

Every football day is a banner day for Owl Aviation president Gallup

By Mary Jo Pitzl

Fans in the uppermost rows of Memorial Stadium think theirs is the best. People on the 50-yard line say they have it. Dignitaries in the glass-enclosed press box contend nothing can rival the view they have.

But Jeff Gallup, who has never been inside Memorial Stadium for a Husker football game, says he has the best view of Big Red football action.

"It's the best seat in the house," Gallup said of his perch more than 1,000 feet above the stadium.

Gallup, president of Owl Aviation, tows advertising banners from his Cessna 172 airplane and gets a bird's eyewiew of the games as well.

Gallup said the weekly advertising flights are a sideline to Owl Aviation's regular commercial business.

"Where else can you express your advertising message to 70,000 happy people all at once?" he asked. He added that customers return yearly to use this unusual form of advertising.

Gallup charges customers \$500 for a two to three-hour flight, which covers the majority of the city. Special attention is given to Memorial Stadium, which Gallup describes as "a lot of red." He said he schedules his flight to coincide with game time.

Updrafts and downdrafts created by the concentrated hot air in the stadium cause some turbulence, according to Gallup. The added weight of the banner calls for extra caution.

"Anything you do to alter a plane, you'd better be 200 per cent aware," Gallup said.

Although he said he does not have a lot of time to watch, Gallup said he can see the action on the field.

"When Alabama scored I thought I was going to crash," said Gallup, who admits he is an ardent Big Red fan.

"I thought 'if they score again, I'll just pull over and coast into Salt Creek'."

Gallup tunes into the game on his radio and keeps an eye on the scoreboard when he cannot watch all the plays. He said the new scoreboard is more enjoyable from his point of view than the old one.

Gallup has missed only one home football game in three years due to bad weather. "That's a pretty good batting average," he said, considering he can watch Nebraska games and get paid \$500 at the same time.

However, Gallup said high-rise seats such as his are not easily obtained.

To fly advertising banners, the Federal Aviation Administration must issue a special waiver and inspect the plane, banner and equipment, according to Gallup. In addition, the pilot must be licensed as a commercial pilot and have training in towing banners.

Gallup said that although flying the banners may appear to be an easy job, it requires hours of preparation. He estimated that it takes about two to three days to assemble a 250-foot banner. Letters are five feet tall, and must be attached by hand to the banner. He described the completed banner "like a line of music with notes on it."

The advertising messages are created by the client, according to Gallup, and assembled by Gallup's staff.

J.L. Brandeis department store is one of Gallup's most frequent customers. Store manager Jim Knudtson said Brandeis has been flying promotions for Charlie and Chas, two perfumes from the Revlon Co., for several years.

"We're constantly looking for new, integrating ways to make it (advertising) stand out to the public," Knudtson said. "The unusual promotions are the best."

Knudtson said he cannot determine which percentage of sales the weekly advertisements brings in, but added that anything that stimulates a public the size of Memorial Stadium fans must be effective.

Van Sickle Paint Company has been another Big Red Saturday advertiser in past years.

Manager Bob Danley said the advertisements have drawn considerable comments from customers.

"I don't know if there's a direct influence on sales," Danley said. "Hopefully it will catch somebody's attention and stick in the back of their mind."

Gallup said that the majority of his advertising flights are made on football Saturdays. He said he also has flown banners for politicians and fund drives.



Photo by Tim Ford

If you think you have high seats for Saturday's game, you should watch it from Jeff Gallup's point of view. Gallup, president of Owl Aviation, flies over the stadium every game day while displaying advertisement banners.

ROTC women 'are as prepared for combat as men'

By Rex Henderson

All they need is a war.

The women in the UNL ROTC are as prepared for combat as the men, according to Lt. Col. Robert R. Bachmann, UNL professor of military science.

Bachmann said that, except for slight differences in physical training, women in today's army are treated just like men, including combat training.

Women are not yet assigned to combat units in the regular army, but there is an increasing number in combat support units, Bachmann said.

About 92 cadets are in the UNL ROTC program this year and 17 of them are women, including Cadet Col. Linda Swanson, the first female battalion commander at UNL.

Swanson said that women have done just as well as the men in combat training. "Everyone has difficulties, but not because of their sex," Swanson said.

Swanson, a senior Spanish major, said she wants to be in a combat support unit after she is graduated this year.

"No one likes being told they are going into combat tomorrow, but women would be just as prepared as men," she said.

Two female sophomore cadets, Terry Van Fleet and Laura Melvin, said they are happy with women's role in ROTC.

Melvin said she would rather not be in a combat support unit, but would not refuse the assignment.

A pre-optometry major, Melvin said she is not sure she will join the army after graduation, but has enjoyed the opportunity to things the ROTC offers.

Particularly important to her has been the "experience in leadership with the opposite sex," she said. Most groups students that join are either all male or all female, she said.

Van Fleet said, "There are certain things men can do well, and women can do well. One of the things men can do better is combat."

She added that with ROTC training she could handle a combat position.

Both Melvin and Van Fleet said they would resent being segregated from men as women were in the WACs.

Most of the WACs' jobs were clerical, VanFleet said, while there are many Army jobs women can do better.

Melvin commented, "As soon as you divide people up each group would be treated differently."

During NATO field maneuvers last week in West Germany, women were integrated into all U.S. army units except combat units.

Combat support units include the Military Police, construction engineers, combat engineers and civil engineers, units that move with combat units during a war, Bachmann said.

The women would be close to the fighting in these units during a war and are trained in basic combat skills, just as the men are.

Women have been a part of the Army ROTC program since 1974. Except for a different physical training routine the training has been identical since 1975.

The Women's Army Corps (WAC) exists only in name now, Bachmann said. All women have been integrated into the formerly all male units.

Staff members clamor for raises

Now that the NU Board of Regents has independent control of NU from the Legislature, a number of UNL staff members are clamoring for raises.

Maintenance manager Jerry Delhay said the maintenance department and several other groups in the physical plant have presented wage increase proposals to the regents.

At their September meeting, the regents appointed a committee to study the wage rate for all three campuses in the NU system.

"It's progressed to that point," Delhay said. "We haven't heard anything else."

Employee salaries average about half of the union scale, Delhay said. They are "not anywhere near the journeyman's scale," (a scale established by unions which most wage rates are based on).

Delhay said they presented the proposal asking for a salary increase, "so we would be paid closer to what people are paid on the outside."

"My highest hope is that something will be done yet this year. The problem is no money," he said.

He said although the maintenance workers wanted

more money, they had no solution for the funding problem.

"I don't know of any funds that could be used," Delhay said.

Harley Schrader, physical plant director, refused to comment about the wage proposal.

Miles Tommeraaen, vice chancellor for business and finance, denied that the regents promised anyone a raise.

"It may well be they had a request for special raises, but so have a lot of others," Tommeraaen said. "And they are no different than the other groups."

Raises depend on what the Legislature appropriates, he said. Currently the 1978-79 budget is being considered, but "next year's budget request is like your Christmas list," he said. "You never really know what you're going to get."

If the budget is approved by the Legislature, staff members are to receive a total seven per cent salary increase.

"Very seldom do we get what the budget asks for," Tommeraaen said.

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