

Aviation History At Angwin With Flight Of Turboprop

ANGWIN—Aviation history was made at 9:02 a.m. Friday at Pacific Union College's airport here with the highly-successful initial test flight of the first Grumman "Mallard" aircraft known to have been converted to turboprop operation.

At the controls of the 10-passenger amphibian was J. Fred Frakes, president of Frakes Aviation, Inc., which leases the

airport and provides PUC with flight instruction under contract.

Accompanying him on the premiere flight were his newpew, J. D. Frakes, chief engineer; and Robert Lamson, Seattle consulting engineer who has worked closely with Frakes on the Mallard conversion project.

The test flight of N-2974 lasted 42 minutes, take-off being closely watched by nearly 100 college of-

ficials, students, flight personnel, and community residents.

The crowd broke into spontaneous applause as the "big bird" took off in a 15-second run down the tarmac runway, using less than 1,000 of the 5,300 feet available.

The pilot climbed swiftly to 7,500 feet altitude, where he cruised at 250 m.p.h., utilizing only 500 of the 620 maximum

horsepower available in each of the plane's two new engines.

FAA regulations require such test flights, which may be highly hazardous, to be undertaken over unpopulated areas. Frakes put his "Mallard" through its paces above the hills in a 20-mile-radius area between Conn Lake near St. Helena and Clear Lake.

Frakes, who owned this "Mallard" during his long years as an Alaskan bush pilot where he engaged in charter and contract flights, sold the plane when he left Alaska in the summer of 1964. He repurchased it in April, 1968, bringing it to Angwin where the engine conversion project was begun.

The two original-equipment Pratt & Whitney R-1340 reciprocating piston engines were removed Aug. 1, 1968, the change-over requiring 13 months to complete.

The new Pratt & Whitney PT6A-27 turboprop engines each weigh 1,050 pounds less than the originals they replaced. However, the aircraft now will be able to carry a "useful load" of about 6,000 pounds, instead of 3,200 pounds as formerly. The new engines have also increased the "Mallard's" cruising speed from 182 m.p.h. to 240 m.p.h.

Frakes expressed hope that FAA certification could be completed within 90 to 120 days. The plane will be flown daily during this period until all necessary flight data has been recorded.

A total of 59 "Mallards" were built by Grumman between 1946 and 1952. Of these, 33 are still known to be operational in the United States, and possibly as many as 20 are still being flown overseas.

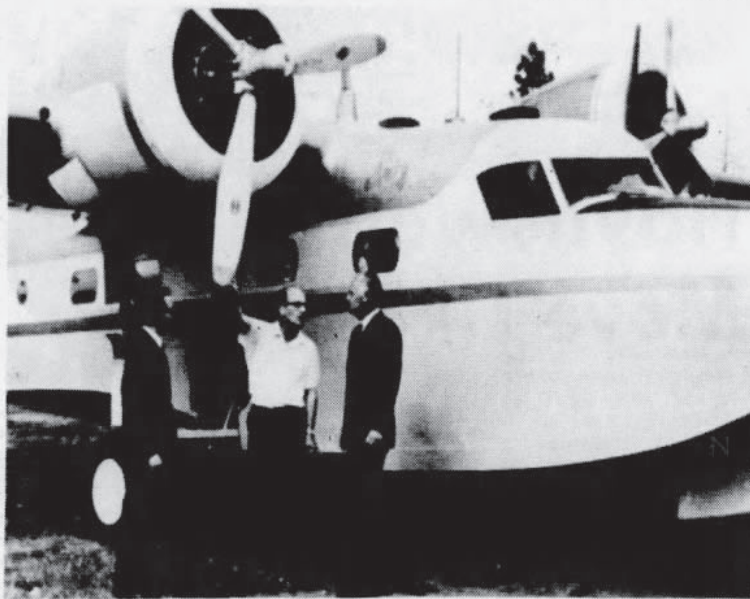
Because of the increased efficiency and economy of operation the new turboprop engines make possible, Frakes has had 17 "Mallard" owners approach him to discuss the prospects for his converting their aircraft in a similar operation.

All of the assembly work and much of the engineering was done in one large hangar at the south end of the Angwin airport which adjoins the campus of Pacific Union College at 1,800 foot elevation atop Howell Mountain in Napa County. PUC offers a major in aviation through its industrial education department.

Returning from the initial test flight, Frakes was ecstatic about the plane's performance.

"It was a great flight," he said, "I never flew a nicer airplane. There wasn't a squak—and that's something for a first flight! And I've had several inaugural test flights before; but nothing like this one!"

Consulting engineer Lamson of Seattle, who has flown on a number of Boeing first test flights, was equally enthusiastic. "I've never seen one this smooth," he commented as he climbed out of the "Mallard" after it returned safely to Angwin 46 minutes after a breathtaking maiden flight with its two new turboprop engines.



THIS PHOTO taken prior to installation of the new turboprop engines, shows the view of the old piston engines in the "Mallard" before conversion to the new engines. (Photo courtesy PUC)

Man Booked After Court Disruption

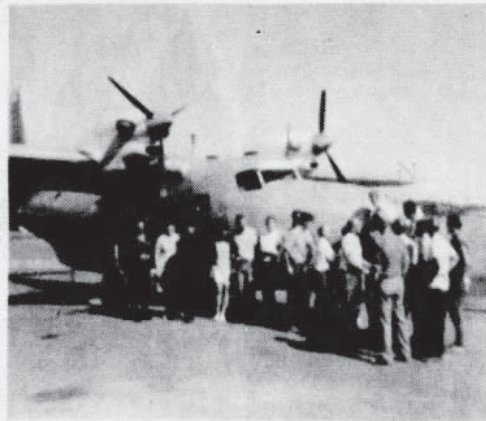
CALISTOGA — A young Angwin man Friday was charged with disturbing the peace after he and two companions allegedly disrupted a Justice Court session here.

Harley Rosario Roth, 19, of Angwin, was booked in Napa County Jail shortly before 5 p.m. Friday. Bail was set at \$250. Charges against two other persons — described as a young man and woman — were dropped.

Police said the trio had been talking loudly and making obscene gestures to those in the courthouse. Roth was present for a preliminary hearing for possession of marijuana, a charge which was dismissed.

According to a local lawyer, Judge Oliver Northup first asked the group to quiet down, then ordered them to leave. As they left the courtroom, the threesome resumed their boisterous activity and Asst. Dist. Atty. John Cooley ordered Calistoga Police Officer Dave Bettini to arrest them.

Police said no difficulty was encountered in performing the arrests.



FRED FRAKES receives congratulatory handshakes after successfully concluding the first flight from Angwin Airport in the "Mallard" with the new turboprop engines.

Bill Requiring Recreational Projects In Water O.K.'d

SACRAMENTO (Special)—Sen. John F. (Jack) McCarthy's bill requiring that recreational uses be considered in any flood control or water conservation project the state participates in was signed into law by Gov. Ronald Reagan.

The new law, which goes into effect in November, states that "recreational uses, such as walkways, pathways, access points and view areas, shall be given consideration in any flood control or water conservation program.

"In the design construction and operation of projects, when engineering and economic features of the project make it practicable, adequate provisions shall be made for such public recreational uses.

"The design of the areas and facilities for such uses shall be prepared in cooperation with the Department of Water Resources."