

EDITORIAL

Laurels for 1963

This year in aerospace has been marked by few spectacular public achievements.

It has been a year of intense, grinding work in laboratories, factories and program managers' offices to build the technical foundations for the next generation of aerospace vehicles and missions. This theme will continue during 1964, with the first fruits of these labors leaving the launch pads in the 1965-66 period.

In a year of quiet, solid achievement these are the people and organizations we think made major contributions to U. S. aerospace progress:

- **Harry Goett, Jack Townsend and Bob Gray** of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center for its excellent record (100% on eight launches in 1963) of successful satellite launchings and operations. This is the second consecutive year that all of Goddard's satellites were successful.

- **Juan Terry Trippe**, president of Pan American World Airways, for his relentless fight to lower international airline fares, particularly on the North Atlantic.

- **Bill Lear**, for having the zest to abandon one fabulously successful career to launch another that developed the fastest executive jet aircraft and got it flying this year.

- **Allen Donovan** of Aerospace Corp. and **Maj. Gen. Charles Terhune, Jr.**, of USAF Systems Command for their organization and direction of USAF's Project Forecast, which charted the shape and character of aerospace power for the 1970s.

- **Dr. A. L. Jones** and his associates at the Sohio Research Laboratory in Cleveland for achievements in operating a private satellite tracking station which provides so much valid data on Soviet space flights.

- **Maj. Gen. Osmond J. Ritland**, USAF, for his long and persistent fight to develop a military manned space flight program that saw fruition this year in the Manned Orbiting Laboratory program, and for his many prior years of contributions as commander of the atomic bomb flight test group and as sparkplug of the reconnaissance satellite program.

- **Abraham Schnapf**, Tiros program manager for the Astro-Electronics Div. of Radio Corp. of America, for his direction of this highly successful weather satellite program culminating in the launch and operation of Tiros 8.

- **Alan S. Boyd**, chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board, for the judicious and impartial manner in which he has operated his agency, and for his courage and effectiveness in battling for lower fares on international routes, and protecting the interests of the American air traveler.

- **Grant Hansen** of Convair/Astronautics; **Bill Gorton** of Pratt & Whitney Aircraft; **Edmund Jonash** of NASA's Lewis Laboratory and the others on the Centaur project (AW Dec. 9, p. 21) who successfully flew the first liquid hydrogen-powered space vehicle.

- **Brig. Gen. Joseph S. Bleymaier**, USAF, for his tight and efficient management of the Titan 3 space booster program, which has the excellent co-operation of his two major contractors, Martin Co. Denver Div. and United Technology Corp.

- **Dr. Harold Rosen** of Hughes Aircraft Co., inventor of Syncom, for his unusual and bold approach to space communications satellites that resulted in the successful operation of the world's first 24-hr. communication satellite, Syncom 2; and to his associates at Hughes, **Donald D. Williams**, orbital control system designer, and **Thomas Hudspeth**, electronics designer, for Syncom.

- **Robert F. Six**, president of Continental Air Lines, for providing superb service to air travelers in the regions his airline serves, and for continuing to do it at a profit in the face of the fierce competition from larger lines on his segment of the transcontinental route.

- **Charles J. Hitch**, Pentagon comptroller, for his reforms in the military budgeting process that have forced the services into more realistic costing of their weapon systems.

- **Carl Vinson** and **C. E. Woolman**, two fine Georgian gentlemen, who are closing their careers. Rep. Vinson will retire after 50 years in Congress, 15 years of which were spent in outstanding leadership of the former Naval Affairs Committee and 14 years as chairman of the Armed Services Committee. Mr. Woolman, retiring president of Delta Air Lines, built it from a crop dusting operation to one of the nation's finest and most profitable airlines.

- **Mrs. Betty Miller**, the first woman to solo across the Pacific, completing a 7,400 mi. flight ferrying a Piper Apache from California to Australia.

- **Col. Lonnie Q. Westmoreland**, USAF, system program director for the Vela Hotel project that put two nuclear radiation detection satellites into 50,000-mi. circular orbits, 140 deg. apart, with a single launch as the first step in developing a warning capability to detect nuclear weapon testing in space.

- **Rep. George Mahon** (D.-Tex.), chairman of the House Defense Appropriations subcommittee, for his tough-minded insistence on getting sound, detailed explanations of U. S. military policy and programs from the parade of star-studded witnesses and glib civilians who appear before his group annually.

- **Brig. Gen. Samuel Phillips**, USAF, who, as program director of the Minuteman, was responsible for getting 300 of these solid-fueled ICBMs operational and into the hands of Strategic Air Command.

- **Sen. John L. McClellan** (D.-Ark.), chairman of the Senate Permanent Investigating subcommittee for his dogged courage in calling the top Pentagon civilians' bluff on how they awarded the TFX contract. Sen. McClellan's persistence in pursuing this tack uncovered a conflict of interest by former Secretary of Navy Fred Korth; forced Defense Secretary Robert McNamara to admit he had not practiced what he preaches in decision making but relied instead on rough judgments, and forced admission from Deputy Defense Secretary Roswell L. Gilpatric of far more involvement with General Dynamics both prior to and during his Pentagon service than he had revealed during initial questioning.

—Robert Hotz