

# Remember The Korean Air Lift?



**M**y 90-year-old mother, Virginia Wilcox Spence, was a Pan Am stewardess involved in the Korea airlift. She has always wondered what ever happened to those boys and

their families who flew with her on those transport missions. It just dawned on me today that I might be able to find out by contacting someone involved with Korean veterans. You are my first attempt to find some of the men in the nearby photos that were taken in September 1950. My mother is very sharp and has vivid memories about the Korean airlift. This is a story that should be recorded before it is too late. Here is what she remembered about the photos and the Korean airlift experience.

The four nearby photos were promotion photos taken by a photographer for Pan Am at the San Francisco Airport. Stewardess Virginia Wilcox Spence was at the right place at the right time to be included in the photos. The photos were used in Pan Am's Clipper Magazine to announce how Pan Am was participating in the war efforts. One of the photos taken that day was used in the Los Angeles Times three years later to announce the end of the war.

Virginia didn't know any of the servicemen in the photos, nor does she have any record of their names. (FYI - Virginia NEVER went by the name "Ginny," as stated in the article.)

My mom told me that the servicemen flew on Pan Am airplanes to Japan and then used other means of transportation to go on to Korea. On the return flights from Japan, Pan Am transported the wives and



Recognize anyone?





**Newspapers in which the Pan Am photos appeared**

children of servicemen stationed in Japan back to the states. She said there was a lot of crying from the babies and the wives who had to leave their husbands.

The glory days of flying all over the Pacific came to an abrupt end and the circumstances were very sad for all of those involved in the Korean airlift. There were

no disposable diapers in those days, and they had to hang up diapers in the aisles on those long flights home.

I hope these details will help the cause. Jill Worley, Anaheim, CA, 714-635-5834, Jllilies@pacbell.net

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Please send any infor-*

*mation you have about these airlifts to me at 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067 or by email at sharp\_arthur\_g@sbcglobal.net. Most of the stories we hear about troops going to and from Korea involved ships. The subject of an airlift has not been covered in the past decade in The Graybeards.*

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One-third of the author's profits from this book will be donated to the Wounded Warrior's Project, Washington, D.C.

