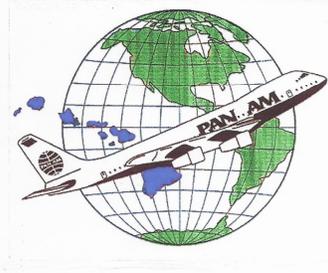


Meetings Still on Hold

PAN AM ASSOCIATION

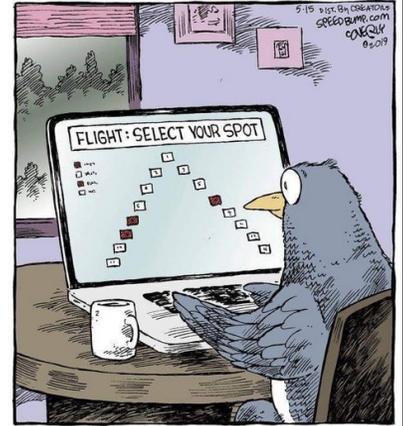


ALOHA CHAPTER

Flying North?

Select your seat, um, I mean your spot.

Cartoon by Dave Coverly of Speed-Bump.Com



STEWARDESSES AS SEEN BY OTHERS

UK *Daily Mail* headline:

Exclusive: Seducing passengers, skinny-dipping with expats, and partying in between flights: How Pan Am stewardesses became the 'Playgirls of the Air' during the Golden Age of Travel [written] by Caroline Howe for Daily Mail dot com.

The article is making the rounds on the Internet and it was forwarded to me. It is a review of a newly published book, *Come Fly the World*, by Julia Cooke, daughter of a Pan Am employee. I was offered a free copy of the book by her publisher if I would review it in this newsletter. I responded that I don't do book reviews and I only comment on books written by members of our Aloha Chapter—Pan Am Association.

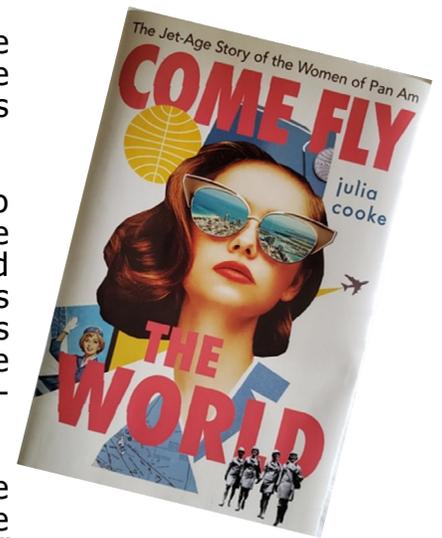
However, after reading the lengthy *Daily Mail* review, I ordered the book on Amazon Smile.com. (See article on Amazon Smile on p. 3.) After reading it, I am also breaking my own rule to comment on books by non-members.

For our readers information, the UK Daily Mail is a tabloid, similar to the National Enquirer and the Globe found on the news rack in the checkout line in your neighborhood grocery store. The tabloids have huge sensational headlines and lurid stories, many of which are not entirely accurate and written in a way to make them sound worse than they are. Though the review begins with a report of stewardesses trying to entice male passengers to get off the plane with them instead of continuing on to their final destination (really??), it continues with descriptions of how hard stewardesses worked and the many difficult situations they handled well—as did the book. (In checking with a half dozen of my friends, I found none of them had ever heard of such a "game" as enticing male passengers to join them on layovers, including a close friend whose career the book follows.)

Overall, *Come Fly the World* is well written. Cooke accurately describes the wonder and excitement most of us experienced when we received word that, pending results of a required medical exam, we would be assigned a training date to start a career with Pan American World Airways. She describes us as women who were well-educated and looking for travel and adventure. Many of us were college graduates and had worked in our chosen field for a year or more before fate intervened and encouraged us to apply for a stewardess po-

sition. The lure of travel and adventure was the biggest draw but we did work hard. We discovered that within a relatively short time, the salary also contributed to our ability to *discover* the world as well as *fly* the world.

One aspect of the book I liked was that Cooke not only talked to many stewardesses of the 60s, she researched world events of the era that affected airline crews and their companies. It is clear she did her research. The book is more than just about stewardesses. It is also about the 60s era. She writes of the various attitudes among us as to what it meant to "spread our wings" with the independence the job offered. Some readers may choose to focus on those with unusual attitudes.



As any stewardess can tell you, there were some among the large number of Pan Am stewardesses who were less interested in the world around them, than they were in exploring the "opportunities" for being far from home and family. There is a tendency for writers, who were never stewardesses, to portray us from a viewpoint the general public probably held. Cooke views us as individuals rather than as if we were all like Hollywood stars with an attitude of anything goes. Though there were women with amazing professional careers well before the 60s, we stood out because we were offered a career that included foreign travel, the ability to stay in first class hotels and to spend our free time getting to know foreign countries and their people and absorbing their culture. It was an envious position to be in. Pan Am was not only looking for young women who could converse intelligently with people from all walks of life, but also for women they could rely on to do the job. If there is one common trait we had, it is that we were independent; unafraid to go anywhere and to work with all types of people. We worked hard and enjoyed our free time. Cooke brings this out well.

While being far from home and the communities in which we grew up did add to the many freedoms we had, the avenues we chose varied as much as they would in any large group of women. Cooke used a format that keeps the reader's interest. She follows the lives of five stewardesses, beginning with their interviews, through their flight experiences, special assignments and promotions. All five are different people with different experiences. It is a good technique and works well as their stories show our diversity.

PORTRAYAL OF STEWARDESSES BY A STEWARDESS

When I ordered Julia Cooke's book, another book popped up on the website with Amazon's selling technique: "You may also be interested in. . ." There was a picture of a large sized paperback with the title of "Up in the Air" and it was written by a stewardess, Betty Riegel. She grew up in a London suburb, just north of Stanstead Airport. (It wasn't until I received the book and began reading it that I realized I knew her under her maiden name of Eden.)



Riegel writes of her own 9 years with Pan Am and it is also a story of the 60s. She was hired in the spring of 1961 and concluded her career in 1969. She writes as one would expect of a well-educated, well-trained stewardess. She does not hesitate to include both the good and the bad in the world of her Pan Am experiences but always with grace and even sympathy. She described how two of her classmates fell in love with pilots, establishing long-time relationships. They would bid the same flights as their pilot did, really believing he was soon going to divorce his wife and marry her. Most such relationships were hopeless and ended unhappily, although some such couples did eventually marry. Riegel saw her friends as "wasting their best years" on these faithless men.

Riegel eventually fell in love with a Marine, Kent Riegel, who was based on Treasure Island in San Francisco. They married in March of 1968. In her acknowledgements at the end of the book, she writes: *This whole book process started after my dear husband Kent watched the Pan Am TV series and contacted our local paper, The Wilmington News Journal, to ask if they would like to do a story about a real Pan Am stewardess from the 1960s.* She said that kick-started a chain of events leading to the book.

Note: I have become aware that not all Pan Amers know that the real “fake pilot”, Frank Abagnale, who is the subject of his own book “Catch Me If You Can”, never actually flew on Pan Am. Riegel writes: *It was 1966 and everyone at Pan Am was gossiping about the counterfeit pilot who had been traveling around the world for free **on our planes** by deadheading on flights [emphasis mine].* Many Pan Am stewardesses, as well as other employees, have since met Mr. Abagnale. He first spoke at our World Wings Convention in Las Vegas and later at other Pan Am events. Abagnale told us that he never flew Pan Am because he feared they would recognize he was “counterfeit” as Riegel described him. Instead he used his cleverly obtained PA pilot uniform to fly on other carriers who wouldn’t ask him questions he couldn’t answer or suspect his ruse if he used the wrong word. He knew airline terminology differed from airline to airline.

In a word, I would recommend both books to our readers. Though Cooke’s book did speak of practices I had never heard of, it is well done. Riegel’s is a quick read and her experiences would be similar to that of many of us. Before she gave up her career, she had special assignments as a trainer and later entered management. Her positions included interviewing and hiring new stewardesses. One of the ladies that Cooke follows in her account was always interested in furthering her career, eventually becoming a manager. Her story also explains the opportunities that were available to us to advance our careers.

Both books are available on Amazon if not in your local bookstore.

SPEAKING OF AMAZON . . .

George Rickabaugh thought I should remind our members that if you order anything on Amazon, be sure and click on “AmazonSmile.com” rather than on Amazon.com. If you have already signed up for their offer of giving a small percentage to your favorite charity, you must use that website. If you have not already signed up, it is easy to do. Just register on AmazonSmile. You can fill in your favorite charity, such as Pan Am Historical Foundation. You will pay the same price for your order but they will donate a small percentage of your order to PAHF. It is not a large amount but it does add up.



TAKE A PICTURE OF THAT VACCINATION CARD

Some of us who have received our Covid vaccinations have been told, or heard from others, that we should not only keep our vaccination card in a safe place but that we should photograph it. With smartphones it is easy to do but be sure that the information is clear and easy to read. The cards are likely to be needed in the future to show what type of vaccination each of us received. As more and more people receive their vaccinations, more and more information is being gathered. At some point, studies may indicate that some type of follow up is necessary, e.g. one brand or another may not last as long, thus requiring a booster shot.



Proof of vaccination may also be required for boarding planes or ships, or other activities. If you do not use a smartphone, you may want to make a couple of copies of your card. We all need to be aware when the original card is required rather than just a photo or copy.

A LOOK BACK AT THE BEGINNING OF TOURISM IN WAIKIKI

When ground broke for what would then be Hawaii's only luxury resort in 1899, Kalakaua Avenue was still named Waikiki Road. An electric trolley ran parallel along the street, transporting people into town. Built for \$150,000, the Moana Hotel was designed with Hawaiian plantation influences according to the hotel's website. "Moana" means ocean or open sea. Its crowning achievement was a rooftop observatory 120 feet off the ground, lit by more than 300 lamps. It accommodated 360-degree views of Diamond Head and the Pacific Ocean. Standing four stories high, the Moana was Waikiki's tallest building at the time. (In 1918 two more stories were added and wings were added on both sides.) The Moana started the tourism business in Waikiki. The hotel's first guests in 1901 were a group of 114 Shriners who paid a lofty \$1.50 per night.



Early photo of the Moana Hotel

On the right is the hotel as she looks from Kalakaua Avenue today. The Moana's ownership changed over the years. Renovations and additions were made over time. A low rise Surf Rider Hotel was built on the SE side in 1952 and a new high rise hotel was built on the NW side in 1969. At that time the Surf Rider was remodeled and became part of the original hotel. The new high rise was then named the Surf Rider Hotel.



On the left is a view from the ocean that shows the original hotel and its two additions. In the center is the huge banyan tree that has its own history. The oldest section of the hotel is now the "Banyan Wing".

The wings of the hotel stretched outward toward the ocean, leaving a courtyard between them. In 1904 a 7-foot high banyan tree was planted. It was 7 years old. It is now 75-feet tall and has a span of 150 feet. The "first lady of Waikiki" who hosted the first tourists created an industry. Some might say, one that has gotten too big.

OLD HAWAII, CIRCA 1890

On the right is a photo of what Waikiki looked like just a few years before the Moana Hotel was built in Waikiki. Kawaiahao Church is in the foreground. The photo was taken from the top of Ali'iolani Hale (the Judiciary Building). Diamond Head could be seen from all over Honolulu before high rises obscured it. Today, one must be in the right place to see it clearly.

The church had been built a half century earlier. It was begun in 1836 and finished in 1842.



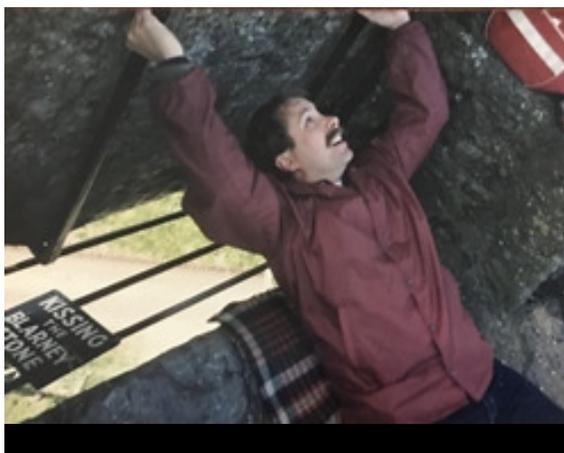
KAWAIAHAO CHURCH AND DIAMOND HEAD, 1890

MEMORIES FROM JUST A HALF CENTURY AGO.

Mae Takahashi contributed some photos she found when she was organizing her closet. They are photos she took of Jackie Kennedy and her children when they were leaving Hawaii after a 7-week vacation. It was during the 707 days when we walked on the tarmac to board our aircraft. She writes: *When Jackie was in Hawaii, she wasn't surrounded by paparazzi and most local people left her alone. I don't think there was any news about her leaving so it wasn't really crowded at the airport except for the hula dancers, secret service and Pan Am employees. From the photos you can tell I was pretty close with my little camera. I was not working her flight but probably starting an RTW on another aircraft.*



Ed. note: Jackie Kennedy was often pictured in a "pillbox" hat and suit with a short jacket. Don Loper and hat designer Mae Hanauer used the style in creating the 1965-69 female uniforms.



Blessed With Blarney

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, Dave McCarthy of Burnsville, Minnesota, sent the photo on the left taken at Blarney Castle in Ireland. He is about to lean further back so he can kiss the Blarney Stone which is out of sight under the rock wall to which the bars are attached. The stone is higher above the ground than it appears in this photo and many people decline to do it after they climb the castle tower. By the act of kissing it, one is supposed to be blessed with Eloquence. More likely it's blarney.

Dave says Blarney Castle is the family castle of the McCarthy Clan. Clearly, March 17th is his favorite day of the year!

PAA Hawaii Aloha Chapter Officers

Darlene Carver Laster	President & Chapter Chair	Darleelas@aol.com	394-8981
Ed Gencarelli	Vice President	edgen76@gmail.com	254-4576
John Medlock	Treasurer/Membership	johnmiii@earthlink.net	347-7404
Marie Jahnsen	Secretary	marie.jahnsen@gmail.com	832-752-4982
Al Chun	Annual Gala Coordinator	alhwchun@gmail.com	395-0525
Mae Takahashi	Director	takten@hawaii.rr.com	218-7773
Carol Weiss-Suyderhoud	Meetings Coordinator/Speaker Chair	carolws@hawaii.rr.com	396-5225
Diane VanderZanden	Editor, <i>Aloha Clipper</i>	alohadvz@gmail.com	200-4322
Ellen Shikuma	Director		734-5725
Clare Takayama	Director	TakaHale@aol.com	247-2004
Harold Chow	Director	hkychow@juno.com	988-7817

(Note: area code for all phone numbers is 808 unless otherwise specified.)

Newsletter Items:

If you have any news item that would be of interest, please call Diane VanderZanden at 200-4322 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: _____ **Cell phone:** _____ **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): _____

- 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