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NEWS



LETTER

February

1936

THE MAGAZINE AIRWOMAN has ceased publication. Therefore the Executive Committee of the Ninety-Nines, meeting in New York January 5th, decided the Club should issue a mimeographed news sheet monthly to all members for the remainder of the fiscal year. Your President and Secretary are getting out this sheet for the time being.

Send news items to Alice Hirschman, 861 Edgemont Park, Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan; editorials and articles to Mabel Britton, 408 Forest Avenue, Ypsilanti, Michigan. Please offer comments, criticisms, suggestions.

This is YOUR magazine, a clearing place for ideas, thoughts, opinions of all women pilots. If you have any ideas, wild or tame, on subjects aeronautic, this is the place to express them. Your thoughts will reach 240 of your sister pilots, and we hope by the end of the year, all women pilots in the United States.

Let's all pull together for better acquaintance, good comradeship and the best interests of women in aviation.

Mabel Britton
President

WOMEN LICENSED PILOTS: A press release from the Bureau of Air Commerce January 14, 1936, lists 410 women licensed pilots classified as follows: Transport, 71; Limited Commercial, 29; Private, 256; Amateur, 54.

WOMEN APPOINTED BY THE BUREAU AS AIR MARKING PILOTS: Three women pilots are now actively at work on the air marking program undertaken by the Bureau of Air Commerce. They are Louise Thaden, Helen MacCloskey, Helen Richey. Nancy Harkness, appointed by the Bureau in September has since resigned. Mrs. Thaden's territory is the south and west, Miss Richey's the east, Miss MacCloskey's the middle west.

The duties of an air marking pilot consist of contacting the leaders in a city, explaining the need for prominent signs on roof tops or elsewhere to assist pilots in cross country flights, and explaining the manner in which these signs can be made effective.

Helen MacCloskey did a nice piece of work in persuading a reluctant commissioner at Harrisburg of the importance of properly marked towns. She took him up in her airplane, got him completely lost in a few minutes over the rough Pennsylvania terrain. Then she brought him down, convinced and enthusiastic over marking Harrisburg!

FAY GILLIS WELLS, 99ER AND CORRESPONDENT OF NY HERALD TRIBUNE IN ETHIOPIA WRITES FROM ADDIS ABABA: "Seems as though we're always going someplace and now I'm thinking about going back to Harar and Djigjiga and down into the Ogaden if I can get permission to see what is going on, if anything. All we get in this town are vague rumors and official communiques which no one believes and there is no way of checking up on them. Everyone is hundreds of kilometers from the scenes of so-called action and there doesn't seem to be much chance of getting any closer although it is rumored that His Majesty is going to the front - has been going for the past month - but we live on rumors around here. Did see a little action though, when the Italians paid us an early morning call a couple of days when we were in Dessie. Bombings are all right to read about but they aren't much fun while they're happening and the mess afterwards isn't pleasant. I still get the jitters when I hear an airplane. Everything was so peaceful and quiet and all of a sudden ten planes came over the horizon and hell broke loose. Am glad that experience is over.

Don't know how long we are going to stay here but there is no indication from the office about our leaving although every train takes some of the gang away. There are only about thirty of us left out of over a hundred. In the meantime you should see my menagerie. Have a priceless mule called Twenty Grand. She's the snappiest mule in town and I've trained her to take me from the hotel to the house behind the bank without guiding her. She follows me anywhere for salt and carrots. Have tried to get some pictures of her but none of them do her justice - you know there are people who just don't photograph. . . . You should see my bow-legged leopard cub, dubbed Snooks. She is only five months old and cuter than a bug's ear. She had distemper and it weakened all her legs - she walks like a dachshund and when she sits down she has to cross her paws, they're set at such an angle. . . . Have had a special box made for her to travel in. Really very swank. Also have a chita which I have nicknamed Lines - she has two fascinating black lines which run down from her eyes under her chin - and also her 'lines' are really pretty smart. . . . Don't know what I'm going to do with her in our two-by-four room. When she puts her front paws on my shoulders she is almost as tall as I am. Wonder how she and Snooks will get along. Let's hope they are congenial on account of there isn't room to fight in our abode. She eats anything from raw meat to soup and chocolate."

AVIATION COURSE IN WOMEN'S COLLEGE: A recent outstanding example of what women can do to spread interest and knowledge in aviation is the class established by Miss Leonore Berlin at Lake Erie College in Painesville, Ohio, last fall. Miss Berlin became interested in flying last summer while studying for her Ph. D. in Zoology at the University of Michigan and learned to fly at Ann Arbor Airport. She was a guest at the August meeting of Michigan Chapter, Ninety-Nines.

On returning to Lake Erie College in the fall, where she is Assistant Professor of Zoology, she contacted the nearest airport, Willoughby, Ohio, to continue her flying. It was through talking with the operators there that the idea was conceived of beginning an aviation course at the College. Thirty-three girls signed up, paid the fees and are now attending the classes which meet one evening a week. Some meetings take the form of lectures at which various transport pilots and men in aviation speak on different phases of flying such as navigation, meteorology, plane testing, etc. A large proportion of the evenings are spent at the airport where the girls observe and have a chance to learn the more common engine repairs, 20 hour checks, propellor tracking, etc. Each girl has also been given 20 minutes of dual instruction as part of the course, to experience the actual use of controls in the air, herself. As a result several are continuing flying lessons at the field and one has already soloed.

College credit is being given the students, making Lake Erie the first women's college in the country to have an aviation course as part of the curriculum.

Dorothy Chapman Carpenter

NEWS FROM THE SECTIONS

NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY: A buffet supper and movies of the National Air Races during the past few years were enjoyed by members and their guests at the Hotel Gotham in New York on Wednesday evening, January 15th. Jessamine Goddard, Eleanor Babbit, Grace Bates, Miriam Blagden, Margaret Cooper, Peggy Remey and Betty Gillies were among the members there.

Peggy Remey, Governor of the Section, started the New Year out happily by taking delivery on a new Fairchild "24". . . . Margaret and Larry Cooper are planning to sail on the Columbus, February 11, for a 45-day cruise around South America. . . . Amelia Earhart is on an extended lecture tour during which she will be travelling all over these United States until April.

Novetah Holmes Davenport, Sectional Reporter

Feb. 1936

NEW ENGLAND: Elizabeth Horton, Ruth Granger, Daisy Kirkpatrick, Louise Sissons, Barbara Southgate, Miriam Vanderslice, Jean Adams, Margaret Kimball and Teddy Kenyon gathered at the Boston Municipal Airport Saturday afternoon, January 11th. They were entertained by a talk on the reorganization of the N. A. A. by George Mason, regional governor of the N. A. A. for Massachusetts. The Kimball Cup for the member who had accomplished the most for aviation for the Year 1935 was presented to Teddy Kenyon. The New Englanders decided to decorate the room at Skyways Hangar, Boston Municipal Airport, which has been made available to the Club through the courtesy of Shobe's Airways. While these things were going on in Boston, out in Hastings, Michigan, Nancy Harkness, one of the New Englanders, was being married the same day to Robert M. Love, president of Inter City Airlines of Boston. Nancy and Bob are honeymooning from coast to coast in their Beechcraft, their airtinerary including stops at San Francisco, Los Angeles, Palm Springs, Phoenix, Tucson, and Miami.

Elizabeth Horton is among the New England women exhibiting at the National Association of Women Painters in New York. . . Louise Sisson is busy studying design in Providence. . . Dolly Bernson, ex-governor, is recovering from a long illness. . . Teddy Kenyon is planning to move to Long Island in February.

Margaret Kimball, Sectional Reporter

SOUTHEASTERN: Charlotte Frye from Atlanta, Georgia, flew her Beechcraft to Miami for the Races. . . . Annette Gipson, flying an Aristocrat, visited Greensboro and Charlotte, North Carolina, on her way to Miami for the Races. . . . Alberta Barber of Atlanta also attended the Races. . . . Mary Nicholson will be business manager of Hickory Hospital, Hickory, N. C., starting February 1st. . . . Gene Benson Strigo of Greensboro, N. C. is kept very busy these days by Tommy, Jr., her two-months'-old son.

Clayton Patterson, Governor

SOUTH CENTRAL: Dorothy McBirney, Governor of South Central, has a membership roster of the Ninety-Nines, which is small and compact enough to be carried easily in any pocket or purse, bound in leather with the Ninety-Nine emblem in gold on the cover. These can be ordered for \$1.00 each from her at 304 McBirney Bldg., Tulsa, Oklahoma. She will be glad to send a sample on request.

NORTH CENTRAL: Illinois Chapter - On December 29th the women flyers around the Chicago area were invited to a delightful breakfast at Jane Ray's studio apartment in Chicago, at which time the Illinois Chapter was reborn. Jeannette Lempke, Governor of North Central, who had flown her Great Lakes over from Bay City, Michigan, addressed the girls informally, telling them of the aims and ideals of the Ninety-Nines. Jane Ray was

elected Chairman, and Helen Colton secretary-treasurer. The active members of the Chapter are Jane Ray, Mabel Wilson, Helen Budwash, Helen Colton, Violet Crosbie, Dorothy Ring, Loretta Breen and Eleanor Domack. The junior members are Doris Langher, Emma "Dot" Sprague, Trudie Chester, Kay Lindeman, and Jane H. Meyer.

Mrs. Mabel Wilson is the only woman around Chicago to operate her own airport, the Wilson Airport. . . . Trudie Chester is the wife of Art Chester, racing pilot. . . . Jane Meyer is aviation editor of Inland Topics Magazine, a regular contributor to Popular Aviation and the Chicagoan, and free lances publicity for the airlines. . . . Doris Langher is employed by United Airlines.

Jane Meyers, Chapter Reporter

Michigan Chapter - Dorothy Carpenter gave a most interesting talk on "The Use of Airplanes in Planting Rice" at the meeting of the Michigan Chapter at Bishop Airport in Flint on Sunday, January 5th, where the girls were the guests of Margaret Horton. Plans were completed for a course of five lectures, two on Navigation and three on Meteorology, to be given the first Sunday of the month at Detroit City Airport, by Prof. George J. Higgins of the University of Detroit. These lectures, which will start February 2nd, will be open to interested air-minded friends of the members.

Leila and Ray Baker are still receiving congratulations on their new son, Roger Dale, born November 7th, who has already been flown over Detroit by his parents. . . . Gladys and Howard Hartung almost beat the gun with their baby boy, Ronald Charles, who arrived at 1:45 A. M. January 1st. . . . Alice Hirschman and Johnny Hammond have decided to become a "flying couple" in April. The news was revealed on the wings of tiny airplanes at a dinner party which numbered seven pilots among the guests.

MIDDLE EASTERN: Johanna Busse entertained the Middle Easterners at luncheon in her home in Washington on December 8th, for their bi-monthly meeting. Harriett Sackett, governor, Johanna Busse, Mary Tillottson, Paggy Haynes, and Lydia Clement were present at this meeting. The next meeting will be February 16th, at the home of Peggy Haynes, Ardmore, Pa.

Genevieve Savage, former governor, is now in Coronado, California, where her husband, Capt. Charles Savage was transferred from Bolling Field. . . . Vee Shakarian, secretary-treasurer, is spending the winter in Florida. . . . Mary Tillottson took part in the Private Fliers' Cruise to Florida in January. . . . Dot Leh made a flying trip to California recently. . . . The Air Derby Associ-

ation of Washington, D. C., which includes all Washington Ninety-Nines in its membership, has completed its new clubhouse at College Park Airport. All visiting Ninety-Nines stopping in these will be made welcome.

The Washington Ninety-Nines, in conjunction with the Washington Women Pilots' Association, entertained Mademoiselle Marvi Marvingt, the first woman pilot of France, on January 13th at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington. In spite of the fact that Mlle. Marvingt could speak no English, and only one of her hostesses could speak French, everyone had a grand time. The French aviatrix is the only woman who has ever flown a balloon across the North Sea, and is the inventor of the French ambulance plane "Sanitaire". Among her achievements is the invention of "skiis" to be used on planes landing and taking off on desert sands. She has taught the natives of Arabia and other countries to use them.

Helen Clegg, Sectional Reporter

NORTHWESTERN: Seattle Chapter - Members of the newly organized Seattle Chapter are: active,- Gladys Vickers, Mildred Filz, Dora Skinner, Cora Sterling, Gladys Smith; junior, Grace Shanahan. Gladys Vickers, Chairman, is also the President of the Associated Women Pilots of Boeing Field. . . . Mildred Filz, Secretary, who has a master's degree from the University of Washington, is office Secretary at the airport. . . . Dora Skinner, Yakima, Washington, is the half of a flying couple as her Doctor husband also flies. . . . Cora Sterling, Governor of Northwestern, is now enjoying a two months' visit in California, where she was a recent visitor at a Bay Cities' Chapter meeting. . . . Gladys Smith is the wife of Seattle's Flying Mayor. . . . Grace Shanahan, registered nurse, expects to go up for her Private soon, in a Great Lakes which she purchased from the famous Tex Rankin.

Alyce Pashburg, Portland, Oregon, is a new member of this Section.

SOUTHWESTERN: Bay Cities Chapter - The Chapter held its first meeting of the year at Hotel Whitcomb, San Francisco, with the following members present: Harriett Isaacson, Olive Bledsoe, Janet Knight, Maude Miller, Ruth Ruekert, Marjorie Hook, Afton Lewis, Kay Nidick, Marion Trace.

A "Winging Party" was planned with Modesto as its destination for Sunday, January 26th. . . . The Bay Cities Ninety-Nines and their friends were invited to a showing of Pan American's pic-

ture "Flying the Lindbergh Trail" in the Italian Room at the St. Francis, San Francisco, on Wednesday evening, February 4th.

Dolores Guinther, Chapter Reporter

Los Angeles Chapter: "Aviation in Germany" was the subject of the stimulating talk by Mr. Hibbard, chief engineer of Lockheed Aircraft, at the January meeting of the Los Angeles Chapter. An entirely new innovation in aircraft manufacturing plants and airports was disclosed. The colorful air travel film, "Flying the Lindbergh Trail" was also shown. This film is available for meetings, and can be secured by written request to Pan American Airlines.

Many aviation celebrities and yachting fans from all over the country are expected in Los Angeles for the Pacific Aircraft and Boat Show February 1st - 9th. The Los Angeles Chapter is giving an Aviation Ball preceding the opening of the Show, on Friday evening, January 31st, at the Elks Club in Los Angeles.

Cecile Hamilton now has her Transport, and is on her way to Boeing Aviation School to learn more about navigation and meteorology. . . . Bessie Owen of Santa Barbara, accompanied by her pilot-mechanic, Fred Novinger, sailed from New York recently on the "Gerolstein", taking her cabin Waco. She plans to spend about a year touring Europe by air.

A world of credit and honor is due Gladys O'Donnell who did such a splendid job as Managing Director of the Women's Championship Air Races and Pacific Air Pageant last November, and compliments to all the girls who participated. The results of the races were as follows: 125 MPH - Marty Bowman 1st in a Waco F-2, Henrietta Sumner 2nd in a Waco F-2, Della Lawhorn 3rd in a Porterfield. 150 MPH Race - Marty Bowman 1st in a Waco Taperwing, Nancy Chaffee 2nd in a Spartan, Ethel Sheehy 3rd in an Eaglerock. 175 MPH Race - Marty Bowman 1st, Nancy Chaffee 2nd, Henrietta Sumner 3rd.

Hilda Jarmuth, Chapter Reporter

CHAPTER CHAIRMEN: Where there are fixed dates for Chapter meetings please send them in, so that visiting members may have the pleasure of attending your meetings.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS: Please keep us informed of changes of address and changes in license ratings; and please remember that suggestions and contributions are more than welcome. Closing date for all copy is the 20th of the month.

NINETY-NINE IDENTIFICATION BRACELETS bearing our official insignia without the propellor may be obtained in silver with chromium wrist chain for \$1.50 from Alice Hirschman, Secretary.

ADVERTISING: Members may advertise in the Ninety-Nine News Letter at the rate of 25¢ per line. Send ads to Alice Hirschman.

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