

AeroThrust – a leader in aircraft engine repair since 1946

BY DORRENE COOK

It's 1946 and World War II has officially been over for one year. Unlike most European countries, which are in the process of reconstructing and recovering from the war, the United States is experiencing a period of economic growth and revitalization. The future looks bright and there is no shortage of people who are willing to seize the moment and secure their position in that future.

It is in this climate that William Bergstrom, George Snowden and John Fitzgibbon see an opportunity to take advantage of their wartime experience as production managers for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft and open Air Carrier Engine Services (ACES) on the grounds of the newly-named Miami International Airport. Not long thereafter on Dec. 16, 1946, ACES received its Repair Station Certificate #3604 from the Civil Aeronautics Administration (predecessor to the Federal Aviation Administration) and began providing its customers with expert service on their reciprocating engines.

From the start, ACES set the bar for customer-service excellence through unprecedented and innovative programs like Engine Exchange, Engine Leasing, Power-by-the-Hour and Engineering Follow-Up. By the mid-1960s, after 20 years of providing such services, ACES saw the diminishing need for overhaul on reciprocating engines and geared up for the repair, maintenance and overhaul of Pratt & Whitney JT8D engines. ACES' first JT8D engine was repaired for National Airlines in 1967 and, by 1979, ACES had serviced 1,000 JT8Ds.

In 1982, new ownership changed ACES' name to AeroThrust. The company's focus on the maintenance, repair, overhaul, sale and leasing of the JT8D remained unchanged. In fact, in the mid-1980s, services were extended to include the JT8D-200 engine, the first -200 repaired for AeroMexico in 1986.

In 1992, Pratt & Whitney showed its confidence in the excellent services provided by AeroThrust on their engines when they selected the company to be an approved Warranty Repair Station for the JT8D-200 series engines. By the



AeroThrust mechanics are recognized throughout the industry for the quality of their work and the excellent services provided.

end of the millennium, AeroThrust had solidly established a worldwide reputation as a premier maintenance and repair facility for the most dependable and widely used jet turbine engine in the air. Without a doubt, this reputation was a direct result of having consistently provided superior customer service, outstanding performance and exceptional value during the previous five-and-a-half decades.

Like the entire aviation industry, AeroThrust was deeply and negatively impacted by the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. As fate would have it, the company changed ownership in November 2001, right on the heels of these devastating events. This transaction turned out to be quite fortunate. With all odds stacked against it, and with real concern in early 2002 about even staying open for business, a new AeroThrust was birthed. Defying all odds, the company came together as a team to do whatever was necessary to prevail and in doing so it showed what it was made of – charac-

ter to endure the most trying of times.

In recent years, AeroThrust has added the maintenance, repair, overhaul, sale and lease of the CFM56-3 and -7 engines into its vast array of quality services. The first CFM56-3 engine was received from AvioServe in 2004. All the tooling necessary for the complete tear down and assembly of all CFM56-3 and -7 engines, including balancing equipment, was acquired in 2006. By 2008, AeroThrust has successfully established itself as a long-term player in the global CFM56 market and will continue to focus on this engine for growth into the future.

For over 60 years, AeroThrust has proved that it is a serious competitor in the engine maintenance and repair industry. And with the introduction of the CFM56 product line, aviation's reigning workhorse, it will continue to be so. One thing is for sure, AeroThrust is prepared to do whatever it takes to deliver extraordinary service for many years to come.

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Celebrating our 50th year

Providing local news since 1958

BY MICHAEL MILLER

Our father, Ron, spent his life in the communication business. As a young adult, he spent time in radio as an announcer and disc jockey in Indiana and in the mid-50s moved to Miami. Soon after, he went to work again on the radio at WEDR, producing and was on the air, as well as he sold advertising for a program called The Gospel Train. For several years, Ron also worked as an anchor and reporter on Channel 7.

And, of course, with radio and TV under his belt he rounded off the communication wheel by starting Miami's Community Newspapers after buying the predecessor publication, The South Dade Shopping News from James Carey Martin. Ron somehow knew that people wanted local news and he knew that he could provide that. One at a time, he began building a group of 10 newspapers with a mission to serve and support local business and readers from Homestead to North Miami Beach.

And he had a great time doing it. Ron was a maverick of sorts and a provocateur; and he enjoyed saying and writing "Community Newspapers, not owned or controlled by the Miami Herald." And he would add in just for good measure "Community Newspapers... A free and independent voice." He was so proud to be able to say that and live it. And he was dead-on serious about it and he was proud to be the one that was there providing Miamians with another voice.

And Ron was quite the independent guy, including all the times that the Miami Herald came knocking on his door asking him to sell. But he rebuffed them each and every time, and it would spur him on to continue his mantra: "Community Newspapers, not owned or controlled by The Miami Herald."

When he passed the torch to us in 1982, we had already spent years working at the paper on a part-time basis, from cleaning the floors to selling ads. It was then that we wondered if he turned down the Herald so that he could pass on the paper to us; or because he knew that if the Herald took over that it would forever silence a newspaper that for years spoke to the people and for local businesses. And, in our heart of hearts, we now know that he didn't want to give up the struggle to "help who you can when you can," with the newspaper as the vehicle to do that.

Around the same time, there was another



Grant Miller (left) and Michael Miller stand beside their father, Ron, moments after presenting him with a Bronze Plaque on the outside wall of the office recognizing him as the first publisher of Miami's Community Newspapers.

er daily newspaper in town, The Miami News. And after losing much of its circulation and after the U.S. Justice Department approved a joint operating agreement with the Herald that allowed a merger of the newspapers' sales forces, printing and delivery services, was rumored to be closing.

We felt so strongly that Miami needed at least two major voices in town, that we sued the News to keep them open and after we lost, and as we left the courthouse, in what was a historical event in December 1988 the publisher called his office and said "Shut it down."

As we humbly acknowledge our 50th anniversary, I would like to first thank my wife, Susan, and our children, Lauren and Jeff, for letting me to do what I love so much. To my brother and partner, Grant, who I have been working with for all of my life, thank you so much for everything that you do and for being who you are. I know that you are so proud of your wife Joyce and sons Austin and Blake. They, too, are so proud of who you are.

And then there our father, Ron, who decades ago had the foresight and insight to create a newspaper and keep it going so that Grant and I could have one more choice in life. Dad, or Ron as he liked us to call him, thank you!

And on this day of quiet reflection, I think about our mother, Fern, who died many years ago and put up with so much from Ron. I don't know how she did it and somehow with all the things that she made him do, didn't make him sell the paper and I am

And when it closed, all of us who cared about about newspapers and understood that Miami needed more than one voice, more than The Miami Herald, wept as one more voice was silenced. It was at that point that our role in Miami became more important, and that was to provide an independent voice that was there for all the people and to support local businesses.

We learned a lot from Ron about public service and about helping those that need it. He provided the foundation for us in many areas, including his never-ending quest for equality for African American's. A life long

thankful for that.

And one last thanks to my aunt Elaine, who was there when things were tough and is there now when things are good. Many, many thanks for a lifetime of support.

As far as my future: I am reminded of an event that took place in 1974 at our family home off of Southwest 136th Street. Right after I graduated from Florida International University my dad asked me: "Well, son, what do you want to do now that you've finished school?"

I thought for a moment and said, "I don't know what I want to do for the rest of my life." To which he replied, "Do what you want to do and do the best you can, until you don't want to do it anymore and then go do something else."

Good advice, Dad. Thanks.

memory was created in the late 60s, when Ron took us to St. Augustine to see thousands of African Americans marching down the street on the way to intergrate the beach and were met by many thousands of protesters that were being held back by the National Guard. But somehow the protesters still managed to throw bottles and rocks and yell racial epithets at the African Americans that were there changing the country.

It was a moment in life and it still reminds me about the struggle that has occurred and still does. Sometimes people need a hand and it is a lesson that we know our children have learned.

We hope Community Newspapers helps you feel connected to those things that matter to you; to local schools, to your neighborhood doctor, to the locally-owned restaurant, to the local accountant and to the neighborhood gym. That's what we do. We connect you to your neighborhood and trust that we do it well.

We also hope that we have helped you be a little bit more involved in your community, put a smile on your face and helped you be a bit happier.

Thanks for letting us serve you and remember to help who you can, when you can.

Personal Reflection by Michael Miller

The people behind the newspapers

BY MICHAEL MILLER

Editor

Our most important asset is not our buildings or printing plant in South Miami, it is the people with whom we have worked with all these years.

Decades ago, we worked with newspaper mavericks, like Maurice "Mo" Labelle, who served as an editor and writer in the '70's and who came visiting us a while back. It was so nice seeing him again and he was gracious to write a piece for this special 50th anniversary issue.

There was Sam Beneckson, who was one of those crusty ol' guys who loved to wear a hat, had a deep rough voice and he'd sit on that typewriter pounding away and when he stopped he'd twirl a pencil in his hand as he contemplated how to finish his column "Chatterbox."

Many times in the '70's he'd take me aside and give me lessons in journalism and marketing and in his, scratchy voice bellow out, "Let me tell you how your old man ought to be doing things." And being the polite person I am, I listened and listened and listened till...anyways, Sam was a very good guy who helped a lot of people.

Bob Goldner was one of those guys that made it happen, too. He wrote a column in the South Miami News called "Sunset is my Beat" and he covered it very, very nicely. It was his beat and he did it his way.

Mary Pecora, Susan Boyle, Robert Justice, Henry Raepple and Paul Roe were just some of the folks early on, that made it so much easier for those that followed.

Ed Gunter, who was a dear gentle

man, worked with us for years and years in our sales department. We used to say, "if any one calls in that wants to buy ads, give 'em to Ed. He knows what he is doing."

There are lots of people that added to early success of the paper, people like Amy Livergood Donner, who inspired us to do this special section and who after a 19 year hiatus came back to spend some more time with us. And there is Walter White, who took off 10 years and came back again, as did Denzil Miles. The connection that we made with each other allowed us to stay connected, even when we were apart for years, and to get back together. It says a lot about each of us and the fondness that we have for each other and for the paper.

There are people like Isabel Ortega who has been creating newspaper pages for 20 years and who, along with Maria A. Scheer (8years) and Isabel Vaverick (24 years) have been the backbone of the production department, along with Angie Santiesteban and Stephanie Ruiz who are very talented artists who design and create ads for the newspaper.

There are people like David Berkowitz who has been the editor of many of our papers for 13 years and Ron Beasley who writes a weekly column as well as being the editor of the Pinecrest Tribune. And Dick Yager, who writes and is an editor as well, and Gary Alan Ruse, who is the eyes and ears of the Palmetto Bay News, the Cutler Bay News and the South Miami News, who writes and does some editing in each of the papers.

Other writers are Linda Rodriguez-Bernfeld, Kenneth Bluh, Gloria Burns, Al Sunshine, Zoila Hidalgo, Robert

Hamilton, Lee Stephens, Marta Lipzieg, Bari Auerbach and others who drop in from time to time.

There are people like Eloise Rodriguez, who worked her way up the ladder to the Promotion and Marketing Dept. and today she has her own Public Relations firm. Then there is Frances Dubson, a savvy political reporter who recently covered the South Miami City Commission during some of its turbulent years.

Here are just a couple of people that have made major contributions at the newspapers:

Since 1992, Diane Schiller, the consummate account executive, has been leading the way in our advertising department and has set the bar for all that follow.

Georgia Tait, who has been with us since 1993 has done just about everything in our office and provides untold amounts of guidance and strength.

And on Nov. 6, 1986, Jesus Toledo joined us in our circulation department and with determination, perseverance and professionalism he worked his way up the ladder and became our controller.

And the backbone of the Aventura News is Dan Palmer, who I've had the pleasure of working with for over 25 years. Dan who has been 39 years old so many times that we both can't remember, has just about single handedly and with the resolve of a grizzly bear made our Aventura News a shining star since its inception in 1988. I thank him for that and thank him for being there for me, for Grant and for my father. I do love him, well, at least most of the time.

A special thanks goes out to Elaine

Adler, the "Go To" person at the Aventura Marketing Council with whom we have had a wonderful relationship with for at least 20 years..

We couldn't do without our advertising and marketing sales people who make the connections with local businesses. Thanks to Albie Barnes, Beatriz Brandfon, Roberta Bergman, Ana Caceres, Denise Caliguri, Celia Canabate, Diane Chasin, Henry Chau, Sharon Christian, Pamela Epstein, Cecile Fanfani, Lenny Gold, Myrna Golob, Gary Gorski, Tammi Jimenez, Heather Jordan, Robin Korth, Dianne Maddox, Jeffrey Miller, Ann Robbins-Udel, Fara Sax, Lori Schwadron and Karina Soave.

Also we have the Support Staff with Bernardo (Bernie) Arrevalo, Gaby Cruz, Priscilla Gomez, Mike Hintz, Manuel Flores Govin and Mae Wells.

And there are the guys and gals in the press room and in circulation: Paul Criscuolo, Hector Gallardo, Magda Gonzalez, Jorge Salinas, Luis Salinas, Olga Salinas, Juan Valeiro and our delivery people Jorge T. Fleming, Carlos Guerra, Yosdani Hechevarria, Earnest Kirkland, Leonora Tompkins and Maria Torres.

Over the years there have been hundreds of people who somewhere, somehow, were involved in the writing, editing, in the creation, production, selling of advertising and distribution of the newspaper. Each one of them adding their own flavor, their own special way of contributing and each one of them making their mark on the paper, with our readers and advertisers, as well as with the community.

Thank you for a job well done.

Congratulations from our readers

'Wonderful Team'

Congratulations on reaching your 50th anniversary in June of 2008. You are to be commended. You have made your father proud by honoring his vision to provide local news coverage and advertising in the neighborhoods that Community Newspapers serve. Ron would be proud of your community serve and the wonderful team you have assembled, as well as the wonderful families you and your wives have raised.

Best wishes for 50 more successful years in the newspaper and community service business.

Sincerely,

Mary Scott Russell
President, Chamber South

'Grateful citizens'

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your 50 year anniversary. Fifty years of providing not only our city, but surrounding communities with local news and events along with informing all of us of the fine merchants and businesses that offer our local goods and services.

I commend you both for not only keeping the legacy that your father, Ron Miller left you carrying his torch with quality and commitment. We have all witnessed how Community Newspapers have consistently given back to our community from hiring our local residents to generously donating to charities and causes that benefit our community.

On behalf of the grateful citizens of South Miami, once again, congratulations and wishing you 50 years more.

Sincerely,
Horace G. Felio - Mayor, South Miami

Best wishes on your 50th year

'Vision and leadership'

On behalf of Miami Seaquarium, it is my great pleasure to send congratulations to the entire Community Newspaper family, as you mark your 50th anniversary.

Beginning with the vision and leadership of your father and the founder of Community Newspapers, Ron Miller, your publications have brought a unique and valuable dimension to our community over the past five decades.

From one Miami institution to another, we know that this is certainly an occasion to celebrate. Thank you for all that you have done for our community and we wish you continued success in the next 50 years.

Sincerely,

Eric A. Eimstad
Vice President - Sales and Marketing - Miami Seaquarium



'Great pride'

Congratulations! As Mayor and on behalf of the more than two million residents of Miami-Dade County, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to Grant Miller and Michael Miller of Community Newspapers on its 50th anniversary celebration. Miami-Dade County always takes great pride in supporting organizations and individuals, like founder Ron Miller, who enrich the quality of life of our residents. Community Newspapers' commitment to delivering timely, informative and entertaining information to residents throughout Miami-Dade is commendable. Once again, congratulations on your 50th anniversary celebration. I wish continued success.

Sincerely,

Carlos Alvarez
Mayor, Miami-Dade County



'Keep it up for another 50 years'

In the 15 years I've lived in Miami, I realize how little I would know about local news were it not for the Community Newspapers.

Community Newspapers has stepped up, covering not only local politics and government, but also those cute features about our neighbors that binds us together into communities.

On this occasion of your 50th anniversary, it's a good time to say Thank You.

When the incorporation movement began, Community Newspapers was there in a leading role. There was a Pinecrest Tribune before Pinecrest, and the same with Palmetto Bay and Cutler Bay, helping to define these communities and explain the benefits of incorporation.

A small group met every Monday night in Ed Ludovici's law office to fight for the incorporation of Palmetto Bay, and we depended on the Palmetto Bay News to communicate our messages. In the days leading up to the critical votes on incorporation and then acceptance of the charter, you produced thousands of newspapers urging people to "Vote Yes" which volunteers then delivered to the driveways of homes. You played a big role in the incorporation of these communities.

Right after Palmetto Bay incorporated, Grant and I were debating whether the new community should have a business association of its own. Grant took out a yellow pad and we drafted a tentative first board of directors. Then the Community Newspapers paid for a mailing list, printed and mailed invitations, found a restaurant to host initial meetings, and even paid for everyone's lunch for a few months until the organization took on a life of its own. You repeated this in Pinecrest and Cutler Bay. So, again, thank you.

I wish I had known your dad, Ron Miller, before his illness. He must have been something special, creating the vision of the Community Newspapers.

As daily newspapers' struggle – largely unsuccessfully -- to compete with TV news and the Internet, Community Newspapers continues to succeed by following the simple insight that Ron established 50 years ago: Readers want to read stories and see pictures of the people they know and the events that matter in their daily lives.

Seems pretty simple. Keep it up for another 50 years!

Ed Gorin

'Wonderful vision'

Congratulations to Grant and you for the 50th Anniversary of Community Newspapers. Your venture, founded in the wonderful vision of your dad, has become an institution in South Florida and in my area of South Miami and South Miami-Dade in particular. Although your venture has grown to be quite large, it still has a small-town feel and a lot of the personal aspects that are missing in today's media. On a side note, I am particularly intrigued by the hold that Wayne Brackin has on you and the personal secrets that he must be keeping in exchange for all of the free publicity.

Best of luck for the next 50 years.

Cordially,

Jerry B. Proctor
Bilzin Sumberh - Attorneys at law

'Positive local influence'

Congratulations on your 50th year in publishing! I have worked with Community Newspapers throughout the years, from Aventura to Pinecrest to West Kendall and have always enjoyed positive results for powerful national brands such as: St. Regis Bal Harbour, For Eyes Optical and Tony Roma's Restaurants and local brands and as well.

Your father, Ron, had an amazing vision to create a positive local influence when he founded Community Newspapers 50 years ago. I have watched it grow to be more than a dozen local papers and online edition that is a resource for the neighborhoods they serve.

Congratulations on this milestone year and in the future growth of Community Newspapers.

All the best,

Alex Schreer
asap - alex schreer advertising + promotions

asap

alex schreer advertising + promotions

Accolades on accomplishments

'Insight and genius'

Congratulations to Michael and Grant on fifty years of success with Community Newspapers. It's a tribute not only to yourselves but also to your father, Ron, who had the insight and the genius to initiate it and who today would be proud of where you have taken the tradition.

Your newspapers are a staple in this thriving community and something that we should all be grateful for in one way or another. The remarkable expansion I have seen over the years is quite impressive and well worth recognizing.

We wish you continued success for generations to come.

Congratulations,

John Underwood

Senior Vice President, Account Management Supervisor - Tinsley Advertising



'Impressive accomplishment'

Congratulations to Ron, Grant and Michael Miller on the 50th Anniversary of the Community Newspapers.

Whether it is a Florida community like Virginia Gardens, Opa-locka, Sweetwater, South Miami or just an unincorporated area like Kendall, Ronald Miller's newspaper has become an institution in Greater Miami-Dade. This is an impressive accomplishment considering the competition, which I won't herald here.

Ron's ideas of providing a hometown approach to the newspaper business proved timely and insightful. His dreams of a family value newspaper business being run by his family came true!

The Miller publishing business and the Miller family are real community institutions. Ron should be proud of his boys, the boys should be proud of their Dad, and each should be proud of the success of the Community Newspapers.

Ron, Grant and Michael, your family and your newspaper have touched so many of us who have lived or passed through the communities of South Florida. Whether we bought an advertisement, made the editorial or news pages or just read about the latest community news, many are grateful for the contribution to the community by the newspaper, its employees and the Miller family.

To borrow a bit from an old West Point barracks ballad, made famous by Douglas MacArthur, as much a politico as a soldier, I'd say that old politicians never die, they just get buried by the press.

On behalf of those of us who have "made the paper" on many occasions, I'll say: Thanks for being the OTHER voice of the South Florida community.

Best Wishes for the next 50!

L. Dennis Whitt

Consulting Municipal Manager

'Outstanding journalism'

On behalf of the Board of Directors and everyone at International Finance Bank, we would like to congratulate you on five decades of outstanding journalism!

For 50 years, your newspapers have met each news story with uncompromised honesty and integrity. Your news coverage, opinions, reviews and features have enhanced our awareness of the communities of South Florida and the world around us. We'd like to commend you for this great accomplishment, as well as your father Ron for founding Community Newspapers. His insight provided residents with a reliable source of information, and it was his vision that allowed all citizens' voices to be heard and continues to strengthen our communities today.

Thank you for 50 years of helping our communities become better places to live. Here's looking to 50 more years of quality reporting and service!

Sincerely,

Nelson V. Alvarado
President/CEO

&

Scott Stephens
Vice President/Residential & Consumer
Loans Manager



'A beacon in our community'

On behalf of the Board of Directors and membership of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, we wish to offer our sincerest congratulations on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Miami's Community Newspapers.

Your twelve local publications have been a beacon in our community for the past five decades and we congratulate you on achieving this important milestone. It is a high honor in any business to reach 50 years of age and each of your community publications has served our Greater Miami area with distinction and success during the past half century. You have endeavored to be a positive part of the community, allowing voices both large and small to be heard, while supporting local businesses and Chambers of Commerce.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your partner during this time and for the care and kindness you have always shown your subjects and your readers. It is a rare publication these days that care more about the article than the advertiser, the picture more than the promotion, and the story more than the statement. For this you are to be commended and receive our great admiration.

Here's to another 50 years Michael and Grant - we need you in our community!

Congratulations again.

Warmly,

Mark A. Trowbridge
President & CEO

