



'Gator CAPers

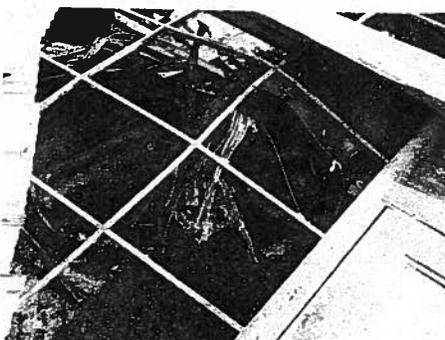


Volume 14, No. 3

MC COY AFB Fla.

Oct. 1973

Fire Destroys SUNCOAST SQ. Link Trainer



Photos taken shortly after the fire show extent of the damage. Center photo is what remains of the squadron's Link Trainer.

Sighted Sailboat, Saved Same!

A twenty-foot sailboat was discovered in trouble about three miles west of Marco Island by a CAP pilot during a sundown patrol.

The pilot, Bill Cecil of Naples Composite Squadron, radioed CAP base operator Frank Hiers that the sole occupant of a sailboat had run up a white flag. When he flew lower to investigate the skipper ran up a red distress flag.

The boater then gave the appropriate arm signals to indicate he needed assistance. The base radio operator notified the Isles of Capri Marina and Ed Amey, marina operator took his boat out to complete the rescue. It was reported that the boat's auxiliary inboard engine had failed.

The Naples Composite Squadron's "Sundown Patrol" operates on a seven day basis covering the area from Wiggins Pass to Everglades City.

CHANGE OF COMMAND



Colonel Robert Owen presents outgoing squadron commander Major Evelyn Correll with the Meritorious Service Award.

By LColonel Richard L. Leali Sr.
Florida Wing Information Officer

Charlotte County Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol held its Second Annual Awards Banquet at the Port Charlotte Yacht Club, Saturday evening, September 8. Featured speaker was Colonel Robert C. Owen, Florida Wing Commander. Colonel Owen spoke to a group in attendance of approximately 100 individuals which included Ray Griffith, popular Charlotte County Commissioner and member of CAP. Colonel Owen's comments centered on the importance of the humanitarian mission of Search and Rescue of the Civil Air Patrol and the vital need for strong support of the organization's youth programs.

Outgoing squadron commander, Maj. Evelyn Correll was honored for her outstanding performance during the past four years of her term of office. She was presented with CAP's Meritorious Service Award. She said that highlights of her tour of duty included the purchase of a new squadron aircraft for Sunset Patrol, the establishment of a cadet program for the youth of Charlotte County, and the recent purchase of a bus for use as squadron transportation.

The squadron's new commander is Rupert J. Pratt, a resident of Charlotte County for the past three years, and a charter member of the Civil Air Patrol. Pratt, a retired Army officer, has pledged his full time to carry on the fine work of his predecessor.

continued on the Editorial Page

Story and photos by W/O Wm. G. Warner
Group 17 Information Officer

A disastrous fire struck at St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport shortly after 1 a.m. September 25 leaving in its wake a damage totalling three to six million dollars. Range of damage depends upon the spokesman being queried.

One double hangar and eleven aircraft were destroyed in the early morning inferno. Suncoast Senior Squadron, Group 17, was among the casualties by losing its "Link Flight Simulator"; consumed by the insatiable appetite of the holocaust, the flight simulator is a total loss. At this writing its value had not been determined.

Cause of the conflagration is under investigation by the state fire marshall and includes the possibility of arson. Damage would have been greater were it not for help from many volunteer sources...the local garages who dispatched their wreckers to pull aircraft to safety, individuals who assisted, and the four fire departments who fought the 3 1/2 hour blaze.

Warren J. Brown, a member of Suncoast Squadron, rushed to the scene. With his baby perched on one hip, he searched the area for his Cessna 150 and found it undamaged. With a tremendous sigh of relief he told of his planning to fly to Denver, Colorado, on the morning of the 26th. He will receive a medical fellowship and return home the following Wednesday or Thursday.

GROUP 17 AWARDS

Mary long hard hours of study and training were rewarded Saturday, September 29 when Colonel Robert Owen, Florida Wing Commander, presented Achievement Awards to seven cadets from Group 17 squadrons.

General Billy Mitchell Awards were presented to Richard Bendeaver, Michael Beachlir, Cheryl Homzak, Wally Krajalis, and Betty Davis.

The Amelia Earhart Award was earned by cadets Eric Haertel and Ross Weaver.

Several awards and promotions were also made to other cadets and senior members.



ATTENTION!?

Attention all Florida Wing CAP members! This is your Wing Patch Gator speaking. After all my years of faithful service, I still don't have a first name. There have been several efforts to get me one but no results. Therefore, I am taking matters into my own claws. Between now and October 25 I'm asking you to send me some suggestions for a name. I will run them in the November CAPERS with an Official Ballot so you can vote for the one you like best. Results will be printed in the December issue. Just send a post card with your name, rank & unit of membership and suggestions for my name to Wing Patch Gator, c/o GATOR CAPERS, 3241 SW 117 Court, Miami 33165.





Colonel Robert C. Owen, CAP

"Cadets — The Almost Senior Member"

Travelling and making visitations around the Florida Wing I have noticed a peculiar absence of cadets at most Group/Squadron Commanders Calls. Even at regular Group Staff meetings there are few, if any, cadets present. Now I am talking about the cadet Officer Corps, the "Almost Senior Member". Herein lies a bushel of talent just asking to be used—to be put to work in the program.

I hear the old story that seniors resent and rebuff advice of ideas from cadets, do not even want them around...this is not true in 90% of the cases. These cadets can bring a freshness and new ideas to the CAP program in any unit. Personally, I am going to request members of the Cadet Advisory Council at Wing and Area levels to accompany me on my unit visitations and the unit visited to have their cadet officers present at the meeting. I am sure that if the Wing Commander can make use of the cadet's talents, the unit C.O.'s can also.

This should also help in the retention of older cadets, give them a responsible position in CAP and adjust to the transition to senior status. Cadets want to know "What's going on in the Wing" not just the narrow confines of their own unit. We, as seniors, should also know first hand what is going on at the more youthful levels and understand what motivates constant change and be able to cope with it. We are living in a constantly changing environment and the very survival of the CAP may mean changes.

I have mentioned that sometimes at Commander's Calls, the cadet officers meet separately from the senior members. May I suggest the two bodies meet at different times or days so the Group Commander and his interested staff can meet with the cadets and vice versa; the attendees attending principally to listen and learn and not take vocal part in the meeting unless invited to do so.

So let us use our Cadet resources to enhance the entire program, use their manpower (and womanpower, Sandy says)...Try it—you'll like it.

EDITORIAL ELECTRONIC REDCAPS A REALITY



Mission 39-159, 30 September, 1973 was activated at 1450 hours with all of the mission information normally furnished to Florida Wing Operations. A Piper PA-23 was overdue on a flight plan filed from Jacksonville to Cedar Key. A general aviation pilot had reported to authorities that he had heard a Mayday call on the Unicom frequency. The overdue aircraft was equipped with an electronic locator transmitter (ELT). A further report indicated that an Air Force C-130 in flight had detected a locator signal transmission from somewhere between Dunellon and Crystal River.

Within 90 minutes after the alert, Florida Wing Operations had dispatched two aircraft on the search. One aircraft was launched out of Tampa and the other out of Orlando. The Orlando aircraft was equipped with an electronic locator transmitter homing device and almost immediately picked up a signal at 4500 feet over Zellwood, just north of Apopka. The origin of the signal was determined to be a small crop-duster airstrip south of Ocala. Using VHF-FM communications, the Orlando aircraft directed a ground rescue team to the airstrip. Interrogation of all individuals at the airstrip determined that one of the local pilots had installed an electronic locator transmitter in his Piper Comanche earlier in the afternoon. The pilot was located and his aircraft, which was in a locked metal hangar, was examined. The antenna was removed from the aircraft and the signal stopped immediately.

In the meantime, the overdue aircraft checked in and the reported Mayday signal was found to be in error. All CAP personnel and aircraft were back at their home bases by 2115 hours.

There are important lessons which can be learned from all our experiences. What did Mission 39-159 teach those Florida Wing Civil Air Patrol members who participate in and coordinate search and rescue?

First, it proved to everyone that an electronic locator device can, with pinpoint accuracy, indicate the position of a missing aircraft (even locked inside a metal hangar). A lot of material has been seen in print on this subject but this mission was "reality" to the search crew participating.

Second, it is obvious that for Florida Wing to maintain a viable air search and rescue program, there is a need to update sufficient numbers of our corporate and member owned aircraft by equipping them with electronic locator transmitter homing devices. Failure to fulfill this need could result in the assumption of the search and rescue mission by state and/or county and local agencies. This would be only right, if our search and rescue techniques were obsolete or outmoded.

Third, we must work on obtaining maximum aircraft launch speed and good air to ground-team coordination. The faster we can arrive on the crash site, the higher the probability of survivors. ELT search means an immediate response by aircraft and personnel is required. The newly assigned VHF-FM radio frequencies have been proven to be a good aircraft-to-ground communications method.

Lt. Colonel Casenove, the Wing Operations Officer, and his task force commanders should be given everyone's support as Florida Wing steps into the electronic REDCAP age. It is a real challenge and the success or failure of our response to this challenge could vastly affect our future participation in the search and rescue mission.

Letters ^{from} the EDITORS

The new staff of GATOR CAPERS would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves and tell you what part of the paper each is responsible for. The Wing IO, LColonel Dick Leali, is THE BOSS and chief editorial writer; SM Diana Roder is editor in charge of getting it all together & typing it up; Gieronymus Gator, who is the brother-in-law of the Wing Patch Gator, is gator in charge of reader ads; Shorty, who keeps track unit bulletins and writes the "Short Stuff" column; and last, but definitely not least, is Underwood, our trusty typewriter. (We realize that typewriters are not usually considered as staff members, but Underwood is very sensitive, and when he's upset, his space bar sticks.) So we try to keep him happy with equal billing.)

This may be the only publication around where the readers are also the reporters and advertising salesmen. We editors depend on you. After all, if you reporters don't report, we editors can't edit and we're out of a job. Gieronymus is especially anxious to have you use his Swap Shop because he doesn't want to have to go back to his old job of posing for tourists. Shorty says to remind you to send copies of your squadron papers for him to use in his column.

We'd like to run some other regular monthly features. One suggestion has been a "FeedBack" column. You would send us your questions or suggestions about Wing programs or procedures and we would print them along with the answer from the Wing staff member whose department it was.

You are all encouraged to submit original line drawings, cartoons, or puzzles for publication.

Remember, if you don't see mention of your unit activities in GATOR CAPERS, it'll be because you didn't report them!

Until next month,

THE G.C. STAFF

P.S. A special note of thanks to all of you who responded to our somewhat last minute call for news for this issue. We really do appreciate your cooperation.

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NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS: Submit only typed copy. Black and white photos of good quality are welcomed. Please attach a complete caption to all of your photos.

Florida Wing Commander
Colonel Robert C. Owen

USAF-CAP Liaison Officer
LColonel Joseph F. Behan, USAF

Florida Wing Information Officer
LColonel Richard L. Leali, Sr.

Editor.....SM Diana Roder
Lithography.....Lewis Garrett

continued from page one

Other presentations at the Awards Banquet included: Promotion to 2nd Lieutenant for Larus and Ras Earnest.....Florida Wing Certificates of Merit to John T. Adams, William McCort, Helen and Warren Gross, Chester D. Smiley, and Weldon L. Sprucer.....Outstanding Cadet of the Year was Cadet Robin P. Needham.



Group III became a "combat unit" during Labor Day weekend as they joined with the Jerry Lewis forces in the battle against muscular dystrophy. Cadets and senior members from Group 17 worked with Group III personnel under the command of Major Herman Slapo, performing a wide variety of duties in assisting with the famed Jerry Lewis Telethon at WTGG-TV in the Tampa Bay Area. Members worked around the clock from Sunday evening through Monday morning in a continuous campaign as the Telethon teams advanced relentlessly against the enemy.

CAP communicators served as dispatchers in both Tampa and St. Petersburg, sending mobile units of CAP and local Ham radio operators out to pick up donations of money and materials which had been called in to the TV station by phone. Cadets from both Groups co-operated in a remarkable job of traffic control around the studio as guests arrived and departed for local live TV appearances and local residents drove in to make cash donations to this admirable cause.

HERE'S AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL PILOTS...

QGD'V IGSCUV VG ENGPU PGLS IWBCKV WJTD!

(If you've misplaced your Super-Gator Code Ring & can't figure it out on your own, see next month's issue.)

Search & Rescue Seminar Held

The Southwestern Gulf Area Search and Rescue Standardization Seminar was held September 22-23 at the Nautilus Inn, Cape Coral, under the co-direction of Wing Commander, Colonel Robert Owen; LColonel Donald Cunningham, Task Force One Co-ordinator; and Group 8 Commander, LColonel Alton Anderson.

Senior members from Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, and Lee counties took advantage of this chance to upgrade their SAR capabilities, attending classes that began at 0900 hours Saturday. They enjoyed a hospitality hour and dinner Saturday evening and were back in classes Sunday morning, finishing up on Sunday afternoon.

Instructors for the course were LColonel Henri Casenove, LColonel Paxton, Major Dave Mosely, and SM Jim Levenson. Major Kay Cunningham and 2Lt. Shirley Homzak covered the administrative procedures necessary to a search and rescue operation.

Coordination with Civil Defense was discussed by Colonel Turon of Lee County. Red Cross operations were covered by Leon Walters, Chairman for Lee County.

All those in attendance agreed that much had been accomplished in coordinating the emergency services of Civil Air Patrol, Civil Defense and Red Cross personnel.

Local cash donations were accepted in the "fishbowl", a large glass tank set up in front of the studio and covered by live TV camera during local broadcast periods of the Telethon. CAP personnel worked with Ronald McDonald and station announcers and technicians in manning this fishbowl.

Security in and around the station was provided by CAP senior members from Group III. Cadets and senior members from both groups also answered telephones on the special incoming pledge lines.

Local law enforcement officers from CAP ranks stood by to guard the bank room where several senior members were counting money, rolling coins and preparing the bank deposits. The money was taken to a local bank by senior members escorted by these officers.

As a result of unit participation in the Telethon, CAP received wide TV coverage in the area along with favorable publicity, but most important of all was the feeling that all present had done their share in raising more than \$150,000 in the Tampa area to help combat this child crippling disease.

DID YOU KNOW???

by LCol. E. J. Pilcher

"The mission of CAP, as contained in article VI of its Constitution, is:

.....To provide an organization to encourage and aid American citizens in the contribution of their efforts, services, and resources in the development of aviation and in the maintenance of aerospace supremacy.

.....To encourage and develop by example the voluntary contribution of private citizens to the public welfare.

.....To provide aviation and aerospace education and training, especially to its senior and cadet members.

.....To encourage and foster civil aviation in local communities.

.....To provide an organization of private citizens with adequate facilities to assist in meeting local and national emergencies."

SWAP



SHOP

Any CAP member may advertise to buy, sell or trade in this column. Rates: 1-10 words - no charge; 11-25 words - \$1.00; 5¢ per word in excess of 25. A member may advertise equipment or personal property. Ads cannot be accepted for rentals, personal services or firearms and ammunition. Gator Capers does not endorse or guarantee any items offered through this advertising. Ads must be printed or typed. Include ZIP in address and area code in phone number. Also give us your name, rank and unit of membership. Ads must reach us by the 25th of the month. Make check payable to GATOR CAPERS and send it to Glycerinus Gator, c/o GATOR CAPERS, PO Box 3176 AMF, Miami, Florida 33159.

MR. RESCUE



Royal A. Brown, Colonel, USAF, has been assigned as Chief Air Force Liaison Officer to the Southeast Region, Civil Air Patrol. Col. Brown earned his title "Mr. Rescue" by saving 36 downed flyers in Southeast Asia.

One mission of Civil Air Patrol is emergency services which includes search and rescue of missing aircraft and crews in the Continental United States. Col. Brown is ideally suited for his advisory position to CAP because of his interest, experience, duty assignments and rescue performance in Southeast Asia. Col. Brown, a native of South Alabama, spent a large portion of his military years in the Search and Rescue business. He served two tours in SE Asia, from February 1968 to March 1969 and from April 1970 to July 1971. During his first tour, he served at Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base (NKP) and flew search and rescue missions into North Vietnam where he rescued 12 downed flyers. During his second tour, he was Operations Officer, then Commander of the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Da Nang Air Base South Vietnam. He flew over 200 search and rescue missions in North and South Vietnam and Laos.

In addition to piloting the HH-3E and HH-53 helicopters at NKP and Da Nang, Colonel Brown during his career has flown fighters, bombers and transport aircraft. He received three silver star medals for gallantry as a rescue helicopter pilot in Vietnam. One silver star was awarded for his efforts in the Air Force and Army Ranger's raid on the Son Tay Prisoner-of-War Camp in North Vietnam during November 1970. He has also earned eleven (a record) Distinguished Flying Crosses and eleven Air Medals. Col. Brown has commanded both the 43rd Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron (ARRS) at Richards-Gebaur AFB, Missouri, and most recently the 44th ARRS at Eglin AFB, Florida.

The 44th ARRS maintains the rescue coordination center at Eglin, and coordinates search effort in the southeastern 21 states, including those search missions participated in by Civil Air Patrol.

"Mr. Rescue", in an address at Williamsport, Pa. had the following to say about Civil Air Patrol. "These men in Civil Air Patrol save lives and help people when they need help without a bit of pay. That's what amazes us military men. These men are businessmen with other commitments, and they're practically working another eight-hour job to help out in this area. If there is no monetary motivation or social value, who do they do it? The motivation is pride in what you're doing," he said. "Most of all, it's a chance to save a human life, and that's what it's all about."

Colonel Brown states that while he was Commander of the 44th ARRS, CAP flew over 86% of the flying hours flown on search missions in the Southeastern United States. In his words, "Civil Air Patrol people are the most highly motivated and dedicated group that I have ever had the privilege and honor of working and being associated with. It is easy to motivate people with money but motivation without monetary return is dedication. The Civil Air Patrol people are truly dedicated. I am extremely happy to be working with and associating with this group of people."



INTRODUCING, FLORIDA WING'S GROUP COMMANDERS...

This month, we take great pleasure in presenting to you **LCOL. HAROLD WILLIAMS** Commander, Group 10.



LCol Williams, a longtime Florida resident had been working with CAP for some time before he officially joined the program, some two years ago. He is employed as the Communications Coordinator for the Civil Defense Center in Miami. Before becoming Group Commander about eighteen months ago, he was a member of the West Miami Cadet Squadron, acting as Communications Advisor for the unit.

He holds a First Class Radiotelephone Operator License and an Advanced Class Amateur License.

After 20 years of active duty in the Army Signal Corps, he retired as a Lt. Colonel. He spent an additional 10 years in the reserves. While on active duty during World War II, he served for a time as radio officer to General George S Patton in North Africa. In addition to his many years of Army service, he also spent 3 years and 3 months on active duty in the Navy. He holds the Bronze Star for Valor; the Purple Heart; the Commendation Ribbon with palm; and the European Theatre Ribbon with 8 battle stars and bronze arrowhead.

From Group 10 Headquarters in Miami, LColonel Williams and his staff supervise the activities of five squadrons: West Miami Cadet; University Cadet; Cutler Cadet; Homestead AFB Cadet; and the Miami Aerospace Academy Cadet Squadron.

We'd also like you to meet **LCOLONEL ALTON D. ANDERSON** Commander, Group 8.



LCol. Anderson is a native of Crookston, Minnesota. He served as the commander of a B-17 in the European Theatre of World War II and was shot down in February of 1944. He spent the next 15 months as a POW, being released in May of '45. Separated from the active service in February of 1946, he continued to serve in the Air Force Reserve until July 1967. He was awarded the Air Medal with two clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Anderson and his wife Doris, who is also a CAP member, reside in Fort Meyers. He is self-employed in the construction industry. They have two children.

Previous to becoming Group 8 Commander, LColonel Anderson held the position of Group Operations Officer. He has been with the CAP program for 11 years and has earned the Certificate of Merit and the Meritorious Service Award. He holds both pilot and observer ratings and has over 1000 hours flying time logged.

From Group 8 Headquarters in Fort Meyers, he and his staff supervise and coordinate the activities of four squadrons: Naples Composite Squadron in Naples; Lee County Composite Squadron in Cape Coral; Charlotte County Composite Squadron in Punta Gorda; and Clewiston Composite Squadron in Clewiston.



REMEMBER THE SUMMER OF '64 ?

***Colonel duPont, Wing Commander, had just returned from a series of meetings with Colonel Ashworth, the retiring National Commander, and Colonel Mason, newly appointed National Commander as of the first of August.

***The Office of the National Chaplain had announced that Florida had advanced from 18th to 9th in the National Rating.

***Fifteen cadet stewardesses graduated from the Eastern Air Lines/Florida Wing Stewardess School July 17. Receiving their wings were Mary Felter, Sharon Chisolm, Nancy Fisher, Barbara Frank, Micky Hearsh, Judy Henderson, Mary Kennedy, Connie Kostrya, Gail LeGrand, Sally Newman, Paulette Ross, Sandy Smith, Donna Taylor, Pat Tierney and Kathy Vaingut.

***On July 27, LColonel Betty McNab, the first woman ever to fly faster than sound, appeared on the TV show "To Tell the Truth".

***Sunday, June 28, ten cadets and two senior members of the Palm Beach Cadet Squadron went for their first flight in a seaplane. The plane belonged to the newly appointed Commander of Group 5, Captain Bob Owen.

REMINDER

When you have finished with your copy of GATOR CAPERS, pass it along to a friend!

FUND RAISING TIME ??



Most squadrons are on the lookout for ways to provide the funds needed to keep the unit activities going. Do you have any ideas to share?

Suggestion for this month is the sale of cards and notepaper. Current, Inc. has a wide selection. Plant and animal designs will appeal to the ecology-minded and are printed on recycled paper. Their current Fall and Winter catalog also carries a line of Christmas cards and notes.

Their "fund raiser" price schedule allows you to make a reasonable profit from your work. For example, a box of cards that you sell for \$1.00, is available to you for a wholesale price of 55¢

If you're planning a fund raising campaign to finance your holiday parties, why not send to Current, Inc. The Current Bldg., Colorado Spring Colorado, 80941 for their catalog and prices.

Remember to clear all fund raising programs with the Wing Commander in advance.

CAP — A FAMILY AFFAIR

A West Coast squadron made a survey recently and learned the following: of 30 members queried, there were 38 children listed, 19 of which were eligible for active membership. However, only two actually are members. Is this the case in your unit? CAP has something for just about everyone. Have you tried to interest your family and friends in the program? Remember, recruiting is everybody's business and a year round activity. Let's not limit it just to recruiting drives.



INCREASE SHOWN IN SAR ACTIVITY

MAXWELL, AFB, Ala.—Statistics released in mid-August here at CAP national headquarters show a decided increase in air search and rescue activity by the organization in 1973 as compared to the same period in 1972.

CAP's SAR activity has saved the lives of 21 persons thus far in 1973. Last year up until mid-August, CAP had saved the lives of eight persons. CAP has located 75 search objectives in 1973, compared to 56 located at the same point a year ago.

CAP had participated in 227 search missions this year and flown 4,488 sorties requiring 16,561.7 hours flying time. For the same period in 1972 the missions were 191 with 7,020 sorties and 13,181.5 hours flying time.

CAP flew a record 30,909 hours on air search missions in 1971. Its records for lives saved through its humanitarian activities—78—was set in 1968.



This is Arnie Freshish... I ran into him on my last high altitude patrol.

GROUP INSPECTION SCHEDULE

AREA A

Unit	Date	Place	Time
GROUP 8	14 October	Page Field Ft. Meyers	1:30
GROUP 15	28 October	Airport CAP HQ	1:00

Have ready for the inspection team the following information: Inspection report from each squadron; five copies of Group roster; five copies of Group and Squadrons supply inventories; Group finance records. Location of all aircraft and ground vehicles must be reported to the inspector prior to the inspection date.

SHORT STUFF



Lots of NORTH MIAMI CADET SQUADRON cadets are passing tests. First Aid cards were earned by K. Barnett, A. Colon, R. Colon, D. Cunningham, H. Cunningham, I. Grace, G. Grimm, H. Grimm and K. Kelly. Cadet Grace also passed the ROFC test. Passing C/D tests were K. Barnett, A. Colon, D. Cunningham, K. Kelly, A. Grace, G. Grimm, and H. Grimm. See people, if you study hard you'll get your name in the paper—maybe even twice! (By the way, what happened to H. Cunningham on the C/D test? Of course, maybe H. passed it last time.) Let us know when you get those 101 cards.



PENSACOLA COMPOSITE SQUADRON seems to have been keeping busy. Two seniors and eight cadets attended a one day survival course at the missile site near Fort Walton Beach in August. All survived and said they learned a lot and had a chance to practice some ground search procedures. Also on the squadron training agenda for August was a four day search and rescue bivouac. Lt. Gentry gave several lectures on search and rescue techniques and then cadets went out on three practice searches—one in the evening and two the following morning. First aid techniques were taught by Group 42 Deputy Commander Captain Thompson. CWO Ralph C. Clark gave a class on CD and Search and Rescue. Keep up the good work, Pensacola!.....Future activities in the works include a Christmas Dance. The activities committee is headed by Sgt. Pam Sevy. Time, location, and price will be announced at a later date, she said.



We see POMPANO BEACH CADET SQUADRON member Jim Mims received his Mitchell Award. Congrats, Jim!And who was the "little old gluemaster" who won the model contest? Let's have a photo of the winner and the masterpiece.....We still can't figure out why that article about a 3 1/8 inch long cucumber was in your unit paper, Pompano. Could it be that we're going to see a Form 27 for a name change soon? We can see it now... "Pompano Beach Search, Rescue, and Crop-dusting Squadron—Rates on Request"....You might have a little bit of trouble getting the Wing Commander's OK on that kind of fund raising activity, though.



GROUP 5 reports that Commander, Captain Barbara Leibbeck and Major George Petit, Palm Beach Senior Squadron commander attended the Staff College at Maxwell AFB this summer.....Also in Group 5...an Open House at the Tilford Flying Service, August 19. Included were aircraft displays, 3¢ a pound rides (inflation is striking everywhere) and refreshments and movies provided by PALM BEACH CADET SQUADRON.



Have you all seen the new ECI Catalog and Guide (October 1973)? There are many interesting-looking career development courses listed beside ECI 70 and SOS. Ask your unit training officer to show it to you. Instructions for enrolling are in the front of the catalog. These courses are available to you at no charge. Take advantage of them!

Two senior members from GROUP 31 have left for the Air Force — W/O Neil Marotti and Lt. Martin Broward. Lt. Broward will be attending Navigator School.....Also in Group 31, LCol Bristow plans to hold a Type B Encampment over the Thanksgiving weekend. More information later.



The HOLLYWOOD CADET SQUADRON received a visit from two former cadets who are now attending the Air Force Academy in Colorado. Dave and Steve Beck were guests at a recent Parent's Night at the squadron.



GROUP 6 headquarters reports that every squadron in their group is showing an increase in senior members. To all those new members, our welcome to the Wing.....LCol Gross reports that Major Paul Reid, the C/D Director for the Group 6 area has given their communications people a lot of support. He has requested that a C/D Communications Exercise be held throughout the group each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1830-1900 hours to check that all equipment is working properly just in case there should be an emergency of some type.....LCol Leroy Barnett has been appointed D/Commander for the group and LCol Dorothy Puffpaff has been assigned additional duty as Aerospace Education Officer.

Congratulations to NAPLES COMPOSITE SQUADRON pilot 1Lt Bill Jenks, who accompanied by his son Dave and a new member, Fred Stant, participated in the Fly-In at Marathon and brought back a trophy for placing second in the spot landing contest.



You people in the South end of the state may recognize this smiling group. They're the Good Guys with the Blue Hats AKA The Task Force One Inspection Team. Left to right are LColonel F. Dunlevy, Maj. Ed Muskas, LColonel Ed McDonald and LColonel A. Moore. These gentlemen have a combined total of 84 years in CAP. The "Boss" LColonel Moore has been with the program for 30 years. All four are pilots.

Guess that's all for this month, folks. Don't forget to send copies of your unit publications to National so the Wing will get credit for them on the National Information Ratings. And, of course, don't forget to send us a copy. Let's hear from you soon.

Shorty



Wright Vermilya, Jr., Passes Away

FIRST FLORIDA WING COMMANDER



A pioneering figure in Palm Beach County aviation and the first commander of Florida Wing is dead. Wright (Ike) Vermilya, Jr., 76, died on September 14.

Colonel Vermilya was a veteran pilot of 60 years with 35 years in the Palm Beaches. His interest in aviation began early when at age 14 he soloed a glider he had built from instructions in a magazine. He held transport license number 35. He learned to fly in the Army Air Force during World War I and participated in acceptance and test work, including work with the famed Sopwith Camel. He was mustered out of the Army as a sergeant first class in 1919 and in 1920 became active in Reserves Corps Flying. He flew the first Reserve ship to Cincinnati. In 1926 he went to Arkansas where he became an instructor in the National Guard with the rank of first lieutenant. As a lieutenant in the Arkansas National Guard in the late 1920's, he and Capt. Murray B. Hall flew a 300 mile mission of mercy through fog to bring serum to fight a rare form of gangrene a man had contracted. They set a record of seven hours, 25 minutes in bringing the serum from St. Louis to Little Rock.

He continued to be active in promoting aviation and in 1938 he was elected president and general manager of Palm Beach Aero Corp. headquartered at Morrison Field. That same year he was appointed Florida governor of the National Aeronautics Association by the national NAA president. He was a charter member of the Florida Alligators, a group of early pilots who flew around the state for fun and money.

Zack Mosley, creator of the "Smiling Jack" comic strip, was a close friend of Vermilya and used him as the basis of a character in the strip in 1941.

In June of that year the Florida Home Guard Air Squadron was formed and was headed by Vermilya. It was headquartered at Morrison Field. In January of 1942, West Palm Beach was named as the Headquarters for the Florida Wing of the Civil Air Patrol and Major Vermilya was named wing commander. In 1946 he became a full colonel.

In 1948 he received the Air Medal "for meritorious service" achievement while participating in antisubmarine patrol missions during World War II. The accomplishment of these missions in light aircraft despite the hazards of unfavorable weather conditions reflects the highest credit upon this valiant member of the Civil Air Patrol" reads the citation signed by President Harry S. Truman.

He also received the "Exceptional Civilian Service Medal" and citation signed by Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson.

An aviation consultant in recent years, his last enterprise was Wright Vermilya and Son, Inc., an aeronautical advisory firm which he set up in Geneva, Switzerland, in July 1971.

The family has announced that friends who wish may make contributions for pilot training for a CAP cadet in care of Richard Adams of the First National Bank of Palm Beach.





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