

NEWS 99 LETTER

May 1937
Editor, Ruth K. Wakeman, 2821 Hillside Drive, Burlingame, Calif.

TO ALL WOMEN PILOTS: THE NINETY-NINES, national organization of licensed women pilots, is in its eighth active year. Organized by a small group in 1929, among whom were Amelia Earhart, Ruth Nichols, Louise Thaden, the society took its name from the number of women pilots entering as charter members. There are now more than 400 women licensed pilots in the United States and the Club is growing accordingly.

For purposes of administration the country is divided into eight Sections with Governors at the head of each and Chapters within the Sections. Chapters hold monthly meetings and various aviation activities are carried on for the benefit and pleasure of members. One Section is sponsoring low-cost lessons in blind flying for its members, another has arranged courses in meteorology and navigation, a third has raised a loan fund to assist members in keeping up flying time, and so on. The purpose of the Ninety-Nines is furthering the best interests of women in aviation and promoting good fellowship among those who fly.

All licensed women pilots are eligible for membership as well as student pilots with ten hours solo who may come in as Juniors. If you are not already a member I take this opportunity to invite you to join our organization. Make application to the Governor of the Section in which you reside (officers listed on last page) or write the Secretary for further information.

Good wishes to all women pilots for safe and happy flying.

Mabel Britton
President, Ninety-Nines.

NEW YORK REGISTRY FOR WOMEN PILOTS - Miss Jack Seeley of AIRWOMAN 55 W. 42nd. St., New York City has written suggesting that all women pilots arriving in New York register at their office, either by letter or by phone (Wisconsin 7-0676) so that anyone wishing to get in touch with them will be able to do so. We think it a splendid idea.

COMING EVENT - International Aerobatic Contest and Speed Races, St. Louis, May 29, 30 and 31st. National record speed trial for women pilots to be run over 100 kilometer courses. Cash prize, \$250.00 .

DOROTHY CARPENTER of the Michigan Chapter has just received her Ph.D. in Botany at the University of Michigan.

FLYING OVER EUROPE FOR FUN- BY BESSIE OWEN
as told to Hilda Jarmuth

After an eighteen months' sojourn over Europe and into China, covering about twenty-five countries with her Waco cabin, Bessie Owen has returned to her native California, and Santa Barbara.

She started from Santa Barbara on October 26, 1935, and flew to Glendale. Then leisurely on to New York where the plane was put on board an ocean liner and shipped to Belgium, where it was unloaded and Bessie flew it from Antwerp to Brussels. Bessie crossed the English Channel and visited Maidstone, Heston, Abington, Lympne and other fields, then back to Holland landing at Rotterdam, Amsterdam and Eindhoven. From there she flew to Germany, visiting Munich and Austria where she particularly liked the cities of Salzburg and Vienna. She also says Hungary's Budapest is the gayest city in Europe today. From there she went to Geneva, Matterhorn and Zurich in Switzerland, then on to France where she visited numerous cities.

An amusing incident occurred when she took friends for sightseeing hops over Paris, taking off and landing from Le Bourget Field. When finally taxiing back to put the plane away for the night, she was informed there was a landing fee for every time she made a landing ! The charge was about \$1 per landing, just imagine !

Might mention here that in Europe, Bessie says the landing fields are all nice, green grass, smoothly graded. Only one place did she find a surfaced field.

Other countries covered were: Spain, where she visited Barcelona, Valencia, Madrid, (before the war) Granada and other towns. From there she flew to Portugal, landing at Lisbon and then on across the Mediterranean to Tangiers, Morocco and to Greece, visiting Athens and Saloniki. From there to Jugo Slavia, Bulgaria and Turkey, visiting Istanbul (formerly Constantinople) and Ankara and then on to Syria, landing at Aleppo. She then proceeded to Iraq, landing at Bagdad, Basra, Ur. This, you will recall, was the general locale of the famous Arabian Nights. And from there Bessie went to Iran and Buluchistan.

India is still the country of mystery, and Bessie has some of the most interesting pictures of the natives bathing in the Ganges! Besides the bathers, are funeral pyres of the religious dead, who must thus be burned beside the Ganges. She landed at Karachi, Jodhpur, Delhi, Agra, Gwalior and Lucknow, also Calcutta. Then on to Burma, seeing Akyab, Rangoon and the Moulmein Pagoda, immortalized by Kipling. She has pictures of it. Always onward--she arrived at Siam where she landed at Bangkok and then on to Indo-China, visiting Angkor, Phnom-Penh, Saigon, Hanoi and other towns, and then on to China, seeing Nanning, Canton and Hong Kong.

By this time, says Bessie, she was so full of countries and scenery she was glad to put the plane on board a liner and sail for Manila, where she sold her Waco. Not a bit of trouble was experienced with the motor. Some places she had to pay as high as \$1.25 per gallon for gasoline. There were times when the ship had to be staked down, covered all over with canvas to keep the blazing tropical sun and sandstorms from damaging it.

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Everywhere, this intrepid young flyer was welcomed and treated royally, but especially so in China. Her three languages, viz; English, French and German, stood her in good stead, and only once did no one understand her. She had a thrill when in Bagdad she was addressed as "Memsahib" for the first time. She wrote to ask permission to fly to Moscow, over Russia, but received a letter informing her she would not be welcome to do so.

One of the biggest disappointments was when Bessie bought her ticket in Manila to fly Pan American Clipper to San Francisco. She flew to Guam, Wake, Midway and Hawaii along with two other passengers. Upon arriving at Hawaii, she and one other passenger were informed they would have to be left behind, as they must load with gasoline, so, being replaced by twenty gallons of gas, the Clipper flew on to San Francisco without Bessie, and arrived with 600 gallons of gas left over. The most discouraging part of it, however, was the fact that they would refund not enough money to pay the boat passage to San Francisco and nothing for the enforced stop in Honolulu. Who said the pirates are all gone? Passage had to be booked on an ocean liner and our heroine arrived back in the United States with loads of wonderful navigating experience, boxes of pictures, and the most unique assortment of newspaper clippings of the publicity she received on the Continent --- all languages and types of printing.

Now, Bessie is writing a Travel Diary, which certainly should prove interesting reading, as I barely touched the surface of this fascinating adventure.

NEWS FROM THE SECTIONS

SOUTHWEST SECTION - Bay Cities Chapter - NEWS FLASH !!

The members of the Bay Cities Chapter bids welcome to San Francisco to all its flying sisters (and brothers too) on the occasion of the great Golden Gate Bay Bridge Opening Fiesta which takes place from May 27th to June 2nd. With this announcement comes the greatest and most pleasing news that this Chapter, since its inception over 5 years ago, has had the opportunity of giving to all licensed pilots in general and to the 99'ers in particular.

DOUBLE FLASH---Negotiations have been completed with the PLAZA HOTEL, Post Street corner of Stockton Street, San Francisco, in which this very fine hotel has donated a private Club Room for use exclusively by the Bay Cities Chapter and all visiting 99'ers. Mr. Harry Stockird, genial manager, is an aviation enthusiast and we are proud to announce that from now and henceforth the PLAZA HOTEL will be designated as the official 99 Club hotel for this immediate section. In retaliation of Mr. Stockird's fine gesture and his splendid cooperation with this Chapter, all visiting members are asked that whenever possible to make the PLAZA HOTEL your headquarters while at any time in San Francisco. This is a popular priced hotel and in the heart of everything that is doing in the city; its fine rooms overlook Union Square. A beautiful lobby and a Coffee Shop, wherein is served the finest food at low prices, are attractive features. A very fine Cocktail Lounge adjoins the lobby. If all visiting pilots will identify themselves to the management, and particularly to Mr. Stockird, they will be accorded special considerations. San Francisco now has its first really "air-minded" hotel and as such the pilots and their relatives and friends will find it a fine place to stay when in our city.

TREBLE FLASH, 99'ers---The Bay Cities Chapter's private Club Room at the Plaza Hotel is for your use. Visiting 99'ers just passing through or spending but a few hours in our city will, upon presenting proper identification at the hotel desk, be admitted to the Club Room where facilities for removing the grime of travel will be found. Magazines, writing material and a telephone will also be found at your disposal. Comfortable chairs will rest the weary body and if you are hungry, my ladybird, the Coffee Shop awaits you. So that you may get in touch with us, telephone numbers and addresses of local pilots will be posted in the Club Room. 99'ers residing at the hotel,----or visiting with friends as the case may be----during their stay in San Francisco will likewise be accorded free access to our Club Room upon the proper identification. We of the Bay Cities Chapter will appreciate the cooperation of every 99'er in helping us to retain for your benefit as much as for our own this fine Club Room at the PLAZA HOTEL and in assisting us to express our appreciation to the management in general and to Mr. Harry Stockird in particular for their generosity and far-sightedness in donating this Club Room to our use. There are only two ways you can do this; first, remember to make the PLAZA HOTEL your hotel when you are in San Francisco; second, tell your relatives and friends to make the PLAZA HOTEL their hotel when they are in San Francisco. Always be sure to identify yourselves to the management and tell your relatives and friends to do the same. By so doing all stand to gain. Now that all that is said and done we hope to entertain you in large numbers in the future beginning with the Golden Gate Bay Bridge Fiesta, May 27th to June 2nd, and as often thereafter as it is possible for you to visit our fair city.

And now for more Chapter news! An orchid to you, Mrs. Dorst! (Page Walter Winchell, somebody) Mrs. Margaret Fuller Dorst brought distinction to the Bay Cities Chapter the other day when she was granted a blind flying license by the Dept. of Commerce. Mrs. Dorst, known as one of the "Flying Fullers" of Fuller Paints fame, is one of only three women in the United States to hold such a license. Our side is doing grand, isn't it?

Speaking of orchids, if there are any in the offing Maude E. Miller (your humble reporter, by the way) feels that she is entitled to a whiff of one in passing, as you might say. She is solely responsible for obtaining this Chapter's new and exclusive Club Room at the Plaza Hotel, Post and Stockton Streets, San Francisco. (See article above) While discussing achievements of said same reporter, it might be interesting to know that the other day she passed a shooting qualification test and now holds a certificate from the Coast Guards attesting to her ability to handle a gun under slow, time and command fire regulations as required in the test, a score of 80 out of a possible 100 in each group being necessary for the qualification. Not bad, huh? We might as well get this over with all in one lump---your reporter has also been taking up First Aid lately (in addition to flying regularly each week) and recently passed the written, oral and practical examinations in same which makes her a full-fledged registered First Aider. Getting kind of helpful to have around, aren't I?

A fine turnout of 99'ers and their friends made our April meeting guest night a success--or rather, Dean B. Hammond of the Stearman Hammond Aircraft Corporation, our guest speaker for the evening, made the success part of it. Dean told us all about that intriguing

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and most unusual looking airplane of which he is the inventor. A demonstrator will soon be on the line and we are ready to try it out to see if all the nice things we have heard about this ship are really true! We'll wager they are. Eighteen buyers have already signed on the dotted line for immediate delivery of this "new idea" airplane. Mrs. Hammond will be remembered by her eastern friends as the first flying co-ed of the University of Michigan.

Marjorie Hook's ship is back on the line again all dolled up in a new dress and paint job and looks like a million dollars. If a sweet purring, bright and shiny Kinner Fleet with the 99 Club emblem imprinted on its fuselage should drop into your airport any day soon you will know its pilot can be none other than Marjorie.

Ruth Rueckert and her husband are certainly giving their new car a workout royal. Ruth and Freddie are touring Idaho, Utah and Arizona stopping off to inspect Boulder Dam enroute. A marvelous trip and we are with them in spirit if not in fact.

The Bay Cities Chapter is looking forward to entertaining a large number of sister pilots in their new Club Room at the Plaza Hotel during Golden Gate Bay Bridge Fiesta Week beginning May 27th. So come one, come all. And remember--when in San Francisco make the Plaza Hotel your headquarters.

Maude E. Miller

SOUTHWEST SECTION- Los Angeles Chapter- The Women's National Aeronautical Ass. has formed a new unit in San Diego and Grace Prescott was made Governor for the Southern California district. Genevieve Savage has been appointed Chairman to organize this new unit in San Diego. We are happy to have our members appointed to these offices.. Ethel Shooch flew to Coalinga recently, where she lunched with Peggy Vining. Ethel informs us that between flying on Sundays and working in the bank during the week, Peggy has established a "Peggy Vining Travel Bureau". Anyone contemplating making a trip, see Peggy for information and reservations....Dorothy Reuther flew a student to San Diego recently, and with closing down ceiling had an interesting trip back, as the student showed considerable signs of airshyness.Hilda Jarmuth flew to Palm Springs last week; the view of the desert from the air was gorgeous.....Elizabeth Hayward and Dorothy George had some fun navigating up to Mr. Hearst's Rancho San Simeon last week. Dorothy wanted to wander off and see the pretty wild flowers, but navigator Hayward insisted upon "flying the chalk line.....Los Angeles will have an exodus in one reporter alias Hilda Jarmuth. Am planning on a bit of vacation trip to places across the sea, i.e., London, Paris, Zurich, Vienna, Venice, Naples and Cairo, Egypt. Will try and round up some news to send back and tell you what makes airplanes fly in other languages. So, au revoir, auf wiedersehn and so long 'till my return in about three months.

-- Hilda Jarmuth

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MIDDLE EASTERN- The latest meeting of the 99's of the Middle Eastern Section was held March 14th at the Manufacturers and Bankers Club in Philadelphia, where the girls were guests of Mary Tillotson. The girls who attended were, Venus Shaksarian, Mary Tillotson, Margaret McCormick, Beatrice Hymen, Harriet Sackett, Leah Zeigler, Lydia Clement. During the business session several matters were discussed including amendments to the national constitution and the Middle Eastern members made the following recommendations: that, if a woman pilot is eligible for membership in her own section, she be eligible for membership in a section in which she resides, other than that of her legal residence; and, that active membership be extended to those who have been active members for three or more consecutive years, whether she holds a license or not. Tentative plans were made to hold an air meet this summer. On May 9th, the Middle Eastern members will high-tail down to Richmond, Virginia, where they will be guests of Anna McKee.

--Helen Zeth

SOUTHEASTERN- A breakfast meeting was held at Goldsboro, N.C. on Sunday, April 11th. Beside the members of this section present, Clayton Patterson, Mary Nicholson and Ruth Stilson, Mabel Clemson and Lucille Brokenborough, we were very glad to have Fonda Hyatt from the New England Section and several guests who were in Goldsboro for the Carolina Aero Club meeting. Several of the latter expressed their intention of taking up flying, and we hope to have them with us soon. Our national president, Mabel Britton, had planned to attend the meeting, but due to bad weather was forced to turn back and land at Charleston where she spent the week-end.... Mabel Clemson wishes me to extend to all 99's a cordial invitation to use her airport, "Star Haven" at Middletown, N.Y. when in that vicinity. She says that it is a good field with long runways. Mabel, when not at Middletown, spends her time playing golf at Pinehurst, N.C. She uses her Beechcraft and Fairchild for quick transportation. She took up flying out of self-defense, and we think we ought to let her tell her own story on that. It was Mabel who brought our guest, Fonda Hyatt, from Rangeley, Maine. In the winter Fonda flies on wheels and in the summer on pontoons. She got her L.C. last September after a considerable delay due to weather, but here again we feel that Fonda should tell her own story..... Mary Lee Germann and her private pilot husband have just built a new home, so Mary Lee does most of her flying "in retrospection" at present..... Zoe Stevens and her husband have recently returned from Washington where they bought a Spartan Trainer. They have torn it down and plan to recover it themselves. More power to them, and how I envy them!!..... Again Mary Nicholson wishes me to extend a cordial invitation to all members of the 99's to attend the dedication of the Greensboro-High Point airport on May 28th and 29th.

---Ruth Stilson

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NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY- The following members attended a luncheon in honor of Mrs. D. Papana: Althea Lister, Ethel Peckham, Margaret Cooper, Novetah Davenport, Peggy Remy, Fleur de Lys Scheer and Kay Traulsen. Mrs. Papana is the wife of the well-known Roumanian aviator and is a flyer herself. They are here to make preparations for the Paris-New York flight commemorating Lindbergh's crossing of the Atlantic.....The Advertising Club of New York gave a gala luncheon on April 1st, the occasion being the presentation of the National Harmon Trophy to Louise Thaden, the outstanding women flyer of 1936. A number of well-known people in advertising, journalism, and flying attended this affair. A brief reception was given to the speaker and honor guests, after which luncheon was served. As the event was broadcast, an introduction of honor guests was made by radio and several of them were called upon to speak. Louise Thaden proved herself to be an excellent speaker as well as flyer. 99's present were: Lucille Boudreau, Paula Lind, Cecil Kenyon, Betty Gillies, Novetah Davenport, Patricia Thomas, Magda Tisza, Peggy Remy, Marjorie Ludwigsen, Margaret Cooper, Ethel Peckham, Evelyn Cahn, Fleur de Lys Scheer, Viola Gentry, and your reporter.... We welcome back from a trip to Egypt and the Holy Land, Margaret Cooper, who says the trip was wonderful. How about giving me a few more details of the trip though, Margaret? And I am sure we would all enjoy seeing the movies you took We are also glad to have with us again, Alma Harwood, who has been spending the last few months enjoying the Florida "sunshine"?..... We had a guest meeting April 5th at the usual place and a number of 99's and non-members attended. We enjoyed the presence of England's famous aviatrix, Amy Johnson Mollison. After the dinner we were shown the Pan-American film, "The Lindbergh Trail", for which we thank Althea Lister. The picture was really delightful and there wasn't anyone there who did not feel an irrepressible impulse to travel immediately----- See you all next month.

--Kay Tisza Traulsen

NEW ENGLAND SECTION- The silent partner of the last edition of the 99'ers bulletin was the New England Chapter. We have two perfectly sound reasons, the first being that our Governor, Daisy Kirkpatrick, was on an air journey to the West with her husband, and when "Mawma's away, things jest don't get done."

The second reason is that our section reporter, Barbara Southgate, has been transferred to the New York Chapter, and the rest of the literary talent is as yet undiscovered. We have camera hounds, of the "underexposed", "snapped behind the wing", "forgot to pull the tab" variety, but Barbara is not one of these, she is a very competent L.C. pilot, and we hate to lose her.

The New England Chapter, during the past month, purchased a high-wing all metal plane which was christened "Ceiling Zero" to coincide with the status of the balance of our treasury. We are looking for a new name, however, for the little ship left the hangar February 1st, was a mascot at seven 99 Club parties and returned last week with a cargo of slightly more than \$70, which balance has been added to the funds of the New England Scholarship, which fund you may or may not have heard about.

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This fund was created by us first as a memorial, which in itself means a great deal to many of the New England girls, and second as something from which we can derive a small amount of satisfaction and get to see if perhaps we can graduate from a loosely connected group consisting of junior members along through Transport pilots, to an honest to goodness "attend all meetings" group. At various times, amounts are sent to different children of pilots who have been killed, which purpose lends itself to a perfect setting for closer cooperation, enthusiasm, and activity. How much good a national 99Club fund could do, would be interesting.

Getting back to our mascot "Ceiling Zero", each 99er in our group gave a party and charged admission, and some even charged for eats and drinks. Margaret Kimball, Jean Adams, Daisy Kirkpatrick, Hortense Harris, Lorraine Frankland, Louise Howard and Fonda Hyatt gave parties. The one giving the most unique party was given permanent ownership of "Ceiling Zero", which honor goes to Lorraine Frankland. "Ceiling Zero" incidentally has a wing span of approximately eight inches, and the cockpit houses a very faithful lighter which is contacted by a whirl of the prop.

Very definite plans are well under way for our hangar dance May 22nd at the Shobe Airlines Hangar, East Boston Airport. The purpose of such dance is to swell our treasury and scholarship fund. American Airlines has already donated a trip on a scheduled run and food and music has been promised. We will include more specific details in the next bulletin and any immediate suggestions for our party would be greatly appreciated.

Our Chapter recently had the pleasure of welcoming Osa Johnson who visited Boston in the course of her lecture tour, and we want to notify all 99'ers not on your life to miss meeting Osa and see and hear her lecture, it's great.

Our March meeting at the airport was a talk by Al Swink, a licensed radio and airman, who gave us very valuable information and material on the radio operator's license, and the April meeting was most interesting as Harold Kramer gave us the whole story on parachutes.

Incidentally, Hortense Harris of the New England Chapter is planning a trip in her Fairchild to Chicago during the coming two weeks, which probably means stops in Cleveland, Buffalo, Rochester, etc. Perhaps this bulletin will reach you after Hortense has "come and gone", but if not perhaps she can have the opportunity of meeting girls in other Chapters.

Ruth Granger, reporter.

A LIST OF SECTIONS OF THE 99 CLUB AND THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICERS WILL BE FOUND ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS PAGE.

Note: Changes of addresses must be received before the 25th of the month to receive the same month's copy of the News Letter.