

AIR-INDIA

Magic Carpet



STOP PRESS

The tragic accident to our Boeing 747 VT-EBD Emperor Ashoka on January 1, 1978 occurred after the printing of the January 1978 issue of the Magic Carpet had been almost complete. A special supplement is therefore included in this issue; Editor.

VOL. 22 NO. 1

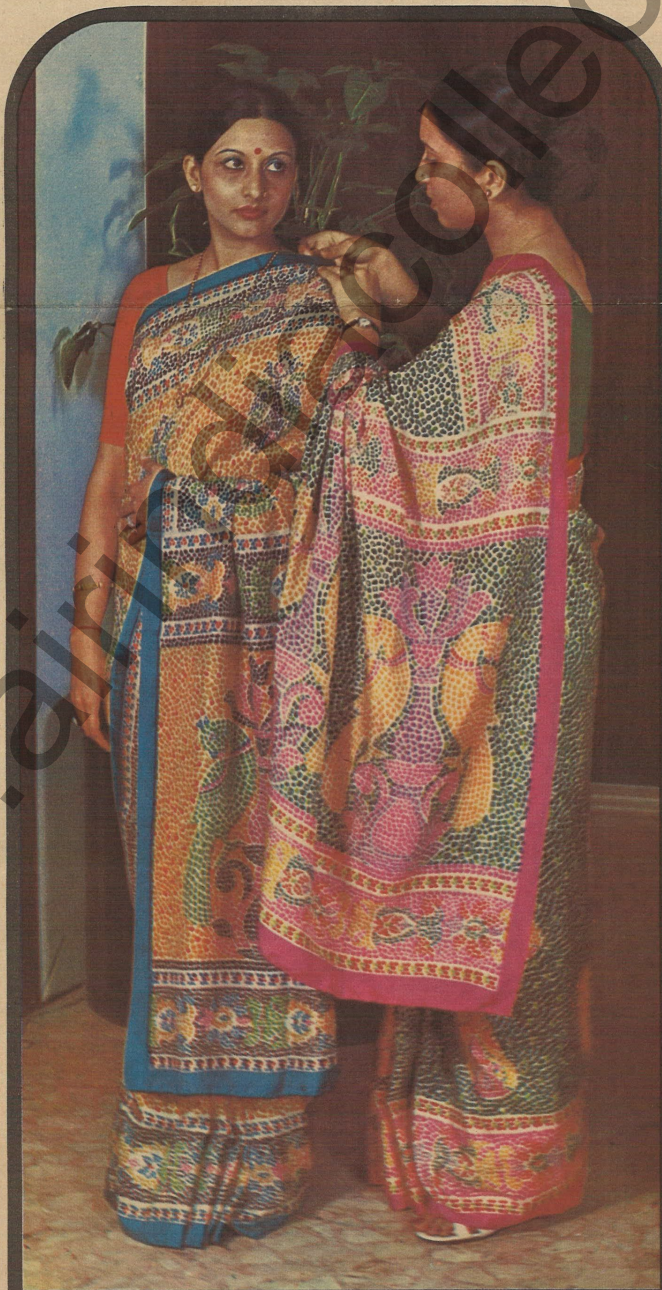
JANUARY 1978

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



1972



1967



1963



1962



TENNIS CLINIC

AIR-INDIA'S Commercial Director Mr Inder 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 Jasjit Singh instructed the youngsters on the nuances of the game. At the end of play, Ms Sethi gave away Air-India Bags and miniature Maharajahs 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.



Magic Carpet 20 YEARS AGO

Employees of all the Airlines of Bombay have formed a Club called "THE AIRLINERS". The aim and object of this Club is to promote social interline relations.

* * *

The Labour Relations Committee which was constituted in 1956 will under Rule 51(2)(a) of the Air Corporation Rules 1954 be re-constituted. Tenure of Office for a member is two years.

It is, therefore, proposed to hold elections to elect six new representatives of employees on the Labour Relations Committee.

* * *

At a recent informal press conference in Calcutta the GM disclosed that A.-I.I. will introduce a freighter service between London and Bombay within the next 3 or 4 months.

Mr. Patel also spoke of a scheme to send 21 pilots to the US for training in the operation of our new Boeing Jets which we will be acquiring in 1960.

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Jakarta has now become a stop for A.-I.I. flights between Bombay and Sydney. This is to provide additional transport facilities to and from Indonesia.

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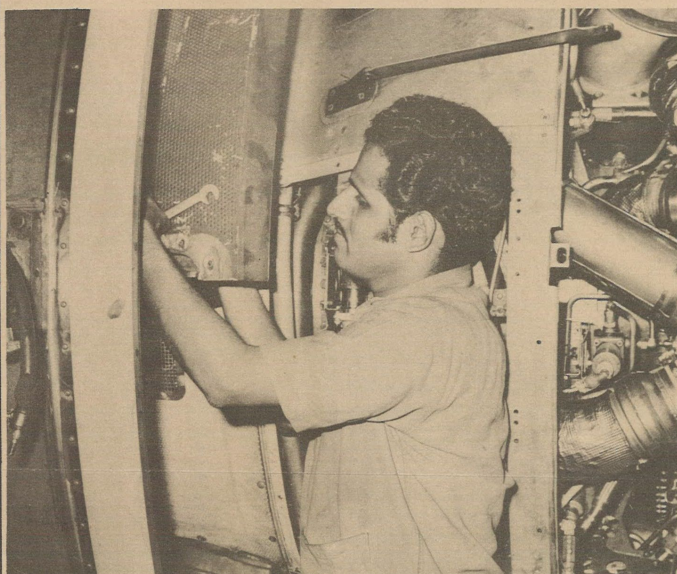
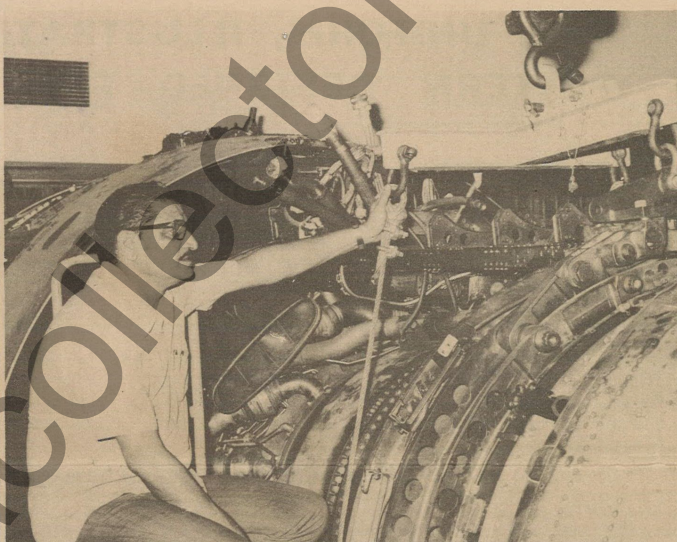
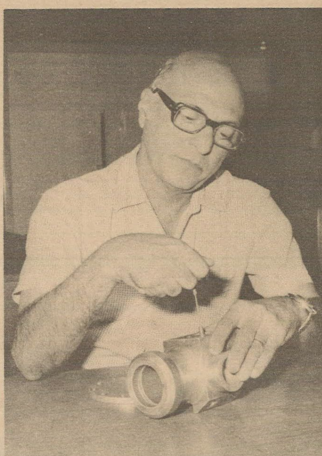
A special committee has been set up by the Government of India to review the existing facilities, selection and licensing of civil air pilots.

* * *

Increased passenger traffic marked the progress of civil aviation in India in the first half of 1957. There was also an accident free record for scheduled plane flights.

Air-India International and the Indian Airlines Corporation between them carried 309,048 passengers and flew 11,587,929 miles during the half year ending June 30, 1957.

MIND OVER MATTER



SUGGESTION AWARDS

MR J.K. Balaporia 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 Balaporia 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. Kapse and Mr C.V. Damodaran of the Power Plant Overhaul Division were awarded Rs. 200/- and Rs. 100/- respectively. Mr Kapse made use of a single crane and sling for the PCDT module replacement on the Pratt & Whitney JT9D engine. While Mr Damodaran introduced a tool for Fan Splitter removal in the Pratt & Whitney JT9D engine. Mr Om Sawhny, Director of Engineering wrote personal letters to each of the winners and complimented them on the interest and enthusiasm in their work.



PRIME MINISTER

Travel has always enabled man to broaden his mental horizons. When people travel to distant lands, they gain an insight into the customs, traditions and ways of life of other peoples and are thus able to perceive the underlying unity of the human society.

I am glad that the next conference of the Pacific Area Travel Association will be held in New Delhi in January 1978 around the time of our Republic Day festivities. I hope that our guests from all over the Pacific area and from other parts of the world will see something of the unity in diversity of India and also have an indication of the effort being put in by our people towards national regeneration.

On behalf of the Government and people of India I extend a warm welcome to the delegates to the PATA conference and trust that they will enjoy their stay in India.

Morarji Desai

(Morarji Desai)

New Delhi,
May 21, 1977

PATA 1978

Sri Lanka and India are preparing to welcome the 18th Annual Workshop and the 27th Annual Conference of PATA 1978 in Colombo and Delhi respectively. The Workshop in Colombo is scheduled for January 19-20, 1978, and the Conference in Delhi is from January 23-26, 1978.

Air-India will operate two Boeing 747 special flights to carry Convention delegates attending the workshop at Colombo over the sectors Bombay/Colombo and subsequently Colombo/Delhi for the Convention.

Air-India has also designed and produced a very attractive kit bag for conference literature which will be presented to delegates attending the Convention in Delhi.

To facilitate PATA delegates, Air-India has loaned Air-Hostesses and Receptionists on temporary duty at Delhi. They will wear a sari specially designed by ITDC for PATA 1978.

On January 23, 1978 Air-India will host a press lunch for foreign media representatives covering the Convention, as also important representatives of the press in India.

Two special hoardings, one in Bombay and the other in Delhi will be put up to welcome PATA delegates.

DECLINE (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 it 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 guessimates 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 hopefully than to arrive. It would not be wrong to say that the navigator has arrived - finally.

A Blend of Cultures

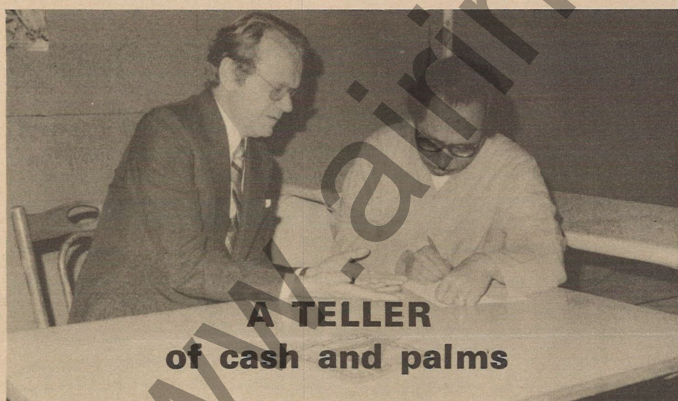
Air-India's ground receptionists in India, who wear sari uniforms, have now been given a fresh, new look (featured on the cover). They will shortly wear the creation of the famous Indian couturier Panna Dossa. Fashion, elegance and comfort are the prerequisites that govern the choice of material and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



A TELLER
of cash and palms

An important event late last year in Geneva was an Indian Fete, organised by the Indian residents of Geneva, to raise funds for charity. The Fete was a 3-day long "Mela" in the true Indian tradition. There was an Indian bazaar overflowing with attractive articles, cultural shows, food specialities which included the Bombay "Bhel Puri". The Fete was an immense success and was attended by over 30,000 visitors.

One of the major attractions, where long queues were seen all the time, was the fortune-telling stall where our Accounts Manager-Tourism,

Jaysing Jagtap, (above) read palms. He was dressed in appropriate saffron robes to look like an astrologer. Amongst the many celebrated clients were Mr Henri Schmidt, Conseiller d'Estat and Mr Robert Vieux, Chief of the Protocole and his charming wife.

It is not the first time that Jaysing has contributed in this manner to the various charity functions that take place in the city of Calvin. Wherever and whenever he reads fortune he draws crowds and has over the years become quite a well-known figure in the Geneva social circle.

THE TOP THREE

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

Middle East and Gulf 16.7%

East Asia 14.5%

Africa/Aden 8.3%

The above figures reflect Progressive Surplus over Target.



Supermind '77

London have organised an 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.



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 in his interview 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.



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 our expenditure and our salaries. The computer is in two parts, a key-in and a verifying machine, and is handled by Victor D'Cunha, 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.

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 13-15, 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.



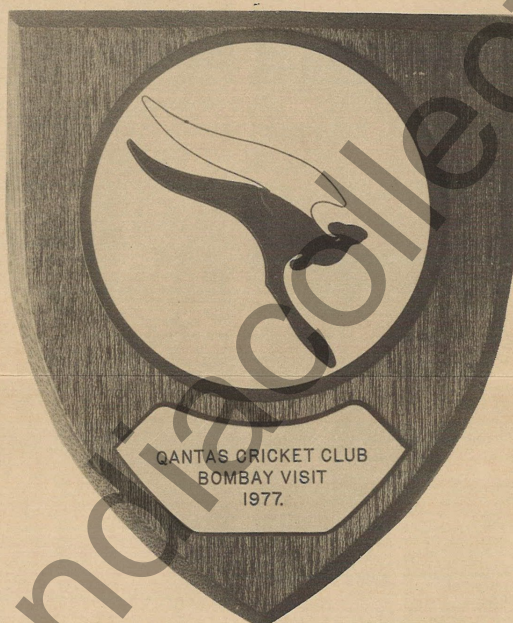
The Aussies are here

THE QANTAS TEAM

Mr John Howell - Manager
Mr Roger Robertson - Captain
Mr Ron Holmes - Vice Captain
Mr Bob Cadden
Mr Peter Bavin
Mr Ken Bowles
Mr Denis Crawford
Mr Julian Hailes
Mr Don Lovejoy
Mr Mike Crowley
Mr Roger McBride
Mr John Winters
Mr Max Mitchell
Mr Graham Niland
Mr Alan Davis (Umpire)

The team undertook a world tour in 1975 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)



(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. Soste took 4 wickets for 25) 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 Vijay Manjrekar - Captain
Mr R.D. Manjrekar
Mr N.S. Vichare
Mr D.A. Pinge
Mr R.A. Gole
Mr S. Rane
Mr D.G. Soste
Mr K.M. Malegaonkar
Mr R.M. Koli
Mr N.P. Shirodkar
Mr P.S. Iyengar
Mr D.P. Pai
Mr A.D. Thankar
Mr B. Bhandare
Mr P. Barve
Mr D.G. Vaidya
Mr P. Noronha

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



Mr D.P. Nimkar, President of the Sports Control Board presenting a memento to Mr R. Robertson, Captain of the visiting team. In the centre is Mr Ron Holmes, the Tour Organiser.



FAREWELLS



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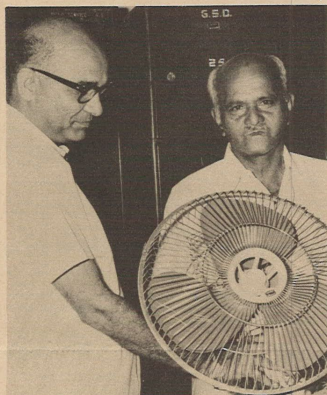
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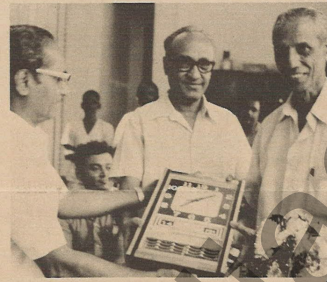
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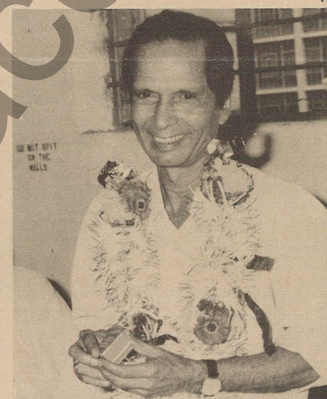
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3



9



14



4



10



15



5

**They served
us with
love and
devotion**



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1. MR. R. VENKATARAMAN joined Air-India on November 1, 1946. He retired from the Corporation on July 14, 1977. Mr. Venkataraman retired as Director of Planning and International Relations after nearly 31 years service.

2. MR. K.B. POTTHEN, Operator, Ramp Operations Section, Ground Support Division, retired recently after 21 years service. Photograph shows Mr. K.K. Gadgil, Sr Dy Controller—GH presenting a gift to Mr Potthen.

3. MR. C.K. BHASKAR, Sr Painter, Transport Division, retired recently after nearly 20 years service. Photograph shows Mr D.P. Nimkar, Controller-GH presenting a bouquet to Mr Bhaskar.

4. MR. RATAN SINGH, Head Chowkidar, Security Office, retired recently after 31 years service. Photograph shows Mr. E.V. Athayde, Security Manager garlanding Mr Singh.

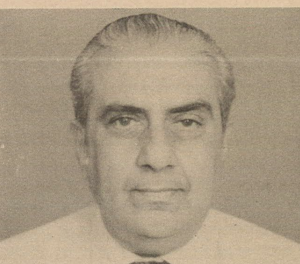
5. MR. D.S. SAWANT, Sr Aircraft Technician, Accessories Overhaul Division, retired recently after nearly 29 years service. Photograph shows Mr D.K. Bilimoria, Dy Engineering Manager, AOD presenting a Transistor Radio to Mr Sawant.

6. MR. A.J. LOPEZ, Operator, Ramp Operations Section, Ground Support Division, retired recently after nearly 23 years service. Photograph shows Mr K.K. Gadgil, Sr Dy Controller—GH presenting a gift to Mr Lopez.

7. MR. H.P. TALEKAR, Dy Personnel Manager, retired recently after over 30 years service. Photograph shows Mr S.K. Nanda, Chief Personnel Manager garlanding Mr Talekar.

8. MR. G.M. JADHAV, Sr Aircraft Technician, Power Plant Overhaul Division, retired recently after 30 years service. Photograph shows Mr P. Shanmughan, presenting an Electronic Clock to Mr Jadhav.

9. MR. G.S. CHOWGULE, Head Chowkidar, Security Office, retired recently after 30 years service. Photograph shows Mr E.V. Athayde, Security Manager garlanding Mr Chowgule.



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10. MR. S.B. LAD, Chowkidar, Security Office, retired recently after 22 years service. Photograph shows Mr E.V. Athayde, Security Manager garlanding Mr Lad.

11. MR. B.C. KUCKIAN, Chargehand, COD, retired recently after 31 years service. Photograph shows Mr M.N. Gopalaswamy, Asst Engineering Manager presenting a gift to Mr Kuckian.

12. MR. S.K. SHINDE, Chargehand, COD, retired recently after 29 years service. Photograph shows Mr H.C. Kapoor, Dy Engineering Manager, COD, garlanding Mr Shinde.

13. MR. P.H. DINSHAW, Asst Engineering Manager, voluntarily retired recently after 25 years service. Photograph shows Mr M.S. Balasubramanian, Engineering Manager (Contracts, Industrial Engg. & Prod. Planning) presenting a bouquet of flowers to Mr Dinshaw.

14. MR. A.J. FERNANDEZ, Sr Aircraft Technician, Maintenance Division, retired recently after nearly 29 years service.

15. MR. KHODA MITHA, Cleaner, Plant and Equipment Division, retired recently after 30 years service. Photograph shows Mr V.R. Subnavis, Asst Engineering Manager, garlanding Mr Mitha.

16. MR. C. SIMOES, Signals Officer-Telephones, Communications Department, retired recently after 31 years service. Photograph shows Mr. G.D. Dubey, Controller of Communications, presenting a silver tea set to Mr Simoes.

17. MR. M.R. MOWJI, Dy Commercial Manager-Marketing & Sales, retired recently after 30 years service.



Hindi Teaching Scheme Gets Underway

Air-India and Indian Airlines have initiated a Hindi Teaching Scheme, at both the Old Airport, Santa Cruz and the Air-India Building at Nariman Point. This Scheme was introduced after all the employees had filled up a questionnaire sent out by the Personnel Department and a feedback was obtained evaluating the knowledge of Hindi among Air-India staff.

Inaugurating the classes, Mr Om Sawhny, Director of Engineering, emphasised the need for a thorough knowledge of Hindi. He said that while it was important to learn the language, it was imperative that it be made use of at the place of work. Ms N.J. Rao, Dy Director, Hindi Teaching Scheme, stressed the importance of Hindi in Public Sector Undertakings and referred to the Official Languages Act framed under the Constitution. She also explained the scheme in brief. Ms P. Bhatnagar, the Hindi teacher, proposed a vote of thanks. Those present at the function were: Mr P.V. Gole, Director of Personnel and Industrial Relations;

Mr S.K. Nanda, Chief Personnel Manager; Mr P.M. Thakur, Dy Personnel Manager and Mr Murari Mohan, Asst Training Manager, Indian Airlines.

At Nariman Point, Mr Dolly Warden, Commercial Manager, Indian Airlines inaugurated the Hindi classes and said that he was hopeful that employees of both the Corporations would benefit by the Scheme and learn the language. Ms S.S. Jain (above), the Hindi teacher, explained the Scheme to those present. Mr K.A. Sapat, Industrial Relations Manager, said that he was confident that staff would use Hindi in their day-to-day office work and that it would be easy for them to attend to correspondence in Hindi. Others present at the meeting were Mr N.R. Kshatriya, Dy Personnel Manager and Mr K.S. Narayanan from the Engineering Department.

At both Santa Cruz and Nariman Point, the trainees were presented with text books in Hindi as well as notebooks and ball point pens.

ON THE MOVE.....UP

The following staff have been promoted:

MANAGEMENT SERVICES:

Messrs S. Subramaniam and S.L. Katdare as Systems Managers and Mr P.K. Kachalia as Systems Programmer.

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT:

Messrs F.J. Nagarvala, Rajinder Kumar, P.K. Sinha and N.S. Antia as Station Superintendents.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT:

Messrs S.S. Gokhale and K. Venkatraman as Asst Superintendents.

FINANCE & ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT:

Messrs M.S. Murthy, V. Pichumani, M.T. Ratanghaya, L. Ramaswamy, R.J. Moses, K.B. Khanna, Jal Meherji, A.K. Gupta and A.P. Paul as Asst Accounts Officers; Messrs M.S.L. Narasimhan, K.B. Patel, P.C. Subramanian, K.C. Sekharan, P.K. Jain, K.J. Dave, M.P. Dhond, L.R. Contractor and Ms D.K. Bhadha as Accountants.

The following staff have been posted:

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT:

Mr S.K. Sehgal as Asst Manager, Rome; Mr C.M. Manuel as Airport Manager, Kuwait; Mr P.A. Narain as Dy Manager-Cargo, Santa Cruz; Mr S.B. Sheorey as Asst Commercial Manager-Cargo (Ops. & Services), Bombay; and Mr M.G. Khairaz as Manager, Teheran.

OBITUARIES

We regret to record the death of the following staff:

P.N. Lala, 46, Asst Station Superintendent, Joined: May 10, 1954.
K.K. Das, 49, Sr Aircraft Technician, Joined: January 20, 1960.
P.G.K. Menon, 54, Foreman, Joined: March 10, 1948.
M.R. De, 55, Cleaner, Joined: October 15, 1948.

LETTERS

Congrats

Due to the magnificent cooperation by 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 with you.

Anthony Vandy
Public Relations Director
International Air Transport
Association
Geneva
(Letter to Mr Narpal Singh,
MD, HCI)

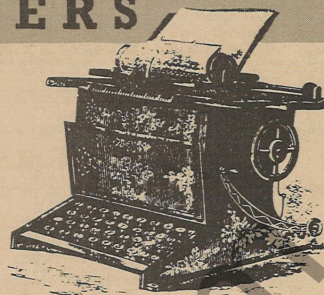
Honour The Founder

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 Pursers are 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

Tinkering with radio as an amateur is a very fascinating and self-educative hobby. Most of the world 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.

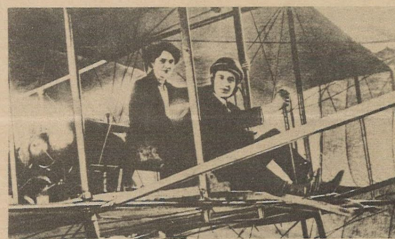
I request all interested staff to send their names and other particulars to me so that I can go ahead with the project.

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

AIR-INDIA QUIZ

Questions to January Quiz

1. Who is the pilot of this Humber bi-plane?
2. This plane carried the world's first airmail. 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 R. Fernandes, Technician; Mr Mantri, Stores Officer; Mr Mewade, Chief Engineer; Mr Ramaswamy, Traffic Officer; Mr S.C. Bickers, Technician; Mr C. D'Souza, Technician.
2. At the hangar at Juhu airport.
3. Yvonne Bickers works for Traffic Administration and her daughter, Karen Bickers who is an Air-Hostess works for the Inflight Service Department. Mr Stanley C. Bickers joined Air-India as a Technician in 1934 and retired in 1970 as Dy Engineering Manager-Maintenance.





ANOTHER HOLIDAY HOME

CONSEQUENT to suggestions from members of the Labour Relations Committee, Air-India has announced a Holiday Home in Deolali, 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 allotment for the suites are made with the Welfare Section, Old Airport, Santa Cruz, Bombay.



CRICKETERS

THE Indian Cricket team flew with us to Australia recently to play a series of Test matches with the Aussies. They were seen off at the Airport by Syal Kumar, 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.

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. Arora of British Airways in the finals with a score reading of 16-21, 21-14, 21-18 and 21-19.

OFFICE REOPENED



OUR 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 J.S. Joglekar, Manager for Egypt & Libya, looks on with interest.



FESTIVAL TIME

Id and Diwali are two functions that are celebrated in India with much eclat. But it is quite unusual when the Hindus and Muslims come together and celebrate Id and Diwali, as was done recently in Libya with the initiative of our office there. Photograph shows our DSM-Libya, Mr Anwar Abbas at the mike, presiding over the Id-Diwali Milan 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.

FEARLESS TARA

WOMEN in Air-India have always been in the vanguard of activities. Recently Ms Tara Malkani of Personnel along with her husband and Ms Savitri Iyer of Airport Special Handling went on, as they termed "a scootering 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, Mussoorie, 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.

ART CONTEST

IN an Interline Art Contest organised 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 Bolasco, Air-India's Sales Manager, Italy.

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.

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. Karnik, who fought bravely and went down fighting. At the outset, the game gathered momentum when Panthaky lost to Karnik in the first round, with a tie in the second. It was interesting to watch them play with confidence as the audience wondered as to who would win the match. Finally it was Panthaky who took the lead over Karnik and won the championship.

Panthaky, a winner of the AI-IA 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

AS announced by the Deputy Managing Director recently, a special cell, 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 the details of the procedures and benefits of the scheme will be given in a brochure to be released shortly, its salient features are as follows:

(a) The maximum amount reimbursable per individual covered by the scheme per year will be Rs.6,000 compared to Rs.4,000 as under the present arrangements. (b) The maximum amount reimbursable for domiciliary treatment per illness will be Rs.350 as against Rs.250. Similarly, the reimbursable maximum limit for surgical fee per operation will be raised to Rs.3,000 compared to Rs.1,500 as currently applicable. (c) A special provision has been made for reimbursement of costs of treatment in respect of certain chronic diseases such as tuberculosis, cancer, arthritis etc. the limit for which will be Rs.2,500 per year. (d) The sum of Rs.10 to Rs.25 which is deductible from the initial expenditure under the current arrangements, will not be deducted. (e) An intimation about illness 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. (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 one year i.e. till June 1978, and, thereafter, they too will become eligible to join the departmentally run scheme.)

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 scheme 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.