



NEWSLETTER FOR THE TALOA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

FEB 2019

Send photos & letters to: Jeane Kennedy Toynbee, Editor PO Box 243, Copperopolis CA 95228
Or email to: jeanenbob@caltel.com To have items returned, include a note along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope

Reader Response

Published February 2018...

While researching my dad's life, I found that he was possibly employed by Transocean in Guam in the mid to late fifties as a aircraft mechanic. I haven't been able to find any documentation about this and was hoping your site might help. His and his wife, Ethel, apparently lived in Agana from approx 1950 to approx 1960. Any help will be sincerely appreciated. Chuck Bolton

And we received an answer...

I was on Guam from 1956 to 1958, then moved to Okinawa. One of my memories from the move was a big black case (12" inches wide, 36" long and 60" tall) Very odd shape for luggage! On the outside and top of the case was PROPERTY OF BOLTON stenciled on with white paint. We used it for the move to Okinawa, Japan, Philippines and final move to Oakland. I was 8 years old and remember playing at the Transocean terminal and playing on the DC4's and Seaplanes. I knew who mister Bolton was as he and my dad were both mechanics for Transocean. I remember there was a few other kids brought to the terminal to play, but do not remember names We got rid of the case in 1966. We lived at the BPM Camp on Guam. This was my only knowledge of the Bolton's.

I lived on Guam from 1956 to 1959. I was 8 years old. My dad, George P. Gracy was a mechanic for Transocean Air Lines. I am looking for any information about the BPM camp we lived at and commuted to Mong Mong Elementary School from. George Edward Gracy

And a thank you from Chuck Bolton...

Thank you so much Jeane. That confirms what I was looking for, proof my dad was, in fact, in Guam during that time frame. Sincerely appreciate your help as well as Mr. Gracy for his response. Chuck Bolton

Always look forward to your TALOA Alumni Newsletter. It's devoured within minutes....Like



'OLIVER', I'm hungry for more! Discovered GenDisasters.com, thanks to one of your pieces. Have been reading their accounts/stories every night until the wee hours. Takes me back to the hours-upon-hours it took us in 1954 to grind LAX/SFO - Honolulu - Wake - Guam - to Manila, and beyond. Cheers, Dr Norman L Wherrett Jr, Neuroproctologist - Retired

My father, Mr. Herminigildo O. Zabala, has given me a buckle with Transocean Airlines logo and his name on it. When he gave it to me, he said he is so proud to be a part of this company. He is now 85. I am wondering if you have a certificate or something stating that he was once a part of this great company that I could request so I can give it to him. This would really make him happy. Thank you very much. Sincerely, Mrs. Kathryn Xina Zabala-Herrera

Hello Kathryn, I don't recall ever seeing a buckle with Transocean's logo on it. Can you please send me an image? Thank you, Jeane Kennedy (Capt. Frank Kennedy's daughter)

Hello Ms Jeane. This is my dad's buckle. Thank you for replying. And I hope this picture would help in finding my father's employment record with Taloa. Mrs. Kathryn



Wow...that's pretty neat. I've never seen a Transocean buckle before. I will publish your note with the image and we'll see if any of our readers has information about your father.

Hi my father was one of your employees. He is a filipino named Jose U. Madrio. He passed a few years ago and his death anniversary is this June and I remembered him giving me his uniform and belt buckle way back when I was in high school. I still have the buckle with me. That was what drove me to search google about Transocean and found this association. If I could send a picture of the belt buckle I would. I also posted it on facebook but no one knows about the airline here in the Philippines. Anyways god bless you all. Michael Madrio

Hello Michael, I would be pleased to publish your note with a picture of the buckle in the next edition of the TALOA Alumni Newsletter.

Thanks for the quick response to my mail, sending you the picture of the buckle. Will take a better picture and send it again. My dad had so many stories about Transocean. I really don't know when he started with Transocean all I know is that after the war he was sent to Wake Island and he went back to the Philippines around 1959 I think. When he came back here he met my mother and started a family. I was born in 1968. I'm the 3rd child of 5.

One of the stories which really stuck to me was that he and a group of his friends were one of the first filipino bikers in the states. He has pictures of his motorcycles. He even brought home 2 of them which I had the chance to ride when I was a kid.

Thank you very much.



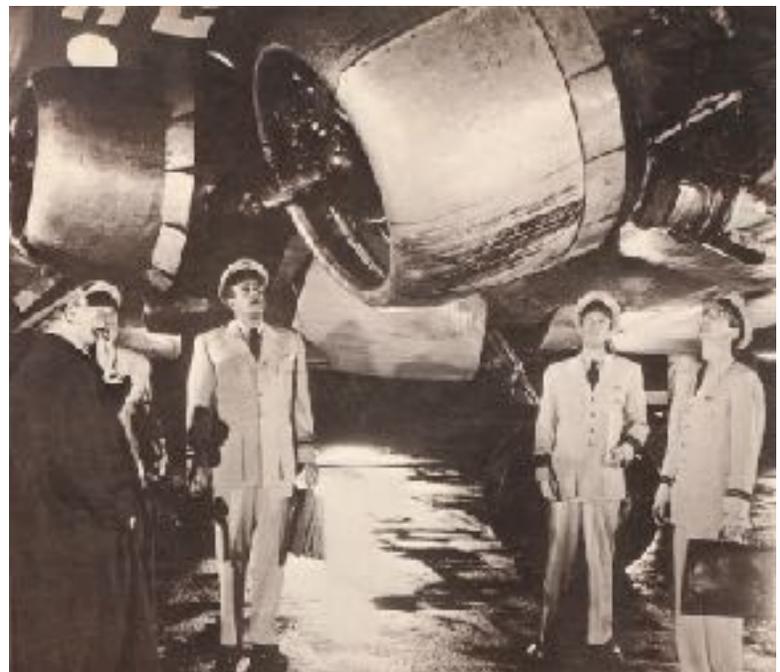
Flight from France to Israel 1948

In November 1948, three of my aunts, two of them survivors of the Budapest ghetto and a labour camp and the other a survivor of Auschwitz, were transported to Israel by air from an airfield near Marseilles. It was a non-stop night flight in a transport aircraft, where up to fifty refugees sat on the floor, possibly a C-54. It has been suggested to me that this may have been a Transocean flight and I should be extremely grateful for any information you might have regarding this possibility. I

have almost completed a 100,000 word family history and would like to include this important detail. As an aside, being a lifelong aircraft enthusiast, I remember Transocean Stratocruiser night flights into Gatwick and, aged 13, being detained by the police one night as I rode my bike to the airport...without lights...to spot the only one whose tail numbers I had not already seen!

John Berkeley, Warwick, UK

Hi Jeane- have pretty much wrapped up work on my write up for *The High and the Mighty*. In a nutshell Transocean provided a total of three C-54's for the film. The hero airplane in all the major scenes was N4665V that [Bill Keating](#) and [William Benge](#) flew. The second was N4726V, the aircraft you mentioned was built up from parts in record time. The third C-54 with cargo



John Wayne looks up at the damaged engine on the C-54

doors was used in the final scenes with the engine hanging off its mount. I still have not determined who flew the second and third airplanes and the identity of the third airplane. Also William Benge (after all the flying scenes) acted as the tech advisor on the film. He also oversaw the building of the DC-4 fuselage mock-up they used showing the pilots in the cockpit and passengers in the cabin. I can tell from the photos it was a real fuselage and wing they used. Not sure where it came from... possibly the Lee Mansdorf Company you mentioned.

I was wondering if you could put a notice in the newsletter about this and that I am trying to locate the William Benge family. Also I did find one other Transcean employee who worked on the film. Her name



Bill Keating's airplane while on location at Burbank Airport.

was [Dianne Wheeler](#) and she worked with the actress playing the stewardess. I think Dianne was a stew with Transocean,. Any help in tracking her or her family down would be great also.

Thanks much, Bruce Orriss,310-332-4383

Contributions to the TALOA Newsletter can be sent to:

**TALOA Treasurer Pat Kearns
15592 Maplewood Dr.
Sonoma CA 95476**

Thank you...that's how we continue to soar!



In a note to TALOA Treasurer Pat Stachon Kearns...

Dear Mrs. Kearns,

I hope this finds you well, and that I have the correct e-mail address. I am writing because I read a tribute to my late cousin, [Roland Halper](#) (1916-1995), written by your late father, [Capt. Joe Stachon](#).

Roland and my mother were first cousins. Their family was a large one, and they did not know each other well as they were growing up, but years later, when my

father & mother and Roland & Tami were all living in southern California, the family connection was renewed.

I am now 73, and I recently became a widower myself, which of of course generates lots of memories. My mother, meanwhile, is doing well at the age of 100+, knock on wood! I spoke to her on the phone earlier today and we got to talking about Roland. (We each have a painting done by Roland's wife Tami and we remember her as a very talented artist.)

I only met Roland once or twice, but I "recognized" him in your father's description. I know Tami is gone too, but I am grateful to you and your father for keeping Roland's memory alive, and I simply wanted to thank you.

With best wishes, David Schiller, Associate Professor of Musicology (retired), UGA Hugh Hodgson School of Music

Hello David - Thank you for your email! Yes, my dad was very fond of Roland, and I remember his visits to us in Napa. He was also very kind to my mother..she had rheumatoid arthritis, and he would always call her when he heard of new drugs and treatments...his pharmacology background was very helpful! I also remember Roland's wife...I thought her name was Tomi, but guess I didn't remember that detail correctly. I knew she was a designer, but I never saw her artwork. What kind of paintings did she do? I'm wondering if you would let me send your email to Jeane Kennedy to be included in a future TALOA newsletter? It's pretty remarkable that a company from so many years ago still has a following online. Jeane gets emails from all over the world. Most of

Japan, Western artists exhibit

By FARRLY EGAN

"I never think 'I am female' as an artist," said Tami Tozawa Halper of Laguna Beach, a Japanese-born member of Women Painters of the West. "In Japan you don't need to think about it," agreed Miyoko Yanagita, visiting Pasadena from Tokyo.

Both women are exhibiting paintings at the Pacificulture-Asia Museum, where the impressive show, "Women Painters East-West," has opened. Four hundred and fifty artists and guests gathered there Monday evening to celebrate the opening.

The joint exhibition was the brainchild of Dr. Elizabeth Hutchison of Sun City, president of Women Painters of the West, who has been helping with preparations for over a year.

With an Asian-Occidental theme in mind, Women Painters of the West sought out its counterpart in Tokyo, Joryu Gaka Kyokai, or Women Painters of Japan, and as a happy result 75 paintings by members of the two groups are on view.

American women artists often complain that they are at a professional disadvantage. They say it's difficult to show

their work, sell it, and to prove to critics that they are serious artists and workers. But the situation seems to be different in Japan, the visitors explained.

"The average Japanese person loves art, and respects the artist," continued Mrs. Halper. "It's hard for female artists to get recognition here. In Japan it is different. Males and females are equal if they are good artists. Of course, all artists find it difficult to make a living."

Mrs. Halper acted as a liaison between the Japanese and American groups, travelling to Japan to negotiate. On Monday evening she turned her talents to translating when Mrs. Yanagita and Mrs. Mitau Takao, also a member of Women Painters of Japan, discussed women artists in their country.

The two painters agreed that Japanese men may find it less difficult to sell their work, but added that the major Japanese museum accepts women into its collection.

Mrs. Yanagita, dressed in a traditional Japanese kimono of black and white with a pale green obi sash, said she thinks women are more sensitive than men, and have more "good



DISTINGUISHED VISITORS — At invitational reception in Pacificulture-Asia Museum, Mrs. George A. Adamson, new president museum board of trustees, viewed Japanese American women's paintings with Consul General of Japan Keiichi Tachibana and Mrs. Tachibana. Over 75 paintings in exhibit will be on view at museum until Sept. 30.

sense." But she said Japanese women are sometimes second in men's minds.

Mrs. Halper took issue. She said that Americans have incorrect view of the position of Japanese women. In her opinion they are not subservient to men, but are highly respected. And she said that a Japanese

woman has no difficulty in finding professional acceptance.

Mrs. Takao agreed. Smiling softly she said "It's fifty-fifty."

Both Mrs. Takao and Mrs. Yanagita are officials of Women Painters of Japan. They were honored guests at Monday evening's reception.

An added attraction of the night was the multi-media room of the museum, where visitors could enmesh themselves in the sights and sounds of Japan. Guests sat on tatami mats and watched a slide presentation that featured nine projections of Japanese scenes, while koto music waivered through the air.

Leslie Hoover bride

from their children, grandchildren, even great grandchildren wanting to hear more about those early days of commercial aviation. Again, thanks for your kind email. With regards, Pat Stachon Kearns

Dear Pat, thank you for this response. Yes, you are welcome to share our correspondence with Jeane, but I wonder if there might be more to the story than just my email. It was my mother, still sharp, who told me she thought Tami spelled her name with an "a." It was pronounced like the man's name, "Tommy," I believe.

By putting "Tami" and "Halper" together, I found this old article in the Pasadena Star-News back in 1974 (attached). And it adds a bit more to the story. I even contacted the registrar of the USC Pacific Asia Museum in Pasadena to see if they had more about Tami in their archives. They have not located anything yet, but perhaps something will turn up. It's interesting to be reminded

the time, and of the growing examination and awareness about gender roles. I guess the TALOANs were ahead of their time.

And since we have gotten this far, I will also forward our correspondence to my mother, Vera Halper Schiller. I think she can clarify the family relationship, and perhaps share some info about Roland's childhood.

I will look forward to keeping in touch.

Best, David

Frances Arue Beaulieu Szura

January 12, 1930 ~ October 1, 2018

Arue, as she was known to TALOANS, was born in Ruffin, South Carolina, moved to California in 1937 and lived in Oakland, then Castro Valley for 40 years, Los Gatos (Santa Cruz Mts.) and then San Leandro. She was preceded in death by her parents Doris Virginal

Fender Beaulieu and Clifford Hill Beaulieu and her dear husband Michael Szura, Jr.

Arue was a former Executive Secretary for Transocean Air Lines and author of "Folded Wings--A History of Transocean Air Lines," "Rabbit Crossroads" -a Memoir. and many newspaper and magazine articles plus six self-published cookbooks and 3 years as a freelance staff member at "Brightside" of the Hayward Daily Review newspaper. Frances was a member and curator of the Transocean Air Lines exhibit at the Oakland Aviation Museum and trustee emeritus of the museum, member of the TALOA Alumni Association, California Writers Club, Berkeley Branch, Castlemont High School Girls' Block "C" Society, Castlemont High School Alumni Association, Hayward Area Historical Society and the Alameda County Historical Society.

Hi Jeane, I hope all is well. I recently received a beautiful Transocean hat from the daughter of [Theresa Zennette Mantz](#) who recently passed away. Terry had requested her daughter to send the hat to me for preservation. However, her daughter does not know anything of her career with Transocean - did you know Terry? I would like to put information with her hat - dates of TALOA service, etc.

If you have any information, I would be most appreciative.

Thank you. Best regards, Charles

Dr. Charles C. Quarles

The Airline Archives

136 Reservation Drive

Spindale, NC 28160

828 286-2962

Hi there, I've recently stumbled across your newsletter whilst researching some family history. I was looking for information on Laurence Snow, who was a flight engineer for Matson, I also know he worked for Pacific Airmotive Corporation, and I wouldn't be surprised if he worked for Transocean Airlines as he was born and bred in California. I don't know much about him so am trying to piece things together.

There is a piece within the April 2010 newsletter (yes, I'm 9 years late!) that grabbed by attention by Captain Joe Henderson who was inquiring about Capt 'Dudley' Ferris who flew with Captain Gann. Snow was the engineer referred to in this and the subsequent chapter of the book.

I have a few questions that I'm wondering if you could help me with.

1. Are you able to suggest any archives where I may be able to find information about Laurence Snow / Matson airlines?

2. Are you able to provide Captain Joe Henderson's email so I could perhaps ask him some questions?

I really appreciate your help with this.

Samantha Wellham

Hi Sam, Unfortunately I'm not able to be helpful with either of your questions. I checked the Taloa roster and the Hendersons are not listed. And other than checking with Matson I couldn't think of another avenue to pursue.

I can offer a glimmer of hope though, I will publish your note in our next newsletter and we'll see if you get a response. I'll then be happy to pass that along to you. And, I can also include your contact information in our newsletter if you'd like to give your permission for me to do so.

Best regards, Jeane

Readers: Samantha's has provided her email address:

sam_wello@hotmail.com

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Jeane Kennedy Toynbee, Editor
PO Box 243, Copperopolis CA



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