



Air-Log

The
University
of Texas
at Dallas

THE HISTORY OF AVIATION COLLECTION

The Admiral Rosendahl Collection
The CAT/Air America Archive

January 2003

The James H. Doolittle Library
The George H. Williams Library

Jalonick Memorial Lecture set for June 28, 2003

Attention HAC Friends! Please mark your calendars. The 2003 Jalonick Memorial Lecture will feature Tom Crouch, Ph.D. senior curator in the Aeronautics Department at the National Air and Space Museum (NASM) on Saturday, June 28, 2003. In honor of the 100th Anniversary of powered flight Dr. Crouch's lecture will focus on the Wright Brothers and the development of the U.S. airframe industry. Crouch is known throughout the world for his biography on the Wright Brothers – *The Bishop's Boys*. Please contact HAC Administrative Assistant Carole Thomas at 972-883-2570 for further details.

CHAW XI — Aviation History Conference set for October 2003

The Conference of Historic Aviation Writers will convene in Oklahoma City October 17-19, 2003. Paper presentations on aviation history are invited from all interested parties. There is no overall conference theme and topics from all aspects of aerospace history will be considered for several weekend sessions. Please contact Matthew E. Rodina at 340-773-4669 or Erik D. Carlson, Ph.D. at 972-883-2570 or carlson@utdallas.edu for further details.

2002 Civil Air Transport Reunion

Great news – the 2004 CAT Reunion is planned for Richardson, Texas. The History of Aviation Collection will hold a reception in honor of the CAT



2002 History of Aviation Collection Advisory Board

Association in the Special Collections Department of the McDermott Library. UTD is the official home of the CAT/Air America Archive. More than 100 former CAT employees, spouses, children, and friends attended the September 5-8, 2002 CAT Association reunion in San Antonio, Texas. The reunion was marked by informal gatherings, a general business meeting, a 2nd generation meeting, and a banquet.

McDermott Library Renovation News

After seven months, the multi-million dollar renovation of the McDermott Library's 4th floor is nearing completion. Though most of the renovation affected the floor above the Special Collections Department, the History of Aviation Collection has undergone some small changes due to the building's facelift. Gone are the spaces in the ceiling that once ran above the main lobby and processing areas. These areas are now replaced by a ceiling bank of florescent

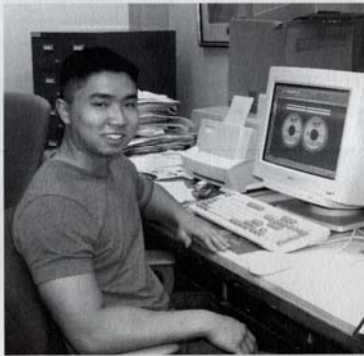
lights. Library administrators are in the planning stages for the 3rd floor renovation which is projected to begin within two years.

2002 History of Aviation Collection Advisory Board

On November 5, 2002 members of the History of Aviation Collection held their annual advisory board meeting. HAC Advisory Board members that attended the meeting were Board president, France McCoy, Dutch Barbettini, Lew Burrige, C.V. Glines, Richard Emery, Brian Johnson, Robert Kopitzke, Gene Nora Jessen, Judy Porter, Dora Dougherty Strothers, Ph.D., Johnson Taylor, Larry Sall, David Witts, and George Williams. HAC Department Head Erik D. Carlson, Ph.D. led the morning meeting. During the meeting, Carlson gave highlights of the department's 2002 accomplishments and outlined goals for 2003. Because of library renovations the board meeting and luncheon were held in the UTD Student Union.

Transport Museum Directors Tour HAC

In October 2002, the History of Aviation Collection played host to the annual meeting of the International Association of Transport Museums (ITAM). This group of museum directors was sponsored by Ben Kristy, curator at the C.R. Smith American Airlines Museum, and George Lodge, former Director of the Frontiers of Flight Museum at Love Field, during their week-long stay in Dallas-Fort Worth. More than thirty directors of aviation related museums toured the History of Aviation Collection archive and library. After their morning tour, they adjourned to the UTD Student Union for lunch with the History of Aviation Collection staff.



Student Kit Ng makes film labels

Phase I of HAC Film Project Finished

After a year of hard work, Phase I of the HAC Film Project has been completed. More than 2000 films (8, 16, and 35 mm) were cataloged, identified with a coded label, and placed into archival safe plastic film canisters. The hundred hours of cataloging was done by HAC student workers. Phase II will consist of

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is [www.utdallas.edu/library/special/
index.html](http://www.utdallas.edu/library/special/index.html)

transferring the film into a digital format for long-term preservation

Carlson Lectures on Ellington Field and World War I in Beaumont, Texas

In September 2002, Erik D. Carlson, Ph.D., Head of the History of Aviation Collection presented a lecture on the history of Ellington Field during World War I titled "Learning How to Fly on the Coastal Plains of Texas" at the McFadden-Ward House Museum in Beaumont, Texas. The lecture was attended by a capacity crowd of McFadden-Ward friends and patrons in the museum's new auditorium. Before the lecture, a reception was held in honor of Dr. Carlson.

Three Raiders "Gone West"

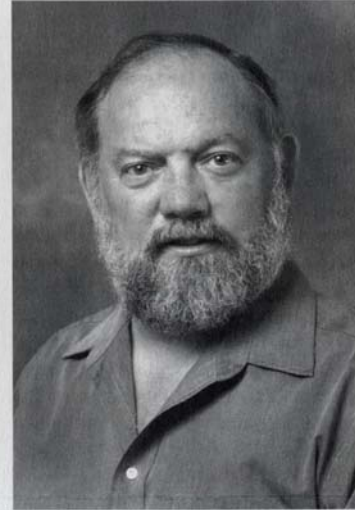
Three of Doolittle's Tokyo Raiders have died in recent months. J. Royden Stork, co-pilot on Crew No. 10, died on May 2, 2002, two weeks after attending the reunion at Columbia, South Carolina, the 60th anniversary of their mission. Col. Henry A. Potter, navigator on Crew No. 1 piloted by then Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle, died on Memorial Day, May 27. Lt. Col. Clayton J. Campbell, navigator on Crew No. 13, died on November 17. There are now 20 Raiders living out of the original 80 who flew on their epic mission of April 18, 1942.

Aviation Collection Volunteer Pens Vietnam Era Novel

Lothar "Nick" Maier, a former B-52 and SR-71 pilot, has written a novel based on his experiences with the Strategic Air Command during the Vietnam War. Titled B*U*F*F, an acronym understood by Vietnam-era veterans, the book follows a combat crew as it participates in bombing missions with conventional weapons in a jet bomber that is still flying today in Afghanistan 50 years after its first flight in 1952.

Maier was a B-52 aircraft commander for 20 years. He retired from the Air Force in 1977 and worked for 16 years in the air travel industry. He has been a volunteer with the History of Aviation Collection since 1995.

Meet the Staff...



F. W. (Rick) Biddenstadt

Rick Biddenstadt is based in the Special Collections Department at the McDermott Library where he photographs and copies rare and delicate aviation materials in either print or digitized form. This assures that the original material is rarely handled and remains secure. In addition, Rick serves as the campus photographer at UT-Dallas. He also supports the History of Aviation Collection through web page development.

A native Iowan Biddenstadt had a great appreciation for art and studied cinema and photography at Southern Illinois-Carbondale. During a seven-year stint with the U.S. Air Force, he became serious about a lifelong fascination with photography. While working for Bradley University in Illinois, he noticed a job posting for a university photographer at UTD. He figured the weather had to be warmer in Texas so in 1985 he joined

the staff in that role as part of media services housed at the McDermott Library.

He still does extensive copy work but shooting events as a recording photographer brings him the most enjoyment. Possessed with a keen eye for composition, Rick has had photographs published in *Time* magazine, the *Dallas Morning News*, textbooks and several books in the Library of Congress. Some of his videotape work has been used on the Discovery Channel and The National Geographic Channel.

The biggest change over the years has been a shift in time spent shooting photos and time spent on deskwork and computers. Today he spends about 15 percent of his time shooting while years ago it was about 80 percent. Also, most work was black and white in the mid-1980s and today his work is almost all color photography.

Rick has been married to his wife, Rita, since 1967. They have two children – Brenda and Rick. He enjoys sailing and painting landscapes.

New Staff....



Paul Oelkrug

Paul Oelkrug was doing air conditioning sheet metal work in the cramped crawlspace of a ranch house near Kaufman, Texas when he decided to make a career change. So he enrolled at the University of Texas at Arlington and earned a bachelor's degree in history. In May of 2000 he added a

master of arts in public history with an archival administration certificate. "I had always been interested in history and teaching," he said, "but when I heard about public history a light bulb went off in my head. That's what I wanted to do."

He worked on a temporary project for the City of Fort Worth as a records inventory coordinator before joining the UTA Special Collections Department as a library assistant.

In August 2002, Paul began working as a volunteer in the McDermott Library's Special Collections Department. In November 2002 he brought his talents to Special Collections on a more permanent basis as a processing archivist. He currently is processing the papers of G. Edward Rice, one of the first curators for the History of Aviation Collection at UTD. Rice had a wide career in aviation as a pilot and specialist with many aviation companies. After that collection is completed, Paul has considerable more valuable aviation collections to process.

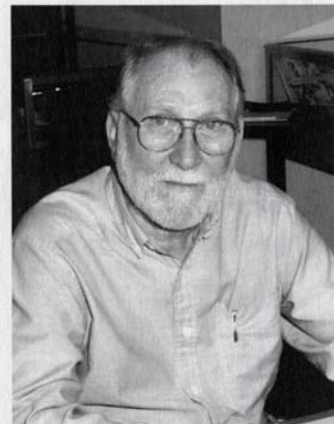
Paul and his wife of 16 years, Helen, reside in Carrollton. He has two grown children, Paula of Norwich NY and Scott of Richardson TX.

Meet a Volunteer....

George H. Smith, a native of McKinney, Texas, is another World War veteran who volunteers his time to assist in organizing the donated materials that comprise the History of Aviation Collection. He attended the North Texas Agricultural College, majored in aeronautical studies and graduated in 1942. He went to work as an aircraft mechanic at the AAF Primary Flight School at Corsicana before enlisting in the Army Air Forces. He completed the AAF Mechanics School at Wichita Falls and was assigned to a B-24 group for flight training as an engineer/gunner. However, his unit flew to England without him because of an injury and he later joined a B-17 group that operated from Ridgewell, England.

On February 14, 1945, while a top turret gunner on his fourth mission, George's B-17 lost one engine and could not keep up with the other aircraft. As they headed back to England, the Fortress was hit with flak repeatedly and lost two more engines. The crew bailed out and four of them were captured near Trier, Germany. The navigator, bombardier and George landed near an Allied artillery command post in Luxembourg. They returned to their unit in England where George flew 13 more missions. He returned to the States in May 1945 and was assigned to Galveston as a P-47 crew chief before being discharged in November 1945.

The lure of flight led George to take flying lessons with Dallas Aero at Love Field after World War II where he received his commercial license with an instrument rating for multi-engine aircraft. He studied geology at TCU and flew a twin-engine Cessna for Exploration Drilling Co. in Michigan for nine months. He transferred to Houston for sales work with an oil well supply company for a year then spent 35 years as a salesman for a home furniture distributor.



George H. Smith

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Web Site is
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