

### Teen-Ager Haunts Airlines; Builds Models For Sale

By ROBERT J. SERLING  
UPI Aviation Editor

Baltimore, Md. — It was just three years ago that a lanky, thin-faced youngster named Richard Jay Wilmoth began hanging around the ticket counters at Baltimore's Friendship airport.

He was 14 at the time. He came to the airport every week end, usually early Saturday morning, unobtrusively observing the handling of tickets, baggage, passengers and airplanes.

He haunted virtually all airlines but one in particular intrigued him — comparatively small Lake Central, a local service carrier. Being small, it also was informal and he began talking to LCA agents. One day he was on the ramp watching his new friends load a DC3 and, without saying a word, he helped put on the baggage.

**Family Member**  
From that day on, Richard Jay Wilmoth became an unofficial member of Lake Central's family. About a year ago, he bought a plastic DC3 model "kit" and hand-painted it with Lake Central's colors. He lacked lettering so he took an LCA baggage tag and used the "Lake Central Airlines" letters on the tag for the miniature plane.

Proudly, he brought the plane to the airport and showed it to the Lake Central employees. A stewardess about to board a flight took one look at the gleaming little model and flipped.

"I'd pay you to make me one like that," she enthused.

A bell sounded in the brain of young Mr. Wilmoth. He bought several more DC3 models at \$1 each and wound up with customers for all of them at \$3 each. An Allegheny ramp agent saw one and asked Richard if he could build an Allegheny Convair. The youngster located some Convair kits and by now he was really in business. He turned out about 40 Lake Central DC3's and 20 Allegheny Convairs — which led to requests from employees of other airlines for models of their own planes.

**Finances Trip**  
With his first modest profits, he saved up enough to finance his first airplane trip — the 40-mile flight from Baltimore to Washington.

Richard is 17 now, a student at Baltimore's Vocational Tech school and a member of its cross-country squad. But track is his second love — airlines in general and Lake Central in particular are his first.

"He's like one of the family," said LCA station manager Forest Burres. "He's out here every Saturday working, taking pictures of planes and delivering his models. I never saw a kid so nuts about aviation."

Richard's own ambitions are modest. He has no desire to be a glamorous pilot or even an airline vice president.

"I'd just like to go to work for an airline when I get through high school," he said. "My father works for a railroad but I guess he wouldn't mind."

### Viet Cong Frees American Captive

Saigon — Sgt. 1/C Roque S. Mataguly of Richmond, Calif., who was ambushed and taken prisoner by the Communists in July, was released unharmed Monday, the U.S. Army announced today.

Mataguly and a Vietnamese interpreter captured with him were set free near Phan Thiet, 85 miles east of Saigon.

The sergeant was the fourth U.S. serviceman the Reds have released in the past eight months.

The doctor said Mataguly was in a weakened condition and was suffering from malnutrition. A U.S. military spokesman who saw the sergeant this morning said he appeared otherwise unharmed.

### Harrison Named Director of Group

Glenn Harrison has been elected a director of the Jackson County Federal Savings and Loan association, H. J. Field, association president, has announced.

Harrison, executive vice president of Harry and David's Bear Creek orchards, fills a vacancy created by the resignation of W. J. Warner. The new director, who has been with the orchards firm for more than 25 years, lives with his wife and sons, Keith and Scott, at 1382 Kings highway, Medford. Keith Harrison is a senior at Lewis and Clark college and Scott Harrison is a sophomore at Medford High school.



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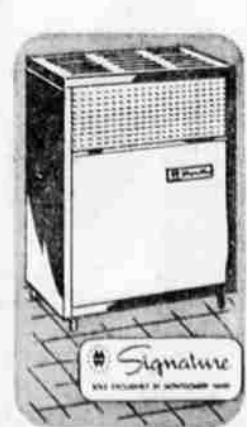
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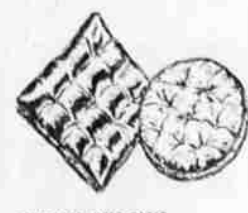
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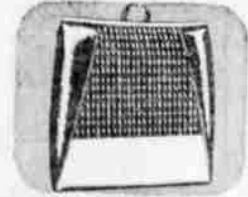
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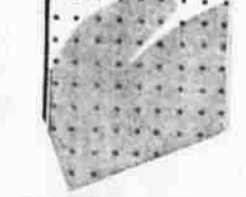
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