

RETURN ENGAGEMENT

Burl Burlingame, Historian of the Pacific Aviation Museum will return to Waialae Country Club to speak to our Aloha Chapter—Pan Am Association on April 26th. A reservation form is on page 7.

TRUTHS AND MYTHS OF PEARL HARBOR

Burl Burlingame is an expert on aviation in the Pacific. His subject at our April meeting will be the "Truths and Myths of Pearl Harbor". Many of our members will remember Burlingame who spoke at our meeting in April of 2014. He is an amazing person who has many talents. According to one of his friends, Brad Warthen, who attended Radford High School with him, even then Burlingame "was a Renaissance Man. He was a photographer, a musician, an actor, a cartoonist, a writer, an editor and a publisher, putting out his own underground newspaper at Radford High School." Burlingame went on to spend over 30 years in the newspaper business. He is a military historian and Warthen says he is "the leading expert on Japanese midget submarines."

One of Burlingame's hobbies, for which he has received many awards, was building scale models. He created the one hanging in the entrance of the Pacific Aviation Museum, a Pan Am B-314. He volunteered as a docent for the museum and because of his knowledge, interests and talents, he is now the museum historian.

We are all familiar with Pearl Harbor stories so Burlingame's topic should be of interest to those of us who like to get the story straight. Sign up now for the April 26th meeting. Consider bringing your friends who may share your interest in this most famous of harbors. Reminder: Carol needs to let the Waialae Country Club know how many of us to expect so please send in your check by April 21st if possible.

HISTORICAL NOTES ON HAWAII BEFORE PEARL HARBOR

Ed Gencarelli, who volunteers as a docent at the Pacific Aviation Museum, gave me a list of notable happenings that pre-date World War II and the attack on Pearl Harbor. Since Burl Burlingame will be speaking to us about the latter, it seems appropriate to add information on what the times were like



leading up to the war. The photos accompanying this article are mostly from the Hawaii State Archives website. (It is amazing to note the changes in our islands, as elsewhere, in just over 100 years when one realizes that time period is not much over the span of a human lifecycle.)

In 1898, as a direct result of the Spanish-American War, Hawaii was annexed to the United States. Sanford B. Dole was appointed the first governor of the Territory of Hawaii. The Matson Navigation Company had made its first trip to Hawaii in 1882, carrying food, plantation supplies and general merchandise to the islands. Interest in this new territory increased and in 1908, Matson put the second *Lurline* into service. It had accommodations for 51 passengers. This was the beginning of the era when Hawaii became the vacation paradise of the rich and famous who were the only ones who could afford the expenses of travel to Hawaii and a hotel stay. Today, Matson is still doing business as a major shipping company, and still bringing goods and supplies to the islands.



The Clark Gables



The Territory of Hawaii recognized the economic value of tourism. In 1900 a tram line was put into operation in Honolulu, replacing the horse and mule-driven tramcars. Two years later a tram line was built connecting downtown with Waikiki. This was the impetus to construct the Ala Wai Canal to drain Kapiolani Park. At left is a photo of the road to Kapiolani Park around 1900.

Along with the construction of tram lines, hotels were built. The Moana Hotel was built in 1901. The four story hotel was the tallest building in the Hawaiian Islands and quickly became known as the "First Lady of Waikiki".

The Waikiki Aquarium was built on the shore of Waikiki in 1904, where it is today. It is the third oldest public aquarium in the U.S. and the oldest aquarium west of the Mississippi River. The Honolulu Zoo opened in 1914 and Aloha Tower opened in 1926. Upon its completion, it took the title of tallest building in the islands and was a landmark for arriving vessels.

The 1930s ushered in the romantic age of flight, especially with the comforts provided by Pan American's *Clippers*. To quote from the museum's docent manual: Pan American's *"aircraft were the beautiful, luxurious and enormous Clippers. First built by Sikorsky, and later by Martin and Boeing, these amazing aircraft flew the rich and famous in style to exotic locations throughout the Pacific. Although Clippers only flew passengers for five years before America entered World War II, it is difficult to think of pre-war Hawaii without a Pan Am Clipper flying above the islands."*



After the war, the flying boats were obsolete and Pan American began flying the Boeing 377 Stratocruiser. At left is a photo of Pan American's Clipper *Glory of the Seas* with the Honolulu airport tower in the background. This was in the 1950s when the airport was on Lagoon Drive. Pan Am began flying the Boeing 707 in 1959 and the 377 was finally phased out in 1961 just before the new Honolulu International Airport opened.

PAN AM PEOPLE AND EVENTS

The Irish Spring Pan Am Reunion is shaping up to be a very nice event. **Don Cooper** tells us that Limerick's Live 95 FM Radio will be doing a 3-hour live broadcast from the Strand Hotel on Tuesday, April 12th. There appears to be tremendous support from the host country. Yours truly is one of several from Hawaii who have signed up for the event. I look forward to reporting to you on my return. .

. . The **Pan Am/National Alumni** group in Florida has sent out an early notice of a picnic which is being planned for October 22, 2016. This may be of interest, not only to our members living in Florida, but to any Pan Amers who happen to be in the neighborhood of Jacksonville on vacation at the time. The picnic will be at Peter's Point, Fernandina Beach on the Atlantic Coast, just north of Jacksonville. A catered barbecue lunch will be served between 11:00 and 1:00 on October 22nd. Many people make a weekend of it and festivities start on Friday night, the 21st. The Hampton Inn offers special room rates. For information, you can call Mary Ann Westall at (412) 833-1528 or email her at mabill555@aol.com. The Pan Am/National Airlines group has over 2000 members. You can check out their website at panamnationalalumni.ning.com. . . .



. . . **Mike Craighead** responded to the write up on the late Charlie Naura in the previous edition of *Aloha Clipper*. Mike worked on Guam with Charlie and said he was a great friend and colleague. In fact, with Jack Fernandez and Sales Assistant Margaret Jones, he says they had a great team. He reports that at one time, Charlie worked hard to set up a great golf outing for the top ten sales agents from all the local travel agencies. The outing was to Taipei and, with himself and Mike, there were 3 foursomes. Charlie planned other activities for the agents too. But over the next couple of weeks, as the departure date approached, agents started canceling for one reason or another. Charlie was upset, thinking the boss, Jack Fernandez, would now prohibit the venture. He asked Mike, "What should I do?" Mike sympathized because he was aware of all the time and effort Charlie had put into the project. On behalf of Charlie, Mike presented his best sales pitch to Jack, pointing out that Charlie had worked long and hard organizing the trip to honor people giving good business to Pan Am. He insisted they were still going. After about 15 minutes, Jack said, "Get the heck out of my office, have a good time and put it on an expense account." So Charlie and Mike completed their foursome with two Taipei agents. Mike says he will always have a soft spot in his heart for both Charlie and Jack. . . . **Richard Taliaferro** was reminded of an embarrassing interaction with a passenger after reading about Jack Smith's problems in off-loading passengers in our February issue. While working in the terminal then located on Lagoon Drive, Richard had to offload several passengers from a flight. He filled his pockets with the cash payouts and then went to locate the selected passengers in the lobby. He gave each the cash along with the bad news and an apology. To one lady he added,

"You can buy yourself a new hat." She asked, "What's wrong with my hat?" He wrote, "You had to be there, I guess, but the incident brought a lot of laughs after the fact." . . . Last summer, I traveled to Bordeaux with a friend, **Judy Uding**, who is a Hawaiian Airlines retiree. A couple of months after we returned, she sent a message saying, "I thought of you today because I received a package in the mail from another Pan Am person. His name is **Ron Marasco** and he was my boss for a short time when he was on contract with Hawaiian. He was a very nice man and we have exchanged Christmas greetings ever since." Ron began his career as a flight engineer and ended up V/P of Maintenance and Engineering. The package contained a copy of his book *The 747: A Tumultuous Beginning, Flying Through Turbulence*. Judy was impressed with a note in the book that all proceeds from sales would be donated to the Pan Am Historical Foundation. (Ron also collaborated with aviation artist Ron Cole, providing the narrative for the beautiful 2015 PAHF calendar.) I replied to Judy that, though I had never met Ron, I had been in touch with him by email and have a copy of the book. She had never had his email address and was delighted to receive it. I'm sure they are now exchanging airline anecdotes as well as Christmas cards.

PAN AM MYSTERY STORY

In a chat with Jack Smith, I said I loved all the little personal stories and adventures employees often talk about when they get together. I added that I wished people would send such stories to me so they could be shared with all. It is my opinion that these various experiences are part of what we loved about working for Pan Am. Jack responded that I should challenge our readers to recall just one incident they remember from their past. He instantly came up with a partial story from long ago—certainly before my Pan Am time—which he challenges our readers to complete. I challenge you to send in one of your own memories along with your solution. If, like me, you cannot begin to guess the answer, send in your own story anyway. Here are two of Jack's mystery stories:



Does anyone remember the arrival in Honolulu of a flight from Manila in which, when the aft compartment hatch was opened, a mass of monkeys scrambled out, ran across the tarmac and up into the coconut trees? This was in the days of the Stratocruiser. The question: What happened to the monkeys?



A real mystery at the old cargo terminal had to do with a missing gold bar. It seems no one knew what happened to it. Then one day a fire broke out in the building. In evacuating the building, employees tried to close the door in the security storage room which had regularly been propped open with a heavy wooden box. They managed to remove it and someone decided to see what made the box so heavy. Voila! There was the gold bar. Is this story truth or fiction? It made the rounds in the day. Can anyone fill in the details?

Don't be concerned if you think your writing ability leaves a bit to be desired. Your story will be edited with your input and assistance. It doesn't have to be a mystery or even a particular incident. You can write about someone with whom you particularly enjoyed working or encountering along the way. Pan American numbered some unique characters among its employees. To illustrate, here is an incident involving an employee with whom Jack worked:

Do you remember our Japanese sales representative Toshio Mayeda? He had the job of handling

the great new influx of Japanese tourists into Hawaii. In those early days, the tour escort would raise his tour flag on a bamboo stick so that his group could avoid getting lost by keeping an eye out for the flag. You could see a group making its way through the terminal and eventually to the boarding gate. Some of you may remember Toshio on board the aircraft, giving his last aloha to the group and how hard it was to get him off the plane so the doors could be closed. I remember once we missed him and maintenance had to send a jeep to the end of the taxiway and get him off via the aft baggage compartment hatch behind the lower deck lounge.

Now there's an employee who loved his job!



Early notice!

*Yes, it is a long way from Christmas but we wanted to make sure our readers noticed that our 2016 Gala will be in early December. In the past couple of years, the gala was closer to mid-December but it will be on **December 4th** this year, a week before the Honolulu Marathon. This will be important for our off-island members who need to make plans early. Mark your calendar!*

CHINA NIGHT MOVES TO JULY

For those who like to attend our regular China Night dinner, it has been moved to July this year. It has normally been held during the month of May. This year's date is **July 13th**. The location is the Maple Garden Restaurant and the price is \$25, which includes tax and tip. There will be a reminder in the June issue.



WEIGHING IN ON WEIGHT AND BALANCE

A recent news item stated that Uzbekistan Airways was going to begin weighing each passenger with his/her hand baggage to ensure flight safety. The item stated, "The Tashkent-based airline, whose motto is 'safety, stability, comfort', has not made it clear whether larger passengers will be charged a fee or excluded from flights on smaller planes. . . .More than 44 per cent of those 20 years and older in Uzbekistan were found to be overweight, while nearly 15 per cent were obese, according to estimates from 2008 reported by the World Health Organization."

An aviation expert added: *Part of the work of being a commercial pilot is calculating your take-off weight. This includes using receipts from ground crew for cargo weight, the amount of fuel and the number of passengers. This is to ensure the aircraft does not exceed its maximum take-off weight or require more runway than is available for take-off. To assist flight crews, most airlines publish a chart that helps in the calculation.* Weighing passengers is nothing new. It was done in the early days of flight. Even then, one had to keep an eye on the type of passenger load. Some groups would have more than the normal count of over-sized passengers, such as a group of weight lifters or Sumo wrestlers, or even an American football team. A fair amount of work goes

into loading the cargo bays beneath the passenger deck to ensure not only fore/aft but port/starboard balance of the plane too.

PARENTS SAY THE DARNDDEST THINGS

I don't remember where I got the following stories any more but they were written by adults who recalled weird things one or another parent told them when they were little, often to ensure good behavior. Enjoy!

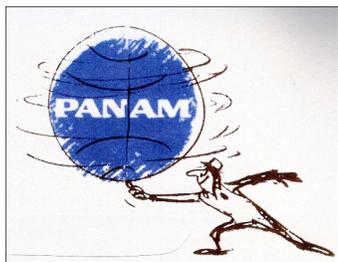
- My dad told me that oil spots on the streets were little kids that got run over because they did not hold anyone's hand while crossing the street.
- The rumble strips on the highway are for blind drivers. Took me 7 years to get it.
- My mom's friend got tired of her kids eating her scallops when they went out to eat so she told them scallops are dolphins' balls.
- When you lie, your ears turn red. I covered my ears every time I lied.
- My grandmother told my mother that the left boob was for regular milk and the right one is for chocolate milk. My mom believed that until she was in high school and took sex education.
- If the ice cream truck is playing music, it means they have run out of ice cream.
- My dad used to tell me Santa was tired of milk and cookies and I'd get extra toys if I left Doritos and a beer. That went on for years.
- Oh, no, this isn't Cola. It's black water and you wouldn't like it.
- People get 10,000 words per month. If you reach that number, you cannot physically speak until the new month begins. Any time I was especially talkative, Dad would say, "Careful now, I have to think you are up to over 9,000 by now." That would shut me up.
- When I was little, my dad told me *Pulp Fiction* was a documentary about oranges because he didn't want me to watch it.
- I told my kids that if they didn't behave in the drive-thru line, they would get a Sad Meal.
- They don't sell replacement batteries for that toy.
- Chuck E Cheese is only for birthday parties. You have to be invited to one to go there.
- My parents got me to eat calamari by telling me they were "Italian Onion Rings".

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN . . .

Longtime member **Zeda Mae Moser** passed away on January 4th at the age of 91. She graduated from Glendale Hoover High School. In 1942 at the age of 18 she enlisted in the Women's Army Corp and served until the end of the war. She married James Beeley and they resided in La Crescenta, CA. Her only child, Sheryl, was born in 1948. The family moved to Honolulu and Zeda began working for Pan American's Operations Department. She was with Pan Am for 27 years. Ed Gencarelli remembers her as "the 'rock' for Ramp and Operation, guiding each change of managers (including me) through all the quirks of the department. She also understood the strengths and weaknesses of all the employees. She was loyal and a gift." Zeda is survived by her daughter, Sheryl Grace, and her son-in-law Gil Grace; four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. On the left is a photo of Zeda holding a photo taken when she was in the Women's Army Corp.



Though he never joined our association, Flight Attendant **Dean Suyeoka** will be remembered by many of our members. He passed away on March 9th at the age of 59. He is survived by his wife, Joan, and his mother, Alice Suyeoka. A memorial service will be held at Hosoi Garden Mortuary on Wednesday, April 6th. Visitation is from 5:00 to 6 pm and the service will start at 6:00. Aloha or casual attire advised.



COMING ATTRACTIONS 2016 Schedule

- **April 26**—General Member Meeting
- May 24—Board Meeting Only
- **June 28**—General Member Meeting
- July 26—Board Meeting Only
- **August 23**—General Member Meeting
- September 27—Board Meeting Only
- **October 25**—Annual Meeting
- November 22—Board Meeting only
- **December 4**—Annual Gala

All meetings will be held at the Waialae Country Club unless otherwise notified. The Annual Gala will be held at the Hale Koa Hotel.

Luncheon Meeting Reservation

Next Meeting—April 26, 2016

Waialae Country Club

4997 Kahala Avenue

11:00 Social hour, 11:30 Lunch

\$25.00 per person (Includes tip and Parking)

Please try to make your reservation a minimum of 3 or 4 days in advance.

Member Name _____ \$25.00

Guest Name _____ 25.00

Total _____

Makes checks payable to PAA and send to:

Carol Suyderhoud, 7503 Maka'a Street, Honolulu, HI 96825-3127

If transportation is required, call Carol at 396-5225 or contact her by e-mail at:

carolws@hawaii.rr.com.

NOTE: If you received this newsletter electronically and would like to attend the meeting, print this page or enclose a note with your check, stating what and who the check is for.

PAA Hawaii Aloha Chapter Officers

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Eva Miyahara Kama	Director		988-4161
Edward E. Swofford	Director Emeritus	eeskaneoe@aol.com	247-5740

Newsletter Items:

If you have any news item that would be of interest, please call Diane VanderZanden at 396-5293 or send mail to 500 Lunalilo Home Road, #26-D, Honolulu, HI 96825-1734 or by e-mail: alohadvz@gmail.com.

Members, we encourage you to print this page and give the application below to your Pan Am friends who are not members. If you are a former employee and not a member of the Aloha Chapter of the Pan Am Association, we encourage you to complete and submit the application below and help keep our association healthy. Thank you.

PAN AM ASSOCIATION—ALOHA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please check all applicable boxes and complete all applicable lines.

- Renewal New Member
- Retiree—Pan Am retiree who received lump sum pension or is receiving PBGC checks.
- Associate—All other former Pan Am employees
- Ohana—Surviving spouse, child or relative of above; sponsored person with close connection to Pan Am (subject to BOD approval).

PRINT CLEARLY PLEASE

Date: _____

Name: _____ **Spouse:** _____
Last First

Address: _____
Street Apt # City State ZIP code

Home Phone: _____ **Cellphone:** _____ **E-mail:** _____

Would you like to receive the newsletter by e-mail, which is in color? Yes _____ No _____

Retiree/Associate: Dept: _____ **PAA Service:** _____ **Receiving Pension?** _____
of years worked Yes or No

Ohana: Pls. state category & PAA sponsor (See above): _____

The association directory is published every two years and is distributed to **MEMBERS ONLY.**

Do you wish to be listed in the directory? Yes No

May we publish your phone number/E-mail address? Yes No

- Annual Membership: \$ 30 US Residents \$ 35 Overseas residents
- Lifetime Membership: \$150 US Residents \$175 Overseas residents

Please make check payable to **PAA** (Pan Am Association) and send with this application to:

John Medlock, 411 Kaelepu Drive, APT F, Kailua, HI 96734-3309