



THE PHOENIX AWARD®

COMMITTEE

1982 PAC Winner

William A. Kerr

Following his graduation from the University of California in 1936, William A. Kerr spent several years working with his family's glass business before leaving to pursue a career in aviation. For the next fifteen years, he served with TWA as co-pilot and captain, and with Northrup Aviation as Director of Flight Operations.

When he returned to the family company as Executive Vice President in 1957, Kerr Glass Manufacturing Corporation consisted of three one-tank factories operating twelve glass-forming machines.

As a result of Mr. Kerr's astute managerial and leadership skills, the next twenty-five years brought acquisitions and construction which have made Kerr, with sixteen furnaces throughout the country, one of the largest glass manufacturing operations in the United States.

Emphasis on product development and technical innovations has been a major portion of Kerr Glass's strategy; the Kerr-Heye narrow neck press and blow forming process, used to more rapidly produce lighter weight containers without sacrificing strength, and the PVC wrap-around label used on the single service "Ultra Performer" package are demonstrative of Mr. Kerr's leadership qualities. In addition to his vital contributions to the glass industry, Mr. Kerr's philanthropy in education fields is renown.