

I have what I think is a good story about Parkhill at HRO if you want to do more of the old stuff.
I remember the ice storm and breaking action, as reported by the station!!!

-Henry Rankin
(10/26/04)

Email it on down, Henry. I'd love to read it.

-Jake Lamkins
(10/26/04)

As I read this I guess one would have had to be there, doesn't seem to be as funny as I recall. Anyway I will send this on to you:

On a dark and stormy night.

During late fall or early winter we had landed and taken off from Ft. Leonard Wood and experienced icing both in the air and on the ground.

In fact we waited out a small ice storm on the ground before leaving, de-icing at the ramp. The runway was slick.

When we called in range of Harrison we asked them to check the breaking action. They reported back after a few minutes that the breaking action was OK.

We made an approach and upon landing discovered that we were not going to stop and off we went.

Jerry got on the radio and was mad as hell, said he had all kinds of people wanting to go to Ft. Smith and I needed to come back and get them all.

I asked him how they had checked the breaking action he said with a pick up truck.

I asked how fast he was going and he said 50, and he slammed on the brakes and stopped.

I replied that I didn't think I could go that slowly and he couldn't compare a pick up truck with a 580 and we couldn't land on the very end of the runway where he started from and we went somewhat faster than his truck.

He was really smoking by then and he said he would make sure Denver heard about this.

Well, the North bound flight heard all this conversation on the radio and called Harrison and told them that they were passing as well.

Silence!!! I know Jerry must have checked the crew listing as he avoided me whenever I would come into HRO ops after that night.

-Henry Rankin
(10/26/04)

It's funny since I knew Parkhill.

FYV agent Dick James went out to check the braking action one night after Max Gardner called IR.

A bit later he reported back to Max and said it was good.

Max demanded to know how he determined that.

Dick said he got up to 50 and slammed on the brakes and his car stopped.

Max basically retorted along the lines you used and ordered Dick to take a real braking test.

That burned Dick up and out he went.

Next thing we know he whizzes down the runway a lot faster than 50 mph then spins all over the damned place and smashes a runway light before coming to a stop.

He gets back in and barks at Max the braking action's no damned good and he blew two tires proving it.

-Jake Lamkins
(11/1/04)

The bar closest to FYV in CN days was The White Star 'bout half a mile north of runway 16. It had a dirt floor in those days and was really rough. I've driven into the parking lot and seen the "boys" having fun throwing rocks at some fool under his truck where they had chased him. Jerry Parkhill, the HRO manager, came visiting one day so Don Enos, the FYV manager, and agent Dick James took him to the White Star for some fun. When the three walked in, the place was jammed with rowdy trade just off work from construction sites, chickens plants and such. Jerry looked around and yelled over the din, "I can whip any sonuvabitch in this place!" Both Don & Dick confessed later it scared the spittle outa them. There was a dead silence, then the biggest ugliest one of the bunch stood up and said, "There ain't no sonuvabitches in here, mister!" Jerry started bellowing that in that case drinks were on him. You have to know Jerry to appreciate this story.
-Jake Lamkins
(4/25/05)

Some VP in DEN had been teasing Jerry about being from the Ozarks and whether there was still any moonshiners. Jerry told him he would bring him some moonshine. At the next meeting Jerry showed up at a meeting and showed the vp a pint mason jar of moonshine. It looked like water and the vp said he didn't think it was moonshine. Jerry pulled out a large knife, some say it was a Bowie, and held it to the vp's throat. "Now drink some of it," he commanded the vp. After the VP drank a big slug which nearly killed him, Jerry gave him the knife and said, "OK, now make me drink some!"
-Jake Lamkins
(1/16/15)

I remember one dark snowy night, I was flying CV-580 Captain inbound to HRO from FYV. We called in range ... Jerry came back with "Phil I don't want to see you even try to get in here tonight. I just checked the braking action on the runway with a D-9 Cat and it is nil." My answer to him was ... "Thanks Jerry .. we're headed on to TBN ... see you in the morning."
-Phil Stallings
(1/16/15)