

# Magic Carpet

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# RANDOM JOTTINGS

By Healthy Mind

UNDER your flabby exterior is 'the BEAUTIFUL YOU'. So would go a publicity blurb if I was asked to write one. And the other day when I was told by the MD that I needed to knock a few pounds off, I consulted Vijith Kuruppu who convinced me that minus my paunch there really was a beautiful me. So I reluctantly betook myself to the Centaur Hotel to personally investigate.

Stripping down to my yellow polka-dot bikini, I first took a shower and then moved over to the Finnish Sauna Bath. This is a wooden structure where you sit contemplating your navel while the temperature builds up to a ferocious 82.5°C. I was in a real sweat but, surprisingly, felt relaxed. This, I was assured by Vijith, who is Manager of Centaur's Health Club and swimming pool, was the toxin oozing out of my body. I looked around, couldn't see any toxin, so had to take his word for it. Once out of the Sauna, I was shocked out of my senses by a minus 15°C chilled shower straight from the hotel's airconditioning unit. I was given a few minutes rest, then back to the sauna, but this time with steam, followed by another chilled shower and rest.

And that's that, I thought. Where's a mirror, I want to see the beautiful me. But I was instantly pounced upon by a massive masseur who looked like a combination of Joe Louis and King Kong and who proceeded to pummel, knead and thump me while I pleaded for mercy. Can I have some tender treatment, I asked (the 4-channel piped stereo music was soothing out "Tenderly") but I was told that the shapely masseurs were for women only. Well, a chilled bottle of beer, I thought, but even that was not to be. Part of the treatment is health juices—made of carrot, spinach, cucumber and other such undesirable vegetables.

28-year-old Kuruppu is very enthusiastic about his health club. Born and bred in Sri Lanka, he represented that

country in gymnastics, judo, swimming and trampoline, captained the Ceylon judo team for two years, and acquired a black belt in Judo and Karate before swimming across to India to join the Centaur. He has just returned from a four-month scholarship course at Tenri University near Osaka and saw the famous Sumo wrestlers, known to James Bond fans, in action.

Insisting that I was working too hard, he put me through his calisthenic course—the slendro cycle (where you pedal like hell but get nowhere), the vibratory belt and roller massager (a combination of shake, rock-and-roll and Kung-fu) the health walker (which is like climbing Everest) etc, etc, etc. There is also the physiotherapy infra-red treatment for aches, sprains and long-distance travellers. There is the beautiful swimming pool where all 300 occupants of 300 rooms are watching you from above, and the Centaur sign from below.

And then there are the four restaurants with aromatic smells emanating from their interiors—all of which you bypass to proceed to the Coffee Shop and a caloric diet meal.

And I came home, feeling like I had been put through a wringer. But I got up in the morning glowing with vigour and flexed my muscles ready to tackle anything and anybody. And my wife said, you're beautiful. And the Dy CD said, what's the matter, you're looking pulled down. You got problems? And the boys in my office said stay clear of the old boy today, he's in a deadly mood.

So, you Meherhomjis, Sukhies, Cawasjis, Mowjis, Thadanis and Dharamseys (and of course Jim Harper), go and visit my friend Kuruppu. Mention my name, and he will probably give you a concession. And I will lend you my yellow polka-dot bikini free of charge.

## The Adventurers



Jayant Kumar Mandal and Manmohan Chakraborty have three things in common; both are 22 years of age, are cadets of the National Cadet Corps and are travelling round the world on bicycles.

After having cycled all over India covering 23,000 kms, they now plan to cycle round the world. Their international adventure begins this year and they hope to be back home in 1980. To certain parts of the world, which they cannot traverse on bicycles, Air-India will assist them.

In 1977, they will cycle throughout the African continent, in 1977-78, the Middle Eastern countries, in 1978-79, Europe and East European countries, and in 1979-80, the American continent and South East Asia.

The purpose of their visit is love for adventure and an urge to meet people of different countries. It was precisely for the fulfilment of such a purpose that they cycled in every State of India, visiting even the remotest villages. It was during one such cycling trip that Mandal and Chakraborty were accosted by five dacoits in the Chambal Valley of Madhya Pradesh. The notorious dacoit, Kali Singh, captured

them, mistaking them for policemen. Fortunately, the reformed dacoit, Tahsil-dar Singh, son of Man Singh, heard of this incident, approached Kali Singh, and got the boys released.

It happened again in Shahapura, a village in Rajasthan. While they were cycling through the village, they felt thirsty and Mandal asked a young village girl, who was carrying a pot of water, to give him some to drink. The other girls accompanying the maiden rushed off in haste while she poured water on to Mandal's cupped hands. Hardly had he quenched his thirst, when a tall villager with twirling moustaches came on the scene and asked Mandal to marry his daughter, the girl who had served him water. The protagonist of our story was in a quandary. He did not know of the village custom that if a girl gave water to a stranger, she had to marry the man. Presence of mind saved the situation. Mandal got away by declaring that he was already married. Fortunately, the village custom did not permit bigamy!

Besides assisting the boys with air transportation, Air-India has given them two large bags, leather coats, driving glasses, leather hand gloves and woollen jerseys.

## A Maharajah's Delight

### Chefair Serves

THE exotic fare was fit to adorn a Maharajah's table. Chicken Jehangiri Mutton Afghani and Shorba-e-Omar Khayyam vied for pride of place with chicken Wajid-Ali-Shah and prawn Fonseca.

This mouth watering array of regal dishes was in fact the handiwork of Air-India Maharajah's chief minion "Chefair".

Clustering around the well laden tables on the lawns of the Delhi Flying Club, and letting the steamy aroma waft up to their appreciative nostrils, was a 90-strong group of hotel and catering professionals

from Britain. The group, co-sponsored by the "Catering Times", London, and Air-India, is visiting the country literally to savour its delights—culinary and otherwise.

On hand to display their agility were the leading chefs of the Chefair flight kitchen at Delhi which prepares the scrumptious meals served on Air-India flights and those of many other international airlines.

The visitors watched wide-eyed as a cook pulled some dough into an N shape, and then plunged his hand into a red hot oven. The biggest draw was the 'Romali Roti Nan'. His audience watched spellbound as he flipped a rubbery 'Romali Roti' into the air, caught it deftly on his knuckles as it came down, and transferred it in one swift motion to a hot convex "Tawa". As he juggled circus fashion with the 'rotis', the camera wielders clicked away in abandon.

Laid out on one table were 30 different kinds of in-flight meals prepared by the flight kitchen. On the other were 30 Mughlai and Indian style delicacies, moderately spiced for the Englishman's plate. For dessert one could choose between kheer, ras malai, gulab jamun, rasgulla and fresh hot jalebis.

One of the ideas behind the display was that the hotel owners among the group will go back and hold "India Weeks" featuring Indian cuisine.

### THE GOLDEN SUN

Air-India's new Holiday Home at Mahabalipuram is a cottage with a ground floor and a first floor with a beautiful view of the sea. The Holiday Home facilities can be availed by two families, with kitchen facilities only on the first floor. Special arrangements have been made to provide vegetarian and non-vegetarian meals at concessional rates. This Holiday Home known as 'Golden Sun' is 65 kms from Madras and is easily accessible by road.



## Sringar in Sydney

AFTER its debut in Bombay, SRINGAR, the Air-India collection of Indian Costumes was on display at Sydney last month where an exhibition on 'Life in India and the Himalayas' was organised by the Australian Museum.

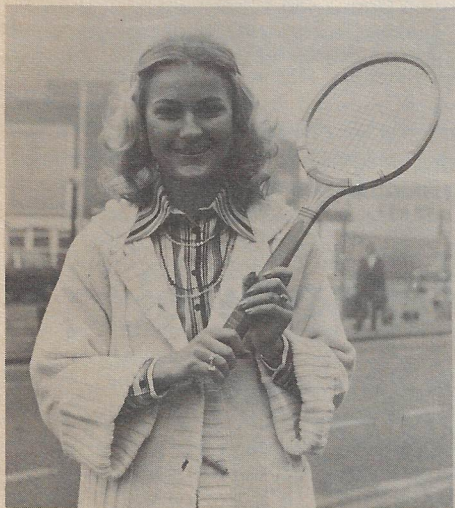
In the presence of 300 distinguished citizens, Mr Neville Wran, Premier of New South Wales, inaugurated the exhibition by lighting a traditional South Indian lamp. Ms U. Parikh photographed above looks on appreciatively while Mr Wran signs the Visitors Book. Sari clad hostesses applied tikka while welcoming the guests, and sprinkled them with rose water. The exhibition has created tremendous interest among visitors and generated publicity in the Press and on TV.

The Australian Museum has also arranged a festival of Indian dances and arranged lectures on Indian subjects by well-known speakers from India.





**BACK HOME:** J.D. Singh, the much respected representative of the 'Times of India' in the U.K. for a number of years, recently returned to a new assignment in Delhi and he was seen off at the Airport by the Publicity Manager, U.K. Trevor Turner (extreme left) and greeted by Air Hostess Lauraine D'Costa.



## WHAT'S THE RACKET?

**I**VANKA Kuliskova, from Traffic LHR, was invited to join the LHR Interline Tennis Team that recently went to Bangkok to play against Bangkok Airport. Ivanka was declared Miss London Airports in March this year and has been the reigning queen since then. The contest is organised annually by the Brenard Press, Airport photographers and publishers.



## Seeing it all

**M**EMBERS of the U.K. Press spent some hours at London Airport recently at our invitation, and visited some of our Departments and met the heads over a buffet lunch.

They attended the Operations briefing for our New York flight, and they are seen here with Capt. C.P. Narayanan — Operations Manager (WD) who was taking our flight to New York that day.

PETER LAWTON PROBES

# The India Connection



Molly Reed

**A** hundred and ten feet above Bond Street in front of a green 'mini computer' sits Molly Reed, our Senior Telephone Operator at Bond Street. Molly has been with Air-India for twelve years and for most of that time has been in charge of our busy switchboard at the London Office.

Her background for this responsible and trying job was training and service with the Bengal Telephone Corporation. That small plastic device was first plugged into her ear at the age of sixteen, and when she left the Post and Telegraph Department at Calcutta as a Supervisor to come to Britain, she was fully conversant with the complete spectrum of problems facing a GPO operator.

Molly has currently no particular interests apart from her family—husband, who is an Executive with a construction Company, and her married son who is a Duty Officer for MEA at London Airport. "I was once passionately interested in gardening, and played badminton and tennis regularly, but now only have the energy to run for the Underground!" Her eyes are regularly exercised watching her husband who is a champion billiard player.

She says she would love to melt down all his trophies and sell the silver!

Molly's leave is spent either travelling to see relatives in Australia or the West Coast of America, or motoring around Britain with her husband.

The unit in Bond Street is a happy and efficient one and Molly is ably assisted by Rose D'Souza and Zumrud Mehta who have both been with us for three years. The Operators' biggest problem is the limited time they have to speak to those frequent callers who do not know precisely who they want to speak to or that wish to speak to Departments whose extensions are constantly engaged, i.e. Passenger Reservations and Cargo! A useful idea thinks Molly would be an Information Desk to which she could direct all calls that fall into the aforementioned category. This would ensure that all callers (whether customers or not) were handled satisfactorily and did not put the phone down irritated and frustrated!

Famous vocal correspondence which has passed through Molly's auditory apparatus ranges from several Prime Ministers through diplomats to stars of stage and screen.

## A Yen for Bombay



Sheila Lister

**S**ITTING in what seems like an enlarged cupboard in the remotest part of our Wing Hangar at London Heathrow Airport is Sheila Lister, her cat Cheeka and some very expensive telephonic equipment.

Sheila has been with Air-India for eighteen years and as a Telephone Operator at the world's busiest airport there is never a dull moment. She speaks to, on an average, nine hundred and fifty people each day including wrong numbers, long distance telephone operators and AI overseas offices.

Sheila has three passions, one is her love of cats (she has eleven of them plus three dogs), second is her visits to Bombay (she has visited the city over thirty times on holiday since she joined Air-India) and vying for equal third place are her hus-

band, her enjoyment of Indian vegetarian food and her job at Air-India!

Although Sheila is cut off in this airport backwater, she is not without her comforts. Her creative touch has transformed this miniscule cupboard into a curtained, somewhat feminine potting shed.

Assisting telephonists are Savi Patel, who has been with Air-India for two years, and Ramesh Seghal who has been on the key board for four months.

## Mr Unni elected to IATA Panel

Mr K.K. Unni, Air-India's Managing Director has been unanimously re-elected to the executive committee of IATA at its 32nd annual meeting at Singapore for another three years. The other two Asian members of the 21-man executive committee are Mr S. Asada, President, Japan Airlines and Mr B.P. Toda, Chairman and President of Philippines Airlines.

Mr Manuel-de-Parado, Chairman, Iberia (Spanish Airlines) has been elected President, IATA succeeding Mr Sao de Lavega.



# Welfare in Air-India



## IMPACT OF HINDI

### MPs Visit Air-India

**T**HE members of the Committee of Parliament on Official Language visited Air-India recently to review the position and progress of the use of Hindi in the working of the Corporation.

The Parliament has constituted a Committee on Official Language comprising of 30 members of Parliament, 20 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha with a view to review the progress made in the use of Hindi. The Committee for Tourism & Civil Aviation consists of 10 members and Mr Shankar Dayal Singh is the Convener.

During the discussions, Mr K.G. Appusamy, Dy MD, gave a review of the progressive use of Hindi in Air-India. He said that Air-India had taken a number of steps in encouraging employees to use Hindi in their day-to-day work. Some of the steps taken by Air-India are: Air-India aircraft have the logo 'AIR-INDIA' painted in Hindi as well as in English on the body of the aircraft; on all Air-India flights the in-flight announcements are made in Hindi and English (a Hindi instructor has been appointed to teach the Cabin staff to make proper announcements in Hindi); we carry on board the aircraft safety instructions in both Hindi and in English; menu cards in flight are printed in English and Hindi when they relate to Indian meals; all Air-India officers have displayed sign-boards and name-

plates in Hindi; transport vehicles and all mobile equipment have the Air-India logo painted in Hindi; an Official Languages Implementation Committee has been formed within the Corporation consisting of senior officers and headed by the CPM (similar committees have been constituted in Delhi, Calcutta and Madras regions); the Air-India Employees Service Regulations have been published in Hindi; the Annual Reports of Air-India have been published in Hindi and presented to the Parliament; forms, stationery, circulars and notices have been printed in Hindi as well as in English; advertisements inviting applications for employment in certain categories have also been published in Hindi in Hindi dailies; several manuals have been sent to the Central Translation Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, for translation in Hindi and will be printed as soon as the translations are complete; a Hindi Unit has been established consisting of an Assistant and a clerk/typist under the overall charge of a liaison officer at Bombay (a Hindi typewriter has been provided to the Unit); correspondence received in Hindi is replied to in Hindi.

The Committee was pleased with the steps taken by Air-India in implementing Hindi and during the discussions made several suggestions for further use of Hindi in the daily working of the Corporation.

## Interview Technique

**A** 3-day training course on 'Interview Technique' was organised by the Personnel Department recently as a refresher programme for scheduled caste and scheduled tribe officers working in the various Departments of Air-India.

At the inaugural session Dr S.K. Parukh, Director, BEAM Services, said that in any organisation where it comes to dealing with people the three most important points for communication were 'noticing, perceiving and listening'. "In the process of communication what was being communicated was not important as how one communicates a message. The faculty of looking and listening has to be learned from within and cannot be taught by experts from without. The barriers in communication are inside our skins and they drop away as soon as we become aware of them".

He criticised the attitude of those employees who have a slavish mentality to authority. By authority he meant psychological authority and not organisational authority, which was essential for achieving corporate goals. "Our thinking, perception and attitudes, in fact our entire personality, are conditioned by the thoughts and attitudes of persons holding positions of authority. It is therefore imperative that every employee must be aware of his own thoughts and not let thoughts of others sway their attitudes



Dr S. K. Parukh addressing the officers of the Personnel Department at a 3-day course on Techniques of Interviewing candidates.

and as a result their actions. It is only then that we can look and listen properly."

Dr. Parukh made a number of suggestions for improving effectiveness at interviews. He pointed out that the first requisite of a good interviewer was that he should establish rapport with the interviewee. Secondly, an interviewer should be aware as to what can and cannot be determined from a short interview.

The course was inaugurated by Mr Om Sawhny, DE, while the guest speaker was introduced by Mr S.K. Nanda, CPM. Mr P.V. Gole, DPIR, Capt D. Bose, DO, and other members of the Management also attended the inaugural session.

## Training Personnel

**A** training programme in Personnel Administration was organised by the Personnel Department at Santa Cruz, Bombay, recently for the supervisory staff. This programme was aimed at improving on the job effectiveness. Subjects such as Service Regulations, Establishment Orders, Labour Legislations and various Acts in Industrial Relations came under the purview of the programme.

The training programme was inaugurated by Mr S.K. Nanda, CPM, and attended by 15 supervisory staff of the Personnel Department.

Mr Kshatriya, Dy Personnel Manager (Welfare), Mr P.M. Thakur, Dy Personnel Manager (Recruitment & Management Development) and Mr H.P. Talekar, Dy Personnel Manager (Establishment) addressed the participants during the course of the programme with Mr Ravi Mani, Marketing Manager-Western Routes, Mr M.N. Bhat, Sr Accounts Officer. (Admin & Establishment), Mr A.R. Moraes, Manager-Administration (Engg) and Mr V. Vishwanathan, Stores Manager (Admin) as guest speakers.



## Solving Problems

**A** welfare programme organised by the Maharashtra Labour Welfare Board was launched by Mr Jagesh Desai, Minister of State for Urban Development, Civil Supplies and State Transport Corporation, at the Air-India Modern School at Santa Cruz, Bombay, recently.

Mr Desai in his inaugural address said that he had been associated with the Air-India colonies for the last 18 years. He complimented the Labour Welfare Board for organising a gathering which brought him closer to the people he has chosen to serve. He said that he was particularly interested in meeting the residents of the colony and solving their problems.

Giving a brief background of the Maharashtra Labour Welfare Board, Mr S.K. Nanda, CPM, who presided over the function, said that the Board was a statutory

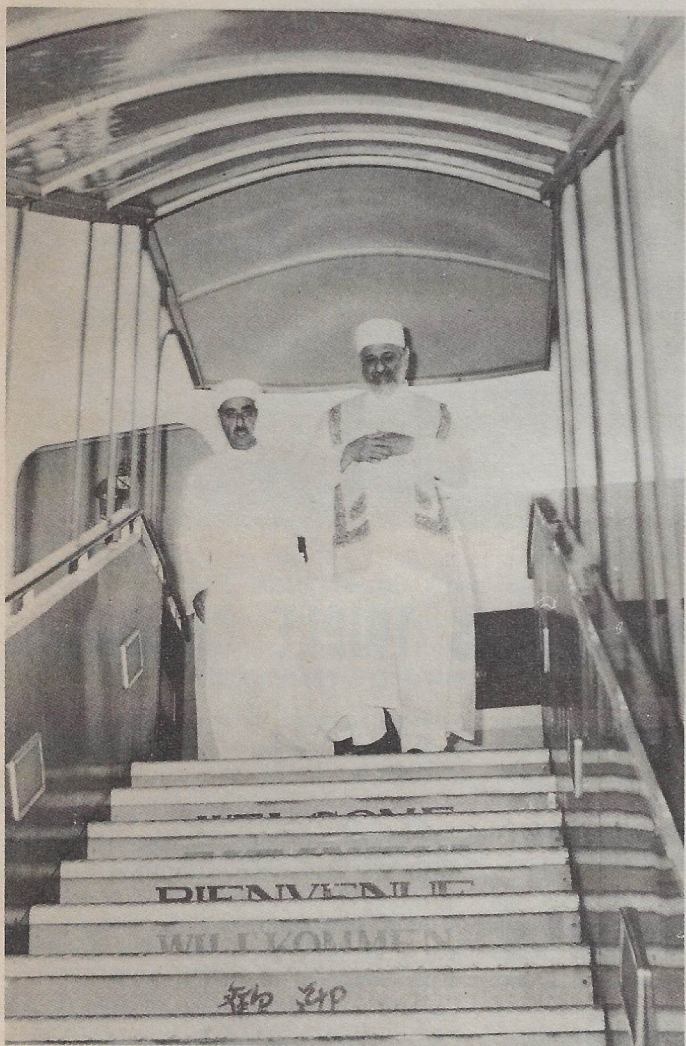
body under the Bombay Labour Welfare Fund Act and was responsible for conducting welfare activities for labour in Maharashtra.

It is at present conducting 175 welfare centres in 76 cities and towns out of which 35 centres are located in Greater Bombay. The programmes include games and sports, cultural and educational programmes, vocational training, education of children from working class families, establishing libraries and reading rooms, arranging lectures and seminars and promoting dramatic and cultural activities.

Eminent author, Dr Mulk Raj Anand, was also present at the function. He spoke on the need to keep colonies free from pollution and noise. Mr S.L. Hansa, IA, Manager-Personnel Services, attended the function on behalf of Indian Airlines.



# THE FLYING FIRE TEMPLE



Dastur Kaikobad, Head Priest of Udwada, and Mr Pavri, Systems Manager, coming down the step-ladder on their triumphant return.

**A**S the sun rose in the eastern sky, a sleek Air-India Boeing 707 traversed 3,000 km. from Aden to Bombay carrying with it, for the first time in human history, the most unusual cargo—the Holy Fire of the Zorastrians. As it landed at Bombay Airport, a small coterie of worshippers broke out in prayer, while the container carrying the Fire was brought down the step-ladder which had been earlier washed and cleaned with purified liquid.

**T**HE story goes back to 1838 when Britain took over Aden. Among the early Indian traders who settled there was Cawasji Dinshaw Adenwala whose business flourished and, in fact, he and his family were able to contribute to the growth of modern Aden. In gratitude, he built a small Fire Temple in 1853 wherein was consecrated the sacred Fire, revered by Zorastrians the world over as a symbol of Truth and Righteousness.

When the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen took over in 1967, the Parsi Fire Temple too became state property. To the handful of Parsis who lived in Aden there was only one alternative; either to extinguish the Fire, which no devout Zorastrian would do, or to bring it to India. For years negotiations were carried out by Cawasji Dinshaw and the Trustees of his Will, till recently with the assistance of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Minister for External Affairs, Mr Y.B. Chavan, an agreement was reached to carry the Fire from Aden to India by air.

When the Trustees approached Air-India to charter a Boeing 707 aircraft, it was stipulated that since the aircraft itself would be converted for a few hours into a Fire Temple, it was necessary for the Head Priest of the Zorastrians to tend the Fire. In fact, there was an insistence on the aircraft being manned by an all-Parsi crew.

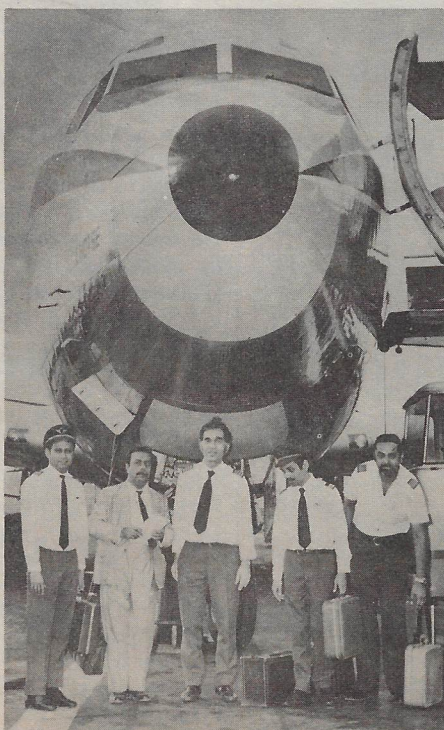
With amazing efficiency and speed, Air-India set ready a 707 with Capt Sam Peddar as Commander. Engineering too swerved into action. Under the direction of Mr N.S. Mistry, Deputy Director of Engineering, a special aluminium fire-proof box with air vents was fabricated by our Engineers and installed in the compartment reserved for first class passengers. Fire extinguishers were kept on all four sides in case of emergency.

On Saturday, November 13, an Air-India Boeing 707 'Lhotse', under the command of Capt Peddar with Capt Balsara as Co-pilot, Soli Colabawala as Navigator, R.C. Ichhaporia as Flight Engineer, an all-Parsi cabin crew along with six priests headed by Dastoor Kaikobad Feroze, High Priest of Udwada, took off from Bombay for Aden.

From the Temple at Aden to the aircraft, the Fire was brought in a metal container with a cavalcade of cars and a complete guard of honour. As the aircraft took off guns boomed in salute.

After 3 hours 45 minutes, Capt Peddar feather-landed the aircraft. There were scenes of excitement

## Air-India does it with pride and honour



Capt Sam Peddar (centre) and the crew that brought the Holy Fire. Mr Homi Mistry, Asst Editor, Blitz, (second from left) who interviewed Capt Peddar on arrival.



Two priests carry the Holy Fire in a metal container.

as men in white coats and black traditional Parsi hats and women in colourful saris dropped their inhibitions and began to weep and pray in joy, for this was truly a historic moment. For the first time in the history of mankind, and since the advent of the Parsis into India, nearly 1400 years ago, had such an event taken place.

Mr S.B. Chavan, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, had instructed that an all-Parsi police unit be lined up to welcome the Fire as Group Capt A.M. Palamkote, Director, Bombay Airport, looked after security arrangements. Mr R.D. Bengalee, representing the Govt. of India and the Prime Minister, presented Mr Cawasji with a garland of roses and a bouquet. As the Fire was brought down, there was silence and a feeling of awe among all those present. The container was transferred into a van and driven to the Soonawala Fire Temple at Mahim, escorted by police outriders. In the evening, after rostrum ceremonies, the Holy Fire was enthroned at the Adenwala Fire Temple at Lonavla with the respect and devotion due to an Emperor.

Addressing the august gathering, Mr Cawasji Dinshaw repeatedly expressed his gratitude to Air-India for having made this near-impossible feat possible. He complimented Mr N.H. Dastur, Dy MD(C) and all the officers and staff of Air-India who had rallied to make a success of this most unusual event in the annals of Air-India's history.

In an interview, Capt Peddar said, "For me it was a tremendous responsibility and an honour to bring the Holy Fire all the way from Aden. Although it was a routine flight, I continually prayed for the ultimate success of my mission".

Flight Supervisor Happy Mevawalla said, "For me it was a tremendous experience. All the Parsis of Aden had come to bid us goodbye, and while they did so, they were in tears; for they were saying goodbye to the Holy Fire which had for many years brought hope to their lives. We all cried, but in joy".

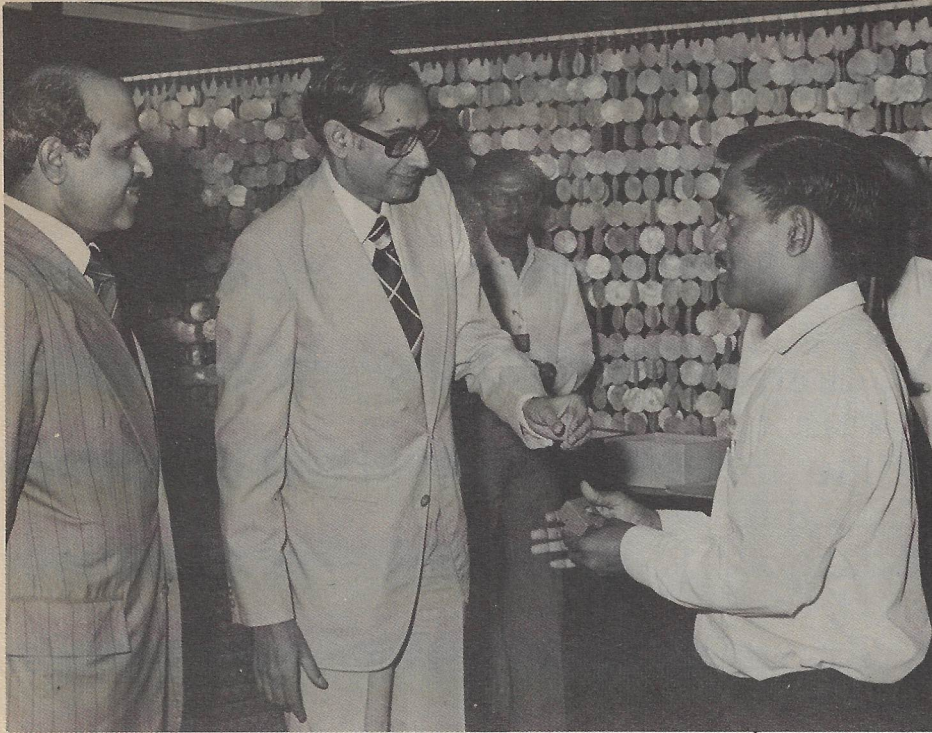
Flight Purser Neville Bharucha commented that as the aircraft approached Bombay Airport, the Fire, which was steadily burning, suddenly burst into flame filling up the entire cabin with a warm, orange glow. "It was not something to be worried about, for we felt a spark of faith being rekindled in our hearts".

For Air-India's flying crew, for the staff in the Engineering and for those who worked unceasingly in the Commercial Department and in Public Relations, it was a task far beyond the call of duty. It was truly a labour of love.

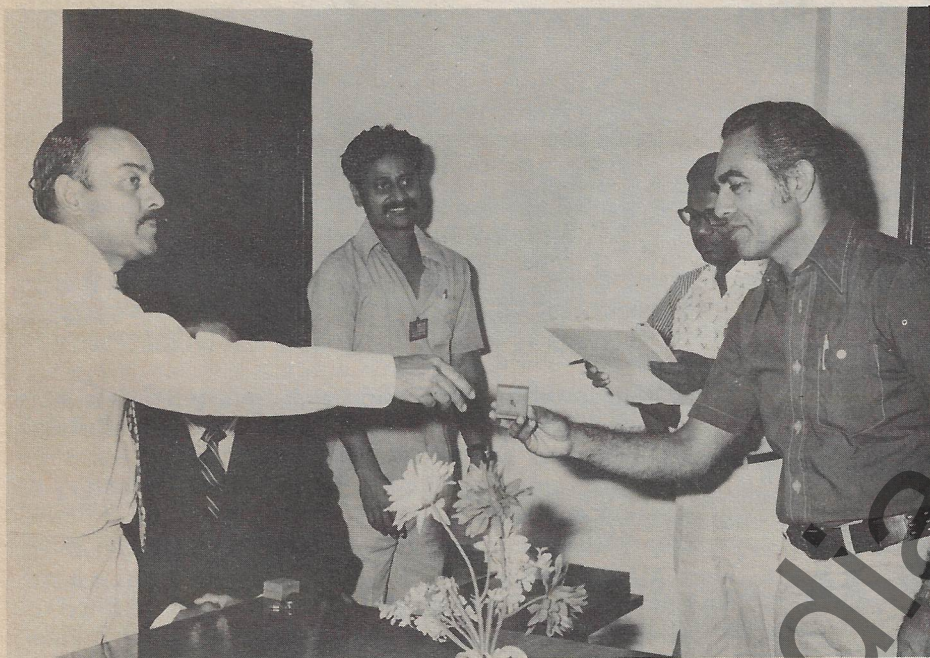
- Naosherwan Nalavala



# Happy Years Together



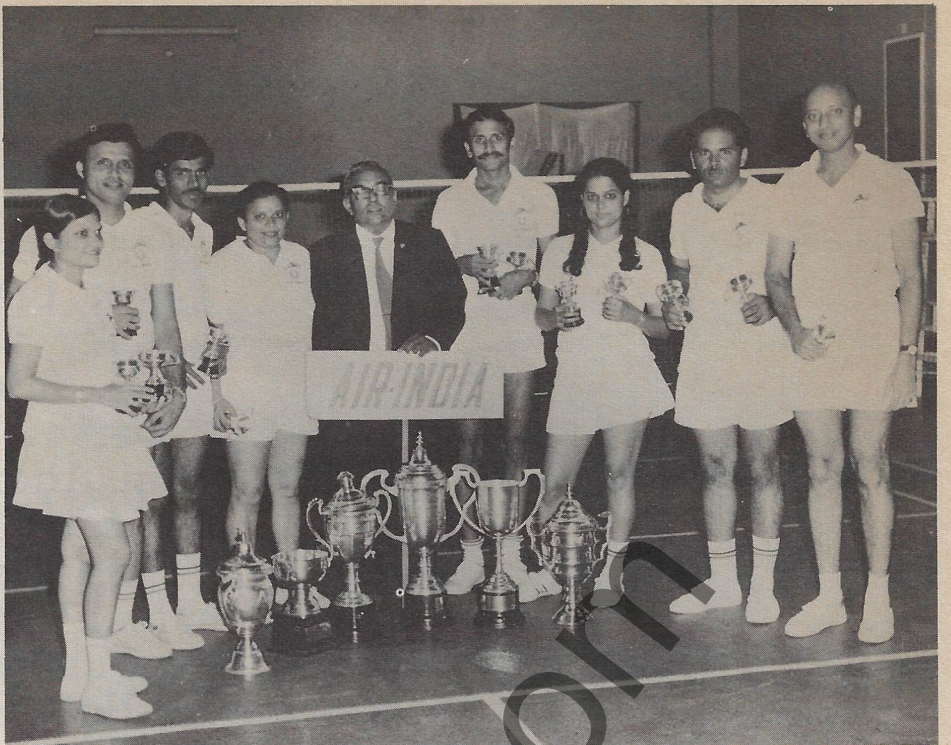
Mr I.D. Sethi, Dy Commercial Director, presented Service Pins to staff completing 20, 15 and 10 years service, respectively. The photograph shows Mr Sethi making a presentation to Mr K. Sethuraman, Sr Clerk. Mr R.P. Misra, Manager, Santa Cruz, looks on in admiration.



Capt D. Bose, Director of Operations, presented a 20-Year Service Pin to Capt V.P. Raol. The DO presented a number of Service Mementos to the Operations Staff at a small function held at Santa Cruz recently.



Capt C. P. Narayanan, Air-India's Operations Manager (WD), congratulates Mr Koran Govindan (right), Air-India's Flight Despatch Manager, at LHR recently on the day when he completed thirty years' service with Air-India.



## MS MALKANI WINS TRIPLE CROWN

**A**IR-INDIA won hands down the Fifth Joint IA/AI Badminton Tournament, conducted at the Bowring Institute, Bangalore, recently by winning both the Men's Team Championship and the Women's Team Championship.

Ms Tara Malkani from Personnel had the distinction of winning the Triple Crown in the open events. In the singles finals, she beat Ms S. Pradhan of Indian Airlines, Bombay, in straight games. In the Women's doubles, Tara won in partnership with Ms S. Iyer of Traffic and mixed doubles with A.R. Suvarna of Security. The combination of N.C. Abrol and Suvarna won the men's doubles event in

a well contested match of three games. In the team event, A.P. Roy, won all the matches he played.

Mr K.R. Asundi, Vice President of the Sports Control Board, was present at the finals and the prize distribution. Mr Viju Chande, prominent industrialist and sportsman of Bangalore, was the Chief Guest and gave away the prizes. The Air-India team consisted of T.N.D. Pillai (MPD), Captain & Manager, A.R. Suvarna (Security), A.P. Roy (COD), A.Y. Javadekar (COD), J.V. Gupte (PP), N.C. Abrol (Maintenance), Ms Tara Malkani (Personnel), Ms R.S. Ranade (Stores) and Ms S. Iyer (Traffic).

## Sarkar gets Tamrapatra

**O**N Independence Day this year, N.R. Sarkar, Sr Aircraft Technician at Calcutta Airport, was honoured with the "Tamra-Patra" in recognition of his political activities during India's struggle for freedom.

In 1930, at the age of eleven, Sarkar experienced his first jail sentence in Munchigunj (Dacca District), but was released after 15 days as he was a minor. He continued his studies for another two years but was again convicted in 1932 and sentenced for 6 months at Dacca. He was released and later the same year he was once again convicted and sentenced to a further 6 months imprisonment.

Due to his political activities it became impossible for Sarkar to remain in Dacca. He moved to Calcutta where he worked in close association with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose but his police record made it extremely difficult for him to find work, and during the years 1941-42 he was forced to remain underground.

From 1944 to 1946, Sarkar worked with the U.S. Air Force at Barrackpore and in September 1946, he joined Tata Airlines at Dum Dum and has been with the airline ever since.

Sarkar continues to be actively associated with the social upliftment programme of the Congress and is an active member of the All-India Freedom-Fighters Organisation.

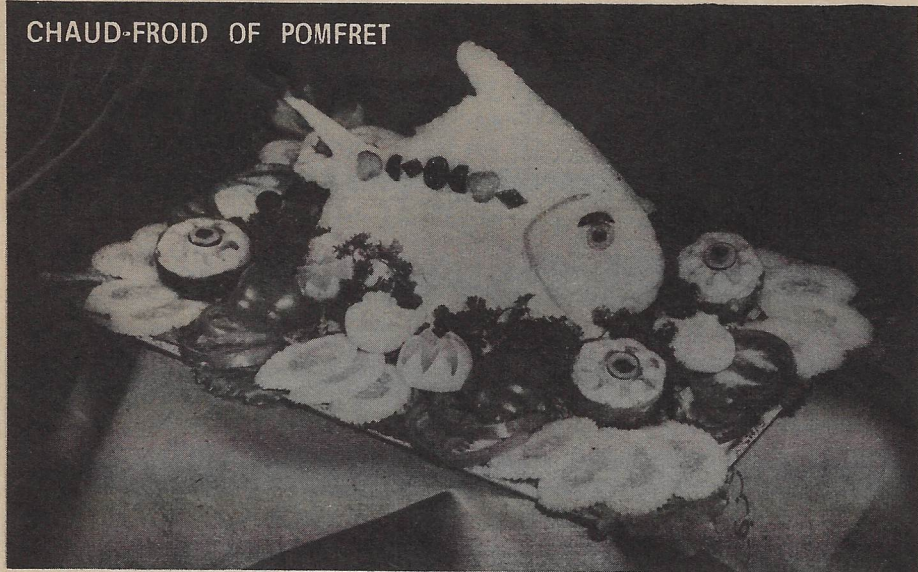
We are proud of Sarkar's contribution towards India's freedom and we congratulate him on being awarded the Tamra-Patra.

Pat Rodricks





## CHAUD-FROID OF POMFRET



## THE MAHARAJAH SERVES

Air-India's food is a blend of sophisticated Western cuisine flavoured with seasonings uniquely Indian. Below, a smple of the Continental food served on the Jumbo.

700 to 800 gm. pomfret; flavoured fish stock; aspic jelly; russian salad.

Garnish: diamond cut pimentoes, sliced gherkin; stuffed tomatoes; stuffed eggs; lemon wedges; parsley sprigs; sliced cucumber.

Chaud-froid sauce; 1 1/4 cups fish sauce; 1/2 cup mushroom stock; 2 cups crystal-line jelly dissolved in hot water; 3/4 cup fresh cream; good wine for flavouring.

Wash and clean fish. Poach in flavoured fish stock and let it cool in the stock. Remove from stock and skin fish. Coat both sides of fish with chaud-froid sauce.

Brush salad platter with a thick layer of aspic, place Russian salad in the centre of the platter and make the fish stand on top of the salad. Decorate pomfret with pimento and sliced gherkin as shown in photograph above. Arrange the other items for garnishing around the fish in an artistic manner.

Chaud-froid sauce: Heat fish sauce and mushroom stock together in a thick-bottomed pan. Cook over medium heat, stirring with a wooden spatula all the while. Add a little at a time, the melted jelly and fresh cream. Cook until sauce is of coating consistency. Add wine and remove.



Seychellois Prime Minister A. Rene

## Alleluia Seychelles

Like an emerald necklace  
In the ocean of blue,  
The Islands of Seychelles,  
Welcome you

Splashed in sun-gold splendour  
Encrusted in lush-green fold,  
The bejewelled hills of Mahe,  
A majestic view do hold.

With lagoons and bays and beaches so white,  
A visit here is pure delight.  
Hidden are her unique treasures  
Deep in the womb of the ocean serene,  
The realm of corals and reeds,  
Fulfilling a collector's dream.

A nation just born — so new, so young,  
Alleluia Seychellois!  
Freedom from bondage of alien rule,  
It is the world's only 'liberty school',

Glory be thine! Tread not so soft,  
With steps firm and bold, assimilate fast,  
For the world to behold you aloft.

Such is her charisma, Nature's prize,  
In the polluted beyond, ecologist's paradise,  
Endowed with beauty, nature-wise,  
Oh, dear Seychelles! wear no other guise.

Yasmin E. Tarapore

(Wife of Eric Tarapore,  
Manager, Seychelles)

## On the move... up

The following staff have been promoted:

## Engineering Department:

Messrs A.K. Sinha, S.S. Prasad, D.R. Sharma, Subramaniam Vasan and A.V. Joshi as Aircraft Maintenance Engineers Gr.I; Messrs K.K. Periwai and S. Panda as Engineers II; Mr. V.P. Balakrishna Pillai as Aircraft Maintenance Engineer Gr.II; Messrs D.V. Kashalkar, K.V. Shankar, K.G. Krishnanand and G. Viswanathan as Inspectors Gr.'A'; Messrs V. Chandramouli, V. Dandapani, D.S. Kadam and T.V.A. Narayanan as Inspectors.

## Stores &amp; Purchase Department:

Messrs P.V. Cherian and L.V. Ramakrishnan as Asst Superintendent-Stores.

## Ground Handling Department:

Mr J.R. Bocarro as Manager-Transport; Mr J.N. Savadharia as Superintendent-Transport; Mr P.N. Helekar as Transport Engineer; Mr G.C. Mukherjee as Asst. Administrative Officer and Mr C.G. Kallinath as Planning Officer.

## Personnel Department:

Mr M.R. Karkhanis as Personnel Officer and Mr P.M. Patel as Personnel Officer (Time Keeping).

## Commercial Department

Messrs R.P. Misra, Manager-Santa Cruz, S.V.N. Ranga Rao, Manager-Tariffs Regulations, Ajit Singh, Manager-Delhi, S. Srinivasan, Manager-Dubai, are promoted to Sr. S.M.

## FROM THE MAILBAG

## Service Ad

I wish to make a suggestion for Staff benefit. Why not start a free Classified Ad Column in the issue of Magic Carpet for Staff who are interested in advertising an item? Your column may read as :

## "AT YOUR SERVICE

Have you something to buy or sell? (Car, Refrigerator, Radio, T.V.) Rooms to Share? Do you want to form a Carpool?"

You may like to try out this mutual benefit 'service' for a six month period.

P.R. Kanga, Sales, Bombay.

## Born Again

I was thrilled to read the front page story in the 'Magic Carpet', October issue under the title 'Air-India Phenomena'. It is amazing to see how a small seed sown by our worthy Chairman way back in 1932, to-day stands fully grown, blossoming with flowers and fruits. You will be delighted to know that my joining date with Air-India is also March 8, 1948, the date of Air-India's inception. I have grown with Air-India, and am perhaps one of the few, or may be the only one, who was fortunate enough to join the company on a memorable day and watch it grow from within.

V. Pichumani, Accountant, Bombay

## Gadding About

You certainly deserve congratulations for having started the 'Editor's Mail' column in the Magic Carpet.

I have a suggestion to make. Every day hundreds of tourists land in Bombay on our flights, and seek bookings for inland sight-seeing tours in and around Bombay. I suggest we charter our own air-conditioned luxurious coaches and take them around places of tourist interest. This will get us more revenue, and the tourists will be spared the hazards of contacting dubious agents. The tourist will also get that special 'Maharajah' service.

A. S. Ballal, Communications Dept.  
Santacruz Bombay.

## Get-together

We are a family of 9422 Air-Indians (India based as on April 1, 1976). Many of us hardly know each other. This is because the family is quite large, and spread out at different places, performing different functions.

I suggest we organise a get-together of the staff along with their families, atleast once a year.

This get-together can be a day-long picnic at the Executive Club with the catering done by Centaur Hotel. This way we all can establish a communication channel amongst various categories of staff.

J. R. Thadani, Dy Purchase Manager  
(T), Stores & Purchase Dept. Santa Cruz.

## Pricking Pins

It has been Management policy to distribute Service Pins to all staff after completion of 10, 15 and 20 years of service. Recently, we had a small but very interesting and enjoyable 'Get-together' of staff in Customer Service when the Service Pins were distributed by the Commercial Manager-Customer Service to various staff on completion of 10, 15 and 20 years of service. The Service Pin presented to me is of no use and I could unhook it only after hurting my fingers (I got a 15 year Pin).

I would, therefore, suggest to Management that they should not distribute pins and instead present a useful give-away item to the staff. For example, the HMT wrist-watch, which is given as a service memento after 25 years of service, could be given to staff after completion of 20 years of service.

Those staff, who are unable to complete 25 years of service, for one reason or another will have a memorable gift from the Corporation.

Ms S. G. Naik, Personal Assistant, Customer Service, Santa Cruz.

## READERS

are requested to send their letters to Editor, Magic Carpet, Air-India Building, 218, Backbay Reclamation, Bombay 400 021. Please make your letters brief and to the point. Anonymous letters will not be published.

Editor

## AIR-INDIA QUIZ



1. Can you name the four individuals standing with Mr. J.R.D. Tata?
2. The Puss Moth in the background was flown from Bombay to Madras by another contemporary of Mr. Tata. Can you name him?
3. There was a stop enroute from Bombay to Madras? Can you name the stop-over?

## Answers to November Quiz

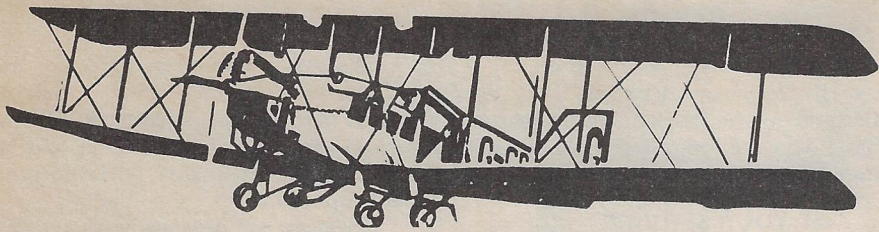
1. The bearded man in the photograph is President Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya.
2. The gentleman in the black suit is Mr. S.P. Antia who served as Air-India's Manager for East Africa.
3. This photograph was taken at President Kenyatta's residence in Gatundu near Nairobi. The lady on the extreme left is the wife of the President, Ms Ngina Kenyatta.





# TALKING SHOP

With K. S. Mhatre



TWA CHAIRMAN Trans World Airlines will have a new Chairman and Chief Executive Officer from January 1, 1977. He is Mr L. Edwin Smart, 52, currently Vice Chairman of the airline, who will succeed Mr Charles C. Tillinghast, Jr.

Mr Tillinghast was to have retired last year, but the company's directors asked him to stay on in view of the financial crisis. In 1975, TWA reported a corporate loss of \$86 million. However, the airline has made a remarkable recovery, and in the first eight months of this year, has reported a profit of \$27 million.

\* \* \*



**TURBOPROP REVIVAL?** Lockheed has proposed a turboprop airliner which will operate at almost the same speed as the present-day jets, but consume 18 percent less fuel. Working under a NASA study-contract, Lockheed envisages it as a 200 passenger, wide-bodied aircraft with a design range at full passenger capacity of 1,500 n. miles.

\* \* \*

**BOAC/BEA MERGER COMPLETE** The last major step towards a complete merger of BOAC/BEA into British Airways was taken in November. The British Airways News described the reorganisation as 'a more unified and simpler organisation structure with fewer layers of management'.

The three main operating divisions — European, Overseas and Regional — are to be replaced by functional grouping of activities.

The airline's Chairman, Sir Frank McFadzean, takes on the additional responsibilities of Chief Executive, and will have nine departmental heads reporting to him. There will be two Deputy Chairmen — one of whom will have special responsibility for planning legal and international affairs, while the other will be responsible for commercial operations.

\* \* \*

**BEIRUT REOPENED** Beirut airport has been reopened. Middle East Airlines and Air France are to resume regular flights to the strife-torn city. Both MEA and Air France plan to operate three flights a week to Beirut.

\* \* \*

**AIRLINE IN TROUBLE?** Tempair International Airlines of UK, which specialises in wet-leasing aircraft, is likely to go into voluntary liquidation unless financial support is forthcoming. The airline operates Boeing 707s on behalf of Bangladesh Biman as also on behalf of Air Niugini and was recently much in news about the success of its operations.

\* \* \*

**ICAO SURVEY ON FACILITATION** The International Civil Aviation Organisation, in a review of airport facilitation procedures, reports some progress in clearing passengers and cargo, but says that obstacles exist in easing customs, immigration and other formalities. Among the hopeful signs is the adoption of dual channel (red/green) systems for baggage clearance at

international airports in various parts of the world. While passport remains the main document required for entry into a country, a number of countries are accepting international registration cards and the like for temporary entry in place of a valid passport. Many countries issue visas with a shorter validity than the 12 months period specified by ICAO. The ICAO also reports increasing paper work because of the introduction of large capacity aircraft on international routes as one of the minus points which needs to be tackled urgently.

\* \* \*

**WAR OF 'GOODIES'** National Airlines' introduction of free inflight movies on October 1, has triggered a War of Goodies amongst the competing airlines on the lucrative New York/Florida route which is reminiscent of the 'sandwich war' of the 'sixties'. Eastern and Delta have not only matched National's amenity, but went one better.

Delta began offering all its Florida-bound economy passengers two free drinks, champagne and steak from November 2, Eastern followed suit on November 4, and National did the same a day later.

It is a war which no one can win!

\* \* \*

**EAA 30TH BIRTHDAY** East African Airways celebrates its 30th anniversary on January 1, 1977. EAA started operations with six De Havilland Dragon Rapide six-seater aircraft.

But the history of Civil aviation in East Africa goes much further back. In 1924, Sir Alan Cobham, the great pioneer of aviation, surveyed routes in East, Central and South Africa for Imperial Airways. In 1929, Mrs F.K. Wilson registered the first air company in East Africa — Wilson Airways. Its equipment, a DH-60 Moth carrying two passengers!

(Photo above: a vintage EAA aircraft)

\* \* \*

**BLUE SKIES AHEAD** The upturn in airline finances is being reflected in the greater flow of orders for new aircraft. The US airlines, which constitute almost half the world air transport effort, expect to earn \$300 to \$350 million this year.

United Air Lines alone has ordered 28 727s worth \$350 million. American, Braniff and Northwest have ordered 23 Boeing 727s costing \$251 million. Even PanAm, which has been dogged by financial problems for the last seven years, with losses totalling \$ 310 million, has turned corner and says that it will need about 10 aircraft of Boeing 747 size for delivery between 1979 and 1981.

No wonder Boeing's sales are looking healthy, the company having netted over \$65 million in the first nine months of this year. During the first nine months of 1976 the Company delivered seven 707s, thirty-four 727s, thirty 737s, and twenty-one 747s, for a total of 92. Current schedules call for the delivery during the remainder of 1976 of three 707s, twenty-seven 727s, eleven 737s, and six 747s.

McDonnell Douglas expects to deliver 18 DC-10s next year, about the same as this year, plus nearly 40 smaller DC-9s. Even Lockheed is doing reasonably well, having sold six-long-range Tristars to British Airways. It plans to deliver a dozen in 1978 adding to 138 already in service. Airbus Industrie is making steady progress with its A-300B sales. Currently Airbus Industrie is producing two aircraft per month and production work is now underway beyond aircraft No.80 with long lead items being ordered for No.116.

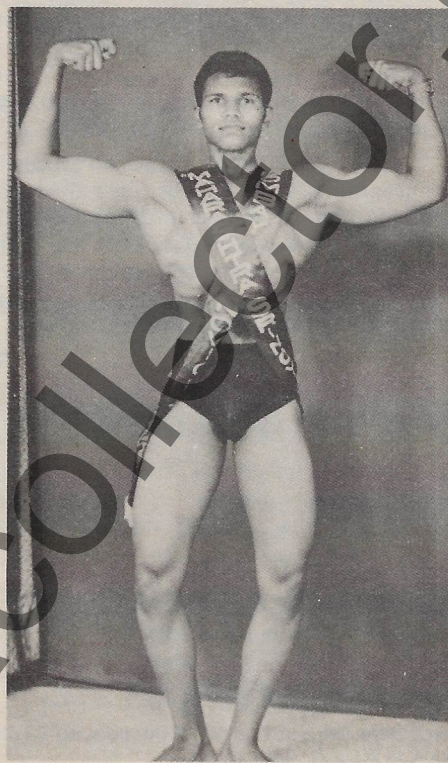
Naosherwan Nalavala

# CHAIRBORNE

## Handle with Care

Air-India recently flew 15 million high quality Indian contraceptives, valued at Rs.35 lakhs and weighing 40 tonnes, to Russia. These contraceptives were manufactured by a firm in Madras which makes toilet goods, and it is hopeful of getting another king-size order from Russia. From time to time Air-India carries delicate cargo. Early this year we carried 10 tons of ice-cream to Muscat and 20 kgs. of jasmine flowers to Singapore.

## Muscle man



Twenty-four year old C.Stanley of Personnel was declared "Greater Bombay Sri" and "Maharashtra Sri" for the year 1976-77 at a bodybuilding contest held in Bombay recently. Stanley won in the Tall Group (above 5' 6") and also bagged the most Muscular Man award both in Greater Bombay and Maharashtra. Bharat Chinchay won the Medium Group title while Patrick D'Souza was the winner in the Short Group. Over 30 competitors from 20 clubs participated.

## Palming it off

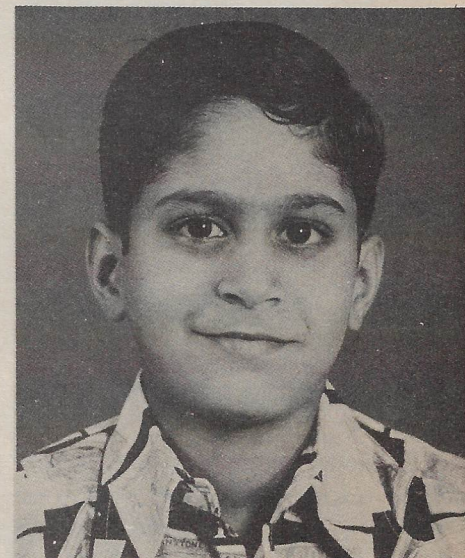
In October this year, Mr J.R.Jagtap, Accounts Manager in the Tourism Office at Geneva, received an invitation from the Coop-City to participate in an India Fortnight that they were celebrating. Mr Jagtap donned saffron robes and sat down to read the palms of those who wanted to know their future (he has always been a palmist of sorts). Reading hands was a big success and people queued up all day for Mr Jagtap to tell them their past and future, their present being equally unknown. The departmental store gave him a gift of 205 SFr (approximately Rs.719.55). In a rare gesture of generosity, Mr Jagtap has donated the amount to the Air-India Staff Welfare Fund, for which we all are very grateful.

## Art show



The Art Gallery at Centaur Hotel, Bombay Airport, was inaugurated by the former film star, Nargis Dutt, recently. Ms Shakti Tewari, wife of Mr R.Tewari, Asst Commercial Manager-Cargo Sales and Development, held her fifth one-man show at the gallery. She exhibited her impressionistic paintings at Belgrade in 1964, in Paris in 1969, in Bangalore in 1975 and in New Delhi early this year. Ms Tewari has completed a 5-year course at the Polytechnic in New Delhi and is predominantly a self-made painter. During her sojourns to Europe, she has met a number of famous artists including Mr Obican of Yugoslavia and a few avant garde painters in Paris. Andre Veil, the art gallery that promoted Salvador Dali and Pablo Picasso, invited Ms Tewari to exhibit her paintings at a joint show at the gallery. Very fond of blues, greens and saffron, she paints mainly landscapes and portraits, but in the impressionist style. Photograph shows (L to R) Ms Tewari, Ms Dutt, Ms M.Sharma, Guest Relations Officer and Ms R.Singh, Centaur Sales Executive.

## Brilliant at ten



Samir Dhond 10, has always been a winner. Whether at studies or at an elocution competition he has stood first. Samir, who is the son of Mr R.N. Dhond, Asst Administrative Officer, Headquarters, got the first prize in the "Rajadhyaksha, Gandbhir, Varde Memorial Elocution Competition", where students from several schools participated. While he secured 89 percent in the Maharashtra Rashtrabhasha Parishad Examination for excellence in Hindi, he got 95 percent marks in the fifth standard terminal examination. Samir is very fond of dramatics and has the makings of a fine actor.