Taloa Newsletter



September 2009

Newsletter for the TALOA Alumni Association

Send photos & letters to: Jeane Kennedy Toynbee, Editor PO Box 243

Copperopolis, CA 95228

Or email to: jeanenbob@caltel.com If you'd like items returned, please include with your note a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Email from www.taloa.org...

My father, Frank "Ski" Lewandowski worked for Transocean about 1958-1960. He stayed at OAK following the demise at TAL. He later worked for Pacific Airmotive Corp., Unversal Airlines

Subject: RFQ P/N 2055155-5B - Morning, I work for General Plastics Mfr. Co. which mainly serves the

aerospace industry. Currently I am working on a blue print which calls out for a part to be purchased from **Western Sky Industries**. The part I am looking for is P/N 2055155-5B. Do you make this part? If so, I am looking for pricing and lead time for #'s 3 and 5 each. Thanks and best regards, Donna Boyd. Editor's note: Our TALOA Treasurer, Pat Kearns, advises me to get busy and start making & sending out these plastic parts! ********

My Dad, Jesse Morrison was always happy about his association with Transocean and the people he met while working at same. Dad died on June 9th 1989. I just wondered if anyone had any happy or interesting stories about my Dad and his stay on Guam? (I was born many years after he left Guam) Thank you. Dina Morrison

Editor's note...This from Joe Stachon, "I knew Jesse Morrison very well......he flew PBY"s out of Guam to the Trust Territories - he was one of my favorite people....

Www.taloa.org
TALOA Alumni Association Board Members

Jeane Kennedy Toynbee, Chairman;
Pat Stachon Kearns, Treasurer;

Kathy Kennedy, Secretary; Janet Stachon Farmer, Reunion Coordinator; Mona Finlason, Membership Coordinator; Bill Keating, Technical Advisor

Just enjoyed reading the latest TALOA Newsletter. I have just finished writing my *Memoir for Family Members* on the East Coast and elsewhere and did much reflecting on my time with TAL. The information requested by a family of Mathew L. Ward...I will search my logs and other information as the time frame of his possible flights with TAL fits well into my most extensive flight with TAL OF 10/13/49 until 11/28/49 flights in the Middle East. I will advise if I may locate any information. Still a few of us kicking around to reminisce. Ha! Great memories of TAL...I am enjoying. My best to everyone.

Sincerely, Mac (Charles Mac Quarrie) ***********

I have been researching, writing and publishing essays relating to commercial aviation as well as Army Air Service and Air Corps pilots and was interested in knowing about the files relating to TAL - if they are available to the public. Any information would be

appreciated. I did have an inquiry relating to TAL; interesting the editor at the American Aviation Historical Society Journal, Hayden Hamilton, sent me an e-mail essay by Joe Weber, "Sky Gypsies" regarding the carrier and referred to it as TOA. So, which one – TOA or TAL – should be used when shortening the official title of the airline? Second question: Is there a library or manuscript holdings regarding the airline as Hayden is interested in my doing a study. I have been publishing essays with the American Aviation Historical Society Journal for some time now focusing on both commercial aviation and Army pilots between the major wars of the 20th Century. I would be glad to e-mail the essays but surely would not wish to burden you unless you are suffering from sleep deprivation. Perhaps a good cure. Thank you. Justin H. Libby, Professor Emeritus, Indiana University *******

I stumbled across this entry on your website with the Taloa newsletter Feb 2008...

Little Kids, Big Memories

My dad, George P Gracy was in Maintenance in Oakland, Guam and Okinawa.....I have old movies of Guam and Yap, including ceremonial dances held on Yap when the new governor took over...

I am an historian and resident of Guam. I've done a number of documentaries on the local culture and we have found few pre-war films. So this excites me! Do you still have these films? From what year are they? The University of Guam Micronesia Area Research Center would love to have it for their collection or at least get permission to view it and make a copy if it indeed has pre-war Guam footage. Thanks so much, Annette Donnor PO Box 2381, Agana GU 96932......(671) 777-7288 www.guamsliberation.com (Guam documentary)

Hello. I wonder if you have any pictures of or information on my friend Mort Larsen. Mort flew for Transocean about when Ernie Gann wrote *Island in the Sky* and later went on to fly for Flying Tigers. Mort retired from Tigers in 1972. Any reply would be appreciated. No hurry to chase this down. I was just curious since Mort talked about flying at Transocean and knowing Gann when he worked there. Mort passed away about five years ago in San Diego where he grew up and

What a beautiful website. I looked at everything and I am quite impressed! Does anyone remember Joe Goeller? He was a pilot for my parent's Airline "Admiral Air" back in the late 50's early 60's, (I think I remember they had Hanger 8 in Oakland). Or, does anyone recognize Admiral Air, Jim & Margaret Sorthun? Both my parents are gone now and I would like to find out more about the airline from other people that may have known them. I have the book "Folded Wings" and one of their DC-3's is in that book. Attached is a picture of Joe along with the article that he spoke of my dad and the http// link. That is how I found out about Joe and I told my mom about when she was still alive (I found it 2 yrs after my dad had passed), she remembered Joe and told me about him. But now that she is gone there is still so much I want to know as I was very young when they had Admiral Air. Thanks, Linda

"LEST WE FOGET" by Captain Joe Goeller

http://www.cyberkal.com/myworld1.htm

With your very kind indulgence, I'd like to take you back a few years to a Sunday, June 19, 1960 in Danville, California. I had just arrived home in the late afternoon after flying a DC-3 to Borrego Springs from Oakland with a group of prospective real estate buyers. On my pillow was a note from Billie Joiner, wife of Japan Air Lines chief pilot, asking me to contact George Merrill at *WORLD*



AIRWAYS. I remembered meeting George at a gathering at Bill Benge's home, but had no knowledge of WORLD other than having heard the name somewhere. I proceeded to the Oakland airport the next morning and met with George. He wanted to hire me as the chief pilot for WORLD who had just been awarded the Logair contract to begin operation some 10 days later with a fleet of DC-4's flown by crews, neither of which WORLD had at the time. I recall the long line of applicants for the 24 flying jobs which were created by the contract award. George asked me if I was interested in the chief pilot's position and I replied that I was currently employed by Admiral Air Service as Chief. discussion, I agreed to take the job but would have to give proper notice to Admiral. He said that was impossible since, if I wanted the job, I would have to start immediately hiring pilots who were then lined up outside the old terminal at Oakland. Since I was interested in getting back into four-engined equipment, I accepted, and although it's another long story, I managed to function as chief pilot for two airlines for the next two weeks. May god bless Jim Sorthun of Admiral Air for his understanding and blessing. The next ten days were hectic, involved with the interviewing, hiring, check riding, and associated tasks with the transition of a one DC-6 operation to an airline which maintained a daily scheduled operation coast to coast, in each direction... sleeping on top of my desk in hangar 28 was a must as the drive to Danville would have

consumed too much time. Early one morning, and nearing the completion of the FAA required check rides for employment acceptance, Dick Mainentti was flying his final ILS approach when I actually fell asleep between the old Hayward fan marker and the subsequent landing. Dick awakened me just short of the inner marker at which time I advised him " to park it" I was going to go to bed. Logair got off the ground on schedule and functioned successfully for the next period of years. I went on to act as chief pilot, chief flight engineer and chief stewardess until January of 1961 when the continued wearing of three hats became an impossibility. The story would not be complete without the mention of a few dedicated people whose total dedication in 1960 resulted in WORLD being the carrier it is today, in y2k. William S. Boyd - executive vice president, Douglas P. Larsen - vice president of operations, George Merrill - vice president of flight operations, Jean Hale - secretary to all three above plus yours truely. Also captain "Chuck" Martin, the longest holder of the # 1 seniority position of any known airline and captain "Johnny" Wiseman, part of the small group we hired from Slick Airways. Each and every former resort airline pilot who brought with them all the little "shortcuts" which made the "Logair" operation a success. captain Merle Sheets -- Transocean airlines, f/o Ron Winiker --Transocean, Captain Andy Holm - Transocean, Captain Bill Benge -- Transocean , Dave Gekler -- WOA's first crew scheduler. Volumes should be dedicated to those who joined WORLD after January, 1961.. too many to mention here but nevertheless to be remembered for their contribution.. oh yes! There's one other renowned contributor who, for years to come, will be uppermost in our memory – Edward Joseph Daly, WOA PFE, Bill Reid, missing in aircraft. **********************

The history of Transocean has always intrigued me. I was in the Navy (air crewman) from 1951-1955 and went to work for Transocean in Oakland in 1957, then to Wake and after completing my contract went to Japan, worked for several aircraft companies based on Tachikawa AFB, Japan, got married to a Japanese girl with our 50'th coming up the 17th of this month. My love of aircraft started when I was 5 years old and I still love them at 77 years old. Transocean started me on a very successful career in aviation. Now, retired in San Diego and enjoying the good life. Jeane, I thank you for your interest in Transocean and your father's (Capt. Frank Kennedy) part in a very interesting part of aviation history that few know about. What stories we have. I have copied Jerry Baranow, as he and I worked together in Oakland, Wake and Japan. We both married Japanese girls and still talk on the for phone several times a month. Regards, Ken McTeer **************************

Subject = Alfred S. Mays. I recently came across a man's leather "ditty bag" stamped with the initials A.S.M. and containing a leather passport/card case with the name Alfred S. Mays stamped into the leather. There is also a leather razor strop and a box containing a brass razor and razor holder. Three business cards with that name and the

name of the airline are also included. This aroused my curiosity since I found it at a church rummage sale in Easton, Md., on the Eastern Shore. Can

ALFRED S. MAYS

TRANSDEAN AIR LINES POST OFFICE BOX 225

DAKLAND MUNICIPAL AIRPORT PALD ALTD, CALIFORNIA

DAKLAND, CALIFORNIA RES. DA 5-3131 - DA 3-7910

you shed any light on this? Natalie Caccia *********

Some Sad News...

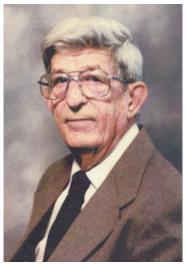
Former Transocean aircraft mechanic **Jack W. Ratliff** passed away after a short illness on May 7, 2009 at his home in Scottsdale, AZ surrounded by family. Jack was born in Shelbina, Missouri on July 28th, 1922, one of 5 children. After graduating from high school he joined the Army serving in the 94th Infantry Division and saw action in the European Theater of Operation in 4 battles including the Battle of the Bulge and the Saar/Mozelle Triangle. He was honorably discharged in 1945. Jack moved to California in 1947 and attended Aero Technical Institute at the Oakland International Airport where he became a licensed aircraft mechanic. He worked for Pacific Airmotive Corp. and Transocean Air Lines.

Jack started Astro-Aire Enterprises at the Oakland Airport in 1961 as a Federal Aviation Agency approved repair station. Jack semi-retired to a ranch in Eagle Point,

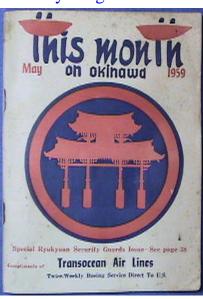
Oregon, where he raised Angus cattle and a herd of llamas, all while remaining an active owner and Chairman of the Board until his death. On August 20, 2003 he was awarded the Charles Taylor "Master Mechanic" award by the Federal Aviation Agency for his 50 years in the industry. Jack sold his ranch in 1998 and he and his wife, Gloria, moved to Scottsdale and Payson, AZ. Jack enjoyed being a gentleman rancher, an occasional golf game, searching for antiques, attending Oakland A's spring training games, traveling back to Oregon, and visiting Hawaii & Mexico. He truly enjoyed his dog YU.

Jack is survived by Gloria, his wife of 57 years, 3 children, 14 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren.

Louis Α. **Sylvia** passed away in San Ramon at the age of 89. Lou served in the Army Air Force as a flight engineer during the Second World War. After the war, he continued as a flight engineer, and was one of the original employees of Transocean. In 1950 Lou took a position at Lawrence Berkeley Lab where he was employed for 33 years until retirement in 1983. worked for many years as a



Extremely Rare 1959 Transocean Air Lines Monthly Magazine – *This Month On Okinawa* –



offered on Ebay.com In May we received an email notifying us that this rare TALmemorabilia was being put up for bid on EBay! We contacted Treasurer, Pat Kearns, who watched the bidding carefully in an attempt to obtain this edition for the Transocean Air Lines' display at the Oakland Aviation Museum. are excited to report that Pat was successful and

the edition has been added to the exhibit. Visit the Oakland Aviation Museum and take a look!



A special thanks to TALOA Alumni Association Treasurer, Pat Stachon Kearns! She's busy all year long as each of the Taloa alumni send in their dues along with their greetings. Here are some of the cards and letters she's received from all you wonderful folks this year...

Dear Pat, Thanks for all your hard work. I would love to get the newsletter online. My email address is fisherea@msn.com Sincerely, Gail Norris Fisher ******

Where do my membership dues go?

- One yearly membership (\$20) pays for about 1½ months of keeping www.taloa.org online.
- A Lifetime membership (\$100) assures viewing of www.taloa.org for 7 months.
- → One yearly membership pays for printing & sending one newsletter edition to about 27 members.
- → A Lifetime membership prints & sends out one newsletter edition to about 135 members.
- → Your dues also help subsidize our yearly reunions. This holds down luncheon costs and encourages more to attend.



What Would We Do Without Mona!

If you received the 2009 edition of the Taloa Alumni Directory, you have Mona Finlason, our Alumni Membership Chairwoman, to thank for a great deal of the entries. Tirelessly Mona worked, calling people to check on telephone numbers and addresses. The result - one the most comprehensive and

accurate directories yet! Thanks, Mona!

2009 TALOA Reunion & Luncheon

Held Saturday, September 12th at the Oakland Aviation Museum, Oakland, California.

Janet Does *It* Again! Another successful reunion under her belt once again makes Stachon Farmer Janet our September favorite. Going into action months ahead of the reunion date, Janet begins planning the menu, calling the caterers, collecting prizes, and doing all the other numerous tasks necessary to put on a



successful reunion. And successful it was! We had 58 in Rodney Stich, Glenda Guilinger, Manny attendance: Garcia, John Foster, Augie Blasquez, Rosemary Blasquez, Bill Keating, Val Barrett, Ron Winiker, Erik Moberg, George Dijeau, Harriet Dijeau, Joe Stachon, Rick Stachon, Pat Stachon Kearns, Bo Kearns, Tamsin Kearns, Janet Stachon Farmer, Dan Farmer, Austin Farmer, Derrel Gibbins, Arue Szura, Harold Green, Joyce Green, John Lannom, Kathy Stachon, Mona Finlason, Eddie Robeson, Nita Robeson, Paul Purdy, Paul Purdy Jr., Bob Purdy, Laura Purdy, Claudia Turner Cook, Cal Cook, Barbara Kilian, Bob Kilian, Edith Nelson, Jeane Kennedy Toynbee, Bob Toynbee, Holly Nelson Veale, Billie Joiner, Tanya Breinig Joiner, Mark Kolar, Linda Sorthun, Jim Kiernan, Jeff Ward, Faith Glenn, Anne Gobel, Charles Gobel, Eunice Hoenninger, Gun Landwehr, Ed Landwehr, Oscar Grohs, Ralph Grohs, Judy Grohs Cubillo, Sam Vail, and Bob Glattly & guest.

Arue Szura was presented with an addition for the Transocean display at the Oakland Museum – a very rare edition of 1959 Transocean Air Lines Monthly Magazine (see article on page 4). But in a surprise maneuver, Arue was kept on the stage long enough to present her with a plaque from the Alumni Association which read,

"IN APPRECIATION ARUE SZURA FOR KEEPING OUR WINGS FROM FOLDING TALOA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SEPTEMBER 12, 2009 "



Jeane Kennedy Toynbee looks on as Pat Stachon Kearns explains how the bidding went that allowed her to obtain the TAL memorabilia, **This Month On Okinana**. Arue stands on right ready to receive the magazine.



Arue is then presented the plaque. We think she was surprised!

Two special quests were then introduced to the Transocean family – Jeff Ward & Linda Kiernan. Both guests had

the



an extended family!

Taloans and decided to join the alumni association. We now have

searched online for information about their parents and located www.taloa.org. They spent the afternoon getting to know





Tanya Breinig Joiner & Billie Joiner enjoy visiting at one table (*above*) while Faith Glenn & Mona Finlason visit at another table (*right*).





Above & below: Taloans & guests listen to a short welcoming address and then its on to lunch!



Reflecting on the Reunion...

Dear Jeane & Pat, Just a word to say thanks for all the love and effort you two put into the TALOA association to keep it alive in the hearts of the few remaining crew members. I hadn't attended a reunion in many years, choosing to leave that memory to my brother Ray who, as you know, was very active in the group until his recent decline. While I worked for TAL for only three years, I look upon those years as some of the most action packed and memory filled years of my life. As flight crews

go, I was low man on the totem pole, but they were a great bunch of guys and always treated me as an equal. We flew together, we partied together, we suffered together, we often laughed together and we all experienced the same joy as we came in over the California coast after a long trip abroad. God bless them all! John Foster

*********** Pictured in this October 24, 1952 photo from the H.G. Emery collection are

Wilson.

Douglas

for

of

to

children

San

the

friendship book, gift of

city

MacArthur, Samuel L. Wilson and Marine Lt. Victor R. Bisceglia. TAL Captain Wilson piloted the "Light of Peace" flight to obtain General MacArthur's



TAL's Sam Wilson -

Taloans & their guests would like to thank Joe Stachon for his generous sponsorship of the 63rd TALOA Reunion. Thanks, Joe...we all had a great time!



Noreen

General

signature

Francisco

school

Japan.

the

Lifetime Members: Robert & Barbara Allardyce, Trenton W. Barber, Val G. Barrett, Clifford G. Berg, Augie Blasquez, Lillian A. Bunbury, Chiseko Chapin, Scotty Charnley, Richard "Chic" Collins, Sarah Collins, Jennie Cook, Claudia Turner Cook, Verna Cravens, Don & Alice Crooke, Joseph & Susan Delazerda, George E. Dijeau, Helen Dillard, Stuart Downing, Martha-Jane Ekstrand, Janet T. Farmer, Raymond Foster, Mike A. Gambino, M. C. "Manny" Garcia, Derrel T. Gibbins, Bob Glattly, Francis R. Grinnon, Dorothy Guinther, Earl S. Holmquist, Lee & Marion Jenkins, Carol Johnson, Marion Johnson, Billie Joiner, Stu & Elva Jones, Pat Stachon Kearns, William & Billie Keating, Nadine Kendall, Kathy Kennedy, Colm J. Kennedy, Barbara & Robert Kilian, Mildred Kosteff, Ed & Gun Landwehr, Lorraine Landwehr, Rita Lang, Gene Longo, David McQueen, Florence Morjig, Mrs. Orvis Nelson, Ralph & Eileen Padilla, Gordon & Marty Palmquist, Sheldon Paul Purdy, Mary Richter, Jose & Maria Rimorin, Janis Roach, Eddie Robeson, Douglas & Pamela Rogers, Shirley & Daniel Seid, Charles W. & Tokuko Smith, Margaret Soares, Joseph Stachon, Robert & Inger Stearns, Richard & Jean Stuber, Arue Szura, Elaine Yuen & Carl Timm, Jeane Kennedy & Bob Toynbee, Holly Nelson & Dick Veale, Tom Von Eckardt, Jeff Ward, Richard & Margaret Werling, Laverne Witteveen.

2009 Members: Val Bednekoff, John J. & Jane Benterou, Walter & Mary Blessing, Arthur & Joanne Buckelew, William F Dell, Veronica Dixon, Donna Ferrell, Ramona Finlason, Gail & Edward Fisher, John Foster, Derrel T. Gibbins, Faith Glenn, Anne & Charles Gobel, Bill Gower, Harold Green, Oscar Grohs, Delores Hamm, Robert & Doris Ann Harder, Joe Hennessy, James Herlihy, Eunice Hoenninger, Henry & Dang Thai Holt, Clifford Howell, Rosemary Baumgartner Jones, Elizabeth Ann Kearins, Katharine Graham Kohler, John & Gloria Lannom, Penny Loerke, Charles Mac Quarrie, Mckee Mhoon, Erik Moberg, Sue Nelson, Sherry Waterman Parker, Floyd & Georgene Pileggi, Richard & Ruth Price, Dr. Charles Quarles, Sigvard N. Sivertsen, Bernald & Marilyn Smith, Rick Stachon, Rodney Stich, Erma Sylvia, Warren & Ingrid Vest, Janet Whitaker, John Willhalm, Ron Winiker, Robert V. Withrow, Paul & Yasuko Zimmermann,

TALOA KIDS: Claudia Turner Cook, Jeane Kennedy Toynbee, Pat Stachon Kearns, Holly Nelson Veale, Kathy Kennedy, Janet Stachon Farmer, Jeff Ward, Doug Rogers.



