

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Changes in the Operations Department Page 2
- London Diary Page 3
- European Notebook Page 4
- Sports Round-up Page 5

All-cargo services to UK and Japan from April 1

FOR the first time, Air-India will operate two scheduled all-cargo Boeing 707 services a week from Bombay to London, when the new Summer Time Table comes into effect on April 1, 1975. In the east-bound direction one of the two all-cargo services will be extended to Tokyo, thus providing a through-plane service between London and Tokyo.

The two all-cargo services will operate to London every Wednesday and Sunday and to Tokyo every Friday.

Among the other features of the Summer Time Table are the introduction of fast services on the India-UK-USA route and additional frequency on both the Gulf and Japan routes, making a total of seven services a week on each of these two routes.

There will be in all four fast services a week to the UK — two Boeing 747 and two Boeing 707. The two 747 services are AI-103 and AI-131. Flight AI-103 will leave Bombay every Tuesday at 1:00 AM (LT) and will operate with only two stops — Delhi and Beirut — between Bombay and London, before going on to New York. Flight AI-131, a daylight London terminator service, will leave Bombay at 10:00 AM (LT) every Saturday and will only stop at Beirut before reaching London at 4:45 PM (LT).

The two Boeing 707 fast services are: AI-127, a daylight service, which will leave Bombay every Thursday at



Cargo being loaded at Bombay Airport into one of our two Boeing 707-337Cs, which will be used for all-cargo operations from April 1, 1975.

7:00 AM (LT) and operate via Cairo and Geneva arriving in London at 3:35 PM (LT) and AI-129 which will operate every Saturday at 1:00 AM (LT) along the same route.

In the eastbound direction, however, there will be only two fast services — one 747 and one 707. The 747 service AI-102, which leaves

New York on Monday evening, will operate with only two stops between London and Bombay, namely Paris and Beirut. The 707 service AI-129 on Saturday will do a quick turn round at London and return to Bombay as AI-128 via Geneva and Cairo, reaching Bombay on Sunday at 4:00 AM (LT).

(Continued on page 4)

Boston Tea Party?

IN a demonstration of female power, our sales secretaries in New York have taken another giant stride towards liberation. Long ago they established the right to wear pants, which of course, allows them to take a "giant" stride. They have now abolished the time honoured custom of serving tea to the "bosses" and symbolically demolished a cherished teapot and mugs. That singular act, we hope, does not lead to a total revolution, as the Boston Tea Party did nearly two hundred years ago.

- M. Chudasama

(L to R) Mrs Esther Marcario, Mrs Seija Rutzy, Mrs Susan Janis and Mrs E. (Betty) Seidenwand demolishing a cherished teapot and mug.

Quality is.... AIR-INDIA

AIR-INDIA has been listed as one of the three quality airlines in the world by the "W" magazine published by Women's Wear Daily, USA, in its February 21, 1975 issue.

Air-India is listed as a quality airline along with Swissair and American Airlines.

The issue carries a special section on "Quality". Pauline de Rothschild, one of the "Quality" personalities included in the Section, defines "Quality" as: "Quality, like all important words concerning human beings, is impossible to define. It is not a natural gift, but a tendency, the result of exercises in choice, a knowledge that comes from the outside. It implies rejecting, snubbing, even snobbery. In the English 19th Century, the mobs made a noun of it: The Quality, meaning people who slept in the finest sheets, ate the best peaches, had ornamented throats and kept their hair as lustrous as their horses' coats. In other words, snobs of something or another who constantly exercised their knowledge. The very good thing about this acquired ability is that it makes you more difficult about yourself. Then we begin to seek and ask for quality in others. And that, we know, is full of pitfalls."

The magazine lists people, authors, publishers, book stalls, playwrights, postal systems, hospitals, hotels, restaurants and many other subjects.



Changes in the Operations Dept.

A NUMBER of changes have taken place in our Operations Department in recent months. Captain V. N. Shirodkar has taken over as Director of Operations in place of Captain J. S. Dhillon, who has been posted to Perth as Operations Manager (Eastern Division).

Captain D. Bose, Operations Manager (Training Division) has become OM (Headquarters), while Captain C.R.S. Rao and Captain C.P. Narayanan, who were Deputy Operations Managers in Training Division and Central Division respectively have been promoted as Operations Managers and have taken charge of those Divisions.

Captain Shirodkar has been with Air-India for 33 years and still flies Boeing 707s regularly on our routes. At 58, he must surely be one of the oldest, if not the oldest, commercial pilot in India with a current licence.

In his long and distinguished career in Air-India, Captain Shirodkar has been successively Chief Pilot, London, for nine years, Flight Instructor - he trained most of our Boeing 707 pilots - Divisional Operations Manager (Central Division), Operations Manager (Flight Operations), Operations Manager (Eastern Division) and now Director of Operations.

Captain Rao, 48, who has taken over as OM (Training Division) has been with Air-India since 1955. Trained at the Mysore and Hyderabad Flying Clubs, Captain Rao flew Dakotas for Jamair between 1950 and 1955, before joining Air-India.

He has been with the Training Division since 1961, first as a Flight Instructor and latterly as Dy OM, except for three years when he was on a posting in London.

A keen sportsman - he played first class cricket and was an athlete in



Capt V.N. Shirodkar, who has taken over as Director of Operations.

his college days - Captain Rao now prefers to play golf. He is Captain of Air-India's Golf Team and a member of the Air-India Sports Control Board. Last year he won the Air-India Open Championship. He loves Western Classical Music and has a large collection of records. His other hobby is photography.

Captain Narayanan, 49, has also been with Air-India since 1955. His aviation career began on a dramatic note, having been among 10 young boys selected by the Indian National Army in Malaysia during the Second World War for training as pilots. (He was born in Malacca, Malaysia.) They were sent to Japan, where they did not get beyond the glider stage because the war came to an end. He was repatriated to India as a Prisoner of war.

After his release, he joined the Bihar Flying Club and went on to complete his flying training with the Madras Flying Club. He joined the Airways (India) Ltd. in 1949 and stayed with them till joining Air-India.



Capt C.P. Narayanan, the new OM (CD).



Capt C.R.S. Rao, the new OM (TD).

Mr C.S. Patel, our Manager-Western Australia (Centre), presenting a consignment of tea to Mr J.A. Mills, Regional Director, Commonwealth Department to Manufacturing Industries at Perth while Mr R.B. Sharma, Asst Manager, looks on.



(L to R) Mr P.A. Thomas, Mr P.F. Mahta, RD-USA & Canada and Dr K.S. Venkateswaran, all shaking hands after each getting their 25-year service pins.

RD exudes optimism

By M. Chudasama

MR PETER MAHTA, Regional Director-USA & Canada, recently addressed the staff at informal gatherings in the regional head office at Park Avenue and at Kennedy Airport. He outlined the reasons for the cutbacks and expressed the hope that the situation would return to normal in the near future. The RD exuded optimism, which infected many who entered the meetings with worries about the future.

Speaking of Management's plans for the future, including the acquisition of a fifth Boeing 747, the possible extension of our services to Canada and an all cargo flight next year, he expressed his total faith in their judgement. He asked the staff to "keep the faith" and pull together, as part of one family, to ensure a comeback which would make Air-India stronger and more profitable than ever before.

If reassurance was necessary, the presentation of 25 year service pins and watches to Mr Mahta, Dr Venkateswaran, Manager, USA & Canada and Mr P.A. Thomas, Regional Maintenance Manager, on March 3, 1975, underlined the stability of Air-India and its management. And, of course, the unmatched experience of long and dedicated years of service these pins represent. At a

simple ceremony in the RD's office, he presented the service pins to Dr Venkateswaran and Mr Thomas on behalf of Air-India. And fittingly, Mr Mahta himself was "pinned" by Patricia Koenig, the Administrative Assistant to the RD, the oldest (not in age, of course, merely service) local employee in the region.

We welcome to our expanding family, five new "entrants", despite the recent cutbacks -

- Nicole, daughter of Helen and Nichol as Metz. Nick is our Assistant Personnel Manager.

- Claudine, daughter of Honoria and Danny McAlister. The mother, Honoria, is the secretary to our Regional Accounts Manager.

- Melissa, daughter of Valerie and Michael Kotsias. Valerie is a computer operator in the IBM section.

- A long-awaited daughter of Sundri and Dalip Dulai. Dalip is our Accounts Manager.

- Robert Joseph, the only young man in this physical manifestation of female power, son of Carl and Carol Attianese. Carl is our Senior Telex Operator and Carol is the former secretary of our Sales Manager.

And a belated welcome to Matthew Scala who married Frances, secretary to the Deputy Sales Manager.

And to all of them, our heartiest congratulations.

5,000 kgs tea flown to Australia

By
R. B. Sharma

DARWIN in the Northern Territory of Australia is a small city but of considerable importance to Australia. It was razed to the ground by a cyclone on Christmas Day, 1974.

Help poured in from all over the world to the victims of the cyclone, most of whom were evacuated from the city. India sent in 5,000 kgs of the finest quality tea and the consignment was flown by Air-India to Perth in January.

Mr C.S. Patel, our Manager-Western Australia, presented a token consignment on behalf of the Indian High Commissioner in Canberra, to Mr J.A. Mills, Regional Director, Commonwealth Department to Manufacturing

Industries - Stores & Transport Branch at Perth.

Mr Malcolm Barretto, Regional Manager-Australasia and South East Asia, accompanied by Mrs Barretto, visited Perth for the first time recently. He met the office staff, including flight and cabin crew based in Perth, and also attended a couple of interline functions.

Perth has shown a remarkable growth in the last five years. From a revenue target of Rs 1.5 crores in 1969-70, our target has jumped to Rs 2.2 crores in 1974-75. We could say that the growth has been just about in direct proportion to the increase in consumption of the famous Swan Lager in Western Australia!

PETER MINGRONE AND THE 'NEWSBOY'

SOON after the Lockheed Tri-star landed at the Bombay Airport during its far eastern demonstration tour last year, a message was handed over to Mr Peter Mingrone, Sales Director of Lockheed, who was on board the aircraft. The message read: "Pandurang is here".

Mr Mingrone, to everyone's surprise, rushed out to find 41-year-old Pandurang Holkar, Cleaner in our Cabin Catering Section, waiting for him on the apron. Mr Mingrone's mind went back to the late '40s when he was stationed in Bombay as the Lockheed Technical Representative with Air-India. He used to drive through the Santa Cruz level crossing on his way to work and usually bought his morning newspaper from a little boy near the gate.

Mr Mingrone liked the little boy's salesmanship and was struck by his intelligence and hard work. Shouldn't he be at school? he wondered. Could he do something for him?

In the next few days he found out more about Pandurang. His father was a painter, without a permanent job and the family found it difficult to make both ends meet.

Mr Mingrone was moved. He decided to pay for Pandurang's education for the next few years. He and Mrs Mingrone even visited Pandurang's home a couple of times. But when he left Bombay after finishing his term with Air-India, Pandurang had to give up school and go to work.

By 1954 he had found a job with BOAC (now British Airways) as a loader and in 1961 joined Air-India in our Catering and Cabin Service Section as a cleaner where he continues to work today. (He is shortly joining the Ground Handling Department as a Junior Operator).

Neither Pandurang nor his mother ever forgot what Mr Mingrone had done for him. Although Mr Mingrone has visited Bombay a number of times since, he lost contact with Pandurang after 1956 when he last saw him in Bombay.

Some years ago, Pandurang saw a photograph of Mr Mingrone in one of the Indian magazines and knew he was still with Lockheed. He made no attempt to get in touch with Mr Mingrone. "I guess I was too shy", said Pandurang. "Anyway I didn't think it was proper."



Mr Peter Mingrone seen with Pandurang Holkar of our Cabin Service Division.

When he saw the Lockheed Tri-Star on the apron at the Bombay Airport as he was coming off duty, it immediately struck him that Mr Mingrone was likely to be on board and on the spur of the moment sent up a message.

Mr Mingrone was pleased to see Pandurang after so many years. He put his arm round him and enquired after his parents who now stay with

him in our Staff Colony. He gave Pandurang Rs 100 to buy some gift for his children. Pandurang refused; Mr Mingrone insisted - "For your children, not for you".

Next day Pandurang went and bought some stainless steel utensils with the names of his children inscribed on them. His mother was pleased.

K.S.M.

CONGRATULATIONS to Len Rowe from our Sales Department who recently obtained a booking for 163 passengers to go on a tour to India. They were all horse racing enthusiasts, known as the Punters Club, from the Daily Mirror Newspaper Group. During their visit to India they visited Bombay, Delhi and Calcutta and various race meetings in each of these cities.

From here we watched with interest the reports of Prince Charles' private visit to India, which he made before he went to Nepal for the Coronation of the King. We were flattered and honoured to know that our 'Holidays in India' brochure was forwarded to him as part of the informative material about India which he studied before his visit. Incidentally your correspondent recently had the honour of being presented to the Prince, but regrettably there was no opportunity to talk about India.

A number of Indian artists have recently been into London. Among these has been Jatin Das who had an exhibition of his paintings at the Commonwealth Institute, and the photographer Ashvin Gatha who was showing his work to various people.

Mr V.R. Hegde, Supplies Manager, London, was given a farewell party on completion of his term of posting in London. Seen at the party are (L to R) Mr A.R.C. Sekaran, Asst to RD-UK, Mr S.S. Muley, who has taken over as Supplies Manager, London, Mrs Hegde, Mr H.R. Farmer, Manager, London Airport, Mr Hegde, Mr T.P. Narayan, Regional Maintenance Manager and Mr M.A.S. Dalal, RD-UK.



London Diary

By Trevor Turner

He has an exhibition arranged in London for later this year.

We recently received a copy of a book written by John Wiles who, many will remember, worked in our Telephone Sales Department. In the book he describes his journey from the South of India to Delhi. In the section referring to his visit to Bombay, there are several pages of amusing reading. He recalls his time with Air-India when he went to one of our Staff Athletic Meets accompanied by John Marsh.

Talking of John Marsh he informs us that one of the mice in the Accounts Department (these little friends live with most of us from time to time) was so friendly that he crawled up the legs of one of the Accounts boys, who was so busy with his adding machine that he did not realise what had happened till

the mouse had passed the point of no return. A hasty retreat to the smallest room in the building was necessary to remove the unwelcome visitor.

In Bond Street on every other Tuesday we now have an 'at home' day and about six representatives from various travel agents are invited by their sales representative to spend a day in our building. They spend time with the Heads of all Departments and see how each department works and are introduced to the RD. They have a snack lunch in the office and then go to the Tourist Office for the afternoon and finish up with some films and a drink. This is a way of encouraging more awareness about Air-India with our travel agent friends in the hopes that they will learn something about our organisation and enjoy a mutual exchange of views, questions and answers.

Congratulations to Brian Mutton one of our Cargo Sales Representatives who is this year's Chairman of the Gatwick Branch of the UK Air Cargo Club.

We recently said goodbye to the Supplies Manager-London Mr V.R. Hegde after his tour of duty in London. A farewell party was arranged in his honour and our good wishes go to him and his family for the future. In his place, we welcome Mr S.S. Muley as the new Supplies Manager. Welcome also to Alan Blackwood who has recently joined us as Cargo Sales Representative in Glasgow and Mr R.K. Nanda, Officer in Charge of the New Ramp Handling Unit at London Heathrow, which is due to become operational on April 1, 1975.

Vaughan Heenan (who spotted his picture in the Financial Times?) tells us that he is learning to fly and this presumably must be quite a change from his other weekend escapades, one of which is parachute jumping.

The latest report to be received in London early in March about Alan Llabias, who readers may recall once worked in Cargo London and is



Rhitu, the artist

SIX school children in Lebanon were awarded prizes for their paintings by the Indian Embassy in Lebanon. Among them was Rhitu, 4½-year-old daughter of Mr Indu Bhardwaj, our Flight Despatch Manager, Beirut.

The prizes were given away by Mrs Manju Singh, wife of the Indian Ambassador to Lebanon.

The Embassy had organised an art competition for children (in the age groups of five to eight and nine to thirteen) to celebrate Mr Jawaharlal Nehru's birthday on November 14, which is celebrated in India as the Children's Day.

Nearly 30 children from 10 different schools in Lebanon came to the Embassy with paint and brushes to paint 'on the spot'.

The paintings were judged by Mr Bassam Nasr and Mrs Tamam Shamout, both wellknown artists in Lebanon, and Mrs Zahia Salaman, who is Chairman of the Lebanese Child Welfare Association in Lebanon.

Rhitu's success of course delighted her parents and the other Air-India staff. She won the third prize "for her exceptionally original painting and exquisite choice of colours". In a way she was in a class of her own. She was slightly below the age limit.

(Continued on page 4)

European Notebook

By Sorab Modi

GENEVA has recently been the scene of farewells and weddings. Mr Adi Vachaghandy left our Accounts Section after 12 years of service. At a farewell party in the Geneva office, Mr Vachaghandy said that he would certainly miss his many friends in Air-India and added that his years in Air-India had been happy ones. All present wished Adi a long and happy retirement.

Air-India Geneva will, in a sense, never be the same again, not after Mrs Irene Hefti's retirement. Anyone who has worked at Geneva will know what I mean. For 25 years, she had been a loyal and devoted Secretary to the Manager. There was no problem Mrs Hefti could not offer a solution to.

Mr and Mrs Sydney Fernandes hosted a farewell party in her honour at their home. With 25 years in Air-India, Mrs Hefti was full of reminiscences and vintage anecdotes about the several Air-India staff she had been associated with.

Mrs Hefti became something of a legend in the Geneva office because of her helpfulness and knowledge of Geneva, ranging from shopping down to the intricacies of the Swiss Labour Laws. Her words on the day of her departure are symptomatic of the wonderful and happy relationship she had with Air-India: "I have really loved working with Air-India. I came to work each day with joy in my heart".

Silver wings

Geneva was also the scene of two weddings.

The first, Pat Rodricks, currently our Airport Manager in Calcutta, came on silver wings to claim his bride Miss Christine Fischer who was a secretary in the RD-CE's office.

The second wedding, and this was really a surprise, was that of Trevor Francis, Asst Manager, Switzerland & Austria. One morning we were told "Trevor's getting married next week". Cupid certainly had a hard time catching up with this elusive bachelor, but on November



A group of children from eight European countries who led the most successful campaign to collect one million dollars for the World Wild Life Fund, seen at Cointrin Airport, Geneva, before their departure for a 2-week safari in India.

18, 1974 Trevor and Florence Lobo became man and wife.

I am aware of the adage "the way to a man's heart is through his stomach". But when a man is as good a cook as Trevor, all we can say is that Florence must be exceptional.

To Christine and Pat and Florence and Trevor our best wishes for a long and happy married life.

World wild life safari

Cointrin Airport, Geneva, on the evening of Thursday, February 20, 1975, was full of the babble of excited children between the ages of 11 and 14 from eight European countries who were about to take off on our flight AI-126 for Delhi for a two-week safari which would take them to three tiger reserves, one of the world's finest bird sanctuaries, as well as the cities of Agra and Jaipur.

These 27 children, led by Peter Jackson of the WWF, were the most successful young people in Austria, Belgium, Finland, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland in raising funds to save the tiger. The campaign was launched in September 1971 with an appeal for one million dollars by the president of the WWF, HRH the Prince of the Netherlands. The campaign has now raised a million dollars and this will help finance the tiger conservation programme in Asia. Half this sum was raised by the European children's campaign during the past four months.

The European Region held its Annual Sales Conference recently. Mr N.H. Dastur, Dy Managing Director (Commercial), led the delegation

from Headquarters which included Mr I.D. Sethi, Dy Commercial Director (Marketing and Sales), Major S.G. Srinivasan, Regional Manager (India) and Mr R.K. Narpal Singh, Commercial Manager-Cargo.

Mr Dastur commented on the success of the European region during the current year and said that Europe had given a fine response to all new ideas put forward by Headquarters which resulted in good revenue. He referred to Europe's handsome contribution to the Indian Ocean Cruise and urged the delegates to speak up on whatever help and support they needed from the Management to achieve and surpass the target set for 1975/76.

Mr M.I. Qadir, Regional Director-Continental Europe, in his detailed review of the Region's performance made a special reference to the expenditure control in the Region. On the sales side, he said that against the background of recession, inflation, general economic uncertainty and the pilots' strike, the Region had done well.

Summer timetable

(Continued from page 1)

With the introduction of these new services, there will be in all seven 747 services a week to New York, via London on which will also be served with an additional Boeing 747 terminator service and four Boeing 707 terminators, including two all-cargo services. There will be seven services a week to the Gulf, four to Tokyo, two to Osaka, three to Nairobi, two to Sydney, one to Jakarta and one to Singapore. Singapore, of course, is also served by services operating to Sydney and Jakarta. There will also be twice weekly services to Dacca and to Mauritius; the latter under Air-India and Air Mauritius flight numbers.

London Diary

(Continued from page 3)

now walking around the world for charity, was that he and his colleague had got to Teheran, where they were gainfully employed to build up some capital for their next footsteps to the East.

Pardon, we slipped

There were errors in the captions to two photographs published on page two and page four of the March 1975 issue of the Magic Carpet. In the caption to the Rotary Award photograph names of Mr Arvind Kilachand and our hostess Helen Menzies were inadvertently omitted. In the caption to the photograph on page four, the cricketer being introduced to the Prime Minister was Venkatraghavan and not Chandrasekhar as mentioned in the caption.

OBITUARY



Mr Vaikunth Shetye

WITH the death of Mr Vaikunth V. Shetye, our Chief Artist in Bombay on March 4, 1975, at the early age of 49 years, Air-India has lost not only a talented artist, but a devoted and dedicated officer.

Mr Shetye joined Air-India as Chief Artist in 1956, after obtaining his diploma in Commercial Art from the J.J. School of Arts, Bombay. Testimonials of Mr Shetye's artistic ability have since then been in evidence wherever Air-India flies.

As a man, Mr Shetye was quiet and unassuming, yet driven with a great zeal to inspire his colleagues to a magnificent effort.

Patience, fortitude and devotion to duty were so much a part of Shetye that he worked as long as he was able to, in spite of his crippling disease.

"If the interiors of our aircraft, from our very first 707 to our fifth 747 are just about the most attractive in the world", said Mr S.K. Kooka, "a great deal of the credit goes to Vaikunth Shetye. With his exquisite sense of colour and the courage of his convictions, it was a pleasure to work with him on the designs and a joy to find him replying to our Chairman's 'loaded' questions with complete frankness and objectivity".

His death is an irreparable loss to the Art Studio of Air-India and is deeply mourned by his family, colleagues and friends.

Our sincerest condolences to Mrs Shetye and his two young daughters.



Mr C. L. Mansukhani

MR CHANDUR L. MANSUKHANI, Navigation Training Manager, died after a short illness on February 21, 1975. He was 46.

Born in Hyderabad (Sind), Mr Mansukhani was studying in Junior B.Sc when he decided to become a Navigator. He passed his Navigators' Examination in 1955 and soon afterwards joined Air-India as a Cadet Navigator.

He was medically grounded in 1967, but that did not prevent him from putting his considerable talents to better use. He became a navigation instructor, although he had no previous instructional experience.

"He was the kind of man who would never say 'no' to anything. When he was asked whether he would take a training job, he did not hesitate", said Mr J.C. Pathak, Manager-Navigation.

Mr Mansukhani leaves behind his wife and a daughter to whom we tender our sincere condolences.

At a farewell party to Mrs Irene Hefti, Secretary to the Manager-Geneva, are seen (L to R) Mrs Hefti, Mr Sydney Fernandes, Manager-Geneva, Mrs Punset and Heather, daughter of Mr Fernandes.



SPORTS ROUND-UP

Carrom

Air-India wins four Trophies in Jt. Tourney

In the first ever Joint Air-India/Indian Airlines Carrom Tournament held at the Airlines House in Calcutta recently, the Air-India team won four out of five events, including the Team Championship.

As in other joint sports events, there were in all five teams - four representing the IA Regions of Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras, and Air-India.

Our team defeated all the IA teams to win the team championship. Mr V.B. Revandkar of our Personnel Department, who was the Captain of our team, won the Men's Singles while Mrs Tara Malkani, also of Personnel, won the Ladies' Singles. The two of

them then won the Mixed Doubles as well.

The only event our team lost was the Men's Doubles. Mr Revandkar and Mr K.T. Pawar of Engineering were defeated in the semi-finals.

There was a slight hitch before the start of the Tournament over the size of the Boards to be used and the use of Boric powder. Finally a compromise was reached. All the teams agreed to use the slightly larger boards preferred by the Bengal Carrom Association (33-inch-boards instead of the standard 30-inch ones). The teams were allowed to use Boric powder, which is not permitted in Calcutta.



The members of our Carrom team seen with their trophies after their return to Bombay. The photograph shows (L to R) Mr D.R. Suryawanshi, Mr S.P. Tare, Mrs T. Malkani, Mr S.K. Nanda, Mr D.P. Nimkar, Chairman, Sports Control Board, Mr V.B. Revandkar (Captain), Mr S.V. Shenoy and Mr K.T. Pawar. (Back row) Mr Vijay Manjrekar, Officer-in-charge, Sports, and Mr R.D. Manjrekar.



The bridge finals in progress. Seen in the photograph are (L to R) Mr Hyder, Mr Nadkar, Mr Nulkar (Manager), Mr Shiva, Mr Rane, Mr Patankar and Mr Karandikar.

Bridge

Inter-Departmental title won by Engineering

The Engineering Department has won this year's Inter-Departmental Bridge Tournament. In all 44 teams took part in the tournament.

Both teams in the finals of the Tournament were from the Engineering Department. Mr S.V. Karandikar and Mr V.M. Nadkar won the Cham-

pionship by beating Mr V.S. Rane and Mr A.I. Hyder.

A notable feature of the Tournament was the fact that Mr G.N. Bangale and Mr S.K. Gorakshakar from the Operations Department and Mr V.L. Kalegaonkar and Mr S.M. Sitapalli from the Engineering Department made two Grand Slams each.

From Cairo, with love

WHEN Mr R.N. Desai, our Accounts Manager, retired in Cairo after 33 years service, staff not only in his section, but in other sections as well, were genuinely sorry at his departure. In his three years in Cairo, he had endeared himself to everyone. He was amiable, friendly and easily accessible.

The farewell party to him and Mrs Desai was more like an affectionate family gathering. It was held at the flat of Mr R. Krishnan, Assistant Manager.

Mr M.Y. Mathure, Manager, Egypt, paid generous tributes to Mr Desai, who, he said, had been like a friend, philosopher and guide. "I can hardly believe he is 58. He can pass off for a much younger man". He wished Mr and Mrs Desai a happy retired life in Bombay.

Mr Albert Khalil, Representative of the Airlines Syndicate, said that

the local staff were sad that Mr Desai was leaving Cairo. Mr Charles Hamati, Senior Accounts Assistant, said: "We shall always remember you".

In his reply, Mr Desai said: "My three years in Cairo have slipped away quickly and, I must say, pleasantly. I have enjoyed every minute of my stay here".

Mr Desai thanked everyone for their co-operation and support and also for the beautifully carved coffee table which was presented to him.

Mr Desai is now back in Bombay. In his 33 years in Air-India he made a host of friends, most of whom remember his tall, wiry figure striding down the corridors of the old Accounts Building. Before his posting to Cairo, he was for many years in charge of the Statistics Section, where his meticulousness and insistence on accuracy were wellknown.

Mr R.N. Desai, Accounts Manager, Cairo (Centre) receiving a bouquet from Mrs Mathure at a farewell party in Cairo. Mr M.Y. Mathure, our Manager, Cairo, is at left.



Cricket

AI keeps cup

The Air-India cricket team defeated four teams of Indian Airlines drawn from the four Regions of Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras in the Fourth Air-India/Indian Airlines Joint Cricket Tournament played in Delhi between March 3-8, 1975.

Air-India team, which was led by Ramesh Manjrekar, thus retained the championship.

Among our players, the most outstanding performance was that of Malegaonkar, a trainee technician from the Power Plant Overhaul Division, who scored 135 in one innings and remained not out in three innings out of four.

The Chafar Delhi Football team won the Hawaldar Major Abdul Hamid Tournament in Delhi. The photograph shows Mr B.P. Maurya, Minister of State for Agriculture, presenting the shield to Mr G.R. Arora, Manager-Flight Kitchen.



Prospects for 1975

MR KNUT HAMMARSKJOLD, IATA Director General, saw 1974 as "essentially a transition year" for the world air transport industry.

"There is good reason to look forward to 1975 and beyond with guarded optimism", he said.

The disappointing 1974 performance of the international airlines stemmed from the same unrelenting economic pressures that had afflicted practically all governments, consumers and industries during the year.

The past year had not, however, been without a positive side. "That air carriers have been able to weather the global economic storm without a complete collapse is in itself a sign of the industry's inherent resilience."



At the opening of the Indo Family Club at Kobe are seen (L to R) Mr K.K. Chawla, our Asst Manager, Osaka, Mr H. Morioka, Director of Shinko Travel Service, Mr D.V. Gidwaney, our Manager-Southern Japan and Korea, Mr K.N. Kudesia, Regional Director, GOI Tourist Office, Tokyo, and Mr K.V.N. Menon, Indian Consul-General, Kobe.

Indo-Family Club in Kobe

THE Indo-Family Club was inaugurated in Kobe, Japan, on February 22, 1975. The Club aims at encouraging interest in India among the Japanese people. The prime focus will be on young people who have visited India once and who would like to keep their interest in the country alive by broadening their contact with Indians living in Japan.

The inaugural party was held at the Indian Social Society in Kobe and was attended by about 250 guests. The sponsors were Air-India, the Government of India Tourist Office and Shinko Travel Service. The

party started with a speech by Mr K.V.N. Menon, Indian Consul-General in Kobe. He was followed by Mr K.N. Kudesia, Regional Director of the GOI Tourist Office and Mr H. Morioka, Director of Shinko Travel Service, whose knowledge of India is unrivalled in the area.

A film about the various aspects of Indian life was shown on the occasion. There was also a Yoga demonstration by the Doi Group from Osaka followed by Indian folk dances.

The party ended with a prize distribution. Among the prizes were Kobe saris.

A Yoga demonstration in progress during the inaugural ceremonies of the Club.



A FLIGHT TO REMEMBER

By Gratian Farias, Flight Engineer

On February 21, 1975, when the Commander of PANAM's Clipper flight made his last landing before his retirement, at the Kennedy International Airport, he did so literally on a Red Carpet specially rolled out for him.

When his flight came under Kennedy Control, he was asked to pick the runway of his choice. When the Clipper's Skipper said "I'll take 31 Left", the voice from the Tower responded "Hearty Congratulations, Captain Basset, you are cleared to land on 31 Left, if you see any red, it is only the colour of the carpet. Wish you a happy retirement and do celebrate your last landing with a whole bucket of Champagne".

Earlier, Captain Basset had ridden on the crest of a wave of goodwill all along his flight

patch from Gander to Kennedy - area controls at Gander, Monckton, Boston and New York greeted him with affection, wishing him many happy years of retirement. Indeed, this was Captain Basset's finest hour.

The Red Carpet treatment was secretly conceived by his thoughtful First Officer, who requested Gander during the Skipper's brief absence from the Cockpit to alert ground controls of Captain Basset's last flights.

Following the blazing trail of goodwill were Captains N.J. Shroff and D.L. Sargon and the writer on the flight deck of Air-India's One Zero Nine to New York. For them, fellow travellers in the North American skies, eavesdropping on PANAM's Skipper's final hours of flying career, was a thrilling and unique experience.

WHO'S WHO & WHERE

PROMOTIONS

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT

Mr A.A. Coelho Kuwait	Station Superintendent
Mr S.F. Mehta Bombay	Station Superintendent
Mr D.W. Shembavanekar Bombay	Station Superintendent
Mr W.P. Pires Santa Cruz	Station Superintendent
Mr N.S. Suvarna Santa Cruz	Station Superintendent
Mrs J. Rego Bombay	Station Superintendent
Mr C.A. De Mello Bombay	Station Superintendent
Mr A.J. Desai Bombay	Station Superintendent
Mr L.H. Smith Santa Cruz	Station Superintendent
Mr J.M. D'Souza Santa Cruz	Station Superintendent
Mr B. Sen Gupta Calcutta	Station Superintendent
Mr S.K. Suri Delhi	Station Superintendent
Mr S.K. Gupta Calcutta	Station Superintendent
Mr V.P. Kulkarni Bombay	Station Superintendent
Miss V.G. Gulrajany Santa Cruz	Dy Chief Air Hostess
Miss D.P. Bhiwandiwala Santa Cruz	Dy Chief Air Hostess
Miss C. Colaco Santa Cruz	Dy Chief Air Hostess

ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT

Mr K.P. Sarathi Santa Cruz	Accountant
Mr P.F. Nistry Santa Cruz	Accountant
Mr C.R.V. Panicker Santa Cruz	Accountant
Mr A.S. Diwadkar Santa Cruz	Accountant
Mr D.R. Kulkarni Santa Cruz	Accountant

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

Mr V.B. Borkar Santa Cruz	Operations Officer
Mr N.R. Sule Santa Cruz	Operations Officer

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

Mrs Tara Malkani Santa Cruz	Personnel Officer
Mr R.B. Patel Santa Cruz	Asst Personnel Officer
Mr G.P. Pandit Santa Cruz	Asst Personnel Officer

CIVIL WORKS &

PROPERTIES DEPARTMENT

Mr P.N. Karmarker Santa Cruz	Technical Officer
Mr G.V. Karnik Santa Cruz	Administrative Officer



Above, the Indian Fine Arts Society Bahrain, which is dedicated to the promotion of Indian classical music and dance in Bahrain, celebrated its Annual Day recently. In the photograph taken on the occasion, Mr K.E.N. Swamy, our Maintenance Manager and President of the Society, is seen talking to Mr Tariq Almoayad, Bahrain's Minister for Information, who was the guest of honour at the function. Below, Air-India was awarded the Ministry of Tourism Tanjore Trophy for the showcard paisley design at the 24th Annual Convention of the Travel Agents' Association of India. Photograph shows Mr F.V. Mascarenhas, our Manager-Southern India, Madras, receiving the award from Mr Vinoo Ubhayakar, President, TAAI.

