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Located in Old Downtown Lexington Park, Outside Gate 2 PAX NAS

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**Happy New Year!!**

# A Journey Through Time

## The **TIMES** Chronicle



By Linda Reno  
Contributing Writer

Initially it was planned for the China Clipper to fly over the San Francisco Bridge (then under construction). After takeoff, however, the pilot realized the plane would not attain the necessary altitude and was forced to fly under the bridge instead, narrowly avoiding a catastrophe.

Wilson Jarboe, Jr. would have known Charles Lindbergh who was also active with Pan Am. He surely knew Fred Noonan as Noonan was the navigator on that first historic flight. For those who may not be aware, Fred Noonan and Amelia Earhart disappeared over the Pacific Ocean during their attempted round-the-world flight. They were last seen in Lae, New Guinea on July 2, 1937. Fred Noonan was officially declared dead on June 20, 1938.

On October 9, 1935 the Glenn L. Martin Company (now Lockheed Martin) then based in Baltimore delivered the first of three four-engine flying boats to Pan American Airlines. The plane, referred to as the *China Clipper*, took off from Alameda, California on November 22, taking its place in history

Jarboe would not suffer the fate of so many of his flying friends. He worked for Pan Am for many years and died in Benton County, Arkansas in 1978.

Wilson Turner Jarboe, Jr. was the son



by being the first to deliver airmail across the Pacific Ocean to such places as Honolulu, Guam, and Manila.

One of the crewmen on this flight was Wilson Turner Jarboe, Jr., then just 28 years old, who would serve as First Radio Officer. Jarboe would have received rigorous training in all aspects of flight operations as Pan Am required that their flight staff not only know their job, but that of their fellow crew members. For instance, they were trained in long-distance flight, seaplane anchorage and berthing operations, over-water navigation, radio procedures, aircraft repair, marine tides, and astral navigation.

"W. T. Jarboe, Jr. was the radio operator on the first flight to Guam (October 1935) and the first Transpacific Airmail Flight (November 1935). For him to be a crew member on those flights meant that he was the 'best of the best'. At that time, pilots and crew assigned to those flights were of the same caliber as the astronauts were in the 60s and 70s."

of Wilson Turner Jarboe, a Methodist minister, and his wife, Maud Estella Aldridge. Rev. Jarboe served a number of Maryland parishes during his career including Frederick County, Talbot County, and Baltimore City.

Rev. Jarboe was the son and only surviving child of five born to Charles William Jarboe and Elizabeth A. Hayden who were married in St. Mary's County on October 18, 1870. Charles William Jarboe (1842-1923) is buried at Mt. Zion Methodist Church in Laurel Grove.

My appreciation is extended to David Faige for providing the picture that accompanies this article from his collection. The crew is shown kneeling in the front row. From left to right: Wilson Turner Jarboe, Jr., Radio Officer; Harry R. Canaday, Junior Officer; R.O.D. Sullivan, First Officer; Edwin Musick, Captain; F.J. Noonan, Navigator; V.A. Wright, Engineering Officer.