

## BREAD AND BUTTER AND AVIATION

(What's your job in aviation? Write and tell us about it for this jobs' series)

### 53,000 Tickets Sold

More than 53,000 passengers have bought airplane rides from Mrs. Edith Descomb. This is an actual official record of pasteboards exchanged for cash by a single individual. Some 8 years ago Mrs. Descomb went to work as a ticket seller for her husband Charles Descomb, then a barnstorming pilot. Today she is treasurer of Descomb Flying Service operated by the two of them at Brainard Field, Hartford, Conn. which offers flying instruction, passenger flights and aerial advertising services.

This flying wife and aviation executive is also the mother of two children. She owns her own ship, a Fairchild cabin, has had 247 solo hours, and is studying navigation and meteorology for her transport test. Under her husband's tuition she soloed after 9 hours and completed the private course in 7 days. Mrs. Descomb has won distinction as a stunt pilot and as a racing pilot. She holds the Hiram Maxim Trophy awarded last year to the best all round woman pilot in Connecticut.

### "USA Airwoman Tells Soviet Aces"

Doklag Amerikanckou letchitsi Gillis prijki e napashutom iz camoletov. -- So how do you like that?...It means: Lecture by American aviator Gillis on Jumping out of an Airplane with a Parachute. And the Paris Herald headlined the thing as quoted above. The language department of the Civil Aviation Institute in Moscow had asked Fay Gillis, private pilot, recently of New York, to give a series of lectures on different branches of American aviation. Her first talk, as per the extract from the program had to do with a subject on which she, as the second woman member of the Caterpillar Club, has had intensive experience.

It was all arranged, it seems, that the first talk was to be on Pilots, but at the last minute they had a sudden interest in parachutes; so parachutes it was. She gave her speech through an interpreter. But the interpreter had it all written out in Russian beforehand so he paid no attention to what she said but translated from his notes and told the audience all, including several things she had written about but forgot when she got up in front of the audience of nearly 3,000 Soviet citizens.

### Flying for the Sheriff

Deputy sheriff of Wayne County, Michigan, is the title held by Margaret Spitz, 18-year-old Detroit pilot. She is one of three fliers recently deputized to assist in county police work. Sheriff Wilcox said, "I have deputized these fliers and made plans for using their planes so we might be ready for any emergency. They have agreed to donate the use of their planes and their services. They may be used to apprehend or transport criminals. The advantages in having a deputy in a plane to give chase on the country roads or to observe illegal practices are many."

Margaret Spitz has been building up time and skill rapidly since she first soloed last fall. She and her father, Earl Spitz, who was also made a deputy, operate a flying service with Stinsons at the Wayne County Airport. The first woman flying deputy sheriff said she would be ready at any time the Sheriff called on her, although she presumed her father would do most of it. "I hope he calls when Dad is not in," she said, "then I'll get a chance to fly. Meanwhile, I'm learning to fire a gun and getting some target practice."

### Women's Speed Records

Louise Thaden hung up the first unofficial miles per hour in quantity record for women on April 14, 1939. Her 156m.p.h. average with 175 on the fastest lap stood as the mark for other women speed aspirants to better until November 22, 1929. Then Amelia Earhart at Detroit averaged 184.7 with 197 on the fastest lap. This record officially clocked though it was could not be considered official as there is no category for a speed record over a one mile straightaway course.



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On June 25, 1930, Miss Earhart chalked up the first two official women's speed records; one of speed for 100 kilometers of 174.897 m.p.h. and one of speed for 100 kilometers with payload of 500 kilograms of 171.438 m.p.h. Both were made in a Lockheed Vega with a Pratt & Whitney Wasp 420 HP engine. They stand intact today as international and national records for their class. Florence Lowe Barnes in her Travel Air Mystery ship averaged 196.16 m.p.h. in a speed trial on August 4, 1930. On April 13, 1931 Ruth Nichols in a Lockheed Vega at Carlton, Mich., made the first official maximum speed record for women of 210.636 m.p.h. It was her third important record in the same ship within the year. Maude-Irving Tait on November 13 and December 14 of 1931 averaged 211.82 and 213 m.p.h. in speed trials, but to rate as a new record the average speed must exceed the preceding record by 5 m.p.h.

Ruth Nichols' record stood up until the National Air Races in September 1932 when May Haizlip in a Wedell-Williams with a 540 HP Pratt & Whitney Wasp Junior sent the woman's international and national maximum speed record up nearly 50 miles. Flying against the wind she made 247.997 miles; with the wind she made 265.934. She hugged the ground closely throughout to take every advantage of the surface breeze and the better flying air. Her record of 252.226 miles average was made in the same ship in which her husband had made a transcontinental record a week before. In a statement to the Associated Press, the present holder of the maximum speed record for the women of the world said: "Some day I hope that I or some other woman will fly as fast as Jimmie Doolittle's 296 m.p.h. That is really flying and I do not see why women cannot do it, for there is no reason why women cannot keep step with men."

To Date Data on Women Pilots (618 Total - 59 T - 41 LC - 1 I - 517 Pr.)

The only new pilot we have to report is Virginia Wice, private, of Santa Monica, Calif. This month's total is therefore shy at least 6 or 7. Of the 618 women pilots 59 are Transports, 41 Limited Commercial pilots, 1 Industrial, and 517 Privates. Let's do something drastic about the discrepancy in our totals. "99" Governors are urged to appoint scouts who will keep track of what women are completing their flight training or changing their license rating. Let every reader consider herself elected to assist in making this department a genuine, authentic source of information.

#### Flying News Notes

Two students of Erna C. Bach, of Seaside, Calif., who is only 18 and the youngest woman transport, recently received their pilot's licenses. .... Edna M. Gardner, Newport, R.I., transport is also giving instruction, or was doing so until a few weeks ago when a windstorm wrecked her hangar and the Bird in which she taught her students. Miss Gardner recently spoke at the Lion's Club dinner at the Viking Hotel in Newport on "Women's Views on Aviation." .... Sarah A. Flavin, private pilot of Carmel, Calif., with her playwright husband and two children plus the family Stearman are touring Russia at the moment. .... Mary Sanson, who owns Interstate Airways, Inc., at Brainard Field, Hartford, Conn., checked herself out in night flying recently. Some avaricious person at a New York airport tried to sell her a new part for her motor when all that was necessary was a minor adjustment. But before Mary found this out it had begun to grow dark. And as it was imperative, she took off for Hartford in the dark, doing her first night flying and doing a good job. .... Bernice Blake of Manchester, N.H., reports that this winter at the Manchester airport has been the busiest ever. Miss Blake is flying the Kinner-Bird in which Anne Lindbergh took her flight instruction. .... Nancy Drake, private pilot of Pasadena, Calif., eloped romantically by air to Yuma, Ariz., with Roy Chaffee. Later they were the guests of Valentine G. Sprague, another private, at the fashionable resort of Palm Springs. .... Kathryne Harkness, L.C. pilot of Long Beach, Calif., went to Boulder City, Nevada, for a vacation; met Arnold Park, one of the bosses on Hoover Dam; and Kathryne and the "hero of Boulder City" (since he saved the life of an engineer on the dam last year) were married on April 11th. .... Helen McCloskey recently flew from her home at Pittsburgh, Pa., to Pinchurst, N.C., to meet her family. .... Bertha Rands of Providence, R.I., became Mrs. Le Roy Gardner on January 25th. Mr. Gardner owned Wings, Inc., at the Providence State Airport and Mrs. Gardner was treasurer of the company. They have sold the business, but kept their two pet ships, a Stinson and a Great Lakes.

Recent Reading Matter: Aviation Magazine's March issue offers a concise and workmanlike source of facts and figures, graphically illustrated on the subject of the progress of the aviation industry to date. .... Joan Thomas (otherwise Gayle Pond, private pilot) has an informative article in Popular Aviation for May called "What About that Hos-



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less Job?....Elinor Smith, in the April 8 issue of Liberty has some pointed things to say on the distinction between self advertising and real achievement in the air....Southern Aviation's Aeronautical Personalities department has a newsy summary on the women pilots of Jacksonville, Fla., as well as a column about Viola Gentry, in its April issue ....Speed, a magazine devoted to air travel and distributed on a number of air lines, has a department called "Happy Contacts", of which Mrs. Ulysses Grant McQueen is the editor. Its March edition featured the Princess Der Ling and Ruth Nichols....The Woman's Editor of The Airport Beacon, the new magazine published monthly at Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, is Viola Gentry. Her page, called "Women in Aviation" for March, featured Mrs. Johnny Bryant, pioneer woman flier.

#### ABOUT THE NINETY-NINES

##### From Race Headquarters

"The St. Francis Apartment Hotel, 5533 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, is to be 99 Club headquarters during the National Air Races. Rates are: Single room with bath, \$1.25 a day; Double room with bath, \$2 a day. Two meals (breakfast and dinner) will be about 75 cents a day...All the girls will be put on the same floor...Transportation to and from the airport will be taken care of by Los Angeles 99's...Headquarters at the Airport will be at Georgialeo McGaffey's (Bird Flight Service) at the extreme east end of the airport. She has a very comfortable room with a large dressing room and bath....The Southwestern Section extends a cordial invitation to all the other sections to come here at that time and promises to do all possible to make its visitors happy and comfortable." Signed: Margaret Cooper, California Governor

##### Active Members of 99 (Continued -- "E" thru "G")

Amelia Earhart, N.Y.	Transport	Kathryne Harkness, Calif.	L.C.
Ruth Elder, Calif.	Private	Laura Harney, N.Y.	Private
		Gladys Hartung, Michigan	L.C.
Sarah Easterling, La.	L.C.	Genevieve Haugen, Calif.	Private
Sarah Fenno, R.I.	Private	Peggy Haynes, Pa.	Private
Evelyn Finster, Calif.	Private	Elizabeth Hayward, Calif.	Private
Edith Foltz, Ore.	Transport	Virginia S. Heard, Calif.	Private
Polly Potter Forstrom, Ore.	Private	Leila Heffner, Calif.	Private
Lorraine D. Frankland, Mass.		Harriett J. Hibbard, Wis.	Private
Gretchen Fyle, Calif.	Private	Olive Hintz, Pa.	Private
		Alice C. Hirschman, Mich.	L.C.
Edna M. Gardner, R.I.	Transport	Novetah Holmes, N.J.	Private
Peggy Gauslin, Calif.	Private	Gerry Honomichl, Okla.	L.C.
Viola Gentry, N.Y.	Private	Marjorie Hook, Calif.	Private
Margaret Gerry, Calif.	Private	Edna Horstmeier, Calif.	Private
Betty Huyler Gillies, N.Y.	Transport	Margaret J. Horton, Mich.	Private
Peggy Gilliland, Calif.	Private	Lucretia Hubbard, Texas	Private
Fay Gillis, Russia	Private	Edith T. Huntington, N.Y.	Private
Annette Gipson, N.Y.	Private	Helen Hyde, Conn.	Private
Jessamine Goddard, N.Y.	Private		
Melba Gorby, Calif.	Private		
Clema Granger, Calif.	Private		

(The list will be continued next month. Any corrections noted will be gratefully received)

New Members this month are Helen Marie Boyd, Newark, N.J.; Mary Bain, Frances Burr and Annette Gipson, N.Y. City; Jean W. Trunk, Hempstead, L.I. (N.Y.-N.J. Section) -- Helen Clegg, Everett, Pa.; Elizabeth Kennedy, Yardley, Pa. (Middle Eastern section) -- Dorothy Speas, Winston, Salem, N.C. (Southeastern section) -- Ann Barrille, Cleveland, O.; Mary Winstanley, S. Euclid, O. (North Central section) -- Helen R. Johnson, Brownsville, Tex.; Virginia Mentire, Sterling City, Tex. (South Central Section) -- Virginia Wice, Santa Monica, Calif. (Southwestern section).

The members of the 99 Club extend sincere sympathy to Loretta M. Schimmoler, National Secretary-Treasurer, whose mother died recently.

##### Sectional News

"The New England Section held its March 25th meeting in the administration building at the Springfield Airport. This section, under the leadership of Maude-Irving Tait, Governor, is making it a point to take up some subject of interest and value to aviation at every meeting. So far we have taken up "Clouds and Weather," "Cross Country Flying" and "Blind Flying." We got a lot out of digging up information on these subjects....During a recess of the meeting we watched Russell Boardman fly the Gee-Bee Super-Sportster, after which we were taken on a tour of inspection of the Gee-Bee factory. This company



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is beginning work on a new transport which will have a low cantilever wing, cantilever landing gear and will carry two pilots and six passengers. Powered with a 700 HP Wright Cyclone the ship will cruise at 200.

Mildred H. Chase, Sectional Reporter

New York-New Jersey Section. This section is finding out what to do with the gadgets in the First Aid Kit the Department of Commerce makes you carry in your airplane. Dr. W. R. Redden, Director of First Aid of the New York Chapter of the American Red Cross is personally instructing the classes every Wednesday afternoon from 5:30 to 7:30 at Red Cross Headquarters, 315 Lexington Ave. (38th St.) N.Y. City. All women pilots are invited to join (without charge) this class. Attendance has averaged about twenty per meeting so far.

Novetah Holmes, Sectional Reporter

"The North Central Section's meeting date of Saturday, March 25th, at Detroit City Airport coincided with a beautiful blizzard with 0.0 visibility, Ceiling and all that goes with it. But even so 12 Ninety-nines, as well as several guests, turned up for luncheon. Ruth Kitchel Wakeman played safe and flew in from Chicago the day before; while the other members drove in from various points....It was decided that if the Michigan banks open in time we will all tour out to Los Angeles for the Races and the Annual Meeting. At any rate the next sectional meeting in Cleveland on June 3rd will fall during closed season on blizzards and at least a dozen of the Michigan girls will be able to fly down, and most of the Ohio girls live in the immediate vicinity of Cleveland, so we expect a good attendance....This was the first time most of us had gotten together since the Annual Meeting at Cleveland last summer and it certainly was a great afternoon for all of us around the "fireside."

Alice C. Hirschman, Recording Secretary

Southwestern Section. The Los Angeles Chapter presented a brilliant benefit show to a full house recently. The fashion show directed by Peggy Hamilton included 18 models, all 99's. Besides gowns, old and new style bathing suits and flying outfits were modeled. Martie Bowman scored as the wise-cracking master of ceremonies; Ruth Elder gave a song and dance act and imitated Helen Morgan; Gladys O'Donnell did some fast tap dancing as did also her little daughter; Esther Johnson "wowed" them with her impersonation of a Swedish housemaid, her accent being most authentic; and Genevieve Haugen did a Garbo impersonation. A clever skit "A Prospective 99's Dream" was the last act and the piece de resistance was a one-act play "The Kleptomaniac" with an all-female cast. Everyone was astonished at the versatility displayed by the women pilots of Los Angeles. Incidentally, the rehearsals progressed despite constant tremors over a period of two weeks.....The 99 Club Pistol Team was honored at a dinner given by Chief Davis and the police traffic squad who have been trained as fliers. The girls were entertained by some trick shooting by Chief Davis and Tom Mix and by Cecil E. de Mille with an amusing speech about his adventures in the air. The 8 girls were given a police escort to the Police Rifle Range where the dinner was held.

Genevieve Haugen, Sectional Reporter

"The Whitcomb Hotel in San Francisco provides a club room, free of charge, for the Bay District Chapter of the Southwestern Section. In this way, the management feels that any members of our club visiting in San Francisco would then be inclined to stay at this hotel. And I am writing this to notify the members that the hotel is centrally located at Ninth and Market Streets, has every modern convenience, courteous service and excellent food, which, coupled with attractive rates, makes it an ideal home during your visit in San Francisco. Anything which you are able to do to reciprocate the courtesies extended this chapter will be very much appreciated by the writer.

Sincerely, Ruth Marshall, Chief, Bay District Chapter

About Pins once more (In response to inquiries)

The official pin may be secured by members in silver gilt, cutout, without propeller through the local governors or direct from Margaret Cooper of 447 South Peck Drive, Beverly Hills, Calif., for 50 cents, plus 5 cents to cover mailing and packing...Or it may be purchased at \$3 in silver gilt with movable propeller, but not cutout from Tiffany. As this lot was made up and the money to cover their cost was deposited in advance, these pins can be released only by placing orders through the club president, Amelia Earhart, Locust Ave., Rye, N.Y....The gold cut out pins with movable propellers may be secured by members directly from Tiffany, New York City, at \$12; as may also the same pin with the rose diamond for charter members at \$14.