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Flying into Barranquilla

by Bill Nash

Flying into Barranquilla, Colombia, was sometimes interesting. We stopped at Jamaica en route there from Miami with DC 3's, and later with C46's and DC4's.

We would arrive in the blue light of dawn, often to be met by a heavy ground fog which was only about 30 feet thick. To land we would approximate the location of the runway by observing the tower and other stuff sticking up through the fog, and make a low pass over where it should be with gear down and a lot of flap, hanging the tail down to blow the fog away from the runway. If there was no wind and we had hit it right, we could see the runway and land. If our open slot was drifting off, we'd make another pass; this time a little upwind, so that by the time we had completed a circuit the slot would be over the runway and we could see it to land.

One morning upon our arrival from Miami at the Barranquilla airport, it was clear; but there was no contact from the tower. We circled and saw people running around the airport. The entrance gates were closed and people were crowded outside. No green light or any signal from the tower.

We landed and taxied to the fuel pumps and cut the engines on our C-46. No one approached us. Finally, a ground man we knew came running to us, waving his arms. I leaned out the cockpit window and asked him where were the fuel men and unloaders. We could hear shouting at the gates to the airport and could see the gates rocking.

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Flying into Barranquilla

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Our ground man yelled - "there's a national strike! No one is supposed to work! Can't give you fuel or service! Get out of here! There are three trucks of strikers on their way to the airport to stop all work. The gates are about to go!" We could see the three trucks full of strikers pulling up to the gates. We thanked our brave ground man and started the engines. Just then the gates went flat and the mob surged through. Many carried rifles.

To taxi to take-off position and take-off would give the mob a broadside shot at our bird, so we shoved the throttles full forward and rolled across the field at right angles to the runway, through grass and rough ground, and lifted off before we got to an area of heavy brush.

Circling widely, we could see the mob running about, waving their arms and some shooting at us.

Without enough fuel to Panama we headed the opposite way to Maracaibo, Venezuela - without legal papers to land there. We called Jamaica on HF frequencies and asked them to relay our message to Miami to send a clearance request to Maracaibo. When we got there we circled - and we circled. No green light, so with fuel gages looking dangerous, we landed anyway. Then we got attention - lots of it. Military vehicles with many guns surrounded us.

We opened the door and came out with our hands up - the two of us. There was hell to pay with Venezuelan officials, because we brought a load of cargo manifested for Colombia, had no clearance, etc., etc. An hour after we landed the message we had needed to precede us finally got there from Miami.

They gave us fuel, but we could not unload any of Colombia's cargo. Pan Am arranged for us to take it to Jamaica and back to Miami. There were 33 bullet holes in the tail end of our airplane.

A "Trippe" down Memory Lane

Juan Terry Trippe (27 June 1899 - 3 April 1981), the founder of the pioneering airline, **Pan American World Airways**, known around the world as "**Pan Am**" was an Eighth-Generation descendant of **Henry Trippe** who emigrated from Canterbury, England and settled in Dorchester County, Maryland in 1665. The family was a seagoing, mercantile family, primarily because water was the main and safest way to travel, and incomes were mainly made through coastal and overseas trade.

The first **Trippe** of note prior to **Juan** was **Edward**, from the Fourth-Generation after **Henry**. Born in 1771 at Todd's Point on the Choptank River, he later became a ship architect and master in Baltimore. He contracted to build the first steamboat on the Chesapeake Bay, named *Chesapeake*, which made her

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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

A “Trippe” down Memory Lane

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maiden voyage in 1813, traveling from Baltimore to Frenchtown, Maryland. **Captain Trippe** later established the **Union Line**, comprising of three steamboats, the *Chesapeake*, *Philadelphia* and *United States*. He was a business colleague of Robert Fulton, who began the first successful steamboat line in the United States.

Captain Trippe passed away on 2 February 1846 at the age of 75.

The next seagoing **Trippe** of note, from the Fifth-Generation, was **John L.**, the son of **William Trippe**, the brother of **Captain Edward**. **John L.** was appointed a midshipman in the U.S. Navy at the founding of the U.S. Naval Academy. His first assignment was on board the USS *Constitution* and later he served in the War with the Barbary States. For this he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. He later took command of the USS *Enterprise* and the USS *Vixen*. During his career he rose to the rank of Lieutenant Commander but died in 1810 at the age of 25 and was buried at sea. Four U.S. Navy ships were eventually named after him.

Pan Am was the first, and through World War II, the only U.S. international airline, initially serving the Caribbean, then South America, then across the Pacific and Atlantic, and eventually around the world. The aircraft originally used on its routes were flying boats, and **Juan** kept the seagoing tradition of the **Trippes** alive by creating the “Nautical Airline” and designating the aircraft as “Clippers”.

“Mass travel by air - made possible in the jet age - may prove to be more significant to world destiny than the atom bomb. For there can be no atom bomb potentially more powerful than the air tourist, charged with curiosity, enthusiasm and good will, who can roam the four corners of the world, meeting in friendship and understanding the people of other nations and races.”

- Juan Trippe, Presiden, Pan American Airways

Lessons learned while flying

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

For several years in the late 1960's I was based in Miami, Florida, flying regularly to places like San Juan and other vacation spots in the Caribbean. Right after I checked out as a first officer on the B-727, I flew out of JFK to San Juan. Since I was just newly checked out as a first officer, the captain, as was the norm, had occasion to show me the ins and outs of the LORAN system (Long Range Air Navigation system) which has been replaced with the much more accurate GPS in recent years. As an aside, I should say that at the time we were glad to have the LORAN system as it was certainly better than nothing - not much better but still it was something.

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

Lessons learned while flying

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In any case, the captain, while demonstrating the LORAN system, turned the A/P control knob to try to go around a thunderstorm and then let go of it to resume his demonstration. A second or so later, he looked up and was startled to see that we were heading north rather than south. We were, in fact, in the middle of what would have developed into a continuous turn. He took immediate action, but the turn nevertheless cost us several minutes. The moral of this story is that you should never take your hand off the A/P control knob when you are using it to turn the aircraft. Simple lessons are often the most important and the most enduring.

A similar situation occurred about ten years later when I was a first officer on a B-747 flight from New York to London. The New York ATC changed us to the Boston Center just as the captain turned the A/P control knob to again go around a thunderstorm. Then, he neglected to put the A/P back on the navigation function - leaving it on the manual mode. Shortly thereafter, the Boston ATC asked where we were heading and I answered, "Gander." The ATC's response was concise, "Not on that heading you're not." Again, the bottom line was the same as it had been years earlier. Never take your hand off the A/P control knob when you are using it to turn the aircraft. Some things never change.

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.

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)

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/>

Bank balance as of Sept. 30, 2021 is \$9,575.11. 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 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

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

Edward L. Shields, July 28th, 2021 , age 92, of Green Cove Springs Florida got his heavenly wings and went to be with the Lord. He was a Pan American Flight engineer for 38 years. Born in Union Port Ohio, he got his love of flying at the age of 14 from the local crop duster unknown to his mother Mae. He finished his schooling in Ohio and went on to join the Navy to serve in the Korean War on an aircraft carrier USS Tarawa CV-40. Then onto to Parks Aeronautical College in St Louis Missouri, and hired on by Pan American World Airlines He married his sweetheart Janice and went on to raise a family of 8 children. Married 65 years, until her death do part.

He had an amazing career with the airline and developed many lifelong friends in the company. Some of his adventures included being on the ground floor of the introduction of the 747 into the company. It was his great honor to have been chosen to be part of the crew that flew the Clipper Liberty Bell on the first round the world flight May 15th, 1976 on the 747 SP. And then again on the Clipper New Horizon for the 50th anniversary flight from Pole to Pole round the world flight Oct 28th, 1977. He volunteered for the flights to evacuate Americans out of Tehran, Iran in 1978 which kept us all very worried. His travels all over the world, experiencing all different cultures, people's differences and common likes were important to him, and he loved every minute of it! His home base was at JFK in New York, until he was commissioned to be a flight engineer Manager out of Miami International. He trained many on the simulators at the Pan Am Academy in Miami. He even qualified as a Pan American Flight Attendant!

Moving from Penna to Florida, he sold his Cassina plane and bought his huge boat, "The Clipper" Eventually becoming a "live-aboard" an enjoying 7 years on the St. John's River with Jan, his wife. His love of the 747 and the company that gave him so much joy and the people of the Pan American Clipper Family, has given his family such comfort knowing it was a life well lived. And it truly was!

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

Health Living Tips

As we enter the holidays, it's important to stay connected with friends and family for your mental health - keep a "happy brain"! Here are a couple of tips:

Stay Involved in Family Gatherings - Find ways to be included and visit often with family, especially grandchildren. Keep visits short if you get tired and make sure you're just there to enjoy their company rather than be a babysitter.

Turn to Technology to Stay in Touch - Schedule regular phone calls to catch up with loved ones, and send snail mail or email letters, cards, and photos. Try Skype or FaceTime for a video call. Create a memory book with your grandchildren and share it with the entire family and friends.

How to Best Protect Yourself (& Your Personal Info) Online

Download a good antivirus program. Using good antivirus software is the easiest way to stay safe online. The top antiviruses on the market include real-time malware protection to block viruses before they can run, anti-phishing tools to block scam websites, and additional extra features like firewalls, Wi-Fi scanners, VPNs, password managers, software updaters, data breach monitors, and more.

Always go to the source. Hackers use deceptive pop-up windows, email links, text messages, websites, phone calls, and more to try and rush and pressure users into bad decisions. Maybe a legitimate government agency really is texting you, or your utility company sent you an email, or your old friend wants you to download an email attachment. But you should always try to confirm that the information you're getting is authentic by using a trusted contact method like giving that agency, company, and friend a call. Always be skeptical — if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

Only go on secure websites. A website is considered secure if the address starts with "https://" (instead of "http://"). A quick way to check if the website is secure is to look for the padlock icon next to the address bar, which indicates the website you're using has a secure encrypted TLS connection (you can learn more about web encryption and security in our blog post about man-in-the-middle attacks). The HTTPS Everywhere browser extension is a great free tool to help ensure you're using encrypted web connections whenever possible.

Avoid pirate sites. Downloading (or torrenting) music, movies, and TV shows for free is tempting, but it's best not to use torrenting websites. These websites are generally unsafe and they're always full of malicious links and malware downloads. If you do download pirated content, make sure you're running a powerful antivirus program with effective real-time malware detection. It's also good to use a VPN when downloading files — a VPN hides your actual IP and prevents your internet service provider from monitoring your online activity (ExpressVPN is my favorite VPN for torrenting).

Use a variety of passwords. The best way to keep online accounts safe is to use different and complex passwords for each account. Remembering so many different passwords is difficult, so it's advisable to use a password manager. Read about our favorite password managers here — here are a few: 1Password, RoboForm and Dashlane.

Keep your system updated. It's important to keep your operating system and programs updated as software developers are constantly patching security vulnerabilities. You can set your computer to automatically install updates when they become available. If you don't keep your device updated, you're at risk of exploit attacks, which is when hackers can take advantage of a known security weakness.

Don't be afraid to ask for help! Computer running slowly? Weird email? Incredibly cheap products? Strange notifications? Make sure you have a trusted family member or human to speak with. And some antiviruses like Norton have a remote access tool, which allows tech support operators to get into your computer and solve problems 24/7.

from <https://www.safetydetectives.com/blog/the-ultimate-internet-safety-guide-for-seniors/>

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you in '22!