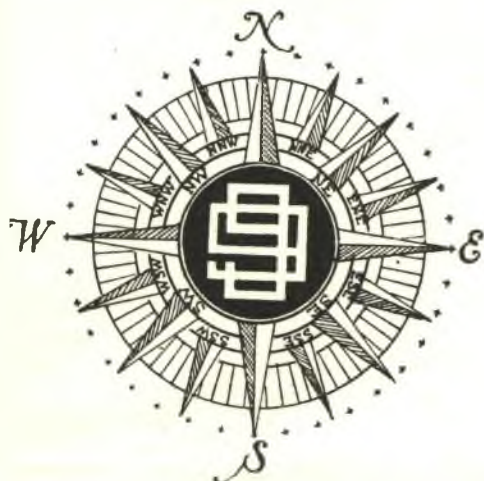


# NINETY NINE



## NEWS LETTER

April 15, 1943

NEWS LETTER EDITOR

Bettie Thompson, 724 North 63rd  
Street, Philadelphia, Penna.

Deadline - 5th of Each Month

## NINETY-NINES

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN PILOTS  
*Affiliated with the National Aeronautic Association*

1025 Connecticut Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C.



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1942 - 1943 OFFICERS

### SECTION

#### North Central:

Governor: Helen Wetherell, 226 E. Hancock St.,  
Apt. 305, Detroit, Mich.

Vice Gov.: B. Marie Page, 1240 Board of Trade  
Bldg., Kansas City, Mo.

### CHAPTER

#### Missouri Valley:

Chairman: Mrs. Agnes J. DeHaven, 3320 Jackson  
St., Sioux City, Iowa.

V. Chairman: Miss Madelyn Taylor, 905 Reed St.,  
Red Oak, Iowa.

Sec'y-Treas.: Mrs. Ivah C. Maxfield, 2212 West  
4th St., Sioux City, Iowa.

Reports on election of 1942-43 officers are  
still due from two Sections and several Chapters.  
Does this mean your group is not on record?

Headquarters need this information and will  
greatly appreciate any help you can give by sending  
in the names for your club.

It is with deep sorrow that we ad-  
vise you of the death of Ninety-Niner

Cornelia Fort

of Tennessee Chapter, while on active  
duty with the WAFS.

### AIRPORT FENCE

We hear Helen Richey, of Pittsburgh, Penna.,  
is back from England after serving with the ATA.  
How about a note to the NEWS LETTER, Helen, with  
some information on your stay there?

Babe Weyant, Michigan, is now in Memphis,  
Tennessee, as a Link Instructor.

WHEN YOU WANT INFORMATION ON WOMEN IN AVIATION, ASK A NINETY-NINE.



## SOUTHEASTERN SECTION

### TENNESSEE CHAPTER

By Kathryn Zachry, Chairman

Our hearts swell with a sense of pride at the mentioning of Cornelia Fort. A brave girl whom God, the Supreme Pilot, has seen fit to remove from our midst, but whose memory will linger on to inspire the Tennessee Ninety-Nines to do the courageous worth while things that she was doing in line of service when called to heights unknown. We have extended our deep felt sympathy to her loved ones.

We have lost another one of our members. Gladys Lacey is now Mrs. H. M. Jones of Arcadia, Florida, where her husband is an instructor.

Louise Carson is teaching Civil Air Regulations to the U. S. Army Corps students stationed on the Maryville College campus.

Jane Hilbert is working hard to get things running smoothly for the Air Cadets who are stationed at King College, Bristol. We are proud of her record so far and know she can do whatever it takes.

Cora McDonald has completed her Instructors Training Course, put on by the State of Tennessee for women, and has returned to her native state to work.

On account of war conditions, the Tennessee Chapter has not had its regular meetings but has started a Round Robin letter which will carry news of one member to another.

Shere Simpson, of Greenville, Tennessee, has her application in for membership in Ninety-Nines. Shere is nineteen and has about a hundred hours to her credit. She has a part ownership in an Aeronca.

### CAROLINAS CHAPTER

By Bird Eaton

Our reporter, Dot Scarborough, is unable to report this month, so I will do my best to substitute.

Winter really went like a lion. On March 21st, the first day of Spring, Jupiter Pluvius exercised his full power, with the aid of a 40-mile wind, to ground the members of our Chapter who had planned to fly to Orangeburg, S.C. Barbara Moore invited us down for a quarterly meeting at the Hawthorne School of Aeronautics. Six members, Lucille Brockenbrough, Betty Baker, and Bird Eaton from Charlotte; Betty Dunlap from Rock Hill; Maisie Mahaffey from Lancaster; and Kathleen O'Brien from Thorogood Plantation, drove down.

Chairman Bird Eaton presided at the business meeting. Letters were read from five members who could not be present, also a wire from Nell Behr, now in Florida. We enjoyed hearing from you, girls, as it is the next best to having you present.

Ruth Trees writes most interesting letters, even though they are restricted, about her training at Miss Cochran's "Brain Child", down in Houston. Thank you, Ruth, for the copy of The Fiferella Gazette. It is great. Keep "Them Gremlins" under control.

A new member, Louise Bailly, ground school instructor at the Hawthorne

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School, was proposed by Barbara, and accepted into our Chapter.

Information pamphlets and application blanks for U. S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve were distributed, which the Chairman secured on her recent trip to Washington.

The Chapter Standard Constitution was read for the benefit of the new members.

The business meeting was followed by a lovely dinner party, arranged by Barbara.

Beverly Howard, president of Hawthorne School of Aeronautics, spoke on the Cadet training there. When the Army Air Force decided to turn the primary phases of pilot training over to civilian operators, Beverly was given one of the first contracts. The Hawthorne School of Aeronautics has been an Army Air Force Contract School for over a year.

Bill Strohmeier, flight instructor, spoke on the uses of the small type plane, and related some of his experiences during the maneuvers in Tennessee and Texas. Bill has a lot of respect for the propeller as, according to him, one can tie the landing gear and wings on to the fuselage, if you have to, but the prop demands more respect.

The Chairman expressed appreciation in behalf of our Chapter for the invitation to meet in Orangeburg. She stated that out of 41 members, 19 are serving in some branch of the armed forces. She welcomed the 49½'ers present, as they are now invited to our dinner meetings.

We hope to have a defense program for all our meetings.

Louise Smith feels lost without her Stinson. She relinquished it to Uncle Sam.

Congratulations to Anne Cole, holder of a Commercial License, and now flight instructor at Danville, Virginia.



## MIDDLE EASTERN SECTION

### EASTERN PENN CHAPTER

By Bettie Thompson

Just heard from member Kittie Leaming who is in Texas on Women's Training Program. We understand Rita Davoly, also, is in Texas. How about a card, Rita?

Bettie Thompson is now on the "live gang" at Naval Aircraft Hangar 14, helping to run the last ground tests on twin-engined shops, before the actual test flight.

Helen Jones and sister Jesse, Jr., of Lancaster, Pa., both flight instructors, are hunting for jobs, as their airport has given up the training program. or changed hands, or "somepin". Send them an offer, you 99'ers.

Ruth Shafer was home for one day - her twenty-first birthday - this past month, and then back to CAP duty in New York.

We hear Catherine Slocum is helping out at CAP Headquarters in Philadelphia.

What's the news from you other members, including our new members? Send the Editor a card.

Note to our Sister Chapter, Western Penn: Yo, where are you and what have you been doing? We like to read your news, too.

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# SOUTH CENTRAL SECTION

## MISSOURI VALLEY CHAPTER

By Ivah C. Maxfield

It is almost impossible to keep track of our girls these days. Several of our 99'ers are in training in Houston and Sweetwater, Texas. I guess busy days keep them from reporting on their activities. Any information you girls in Texas can give us, please pass it along.

To my knowledge, Agnes DeHaven is perhaps the busiest person I know of in the Civil Air Patrol. She is a Second Lieutenant and the Squadron Supply Officer. She is also on active duty at the Courier Station at the Sioux City Air Base.

The best your reporter seems to be able to do is to get to Home Nursing classes once a week. Being a housewife keeps me busier than I had thought.

Irene Adamson is busy with the weather in Wyoming. She reports a very interesting schedule. Says she is busy taking hourly and six hourly observations and making the various maps and charts. With Irene's happy nature, in Wyoming the weather must be perfect all the time.

Those of you who knew Dorothy Berendsen will be interested in hearing something about her. She is now a Second Lieutenant in the Army Nursing Corps and is doing active duty on a foreign soil. Here are some entertaining excerpts from a letter I received from her a few days ago.

"I have been here a little over a year now. When I first came here I worked in the dental clinic. . . I was there about eleven months. For the past month I have been working in the wards and I must say it was quite a comedown. We don't do much more than pass pills and more pills. All sick patients are sent to the city hospitals. We have about 200 beds in the hospital... I am on one of the medical wards and we take the overflow from the surgery. . . . Two evenings a week I go to the University for Spanish classes. I get along fine in class but have no way of getting any practical experience. . . We have to wear uniforms all the time now. . . I am still interested in flying, had my license renewed since I came here. I am studying radio and code which I hope I can use later on. . . . Write when you can, letters do get rather scarce here."

## NORTH LOUISIANA CHAPTER

By Mildred C. Carney

The North Louisiana Chapter held its monthly meeting on March 25th in the down-town CAA office. Those attending were: Irene Beene, Chairman; Gail Wilbur, Margaret Chamberlain, Hazel Morton, and Mildred Carney.

Annie Claire Young has acquired a 49½'er. His name, John B. Adger.

Frances Hodges has also acquired a 49½'er. He is James E. Smitherman, Lt., U.S.A.A.F. They are now living in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

Shirley Brewer and her 49½'er, Ed, are now living in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. He is an Army Flight Instructor.

Gail Wilbur has recently returned home from Mississippi, where she has been employed on a Defense Housing Project.

Irene Beene let the "flu bug" get her down and hasn't been able to get much time in lately. We're sure she will "fly high" as soon as she has recovered.

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Iva Blanche Butler is now a Link Instructor at the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station.

Margaret Chamberlain made her first airline trip in January, to Fort Worth. Much to her sorrow she had to release her return seat for priority, however, one more day in Fort Worth was enjoyed by Margaret and her friends.

Hazel Morton has completed her commercial written and is working on a Flight Instructor Rating. She plans to give Flight Instruction in Alexandria, Louisiana. Hazel has been putting in lots of flying time lately — one cross-country to Atlanta, one to Fort Worth, and numerous trips to New Orleans.

Mildred Carney flew to Fort Worth in February, to secure information on the Women's Flying Training Program.

Due to the gasoline shortage and war activities, our Chapter has planned to discontinue their regular meetings but will keep in touch with each other and the News Letter.

Since WPB Limitation Order L-262 went into effect it has been impossible for our girls to all put in the flying time they otherwise would. We are all hoping for relief from this order real soon.

KEEP 'EM FLYING, GIRLS!



#### EASTERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER

By Ruth B. Craine

Perhaps the logical place for us to hold our next 99's meetings would be Houston or Sweetwater, Texas. Most of our members are now stationed there. The mails between the two places and here are kept very busy. However, we did have our March regular meeting.

Since our Chairman, Elsie Peters, was ill, the news reporter had to attempt to act as four persons in one — temporary chairman, temporary vice chairman, actual secretary, and temporary treasurer.

We have lost two vice chairmen to Texas now. Margaret Seip left March 22 for Sweetwater, but not the usual way, for she flew down on a commercial liner. Already we have heard that she is "enjoying it all".

Our Chairman did not allow Margaret to go unfeted, for Elsie entertained for Margaret at a dinner at the College Women's Club. All of us shared in the pleasure of Margaret's going-away evening.

The few of us who remain "grounded" at home have joined the CAP code class given simultaneously to three squadrons. The "dit dahs and dahs dits" quite intrigue us.

#### ALL-OHIO CHAPTER

By Kay Greshauge

News from the All-Ohio Chapter has been very scarce because of the difficulties encountered in holding meetings. However, Secretary Frances Morrison is mailing announcements of a meeting to be held on Saturday, April 10, at the home of Mrs. Florence Boswell, in Cleveland. Helen Curtiss, formerly an All-

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Ohio member, will be guest speaker. She now sports the title of Female Administrative Officer for the British Admiralty Technical Mission.

The Chapter has received interesting letters from Grace Birge and Annabelle Kekic from Houston, where they are room mates. They have recently been joined by Bernice Deutschman, who was married recently to Lt. James Ottney of the Army Air Forces. Welcome to the ranks of the 49 $\frac{1}{2}$ 'ers, Lieutenant Ottney!

Chapter members are earning new honors with Mrs. Florence Boswell receiving two. She was recently awarded a scholarship by the American Women's Voluntary Services to Amherst College to attend classes at the War Department Civilian Protective School. The other honor was an award of merit in organizing bond sales in the State of Ohio with a citation from Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau. Another honor goes to Marian Bush Reeder for her article, "CAP Patrols a Forest", in the March edition of Sportsman Pilot.

Random Notes:

Jean Gundelfinger devotes most of her time to the Stage Door Canteen.

Suzette Jones awaits her final citizenship papers in July so that she may apply for admittance into the WAFS.

Frances Morrison quarantined for 28 days while her three children recovered from various stages of measles.



## SOUTHWESTERN SECTION

### BAY CITIES CHAPTER

By Rita Hart

Where are our wandering members, and what are they doing? That is the \$64 question. Each month, as the deadline draws near, I drag out my minute fragments of news, and try to piece them into something resembling a news letter. "Helen, Frances, Ruth, Louise, and all the rest of you, stop sitting on your hands. Take a pen firmly in your fingers, and write home. Toss me any small scrap of news, and see how gratefully I grab it. If you haven't time to write, send me a crystal ball, so I can do the clairvoyant act."

Now back to the home front. Evelyn Esser was scheduled to go to Texas this month, but a mixup in orders made it impossible for her to report in time for the March class. She will enter in April, instead. A lucky break for the rest of us, because Evelyn plans to have a garden party before she leaves. 99'ers and 49 $\frac{1}{2}$ 'ers, toting baskets of rations, will join forces for an outdoor dinner. It will be fun, and rather intriguing, trying to plan a menu. I grow lima beans and walnuts. May be I can get a ham hock to go with some beans, and I'll bake a big loaf of nut bread. Anybody want to swap? This barter system is becoming popular.

Eleanor Verkuyll reports an accident to her 49 $\frac{1}{2}$ 'er Pete. He had his toes crushed, and after a week's hospitalization, is now hobbling around on crutches. It sounds painful. Pete is worrying about the time loss, with the shortage of men in his plant.

Lillian Anderson has a new victory bob. How about it, Lillian? When are we going to look you over, and put the stamp of approval on your ash blond curl?

Marjorie Fauth broke out in Kelly green on St. Patrick's Day. The suit was a gift from her sister, who makes all of Marj's clothes. This same sister is

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a physician, with offices in two cities, and she also has a home to maintain. The way these women get around!

Apropos of St. Patrick's Day. I couldn't find a card for my Irish husband, so made one. To it I attached a blarney stone, personally hand-picked at 2 A. M., full moon light, from the mill race of an old grist mill in Virginia. Perhaps Marjorie remembers the night riding marauders. Fun!

Now one last appeal. Please send me news. If you don't, so help me, I will write something about each one of you. And will you be surprised when you read all the things you are supposed to be doing!!! If Ah've gotta make news, Ah sho will make it interestin'.



## NEW ENGLAND SECTION

### NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

By Constance M. Sheridan

We're missing the deadline date, but couldn't resist waiting for the April meeting, for who do you suppose addressed us?

Gertrude Meserve of the WAFS, home on a short leave and generous enough to give over an evening to the Ninety-Nines!! Gertrude answered all questions and told all that was permitted about her work. She has never looked happier or in better health, and after listening to her it was easier than ever to understand the great enthusiasm the WAFS have for all the constructive tasks assigned them.

Ruth Hamilton got the notice of the impromptu meeting and drove all the way down from Concord, N. H., after a hard day's work. Gertrude and Ruth were discussing the CPT programs they had had a part in and estimated that they had each taught about 200 boys to fly. We think that a record!

Margery Taylor, Rose Crowley and Moya Mitchell have already been accepted as candidates for the Jacqueline Cochran program. Lydia Rotch and Marion Tibbetts are waiting to hear. Lyda Dunham is hard at work in Texas.

Ruth Ingalls Castendyk is teaching flying at Tynsboro Airport.

Miriam Vanderslice is busy at Wiggins' Norwood base but not too busy to start one of the most ambitious Victory Gardens around here.

Ruth Wyman thinks she'll be very much interested in that Link Trainer program at Chanute Field.

Our Governor, Marjorie Davis, was talking recently with persons interested in the rehabilitation of members of our armed forces who have been wounded and are now convalescing at various hospitals in this country. Marjorie decided that we could easily do something to please them and help them while away many tedious hours, and suggested that each Ninety-Niner collect as many packs of cards (used ones), puzzles, pencils, games, cigarettes, candy and gum as she could. They are turned over to the Visiting Committee. The response of the girls and their friends has been great, and we felt sure each chapter would be pleased to take up the idea. Just ask your own local Red Cross whom you should see about it, or write us and we'll be glad to find out for you.



WHEN YOU WANT INFORMATION ON WOMEN IN AVIATION, ASK A NINETY-NINE

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## METROPOLITAN TRI-STATE SECTION

From Kingston Airport

Seems to me that we New York-New Jersey Chapter members have been conspicuously absent from the NEWS LETTER recently. Just because our flying range lies for a great part within restricted flying territory doesn't mean that we haven't been flying about in the war cause, albeit on the ground.

I'm not the designated reporter for this area, but I would like to report from one still-designated toehold of operation in this particular territory. The flag (at least) is still flying over Kingston Airport. Flying has been intermittent, subject to weather conditions, but we have served as haven-port for a number of ships in need of put-down these past months. We also have served as open port for the CAP plane which makes constant flights ferrying parts between Electrol, Inc., in Kingston, and the Grumman factory at Bethpage, L.I.

Among the many 99'ers from this Section, busy with war activities, is Marjorie Ludwigsen, now Captain Ludwigsen. One of the first officers accepted by the WAAC, she was made a First Officer - a rank comparable to that of captain in the "men's army" - last December. As a battalion commander at the Second WAAC Training Center, her staff numbers 28 women officers and her troops 1,000. She hopes that eventually the WAAC will be able to utilize the women pilots who now are in the Corps.



### HANGAR FLYER

--o--

Jane: Margaret! I've been asked to quote aprice on a recover job for a Piper J-3L!

Margaret: Grand! What did you tell 'em?

Jane: That's the problem. They failed to state the kind of recover job. For one you use fabric and dope, and the other you pull 'em out of the ditch!

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Desk Pilot Dotty says: "Cotter pins keep the threads on a bolt from unraveling!"

--o--

