


**PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS SYSTEM**

EASTERN DIVISION, P.O. BOX 3311, MIAMI, FLORIDA

 3071 Indiana Street  
 Coconut Grove, Florida  
 September 2, 1942

L-183

*For HS  
 information  
 please destroy!*

Dear Mr. Jester,

It was a wonderful surprise to get your nice letter this morning. At last I know who it was that helped me out with the passport! It seemed too incredible to have gotten it without a struggle on the part of Mrs. Shipley, and I was beginning to thank that the rumors I had heard concerning her invincibility and firmness of will were after all nothing but rumors. Well, if you knew how glad I was to get it you would know that there is no adequate way to thank you.

A few days after the precious document arrived I got worried about whether or not William would know enough about the difficulty of getting over there to dash right out and start things moving toward priority. So I took ten dollars and invested them in a cable to Lagos reminding him to do so, and asking him what he thought about my going on a boat in case I couldn't make a plane, adding that I was willing to take my chances. Let us hope William has thought the matter over and talked to PAA there, as well as all the other contacts he can think of. I am planning to visit the offices of PAA-Africa here in Miami, and ask them if they wouldn't like to have me work for them over there as long as I have a valid passport. After that, if their reaction is favorable, I plan to approach them with the idea of transportation, and the possibility of their helping me out somewhat. However, in the mean time I have written to Mr. John Bell, of the State Department. His name was given to me by Mr. Walter Rundle, of the office of Inter-American Affairs here in Miami, who said that he was the man to write to about priority. I wrote a much belabored letter explaining the situation, and (I do hope you don't mind!) gave your name as reference. On the side, I have inquired about boats, and found to my horror that you need priority even on them. After working for an airline for six months you almost forget that lots of people still creep around on the surface! However, just to keep as many irons in the fire as possible I am going to write to a Mr. E.A. King, of the War Shipping Administration, who it seems is the man who gives boat priority. So you see, Mr. Jester, that I am a very determined girl with a one track mind, which has decided to work out this problem if it takes six months! Persistence is my specialty, and I have been practicing it for the past year since I saw the Wonder Man! I only wish I knew more about what must be done. The abovementioned wonder man and I were so pessimistic about the passport business that we never discussed transportation difficulties, working under the principle that one should cross one's bridges when one came to them. I hope there still is a bridge, and that I won't have to swim over there with the passport between my teeth!

To-day is my birthday, and the best present I had was your letter. It's lovely to hear from some one who is not discouraging. I wish you would be kind enough to tell me if you know whether Mr. John Bell is the only and best person to write to in Washington. In the meantime, have a fine vacation and let me tell you again that I don't know how to thank you for being so wonderfully helpful!

Sincerely,

*Thelma Jones*