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### WOMEN AND AVIATION

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#### Just Call Me Ruth

Although it is probably just another one of those things, and can hardly have any scientific significance, the fact that there are more women pilots named Ruth than there are women pilots named Mary is interesting, nevertheless and notwithstanding.

As names go, Ruth is not a particularly common name among women. Any group of them will be apt to reveal several Elizabeths, Katherines, Dorotheys, Mildreds and Marys, with only a very occasional Ruth. Yet on the list of licensed women pilots, the Ruths have a substantial plurality in their favor.

Seven Ruths blithely leave the five Marys with two to go, and trailing in the wake are four Marjories (one of them spelled with a "gery") and four Helens. There are two Eleanors, one Minor and one Eleanore. Frances, Joan and Margaret are other names which appear on the list oftener than twice. There is a fair sprinkling of distinctly unusual names such as Achsa, Ila, Sachs, Neva and Retha.

The persistent recurrence of the name Ruth inspired an investigation of its derivation. The Hebrew word from which the name was probably derived, means "friend" and implies the presence of the quality of sympathetic understanding of another's problems. An Anglo-Indian derivation given for the name, is a nickname for a popular two-wheeled vehicle. "One of the derivations listed had any aeronautical implications.

In numerology they use the entire name rather than just the Christian name in determining its import. To over, according to this system, it seems the letter "t" in a name signifies the presence of imagination in its wearer. And since the desire to cast off groundling shackles at will is not apt to flourish in stolid earthbound creatures entirely devoid of imagination, perhaps we can manage to swing ourselves up by means of that "t" in Ruth to a position of some sort of justification of the number of Ruths who can fly an airplane.

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It isn't, however, a very secure position. The world is full of just such curious coincidences. However, it would still seem on the face of it that all parents who fancy that they would like to see their brand-new daughters go soaring among the clouds some day, could do worse than to slip a Ruth somewhere into their names.

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#### Woman to Sit on Contest Committee

The appointment of Amelia Earhart as a member of the Contest Committee of the National Aeronautic Association has been announced recently. Both men and women pilots, on the strength of the active part played by women in the National Air Races, the big annual event sponsored by this organization, came away from Cleveland last fall with a "Why not have a woman on the committee?" question on their lips. The answer to the question was that there was no good reason for not having a woman on the committee, and that there were any number of reasons for having one. Ergo the woman's viewpoint will hereafter be expressed on the Contest Committee by a woman.

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#### Itching Shoulders for Twelve-Year Old

When Pretto (N.B. the "t's" in the name) Bell was nine years old she said firmly, "I want to fly. I want an airplane of my own." She still says it, and still means it. Now, at the age of twelve, she has a large scrapbook full of newspaper and magazine clippings that have to do with aviation.

However, it is necessary to be sixteen years before obtaining a student pilot's license, although by a special dispensation of the Department of Commerce it is sometimes possible to begin flying instruction at fourteen. To relieve the tedium of the time until she can herself fly an airplane, Pretto Bell has registered for a course in the Curtiss-Wright Flying Service School at Los Angeles, Calif.

She will have an opportunity to familiarize herself with the principles of flying and no doubt will learn to take a motor to pieces and put it back together again with neatness and dispatch while she waits for the years to pile up in her favor.

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Derby Fliers Meet

At the home of Gladys O'Donnell, who won second place in the first woman's air derby, plans for a permanent organization of the women fliers who participated in the derby were discussed. The organization's name will be the Skylarks. Five of the original nineteen were present, including Amelia Earhart, Bobbie Trout, Vera Dawn Walker, Margaret Perry and Gladys O'Donnell. At a previous meeting in Cleveland during the National Air Races, Louise Thaden was named president of the club; with Phoebe Omlie as vice president, and Gladys O'Donnell as secretary-treasurer.

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Women Pilots' Quarters

On the second floor of the terminal building at Port Columbus, the municipal airport of Columbus, Ohio, there is a door lettered, "Women Pilots". Inside there is a lounge fitted out with a couch, comfortable chairs and cretonne curtains. Just off this room there are compartments in a cool pastel green, where a woman pilot may have a refreshing bath, either a la tub or a la shower.

This is only one of the features of this completely equipped and attractively finished building, which enhance its value as a terminal for airways passengers and private cross-country pilots.

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Pilots' License Notes

Last week's copy for department emerged from the mimeograph machine a paragraph shy. The name which brought the total number of women pilots up to 129 is that of Charlotte E. Crooks, a senior at the Northampton, Mass. High School. Miss Crooks has won her private pilot's license at the age of seventeen. She has flown since she was ten years old with her father, Maurice K. Crooks, who is an aviation enthusiast, and who is buying his daughter a plane for her personal use. To date, Miss Crooks has had not a single forced landing.

Editor's Note: Data about newly licensed pilots, or about pilots who have changed their ranking, will be appreciated for this department.

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