

Kern Friend Believes Amelia Earhart Served as Spy

By BOB JONES



Anita Lee shows husband, John Lee, photograph of herself and Amelia Earhart taken just before famed trans-Pacific flight. Lee is manager of the Disabled American Veterans Thrift Store. —Californian Photo

The U.S. government should clear up any doubts about the role and ultimate fate of Amelia Earhart when her plane disappeared into the Pacific in July, 1937.

That is the feeling of an admirer and acquaintance of the famed aviatrix and one of the original members of the King Sisters, Anita (King) Lee of 2601 Fremont Street.

It's her firm belief, Mrs. Lee declares, that Miss Earhart was on a spy mission for the United States — a position taken by many delving into the mysteries surrounding her disappearance and that it is incumbent on this nation to clear the mystery and give Miss Earhart just credit.

Mrs. Lee said she decided to speak up because of the recent controversy started when two men claimed Miss Earhart was alive and living in the United States.

Mrs. Lee is convinced that the woman, who herself denies she is Amelia Earhart, is not the same person, Mrs. Lee said. "For one thing, her nose is quite different."

She met Miss Earhart while the latter was testing her plane at the old San Francisco Bay Airrome in Alameda in 1936.

Mrs. Lee said she and her former husband were operating the Johnston Air Service and became acquainted with Miss Earhart from daily

contact at the field located just outside the Posey Tube, which connects Alameda with Oakland.

During the approximately six months before Miss Earhart left on her fateful trip, Mrs. Lee recalls, she put her twin-engined, stripped-down Lockheed Electra through exhaustive tests.

She described Miss Earhart as "quiet . . . unpretentious . . . a person dedicated to her job . . . everybody liked her . . ."

"I feel she did a great service to her country and should get proper recognition."

Prior to that, from 1934 to 1935 Mrs. Lee joined two fellow students of Oakland Technical High School, Vonnie and Donna King, and launched the famed King Sisters at the Hotel Lake Merit in Oakland.

A short time later Mrs. Lee, billed as Anita King, and the two sisters joined the Horace Heidt band. Three more actual sisters were added to the group.

"It wasn't a fib," Mrs. Lee explains now, "there were six sisters, only Marilyn was too little at that time."

She left the Kings when the group and Heidt moved east and she married a stunt pilot, Iron Hat Johnston. The two opened the air service at the airfield, where they subsequently met Miss Earhart.



Famed aviatrix Amelia Earhart stands alongside her Lockheed Electra, the same ship that carried her on her fateful trip into the Pacific, talking with former singing King sister and now Bakersfield resident Anita (King) Lee.

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Patent Penning



By NORMAN BERG

Perhaps I'm getting senile in middle age but there are some things in this world I find a little difficult to comprehend. This dissertation may sound a little confused, but I have lived on both sides of the so-called generation gap and I am confused.

Many things puzzle me. For instance:

—Police brutality. I have forgotten already where this phrase was born but it came into prominence during a political convention in Chicago not many years ago.

There were thousands of words written about the incident, mostly about "innocent" victims clubbed by those terrible men in blue. Even newsmen were pictured (by photographers who just "happened" to be on the scene) getting a shot in the head for "quietly minding their own business."

I have talked to several people who were on the scene and all relate basically the same story. There was about 99 per cent provocation and 1 per cent retaliation. Officers were subjected to attacks from youths wielding rocks, bags of human and animal waste, firecrackers, cherry bombs, foam balls with needles sticking out of them and other forms of weaponry.

To this day I have heard no one cry "youth brutality." Damage from mobs ran into the thousands of dollars but it was all relegated into insignificance because of police brutality.

I suppose an officer should wipe the urine from his eyes and the rest of the garbage from his clothes, pat the little darlings on the head and try to send them home — but don't reprimand them.

This may sound a little old-fashioned, but I don't get it. I was taught to have a healthy respect for the law. I knew I could look to the police for help but I was also taught that if I broke the law I would be punished for it.

—Law and order. That's a popular term, especially during election campaigns but I wonder sometimes why we are so afraid to enforce it. It almost seems sometimes that criminals have more rights than the innocent.

Many examples could be cited but one sticks out in my mind. An officer arresting a couple of suspected narcotics offenders failed to use the right words in advising the men of their rights and they

Hayakawa Tells It as It's Not

The Perspective Page in tomorrow's Bakersfield Californian will again offer some provocative viewpoints on subjects of national and personal interest as written by outstanding commentators on the public scene.

Dr. S. I. Hayakawa goes into the fascinating realm of double-talk, i.e., saying what we sometimes don't mean.

Richard L. Worsnop presents the first in a two-part series on the office of the vice presidency, made famous by Spiro Agnew.

Sandra Haggerty makes the discovery that blacks aren't much different from whites in realizing the importance of knowing someone (and bragging about it).

Anthony Harrigan, executive vice president of the Southern States Industrial Council, tells about a generally hushed-up report of the House Committee on Internal Security which covers the subject of fees paid to radicals addressing campus audiences.

And, finally, Paul Harvey goes into his views of what causes crime along with the observation that Americans are more violent than they like to think.

If you want good reading and reading that you will remember, be sure to turn to the Perspective page in The Sunday Bakersfield Californian.

Labor Council Honors Two

Pair Cited as Men of Year

Two men who have served organized labor in Kern County for more than two decades were honored last night by the Kern County Labor Council with its first Man-of-the-Year Awards Banquet at Freddie's Top of the Hill.

The men, Ivan Beavan, international Brotherhood of Electrical Workers business manager and financial secretary, and Harry Hollins, editor of the Kern County Labor Journal, received the wards presented by Sen. Walter Stiern.

The council's awards honor persons who have exemplified the ideals of the labor movement, their service to labor and their activities in charities and other programs sponsored or aided by the AFL-CIO.

Stiern related some of the personal history and accomplishments of each man, thanked each for his help during his campaign for the State Senate and read congratulatory messages to each man from their friends and from the community's civic leaders.

Beavan joined the IBEW Local 428 during 1937 and was elected the union's business manager and executive financial secretary in 1948. Since then he has been re-elected 11 times.

Beavan has been elected to many offices by organized labor. He is the Kern County Labor Council's secretary-treasurer, is a past president of the organization and a former member of its executive board. He also is a past president of the Kern County Building Trades Council.

He is secretary of the electrical apprentices joint committee; secretary of the apprenticeship fund; secretary of the electricians' health and welfare and pension funds; legislative chairman of the State Association of Electrical Workers and a past president of the Southern California Joint Association of Electrical Workers.

Beavan is a board member of the Bakersfield Boys Club and a member of the citizens advisory committee to the Board of Supervisors.

Hollins came to Kern County in 1939 from San Francisco where he worked as a newsman. In work on county

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Kern County Labor Council Man of the Year Awards were presented Friday night to Ivan Beavan, left, and Harry Hollins, right. Making the presentations at the Labor Council banquet at Freddie's Top of the Hill was State Sen. Walter Stiern. —Californian Photo

WANTS NO FAILURES

Speaker Says Schools Should Help All Children Develop

Two educators whose theories have evoked feelings ranging from raw rage to high praise across the United States wound up a two-day session in Bakersfield today. The conference, Innovations '70s, heard Dr. Leland Newcomer, president of LaVerne College, make the featured address in the final session this morning.

Luncheon and dinner meetings were at Chipman Junior High School. Group sessions and educational tool displays were there and at the Henry Eissler School and Highland High School.

Dr. William Glasser, author of "Schools Without Failure" and "Reality Therapy," was keynote of the two-day meeting coordinated by the Committee of Kern Educators (COKE). Co-chairmen were Wayne Carter, curriculum director, Kern County superintendent of schools staff, and Hal Kavern, assistant director of instruction, Bakersfield City School District.

Newcomer, a graduate of the University of Southern California, attracted national attention early in his career when he shook Las Vegas' school system to its core in 1965. Time Magazine that year said he was forcing schools to concentrate more on "what the kids are learning than on what was taught."

"There isn't a kid in the

world who isn't a genius or a near-genius in some things, or a moron in others. The schools must find ways to analyze each child in terms of his uniqueness as a human being," Dr. Newcomer said.

His talk today reflected what many leaders in educa-

tion feel has been the secret of his success at LaVerne, a small, privately endowed college in Southern California. He is an avowed believer administrators should concentrate on administering, and teachers should teach. He

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Dr. William Glasser checks program plans before addressing nearly 500 educators last night at Highland High School. Flanking him are co-chairmen of Innovations '70s, Wayne Carter, left, Kern County superintendent of schools office, and Hal Kavern, Bakersfield city schools.

Open House: Retarded Learn Faster

By PATTI KELLER

There was a time when the mentally retarded were hidden from public view in closets or attics by shame-fearing families, and journalists told the problem only in stories without names accompanied by photos with black shields across the eyes of the subjects to prevent identification.

This era has been succeeded by one with a new respect and hope for the mentally deficient, as is illustrated by the programs offered in Kern County by the Bakersfield Association for Retarded Children.

With emphasis on dignity and a sense of self-pride and self-worth, BARC, in conjunction with accompanying programs offered by the Kern County superintendent of schools, provides an entirely new world in which the mentally retarded may function comfortably and happily.

Kern residents are invited to view that world tomorrow when facilities of the BARC complex will be shown during an afternoon open house from 2 to 4 p.m. at 530 4th Street.

The open house is in observance of Mental Retardation Week, as proclaimed by Mayor Don Hart in accordance with the designation of November as National Retarded Children's Month.

Visitors touring the BARC campus will be shown three major BARC facilities as well as adjoining facilities provided by the county schools office.

The facility provided for the youngest of the mentally retarded is the BARC Pre-School, which provides for 10 youngsters daily between 9 and 11:30 a.m.

The pre-school, under the direction of Mrs. Edith Edwards, wife of Cal State professor Dr. Nathan Edwards, is designed to train the children in basic learning skills, development of coordination and speech, socialization with others and self-discipline.

Class sessions are designed to move at a non-stop pace with Mrs. Edwards and her daily volunteer aides leaving little time for the youngsters to create activities on their own. Instead, the schedule is strictly regimented, with the only break consisting of a short rest period in mid-morning.

When the children become six years of age, they're enrolled in either special county schools or Peter Pan, the city school for the trainable mentally retarded. High school age youth attend Kern Haven High School, located on the BARC campus and serving approximately 60 teens in the five-class program.

Following high school graduation, the youths may take one of three paths on the BARC campus.

The Sheltered Workshop provides on-the-job training for about 60 mentally retarded ages 18 and up. Purpose of the workshop, according to director Mel Schimnowski, is not only to train the workers, but to boost their self images.

In the workshop, Schimnowski said, the trainees can work at their own level and own speed in an atmosphere where they can think well of themselves and of the products they produce.

The trainees punch in daily on a time clock, work six to eight hours each day, and at the end of each month are paid wages commensurate with their skills, he said.

The major difficulty with the workshop is obtaining suitable projects for the workers, he said. Regular projects include the baling of newspapers and annual production of stands for more than 50,000 Christmas trees sold each holiday season in Bakersfield.

The trainees are also capable of assembling irrigation pipe, stuffing and dressing envelopes, packaging various products and a variety of similar tasks.

The more severely mentally retarded young adults are enrolled in the Training Center, which is directed by Mrs. Millie Kaplar.

Purpose of the center is to train the youths in basic homemaking skills, to recognize and obey safety signs, see Retarded Learn Faster—page 10