FASHION ON THE GROUND

AIR-INDIA GROUND RECEPTIONISTS WILL WEAR THE NEW SARI UNIFORM, ILLUSTRATED BELOW, WITH A MOSAIC PATTERN DESIGNED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN INDIA
TENNIS CLINIC

AIR INDIA'S Commercial Director, Mr. Indra Sethi and his wife, Manjula presided over a Tennis Clinic which Air-India sponsored in Bombay recently. Over 50 boys and girls participated in the Clinic, while tennis maestros Shashi Menon, Anand Amritraj, Ashok Amritraj and Jagjit Singh instructed the youngsters on the nuances of the game. At the end of play, Mr. Sethi gave away Air-India bags and miniature Maharajas to the participants of the Clinic. Next day Vijay Amritraj called on Mr. Sethi and later met the MD, Mr. K.G. Appusamy (below) who presented him with a silver bowl. Another Clinic for youngsters was organised in Coimbatore, which again was a success.

MIND OVER MATTER

SUGGESTION AWARDS

Mr. J.K. Balagopalan of the Accessories Overhaul Division and Mr. T.S. Rangaswamy of the Engineering Training Division were presented awards of Rs. 100/- each for making significant suggestions. Mr. Balagopalan designed a tool to facilitate removal of the Material Valve Housing. This innovation will be able to save man-hours and increase efficiency. Mr. Rangaswamy took initiative and made use of scrap X-Ray films and converted them into projectable transparencies. At the same time Mr. P.C. Kapre and Mr. C.V. Damodaran of the Power Plant Overhaul Division were awarded Rs. 200/- and Rs. 100/- respectively, Mr. Kapre made use of a single crane and sling for the PCOT module replacement on the Pratt & Whitney JT8D engine. While Mr. Damodaran introduced a tool for Fan Splitter removal in the Pratt and Whitney JT8D engine. Mr. Om Sawhney, Director of Engineering wrote personal letters to each of the winners and complimented them on the interest and enthusiasm in their work.
DECREASE (and fall?) OF THE NAVIGATOR

J. C. PATHAK, a veteran navigator, tells the tale of path-finders, then and now

It is said that when the great navigator Christopher Columbus set out on his voyage of discovery, the Queen of Spain bade him bon voyage with the words “See you later, Navigator.”

This story is probably apocryphal, but it does show that in days gone by, navigators were held in the highest esteem even by royalty. In fact, kings and princes themselves practised the art of navigation. Prince Henry of Portugal has always been remembered as Prince Henry, the Navigator. Ancient Indian navigators carried our culture across the high seas. The art of aerial navigation is of comparatively recent origin, as it began with the third decade of the twentieth century, and air navigators have been a highly respected category of professional people. Some of the greatest exploits of World War II would not have been possible without the expertise of the so-called “path finders” and, till recently, a navigator has been an integral part of the crew for any long distance transport aircraft. Some years back it was said that if we were not for the navigator, nobody would know the ETA!

Alas, things are not quite the same any more, and it would appear that the navigator is fast travelling towards a destiny not very dissimilar to that of the dodo. The inexorable march of technology has brought the human navigator to the edge of extinction. Today one can fly all the way to Timbuktu from Kathmandu without anyone ever asking a human navigator, “What is the ETA?” All one has to do is to press a button, and, presto, the ETA is there, literally in a flash!

There is no more need to gaze at the stars, no more worries about the quirks of the upper winds, no more inspired guestimates of the most probable position. Today, highly refined gyroscopes and microminiaturised computers have produced a robot navigator who is not bothered about the cost of living index or the insufficiency of the outstation layover allowance.

The famous Chinese sage is reported to have said that it is better to travel hopelessly than to arrive. It would not be wrong to say that the navigator has arrived—finally.

A Blend of Cultures

Air-India’s ground receptionists in India, who wear sari uniforms, have now been given a fresh, new look (featured on the cover). They will shortly wear the creation of the famous Indian couturier Panna Dossa. Fashion, elegance and comfort are the prerequisites that govern the choice of material and design for these new uniforms.

Panna has been in the vanguard of textile fashion designing for a number of years. “The sari design for Air-India’s ground receptionists is unique in the sense that the mosaic pattern has been used for the first time in India.” The project and the initial idea took just about 20 days to get off the ground and on to the drawing board. Once the official nod was given, Panna drew up a kaleidoscope of mosaic designs inspired by the floorworks of ancient Greek temples. She superimposed on the sari a typical Indian motif of parrots perched on a tree, and very dexterously blended the traditional with the modern giving the design a fascinating Indian aura.

The body of the sari is dotted with the mosaic pattern in alternating colours, while the Indian motif spreads along the pallav in a daring finish. The sari is in two shades, marigold and green, with matching blousees. The texture is silk and woven to give the wearer a day-long freshness.

The entire project was coordinated by Air-India’s Publicity Section.

THE TOP THREE

Top three revenue-rankings for April/September 1977 are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and Gulf</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa/Aden</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
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</tbody>
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The above figures reflect Progressive Surplus over Target.
London have organised an Interline Competition to be called Interline Supermind '78. At the end of November they had received 125 correct entries for the First Round. The Regional Finals will be held in February and the Supermind Final in March 1978. U.K. TV personality Michael Barratt will be posing the questions for the live rounds, and he recently came to our Office in Bond Street and posed for photographers with counter assistant Harjinder Mac (left) and reservations assistant Shamin Ali on the occasion of a preview of some of the prizes that are on offer to the Supermind competitors. The first prize will be a two-week deluxe tour of India.

Supermind '77

Like Father, Like Daughter

Henrietta Nicholson recently arrived in London on one of our flights from New York, accompanied by her husband Brian, who is one of the joint Deputy Managing Directors of the Observer newspaper. Mrs Nicholson is the daughter of the late Nevill Vintcent, who as many of our readers will know was one of the founders of Air-India with our Chairman Mr J. R. D. Tata. Mrs Nicholson was accompanying her husband on a visit to the United States and so it was nice for her to be able to travel back to London from New York on the airline that had such a close association with her father. During her visit to New York she was able to show some of her relatives who live in the United States, a copy of the October issue of the MAGIC CARPET, in which Mr Tata referred so generously to the contribution that Nevill Vintcent made to the early days of Indian aviation and Tata Air Services.

Three For Tennis-India

Three tennis players from the U.K. set out one Saturday morning last month on our non-stop flight to Delhi from London to participate in the tennis tournament which recently took place in India. They are from left to right—Eric Friedler, John Fever and Roger Taylor.

De Prado is IATA President

Manuel de Prado, President of Iberia and President of IATA for 1976-1977, was elected President of IATA for the 1977-1978 year at the closing session of IATA's 33rd Annual General Meeting in Madrid on November 11, 1977. The Madrid AGM agreed that IATA will hold its 34th Annual General Meeting in Geneva, November 15-16, 1978. The 33rd Annual General Meeting elected the following to the Executive Committee: For a one-year term, commencing at the close of the 1977 Annual General Meeting: Mr. L. Edwin Smart, Chairman and CEO, TWA. For a two-year term, commencing at the close of the 1977 Annual General Meeting: Mr. K.G. Appusamy, Managing Director, Air-India; Mr. J. Ross Stainton, Executive Deputy Chairman, British Airways.

New Computer

The Accounts Department in London recently took over an IBM Accounting Computer that computes all our cargo import account figures and will eventually be able to compute our export cargo, passenger revenue, and our salaries. The computer is in two parts, a key-in and a verifying machine, and is handled by Victor D'Costa, Assistant Accounts Supervisor, who is in charge of this operation. He is assisted by (left to right) Alice Ali, Kamala Kannan and Kanta Patel. Air-India New York and Air-India Frankfurt have similar machines.
The Aussies are here

THE QANTAS TEAM
Mr John Howell - Manager
Mr Roger Robertson - Captain
Mr Ron Holmes - Vice Captain
Mr Bob Cadden
Mr Peter Darvin
Mr Ken Bowles
Mr Denis Crawford
Mr Julian Hailes
Mr Don Lovejoy
Mr Mike Crowley
Mr Roger McBrady
Mr John Winners
Mr Max Mitchell
Mr Graham Nieland
Mr Alan Davis (Umpire)

The team undertook a world tour in 1976 playing matches in Marin County and Stanford University (San Francisco), Hampstead and British Airways (London), Clydesdale (Glasgow), Selangor (Kuala Lumpur) and the Singapore Cricket Club.

(Contd. at right)

Mr G.S. Ramchand being introduced to the Qantas Team.

(Contd. from left)
In August 1976, the cricketers played three matches in Hong Kong versus Cathay Pacific, British Combined Service and The Kowloon Club respectively.

IN BOMBAY

The Qantas Airways Cricket Team arrived in Bombay on Monday, November 7, 1977 and played three matches during their stay in the city with Air-India at the Bombay Gymkhana; with Cricket Club of India at the Brabourne Stadium; and with the Bombay Cricket Association President’s XI at the Wankhede Stadium.

Qantas won all the three matches which were played on a 40 overs basis. In their match with Air-India, Qantas scored 103 (D. Sosa took 4 wickets for 20) beat Air-India 95 for 8 (N. Vichare 49, R.D. Manjrekar 23 not out).

The teams were introduced to Mr G.S. Ramchand, India’s former Test Captain, in the first match, to Mr Vijay Merchant in the second and to Mr S.K. Wankhede in the third match.

Air-India’s Sports Control Board gave the Qantas Team a farewell dinner and presented each of them a wooden Centre Table.

THE AIR-INDIA TEAM
Mr D.P. Nijkerk - Captain
Mr R.D. Manjrekar
Mr N.S. Vichare
Mr D.A. Pinge
Mr R.A. Gole
Mr S. Rane
Mr D.G. Saste
Mr K.M. Malavankar
Mr R.M. Kolli
Mr N.P. Shirodkar
Mr P.S. Sengar
Mr D.P. Pai
Mr A.D. Thakker
Mr B. Bhandare
Mr P. Barve
Mr D.G. Vaidya
Mr F. Noromba

Mr D.P. Nijkerk, President of the Sports Control Board presenting a momento to Mr R. Robertson, Captain of the visiting team. In the centre is Mr Ron Holmes, the Tour Organiser.
They served us with love and devotion
Letters

Congrats

Due to the magnificent cooperation of the Hotel Corporation of India, our Public Relations meeting (see December issue) was a resounding success. The necessity made known at very short notice of having to abandon the originally planned New Delhi location threatened to cause tremendous problems. Fortunately, these were averted due to your good offices and in fact the Bombay meeting in the Centaur Hotel was one of the most successful meetings of its kind ever held by IATA. This was in no small part due to the excellent arrangements made in the Centaur Hotel.

I know the ultimate responsibility for our successful meeting was yours.

Anthony Vandyck
Public Relations Director
International Air Transport Association
Geneva

Letter to Mr. Narpat Singh, MD, HCl

 Honour The Founder

This has reference to the October 1977 issue of the Magic Carpet featuring the 45th anniversary of our airline. In this context, it is suggested that it will be most appropriate if we install a bust of our founder in a chosen location in the Booking Office. This will serve as a token of our gratitude to our founder, whose vision and imagination 45 years ago has enabled us today to come together to sit and work under one roof.

C.G. Vidyasagar
Operations Department
Santa Cruz.

Excellent Material

Since Flight Purser is being selected from staff, I suggest that even air hostesses should be selected from the female employees in the Corporation. In recent months we have recruited young, attractive and smart girls and I am sure that these girls will be excellent material as air hostesses to passengers.

Ms. Gouri Venkiteswaran
Financial Accounts
Santa Cruz
Bombay.

For Radio Enthusiasts

Inkingering with radio as an amateur is a very fascinating and self-educative hobby. Most of the world's airlines have encouraged and cultivated this hobby by providing place, money and equipment. In Air-India a club for radio activities has not yet been organised. I understand that our staff, both technical and non-technical personnel, are interested in this field, and I would, therefore, like to collect a list of such members interested in forming an Amateur Radio Club.

Once the members show interest, it would be easy to form a Club and frame the rules and regulations for the Amateur Radio Activities Club.

Since we are now in an era of modern electronic equipment, such a club would be an excellent outlet for the creative abilities of our staff, besides providing some recreation. I request all interested staff to send their names and other particulars to me so that I can go ahead with the project.

Capt. D. Dasan
Dy Operations Manager (HQ)
Operations Dept., Tech. Bldg.,
Santa Cruz, Bombay.

Questions to January Quiz

1. Who is the pilot of this Humber bi-plane?
2. This plane carried the world's first aerial. How many letters were carried?
3. At what height did the plane fly?

Answers to December Quiz

1. Left to right, Mr. Tanner, Technician; Mr. B. Fernando, Technician; Mr. Mehta, Senior Officer; Mr. Meade, Chief Engineer; Mr. Ramaswamy, Traffic Officer; Mr. S. C. Bickers, Technician; Mr. C. D'Souza, Technician.
2. At the hangar at Juhu airport.
CONSEQUENT to suggestions from members of the Labour Relations Committee, Air-India has announced a Holiday Home in December, 182 kms. from Bombay for the benefit of employees and their families. The home is about 2 kms. from the Central Railway Station and is in the premises of the Health Resort Hostel. There are six suites with a spacious hall and dining facilities. The allocation for the suites are made with the Welfare Section, Old Airport, Santa Cruz, Bombay.

CRICKETERS

The Indian Cricketer team flew with us to Australia recently to play a series of Test matches with the Aussies. They were soon off at the Airport by Syl Kumur, Dy Airport Manager and our traffic staff. While India lost the first Test, at the time of going to Press, both teams seemed to be heading for a draw.

ART CONTEST

In an Interline Art Contest organized by Air-India's Rome office, Mr. Walfrido Ferronetti of Kuwait Airways Corporation won the first prize, Mr. Ferronetti, Station Superintendent at Rome Airport sent in a reproduction of a 15th century masterpiece depicting an Indian Emperor and Empress. The first prize was a round trip Rome/Bombay economy ticket which was presented to Mr. Ferronetti at a function by Mr. Claudio Bolosco, Air-India's Sales Manager, Italy.

WINNER

Mr. S. Chakravarty, Technical Officer in the Ground Support Division, New Delhi, has won the Men's Singles Title in the Inter Airlines table Tennis Tournament sponsored by Pan Am in New Delhi. He defeated Mr. A. Aroa of British Airways in the finals with a score reading of 16-21, 21-14, 21-18 and 21-19.

OFFICE REOPENED

D and Diwali are two functions that are celebrated in India with much exclat. But it is quite unusual when the Hindus and Muslims come together and celebrate Di and Diwali, as was done recently in Libya with the initiative of our office there. Photograph shows our D&B-Libya, Mr. Anwar Abbas at the mike, presiding over the Ibn-Diwali Millen Programme in Tripoli. Watching with interest are Mr. Shaban Kushad, Minister for Electricity, Libya, Mrs. Shefali Singh wife of the Indian Ambassador and Mr. Abdul Khader, Secretary of the Indian Cultural Association.

FESTIVAL TIME

UR Booking Office at Cairo was reopened in September last year after it was completely redone. The decor is an admixture of the modern with the traditional. Photograph shows Mrs. Chib, wife of the Indian Ambassador in Egypt, lighting a traditional Indian Lamp at the inauguration, while Mr. M. J. S. Jaglekar, Manager for Egypt & Libya, looks on with interest.

CHESS CHAMP

Chess is becoming more and more popular in Air-India. The Sports Club recently witnessed a crucial Inter Departmental Chess Tournament played by 45 participants. K.N. Panthaky of Transport won the Championship defeating R.R. Kaplani, who fought bravely and went down fighting. At the outset, the game gathered momentum and Kaplani lost to Kamik in the first round, with a tie in the second. It was interesting to watch their presence as the audience wondered as to who would win the match. Finally it was Panthaky who took the lead over Kamik and won the championship.

Panthaky, a winner of the AI-A joint championship in 1973 and a Maharashtra State Chess player, bags the 6th successive win in Inter Departmental Chess Tournament sponsored by Air-India.

MEDICAL BENEFITS

A special event, to be called the Medical Benefits Cell, has been created at the Medical Clinic, Santa Cruz, Bombay, and will start functioning from January 1, 1978. While details of the procedures and benefits of the scheme will be given in a brochure to be issued shortly, its salient features are as follows:

(a) The maximum amount reimbursable per individual covered by the scheme per year will be Rs.5,000 as against Rs.250. Similarly, the reimbursable maximum limit for surgical fees per operation will be raised to Rs.3,000 as against Rs.500 per year.
(b) The sum of Rs.10 to Rs.25 which is deductible from the initial expenditure under the current arrangements, will not be deducted.
(c) An annual contribution of Rs.150 per year will have to be sent to the Chief Medical Officer in writing only if the illness is prolonged beyond 30 days. (f) The employees’ contribution for the calendar year 1978 will remain unchanged despite liberalisation of benefits. (g) The newly recruited employees will be eligible to join the scheme as soon as they are confirmed. (h) As far as the staff covered under the E.S.I. S. are concerned it has already been announced by the Deputy Managing Director that the existing arrangements with the Insurance Company in respect of their families will continue till the expiry of current term of contract on 31st June 1978, and, thereafter, they too will become eligible to join the departmental schemes.

All doctors on the panel of the current Oriental Fire and General Insurance Scheme are being requested to continue to be on the panel of departmentally implemented schemes also; new names will be included in this list as and when necessary. The names of the doctors on the final panel will be made available to the employees joining the scheme.

FEARLESS TARA

Women in Air-India have always been in the vanguard of activities. Recently Ms. Taru Malkani of Personnel along with her husband and Mr. Sivaji Iyer of Airport Special Handling went on, as they termed it “a scooting holiday”. They took off from Bombay for Indore and onto Agra (in the company of at least 2000 heads of cattle since the road bridge was out of commission) Delhi, Chandigarh, Simla, Dehra Dun, Mussorie, and Nainital. On the return trip they came via Bareilly, Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi, Shivpuri and Indore, covering a distance of 4660 kms. Ms. Malkani commented: “except for two minor breakdowns, there were no engineering delays. The most remarkable feature of our trip was the punctuality of our departures and arrivals. All three of us took turns driving the scooter and in certain parts of the country large crowds gathered to see us as we drove through fearlessly wearing helmets”. Their journey included traversing the entire dacoit infested area of Madhya Pradesh. The trip took 40 days.

KUNG FU MAN

This man with his hand on the head of the Air-India Maharajah is none other than Enter-John-the-Saxon-Dragon. Yes, readers, it is John Saxon who played second lead to Bruce Lee in the film "Enter the Dragon. He was in India recently to participate in a shooting schedule for the Indo-American production "Shalimar", produced and directed by Krishna Shah. The others who feature prominently in the film are Rex Harrison and Sylvia Miles. Both came to India on Air-India for the making of the film.