

Kay Hansen **The Kiwi Club Counselor**

Kay was born in Gary, Indiana. Her family migrated to Chicago. During her education in Chicago, she became fascinated by aviation. At a later date, she became a part of National Air Transport. She loved flying and did whenever she had the opportunity - at that time - wearing goggles and all. These were open cockpit flights.

In 1936, American called and she joined AA in Passenger Service at Chicago. She then went to work with the stewardesses at American in Chicago, the then first stewardess training school. She moved on to Los Angeles and to Memphis where she worked with first officer "qualified." During this time, she maintained close touch with the Stewardess Corps.

Kay was the Matriarch of three AA organizations: The Grey Eagles, The Three Diamond Society and The Kiwi Club. Kay was American's representative to coordinate the activities and stimulate the growth of all three organizations. She was the first American Airlines/Kiwi Club Liaison - then called "Counselor."

As a tribute to Kay at the May 1952 Delegates Meeting in Fort Worth, The Kiwi Club bestowed upon her the title of Counselor to The Kiwi Club for life and became an Honorary Kiwi. This specific honor was conferred to express gratitude of members to her for her invaluable advisory contributions in the founding of TKC organization.

Kay retired from American in 1975, spending almost forty years with American. To show appreciation to her, Bee Crocker Hansen, TKC National President (1974-1976), asked a friend to design a gold pin depicting the three organizations listed above. After several designs, the Kay Hansen Pin was born. The pin was presented to Kay at Bee's first National Board Meeting/Seminar in Cleveland. A few years later, a gold chain purchased by the Dallas Chapter, was added so the pin could be worn as a necklace. In 1983 at the TKC seminar held in Denver, CO Kay donated the pin to The Kiwi Club to be worn exclusively by the National President during their term of office as a symbol of her love to The Kiwi Club and her appreciation for the individual holding the leadership role of National President. The pin is passed on from the outgoing National President to the incoming National President at Installation.

Kay passed away on January 18, 1989.

(The above was compiled from information in TKC Archives.)