

August 2012

...... And oft' the setting sun is pleased to trim the Clouds with molten sails And lace the way of passing jets with golden condensation trails



I wrote the following poem for Captain Fred Gray on the occasion of his 50th Birthday, shortly before he was bombed out of the night sky near Unionville, Missouri.

TOP O' CLIMB The big jet starts to roll reluctantly, For flight ahead is long, and there is fuel Which must be burdened, else it cannot be That cunning will be victor in the duel With time and space. What power it takes to lift away from ground, To blast such heavy burden into flight. A thousand banshees couldn't wail the sound, A thousand wing'ed horses match the might Of this great bird.

Her climb is rapid now that speed is gained. She flashes upward, forward, winning free. But still thee awful power must be sustained To lift her into nature's rarest sea, Far in the sky.

At Top O' Climb, the battle all but won, She settles down, her only labor just To cruise a close companion to the sun Before she drops her power to 'idle thrust', Descends the other side.

R. S. Grigsby

Editor's Note

For the younger members, on May 22, 1962, Continental Flight 11 flying from ORD to MKC came apart at 36,800 feet over Missouri and Iowa as a result of the first airline bombing in the United States. There were no survivors.

From the Publisher:

Where has the summer gone? Here it is almost August and yesterday it was May! Linda and I had a very nice trip to Lyle, WA where we spent several weeks and really kicked back. Our place up there is way out in the country and we have no internet and no TV and have to drive 19 miles into another state (Oregon) to find a grocery store with fresh produce. It sounds boring but talk about decompressing!

We are now back in Tucson and got here just in time for the start of monsoon season and so far we are having a prolific one. We have gone from a 4 inch deficit from normal rainfall (measured from January) to a surplus in just a few weeks. Hopefully this will continue for the next month or so.

One of the hard parts of being gone for a month is trying to catch up with all the correspondence and with the convention coming up in October and this issue to publish in August, my email locker was full. I am really pleased to see that my pleas for more articles from the members are bearing fruit. We will always need more but maybe the ones I have received will prime the pump.

Since I have mentioned the convention, I would like to point out that there are a lot of people working very hard to make this one of the best we have had. I just talked to Gail Grover the other day and she was in the process of driving to Las Vegas to confer with the Tropicana special events people. As you know, the Sahara where we had such a great rapport with their staff has been shut down and is scheduled for demolition so Gail is starting early to get to know the folks from the Tropicana.

Don't forget to get your reservations early and send in your banquet and ladies' luncheon requests so the correct number of meals will be ordered.

Also, Ben McKenzie has planned a two day golf extravaganza at a beautiful course so be sure to get your registration form into him as soon as possible. Both the golf and banquet forms can found in this issue or downloaded from the web site, www.thegoldeneagles.org, where you can also find a schedule of events.

I would like very much to thank Dick Grigsby for his inspirational poem on the opposite page and Bill Leeper for his very interesting article on his work with the United Airlines Historical Foundation. We are lucky to have such talented members in our group and we thank them for their good work. I would also like to thank Charlie Starr for the article on his flying career and how things were just a little bit different back when he started. Due to a lack of space, we will be running that story in the next issue and I urge all of you to search your memories and put them in writing for us.

See you in Las Vegas.

Shaun





See you in Las Vegas!

The Captain's Corner

With our annual convention near at hand, the Board of Directors has prepared the needed proposals to amend our by-laws.

These proposals will be presented to the membership for a vote at our scheduled business meeting and include the following:

Golden Eagle local chapters and how we coordinate them with our existing membership.

The need to create an additional Board Member position to facilitate our role with the United merger.

This will be a fun and very informative gathering in Las Vegas and I am looking forward to being there with you, your family members and guests.

Paul F. Grover III



Editor's Note:

It is good to see Paul is recovering nicely from his recent surgery. It is rumored that his first words when he recovered from the anesthetic were

"Go Ducks!"



The Co-Pilots Nest

Hi Just a short letter from the co-pilots corner. We are fast approaching our Vegas convention Oct. 17th and 18th. Paul and Gail are putting together a lovely banquet night. So gather up your finest Hawaiian outfit and make your reservation. We will have a great time. For our golfing group, Ben McKenzie has a good two day outing planned. This year we are dedicating the golf tournament in memory of Amos Cann and Don Ballard, who were always two of our biggest supporters. The Angel Park Golf Club is one of the finnest courses in the Vegas area. Be sure to get your reservation in early as we need to make a commitment to the club as to the number of players by 20 days out. On the business front, Bill Chambers and your board of directors have been working on the changes to the By-laws, to include the Local chapters issue. It will be an agenda item for the membership meeting. We will also be proposing to add Bill Chambers to the board as a VP at large or whatever the membership feels appropriate. We also need to send a special thank you to Bill Leeper for agreeing to take on the Historical Museum project at the United Training center in Denver, as well as the Continental Historical items for the Chicago headquarters. Bill has had two great helpers in Ken Lawrance and Judy Schweppe. Many thanks to Bill and his crew. We look forward to seeing you at the Tropicana and spending some time in the hospitality suite to renew our freindships. See You in Vegas!! Don

Don't forget your raffle tickets!



By the time you read this, summer will be upon us, and we'll all be looking forward to fall. Some of us have already endured 100°+ days, tropical storms and wildfires.; Thus, most of us will be looking forward to the cooler October days. And, with these cooler October days, we can all look with the annual Golden Eagles anticipation to Reunion/Convention.. This year's event promises to be one of the best ever - with new surroundings at the recently renovated Tropicana Hotel. Our President, Paul Grover, along with the Ladies Auxiliary president, Gail Grover, have teamed up to find us an excellent location to replace the former home of our Las Vegas event. This year's banquet promises to be exceptional, with a Hawaiian Luau format. As always, our hospitality room will be open throughout the event - where you can relax, reminisce with friends, and enjoy your favorite beverage and snacks. Don't be left out - use the registration form in this magazine to make your banquet reservations now. Hotel reservations (at the special Golden Eagles rate) should be made directly with the Tropicana (there toll-free number is on the banquet reservation form). Please note the cut-off dates for both hotel and banquet reservations. And, for those who love to chase the little white ball around a golf course, Paul has put together a great golf outing for this year's reunion. Please see the golf registration form in this magazine for details. It's a fun golf outing - no experience required!

In case anyone has missed it: my title has changed to "secretary"; Tom Doherty has ably taken over the position of "Treasurer". All dues, postage fund contributions and banquet checks should be sent to him; likewise all changes of address, phone number, or e-mail address should be sent to Tom – 7 McCormick Way, Salem NH 03079 Email: jkated@aol.com Please don't forget to advise Tom when you have a change of personal information (address, phone or e-mail address). Concurrent with this edition of Golden Contrails, a revised roster will be posted on the website <u>www.thegoldeneagles.org</u> and a new password to view the roster along with the present and past issues of *Golden Contrails*. The new password is **checkride** you may want to write this down for future use. Please check your roster data for accuracy and send any corrections to Tom.

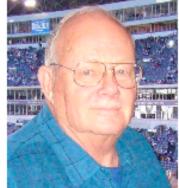
Speaking of dues, while most everyone has sent in their 2012 dues, there are still a few who have not responded to several mailed requests. Look at the address label on this magazine to see if your dues are up to date for 2012. If you are one of the few with dues dates prior to 2012, now would be a great time to become current.

> NOTICE The new password to access the Membership roster and *Golden Contrails* Is

> > checkride

Your Executive Board is presently working on a rewrite of our bylaws, which have not been updated in many years. Look for a preview of this proposal to be sent out soon – and the finished proposal will be brought for membership vote at the October Convention's business meeting.

Here's hoping you have a great summer, and I hope you'll join your fellow Golden Eagle members in Las Vegas this October!





NOTES FROM YOUR TREASURER TOH DOHERTY

Greetings from sunny New Hampshire. I have had an eventful Spring since returning from Florida. I got the boat out of winter storage and even used it several times on trips to the Tall Ships in Boston Harbor during the Harborfest. Boston is a great place to be during the 4th of July celebration. There were ships from many nations representing their countries. I also made a trip or two to Manchester-by-the-Sea, a town on the coast of Massachusetts. Nice place to dock the boat and have lunch for a couple of hours.

The Blue Angels performed at the Portsmouth, New Hampshire airport and, as usual, they put on a great show. I got a chance to talk with the Commanding Officer (aircraft # 1). He was very professional and looked so "squared away" that I wanted to reenlist, but then I remembered that I was too damn old.

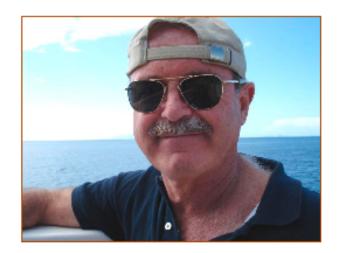
I have also been busy this Spring with my duties as Treasurer. Please be reminded that all dues payments, addresss changes/corrections, as well as Convention/Reunion 2012 payments should be mailed to me at: Tom Doherty, 7 McCormick Way, Salem, NH 03079-2816. E-mail: jkated@aol.com

Hope to see a great turn-out at the Convention in LAS this October. Looking forward to playing golf, sharing lies and having lots of laughs.

Remember – New Password: che

checkride

Have a great Summer!







Tom

FROM YOUR BEAN COUNTER (aka: TREASURER'S REPORT) Tom Doherty - Treas.

\$	13,409.51			
Inflows (Checking) 03/21/2012 - 07/09/2012				
\$	4,781.00			
	1,120.00			
	125.00			
	150.00			
\$	6,176.00			
/09/	2012			
\$	2,040.00			
	397.45			
	6.29			
	800.00			
	500.00			
	149.34			
\$	3,893.08			
\$	15,692.43			
IMPORTANT - IMPORTANT NEW PASSWORD Effective with the date of this edition of GOLDEN CONTRAILS, the password to access both <u>THE MEMBERSHIP ROSTER</u> and editions of <u>THE GOLDEN CONTRAILS</u> , posted on the web-site <u>www.thegoldneagles.org</u> will be:				
	9/20 \$ \$ (09/ \$ \$ (09/) \$ \$ \$ \$ TAN pas RA/			

You will want to write this down for future use!

Checking Acct.

Savings Acct.

Bal. Savings From 03/21/2012	\$ 1	8,091.27		
Inflows (Savings) 03/21/2012 - 07	7/09/2012			
Interest Earned		4.84		
Total Inflows This Period	\$	4.84		
Outflows (Savings) 03/21/2012 - 07/09/2012				
NONE	\$	00.00		
Total Outflows This Period	\$	00.00		
Balance (Savings) 07/09/2012	\$ 1	8,096.11		

CARE Fund

Balance (CARE) From 03/21/2012	\$	71.10		
Inflows (CARE) 02/21 - 07/09/2012				
Donations Received	\$	50.00		
Interest Earned		00.02		
Total Inflows This Period	\$	50.02		
Outflows (CARE) 03/21/2012 - 07/09/2012				
NONE	\$	00.00		
Total Outflows This Period	\$	00.00		
Total Outnows This Feriod		00.00		
Total Outflows This Feriod		00.00		

Don't forget to update your personal info whenever you change addresses, telephone no. or E-mail address Send to: Tom Doherty, Treasurer; 7 McCormick Way; Salem NH 03079-2816 Email: jkated@aol.com

Ladie's Auxilliary

The Luau is Ready

The Umbrella Drinks are ready

The Music is ready

All that is needed is for everyone to come and enjoy.

For those of you "Special Hearts" who have lost a "Dear Heart Gone West" we are developing a DVD that will be an ongoing and very important part of our future gatherings. If you have a photo of a loved one who "gone west", either mail or email it to:

Shaun Ryan

6610 N. Sutherland Ridge Place

Tucson, AZ 85718

Or, F100plt@gmail.com.

Please identify all photos and include a return address for those that are mailed. They <u>will</u> be returned to you. The DVD will be used as part of program at our conventions to honor those who have gone west.

I hope this finds everyone in good spirits and looking forward to receiving all good spirits and energy from our gathering in Las Vegas.

Fondly,

Gail Grover





President Gary Humphries called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. A moment of silence was observed for the CAL Pilots that have Gone West and the troops overseas. A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes of the previous meeting in Houston as written in accordance with Executive Board approval. The reading of said minutes was suspended.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Charlie Starr -Charlie said that the combined balance of the GE Checking and Savings accounts was \$34,000 and that after the expenses for the convention were paid there would be an estimated balance of \$23,200 in the Treasury. The charitable Care account has a balance of \$843 due mostly to the generous donations made in remembrance of K.D. Thompson. A discussion was held regarding whether or not to continue to make a donation to the Care fund of CAL. A motion was made and seconded that we contribute \$2,500 this year, but to make this our final donation. Motion carried . Gary asked for a moment of silent prayer on behalf of K.D. Thompson and the tremendous contribution he made to the organization.

GOLDEN CONTRAILS: Shaun Ryan - Charlie Starr read a letter from Shaun Ryan saying that he was unable to attend the meeting because of health issues but wanted express his concern about the lack of articles, stories and comments submitted to him by the members to be used in the Golden Contrails. He received very few this year and is concerned that the publication may have to be discontinued due to lack of participation. Charlie and Gary urged everyone to submit any interesting stories about adventures or travels they had experienced to Shaun.

A discussion was had regarding whether or not to continue furnishing a printed copy of the Golden Contrails to those who were not able to access the Internet. It was pointed out that this is very expensive due to the printing and mailing costs. A motion was made and seconded that we continue for the time being to print the copies for those members who request it. Motion carried.

PASS TRAVEL REPORT: Bill Chambers -Gary announced that Bill was unable to attend but commended him on the great job he had done on behalf of the retired pilots of CAL regarding the newly established pass policy. Gary answered some of the questions asked regarding the vacation passes and "retired friends" part of the policy.

NEW BUSINESS: Bud Battley asked if Don Gentry would volunteer for the position of President Elect. Don said that he was getting older but would accept the position if everyone promised to help out. A motion was made and seconded that Don Gentry be named our new President Elect. Motion carried.

Gary announced that Tom Doherty had volunteered to take over the position of Treasurer and that Charlie Starr would take over the position of Secretary for the Golden Eagles. A motion was made and seconded to approve these changes. Motion carried.

RAFFLE TICKETS - Don Gentry -Don said that even though he was the President Elect he was still in charge of the raffle and asked everyone to buy more tickets

MOTION TO ADJOURN - At 11:05 AM. there being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Holding true to form as in years past, the motion carried with a close-tounanimous vote. The number of raised hands was somewhat obscured by the members racing for the door.

Submitted by M.E. "Butch" Meier Secretary 08 October 2011

Reservations form for Oct. 18, 2012 Reunion Banquet and Ladies Luncheon

(All meals include tax and gratuity) <u>PLEASE PRINT</u>

Last Name	_, First Name
Address	
City St	tate Zip+
()E-ma	ail
My significant other half (spouse) or guest(s) will attend	Spouse/Guest(s) name(s)
Ladies Luncheon Mixed Baby Greens, Marinated Mango, Pepp Harts of Palm, Plantain Chips, Sour Orange V Jerked Chicken, Baked Breads & Chef's Sign	oadew Peppers, Jinaigrette,
Banquet Dinner (Luau Dinner) Green Salad, Tomato/Cucumber Salad, Pasta Roast Pork Loin, Grilled Atlantic Salmon w/ Chicken Teriyaki, Stir Fried Vegetables All accompaniments, rolls, Chef's Desert, coffee	Salad Mango Salsa, I dinners include:
-	Meal Total: <u>\$.00</u> ty plus banquet entertainment remit this amount
Please send this <u>completed form</u> along with a check f Golden Eagles C/O Tom Doherty, Tre 7 McCormick Way Salem NH, 03079-281	

Deadline for <u>meal reservations</u> is Oct. 12th Banquet or luncheon reservations after this date subject to availability Refunds or cancellations after Oct.12th subject to refunds from hotel

IMPORTANT - MAKE EARLY HOTEL RESERVATIONS DIRECT WITH HOTEL Deadline Sep. 18th

<u>Hotel room reservations</u> and payments <u>must be made directly</u> with the LAS VEGAS TROPICANA HOTEL. Be sure to ask for Golden Eagles group rate of \$95.20 per night. Especially for our golfers - rate is good for the nights of Oct. 16th, 17th, and 18th. The <u>Tropicana's toll free number is: 1-800-634-4000</u>. Local number in Las Vegas is:

1-702-739-2222. Tropicana's address is 3801 Las Vegas Blvd., So. , Las Vegas NV 89109 Room reservations at Golden Eagles' special rate must be made by Sept. 18th

Golden Eagles Golf 2012

- Where: Angel Park Golf Club 100 So. Rampart Blvd.1 Las Vegas, NV 888-4GOLFLV or 702-254-4653 website: angelpark.com
- When: Day One Tuesday Oct. 16th 2012 Start Time- 1330 Day Two - Wednesday Oct 17th 2012 Start Time- 0800



Cost: \$125 per Player for 2 Days, Including Cart

RSVP Deadline: Oct 1, 2012

Make Check Payable to:

Ben McKenzie 103 Branding Iron Cove Georgetown, TX 78628-4885 Tel: 936-203-3104 Email: bmmcgolf@aol.com

Directions: From Tropicana Hotel to Angel Park Golf Club

North on Flamingo Rd. Take ramp onto I-15N. Take exit 42A merge onto 95N. Take exit 81A, merge onto Summerlin Parkway, left onto Rampart Blvd. You will then find the course on your left.

MAIL FORM WITH YOUR CHECK

NAME:

HANDICAP (IFAPPLICABLE):

Anybody can play **handicap or no handicap**Never Played? It's ok. We just have fun!

Continental Airlines Memorabilia Gathering Project by

William J. (Bill) Leeper Continental Airlines Captain, ret. United Airlines Historical Foundation Board of Directors

Since my retirement in 1995, I have established relationships with various airline retirees and discovered how much we have in common. Some of my best friends in my Rotary Club are retired United employees. These new-found friends have provided me with copies of the *United Retired Pilots Association* (RUPA) newsletter over the past several years. It is well-written and provides informative historical articles on the early days of aviation and evolving development of aircraft and routes---great articles about what most of you remember as the "good-old-days" and news of various retirees and social events--- much like our own "Golden Contrails" publication.

As I reviewed each edition, I kept noticing a small printed notice in each one. It reads, "*Please mail your tax-deductible \$ contributions and donations of United <u>and Continental</u> Memorabilia and artifacts to United Airlines Historical Foundation* (UAHF) % Tom Goodyear. "Having a strong interest in Continental History, I made up my mind to get acquainted with Tom to explore what kind of synergy we could generate as a result of our common interests.

Fortunately, that acquaintance opportunity presented itself at the 2011 annual picnic hosted by CAL Captain Norm Meyer (ret.) at his mountain ranch near Conifer, CO. This traditional outing has been cosponsored for the past 24 years by the **Association of** **Retired Employees of Continental Airlines** (*ARECA*) and Captain Meyer. Again this year *AR*-*ECA* has issued invitations to members of *RUAEA* (*UAL Retirees*) and members of RUPA (Retired United Pilots Association) to join their Continental counterparts in order to promote goodwill among the retirees of both airlines.

As a result of that chance meeting with **UAHF** President Tom Goodyear, he invited me to support their goal of adding Continental's history to the Denver **UAHF** museum located in the huge UAL training center (DENTK) near the entrance to the former Stapleton Airport. I happily agreed to join their worthwhile effort and reached out to other Continental retirees to join the existing cadre of volunteers.

Because of Tom Goodyear's vast airline experience, historical aviation knowledge, extensive acquaintance network and goodwill, he was nominated and accepted to associate membership to *The Golden Eagles*. Over time we began to attend meetings of several UAL/ CAL airline retiree groups spreading the word about our "gathering" and archiving efforts. Tom soon joined me and approximately thirty other Continental pilots for their Denver bi-monthly "Perfect Landing" breakfast. As a result of this outreach, Tom has personally conducted numerous guided tours of the museum for many of them.

In order to broaden the scope of the memorabilia solicitation effort, **UAHF** sponsored an open house on March 15th at DENTK for approximately forty Continental pilot retirees and guests. Breakfast in the cafeteria --- including a welcome briefing by Tom --- which was followed by introductions of each participant, a guided tour of the museum, and a "*dog and pony*" style briefing by Managing Director of Flight Standards, Captain Dave Lynn.

We now have an excellent start on our "fledgling" memorabilia collection. Although the gathering process is slower than we would like, we have a few pilot and flight attendant (cont. next page) uniforms and many promises for the future when space becomes available and display locations develop.

A large collection of historically significant photos and documents have been donated from official Continental archives and will be used to provide welldocumented historical displays in the **UAHF** *"hallway"* museum. The late Captain Bud Battley was largely responsible for *"capturing"* these priceless documents with the assistance of several other Houston area retirees. Many thanks to Lavern for safeguarding these archives for the past months.

Former CAL Manager of Flight Crew Ground Training, Ken Lawrence, has graciously accepted the responsibility of inventorying, cataloging, digitizing, and assigning identification numbers to artifacts, photos, clippings, and other CAL documents starting as early as 1934. Ken reports making over 800 individual line entries listing these items on an Excel worksheet, a meticulous process.

Once that job of preserving these artifacts is finished and they become available to display in the museum, they are sure to revive many nostalgic memories for past and present employees of both airlines, as well as provide educational facts of interest to aviation industry researchers and the general public. Since the objective of the **UAHF** is to provide common knowledge and mutual understanding of our parallel aviation histories, please understand that all of these artifacts will be stored and preserved in the **UAHF** archives. Electronic scans can be made available for personal airline career scrapbooking. Scholars, authors, and other researchers are welcome to visit the museum by prior arrangement with the staff.

Many of you remember former CAL/DEN Flight Ops Secretary, Judy Schweppe, and her professional approach to her many and varied job assignments at CAL. Using those same standards, Judy has assisted Ken with these Excel entries in addition to generously donating significant and rare artifacts of CAL memorabilia from her personal collection. Judy also volunteers her time in the archive workshop on a regular basis. Eventually, these Excel entries will be integrated with the museum quality *Past Perfect* software already being used by the UAHF. Quoted below is more background on the UAHF extracted from their brochure:

"The purpose of the United Airlines Historical Foundation is to preserve the history of United Airlines in order to educate and inspire future generations to pursue careers in the field of aviation.

"UAHF dates back to the 1960's when the late Captain Bill Arnott gained approval from United Airlines to display his growing collection of memorabilia in the hallways of United Airlines' Denver Flight Training Center.

"In 1993 a group of coworkers joined Bill to form the **United Airlines Historical Foundation** and have it registered as a not-for-profit IRS 501(c)3 organiza-tion."

The *UAHF*'s Bylaws Committee is in the process of modifying the Foundation's **PURPOSE** and other guidelines with the intent of clarifying that the history of Continental and other merged and/or acquired predecessor and successor companies will be included in the display of the history of United Airlines. The *Foundation's* Mission Statement is:

"Preserve the Past, Inspire the Future"

If you would like more information about how to participate as a volunteer on this project or want to offer much needed financial support or significant artifacts (*defined as almost anything your kids don't want and you're willing to donate*), please email me <<u>wjLeeper@comcast.net</u>> or home phone(303.798.9917) or contact Tom Goodyear by email at <<u>tagoodyear@aol.com</u>>.

William J. Leeper, Continental Captain (ret)



OFF THE BEATEN PATH IN LAS VEGAS

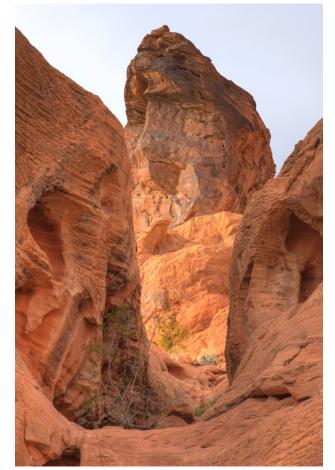
Looking for something different? Tired of the noise and the crowds and the smoke? Hop in your car and

drive up to Red Rock State Park for a

relaxing 1/2day scenic trip. The park is only about 40 miles north off of I-15 and does not require any special type of vehicle. The roads are all paved and the scenery is spectacular. You can see just about everything in the park from the air conditioned comfort of your vehicle but this time of year it might be nice to pack a picnic lunch and enjoy eating while surrounded by all those beautiful red rocks. It is a trip that Linda and I make every time we are in Las Vegas and we have never gotten tired of the scenery.



Elephant Rock



In the late afternoon, with the sun low in the west, the rocks seem to glow.



Nice paved roads throughout the park. No need for four wheel drive.



Some of the scenery visable from Your car.

Golden Contrails C/O Charlie Starr 4328 Sunset Beach Circle Niceville, FL 32578-4820



The Fremont Street Experience