

Arizona Air Base Renamed In Honor Of Famed Air Force General

By MAX WAUCHOPE

An important and poignant ceremony held Friday at Yuma Air Force Base, Arizona marked the beginning of the annual U.S. Air Force air-to-air rocketry competition. Actual firing by the nine teams from all over the world began Saturday at the firing range near the Arizona air base.

This ceremony, attended by top Air Force generals, civilian leaders, and members of the press from all over the U.S., was held to rename Yuma AFB as Vincent Air Force Base in honor of the late

Brigadier General Clinton D. "Casey" Vincent. The rocketry firing competition, which has grown from a four-team affair three years ago, is conducted by the Air Defense Command for the entire USAF under the direction of Lt. Gen. Joseph H. Atkinson, ADC commander. The late Gen. Vincent served a great deal of post-war time in this newest of Air Force activities, that of establishing an air defense system for the continental U.S. Gen. Vincent, who became the second youngest general in the history of the Air Force at 29 while

serving under Gen. Claire Chennault in China during World War II, was as much a casualty of the cold war as he would have been if killed by a bullet from an enemy gun. The young air general literally worked himself to death in the struggle to provide America with an adequate defense system against possible atomic war by an aggressor nation. After a hard day's work, he died alone in his room at Colorado Springs, Colorado on July 5, 1955. Gen. Vincent was 40 years old at the time of his death, a victim of the pres-

ures which hang over today's Air Force men who labor to make the defense system of America so strong that any potential enemy would be reluctant to challenge our forces. At the time of his death, Gen. Vincent had just been named deputy chief of staff for operations of the Continental Air Defense Command. Gen. Vincent is survived by his widow, three daughters, and a son. Mill Caniff, the cartoonist who originated "Terry and the Pirates" and "Steve Canyon," became interested in Gen. Vincent in 1943 and used him as the basis

for his character "Gen. Shanty Town" in the two comic strips. And Caniff, varying the usual theme of comic strips, had the courage to portray the death of "Gen. Town" in his "Steve Canyon" strip last July 1. Caniff had his fictitious air general die of overwork, just as the real-life Gen. Vincent had.

WEST POINT
Gen. Vincent, a native of Gale, Texas who grew up in Natchez, Mississippi, was graduated from West Point in 1936. He served in various Air Force units following his subsequent graduation from flying school as a pilot in 1937. On Pearl Harbor Day he was on the high seas en route to the Philippine Islands as commanding officer of the 35th Pursuit Group. The group (consisting of only the group staff) was re-routed to India and inactivated. After this inactivation, Gen. Vincent was assigned to another post and a year later reassigned to China as executive for the China Air Task Force which was later to become the 14th Air Force.

For the next three years Gen. Vincent served with various units of the 14th Air Force, finally becoming commanding general of the 14th Air Force's 68th Composite Wing. He returned to the U.S. in 1944 and served in several posts here and in Iceland until the end of the war. In April 1949, Gen. Vincent was

appointed commanding general of the 25th Air Division at Everett, Washington, a position he held for three years until he was named deputy chief of staff for material for the Air Defense Command at Colorado Springs.

Gen. Vincent became vice commander of the Western Air Defense Force on August 10, 1953 with headquarters at Hamilton Air Force Base, California. He was appointed deputy chief of staff for operations at Continental Air Defense Command headquarters in Colorado Springs just a few days before his death.

DECORATIONS
Among his decorations are the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak leaf clusters, Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Purple Heart and many foreign decorations. At the time of his death he was a rated command pilot and an aircraft observer.

The rocketry competition now underway at Vincent AFB will continue through October 18. During the contest, some 5,000 rockets will be fired at aerial targets. Trophies will be awarded to the winning team of pilots, radar observers, ground aircraft radar controllers, and ground maintenance crews.

AFB is devoted to air-to-air rocket firing at special aerial targets towed behind both propeller and jet type tow aircraft. The air-to-ground contest is conducted at Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas, Nevada October 15 to 20. The rocket runs in the air-to-air contest are all made under simulated instrument conditions using the radar equipment in the aircraft to fire the rockets (the pilots pull a cloth hood up over the cockpit making it necessary to fly "blind"). A chase aircraft follows the aircraft making the run against the target to preclude the possibility of the tow target aircraft being shot down because of radar, or other malfunctions.

TARGETS
The towed targets are pulled behind the tow aircraft on a three-sixteenth inch steel cable 5,000 feet long. The target is of a cloth variety, nine by 45 feet in size. It is impregnated with attached metallic spinners which supply the radar echo. The 2.75 inch "Mighty Mouse" rocket is fired at the target.

The primary purpose of the competition is to perfect new techniques and to sharpen the abilities of the air and ground crews in all-weather interceptor methods.

Some of the Air Force's top men in the jet fighter-interceptor field are permanently stationed at Vincent AFB to aid in the competition and to train jet squadrons as

they are rotated through the base during the year. Among the top ace stationed at Vincent AFB is Lt. Col. James Jabara. Col. Jabara shot down nine enemy aircraft in World War II and during the Korean War he destroyed 15 Communist aircraft, damaged six, and had three probables. Another top ace at Vincent AFB is Lt. Col. Vermont Garrison. Col. Garrison served with the Royal Air Force during the early part of World War II. After his transfer to the U.S. Air Force he shot down 11 enemy aircraft. On March 3, 1944 he was shot down over France and was a prisoner of war for 13 months. In Korea, Col. Garrison downed 10 MIGs, damaged five and had three probables.

DEDICATED
And Yuma AFB, now named in honor of Gen. Vincent, is the home of this air-to-air rocketry where men learn to fly faster than a pistol bullet. These young officers, the leaders of tomorrow's Air Force and the defenders of America today, follow in the footsteps of other dedicated Americans such as Gen. Vincent who gave his life in the service of his country.

EDITOR'S NOTE: When the 408th Fighter-Interceptor Group at the Klamath Falls Municipal Airport is fully manned and activated, it will be a part of this first line of the nation's defense, the Continental Air Defense Command.



A NORTH AMERICAN F-86D SABREJET, one of the mainstays of the Air Defense Command, is shown here flying over the radar site at Vincent Air Force Base, Yuma, Arizona. This is the type of fighter aircraft that the U.S. Air Force has announced will probably be stationed at the Klamath Falls Municipal Airport when the 408th Fighter-Interceptor Group here is fully manned. (Official USAF photo.)



A FIGHTER PILOT WITH A FIGHTING HEART was the way his colleagues knew Brigadier General Clinton D. "Casey" Vincent who died of a heart attack at 40 on July 5, 1955 after becoming the Air Force's second youngest general during World War II at 29. It is for him that Yuma, Arizona's rocketry training center is now named—Vincent Air Force Base. (Official USAF photo.)

Lakeview Luncheon Group Hears Senate Candidate

LAKEVIEW—No family, no business, no government can spend more than it takes in and not eventually go broke. Doug McKay told his audience in Lakeview at a noon luncheon Thursday October 11, at the Hotel Lakeview.

The dining room was crowded to capacity with about 90 guests who were there to hear the Republican candidate for U.S. senator, McKay went on to tell the savings in government that had been effected by the Eisenhower administration and some that he had made in the administration of the Department of the Interior while he was secretary. Stories such as these do not make glamorous reading, the speaker said, and many may not be aware of the figures.

That the answer to agriculture is not in politics but in economics, was his statement, and surpluses must be got rid of and not built up.

Mr. and Mrs. McKay were hindered by the weather in making the trip to Lakeview by plane, so their time here was cut short for some of the plans that had been made by the Lake County Republican Central Committee. They came here from Klamath Falls by automobile and returned there at 2:30 in the afternoon. Jack Briscoe of Lakeview furnished the transportation. Before and after the luncheon McKay visited around town with several friends.

A friendship that has endured since they were both soldiers in World War I was renewed here again by McKay when he arrived in Lakeview and saw John Singleton, local retired sheepman, whose health has been impaired because of a heart ailment. Despite the

fact that he is confined to his home most of the time, Mr. and Mrs. Singleton were guests of honor at the speaker's table during the luncheon. The local man heard himself extolled by McKay as the greatest soldier he had known during their days of duty together. The visitor was also greeted following the luncheon by Vest Carroll of Valley Falls, another war buddy.

Arrangements for the reception of Mr. and Mrs. McKay were made by Mrs. Eva Arthur, chairman of the McKay committee for Lake County, and by Warren Maxwell, chairman of the central committee.

U.S. Game Aide Now In Klamath

Arthur R. Gerlach who was named fisheries agent for the state game commission when Kenneth Cochran was transferred to Portland as fisheries agent for the commission, has opened offices of the commission in the post office building. He will occupy the same office space previously used by Cochran. Gerlach's family has come from the coast to join him and they have found residence at 529 North Tenth.

Special Deer Hunt Slated

Jim Mohr, game agent for the Klamath district for the state game commission, said Friday he has been receiving queries from persons who applied for permits for the special December 1-4 antlerless deer hunt and have received no reply from the game commission.

Six areas listed in the game commission synopsis for the proposed controlled hunt are still under-subscribed, he said, and permits will not be issued until quotas are filled, according to present plans. Those who have made proper application have been automatically granted permits but issuance is being held up until quotas are completed.

Of particular local interest is the Swan Lake area. Of the quota of 800 tags only 578 have been applied for leaving 222 permits to be granted as of October 9, Mohr said.

The Swan Lake area contains roughly 500 square miles. It runs from the state line as the south boundary north to the Klamath Indian Reservation boundary. West boundary is Highway 39 and 97. East boundary is Highway 66, the Bonanza cut-off, east Langell Valley road to the state line. Permit applications are available at license agencies or from Mohr whose telephone number is TU 2-3792. The other five areas and the number of permits untitled are:

Malheur River, 1,157; North Side 1 area, 637; North Side 11 area, 942; Lookout Mountain, 341, and Spray, 572.

Permits will be issued for each area as the quota for that area is filled.

Barbecue Lunch Plans Announced

MERRILL—An estimated 3,000 people will attend the barbecue lunch served at the Merrill Community Hall during the 20th annual Klamath Basin Potato Festival on Saturday, October 20.

The barbecue serving will begin at 12:30 p.m., following the festival parade. The menu will include barbecued meat and bun with barbecue sauce, potato and milk or coffee.

This year's barbecuer's are Bill Carter and James Grimes. Bill Falvey is chairman of the barbecue committee.



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