

Dear Becky

yesterday - quite a bit of nasty weather prevailing - I received another surprise and very welcome gift from you + David, special delivery from Hastings store, another lovely pot of flowers to be, from the Pop Corn factory - they join my paper white narcissus - mmm. merci's pour tous!

Another very nice surprise to both of us was an article in the Dec. '98 / Jan. '99 issue of Jules magazine, Air + Space. It was mainly about a real aviation pioneer whom we met when we were both working for China National Aviation Corp. Jules, as Chief Engineer for Maintenance and I was hired to set up a Stewardess Department.

My experience with American Airlines paid off handsomely as this position entailed everything from selection of personnel, writing a manual, training, procuring uniforms including style selection and contracting for the fabrication of said items. End result - we graduated three classes of beautiful Chinese girls!

Considerable travel was also required not only in China - but trans-Pacific and I made many trips, Shanghai to San Francisco, stopping at Midway Is. where I got to see the gooney + frigate birds. etc. but also at Wake Is. where

I swam in the Turquoise lagoon of course, I mustn't forget lovely Honolulu. We lived in Shanghai at the Cathay Mansions, mode of travel - rickshaw or jeep.

But - then - on to my topic as I have digressed a bit. Anyway this article "Allie's Choice" written by Allie's daughter, gave us a bit of an overview of the history of the airline, CNAC. She mentions several people that we met and worked with and it all served to evoke some wonderful memories from this very hectic and unstable time.

She mentions a book that we would like to obtain if possible - hence, I am calling on you Becky. I know that if anyone can get it - it's you 😊 it is written by historian William M. Healy, Jr. author of the definitive history of China National Aviation Corp. (CNAC) entitled "The Dragon's Wings".

This time in our lives was unique. Jules was just out of the service and was working for Pan American. He was assigned a large project, i.e. converting 6 C-54's (military designation) DC-4's, formerly military aircraft used on the Hump, to accommodate passenger service and a

Super pushed up DC4 for The Chiang-Kai Shek's personal use. This work was done at Glen Martin in Baltimore. He was also responsible for the hiring of personnel for flight & operations. which he gathered from his associates in the CBI Theater, - real steady accomplished people.

Destination for all- planes & people. Shanghai, China.

We flew To Shanghai in the Generalissimo's aircraft. but first we flew up To St. Johnsbury and hung a zoom over the Town - and also looked at our property on Joe's Pond. Then - began our big adventure in China.

You can appreciate how intrigued we became To round out our memorabilia. I am enclosing some reimbursement for other book purchases and any success you may have with this book.

I hope too that my request will not interfere with all the other demands on your time. Our best To you & David for continuing success thru these Troubling times. We feel sure you will be able To weather and emerge stronger than ever.

Much Love.

Françoise

16 Jan. 99
at the Pond