

NINETY NINE

NEWS LETTER



July

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Editor,
Jimmie Kolp

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Electra, Texas

Eight 99 club pins, each with a unique history, will be sold by the Club's president, Betty Gillies, at \$3 each for a historic purpose. The pins were ordered by the late Amelia Earhart from Tiffany and Company, and recently turned to the Ninety-Nines by that company. Under the plan all monies resulting from their sale will be turned to the Amelia Earhart Memorial fund. The insignia are sterling silver with gold finish and may be ordered direct from Mrs. Gillies, Syosset, New York.

With the Private Fliers Association launching a huge expansion program, the executive committee of the Ninety-Nines has renewed the Club's membership. The active program of the PFA for the year includes the elimination of conflict in state and federal flying regulations, fewer and simpler federal regulations, and continuation of the federal instruction of civilian pilots.

PILOT'S MEETING (In Memoriam -- Edith Lackner)

Knock, knock! "Who's there?" "It's Edith." "Edith who?"

"I'm Edith Lackner of the Ninety-Nines."

"Why, Edith! Come right in. I'm Marvel. You Remember me. Yes . . . Crosson. All the lines

The papers printed on that women's race!

I hit that hill, and so grabbed off last place!"

"And over yonder's Florence Klingensmith

Frances Marsalis looking this way too.

Old members both. You'll sure love talking with

Those pylon polishers, for they've been through

The tests the best of pilots never pass--

Torn fabric, prop wash--both too near the grass!"

"Look, Marvel! Tell me, is that Wiley Post?

Then sure as fate Will Rogers is around.

And there's Frank Hawks, and Kingsford Smith--a host

Of folks I know. Sh. . . Did you hear that sound?

I thought I heard a voice call, 'Edith, hi!'

Look! Yonder from that patch of sea-blue sky.

"Why, it's . . . It is Amelia, just the same

As ever. Now I'm downright glad I came!"

- - Dorothy George

There is one phase of aviation for women pilots in the Civil Training Program which has not been mentioned and which, I think, is very important. It was suggested to me by Captain T. B. Herndon of Mansfield, Louisiana, State Governor for the N. A. A. That point is that in case of war women pilots would be needed not only for ambulances and transport planes but to instruct the men who stayed behind. Katherine Stinson did a lot of that during the last war, but it is, I believe, a point that has been overlooked in every mention of women in the Civilian Training Program so far.

- - Fanny Leonpacher

ALL-OHIO CHAPTER - So the cat is out of the bag, and we can tell you of Mary King's secret. On the afternoon of June 24th, she has arranged for us to hold an "Airplane Distributor's Air Show", at the Willoughby Airport. She and Helen Curtiss take the laurels for carrying out the plans for this grand fete. Florence Boswell's little Cessna is back in the hangar again only long enough for her to think of another place she would like to visit. She comes back with lovely pictures and greetings from the girls of the West. She tells how marvelous the Ninety-Nines were to her at different points she had occasion to stop. On this trip she made a stop at Purdue University, giving a lecture on "Aviation Today" and, from what we gather, it was quite a successful talk. A new certificate hangs on the wall of Florence's Aeronautical Room. She has been made an Admiral of the Fleetship. (Congratulations, Florence!)

Arlene Davis has been logging some hours in her white Beechcraft. Her most recent trip was East, where she visited Daisy Kirkpatrick. Since her return, she has been a tenant of the Golf Course. Last-minute trade winds bring us good news for Grace Birge--she has passed her written examination and is only waiting for the horizon to clear to take her flight test. We're sure she'll be joining the Privates shortly. And now, before switch off, we want to congratulate the Indiana "gals" for their formation of a new chapter in our section. We know that Marjorie Jan Stable's dreams have now been fully realized.

- - Ann Barille

ALL-OHIO CHAPTER MEMBER ARLENE DAVIS WRITES - Flew from Cleveland to Boston for Memorial Day, and spent a perfect week-end holiday with Daisy Kirkpatrick. Her lovely home at Marblehead is perched up on top of a hill overlooking the bay. Her daughter, Cynthia, is eleven years old. Yet at this early age she is the skipper of her own sailboat. And does that young lady know her stuff! Me, landlubber that I am, I simply sat dumb and kept ducking to keep my head from being knocked off by the swinging boom, while Cynthia swarmed all over the ship, handling the big sail and everything herself. The ship's name, by the way, is Upsa Daisy. When the family christened it, Daisy said they should have a bottle of champagne. "Oh, no, Mother," said Cynthia, "not champagne. Just a glass of Scotch and soda; that's what you like best." Daisy and her husband, Harry, have two other

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children away at school. With such a wonderful family and home, can't see how Daisy ever managed to spare as much time as she did flying around the country as president of the 99's. It's our tough luck she had to resign in favor of her family. But we were lucky to have had her as long as we did.

NEW ENGLAND SECTION - Summer at last--an event for us North-bound New Englanders who sit and read enviously for months at a time about the great doings of our fair-weather southern and western friends! Ah Me! Now it's our turn. . . Among those faithful Sunday morning risers for the Breakfast Cruises are Dot Garside and Lilian Holmes--sometimes Marian Tibbotts. Lighter planes are used on these gala occasions, which are conducted by the Norwood-Metropolitan Group with Dot's husband in charge. The June meeting was held at the Boston Airport with Gertrude Merserve and Joan Adams as hostesses. Captain Beck of New England Aircraft gave an enlightening talk on their operations and placement of students, and Bon Follett of Wiggins Airways told us about the workings of their new C. A. A. students, etc. Louise Sisson, our most faithful member, who missed practically the first meeting of history last month, has been quite sick lately, but now is up and at it again. Good luck, Louise, and also to Carolyn Moran, who has been kept out of her Fairchild lately due to a slight sojourn in a Boston Hospital. Ann Kenyon of Providence has her Taylorcraft at a field in Carolina, Rhode Island, now instead of Warrenton, Virginia. . . she's a hard person to find between riding and flying. Stop by at her field and take a swim, she says. Daisy Kirkpatrick has been entertaining at great lengths. Arlene Davis of Cleveland was one week-end guest. Another was Nancy Bird, charming and outstanding member from across Australia way, touring our country. We wish and hope to help her in every way possible. She is a member whom we can be justly proud of. Good luck, Nancy! Nancy Love is visiting at her home in Houghton, Michigan, for a short while. Jean Adams has started commuting again to Nantucket Island in a Fairchild she has rented from a friend for part of the summer. Local 99 passengers have included Constance Sheridan and Ruth Granger. Louise Howard is in the air again. Her now prospective member is now old enough to get out of his crib and take care of himself! She (Louise) and Hortense Harris have been doing a good deal of flying together in Hortense's Fairchild. Peg Kimball has been down to Virginia a couple of times within the last month in her ship. She has just announced her engagement and plans to be out in California with her new husband-to-be part of this summer. Jean Adams, Peg Kimball, Constance Sheridan, Lilian Holmes, Mary Davis, Dot Garside and guests flew down to New York in a Twin Beech to be at the FAIR when Jacqueline Cochran presented Mrs. Roosevelt with a plaque for being the Most Important Air Traveler (Woman). Hortense Harris and Louise Howard tried to follow suit. . . but were waylaid by the weather. Also Dorothy Monro in her Rearwin. Hortense Harris and Louise Howard are having our July 99 meeting on Hortense's yacht (Saturday, July 15th) in form of business session and BUFFET SUPPER. Any other Sectional members who would care to come we can make arrangements to put up over night. Please address Mrs. H. H. Harris, Yacht "Guardian", L St. Bridge, South Boston, Massachusetts. Well, enough, enough. Come see us soon! Especially members from Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont!

- - Joan Adams

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Clara Livingston, the only 99er from Porto Rico, is flying her Stinson on a tour of the United States. Clara has Rachel Miller's Flying Gift Shop that is being shown in many cities under the auspices of the W. N. A. A.

MIDDLE EASTERN SECTION - WASHINGTON CHAPTER - It wasn't a 99er meet but might as well have been inasmuch as the fair sex won a good portion of the trophies at the annual Langley Day Air Meet held at College Park Airport, Maryland. Joe Busse and Lydia Clement won first and second respectively in the free-for-all, men and women, 50 HP event, and Lydia came in third in the heavier class, flying a Taylor Coupe. In the women's free-for-all, Helen Frigo came in first with Mary Benson second and Joe Busse third. "Squeak" Burnett topped the show, however, with his inverted flying at an altitude of approximately fifty feet and particularly his triangle and square loop. In the dual chute jumps at the close of the meet, luck again favored the fair sex, when due to a pretty strong wind upstairs both jumpers drifted over the airport and Ray Morders dropped in the lake while this 'un got on over it and landed in somebody's back yard. We will, in a few more "solo hours" time, have a new member in our group. Mary Campbell has just soloed and is diligently getting in her time so that she can "get it". Dot Carpenter (the Washington Dot) rounded out a two weeks' vacation with a trip to Richmond in her Porterfield and reported having a glorious time. We all regret having missed the meeting at Huntington and an opportunity to meet all the girls--particularly so when co-pilot Crum had prepared such splendid entertainment. And so until the next meeting--happy landings!

- - Helen Frigo

SOUTH CENTRAL SECTION - NEBRASKA CHAPTER - A chicken dinner given by Dutch Miller for pilots of the Omaha and Council Bluff's fields, diverted the minds of our 99's from the contemplated study of navigation that evening of March 20. Mr. I. V. Packard, Secretary of the Nebraska Aeronautics Commission, who had consented to talk to us on navigation, joined the pilots. Later on April 8 he returned for our regular luncheon in order to give us some of the information that we craved. Mrs. Eno and a student pilot, Miss Wiggins, flew in from Fort Dodge, Iowa, for our meeting. Just after Mrs. Eno's plane took off that afternoon, a new black Cub circled the field. The pilot was Dorothy Broadfield who was just returning from ferrying the new ship back from Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. Her smile belied the disappointment of being grounded for some time in Pennsylvania by bad weather. Evelyn Sharp writes that her experience in attending the South Central Sectional meeting of the 99's on March 4 and the Southwest Aviation Annual Conference of March 2, 3 and 4 at Fort Worth was exceedingly pleasant and worthwhile.

This is our latest news: Our first wedding has held our chief interest this month. The bride, Adele Jeppesen, was honor guest at our June luncheon in the Medical Arts Toa Room on June 3. The lucky groom, instructor for Burnham-Miller Flying Service, declares with justifiable pride that he is our one and only 49½ member. At this same luncheon we had the pleasure of welcoming Irene Adamson home from Wyoming. Dorothy Broadfield has her L. C. now. Congratulations,

Dorothy! On May 27 we had the honor of having Miss Ya-Ching-Lee, the charming Chinese girl pilot, as guest at a 99 luncheon at Hotel Fontenelle. While Miss Lee was here, her official hostess was Sonnee Mae Joe. An early morning breakfast flight to Lincoln on May 29 in three planes, a Stinson and two Cubs, made us anxious for more such group flights. Those taking part were Dorothy Berendsen, Sonnee Mae Joe, Belle Hetzel and your reporter.

- - Boatrico J. Mack

MIDDLE EASTERN SECTION - WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER - We read in the newspapers that one of our members, Irene Crum of Huntington, West Virginia, is planning a trans-Atlantic flight in 1940. It was through Irene's kind invitation that the 99's visited Huntington recently, and were entertained at a Dawn Patrol Breakfast. Gardenia corsages and airplane cigarette lighters carrying "NC 99" on the wings were gifts to the girls from local clubs. Helen Walker of Warren, Pennsylvania, was the outstanding 99 of the day. She flew the greatest distance to the meeting and was also the recipient of our chapter's Landing Contest Trophy. Mr. E. A. Goff, Jr., Federal Inspector, presented the Trophy to Helen at the breakfast. She is very deserving of it, having landed and secured signatures at 33 different airports between January 1st and April 30th, so we were happy to have her win it. On the return trip from Huntington, the Pittsburgh group and Phyllis Burchfield of Titusville stopped at the Parkersburg, W. Virginia, Airport to get acquainted and have lunch with Lenore McElroy, who recently transferred to our chapter. We found Helen Walker there too, a bad storm having forced her down. Lenore is a most attractive gal and a real pilot. Both she and her husband instruct, and have forty students at the present time--not to mention those who have already "graduated".

Miss Ya-Ching Lee set her "Spirit of China" down at "County" this month, and was warmly welcomed by her Chinese and American friends. Helen Richey, Teresa James and Frances Allen met Miss Lee a short distance from the airport and escorted her in. At a luncheon given for her by the Aero Club, 99's in attendance were Louise Thaden, Helen Richey, Teresa James, Ellen Douds, Beulah McCowan Stark, Venus Tonor, and Frances Allen. Louise Thaden, who was chairman of the reception committee, and your reporter, received invitations to the Chinese dinner held at the On-Leong Temple, served in true native style. Ya-Ching is indeed a charming and earnest worker for her country's cause and we feel sure her tour will be most successful. We also read in the papers that Leona O'Shea of McKeesport is recuperating from an appendectomy. Our best wishes to her for a speedy recovery. Grace Carroll, one of our newest members, is the only woman messenger in the Air Mail Pick-Up Service recently inaugurated. It's Grace's duty to deliver between the post office and the airport all mail carried into and out of the Latrobe Airport by air. She takes a lot of kidding about the size of her official badge. Guess the government wants to be sure the pilots spot the right gal before dropping the mail bag at her feet.

A hearty and sincere welcome to three new members this month: Mrs. Jane Nolan of Blairsville, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Marie Bailes Beckett of Charleston, West Virginia; and Mrs. Ruth Mayes Rodriguez of Chesa-

peake, Ohio, and Huntington, W. Virginia. We know that each of them in her own city will become valuable 99 members and will do her part in the promotion of women in aviation.

- - Frances L. Allen

HEY! Alice Hammond, Hilda Jarmuth, Margo Tanner and Marjorie Hook - Where IS the news from your Section? - Editor.

SOUTH CENTRAL SECTION - Hellon Gandy, a new member in our section, who recently received her Private certificate, is getting in as much X-C as her nursing profession permits. Decoration Day morning, about 9:00 a. m., Helen telephoned your reporter to say "hello". She was at Tulsa Commercial Airport, having flown over from home port at Oklahoma City, and was going to have a bite of breakfast and return at once on her 200-mile round trip. On May 20, Hellon took as passenger Betty Baughman of the Oklahoma City press, and flew her Cub to a Rodeo and air show at Electra, Texas. They were guests of Jimmie Kolp, who entertained the Oklahoma City Aviation Club at her home on the outskirts of Electra. Beginning July first, San Angelo, Texas, will be Hellon's home port. Oklahoma City regrets losing this vivacious 90-pound beauty.

Abbie Dill Haddaway, Fort Worth, had such a good time on her trip to California with Florence Boswell. Husband George told us that when Abbie came home they were going to Birmingham for the Annual National Air Carnival early in June. Had lunch with Dorothy Morgan, husband and daughter at the Tulsa Municipal Airport on June 5th, and heard that baby Sharon had recently taken a first flight--Tulsa to Kansas City and return, all in one afternoon--with Daddy flying the Spartan Executive going up, and Mother flying coming back. Dorothy said this was in the nature of a "test flight" on Sharon. Like a true offspring of flying parents, the baby loved it. Gayle Horrall is leaving Tulsa for the summer to go dude-ranching up in Wyoming, and be within Cessna-range of her husband's pipeline contracting headquarters at Casper. Welcome to new member, Mrs. Florence Medlicott, of San Antonio, Texas, our first 99er from that city. While your reporter has not had the pleasure of meeting her as yet, we recall that she made the cover sheet of the March 15th issue of "American Aviation", which ran her photograph with the caption--"Girl with an Idea"--and the sub-title "Posie Medlicott, charming and 28, causes panic over her hostess idea". Mrs. Medlicott's original idea, which gained such national comment, is the inauguration at Stinson Field, San Antonio, of the "Merchants Aviation Hostess Service", and it provides every sort of service that an air traveler may desire. The idea is copyrighted and branches are to be opened in other cities served by airlines. The South Central is very happy to have a member who is so active in the industry.

Hellon Gandy with her Cub and Jimmie Kolp in her Cessna were members of the three-day Oklahoma Air Tour. Two other 99's--Una Goodwin and Nona Allen Young--joined for the last night tour stop. Our section's mighty proud of the solo our Jimmie did on the June News Letter in her new role as editor. Despite that new responsibility she had time to fly from Electra over to Oklahoma City, with three friends as passengers, to attend the W. N. A. A. luncheon and style show. Jimmie's most exciting experience was to fly with Dick Essery of Lennox,

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California, in his Buxton Transporter sailplane. Jimmie acted as navigator on a flight from Wichita Falls, Texas, to Lawton, Oklahoma, and the distance of 64 miles constituted a national distance record (flight with passenger). Jimmie made four landings in the sailplane and likes it very much. Bet she'll be going to Elmira next contest. Grace Stevenson of Holdenville, Oklahoma, who holds a private license, has now enrolled at Spartan School in Tulsa to take a Commercial License Course. Governor Una Goodwin reports a meeting of this section will be held in Tulsa July 15th--time and place to be announced later. Your reporter has just moved from Tulsa to Houston, Texas, where we are with Southern Aircraft Corporation, designers of military aircraft, as secretary and member of the board of directors. We are looking forward to renewing the acquaintance of the other Houston 99er, Helen Thevenot. To this far-flung South Central Section, the address for news is P. O. Box 1872.

- - Frances H. Brown

NORTH CENTRAL SECTION - MICHIGAN CHAPTER - The June meeting scheduled for Sunday, June 11th, at Kalamazoo with Eloise Smith acting as hostess, was postponed for one week when the meeting day dawned overcast and threatening with a young gale blowing. Marion Weyant deserves a lot of credit for braving the weather to drive over from Lansing with a guest, but none of the other girls was able to get to this distant destination. The June 18th meeting was much more of a success, at least from the point of view of weather and attendance. Those present were Jeannette Lempke, who flew in from Saginaw in her Warner Davis monoplane; Mary Von Mach, who flew in from Detroit in a Fleet, carrying as passenger a friend of hers who was riding the skies for the very first time; Sara Winn and husband, P. Wayne Winn, who arrived by auto from Saginaw; Leila and Ray Baker and son, Vernon, in one of the latest Aeroncas, flew in from Detroit City Airport; and Alice and John Hammond flew a Fairchild 22 from Detroit. Milham Park, adjacent to the Kalamazoo Airport, was the scene of a perfectly deluxe breakfast cooked and served in the open by Eloise Smith with the aid of her Hubby and two or three of the local girl student fliers. The business meeting was run off in the unprecedented time of twenty minutes (a new record, we think!) with Chairman Leila Baker presiding. It was decided to have the next Chapter meeting at Saginaw, July 9th, with Jeannette Lempke, Sara Winn and Rosalie Grohman taking care of the hostess duties.

Following the meeting, several of the girls went over to Battle Creek Airport to spend the afternoon as guests of the All-Girl Air Revue at that city. Among those who went were Jeannette Lempke, Sara Winn, and Eloise Smith. Blanche Noyes, who was in Ann Arbor last week attending a conference, spent a pleasant evening with Mabel and Harry Britton at their home in Ypsilanti. Alice and John Hammond had as their guests last week end Nancy Lovo of Boston, who was in this vicinity visiting her parents in Hastings, Michigan. Faye and Bob Kirk made a week-end trip in a Fairchild to Spencer, New York, to visit a former Michigan Chapter member--Helen Lehtio and her husband Bill, and daughter, Judy. On June 4th Alice Hammond entertained the Michigan 99's with an afternoon party at her home in Grosse Pointe Farms.

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A delicious luncheon was served on her porch overlooking her well-kept lawn and garden. Those girls present were Gladys Hartung, Jeannette Lempke, Marion Weyant, Leila Baker, Sara Winn, Florence Pasinoau, and Helen Montgomery, the latter of whom was the recipient of a lovely gift from the girls, the nature of which we hope to be able to divulge in the next issue of the News Letter.

Sara Winn is now a full-pledged member in our organization, having passed from the status of junior member last Tuesday, when she received her private rating at Wayne County Airport. Our heartiest congratulations, Sara! Marion Weyant has been doing a lot of cross country flying out of Lansing this summer, having accompanied the Dawn Patrol 100% on their Sunday morning breakfast jaunts.

- - Helen Montgomery

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION - Nell Behr, hostess of our next Ninety-Nine meeting in Anderson, S. C., the 25th, has just returned from a week of business and pleasure in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She and her husband flew up in their Beechcraft and from all reports the trip was full of fun and success. I saw Ruth Stilson last weekend at Greensboro, N. C., where she is employed by the Ruffus Flying Service. Besides keeping books she is hauling a lot of passengers in the company Cubs. She is as busy as a bee and as brown as a berry! But that now commercial license of hers is more than enough compensation for any inconvenience caused by a mere sunburned nose. Charlotte Frye was hostess to the Georgia Air Tour on the 20th. The Tour stopped in Griffin to dedicate her airport. I say "her airport" because we who live near by know that Charlotte's untiring efforts and other assistance that she gave are responsible for the field that Griffen now has. Congratulations, Charlotte! I wish we had a hundred more like you. I have been doing a little flying on a few shows presented by Charlie Abel. I flew to Greensboro, N. C., last week end and am supposed to be on hand in Bristol, Tennessee, at the Tri-State Airport on the 25th of June. Look out mountains, here I come--and Little Continental, please be kind to me.

- - Jessie Woods

SKETCH ON HARRIET DAVIDSON - Harriet Davidson, vice-governor of our South Central Section, considers her aeronautical experience and aspirations too inconsequential for mention, but we won't agree with her, for among other things, she has the distinction of being the first woman in New Mexico to own and operate her own plane. Harriet bought a Fairchild cabin early in 1939 and found that owning her own ship was the thrill of her life. She says it is a sweet performer and has plenty of soup--important in her locality--and she has great fun going exploring in it week-ends. She holds a private certificate and her interest in flying is motivated entirely by the private enjoyment she derives from it. However, there are often calls to participate in public events, and last year she assisted during air mail week by flying the first mail out of a small town south of Albuquerque. Harriet thinks she holds some sort of record for the length of time it took her to solo. However, we have no doubt many 99ers have had similar experience. The flying bug first bit her while she was working in the hospital in 1933 on Nantucket Island. Family objections and

leaving the East, however, delayed her solo until 1935, at Albuquerque, in a Fairchild 24. Harriet is a former University of New Mexico student, a member of Alpha Delta Pi, and lives with her parents at 601 Ridgecrest Drive. She devotes most of her time to a responsible position with the State Health Department in the Public Health Laboratory, which she has held for a number of years. Three years ago she went to the Orient and spent six months travelling in the interior of China. (Reporter's note: Harriet, you and Alma Martin should have fun reminiscing over your experiences in China). Harriet had a girl friend as passenger in her Fairchild to the Southwest Conference held in Fort Worth last month. Harriet says that flying among women is a lonesome avocation in New Mexico and she hopes all 99ers passing through Albuquerque will get in touch with her, as she so much enjoys meeting other women flyers. If you have this opportunity you will find Harriet to be an attractive brunette of possibly thirty, with a pleasing personality and a good sense of humor. She is a good conversationalist, and you will enjoy knowing her.

- - Frances H. Brown