



Roy Hager
... FAA man at radio consol

MANAGED 24 HOURS A DAY

Easterwood's FAA Station Means Safety In The Skies

Easterwood Airport, just west of the campus, a small cluster of rooms on the side of a hangar is the key to life for aviators in this area.

The Federal Aviation Agency station at Easterwood is filled to overflowing with radio consols, transmitters and receivers and navigation controls. This variety of wire and tubes is for one thing. To help the pilot's job.

Their mission is to promote a safe and efficient flow of air traffic. H. G. Kindrick, a member of the FAA staff, says that the master radio console reports are fed to hungry ears in the air twice each hour. Reports are collected from all over the nation by one of the separate teletype networks installed in the office.

The second set of teletype machines is used for aircraft control and movement messages. This net is the lifeline of air control coordination. Through the clacking of its keys, news of congested altitudes and flight patterns is flashed to concerned points.

An operator at the master console can make contact with any aircraft within range on any of the authorized aircraft frequencies or channels issued to either civilian or military planes.

In addition to the standard communications frequencies available at the flick of a switch, the Omni, or air navigation beacons, can be tuned in.

The Omni, operated by the FAA as a standard service, sends out a radio beam with the call letters of the sending station at frequent intervals. If the airplane is equipped

with Omni receiving apparatus it can get a "fix" on its position by zeroing in on the beam and consulting special maps with transmitting stations marked by call signs.

This one factor alone has helped many pilots when they were unsure of their position.

A large glass-fronted metal cabinet sits next to the consol. This contains the teletype relays and repeaters. When a teletype message to some other FAA station passes along the Easterwood line, it is relayed by a mechanism that punches the original message into a paper tape and then re-transmits the message.

Meanwhile the signal with the call sign "CLL" continues and 48 times a day the weather forecast is beamed from a hangar at Easterwood.

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