

Local Air Cadet Tells Experiences On Flying Trip With AF To Florida

By JOHN RAY
Thirty-six cadets from the 590th Detachment of the Air University, AFROTC, of Chapel Hill, spent the past weekend at Palm Beach Air Force Base, in Palm Beach, Florida.

The cadets were chosen on the basis of their scholastic grade in Air Science and their personal interest in the AFROTC program. The method of selection is set up in such a manner that all cadets who show potentialities of being future officers are allowed to take the trip at least one time during their cadet life at the university.

The trip to Palm Beach was pioneered by the Air University at Chapel Hill and has expanded to such an extent that there is a flight of cadets arriving at the Palm Beach AFB every weekend from AFROTC detachments all along the eastern coast of the United States. The annual excursion is one of the highlights of the year in the life of each cadet.

The freshmen and sophomores constituted the largest number of cadets who attended the flight. However, there were four senior cadet officers and several non-commissioned cadet officers from the junior class.

We left from Chapel Hill by car Friday morning and were scheduled to take off from Raleigh-Durham Municipal Airport at noon. However, the prevailing weather prevented the landing of the C-119 (boxcar) which was to fly from Pope Field to Raleigh to pick us up. After two hours of waiting for the ceiling to lift, we were informed that all planes were to be grounded and none were to be cleared for landing for at least six hours.

By this time everyone was eager to get under way and each cadet was willing to go to "extremes" even if it meant driving 70 miles to Pope Air Force Base to board our plane. This was no problem—within an hour and a half we were on the C-119 waiting for clearance.

The take-off was no simple matter. The engines idled a full hour at the end of the runway while we were waiting for take-off clearance. This waiting did not excite us by any means. Finally, at 4:30, we were in the air and headed towards the sunny state of Florida. To many, flying was a new and most wonderful sensation. And yet, there were those aboard who thought nothing of it; one of them, Col. F. W. Swan, officer in charge, was one of the officers in charge of reopening Palm Beach Air Force Base in 1951.

The base is basically a Military Air Transport Service (MATS) training center. There pilots are trained to fly the big Globemasters, C-54's, and the B-50's, modified for hurricane hunting. Too, it is one of the bases for APCS, Air Photographic and Charting Service.

At 9 after approximately four hours in the air, we landed and were given a royal welcome by the officer in charge of showing us the operations there at the base during our brief visit. After a meal at the dining hall we were invited to the home of one of the officers in charge of the base. There we met young people who were native to Florida and thought nothing of the summertime weather they were having.

Saturday morning we reviewed a parade of approximately 400 Air Force men and 100 WAFS. From there we went to the training center and we were introduced to the four flight simulators that are used for ground training.

The simulators proved to be exceedingly interesting and everyone was astounded at the realistic effects that the complex machines can produce.

After a delicious meal at the officers club we were briefed, by one of the instructors, on the Air Photographic and Charting Service and its job in the Air Force today.

From there we went to the flight line and inspected the aircraft that are used in the worldwide MATS program. Having finished the flight-line inspection each cadet was free to do as he wished. Some took full advantage of the chance and went farther south to Ft. Lauderdale and others went on to Miami. Palm Beach itself amazed many with its beautiful homes and gardens.

Sunday morning we were ready for take-off at 11:30. Many hoped for foul weather so we might stay a few more days. However, such wasn't the case.

Leaving Palm Beach behind our wings we traveled homeward along the eastern coast of Florida

via Daytona and Jacksonville. The next check points along the way were Savannah, Ga., and Charleston, S. C.

As we traveled north the clouds became more numerous and forced us to fly "over the top" of the cloud layer. The sight of the ocean of clouds reflecting the light of the sun was enough to cause every cadet to stare in awe at the most beautiful phenomenon.

We landed at Pope Field Sunday afternoon tired and ready for the Christmas vacations. There was no question in the minds of the cadets that they had a most exciting trip, and each one looks forward to next year when he might fly down to Palm Beach again.

Col. Dibbs Takes SPCC Golf Title From Jack Carter

Col. John Dibbs, retired Army officer, defeated defending champion Jack Carter 1-up last Sunday to become a new club champion of the Southern Pines Country Club.

Other results in the annual tournament saw Doug Joscelyn defeat Col. Donald Madigan 1-up on the 19th hole to win the second flight; and Bill Bushby defeat Curt Townshend 3 and 2 to win the fifth flight.

Other flights have not been completed as yet.

Total production of flue-cured tobacco for the year will exceed the marketing quota by almost 200 million pounds. Last year's production exceeded the marketing quota by 213 million pounds. Thus, in two seasons, more than one-third of a normal crop has been produced in excess of quota. This increase in production plus the effect of declining consumption has created a burdensome surplus.

CUB SCOUTS

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gifts. The same with the grandfathers, or the fathers. One of the most important things stressed to the children and older members of the family is that the gifts aren't something they can just go out and buy. They must be made carefully and with a great deal of loving care. The idea is to contribute something the maker can be proud of. It must be good, as perfect as talents will permit.

"Even the small children take part in the custom; the ones who can't make something with their hands run errands and earn small sums of money which they either contribute or buy gifts with.

"Male members of the family make the cradle and perhaps a few other things.

"Everything else for observing Christmas is readied—cookies by the hundreds are made, presents wrapped and a tree is decorated. But no one in the family can start their celebration of Christmas until the layette is assembled and has been presented to a needy mother who is either expecting a child or who has just given birth.

"On the appointed day the family gathers and each member of the family places his gift in the cradle. The older members of the family comment on the gifts, taking time between each child to remind everyone of the meaning of the Christmas season. When all the gifts have been assembled in the cradle an elder member is appointed to deliver it. He takes great precautions to avoid letting the receiver know where it came from. There is an old saying that 'a gift is only half a gift if the receiver knows who gives it.'

Mrs. Morgan said the custom, which originated in France, and has since spread to every section of Europe, has as its basis a verse from Matthew 25:40.

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Children in Europe she said, are taught to realize that the gift is not being given to the Christ child. "Actually, I remember being told that the Christ child needed no clothes, but that gifts—all gifts given in the proper spirit contained the true meaning of Christmas," Mrs. Morgan said.

At the program tomorrow night, which begins at 8 p.m. the cub scouts will hear the custom explained and will then present their gifts.

They will also decorate a giant Christmas tree and sing carols. The public is invited to the

program, which is to be held in the basement of the Presbyterian Church.

LETTER

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once was in the State Department so he can sometimes hustle things through a bit.

"Christa says: 'It is, such a nightmare, yet what an opportunity to help Bleeding Hungary!'

"Here, in Washington, the women of St. John's Church, where we go, are sewing weekly for Christa. They make small garments and stuff dolls and animals. Then I mail the boxes to her and she gives them directly to the refugees. I also send many small package items; 2 pounds can go for between 20 and 30 cents. I use manila envelopes and tie a string around them and mark clearly: WARN. . . GIFT. NO DUTY on the envelope.

"People here are, of course, giving all they can, too, through the Red Cross and other organizations. As for this other, I have lost all pride and find myself saying to people I meet: 'Have you any warm things we can send to Christa for her refugees?' When your own children are in the midst of it, it comes so close and you know how real it is. And, it is so good to send to someone who is a dedicated young person and automatically puts the food in the mouths and the clothes on the backs of these tragic needy people, and gives them good cheer for their exhausted spirits and hearts.

"Christa's address is: MRS. H. C. ROBBINS LONDON, EITELBERGERGASSE 13, VIENNA XIII, AUSTRIA. (Mark) Duty Free. . . Gift Parcel.

"I must enclose a lighter note to give you a bit of Christmas merriment even out of this: I add this bit from a recent letter from Rob.

"People troop up the three flights of stairs to our flat constantly. We keep an improvised rack of clothes ready and a tape measure on hand; while in the back, Christa has extra food ready on the stove for whoever appears.

"The other day, two portly men showed up, rather blown, and I promptly whipped out my tape measure and firmly put it around their tummies.

"There was a roar of protest. 'What are you doing? came, in unmistakable western accents, 'I am a Mormon and we have come to convert you!'

"We eased them gently down the stairs after drinking some coffee with them to cushion the shock."

"And now," Mrs. Landon ends, "I think of you and dear Southern Pines, and send a special Merry Christmas to all!
Dorothy Landon"

TONY PARKER

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champions and regional and eastern champions. Aberdeen defeated Southern Pines in the second of two contests this year to become state champions, an honor the Blue Knights had held the previous two years.

In addition to recognizing each member of the squad, others recognized were Joan Howarth and Patti Hobbs, who received awards for their work in publishing the football programs. They were presented by Jim Perkinson, president of the Blue Knights Booster Club.

Chan Page was master of ceremonies for the event.

WIDE VARIETY

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Watch Night services will be held Monday, beginning at 11:30 and will last until shortly after midnight. Members of the Methodist Youth Fellowship will conduct the services.

Episcopal

Sunday at 4 p.m. a children's carol service and Sunday School Christmas party will be held at the church. At that time the children will present their Advent Mite Boxes and sing carols. The Rev. Martin Caldwell, rector, will read the Christmas Story, which will be followed by a party in the parish house.

Traditional midnight services will be held at the church Monday night at 11 o'clock. The brief service will consist of singing carols and celebration of Holy Communion. Those who attend are requested to remain for all the services.

Christmas morning at 10 o'clock celebration of the Holy Communion will be observed.

Congregational

At the Church of Wide Fellowship the Christmas observance will get under way Sunday morning with a program "Birthday of the World's Redeemer," in all de-

partments. At the 11 o'clock service special Christmas music will be sung with a number of soloists taking part. As is always the custom, the sacrament of Baptism for little children will be held at the service.

At the 7 o'clock service Sunday a Christmas pageant, "Why the Chimes Rang," will be presented by the Church School, under the direction of Mrs. Dwight Hoskins.

Other Events

Practically all businesses will observe a holiday Tuesday, Christmas day.

Town officials announced this morning that the offices would close Monday at noon and would reopen Wednesday morning. Garbage will be picked up Monday, but not Tuesday. Regular service will resume Wednesday.

Elks, VFW Parties

The Veterans of Foreign Wars post will hold its annual Christmas party for children Sunday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the post home on New York Ave. Santa Claus will be present and distribute candy and other gifts to all children present.

Children present.

The Elks Club annual party will be held Sunday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Elks Club. Entertainment will include a movie and rides on the American Legion "40 and 8 Club" train.

All children in the community are invited to the party, which will have Santa Claus who will distribute gifts and other favors to all children present.

AMEROTRON

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the Williamston Throwing Plant, both in Williamston, S. C., the Peerless Plant in Belton, S. C.; Honea Path in Honea Path, S. C.; Barnwell Woolen Plant, Barnwell, S. C.; and the Hartwell Plant in Hartwell, Ga.

The 220 foot side of the building will face the highway. It will be of brick construction, completely air-conditioned, with a modernistic entrance with ample parking facilities for the employees and visitors, and with proper landscaping. It will con-

tain a basement 45'x64' for the boiler room, storage, teletype, duplicator and mail rooms.

In view of the uncertainty concerning the continued operation of Amerotron's central offices in Aberdeen since the announcement, several weeks ago that the Aberdeen plant was being closed down, today's announcement by Mr. Cushman will be greeted as extremely good news and make certain that you have the name on the dotted Amerotron's central offices will line, and some money," he added.

continue in the Sandhills permanently. The announcement will be of comfort to the men and women who work in the offices.

Cushman stated when asked about the sale of the present building that as yet it had not been sold but that negotiations were going on and that it could be sold any day. "But in a business transaction of this nature, will be greeted as extremely good news and make certain that you have the name on the dotted Amerotron's central offices will line, and some money," he added.

Merry Christmas

BOSTON SHOE SHOP

Paul Fitanides

STORE HOURS: 9 to 9 Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Monday

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BOUQUET

The freshness of flowers is embodied in the exquisite trim of this slip. It has hidden bouquets of washable self-color tricot flowers between two layers of the tricot sheer at the hemline and bodice, outlined with multiple shirred Angeline tricot ruffles. White only. 5.95

AT HOME OR AWAY

Here's the perfect robe to wear with the "Americana" pajamas! Wide nylon satin collar, satin-trimmed sleeves, and for back interest (yes, in robes, too!) a satin buttoned belt! Fine, dull opaque, crease-proof, washable nylon tricot. Pink, blue, navy. Small, medium, large. 10.95



CORSAGE

A truly youthful gown with hidden corsage trim of tricot flowers in the bodice and ruffled hemline trim, all outlined with multiple Angeline tricot ruffles, very full flowing skirt. Triple French cord shoulder straps. White, pink, blue, red. Sizes 32 to 38. 7.95



SYMPHONY

A symphony of rhythm accented with swing laces. So beautiful you'll want to wear it outside. The bodice and back are lined all over Alencon lace with matching galloon edging. There is a 9-inch straight hanging flounce of lace in place of the hem! You'll love it in pure white. Sizes 32 to 38, average and tall. 12.95

Belk-Hensdale
SHOP Belk's FIRST . . . and SAVE!
ABERDEEN

Free Gift Wrapping