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WOMEN AND AVIATION

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Women's Records Coming Up and Up

Two woman's records sat up and took considerable notice recently. The previous woman's loop record climbed up to more than seven times its previous level, or from 46 to 344; and the woman's solo endurance record mark was boosted nearly nine hours. It only requires an additional hour or loop to make a new record but the two contenders in this case were not content with anything but an ample margin.

Laura Ingalls, twenty-five-year-old transport pilot and social registerite of New York, established a new record for consecutive loops in an airplane by executing 298 more than had been previously recorded for a woman. The record was made in a Gypsy Moth plane at Lambert Field, St. Louis, under the auspices of official National Aeronautic Association observers. The previous record for women was forty-six consecutive loops by Mildred Kauffman of Kansas City.

The present loop champion's own story runs: "Slowly climbing up to about 9,000 feet, I maneuvered my ship towards the Missouri River and the field to allow for any wind which might blow me out of sight of the field observers and possibly discount my work. The first loop was easy, and as the number began to pile up, they became easier. Never did I feel physically unfit or bothered. During the first 32 minutes I was up, I went around as fast as I could, and kept pulling from one tight loop into another. In this way I maintained an average of about six and two-thirds loops a minute in that period.

"I used three different kinds of loops. The tight, medium and long loops. The tight loop is practically a circle with no chance to gain altitude. The medium loop is one slightly longer and gives one a chance to gain some lost altitude and is easier on the pilot. The long loop enables one to gain enough lost altitude to continue looping."

Miss Ingalls made 66 additional loops just to prove that she could make the 400 she had set out to make, although they were not counted in the record because she had to halt her continuous looping long enough to pump reserve gas from an auxiliary tank. She plans to go for both an altitude and an endurance record, after she has

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Mrs. Thaden flew the new plane, which is known as the T-4, and has a Wright Whirlwind 300 horsepower motor, to the Air Show at Camden, N. J., and also up to New York City. It goes without say-

ing that she will try and chalk up a number of records in the new

in Helen V. Cox, who has just been appointed airport hostess and demonstration pilot at Curtiss Airport, Valley Stream, L. I., listened patiently to that sort of thing from the pupils in her mathematics and geography classes down in Hagerstown, Md., for five years. Then she walked out of one schoolroom and into another the following fall, but one that was located on the outskirts of the city, immediately adjacent to the Hagerstown Airport. For a year she served as principal of this little country school and took flying lessons across the way. Then last spring, she gave up teaching and went up to Greensburg, Pa., as a demonstration pilot.

Now this woman pilot, who is not quite five feet one inch high, demonstrates Robins and Travel Airc and Moths to prospective customers out at Valley Stream, when she isn't busy making visitors to the airport welcome. She has more than a hundred hours of flying time and expects to go up for her transport license before long. Miss Cox is a native of Maryland and is a graduate of the Maryland State Normal.

Artistic Angle a la moderne

The world as it looks from above. That is what an exhibition of paintings by Ilah Marian Kibbey shows in a series of paintings from the air looking down. Airplane Impressions, she calls them. It is believed to be the first showing of work done by a painter of this kind. Aerial art is taking its place beside aerial photography.

Miss Kibbey is a middle western artist, but her work has been shown frequently in exhibits throughout the East. She says of this interesting new type of work she is doing: "My first airflight, from Kansas City to St. Louis, via Tulsa, Oklahoma, showed me the possibilities of expressing an entirely new perspective in painting. Prairies of Kansas and Oklahoma became a series of rapidly changing landscapes swept into tremendous schemes of color and design: emerald lakes, highways and rivers, tree lined, developed patterns of exquisite charm, while each time the plane banked for a turn the whole earth was thrown toward the sky in upheavals of light and shade. So I tried to put on canvas my impressions of a perspective that consists not of minute local objects, but of the vastness of earth and sky. As it had not been done before, I could paint rapidly, not being bothered by anyone else's interpretations. I only had to put on canvas the pictures crowding into my head."

This exhibition of "airscares" which will be shown at the Ferargil Galleries, May 12th to the 25th, in New York City, will include paintings in oil, water colors, and pastels.

Pilot's License Notes: The total number of women pilots stands at 204 altogether, with 161 privates, 22 L. C.'s and 21 transports. Information about new pilots or changes in license ratings will be appreciated for this department.