

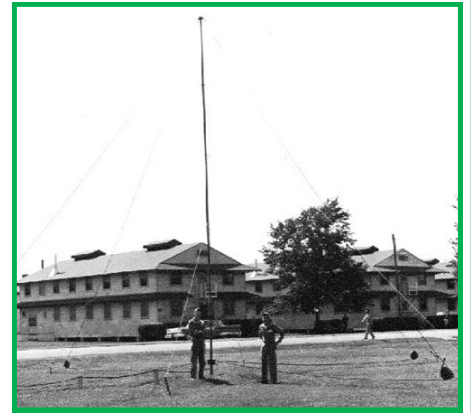


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My Notes from 6th Weather Squadron - January to December 1961

Since I previously wrote about the 1959 and 1960 6th Weather History, I thought I would continue with 1961 historical files but there are none available. Maybe it's because of my arrival at Tinker in '61. From my experience that year, I can say I was very happy that I was able to volunteer for the Mobile unit, and they accepted me for 6th Weather.

I spent my first Air Force duty station at Wright-Patterson AFB in 1960 at 4th Weather Group Field Maintenance Shop, after basic training and B-47 Bomb-Navigation Systems School at Lowry AFB and cross training to Weather Equipment Repair at famous Chanute AFB (Motto- "Don't shoot 'em... Chanute 'em"). Lowry was where I first encountered "Bongo" Bongiovanni who made our every day an adventure and kept us in stitches with his impersonations and very serious face. Our field teams at Wright-Pat constantly travelled to AF and some Army weather units in Central US and down to the Gulf of Mexico in our Chevy van or dedicated C-47 (with card table built in) to perform calibrations, repair or exchange equipment, and check on operational needs. Some of the names I remember from our maintenance unit there were MSgt Keith McKay, a great person to know and work with, Airmen Whatley from Providence RI, Truesdale, Goodman. Can't remember the others now.



Tony Landa (right) & I at Greenville AFB, MS Sferics Antenna Site.

But anyways.... what I remember from my experiences at 6th Weather as an equipment maintenance technician was my first TDY assignment at Greenville AFB in Mississippi in early Spring 1961 at a Sferics site with technician Airman Tony Landa, a really great guy who is now deceased. I was there about two months when I had to return to Tinker to fly out to the Denver Sferics station to replace my old friend Bongo who was laid up at Fitzsimons Army Hospital with something minor, I think. I flew out in an AF, 2 engine Cessna, a U-3 "Blue Canoe" with Capt Frank Smith, SMSgt John Schumacher, and CWO Bill Stricker and they did let me take the controls for a while which was greatly appreciated. After a month and a return to Tinker, I then attended GMD-2 school at Chanute. It was a new piece of equipment that still had bugs in it such as the ranging system and we later tested them at South-40. While at Chanute the Russians detonated a large hydrogen bomb, one of their 57 nuke tests that year. The Chanute weather crew launched a special monitoring package attached to a rather large balloon to monitor the radiation fallout from that detonation. Upon satisfactorily completing and graduating from that equipment school and return to Tinker, equipment maintenance crews worked on readying our GMD-1As and get them in tip-top shape for the rumored nuclear tests in the Pacific later called "Operation Dominic". This was necessitated because the US needed to test their nuke warheads because of Russia's nuclear tests in September of '61. Our maintenance and training conducted by MSgt Ken Zinke at the famous South-40 site at Tinker proved to be a valuable effort for all the technicians who would soon be stationed on isolated islands in the Pacific, far from readily available repair parts to keeping those GMDs running. So the better shape the equipment was in and the more we knew, would benefit us all. In early December I also married my now ex-wife at the Tinker chapel not knowing that in less than three months I would be TDY to the South Pacific. That's pretty much my recollection of 1961 and I know there are hundreds of stories from that year in our collective memories. If you can write them down and e-mail them to me, maybe I can add them in the next newsletter. But for now, that's it for 1961.

AIC Gerry "Frenchie" Guay Okay. Let's go on to 1962.



Notes from 6th Weather Squadron History Files - January to December 1962

1962 was a memorable year for 6th Weather personnel, mainly because of a very large and important project in support of nuclear testing called "Operation Dominic". Our commander, LtCol Elwyn Moseley departs 6th Weather at Tinker, TDY to Hawaii in February to command Weather Reporting Element, LtCol David Barrow assumes command of the squadron at Tinker, with Maj Carl Herdic as Operations Officer. In late July LtCol Moseley returned to Tinker and resumed command of 6th Weather (Mobile) in August and remained commander of the Weather Reporting Element for Operation Dominic as an additional duty. The squadron was authorized 216 personnel but only 193 assigned for 86% manned, but that increased quickly because of needed personnel for the nuclear tests in the Pacific. By end of June, the squadron reported a total of 261 assigned for 116% manned, and that climbed to 136% manned by the end of the year. Amazing what 4th Weather Group can do when the crunch comes for an important project. An enviable safety record with no injuries for 38,000 man days exposure and 52,000 miles driven was maintained for the first half of '62.

With all this activity I will list all the projects except Operation Dominic because there is plenty on this one project for the next newsletter. Even with the vast required resources for the nuke tests, 6th Weather with its 'Willing and Able' attitude still was able to carry out all these other projects. Project 'Blue Light - Red Light' in Mercury, NV an upper air classified project (maybe it had to do with alien spacecraft); Project Stratus at Castle AFB, CA an upper air to forecast fog and low clouds in San Joaquin Valley for the SAC mission; Project Sunbeam in northern Arizona and southern Utah and Project Sedan in western Utah and eastern Nevada were two upper air and two pibal units in support of USWB Research Station and required a 5 vehicle convoy and a fifteen man team. Project Mercury Drop in El Centro, CA was upper air in testing parachutes dropped from aircraft; Project AF 60-13 Oyster Shell (AST-7) consisted of three flights on various islands supporting the 1370th Photo Mapping Wing in the SW Pacific with Hq. in Guam. The islands that 6th was deployed to are: Truk, Ponape, Kapingamarangi, Mussau, Buka and Vitu; Project Titan II micro-met support using wiresonde instrumentation at low levels conducted at Davis-Monethan AFB, AZ and another flight at McConnell AFB, KS; Chico and Chico II in Chico, CA supported AFSC's football field size balloon launch activities with upper air and surface observations. These balloons were used in Project Stargazer and others; Project in Toledo, OH was providing weather observations to an ANG Recall Program. Teams were also deployed in August to 'Small Boats' at Eglin AFB, FL in support of Bureau of Standards; 'Sheppard's Angels', a 5 day wiresonde operation at Sheppard AFB, TX in September; 'Troop Carrier Muskogee' a November set up of an airfield observing station at a municipal airport in Muskogee, OK supporting the 65th Troop Carrier Squadron during the Cuban Crisis; Tinker 'Network Obs' at South-40 providing dual mission of realistic flight management training to future flight chiefs and rawinsonde reports for weather networks in support of AWS mission. The FMD-1 Sferics Experimental equipment was put in storage awaiting disposition.

Weather Editing, the Tinker Weather Relay continued operation at 97% efficiency and was partially moved to a new facility, and planned consolidation with the Suitland and Travis facilities to this new facility took place in December. The consolidated center at Tinker would now handle all weather data previously handled by these facilities with full extent of automatic equipment.

At RAVU, Maj Harry Averill started drafting manuals for the new AN/GMD-2 Rawin Set and AMQ-9 Radiosonde and we received the first units in February. *(Continued on Page 4)*

Changes: Please keep us informed of any e-mail or address changes by e-mailing us at:



webmaster@6thweathermobile.org or

USPS mail us 6WSAA c/o Buck Bucklin, 8 Sherwood Lane, East Hampton, NY 11937



My Notes from 6th Weather Squadron ~ January to December 1961 (Continued from Page 3)

Numerous difficulties were encountered including delays due to battery acquisition. There were also evaluation and recommended improvements to the AWS WPC 9-33 ART (Altitude Reciprocal Temperature) Chart; testing of soldered thermistor leads on Radiosondes AMT-4 which provided an 11% reduction in questionable soundings; progress in the Rawin Computer Verification Program working with OCAMA and IBM personnel; and a successful conclusion to the Baseline Temperature Lock-In Criteria Evaluation. Ravu serviced over 4,000 upper air observations per month from 30 rawinsonde stations and 4 weather recon squadrons, and in the fall received rocketsonde obs from Eglin, Ascension Island, Wallops Island and Fort Churchill. They also worked with OCAMA to have computers do the bulk of the work for verification computations. In December, a computer program using an IBM 7080 computer had been developed to check rawin computations. A problem was found with the carbon humidity element giving erroneous results and was forwarded to AWS for review.

The Maintenance section completed the Winter rehab of all rawinsonde and observation equipment and received an excellent rating by the Field Maintenance Shop's quarterly inspection. An ARCUS rocket launcher received from Atlantic Research was set up in the training area. Six rawinsonde sets were deployed to Operation Dominic with three to AST-7, one to 1st Wea Wg, and four at stateside sites. There were numerous difficulties with the new GMD-2s including obtaining replacement parts.

Training achievements were recognized in exceptionally high qualifying scores on the January SKTs. Of course we know the average intelligence of the 6th Weather troops was always a big cut above the rest. Fifteen airmen were sent to a Solid State Devices Course conducted at Tinker by Keesler Technical Tng Ctr. The upcoming popularity of transistors and other solid state devices to replace tube circuits necessitated this upgraded training of future technology. There was also a Maintenance Course conducted on the ARCAS Rocket System.

That pretty much sums up the important activities of 1962 except for Operation Dominic which I will cover in next newsletter and maybe add a little more of Photomapping AST-7

From Connecticut to Utah - As a few of you might know, I have moved from high tax Connecticut to a conservative economy in the Salt Lake Valley of the beautiful state of Utah. Although this area is growing very fast (they can't build houses fast enough), the overall tax structure will save me a considerable amount on property taxes but the state income tax might be about the same. Oh... and utilities such as natural gas and electricity are considerably cheaper. My wife and I decided in mid January to make this big move and join my son who



was already here four years. After my shoulder surgery in late January, the arduous task of preparing the house for sale and finding a house in Utah began. Can't believe how much work it was getting rid of stuff that had accumulated for many years. My other five kids helped with that, fortunately. I had to make sure the 6WSAA documents for the newsletter and website were backed up on disk for the long move in a RatPack moving container. Also traded in our two cars for one new one, we decided we didn't really need two cars and that proved to be true, and besides we weren't going to drive two cars 2300 miles cross country and with two French Bulldogs, although to our great relief, they were excellent travelers. Well I got the April newsletter out in time amid all the tension and stress of selling and buying houses, and cars and the million of other things on my to-do list. My wife found a house to our liking and we closed in mid May, left CT for UT 6 days later and sold our CT house a month later. Stress.... We were in a hurry to get to Utah and get settled. So now that all that is behind me, I can focus on this newsletter and maybe get back to my acrylic and watercolor painting. I believe this was a good move and Utah offers every outdoor activity imaginable and the scenery is awesome. I guess it wasn't too late to do this. **Gerry Guay** (Picture: Sunrise from my deck)



Don't forget to visit our website at: <http://6thweathermobile.org>

Here is the form for 6WSAA Dues Renewal, also available for download on our website.



6th WEATHER SQUADRON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (6WSAA)
NEW/RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership categories are:

Primary Members: Former members of the USAF 6th Weather Squadron (Mobile) or any of its predecessor units including civilian employees. Annual dues are required to remain Active.

Associate Members: Current or former members of any organization that provided direct service to 6th Weather Squadron (Mobile). Civilian employees, spouses or other immediate family of this group may become Associate Members. Annual dues are required to remain active. *Spouses of Primary Members in good standing hold Associate Membership and are exempt from dues.* Voting privileges are not enjoyed by Associate Members.

Honorary Members: Persons who must be nominated for Honorary Membership by a Primary Member and who must be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Widows and widowers of Primary Members are deemed Honorary Members by relationship. Honorary Members are exempt from dues. Voting privileges are not enjoyed by Honorary Members.

*YOUR NAME: _____ NICKNAME: _____

YOUR SPOUSE: _____ NICKNAME: _____

Check Type Membership Applying For: Primary _____ Associate _____ Honorary _____

*Widow/Widower of alumni member - Enter the deceased Member's name, rank, and year in which deceased:

Deceased Member's Name: _____ Rank: _____ Year Deceased: _____

Your Mailing Address: STREET/P.O. BOX: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

Home phone No: () _____ Office phone No: () _____

E-mail address: _____

Years in 6th WS (MOB) (ex. 60-64): _____

Organization (if not 6th MOB): _____

Enclose a check or money order for \$10.00/year payable to 6WSAA. Enclosed is \$ _____ for (# years) _____ Dues.

Mail to: Buck Bucklin
8 Sherwood Lane
East Hampton, NY 11937

Permission to release your information.

NOTICE TO THE ASSOCIATION: Release the above information ONLY to the members of the Association. You may also include the name, address***, telephone number*** and e-mail*** in a membership roster distributed ONLY to 6WSAA members and not for commercial use. YES _____ NO _____

DATE: _____ YOUR SIGNATURE: _____

If you checked YES, but do not wish your address or telephone number or e-mail address to appear in the roster, encircle the appropriate. We do not sell or freely provide the 6WSAA mailing list to non-member or commercial interests.

Optional: List Deployments Locations and Dates: _____

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Changes: Please keep us informed of any e-mail or address changes by e-mailing us at: webmaster@6thweathermobile.org or USPS mail us 6WSAA c/o Buck Bucklin, 8 Sherwood Lane, East Hampton, NY 11937

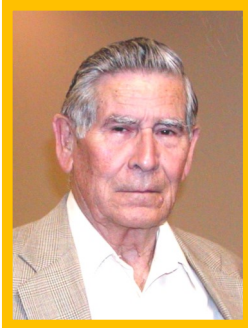




Final Launch



Ernest E. "Ernie" Fischer 1926 - 2015 CMSgt. Ernest Edward Fisher, USAF (Ret.), 88, of Charleston, SC, widower of Rachel Matthews Fisher, died Friday, February 20, 2015. Ernest was born August 15, 1926 in Elkton, Virginia. He was a graduate of the Navy Nuclear Power Program, a WWII Navy veteran, served as a POW in Germany, then transferred to the U.S. Air Force, He served in 6th Weather Squadron (Mobile), supported the NASA Space Shuttle Program and retired as a Chief Master Sergeant. He is survived by two sons, Robert Edward Fisher (Janis) of Charleston, SC and Steven Douglas Fisher (Lynn) of Chandler, AZ; two grandsons, Bryan Fisher and Shawn Fisher; and a great-grandson, Nick Fisher.



Charles Morris 1925 - 2017 Charles Morris, 92, formally of What Cheer, Iowa, died September 2, 2017, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Charles David Morris, son of T.T. Morris and Phyllis Schauff Morris, was born on January 11, 1925 in What Cheer, Iowa. He was 1943 graduate of What Cheer High School in Iowa. He worked numerous jobs before joining the Army Air Corp in January 17, 1943. He was a proud World War 2, Korean, and Vietnam Veteran. After serving his country for 24 years, he retired from Tinker Air Force Base on July 31, 1967 from the 6th Weather Squadron. He served in 6th Weather Squadron from 1961 to 1967 and was a member and officer in the 6WSAA. He worked for the United States Postal Service and the Civil Service before final retirement in 1985. Charles had

many friends and enjoyed bowling, fishing, camping, traveling, playing cards and watching OU Football. While raising his children, he actively participated in the Boy Scouts. Charles was a man of character and honor who left his children with a legacy to love our country and family. Charles was predeceased by his first wife, Donna G. Gibson, formally of Oskaloosa, Iowa, brother Richard Morris, and sister Elizabeth Storm. He is survived by his sons Douglas Morris and wife Valerie, Dennis Morris and wife Jordan, Dean Morris and wife Cynde, and daughter Debra Taylor and husband Mike. He was a proud grandparent to Courtney Nixon, Ashley Vogel, Logan Morris, Mitchell Morris, Cade Morris, Kory Taylor, Molly Franke and great grandchildren Eloise and Walt Vogel. He is survived by his wife Carmell Morris of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Update from Steve:

To the Sixth Weather Squadron (Mobile): the best group of people I have ever known. My best wishes for each one of you in continued health and happiness. My sympathy to all those who have lost a Sixth Weather warrior.

I don't have a book to send you yet. But the first novel, **The Original Storm Chasers** is in its third edit and review with the Editing Team at the publisher, Christian Faith Publishing, out of Meadville, PA.. When that is complete, it goes to the Pagination and Formatting Team then to the Book Cover team. This book has taken a mountain of work since May. I still hope to see it all done prior to December. The Genre is Military Adventure and Romance.

The better news is that the second novel, "**Wild Mustangs on the Nevada Test Range**", has already been sent to the publisher, where they will do the first edit. Thank you, Gerry, for your help and feedback. I have amassed the biggest list of Sixth Weather warriors to be highlighted in the first novel "**The Original Storm Chasers**". Any information or new items that anybody sends me will be appreciated. So far I have ten specific subjects in the Appendices, in addition to 63 chapters and 120,000 words.

To protect the anonymity of each real Sixth Weather warrior who speaks at a reunion in the first novel, as a substitute I chose a different name from a list of Medal of Honor Winners from the Army Air Corps in WWII.

With all Best Wishes, Shoulder to Shoulder, Stephen (Steve) Gladish

"We are grateful that we can gather together once again to renew friendships and make new ones, celebrate with those who are present, remember and miss those who are absent, and mourn those who are departed." Chuck Miller

