

Magic Carpet

VOL. 9. No. 7

THE STAFF MAGAZINE OF AIR-INDIA

NOVEMBER 1965



"I have no difficulty about remembering my age. I have just to knock off the first two digits from any year to get my age."

Coward Meets Maharajah

MR. Noel Coward, the celebrated English playwright, actor, composer, short story writer and entertainer whose delightful plays and musicals won him worldwide recognition as one of the most brilliant of the younger dramatists in England, arrived in Bombay on our Boeing from Geneva on October 10, 1965 on a busman's holiday. He visited Bombay 22 years ago to sing for the troops during the last World War.

Among his most successful plays are "Hay Fever", "Easy Virtue", "Private Lives" and "Blithe Spirit". Coward's extraordinary versatility was further evidenced by the number of musical plays and revues which he wrote and composed, the most famous of them being "Bitter Sweet". Mr. Coward will act in his three new plays which will run simultaneously in London early next year.

Introducing Mr. Coward to the Press, Mr. S. K. Kooka, our Commercial Director in a humorous speech said how thrilled he was when he learnt that

Mr. Coward was a passenger on board his flight from Geneva to Bombay and added that from the time Mr. Coward boarded the aircraft the cabin was electrified.

Mr. Coward in his inimitable way thanked Air-India for giving him an opportunity to meet the Press and in a speech punctuated with wit and humour said that although his presence in the Air-India Boeing may have electrified the cabin, he provided no electricity during a good night's sleep he enjoyed on board.

Lower Promotional Fares To India

AIR-INDIA has succeeded in obtaining the consent of the other Members of the International Air Transport Association, to include lower promotional fares for travel from North America to India, in the North Atlantic fares pattern effective April 1, 1966. This pattern of fares was developed at a meeting of the Association in Bermuda, which concluded on October 3, 1965.

The new pattern of fares was not formally adopted in view of the disagreement on the conditions of service. However, it is expected that an agreement on this aspect will be reached shortly and the fares package submitted to Governments for their approval.

Mr. A. Dubash, Director of Planning and International Relations and Mr. I. D. Sethi, Tariffs Manager, attended the meeting.

The meeting considered various proposals for revised fares for travel over the North and Mid Atlantic routes, and recommended that the new pattern of promotional fares should include:

a) reduction in the level of the excursion

sion fares. This reduction extends as far east as the area comprised of India, Pakistan, Ceylon and Nepal;

b) reduction in the level of the group fares between North America and IATA Conference Area 2;

c) introduction of low inclusive tour fares for travel between North America and IATA Conference Area 2 as also from North America to India, Pakistan, Ceylon and Nepal.

In order to generate additional traffic in the westbound direction, the meeting also favoured the establishing of group fares from IATA Conference Area 2 to North America at a level lower than the group fare in the

eastbound direction and a reduction in the group size from 25 to 15.

STAFF DONATE BLOOD

MEMBERS of the staff — 205 of them—from several departments donated blood on Oct. 11 and Oct. 12, 1965 at Santa Cruz.

The outdoor unit of the Voluntary Blood Transfusion Service of the K.E.M. Hospital was kept busy on both the days. The response to the management's appeal for blood donation was so great that several members of the staff had to be turned away owing to the limited capacity of the unit.

The largest number of donors came from the Engineering Department, followed by Accounts, Personnel, Stores, Head Office (Security) and Operations (Transport).

(See photo page 3)

NDF CONTRIBUTIONS

Each year our staff in the Engineering Department perform the Dassera Puja in October. This year it was decided to contribute the money which would have been spent for the Puja to the National Defence Fund.

The contributions were as follows: Power Plant Overhaul Division (Rs.

301), Ancillary Overhaul Division (Rs. 175) and Works Engineering Division (Rs. 350).

Our staff in the USA have also contributed \$1,196 (Rs. 5,695) for the National Defence Fund and the Air Corporations' Employees Cooperative Bank has sent a cheque of Rs. 3,251 to the

Jawans Welfare Amenities and Rehabilitation Committee, Maharashtra.

In addition, our operating crew in Singapore and Perth and India-based staff in Australasia have sent food parcels for our Jawans. The gift and food parcels for our Defence Forces are being carried free by us.



Capt. T. Healy

Capt. Terrence Healy, 41, has been appointed the Flight Superintendent (Training). He joined Air-India in 1947 and has been the Flight Instructor since 1959.

College Helps Security

FOR the first time, our Training College conducted a four-day special course for our security staff in October.

The purpose of the course was to acquaint the security staff with flight handling, aircraft loading, ticketing and reservations procedures, thus providing them with the necessary background information which will help them to perform their duties more efficiently.

Commenting on the course, the Chief Instructor, Mr. T. K. P. Pillai said, "We gave them a quick run through our basic course so that they would be familiar with all the complex procedures followed at the airport as well as the City Office".

Chief Air Hostess Leads

Julie Dunne, our Chief Air Hostess has been chosen Captain of the Bombay women's hockey team for the 19th National Women's Hockey Championship which began in Poona on October 29, 1965.

Julie who has been a hockey player since her school days, has played for Wanderer's Club in Calcutta and for Bengal in the Inter-State Hockey Tournament in 1955. She represented Bombay from 1956 to 1959 in the Inter-State Women's Hockey Tournaments.

AIR CORPORATIONS EMPLOYEES' CO-OPERATIVE BANK

Board of Management 1965-66.

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Mr. L. V. Nulkar (Air-India)

Vice-President

Mr. S. D. Gawade (Air-India)

Honorary Secretary

Mr. B. B. Shah (I.A.C.)

Members

Mr. D. P. Khambatta (Air-India)

Mr. G. K. Bal (I.A.C.)

Mr. R. B. S. Kunde (Air-India)

Mr. M. N. Narayan Rao (Air-India)

Mr. M. G. Gogate. (I.A.C.)

Mr. R. P. Dharmadhikari (Air-India)

Obituary

WE regret to announce the death of Mr. Jocim Manuel Sampai of the Catering & Cabin Service Section recently.

Mr. Sampai who was 46 at the time of his death joined Air-India as a Cleaner in February 1956. We tender our sincere condolences to the members of his family.

ON THE JOB:



RAJNI Shirdasani, our live wire receptionist at the Nataraj Hotel counter, has a way with people. She has an infinite capacity for inspiring confidence in our passengers, helping them with their itinerary, reservations and re-routings.

When she moved from the Booking Office to the Nataraj Counter two years ago, Rajni feared she would find herself in a state of suspended animation. But now she hardly has a moment's breather. "I like it here", she says, "because one meets so many interesting people who are potential Air-India passengers".

Her engaging telephone voice, savoir faire and job knowledge have been responsible for the large number of switchovers and bookings from the Nataraj Counter. Passengers from other airlines checking in at the Hotel more often than not check out as Air-India passengers.

Rajni, 24, was "mad about art" when she passed her Senior Cambridge. So she joined the J.J. School of Arts for a 3-year course. But curiously enough, she no longer pursues art, even as a hobby, but concentrates on reading romantic fiction in her spare time.



KESHAO Thakur is our Flight Engineers' engineer. His first love has always been aeroplanes. He worked on such vintage types as Hurricanes, Spitfires, Mosquitos and Beaufighters in the Air Force between 1942-46. After coming to Air-India in 1947, he moved over to the flight deck of the Conquies.

"The Flight Engineer is a systems manager and technical adviser to the Captain", said Thakur, who is now responsible for the day to day administration as well as operational efficiency of Flight Engineers. As Chief Flight Engineer, he still logs about 40

flying hours a month, mostly on check flights. His other important function is to liaise with the Engineering Department and decide about changes and modifications on the Boeings.

Thakur, 45, became the Chief Flight Engineer in 1958 after seven years as the Chief Technical Instructor. Married with three children, he plays cricket, tennis and billiards. He is fond of reading and his favourite author is Neville Shute. Among the cities he has visited, he likes Nairobi best.

Our Teaser Campaign



You can probably guess what the three highly symbolic gentlemen on the card are up to (or can you?). Anyway, see page 4.

Pinto Elected LRC Chairman

FLIGHT Purser Titus Pinto has been unanimously elected Chairman of the Fifth Labour Relations Committee at its recent meeting. Mr. Pinto is a representative of the employees.

Mr. B. S. Rama Rao, Commercial Manager-Administration, who is one of the representatives of the Management on the LRC has been elected Secretary.

same friendly atmosphere will prevail in future so that the committee will continue its constructive work for the welfare of the staff.

The posts of Chairman and Secretary are held for alternate years by the representatives of the management and the employees during the two-year tenure of the LRC.

Speaking after the elections, Mr. Unni, our Assistant General Manager and the outgoing Chairman, thanked the members of the LRC for their cooperation during the period of his Chairmanship and expressed the hope that the

Aden SKAL Club

MR. S. J. Fernandes, our Assistant Manager, Aden, who was recently appointed as the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Aden SKAL Club organised a special function at the Al-Casino Night Club. More than 70 guests along with 30 club members attended the function which was a great success.

DO YOU KNOW THIS?

DO you know that no traffic gives Air-India a bigger return per kilo than mail? If not, just look at this:

Bombay to:	Letter Mail	General Cargo	First Class Pax & Baggage
New York	Rs. 77.20	Rs. 22.00	Rs. 44.30
London	Rs. 47.30	Rs. 10.10	Rs. 27.30
Nadi	Rs. 82.15	Rs. 19.30	Rs. 34.70
Tokyo	Rs. 44.20	Rs. 13.20	Rs. 22.70
Nairobi	Rs. 29.90	Rs. 7.40	Rs. 15.50

The Mailman

NINZAY PULGER

FROM a quiet, secluded farm in the mountain kingdom of Sikkim to the bustling metropolis of Bombay is a far cry, but Ninzay Pulger is at home in both.

Ninzay who is at present training as an air hostess is the first Sikkimese girl to be employed by Air-India. Asked why she chose to be an air hostess, she gave the familiar answer, "to see the world". She is excited at the thought of being able to shop in New York, London and Sydney.

Ninzay, elegant, pretty and 22, has a grace and charm of her own. Behind her delicate exterior, she conceals an enormous capacity for hard physical work. In fact, after completing her Senior Cambridge from the Dow Hill High School, Kurseong (Assam), she went to work on her family farm. Just before joining Air-India, she was learning dairy farming on her uncle's farm.

Imbued with a spirit of adventure and zest for life, Ninzay likes to try 'something new and exciting'. Flying fascinated her and she is looking forward to her first Boeing flight.



Before coming to Bombay, the largest city Ninzay had seen was Darjeeling where she spent several years. Among her hobbies are knitting, reading, dancing and, of course, cooking.

STAFF DONATE BLOOD

The outdoor unit of the Voluntary Blood Transfusion Service of the K. E. M. Hospital visited our technical base at Santa Cruz Airport, Bombay, on October 11 and 12, 1965. Photograph shows a member of the staff donating blood. (See story on page 1).



Our Commanders - 14

CAPTAIN D. NEVES

As a boy Capt. Douglas Neves wanted to run away to sea. Later during the early stages of the last war, as a refuelling attendant at Santa Cruz Airport, Bombay, he vaguely dreamt of being a pilot. When the bombers were being refuelled, he would quietly steal into the cockpit, put on the pilot's helmet and imagine he was flying.

Then one day while on his way to work he saw an ad in a newspaper for pilots for the Air Force. Capt. Neves wasted no time. He changed trains at Bandra and went straight to the Air Force Recruiting Office at Churchgate. The year — 1944.

For the next two years he flew Hurricanes and Spitfires in the North West Frontier Province "straffing the ground targets". At the end of the war, Capt. Neves decided to leave the Air Force and join one of the civil airlines.

There is a story he loves to tell about how he joined Air-India. In 1946, several civil airlines had opened offices

in a particular building in Delhi. Walking along the corridor Flying Officer Neves spotted a peon, whom he asked casually which door should he enter. 'This', said the peon pointing to a door. Next thing Neves knew was that he was being interviewed by Capt. D. N. Bunsha of Air-India.

"Ironically enough I had to fly Tiger Moths to get my commercial pilot's licence", chuckled Capt. Neves as he recalled those early days. This was because Capt. Neves had learnt to fly on Fairchild Cornells in the Air Force which were not approved by the DGCA for civil training. In 1949, Capt. Neves



Capt. Douglas Neves with his 14 month old son, Luke.

moved to the left hand seat on the Dakotas and a year later switched to Constellations, flying on international routes. Then, came Super Constellations and now Boeings. "Flying at best of times is an exciting game", says Capt. Neves. "Every time you land and take-off, it is a challenge".

At 40, Capt. Neves has lost none of his youthful verve and enthusiasm. He carries his 140 lbs. lightly and

moves with the grace of an athlete. He excels at hockey, which he plays for Air-India. Off the field, he displays the sportsman's sense of fair play and hates nothing more than hypocrisy. A teetotaler, Capt. Neves is a delightful conversationalist and is often the heart and soul of a party.

Capt. Neves who is a Roman Catholic considers the greatest moment of his career came when he was selected as the

additional commander for the Papal flight last December. "It was a great honour", said Capt. Neves.

Asked what he does when off duty, pat came the reply, "catch up with my children's (there are five) lessons". Perhaps the best comment on Capt. Neves was made by one of our hostesses, who said: "He is one of the nicest captains to fly with".

K. S. Mhatre.

Our Teaser Campaign

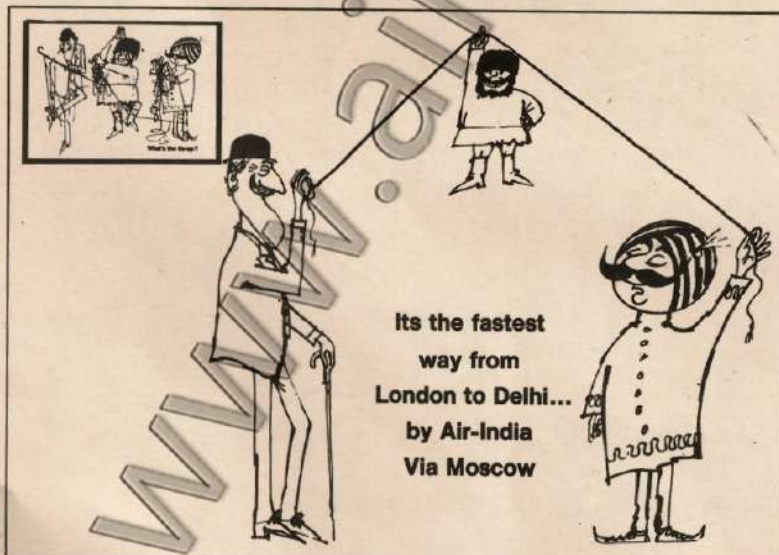
Our London Office tried a bright, new publicity idea with considerable success. A set of postcards — intriguing and provocative — showing both photographs and drawings were personally addressed to a key man or woman in a travel agency. The cards were in pairs as illustrated here with a brief caption on the back.

London-New Delhi in 10½ hours. Now 90 minutes faster and it costs no more.

* Via Moscow and your clients can stop-over.

* Every Wednesday and Sunday.

* Flights from Delhi to Bombay, Madras and on to Australia or Japan.



Sports News

Three Inter-Department Tournaments in Football, Bridge and Carrom were held recently.

Out of six teams that participated in the Football Tournament, the Stores and the Engineering made the finals.

IATA MEMBERS

AEROLINEAS Argentinas has joined the International Air Transport Association as an active member from October 1965. With the addition of the Argentine Airline, IATA's total membership is brought up to 96 — 84 active members and 12 associate members. There are now nine South American carriers among IATA's membership, all but one active members.

The Inter-Department Bridge Tournament was contested by 16 teams. The participants in the finals, played between Operations (winners) and Engineering, included Capt. A. K. Godbole, Capt. C. L. Apte, Mr. M. C. Thosar, Mr. Y. S. Padbidri, Mr. V. V. Joshi, Mr. L. B. Bhatia (all from Operations), Mr. B. N. Gokhale, Mr. T. S. Srinivasan, Mr. L. M. Shiltri and Mr. M. N. Somasundaram.

The Administration team, comprising Personnel, Security etc., beat the Engineering team in the final of the Carrom Tournament. Mr. R. G. Patankar and Mr. V. B. Revandakar represented the Administration while Mr. K. T. Powar, Mr. Swami and Mr. D. G. Redkar played for the Engineering.



One of our four Mercedes passenger coaches. We also have four Mercedes mini coaches which are often pressed into passenger service for other carriers.

WHEELING ROUND THE CLOCK

Mr. Behram Mehta,
Superintendent, Transport
Section.

BEHIND the Simulator Building at Santa Cruz there is a shed. The insiders call it the Transport Hangar. To outsiders it is a workshop and the hub of Air-India's transport operations. Here Air-India's expert maintenance men check, recheck and schedule various types of motor vehicles for duty.

Air-India's Transport Section was set up in 1945 when Tata Airlines established the unit at Juhu Aerodrome with four drivers, an equal number of locally-assembled vehicles, a cleaner, an aircraft mechanic as a maintenance man and a supervisor. Looking back on those early days Superintendent, Transport, Mr. Behram Mehta

said: "It was set up initially to meet the requirements of Tata Airlines Expediter service. The team spirit and the enthusiastic work put in by this small unit, despite its handicaps, was responsible for its smooth running".

Today, 20 years later, the Section has grown from a 7-man team and four vehicles to a vast complex of



119 drivers and 140 vehicles of 31 different makes which, between them, cover 79,000 miles in a month. This, of course, includes not only our slick passenger coaches, but staff buses, tractors, hi-lift trucks, forklifts, ground power and air-conditioning units, crew station wagons, luxury cars and scooters. They provide a round-the-clock service for passengers arriving and departing on Air India, BOAC, CSA and TWA services, for members of the staff and crew, for carrying daily despatch messages for the staff living far and near, for Engineering, Cargo and Stores Departments and for Cabin and Catering Section. Besides a supervisory team of 11, there is a staff of 82 in the Workshop to maintain these vehicles.

Saga

The saga began one day in 1953 when, with the nationalisation of air transport in India, all the airlines with independent transport set-ups in Bombay got together and formed a single consolidated unit. Then, in 1954 Air-India and Indian Airlines Corporation formed their own separate Transport Sections.

With this new Section came new staff and equipment. And behind the glamour of its new look began the grind. You can't have a streamlined fleet without trained personnel to operate and maintain it, and this is where the Unit has come into its own in the past few years.

The Workshop Staff — which includes mechanics, electricians, tinsmiths, blacksmiths, carpenters, painters and tailors — is now led by Mr. Julian Bocarro, Transport Engineer. In order to keep the men up on the new trends in the industry, they are given specialised training at the Tata Engineering & Locomotive Co. Ltd. in Jamshedpur and Premier Automobiles in Bombay. Commenting on the selection of the members of his staff, he said: "Since most of the snags are reported to the Workshop in general terms, it has become necessary for us to recruit only those who have an ability to quickly



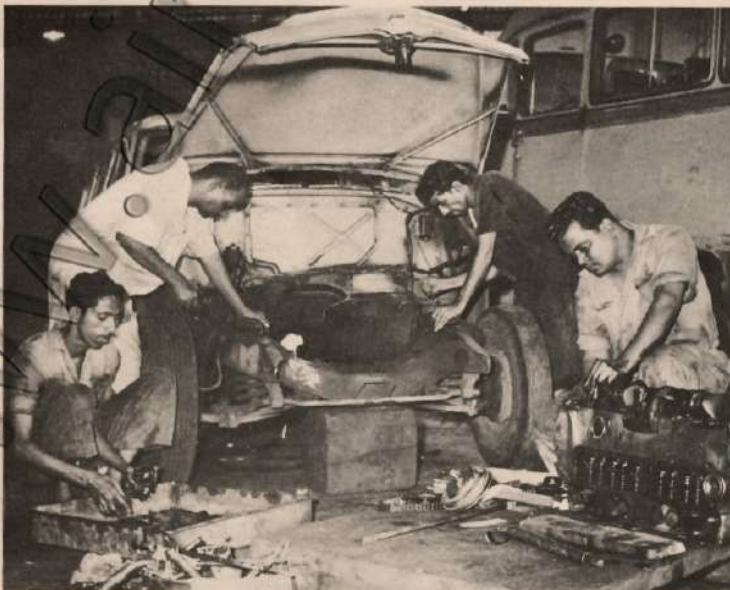
Transport engineer Julian Bocarro testing an engine on an Engine Analyser. Julian, who holds a Bachelor of Engineering degree, is an Associate Member of the Institute of Engineers.

pinpoint the defect."

The jobs handled at the Workshop vary from overhaul of engines and gear boxes to upholstery work. A schedule is drawn up for the regular check-up of every vehicle. And, when it completes a pre-determined mileage, the workshop moves into high gear. Its staff swings into action, going through it with a fine-tooth comb.

"THE Transport Section has grown from a 7-man t
vehicles to a vast complex of 119 drivers and 140
different makes which, between them, cover 79,000 mile

Mechanics at work in the workshop of our Transport Section at Santa Cruz. Extreme maintenance care is taken to assure maximum utilization of the transport.



Rusi Tavadia (sitting) and Jetho Mirchandar operations for the





Senior Store Keepers S. Gopalakrishna (left) and S. Nagarajan checking the supply of spares in the stores room of the Transport Section. It is their responsibility to see that adequate supply of spares is maintained at all times.

This has become necessary because the entire aviation industry pivots around maintaining tight schedules, and any transport break-down or delay may start a chain reaction costing heavily in terms of money and unproductive man hours. For the statistically minded, only one flight was delayed by 15 minutes in 1962-63 due to the break-down of crew transport. In 1963-64, the failure of a hi-lift truck at the base delayed one flight by five minutes.

Average Road Break-downs

Year	Passenger Coaches	Crew Station Wagons	Staff Buses
1962/63	One every 15,300 miles.	One every 9,000 miles.	One every 10,200 miles.
1963/64	One every 17,600 miles.	One every 10,100 miles.	One every 11,400 miles.

But the main props of the Section are, of course, the drivers—a dedicated band of men known for their devotion to duty, who serve our customers with a smile and never fail to show up on time, rain or shine, day or night.

The quiet efficiency with which the Transport Section works is achieved by exercising considerable care

and caution in detailing drivers for duty on passenger coaches. The drivers' sense of duty, bearing, turnout, personal approach and skill are carefully weighed when detailing them for this important assignment.

Great care is also taken in implementing a rigid driving-training programme because of the varied types of vehicles and equipment of the Corporation. As Mr. Ravi Tavadia, Transport Supervisor, explains: "Factors such as age and

health also play an important role in case of our drivers. They must not only be familiar with over 500 addresses of the members of the crew but also be able to time their speed, arrivals and departures at destinations, and period of stay at the residence of each member of the crew in order to reach the Airport on schedule."

The Movements Office facing the Workshop is responsible for keeping the wheels of transport moving round the clock. The Office, which works in three shifts, is run by Deputy Transport Supervisor Mr. Jetho Mirchandani with the help of Assistant Transport Supervisors and Transport Assistants.

After flight positions, routine requirements of other Departments and special transport requests are checked, the Office details vehicles for fuelling and despatches them to their respective assignments. A huge key-cluttered black-board indicates up to date position for short notice transport requests.

By the time the afternoon shift takes over, the Office is literally flooded with messages from and for the members of the crew and staff. After the messages are carefully sorted out they are handed over to despatch riders, who deliver over 2,000 messages in a month.

R. K. Sattawalla

eam and four vehicles of 31 s in a month."

going through the schedule of day.



A large key board dominates one side of the wall in the Movements Office. The photograph shows Driver Govind Barot collecting the keys of the assigned vehicle.





THE Bond Street reservations department now has a new look and we predict the new layout will be the envy of some of our reservations departments elsewhere. Not to be outdone, the sixth floor has been busy with the decorators too.

The tourist season is over and the holidaymakers are back at work. London appears to be a little less crowded and the predominantly international flavour of Bond Street has left us for a while. Whilst on the subject of Bond Street, we wonder how many of our Bond Street staff are aware of some of the past history of this world famous street.

It is interesting to read some of the commemorative plaques on the Bond Street buildings, although some of these are not easily found. At one time Shelley and Keats were residents of Bond Street; Nelson purchased his telescope in the street and the Prince Regent used to come personally to buy his cigars

from Charles Fox. One of the old traders used to make Beau Brummell's clothes and many of the old established firms, still in residence today, have descendants of the founder families working in the business even now.

News from the Cargo Department is brisk. Babies to the wives of two of the reps, Jack Lowman and David Snell. Over a period of four days in mid-September, London Airport handled 81,000 kilos of dead load cargo which included freight, baggage and mail, both incoming and outgoing. Mike Ody is to be congratulated for winning the first prize in a Lebanese Airways' interline competition which enabled him to spend five days in Beirut with all expenses paid.

Farewell to Sandra Rose from New Zealand who has been on the counter in Bond Street as a receptionist for the past three years. Farewell also to Adine Muspratt Williams from Bond Street Sales who left us to be married in Hong Kong in October.

There is much activity on the Sports front with number of indoor and outdoor events still ahead. The football teams and the hockey players are still busy winning and losing. The bowling boys managed to beat BOAC and there are still rumours of a cricket fixture against New York, but whether this is



Gouri Dixit (second from r) represented Air-India at a radio and television exhibition in London, which was opened by Mr. Roy Mason, M. P., Minister of State at the U. K. Board of Trade.

to be played in the sun or the snow remains to be seen. Our darts team is now affiliated to the Inter-line League.

Aureen Bain of our Passenger Handling Unit at London Airport was our representative at this year's Miss London Airport competition. KLM carried away the honour, but we were proud of our contestant and thank you, Aureen for keeping our flag flying.

When Mr. U. Thant, U.N. Secretary General travelled with us back to the United States after his visit to India, 35 members of the Lady Strathcona choir from Oxford University were on the same flight. The choir sang a few notes when posing for the photographers on the tarmac and later sang in the aircraft at the request of the Secretary General.

Trevor Turner



Aureen Bain who was Miss Air-India at the Miss London Airport competition recently.

The Lady Strathcona choir from Oxford University visited the United States and travelled on our service from London to New York.





INSIDE USA

WILLIAM Burke, Regional Sales Manager and Frank Martin, Deputy Regional Sales Manager, attended the American Society of Travel Agents' Annual Convention in Hong Kong recently.

Burke described the Convention as a particularly useful one for Air-India, as this was ASTA's first meeting at one of our On-line stations. It provided an opportunity for many agents to see something of our service. For the Convention, we made special promotion efforts including varied advertising which was described as thoroughly successful.

At another important meeting, the Annual Seminar of the New York Airlines Personnel Managers' Association, Air-India was represented by G. S. Mahal, our Administrative Officer, New York. Held in Bermuda, the Seminar covered major subjects ranging from data processing equipment to person-

nel testing. Of particular interest, reports Mahal, are advanced plans of some carriers to install television interviewing systems which will allow interviews to be held from the airline's headquarters of prospective employees scattered in cities all round the country. Some fifteen major domestic and international carriers were represented at the seminar, and Mahal was elected Treasurer of the group for the coming year.

Armando Arvizu has been promoted from Senior Sales Representative to DSM, Mexico. His promotion is the result of our expanding sales in the Latin American Market.

Paul Sonnenburg



Above, the Maharana of Udaipur (left) with our New York receptionist, Miss Pallavi Patel (extreme right) at a reception held in his honour during a recent visit. Below, Carlos Diez, Area Sales Manager, Mexico, (left) congratulates Armando Arvizu on his promotion to DSM, Mexico.



By PRABHAKAR WAGH

THE lights have come on again in the District Office and the neon Maharajah at the entrance has resumed his luminous night-long vigil.

AIRIMP, we always thought, was some kind of an imp of the air, the sort we come across in Fairy Tales. Thanks to a four-day learned discourse by Arun Vaidya, we are now disillusioned. AIRIMP is the code of Reservations folks, with a grammar all its own. We are told that 'NN' mis-printed as 'XX' can land an unsuspecting passenger in a pretty tough spot. Can you keep a

secret? Arun is working on a Manual on AIRIMP. To avoid disappointment, Outstations, place your indents well in advance.

Sherry Batliwalla found herself in Bombay on a holiday during the emergency and rose to the occasion as only Sherry could have. Foregoing her holiday, she pitched herself right into the fray and proved a most invaluable help to our hardpressed Tele-

phone Sales Chief, Gemma Lobo, and her girls. Thanks



Sherry Batliwalla

Sherry, and thanks Mr. Antia, Manager-Calcutta, for your gesture.

To most of us Wyoming,

Utah, Ohio, Colorado and Indiana are mere names on the map of USA, but not to long-legged Surendra Shirali from the Telex Section. Bitten by the travel-bug, this quiet young man travelled through all these States in a recent trip to USA. Included in his itinerary were also the more pedestrian places like New York, Los Angeles, London and Frankfurt.

Merit Award

Chandu Nagwekar has hit the headlines again, this time for being the winner of the coveted Merit Award. Congratulations Chandu! "Leave it to Nagwekar" has become a by-word for all Reserve Bank of India assignments.

The unmistakable tan on counter-man Cyril D'Souza's forehead has a

tale to tell, and a "fishy" one at that. The fishing season finds this inveterate angler at the fishing spots around the town. His stories of the "one that got away" spiced with the unique Cyril-Masala, are worth listening to.

Internally, we have had "postings" galore. Meticulous Minoo Sirwalla is presiding over our Treasury Benches as our Station Accountant, Mr. Mistry, the permanent incumbent, is on a holiday. Ex-Stenopool Chief, Rohini Lagu, now attests her "dainty" signature to our Reservations letters, she once typed. Old faithful C. V. Nair has now stepped onto her 'gadi'.

Space Controller, Yeshwant Chaphekar, is now to be seen at our Ticket (Contd. on page 10)



Assignment U.S.A.

by Asha Mehra

India Pavilion at the New York World's Fair

IT seemed that almost before I knew it, I was aboard the silver-winged Boeing, off to New York. The last few days had vanished in a sudden flurry of preparation. I was on my way to the World's Fair.

I arrived at Kennedy Airport with mixed feelings. Excitement mingled with apprehension. A whole new world lay before me as I stepped off the aircraft. The next thing I knew I was settling down at my lodgings.

My first glimpse of the World's Fair, immense and bewildering, was overwhelming. It had an almost dream-like quality. Was I really there, I said to myself, looking at the much-photographed Unisphere and listening to the strains of Mantovani wafting from tiny microphones concealed in each lamp post?

The glass panelled India Pavilion rose, out of an encircling 'moat'. Visitors caught misty glimpses of exotic, sari-clad hostesses inside through a veil of



Asha Mehra

water spray. There was a steady stream of people entering through the glass doors. Adding to the oriental atmosphere of serenity in the pavilion were the soft strains of the shehnai and the sitar.

The ground floor had a fine display of typical Indian arts and crafts, handloom articles and a dazzling array of saris, which inevitably drew admiring 'ohs' and 'ahs' from women. There were many queries on "how do you put it on" and "How do you keep it from falling off?"

As I turned a corner on the first floor, I almost

bumped into an enormous jute covered elephant who greeted all visitors with a benign wave of trunk. He was a favourite with the children who always clamoured to sit on his magnificent red "howdah". To the right and left of me as I walked were samples of India's main exports—canisters of tea, coffee, tinned shrimps, cigarettes, samsonite cases made in the U.S. from Indian Jute and a plastic cashew tree with realistic looking nuts hanging from the branches.

The Air-India Counter where I worked, had the traditional impress of India. It had a domed roof covered with floral designs, reminiscent of the 16th and 17th century Moghul art. The sides were panelled, the upper half being covered with flowered wall paper. Behind the counter was a mosaic map of the world in gold and blue anodised aluminium foil. Executed by a Greek artist, Niklose Bentos, the map showed Air-India routes and the various ocean currents in contrasting colours. It became a talking point and

casual passers-by would often linger for awhile and ask questions about India and Air-India in particular. With our little Maharajah on the counter, we did our best to impress on them the traditional Indian hospitality which would await them should they decide to visit India.

Perhaps the biggest draw, was the fabulous "Pride of India" tapestry displayed alongside the Air-India counter. There were gasps of admiration at the dazzling array of 18,000 precious and semi-precious stones encrusted in gold thread, which made up the intricate pattern of leaves and flowers. In the centre was a magnificent garnet with a diamond. This exquisite example of Indian art had taken 14 men and 50,000 man hours to complete—a fact which made a great impression on the automation-conscious average American visitor! The tapestry, insured for a million dollars were probably worth much more.

The days went by in a blur of faces, places to see and things to do. As my

stay lengthened into weeks, I tried to "do" as much of New York as possible. There was the Empire State Building to climb and Macy's Department Store to explore. I went through Harlem and visited Staten Island—a study in contrast. I cheered Sinatra and gazed spellbound at Nureyev and Fontaine.

Sometimes, just for fun, I strolled along the side walk of Fifth Avenue, window shopping, and feeling the tempo of life of the great city surging around me. I sampled the cuisine of Sweden, Japan and Mexico and picked up charming little trinkets and World's Fair souvenirs, while enjoying the exhilarating experience of mingling with people from every corner of the world—Kimonoed Japanese doll-like hostesses, traditionally dressed Bavarians, Spanish señoritas and dark handsome Puerto Ricans.

And so my 90 memorable days at the Fair were drawing to a close. It was time to return home. On board the homeward bound Boeing, I took a last look over my shoulder. We were airborne and the landscape of New York faded into the distance. I settled comfortably in my seat and closed my eyes. It had been a truly unforgettable stay.

BOMBAY CALLING

(Contd. from page 9)

Counter facing the passengers. In exchange, Counterman Neville Harda has switched his loyalties to Space Control. Krishnan now stands by Gemma Lobo in Telephone Sales. Lady Receptionists, Ayesha Rodrigues and Sheila Dotiwala have "migrated" to the hinterland to reinforce our Tele-Sales Unit.

Ex-PTA Boss, Joy Mathews, is now ADC to correspondence-boss Wilfred D'Lima. Godfrey Creado and Anil Kadam, seconded to the PTA and Interline Sections, are back in the Control fold.

Weddings



Devka with Mr. S. P. Murudkar of Cabin & Catering Service Section, Santa Cruz.



Rukmani with Mr. K. S. Rajaiah, Operations Department, Santa Cruz.



Shabha with Mr. D. D. More, Operations Department, Santa Cruz.

Sonee with Mr. K. R. Karandikar, Operations Department, Santa Cruz.



Postings and Promotions

POSTINGS

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT

From	To
Mr. S. R. Tamhane	Asst. Manager, Jakarta.
Mr. R. Krishnan	Dist. Sales Manager, Ernakulam.
Mr. K. N. Ratnam	Asst. Stn. Supdt. Delhi Airport.
	Passenger Relations, CHQ.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

From	To
Mr. A. S. Manikam	Mechanic, Bombay.
Mr. M. M. Kulkarni	Mechanic, Bombay.
Mr. M. S. Sal	A.M.E. — I Bombay.
Mr. V. K. Kanitkar	Mechanic, Delhi.
	Mechanic, Delhi.
	A.M.E. — I Zurich.
	Mechanic, Bombay.

PROMOTIONS

ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT

From	To
Mr. R. R. Pavri	Hollerith Officer.
Mr. J. B. Treasurywala	Asst. Accounts Officer.
Mr. P. P. Mullan	Asst. Accounts Officer.
Mr. K. P. B'Kamdin	Asst. Accounts Officer.
Mr. M. N. Gopalakrishnan	Asst. Accounts Officer.
Mr. P. R. Samanta	Asst. Accounts Officer.
Mr. M. D. Khariwala	Chief Cashier.
Mr. M. N. Bhat	Senior Accountant.
Mr. N. W. Jhuremalani	Senior Accountant.
Mr. R. S. Deshpande	Senior Accountant.
Mr. R. N. Desai	Statistician.
Mr. V. G. Gogate	Senior Accountant.
Mr. H. J. Puneagar	Junior Accountant.
Mr. K. G. Sabnis	Junior Accountant.
Mr. J. Kristachar	Junior Accountant.
Mr. V. N. Duvvari	Junior Accountant.
Mr. K. A. Subramanian	Junior Accountant.
Mr. N. V. Rao	Junior Accountant.
Mr. D. E. Cooper	Junior Accountant.
Mr. S. R. Sathe	Junior Accountant.
Mr. B. B. Plumber	Junior Accountant.
Mr. C. M. Amin	Junior Accountant.
Mr. R. T. Shah	Junior Accountant.
	Asst. EDP Manager.
	Accounts Officer.
	Accounts Officer.
	Accounts Officer.
	Accounts Officer.
	Accounts Officer.
	Asst. Accounts Officer.
	Asst. Accounts Officer.
	Asst. Accounts Officer.
	Asst. Accounts Officer.
	Asst. Accounts Officer.
	Senior Accountant.
	Senior Accountant.
	Senior Accountant.
	Senior Accountant.
	Senior Accountant.
	Senior Accountant.
	Senior Accountant.
	Senior Accountant.
	Senior Accountant.

Mr. K. K. Menon, our Manager, Eastern Europe and Austria, recently held a Press Conference and a reception at the Hotel Devin in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia. Photograph shows (l. to r.) Mr. Boris, Mrs. Dyntera, Dr. Grendur of Sluk Folk Dance Group, Mrs. Menon and Mr. Sos.





▲ Mr. B. Gulati, our Manager, Hong Kong, recently held a farewell party for the Indian High Commissioner, Thakor Saheb P. S. Kotda-Sangani and his wife at the Hong Kong Hilton. Here Mrs. Gulati is seen receiving the guests.



Sir Kenneth Anderson, Dy. Director General of the General Post Office, London, with Lady Anderson, photographed at London Airport just before boarding our Boeing 707 on their way to the East.



▲ Miss Brigitte Pesch, our receptionist in Vienna, interviewing Prince Himalaya of Nepal on behalf of some of the Austrian journalists. She was the only English speaking person present at the Press Conference.

At a cocktail party given by Mr. P. B. Dhar, our Sales Manager, Scandinavia, to the Managers and Directors of all the leading Travel Agencies in Sweden are: (r to l) Mr. C. Ryning, Mr. Jansson of Nymor & Schultz, H. E. Mr. Khub Chand, Indian Ambassador in Sweden and Mr. Dhar.



Mr. N. L. Mital, our Manager, Thailand, recently gave a dinner party at his residence to the IATA and non-IATA Travel Agents in Bangkok. Photograph shows (l. to r.) Mr. N. L. Mital, Mr. S. R. Tamhane, Asst. Manager, Mr. N. L. De Bock, General Manager, Everett Travel Service and Mr. N. S. Sethi, Managing Director, Travel International.

