

CNAC Cannon Ball

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Reg Farrar, Editor

OJAI July 1975

Our meeting at Ojai ,California was again a pleasant experience. It was as great as it always is. Bill Merrill and his wife Toby were our guests. Bill was our featured speaker and his talk was sensational. He set so many records and flew so many years that it will be impossible for anyone to equal it. I doubt that anyone will ever be able to equal his speech. The CNAC Association was privileged to honor him with our Commercial Aviation Award.

The CNAC Service Award was presented to Robert Rengo for his selfless efforts and devotion to our Association.

Our retiring president was awarded the gavel with our thanks. He stepped in when we lost Sol and did a terrific job.

So with pleasure and pride we add Harold Chinn to our list of distinguished past presidents.

At our business meeting we elected a new president, Robert Potts Schmidt. Potty is one of our most ardent members. He is one of the real pioneers of aviation in China. He came early and stayed late. His record with CNAC was one of the best. His election was long past due.

For the last three years various ones have tried to arrange a trip to Mainland China. Our efforts for many reasons have been fruitless. We are still trying for the wish to refly the Hump strong. There seems to be no possibility to do this in the near future. It might be that this wish best remain unfulfilled. A jet flying at 30,000 ft or even at 20,000 ft would never be the same as those flights up the valleys and across the passes in a DC 3. Would Lekiang seem the same 10,000 ft below rather than when its peak was 5000 ft above. Maybe memories are better. Should anyone have any ideas on this project please contact Mac or me. We haven't given up. We have only postponed it temporarily.

Pictures of the Reunion in Ojai in July 1975 are available for \$5.00 for 8 by 10 from Colour Images, 110 East Matilija St, Ojai, Calif 93023

While we have been looking for the Mainland China trip, we came upon a charter trip to Hong Kong that seemed so reasonable that I am mentioning it here. It is available to CNAC Association members and their friends. It will leave from the east coast on September 13, 1976. There is another leaving from the west coast on July 25, 1976. This one is tentative at the present. The Sept 13 trip is solid. All of this as far as CNAC is concerned depends upon interest. The price is right. Side trips are available to several other spots in the Orient, including Bangkok, Taipei, and others. If there is sufficient interest the Tour company will send out more detailed announcements. Let me know.....

The entire trip at this point is tentative and depends entirely on the interest shown. The price is approximately \$700.00 which will include round trip transportation and hotels. There are many extras as you can see below in a part of a brochure that I took from a previous trip some friends of mine made. The tour company is experienced and has run this tour many times before. Only they can really explain it properly so let me know and I will have them send out the formal announcement. In days of higher prices this is a bargain.

***Round-Trip Jumbo Jet Flights** between the city of departure in the United States and Hong Kong via a DC-10 Jumbo Jet of America's Trans International Airlines, the world's most experienced charter airline with a perfect passenger safety record of over 25 years (see inset upper right).

***Upon Arrival and Departure. Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation for Persons and Luggage** between Hong Kong's Kai Tak International Airport and our hotel, including portage of luggage into and out of hotel rooms.

***A Chinese Welcome Get-Together** for the entire group, featuring Chinese libation. Hosted by our Tour Host Personnel, the gathering will give us a chance to make new friends and plan our activities.

***Deluxe Hotel Accommodations for Eleven Days and Ten Nights** at either the fabulous Hotel Excelsior or the brand-new Hotel Plaza (see inset below), our spacious, bright, and ultra-modern rooms all with double or twin beds, private bath and shower, radio, private telephone, and air conditioning.

***Fabulous Full-Course Breakfast Each Morning**, at the hotel, consisting of eggs, bacon, ham, fruit juice, rolls and coffee, tea, or milk, a hearty beginning to each day.

***A Half-Day Motorcoach Sightseeing Tour of Hong Kong**, with English-speaking guide, will point out important places.

The next issue will contain the updated membership list, and excerpts from the book *Topside Rickshaw* written by Bixby. Mr Bixby was Vice Pres of Pan Am and was very influential in the early days of CNAC. This book was published privately in a very small edition. I think some of his experiences will be of unusual interest.

Royal Leonard wrote a book about his years in China partly as the private pilot of Chiang Kai Chek and then in CNAC. He attended many of the reunions in California and in Florida. The following is a short excerpt from his book, "I Flew for China" published by Doubleday Doran in 1942. This portion deals with Foxy Kent.