

Giving Back

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Stare and Sun date 34138Back

Back in the day when our world was young, rubbing elbows with the 1920-birth generation, there was energy, imagination, industry, enthusiasm, yes joy, throughout our orbit. It was fun to go anywhere, even work.

The enterprise in mind, Jeppesen, made Flight Information then, for the Americas, Pacific; later, the world .Those facts were printed for Air Lines, Private Pilots, military, on both sides of white paper; two sorts; enroute maps to anywhere, 17" x 35", and destination airports Approach Charts to Landing. Changes, issued weekly for Approach Charts; every 28 days for enroute information; that date controlled by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Fact had to be exact. The publisher's reputation, long before computers, spotless, maintained by exact record keeping, then edit and re-editing of all prepared charts. There was never a accident caused by a chart error, nor was the Company sued.

Managers and employees were not separated in age by more than eight years. Everyone loved to come to work, prepare needed changes, finish any project.

Stapleton then had a hangar on the northwest corner of the field. It was basically three parallel two-story, 12 ft ceiling buildings, 30 feet wide, 200 feet long. The center building was aligned north-south; the other two, 200 feet to either side. These were connected by arch roofs at the top. The space

below roofs, working hangars for Airlines; United the east; the west divided north-south, Frontier, the other Western Air.

The three buildings, were mostly uses as Air Line Operations Offices. Except, Jeppesen leased the 2nd floor, north half, center building. And small rooms of the lower level on the eastern building. From that smaller space Jeppesen produced road maps and the like, small staff.

While the work and schedules of these two divisions differed, employees mingled. The only cafeteria, on the second floor.

A Map division employee is young, mischievous, imaginative. In spare moments, Dick would fabricate rumors, use them sparingly, always effective, still remain everyone's friend. Dick would think of some close-to-reality tale, flesh it out. Then call an employee on the second floor, with a "Have You Heard?" It could be about anything. Dick would wait twenty minutes or so, make a special trip to the second floor building, saunter to the drinking fountain, and begin to record the giving back, amended version, of his creation. Never repeated correctly; monstrous exaggerations; those young minds.

Imagine,
"Criticizing is forbidden." "The Air Lines are going broke."
"Pay raises are coming/frozen." "X is looking to buy the company, move us to California." "The summer picnic will be in November." "Jepp's looking to hire older people for stability." "Guess who crashed the Company airplane?"
O.K. Use your imagination. We did.

