

Pan Am Events

THE DIXIE CLIPPER REUNION: MY 2 CENTS

by Lou Berman



Dear All,

The reunion was from my point of view, fairly flight service oriented. Not by design mind you, but by the sheer number of former female Flight Attendants I observed... Most I gathered are (or were) members of World Wings International. In total we were close to 500 celebrants, who came from some of the far "corners of the world." (Guam, Panama, Antigua, Mexico etc. etc. etc.). Needless to say, we met long lost friends and former colleagues and the reminiscences flowed, and flowed and flowed... as one can easily imagine.... A long, long river...

Some of the ladies wore their former uniforms in the unique Pan Am "Tunis" blue (my preferred color), or of other colors, and of various then-approved styles. All such uniforms were then paraded in person, in fashion show style as might be from "Grands couturiers"... And a former captain Tommy (Skygod) Carroll, in uniform, wings, gold and all...

The ladies. All the uniforms seem to fit... Lots of discipline there, and will power exercised over the years. Youngish and sporty. Fantastic. All in all a bunch of good looking people whether Flight Attendants or "Skygods" or all the others who on the ground, behind the scenes, played a prominent role over the years in keeping the airline safe, and profitable...

Overall, I don't think there was much difficulty in spite of the passing of time, in recognizing each other. At least those we had known. Oh yes a few changes of course here and there with the imprint of passing time, but so what? You no doubt know what is said about good wines, don't you (?)...

The ambiance was of the best... Lots of giggles. Lots of laughs and some speeches, but just enough...And yes... off the hotel lobby, there was a "Clipper Club" attended by former "Clipper Club" skippers in uniform. As of 2 PM daily, the "Club" was open and refreshments of all kinds were available... The good old days....

We lodged at the "Meridien Beach" hotel in Monte Carlo... Great accommodations & facilities – Generous breakfast buffets "A gogo," fit for princes (of Monaco and others. Luckily the weather was in our corner during these first 3 days of November. Prior to that, heavy rain drenched the Riviera).

The dining room tables (set in 2 ballrooms) were decorated with flags especially made for the occasion, and with a model B314 for sale. (They all went... [as hotcakes?] as one can imagine). A glossy booklet had been produced with various personal messages (One which struck me by Anne Marie Olympios. Quote: "So many good memories because of Pan Am Clippers I met my husband and future son-in-law because of those great flying machines – Thank you Pan Am for 25 great years ." There were several other testimonials similar in essence. Sponsors of that booklet (thanks to Jeff Kriendler's efforts) with their message and ads, were among others:

Delta, The Pan Am Historical Foundation, Star Clippers , The Principality of Monaco, Sikorsky, United Airlines, Le Méridien Beach Plaza, Intercontinental Hotels & Resorts, TAP Air Portugal, Pratt & Whitney and many others, too many to enumerate here. But first and foremost we were honored with a very special message from HSH Prince Albert II and HSH Princess Charlene of Monaco, and welcome messages from Don Cooper and Max Gurney.



Other than that, we were offered lapel pins representing the crossed flags of Monaco and of the US surmounting the PanAm logo. Captain Tommy "Skygod" Carroll and his wife Jean produced CD s and videos, Jim Kelso countless pictures. Thank you for these memorable souvenirs.

We also were honored by the presence of a special delegate of the Mayor of Marseilles. Why Marseilles? Because that is where on its inaugural flight (Port Washington, NY to Marseilles via The Azores and Lisbon) on June 30, 1939, the Clipper, a B-314 seaplane splashed down on the nearby "Etang de Berre."

Well, those were my personal impressions...

All in all, it was a mighty walk down memory lane... Some shed a few tears when the "Pan Am" song (not to call it an anthem or hymn) was played... It gave one shivers, at least it did me...

Pan Am Gone but Not Forgotten, by a long shot...

A great PowWow it was... until next time.

Lou Berman

Note: The Dixie Clipper celebration team were Captain Don Cooper (Event Chairman), Max (Blue Skies) Gurney who promoted the idea to hold this celebration in Monaco.(Max was PanAm's Director for Southern France and Monaco and knew Princess Grace), Captain Tommy (Skygod) Carroll, Will Groote (A former VP IHC and of SBM-Monaco), Jean Khalife and his wife Annette, and Jeff Kriendler, Cinda Belozar and FEDEX Captain Kevin Kramer, Linda Bradley, Joanne Emmett, Sue Grebe, Jan Guerchi, Alda Halldorson-Duin, Jim and Tori Kelso, Kevin Kramer, Charlotte Larson, Darlene Laster, Agi Otylic, Elin Phillips, Betty Smith, Muff Solvinto and yours truly... and I beg to be forgiven if I forgot anyone ...

For more [Dixie Clipper Reunion images](#) link to our Photo Gallery courtesy of Robert A. Genna.