



## BIRTHDAY GIRL: ELLEN CHURCH

Today is the birthday, in 1904, of the world's first female flight attendant, an impressive woman who trained as a nurse and also had her pilot's license. When she was turned down for an airline job as a pilot (guess why), she suggested that nurses be hired to help out on flights, especially with passengers nervous about flying or air sick. The higher ups liked the idea and hired her as head of the stewardesses, or "sky girls" as the company called them. Her first flight in 1930, from San Francisco to Chicago, took 20 hours and had 13 stops!

An automobile injury took her out of the air a little over a year later, but she went on to have a dignified nursing career before dying tragically in a horse riding accident in her early 60s.

*Happy Birthday First Sky Gal!*

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