Pan American Airways 75th Anniversary

The First Flight was on October 28, 1927, when PAA began mail service between Key West and Havana. Hugh Wells was the pilot and Edwin C. Musick was the co-pilot. The flight left Meacham Field at Key West at 8:25 A.M and arrived in Havana at 9:45 A.M, carrying fourteen bags of mail weighing 772 pounds.

First Passenger Flight was on January 16, 1928 from Key West to Havana on a Fokker F-7 (C-2). Hugh Wells was the Captain. Aboard were seven passengers, four paying and three PAA personnel.

Other Flights of Interest

In 1928, PAA began weekly service from Miami to Port-au-Prince.

On January 2, 1929, PAA service from Miami to Nassau commences.

Special Guests

Charles W. Trippe, Jr., grandson of Juan Terry Trippe - founder of Pan American Airways in 1927.

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Special Thanks to

The Historical Museum of Southern Florida, and the Pan Am Historical Foundation for the photographs which will be displayed throughout City Hall and for the renovated Historical Marker.

For further information you may inquire with the Office of Communications at 305-416-1440
The history of the City of Miami’s City Hall began in the early 1930’s, as Pan American’s Seaplane Terminal. The terminus, once the largest and most modern marine air facility in the world when it was built in the early 1930’s, has been Miami’s City Hall since 1954. The building is an important site in the history of transportation, as well as, an early precursor of Miami’s role as an international city. On January 11, 1943, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt departed the United States from Dinner Key to Casablanca, Morocco in the Dixie Clipper to meet with Prime Minister Winston Churchill at the height of World War II. This site also underscores the major role Pan American World Airways played in the development of Miami and its identity throughout much of the twentieth century.

Various elements of the interior will regain its original look such as the ceiling, the wall murals and the beams. The ceiling consists of panels depicting the signs of the Zodiac painted in a sleek modern style. The beams holding up the ceiling are decorated with stylized “wings” and bands in the Pan American colors. Covered with paint during the 1950’s, the murals near the ceiling depict the history of flight, from Leonardo Da Vinci’s designs to the modern Clipper planes flown by Pan American.

It is interesting to point out that Miami’s privileged location provided Pan Am’s terminal with the slogan, the “Air Gateway between the Americas” foreshadowing the realization of our City’s present destiny as an international locale --- “The Gateway to the Americas.”

Miami’s City Hall was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.