

**PRESIDENT**

STUARCHER
7340 SW 132 ST
MIAMI, FL 33156-6804
(305) 238-0911

VICE PRESIDENT

CG "DINO" VLAHAKIS
54 WESTVIEW LN
LEBANON NH 03766-2016
(603) 448-3729

TREASURER / EDITOR

GENE PATTERSON
1202 EAST RIDGE VILLAGE DRIVE,
CUTLER BAY, FL 33157
(305) 235-7613

Famous Passengers I Had On Board During My 35 Year Airline Career

by Gene Woerner

Capt. Carl Stevenson's recent contribution to the Clipper Pioneers newsletter reminded me of some of the more memorable personalities that were on flights that I operated as a crew member during my flying career with Pan American and United Airlines.

We carried quite a number of movie stars on flights from Los Angeles to London, and back to Los Angeles.

I particularly remember, beautiful and gracious Maureen O'Hara, superstar of many Hollywood movies and later wife of Pan Am Captain Charlie Blair.

Then there were British actors James Mason and Jack Hawkins, who had a striking resemblance to my late father; they could have been twins.

French actors Maurice Chevalier, Louis Jordan and Brigitte Bardot and many others whom I can't recall at this time were passengers on some of the flights.

One of the most memorable passengers was Sean Connery aka James Bond. I was the First Officer on a

~ continued on next page

No Password Needed for Members Only Section of the Website

Please note - we have changed the access to the online newsletters so that you will no longer need a password to access them. GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT: www.clipperpioneers.com. To request a current membership list, email sue@clipperpioneers.com with your request. Click on the "Members Only" button on the righthand side to access the current and previous newsletters.

Famous Passengers

~ continued from previous page

flight from LAX-LON, when one of the Stewardess (that's what we called them then) informed us that Sean Connery was in First Class. Captain Jack Birch, who was in command, indicated to her that Sean Connery was welcome to visit us in the cockpit.

Captain Birch, with whom I had flown before, had a photographic memory. He not only knew everyone he had ever met as a crew member by name, but he also knew all of our "man numbers". So when Sean Connery came into the cockpit, he turned around and greeted him by addressing him as 007, I would like you to meet 34934, pointing at me, our First Officer, and 47585, pointing at the Flight Engineer, then pointing at his chest, he said, and I am 01435, also known as Jack Birch, from the left wing! We all cracked up and had a good laugh.

Jack Birch was a lot of fun to fly with. On that particular pattern, we were on an around the World Flight, Clipper ONE, and for 11 days, there was never a dull moment. Captain Birch also played the harmonica which he always brought along. During this particular flight, he played and serenaded the Persian and Indian Air Traffic Controllers as we droned over Iran and India in the middle of the night. It kept us all awake and made the flight go by quickly.

I heard much later, that after Jack Birch had retired, he perished in a plane crash. While ferrying a twin engine Beech from the east coast to the Bay Area, he evidently ran out of fuel and crashed, killing himself. What a shame!

Richard Nixon was a private citizen when he traveled in First Class from Honolulu to Guam, and then to Saigon around 1965. We had a pleasant, if short, conversation during the flight. He seemed like a regular guy, asked me a few questions about Vietnam and the approach and landing into Saigon's Than Son Nhat airport.

I was a crew member on a charter flight, when President Sukarno of Indonesia, or the US State Department, chartered a Pan Am 707 to fly him from Jakarta to Washington. Our crew operated the leg from Guam to Honolulu. All crew members were gifted an Indonesian commemorative gold coin; unfortunately, I don't know what happened to mine.

~ continued on next page

We'd like to have more stories to share! If you have a story you'd like to send, please send it in sooner rather than later! We appreciate you and the interesting stories you send in for all to enjoy! Email to: sue@clipperpioneers.com.

Don't forget to check out our website at: www.clipperpioneers.com

Famous Passengers

~ continued from previous page

Then there was George Peppard, star of the movie Blue Max, in which he played a World War I German flying Ace modeled after the Red Baron, Manfred von Richthofen. Later on while based in Berlin, flying in the IGS, we carried many of the von Richthofen family members who resided in Berlin. One of our own IGS Stewardesses was a von Richthofen.

Another regular passenger was a world-famous Bavarian, Herbert von Karajan, conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic, who frequently commuted to Munich where his private jet was parked, which flew him all over Europe. The actor Curt Juergens was also often a passenger from Munich to Berlin. The last and late German Kaiser Wilhelm II's oldest son, Prince Louis Ferdinand of Hohenzollern, very respected, polite and distinguished gentleman, was also a frequent flier, although a lot of crew members and other passengers did not know who he was.

We often carried the Mayor of Berlin, Klaus Schuetz, as well as numerous members of the Berlin Senate, the governing body of West Berlin.

After becoming a B747 Captain in San Francisco, I was on a Washington- London flight when Paul Vogt, the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board was a First Class passenger. He asked if he could sit in the cockpit for the approach and landing at Heathrow airport in London. Of course we couldn't refuse him.

As it turned out, the fall weather in England that morning was typically lousy, and when we arrived in the London area, Heathrow Airport was CAT III. After a lengthy hold, we were finally vectored and cleared for the approach. With all three autopilots engaged, we executed an Auto Approach and Land, my first actual Auto-land in Instrument Flight Rule (IFR) conditions. We never saw the runway until we touched down. Secretary Vogt was very impressed, as was I.

Shortly thereafter in 1986, I was one of 410 Pan Am pilots who had the opportunity to transfer to United Airlines with the Pacific Route sale; thus my career with Pan Am ended. Needless to say I was sad, but I also looked forward to a more secure future with United.

The Day I Bought a B-727

by Captain Robert Lee Bragg edited by Dorothy A. Boyd-Bragg, Ph.D.

It was 1966 and I was based in Miami on reserve as a co-pilot. My name had slowly worked its way to the top of the list. I was, therefore, asked to take part in the testing and pickup of a new B-727 from the Boeing factory in Seattle. Accordingly, I flew to New York (JFK) to meet up with Captain Paul Roitsch and an engineer. Captain Roitsch was an assistant Chief Pilot Technical for Pan Am. We then flew to Seattle (SE) and were met by a Boeing test pilot who picked us up at the airport and took us to a very nice hotel. We

~ continued on next page

The Day I Bought a B-727

~ continued from previous page

were also provided with a station wagon in case we wanted to “see the sights.” In the evening, we were taken to dinner. Probably I should say we were “wined and dined.” I had never been treated better.

The next day, it got even better. We were taken to a darkened hanger and seated in comfortable chairs. After a few minutes in the dark, a spotlight illuminated the tail of a wooden mockup of the B-747. The spotlight gradually moved forward, traveling the entire length of the airplane. Then, suddenly the lights came up and we saw the whole plane. Talk about drama! I was extremely impressed. It was gigantic in size and made the B-727 seem down-right small in comparison. The B-747 would be flying about three years later. I felt privileged to have seen the early mockup.

The third day, we met with the B-727 test pilot for Boeing, and we flew in “our” brand new plane, which we put through its paces. Captain Roitsch was in the left seat, the test pilot was in the right seat. I had the jump seat and was just glad to be along for the ride. That is I was glad to be along until the flaps were tested. When they were, we rolled violently to the left. We tried again and the same thing happened. The Boeing aeronautical engineer on board determined that the left leading-edge devices, which worked along with the flaps, extended just a bit too much and were causing the roll. We flew back to the factory, and the problem was immediately fixed as the aeronautical engineer had called ahead. With the problem solved, the testing continued - to perfection.

Then came the paperwork. It was a thick stack. During the procedure, I mentioned that I’d never seen a check for five million dollars before - which didn’t even include the earlier deposit of two million. Paul smiled - we were on a first name basis at this point. He asked me if I would like to be the one actually to pay for the newest addition to the Pan Am fleet. Of course, I said that I’d be delighted to do so. Although my hand shook ever so slightly, I handed over the check and the deed was done. Then I was the one to smile. We then flew back to Miami to deliver “our” new B-727.

A short while later, Paul lost his position in the Tech Department at Pan Am when it was abolished - during one of Pan Am’s periodic reorganizations. He went back to flying the line, and still later he volunteered to become the chairman of the local ALPA safety committee. For me, however, I always remember him in terms of making it possible for me to purchase a B-727.

Tips for Protecting Yourself

- Keep your windows and doors locked at all times.
- Never let a stranger into your home when you are there alone.
- Talk over offers made by telephone salespeople with a friend or family member.
- Do not share your personal information, such as social security number, credit card, bank information, or account passwords, with people you do not know who contact you.
- Always ask for written information about any offers, prizes, or charities and wait to respond until you have reviewed the information thoroughly.
- Do not let yourself be pressured into making purchases, signing contracts, or making donations. It is never rude to wait and discuss the plans with a family member or friend.

<https://www.healthinaging.org/tools-and-tips/tip-sheet-home-safety-tips-older-adults>

YOU'RE INVITED!

WORLD WINGS INTERNATIONAL 2021

"TROPICAL DREAMS" CRUISE CONVENTION

All PAA employees invited! Sail away upon the shimmering turquoise waters of the Caribbean Sea as we visit picturesque islands including **Grand Cayman** and the three formerly Dutch ABC islands of **Aruba**, **Bonaire** and **Curacao**. Splendid beaches coupled with sophisticated first class surroundings exude Britain's influence on Grand Cayman. Visit Unesco World Heritage areas bursting with colorful buildings, interesting museums and gorgeous beaches all with the combined flavors of The Netherlands seasoned with Caribbean flair.

The revolutionized **Celebrity Equinox** amazes at every turn in luxurious Celebrity style. Indulge in a spa day, lounge by a pool, dance to your favorite era in the "Silent Disco", and spend leisure time with friends. Variety abounds with food, drink, activities - you can even play a game of croquet high above the ocean on *real growing grass*! Fill the evenings with musical shows, comedians, casino action, and nightcaps with friends.

Our charming speaker will be popular historical fiction novelist **Camille di Maio**. She's writing an intriguing new book, "Come Fly With Me", a compelling tale featuring 2 fictional 1960's PAA stewardesses depicting air travel's Golden Age with accurate Pan Am input and experiences provided by numerous WWI members.

EVERYTHING'S INCLUDED – *Insurance, Gratuities, Internet, Taxes, All Fees + \$150pp* for shore excursions, specialty dining, shopping on-board, a noteworthy bottle of wine – your choice. The **Premium Beverage** package offers select wines, craft cocktails, global beers, all non-alcoholic drinks from frothy lattes, coffees, to waters galore. **Exclusive** WW & Guests **Cocktail Parties**, plus **multiple surprises** await you on board!

Halloween - costume or not? Mimic the sun-seeker in the PAA poster sporting red & white, wear your uniform, a costume, or whatever you wish. Just be certain to bring your fun-side!

Register, watch our video + more here - <https://worldwingsinternational.net/cruise2021/>

9 Nights, 4 sea days RT

from Fort Lauderdale departing 29 October 2021 – 7 November 2021

ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS

JUNE 7, 2021 – JUNE 17, 2021 Round trip Copenhagen WILL NOT BE HELD DUE TO UNCERTAINTIES OF TRAVEL DUE TO COVID-19.

STAY TUNED - We'll let you know when / if it's rescheduled.

Pan Am Philadelphia Area Pilots (PAPAP)

We meet the second Tuesday of every quarter at the Continental Inn in Yardley, PA at 1200 for a bit of BS before going to our private conference room upstairs for lunch.

Been going on since 1992 and it's a great way to stay together. Contact: Chris Blaydon [215 757 6229](tel:2157576229) or cbayld@aol.com

Come Join the Santa Rosa Breakfast Group!

The Santa Rosa Breakfast group meets about every six weeks. They have 17 pilots, FA's and FEO's that get together to discuss the old days. Anyone in the Sonoma, Napa, and Marin county areas north of San Francisco who would like to join them should email Dave Criley at davecriley@comcast.net, and send your email contact. They started out with 5 and have grown to 17. ~from Dave Criley

Flying Boat Reunion clip now available for viewing

A 15-minute special that aired April 27, 2016 on Ireland's popular RTE TV show "Nationwide" is now available for viewing. China Clipper First Officer Robert Hicks (94); Merry Barton, daughter of Folger Athearn (Pan Am's station manager in Noumea, New Caledonia in 1941); Director of the Foynes Flying Boat Museum Margaret O'Shaughnessy; Ed Trippe and Mary Lou Bigelow were interviewed during the Foynes Flying Boat reunion. <http://www.rte.ie/player/us/show/nationwide-21/10566026/>

Layovers for Pan Am

Check out Pan American layovers at www.paacrewlayover.com, where some 81 cities and over 161 hotels are shown in photos.

Check Out the Lockerbie Website

A website has been created for Lockerbie. It can be viewed at www.lockerbie103.com. It might be a worthwhile site to check out, especially for those who plan on visiting Lockerbie. Be sure to enter the web address in the browser (not Google Search, etc.) with the www. Otherwise, they will get hundreds of Lockerbies and 103s and may not find the web site after 15 pages. ~Claude Hudspeth

Pan Am -- Personal Tributes to A Global Aviation Pioneer

The Pan Am Historical Foundation recently published the highly acclaimed *Pan Am -- Personal Tributes to a Global Aviation Pioneer*, a book that caught the attention of Pan Amers and aviation enthusiasts around the world. Visit <https://www.panam.org/shop/669-panam90-book> to order.

Thank You for the Stories You're Sending In! Keep 'em coming!!

We've been getting some good stories about memories of your times with Pan Am, and we want you to know we appreciate it! Keep them coming, and you will see them in the upcoming issues! Are there memories you've written down that you'd like to share with us in this newsletter - short or long? Have you come across an interesting article that you'd like to share with us? Would you share pieces from a book you've written? Send them to sue@clipperpioneers.com.

*...and God will lift you up on Eagle's Wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun and hold you in the palm of His hand.*

IN MEMORIAM

Capt. Samuel Maurice Isbell, 86, of Georgetown, KY, left this earth on his last trip on March 18, 2021. Sam died peacefully at home from a short illness. Born June 14, 1934 in Prestonsburg, KY, he was the son of the late Samuel L. Isbell and Ruth Francis Isbell. Sam served in the US Navy for 4 years as an aviator, graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1961 and flew with Pan American Airways for 27 years, retiring as a captain in 1991, after "taking strangers to far-away places". During retirement, Sam enjoyed life as a gentleman cattle farmer in Scott County, KY.

He was preceded in death by his late wife, Phyllis Gail Webb Isbell, a son, Capt. Samuel Maurice Isbell II USAF, a daughter, Nancy Ann Isbell, and brothers, Hubbard "Huck" Francis and Charles Joseph Isbell. He is survived by a son, Mark Frederick Isbell of Lexington, KY, a sister, Barbara Isbell Moore, of Georgetown, KY, nieces Carol Susan (Bill) Martin and Helen Ann (Gary) Vickers, nephews Rob Moore and Joe Moore, and many loving extended family and friends.

PanAm Captain Frank M. Herrera had passed March 11, 2021. He was "81" (Birthday: 16 July 1939), & was predeceased by his wife Ariane's passing on 07 January 2021. More information to follow.

Robert Calhoun McGrory (January 10, 1935 – July 16, 2020), age 85, died after a sudden illness at Jefferson University Neuroscience Center. He was born in Philadelphia to Mary Edith (Calhoun) and George Frances McGrory and raised in Mt Airy. He will be interred at Washington Crossing National Cemetery after a private family service.

Bob graduated in 1952 from Central High School in the 198th class. An engineering major at Lehigh University, he was a leader in the Air Force ROTC and the Kappa Alpha Society, graduating in 1956. He maintained many lifelong friendships through his long-time alumni leadership. He met his wife Carolyn on a blind date when they were 17 and they married after graduation.

He served six years on active duty in the US Air Force flying B47s for the Strategic Air Command. He then joined the reserves during which he mentored young people considering the Air Force Academy, and retired as a Lt. Colonel after 27 years.

After his time on active duty, Bob returned to engineering and, on a business trip to New York, learned that Pan American World Airways was hiring pilots. He flew with Pan Am for 25 years, rising through the ranks to become a 747 Captain.

For more information and full obituaries about each of these friends who will be missed, click on "In Memory Of..." at our website: www.clipperpioneers.com. Know of someone from Pan Am who has passed? Email the obit to Sue Forde at sue@clipperpioneers.com, or mail to: Sue Forde, P. O. Box 3457, Sequim, WA 98382

***Please update your email address and phone number if it's been changed!
Email or write to: Clipper Pioneers, c/o Sue Forde, P. O. Box 3457, Sequim
WA 98382 or email to: sue@clipperpioneers.com***

Good Reminders about a Healthy Lifestyle - Physical Activity

Physical activity is good for your health at every age. If you have never been active, starting regular physical activity now may improve your strength, balance, flexibility, and endurance—being able to move for periods of time without stopping.

Being physically active may help you maintain a healthy weight and avoid chronic health problems as you mature. It may help you reduce symptoms of arthritis, anxiety, and depression. It may help keep diabetes and high blood pressure under control. Being active may also help you live on your own longer by keeping you healthy.

All sorts of activities count—even the things you do anyway, like walking the dog, vacuuming the house, or raking the leaves. Things that don't feel hard or unpleasant—like dancing or playing jump rope with your grandchild—also count.

Being active can be hard if you aren't able to move around well, use a cane or walker, or have serious health problems. But you can find some activities to help you move more. For example, slowly raising your arms or legs on a regular basis may help you feel more flexible.

from <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/weight-management/healthy-eating-physical-activity-for-life/health-tips-for-older-adults>

RENEW TODAY!

In order to keep the newsletter and website going for the Clipper Pioneers, it's time for renewal donations. Please send your donation to: Clipper Pioneers, P. O. Box 3457, Sequim, WA 98382. Thank you!

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Amount Donated: \$ _____

(Make check payable to: Clipper Pioneers and mail to: P. O. Box 3457, Sequim WA 98382)

Thank you for your continuing support of the Clipper Pioneers!