

# TRAVEL

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**crossroads**  
**Iris Jones**

## All's fare in air travel

Joe Hallisey, the dean of Detroit-area travel agents, calls it Creativity versus Insanity. We were at the fall meeting of the American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA) at the Hilton hotel in Windsor and the subject of the evening was air travel.

You have seen the insanity in action in newspaper advertisements: discount prices in big letters for one-way tickets that can only be bought on a round-trip basis, coupons, and a hundred other ways to fill airplane seats in a super-competitive travel world.

You, the consumer, tell the airline that price is your first priority, so they twist and turn to satisfy that need and still make a buck.

When you have problems with the side effects of discount pricing, you complain to your travel agent, who has no control over the process and must be a combined business genius and wizard to keep up with changing fare structures and stay in business.

**IF YOU'RE** confused about air fares, you're not the only one. I know many of the national public relations directors of the airlines; the standing joke among them is that they don't know what the fare is until they read it in the newspaper.

Hallisey, of Hallisey Travel Service Inc., is a former national president of ASTA, the organization that includes both active members, who are travel agents, and allied members, who are representatives of cruise lines, airlines, hotels, convention bureaus, etc.

Chapter Chairman Carlene Howe of Hudson's Travel Service introduced the airline panel to the group so they could bring us up to date. Allitalia has new \$700 round-trip fares from Detroit to Rome via Chicago. Mexicana Airlines celebrates its 70th birthday this year as the oldest commercial airline in North America.

Northwest will complete its merger with Midway this month and starts working with Carnival Cruise Lines on trips out of Detroit in November. KLM starts twice a week non-stops from Detroit to Amsterdam in January.

American Airlines will start a Chicago to Berlin flight in April 1992. Delta celebrates the 20th anniversary of Walt Disney World with a new non-stop to Orlando leaving Detroit at 11:55 a.m.

TWA had business saver coupons for sale for a few days, so business travelers could fly round trip anywhere in the US for a maximum of \$500. If you blinked you missed that one.

**THE QUESTION** period was particularly active at this meeting. Why do you keep advertising one-way fares? Allan Alkin for American Airlines: "Somebody cast the first stone and you have to match it." Carolina Miranda of USAir: "We advertised round-trip fares and they looked expensive against other one-way ads so we changed back." Rodney Johnson, Northwest: "Price is what gets the attention of the customer. We're all trying to get bodies on the airplane."

Are non-refundable fares refundable? USAir announced in August that they will let you retain the ticket for one year and apply it to future travel, with certain conditions and a minimum \$75 service charge.

The general message: if it is absolutely essential that you change a non-refundable fare, you will get further by going through your travel agent than by going directly to the airline.

What about bereavement fares? Most airlines have them but make no mistake about this: they will expect you to deliver documentation about the hospital, funeral home etc. Don't kill Aunt Mitty off just to get a refund, it won't work.

If I have any message for you in the middle of all this, it is to find a good travel agent, let him get to know you, let him help you. I've said it a hundred times: a travel agent is your best friend and he/she doesn't cost you a cent.

By Micky Jones  
special writer

**I** was riding my bike down Glen Avenue when a neighbor stopped me with news of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Most mature men and women can remember exactly where they were and what they were doing when they heard the news on Dec. 7, 1941.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of what President Franklin Roosevelt called "the day that will live in infamy," the National Park Service and the U.S. Navy have scheduled four days of special events in Honolulu for Dec. 4 through 7.

Sheraton Waikiki Hotel will be the headquarters for a convention of some 2,000 members of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association during that time.

Most of the special activities will take place at the U.S. Arizona Memorial Visitors Center in Pearl Har-

bor. The Navy is preparing to handle as many as 25,000 visitors, expected to converge on the site during the four-day remembrance program. Free shuttle buses will carry visitors to the center from the parking lot of Aloha Stadium.

Participants and guests are expected to include President George Bush, Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, several governors, senators and hundreds of members of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. Specially honored will be the 50 surviving men who were actually on the Arizona when it sank, taking 1,177 crew mates to a watery grave.

**MORE THAN** 1,100 bodies remain entombed in the sunken battleship which lies beneath the glistening white memorial structure that was completed in 1962.

Had the 2,403 people killed on the island of Oahu on that fateful day were on the U.S. Arizona. There were only 68 civilian casualties.

The Japanese attack was concentrated on the ships and planes in Pearl Harbor but six other military bases on Oahu were also bombed and suffered casualties during the early morning attack.

The National Park Service has planned special programs for each of the four days of the commemoration. The U.S.S. Arizona Memorial, which is about one-quarter mile offshore from the visitor center, will extend special consideration to U.S.S. Arizona and Pearl Harbor survivors and to the relatives of those who perished.

All programs will be free and will include several band concerts, guest speakers and a special dawn memorial service on Saturday, Dec. 7.

Two-thirds of the 150 seats on each Arizona Memorial shuttle boat will be reserved for survivors and relatives of victims so the general public may encounter extended

waits for trips to the memorial and may not be able to visit on a particular day due to heavy visitation.

Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney will be the keynote speaker at a ceremony at the National Cemetery of the Pacific high on a hill overlooking downtown Honolulu.

**THE CEMETERY**, in Punchbowl Crater, contains the graves of thousands of servicemen and civilians who lost their lives in the Pacific area during World War II. Among the endless rows of granite headstones is that of Ernie Pyle, veteran of World War I and probable the best-known war correspondent of World War II. Nearby is a huge memorial structure containing maps and murals illustrating the major battles of the Pacific theater.

The U.S. Army Museum at Fort DeRussy is on Waikiki Beach between the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel and the Outrigger Reef Hotel. It contains weapons, artifacts and displays depicting military history from early Hawaiian warfare through to Vietnam.

The museum is housed in Battery Randolph, one of six Oahu coastal fortifications built between 1908 and 1915. It is open daily except Monday and the admission charge is right, it's free.

On a recent visit to Honolulu, I was invited to tour Pearl Harbor on an exclusive VIP launch operated by the U.S. Navy. Nicknamed "the Admiral's Tour," it utilizes a 31-passenger launch for a harbor tour including Ford Island, shipyards, the submarine base and a stop at the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial.

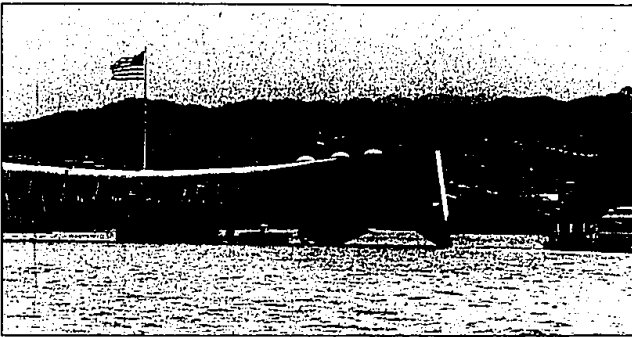
The two-hour VIP tour program starts at 9:15 a.m. on a small dock near Aloha Stadium every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The tour is available to active and retired officers of all services having the rank of Captain or higher, their immediate families, survivors of qualified officers as well as governors, sena-

tors, congressmen and their families.

**CIVIC OFFICIALS**, leaders of industry and commerce, the media and heads of major organizations such as the YMCA and the Red Cross also qualify for the V.I.P. tours on a space available basis. Qualifying individuals can make reservations by calling Petty Officer Green at (808) 471-9727.

Anyone planning to be in Honolulu during Pearl Harbor week this year should make hotel and rental car reservations immediately since both will be in short supply during the commemoration.

For information on the Pearl Harbor commemorative activities, contact National Park Service, USS Arizona Memorial, 1 Arizona Memorial Place, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818 or telephone (808) 422-2771.



The U.S.S. Arizona Memorial is in Pearl Harbor above the sunken battleship.

Photo by MICKY JONES

## Day lives in infamy for many

"After exhaustive search it has been found impossible to locate your son Lowell Earl Valley, firman second class, United States Navy, and he has been officially declared to have lost his life in the service of his country as of Dec. 7, 1941. The department expresses to you its sincere sympathy."

That is the telegram received by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Valley when their son died at Pearl Harbor. Lowell Valley of the USS Oklahoma was the first citizen of Ontonagon, Mich., to lose his life in WWII.

We received that information from Lowell's sister Lillian Casaday, who now lives in Niles, Ill., and apparently read our request for information about Midwesterners who had been at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese bombs struck on Dec. 7, 1941.

**HERE IS** a letter from veteran Robert P. Boys, whose son Terry R. Boys still lives in Bloomfield Hills:

"As a former resident of Farmington Hills on Wayburn West, I thought I would drop you a line. We left Farmington Hills 10 years ago and now live in Florida.

"I was on board the USS Maryland on Dec. 7 as 5th Division Topside Gunners Mate. We have been back to Hawaii several times and we have visited the Arizona Memorial. We would love to go for the services this year but don't think we can make it."

Janet E. Duffy, Caseville, Mich.: "At the time Pearl was bombed we lived in Naval housing on Pearl. Luckily my Dad (being stationed at Pearl) was out on sea duty to the Philippine Islands on that fateful day, was returned to us safely, and was able many years later to retire, completing his Navy career."

"I remember the day vividly, watching the planes, bombs and bullet streaks in the air. My brother was only three weeks old at the time, being a colicky baby at night, he and Mom were still sleeping. I awoke Mom, insisting she come to my bedroom window and take a look at the activity. To this day I can see and hear her saying, 'My God, it's the Japs.'"

R.L. MITTELSTADT, Howell, Mich.

"On Dec. 7, 1941, I was a crew member of the USS Maryland BB46. I enlisted in the U.S. Navy in October of 1938 and retired in February of 1959."

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Source: 1990 A.M.A. & 1991 Belden