



NEWS

99

LETTER

Elizabeth Phillips,
new National Secretary,
owns and flies
a Warner Fairchild
24.

March

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Editor, Dorothy Carpenter, 124 S. Franklin St., Allentown, Pa.

Strange New England Malady

In winter it snows,
Spring and fall the wind blows,
And in summer it constantly rains.

Time we would log
Is oft halted by fog
Whenever we wheel out our planes.

And we poor Ninety-Nines
Are showing the signs
Of distressingly strong flying pains.
- - Louise Howard

Elizabeth Phillips, attractive secretary of the Middle Eastern Section, has been appointed by the Executive Committee to serve as National Secretary for the remainder of the year. She learned to fly at the Tred Avon airport, Easton, Maryland; received her transport license in July, 1937; an instructor's rating last March, and a blind flying instrument rating last May. She has soloed and taken thru to licenses a number of students and occasionally does charter work in the airport Stinson when the regular operator is busy. Languages used to be a hobby as Elizabeth spent several years in Italy and France, and painting portraits in oil and sculpting were at one time to be her "career". Flying and husband, Theodore, however, don't leave so much time for them now. One still very active interest is period costumed dolls, of which she has an extensive collection. She has always done the twenty hour checks and general plane work, under the supervision of a licensed mechanic, on her first ship, a low winged Aeronca, and on her present yellow and blue Fairchild. The Middle Eastern Section's loss of her as an officer, is very much the national group's gain.

Better late than never are the results of the women's race at the Miami Air Races. Edna Gardner won in a Monocoup. Edith Descomb came in second in a Cessna. Bossie Owen third in her Beechcraft and Florence Boswell fourth in her Cossna. Only commercial pilots were eligible to enter the race and the ships were handicapped. Other news is that Anna McKee of Richmond, Virginia, entered and flew in one of

the light plane races, and that Roberta (Bobby) Lupton of Detroit won a trophy in her Ryan for acrobatic flying in Havana at the International Air Show held there on January 13 and 14.

Notice is given that beginning April first the News Letter will not be sent to members whose dues are unpaid.

Ninety-Nine pins may now be bought from Barbara Southgate, 87 Grove Street, Stamford, Connecticut, for \$1.50 apiece.

The following is a most interesting letter recently received by Daisy Kirkpatrick from our Australian member, Nancy Bird:

"It seems quite a long time since I last wrote you, but I left Australia in July of last year and flew to Europe by the Royal Dutch Airlines. Incidentally, I have covered 21,000 miles by air since leaving Sydney. I came over here to study the development of civil aviation and airline organization throughout Europe and before returning to Australia, am including America in my itinerary. I have just returned from two months in Germany where I met Thoa Rasche, who is one of your oldest members, and also Hanna Reitsch and Elly Boinhorn. I had a most interesting stay there, travelling all over the country with Lufthansa and being lavishly entertained by the Air Ministry and the German Aero Club. (Far too many of the "Haus der Flieger" dinners that start at 1:30 and end around 4 o'clock!) I also met your Consul while I was in Berlin and attended several luncheons at the American Chamber of Commerce where I made many new American friends.

"I spent quite a long time in Holland as the guest of the Royal Dutch Airlines and have since been in Sweden, Finland and Denmark, not forgetting a rush trip to Paris to see the Aviation Exhibition there. However, I hope to return to France to see more of aviation in that country. While in Sweden I flew to the Far North in a Waco fitted with skis to see the aerial ambulance work that is being carried out by the Swedish Red Cross. Naturally, too, I have been very interested in sports flying throughout Europe, but at this time of the year it is not very active. After the conditions we usually enjoy in Australia, to fly under snow, ice and Q.B.I. conditions has certainly been a great experience.

"I intend to spend two to three months in England, where I am organizing an Aviation Exhibition to be held on my return to Australia and also to see something of commercial and sports flying here, and I hope to leave for America early in April. While there, I would like very much to meet you and some of the members of the 99's. I think my stay in America will be for at least two months. After hearing Thoa Rasche's enthusiastic reports on her visits to the United States, I am greatly looking forward to my short stay there."

The following is part of the vivid description of the recent flight by Laura May Brunton, former Governor of Tri-State Section, in her Monocoupe to her new home in Seattle: "We just got here a week ago. The trip over the mountains was certainly the most beautiful, to say nothing of being the most exciting, I have ever made. It's 500 miles from Butte to Seattle; 500 miles of the wildest, roughest, most

chewed-up country imaginable, all buried under ten or twelve feet of snow. Not a spot to land. And if your motor did quit and you did manage to plop yourself gracefully into a treetop, there isn't a chance that you'd ever get back to civilization. For an hour I could see Mt. Ranier poking its gorgeous massive snow-capped head like a giraffe stalking around in an enormous yard full of Mexican hairless terriers, yet there were 60 big long air miles between when I was closest to it. That trip was nothing if not impressive!"

From Margo Bain Tanner comes some highlights of the recent "Tail Spin" exploit from which Ruth Nichols, Teddy Kenyon, Betty Gillies and she have just returned: "The movie industry has the reputation of doing things in a 'colossal way', and this trip was certainly an example. It was breathtaking to be asked out of a clear sky, over the phone, 'Would you like to fly to Hollywood?' The idea was to deliver the film of 'Tail Spin', the first woman in aviation movie, to key cities in the U. S. We were to answer questions regarding real flying and the Hollywood starlets to lend the glamor note. We were put up in stupendous suites at the Beverly Wilshire in Beverly Hills. . . had pictures taken for advance local publicity. . . street clothes, evening clothes, uniforms, at parties. We never want to see our faces again! Were entertained at Gladys O'Donnell's with a delicious buffet supper at which we were delighted to meet some thirty 99's. Jackie Cochran entertained at her desert ranch for a week end. One day we had breakfast at Pendleton, Oregon, lunch in Salt Lake City, dinner in Denver. Each town tried to outdo in hospitality all other towns. We vied with Ferdinand in the tan bark arena in Denver. . . at Detroit had a buffet supper with several of the 99's. . . were initiated into the intricacies of a six-day bike race (and of all the dangerous sports). At a large aviation dinner, Ruth and I were given admiralships to American Airlines. And the roughest part of the trip was from Allentown to Newark. . . I thought the Hollywood gals were about to deglamorize! It was swell to see all the 99's at the various stops. Space won't permit names, but we do thank you for braving the long drive in the cold to greet us. We hope the movies will want more of that type of promotion."

A letter from Florence Boswell who participated in the women's race at the recent Miami Air Maneuvers, has the following interesting excerpts: "I was fortunate to be one of the eight professional pilots chosen to be guests of the Cuban government after our flight from Miami to Havana, and had the pleasure of flying Captain Orta about two hours before his fatal crash, which was sad. His wife and five-year-old boy are so sweet: it is impossible to think of them without him. He worshipped the ground they walked on. On the morning of the crash we flew to Vera-Dero beach. . . in my ship I had Captain Florenzo Cebalios who was assistant to Captain Orta. He could speak about ten words of English, and I about fifty of Spanish. What fun. Returning from the beach to Campo Columbia, the army field, we flew

over the mountains. Their formation was of solid green sides of the usual vegetation familiar to Cuba, but the crests seemed to be of crater formation. . . Our return trip was uneventful except for arriving back in Cleveland during a severe snowstorm."

NEWS FROM THE SECTIONS

(Apologies hereby go from the editor to the reporters for the way in which everyone's copy has had to be cut in this issue because of lack of space. It was decided that some news from all the groups was preferable to a great deal from a few, and none from half the sections.)

NORTH CENTRAL SECTION - The next sectional meeting will be held at the Medinah Club in Chicago on Sunday, May 7, at 10:00 a. m. There will be more news in the next News Letter about the social afternoon on the previous day, Saturday, May 6.

Michigan Chapter - For our monthly meeting, February 12, we had as guest speaker Mr. Harold Strickland who gave us an enlightening talk on weather conditions met by a pilot in warm and cold fronts. Mary Von Mach was hostess for this occasion and had the extended table at Detroit City Airport decorated very attractively in honor of Washington and Lincoln. The delicious chicken pie served by Ray Baker's restaurant was enjoyed by everyone of the thirty or forty guests. Great interest in our educational program is evidenced by the fact that there were seven visitors from Kalamazoo who had come with Eloise Smith--two prospective members from Saginaw, guests of Jeannette Lempke--and two members of the local Aerial Nurse Corps, whom Leora Stroup had brought. Also most of the 49½ers were there. Since we are losing our faithful and esteemed member, Helen Lehtio, who is moving to Spencer, New York (Tri-State please note), we presented her with a compact with inscription on the lid as a little remembrance. On February 4 most of the Detroit girls attended a buffet supper at the Book-Cadillac Hotel in honor of Ruth Nichols, Margo Bain Tanner, and part of the cast of "Tailspin".

- - Helen Montgomery

All-Ohio Chapter - Three of our fledglings, Florence Boswell, Helen Curtiss and Arlene Davis, pointed compass S to attend the Miami Air Races last month, and Florence and Arlene served on the official hostess committee. Dame Fortune smiled on four of us when she so nicely arranged for us to be invited to the "Tailspin" premiere. We were very pleased to see Ruth Nichols and Margo Bain Tanner, who so excellently represented the 99's. Grace Birge is very pleased with her new job as school marm and is trying to stir up enough enthusiasm among her young students to start an aviation club. February 24, Mrs. King, our program chairman, will open our 1939 lecture series with a talk on meteorology by Mr. Andrus at the Hotel Cleveland, 7:30 p. m. Last minute trade winds bring us news of Thelma Wilson, formerly of Canton, Ohio, who is now in New York. Florence Boswell attended the "Tailspin" premiere and 99 dinner in New York. Mary Winstanley makes a 3-pt. landing, but this time falling down stairs and was badly hurt. Mary, Mary, you who does such excellent barrel-rolls, tch, tch!

- - Ann Barille

Illinois Chapter - The chapter got off to a flying start with Mae Wilson, newly elected chairman presiding for the first time. The gals tried out a new procedure for making the meetings more interesting and better attended and it worked like a charm. Members were invited to bring friends to hear John Becker, air radio cop, who is in charge of the control tower at the Chicago Municipal Airport, discuss the newly installed blind landing beam. In addition, we were fortunate in having Florence Boswell tell of her recent flight to Cuba in her Cessna. Business was discussed after our guest speakers had held us spellbound for three hours. Mr. Becker initiated us into the intricacies of the control tower and was very gracious in answering innumerable questions. He explained the workings of the blind landing beam which in time will be installed at all leading fields to allow planes to land regardless of zero-zero weather.

- - Jane Meyer

Missouri Valley Chapter - The regular luncheon was held in the Hotel Fontenelle on February 11. Dorothy Broadfield of Glenwood, Iowa, who has been on an enforced vacation because of a recent tonsillectomy, was present as was our Lincoln member, Gwendolyn Hess. Plans for some meetings of study were presented to the members and accepted. Hence, our first work together in navigation will be done at Belle Hetzel's apartment, Monday evening, February 20. Any 99 stopping in Omaha at the time of our regular luncheon, the second Saturday of each month, is most welcome.

SOUTH CENTRAL SECTION - A few members of this section had the pleasure of meeting Betty Gillies and Teddy Kenyon when they made a stop in Oklahoma City on January 30 and 31 in connection with the launching of "Tailspin". The Junior Chamber of Commerce gave a banquet and cocktail party the first evening and a noon luncheon the next day which was attended by section members Dorothy Morgan of Tulsa, Jimmie Kolp, who flew up from Electra, Texas, and Governor Una Goodwin of Oklahoma City. The girls were thrilled to meet Betty and Teddy and are full of praise of them and their part in the program. We've just gotten some details about what Jimmie Kolp's been doing these recent months. She lives in Electra, Texas, about 150 miles northwest of Dallas, as Jimmie flies it in her "yaller-trimmed-in-green", 2-way radio equipped Cessna. In December she flew to San Antonio and on to Laredo where she was guest on an N. A. A. radio program in the interest of improvement of the local airport. Beginning January 2 her log records 23 hours of flying to Miami and return. Enroute to the races, she stopped at Meridian, Mississippi; Montgomery, Alabama, and at Orlando where she was initiated into the famed "Alligator Club". We learned from her that attending the Races from our section, besides Edna Gardner Kidd, our trophy winner, was Jean La-Rene Foote of Dallas.

Jackie Cochran unexpectedly came into Tulsa Municipal airport in her Beechcraft on January 30 on a business trip, staying only overnight and then going on eastward. With her was Miss Ya Ching Lee, who is travelling this country in the interest of Chinese relief. The girls were dinner guests at Tulsa at Dorothy McBirney's home, and

she later took them to the wrestling match, Tulsa's Monday night diversion. Dorothy described Miss Lee as an attractive, cultured girl who spoke excellent English, having been educated in London. She learned to fly at the Boeing School in 1935 and belongs to the Caterpillar Club. A bouquet goes to Harriet Davidson, our vice-governor, who recently became the "first woman in New Mexico to own and operate her own plane", as evidenced by a news story and photograph in the Albuquerque Journal. She says getting her new Fairchild is probably the biggest news she'll ever have for the News Letter as it's the thrill of her life, second only to a six months' trip to China three years ago. Alma Martin, Shreveport, Louisiana, just returned from a few weeks at Miami and the Bahamas. Abbie Haddaway, Fort Worth, is gathering reserve strength for March 2 - 4 when the SW Aviation Conference will hold its second annual meeting there and Abbie is listed as "Ladies' Reception". We hear that Fanny Leonpacher has been in the hospital, but that she's doing nicely. We hope she is entirely recovered by this time. In closing may we welcome a new sectional member, Miss Gwendolyn Hess, of Lincoln, Nebraska.

- - Frances H. Brown

NEW ENGLAND SECTION - The February meeting was held at the East Boston airport with Hortense Harris presiding in Jean Adam's absence. Ruth Granger, co-hostess with Ora King, secured for us three interesting speakers--Joseph Regan, Robert Collignon and Nancy Love. Mr. Regan, who has charge of the Central tower at East Boston, told of the duties, pains and future developments of radio from the central man's angle. Mr. Collignon, who is connected with American Airlines, spoke of radio as used by airlines, and Nancy Love on it as an aid to the private flyer. Maybe 'twas enthusiasm thus built up that has started Hortense Harris and Louise Howard studying for their third class radio licenses. Jean Adams has moved on from Florida to Havana. And that's all the news this time.

- - Louise Howard

METROPOLITAN TRI-STATE SECTION - The "Consolation" skating party brought out a few enthusiasts and sent one 49¹/₂er home with a busted wrist. A match stick on the ice, zipp, and then splints. . . proving that all accidents do not occur in bathtubs, or the air. Several members had the pleasure of meeting and supping with Ya Ching Lee who, while in New York is the guest of Jackie Cochran. Ya Ching has a serious mission before her and a thoughtful moment on our parts should bring the realization that we are a pretty lucky people to date! Florence Boswell breezed into Bendix airport out in New Jersey to attend the "Tailspin" dinner on February 9. She's been staying with our governor, Margo Tanner, who has tales and tales to tell about that trip to Hollywood. We are glad to report that "weather and things" has kept Florence around for several days.

Twentieth-Century-Fox tendered a testimonial dinner to the women of the 99 Club at the Waldorf Astoria on the night of February 9. 20th Century's Mr. Charles McCarthy and not Edgar Borgen's, was master of ceremonies and chairman of the dinner. Cocktails were served

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in the Lounge between 7:30 and 8:00 p. m., dinner, then the Preview, the highlight of the evening. Seated at the speaker's table were: Mr. McCarthy with Ruth Nichols on his right and National President, Daisy Kirkpatrick, on his left; Betty Gillies, Margo Tanner, Teddy Kenyon, Dick Merrill, "Tommy" Tomlinson, Major Ed. Aldrin and 49.5ers Ted Kenyon and Bud Gillies. Over 250 dined, wined and previewed. Of this number there were some 65 99's with their escorts. Daisy Kirkpatrick, Elizabeth Phillips (new National Secretary) and Florence Boswell came from Massachusetts, Maryland and Ohio, respectively. Hermalinda Briones arrived all in good health despite her unpleasant experience between Cuba and Key West recently. Also guests of honor were the eight "Tailspin" girls from Hollywood. The menu ran something like this: Consomme Marjolaine, miniature corn sticks, celery, etc., brook trout Belle Meuniere with mushrooms with, er, ah Pouilly "Chateau de Vinzelles" 1928; filet mignon Henri IV, Bearnaise sauce, new peas, Anna potatoes, and sh-h-h Corton Clos du Roi 1926!, spring salad, crown of Philadelphia vanilla ice cream with black cherries, demi tasse, (oh my, what again) Liquers. The picture you must see for yourselves, if you haven't already. It would be interesting to know how the gals judge it.

- - Nove Davenport

MIDDLE EASTERN SECTION - The Governor announces the temporary appointment of Marge McCormick of Pittsburgh as sectional secretary and treasurer. Elizabeth Phillips, who was doing an excellent job of the typewriter-money bag end of things, has been made National Secretary.

Western Pennsylvania Chapter - One of the highlights of the chapter's program during the past month was the pleasure of having Ruth Nichols and Margo Tanner, with their Hollywood escorts, in Pittsburgh for a day. The 99's enjoyed every moment of their luncheon with the girls as guests of 20th Century-Fox. We hope Ruth and Margo will make good use of their "Key to the City" presented them by our Mayor, and drop in to Pittsburgh often. The February meeting of the chapter was held in Pittsburgh on Sunday, February 12, at the William Penn hotel. Eight regular members were in attendance: Marge McCormick, Leona O'Shea, Helen Walker, Ellen Smith, Teresa James, Ellen Douds, Vee Toner and Frances Allen. Our visitors and prospective members were Marjory Wooding of Oakmont, Pa., who got her license in St. Petersburg, Florida, and Phyllis Burchfield and her mother, enthusiastic Californians. Phyllis is a member of the Bay Cities Chapter and has promised to participate in our activities while in Pennsylvania. We are sure she will have some good ideas to present and be a real asset to the group. Gus Haller, noted glider pilot and guest speaker at our meeting, gave a most informative and interesting talk on gliding. We were amazed to learn that the subject originated in Confucius' time when the Chinese froze the wings of birds in flight position to study the principle of flight. After the meeting we taxied (Yellow) to the theatre to see "Tailspin".

Ellen Smith and her 49 $\frac{1}{2}$ er, Floyd, left immediately for a sojourn in Florida, where with the assistance of that proverbial sunshine and climate she expects to complete the job of recuperating. Those of you who know Marge McCormick will be pleased to learn that she has accepted the appointment of temporary secretary-treasurer

for the section. We of this section--Western Pennsylvania Chapter--want to publicly congratulate her and feel that we are most fortunate in having her as chairman. Incidentally, Marge is planning a grand trip by motor to New Orleans for the colorful Mardi Gras. We also have a future aeronautical engineer in the group. Leona O'Shea of McKeesport has enrolled in the Aero. Engineering School at the University of Pittsburgh and we now have our first junior member, Ellen Douds of Mercer, Pennsylvania. Ellen is a teacher in the Sewickley, Pennsylvania schools and holds a solo license. We're glad to have her in our group for we know she'll be a good worker, and expect she'll be a full-fledged member before summer is over.

- - Frances L. Allen

Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter - The monthly get together of the eastern chapter took place in Camden, New Jersey, on Sunday, February 12. One lone eaglet, Lee Hazen, arrived in a low winged Aeronca. Others present were Dorothy Leh and Dorothy Carpenter from Allentown, Beatrice Hyman from Wilkes-Barre (whom we were glad to see again after some time) and Helen Jones from Lancaster. Elizabeth Phillips was unable to attend because she was preparing to hop off on the Sportsman Pilots' Cruise to Florida on February 19. Elizabeth attended the "Tailspin" premiere and dinner in New York City of February 9, and she and Lee Hazen flew from Newark to Washington in Elizabeth's Fairchild carrying the resolutions of the Susan B. Anthony Amendment to the Constitution, in honor of that famous woman suffrage worker's anniversary. Lee, incidentally, is leaving for California in April where she will take a blind flying course at the Boeing School of Aeronautics. Lucky gal! Luncheon was served at the Walt Whitman Hotel where we were honored with the presence of Mr. "Dewey" Dean, district manager of the traffic division of Eastern Airlines. He gave a most interesting talk on the promotion of good will between commercial and private flying, and how essential good advertising is in creating flying interest in the airlines. That's all for now.

- - Helen E. Jones

SOUTHWEST SECTION - Los Angeles Chapter - We started last month with a gay buffet supper given by Gladys O'Donnell, for the four grand gals who are out here helping 20th Century-Fox launch their aviation picture "Tailspin". There were interesting reviews of what each of the four visitors had done, written a la Hollywood Studios, and then we enjoyed an aviation game, cleverly gotten up by Gladys. Names of airplane parts and nomenclature, scrambled, had to be put in proper order; then on another page were questions every good pilot should know; then another brain teaser to make words out of one big word, and a couple of other clever ideas. Anyway, the evening was a huge success, with seventeen local members attending. It was grand to meet the visitors, and want to say specially that Tri-State Section is very fortunate in having a gal like Margo Tanner, so lively, charming and a grand scout, as its governor. (Them's my sentiments; hope you like 'em.)

We really got "clubby" last month. Had another get-together at a testimonial dinner given in honor of one "Bud" Morris, an Early Bird and wonderful person, who has done more for aviation and its

fraternity here than any other one man could match. He is also manager of the Hotel Clark, where he has given us a beautiful club room. Anyway, all the Southern California aviation organizations got together and told "Bud" what a swell person he was. Dorothy George, our "Poet Laureate", gave a clever poem telling of 99's sentiments towards Mr. Morris. Eleven members were present at this gathering.

On Sunday, January 29, we staged a "feminine aerial invasion" of March Field--the army air base--at Riverside. Fifteen members flew in, and we also invited the girl flyers of the Women's Air Reserve, seven of whom participated. Orchids go to our fair Evelyn Kilgore, who made all the arrangements for the breakfast at the Officers Club, and later gave instruction on the Link blind flying trainer, doing an expert job talking thru the radio-telephone, instructing the girl what to do and how to correct. We welcome a brand new member--Grace Clara Noble of Oxnard, California. Hope to see you at one of our meetings soon, and welcome again! Hasta la Vista!

- - Hilda Jarmuth

