

SHANNON CELEBRATES

SILVER JUBILEE

"Incalculable contribution to prosperity"

SHANNON has made an incalculable contribution to the prosperity of the surrounding area to the development of our national economy and to the international prestige of the country. In celebrating its Silver Jubilee, we pay tribute to every one of the men whose work and vision made it possible." This was stated by An Taoiseach, Mr. Sean Lemass, on Saturday last when he unveiled a plaque honouring the pioneers of North Atlantic Commercial Aviation.

"As political head of the Department of Industry and Commerce during most of those early years I was privileged to be at the beginning of the enterprise and to be the person to give the 'go-ahead' to the actual construction of the airport, and to the other developments here which I have recounted including the inauguration of the Customs-Free Airport, the establishment of the Industrial Estate and the inauguration of Aerlinet trans-Atlantic services."

The outlook for Shannon is bright, and I have every confidence that Irishmen will be found to meet whatever the future may hold. The Irish Government attaches the utmost importance to Shannon and to all that concerns it. It is my intention to continue to everything in our power to maintain Shannon and to maintain its position in the world of aviation. We will do this not because of the prestige already spent on Shannon but because of the prestige, but because it is becoming a very important factor in the Irish economy and because we have confidence in the men and women who run Shannon Airport and their ability to make it a national success."

Mr. Lemass concluded: Shannon is now 25 years old; it has passed its majority and is entering its maturity. It respects the goal of maturity will never be reached. When the Golden Jubilee celebrations come, it will still be developing and improving. Mr. Lemass, T.D., Minister for Transport and Power and Tourism, said that it was for him a happy coincidence that his term of office as Minister responsible for transport and power and tourism had the opportunity to witness the inauguration of Shannon Airport on the occasion of its Silver Jubilee. This Airport was the connecting link between the old and the new and it did little more for us than put us on the map. With the growth of commercial aviation, however, it had with the increasing volume of tourism, this airport has now one of the most important economic lines.

PROBLEMS Shannon had had its ups and downs; these were in a dynamic ever-changing world where new ideas can alter traffic patterns overnight. At the time of its inauguration, Shannon was an inevitable by-product of the overlying jet age which was in its infancy in strength. At that time, Bord Failte had larger funds and was mounting the campaign for the development of the airport. The runway at Shannon had been constructed, although under construction, at the time of having faith in the future and he issued a call to all concerned for the already planned airport and for stepping up the pace of construction.

of the early flying boats at Foynes.

London/Shannon service

BEA's first regular air service to Shannon will be inaugurated next April subject to traffic rights being granted by the Government of the Republic of Ireland.

The BEA plan envisages a maximum of one return flight daily from London next summer, using 96-passenger Viscount 800 airliners at tourist class fares. Flying times will be one hour fifty minutes from London to Shannon and one hour forty-five minutes in the reverse direction.

It is hoped that the BEA flights, which have been approved by the British Air Transport Licensing Board, will be integrated with those of Aer Lingus. They will operate under the existing co-operative agreement between the two airlines.

BEA and Aer Lingus already co-operate on the London-Manchester and Birmingham to Dublin route and on certain services to the Continent from Manchester.

A BEA spokesman said: "With tourist interest in Ireland rapidly growing, our new service will provide the needed additional capacity to cater for this market in the area around Limerick."



HISTORIC PICTURE

Crew of the Yankee Clipper and aviation officials photographed at Foynes in April, 1939.



ADDISON W. BEIDEMAN—First Radio Officer on the first air mail flight across the North Atlantic, June 24, 1939. To his right is an International Services Officer with the Federal Aviation Agency.

land as possible so as to shorten the trans-Atlantic haul; but also, it was recognised that the spot chosen should be as convenient to Dublin as possible. The fortunate and well-considered choice was the spot on which we are standing to-day. The rest of the story is that Mr. and Mrs. Trippe then boarded the Von Hindenburg in Germany and flew to Rio de Janeiro, then back to Miami on Pan Am, and by domestic carrier to New York, thus becoming, to the best of my knowledge, the first 100 per cent by air round-the-world passengers, and the first of many to come through Shannon.

This flight can best be described as routine—the application of navigational and efficient cruising techniques developed since 1935 in the Pacific. But I still remember the thrill of descending through the overcast when our star sights said we should and suddenly breaking through to see beautifully green Ireland for the first time with the gleaming River Shannon winding its leisurely way below us, exactly where it was supposed to be. And I remember also the thrill of being greeted by your beloved President, Eamon de Valera; your most capable Prime Minister, Sean Lemass; and many others here to-day with the words "Cead Mile Failte." And I will always remember President de Valera carefully teaching me later at lunch hour to reply to this greeting with the words "Go raib m'ail agat."

Very Rev. P. Barry, Newmarket-on-Fergus; Dr. T. J. Beere, Secretary of the Department of Transport and Power; J. Boland, County Manager, Clare County; Council, Ennis; Liam Boyd, District Sales Manager, T.W.A., Dublin; Sir Dermot A. Boyle, Vice-Chairman, British Aircraft Corp., Ltd., London; Senator Sean Brady, Chairman, Clare County Council; P. J. Brennan, Secretary, Aer Lingus, Dublin; E. Buckley, Station Manager, B.O.A.C., Shannon Airport; John Byrne, Area Manager, C.I.E. Limerick; Conor Carrigan, Fethard, Co. Tipperary; Leo Carroll, Chief Airports Architect; Robert Chalker, Charge d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy, Dublin; Sir Alan Cobham, Chairman, Managing Director, Flight Refueling Ltd., England; Liam Connolly, District Manager, Sabena, Dublin; J. Connor, Assistant Secretary, Department of Transport and Power; J. Donnelly, Station Manager, Luft Hansa, Shannon Airport; Councillor J. Danagher, Mayor of Limerick; R. Delhaye, Station Manager, Sabena, Shannon Airport; General Manager, Aer Lingus, Capt. J. C. Devoey, District Transportation Manager, T.W.A., Shannon Airport; N. Donnelly, Regional Operations Manager, Air Canada, Montreal; J. M. Doporito, Director Met. Service, Dublin; L. Douglas, District Manager, Ireland, B.E.A., Dublin; Enright, Assistant Engineer in Telegraphs; G. Farren, Director, Development Company, Shannon Airport; Allen R. Ferguson, Co-ordinator, General, International Aviation, Washington; Col. James Fitzmaurice, 15 Pembroke Street, Dublin; P. J. Flanagan, Chief Air Traffic Control Officer, Department of Transport and Power; Arthur Gynor, Airport Manager, Pan Am, Shannon Airport; James Gorman, Assistant General Manager, Administration, Aer Lingus; Douglas Grey, General Manager, Commercial Region, R.E.A., England; Sir Giles Guthrie, Chairman, B.O.A.C., London; Najeeb E. Halaby, Administrator, Federal Aviation Agency, Washington; J. Egan, Chairman, Cork, Tracitalia, Dublin; Dr. Patrick Hillery, T.D., Minister for Education; Dermot Hogan, Chairman, the Ennis Golf Club; District Council, Antrim; John Horgan, Shannon Repair Services, Shannon Free Airport; Dr. John Leydon, Chairman, National Bank Limited; William C. Love, Regional Vice-President, T.W.A., Paris; Patrick Lynch, Chairman, Aer Lingus, Dublin; Hugh McCann, Secretary of the Department of External Affairs; J. C. B. MacCarthy, Secretary of the Department of Industry and Commerce; Sean McCool, Joint Managing Director, Cassin Air Transport Ltd., Dublin; Kevin C. McCourt, Director General, Radio Eireann, Dublin; T. F. McDermott, City Manager, Limerick; E. McDonald, Manager, Esso Petroleum Co., Ireland) Ltd., Shannon Airport; B. P. McDonough, Dromoland Castle; Sean MacEntee, T.D., Minister for Health; Lt.-Gen. Sean McKewen, Chief of Staff, Department of Defence; Con McGovern, District Traffic and Sales Manager, Pan Am, Dublin; J. Buist Mackenzie, Director, Development Company; M. Moloney, Officer-in-Charge Air Traffic Control, Shannon Airport; T. Nally, Airport Manager, Department of Transport and Power, Shannon Airport; E. A. Nolan, Managing Director, Irish Shell and B.P. Ltd., Dublin; J. J. Nolan, Managing Director, Lep (Ireland) Ltd., Dublin; Dr. N. G. Nolan, Secretary of the Department of An Taoiseach; A. O'Connell, S. Attorney General; Edward R. O'Connor, Second Secretary, American Embassy, Dublin; T.

O'Connell, County Manager, Limerick County Council; Dr. T. J. O'Driscoll, Director General, Bord Failte Eireann, Dublin; M. O'Flathartaigh, Secretary to the President; Felix O'Neill, Manager for Ireland, Swissair, Dublin; Brendan O'Regan, Chairman, Shannon Free Airport Dev. Co. Ltd.; R. W. O'Sullivan, Chief Aeronautical Officer, Department of Transport and Power; D. O'Sullivan, Station Manager, Alitalia, Shannon Airport; G. L. Pearson, Trade Commissioner of the British Embassy, Dublin; Paul Quigley, General Manager, Shannon Free Airport Development Co. Ltd.; S. Reamonn, Revenue Commissioner, Dublin; Most Rev. Joseph Rodgers, D.D., Bishop of Killaloe; Kermit Roosevelt, President, Shannon Air. U.S.; J. J. Ryan, Deputy Commissioner, Sales and Catering, Shannon Airport; Capt. J. P. Sault, Carlingford, Co. Louth; R. Rev. Henry Stanislaus, Bishop of Killaloe; Killaloe; J. Seabour, General Manager, Seabour World Airlines, New York; W. L. Trimble, Regional Vice-President, Transportation, T.W.A., Paris; J. J. Walsh, Director, Industrial Development Board, Dublin; P. Wagon, Station Manager, R.M.I., Shannon Airport.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Of the thirteen men that made up the crew of Pan Am's Yankee Clipper, June 24, 1939, when the airline inaugurated commercial air mail service across the Atlantic, six were present at the Silver Jubilee ceremonies at Shannon Free Airport.

Four of these men are still active with Pan Am and one is retired. Another is with the Federal Aviation Agency.

Harold E. Gray, now President of Pan-American World Airways, Inc., was the Captain of the 42-ton flying boat that made aviation history. The Junior Flight Officer, James M. McLeod, is at present Operations Engineer with the company in New York.

James W. Etchison, Flight Engineer on the inaugural trip, is now Manager of Aircraft Maintenance at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. Assistant Flight Engineer, Stanley A. Zedalis, is Equipment Superintendent, also stationed at Kennedy Airport. Captain Audree D. Dursi, of Santa Rosa, California, the Third Flight Officer, was based in San Francisco from 1946 until his retirement in June, 1960, after 30 years with the company.

The First Radio Officer on the flight was Addison W. Beideman. He is currently International Services Officer with the Federal Aviation Agency in Washington, D.C.

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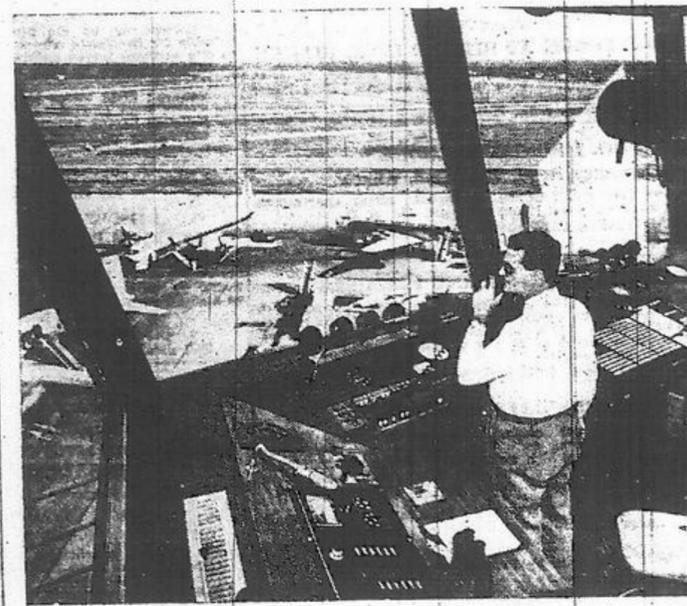
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