

NINETY NINE

NEWS LETTER

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION



OF WOMEN PILOTS

October
Editor,
Mrs. Fanny Leonpacher

1940
Box 432,
Lafayette, La.

The New York - New Jersey Section is giving the annual dinner dance in the St. Regis Hotel, Viennese Roof, Friday night, November 8, 1940. Hours 9 to 2. There will be no speeches, but entertainment in addition to a fine orchestra for dancing, and door prizes. No special effort will be made for fund raising, but any money made on the dance will go into the Amelia Earhart Memorial Fund. All members who can come are urged to send in their reservations to Marjorie Ludwigsen, 4 Irving Place, New York City, accompanied by a check for \$5.00 for each ticket. This is THE aviation event of the year, so come and have a wonderful time. Dress.

ELECTION RESULTS National Officers for 1940-1941 have been elected as follows: President, Betty H. Gillies Syosset, N. Y.; Vice-President, Harriet Isaacson, 3021 Modesto, Oakland, California; Secretary, Marjorie Ludwigsen, 4 Irving Place, New York City; Treasurer, Jeannette Lempke, 1111 E. Genessee, Saginaw, Michigan. New York - New Jersey Section, Governor, Mary Nicholson, 435 E. 52nd St., New York; Vice-Governor, Patricia Thomas, Castle Stevens, Hoboken, N. J.; Secretary, Loretta Leonard, c/o C. A. A., Garden City, L. I., N. Y.; and Treasurer, Margie White, 206 Mountain Avenue, North Caldwell, N. J. Southwest Section, Governor, Ruth Wakeman, 2821 Hillside Drive, Burlingame, Calif.; Vice-Governor, Ethel Sheehy, Arrow and Linden Streets, Fontana, Calif.; Secretary, Kay Van Doozer, 2909 Elm St., Skyline Park, Bakersfield, Calif.; Treasurer, Doris De Ay, Ely and Magnolia, Chino, Calif. Los Angeles Chapter, Chairman, Hilda Jarmuth, 103 South Edgemont Street, Los Angeles Calif; Vice-Chairman, Dorothy Kinsman, 3467 Arroyo Seca Ave., Los Angeles; Secretary Treasurer, Marion Mountain, 1314 7th St., Santa Monica, Calif.

Don't forget to hold your elections promptly. According to the Constitution, Sections should have their elections completed by October first, Chapters should have theirs completed by November first.

Anniversary. This marks the twelfth issue of the News Letter which has come out under the name of your Editor. Hope you like it!

Aviation Magazines. Subscriptions to practically all aviation publications may be purchased by Ninety Nine members at greatly reduced rates. These special prices are listed in "National Aeronautics" and are available through the facilities of the N A A. Write to N A A for any subscriptions you desire.

It is hoped when you receive this copy of the News Letter that the September issue will have reached you. The unfortunate delay was caused by the change-over from the Michigan Publisher to the N A A as Publisher, but should not occur again. Your Editor has received several queries as to whether the delay was caused by the high water in Louisiana. Fortunately her home is on a bluff and stayed out of the water, but by flying just 20 miles you could see so much water you thought the Gulf of Mexico had gotten out of bounds. Dr. Leonpacher was able to deliver several dozen loaves of bread by air to marooned friends, they probably had the fishes themselves!

DUES DUES DUES!!! They are now due and payable. Individual bills have been mailed from headquarters with a notation to mail your check money order or cash to your Section Treasurer. In some cases it was necessary to request that dues be paid to your 1939-1940 Treasurer as many of the Section election results were not in at the time of mailing. All accounts will be transferred to the new 1940-1941 Treasurers but if you haven't the new address just send your dues to the address given on your bill. In the case of the North Central Section, Florence Roswell will take care of the accounts until a new Treasurer is elected. This year you get a membership in the N A A for the same \$3.00 you usually pay for just your 99 Club membership.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE! With the renewed interest in flying and the CPT programs, there seems every reason to believe that the membership of the 99's should increase. If every member gets one new member, we can double the membership very simply. On the back page of the News Letter is an application blank; tear it off and get busy. It is probably a good thought to sign up some girls with Solo Certificates. They have until May first to qualify as Privates, and if they get interested in the 99's there is every reason to believe that it will furnish an additional incentive for them to continue.

NEW CHAPTERS. In the interest of efficiency it has been suggested that more Chapters be formed, although the same number is required as usual - five girls with private certificates or higher. Smaller, more compact groups might accomplish more, but it is also wise not to start with exactly five girls as a removal or some other cause over which you have no control may break up your Chapter. This idea comes from a girl in the East, if any others wish their ideas published in the Letter, the Editor will be glad to comply, provided the idea does not conflict with the Constitution, of course.

C A A PILOT LISTS. Your headquarters secretary regrets to inform you that accurate and complete lists of licensed women pilots are not available at the present time. Since the influx of CPT "paper work" over at C A A, they've been running around like a bunch of chickens with their heads cut off. They can't tell us how many pilots there are let alone where they live. Bright light on the horizon seems to be the installation in C A A of a number of punch file machines - they contend that all listing problems will then be solved. Therefore, we have high hopes of sending out by the first of November a list of licensed pilots in each Chapter's territory. Strictly off the record - we have our fingers crossed.

NINETY NINE PAGE. October issue of the N A A's monthly publication, National Acronautics, contains the first Ninety Nine Page. Each month there will be at least one news item of national interest to us all and a column with listings and announcements of Amelia Earhart Memorial Fund activities. Please notify Cecile Hamilton at headquarters in the Willard Hotel, Washington, D. C., of your AE Fund programs. Suggestions and copy for feature articles will be more than welcome, and please try to include some good photographs to accompany them.

SOUTHWESTERN SECTION. Bay Cities Chapter. This is your roving reporter, Rita Gerry reporting news of the Bay Cities Chapter. It is very hard to concentrate on the Bay Cities when my face is turned eastward with the prospect of a carefree gypsy trek ahead. With Marjorie Hook and Charles Welback as our pilots, in two Fairchilds seven vacationers will hop happily from airport to airport for the next two weeks. Our luggage consists of one small overnight case per person, many cameras, and a huge roll of maps. Afton Lewis was at Bay Airdrome, waving wistfully as we took off.

Now to get back to the serious business of reporting. The biggest thing on our August calendar was of course, the Paso Robles Sectional meeting. On the way down from San Francisco, three ships, piloted by Ruth Wakeman, Ruth Rueckert, and Marjorie Hook stopped at Kings City for a short visit with our newest member, Mary Hables, who was unable to attend the meet at Paso Robles. The Sectional meeting was a pleasant combination of business and pleasure. The city fathers presented the keys to the city, or something to that effect. The Business and Professional Women's Club entertained us at dinner at the Paso Robles Hot Springs Hotel. After dinner the Chamber of Commerce provided music and dancing until two o'clock. Cars were at our disposal whenever we wished, and even Dame Nature had an extra special full moon that night. Some of our girls came trailing in at four and five o'clock in the morning, so I presume they were having a good time!

At the business meeting we elected officers (see elsewhere). It was announced that we are now affiliated with the N A A. There is one little incident that I must mention to demonstrate the height of hospitality in an old California town. As Afton Lewis flew over the town she looked for smoke or a windmill or something to show the wind direction. Nothing stirring. She circled the field to locate the wind sock, when, boom, right beneath her someone dynamited a huge oak tree. After she finally got her plunging Pegasus under control, she looked down and saw a huge cloud of dust drifting lazily eastward. Carefully noting the wind direction, she brought her ship down for a perfect landing. Afton is probably the only pilot who ever had a tree blown up for her convenience in navigating. That is what I call hospitality. But enough of this nonsense. My mind refuses to function normally. I'm off on safari across the Great American Continent with Marjorie. If we survive the heat, the mosquitos and the natives, we will send you a card from New York.

And here is some last minute news from your roving reporter. Harriet Isaacson sent word to Belle Hetzel that Marjorie Hook and I were on our way east and would probably stop at Omaha. When we landed at the airport today we were greeted by Belle Hetzel, Bea Mack and Ivah Maxfield. They entertained us at dinner and then drove us around to see the interesting places. It was a nice opportunity to get acquainted and we enjoyed every minute. Omaha has the prettiest airport I have seen. It is all lawn and flowers, except the runways, of course.

- Your Roman Reporter, Rita Gerry.

NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY SECTION. About 75 showed up for Ninety-Nine Day at the World's Fair on Saturday, September 14, were registered in the Navy Booth of the Aviation Building, which was turned over to us for the day, and then attended a luncheon in the National Advisory Building. Gill Robb Wilson was our Master of Ceremonies, and Major Francis Valentine of Mitchell Field and Lt. Commander Don W. Smith of the Navy at Floyd Bennett Field spoke. Jacqueline Cochran was the main speaker, and she was presented with a fountain pen that was quaranteed not to leak at altitudes to help her record her records. Another guest was Miss Lucy Monroe, opera singer, who is star of the American Jubilee. Everybody seemed to have a grand time, and the Fair was ours for the day.

H. Lucille Boudreau has returned to her home on Long Island after spending the summer at their farm in Maine. Helen Clark of New Jersey received her Commercial license and Instructor's rating at the Suffolk Airport, Riverhead, Long Island, this summer. Helen Richey is teaching students for the CPT at E. W. Wiggins in Boston.

Bella Heineman received her Commercial certificate at Roosevelt Field. Peggy Lennox is teaching students for E. W. Wiggins at Providence Airport.

Lucille Boudreau has been appointed News Reporter, so all girls from the Section get busy and let her have the news: Her address is: 303 Manor Road, Douglas Manor, L. I., N. Y. We are looking for lots of you to attend the dinner-dance in the St. Regis Hotel, Friday night, November 8. Please send in your reservations to Marjorie Ludwigsen. No speeches this year!

- Mary Nicholson Governor.

SOUTHWEST SECTION. Los Angeles Chapter. We made a grand showing at the recent Section meeting at Paso Robles by having eleven planes fly in. Those attending were: Ethel Sheehy, Dessie Owen, Jessie Bundy, Suzanne Hickman, Kay Van Doozer, Doris De Ay, Eurith Howard, Helen Walker, and Hilda Jarmuth from the L. A. Chapter. At a dinner meeting the Chapter elected their officers (see elsewhere). We have hopes of getting a lot of new members, what with the C A A students, so gals, get busy and round up any new pilots you meet, and bring 'em along to the next meeting. AND I DO MEAN YOU. A new bride in our midst is Helen Walker, now Mrs. John Menefee. The couple are honeymooning down in Honduras, having flown down in the Waco. And news also came that the latest Nelda Hulburd model arrived on August 24th. It is an 8 lb. 6oz. 2-lung Howler, will be known as Richard Merritt Hulburd. President Horace Lufkin Hulburd reported doing nicely after line inspection reported O. K.

- Hasta la Vista -- Hilda Jarmuth.

NEW ENGLAND SECTION. We in New England, particularly Boston, feel pretty proud of the fact that we have three 99'ers who are at present instructing, having passed the new re-rating tests, and are hard at work with many of the C A A students and others. Our newest member to be qualified, is Ruth Hamilton of Bayside Airport. She and her 49'er own and operate their own flying service and have been awarded many of the college students. We also have Gertrude Meserve, of whom you have already heard, and we understand she is well on her 1,000 hour mark. Also in Boston is Helen Richey, and while we of course can't claim Helen, she is fast becoming one of us and it is good to see her around.

Helen and Nancy Love recently made a round trip to LaGuardia Field, in a Reliant and spent two hours in the control tower. Nancy has also made a round trip, Boston to Nashville, in a 105 and reports she made the trip with an average of 145 m.p.h. (What a pleasure - these permanently built-in tailwinds!) We were all surprised this past week with a visit from Jackie Cochran who flew in from New York in her Beech to be present at the opening of her cosmetic line in the leading Boston department store. Those of us in Boston who could attend enjoyed her cocktail party and hope that her business will mean more frequent trips to New England. We greatly regret to report that Caroline Moran has been stricken with a serious illness which necessitated an operation, keeping her in the hospital for a month or more. However, she is on the mend and is at her home in Ithaca N. Y., taking a well earned rest from her work at the Red Cross. We saw a lot of Caroline just prior to this at the Airport.

We don't very often catch up with our former Governor, Jean Adams, now that she has moved to Nantucket Island, but when we finally do, we hear of plenty of Fairchild and Stinson time for Jean. A steamboat strike between the mainland and the island this summer meant plenty of trips for her, getting her friends to and from the island. Hortense Harris has been very busy of late moving her house (boat), but has found time to ferry between Boston and Nantucket Island where the Harris' have a summer studio. Hortense is also busy preparing for her commercial and we all wish her the best. Dorothy Bernson has had her Bird recovered and the motor majored and on all the good days you can catch her putting in time at the East Boston Airport. Yours truly has finally secured her Private certificate, after

holding a solo for over five years. I guess it was the new ruling that one had to have a Private or above that sponsored the urge. However, an airline trip Boston to Glendale, is planned for early November and at that time it is hoped she will have a chance to meet many of the other 99'ers along the way.

- Ruth Granger.

SOUTHEAST SECTION. Florida Chapter. It was a very warm August day, (apologies to the Chamber of Commerce,) but our Chapter's regular meeting was held in probably the only delightfully cool spot in Florida - the shady porch of beautiful Lauderdale Yacht Club overlooking a wide rambling lawn which ran down to a palm fringed waterfront, from whence a refreshing salty breeze blew continually. Katherine Rawls Thompson and Lorna Simpson, who have recently graduated from Junior members to full-fledged Senior Members, were the very charming hostesses, along with Helen Dooley, all of Fort Lauderdale. Present at the meeting were Helen Richardson and Dorothy Lemon of West Palm Beach, Marion Bertram, Crystal Mowry and Evelyn McRae from Miami, besides the three hostesses mentioned above. Katherine utilized her handsome Bernarr MacFadden swimming trophy as a punch bowl and it did make a very attractive buffet surrounded by platters of tiny sandwiches and cakes. Katie said she thought she ought to get some use out of it, and it was a novel idea, being exactly the right shape and size. The meeting was interrupted at intervals by the two Lauderdale newspapers who took many pictures of us on the lawn, and we regretted that all our members could not be present to be in these group photographs. Vera Self was unable to come over from Sarasota, being up to her eyes in work for this CPT course. Vera has received her Ground School Instructor's rating and has the teaching of a class added to all her other duties there at the airport. We are expecting to see her and Celeste Dorvaes and Dier Puckett and everyone else at the next meeting, September 30th in Orlando. Another of our group to pass her examination for her Private license is Marion Bertram. She made a grade of 98% on her written and we're mighty proud of her.

- Evelyn McRae, Reporter pro tem.

NORTH CENTRAL SECTION. All Ohio Chapter. We Ninety-Niners here in Cleveland have ordered CAVU weather for the week-end of October 12 and 13 that being the date set for the Sectional meeting. It will be held in Cleveland. We will do our best to show everyone a good time and unless you turn out in good numbers we will be disappointed, so mark that date now on your calendar. We welcomed a new member last Monday night, Lorraine Sterkel, and when she left for home she had 5 applications in her purse. Lorraine attends Lake Erie College and is one of the ten girls who took the CPTC last season. As a sidelight on Lorraine, in spite of the fact that she weighs a mere 105 lbs. she spent the summer as a lifeguard on Cleveland's beach.

Off to Rochester, N. Y., was the last report on Florence Boswell with her daughter, Louise, where Louise attends the Eastman School of Music. Incidentally Florence reports that she has been spending quite a little time in Lexington, Ky., where she expects to have a new Chapter soon. A pleasant summer was spent by Jean Gundelfinger, sort of commuting by plane between Cleveland and her summer home in Michigan. The Don Patricks were recent house guests at the Gundelfinger summer home for a few days, after that they flew to Wisconsin where Don is stationed. Marion Pease reports that she and Mary King were blessed with good weather on their trip to Texas where they spent some time vacationing. We expect to hear some new fish stories soon, as Helen Laughlin is now in Canada trying her luck and is expected back anytime now.

Back to school for Grace Birge after a summer whose high point was the trip to Denver with Florence Boswell. Grace says that a grand time was had by all and that they were sorry to have to come home. If you are going to have a forced landing, find yourself an appropriate passenger and then do a good job on the landing. That's

exactly what Marion Coddington did, the passenger a C A A inspector!- no less - and the landing no damage, so it must have been good. Rennie Porter is spending most of her time keeping books for her husband and me, I'm still busy trying to get my house in order before the end of the month, so till next month, so long.

- Frances (Drenik) Morrison.

Missouri Valley Chapter. The best news of the month for us is that our Chairman, Dorothy Broadfield passed her Commercial written exam last week. It won't be long now until she'll go up for the flight test. In the shade of all that accomplishment, yours truly passed the written exam for a private certificate.

Various obligations kept the September meeting down to minimum - meeting was held at the Morris Hotel Coffee Shop and was attended by Betty Bachman, Bea Mack, Belle Hetzel and Sonnee Mae Joe. Belle reported at that meeting that we have two new members - Helen Woodson of Omaha and O'dett Wallace now of New Berlin, Illinois. Both girls completed their courses under the CPT. Helen is employed at the Omaha airport by the Burnham-Miller School and O'dett has a teaching assignment at New Berlin. Bea Mack also reported a new membership - Margaret Long of Sac City who also has a vocation of teaching at Rinard, Iowa. Ruth Martin is now in New York City. You N. Y. members are so elusive, she hasn't been able to find any of you or where you meet. Better look her up, she's a honey. Ruth attended the public hearing of the recent plane crash in Virginia and the tragedy had its moment of lightness by the vernacular and dialogue of the Virginia hillfolks, testifying as witnesses. One of them lived "a hoot and a holler" from the scene.

Omaha has several new prospective members for 99's ranging from the vocation of models to business executives. The emphasis placed on aviation by the local newspaper has done much to balloon flying activity here. We have been hosts to some charming 99'ers from California and understand they have reported their visit here under news of their Chapter.

- Sonnee Mae Joe.

NORTH CENTRAL SECTION. Michigan Chapter. The Michigan Chapter met in Kalamazoo, Mich. for its September meeting in honor of its new members, most of whom are Kalamazoo girls. We are so delighted to welcome Mary Rosso into our midst, and thrust the duties of hostess on her before the ink was dry on her application. Eloise Smith was responsible for a luscious breakfast and the table was centered by a stunning bouquet from her own garden. Eloise is an active member of the Garden Club as well as being a flier. The places were marked by little maps of Kalamazoo County on which Lindbergh Field and their new Seaplane base were marked in red.

Weather was bad in the morning but the Britton Fairchild got in from Ypsilanti with Mabel and Harry and Mabel's niece Letty Barbour. Alice and John Hammond also flew in a Luscombe and Marion Weyant brought a guest along in the Aeronca. Faye and Bob Kirk had to stick to the highway and so did Helen Montgomery. Jeannette Lempke had changed her mind about going to the meeting several times due to her hay fever. A cold snap had almost decided her to try it when she took an active part in an automobile accident. Her car will never be the same again but Jeannette will. She has a cracked rib all taped in place and doesn't appreciate anyone making her laugh, but otherwise is back in action. Michigan is boasting another new private in its ranks. Caroline Coffman passed both written and flight tests a few days ago and celebrated by jumping in the Cub with her father to help him fly to South Bend. We are busy making plans for Michigan Girl Fliers Day at Hartung Airport the last Sunday of the month. All Michigan girls can compete for the Joyce Hartung trophy and anyone can enter the contests for prizes. Gladys Hartung and the Detroit members are to entertain at a steak roast the night before, weather permitting. It is certainly nice to know that we are all practicing bomb dropping just for fun and not for destruction.

- Sara Winn.

SOUTH CENTRAL SECTION. A note from Hellon Gandy, former member from Oklahoma, tells that she has been in Honolulu working and flying a Cub. Welcome back, and please note she is now at Route 4, Temple, Texas. Jimmie Kolp reports that she has met Lucyle Richards, the rodeo rider girl pilot. Jimmie was awarded a pretty bronze ash tray with airplane model atop it, for being the first woman to land at the Ranger Air Show and Rodeo Celebration, and is planning to take in the Pampa Air Show too. The Louisiana Chapter has nothing to report this month, too much rain in the first place, and too much worry because the military is taking over the airport at New Orleans and it seems as if the CPT program is out of luck!