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# RELATIVE

The Official Publication Of The North Dakota Aviation **Association And Carrying The** Official News Of The North Dakota Aeronautics Commission.



Vol. 2 - No. 1

September 1980

Wahpeton, ND 58075

#### Walt-Behrens

## Leaving a lot of lights on

By Patricia J. Estes

"I'll leave a light on in the window." That's an old familiar soothing promise! Mothers say it to youngsters heading out for an evening's activities. Wives say it to husbands on the way home from a long business trip. It's said to travelers, who will arrive late, weary and confused.

Well, Walt Behrens has used his imagination to leave a lot of lights on . . . only not in the windows but along the nation's airport runways.

**Assistant Airport Manager at** Minot for over 20 years, Behrens has invented a new

runway light standard.

Slogging through snow, fighting those challenging prairie winter winds to locate runway lights which had been broken by the plow, buried by the snow or weathered by the elements, Behrens decided there had to be a better way.

Plows weren't the only machinery which knocked over the runway lights. Planes too sometimes knocked one or two

And to a pilot descending out of the black night, those runway lights are as welcome as the light in the window at home...and a lot more



Activity at the Minot terminal as assistant manager Walt Behrens, behind counter, assists those stopping by.

necessary.

North Dakota winter shuffle down the runway in search of lights to be repaired and replaced, he would think there has to be another way.

numb fingers spurred him to decide he would find the better way.

And back in the warm cozy So as Behrens would do the Minot Airport assistant manager's office, he began thinking, and thinking and thinking until he found the better way.

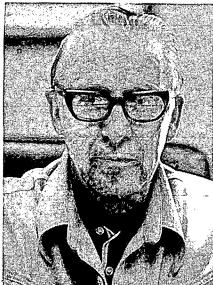
Once he had the idea he refin-

Today, he is manufacturing **Continued on Page 2** 

C. H. Petersen

## Minot Airport manager As he would replace the lights ed it until it met the variety of in that below zero cold snap, his needs he saw.

C.W. Petersen took over the job of Minot Airport Manager in 1957. The job has kept him



C.H. Petersen

#### Attend NDAA **Annual Meeting**

The North Dakota Aviation Association annual meeting will be January 21, 22 and 23 at the Holiday Inn in Bismarck, N.D.

The program will carry messages of interest to all aspects of aviation in North Dakota. If you have an idea for this year's convention program, let us

Meanwhile circle those dates. If you are involved in aviation in North Dakota, plan to be there.

close to aviation even though eye problems have taken him from behind his plane's control wheel.

Petersen was born about 40 miles from Minot at Makoti. Shortly after graduating from high school there, he served a stint in the Air Corps. He learned the skills of radio operation

After the service he operated a business in his hometown for

Later after selling that, he moved to Minot and worked at the John Moses Veterans Administration Hospital in administration and clerical work.

While back at Makoti he had bought a plane and begun to fly. However, eye trouble ended that beloved hobby.

Upon hearing of the job opening as Airport Manager, Petersen applied. The job is part of the Civil Service plan in Minot. He went through that application and examination pro-

The City Manager then recommended Petersen for the job and he received his appointment in 1957. By now he has logged over two decades of service to aviation in that job.

His able assistant is Walt Behrens. Norma Berg and Jan Motter each work halftome to fill the full-time secretary's slot.

Petersen speaks highly of his staff and the facilities at Minot.

#### Minot International Airport

#### Over a half century of service

By Patricia J. Estes

Aviation activities at the Minot International Airport date back prior to July 1928. However, it was in 1928 the airport was officially dedicated. At that time the facility met the needs of private aviation.

The airport history is recorded in scrapbooks kept in the office of its current manager, C.H. Petersen. This history is updated steadily.

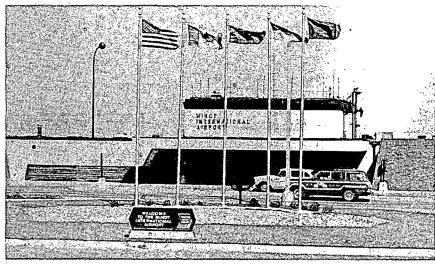
While these records show the first terminal was on the scene in the 1930s, the history does not reveal the exact date of the construction of the first terminal. Eventually

tion buffs in the area may supply the missing data.

First attempts to provide some sort of scheduled air charter services can be found in the 1930s or '40s. Local aviators and businessmen made these first attempts, using planes such as the small Lockheed.

By the mid 1940s the federal government's interest in the Minot airport led to asphalt runways. The Army was involved with use of the facilities as was the Navy which had a training program at the field.

Continued on Page 3



Welcome to the Minot International Airport.

#### **Walt Behrens**

and marketing the FAA approved Life-A-Lites.

First he designed a polyvinyl chloride material light standard to resist weather and chemicals. The new standard was also pretty tough and broke much less.

Next he designed a telescoping system with a simple spring loaded pin for raising and lowering the unit. No tools are needed, just a pen. This meant lights could be raised for snow or other nearby maintenance type operations.

Then he began concentrating on answering the breakage problem. While the new unit broke less than the former lights, Behrens wanted to minimize that breakage and replacement.

So he designed a press-in flange to mate with a coupling that screws into a standard base plante.

This breakaway unit will reduce light replacement cost dramatically. When the light is

the unit back into the coupling.

The lights lift out for easy mowing. The unbreakable pop out release coupling replaces costly frangible coupling and releases at FAA approved pressure. The Lift-A-Lite is constructed of unbreakable, non-corrosive material.

The standards can be custom made to any stationary height or telescoping where snow is a problem. They are adaptable to most lamp heads.

The same standard can be used for taxiway and runway signs. They come with reflectorized letters or numbers of the customer's choice.

The letters, numbers and arrows of 18 gauge steel come in various heights and with different color backgrounds.

While Behrens originally designed the new light standards for airport runway lights, they can be used as all purpose markers to identify driveways, culverts and corners with reflectorized markers.

There may be those who question the worth of North Dakota blizzards and severe winters but Walt Behrens

knocked out, you simply push knows that weather spurred Walt Behrens found a better him to find a better way to keep runway lights operating.

By 1979 Behrens began placing the new runway light standards along the Minot runways. They stand today, proof that

way.

And they are being placed at other airports because Walt's better way is a better way for aviation, not just Minot.

#### From Your President

By Bill Beeks, NDAA President

This has been an unusual season for both the farmer and the aerial applicator - Farmer's in the Washburn area are wondering if they can get declared a disaster area twice in one year. The first time for drouth and the second time for flood. It seems we have been experiencing both the lack of rain early in the year, and now an abundance of rain. Farmers west of Washburn reported up to seven inches of rain on August 20. A flight over the area revealed swaths under water or partly washed away.

With the small grains being poor as a result of drouth during the growing season and now damaged by rain, the

farmer's plight is real.

The only bright spot is that the rains came in time to help the sunflower crop. The sunflowers are as good as I have seen, in this area.

Other parts of the state still have no moisture and others have received severe hail damage.

Big Sky Airlines is now serving the western part of the state providing needed transportation and connections for the booming energy industry.

The small town airports are also seeking improvements and expansion of facilities to handle the growing demands of business and air taxi as a result of the energy industry in the

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#### **Airport dedication**

Barnes County Municipal Airport at Valley City, N.D., announced an open house and commemoration of 50 years of service of the Valley City airport on Sunday, September 14, 1980. The event will kick-off with a flight breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon followed with a dedication ceremony at 1:30 p.m. an Air show will follow from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. with aerobatics, sail plane, and hot air balloon. Antique airplanes and their owners are especially invited. Charles Klessig of Galesburg, N.D., is expected to fly in with an antique 1917 Standard J-1 powered with Hispano Suzia engine.

Barnes County Airport Authority has reconstructed

Les Elliott, Manager of the the Valley City Airport with a new NW-SE runway pavement of 4,200 ft. by 75 ft., taxiway and apron extension, paved access road which involved land and clear zone acquisition and a 500 ft. extension of the paved NW-SE runway. The airport improvement was built at a cost of about \$500,000 including \$400,000 in federal aid funds and \$40,000 of state aid funds.

The Barnes County Airport at Valley City was originally opened in June, 1930.

#### **Breckenridge-Wahpeton** Interstate Airport gets airport funds

The Federal Aviation Administration, Airports Division, Rocky Mountain Region, Denver, has allocated \$114,141 of federal airport-aid funds to the Breckenridge-Wahpeton Interstate Airport Authority for acquisition of land and clear zones for runway expansion.

#### DOES SNOW BURY YOUR RUNWAY LIGHTS?

# DOES REPLACING LIGHT STANDARDS COST TOO MUCH?



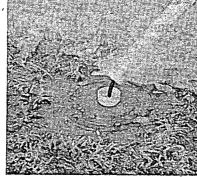
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September 1980

#### **Minot Airport**

"I'm not sure just why," Petersen says, "but until the mid '50s the City Park Board owned the airport and supervised its operation." We pause to wonder if there are any other airports in North Dakota which were ever managed by a Park Board.

The Minot airport history is one of repeated efforts' to establish regular air service between Minot and Bismarck. Records show the firm of Midcontinent secured a contract to provide air mail service around December 1939 from Minot to Bismarck. Firm officials expressed hope that regular passenger service between those two points would be a reality by the next fall.

A September 11, 1929 ad by International Airways Inc. in the local paper offered a round trip to Bismarck for \$18 and a one way journey for \$10.

Eventually Braniff served Minot for a period. When oil development in that area spurred growth, competition for service ensued. Eventually North Central, today Republic airlines, and Frontier won the right to serve Minot. Those two airlines are still based there.

The current terminal was built in 1958. It was remodeled and expanded as needed in 1962, '68 and '76. By 1959, North Central and Frontier were occupying space in the new ter-minal. Today there are four jets into Minot daily and four

In the near future Frontier plans to add a flight to and from Regina and Saskatoon, Canada. This may require expansion of the customs facility.

Frontier officials expect Canadian passengers will use this as a connecting Frontier flight to Denver, California, etc.

Republic flights provide passengers with flights to Grand Forks, Fargo, Minneapolis and Chicago and connections eastward.

The effort to get regular serv-

ice to Bismarck is still ongoing. While there has been much progress in bringing improved, expanded flight service to Minot, there has been little in the Bismarck direction, according to Petersen.

There was a time when Frontier did stop at Bismarck and provided a route to Williston as

well. RealWest Airlines was operating a variety of commuter services out of Minot but that young firm ceased flights in recent months when it reportedly ran into financial difficulties.

Recently Big Sky, a commuter airline out of Montana, became active in the state. That firm, Petersen notes, has expressed interest in service for Minot, once the airline is more established in the state.

More passengers head east and southeast out of the Minot facility, the manager noted. Vacationers headed toward the southwest also rely on Minot air flight services.

Our boardings are down at Minot," he continued, "compared month to month a year ago.'

'Traffic is down from the expectations of the air carrier managers. Recession plus the drought are linked to this. The lack of snow in winter 1979 signalled caution in spending to that fares are going up declare this prior to re-entry inarea people. Add to this the fact

An improved economy and a good crop year in 1981 would help reverse the downward boarding reports at Minot. Minot is not alone in this negative report. Airports throughout the country are reporting similar data.

Two fixed base operators are located at the Minot airport in addition to the passenger terminal facilities. There is also a firm involved in crop spraying and pipeline patrol work. The pipeline patrol project provides an aerial survey to watch for any possible pipeline break.



Two airlines serve Minot passengers.

The three firms there are 'Pietsch Flying Service, Minot Aircraft Sales and Farmers Spraying Services.

The City has 16 T hangar stalls available for lease. There are also five private hangars at the airport. Each can hold up to several aircraft.

Long term rentals of a tie down are also available. There are about 100 tie downs.

Transient use of the facilities remains pretty fair, Petersen says. Pilots use the various Minot services. However, local air traffic has dropped.

Cost is restricting private flying to business flights and pleasure flying is becoming a

memory, he suggests.
The U.S. Customs office at the Minot International Airport is a plus, Petersen says. This office helps draw Canadian traffic. Pilots can stop to declare customs at Minot and continue south.

Canadian pilots also buy aircraft in the states and use the Minot Custom facilities to to Canada:

The early name of the airport as the Port of Minot reflects the international traffic. The designation as the Minot International Airport came in the late '50s. Before the Customs was permanently staffed, the Border Patrol helped. Today there are two full-time people assigned to this Customs office and part-time help as needed.

housed in temporary quarters across the field in railroad boxcars converted to offices.

Today the FAA provides tower service; controlling traffic, clearing landings and take-

The FAA flight services are located at the terminal. Pilots use these services to learn

conditions, etc. While installation and staffing of a tower by FAA is linked to number of annual itinerant landings, the existence of cheduled airline flights will tip the balance toward location of a tower. This is because scheduled flights bring in large number of passengers whose safety is of utmost importance.

Records show that the CAA (today the FAA) asked the Park Board for more space in 1946. At that time the Department of Commerce handled airline air traffic regulations.

Today the FAA employs 22 people in tower operations. flight service and maintenance positions.

In addition the air terminal has a gift shop, restaurant and lounge. The terminal is open 24

transient private aircraft and pilots are available too.

Minot City today owns the airport and operates 24 hour services such as fueling for transient flights.

The Minot City government is under a manager form of government. That means the City Manager runs the city services. This manager hires the Airport Manager.

In addition to Petersen, the Minot Airport staff includes: an assistant Walt Behrens, a secretary and eight attendants to provide ground services. During the summer this staff will be supplemented by parttime help to assist with outside grounds maintenance and special needs.

Three car rental firms, are based at the terminal as well.

Minot's excellent terminal facilities extend to the no fee parking lots, located close and convenient to the terminal. While parking fees may come one day, Petersen says thus far there has been no real push for fees. There has been adequate parking with no need to use fees to restrict time used by passengers parking their cars and heading off into the blue skies. Increased scheduled flights or charter flights could change this.

The updated airport master plan calls for all the buildings now located to the north to move to the south to expand parking and allow terminal In the late 1940s the FAA was remodeling and expansion. The terminal site however, will remain unchanged. After looking at seven possible terminal sites, the planners decided it was already at the best location.

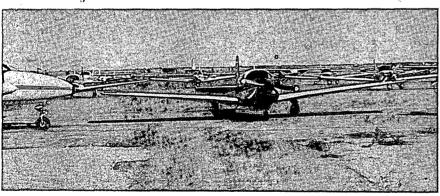
Located right next to the terminal is the airport fire station. The original station and trucks are airport owned. Certificaweather conditions, runway tion rules require this fire coverage for air carriers. The airport linemen know how to operate the trucks.

However, in the fall of 1980 the Minot Fire Department will begin staffing the facility. That is part of a plan which included the Minot Fire Department adding on a bay and equipment to provide expanded city coverage to that area.

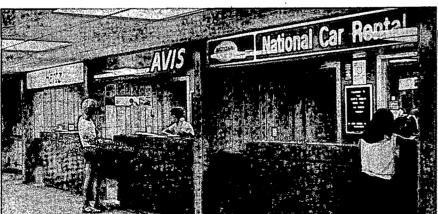
Vital statistics on this airport show that over 110 aircraft are based there.

Two runways plus a taxiway await the skilled touchdown of area pilots wanting to use the excellent facilities.

Park your plane, stroll to the terminal, pick up one of the direct line phones to a nearby motel and arrange transportation and lodging and you are ready for either a business or hours per day and services for pleasure stay in the Magic City.



Private aircraft based at Minot Airport.



Three car rentals are based at Minot Airport. September 1980

**RELATIVE WIND** 

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#### Part 135, 121 flight and duty time changes proposed

Reprinted from The Weekly of Business Aviation.

After more than three years of study, FAA is scheduled to publish its proposals today for Part 135 and 121 operations. While the agency has made a

121 operations.

FAA is proposing to eliminate the annual limits on flight time, but does favor dai-(Aug. 11) for an overhaul of the ly, weekly and monthly flight flight and duty time limitations and duty time limits. Singlepilot crews operating under 135 would be limited to eight hours number of changes in its of flight time and 14 hours of duoriginal proposals to satisfy ty time, while two-person crews complaints from commenters, would be limited to 10 hours of the new NPRM is expected to flight time and 14 duty hours. generate considerable con- However, those duty time troversy, both because of its limits would be subject to fureconomic impact and because ther reductions based on the the proposed changes may be in number of landings that occurconflict with labor agreements red within that duty period. between carriers and pilots, There would be no reduction for

particularly in the case of Part the first three landings during the duty period, but duty time would be reduced: one hour for either four or five landings; two hours for six or seven landings; three hours for eight or nine landings; and, four hours for 10 or more landings in a single duty period. The NPRM also proposes a 40-hour flight time maximum every seven consecutive days and a 110-hour flight time limit every 30 days.

> **Economic Impact** Assessed at \$107 Million

First year industry costs of implementing the proposed regulations would be \$107 million, FAA said, which would include \$80.3 million for Part 121 operators, \$7.5 million for commuters and \$19.2 million for air taxi operators. However, FAA noted that the cost estimates are "based on incomplete data" and said with more complete data "costs of the proposals would likely be significantly reduced." FAA stressed in the NPRM that it needs a substantial amount of economic data from the industry and added, "The FAA does not intend to issue a costly regulation unless clearly

justified by the benefits that would be accrued. In view of this and the great difficulty in quantifying the safety benefits associated with the proposal, the proposal will be reconsidered if the FAA estimate of implementation costs is not substantially reduced or unless greater safety benefits are quantified.'

In addition to the potential costs involved, the industry is likely to object to the limited comment period on the proposed changes. Original draft of the proposal contained a Dec. 8 comment deadline, but FAA officials told BA last week the initial comment deadline will be Oct. 10, with reply comments due Nov. 10.

Definitions are a key part of the NPRM because of their impact on the flight and duty time limits. Duty time for Part 135 pilots "will commence at the time the crewmember is required . . . to report for duty at a location specified by the certificate holder and end when the crewmember is released from duty at that location." Flight time will be interpreted as "total block-to-block time" and commercial flying other than for a pilot's principal

Continued on Next Page

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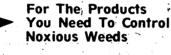
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#### From Your Secretary

By Jack Daniels, NDAA Secretary

**Dear Fellow Operators** 

This August issue of Relative Wind went to bed without any words from me. It is a good thing. Nothing I could have said could compare with the story about Mr. Aviation.

The biography on Harold was an outstanding piece of writing and my hat goes off to Pat.

You will, however, find some remarks in this issue, none of which are very pleasant.

Those of you in the Air Taxi/Charter business might take note of the story on Flight and Duty Time limitations and be prepared to respond to that issue when the time comes.

You will also find a story on the continuing debate over air ambulance work and the ongoing impact of the "Do

Gooders" efforts to be all things to all people.

The best approach might be for pushing the auto industry into making a square box that has all the goodies in it (like the surface units) and then get Piper, Cessna and Beech to join together with Lycoming and Continental to put together enough stuff to make it fly.

This would stimulate both the auto and aircraft industries and provide the sick and injured with the "Best Possible" air transport environment at a cost very few could

'Progress' doesn't come easy or cheap. However, like much progress we could conceivably improve air ambulance service to a point where there won't be any.

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RELATIVE WIND

September 1980

of 10 hours between duty either customs or immigration,

employer will count against the periods and the rest period the minimum daily rest period ridor depending on Air Force flight time limit. However, must be at least the number of military flight time will not hours of duty time scheduled count against that limit. Daily since the last rest period. If the rest period must be a minimum flight crewmember must clear

is 11 hours. In addition, a rest period of at least 30 consecutive hours is proposed every seven consecutive days.

#### U.S. Air Force aircraft simulated low altitude bombing range north of Bismarck has hazards to general aviation planes if not alert

mander of the Bismarck Strategic Radar Evaluation Range north of Bismarck, recently visited with the Director of the Aeronautics Commission and management of the Bismarck Airport to alert General Aviation aircraft operating in and out of the Bismarck Municipal Airport of heavy Air Force low altitude flights in an area north of Bismarck. The attached map shows the details. The official hours of operation are 24 hours daily - 7 days per week. At present, camouflaged Air Force aircraft, including 8 engine B-52 jets are concentrating their operations between 10 a.m. CDT and 8:00 p.m. CDT, amounting to about 20 flights per day. The map shows the nearest low altitude corridor edge is about 10 statute miles north of the Bismarck Municipal Airport, while the centerline of the corridor is about 14 miles north of the airport.

The map shows that Air Force aircraft within these

Lt. Col. Harold Kuhn, Com- corridors north of Bismarck ground elevation. are flying at 750 feet above ground level (contour flying) or at 3,400 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). The Bismarck Airport is 1,677 feet AMSL, rise north of Bismarck. Within the north corridor, is a race track which permits Air Force aircraft to re-enter the race track corridor (dash lines) and make more than one approach to the radar scoring point near the west end of the corridor. The East-West race track corridor extends about 75 statute miles from near the town of Center on the west to just to the east.

> The race track outer corridor will be flown at 5,000 ft. AMSL because of much higher ground terrain.

> General Aviation aircraft crossing race track corridors north of Bismarck, either outbound or inbound to Bismarck, should maintain flight altitudes in excess of 5,000 feet AMSL, because of the increased

Recently, an Air Force plane in a corridor North of Bismarck had a near-miss with a General Aviation aircraft, which resulted in the Air Force airhowever, ground elevations craft pulling up and missing the GA plane by about 200 feet of vertical altitude.

The map shows that there are numerous entry corridors to the race track corridor. Entry corridors are also contour flown at 750 feet above terrain. The entry corridor southeast is flown at about 3,400 AMSL, which bends near the town of Gackle to the southwest.

Another entry corridor is beyond the town of Woodworth northeast of Bismarck designated 1R402. This corridor splints near Esmond into two corridors as shown on the map. Each corridor shows the elevation being flown by Air Force aircraft in feet above mean sea level (AMSL) and 750 feet above terrain. The exit corridor is to the west as shown on the map. The exit corridor (IR401) however, can be reversed at times and become an entry cortraffic.

CAUTION: Routes and activity can be checked by the pilot by calling the nearest FAA Flight Service Station (FSS). If you are flying within the confines of the three corridors (IR-401), (IR-402), or (IR-444) low level route width, high speed, camouflaged jet aircraft may be operating within the altitude blocks listed on the map at any time, day or night. Actual route use times are available from any FSS within 200 nautical miles of the routes. General Aviation aircraft operating near the low level route are requested to operate rotating beacons and/or strobe lights to increase chances of detection by other aircraft.

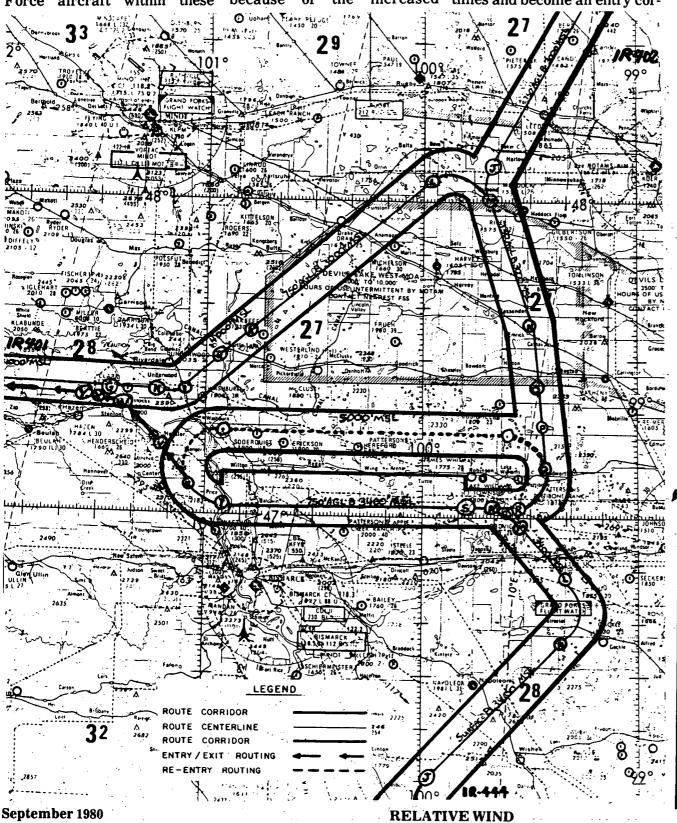
The map on this page does not include corridors that extend beyond the edges of the map because of lack of printing space. Be Alert and Cautious while flying in the vicinity of these corridors.

#### Safety Seminar

The Federal Aviation Administration, Rocky Mountain Region, Denver, announced an FAA Aviation Safety Seminar combined with an FAA Regional Director listening and comment session to be held at Bismarck on Thursday. September 25, 1980 at 7:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn.

(1) Michael (Mike) Beiriger, General Aviation District Office, Fargo, will conduct an aviation safety seminar starting at 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, Bismarck, N.D.

(2) Following the pilot safety: seminar, Arthur Varnado, Director of the FAA Rocky Mountain Region, Denver, and staff will be on hand to listen to comments or questions from general aviation pilots, fixed based operators, airport managers, engineers on airports and the general aviation public and be ready to answer or comment to questions.



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#### North Dakota Flying Farmers Association annual convention at Devils Lake

President of the North Dakota Flying Farmers Association Mirehouse, N.D. Flying Farm-er queen, Farmerette report announced that the 1980 annual convention of the North Dakota and from John Banker, Mohall, Flying Farmers will be held at N.D., who is the Region 5 Direc-Devils Lake, N.D., September tor of the International Flying 26, 27 and 28 at the Artclare Farmers. Motel.

Farmer State Association has 241 adult members and 47 juniors and teens. The North Dakota Flying Farmers are affiliated with the International Flying Farmers which has Chapters in 36 states in the U.S. and Canadian Chapters in the Canadian Provinces of Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario and in Mexico south of the border.

On Friday night the Flying Farmers have a dance scheduled and a party for the teen-age members.

On Saturday, September 27, the Flying Farmers have scheduled a business meeting to receive annual reports from Harold G. Vavra, Secretary; Pat Hoggarth, Jamestown, Treasurer; and Wes Mirehouse, Wales, President. Other reports will be heard from delegates to the International Flying Farmer (IFF) Conven-

Wes A. Mirehouse, Wales, tion at San Diego, from Deloris and from IFF officers present

During the business meeting The North Dakota Flying a slate of officers will be elected for 1981 including a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Also to be elected are officials for the Ladies Auxiliary, teen-age officers, and a Newsletter

> On Saturday-noon, Jack K. Daniels, Williston, Manager of. Sloulin Field International Airport, Williston, and Secretary of the N.D. Aeronautics Commission is the principal speaker at the men's luncheon. The ladies will have their own speaker at their luncheon speaking on the subject of microwave oven cooking. A tour of local interest is on tap for Saturday afternoon. Biennial flight rides are scheduled at the Devils Lake Airport for Saturday afternoon.

Saturday night is highlighted by a social hour at poolside followed by the annual awards banquet. Door prizes are given

at the banquet. Awards will be made to flying farmer man and woman of the year and teenflying awards. The banquet is concluded with the crowning of a 1981 Farmerette and Queen of the North Dakota Flying Farmers. Also a Cessna Aircraft Company trophy will be presented to the newly crowned flying farmer Queen.

The convention is concluded with a breakfast Sunday morning and fly-out from the Devils

#### Lake Airport.

#### Important letter received

We have received a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Docket Number 20424 which involves enlarging the aircraft identification numbers on some types of aircraft to 12 inches.

Gliders, amateur built, exhibition, and experimental aircraft in the 180 knot and under category could continue to use the three inch registration marks as appropriate.

FAA has received complaints from various law enforcement agencies which contend the small markings make it difficult to identify aircraft engaged in hunting, smuggling, and other illegal activities.

The small size of the present numbers is also causing air traffic control problems at busy airports as they can't be read from the ground. To ease the cost to aircraft owners who would be affected. FAA would permit the continued use of the smaller markings until the aircraft were repainted or the markings were changed.

The proposal would also permit reducing the markings on balloons to three inches.

Comments on the Proposed Rule should be sent to the Office of Chief Counsel, Rules Docket (AGC 204), Docket Number 20424, 800 Independence Ave. S.W., Washington, D.C. 20591. The deadline for comments is September 29.

The inclusion in your "Relative Wind" of the above proposal which affects the aircraft owners and pilots in our area would be greatly appreciated.

Lee C. Mills Chief, RM-GADO-4

#### Air cargo service launched in North Dakota

Mid America Air Cargo, Inc., of Fargo, N.D., is setting up an air package express service to serve Bismarck, Dickinson and Williston to shuttle oil gear along the Williston Oil Basin and haul fresh shrimp from the Gulf Coast, according to Duane Strand, Fargo, a coowner of the firm. Mid America Air Cargo is a new North Dakota Corporation.

Michael McElroy, a Fargo businessman, is President of the corporation, and Strand will act as a company consultant. Other owners are William Strand, a son of Duane Strand. who is an airline pilot and Jonathan Bowe, who will be Mid-America's pilot. All owners of the firm are from Fargo, N.D.

Strand said that cargo flights should begin about the end of August. Strand said Mid America will fly into Minot and Beulah, N.D. and plans to stop at other small airports, whenever there's a call for cargo. He said the cargo operation may connect Gillette, Wyo., with the cities of Dickinson and Williston. Mid America Air Cargo is operating on a charter basis now, according to Strand, primarily through various freight forwarders.

Strand said air cargo operations will take west-bound freight from major airlines in Fargo and forward it to smaller cities not served by airlines. He said that fresh seafood from the Gulf Coast will begin arriving as early as this fall. Mid America Air Cargo expects to start flying seafood as soon as the crop on the Gulf Coast is offered at a price that is affordable in the north. Strand said plans are two planeloads per month, each 1,200 pounds of shrimp will be flown from Loui-

Duane Strand owns a Soup 'N' Such Restaurant in Fargo. He said he has already signed up half a dozen restaurants in the area to buy seafood.

Mid America Air Cargo presently has a single engine Cessna U206 leased from a private owner in Fargo, which

Continued on Next Page

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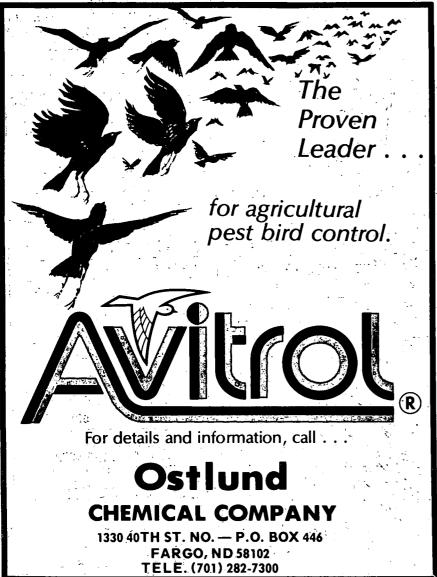
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#### New pilot briefing phone number

Don't be discouraged with the Bismarck Weather Bureau. They are still here to advise pilots on weather conditions. They have a new weather briefing phone number which is 701-223-0647 or local Bismarck - 223-0647.



#### **AIRCRAFT ON INVENTORY AT EXECUTIVE AIR EAST**

1979 PIPER ARCHER II

: Juneau White Madrid Red Las Vegas gold, Interior: Gold, Total Time 273, K) KT 78A, Transponder, Autocontrol 11B Auto Pilot, Pitot heat, Annunciator Panel, EGT, TAS Indicator, VOR, Strobes

1978 PIPER TOMAHAWK

Exterior: White Blue, interior: Blue, KX 170B NAV, KT 78A Transponder, Electric Clock, Pitot Heat, VOR, TAS Indicator, Strobes, Naroc ELT 10.

1980 PA-28RT-200 ARROW IV

T Tail, TTSN 115.Hour August 80 Annual, Nav. Comm. Dual RX 170B with Gildescope and Loc, ADF KR86, Transponder KT78A, Auto Control 111B KMA20 Audio Panel with MRK BCN. \$63,000.00

1980 PA-28-161: WARRIOR

TTSN: 250 August 80 Annual, Nav. Comm., KX 170B, Transponder KT78A.

\$34,000.00

1980 PA-28-161 WARRIOR

TTSN: 250 August 80 annual, Nav. Comm., KX 170B, Transponder KT78A.

\$34,000.00

1959 COMMANCHE 180

TT2845, 11805MOH, 0 prop, NARCO comm 120/comm 11B, AT-50, Transponder, CP-126A SW Panel, GS/HP/RB/EGT. White, Black and gold.



#### **EXECUTIVE AIR EAST INC.**

701-772-7262 G.F. Int'l Airport

Grand Forks, ND 58201

was formerly leased by Turner Aviation Services, Fargo, which operated RealWest Airlines. Strand said the firm has plans to add a second plane soon, and up to two more sometime next year.

Strand said he does not expect to compete with Big Sky Airlines of Billings, Montana, which is serving nine cities in western North Dakota and eastern Montana and Sheridan and

Casper, Wyoming.

Duane Strand was a pioneer in the commuter airline business in the late 1950s when he operated Northern Airlines. as a division of Air Activities, Inc., Fargo, which operated passenger service with two Model 520 Aero Commanders twin-engine aircraft on a route between Duluth, Minn., and five North Dakota cities. Northern Airlines discontinued scheduled passenger service after flying nine or ten months. Strand said that we were 25

years ahead of our time.

Duane Strand directed Air America, Inc., in Indochina during the Vietnam War. He returned to the United States in 1974, and has flown as a charter pilot since then.

Harold Vavra, director of the North Dakota Aeronatuics Commission said that he has been advised by Strand that Mid America Air Cargo operations will operate mostly on a non-scheduled basis and less than five scheduled flights per week between specific North Dakota cities.

Vavra said that an air cargo service which is non-scheduled or operates less than five scheduled intrastate flights per week between specific North Dakota cities is not considered scheduled and is not required by state law to obtain a State of North Dakota common air carrier certificate issued by the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission.

<u>Wesley E. Keller, early pioneer</u>

#### In the creation of the North **Dakota Aeronautics Commission**

By Harold Vavra, Director **Aeronautics Commission** 

Wesley E. Keller, Minot (now 81) was an early pioneer who had more to do in the creation of a state aviation agency in North Dakota than any other individual.

· He has the distinction of being the first Chairman of the Committee of Aeronautics which was created in 1945 by the North Dakota Legislature as a Division of the State Public Service Commission, which was the forerunner of the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission. Keller at that time was a

N.D. AERONAUTICS

COMMISSION

Director: Harold Vavra,

Chairman: Nicholas F. Schu-

Secretary: Jack K. Daniels,

Commissioners: Alfred C.

Pietsch, Minot, N.D., John D. Odegard, Grand

Vice-Chairman: Ward Whitman,

Bismarck, N.D.

ster, Fargo, N.D.

Robinson, N.D.

Williston, N.D.

Forks, N.D.



A photo of Wesley Keller when the Aeronautics Commission was formed.

Vice President of Truax Traer Coal Co., headquartered at Minot.

The state law which created a Committee of Aeronautics as a Division of the PSC, was passed with an emergency clause and became effective March, 1945, as soon as the late Governor Fred G. Aandahl signed the bill. The first members of the

Committee of Aeronautics appointed by the Governor were Wesley Keller, Minot; the late Dalton LeMasurier, Grand Forks; James J. Flannery, Jamestown; the late Harry Potter, Bismarck (who was manager of the Bismarck Airport) and C.W. McDonnell, a member of the N.D. Public Service Commission. Erling Nasset of New England, N.D., was hired as the first director of the Committee of Aeronautics on March 12, 1946.

During most of 1946, the Committee of Aeronautics and the Public Service Commission were at odds over the extent and scope of jurisdiction of each agency over aviation matters. Under the leadership of Chairman Wes Keller, the Committee of Aeronautics with the support of the Governor and assistance of the Attorney General decided to draft legislation, which would sever its ties to the Public Service Commission and create a separate Aeronautics Commission, for consideration by the 1947 Session of the N.D. Legislature.

As a result of many efforts of Wes Keller, the 1947 Session of the N.D. Legislature enacted into law a bill which created the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission and repealed the 1945 law which had created a Committee of Aeronautics within the PSC. The new law provided that the Governor shall appoint the Committee of Aeronautics as the initial members of the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission, who were to serve their unexpired terms of office.

The newly created Aeronautics Commission held its first meeting on July 17, 1947. Wes Keller was elected its first Chairman; Dalton LeMasurier, Grand Forks, Vice Chairman; and Harry Potter, Bismarck, Secretary. Other initial members were James J. Flannery, Jamestown and Irven A. Myhra, Fargo.

Wes Keller was re-elected Chairman of the Commission annually until 1952. He was elected Chairman in 1955 and again in 1960, when he resigned from the Aeronautics Commission, when his employer the Consolidation Coal Co., made him Vice-President of Sales and transferred him to Minneapolis where he remained until his retirement in 1964. Upon his retirement he and his wife Edna moved back to Minot, where he has been active with committees of the Minot Chamber of Commerce including Transportation, Aviation, and Military Affairs. During his active years, he was chairman of the Greater North Dakota Association's Industrial Committee for nine years, past president of Minot's Rotary Club, Community Concert Association, Dinner Club and Community Chest.



#### ND AVIATION ASSN. **OFFICERS**

President: William Beeks, Central Flying Service, Washburn, ND.

Vice-President: Ron Ehlers, Dickinson Air Service, Dickinson, ND.

Treasurer: Larry Linrud, Tri-State Aviation, Inc., Wahpeton, ND.

Secretary: Fred Anderson, Aviation Services, Inc., Minot,

Immed. Past President: Robert Odegaard, Odegaard Aviation, Inc., Kindred, ND.

Exec. Secretary: Jack Daniels, Serv-Air Accessories, Inc., Williston, ND.

Delegate to National Agricultural Aviation Assn.: Bob Woods, Woods Flying Service, Grand Forks, ND.

#### 1976 CESSNA 182 II

187.6 CESSNA 182 II 1886 TT, 50 SMOH, 2-KX-170B's, KMA 20 Audio Panel W/3 LMB, KR 86 ADF, KT 76A X-ponder, GS, EGT, Carb, Air Temp., LH Articulating Seat, T-windows, Quick Drain, Winter Kit, RH Hinged Window, LR Fuel, 2004-Pilof, NDH, Aug. Annual, Green / White, Green Interior. N9886M

#### \$29,500.00

#### 1977 PIPER LANCE

400 TTSN, 2-KX-170B's, KMA-20 Audio Panel W/3LMB, GS, KT-76-X ponder, KN-65 DME, III B A/Pilot w/couplers, Conference Seating, EGT, LR Fuel, Tinted Windows, Elect. Trim, HD Brakes & Tires, Sound Proofing, GSP, New Annual, NDH, One Owner, Brown/Gold, Brown Indian Interior. N5661F \$53,000.00 \$53,000.00

#### 1979 CESSNA 172 II

491 TTSN, 300 Nav/Com, 400 G.S., 300 ADF, 300 X-ponder, 400 MB, RH Hinged Window, Rear Seat Vents, Hobbs, Courtesy Lights, GSP, LR Tanks, NDH, Winter Kit, LH Articulating Seat, New Annual, Tan/White, Green Int. N2487E NDH

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1968 PAWNEE 260 Flagger

\$15,500.00 1978 CESSNA 182RG II

990 TT, 720 Nav/Com, GS, 300 ADP, 300 X-ponder, 200 A/pilot, Post Lights, Courtesy Lights, Rear Seat Vents, Hobbs, RH Hinged Window, Winter Kit, Marker Beaco Blue/White, Blue Interior. N7369X NDH

\$42,000.00

#### 1979 PIPER TOMAHAWK

160 TT, KX-170B, KT 78 X-ponder, Pitot Heat, Post Lights, ELT, Brown/White, Tan Interior, N2589C NDH \$14.500,00 \$14,500.00

#### 1980 PIPER ARCHER II

68TT, KX-170B, KN75 GS, KMA 20 Audio Panel, KR 86 ADF, KT-78, X-ponder, Executive Interior, Strobes, GSP, EGT, IIIB A/pilot, Sound Proofing, OH Vents, Tinted Windows, Black/Gold/White, Gold Interior, N8114H NDH \$42,000,00 \$42,000.00

#### 1970 PIPER NAVAJO B

3300 TT, 1050 SMOH, L&R, 2-KX-170B's, KR. 85 ADF, KT-76 X-ponder, 190 DME, KNX 40 Radar, IIIC A/pilot with couplers, GS, C. Pilot Instruments, C. Pilot Brakes, Cabin Divider, Executive Tables L & R, Toilet & Bar, Oxygen. Tinted Windows, Floor Bar, Oxygen. Tinted Windows, Floor Runner, Full DEICE, Hot Windshield, Stobe, 8 Seats, Nov. Annual, Blue/Red / White, Red Interior, NDH N6647L

#### \$125,000.00

#### 1979 PIPER AZTEC

245 TTSN, King Silver Crown, Flight Director, HSI, 25 Amp, ELT. EGT. Aux. Fuel Tanks, Wing Insp. Lights, Tinted Windows, Encoding Altimeter, KN 65 W/KI 266 Ind, DME, KA 38 DME Hold Switch, Red/Gold/Black, Black Interior. NDH N2510M. \$152,000.00

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