

PIEDMONT PRESS NOTES

BLUEFIELD — Reporter **Gene Elmore**: Whew! Maybe we can get back to normal operations, now that the holidays are over. Normal, with winter, ice-covered runways, and braking action reports. During the holidays, parties were the order of the season. At our Christmas party at the Club LaSaluta, everyone had a great time, but we were sorry of two things: no one from the home office could attend and **Milt Ward** didn't get to present his famous Mexican Hat Dance. Though it was no fault of his, the party downstairs wanted it a little quieter so they could present awards. Maybe next time, Ole Buddy. We haven't figured out that new dance **Noland Adams** came up with. We sure appreciate **Charley Fields**, **BKW** and **Dan Love**, **PSK**, coming by to cover for us. **Milt** and **Clara Ward** held open house on December 30 with everyone except **Ted Farrington** and **Sonny Bennett**, who had to hold down the fort, attending and having a ball. Surprise guests in attendance were Grandma Frickert (World's Oldest Airline Stewie) and Tojo Hashimoto (famous Japanese rock 'n' roll singer) who entertained us. Everyone nearly collapsed with laughter at those two characters, portrayed by **Milt**. The rest of the evening was spent with **Chet Atkins Ward** on the Old Guitar and the group singing some of the really old favorites. We had Duke Ellington fly in on Flt. 477 to give a concert. He returned the next day to DCA for engagement at the White House. Sorry we didn't get to fly the Duke back but we understand, according to **Huntley-Brinkley**, that he made it in from West Virginia. Many entertainers from NYC were stranded in route. It's hard to imagine that people can't get out of this country. The past year was our best ever with passenger boardings up and Air Freight up at least 200 per cent. We sure appreciated the gift from Santa.

CHARLESTON — Reporter **Ruth Shumate**: What's behind the red door?! There are people on the other side, telephones that ring and a machine that prints all sorts of messages. The people transfer the data to cards and put it in a special file. The workers are happy. They work well together. They have meetings after hours to plan social parties and informative meetings as well. Give up? This red door is decorated at the window by a pretty red drape, and is entered by many people daily and viewed each week by hundreds of outsiders who comment on the difference and gait in appearance. Why it's the new paint job on the door behind the counter leading to Piedmont reservations in ole Charley West. It was a big Christmas and New Year's up this way! A Christmas party and buffet was held at the Quarrier Diner Club Room. Special guest was Ed Jones returning to share the event of the season. Birthdays of the month were celebrated with cake and coffee for **Paul Kelley** and **Phil Bostick**. Sorry, **Dexter**, you have to work on your birthday to have an "office cake." **Bill Grubbs** served cake and coffee to the employees just before Christmas. The cake was a white background with holly Christmas trees and Santa in his sleigh. The employees presented **Dave Smith** with a Christmas remembrance and enjoyed a little "get together" after hours. This concluded the social side of the red door for last month. Don't think that a lot of work isn't put out too, 'cause reservations are booming and this month of January is coming right along. Ticket sales are hitting a peak. New Year's night was spent worrying out CLT weather since we had two charters going out with the "Hello Dolly" cast, starring Betty Grable, departing CRW 2200. Miss Grable visited the office (behind the red door) and even shared **Phil Bostick's** birthday cake. Needless to say the Charters left only a few minutes behind schedule, and thanks to all concerned, made the destination in CLT. **Jim McCormack** wants you all know that he, too, shot a deer this season. And, yes, **Bostick** is still talking about his. Happy New Year to all, and we'll be looking forward to seeing you anytime this year.

CINCINNATI — Reporter **Sue Roe**: Cincinnati would first like to wish all of you a very Happy New Year! It seems everyone has at least partially recovered from the holiday season. Our Christmas party was a huge success. Everyone had a good time, even **Bob Steppe**, who usually has such a shy manner at parties! We even caught a glimpse of **Captain Dark** doing the frug in his red vest. Much to everyone's relief, **Sandy Schoen** brought her compass! **Carolyn Donaldson** has just returned from a nice long visit in Los Angeles. Boy, some people really rate. **Jan Tuemler** will soon be departing for Jolly Ole England on a B.O.A.C. Interline Tour — Tally Ho! Our illustrious **Paul Loar** has just returned from a week in Acapulco, and from what we understand, he really rang out the old and brought in the new.

LONDON CORBIN — Reporter **Schuyler Day**: LOZ is still here. We haven't moved, just haven't written any news in a long time. We have been pretty busy here just as we're sure everyone else on the system was through this holiday season. Last year was a good one for LOZ. Our boardings were up a great deal above '65. And if you think you are having load problems, don't feel like the Lone Ranger because we have a built-in weight problem at LOZ the year 'round. The

big news at this station is that the cities of London and Corbin, through state and federal matching funds, have raised a sum of \$498,173 to be used for airport improvements. The now 4,000 ft. runway will be lengthened to 6,000 ft. and widened from 100 to 150 ft. Taxiways will also be added. We're sure that the ILM based crews and the operations personnel at TRI, LEX and SDW will give a sigh of relief when this project is finished. At the present time a target date for construction has not been set. However, the airport officials say we can expect construction to be under way by summer. We are hoping it will start this spring. Another new item at LOZ is the Long Line. We have had it about 3 months and we still find a lot of amusement at some of the conversations we hear over the squawk box. At times we find ourselves huddled around that box like it was a radio with a good ball game broadcast. Now that we have had it this long we don't see how we did without it before. Sure is a handy little gadget to have around when you can get on it. **Mr. Parrish** came by not long ago for his station visit, and fell right into a job. Before he left, he had answered the phone several times, taken an in-range contact from a flight, answered the Long Line, and checked in a passenger, we think. At least we saw him with a grease pencil in hand and he came away from the counter headed toward a baggage cart with two large pieces of luggage in tow. We hope this won't keep him from coming back. We always enjoy his visit. The first week of January everyone you met, was saying happy New Year, the crews likewise. **Capt. Robertson** came up with a new one. Happy New Airport for LOZ.



All Charleston is thinking about Eddie Jones who left CRW for LGA.

LYNCHBURG — Reporter **Jay Hunt**: LYH here! First of all, ROA, why don't you push those mountains out of the way? With the mountains out of the way it sure would help. Those ROA flights really keep us busy when ROA closes. If you were to fly into LYH you would see a big hole and lots of mud all over the place. But a 20,000 gallon tank is going to be put into that big hole, we hope. This is a start on getting LYH ready for jet service. All LYH employees are happy with the Christmas gift Santa sent us by teletype. Manager **C. R. Blackmon** was all smiles when he received his last check, so we are wondering what amount brings smiles to the manager. Mr. and Mrs. **Edwin Bosiger** have another addition to their family and are very proud of their baby girl. Susan weighed seven pounds, fifteen ounces when she arrived on the 16th of December. Maybe the next will be a boy, agent of the future, O.K., E.P.? The holiday repayment vacations have started. **Frank Reynolds** was the first. He took off for LGA on flight 34 for a New Year's party. **Bill Wolfe** was in a hurry on the ramp and took a spill on the ice. It could have been those college girls that took his mind off his feet. Anyway, he now has a large ankle and is walking easy on one foot. When you walk into reservations these days you're likely to hear **Fran Dresser** trying to explain to **Bill** why you can't fly beyond Jacksonville, Florida, at a joint rate discount with Delta Airlines. **Roy Creasy** was in the hospital with back trouble, but is now back in operations. He thinks he will make it and says his back will be better when spring gets here. It seems like his is not the only bothersome back in the winter months. There must be a bug going around. When the snow falls we all say "here, bug, here bug!" LYH wants to wish all Piedmont employees a Happy New Year and the best yet in 1967.

PULASKI — Reporter **Glen Shanks**: Snow, ice and just plain bad weather have combined to keep us from making our quota for the past couple of months. We thought it was bad last year but at least it waited until winter time to begin. Things are really looking up for our Station Manager, **Jim Faucette**. He recently purchased a new 10 by 60 ft. mobile home then decided that it did not look right without a nice 25" color TV-stereo combination and is now in the negotiating stage for one of those. As soon as he gets this squared away we understand that he is going new-car hunting. However, this is probably from necessity rather than a desire to have something to spend his raise on. His old hupmobile has just about seen its best day. **Virgil Spradlin**, our newest addition, took his lovely bride non-revving to the West Coast recently, compliments of Delta. **Glen Shanks** bought his Honda just prior to the trip and **Virg** was going to use the money from the sale to make a down payment on a second car but when they returned ole **Virg** was singing the blues about high prices, so no second car now.

ROANOKE — Reporter **Don Conner**: Our journalistic schedule was thrown asunder when November and December were combined into one Piedmonitor issue. So we'll catch you up on the ROA happenings that were missed. November, 1966 is the time that will be remembered as the month in which Piedmont began its service to New York City, just as August, 1955 is remembered as the month in which we began our first flights into Washington, D. C. We apologize for not having submitted a photo of ROA's first LGA passenger, Mr. Ray Levesque, but **Rodney Bowers** bought the wrong size flash bulbs for our Brownie. Thanks, Rod! A seige of the flu hit the ROA station just prior to the Christmas holidays and the local apothecary shops did a booming PAI business for a few days. However, this did not dampen our holiday spirits which were highlighted by our yearly Christmas party. The success of our party was mainly due to the outstanding work of **Don Holiday**, CAICS (Chief Agent In Charge of Shindigs). Recipients of interline passes presented as door prizes were Captains **Ray Emanuelson** and **Harold Miller**; **John Rehder**, **Ken Atkinson**, **Ed Deitrich**, and **Kenny Wood** from ROA-M; **Carlyle Kemp**, Res.; and **Emory Bowers**, **Henry Carr**, and **Dan Campbell** from ROA-O. We appreciated the help of the DCA agents who covered our station for us. We regret the departure of **George Hutchinson**, who has left employ to work for the National Guard in ORF, but we welcome the addition of **Kermit Vest** to Operations, **Freda Higginbotham** and **Joe Grant** to Res. Kermit comes to us by way of the USAF and the local G.E. Company. Freda, a native of BLF, was formerly employed by National Airlines in DCA. And everyone knows Joe Grant, who quelled all rumors by making official his transfer from SHD to our station. Incidentally, Joe, along with **Jess Cantline** and **Carlyle Kemp**, purchased the airplane formally owned by **Don Vance** and **Bill Carico**. We're still trying to figure out who got the best end of the deal. **Frank Carrol** and **Don Conner** have recently swapped duties, with Frank moving to Res. and Don going to Operations. Winter sure is cold on the ramp. Trip-wise, most of the ROA agents have been staying close to home. **Dick Morgan** and **Harold and Cindy (Mouse) Norton** made the Las Vegas scene; **Iona Carr** dropped down to MIA to plan a wedding (not her own) while **Aileen Aldridge** finally got airborne south to TPA after two unsuccessful attempts due to weather and load problems. Everyone else has been sitting by the fire, making faces at the weather, and planning their summer excursions into the wild, blue yonder. We would like to compliment our steel-nerved Res department who have somehow managed to carry on while the walls are being ripped out and rebuilt around them. Visitors to ROA will be unable to recognize our station in another couple of weeks. The remodeling currently in progress is due to the tremendous increase in traffic over the past few years. We applaud the initiators of this progressive step. ROA Reporter **Audrey Callahan**: By the time this issue goes to press our own **Woody Nester** will be "involved" with Uncle Sam for six months of active duty. "Sorry about that, chief." It looks as though another Ops Agent, **John Hewitt**, will be transferring to maintenance to do our Accounting work. We are looking forward to working with John. Roanoke Maintenance has been carrying quite a heavy work load, but wouldn't you know they had an empty hangar the very day that a Maintenance Station Chiefs' Meeting was held here. **Audrey Callahan** would like to request that **Morris Mahn** from ILM not bring **John Rehder** any more oysters! We feel sure he will understand the request.

SHENANDOAH — Reporter **D. Pitcock**: SHD is still here. We aren't able to hibernate like Hot Springs. We'd like to welcome new agents **Will Myers** and **Bill Overstreet** to our organization. We lost **Joe Grant** to ROA. Our loss is their gain. Through misunderstanding and unfamiliarity with airline terminology, one of our new agents operating the radio one night told another to cut the porch lights off, later learning the Captain said cut the approach lights off. Got to talk to that boy; back to the classroom. We at SHD will be celebrating our seventh anniversary February 1st. The two agents who worked that first morning are still here. **Jim Dallas** and **Doelph Pitcock** will never forget that day, nothing worked right. We got our FX line. It's a great help to us here and to our customers.