiger Moth. When Marty and I got to Wellington, we rejoined up with Bill and did some tasting of the very nice local wines and shared some time with the local group of aviators before each heading our way.

Summer has been spent finishing up at camp and enjoying our kids and grandkids along with a couple of weeks running up to Vancouver Island. Up in B.C. we saw a lot of bears and eagles, but had heavy rains and ended up with most of the fishing being washed out.

After the hip replacements and back surgery from several years ago I try to get to the gym every other day and find the exercise really helpful. With all the remedial work that was done I find I either feel like I'm 50 or a 100, depending on how the muscles, nerves and spine want to be that day. The best way to 'calm the beast' is to work out and do a lot of stretching and so, all in all, I really do well and feel great. Not sure what this age is supposed to feel like, but it's pretty darned good.

Son Scotty is a Captain with Pinnacle out of MSP and tells a story of flying under very different conditions than those under which we did. It's a different world and not a better one! From working conditions to pay to the operations it is not what we enjoyed. We indeed had the best of the years.

I send cheers to all. If any are in our area on the third Thursday of each month plan to drop by for the local United pilot lunch. We gather at the Pony Espresso around noon in Jacksonville, Oregon. While our numbers are small the lunch is good tho the jokes may be debated as to quality.

My thanks to all who have given of their time for our RUPA connection.....it is very much appreciated. *Bob*



"These are the benefits you were guaranteed when you joined this firm—and this is a match."

SAM O'DANIEL

Hi Ted,

Starting my third year in "Retirement" and enjoying every second!!!

Judy and I have been busy this year taking care of the Moms in MEM and traveling to So. Calif. to visit the grandkids.

Not much new news to report. Just been working on the golf game this summer (Not having much luck).

Thanks to all the folders and stuffers for all the hard work to get the publication out. Also, thanks to all the guys at "URPBPA" for trying to keep our pensions coming.

Sam

JERRY PAULSEN—Portola Valley, CA

Hi Cleve, Sorry to report George Morris flew west on August 31, 2005. He and his lovely wife, Joan, were at their summer place near us in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire when he died. We had them over for dinner just the night before.

Hope all is well with you. *JR*

P.S. I note I am paid up till 8/06 on the *RUPANEWS*, so being an optimist extend me to 07.

ELIZABETH PETERSON—Wenatchee, WA

Dear Cleve, Although there's not many names I recognize in the *RUPANEWS* anymore, I still appreciate receiving it.

John would be very saddened to know the status of our great airline today, but we can all hope for a better tomorrow!

Sincerely, *Elizabeth*

DANIEL RENFROE—Los Gatos, CA

Our first grandchild arrived on 3 March 2005, compliments of our daughter, Jennifer, and her husband, Barry. Gavin William McRay, a great bundle of joy.

Last week, attended my 50th high school reunion in Ashland, KY along with several other old folks. Four of our classmates were military pilots and three later flew for various airlines.

I won't be able to attend the RUPA Convention in October. Those who are going to visit the Gettysburg battlefield are in for a great experience. Give my grandfather, Pvt. John Nelson Hubbard, a salute if you climb to the top of Culp's Hill. He fought there, in Company A,

7th Indiana Infantry Regiment. His cousin, Jesse Smith, with Company D, 3rd Indiana Cavalry was the first soldier killed during the battle. Regards,

Dan

R. E. "BOB" SCHNEIDER—Miamiville, OH

Dear Cleve, check is a month early. Greetings from here in Deltaland (CVG) where I am surrounded by pilots leaving the sinking ship. They can still retire early, taking half their "A" plan in cash.

Thanks to all the *RUPANEWS* and pension protection volunteers. *Bob*

MARTIN SEAHOLM—Culver, OR

Cleve, not quite a month late — pretty good for me. Here is my annual renewal fee. Glad I remembered before we crank up our motor home and head for winter in Mexico.

I look forward to doing my "catch-up" reading of *RUPANEWS* upon our return next April. In the meantime, I'll keep abreast of events re UAL, pension, etc., via the internet.

Good luck to us all. Fraternally, *Marty*

PAT & PAUHI SHEEHY—Cupertino, CA

Five years retired already!! Retirement is hell – no days off! Healthy, Wealthy (fingers crossed!) & not so Wise (or the United pension wouldn't be a worry).

Been busy paying down debts and writing letters/faxes to Congress. By the time you read this Judge Wedoff will have his given opinion on the PBGC's request to take over our pension. No matter if he decides against us, keep up the political pressure on Congress. But enough of that depressing stuff.

I'm still flying a little with as a partner with an OurPlane SR20. We have 4 happy grandchildren, all of them pretty close. Our 4 kids are doing well, and Pauahi and I are doing a little motorhome travel. Keep smilin'.

Pat

AUTUMN SIMKO—Seattle, WA

I am a little late getting my annual dues off to you but at least made it in the right month.

I had cataract surgery and can now see through walls -- what a difference!

I do occasionally see news of people I remember fondly and I was particularly sorry to read about Bea Cowles. I remember her as a beautiful, gracious and kind lady.

I'm keeping busy and as usual blessed with a lot of company during the summer, which incidentally has been outstanding weatherwise, can't remember a better one. Also doing quite a bit of traveling.

Thanks again and I would like to add my thanks to the chorus of thank-yous you receive.

Sincerely, *Autumn*

New email: iasimko2@aol.com

ROBERT L. B. SMITH—Electric City, WA

Greetings from the inland Northwest. With a view of the Grand Coulee walls and beautiful Banks Lake, Norma and I have logged over 5 years now hiding out here. We do get some time over at our cabin NE of Sandpoint, ID. With our other outings, many of our neighbors here wonder why we built here. And others may too, but it works for us.

Just got back from a 6 day pack trip into the Sawtooth Wilderness Area just east of Lake Chelan with Wayne Wollard and Bill Records. The fishing was great and it was summer weather until almost the last day. And there were no major wrecks. Last year we had a nice trip into the Wallowa Mountains up the Lostine River.

Spring was an active time for us. Went to Pensacola for the first time since 1963 for a Hornet (CVS-12) airgroup reunion. Then we had an adventure of going to Rome, Siena, and Florence

over a two week period. The idea was to bond with (babysit) the grandkids (ages 2 1/2 & 3 mos.) during a week stay at a Siena villa for a wedding.

If only the checks could keep coming... *Robert*

J. D. "DICK" STRICKLAND—Fayetteville, GA
Hi Cleve. Ted and Mr. and Mrs. America. This is the news from Lake Canandaigua in New York. We still spend our summers here and this summer has been outstanding! No big projects but the little ones have me busy. We have a constant flow of guests and this pleases Clare. She so enjoys welcoming people. Then there is the fresh lake water that has been the warmest we can remember.

In three weeks we will close the cottage for the winter and head to our home in Fayetteville, GA, if there is enough gas at the pumps. Though we enjoyed our years in New Jersey and going cross country skiing out our back door we find the Georgia winters very agreeable.

Our work with FCAP keeps us busy during the other nine months. We live on a retreat site that is the home office of FCAP. So we are available to do what ever is needed to be done. We are blessed to have the health, time and means to volunteer.

Speaking of volunteering--the response to the needs in MS and LA following Katrina is great. The needs are even greater though.

Looking back at the years with United--they were special--the best of a special era! And people like all of you made it that way. THANKS! Best regards, *Dick*

CHARLES F. THOM—Goodyear, AZ

Cleve, Though we've never met, Sandie and I thank you for your kind, thoughtful, and energetic service to us, and all Ruparians. Danke Schoen!

Our three kids, Chris, Mike and Keri, lived near us in AZ. Now one is in Monterey, CA, one in Plain Field, IL, and (you guessed it) one on the East Coast near Portland, ME. To see them and our five grandkids, we will have to go see them. Our fingers are crossed to continue to enjoy (once free) passes on good old UAL.

We purchased a retirement home four miles south of Luke AFB in Goodyear, AZ, based on planned cash flow from our A Fund, and what remained of the B Fund after taxes. Pebble Creek is a Robson retirement community, and is an absolutely perfect environment for us, with Buku facilities and a mixture of retirees who keep us learning constantly, entertained thoroughly, and challenged daily, because there is too much to do.

There are many UAL here, J. O. Martin, Ron Sweet, mechanic Bill James, WHQ spy wizard Nancy Sonzo—Jim Trosky and Al Bengtson are around here somewhere. There are several more nearby whom I've not yet met.

Sandie and I are doggedly retrenching financially to make out on reduced retirement from PBGC, and if it turns out not necessary, then good, we can travel again. I've made it to 64, so each year the reduction is diminished.

Would you believe, every night I still dream about flying the line! Occasionally, it's back to Navy flying. I really miss the cockpit, the people in it, and those behind it. The pure joy of a job well done by a team at the end of each flying day. 20,000 flight hours, the last of which from SNY-SFO arriving on 9/10/01!

I read every word in the *RUPANEWS* when received, and depend on it for current info, old buddies, and retirees I've heard stories about, but never met.

I was devastated to learn of Ray Wood's passing. Having flown with him often, trading jokes (of all I told, there was only one he had not heard), I really admired his ability to go from clown to consummate professional in a heartbeat.

It is always with a strange mixture of emotions when I drive by the Goodyear Airport (old Navy Litchfield) seven miles south of here and see all of the UAL, 727's, DC-10's, and some 747-400's parked there. Nostalgia!

So, until next year, Auf Wiedersehen. *Chuck*

CHARLES B. TOLLESON, SR—Foster City, CA

Hi Cleve, I'm early, one month. If I wait I may forget.

I was sorry to hear about the passing of Bob Hodson, one of our favorite captains. I used to say, if I could fly F/O with Bob for the rest of my career I would not care if I ever got promoted to captain. He was a great guy. *My sentiments exactly, Chuck*
Hope you are all well. *Chuck*

JIM AND DEBBIE WAUGH-

It is always nice to see the *RUPANEWS* arrive and refresh memories of the past every so often. We very much appreciate the time, talent and energies that it takes to keep RUPA and this news publication going.

The years seem to be going by even more quickly and keeping up with the family, grand children, church, prayer group and a little light airplane flying keep the days as busy as ever.

We just finished a most blessed pilgrimage to Rome and to Medugorjie across the Adriatic from Italy. The Lord is always generous and never out done when you take the time and make the effort to go on one of these trips.

A couple of years ago, I thought that we would know something about our pensions within another year. With a track record like that, I won't try to predict when it will all be settled. It seems that when one court issues an opinion, there are always appeals even in other courts.

One thing does stand out and that is that we cannot afford to toss in the towel in our fight to preserve as much of our pension and benefits as possible.

We must support those fighting for us so write the letters and make the calls to those politicians. The squeaky wheel does get the grease and the letters and calls from those of us less adept at writing and calling are most important. They will look and sound different and therefore be more likely to stand out and make the difference that we need right now. Besides, when we are at home writing and calling, we can't be out burning that expensive gasoline, right?

Being from West Virginia, I'll pose the question, "How many hillbillies does it take to eat possum?". It takes three. One to eat and the other two to watch for cars.

Until next time we wish each of you a most pleasant and blessed year.

Jim & Debbie

DON WEBER—Federal Way, WA

Hi Ted;

Another year has rolled by. It makes 9 years since retirement but it might as well have been 100, the way things have gone with UAL. I'm still working with Boeing, not Alteon. Boeing decided to take us back into their fold but we still train under the Alteon Certificate. We have hired 5 retired UAL people on the 747-4 & 777 as part time instructors. They are actually employed by a contract firm called PDS but paid by Alteon. We are training a lot in London as it's next to impossible to get foreign students into training in Seattle. Vicki is doing great & not missing flying for a second. We were blessed with our 3rd grandchild on September 1st. All girls. Our last daughter was married in August to a dentist. Makes up for no dental coverage on retirement. Well planned don't you think.

Thanks again for all your hard work in publishing the *RUPANEWS*. Sent my check by "snail mail".

We send our best to everyone.

Don

J. C. "PETE" WERNER—Chico, CA

Dear Cleve, Thank you for all the outstanding work you have done through the years for ALPA and RUPA. It is only fitting that you should be allowed to retire; after all you are one of us "Geezers." You don't get to be a "Coot" until age 80).

Thanks again, *Pete*

Thanks Pete, I notice you are 15 days older than I am. Cheers, Cleve

Hi Ted,

That was an interesting article that you published by Dr. Rowen last month. For those readers genuinely interested in this treatment, do a google search on DMSA. There are interesting articles both pro and con that can be brought up. It helps to be well informed before starting any treatment such as this one. You can also find out more about Dr. Robert J. Rowen and Dr. Amy Yasko by doing a google search on their names.

Jim Nugent Good idea, Jim. Thanks!

YOU CAN FIGHT ALZHEIMER'S, AUTISM AND OTHER BRAIN DISEASES NATURALLY, PART 2

By Robert Jay Rowen, MD

Last month, I showed you one way to fight brain disease, whether it's autism or Alzheimer's disease. I told you about the fantastic progress on autism made by my friend Dr. Buttar and how this same treatment can be used for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.

Unfortunately, Dr. Buttar's methods require a physician to prescribe the transdermal DMPS chelating agent. And my goal is to help you avoid having to visit my office or any doctor's office.

So this month, I'm using the "Miracle of Medicine" column as the main story to show you another way to fight brain disease. As you'll see, I'm currently using this method in my clinic with absolutely amazing results. But you can use it safely in your own home without a prescription. And, while the following case is with autism, patients suffering from Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, and other degenerative brain diseases can use the same treatments.

Sam's parents brought their three-year-old child to see me October 25, 2004. He was a normal, healthy little boy until he reached 18 months of age. That's when he lost all his speech in just three weeks. This is quite typical of autism onset. In my experience, this typically occurs shortly following the administration of a vaccine.

On his first visit, Sam was not stimulated very easily. There was no expressive speech. His parents assured me there was some receptive speech, but I didn't see any.

Sam made no eye contact with me.

Before his arrival to my office, Sam was already on a diet free of casein (milk protein) and gluten (wheat and certain grains). So I decided to focus the rest of my treatment on the RNA products devised by Dr. Amy Yasko. You may remember Dr. Yasko from last month. She's the author of the books *The Puzzle of Autism* and *The Power of RNA*. If you have a loved one with autism or any brain disease, I highly recommend these books. She is seeing some amazing cures with her RNA products.

RNA is ribonucleic acid. You've heard of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid). DNA is what makes up your chromosomes, your genetic material. But I doubt you've heard much about RNA. Your DNA expresses itself by making a slightly altered copy of itself— RNA — which leaves your cell nucleus and enters the cytoplasm (the fluid between the nucleus and cell wall). RNA is the middleman from your DNA to the proteins and enzymes that cause your cells to act the way they do.

RNA has been known for years to have health-enhancing properties. The large DNA and RNA molecules are made up of smaller units called nucleotides, which are put together in a specific coded sequence.

DNA and RNA are in the cells of every living organism. In your body, millions of cells are created every minute. Just as fast as old ones are breaking down, new ones are created. Nucleotides are required to synthesize new RNA and DNA for your cells to divide and function. So eating foods that are high in RNA helps maintain healthy cells and, thus, a healthy body.

If you eat a healthy diet, you're usually getting several grams of nucleotides every day from your food. Breast milk has been reported to contain a whopping 10-60 mg of RNA per 3.4 ounces of milk. Considering one serving for a newborn baby is four ounces, that's a huge amount of RNA in every serving!

Sardines have lots of RNA. These small fish are touted as enhancing memory. You might have even taken a whole RNA nutritional product. Hundreds of scientific research papers have been published showing that DNA and RNA can be used medicinally to promote good health.

When shopping for RNA products, you'll notice most are made with whole RNA. Normally, this would sound good, as the whole is usually better than the part. But, in this case, these products are not as effective as "specific" RNA.

To understand why, consider the following: Your liver makes RNA that's totally different from the RNA made by your heart. In fact, that's what makes your two organs different. They both have the same DNA, yet the DNA of the two organs is making different RNA. This results in different structure and function. So it makes sense that a specific RNA product designed to treat the liver is superior to a whole RNA product.

Dr. Yasko, a microbiologist, has pioneered the extraction of RNA from a yeast called *saccharomyces cerevisiae*. But unlike whole RNA extraction, her secret is the incubation of the yeasts in a variety of environments. This has allowed her to develop various types of RNA that can help regulate different parts of your body. According to Dr. Yasko, this is a distinct advantage over whole non-specific RNA. (I admit I tried to get the method of specific RNA production and extraction from her to tell you, but to no avail. This is her life's work, and she didn't divulge her proprietary secrets.)

But does the specific RNA really work?

Absolutely! Just look at what happened to Sam.

I gave Sam three key RNA formulas — Stress, Bowel, and Health Foundation. I also gave him some other supplements to help correct biochemical problems common in autism. These are explained in detail in Dr. Yasko's autism book. Sam's improvement didn't happen overnight, but his condition did improve fairly quickly.

Within three months, Sam was talking, telling his parents what he wanted, and when he needed a diaper change. He was even beginning to read!

At his next office visit, he was looking right at me with direct eye contact! The most emotional part of his follow-up visit with me was when I asked him for a hug. He walked right up and gave me a big one!

I've interviewed the parents of several of Dr. Yasko's patients. They all rave about Dr. Yasko's program. And the results I'm seeing in Sam are no different than others following her program. I encourage you to purchase Dr. Yasko's books. They and the RNA products are available from Longevity Plus RNA (877-762-3663 or www.longevityplus-rna.com). The website gives details about specific RNA formulas.

Autism is a national epidemic. So is Alzheimer's disease. And Parkinson's disease is becoming far more widespread. In my opinion, all of them are caused by similar attacks on the brain from heavy metals and infection. If you have Alzheimer's or Parkinson's, these RNA products could have the same effect on you that they had on Sam. With specific RNA, we now have products that can effectively treat brain disease without a prescription!

Second Opinion / May 2005

Quick Autism/Alzheimer's Follow-Up

In the April and May issues, I told you about Dr. Yasko's incredible RNA products, which treat autism, Alzheimer's, and other brain diseases. One aspect of Dr. Yasko's products I didn't mention was her oral chelating products.

Even though these products are not technically chelation products (they are anti-virals), they still have a chelating effect on mercury. Dr. Yasko believes that infection in the brains of autistic kids and even in neurologically impaired adults (such as Alzheimer's patients) holds onto mercury and isolates it. Many integrative physicians have seen cases of heavy metal-chelation tests repeatedly returning negative, even when it was clear that there should be lots of mercury.

Dr. Yasko believes the reason is because a hidden infection is hiding the mercury. Her answer to this problem is her non-prescription collection of RNA products called Metals I, II, III, and IV. They are

designed to target (i.e., switch on the immune response against) hidden infections such as herpes viruses, measles, and others. When these products are administered, mercury suddenly comes pouring out. With the infection gone, the metals can be extracted much easier.

You might remember young Sam, who suffered from autism. Sam saw some amazing results using Dr. Yasko's RNA products, but he was still not fully recovered. So during his last visit, we added Dr. Yasko's Metals I.

Only one week later, his mom e-mailed me the following: "Since we last saw you, Sam began taking Metals I and we have seen another change in his progress. He's starting to use whole sentences, his ability to follow directions has improved, and he's very 'chatty.' Although sometimes we don't know what he's saying and we ask him to repeat himself and to slow down."

If you suffer from any brain disease and you're not seeing the results you'd like to see from your current treatment options, I highly recommend you try these RNA products. You can order these and all of Dr. Yasko's RNA products from Longevity Plus-RNA (877-762-3663 or www.longevityplus-rna.com).

Second Opinion/August 2005

The approaches described in this newsletter are not offered as cures, prescriptions, diagnoses, or a means of diagnoses to different conditions. The author and publisher assume no responsibility in the correct or incorrect use of this information, and no attempt should be made to use any of this information as a form of treatment without the approval and guidance of your doctor.



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PS Form 3526, October 1999 (Reverse)

JIM WHITTINGTON—El Dorado Hills, CA

Another year another wrinkle or two.

We have decided on, yet, another move--my aching back. This is a short one though--to Sun City, Lincoln, CA just above Roseville. This will make us true flatlanders. You have to be 55 to move in, so this is a mature crowd; our kind of people!
You'll see some of your old buddies up there, Jim.

Went to Europe with my daughter and family over Christmas, and had a fine time. We took the Chunnel to France and an all night train to Rome. Always wanted to sleep on a train. We had rental cars and were paying about \$6.50 a gallon for gas. Just heard it is up to \$10.00 now. Should be good for bicycle sales.

Keep the faith. This too shall pass. *Jim*

JAMES B. WILLIAMS—Shingle Springs,

Hi: When I went to work for United Airlines in the City of CYS, in August 1946, as an apprentice mechanic, I had no idea of all the Good Years that would follow, which ultimately culminated in flying the 747.

After thirty eight years with United and now twenty one years of retirement, I have reached the "Big 80".

Still flying and living the good life in a residential airpark, in California, with my airplane in the hangar which is located in my front yard.

May my next life be so Good! *J. B.*

IN MEMORIAM

PHILIP J. KLETT, JR.

Phil flew west after a long battle with prostate cancer on September 13, 2005 at the age of 86.

Following graduation from Lincoln High School in Des Moines, IA Phil was hired by United Airlines as a flight dispatcher and attended the Boeing School of Aeronautics in Oakland, CA. He was an Operations Manager at the SFO Intl. Airport when he retired after more than 40 years with his beloved airline. At the height of his career, he was appointed chairman to merge the United Airlines' flight dispatchers with those from Capital Airlines. Phil's negotiating skills were commended by the

lead representative from Capital who literally handed Phil "the shirt off his back" at the conclusion of the sessions.

Phil began a second career in real estate selling and managing property in the Foster City area for many years.

He leaves behind his loving wife Doreen and his devoted children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Pathways Hospice, 585 North Mary Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94085-2905, or to the American Cancer Society.

MICHAEL STERLING MELIN

Mike passed away on August 18, 2005 while on a short holiday in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He retired from UAL in 2000 after 33 years of flying, with all but three years based at SFO.

Mike graduated from San Jose State University where he played football and was president of his fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

He joined the USMC while still in high school and was a combat veteran of Vietnam, flying UH-34 helicopters, surviving three crashes and earning 23 air medals.

Mike loved sports and was an avid skier, tennis player and competitive sailor. He especially loved going to the ALPA tennis tournament every year. He was equally passionate about people, travel, the opera, English cars and his English bulldog.

A longtime Mill Valley resident and close friend to many, Mike was a member of the Sausalito Yacht Club, Harbor Point Racquet Club, the Marine Memorial Club, UCMC/Vietnam Helicopter Association and E Clampus Vitus.

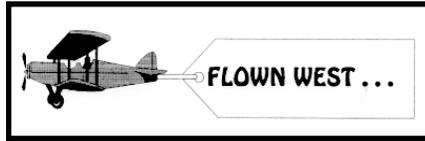
He is survived by his wife, son, daughter, son-in-law and grandson.

Mike's friends are invited to attend a celebration of his remarkable life on Friday, October 7 at 1:00 p.m. at the Sausalito Yacht Club (located next to the ferry landing in downtown Sausalito).

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to the charity of your choice.

VIRGINIA VANCE

Virginia Vance, Wife of deceased Capt. Ralph Vance, died June 29, 2005.



FRANK SALERNO	6/30/2005
MICHAEL STERLING MELIN	8/18/2005
GEORGE H. MORRIS	8/31/2005
PHILIP J. KLETT	9/13/2005

* *Indicates Non-Member*



HIGH FLIGHT

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds, - and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air....

Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark or even eagle flew -
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

John Gillespie Magee, Jr., September 3, 1941

RUPA'S SOCIAL CALENDAR

Monthly Scheduled Lunches

1st Wed. SFO North Bay---*Petaluma Sheraton*
2nd Mon. SW FL---*Olive Garden, Ft. Myers* - 239-417-8462
2nd Tue. San Diego Co---*San Marcos CC*- 760-723-9008
2nd Tue. Nov-Apr Treasure Coast Sunbirds---*Mariner Sands CC* - 772-286-6667
2nd Thu. Oct-Apr. SE FL Gold Coast--- *Flaming Pit* - 561-272-1860
2nd Fri. PHX Roadrunners---*Best Western En Suites Scottsdale Airport, AZ* - 480-948-1612
3rd Tue. DEN Good Ole Boys--- *11:30am American Legion Post 1* - 303-364-1565
3rd Tue. LAS High Rollers---*Memphis Barbecue* - 702-896-8821
3rd Tue. NE FL---*Spruce Creek CC* - 386-760-9736
3rd Tue. Dana Point CA--- *Wind & Sea Restaurant* - 949-496-2691
3rd Thu. LAX---(Even Mo.) *Hacienda* - 310-821-6207;
3rd Thu. LAX---(Odd Mo.) *Mimi's, Chatsworth* - 818-992-8908
3rd Thu. Ohio Northcoasters---*TJ's Wooster* (Always coed.) - 440-235-7595
3rd Thu. SEA Gooneybirds---*Airport Marriott* - 425-893-9154
3rd Thu. So. Oregon (MFR)---*Pony Express, Jacksonville* - 541-245-6896
3rd Thu. TPA Sundowners---*Boston Cooker* - 727-787-5550
Last Thu. Hawaii Ono Nenes---*Mid Pacific Country Club*

Quarterly Scheduled Lunches

1st Wed. Feb, May, Aug, Nov. Chicago Area--- *Itasca CC* - 630-832-3002
2nd Tue. Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct. McHenry (ORD)---*Warsaw Inn* - 815-459-5314
3rd Wed. Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct. Washington Area---*Westwood CC* - 540-338-4574

Semi-Annually Scheduled Lunches

Call. Mar, Nov. Tucson---*Tucson Country Club*---520-797-3912

Deadline: October 19, 2005

Mailing: November 2, 2005



PERIODICALS

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