

THE NINETY-NINER

No. 2

November 15, 1932

Staying Up There-*

Since "Jack" Stearns Gray first impressed the populace by flying continuously for 36 minutes, and Ruth Law made a five-hour world's duration record, endurance flying for women had grown up considerably.

Three official world's records for solo duration flights by women pilots, and two official records for duration flying with re-fueling have gone on the books of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale since, in the summer of 1929, this body decided to establish a separate category for women's records. Previously six technically unofficial records had been made by American women, but made under the supervision of a representative of the National Aeronautic Association, American representative of the Federation, and in complete accordance with its rules and regulations governing such flights.

Viola Gentry, dean of the women endurance fliers was the first to come forth and claim a record on December 20, 1928. WOMAN FLIER STAYS ALOFT 8 HOURS, a headline in the New York Times stated next day. Eight hours and 6 minutes was her actual time, and it was an unofficial world's record. About two weeks later the same paper carried the head EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD CALIFORNIA GIRL SETS MARK FOR LONGEST FLIGHT BY ANY OF HER SEX. The race was on. Bobbie Trout had stayed up from 6:31 one morning until 6:36 that night--12 hours and 11 minutes all told. And the whole world was interested in the fact that she had munched concentrated food and drunk hot chocolate while she cruised over Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley.

This record, made on the 2d of January toppled on the 31st when the time was boosted the additional hour necessary to qualify for a new record and a spare 14 minutes. Subsequently The World's headline had Elinor Smith telling of THRILLS OF RECORD FLIGHT IN ICY DARK, and quoted her as saying, "Maybe we can stir up enough interest to have a separate set of records created for women fliers just as they have for women athletes. Her account of the flight said that she found singing the best way to keep awake after the first eight hours.

And MISS TROUT SETS MARK WITH 17-HOUR FLIGHT: RECAPTURES RECORD MISS SMITH TOOK FROM HER the Times proclaimed not a month later. This time Bobbie Trout's record came to 3 hours and 48 minutes more than Elinor Smith's. She had flown about 860 miles all told at an average speed of 50 miles per hour. The record, it seems, "just had to come back to California," having only been "loaned" to the East for a couple of weeks. In addition to having flown alone more hours and miles than any other woman, Bobbie Trout earned the distinction of being the first woman ever to fly through an entire night.

California kept the record for several months with the help of the boost Louise McPhetridge (Thaden) gave it by completing a duration flight of 22 hours, 3 minutes and 28 seconds on March 16-17 of 1929. She had 12 gallons of gas left in her tank but decided to land when she found it difficult to keep awake. Throughout the flight she clung closely to a twelve-mile course over the Oakland Airport, varying her height from 800 to 1600 feet.

Elinor Smith retrieved the record again that May by staying up for 26 hours and 27 minutes over Roosevelt Field, N.Y. As an aid to compulsory insomnia she read Tom Sawyer Abroad. Although she was unable to better this record by the customary hour, Maryse Bastie of France on July 28, 1929, became holder of the official woman's duration record of 26 hours, 47 minutes and 30 seconds, because women's records had not previously been recognized as world records. When nearly a year

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*This begins a series of stories about women's record flights. Speed, Altitude, Distance and Acrobatics will follow Duration. The Editor will be glad to have any clippings or notes from readers which will make these accounts more complete.

Thirty-five hours, 46 minutes, stood intact until Maryse Bastie, on September 19, 1930, won the record back by staying up 37 hours and 55 minutes. At the same time Coste and Bellonte were making their East-West flight, and Mlle. Bastie was so delighted when she got over her little head set the news of the landing of the two French fliers that she stood up in her cockpit and sang the Marseillaise. Then she shouted to the wind for all she was worth. It was a magnificent experience, she said, and gave her added courage to go on with this her fifth attempt also, to recapture the woman's duration record. At the same time she set two other world flying records: that for either man or woman alone in sustained flight, and for sustained flight in a light machine.
(To be continued next month)

To Date Data on Women Pilots

A shiny new list of 577 women pilots from the Aeronautics Branch of the Department of Commerce, as of November 1, provides the opportunity to check all the old records and begin The Ninety-Niner official record with a clean slate. Thanks to a number of expired licenses, the new total is twenty less than last month's although the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce bulletins through November 5 show 16 new Privates, 1 Private re-instated, and one L.C. changed to Private, as well as one L.C. gone Transport. These additions, etc., are all included in the list from the Aeronautics Branch. Frankie Renner of Stow, O., is the new Transport.

The tabulation of these 577 pilots by states shows that all but three (Nevada, Vermont, Wyoming) have one or more women pilots. California leads off with the substantial total of 128; New York is second with 72 and Pennsylvania's 43, Ohio's 30, Illinois' 26, Texas' 25 and Michigan's 23, place those states well up near the top of the list.

The Ninety-Niner will appreciate corrections on or additions to our figures. Current information about new pilots, reinstatements or rating changes will contribute greatly to the completeness of our records.

Here are the statistics:

State	Pr	LC	Tr	Totals	State	Pr.	LC	Tr	Totals
Calif.	105	9	14	128	Ark.	5	0	0	5
N.Y.	60	3	9	72	Del.	2	2	1	5
Pa.	37	5	1	43	Va.	2	2	1	5
Ohio	28	0	2	30	Ariz.	2	1	1	4
Ill.	24	1	1	26	Ga.	4	0	0	4
Texas	21	2	2	25	W.Va.	4	0	0	4
Mich.	17	4	2	23	Kans.	2	0	1	3
Mass.	13	1	1	15	Ky.	3	0	0	3
Fla.	12	0	2	14	Mont.	1	1	1	3
N.J.	12	0	2	14	Ala.	2	0	0	2
Minn.	10	0	1	11	Colo.	2	0	0	2
Wash.	9	2	0	11	La.	1	1	0	2
Wis.	11	0	0	11	N.C.	2	0	0	2
Md.	7	1	2	10	N.D.	2	0	0	2
Conn.	7	0	2	9	N.M.	2	0	0	2
Okla.	5	3	1	9	Idaho	1	0	0	1
Ore.	7	0	2	9	Me.	1	0	0	1
Iowa	8	0	0	8	Miss.	1	0	0	1
Mo.	7	0	1	8	N.H.	0	1	0	1
Tenn.	5	1	2	8	S.C.	1	0	0	1
Ind.	7	0	0	7	S.D.	1	0	0	1
Nebr.	5	0	1	6	Utah	0	1	0	1
R.I.	5	1	0	6					

Totals for both columns

45 states - 480 Pr. 42 LC 54 Tr. 576

This total of 576 plus New York's 1 Industrial pilot brings the total to 577.

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Pa.	--	37	--	5	--	1	--	43	Va.	--	2	--	2	--	1	--	5
Ohio	--	28	--	0	--	2	--	30	Ariz.	--	2	--	1	--	1	--	4
Ill.	--	24	--	1	--	1	--	26	Ga.	--	4	--	0	--	0	--	4
Texas	--	21	--	2	--	2	--	25	W.Va.	--	4	--	0	--	0	--	4
Mich.	--	17	--	4	--	2	--	23	Kans.	--	2	--	0	--	1	--	3
Mass.	--	13	--	1	--	1	--	15	Ky.	--	3	--	0	--	0	--	3
Fla.	--	12	--	0	--	2	--	14	Mont.	---	1	--	1	--	1	--	3
N.J.	--	12	--	0	--	2	--	14	Ala.	--	2	--	0	--	0	--	2
Minn.	--	10	--	0	--	1	--	11	Colo.	--	2	--	0	--	0	--	2
Wash.	--	9	--	2	--	0	--	11	La.	--	1	--	1	--	0	--	2
Wis.	--	11	--	0	--	0	--	11	N.C.	--	2	--	0	--	0	--	2
Md.	--	7	--	1	--	2	--	10	N.D.	--	2	--	0	--	0	--	2
Conn.	--	7	--	0	--	2	--	9	N.M.	--	2	--	0	--	0	--	2
Okla.	--	5	--	3	--	1	--	9	Idaho	--	1	--	0	--	0	--	1
Ore.	--	7	--	0	--	2	--	9	Me.	--	1	--	0	--	0	--	1
Iowa	--	8	--	0	--	0	--	8	Miss.	--	1	--	0	--	0	--	1
Mo.	--	7	--	0	--	1	--	8	N.H.	--	0	--	1	--	0	--	1
Tenn.	--	5	--	1	--	2	--	8	S.C.	--	1	--	0	--	0	--	1
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45 states--480 -- Pr. LC Tr. 42 --54 -- 576

This total of 576 plus New York's 1 Industrial pilot brings the grand total up to 577 (making New York's total 73 rather than 72)

May we take advantage of this bit of empty space to remind you that the subscription price of The Ninety-Niner is \$1.00 and its mailing address 51 East 42 Street, N.Y. City?

Nov. 15, 1932

Over African Jungles

Because Mrs. Martin Johnson (Osa Johnson on her new pilot's license) had explored jungles and photographed the living drama of them together with him and had adventured among the cannibals of the South Seas together with him, her husband seemed to feel that things would not be quite "regular" unless she learned to fly alongside too.

Martin Johnson had himself developed a tremendous enthusiasm for flying after an emergency need for fast transport compelled him to catch an airliner rather than a train. After that the two of them kept all their lecture dates by air. Then he began taking flying lessons, and being a good arranger, he developed a hankering in Mrs. Johnson to learn also--fishing trip or no fishing trip--when they went home to Chamute, Kansas, for a visit last summer. In a week she was ready for her license test, but the inspector was other places and she was due in New York for the opening of Congorilla, which delayed matters slightly.

Now the Martin Johnsons are all set to take a couple of ships to Africa with them on their coming expedition to last a year and a half. They will probably decide on amphibians--one 12-place and one 5-place--so they can land on lakes and rivers in the interior. The additional payload space will be used up by their heavy equipment and by black boys to carry it. They will take an extra pilot to fly back for provisions. There will, of course, be problems, such as gas supplies, etc., to be met and solved, but the Johnsons are confident that aircraft as an accessory to the fact of the shooting of wild animals with a camera will come in very "handy."

Honoring Women Pilots

The Zonta Club of New York, which is a classification club whose membership is composed of women--one from each business or profession, selected because of her distinguished record--offered this year for the first time an annual trophy award to be presented for the most distinguished achievement of a woman flier. It was presented to Amelia Earhart for her Trans-Atlantic Solo Flight at a dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York, November 3.

The exquisitely beautiful trophy, executed by Suzanne Silvercray Farnum, Belgian-American sculptress, was presented to Miss Earhart by Mrs. Oliver Harriman. Blair Niles, explorer, and Gail Laughlin, lawyer-feminist, spoke at the dinner. Miss Niles pointed out that not only had the guest of honor shown the world what women can do, but she had shown women themselves what they are capable of: from now on a woman faced with a difficult problem would find herself saying, "Of course I can do it, didn't Amelia fly the Atlantic!" Miss Laughlin spoke her mind very entertainingly on woman's rights in the scheme of things and gloried in the fact that people give Amelia Earhart the keys to cities and throw the ticker tape around just as much as if she were a man.

The Baltimore News and the Baltimore Sunday American trophy to be an annual award for the outstanding aeronautical contribution of the year by a Maryland pilot was presented on National Air Legion Day to Louise Thaden, who with Frances Marsalis, established a new woman's duration with refueling record last summer.

Jobs for Women in Aviation

Lauretta Schimmoler, who promoted, supervised the building of and managed Port Bucyrus, Ohio, a commercial airport, has opened a Woman's Division for Vi-Air-Ways in the United States Air Lines Hangar at Cleveland Airport. Miss Schimmoler is in charge of their cheerful modern lounge for woman pilots and woman visitors to the airport. She directs also all women's promotional activities for Vi-Air-Ways.

"Aviation Representative" for a large metropolitan is the title of the new position held by Manila Davis. At least one other hotel has created such a job, but this is the first time it was created for a woman. In her new capacity, Manila Davis will act as pilot for the executives of the Hotel Paramount in New York. She will live there

learn also-fishing trip or no fishing trip-when they went home to Chamute, Kansas, for a visit last summer. In a week she was ready for her license test, but the inspector was other places and she was due in New York for the Opening of Congorilla, which delayed matters slightly.

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Plane Passengers

During the recent national campaign Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt left the Roosevelt Special and flew from Atlanta to Washington aboard a Curtiss Condor of the Eastern Air Transport line....Henceforth no minimum age limit for passengers will be imposed by ticket offices of

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United Air Lines as medical advice reveals that air travel has no detrimental effect upon infants. Stewardesses on their air liners have been instructed that during descents of more than normal rapidity small children should be induced to swallow occasionally to equalize the pressure in the middle ear with that of the outside atmosphere.... Last month marked the anniversary of the first flight of a woman across America. Ten years ago Lillian Gatlin, now of San Francisco, was permitted to ride as a passenger in a mail plane operated by the government air mail service between New York and San Francisco.

Wings on Our Feet

Helen MacCloskey, transport pilot, and Jack Morris, both of Pittsburgh, put on an air meet on October 23d.... Esther M. Vance still gets in some flying time at Butte, Montana, where her husband, Earl Vance, is employed as pilot for National Park Airways.... Mary Nicholson made 7 campaign speeches in one week recently and more the next for her father who was running for Register of Deeds on the Republican ticket in Greensboro, N.C. It was with her candidate's full approval that she urged the ladies to fly even before she urged them to vote.... Alfreda Schwarz of Montclair, N.J., owns and flies her own ship. She is assistant in a combustion engine laboratory and quite wellknown as a chemist.... Grace Sefton (Mrs. Grace S. Meyer) of Johnstown, Pa., is the only woman pilot who sings professionally.

About the Ninety-Nines

The newly elected and re-elected governors and the sections they represent are:

New England--Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island--Governor, Maude Tait, 192 Springfield St., Springfield, Massachusetts
New York and New Jersey--Governor, Frances Harrell Marsalis, c/o Curtiss-Wright Airport, Valley Stream, L.I., N.Y.
Middle Eastern--Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, Delaware--Governor, Dorothea Leh, 1318 Linden St., Allentown, Pa.
Southeastern--Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida--Governor, Mary Nicholson, c/o Sternberger Children's Hospital, Greensboro, N.C.
North Central--Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana--Governor, Mary Von Mach, 829 Chicago Blvd., Detroit, Michigan
South Central--Nebraska, Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas--Governor, Jean La Rene, Hangar No. 7, Love Field, Dallas, Texas
Northwestern--Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota--Edith Foltz, Box 400, Route 11, Portland, Oregon
Southwestern--California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona--~~Margaret Cooper~~
Governor, Margaret Cooper

Among the "jiners" this month are: Cecile Moots Allen, Syracuse, N.Y.; Ellen Backland, Seattle, Wash.; Gene Benson, Greensboro, N.C.; Genevieve Bledsoe, Wewahatchka, Fla.; Jane Dulaney, Bristol, Tenn.; Letitia de Almar, Miami, Fla.; Peggy Potter Forstrom, Portland, Ore.; Lorraine Frankland, Newton, Mass.; Osa Johnson, Chanute, Kans.; Leah Zeigler, Columbia, S.C.; Jessamine Goddard, N.Y. City

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Until the various postmen for the building could be persuaded that Ninety-Niner mail really belonged at 51 East 42 even before the name was up on the board, several letters were returned, much to our regret. This is to certify that if they are re-mailed to the same address they will reach their destination safely, as the difficulty has now been thoroughly ironed out. The subscription fee for The

Wings on Our Feet

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Middle Eastern--Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, Delaware--Governor, Dorothea Leh, 1318 Linden St., Allentown, Pa.
Southeastern--Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida--Governor, Mary Nicholson, c/o Sternberger Children's Hospital, Greensboro, N.C.
North Central--Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana--Governor, Mary Von Mach, 829 Chicago Blvd., Detroit, Michigan
South Central--Nebraska, Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas--Governor, Jean La Rene, Hangar No. 7, Love Field, Dallas, Texas
Northwestern--Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota--Edith Foltz, Box 400, Route 11, Portland, Oregon
Southwestern--California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona--~~Margaret Cooper~~
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Also please send along all news concerning women and aviation in all its phases which may come your way. We hope to make The Ninety-Niner as complete in its coverage as possible and all contributions in the way of news will be very welcome.

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