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Koala Bear encounter at Darwin Australia

by Gene Woerner

During the Vietnam War, Pan Am was operating R&R flights from Saigon to Sydney Australia. Sometime during the spring of 1968, I was the First Officer on such a pattern that originated in Guam with our first stop in Saigon.

We would transit Tan Son Nhat airport and continue to Darwin, where a crew change would take place. As the flight only operated twice a week, we had a four day layover, and the whole crew was excited none of us had ever been to Darwin.

Pan Am provided the crews with two Holden passenger cars, manufactured and assembled in Australia, under license from Ford. One car was for the pilots to use, the stewardesses had use of the other car. On the second day of our layover, five of us decided to take a little excursion out into the bush to explore a village of the Larrakias - a local Aboriginal tribe. We were told by the hotel staff that it was worth the trip, so we decided to go.

After breakfast, the Flight Engineer and I and three stewardesses headed out in our Holden, excited and looking forward to the upcoming adventure.

When we arrived at the village we were met by the local indigenous natives, who were extremely friendly and happy to see us, as there were very few tourists around Darwin that time of year.

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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.

Koala Bear encounter at Darwin Australia

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They showed us around their village, how they lived, and performed some native dances. We were offered some of their local dishes, which were quite tasty as I recall, having a great time, while also consuming a lot of bottles of Fosters, the local Australian beer, feeling no pain!

Suddenly out of nowhere we noticed several free roaming Koala Bears which had appeared at the edge of the village. The Villagers had told us to be careful around the Koalas, not to feed them and not get too close. However, the stewardesses found the Koalas irresistible and approached them, trying to feed and pet them.

Suddenly, one of the Koalas grabbed one of the stewardess's purse and immediately hightailed out into the bush, the rest of the pack right behind. All of us chased after them yelling and screaming, the natives got involved and started after the Koalas as well. We soon realized, however, that we were unable to catch any of them, as they had disappeared into the bush. We searched a long time, but never saw any of the Koalas again, unable to retrieve the stewardess's purse.

It not only contained her wallet, but also her passport and other important personal and Pan Am documents. What do we do now? She was faced with continuing the trip without any these important and necessary documents, and, of course, without her passport.

After returning to Darwin, we contacted the station manager who agreed to help financially and make arrangements for her to get a temporary ID until she was able to contact the US Embassy on our arrival in Sydney.

Needless to say, it put a bit of a damper on the rest of our Darwin layover; therefore, we opted to stay closer to town for the rest of the time, frequenting the local pub.

Luckily, the stewardess was able to get a new passport during our layover in Sydney and continue with the rest of the pattern.

We all realized that Koala bears can be cute when you encounter them at the zoo, but it taught all of us a lesson, don't mess with them in the wild!

Pan Am Historical Society has a Facebook page. You can view it here:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pan-Am-Historical-Foundation/226994925218>

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

Kartachi - 35 years ago

by Robert Cassidy

I flew quite a few Frankfurt -Karachi trips with multiple day layovers at the Sheraton in the late 80's

There was an amazing presence of Afghans in the Bazaar. They were good vendors, but sort of lost centuries in the past (like much of the population). The only legal booze was at the US Marines club in the Consulate. I asked the station manager on the first flight in about the risk of Customs spotting any grog in the crew luggage. He said, "Theoretically not allowed, but all they do is grab the bottles and drink it themselves. They are all big boozehounds. Not a big hoopla like Saudi."

In bound on every subsequent flight, I would hand a brown paperbag to one of the flight attendants.

"When we arrive at customs, you will easily spot the Chief inspector - like the rest , wearing a white drill suit, but with more gold braid than a Polish admiral. Don't say a word - just hand him the bag and sit down with the rest of us." I ran the same gambit every month for years. We were never even inspected! No drinking in publicly viewable places, but the hotel set aside a suite upstairs designated as a "crew lounge" - no control!

One night , a Cathay Pacific crew arrived from Hong Kong , walked in and lamented, "The inspectors grabbed all of our beer and wine. We are stuck here for two days."

I said, "Welcome! Party with us, we have plenty!"

"Then how did you manage to clear it all through customs??"

"Uh - that I won't discuss ...".

Cassidy- "on the rocks "

How Stupid Can One Be!

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

When I was just starting out with Pan Am in the mid-1960s, I was based in Berlin. I had made a conscious decision to work abroad rather than domestically. I wanted to see the world. Obviously you've heard this from others.

As I result, I spent about a year and a half flying as an engineer on the DC-6 flying between Berlin and other German cities, namely Frankfurt, Munich, Stuttgart, Hamburg, and Hanover. In between, I occasionally had a welcome chance to fly charters elsewhere. That made it a lot more interesting. All in all, I'm glad I made the decision I did. I learned a lot in Berlin.

Among other things, I learned that I didn't want to spend any longer than I had to living in Berlin - the red tape of everyday life was just too much! I also learned that I didn't want to be an engineer. I knew I was meant to fly. It was, without a doubt, the longest year and half in my life.

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How Stupid Can One Be!

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In all honestly, most days were just tedious. A few were, however, much worse than that. One very bad day was the day I had a great chance to fly from Berlin to Rome and back on a charter flight. It should have been a very good day. It wasn't.

I forgot to check my briefcase and ended up without the performance charts I needed to fly the aircraft. Frantically, I called around and checked with three other DC-6 engineers flying the same route. Eventually I got what I needed over the radio from them. I've never forgotten the last minute pressure I felt.

From that experience, I learned that you always need to check in advance to make sure you have what you need to do your job - a very simple and valuable lesson.

I also learned that it's probably a good idea to keep your briefcase locked. While I never could nail down my suspicion, I believe that someone borrowed my charts without asking, forgot to tell me, and then failed to return them when they were finished. I always locked my briefcase after that.

A Documentary Series about Pan American Airways on PBS

When Pan Am's M-130 flying boat "China Clipper" took off for the first scheduled flight to Manila on November 22, 1935, it riveted the attention of people around the world. At that moment Pan Am vaulted to a commanding position and the world changed forever as a result. That's the story brought to life in "Across the Pacific." Newly unearthed archival motion pictures, photographs, and original sound recordings as well as stunning graphics, help bring this history back to life. T

The film by Moreno/Lyons Productions tells the epic story of how Pan American Airways became the first to bridge the mighty Pacific - the first airline to cross any ocean. Focusing in particular on the contributions of Pan Am's visionary leader Juan Trippe, aircraft designer Igor Sikorsky, and radio engineer Hugo Leuteritz, the three-part program is currently broadcast on PBS. "Across the Pacific" premiered on VPM PBS in Richmond Virginia May/June 2020. You can watch each episode on the home page of the Clipper Pioneers website (www.clipperpioneers.com)

PAN AM FOLKS AROUND THE WORLD-2021 WORLD WINGS CRUISE

Inviting all Pan Amer's to join us later this fall for our 2021 Annual Convention, "Tropical Dreams", on board the luxurious Celebrity Equinox for a 9-night Southern Caribbean cruise sailing RT from FLL, 29 Oct - 7 Nov.. More information can be found at their website: <https://worldwingsinternational.net/cruise2021/> or for more information PLEASE CONTACT ROSIE FOR NANCY G. MCALLISTER preswwi@gmail.com

Bank balance as of Aug. 31, 2021 is \$10,331.74. Thank you to the many who have mailed in your donations to keep this newsletter going! If you'd like to contribute to keep the Clipper Pioneers going, please send your check payable to: Clipper Pioneers, 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

PAN AM Reunion - MARCH 12-20, 2022

8 Night Southern Caribbean Cruise on Jewel of the Seas r/t Miami

Dear Pan Am friends: It's about time to cruise !!

Welcome back to the resumption of our annual Pan Am reunion cruises – and how we have missed them. Next March we embark on Royal Caribbean's beautiful luxury liner Jewel of the Seas to exciting and captivating islands in the Caribbean where the ultimate goal is to exceed your expectations by making this cruise not just a vacation but, an adventure at sea. These wonderful ports of call include:

LABADEE, HAITI - SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

PHILIPSBURG, ST. MAARTEN AND ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA

While onboard indulge in the spa, build a scrapbook of memories or simply relax poolside. Dine on gourmet food as well as twenty four hour room service. Be entertained by world-class performers from across the globe that keep you busy morning to night. Socialize with Pan Am friends in our well known get together cocktail parties, customized amenities and select meeting areas. Enjoy Broadway musicals, spectacular shows, thrilling casino action, live comedy and music, bars, dancing and much more. It's going to be a great cruise, come join us. Call in your Crown & Anchor number and dining selection. Family and friends are welcome.

Cabins: from * Inside \$599 / * Ocean view \$659 / * Balcony \$999

Rates are per person, cruise only, double occupancy, Non-Refundable and based on availability at time of booking. Port charges/tax are additional at \$361.35 per person. Checks are generally preferred (address below) but all major credit cards are accepted. Deposit \$250 per person upon reserving; final is due 12/2/2021. Cabins are capacity controlled. Singles pay 200% of cruise fare and port charge.

Amenity fee of \$125. per person for onboard activities (parties, gifts, etc.) to be made out to Interline Travels and mailed separately to the address below (no credit cards for this) due with final balance. Insurance is be available according to your cruise price. More information with your invoice. Junior Suites and Suites are on Wait List Status - pricing upon request when available.

To reserve call Carmen 786-252-7838 , Email interlinetravels@yahoo.com

Stu Archer (Pan Am pilot/cruise organizer) for information (305-238-0911) Email StuNJune@aol.com

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 cblayd@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

Invitation to Lunch & Lecture Reunion

As "president" of the Pan Am Retirees Association in SF Bay Area, I am extending an invitation to all Clipper Pioneers to attend our Dec 4 2021 lunch & lecture reunion at Michael's at Shoreline in Mt. View CA. Guest speakers include Al Topping (Last Flight Out) and Capt. Mark Pyle, who flew the last Pan Am Clipper BGI/MIA exactly 30 years ago on Dec 4 1991. Please send me an email address to whom I can send an email invitation with details, for you to share with your members. Thank you Al Gilbert 415 516 0359.

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

Ian James Duncan, 86, of Heathsville, Virginia, passed away on August 24th, 2021. He was born January 1935 in Butler, Pennsylvania. His parents, George and Isabella Duncan, Scottish immigrants, preceded him in death, as did his sisters, Helen Armstrong and Isobel Hartley, son William Scott, and his only daughter, Natasha Jean. He is survived by his wife, Ilona Duncan, the love of his life, his partner in good times and bad, and his best friend for five decades. Ian is survived by three sons, David, James, Alec; and four grandchildren: Ian, Cole, Sydney, and George.

Ian spent a lifetime in all facets of flying. Beginning as a hangar boy at Butler-Graham Field in Pennsylvania, he went to the Spartan School of Aeronautics, and was a commercial and instructor pilot by 18. As an officer in the Air Force, and later the Air National Guard, Ian flew the Piper PA-18, the North American T-6, North American B-25, the Fairchild C-119, the Boeing KC-97, Boeing C-97 and KC-97L, the Lockheed T-33 and the Lockheed HC-130 Hercules. He retired with a rank of Lt Colonel in 1976.

His airline career began with DC-3s and DC-7s in the early 1960s, before being hired by Pan American World Airways. Over a 25-year span, Ian flew the Boeing 707, the Lockheed L-1011, and the Boeing 747. He was a check airman on all three aircraft, became chief pilot and Vice President of Flight Operations. He retired in 1988 and was hired by Airbus Industries to work in Toulouse, France, and retired in 1998 as Vice President of Technical Training for Airbus Industries of North America.

While serving in various Flight Management roles at Pan American and later at Airbus, Captain Duncan was an active participant in numerous aviation related activities, including the Air Transport Association, IATA, the Flight Safety Foundation, Icarus, and the Council of Aviation Accreditation. In addition, he worked voluntarily on numerous Aviation Safety sub-committees. For his many achievements, the College of Aeronautics, Flushing, New York, awarded him a Doctor of Science Honoris Causa.

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**

Healthy Living Tips

Regular exercise 3-5 times a week for at least 30 minutes is strongly advised for seniors. An effective exercise is one which would increase the heart rate adequately to about 75% of maximum heart rate. A person's maximum heart rate is roughly calculated by subtracting age from the number 220.

Walking, swimming, and exercise machines are generally safe and can help achieve these goals. Balance exercises, flexibility exercises, and resistance exercises (weight lifting) can also be beneficial.

As a general precaution, if symptoms such as chest pain or tightness, shortness of breath, or fainting or dizziness occur during or after exercising, it is important for the individual to stop the exercise and notify their physician promptly.

from https://www.medicinenet.com/senior_health/article.htm

Thanks to those of you who have sent us stories! Keep 'em coming!

A Few Common Sense Safety Tip Reminders

In this age of increasing crime, it's good to be reminded - and remember - some basic safety tips for your home and when out and about. Here we go:

At Home:

- ◆ Never open your door automatically. Install and use a peephole.
- ◆ Lock your doors and windows.
- ◆ Vary your daily routine.
- ◆ Use "Neighbor Watch" to keep an eye on your neighborhood.
- ◆ Don't leave notes on the door when going out or when you are gone.
- ◆ Leave lights on when going out at night; use a timer to turn lights on and off when you are away for an extended period.
- ◆ Notify neighbors and the police when going away on a trip.
- ◆ When you are away remember to cancel deliveries such as newspapers and arrange for someone - a neighbor's child, perhaps - to mow the lawn if need be.
- ◆ Arrange for your mail to be held by the Post Office, or ask a neighbor to collect it for you.
- ◆ Be wary of unsolicited offers to make repairs to your home. Deal only with reputable businesses.
- ◆ Keep an inventory with serial numbers and photographs of re-saleable appliances, antiques and furniture. Leave copies in a safe place.
- ◆ Don't hesitate to report crime or suspicious activities.
- ◆ Install deadbolt locks on all your doors.
- ◆ Keep your home well lit at night, inside and out; keep curtains closed.
- ◆ Ask for proper identification from delivery persons or strangers.
- ◆ If a stranger asks to use your telephone, offer to place the call for him or her yourself.
- ◆ Never let a stranger into your home.
- ◆ Do not hide your keys under the mat or in other conspicuous places.
- ◆ Never give out information over the phone indicating you are alone or that you won't be home at a certain time.
- ◆ If you arrive at home and suspect a stranger may be inside, DON'T GO IN. Leave quietly and call 911 to report the crime.

When Out Walking:

- ◆ If you are attacked on the street, make as much noise as possible by calling for help or blowing a whistle. Do not pursue your attacker. Call 911 and report the crime as soon as possible.
- ◆ Avoid walking alone at night. Try to have a friend accompany you in high risk areas . . . even during the daytime.
- ◆ Always plan your route and stay alert to your surroundings. Walk confidently.
- ◆ Have a companion accompany you.
- ◆ Stay away from buildings and doorways; walk in well-lighted areas.
- ◆ Have your key ready when approaching your front door.
- ◆ Don't dangle your purse away from your body. (Twelve percent of all crimes against the elderly are purse snatchings and street robberies.)
- ◆ Don't carry large, bulky shoulder bags; carry only what you need. Better yet, sew a small pocket inside your jacket or coat. If you don't have a purse, no one will try to snatch it.