

## **Rudolph (Rudy) Otto (7/15/23)**

I may not be of much help per se, but I worked with a guy at the Clarksburg TTC&M facility named Robert F. Hefele who transferred down from the Labs during one of the “shake-ups” with COMSAT growing (or not) pains. **He might be a wealth of information if his memory hasn’t faded.**

When COMSAT was broken up and most of us were offered employment with INTELSAT, he wasn’t one of them. He remained employed by a company that made and installed “RF filters” required at many Earth Stations following in the years after COMSAT’s demise. I did visit with him a couple times while I was still at the Mountainside Teleport before I retired in 2006. We just sort of lost contact over the years since then.

My “Labs” tour was kind of short and here’s my involvement in a nutshell. I was hired on with COMSAT up in Roaring Creek (PA) at that Earth Station. When AT&T bought the E/S I happened to be assigned to the TRMS section and opted to transfer down to the Labs taking a “desk job” with COMSAT’s NCC section working for Bernie Farrell. A year or so later they moved the NCC section down to the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of L’Enfant Plaza in DC. I spent 2 ½ years commuting there until I applied for a job at Clarksburg E/S and remained there until it closed and finished my “career” at the Mountainside Teleport in Hagerstown. I know it’s a winding path, but most of it was enjoyable I felt.

Did I share a flight with you over to Oahu, HI [*question is addressed to Maury Mechanick, and the answer is no*] once when a couple Clarksburg E/S techs were sent to Paumalu E/S to “man the station” while they were in mandatory training at the time? Some memories are fading (turning 85 in about a week), but others are still lingering – lol.

\* \* \* \* \*

That COMSAT person on the O’hara to Hawaii flight was not going to Paumalu, but to another “teleport” type facility on the island in an effort to drum up some business of sorts for another entity not associated with Paumalu E/S itself. Anyway I followed without success finding out if it was actually fruitful later on. Just a memory now.

I wound up achieving an INTELSAT shift supervisor slot for the last few years at Mountainside Teleport as no one else would “take it” . . . lol I felt fortunate to survive all the changes with both COMSAT and Intelsat to retire at 68 and none the worse for it (my wife sez that’s debatable). I’m now going on my 16<sup>th</sup> year with our local Lions Club with 15 years as Secretary and now demoted myself to “assistant” Secretary. The club will be better for it with a younger lady doing an excellent job in my place.