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Traded Flying Wings For Wedding Rings . . . And They Still Fly High

BY ELEANOR GILBERT

What happens to the girls who turned in their flying wings for wedding rings? These former female birdlings, who were stewardesses or hostesses, although married, are anything but "grounded."

Investigation proved that these once high-flying ladies are still flying high as alumnae in their respective groups. The girls, now happy wives and mothers, continue to give service, now, through their separate clubs, to the community where formerly they had served the traveling public.

The local groups, made up of former hostesses and stewardesses, are the Trans World Airlines Clipped Wing Club, American Airlines Kiwi Club, the Dodos of Western Airlines, and the local girls from United Airlines have organized the Klippings.

Each of these clubs had its beginning as an informal group which gathered for purely social reasons "to exchange reminiscences and to renew old friendships." In short order, formal organization seemed indicated. Off-

cers were elected and decisions made to include philanthropic work as well as social objectives in their activities.

One of the early groups so formed was TWA's Clipped Wings which was started locally. They decided to have a real club and do philanthropic work the latter part of 1954, according to Mrs. Robert Pickrell, first president in the Los Angeles area. Named after the older clubs in Kansas City, New York City and San Francisco, they contributed their early efforts to the Children's Hospital.

CHOOSE PHILANTHROPY

Then, last year, after publicizing their desire to help a group which had no support whatsoever, they selected the Patricia Lesnick Foundation for Cystic Fibrosis. This is a recently recognized, always fatal, children's disease. At their annual dance last October the Clipped Wings raised over \$1000 towards research on cystic fibrosis.

"We felt that working for children should be an important part of our activities," said Mrs. H. (Bud) Wright, 326 Via Colusa. Joan Lalor, as she was known when she flew for TWA, is the mother of Kathy, 4, and Todd, 2½. She was corresponding secretary for the Clipped Wings and is a member of the social committee this year. She sews for her children and for herself

and enjoys swimming for recreation.

"I had the 'bug' to become a hostess ever since I was a little girl," she said, "and I joined TWA as soon as I was of age." She feels the training and experience she had was of great value in increasing her knowledge of people, being at ease with them, and in understanding the problems and conditions so that she has no fear about her husband's work. He is a pilot for United.

Although only 5'4" tall, Joan was not frightened when one of the top ten most-wanted men was a passenger on her flight. She remembers that he was reading his newspaper upside-down in his nervousness. The hostesses had to appear unaware of whom he was in getting a description that would identify him for the police. "About a year later, he was given the gas chamber," she said, "for killing someone and robbing a bank."

"You meet celebrities, maharajas and other real nice people. For a woman, I don't know of any other work that would surpass it. You learn how to handle the public and be responsible for making decisions on your own." She recommends it for any young girl.

KIWI CLUB

Lillian Manis Watson, 504 Paseo de las Estrellas, is general convention chairman for the Kiwi Club for the national convention to be held in Los Angeles in May of 1958. She is the wife of American Airlines pilot William K. Watson and mother of Jeffrey, 3½, and Tara, 1½. The Kiwis, now a national organization with 34 chapters, has a South Bay chapter which is one of four in the Los Angeles area. They support the Exceptional Children's Foundation in L.A. They presented a cage to the San Diego Zoo for their namesake, the Kiwi bird from New Zealand, which has no wings.

Lillian says she planned to become a stewardess when she was in high school and kept trying until she got in when she was 21. She was an instructress and trained stew-



RECALLING THEIR FLYING DAYS . . . as airline stewardesses these three "former birdlings" don their uniforms and pose for the photographer. Although it's been a few years, they still present a handsome picture. They are, from the left, Mrs. Lillian Manis Watson, 504 Paseo de las Estrellas; Mrs. (Donald) June Anderson Kane, 5014 Mindora Ave., and Mrs. (Bud) Joan Lalor Wright, 326 Via Colusa. Even though they are mothers and wives, they still fill every hour with exciting usefulness.



"WHEN MOMMY WAS A FLIER . . ." is being pointed out by Mrs. (Harlan) Doris Torrey Inglis, 121 Via Los Altos, to her two sons, Stephen, 5, at the left, and Terry, 2½, at the right. Mrs. Inglis shows the boys a picture of herself in her airline hostess uniform.

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