



The Always Entertaining Bob Sigall

Bob Sigall has been collecting stories about the people and organizations of Hawaii for many years. He has just published his 5th book in his series, *The Companies We Keep*. He has been a guest speaker twice in the past so instead of repeating his bio, I have selected items from his weekly column in the *Honolulu Star Advertiser*, "Rearview Mirror", which looks at events of the past. See the article below and sign up for the June 26th meeting to hear more of Sigall's stories. His new book will be available for purchase.

BOB SIGALL AND REARVIEW MIRROR

Bob Sigall needs no introduction to our members. He is an entertaining speaker, popular with our luncheon group. His books, like his weekly columns in the Star Advertiser, are collections of stories of bygone times which many of our readers will remember. His column often prompts his readers to ask about other people or places. We all learn about Hawaii's past through his columns, such as a recent one on the history of Sand Island. Following are a couple of items from one of Sigall's columns (Star Advertiser 5/11/18).

I knew that Dot's restaurant's parking lot was a roller skating rink around 1938. David Kennedy told me that, in the 1940s, there was an outdoor ice skating rink in Wahiawa, run by an ice company. It was called the Arctic Ice Skating Rink and was at 1115 California Avenue.

"The rink had short walls around it and a roof that would be lowered over the rink to help freeze the water. At opening," Kennedy said, "winches would raise the lowered roof and there would be a mad dash onto the ice. Within 10 minutes we were all skating in about a half-inch of water. We would skate for 30 minutes of wet fun, then a bell would sound and we cleared the rink. The roof would be lowered until the next day when the water would have re-frozen, and the cycle would begin again."

Another item in the same column relates to a restaurant with which many of our readers, here and abroad, will be familiar, Michel's in the Colony Surf. The owner was a Frenchman named Michel Martin. The restaurant is still in business though it has changed hands several time. It is currently owned by a Japanese company. Sigall writes:

Elsbeth Kerr reminded me that Michel's restaurant got its start in Wahiawa in 1942. "It was very popular with Schofield soldiers. My mother used to enjoy going there for lunch with the Alliance Francaise, as they called themselves,

so they could speak French and eat French food.” The restaurant moved to Waikiki in 1959.

You can hear Bob Sigall tell more local stories at the June 26th meeting. Sign up now to reserve your space. A reservation form is located on page 7. His latest book will be available for purchase. The price is \$20.

FROM THE DESK OF PRESIDENT DARLENE LASTER

***Ken DeHoff**, recently retired as Executive Director of the Pacific Aviation Museum, [pictured at right] was honored as the 2018 NESA Outstanding Eagle Scout of the Year. [NESA is the National Eagle Scout Association.] As many of you know, he became a great friend of our Pan Am group over the years and has always been a great help in creating our Pan Am exhibit at the museum. I thought you might enjoy reading his speech that shares his story as well as Pan Am's. (Note: I was lucky enough to be on duty in the LAX Clipper Club the morning the 5 original astronauts came in to wait for their flight to HNL. They were on their way to Maui to train on Haleakala, where the terrain is more similar to that of the moon than anywhere else on earth. They were traveling EXREL [no publicity] so the public never knew about it.) Ken's speech follows:*



Let me share a few stories that are founded in the training, the mentoring and the habits formed along the way to becoming an EAGLE, and which have inspired me to stay engaged with Scouting. Not everything I had planned or wished for came to pass. Life is not a bed of roses but I think Scouting gave to me the foundation to accept and deal with the changes that happened in my life.

I grew up in the wide-open spaces of Arizona and Utah, surrounded by the Rocky Mountains, along the Colorado River, where camping, hiking and skiing were a part of my daily life. I learned that you can make your mind force your body to do more than muscles want to do on those long hikes over mountain passes. **You can do whatever you want to do if you want to do it badly enough.**

My father was a pilot in World War II, flying B-25s in the Pacific. My mother was a stewardess for American Airlines flying in the Flagship DC-3s and C-47s, both aircraft the museum had and needed to restore. My parents made sure I was aware I had an aviation heritage and introduced me to their friends and heroes such as Juan Trippe of Pan Am, military Generals Jimmy Doolittle and Chuck Yeager and Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin—people who have influenced aviation around this world as well as in my life. **Don't be afraid to have heroes and share why they are your heroes.**

My life began with a sonic boom as Chuck Yeager flew the Bell X-1 740 miles an hour, achieving Mach 1 as he broke the sound barrier. That huge bang changed the world of air travel forever. I met the General when I was a teenager and learning to fly. He gave me great encouragement—he was a mentor to many. We brought Chuck Yeager to Pacific Aviation Museum as a part of our Hanger Talk program. Some of you may have attended that evening in Hangar 37 as over 600 guests got to hear his stories. He stayed for an extra hour just to take pictures and sign autographs. What a model he set for all of us! **Be that mentor yourself to anyone that asks.**

My father was also an Eagle Scout. He instilled in me the meaning of the Scout Oath. And he inspired me to follow the Scout Laws and then to be good at all I do; that was particularly needed as a pilot. He shared stories that inspired him, such as that of Lt. Frank Luke. Lt. Luke, who had grown up in Phoenix, was a pilot in WWI. He flew the French SPAD airplane and became known as the "Arizona Balloon Buster" for shooting down 18 German Observation balloons before being shot down himself and killed. Lt. Luke was awarded the first Medal of Honor to an aviator. He was one of my heroes. In 1919, the airfield on Ford Island in the middle of Pearl Harbor was named after Lt. Frank Luke. Again, you might feel the pride I felt as I directed an Aviation Museum on that very same Luke Field. Sharing our history, that of our family, community and country is important. I encourage you to **always remember your family, your history and heritage and the help your families contributed to this Eagle award.**

I started Scouting as a Bobcat and worked on earning ranks in a world where things were changing so fast. Pan American Airlines was flying around the world. Juan Trippe had mapped a route across the Pacific using Clipper Ship aircraft that could land in the water. Ford Island was the first stop on that Pacific route. Pacific Aviation Museum, with the help of the Pan Am Retirees Association, designed a wonderful exhibit that today shows the accomplishments and the early history of that airline.

While the jet engine was being developed during WWII, in the 1950s commercial airlines were still flying airplanes with radial engines and propellers. Pan Am was the first to buy the Boeing 707 and introduced the jet age, expanding the opportunity for many more people to experience air travel. Last year nearly 1 billion accident-free passenger miles were flown.

Given my position at the Pacific Aviation Museum, and the Flight School programs we provided, you might expect me to encourage you to get your pilot's license and consider a career in aviation. And I am. By 2030 we need another 300,000 pilots trained to fill just the air transport positions with the airlines. And besides pilots, aviation needs computer programmers, doctors, air traffic controllers and mechanics. Aviation careers are as rewarding as achieving the rank of EAGLE Scout. **What do you want to be in your life? If you haven't started, plan your career now.**

After college I joined the Army during the Vietnam War and flew the Cobra helicopter gunship, but like Frank Luke, I was shot down and injured my back. I lived but wouldn't walk or fly again. Remember, I said life is not a bed of roses. I shifted from wanting to fly as a career to the computer field. I learned to code while doctors put me back together. I am able to walk again, and for 30 years, I helped develop many systems used in aviation that made this industry safe and reliable.

While the jet age expanded air travel, the Atomic Energy Commission was developing the next generation engine that would make space travel possible. Many of us grew up with the dream of finding what lies beyond our earth and moon. The speed of sound was not fast enough to travel in space. Jack Armstrong was one of those at Atomic Energy developing that new engine. Dads, you might remember "The All American Boy" picture on that orange Wheaties box. That was Jack Armstrong. At the Atomic Energy Commission, he was the program manager on the Atomic engine, the one that has powered every satellite we have launched into space. Next week NASA will launch TESS into space, using that same Atomic engine with a mission to identify other planets in our galaxy that might support life and to search for alien worlds.

In December 1941, Jack Armstrong was a 1st Lt. assigned to Hickam. He was sent to the island of Niihau to de-arm the Zero airplane that Japanese Navy pilot Shigenori Nishikaichi had crash-landed after participating in the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. Nishikaichi had been killed by the island residents after a week of terror, a story you will learn about when you tour Pacific Aviation Museum. During Lt. Armstrong's stay on Niihau, he took possession of 6 wooden sticks found in Nishikaichi's flight suit. Each of these sticks, *Nafuda* in Japanese, had a name painted with a wish for Nishikaichi's safety and success. Lt. Armstrong took those home, put them in his footlocker and there they stayed for 60 years. Jack had 2 sons—both Boy Scouts. After he died in 1986, his older son, Jim, opened the footlocker and found the Nafudas and recalled the story. He decided to donate those to our Niihau Exhibit at Pacific Aviation Museum. Instead, we helped Jim locate Nishikaichi's younger brother and then return them to a very grateful family in Japan. **Doing the right thing is another challenge we have. Scouting certainly helped me make the decision to return the Nafudas.**

Another of my heroes is President John F. Kennedy. In 1961 he announced before Congress the ambitious goal of sending an American to the moon. His speech included these words: "Space can be explored and mastered without feeding the fires of war, without repeating the mistakes that man has made in extending his writ around this globe of ours. We choose to go to the moon in this decade, [and do the other things,] not because they are easy but because they are hard; because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one we intend to win."

President Kennedy encouraged us to go beyond what we normally would do. As with the opportunities in business and industry, we are inspired to go beyond what we would do normally. **The Outstanding Eagle Scout recognition, Gentlemen, awaits each of you. Be outstanding in your life, be an Eagle Scout in all that you do.**

Seven years after President Kennedy's speech, Apollo 11 was launched with a destination of the moon. On July 20, 1969, Astronaut Neil Armstrong's voice crackled from the speakers at NASA's Mission Control in Houston. He said simply, "the Eagle has landed". 240,000 miles back on earth, as I and more than a billion other people were listening, we heard: **"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."**

Astronauts Armstrong, an EAGLE Scout, and Buzz Aldrin planted our American Flag on the surface of the moon and saluted it as they were trained to do in Scouting. Apollo 11 capsule, as well as all of the Gemini and Apollo transports, dropped into the Pacific Ocean and came through Hangar 79, now a part of Pacific Aviation Museum. One day we will build an exhibit honoring those early astronauts. Over 200 of those men had scouting experience. Forty-nine are EAGLE Scouts, including Hawaii's own Ellison Onizuka.

Hawaii has an important future in space. Pacific Aviation Museum has loaned Kea'au High School our model Space Shuttle simulator to train students. Today students in Hawaii are getting ready to go into space.

HI-SEAS—Hawaii Space Exploration Analog and Simulation Space Colony—on top of Mauna Loa volcano has a dome similar to what astronauts would use as a base camp. For 6 months, HI-SEAS volunteer crews simulate a Mars mission. This is not unlike the camp training we receive as Scouts. **Going into space is something in which Scouts can continue to be leaders.**

Private industry and investors are finally interested in what Buzz Aldrin has been advocating for 20 years. We need to go, not just to the moon, but to Mars and beyond. February 11, 2018, entrepreneur and investor Henk Rogers wrote *Space Odyssey: Hawaii's potential journey to the moon and beyond* published in the Honolulu Star Advertiser. "Hawaii can be the epicenter of research and development for the technologies necessary for permanent space settlement. Hawaii is the logical location to develop solutions for turning desolate lunar and Martian terrain into living spaces." Henk Rogers was the developer of the game Tetris, and Chairman of Blue Planet Energy Systems, and of PICSES.

You might recall Curiosity Rover landed on Mars in 2012. Next month NASA is launching INSIGHT, the next Rover to Mars. Both Insight and TESS will ride on a Space X Falcon 9 Rocket. Space X is led by Elon Musk—the creator of PayPal and the Tesla electric automobile. Industry is now on board with going into space. Job opportunities in aerospace will bloom in your lifetime. **Rather than just driving a car, learn to fly; use your time to learn as much as you can with STEM programs. Consider a career in Science, Technology, Engineering, Math in a quest to go into space. Learn other languages and communicate.**

Leave here tonight committed to following the Scout oath throughout your life—stay engaged in Scouting. Be like Neil Armstrong said, **Fly like an EAGLE**. Congratulations again. Thank you for being here to help me celebrate this Outstanding Eagle honor. God Bless America and each of you.

NEVER TOO EARLY



In case you have not noticed, our Annual Gala has a change of venue this year. It is scheduled for the Waialae Country Club on Saturday, December 1st. It will be a luncheon. Details and reservation forms will be included in the newsletter in a later issue, however, it is never too early to get started on your table group if you want to sit with friends. The tables will seat 10. If you cannot fill a complete table, the "table assigners" will attempt to fill in missing positions at your table with people from your own department. If not possible, you will have the opportunity to get better acquainted with someone you may not know well, if at all.

PAN AM PEOPLE

Sharlene Brunell has been traveling since last summer because her condo in the Marco Polo was made inhabitable as a result of the infamous fire in the 36-story building on July 14th last year. Her unit was a few floors directly below the source of the fire. Repairs have still not been completed but her many friends are happy to hear she is back home, staying with a neighborly friend whose unit, though not finished, is livable. Sharlene, we hope to see you at the June meeting! . . . In another note from last summer, **Mike Craighead** responded to the article I wrote outlining **Jack Cione's** presentation at the July 2017 meeting. Jack was an Arthur Murray Dance Instructor and spoke of the Murrays. Mike's in-laws were Elizabeth and Earl Baker. Elizabeth was divorced with a daughter, Mike's future wife Ronnie, when she met and married Earl. Earl adopted Ronnie, who then became a Baker. Her parents built the Pavilion Condo, located at the intersection of Kalakaua and Ala Moana Blvd. The ground floor of the Pavilion has commercial office spaces. The Arthur Murray Studio was one of the tenants and another was Salart Foto Studio, "neither of which were ever very good at meeting their monthly rental fees" according to Mike. As



a result, Ronnie's years at Punahou School included free dancing lessons. When Mike and Ronnie married in 1959, all their wedding photos were free, courtesy of Salart Studio. . . **Tomiye Nakamura** is a regular attendee at association meetings. Though she is now in assisted living, her daughter, **Iris Inouye**, makes sure she still gets to meetings. We were amused to see that Tomiye still proclaims her love for Pan Am. The photo at left was taken at the April meeting. Note the identifying tag on her wheelchair. . .

In response to my article on my career change from Pan Am to United, **Al Chun** reminded us of how Pan Am employees took care of their friends after that emotional transition. "I remember on one of my trips to Las Vegas, I was seated at a bulkhead seat, just back of first class. Just before the meal service began, a hand stuck out from behind the curtain and handed me a glass of wine. A different hand gave me an unopened bottle. The hands belonged to the two first class flight attendants, E and G, (names withheld to protect them) who also wished me luck. I didn't make a fortune but did all right. I was traveling with my sister and her husband, the latter tickled pink to get the wine from old Pan Am friends on United. Al included **John Medlock** in his email message to me and John responded, "Yes, PAA has a long 'tail'. Inga and I were checking in on Northwest Airlines in HNL, not long before they were swallowed by Delta. The agent asked me if I knew how to get to the gate and I replied that I knew quite well as I used to work here for Pan Am. It turns out one of his family (whose name I have now forgotten) had also worked for Pan Am and we talked about it briefly. Inga and I proceeded to the gate, where we had a wait before boarding. About 15 minutes later, the aforesaid agent appeared at the podium, said a few words to the gate agent and left. A few minutes later our name was called for an upgrade to first class. I never got to talk to that agent again but this must have been about Pan Am." Those were the days my friend; we hoped they'd never end. . . Welcome to new board member **Mae Takahashi**. She has been appointed to complete the term of the late Allan Mosher. Mae and I were Pan Am classmates and I can assure you she is a talented lady. Upon leaving Pan Am after her marriage to Amfac executive Teney Takahashi, she accepted an offer from Aloha Airlines to head their flight service department. She represented the company well for 30 years. She was very much appreciated by the Hawaii Chapter of World Wings when she accepted the presidency and quickly dramatically increased the membership. She is an asset to any organization and we are happy to have her on our association board of directors.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN . . .

Fred Tomlinson, has passed away at the age of 85. His wife, Carol, sent the following: Fred was a true "Pan Am Guy". He loved his work and he felt privileged to work for "The World's Most Experienced Airline"! Fred, just out of college, joined Pan American World Airways Reservation Department in Los Angeles in 1956. He spent 36 wonderful years ('56-'91) at Pan Am. He did it all—Reservations, Passenger Service, LAX Special Service and Clipper Club Manager (handling dignitaries and VIPs), Catering, Sales Account Manager for Los Angeles and Hawaii, and in 1965, he was on loan to the U.S. Technical Assistance Program to help train employees of Ariana Afghan Airlines in Kabul, Afghanistan. After Pan Am ceased operation, he became the California representative for Miami Air, handling charter flights for sports teams, entertainers, dignitaries, and Presidential Charters. He retired with 56 years in the airline business.

It was not all work, however. Fred and Carol, his wife of 60 years, loved to travel. Carol was a Pan Am stewardess ('57-'58) and flew all the Pacific routes on the historic B377 Stratocruisers.

They took their 3 children, Therese, Glen and Tanya, all over the world on Pan Am. After they grew up, Fred and Carol continued to travel. When they recently visited their 133rd country, Fred said, "I think our bucket list is full."

Fred was never idle. He, his son and younger daughter were Falconers, training and flying red-tailed hawks. He was an avid gardener and a train enthusiast. He built a G-gauge garden railway, which covers a large part of their back yard. He also had a great fondness for animals. Best of all was his love of family. He treasured his home, his wife, his children, their spouses, 10 grandchildren and 3 great-grandsons. Granddaughter Brittany Tomlinson is a United Airlines Flight Attendant, following in the family tradition.

I, Carol, send our love and gratitude to all our very special friends at Pan Am who have "Made the Going Great". And to the historic, fantastic

2018 Schedule

- **June 26**—General Member Meeting
- July 24—Board Meeting Only
- **August 28**—General Member Meeting
- September 25—Board Meeting Only
- **October 23**—Annual Meeting
- November 27—Board Meeting Only
- **December 1**—Annual Gala Luncheon WCC

airline that gave our entire family so much, leaving us with incredible memories.

Carol Tomlinson and her late husband, Fred, are pictured at right.



Luncheon Meeting Reservation

Next Meeting—June 26, 2018

Waialae Country Club

4997 Kahala Avenue

11:00 Social hour, 11:30 Lunch

\$30.00 per person (Includes tip and Parking)

Please try to make your reservation by June 21st.

Member Name _____ \$30.00

Guest Name _____ 30.00

Total _____

Makes checks payable to PAA and send to:

Carol Suyderhoud, 7503 Maka'a Street, Honolulu, HI 96825-3127

If transportation is required, call Carol at 396-5225 or contact her by e-mail at: carolws@hawaii.rr.com. Payment in advance of the meeting is appreciated.

NOTE: If you received this newsletter electronically and would like to attend the meeting, print this page or enclose a note with your check, stating what and who the check is for.

PAA Hawaii Aloha Chapter Officers

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(Note: area code for all phone numbers is 808 unless otherwise specified.)

Newsletter Items:

If you have any news item that would be of interest, please call Diane VanderZanden at 396-5293 or send mail to 500 Lunalilo Home Road, #26-D, Honolulu, HI 96825-1734 or by e-mail: alohadvz@gmail.com.

Members, we encourage you to print this page and give the application below to your Pan Am friends who are not members. If you are a former employee and not a member of the Aloha Chapter of the Pan Am Association, we encourage you to complete and submit the application below and help keep our association healthy. Thank you.

PAN AM ASSOCIATION—ALOHA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please check all applicable boxes and complete all applicable lines.

- ☐ Renewal
☐ New Member
- ☐ Retiree—Pan Am retiree who received lump sum pension or is receiving PBGC checks.
 - ☐ Associate—All other former Pan Am employees
 - ☐ Ohana—Surviving spouse, child or relative of above; sponsored person with close connection to Pan Am (subject to BOD approval).

PRINT CLEARLY PLEASE

Date: _____

Name: _____ **Spouse:** _____

Last First

Address: _____

Street Apt # City State ZIP code

Home Phone: _____ **Cell phone:** _____ **E-mail:** _____

Would you like to receive the newsletter by e-mail, which is in color? Yes _____ No _____

Retiree/Associate: Dept: _____ **PAA Service:** _____ **Receiving Pension?** _____

of years worked Yes or No

Ohana: Pls. state category & PAA sponsor (See above): _____

The association directory is published every two years and is distributed to **MEMBERS ONLY**.

Do you wish to be listed in the directory? ☐ Yes ☐ No

May we publish your phone number/E-mail address? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Annual Membership: ☐ \$ 30 US Residents ☐ \$ 35 Overseas residents

Lifetime Membership: ☐ \$150 US Residents ☐ \$175 Overseas residents

Please make check payable to **PAA** (Pan Am Association) and send with this application to:

John Medlock, 411 Kaelepu Drive, APT F, Kailua, HI 96734-3309