

1954

Gobi Gossip, 1954-1966

Jim Allen

Illinois Valley Airport
December 16, 1954

Howdy:

Just a little news about life here on the Gobi since the Fire Season (I guess it could be called that).

No snow here as yet although we have had our share of rain. Like the proverbial cow and flat rock most of the time as a matter of fact.

The kitchen is all finished except for the floors and the built-in cabinets. The contractors are working on the new bunkhouse and bathhouse now and should be finished by the first of the year. (Their contract calls for them to do the framing and sheathing, shingling the roofs and install the doors and windows). Messrs Scholz, Looper and Yours Truly will spend the remainder of the Winter doing what finishing we can before next season.

Scotfield is still here at the project but is leaving next Monday for home for the holidays and then back to O.S.C.-P.F.C. Bob Lewis is home in Virginia at Henderson Barracks waiting for a class at Marine Officers Candidate School-P.F.C. Billy Bob Duck was at the same place for the same reason at last report--Clarence "Capp" Rowley left just after Thanksgiving for Ikalaka to spend a while at home before reporting to San Antonio and the Air Force in January--Jimmy Wright dropped by a few days ago (got to be quite a football star at S.O.C.L. I understand)--Got a card from Dick Harris the other day from the Marine Hospital in San Francisco. He is due for another operation just after the first of the year and would probably appreciate hearing from any of you fellows that were here in '53--Botkin and Crick are in sunny California (L.A.). Bob is parking cars in a car lot and Glen is an usher at a theatre (He said he was going to get in the movies)--Boucher is going to lease a new Shell Gas Station they are building in C.J. about the middle of January. (Do you suppose us old buddies of his will be able to get our gas wholesale?)--Charlotte, Orv and Roddy are all doing fine as well as Pilot Scholz and family--John (the carpenter) Karschner had an operation on his ankle and is still hobbling around in a cast--The girls in the Drugstore informed me that Mel Greenup might be down this wee-end (on business, I presume)--Bob Moore worked over at Powers until Thanksgiving and then left for H.C. on a motorcycle--Gordon Cross is in California at an instrument flying school with good prospects for a bush flying job in Alaska upon completion--Pesonen is now a Forestry major at U. of Calif.---That's all I can think of.

I still haven't heard anything about the New Mexico deal for you fellows that are interested. Will write just after the first of the year and find out what the score is and let you know then.

Finally ended up with 62 fire jumps on 22 fires on that so-called fire season last summer. The last jump was made on September 29 by Messrs Buck and Botkin.

I would certainly appreciate a card from all of you guys in January stating if and approximately when you intend to return for next season. Getting recruiting time again!

I guess this is about all for now. Best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Jim, Billy and Girls.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
SISKIYOU NATIONAL FOREST

February 9, 1955

GOBI GOSSIP

Howdy:

I received so many favorable comments on the last letter I sent out in December I decided to give it another try.

To begin with, I want to thank you fellows for the letters and Christmas cards. I wish I were able to answer each one individually but I have neither the time or ambition.

There are still quite a few of you that I haven't heard from. I know most of you are busy with your "book-larnin" so I am enclosing a card for each of you to fill out and return. If you are not certain about what date you can report just put a question mark and let me know later. Finances are pretty low so doubt if I can put anyone on before June 1 as much as I'd like to.

Finally heard a little about the New Mexico deal. They are going to allow Region 6 to send 3 jumpers again. There is a possibility that Chelan might want to participate this year so I am still pretty much in the dark as to how many will go from here. As soon as I hear anything definite I will notify you guys that are interested.

Scholz, Looper and yours truly are busy putting the finishing touches on the new bathhouse. It should be completely finished within the next three weeks. We finally ended up contracting out putting on the outside shingles on both the bathhouse and crewhouse so we will be finished a little sooner than we originally expected.

A cabinet maker is building the built-ins in the messhall now and that should be finished the middle of next week. As soon as he is finished a floor man is coming and lay tile in all the rooms so that building will at last be completed, thank goodness. I hope we can have tile floors in the new crewhouse also but don't know yet if finances will permit. The way things are going we should have all 3 buildings completely finished except for the outside paint by the time jump season rolls around. They are going to be pretty deluxe.

A few of the fellows dropped in over the holidays. That good-looking Rod Newton dropped by, Bob Crick was home from L.A. and stopped by, Mel Greenup honored us with a short visit, Jimmy Wright drove up sporting a big trophy naming him as "Most Valuable Player" at S.O.C.E. and Proud Papa Boucher drops in now and then. Heard from Bob Lewis the other day and he says Billy Bob Buck will graduate and become a "Loonie" the 19th of this month. That ought to set the Marine Corps back about 20 years.



It looks now as if there will be between 18 and 20 of last years crew returning.

Saving the bad news for the last. Received official notification the other day that our meals will cost us .80¢ each next season. Oh well, the raise that Congress is working on for us should more than compensate for the meal raise, if and when it comes through.

Well, Gentlemen, guess this is about all for this time. Please send the enclosed cards back immediately so I can get this recruiting finished.

So long,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
SISKIYOU NATIONAL FOREST

ADDRESS REPLY TO
FOREST SUPERVISOR
AND REFER TO



January 20, 1956
GRANTS PASS, OREGON

Howdy:

To begin with, thank you gentlemen for the Christmas cards and letters. I will try and answer you individually when I can find the time and ambition. In the meantime "Happy New Year !"

The weather here is about as expected. Raining continuously. I imagine most of you have heard about the floods we have been having in this part of the country. About the only damage around here was the swinging bridge at Kerby going out and a few houses had water in them. A few places in Grants Pass and down the Rogue River valley were hit pretty hard, though. I continue to marvel at how a place can get so hot and dry in the summer and so miserably wet in the winter.

There are still a few of the fellows around here. Clarke, Buckner and Yandell are on the Brookings district. Chuck and Jimmy will be terminating next month but Phil will be staying over there until next season. Ferry is working for the Powers district until the end of this month when he will go to school in California. Bob Crick is employed by the Galice district and has now added two cars to his transportation collection. He still has the motorcycle (the same one that led him astray last summer), a '48 Chev. and a '55 Ford.

Scofield dropped by over the holidays and is eagerly looking forward to March when he will be through with his "book-larnin" - Jim Wright also dropped in and gave me the latest scoop from S.O.C.E. and Crescent City. - "Dingle" pulled out of here in November and was last heard from in Chicago. - Bob Calverley is in Ellensburg, Washington in the pursuit of higher education or something - Elwood is still vacationing in Ole Mexico and sending an occasional post card rubbing it in a little about the differences in climate - Jim Ferrell, Wife and Hominy, Jr. toured the U.S. after leaving here in November and are now back in Carolina - Eddy (the girl in the drugstore) Scott tells me that Mel Greenup is doing fine - Danny Hayes is now an airborne soldier, having enlisted in the paratroops last fall - Mike Hodge has returned to school after vacationing in Canada on a canoe trip - Saw Bob Kester home over the holidays - Kesterson writes that he has to attend a military training camp next summer so won't be returning to the Gobi - Jack Long is still wooing the girls in Richmond - Bill and Sally Long and Marlowe, (who now tips the scale at a cool 75#) have purchased a trailer house in Reno - Macatee is now "all well" and is busy writing poetry and telling jump stories - Jim Maxwell is attending Fresno State College in the city of the same name - Gid Newton has the Army hot after him and is in a hurry to get back here and get a deferment before they get him - I understand "Roddy" Newton has been commuting between Ashland and Willits Creek, California for some reason or other. Maybe he is interested in the teaching

profession - Jim Oleson was still fighting snow drifts in S. Dakota at last reports - Stinson entered ye ole Marine Corp as of January 9 - Webb has been vacationing in Florida until recently and now plans to return to S.O.C.E. - Warner was still at B.Y.U. the last I heard and was using his puppy as a decoy for the little mormon girls - Bob Woods is in Florida taking the necessary training to make him an officer and a gentlemen - Bob Lewis, '54, is being transferred to Camp Pendleton, California, next month where he will join Billy Bob Buck, '53 - Flyboy Scholz is in Portland working on our new Twin Beech - Haven't the faintest idea where Harter is - The Loopers are all doing fine, as well as the Allen's - That's all !

As for you fellows that have written about New Mexico, I am sorry but I can't give you an answer as yet. There is a nasty rumor that we might not be able to participate this year. Will notify you as soon as I find out anything.

I would appreciate very much hearing from all of you gentlemen about whether you intend to return for this coming season and if you do, I would appreciate the approximate date you will be available. Just a postcard will suffice.

Best regards and the best of luck to you all,

As ever,

GOBI GOSSIP
March 16, 1956

Howdy:

Looks like Spring has finally arrived on the Gobi. The weather has really been nice this past week. A welcome change from the continuous rains we have been having since last November. Naturally it has been very unusual weather, according to the old timers around here.

It is quiet and peaceful here at the present. Looper and Scholz are at Lakeview seeding a burn from one of last years fires so I am all alone. Bob Scofield is all finished with school now and will be detailed here for a month or so starting next week to construct the Roll Training Slide he has been working on for the past couple of years. We hope to have it completed in time for training this year. It will be used for advanced training over the rope swing. As soon as Scofield has completed the Slide he will go to work for one of the districts in the timber management field and will no longer be with us.

Roddy Newton has just returned from Chicago where he was taking training to become an insurance adjuster. I understand he will be stationed at Eugene. Both he and Scofield will be missed around here this year.

It looks at the present as if about 23 of last years crew will be returning. There are still a few of you that I haven't heard from so I will enclose cards for you to fill out. Almost time to do a little planning on the finances so will appreciate the return of the cards as soon as possible.

For the benefit of you that were interested in going to New Mexico there is still nothing definite except that if we do participate we will just send one man. That will be Messr. Crick again.

We have a Twin-Beech again this year for jumping. It is a different one from the one we had last year. A red and white job with an enlarged door. Of course, Flyboy Scholz will jockey it.

The Supervisor's office has informed me that they can use a few men on the road crew until jump season starts so if any of you are interested let me know. I don't know what type of work it will be but they have agreed to put you on with your GS-5 ratings.

Old "Nose" is about to produce another batch of pups. She had better have them pretty quick as she is getting so big she can hardly walk. Don't ask me what I am going to do with the puppies. Frankly, I haven't the faintest idea.

I have heard from quite a few of you guys, but won't go into it this time. Most of you will be together in a couple of months, anyway.

Oh yes! They are contemplating issuing "Wings" to all fearless jumpers this year. Little silver wings with a parachute in the middle and a little tree on the parachute. They ought to impress the girls if the jump stories don't.

Best regards to you all.

moleskin

GOBI GOSSIP

March 27, 1957

Howdy:

Spring time again on the Gobi and time fast approaching when we'll be back in "business" again. Looper, Clarke and myself are still fighting the battle of torn chutes, training equipment and applications but are getting to the point where we can almost see the end of the struggle.

Have heard from most of you gentlemen the past few months and I want to thank you for being so prompt with your availability dates. It has helped a lot on our planning.

Webb drops in, every once in a while from his pursuit of higher education at S.O.C.E. in Ashland -- Ex-jumpers Bob Lewis and Doug Sutherland (now Marine Lieutenants) have passed through in the past few months on their way over seas. -- Have heard from Navy flyboys Kester, Maxwell and Oleson and by the time you receive this they will all have completed their ground training and started their flying. -- See Mich Swift chasing the girls around town quite often. -- Dave Arnold dropped by during his spring vacation. - Ron Ppice also dropped by last week as did Larry Wright. -- Rod Newton is now completing his 20th year of college at the U. of Oregon (he now has more time in school than 75% of the Professors). -- Jack Harter has been making a picture for Universal-International called "Pylon" (he is a stand-in for Dorothy Malone on her parachute jumps.) I can hardly wait to see him in that wig. -- Ken wicks is now the proud papa of a bouncing baby boy. -- Len Reed hurt his knee playing football last fall and has a better job offer so won't be with us this year. -- Hal Werner ('55) was married last September and will be back with us again this year. -- Dick Wessell is now working for a plywood mill on the coast until the season starts. -- Gid Newton is home in Monmouth and was unemployed at last report. -- Chuck Buckner is working in the paper mill at Camas, Washington -- Ed Scholz has been working in the Grants Pass office most of the winter. Macatee has decided to join us for another season the last I heard from him. -- Emory has to go to a training camp so won't make it back until late in the season. -- Edison and Berry are still busy telling jump stories in North Carolina. (They'll probably be pretty hard to get along with after that NCAA basketball tournament.) Enough of this!

What I really am writing this about is to tell all of you that R-5 has finally got their own jump unit and we will train and send 20 men and 3 squadleaders from here this season. We will go back to 24 men and 3 squadleaders here. The plan at present is to send half of the experienced man to Redding and keep half here. They have not selected a foreman yet but Looper is being considered along with qualified men from other regions. As for the effect that unit will have on our

jumping here, I'm afraid only time will tell. We will be working back and forth across the border so I think we should all benefit by the increased number of jumpers in this locality. I did want you gentlemen to know of this so you could be thinking it over. We will probably decide who goes down after you get here.

There was an article in a magazine called "Singer Light" about this unit a month ago in case your'e interested. It is put out by the Singer Sewing Machine Company and is available through them. I believe Sunset Magazine is to have some sort of article in the June issue also.

Guess this is all for this time. Best regards to all and we'll be seeing you soon.

GOBI GOSSIP

December 10, 1957

Howdy:

Almost time for Christmas so will try and get out a letter while I'm in the mood. Things are nice and quiet and peaceful here on the Gobi. We have certainly had a nice winter so far. Quite a bit of fog but an unusually small amount of rain. That helps !

Had quite a seige of hunting this fall. Gid Newton showed us all up by not only getting a nice big 3 point buck but he also got a spike bull elk. Ken Caldwell (sporting goods store) got a big 6 point elk also but Scholz and I didn't even get a shot. Oh well, we had a nice trip.

For the benefit of you gentlemen that left early, the end of the fire season was about the same as the rest of it. We finally ended up with the grand total of 52 fire jumps. I believe there were only 4 guys that got 4 fire jumps and of course, there were 3 or 4 that didn't even get a jump. Quite a change from the '56 fire season when we had 243 fire jumps.

Have heard from quite a few of you since the season closed. Gid and Ken Rosenberg are working on the Umpqua forest and come down almost every week end - Larry Wright dropped by during Thanksgiving vacation - Ron Cherry also came out when he was home - Ray Hull sez' Ralph Bryant and himself will drop by sometime during the Christmas vacation - Remor has it that Wayne Schrunck is planning on a Grants Pass wedding sometime this month - The Roddy Newtons are still hiding out in the desert of Nevada (what a place for a philosopher and grizzly bear wrestler) - Harter and Price were in Lae, New Guinea the last I heard from them but still have volunteered no details of their big adventure - Joe Emory is selling timber in Aiken, S.C. and is still contemplating taking the big step into matrimony - Edison is still arguing with himself about taking the big step, too - Charlotte and Orv now have a home with a built in swimming pool (4 feet of water in the basement), needless to say, they are looking for another home. - The Bouchers are now living here on the airport and at the present Al is sewing and doing about anything else I can push off on him. - Jack Long ('55) sent a nice Christmas card the other day from the Antartica. He is a mechanic on the sno-cats, he didn't mention whether brother Bill was with him or not - Dave Arnold, Mel Greenup, Bob Kester and Jim Maxwell were all together at Pensocola at last reports. - Emily and the girls are all fine and said to say hello - Guess that's about all.

I would appreciate very much hearing from you gentlemen as soon as possible about whether you intend to return for next season. If you do, I would also like to have an approximate starting date.

Best wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

GOBI GOSSIP MARCH 31, 1959

Howdy;

Springtime on the Gobi and time to write another letter. We are having typical Spring weather at the present. Rain one minute and sun shining the next.

Boucher and I attended a Smokejumper conference in Missoula a couple of weeks ago. There are quite a few changes coming up in the way of equipment and procedures. I will go into them when we get together this Summer.

Orv Looper is now in Alaska. He went up in January and seems to like it fine. Yandell is the only one going from here. Ferry decided to go to Panama instead.

There are two men from here going to New Mexico in May. (Lehman and Light) They will be there until the middle of July and will then return here to finish out the season. The men usually average between 10 and 15 fire jumps while there so they should make out alright.

Just received news that the Roddy Newtons had a bouncing baby boy on March 21st. Lance Elliot by name. Young Molly Newton was born on March 24th so they are keeping the birthdays pretty close together. Jack Harter is now married and is working for the CAA in Oakland, Calif. I understand that he is doing a good job as always- Ken Rosenberg was home over Spring vacation and worked here at the project- Heard from Gid Newton the other day. He is now at Fort Bragg, N.C. and is going to be a paratrooper before too long. He took his basic and then went to Cook's school before going Airborne- Cliff McKeen will start working here on the forest next week. He is dropping out of school the last quarter- Ron Price is still in the Marines at Camp Pendleton and will be out in early June- Dick Wessell has quit school and is now selling shoes in Medford. He won't be back this year but Sandy will- Mrs. Kaufman and Mrs. Wolff will both be back this year. Thank goodness! Saw Bill Rusin and Jerry Reid while in Missoula. They were both going to school there and seem to be doing O.K.

Looks as if we will have quite a few new men to train this year. At the last count there were 14 "old" men returning and 17 new men. We'll break the new squad leaders in right. Price, Rosenberg and Mike Byrne will have the positions this year. Will seem funny not to have Harter, Newton and Ferry back. They have been around a long time.

The high cost of living has caught up with us again and the meals are now \$1.00 each. Sure hope the new pay grades go through, before the season starts, to make up for this. The jumpers will be GS-6 (\$4490 per year) and the squadleaders GS-7 (\$4980 per year). The last I heard was for them to go into effect before July 1, but, of course, there is no guarantee.

Well, guess this is about all for this time- See you in June !

Oct. 29, 1959

Howdy:

The end of another fire season and Elk hunting season about to begin so will try and write a few lines to enclose with the brief "summary" of the '59 season.

Everything is nice and quiet and peaceful here at the project at present. Everyone has now left except for Boucher and myself. Back to the battle of the torn chutes, reports and dirty coffee cups!

After the season closed the remainder of the men were transferred to the districts to help with their Winter work. Lehman, Tucker, McBride, Reid, Groom, J. Cramer, and F. Cramer were transferred to the Galice district and they are now burning slash and planting trees for them. Mike Cramer is helping with a recreation survey on the Gold Beach district at present. Dick and Sandy are also working for the Gold Beach district. Sandy will be their permanent clerk and won't be back at the project next year. Dick has also obtained a permanent position.

Dick Foy is now flying borate planes in the Santa Barbara area. He was living at a place called Galeta the last I heard. I understand he was quite busy a couple of weeks ago when they had 3 pretty good sized fires going. He will probably be in Southern Cal until Jan. when their fire season is normally completed.

Heard from Ron Price the other day. He is now at Quantico, Virginia at Officer Candidate School. Guess he won't be back with us for a few years. - Slagle writes that he and Teddy Cook have been doing quite a bit of free falling in the Eugene area. I understand Ted needs a couple of lessons in spotting as he landed between the hiway and the power lines on one jump. - Jack Harter now lives in Castro Valley, California and wants any of you "old timers" to drop in and see them when you're in that area. - The last I heard from Mulligan his leg was healing fine and he is back in school. - I see Mrs. Kaufman quite often. She would certainly like to hear from any of you when you have time. Still not certain whether her and Mrs. Wolff will be back next year but we hope so. - The project received some nice thank you cards from the Mike Byrnes, Lights and the Fritzs for the wedding presents so I guess they all went through with it. -

I still haven't heard anything from the New Mexico and Alaska details but will let you know what the deal is in the next letter, probably around the holidays. Alaska ended up by jumping 34 fires this past season so they did O.K. with only a 16 man outfit.

Ed Scholz, Al and myself went into Fishhook a couple of weeks ago and did a little more leveling of the strip with a "roto-cat". It is in pretty good shape now. One of the finest airports in that area.

Guess this is about all for this time. If any of you gentlemen have any news that you think might be of interest to the rest of the crew just drop me a note and will put it in the next issue. Always glad to hear from you, at any rate.

Best of everything from the Allens and Bouchers!

December 16, '59

Howdy:

The holidays are fast approaching so I had better get this written while I have the time and ambition.

We have had a beautiful fall and winter so far. Got our first good rain since last June the other day. The snow is down to about the 3000' level but none at all here in the valley yet. It has been colder than usual this year. Got down to 13 degrees last week. That is colder than it was all last winter.

Boucher is working in Grants Pass now on a fire replanning project. He will probably be there until the last of January. Has been driving back and forth every day so it makes a long day for him.

Saw Dick Foy and family last week. They returned from Southern California sooner than expected and are back home in Medford. Dick is flying part time and is also helping to build borate tanks for one of the operators. He will probably start flying for the F.S. around the middle of April.

There are still a few jumpers working for the Galice district. McBride has left ~~for~~ school and I understand that Reid and Groom are leaving this week. Lehman is also thinking seriously of starting in at S.O.C. in January. That will leave the 3 Cramers and Tucker as well as a couple of Redding men. They were planting trees the last I heard. Dick and Sandy have purchased a new trailer house and are still at Gold Beach where they will be permanently. I still haven't found a replacement for Sandy, either.

I have heard from a few of you since the last time I wrote. Mike Byrnes is teaching and coaching freshman football, basketball and baseball during the week and is a carpenter on weekends so with his studies he has quite a job cut out for himself.- Mike Mulligan is all "healed up" and has applied for a position here next year.- Mortensen is attending S.F. State and has a part time job conducting tours thru the zoo on weekends.- Ken Rosenberg and Wright were here over the Thanksgiving holiday. Both doing fine.- Price was still at Quantico the last I heard. Seems to like the Marines.- Heard that Pawlowski has developed into quite a woman chaser since he left here.-

I have heard from a few of the jumpers from previous years also. Rod Newton passed his bar exam in Nevada and will start practising law when school is out next Spring.- Milan Ferry is still in the Panama Canal Zone and was married last September.- Warren Webb has finally gone into the Army and is taking engineer basic at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. He went in on the 6 month deal.- Gid Newton is still in the Paratroops at Ft. Bragg, N.C. and hopes to be back with us next summer.- Doug Stinson is now working for the F.S. at Ketchikan, Alaska.- John McDaniels will start working for the Powers district here on the Siskiyou starting in January when he graduates.- Phil Clarke is now working for a Gas Co. in Crescent City and will be headed back to Alaska early next Spring.

I have also heard from Orve Loper in Alaska. Anyone that is interested in going up there next year is to submit his application direct to O.C. Loper, 516 2nd Ave., Fairbanks. He wants the applications on a Form 57 which can
(cont.)

be obtained from any Post Office. Please bear in mind that it will be necessary to go up there around the first of May. He does not know how many openings he will have as yet but has said he will give anyone from here top consideration.

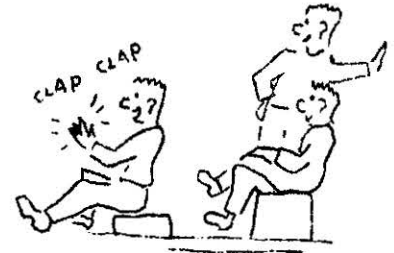
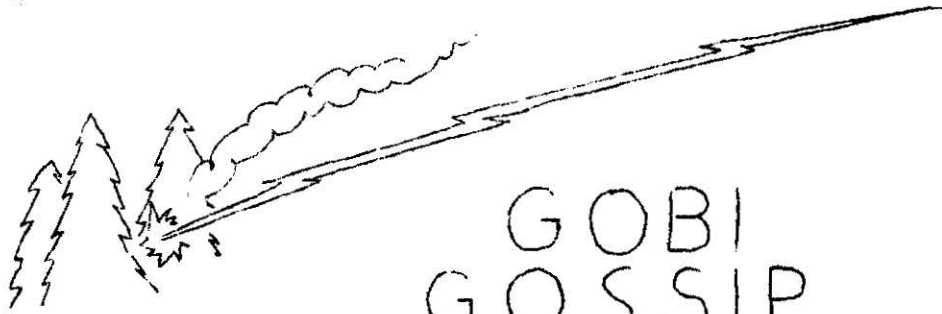
As for the New Mexico detail. I am almost certain that we will again send 2 men from here, so I would appreciate it if all of you that are interested would please let me know right away. It will be necessary to go to Missoula the first week in May for refresher training. I will let you know as soon as possible who we have decided to send.

It is also time to start recruiting for next season so I would appreciate very much hearing from all of you as to your intentions. I will enclose a card for your convenience. If you are not sure just what date you will be available just use an estimated date. I have checked with the Regional Office in Portland and they have given us permission to start putting you gentlemen on Civil Service this Spring so that your GS-6 ratings will be all through by the time you report for work. So, if all of you men that were first year men last season will let me know about your returning I will send you the necessary forms as soon as possible.

I have neglected to mention the elk hunting trip until the last for only one reason. I didn't get an elk! Six of us went on the trip and 3 got one each so we all ended up with plenty of meat, anyway. Had real nice weather and a good group to go with so everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Well, I guess this is about all for this time. I hope this finds everyone well and happy!

Heres wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year from all the Allens and Bouchers!



Howdy:

Feb. 16, 1960

Looks as if Spring is almost here so will try and get one of these things written before Spring fever sets in.

We finally had our winter rain all in one big splash. It had only rained 5 inches from last June until the first of this month and we have already had more than 5 inches in the past two weeks. Looks as if it is trying hard to clear up now, though.

Boucher is now back at the project. He is repairing chutes and doing the usual repair work. Fred and Jim Cramer were here for a couple of weeks in January when they had a little snow in Galice but have gone back now. Mike Cramer and Lehman are still over there also.

Have the recruiting completed for another year. We will have 15 new men. Had about 200 applications so had plenty to choose from. The experienced men that are returning are Pawlowski, Rosenberg, Wright, the 3 Cramers, Groom, McBride, Tucker, Fritz, Mansfield, Mortensen, Sheley and Gid Newton ('55, '56, '57, '58). There have been quite a few of you that have decided not to return. Mulligan's doctor advised him against it because of his leg- Gary Meredith has gone in the Air Force- Reid is going to Alaska to jump- Ted Cook couldn't quite pass the eye test for the Civil Service exam- the Services and married life pretty well take care of the rest.

Have heard from Orve Looper in Alaska a few times. Reid will be the only one going up there from here next season. Most of last years crew will be returning and he will still only have 15 men. They have been having a mighty cold Winter up there according to the weather broadcasts.

Looks now as if we will be sending 2 men to New Mexico again this year. Jim and Mike Cramer will be going this year if we do participate. They usually start down there around the first of May.

Saw the Dick Foys a while back. They have a new addition since I last wrote. A bouncing baby boy born last month. They are all doing well. Dick probably will go back with the Forest Service in April. We hope he will be back here at the project, although I understand one of the other units is trying to get him away from us.

The Jack Harters also have a new addition. A girl born in December. Jack is still with the F.A.A. in Oakland. The Phil Clarkes have also

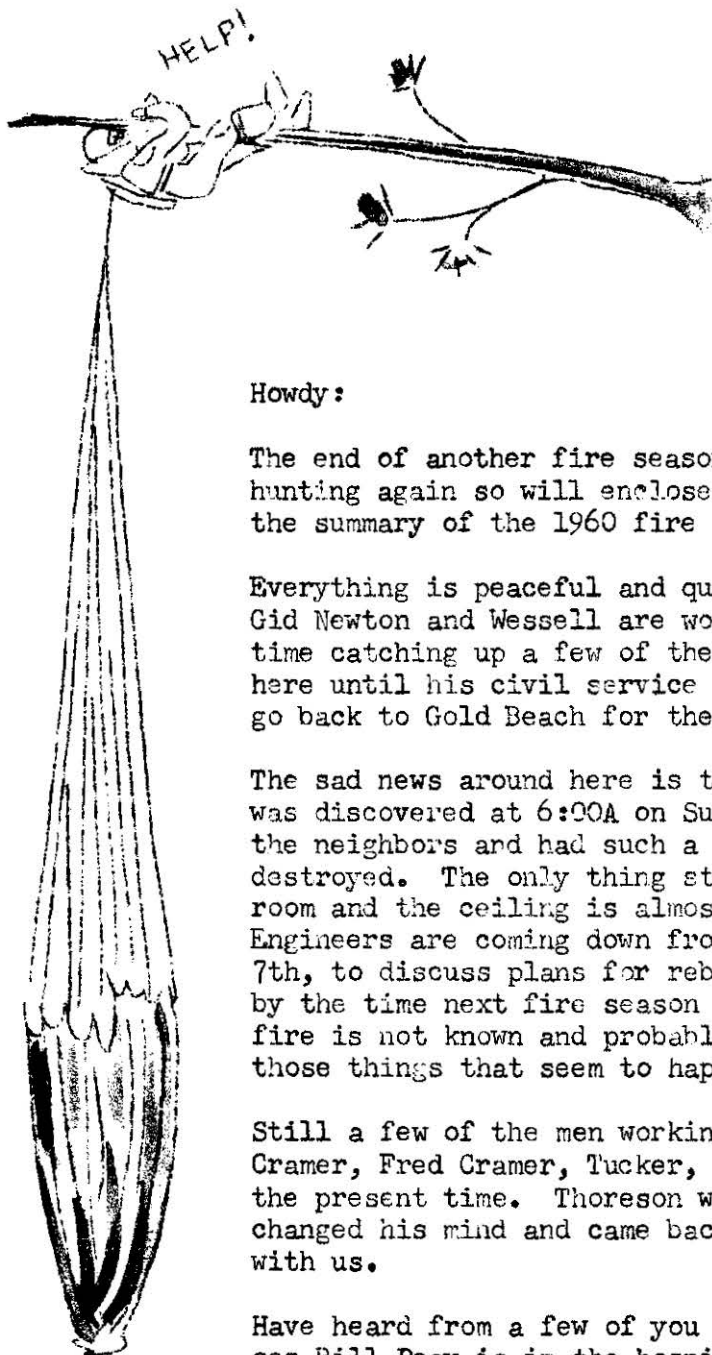
had a baby girl, born the first part of this month. Phil is still in Crescent City, Calif., but will be returning to Alaska in the near future.

I am enclosing Civil Service papers for you gentlemen that are eligible for GS-6 ratings next year. There are three different forms and a sheet of instructions to help you in filling them out. Please fill them out and return them here as soon as possible so that your ratings will be through by the time you report for work. It means an additional \$450 per annum for you so its important that we get them through as soon as possible. If you have any further questions about these forms, be sure and let me know right away.

The steelhead fishing season is in full swing around here now. I have been getting a few but nothing spectacular. As soon as the fishing season is closed the end of this month it will be time to go bat the golf ball around. Sure hard to get any annual leave accumulated during the Fall and Winter months!

Well, Al is hollering for me to get this finished so he can mimeograph it, so better close. The artistic work at the top is his work, of course.

Best regards to everyone and we'll be seeing you!



GOBI GOSSIP

November 3, 1960

Howdy:

The end of another fire season and almost time to go elk hunting again so will enclose a few words to go along with the summary of the 1960 fire season.

Everything is peaceful and quiet around here now. Boucher, Gid Newton and Wessell are working out of here at the present time catching up a few of the loose ends. Wessell will be here until his civil service goes through and then he will go back to Gold Beach for the Winter.

The sad news around here is the loss of our messhall. It was discovered at 6:00A on Sunday, October 16th by one of the neighbors and had such a good start that it was 85 to 90% destroyed. The only thing standing at present is the dining room and the ceiling is almost completely gone from it. Engineers are coming down from Portland next Monday, the 7th, to discuss plans for rebuilding so it should be replaced by the time next fire season rolls around. The origin of the fire is not known and probably never will be. Just one of those things that seem to happen.

Still a few of the men working down at Galice. Ridgway, Jim Cramer, Fred Cramer, Tucker, Wheeler and Thoreson are there at the present time. Thoreson went to Eugene to school but changed his mind and came back to finish out the fire season with us.

Have heard from a few of you gentleman lately.- Chuck Sheley sez Bill Peay is in the hospital at Reno having a bone graft done on his wrist; Chuck also sez he is working part time as a Pizza cook.- Glen McBride is back in Provo going to school and busy serenading the little girls.- Jim Page made the long trip home O.K. and is back in school.- John Childers is in California seeding at the present time. He will probably be down there about a month.- Darlene is working two days a week here and three days a week at the Ranger Station.- The Fritz family made it back to Sunny Calif. alright and hadn't produced their new offspring the last I heard.- Rosenberg is turning out for Wrestling at O.S.C. according to his folks.- Mike and Carole Cramer are at Corvallis where they are both going to School.- "Chutes" Towers and VanW. were here over last week-end; "Chutes" has purchased a 1956 Oldsmobile to chase the girls with.- Speaking of vehicles: Thoreson is slowly freezing to death on a new motorcycle in our beautiful Oregon weather.- Fred Cramer is also sporting a 1961 MG around (I was in Grants Pass the other day and saw him make at least 14 trips up main street trying to impress the local belles.).

Have also heard from a couple of the "old timers!" Milan Ferry became a papa of a baby girl this fall. He is still in Gatun, Canal Zone. - Dick Light is living in Hillsboro and is working for G.M.C. in Beaverton. - Is expecting a little Light in February.- The Rod Newtons are the proud owners of a new house in Reno according to Dick Wessell who stopped to see them on a recent trip.- Haven't heard what Jack Harter is doing since he left here this Summer. - Guess thats all!

I wrote to Looper in Alaska sometime ago and asked about being able to start up there in June but haven't received the answer as yet. Anyway, for you gentlemen that are interested, just send your application on a form 57 to O.C. Looper, Fire Control Station, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Guess this is about all I can think of for this time. Still no news on the Redmond move but being as they plan to rebuild the messhall, looks as if we'll be here for a while yet.

Best of everything to all of you! I will write again in a month or so, so let us hear from you.

Allen
February 6, 1961

Howdy:

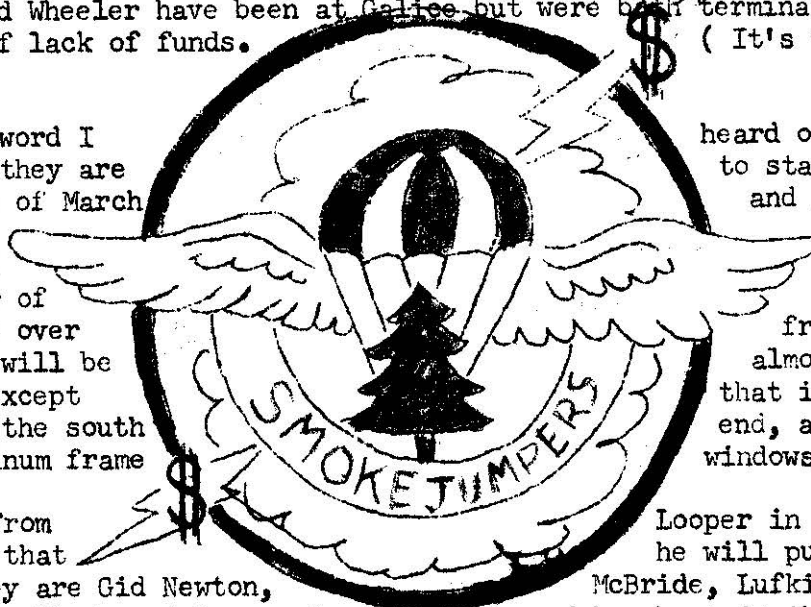
Here it is February already and time to write another short letter. We have had a very nice Winter so far. No snow as yet and very little rain up until last week. We had been waiting for a month to get some rain so it would bring the steelhead up the river and then when the rains finally came last week the water was almost flood stage and too high for fishing. We have managed to pick up an occasional fish and should do good when the water goes down.

Al is busy making deployment bags and converting 32' chutes to FS 5A's. We should have 43 of them ready when the season rools around. We will also have 31 nylon suits so everyone will have one for next season.

Fred Cramer is working here now, also. He is working over about 600 cargo chutes for the Regional Office that came back from last years fires.-Gid Newton and Wheeler have been at Galice but were both terminated last Friday because of lack of funds. (It's that time of year again.)

The last word I was that they are the first of March contract They will remainder of and start over slab. It will be old one except porch on the south and aluminum frame

I heard from tells me that here. They are Gid Newton, (Jim Maxwell jumped here a few years ago and has been in the service until last fall.) Looper said that if he should need any more jumpers he will probably get them from the Okanogan.



heard on the messhall to start construction and finish the the first of June. remove the the old building from the concrete almost idenical to the that it will have a end, a few more cabinets windows.

Looper in Alaska and he he will put on 4 men from McBride, Lufkin, and Maxwell.

I have heard from most of you gentlemen about returning for next year and it looks now as if between 22 and 25 of last years crew will be returning. Dick Groom has gone in the Army and Tucker has enlisted in the Navy so Sheley and either Thoreson or Peay will be going to New Mexico this year.

We will only be putting on 6 or 7 new men this year so I can't possibly put on all the men you gentlemen have recommended. I have received about 150 applications so far so there will be a lot of disappointed people.

Dick and Peggy Foy were up over the holidays. Dick and his partner have two B-17s so they are going into the borate business a big way this year.

Have seen and heard from quite a few of you since the last time I wrote. Mike and Carol Cramer dropped in during the Xmas vacation. They are both going to O.S.C.- Ridgway has purchased a '59 Volvo. He has applied for a position at Redding this summer.- Mike Simon will be married the first part of June and will come to work here after the honeymoon.- Jim Page is still in school in N.C. and will probably be back since he didn't get on in Alaska.- Ron

Thoreson has been traveling all over the country but has settled down in School again now.- Sheley and Peay were here for a couple of days last week on a little vacation. Bill's wrist seems to be doing real well.- Darlene was married about two weeks ago but is still planning to return as far as I know. She married a fellow that just moved into the valley last fall.- Both Al Baker and Van Wagendonk will take their training and then go to K.O.T.C. camp for a month or 6 weeks.- Ken Rosenberg came out over the holidays and did quite a bit of rigging to get chest type chutes added to his F.A.A. license.- The Pollock drops in every once in awhile to tell about his new girl friends.- Mansfield dropped out over Xmas but unfortunately I was gone. - Bill Knight is still in business school at the U. of Portland.- Riffe, Towers and Beardslee gave up their apartment and have moved onto campus.- "Chutes" comes down to C.J. quite often to see his fiancée.- Mrs. Kaufman has been a little under the weather lately. As far as I know, both Mrs. Wolff and her will be back next year.- Jim Cramer is unemployed now and doing lots of fishing.- Haven't heard from Wright for a long time. He will be back, as well as the other three squadleaders.- Big John Childers is still working in the S.O. in Grants Pass and will be until Spring.- Guess thats about all for now.

By the way, the picture on this letter as well as the rest of the letters are drawn by Boucher. He does a real good job.

Will probably write again in a couple of months.

BEST OF EVERYTHING TO ALL !

Nabe
/

Handwritten notes, possibly names or initials, including "Nabe" and "Nabe".

Nabe

Handwritten initials or mark.

Nabe

Handwritten notes, possibly names or initials, including "Nabe" and "Nabe".

GOBI GOSSIP

Dec. 8, 1961

Greetings from the land of the rain and fog. Seriously, we have had a very nice Fall and Winter so far. Snowed about one inch a couple of weeks ago but gone the next day. Haven't even had enough rain yet to make the steelhead fishing good, either.

Al, Fred and myself are the only ones here at the Project now. Still trying to get last summers mess straightened out between fishing and hunting trips.

Several of the jumpers are still working for the districts here. Gid Newton is at Gold Beach, Jim Cramer is at Galice, Mike Cramer, Glenn McBride, Jim Fritz and Dennis Wheeler are working for the Illinois Valley district. Larry Welch was at Gold Beach but left a short time ago for Texas.

Have heard from a few of you since the season closed. Pilot Williams has been keeping out of mischief by doing a little flying and instructing at Kelso, Washington. Must not have got an elk this year as he wasn't bragging about it in his letter- Jack Ridgway just moved to another apartment in San Francisco. Said the 3 girls in the apartment next door were too distracting in the old place. ???- Bill Knight is still sticking it out at the U. of Portland. Said he saw Gordy Kellogg awhile back and he was about to finally shed his cast- Ron Thoreson left for Europe awhile back. He was to land in France on Dec. 14th. His back seems to be doing real well- Saw Jim Oleson in Missoula a couple of weeks ago. Ex-Siskiyouite Jerry Reid and Jim dropped by where we were staying-Mike McCracken will jump in Idaho next year. Sure hate to see him go. He will marry Sally in June.

Heard awhile back that former jumper Jim Edison was killed while making a carrier landing in the Gulf. He left his wife Sylvia and a 9 months old daughter.

L/LT. Ron Price, ex-squadleader, is on the way home now. He will be home in Portland until after the holidays and then on to Camp LeJeune, N.C. He has been in Okinawa and Japan for some time now-Ken Rosenberg is now in the Army and I heard the other day that he signed up for another year or two and will go to Officer Candidate School and become a Second Looney-Dave "Chutes" Towers became a papa of a bouncing baby boy last month. Kevin Scott by name- Heard that Jan van W. is now the proud owner of a red M.G.-About all I can think of.

My 12 year old daughter, Kathy, was hit by a car while crossing the highway in front of the Project on November 5th. She suffered a broken shoulder, elbow and her pelvis was fractured in 3 places. She was in the hospital 2½ weeks and is home now. She will be in bed for another 2 weeks and should be up and about for Christmas. There will be no disabling injuries so we feel very fortunate. She is getting very anxious to get back to school now.

I have been to the Regional office twice in the past two months discussing the Redmond base. They already have the site plan drawn up and will start the plans for the buildings right away. They plan to start construction on the buildings next July 1. It is going to be a real nice spread and

will cost right around a million dollars if they move the Portland warehouse and plane maintenance shop over there as they now plan to do. There are facilities planned for 50 extra jumpers.

I am enclosing a card for you to fill out pertaining to returning for the 1962 season. If you are not sure when you can make it just put down an approximate date as I have to base my finances until next July 1 on this information.

I still do not have any information on the New Mexico detail and will let you gentlemen know that are interested in the near future.

Guess this is all for this time.

Happy Holidays from all the Allens and Bouchers. Freddy Cramer, too!

GOBI GOSSIP

February 5, 1962

Howdy,

It looks as if Winter is about over with so will try and get another letter written before the outdoor work begins.

We have had a more severe Winter than usual this year. We got about 9 inches of snow the middle of January and there is still patches of it on the ground. Usually, it has melted or rained off within a day or two but it has been cold enough to keep it on this year. The valley fog hangs on each morning and doesn't allow the sun to get through and start thawing until too late to do much good.

Al and myself went to a inter-regional Smokejumper meeting in Missoula last month. Not many changes came out of the meeting, but we did get a lot of little things cleared up.

I am happy to report that my daughter, Kathy, is now back in school and doing fine after her accident. She was out two months altogether. She still does not take P.E. in school but probably will before long.

Heard the other day that the I.V. Ranger Station is getting a new office next July and that their present office will be moved out here in June. They had outgrown their present office and it is plenty big enough for us. It will seem nice to get out of this cubby hole here in the loft. We will make a chute and equipment storage room out of it.

The Redmond base is still going through. We had hoped to get enough money to start construction on the entire lay-out next July 1 but were informed by the R.O. that there will only be \$325,000.00 available for next fiscal year. The plans now are to construct the parachute loft, 2-25 man crew houses(one is for the 25 man hot shot crew and one for the jumpers), a 100 man messhall and the road, water and power systems. At least, it is a good start and will be operational for at least 25 extra jumpers during the 1963 season. Perhaps, during that year the remainder of the buildings will be constructed.

Orv Looper and Phil Clarke were at the Missoula meeting. Had many tales to tell of the Fairbanks winters.- Also saw Jim Oleson in Missoula. He was kind enough to lend us his car while we were there. Sure helped a lot.- Ken Rosenberg dropped by a while back. He still plans to go to O.C.S. if and when he is accepted.- Heard from Pawlowski over the holidays. He had planned to come over but wrecked his car and couldn't make it.- Phil Beardslee was down for a day with a couple of freinds of his. Seems to be doing real well.- Heard that Mike Lehman became the papa of a bouncing baby boy last Friday.- Mike and Carol Cramer beat the income tax deadline and had a baby girl on Dec. 31st. Takes some mighty careful planning to do that!- Jim Fritz left the other day for California to go back to school.- Jim Cramer is still working at Galice and I understand he is now engaged.- Gid Newton is still working at Gold Beach and drops by every once in awhile.- Chuck Mansfield was out over the holidays. The way things look now he probably won't be back with us next year.-

Allen

Boyer sez both he and Sandelin got their elk in Colorado this year so they did much better than we did here in Oregon.- Understand Dick and Sandy Wessell will be stationed in Agness next summer. Sure envy them that good fishing.- Lee Gossett came through awhile back. He was recalled in the Army and is now at Ft. Lewis, Washington.- John Childers was married the latter part of December. He is scheduled to be transferred to the R.O. this spring. Red Myler is being transferred to Atlanta as Region 8 Air Officer and John will take his place.- I understand Ralph Williams will be our pilot next summer and John Cowan (Okanogan) will take Childers place in Grants Pass.- Received a nice long letter from Bernie Welch the other day. He is in India with the Peace Corps. Seems to like it fine so far. See Mrs. Kaufman every once in awhile but haven't seen Mrs. Wolff since last fall.

Looks now as if we will have 20 or 21 "old" men returning this year. As far as I know at the present time Thoreson and Mike Cramer will be going to New Mexico and Board and Van W. will be going to Alaska.

I am enclosing papers for the Oregon State Income Tax for all of you that are out of state. Hope that you have all received your W-2 forms by now.

Guess this is about all for this time. Will try and write again about April.

Fred and Al say hello!

Gobi Gossip

October 11, 1962

Howdy:

Well, another fire season is now over and the Winter rains have set in. We have had almost 6 inches of rain this past week. The October average over the years is about 3 inches so we are way over already.

We finally closed up on September 28th and I think everyone was glad to see it happen. As you all well know, we may as well have closed the 2nd of August. Really a dismal fire season.

Darlene, Al and I are the only ones here at the Project now. Swift, Denton and Johnson are at Galice and Fred is on his honeymoon. He was married as planned on October 6th and will report back here the 15th. Johnson will be terminating at Galice tomorrow but Mick and Bill will probably be working out of there until the weather chases them out.

My good wife finally came through, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ weeks late, and presented me with another daughter on October 4th. Both Mother and Daughter are doing fine. We have named her Peggy Ruth.

I haven't had a chance to do any hunting or fishing as yet because of the new young 'un but am looking forward to a little of both soon. This heavy rain should help the fishing tremendously if and when it ever subsides. I was fortunate enough to have my name drawn for an Elk Cow tag and plan to head for Eastern Oregon about the 8th of November for about 10 days.

Your softball trophy was delivered here a few days ago. It is very nice. I understand you have to take the league championship for 3 years before it becomes permanent property. (If you see any professional softball players that are stupid enough to jump from an aircraft be sure and let me know!)

Heard on the radio where the President has signed the new pay raise for government employees. It goes into effect next pay period and will help a lot. The GS-5's have been boosted to \$4565 and the GS-6's will now get \$5035 so if any of you "new" men that are planning to return haven't submitted your Civil Service forms be sure and do so soon. Also, please remember to send your grade sheets to me as soon as you receive them.

I still haven't heard a thing about the Redmond base and will notify you all as soon as I hear anything definite.

Have heard from a few of you gentlemen lately. Sandelin sez he had a fine trip home and that he went on a pack trip and caught all the fish he wanted and saw lots of deer and elk. -Boyer has been fishing also and was getting ready to go hunting last week. -Hopkins is now living at the University Fire Station and also told of all the good steelhead fishing in the W.S.U. Section of the country. -Jim Roberts is back in school and sez he sees Hopkins every now and then. -Fritz was up the first day of deer season and went hunting. I understand he took home a nice little buck. -Tommy Smith decided at the last minute to go back to school this Fall. Went to Portland to take the Air Force Para-rescue medical exam but decided against going in. -Guess thats about all!

Mike Lehman's In-Laws, Mr. and Mrs. Diaz of Merlin, were kind enough to donate a bumper pool table to the Project last week. We have picked it up and have ordered a few parts for it and will have it in operation before next Summer rolls around. Boucher already claims he can beat anyone of you guys easily.

Guess this is about all for this time. I will try and write another one of these in December so let us hear from you.

Best of everything to all!

Allen

GOBI GOSSIP

Howdy:

December 14, 1962

Here it is December already so will try and get this written before the holidays.

The day after I wrote the last "letter" was the day of the Columbus Day storm here in the Northwest. We came out of it pretty good here at the project. There were 5 telephone and power poles blown down. The tower blower also went down. The worst damage was to the Cessna 180. It broke loose during the storm and ended up against a post down by the ball diamond. It tore the tail section up about \$1500 worth.

I was lucky enough to get a nice spike elk this year so didn't need the cow tag I had. Three of us went and we got two elk so we ended up with lots of meat.

Al and I are the only ones here at the Project now. Mick is still at Galice and Fred is running a crew of tree planters for the Illinois Valley district. They will both start working here January 5th. Steve Johnson quit at Galice in November and made a trip to Mexico and I understand he is now back at Galice working with Mick.

Al is leaving next week for a 2 weeks vacation in Sunny California. He is leaving the 19th and will return Jan. 2nd. Plans to spend Christmas with his folks a few miles east of Palm Springs.

I have a change of address for you also. The former Mrs. Kaufman is now Mrs. Charlie Click and they live at 234 N W B. Street in Grants Pass. Do you suppose Irma and Bill will be next? We will certainly miss them both next year. Haven't found a replacement for them as yet. Who ever it turns out to be will have a hard time filling their shoes.

They are certainly keeping the Redmond base secretive. The only thing I know so far is that they definitely plan to man the base next Summer with 25 men. We have been authorized to train 12 and the Okanogan will train 13. (We trained 5 for that base last year so will be training an additional 7). I don't know how many experienced men we will send out of the 12. It will depend on how many of you come back.

Darlene was still around the country the last I heard. I understand she also went elk hunting but the party she was with didn't have any luck. Snooks is still around. She was intending to head south this fall but is having car trouble. Still single and looking.- Gary Welch dropped a card the other day. He seems to like school real well and is taking flying lessons.- Jerry Schmidt reports everything is going well in Colorado- Denton is at Redding and doing quite a bit of bird hunting. He sez Pettigrew will be home next week for the holidays.- Pote Landis sez the Columbus Day storm has helped him financially as he has been able to pick up quite a few jobs bucking up the downed trees in Portland. They had quite a mess up there.- Jim Roberts reports everything is O.K. at W.S.U. and he is thinking of buying a sky diving outfit.- Jerry John dropped a line the other day and said he was getting tired of the old collage grind as I am sure most of you are at this time of the year.- Sheley sez the

new baby is getting bigger and better looking every day.- Chutes Towers dropped by awhile back and seems to like his teaching job O.K.- Truman and Lydia Sandelin are now the proud parents of a new baby girl.- The Fritzs have also produced a bouncing baby boy to keep Jimmy in company.- Olson reports everything is going well in Missoula and the girls are keeping him busy, as usual.- Lee Gossett is busy flying and was over awhile back doing a little sewing. I understand he will be going back to Alaska next year.- Haven't heard a thing from or about Pilots Williams or Bonner lately. I assume they're staying out of mischief.

I am enclosing a card for each one of you to fill out and return. If you don't know your starting dates just give me a rough estimate. We will plan to start training the first crew on June 3rd this year. Also, if you have applied for Alaska I would like to know about it. The New Mexico crew usually starts training around May 1st so if all of you that are interested will let me know right away we will select the two and let you all know as soon as possible.

All of the Allens and Bouchers are doing fine. My new daughter is as sweet and lovable as her father and nearly as pretty.

I will write again in a couple of months and should know something more on the Redmond base at that time.

Happy holidays to all of you from all of us.

P.S. The address for the new Mrs. Click was wrong. The correct address is 245 N W B. St., Grants Pass.

SISKIYOU AERIAL PROJECT

-1962-

The 1962 fire season was officially opened at the Siskiyou Aerial Project on June 8th when 8 experienced men completed their two refresher jumps.

We were requested to train five extra jumpers this year in order to have a larger nucleus of experienced jumpers for the new Redmond base that is scheduled to be in operation for the 1963 fire season. There were 19 of last years crew returning so 17 new men were hired to complete the crew. (This includes two extra men to take care of the usual one man out of nine that fails to complete the training.)

On June 18th the 17 new men plus 6 Air Force Reserve Air Rescue trainees began their training. When the training was completed on July 18th there were a total of 14 new men and 3 Air Force reservists left. Lee Gossett, a former smokejumper was released from the army soon after this and was hired to complete the crew of 34.

This was the first year that this unit has been called upon to train any members of the Armed Services. The Air Force seemed well pleased with the training program and expressed a desire to have more men trained in the future.

The first fire of the season was jumped by Mick Swift and Paul Boyer. This was on June 15th and was to the Falcon Creek fire on the Umpqua forest.

The next fire was the Lizard Lake fire on the Willamette. Larry Wright and Trum Sandelin jumped this fire on June 23rd.

On July 11th an isolated storm hit the Illinois Valley district on the Siskiyou and 6 men were dropped to 2 different fires.

The following day, July 12th, saw 2 more fires jumped when Chuck Sheley and Chuck Casey from the Okanogan Aerial Project jumped on the Strause fire on the Shasta Trinity. Sandelin and Lufkin were put on the Oldenburg fire on the Deschutes.

On July 20th, 4 fires were jumped on the Klamath forest in R-5. The storm hit late in the afternoon and 2 of these fires were dropped from the R-5 DC-3 and 2 were dropped by Spotter Sheley from T-Beech 165Z.

The Nail Keg fire on the Siskiyou was the next fire. This was on July 21st and Cramer, Boyer, Pettigrew and Boundy were the jumpers.

On the following day, July 22nd, Mike Simon and Bill Denton were jumped to the Happy Prairie Ridge fire on the Willamette.

On July 23rd Boucher and 6 jumpers were dispatched to Redmond to man the satellite base. They were there until August 3rd and during this time they jumped a total of 6 two man fires. 5 of these fires were on the Deschutes and one on the Winema.

On July 24th Cramer and 5 men were sent to the Okanogan Aerial Project to assist them. 6 more men were sent on July 27th and another 6 on July 31st. During this time Siskiyou jumpers made a total of 30 fire jumps on 18 different fires from the Winthrop base. These fires were on the Okanogan, Wenatchee, Mt. Baker and for the State of Washington. On August 3rd the last of the Siskiyou jumpers were returned from the Okanogan to this base.

During the period of July 23rd to August 3rd while most of the men were at Redmond and the Okanogan, the jumpers remaining here jumped to 6 different fires on the Klamath, Rogue and Umpqua. 17 jumps were made to these 6 fires.

On August 2nd a rain storm hit most of Oregon, Washington and Northern California and although it warmed up considerably after this the jump season was over for this unit.

It was not until September 24th that the next fire was to be jumped. This fire was on the Shasta Trinity and was caused by an F7F Retardant plane crash. The plane was making a drop on another fire near by when it hit a tree with the wing and the pilot lost control. The pilot was killed in the crash. Cramer, Gossett, Denton and Johnson made the jump to the fire.

After a rain on September 27th the unit was closed the following day, Friday, September 28th, for the year.

During this fire season the jumpers from this unit jumped from ten different planes. These included 3 R-6 Twin Beeches, 2 contract Twin Beeches, R-6 DC-3, R-5 DC-3, Johnson Flying Service DC-3 (R-1), Aero-Commander and the Air Force Albatross. These planes were piloted by 12 different pilots besides our regular pilot, Ralph Williams.

Pilot Ralph Williams and Jumpers Lufkin and Tommy Smith were sent to New Mexico this year in early May. Williams and Lufkin returned the middle of July and Smith returned the first of August. Lufkin made 3 fire jumps while there and Smith made 9. The New Mexico fire season was late and also below normal for jumping.

The personnel for this season were Jim Allen, Project Air Officer; Al Boucher, Foreman; Fred Cramer, Chief Squadleader; Jim Oleson, S.L.; Nick Swift, S.L.; Chuck Sheley, S.L.; and Larry Wright, S.L. (Sheley replaced Wright when Larry was transferred to the Snoqualmie during the season). There were a total of 30 jumpers in addition to the above. The cooks, for the 9th season were Mrs. Kaufman and Mrs. Wolff. They were assisted in the kitchen by Mrs. Heath, Edith Whitely and Mary Tuttle. Darlene Mohr was clerk with Arlene Hoover as her assistant. Ruth Boucher and Glenda Marchant worked when needed as parachute riggers and repairers. Ralph Williams served as Twin-Beech pilot and Keith Bonner was stationed here to fly the Cessna 180.

The total number of jumps made during this season was 381. (This includes 28 jumps made by the Air Force and one fire jump made by Casey from the Okanogan). Of this total, 283 were training and practice jumps and 98 were fire jumps. The 98 fire jumps were made to a total of 44 fires. 26 of these fires were jumped from Cave Junction and Redmond and 18 were made from the Okanogan base. The Klamath forest was our biggest user in this area with 8 fires followed by the Deschutes forest with 6. A total of 11 forests plus the State of Washington were jumped to by members of this Unit during the season.

There have only been 2 fire seasons in the past 10 years when fewer fire jumps have been made by this unit. These years were 1954 and 1957. The most fire jumps made this year were made by Truman Sandelin with 7. The average number of fire jumps per man was approximately 3 each. This can be compared with the 1961 season when the average was better than 9 per man.

The following personnel were employed during 1962.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Address</u>
James C. Allen	Project Air Officer	P.O. Box 105, Cave Junction, Ore.
Albert N. Boucher	Foreman	P.O. Box 345, Cave Junction, Ore.
Fredrick L. Cramer	Chief Squadleader	Siskiyou Aerial Proj. Cave Jct.
H. James Oleson	Squadleader	1721 Helen, Missoula, Mont.
Charles M. Sheley	"	530 W. 2nd. Ave. Chico, Calif.
Eldo W. Swift	"	Siskiyou Aerial Proj., Cave Jct.
Lawrence J. Wright	"	1737 Weles St., Enumclaw, Wash.
Ronald F. Lufkin	Smokejumper	2301 Rucker Ave. Apt. 5, Everett, WASH.
Michael B. Simon	"	Cambridge, Nebr.
Larry D. Welch	"	216 W. 15th St., Post, Texas
Owen L. Gossett	"	B.F. Star Route, Box 204, Eagle Point, Ore.
Gary E. Welch	"	216 W. 15th St., Post, Texas
Richard L. Board	"	1517 Ceres St. Crockett, Calif.
Truman L. Sandelin	"	Box 898, Gunnison, Colo.
James L. Fritz	"	4855 Boyd Rd., Arcata, Calif.
William M. Knight	"	Rt. 1, Box 106 JJ, Pendleton, Ore.
Charles R. Mansfield	"	1024 Lawnridge, Grants Pass, Ore.
Philip G. Beardslee	"	751 E. 16th, Eugene, Ore.
Paul D. Boyer	"	515 N. Taylor, Gunnison, Colo.
Roger D. Towers	"	18020 Riverside Dr., Sonoma, Calif.
Tommy R. Smith	"	2912 So. River Rd., Grants Pass, Ore.
James L. Barron	"	914 W. Blaine, Seattle, Wash.
Jere A. Hancock	"	145 N. View Dr. Apt. 1, Athens, GA.
Ernest J. Krasja, Jr.	"	Mahnomen, Minnesota
Gilbert H. Boundy	"	Route #6, Huntington, Indiana
Jerry P. John	"	1117 E. First, Sulphur, Okla.
Clifford W. Hamilton	"	76 Glenwood Glade, Oakland, Calif.
Jerry E. Schmidt	"	3993 So. Grant, Englewood, Colo.
Thomas A. Pettigrew, Jr.	"	750 Locust St., Redding, Calif.
Peter R. Landis	"	3822 N.E. 36th Ave. Portland, Ore.
Ronald E. Garner	"	839 Chestnut Ave. Los Angeles, Cal.
James S. Roberts	"	Waller Hall, Pullman, Wash.
John L. Manley	"	916 N. Kay, Tacoma 3, Wash.
Charles E. Moseley	"	General Delivery, University, Ala.
Douglas N. Hopkins	"	6952 East "E" St., Tacoma, Wash.
Hal K. Ward	"	Route 1, Box 806, Beaverton, Ore.
William J. Denton	"	Galice Ranger Station, Merlin, Ore.
Steven T. Johnson	"	4026 S.E. Schiller, Portland, Ore.
Ralph O. Williams	Pilot	Box 188, Westport, Ore.
Robert K. Bonner	Pilot	223 S.W. Central Ave, Grants Pass,

JUMPER	Region 6						Region 5		Washington State	Fire Jumps	Practice Jumps	Other Jumps			
	Willamette	Siskiyou	Rogue	Winema	Umpqua	Deschutes	Wenatchee	Okanogan					Mt. Baker	Klamath	Shasta Trinity
1. Allen											6	3			
2. Boucher											6	3			
3. Cramer		1						1		1	6	4			
4. Swift		1			1						2	1			
5. Wright	1								1		2	1			
6. Oleson									2		2	3			
7. Sheley										1	1	3			
8. Beardslee		1					1	1	1		4	4			
9. Board			1						2		3	4			
10. Boyer		1			1		1	2	1		6	4			
11. Fritz						1			1		2	5			
12. Knight		1					1	1	1		4	6			
*13. Lufkin						1	1	2	1		5	1			
14. Mansfield				1		2			1		4	6			
15. Sandelin	1					1	1	3			7	5			
16. Simon	1	1							1		3	2			
**17. Smith											3	3			
18. Towers		1			1				2		4	4			
19. Welch, G.									1		3	5			
20. Welch, L.		1				1					3	5			
21. Barron											6	6			
22. Bounty		1					1	1			3	9			
23. Denton	1								1	1	3	10			
24. Garner			1		1				2		4	9			
25. Hamilton								1	1		2	9			
26. Hancock											3	3			
27. Hopkins						1					1	10			
28. John							3				3	9			
29. Johnson								2		1	4	9			
30. Krajsa											5	5			
31. Landis			1						3		4	9			
32. Manley			1						2		3	9			
33. Moseley							1	2	1		4	9			
34. Pettigrew		1						1			2	9			
35. Roberts				1					1		2	9			
36. Schmidt						2					2	9			
37. Ward						3					3	10			
38. Lehman			1								1	2			
39. Wessell											2	2			
40. U.S.A.F.											28				
41. Okanogan										1	1				
42. Gossett										1	4				
Fires	2	3	2	1	2	6			8	2					
Jumps	4	10	5	2	4	12	10	16	2	25	6	2	90	262	21
Request Number	2	6	2	1	2	1				8	4				

*New Mexico - 2 training & 3 Fire
**New Mexico - 2 training & 9 Fire

Total Jumps 381
Total Fires Here 26
Total Fires Other 18

Darlene J. Mohr
Arlene F. Hoover
Alviene A Kaufman
Irma J. Wolff
Cecelia C. Heath
Edith A. Whiteley
Mary P. Tuttle
Ruth A. Boucher
Glenda J. Marchant

Clerk
Assistant Clerk
Chief Cook
Second Cook
Cooks Helper
"
"
Parachute Rigger
"

P.O. Box 39, Cave Junction, Ore.
P.O. Box 175, Cave Junction, Ore.
Rt. 1 P.O. Box 274, Cave Junction, Ore.
4916 Laurel Ave., Grants Pass, Ore.
Rt. 1 P.O. Box 274, Cave Junction, Ore.
Rt. 1 P.O. Box 362, Cave Junction, Ore.
560 Caves Hiway, Cave Junction, Ore.
P.O. Box 345, Cave Junction, Ore.
636 Lincoln Rd., Grants Pass, Ore.

Address Changes: Sandelin - 607 $\frac{1}{2}$ N. Iowa, Gunnison
Hopkins - University Fire Station, Pullman, Wash.

GOBI GOSSIP

January 4, 1963

Howdy:

Happy New Year to all! Hope you all made it through the Holidays in good shape.

Very soon after I sent out the last letter saying they were definitely going to man the Redmond base this year I received a call from the R.O. They informed me that now they definitely will not man the Redmond base this year. The architects will not have the plans completed until late spring and construction will not begin until June or July. We will have the same size crew this season as we did last year. They do definitely plan to man the base in 1964, though!

I have received back a few of the cards that I sent to you in the last letter so far. I will appreciate it if the rest of you will return yours as soon as possible. In order to complete our recruiting, we first have to know just how many of you will be returning. It looks now as if we will only have 5 or 6 new men to train.

I imagine most of you have heard of the Government Accelerated Work Program. Anyway, it is a government sponsored program to give employment to depressed areas. This county (Josephine) happens to be one of them and we are going to get a few improvements with this money here at the project. The runway will be lengthened 1000' to the South, a 100' by 300' plane asphalt parking ramp is to be installed between the Pilot Shack and the ball diamond and we will have a 4 wire barbed wire fence around the entire airport (2½ miles). This will all be contracted and bids are to be let next week. The jobs will all be completed by the time jump season begins.

I am enclosing Oregon State income tax forms for all of you out-of-staters. It is up to you whether you send them in or not but I imagine it will mean a refund for you if you do. You will receive your W-2 forms in the near future so please don't write about them as they all come from Portland and we have nothing to do with them here.

Boucher returned from his trek to California on New Years Day. Seemed to be in pretty good shape after the ordeal-Heard that Paul Boyer was to be married December 29th. Some people will do anything to beat the income tax-Mick and Fred will start to work here next week. Fred has his wife teaching school now so he will have lots of time to go fishing-Towers was here over the Holidays and went fishing with Fred and me and we had our usual luck. Nothing!

There are quite a few of you gentlemen applying for New Mexico. We will let you know very soon who will be going.

Just another reminder for all you "new" men. Please send me your Civil Service Rating sheets as soon as possible. I have to have them and your starting dates before I can go ahead with your 6's.

Guess this is all for this time. I will write again soon.

Hope this finds all going well!

Allen

GOBI GOSSIP

March 27, 1963

Howdy:

Springtime on the Gobi although it doesn't look like it at the present time. We have had more winter during March than all the rest of the time. The snow fall in the hills is way below normal, so if that is any indication, we should have a good fire season. Less than 1/3 of the normal snow pack in the higher mountains!

Everything is about the same here. Swift is running a crew for the I.V. district at the present time. Freddy just returned to work after 2½ weeks off. He had a cyst removed from his tail bone and is still sitting down very cautiously. The Bouchers have purchased a new Comet S-22 with "4 on the floor" yet! The Allen family just returned from a weeks Spring vacation in Washington and Northern Oregon.

Things are progressing well with the Redmond base. They have now finished all the plans and intend to put out the bids on the buildings the middle of April. Construction is scheduled to start in June and there is a completion date of late August. This will include a parachute loft, 100 man messhall and a 25 man crewhouse. Two more 25 man crewhouses are scheduled on next Fiscal Year money beginning July 1.

The two men that are now going to New Mexico are John Manley and Steve Johnson. Smitty had to back out at the last minute as the draft board was hot after him.

Phil Beardslee leaves for Alaska the end of this week. As far as I know for sure, Gossett and he will be the only ones going from here. Lee got his Squadleaders rating a while back on the Alaska crew and Phil will go as a Jumper.

It looks now as if 25 or 26 of last years crew will be returning. We have already hired 10 new men and now find ourselves about four men over what we're supposed to have. Several of the guys that applied for Alaska and were undecided have now decided to come back. Anyhow, our acceptance of applications has been closed for another year so no more recruiting, please!

We are now completely encircled by a 4 wire barbed wire fence. All 2½ miles around the airport. They will start the 1000' extension of the runway and the plane parking ramp the middle of next month. They are scheduled to be completed by the latter part of May. We are also scheduled to get a new 40' by 72' warehouse just North of the loft in the near future so you should see some changes when you arrive. We're really looking forward to the new warehouse.

I have heard from quite a few of you gentlemen since I wrote the last letter. Gary Welch is now in the Army and will be married the end of next month- Little Larry Welch gave up Alaska and will arrive here the first of June- Towers sez he will come to C.J. in the near future to visit the in-laws and to look for a house for the summer- Sheley sez his boy now weighs 22 lbs. Chuck seems to like teaching- Mansfield reports a pretty rough Winter in the hills of Idaho- Board is still undecided about coming back. Says he has applied for a position with the F.B.I.- Moseley seems to be doing alright in Dixie and sez he is getting lots of trophies and medals- Truman S. won't be back this year. Has to do with his student

teaching but plans to return in '64- Denton applied to Alaska but I haven't heard whether he made it- Johnson is still at Galice and will be until he heads for New Mexico- Manley and the Bear were still going to school in Portland the last I heard- Boudy plans to start here on June 10th the last time he wrote- Pettigrew will arrive here tomorrow. He will go to work for the I.V. Ranger Station. Called yesterday and said he was married last week-end- Boyer was student teaching the last time he wrote and seems to enjoy married life- Ward was going to school part time and working part time in January but planned to go to school full time shortly thereafter- Hamilton was looking forward to getting out of school as I suppose most of you are- Jim Fritz and family came by awhile back. They all seemed to be doing well- Garner was doing quite a bit of free falling the last time I heard from him. (ll jumps by the middle of January)- Hopkins and Roberts are still at WSU. Said they had seen Ron Luffin and bride there also- Jerry John also applied to Alaska but didn't make it- Haven't seen Mrs. K. or Mrs. W. since last Fall- See Darlene in town every once in awhile- Snooks is now working in the local bank- Pilot Williams dropped by last week-end. Has been flying the T-Beech down south and will be heading for New Mexico again with the N.M. crew in May- Guess thats about all.

Thank you new men for being so prompt with your Civil Service papers. Everything seems to be going well and all the ratings are going through.

Take care and will be seeing the most of you in June!

GOBI GOSSIP

October 17, 1963

Howdy:

Well, another fire season is now history and we are back to our normal winter routine. Al, Fred and Alice are here at the Project and Mick and Knight are working out of I.V. Ranger Station. Everyone else has departed.

We have been closed since the first and I, for one, was glad to see it happen. Now we can all settle down and get prepared for a hard winter of hunting and steelhead fishing. I am really looking forward to November 8th when a group of us will head for Eastern Oregon for 10 days of elk hunting.

Still haven't heard anything about the Redmond base. Haven't the faintest idea who will be going or who will be in charge or anything about it. I will write as soon as I hear.

Quite a bit of moving around here during September. I moved to town into the house I purchased near the High School. Al moved into the house I was in and Fred moved into his. Sure glad that is over with!

Gil Boundy is now working at Galice and will be there from now on as a Forester. Jerry Schmidt was also scheduled to begin his forestry career in R-3 on October 7th. Tommy Smith is still on compensation, but is scheduled to go into the Service in November for 6 months. Heard through a local source that Mansfield is pretty well over his injury. He is back at the U. of Idaho. Sheley plans to take a trip up here the 26th and 27th - Bringing a friend along to show the softball trophy to. Just heard a few minutes ago that the Towers now have a little sister for Kevin - Congratulations! Jim Grubs reports that the knee operation was a success. He plans to come back next year to make his fire jump. Lufkin is going to school in Wenatchee - Seems to like it fine. Manley is back at Portland U. - Has his work cut out as he is carrying 19 hours of classes and working 32 hours a week in a toy factory - One of Santa's little helpers! Johnson is going to Eastern Oregon College at La Grande this year. Boyer's GS-7 came through and he is now officially a Squadleader-Fritz has been up here a couple of times deer hunting. Understand he took a truck load back with him. The Peters twins and Eldo did a little jumping at Medford a while back. They jumped with the Medford sky diving club. I understand it was a competition meet. They must not have won or Eldo surely would have said so -- I see Kay Moon every once in awhile. Both she and Jewell started cooking at the school as soon as we closed here. They both plan to return next year. Sure happy to hear that! Ralph left here and went back to Westport in September. Haven't heard from him, but probably too busy killing deer and catching salmon. John Cowan drops in every once in awhile and starts the T-Beech. Was headed for Winthrop for a few days the last I heard of him.

The new Grumman S2A plane that has been assigned to R-6 should be arriving before long. After it is modified for jumping, it is supposed to come here for operational tests. Give us a chance to sneak in a few jumps this winter, I hope. It is scheduled to be in Redmond next summer. Going to try and talk them into putting it here, but doubt if I will have any luck as it is supposed to serve a dual purpose. Will be used both for jumping and retardants. No harm in trying, anyway!

I have been getting a few inquiries on you new men that have applied for your GS-6's. Hope the rest of you will get the papers in as soon as possible. With the next pay raise coming in January the GS-5's will get \$4690 next summer and the 6's will get \$5235.

I will write another letter in December so drop a line before then if you find time and let us know what you're doing.

P.S. A brown leather shaving kit was sent here from the Okanogan. If you left it let us know and we will send it to you.

Allen

GOBI GOSSIP

December 17, 1963

Howdy:

Here it is almost Christmas already so will try and write a few lines before the holidays. Just seems like a few days since the Project closed and here the winter is almost half over.

Alice, Al and Fred are still working here at the Project. Eldo left in November for sunny California for the winter. He intends to return next spring in time for the fire season. The last address we have here for him is 15992 E. 14th St., San Leandro.

The elk hunting trip was a big disappointment this year. Five of us went together and not a one of us even got a shot. Just didn't seem to be many elk in the area we were in. Oh well, next year will be different. The fishing hasn't been very good either, so far. We have only gone a couple of times, but no luck as yet. I understand the fish are coming in all the rivers now so will have to give it another try here before long.

So far, we have absolutely no information on the Redmond base as to who will be in charge. We made a trip over there in November and the buildings are coming along very well. They are sure going to be nice. Someone had better be doing some deciding soon about personnel as there is a lot of work and planning to be done before next summer rolls around.

A few of you have written and asked about applying for Alaska. All you have to do is send a Form 57, Application for Employment to: Orville C. Looper, 3½ Mile Airport Road, Fairbanks, Alaska. You can get the forms from your local Post Office but if you have any trouble getting one, let me know and I will be glad to send you one.

I tried to get some Oregon State Income Tax forms to send to you out-of-staters, but was told they won't be out until next month. I will send copies as soon as they are available. It is usually to your benefit to fill them out as you will probably have a refund coming.

Bill Knight terminated the latter part of November and was scheduled to go into the Navy Air Force some time this month. Gil Boundy also took a Military Furlough from the Galice District and is now in the Service. Haven't heard where he is stationed--I also understand that Jerry Schmidt is about due to go in. Received a very nice picture of one of our leaders standing in a tree in a densely forested area, compliments of Jerry - Looks good hanging in the office. Chuck Mosley sez that Billy injured his shoulder playing football so didn't see much action this year. Looked for him on TV at the Alabama-Miami game but didn't see him. Chuck also said to let him know how many of you are still planning to meet in New Orleans on December 30, so he can get tickets and reserve rooms for you.

Hal Ward's arm is now back to normal and he intends to return next year. Hopkins also intends to return next season, although he will have to take a few weeks off for R.O.T.C. camp. He has been looking for ball players to recruit from W.S.U. - Chuck Mansfield is again teaching Physics labs at Idaho and is back to normal after the Willamette accident - Truman Sandelin, 1961-1962, intends to return again next summer. Be nice to have him back to help keep Elde in line. Butch Hill sez everything is fine in Oklahoma, Jerry John has been accepted for Dental school so both he and Butch will be back. Cliff Hamilton seems to be having his troubles in school and is considering dropping out of school next semester. Would like to go to Alaska if the draft doesn't get him first. Garry and Larry took their Rigger's exams a while back and say that they have completely revised the questions so guess all of Al's hard work on the Rigger Training pamphlets was to no avail. Former Squad-leader, Jim Oleson is still waiting on the FBI and is still in Helena with the Montana Supreme Court. Haven't seen the cooks lately but I understand that Jewell had an operation awhile back and is now back to work. Shelley was up for a day or two last month and seems to be doing well - I understand Tommy Smith is still waiting to go in the service so had better hurry if he is going to complete his 6 months before next fire season. John Cowan was out and dropped some experimental cargo for us the other day. He is working on road locations at the S.O. at the present time - Still haven't heard anything from Pilot Williams.

I am enclosing cards for you to fill out for next season's employment, If you do not know what date you will be returning just make a guess at it - If you have applied for Alaska and want to return here if you don't get on in Alaska just put a note on the card stating that. At any rate, I would like to have the cards returned as soon as possible.

I would also appreciate hearing from all of you that are interested in New Mexico. We will decide in January who will be going and let all interested parties know at that time.

You will also be informed just as soon as we find out something on the Redmond base.

Hope this finds all going well with all of you.

Happy Holidays and the best of everything to you from all of us!

Allen

GOSI GOSSIP

April 6, 1964

Howdy:

Spring is here and almost time for another fire season so had better get another one of these written while I have the time and before spring fever sets in.

Still not very much on the Redmond project. They are coming along very well with the buildings and plan to have the loft, 2 crewhouses, messhall and administration building completed by June. We are still planning to send 5 experienced and 5 inexperienced men over there around the first of July or shortly thereafter. Al has applied for the Foreman's job, but the selection hasn't been made as yet. We will select the 10 men sometime after you all arrive. I guess the Okanogan will furnish all these squadleaders as none of the ones from here want to go.

Region 3 (New Mexico) pulled kind of a rough one on us. The Peters twins had been selected to go from here and had already dropped out of school when we were notified that no one was going from R-6 this year. Fortunately, I caught the twins in time and they were able to get back in school for the spring term. Still don't know the reason behind the deal, but I intend to find out.

Looks now as if we will have 23 experienced men and 16 inexperienced men to train this year. This includes the 4 squadleaders and the 10 men for Redmond.

The men that won't be returning this year are Roberts (Summer School), Jerry John (jump in Alaska), Chuck Moseley (train for Olympics), Bill Moseley (Summer School), Jim Crabs (Summer School), Bliss, Knight, Boudry, Jerry Schmidt and Mortensen. There are also a couple of others that are still undecided.

Jerry John was through here last week on the way to Alaska. He was to leave Seattle yesterday. He stopped in Glendale, Calif. on the way here and visited with Ello and Chuck Moseley. They have an apartment together. Chuck is employed by an insurance company and is training with the L. A. Striders and Mick is working for a parachute company. Mick will come back to work here on May 13th. I understand Chuck was selected outstanding athlete of southern California for two weeks in a row so is obviously doing quite well.

For the benefit of last year's "new" men that have made application for a d.f.d. we have requested that each of you be promoted and you will be receiving the necessary papers to fill out in the very near future.

Looks now as if one of our T-Beeches will be stationed in Redmond with Williams as pilot. We will have the one Twin here with Cowan as pilot. Dale Green's Twin from Eugene will still be available so I can see no problems.

I have heard from quite a few of you gentlemen since the last letter. The Boyers are doing well and Nancy will again be the second clerk. The Sheleys also seem to be doing well and Chuck is looking forward to getting permanent possession of the softball trophy. Straw is getting married the latter part of June so won't be reporting until the first of July. Hoppy and Manley will take their training the first part of June and will then be gone until sometime in July (Summer School and R.O.T.C.) Tommy Smith will complete his 6 months hitch in July and report at that time. Johnson and Manley dropped down during spring vacation but I was gone and didn't get to see them. Hamilton decided to go on with school this spring so will be back holding down 3rd base. Butch Hill reports every thing is going well in Oklahoma and is looking forward to getting out of school as I am sure most of you are.

Fred purchased 4 acres up near the Ice Plant field and is now spending his spare time clearing land. Al and family are all fine and wintered well. Alice is as mean as ever! My family is all well and they all seem to enjoy living in the big city.

See most of you in a couple of months!

Allen

April 27, 1964

Gentlemen:

This letter is being sent to the 16 men that have been selected as Smokejumper trainees at the Siskiyou Aerial Project for the 1964 fire season.

I have just received official notification that the meal costs have gone up and there will be a salary deduction of \$1.15 per meal instead of \$1.00 as was shown on the Fact Sheet that was sent to you when you applied for this position. This is in effect in all of the Washington and Oregon forests that have a messhall in operation.

Again, I would like to remind you that you will need to bring sheets and pillow cases. Beds and pillows are furnished. If you are a soft ball player, be sure and bring your glove.

Also, I hope that you all have purchased your jump boots and are breaking them in. You can refer to the letter of acceptance that was sent to you for the recommended type.

You will start training immediately upon arrival and you will make your first jump about the 5th of July. Your training will be completed around July 15th.

The following is a list of all your names in case you wish to make arrangements to travel together. Please do not report before Saturday, June 13th. Anytime over that week end will be fine. If you need transportation from Cave Junction to the Airport, telephone 0902 or 10903 and someone will pick you up.

Eugene A. Norman 520 Latourette St. Oregon City, Ore.	James L. Dent Route 1, Box 57AA Terrebonne, Oregon	Keith Lockwood 803 3/4 W. 2nd Ave. Chico, California
---	--	--

Keith L. Cook, Jr. 111 Plantation Road Houston, Texas	Edgar Jones Route 1, Box 255 Arcata, California	Mike Johnson 812 East 700 North Provo, Utah
---	---	---

Edward J. Weissenback Chetco Ranger Station Brookings, Oregon	Thomas W. Albert 114 Indiana Abilene, Texas	John P. Kirkley Box 1941 University, Alabama
---	---	--

Richard R. Zediker 1205 Tolman Creek Road Ashland, Oregon	Raymond J. Farinetti 157 Washington St. Abilene, Texas	Gary E. Grosh 200 Marcy Loop Road Grants Pass, Oregon
---	--	---

Van W. Sarver
115 S. 11th Ave.
Yakima, Washington

Robert D. Dennis
2412 S.W. 45
Oklahoma City 19, Oklahoma

Glenn H. Bessinger
2600 S.W. Grand Blvd.
Oklahoma City 8, Oklahoma

Howard L. Ollis
Cave Junction, Oregon

Allen

GOBI GOSSIP

April 27, 1964

Howdy:

Just a real short note today.

Finally heard something official about Redmond. Al has been selected as Foreman and will have 3 Okanogan Squadleaders. As far as I know, they will be Hal Weinman, Tony Percival and Ray Zander. "Skinny" Beals will also be going down from the Okanogan as loft foreman. The Okanogan and this unit will still train and send 10 men each.

I understand the man that has been selected as Resident Manager at Redmond is the Ranger from the Sisters District on the Deschutes. His name is Kenneth Evans and as Resident Manager he will be in charge of the base, including the 25 man crew, Smokejumpers and the Retardant Operation.

Al is in Portland now on detail and is scheduled to make a short trip to Redmond this week. He will come back here until around the first of June when his transfer will go into effect.

Haven't decided on a replacement for Al as yet, but the plan now is to leave the position vacant for this season.

The inevitable finally happened. Our meal costs have been raised to 1.15 each. Sure hate to see it but I guess we all realized it was going to happen. Just hope Congress comes through with the pay raise they are now considering to make up for it.

Will see you in a month or 6 weeks.

GOBI GOSSIP

October 23, 1964

Howdy:

Well, guess we are finally closed up for the year although the weather sure doesn't seem like it. Been up in the 80's with very low humidity and have still only had .15 inch of rain since the first of September.

Been kind of an interesting October here. On the 8th, we were told to send all remaining jumpers to Redmond because of a dry lightning storm in that area. We sent the entire crew (4 men!) over there and they stayed there until the 16th. During that time Swift and Cramer made 2 fire jumps each and Smith and Mewhinney made 3 each. They only jumped one lightning fire but the hunters cooperated and left warning fires burning all over the area. There were only 3 Redmond jumpers left and the 7 jumpers jumped to 5 fires on the Ochoco, Deschutes and Winema. Sure a long time between fires as these were the first jumps made since the 28th of July when the 4 men jumped on that Galice slash fire.

Anyway, when the men returned on the 16th, we were told to close it up for another year. If this weather continues, I wouldn't be surprised to have them open it up again.

Smith and Mewhinney transferred to the Chetco District as soon as we closed up and have been burning slash for them. Neither one of them has had a day off now for about 6 or 7 weeks. They tried to burn slash here on the East side (Galice and I.V. Districts) a couple of times, but too hot and dry.

Mick and Fred are here in the loft and Alice is still working, also. She will only work one day a week during November and December.

Getting ready for the annual Elk hunting trip now. Will leave the 29th and return November 11th. There will be 5 of us going this year. Mick is going so guess Fred will have to hold down the fort while we're gone.

On September 28th five of us made a practice jump to Seats Field and one man landed in the ditch. Mick is kind of touchy about it so won't mention who it was.

I will wait until we return from Elk hunting before I write a synopsis of the season. Sure won't take long with the fire season we had. You will all receive copies of it when completed. There has been a total of 346 jumps made to date counting the 60 training and fire jumps made by the Redmond and Okanogan jumpers from here. Not too impressive, is it?

Jim Fritz was here during the first part of deer season and went home with the Volkswagon loaded down with deer. The Peters twins were down last weekend to watch Illinois Valley beat Lakeview in football. (Thanks again for the \$2.00, Garry. See you during basketball season for the next bet!) See by the local newspaper awhile back where Charlie Mansfield went and got himself engaged to one of the local gals before heading back to Idaho. (Miss Arlene Hoover, by name!) Keith Lockwood dropped by awhile back. Not too sure what he was up to, but it was probably to no good. Sheley sez there are now 1200 students at Ole Chico Jr. High. He was inquiring about plastic splints for broken arms when he wrote. (Have a little patience, Teacher.) Bernie Welch is in San Antonio and is working on an athletic program with the Mexican-American population in that area. Seems to like it real well. George Straw is now settled at 5555 Klump, Apt. 14, N. Hollywood, and has invited all of you to drop by when in the area.

John Cowan left here on September 29th to go seeding on the Santa Barbara burn and haven't heard a word for, from, or about him since then. Must have a pretty good deal going!

See Kay Moon every once in awhile. She is back cooking at the Kerby School. Keep intending to go up and mooch some of her good cooking, but never seem to get around to it.

Well, I guess I will close for this time. Alice and Fred say hello and Swift sends his usual salutation.

Best of everything to you all and I will write again after the big Elk hunting trip.

Allen

GOBI GOSSIP

November 30, 1964

Howdy:

Quite a change in the weather since the last letter. Seems as if we had only had .15 inches of rain then. We have now had over 13 inches. Been pouring down pretty steady for the past 2 or 3 weeks. Even had a little snow one morning but melted off right away.

Returned from the elk hunting trip on November 8th. Had planned to stay until the 11th, but not many elk in the area, so came back early. I was lucky enough to get one the first morning of the season, but no one else even saw a bull.

Eldo, Fred and I went steelhead fishing last Friday, but didn't do any good. It usually is the best here between the middle of December and the latter part of January.

Spent lots of time watching and listening to football games over the Thanksgiving holiday. Happy to report that Grants Pass won the state championship by beating Corvallis 7-0 last Friday. Was surprised when Oregon State was selected to go to the Rose Bowl after U.S.C. beat Notre Dame, but they have a good team and should do O.K. The upset of Notre Dame should almost make Alabama the No. 1 team. (Happy, Mr. Kirkley?)

Glenda Marchant is working here now training Mick and Fred for their Master Riggers license. They are also constructing some of the new 12' square cargo chutes.

Alice and family spent the Thanksgiving holiday in Redmond with the Bouchers. She sez they are all doing fine and intend to come to C.J. after Christmas for a few days vacation.

The Allen family had planned a trip to Portland over Thanksgiving to do some shopping and watch the Grants Pass-Corvallis game but the flu bug got a couple of the kids so-----

Sheley and Lockwood were here over the past weekend with a couple of their students. Had planned a little hiking around the area, but too much rain so they just relaxed for a couple of days.

Sheley did find a real good deal on boxing equipment. He was able to get 4 sets (gloves and headgear) for \$20.00. They were all new, but district policy wouldn't allow them to be used by the high schools. The \$20 was taken out of the athletic fund and there is now a balance of \$61.00. I believe that is more money than we have ever had in there. (Sure doesn't say much for the spot jumping around this place.)

I am enclosing the usual card for you gentlemen to fill out and return. I would like to have it back by the first of the year, if possible. If you are not sure of the starting date, just put a notation on the card so stating.

Not much going on since the last letter so will quit now and write again after the first of the year.

Best of everything to all of you!

GOBI GOSSIP

February 5, 1965

Howdy:

A lot has happened around here since the last letter in the way of weather. In the November letter, I said we had over 13 inches of rain since the first of September. Now our total is up to over 61 inches. Most of this came in December when we had over 20 inches in one 4-day period. This was just before Christmas and caused quite a bit of flooding in this section of the country. The Illinois River as well as all the creeks in the area got pretty high. There was 20 feet of water over the highway between Kerby and the "Ghost Town." The houses in that area took quite a beating!

I am enclosing State Income Tax forms for you gentlemen that live out of state. It will pay you to fill out the forms as it is my understanding that you will get a substantial refund in most cases. The instructions for non-resident taxpayers can be found near the back of the form.

As soon as you gentlemen that applied for the GS-6 rating get your Notice of Rating form, I would appreciate it if you would send them to me as soon as possible. We will have to have them before we can get the promotion process started.

The steelhead fishing season was taken care of very well by the flood. The rivers were out of shape most of the time and with most of the bridges out we couldn't have got anyplace, anyway. Oh well, maybe next year.

I went to an inter-regional Smokejumper meeting in Arizona for a week the middle of January. Not too many startling decisions were made. We did decide to go 100% to the flap containers with the change over to be made in the next 3 years. The jump suit will also be changed somewhat. Nothing very drastic, but some needed modifications. I will tell you about the other topics that were discussed when I see you next summer.

It looks now as if we will only have 5 or 6 new men to train. I still haven't heard from a few of you gentlemen and would like to have the cards returned as soon as possible so we can complete the recruiting.

Everything and everyone are fine around here. Swift and Cramer are attending a training session in Grants Pass today. Happy to report that they have both been behaving themselves. They have both been playing basketball one night a week so are both in top physical condition. (Will make those ditch landings a lot easier this year). Alice was only working one day a week during November and December and is now back full time. All the Allens are doing fine and have had a good winter.

Had lunch with Kay Moon a while back. She will be returning this year, thank goodness. John Cowan drops in every once in awhile - Seems to be doing a lot of flitting around in the 180, weather permitting. John Manley stopped by last night. He is enroute to Alabama to visit the Moseleys, Mardi Gras, etc. Will probably go to Alaska this year if the Army doesn't get him first. Heard from Lt. McMahon awhile back - He was stationed at Quantico, Va. and seemed to be doing well. The last I heard from Sheley he was shopping for busses - Was a little disillusioned with VW's. Never expected to hear that from him. Squeaky Schoenfeld has transferred from Reed College to Portland State. Pete Landis is now employed by the U.S. Bank and won't be returning this year. That quiet little chuckle of his will be missed. Lt. Jerry Schmidt wrote the other day. He is now an Infantry Rifle Platoon Leader at Fort Riley. He said Boundy is now an M.P. at Ft. Sam Houston and was married last spring. Hoppy is house hunting here in C.J. via mail. He will return. Terry Mewhinney is now a good little soldier at Ft. Polk. Ward dropped by on the way to So. Cal. over the holidays to see the Rose Bowl Game (Game?) - The Peters twins were also in Pasadena New Year's day. Larry has applied for Alaska, but Gary will be returning here. Mansfield dropped by over the holidays - He will start back to work in this area around the 1st of April. Looks doubtful if the Boyers will be returning this year. Another month and Paul, Jr. should be arriving. Jim Schmidt will return here if he doesn't have to go to summer school.

Well, the inevitable has happened. I received a memo from the R.O. the other day and it seems as if the three R-6 Smokejumper units will all be on a staggered work week this year. Don't know much of the details at present, but it looks now as if we will have a full crew on Sun. thru Tues. and half the crew on each day for the remainder of the week. The memo did say that, if any jumpers go out Wed. thru Sat., available men would be put on standby to replace them. I am certainly not in favor of this, but the rest of the Regions have been doing it for some time now and getting by so I guess we can. About all we can hope for is a big fire year which everyone is expecting. A lot of bridges in S. Ore. and N. Cal. are gone with the flood so there is a lot of area that is now inaccessible that hasn't been before. I will let you know all I can about this staggered work week just as soon as I get a few answers.

If this is going to make any difference in your plans to return please let me know as soon as possible. If I don't hear from you by March 1, I will assume that your plans haven't changed.

Well, guess I had better close for this time as I seem to have about run down.

Hope this finds all going well with all of you.

Eldo, Fred and Alice say hello!

GOBI COSSIP

December 1, 1965

Howdy:

Fire season over - Deer season over - Elk season over - Steelhead not running - Might as well do a little writing.

Winter seems to be setting in. Has been down to 32° every morning this week. Have also had our share of rain since the Project closed. 10.54 inches to be exact.

Seems as if the entire crew is deserting us for bigger and better things. As soon as the season was over, Foreman Swift and John Manley resigned and headed for Laos. Next I received a letter from John Kirkley saying he was to leave to join them on November 7th. Now, last week Hal Ward called and said he was departing this week for the same destination. I have heard from Eldo and John M. and they seem to be keeping busy and "enjoying" themselves. Their address is: c/o Air America, A.P.O. San Francisco, 96352. I am certain that the same address will also find Kirkley and Ward. I have an idea that Hamilton and others will be joining them before the winter is over. If many more go, we may as well close up and join them.

Not sure what to do about a replacement for Eldo. I plan now to just leave the position vacant until at least next spring and possibly through next summer.

We did quite well on our elk hunting trip. Five of us went and we got 4 elk. (Three spikes and a cow.) Fred and I each got one. Got a little over 1000# of meat from the 4 so will be able to eat this winter.

Fred, Terry Newhinney and Glenda are constructing flap containers and 12' square cargo chutes at the present. We have an order for 300 of the square cargo chutes for the R.O. and 168 to construct for the Project so they have their work cut out for a few days.

Still waiting for one of the FAA beacon towers to be released so the jump tower project is at a standstill. Will probably be next spring before we can start construction.

Seen and heard: Ralph Williams and family departed with trailer, airplanes, autos and horses the latter part of October. They now reside in San Jose, Cal. - Hal Ward came down for a weekend of deer hunting but didn't get any (?). I had a \$2.00 bet with Garry Peters on the Illinois Valley-Lakeview football game. Don't hound me, Garry, I'll pay. (I even had \$2 bet on Oregon in the Ore.-Ore. State game with the local Ranger) Easy come, easy go! Little brother Larry P. says he is doing a lot of flying and hopes to have his private license in the very near future -

Kreidier is still on compensation but says he expects to be "nor al" again soon and will turn out for wrestling when released - Sheley is now Head of the Boys and Girls P.E. Depts. at good old Chico. He plans to come up here over the holidays. The last I heard from Klingel he was going to start doing a little free falling - Hartman reports everything well at Humboldt State with the exception of a burned fore-arm. (This was quite some time ago) - Jerry John and Joetta are in Kansas City with Jerry in school and Joetta working. Sounds good! Larry Lufkin's last letter (Sept.) reported arriving safely at W.S.U. and getting settled- Eric was busy deer hunting the last time he wrote, but no luck at the time - Alex left here when the season closed and went to work for the F.S. in So. California. Should be headed back to school in the near future - Steve Johnson also stayed late but no word since he left - No word from Hoppy either - Guess that's all!

Suppose you all saw where government employees were given a raise last month. Your new rates will be GS-5 - 2.49 per hr; GS-6 - 2.74; GS-7 - 3.01. Which reminds me - All of you "new" men, please send me your grades from your Civil Service test as soon as you receive them so we can get your appointments through in time for next summer - 25¢ per hour!

The longer I write, the more Alice frowns so I had better close and let her get this typed up.

Hope this finds all going well with all of you. Would like to hear from you!

Happy Holidays from everyone here!

GOBI GOSSIP

January 18, 1966

Howdy:

Will start out with a little discussion on the weather here in the Illinois Valley. Had almost 29 inches of rain in the 3 week period from December 22 to January 11. Looked like another flood for awhile with almost 6 feet of water over the highway just north of Kerby, but fortunately the rain stopped in time. Have had only .03 inch of rain this past week, so things are looking better.

Have had a few letters from our Air America satellite base. Since my last letter, Bill Bowles (Bedding Squadleader) has also joined the crew. I also got an inquiry on Hamilton awhile back so assume he will be going soon. Chuck Moseley and his wife are in Bangkok now on leave awaiting the arrival of their new offspring. I guess it is no secret that all of them are stationed in a place called Vientiane in Laos. Have had a couple more resignations since my last letter. Alice will be moving to Grants Pass soon and plans to start working in the Supervisors' Office after getting settled. Fred has made application to go to Australia and will be leaving here in the not too distant future. If something happens to the Australia move he has a couple more irons in the fire. At any rate, he won't be here when next season rolls around.

Still a little vague about next summer as far as a replacement for Eldo. As soon as Fred leaves I plan to put Dick Wessell into his position. I think now that Sheley will take over Swifts' job during the fire season and the Squadleaders will be Peters, Wessell and Mewhinney. Terry has been doing an excellent job for us here this winter and wants to work year-long so I feel he deserves a chance at the position. This whole thing is tentative, but is the thinking here at present.

Fred, Terry and Glenda are still working on the 12 foot square chutes. Chuck Sheley also came up over the Christmas holidays and worked on the chutes and also to discuss next fire season.

I am enclosing Oregon State income tax forms for all of you out-of-Staters. I am certain you will find it worth your while to file as you should have refunds coming.

It is also getting that time of year when I have to start figuring the finances. In order to do so I will have to have your starting dates. Please fill out the enclosed card and return as soon as possible. If you don't have your exact starting date just put down an approximate date. If you are not certain yet if you will or will not be returning just write a little note to that effect on the card and let me know as soon as you can.

I have heard from quite a few of you gentlemen but won't take the time to go into it in this letter. Everyone seems to be doing well with no major problems, anyway.

Best of everything to all!

March 8, 1966

Howdy:

Springtime on the Gobi and the spring rains have now set in. Had very nice weather the latter part of January and all of February. Even managed to get in a few rounds of golf during that time.

Fred and family departed about 2 weeks ago. They will be in Portland for awhile before leaving for Australia. Probably sometime soon after the new baby arrives.

Dick Wessell has been promoted to Squadleader and is now in the process of moving his trailer over here from Gold Beach. He will set it up across the highway south of the Rough and Ready Lumber mill.

There have been a lot of personnel movements from Aerial since last fire season. Swift to Air America in November, Alice to the S.O. in January, Fred gone in February and now I am going in April. The Redmond Air Center Manager, Ken Evans, left in November for a job in Texas. In a weak moment I put in an application for his job and last week I was notified that I was selected. They are now in the process of advertising for someone for my job and will probably select him around the first of April. I will help to train him for a couple of weeks and then be gone. I am not particularly enthused about going, but what's done is done. I tried to talk Sheley into applying for the job but he decided against it. Also, Al Boucher chose to stay in Redmond, so he won't be applying. I have no idea who the man will be but I know I can depend on all of you to give him your complete cooperation as you have always done with me. With Squadleaders like Sheley, Peters, Wessell and Mewhinney returning I am certain you will notice very little change over previous years.

I saw Sheley down in Redding last week and he told me Cliff Hamilton was scheduled to leave last weekend to join Swift and Company. They are getting quite a satellite base built up over there. Chuck Moseley became the proud papa of a bouncing baby boy in January. I believe he was born in Bangkok, Thailand. I also saw Patsy Miller last month just before she departed for overseas to join old Eldo. I want to wish them both the best of everything from all of us.

Looks now as if we will have about 15 of last year's crew returning. I still haven't heard from a few of you and will have to know soon as I would like to complete the recruiting before I leave.

Terry, Dick and Glenda are working in the loft at present on the 12 foot square chutes, flap containers and other miscellaneous items. As soon as the weather clears up enough Terry and Dick will probably start construction of the new jump tower. I doubt if it will be completed by jump season but I guess the old tower will do for one more season.

I have applied for permission to serve only the noon meal next season as you gentlemen requested. It had been approved by our S.O. the last I heard and was sent on to the R.O. for final approval. If it does go through you will all be notified as you will have to make arrangements financially to feed yourselves until your first check comes. I see no reason why you can't get credit at the local cafes, and I will check and let you know if and when approval has been granted.

Guess this will be about all for this time. I will write another short letter telling you who my replacement is as soon as I know.

Best of everything to all of you!