

Know Your AIR FORCE

By Max Wauchop



CAPTAIN RAY ROYSE

"Flying jet all-weather fighter-interceptor type aircraft offers a big challenge to an Air Force pilot," stated Capt. Ray Royse, operations officer of the U.S. Air Force detachment at the Klamath Falls Municipal Airport.

"My desire to continue flying jet aircraft, and other facets of USAF life, have been the main factors in my deciding to make the USAF a career," Capt. Royse said.

The air operations officer has flown fighter type aircraft during his Air Force career and has been a qualified jet pilot since 1948 when he was checked out in F-84Cs at Roswell Air Force Base, New Mexico.

Capt. Royse, son of Mr. and Mrs. Len Royse, 615 California Avenue, joined the Air Force in October, 1942 as an aviation cadet. He took his preflight training at San Antonio, Texas and attended flying schools at Brody, Waco and Victoria, Texas. He received his wings and commission at the single-engine advanced school at Victoria in October, 1943.

Following his graduation from flying school, Capt. Royse took transition training in P-40 aircraft at Pinebluffs AFB, St. Petersburg, Florida and was sent overseas in February, 1944 to the 80th Fighter Squadron of the 79th Fighter Group in Italy. With this squadron Capt. Royse flew 87 combat missions in P-47 type single-engine fighter aircraft. The latter part of his overseas tour Capt. Royse flew as the squadron leader.

The squadron Capt. Royse was assigned to flew close-support and interdiction missions over Italy participating in the break-through at Mount Cassino and the drive that culminated in the liberation of Rome from the Germans.

On one mission about 100 miles into enemy territory Capt. Royse's aircraft was struck in the engine by ground anti-aircraft fire. With his engine damaged he was returning to his base when he spotted a German ammunition train which he strafed, blowing up the entire train. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for this mission. The engine of his aircraft froze-up on landing at his home base.

MISSIONS
After completing his missions in August, 1944, Capt. Royse was assigned as an instructor at Baton Rouge, Louisiana and a few months later, in the same capacity, to Sweetwater, Texas. He was separated from the service in October, 1945.

In September, 1947 Capt. Royse

was recalled to the service and assigned to the 33rd Fighter Group at Roswell AFB. While with this unit he attended the Air Intelligence School at Lowry AFB, Denver, Colorado. He was a classmate at this school with Major George Epperson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur B. Epperson, 130 North First Street, Klamath Falls.

With the activation of OAS AFB, Massachusetts, Capt. Royse was transferred with his unit to that base in November, 1948. He was sent to the Air Tactical School at Tyndall AFB, Florida from OAS AFB. After completion of this course Capt. Royse was sent to Hamilton AFB, California. He left the service in 1949 and returned to civilian life in Klamath Falls where he worked for Rose Motor Co., Parker Pontiac and Buick Co. until his recall to the service in January, 1952.

RECALLED
His recall in 1952 found Capt. Royse reassigned to Hamilton AFB to an all-weather jet interceptor squadron. He has continued in this type of flying since that time — this is the type unit which will be activated at Klamath Falls later this year.

Attendance at the all-weather instrument and jet instructors courses at Moody AFB, Georgia followed for Capt. Royse. (These are two separate courses he attended at two different periods.) He returned to Hamilton AFB after the schools and was assigned as the assistant operations officer and instrument instructor pilot of the 496th Fighter Squadron. This unit was equipped with P-86D jet fighter-interceptors such as will be assigned to the Klamath Falls base.

TO GERMANY
This squadron was shipped overseas via U.S. Navy aircraft carrier to Germany in June, 1954. After a few months service in Germany, Capt. Royse was assigned as an engineering flight test officer to Wheelus AFB, Tripoli, North Africa. He also spent some time on temporary duty at St. Nazaire, France as chief test pilot on P-86Ds. He returned to the states in November, 1955 and was assigned to Klamath Falls.

Capt. Royse attended Klamath Union High School and graduated from Tulelake High School in 1937. He attended Oregon State College for two years prior to his joining the Air Force. In addition to the DFC he wears the Air Medal with one oak leaf cluster.

The local air officer resides in Klamath Falls with his wife Jessie and daughters Roselyn, 9; Diane, 7; and Patricia, 1½ years old.

Community Discussions To Ponder Questions Involved In Proposed Agency Action

(Editor's Note: Early in January a series of community discussion groups were instigated in the communities of Chiloquin, Klamath Agency, Sprague River, Fort Klamath and Modoc Point to study the problems facing the area under the proposed termination of federal supervision over the Klamath Indian Reservation. This article summarizes the first meetings. Further meetings will be reported on an on-the-spot basis.)

By LYLE HAAS

BEGINNINGS
People were concerned! They were talking about the situation in the community, the deep problems and the wealth of resources, and decided something should be done. The first thought was that something should be done to aid the

Indian people in the impending termination of the Klamath Reservation. As the thinking developed it was realized that the wishes of the community were also affected by the termination, and that everyone in the whole area was jointly affected by whatever happens to any group within it. So a meeting was scheduled for January 11, 1956 with a small, but representative group.

FIRST MEETING

Eleven people were present representing churches and other organizations, from Modoc Point, Klamath Agency, Chiloquin, and the surrounding areas. We defined the community area as that which is affected by the Chiloquin schools. We discussed what the community was made of, what its basic econ-

omy, social structure, and standards were. One of the first problems was the lack of communication and understanding between the people and the groups of the area. Many problems were raised and as we discussed ways we would like to see the community changed, it became apparent that more people needed to become concerned before any of these changes could be effectively made. Several bright and wholesome respects were brought out in the meeting; for instance the fact that a group such as ours was meeting. New industry seems headed this way. No group such as the Jaycees (which was established with 42 members from the entire area including Beatty) had ever existed here before; and that people live here because they wanted to.

SECOND MEETING

January 18, 1956, this time including representatives from the high school student body and their principal, met to discuss what could be done. The new members, after having been briefed on the previous meeting, fell into a discussion of the poor reputation and publicity we receive as an area. Here again the feeling was that if more people joined in their concern about the problems and future of the community much more could be done than our group alone could ever do. A meeting of representatives of every group in the community area we could think of was planned. Notices were sent or given to leaders of each group, the newspaper ran an article on our meeting, leaflets were posted in several public places, and word of mouth made public the coming meeting.

COMMUNITY-WIDE MEETING

First of all, nearly everyone was surprised and pleased at the number of people who turned out, especially of those who are not the usual ones to shoulder community responsibility. About 45 people from at least 32 local organizations and groups were anxious to get on with the business of improving our community. Some were champing at the bit during the first part of the meeting because they felt that getting some of the background laid, as we were doing, was not to the point. By the end of the meeting the whole group was together in working out a basic understanding of what our community was, how it came to be, how it is knit together, and what changes should be made. The meeting was informal with quite general discussion, especially after it was broken into

small groups for discussion of changes that were to be desired. Some of these changes included: A more wholesome program for youth, establishment of a community center building, cleaning and painting up the area. (Chiloquin especially), stronger support of the school and the school children by the community and by the parents, wider use of government agencies such as city council and county agents, more civic pride and responsible citizenship, and better cooperation and coordination between groups.

Following the meeting representatives asked the original small group to set up another meeting in which we could get down to some specific problems and action. The feeling was much the same as it was after the first small group meeting except that we had not been as definite in our

discussion of particulars in the larger meeting and the members did not have as much to really grasp hold of.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, Feb. 15, 11 people of the original group met in the city hall to evaluate the community-wide meeting and to plan for the next. The evaluation was generally favorable, except that something more definite must be done in further meetings than to just discuss generalities. Considerable discussion was made on the purposes of the group, and possibly a name. We felt our small group should not set the definite purposes or name; but rather leave that to the larger group. We did feel that the purpose of our group was to provide for cooperative coordination of activities, study and planning for action to be done by the established com-

munity groups, and basic understanding or centralization of information that will help the economic, moral, spiritual, and social growth of the community. The need was felt for a name for the area we represent and the group we are working in. It should be a name that does not have negative connotations in the minds of the general public.

For the next meeting, March 14, a committee was set up to provide for publicity and notification of community groups. Representatives are to bring data to the meeting that will help to provide a basic understanding of their purposes, meeting times, and personnel. Also the youth are to study their number, their organizations, would like to have some activity that is not provided for in existing programs. A similar report will come from the grade school.

Local Residents Go All Out In Blood Donations

In the spring of 1942 a weary busload of passengers alighted from a chartered vehicle in which they had ridden to Eugene and back.

The trip was made to donate a pint of blood to the Red Cross, so desperately needed in those dark days of World War II.

Claire Ellis, a staff aid, was one of the 30 or more donors who made that trip at a time when there was no organized program for receiving blood in Klamath County.

From the trip stemmed her determination to promote a local blood bank. When the Red Cross called for volunteers on this side of the mountains, Mrs. Ellis was one of the first to sign up for the staff orientation course.

Since the first operation in May of 1951, she has missed serving the Red Cross bloodmobile staff only once. Mrs. Ellis has totaled 275 hours in the blood bank program alone and in addition has donated 10 pints of blood since World War II.

Her chief duty is receptionist and hundreds of those who have donated blood here know her as a capable assistant.

Her husband, Otto Ellis, photographer with the Herald and News

has given a gallon of blood. Their only son, Kenneth (Corky) Ellis, who served his stint in the Navy, has given six pints.



MRS. CLAIRE ELLIS

Morty Meekle



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Forest Feeds Isolated Men

ALTURAS — Fish and wildlife of the Plumas National Forest were factors in keeping alive Air Force trainees during their periods of exposure to nature this past summer, according to William A. Peterson, forest supervisor.

A report he has received from Stead Air Force base indicated that trainees from the base, isolated for periods during the summer months in the rugged Mt. Ingalls, Red Clover Creek and Squaw Valley areas, were able to eke out a living from the forest.

They consumed, during the period they were forced to live off the land, 2,100 trout, 200 frogs, 30 ground squirrels, 80 porcupines, three rattlesnakes, 20 badgers and two rabbits in addition to unreported quantities of crawfish and fresh water clams.

"This is proof," Peterson declared, "that persons lost in wild areas of a national forest need not starve if they are willing to subsist on the food which nature provides."

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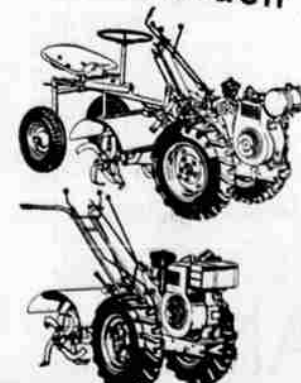
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