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or thereafter

WOMEN AND AVIATION

Number 18

THREE MORE WOMEN'S FLYING CLUBS.

New England Women Organize

"It's a dismal feeling to land at an airport and see not a sign of another women anywhere about on the premises," said Lorraine Defren, organizer of the first women's flying organization of New England.

That is one of the reasons why the club was organized. From now on when a member from Maine plans a flight to Boston, she can say confidently, "I'll drop a line to so and so, and she'll be out at the airport to meet me or have one of the other members there." The club plans also to encourage the institution of airport hostesses all over New England.

All women who fly or are interested in aviation are welcome to membership in the club, whose main purpose is to create more interest in aviation among women. The members plan to give talks on flying at schools and colleges in New England. Talks may be given at women's clubs. Tea dances at the Boston Airport are also on the club's calendar.

The club's officers are Lorraine Defren, president; Mrs. W. Bartlett Bacon, vice-president; Keet Mathews, secretary-treasurer. Six of the members already have their pilot's licenses. They are Mrs. Bacon and Miss Mathews, Mrs. Mildred Helene Chase, Mrs. Joan Fay Shankle, Mrs. Theodore W. Kenyon, and Betsy Kelly. Most of the other members are student pilots. Three of the members are students at Radcliffe.

Miss Defren, the club's president is promoting aviation among women at Skyways Incorporated in East Boston, and while she is doing that with her right hand, with her left hand, she is selling airplanes. She sold a Gypsy Moth plane to a New England mother as a Christmas present for her Harvard student son. Her own flying lessons were interrupted by illness about a year ago, and when they asked her where she wanted to go for her first brief airing, she said, "You know where I want to go." And when she got there - -

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to the airport of course - - she demanded that they lift her into a plane, plaster cast and all. She flew over the hospital, much to the consternation of the entire medical staff when they were advised that their erstwhile patient was soaring over their heads. Miss Defren earnestly hopes to resume her own flying lessons shortly, and in the meantime, she is busy helping other women in New England to get organized for flying purposes.

Tentative names for the New England Flying club for women are Skymates, Wing and Prop Club and Women Pilots of New England, although there may be some dark horse name suggestions at the next meeting.

Maryland Women Organize

The Women's Flying Club of Maryland was formed in Baltimore recently with a charter membership of fifteen. The officers of the club are: Miss Spieker, president; Alice Benson, vice-president, Mildred Batzer, secretary; Mary W. K. Miller, Jr., treasurer. Marian Clark, Maryland's first licensed woman pilot is an active member. The first meeting was at the Curtiss Wright Flying Service headquarters, and Gerald E. Woods, their school manager, will act as adviser to the club. The club plans to purchase its own plane for the use of its student members as well as to promote interest in aviation among women.

New York Women Organize

Defying all superstition, the New York Women's Aviation Club was organized on Friday the thirteenth at a meeting amongst the airplanes in the Curtiss Wright salesroom on 57th Street, New York City. An extensive program of lecture meetings, visits to air meets and shows is planned by the club.

On January 4th, 24 of the members, by special permission of Frank H. Russell, vice-president and general manager of the Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Company, made an inspection tour of the experimental plant at Garden City, L. I. The members were conducted thru the plant in groups and were given an opportunity to observe at close range how various types of airplanes from 18-passenger transports to one-seated mail planes are put together.

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Woman Pilot Qualifies for License (M)

Frances Harrell entered the Little Church Around the Corner in New York in December, in company with three other pilots and left it as Mrs. William Marsalis. Fay Gillis and Lieut. Daniel Moulton witnessed the ceremony. Mrs. Marsalis will shortly come up for her transport license at Curtiss Field, Valley Stream, L.I., where Lieutenant Marsalis, as well as his best man Lieutenant Moulton, are flying instructors, and where Miss Gillis, Maid of honor is piling up time for her L. C. license at the present time.

"Frances" and "Bill" spent the Christmas holidays at Centerville, Miss., Lieut. Marsalis' home. The honeymoon plane, a Warner Cessna loaned by Major Brainard, vice-president in charge of operations for the Curtiss Wright Flying Service, was chauffeured by Milton Johnson, an L. C. student, while the newlyweds sat in the back seat and took a flying vacation.

Ninety-niners Have Air Meet

The national organization of licensed women pilots had called ^a meeting on the last day of the old year at the Newark Airport, Newark, N. J. The members were guests of the city of Newark, and the Mayor gave a luncheon in their honor. Most of those who attended came by air. Viola Gentry was flown to the meet by an amphibian which picked her up on the East River, near the hospital where she has been a patient for more than a month. The New England members were flown down as guests of Colonial Air Lines and back to Boston as guests of the Newark Air Service.

Mrs. Opal Logan Kunz, acting president, and Elinor Smith, the club's newest member, did some exhibition flying. Miss Smith took up a Travelair, a type plane she had never flown before and flew it like the veteran she always proves herself in a cockpit.

According to latest advices, the Ninety-niners, nee 97 Club, nee 86 club, is the name of the club, because two other telegrams were mailed instead of wired. The next meeting of the 99ers or the Ninety and Nine club, or whatever way they may decide to write it, will be held at 2 o'clock on February 8, at the Long Island Aviation Country Club, Hicksville, L. I.

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Another First

When Mrs. Keith Miller, who has been appointed Chief Test pilot of the Victor Aircraft Company of Mount Holly, N. J., recently took a plane up for its initial test trip, she marked another milestone for women in aviation. It was the first time in the history of aviation that a woman gave a plane its first flight test. Mrs. Miller was one of the first to finish in the 1929 National Air Tour, and was also a prize winner in the first Woman's Air Derby.

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED TO KNOW.

- That: The Miami All-American Air Meet will be held on January 13, 14 and 15 at Miami, Florida.
- That: The 2nd annual New York Aviation Show will be held in New York City, February 7-15, under auspices of the American Legion.
- That: The International Aircraft Exposition will be held in St. Louis, February 15 to 23. This is the only Class A aircraft show sponsored by the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce of America in 1930. There will be some 250 exhibits of aircraft and accessories.
- That: The Second Annual Pittsburgh Aircraft Show will be held in Pittsburgh, March 6-15.
- That: The Cincinnati Aircraft Show will be held in Cincinnati March 26 - April 1st.
- That: The Third Annual All-American Aircraft Show will be held in Detroit, April 5-12th.
- That: The New York Aeronautical Show will be held in New York, May 3-10th. Class B Show, under the auspices of the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce.
- That: The National Air Races will be held in Chicago. The exact date has not been fixed.

Pilots' License Notes

Two new names for the list of licensed women pilots brings the total number of women pilots up to 129; 11 of them transports, 14 L. C.'s and 104 private pilots.

Jane W. Willis of Chicago, private pilot, and teacher of physical training is an L. C. student at the Curtiss Wright Flying School at Denver, Colorado. The Department of Commerce inspector who gave this woman flier her license tests declared her to be the best student he had ever examined. Miss Willis recently completed a tour of Europe where she investigated aeronautical operations on the continent.

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