

Awards Received By Weathermen

An AWS detachment commander and part of an AWS weather reconnaissance crew were honored this month at a parade and review which concluded the MATS Eighth Anniversary Commanders' conference at Andrews AFB, Md.

Guest speaker was Gov. Theodore R. McKeldin of Maryland at the ceremony which saw the MATS commander, Lt. Gen. Joseph Smith, present certificates of recognition to selected representatives of each of the MATS services.

Maj. Archie F. Williams, until recently commander of Detachment 10, 12th Weather Squadron, accepted an award "on behalf of all base weather station personnel."

As the certificate read, he was chosen to receive the award in "recognition of and appreciation for your adherence to the professional standards of MATS."

Honored as representative of all AWS reconnaissance crews were Capt. George D. Thurman, aircraft commander; 2d Lt. John A. Varklet jr., pilot; Capt. Eugene Hochstedler, navigator; Maj. Clarence G. Daleke, weather forecaster; Capt. William C. Ihde, engineer; and S/Sgt. Preston A. Smith, radar observer.

Captain Thurman received the certificate for the group, which was selected as a symbolic weather reconnaissance crew.

Major Williams entered the service in 1943 and was commissioned after completing a course in meteorology at the University of California at Los Angeles. In the same year he earned his pilot's wings, later serving with the famed 99th Fighter Squadron when that unit was first activated.

Since World War II, he has served continuously in weather service units. His present assignment is with the 7th Weather group in Alaska.

He is also a former Olympic team member and former holder of the world's record for the quarter-mile. (See story on sports page.)

Engine Hours

Top WB-50 flying time of 144 hours, 40 minutes for one month is reported by Col. Russell W. Neely, commander of the 56th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron on Guam. Maj. Edward L. Johnson, squadron engineering officer, attributes the new record to the work of the crew led by M/Sgt. Luther B. Oster, who kept the aircraft airworthy to rack up this record time for the month.

Ptarmigan Draws More Tourists

Three well-known correspondents flew weather missions with the 58th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron in Alaska during a single weekend recently.

Herbert M. Frisby of the Baltimore, Md., Afro-American and Alfred Van Sprang of the Netherlands magazine, De Spiegel, made the Ptarmigan run, while Eric Downton of North American Newspaper alliance took a Loon flight.

On his Ptarmigan mission, Mr. Frisby dropped a plaque at 85 degrees north latitude in

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Machine Goes to Work on Data As Asheville Unit Plays Host



AT THE CONSOLE of the new IBM 705 electronic data-processing machine some of the guests gather around to see how it works. Checking the equipment are, left to right, Dr. Woodrow C. Jacobs, Mr. Leon Sommerall, Mr. Bill Milia, an unidentified IBM official, Mr. Stanley J. Balsiewicz (seated), Mr. Ralph Ferrell and Brig. Gen. Thomas S. Moorman jr.

More Weather Officers Due; Actions Will Halt Shortage

Several new steps are to be taken by USAF headquarters to short-stop the critical shortage of weather officers. Decisive actions are being initiated to provide new channels for the input of weather officers and old channels are being expanded.

Among the new actions recently agreed upon at a Pentagon conference are utilization of qualified flight training eliminates in the basic meteorology course and recall of qualified reserves applying for active duty for meteorological training.

Another source for weather officers will be opened when the AF Institute of Technology, which supervises weather training, reviews applicants for other technical training programs

with a view toward utilizing qualified men that are quota overages for other fields.

AFROTC input of weather officer trainees will also be increased. The specified-period-of-time contract on active-duty requirements will also be relaxed for AFROTC lieutenants.

The special Pentagon meeting on the weather officer procurement problem was called as a result partially of a July strength projection prepared by AWS headquarters. The projection showed that the Air Weather Service could expect to be 23 percent undermanned in weather officer strength by July 1958.

As part of the program to obtain more weather officer trainees, AWS headquarters has also prepared a booklet which outlines some of the history of AWS and its activities. The booklet contains complete instructions for application by active-duty officers for weather officer training.

It is expected that the booklet will be distributed throughout the field to all AWS units during October. This will enable personnel of every detachment to counsel officers interested in training for weather work.

A poster is also being prepared which will hang in every base weather station, calling attention to the need for weathermen and mentioning the free booklet.

New International Business Machines (IBM) 705 Electronic Data-Processing Machine was installed at the AWS Data Control division in Asheville, N. C., this month. More than 100 news representatives and guests were present at the opening ceremonies on September 26.

The new installation will enable the AWS unit to tackle tougher problems in the field of climatology. The 315 million IBM punched cards on file at the Data Control division, each representing a weather observation somewhere in the world, can now be transcribed on magnetic tape to be used in long-range weather studies by the big machine.

Newsmen and special guests were flown to Asheville from New York and Washington for the installation. Representatives of the country's nation-wide news media, Associated Press, Hearst Newspapers, Journal of Commerce and numerous aviation magazines attended.

AWS Commander Brig. Gen. Thomas S. Moorman jr. addressed the press conference held after lunch at the Battery Park hotel. IBM officials briefed the guests on the capacities of the new machine installation and Dr. Woodrow C. Jacobs, AWS director of climatology, explained how the machine would be used in conducting special weather studies.

After the briefing the group went across the street to the Grove Arcade building to the offices of the Data Control division, headed by Mr. James De Coster, for a guided tour of the installation.

Among the guests were Brig. Gen. L. O. Ryan, USAF director of statistical services, and Mr. John C. McPherson, IBM vice-president.

Later in the week the official Air Force Dance Band, The Airmen of Note, journeyed to Asheville for two engagements marking the opening of the new installation. They played an afternoon concert to the students of Lee Edwards high school, and an evening charity dance.

On the opening day of the data computer, guests were flown to Asheville on an AF C-131. After the tour of the installation a reception was held.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Watch next month's Observer for a special feature on climatology and the use of the new data processing machine in long-range weather study.



WEATHERMAN'S AWARD is received on behalf of all AWS base weather personnel by Maj. Archie F. Williams from Lt. Gen. Joseph Smith, MATS commander.

AWS Melody Draws Comment

Last month the Observer ran a version of the AWS Song and stirred up a minor controversy among AWS music lovers as to the origin of the piece. From all accounts, 2d Lt. Eugene Devereaux put together the first three verses and the chorus.

But since the weather service had no reconnaissance division in those days, it was not until 1950 or thereabouts that AWS airborne worthies came in for their measure of glory in melody.

It started in Guam when the old 514th Reconnaissance Squadron, presently the 54th WRS, was putting together a squadron song book. Mrs. Barbara Istvan, wife of Maj. Edwin J. Istvan, now of AWS Materiel, was nonplussed when she discovered that the recon boys had been overlooked in the lyrics department.

Being a competent hand at molding the English language into palatable form, whether it be prose, poetry or lyrics, Mrs. Istvan set about to correct the situation and the last three verses of the ditty were the result.

Incidentally, the 514th's squadron song book was printed in Japan and turned out to be a nifty publication. Matter of fact, it has turned out to be a collector's item among AWS types and you can't get 'em anymore for love nor money.

We hope we haven't heard the end of this song business and we welcome any additional verses or further information on the subject.

AIR WEATHER SERVICE

OBSERVER

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BRIG. GEN. THOMAS S. MOORMAN, JR.
Commander, Air Weather Service

CAPT. EDWARD G. VRABLE
Chief, Information Services

JOHN D. RUGG
Editor

S/SGT. ROBERT G. McCARTNEY S/SGT. J. FRANK SUBKO
Assistant Editor Sports Editor

A Decade of Security through Global Airpower

Don't Be in at the Death

The other day we ran across an item which originally appeared in the Buffalo (N. Y.) Courier-Express. It rams home a lesson in ground safety more effectively than anything we have seen in a long time.

Here it is as told to Reporter Walter Froehlich by the driver of a car which killed a child:

They ask me did I see the child. Yes, I saw him, and he's all I've been seeing since. I saw him, but it was too late to stop. I was the last one to see him alive, and the first to see his lifeless body limply sprawled on the pavement, a few inches from the bumper of my car.

Yes, I am the man they now call "Death Car Driver". I own the car whose pictures you saw in the daily press. And yet, a thousand times I wish I were the victim rather than the man who killed him. For he died only once, but I have died a thousand deaths since.

I walked ahead and bent over his crumpled form. "Call an ambulance," I shouted. "Quick!" I saw the crowd gathering. They looked at the child and then at me.

Then came police and then the doctor. He looked first at the bloody face and form, then looked away and slowly shook his head. And then I saw the anguished features of a man—the father—and heard the desperate scream of a bereaved mother—how can I forget?

And when the scene had cleared and I had filed reports at headquarters and the police had cleared me, I stood alone and suddenly knew what I had really done.

"Could happen to any of us," a voice behind me said. "You were not speeding or violating any law. No charges were preferred against you. The child was roaming the streets alone and ran out in front of you."

It could happen to any of us, sure. But who can replace a life? Should I visit the parents? See the child laid out? Or coldly disregard the death, the bitter grief?

Will the father, mother hate me? A sense of moral guilt hangs over me. I wasn't careless. I was within the law, but my conscience lives with me and I live with it.

And to think that the slightest bit more attention on my part could have averted this will haunt my thoughts for every hour I shall live.

Reup Rate High For Past Year

AWS stood fifth in reenlistments among the 12 major MATS units for fiscal year 1956, according to preliminary figures recently released by MATS headquarters.

Pegged at 43%, the AWS rate compares favorably with the MATS rate of 39% and the USAF rate of 44%.

Of interest is the AWS standing throughout the fiscal year. At the end of the first quarter, AWS was 11th among the 12 MATS units.

It was in a tie for fifth place at the end of the second quarter, rising to fourth at the end of the third quarter. Although AWS slipped to eighth position in the final quarter, its over-all showing for the year rated a solid fifth.

Of concern to AWS headquarters is the reup rate for first-term airmen in June, which was quite low. USAF headquarters, however, attributes low rates at this time to a seasonal decline because of early-outs to enter school.

AWS personnel officials report that the over-all AWS rate has been kept where it is only because of a favorable mixture of career and first-term airmen eligible to reup.

The entire picture, they believe, would be considerably rosier if more first-term airmen became interested in an AWS career.



SKIING TIME will be coming soon and pert Miss Barbara Darrow of Paramount gives us a preview of things to come.

Hurricane Queen Sought at Kindley

Miss Hurricane Hunter is due to be selected by the 59th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron in Bermuda. A base-wide contest is being conducted at Kindley AFB to find the queen of the big blows.

Winner of the title will be presented with a handsome gold-and-onyx trophy and will have her picture flown into the eye of each hurricane this season.

Initial judging will be on the basis of photographs and finalists will be picked at a special show in the base theater. Prizes have been donated by the local merchants for all 10 finalists.

Capt. Robert Moen of the 59th is managing the contest and guarding the pictures until the judging starts.

ON THE skew-T AWS Global Report

The 59th WRS's Airman-of-the-Month award for August went to A/1c Joel E. Schaefer. In addition to a sawbuck in cash and three days' liberty, Schaefer drew a month's immunity from all details. Presentation was made by the 59th commander, Lt. Col. Earl F. Dunphy, at the monthly Commander's Call.

Seems like strange things have been happening at the 5th Wea gp's Detachment 13 at Narsarsuaq AB, Greenland. We got recent word that the Detco, Maj. D. S. McReynolds, and the NCOIC of the R-section, M/Sgt. J. W. Kendall, prepared and served a waffle breakfast for the upper-air section. Must have been in celebration of a recent upper-air record. Also hear the major and the sergeant won the horseshoe-pitching contest that same day.

We can remember when asking for a tour in Alaska was like knocking for admission to the psychiatric ward. Not so any more. Weather types now not only ask for duty in Seward's Icebox; they ask for extensions to their tours. In recent months six men of the Alaskan Weather center have requested additional time in the far north—Capt. Dan Englander, Lt. Robert Glahn, S/Sgt. Lowell Cooke, A/1c George McElroy and Frederick and A/2c John Wing.

Hunting and fishing up that way make it an outdoorsman's paradise. So if you haven't been bagging your share of deer or trout of late, a tour of duty in Alaska may turn out to be just what the psychiatrist ordered.

Stories of practical jokers in the grand old AWS would fill a volume. There comes to mind the gagster who painted the eyepiece of the theodolite and left a neat black circle around the optic of the unsuspecting chap who took the next Pibal. But at one of our detachments in the sunny south, somebody reached deep into the bag of meteorological mischief and came up with a new one. A dab of grease was slapped on the psychrometer one night and when the observer on duty spun the gadget for his wet-bulb reading, he was splattered with goo. Recommended punishment, if the culprit is caught: wash his mouth out with a clinometer full of used dashpot fluid.

Over at TAC Weather center in Ramstein, Germany, Lt. Col. Edward J. Daly received the University of Maryland Educational Achievement award on behalf of the members of his detachment attending U. of Md. extension courses. Maj. Gen. Robert M. Lee, commander of the Twelfth Air Force, made the presentation during a dinner at the Ramstein NCO club. The award, a handsome plaque, goes to the unit having the greatest percentage of students attending classes. Congratulations are in order—to the students and to Colonel Daly, whom we recall as a P-40 pilot in North Africa back in the days when the Afrika Korps under Rommel had more planes in the sky than we did.

Maj. Peter D. Dustman, commander of Det 15, 19th Wea sq at Malmstrom AFB, Mont., recently played a key role in getting the battleship "Mon-

A roundup of news items from the far-flung reaches of the Air Weather Service.

tana" back to its proper station. The Montana we refer to is a 20-foot glass-encased model which had been on exhibition at the Montana state fair in early August. Major Dustman helped see that the ship was safely air-shipped back to the Billings Naval Recruiting Station.

Young Billy Killen, son of Maj. Willie W. Killen, commander of the 3234th Squadron at Williams AFB, Ariz., has gotten a running start in the weather business. In meeting the requirements for the Boy Scout merit badge for weather, Billy has been putting in a lot of time around the Williams base weather station. Part of the requirements for the merit badge are to record weather, know the composition of the atmosphere and the climate of the US and to have a working knowledge of weather charts and forecasts.

Honored recently as the military Edwardite of the week at Edwards AFB, Calif., was A/1c Leonard Parks, chief observer at Det 21, 4th Wea gp, at Edwards. A native of nearby Los Angeles, Parks is a man of many talents. In 1954 he was a member of the 20th Air Force football team on Okinawa, being named to the All-Star team that year. He has two years of dental school behind him and has been playing a mighty sweet clarinet since the tender age of eight. Matter of fact, he got to be an observer by asking to become a dental technician or a musician in the Air Force. Airman Parks was nominated for the honor because of his outstanding performance as chief observer.

T/Sgt. John L. Cossitt of Det 19, 4th Wea gp, at Dugway proving ground, Utah, recently received a silver cup for winning fourth place in the Inter-Service Photographic contest this year. Capt. George C. Mitchell, commander of the detachment, presented the award.

Up at Eielson AFB, Alaska, the 58th WRS's recent Open House featured the christening of the squadron's first WB-50 in honor of the city of Fairbanks. The plane was named "The Golden Heart," alluding to Fairbanks' history as a gold-mining center and to its central location in the territory. Mrs. Marilyn Barnett, wife of A/1c Harvey Barnett of the 58th, broke the traditional bottle of champagne in the christening ceremony. Mrs. Barnett represented Eielson in the Fairbanks Winter Carnival last winter and won the title of Mrs. Fairbanks. Present at the ceremony were the mayor of Fairbanks and members of the Chamber of Commerce.

The average number of calls per day for Tokyo Weather central's automatic telephone-answering device has been 400 since its installation at Fuchu air station in May.

1st Wea wg personnel contributed \$186.50 to the local Air Force Aid Society membership drive at Fuchu air station. This was a 77% per capita participation by members of the weather wing.

T/Sgt. Mark D. Carll, 1st Wea wg office of information services, has left for Lackland AFB, Tex., where he will attend USAF OCS.

The OBSERVER Spotlights



Detachment 4 11th Weather Squadron

This month the Observer spotlights Detachment 4 of the 11th Weather Squadron. This detachment is part of the 8th Weather Group, which supports the Air Training Command. The 11th Squadron provides weather support to the Technical Training Air Force, one of the three subdivisions of the Air Training Command.

Detachment 4 at Lowry AFB, Colo., is commanded by Maj. Harold A. Jacobs. It is one of the largest detachments in Air Weather Service.

The mission of the men at the mile-high unit east of Denver typifies the variety found in the work of many AF weathermen. The 53 officers and airmen at Lowry provide weather service for Technical Training wing, the 1480th Flight Service center and, for approximately two months each year, the summer White House.

Few AWS weathermen can look out on the ramp and see the arrival of national and international dignitaries that are seen by the personnel at Lowry.

Because of its location approximately 1,000 miles from the west coast, transient jet pilots find Lowry a convenient spot to land for refueling and a snack. Only deterrents to jet pilots at Lowry are the usual scattered afternoon thunder showers and the fact that the runway is 5,400 feet above sea level, which adds considerably to the takeoff roll, particularly on a hot summer afternoon.

The Flight Service center, supported by Detachment 4, encompasses the largest ZI Flight Service area. Forecasters clear aircraft in an area bounded by Minnesota and Montana on the north and Colorado and Missouri on the south.

During an average month 5,000 telephone briefings are given to pilots at remote fields throughout the area. This highly specialized service, requiring experienced forecasters, is available 24 hours a day.

One of the early AWS CPS-9 installations is at Lowry. The radar storm-detection set sees a great deal of use by the forecasters and pilots who are briefed with the remote scope. The in-commission rate for the Lowry set is among the highest in AWS.

The heavy cumulonimbus and swelling cumulus so prevalent in the Denver area during the summer months can be exactly analyzed and tracked by the CPS-9. Technicians in the CPS-9 section are under the supervision of M/Sgt. Harold G. Hoots from Hannibal, Mo.

The observer working at the Lowry weather detachment is



CHIEF OBSERVER S/Sgt. Irvin Babcock adjusts the density of the latest fax map.

not a man to be envied, that is unless one enjoys walking and/or running. The weather station and the Flight Service center are at the opposite ends of a large hangar.

Posting maps and filing sequences for three separate locations—there are two in Flight Service—gets to be quite a marathon, with the observation, dissemination and transmission schedule.

Lowry observers work round the clock under the capable supervision of S/Sgt. Irvin R. Babcock from Moscow, Iowa. They turn out a volume and quality of work that would be hard to surpass.

Those who follow the keen competition among AWS rawinsonde sections around the world are well aware that Lowry has ranked right at the top in AWS over-all performance during the past year.

Since October 1955 the section has always exceeded the AWS averages and been top banana in their parent squadron, the 11th, and group, the 8th. For all except one month they rated among the top ten in AWS.

For five months the rawinsonde section held position in the top three, AWS-wide, coping the number-one slot three times. Major Jacobs, detco, attributes the high quality of work in the Lowry section to excellent teamwork among operators, maintenance personnel and the supply NCO.

S/Sgt. Michael T. Hardyman from Blanchardville, Wisc., assures a steady flow of freshly dated expendables. S/Sgt. Irvin

L. Wenger from Dayton, Va., rides herd on the operators and usually promotes competition by working a shift himself and then challenging the other two shifts to top his record.

Laurels also to M/Sgt. Clair Snyder, Pittsburgh, Pa., and S/Sgt. Samuel Wilson, Webster City, Iowa, for top-notch equipment maintenance.

By press time, however, the work of these men will be finished at Lowry, as they turn their work over to the US Weather Bureau facilities at Denver Municipal airport.

The Air Force academy, currently located at Lowry, is one of the largest users of Detachment 4 services. All personnel on flights made by cadets in the T-29 for navigational training are formally briefed as for a tactical mission.

With the first academy class in its sophomore year, these briefings are becoming more frequent. Two of these briefings are now presented each day and plans call for an increase to accommodate 20 training flights per day.

The academy's F-86s, T-33s and B-25s also account for 600 to 800 local clearances a month.



REMOTE SCOPE of the detachment's CPS-9 is checked for local CB's by Lieutenant Frey and S/Sgt. John Reitzel of Stilesville, Ind.

AMS Chapter To Be Started At Kindley AB

In Bermuda AF weathermen are busy organizing a chapter of the American Meteorological Society. Capt. William E. Harrell of the 59th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, one of the key organizers, says plans call for the first organizational meeting sometime in October.

Membership is open to all members of the Colony who are interested in weather. One of the first reports to the members will be on the new CPS-9 radar set recently installed at the base weather station.

It is planned to hold regular monthly meetings. Standing committees will be established which will meet frequently and report to the branch membership on current activities in special subjects.

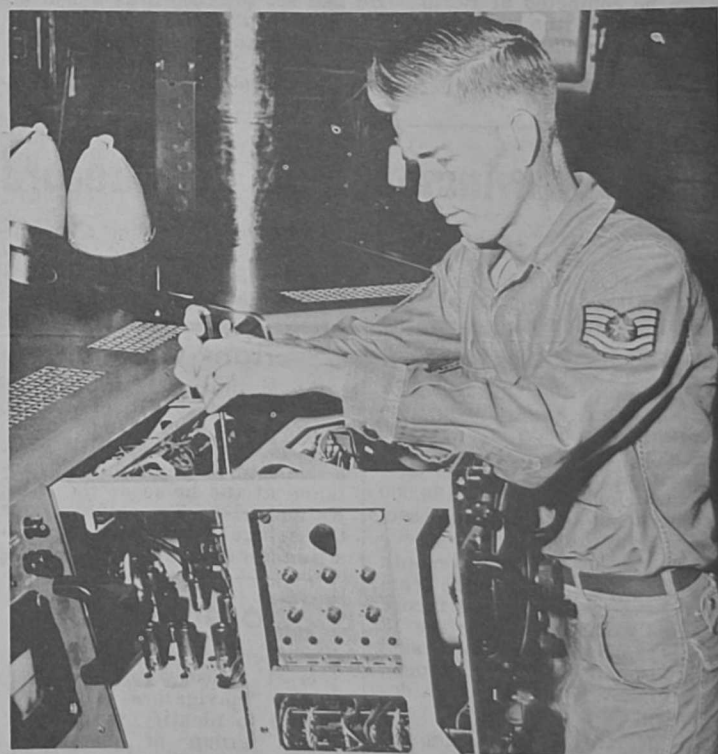


PILOT-TO-FORECASTER radio is used for briefing by S/Sgt. Richard Granger of Lake City, Mich.

Flying safety lectures are presented to both academy and base pilots and weather training provided for both academy and base instrument schools.

A busy organization with variation and interest to its

mission, the personnel of Detachment 4 take pleasure in reporting and forecasting the weather in the *climate capitol of the United States*. (Italics courtesy the Denver Chamber of Commerce.)



MINOR ADJUSTMENT on the CPS-9 is performed by Maintenance Technician T/Sgt. James Colbert of Farmington, N. M.



BRIEFING FOR "KAYDETS" is given by Capt. George Sanderson of Bane, Vt. The AF academy men are Donald E. Thurman of Shelby, Ohio, and James L. Branton of Cisco, Tex.



"**LIVE ONE**" gets phone rundown on weather from forecaster 1st Lt. Dean Frey of Fairburg, Nebr.

Weather Officer Remembers Earlier Days at Olympics

Whenever the boys gather to hoist a few and the topic of conversation turns to sports pageantry, the 1936 Olympic Games at Berlin are bound to come up.

That was the year when the Third Reich under Adolf Hitler, with characteristic thoroughness, poured vast sums of money and energy into the occasion.

No expense was spared to provide the Reichs Sports Grounds with a stadium of classic structure and with a model Olympic village that included even television in individual cottages. Seemingly, every effort was expended to create for Germany the honor of having arranged the most spectacular of all carnivals.

There are many who still believe that Berlin in 1936 was the greatest pageant since the days of the gladiators of ancient Rome. Unknown at the time, it was destined to be the last Olympic meeting until after World War II.

The 1940 Olympics, slated for Tokyo, were cancelled due to the outbreak of hostilities in Europe and the games were not resumed until 1948 in London.

Thus, with the XVI Olympiad coming up in Melbourne, Australia, memories of Berlin in 1936 are stirred in the mind of one AWS man. Maj. Archie F. Williams, honored recently in a ceremony at Andrews AFB, Md., (see story on page one) recalls those days vividly.

Winner of the 400-meter race at Berlin, Major Williams was part of what is regarded the best balanced track and field unit of all time. There were many great names in the US troupe that journeyed to the Reich capitol.

For that was also the heyday of Jesse Owens, Ralph Metcalfe, Glenn Cunningham, Spec Towns, Johnny Woodruff, Earle Meadows and a host of others.

Williams was already the holder of the world's 440-yard mark when he competed at Berlin. He had set the record as a University of California sophomore only a month before.

He pulled a leg muscle during the year following the Olympics. It responded to treatment slowly and was further aggravated in another meet. Shortly thereafter, he retired from active competition permanently.

Chilly Rawinmen Still Top Record

Up at Narsarsuak AB in southern Greenland, the rawinsonde section of Detachment 13, 5th Weather group topped the monthly altitude record for the Northeast Air Command during July.

Averaging 103,000 feet for 124 obligated runs during the month, the section also established a new high for a single run with a mark of 146,000 feet. The previous high of 139,000 feet was set by this same section in May of this year.

"The record-smashing month is a tribute to maximum team effort and credit for the record is equally spread among the 13 members of the R-section," said Maj. Donald S. McReynolds, commander of the weather detachment.

The Northeast Air Command for which the 5th Group provides meteorological support guards the last northern terrestrial frontier. Old hands up

there point out that they operate in some of the "most weird weather conditions of any land-sea-air area in the world."

Errant Antenna

At Mullinville, Kan., reports the Ramey AFB Tropicair, those "wayward winds" have been having a time of it. First a windstorm bent the TV antenna at the home of the B. C. Kaltenbachs. Two nights later the fringe fury of a tornado straightened it again.

"Observer" Out

There are no more "aircraft observers." The term "navigators" will be used to identify the general group of nonpilot rated AF officers, according to AFPTR-F-3 1136/56, dated July 23, 1956.



TOUCH OF NOSTALGIA for Maj. Archie F. Williams, as he tries on those shoes that once saw the Olympics.

AWS Deaths

The Observer regrettably reports the deaths of the following Air Weather Service personnel:

A/1c Douglas E. Orlick, Detachment 10, 9th Weather group, on August 16 presumably of drowning at Elbow Beach, Bermuda.

1st Lt. William E. Crump, Detachment 2, 15th Weather squadron, on August 21 of poliomyelitis at Andersen AFB, Guam.

Maj. Dale Richardson, Capt. Leonard N. Chapman jr., Capt. Everett E. Dyson, 1st Lt. William J. Wolters jr., 2d Lt. William W. Faustlin, M/Sgt. Fred T. Gregg, S/Sgt. Donald R. Ragland, A/2c Melvin O. Lindsay, A/2c Elijah Spencer and A/3c Douglas W. Maxson, 58th Weather Reconnaissance squadron, on August 31 of injuries received in an aircraft accident 32 miles north of Anchorage, Alaska.

Prior-Service Personnel Get Special Letter

Last month the AWS commander emphasized the importance of encouraging prior-service airmen with weather specialties to reenlist and return to the AF weather family.

In a special letter to all AWS commanders, Brig. Gen. Thomas S. Moorman jr. pointed out that ex-service people who join or rejoin the Air Force are largely career minded.

The general outlines in his letter a program whereby every weather airman who is discharged will receive a personal letter from General Moorman inviting him to visit the AF weather facility nearest his home. The commander of that weather unit is also notified about the recently discharged airmen in his area.

The general feels that the unit commander, in cooperation with the base recruiting office, can in many cases prevail upon the airman to reconsider an AF career.

MATS Commander Lt. Gen. Joseph Smith supports this approach. He indicates that greater success is achieved when the prior-service man is afforded the opportunity to talk to the "user" rather than the recruiter.

Pibal in the Corner Pocket

By Frank Subko

ALREADY AMAZED at what Brooklyn did to the National league, with a team of supposedly has-beens, can you imagine anything similar happening within Air Weather Service? Detachment 24, 4th Weather group, located at Holloman Air Force Base, recently won the base softball championship. Not with has-beens, but with a total strength of only 55 men. Detachment 24 became the smallest unit ever to win a base championship at Holloman when they went undefeated in the intramural softball playoffs. With a record of 13 wins and five losses, the detachment topped the national league in regular season play. Consistent hitting, team average of .348, backed up with superb pitching, seemed to do the trick. Leading the hitting column with .523 was Lt. Ed Sandlin, who also handled the pitching chores. The other leading hitters were T/Sgt. Nathaniel Smith with .429, A/1c Richard A. Harald with .409 and S/Sgt. William P. Thusen with .396.

THE 2D WEATHER WING recently won its own softball tourney by beating the 31st Weather squadron. The tourney opened at Furstenfeldbruck, but rain forced a move to Bitburg. In the tourney opener at Fursty, the 53d Weather Reconnaissance squadron of Burtonwood, England, was knocked out of the double-elimination tourney by losing to the 18th Weather squadron and to the wing headquarters team. Moving to Bitburg, the teams had the following records: 31st Weather squadron, 1-0; 18th Weather squadron, 1-1; and headquarters, 1-0. The 31st Weather squadron clobbered Wiebaden's 18th Weather squadron, 27-5. This eliminated the 18th Weather squadron and set the stage for a championship battle between the 31st Weather squadron and the 2d Weather wing. The title was decided in the last of the seventh. Trailing by a run in the last of the seventh, the wing brought across the winning run and the championship.

AN ALL-STAR TEAM was chosen, consisting of the following players: pitcher, Belue, Hqs; catcher, Meyer, Hqs; 1B, Starrett, 31st Wearon; 2B, Young, 18th Wearon; SS, Heyward, Hqs (also most valuable player); 3B, Bradley, Hqs; LF, Heinklein, 53d WRS; CF, Lazarick, 53d WRS; RF, Miles, 31st Wearon; manager, Echols, 31st Wearon.

It seems that the interservice football championship will be determined when Bolling AFB meets Quantico. With Quantico impressively mauling Fort Belvoir and Bolling unmercifully romping Mitchell AFB, the Eastern Championship should definitely be decided between the two. Only a Western team can upset either, and who that would be we don't know. Bolling lost one of the best passing combinations in service football by losing Tommy O'Connell and Lowell Perry, probably the best end in service football; but gaining Ralph Guglielmi and Dan Shannon probably made them forget they ever had Perry or O'Connell.

This is the way we see the college football standings at the close of the season:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Oklahoma | 6. Southern Cal |
| 2. Michigan State | 7. Mississippi |
| 3. Texas Christian | 8. Tennessee |
| 4. Georgia Tech | 9. Texas A&M |
| 5. Ohio State | 10. West Virginia |

Oklahoma seems to be a cinch for national football championship. The only team that might stop Oklahoma is Notre Dame, which didn't look too hard to Southern Methodist. The only obvious strength of Notre Dame is Paul Horning, a good bet in anyone's book for all American Quarterback. Michigan State with the roughest schedule of all should take the Big Ten Championship and second collegiate honors. They make a habit of beating the Irish, so no problem there. Texas Christian, with Jim Swink usually good for two touchdowns a game, has the Southwest conference title and national recognition. They could have trouble with the Texas Aggies or SMU. In the Southwest conference it's a good idea to stay silent. Doesn't seem to be too much power in the South, and with Duke losing to South Carolina, Georgia Tech should have a clear field. Ohio State would have a good chance for third nationally, but they're in the same conference with Michigan State and Michigan, who if in another conference too would have a chance for the top ten. The power of the West Coast seems to be Southern California. Mississippi, always a rugged club, looks good to me for at least seventh. Tennessee, to show a few others that football still exists at Tennessee, should be around eighth. Texas A&M, overshadowed by TCU, should come out ninth anyway. West Virginia, though losing its first game, shouldn't have any trouble with the rest of its schedule and is a good bet for tenth. Coach Lewis has a big line and some experienced backs and only an upset could hurt them. A good dark horse—and I look for them to lose only to West Virginia—is George Washington.

A WORD TO THE WISE—Old Pibal is running low on good, solid sports news of the AWS world. No roving reporters, no wire service, no nothing—except you sports-minded guys AWS-wide. How about letting us know what goes on?

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HIGH STRUTTING rawin men of 5th Group's Detachment 13 at Narsarsuak AB in Greenland are justly proud of their average of 103,520 feet for 124 regular runs. Standing are M/Sgt. John Kendall (left) and Detco Maj. Donald S. McReynolds. Shift members seated, left to right, are, A/2c R. L. Campbell, S/Sgt. P. L. Hart and A/2c E. Eustice, H. Elmore and R. Enslay.