



GROUND HOG DAY

NEWS

99

LETTER



GEO. AND ABE

February

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

We hope everyone's now managed to settle down to the humdrum routine after Christmas festivities. We're extending a request to all members to please send in a few paragraphs of biographical information about themselves (lifting the idea from the New England reporter). We know of each other only from the flying angle, and it would be most interesting to know of other activities and interests, hobbies, when and where one learned to fly, husbands, et al. We'd like to send this request out to each of you separately, but time and funds won't permit that, so will you please consider this a personal one and start sending them in? We'd like to run several in each issue, and help us to know each other somewhat better.

- - D. C.

### NEWS FROM THE SECTIONS

NORTH CENTRAL SECTION - Michigan Chapter - On Saturday, January 7, the Michigan Chapter had a get-together in the form of a hay ride. This is the party which was to have been a sleigh ride with skating, tobogganing, etc. However, since Old Man Weather couldn't seem to garb himself appropriately, we compromised with a hay ride. To put it simply, the party was a huge success. The club house out at the Mt. Vernon country club, 25 miles north of Detroit, was entirely taken over by the 99's and their friends. After a nice long jaunt on a very crowded hay wagon, jolting along to the accompaniment of Faye Kirk's harmonica and the music of Leila Baker's guitar teacher, the girls and their guests really got the evening under way with a buffet supper and dancing. They danced until everyone had enough and the last ones straggled out (along 4 a. m. we are told). The next day we held our regular monthly meeting at City Airport in Detroit, with Helen Lehtio acting as hostess. It was necessary to set the table in the shape of an U because of the large attendance. In fact we thought that the 49½'ers were going to have to sit at the counter. This would have been a dire misfortune for we were served a delicious venison luncheon thanks to the generosity of Marion Weyant, who shot the buck, and thanks to the airport chef who cooked it so tastily.

Our luncheon guest and speaker was Mr. Harold Strickland, prominent ground school instructor in Detroit. After the luncheon was over we assembled in one of the newly constructed classrooms on the

second floor, where Mr. Strickland gave us a splendid informal talk on radio navigation and blind flying. We feel that he really "put it across" as we seem to be quite enlightened on the elementary principles, at least. He plans to be with us again for the next lecture or two, and needless to say we are anticipating these with a great deal of pleasure. These lectures are open to the public and each person attending is charged a fee of 25¢ to help defray the expense of bringing us this privilege.

Jeannette Lempke, of Saginaw, and Peg Horton, of Flint, were guests of Faye and Bob Kirk over the week end. Ruth Kitchell Wakeman took her leave of us at this time as she is returning to her native haunts soon, and will be way out where the sun shines when our next meeting rolls around. We certainly enjoyed making her acquaintance and hate to lose her. We extend to Mary Von Mach's mother our sympathy for a fractured leg. We hope it mends real soon. Mary will be our hostess for the February meeting. "Butch", young son of Alice Hammond, is alleged to have presented us with a rubber stamp to be used by the librarian on books. At least we have one in our possession. Good going, "Butch"!

- - Helen Montgomery

NORTH CENTRAL SECTION - All Ohio Chapter - Congratulations go to Marion Pease, our newly appointed membership chairman, who presented us at the December 12 meeting with a new member, Mrs. Helen Laughlin of Burton, Ohio. Mrs. Laughlin holds a private rating. Also congratulations to Mary Winstanley for bucking the winds in order to get in in time for license renewal: she had to drive over 100 miles each week end to reach her home port. And last but not least to Helen Curtiss who made her first presiding meeting such a tremendous success. We were pleased to have at the meeting our Akron member, Marion Coddington, and her flying guest, Suzanne Mostenick, who is logging hours toward her license. The flight chart records a trip taken by Florence Boswell to Minnesota where she had a lovely visit with the girls of the new chapter. Next is listed Mary King's flight to the King's orange grove in Florida. Then Florence and Helen Curtiss on December 11 attended a Michigan chapter meeting at Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan. Arlene Davis made a flight down to Jacksonville, Florida, the passenger being her sister who has been visiting in Cleveland. Then little Mary Winstanley made a x-c trip to Columbus and back, getting some night flying experience in on the return. Florence Boswell, Helen Curtiss and Grace Birge drove to Akron to be guests of a new aero organization being formed there, of which Marion Coddington is president.

Our 1939 calendar has lectures scheduled for January 23, Meteorology, speaker from the U. S. Weather Bureau; February, Aero insurance for pilot, operator and passenger; March, Airway traffic control. And in closing--handshakes to Marjorie Jan Stables of South Bend, Indiana, who instead of convalescing spent her moments since returning home from the National Air Races in stirring enthusiasm among the flyers in her area to form a new chapter. We hope everything is turning out, Margie!

- - Ann Barille

MISSOURI VALLEY CHAPTER - A hit and run luncheon at the Medical Arts tea room on December 23 was occasioned by the return of Irene Adamson from Wyoming. Having just an hour, we had to hit the peak of conversation in a hurry and then rush back to various jobs. A chocolate Santa and tiny desk calendar set for January 14, the date of our next meeting, were found at our places. The hour flew past all too soon. We missed our new junior member, Adele Jeppesen, who was in the hospital at the time. Two new members have recently added their names to our chapter. One, Gwendolyn Hess of Lincoln, Nebraska, came to our last regular meeting, a luncheon, at the Hotel Fontenelle, on January 14; the other, Mrs. Freda Eno of Fort Dodge, Iowa, planned to be there but could not come because of icy road conditions. We are hoping to have them both with us next time.

- - Beatrice Mack

SOUTH CENTRAL SECTION - When reading about all the goings-on of the 99 chapters over the country, the girls in this section of the wide open spaces heave a sigh of envy and wish we could get together more often. Your reporter spent the two weeks since New Years in Houston, Texas, but some interesting though brief facts have filtered in. We hear that Fanny Leonpacher, who is secretary-treasurer of the active N. A. chapter at Lafayette, Louisiana, attended the convention of that association in St. Louis in January; that Edna Gardner of New Orleans won the K. K. Culver trophy race for women flying a Monocoupe; and that Jimmie Kolp of Electra, Texas, also flew to the Miami Races. We happened to talk long distance to Abbie Haddaway at Fort Worth and found her busily engaged with "Southern Flight" while husband-editor George was at the Races. When we arrived in Houston, a city of 400,000, we were surprised to find that there was just one woman pilot eligible for 99 membership. This young woman, Mrs. Helen Thevenot, holds a private rating and is assistant to the C. A. A. Medical examiner there. We are happy to report her as a prospective new member in a locality of such amazing progress that we hope in the future there will be many 99's as an indication of increased flying interest among women. Gladys Howe of Denver is back in the air after a long illness; Harriet Davidson of Albuquerque has been doing a lot of flying; Alma Martin, with members of the Shreveport W. N. A. A., extended southern hospitality at an air meet there on December 17; Jennie Tschoep, who recently acquired her LC rating, is flying almost every day taking advance training and teaching a class in radio code at the Sparton School of Aero at Tulsa. Sally Duncan of Coffeyville recently made a trip to Tulsa, the occasion of her first solitary x-c in her Aerona. She reports an unusual amount of feminine interest in flying in this comparatively small city of Coffeyville, Kansas. Her husband now has seven women and girl students who are so seriously working that they are without doubt prospective 99 members. They have organized a group to study meteorology and other aeronautical subjects, meeting for three classes and one social event each month.

-- Frances Brown

MIDDLE EASTERN SECTION - The Governor has appointed the following representatives from each chapter to make up the Section membership and Section nominating committees: Frances Allen, Helen Frigo and Beatrice Hyman.

Western Pennsylvania Chapter - Motor troubles, compass troubles, and that old bogey "earning one's daily bread" prevented several of the girls from flying to Florida as they had planned. However, Helen Walker of Warren, Pennsylvania, got off in her Cub and temporarily at least has the lead on winning the Trophy. Our Chapter will present this Trophy to the member who lands at the most airports between January 1st and April 30th. We simply couldn't let her take it "from under our noses" like that, so the first Sunday in 1939, the other gals began collecting airport managers' signatures. Among the things your reporter collected was a very flat tire, which became evident when landing at Connellsville Airport. It could have neatly eliminated me from the competition, but no damage done fortunately. Ann McKee, Vice-Chairman of the Baltimore-Washington-Richmond Chapter, dropped in at Marge McCormick's apartment for a surprise visit the week after Christmas. Ann was ferrying a Welsh lightplane from South Bend, Indiana, to Richmond, Virginia. The weather was anything but in her favor, nevertheless she got through to Pittsburgh. Ellen Smith of Meadville is gaining strength splendidly and she is hoping to attend our next meeting.

At a recent election of officers in the Pilots' Club at Pittsburgh-Butler Airport, Leona O'Shea became Vice-President of the group. Congratulations, Alee. Teresa James, one of our newest members, is patiently awaiting the "call" from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania's State Capital, to take a course in blind flying instruction. Pennsylvania is doing its bit toward the promotion of aviation by furnishing without charge, to those who qualify, a complete course in blind flying including time in the Link Trainer. Teresa will be the first girl from this section to take the course.

The 99's were well represented at the Pittsburgh Aero Club's Annual Ball on New Year's Eve. . . Louise Thaden and Marge McCormick looking very lovely at their orchestra table. . . Teresa doing the Shag. . . everybody having a grand time.

The courtesies being extended our infant chapter by the several aero organizations in this district are very gratifying, and we especially appreciate the Pittsburgh Aero Club's offer of the use of their suite at a downtown hotel for meetings and other activities. Snowdrifts on the airports are curtailing our flying somewhat at present, so we are looking forward to the next get-together which will be our meeting in Pittsburgh the latter part of February. Gus Haller, noted Glider Pilot, will be guest speaker.

- - Frances L. Allen

Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter - The first meeting of the new year for the chapter was held at Central Airport in Camden, New Jersey, on January 15. Those present were Elizabeth Phillips, Lee Hazen, Dorothy Carpenter, Mary Tillotson, Mary Hoch and Helen Jones. Our

brand new member, Mary Hoch, flew up from Bridgeville, Delaware, in her Aeronca K. We extend to her a hearty welcome and hope we may see her smiling face at all our gatherings. Dot Carpenter told of flying and taking pictures from a Stinson at Haiti on her recent West Indies cruise. Helen Jones had just returned from flying a Taylorcraft to the Miami Races and back. She obtained a bit of a sun tan, a collection of new aviation news (Ed. and the honor of being the youngest pilot to fly to them.) Lee Hazen was elected chapter secretary-treasurer and Helen Jones the new chapter reporter at the meeting. Chances on the RCA Victor radio which had been sold by the girls were put in a hat and the lucky number drawn. The idea worked out very nicely as the treasury is now \$32.50 richer. A discussion on the starting of a circulating aviation library was received with much enthusiasm. Lee Hazen took the job as librarian and is going to look around for some suitable books. Our guest speaker for the day was Malcolm L. Hathaway, operator at the Easton, Maryland airport, who told us of some of the interesting experiences in his career as an instructor.

Elizabeth Phillips is visiting her parents in Cincinnati, Ohio, and will fly back the new Aeronca Chief which is being raffled off next month in Baltimore. That's all for now.

- - Helen E. Jones

METROPOLITAN TRI-STATE SECTION - At our last dinner meeting right after the New Year we had as our guest speaker, Mr. Chambliss, Naval Reserve pilot and representative of 20th Century-Fox. Mr. Chambliss initiated us into the mysteries of making pictures in Hollywood, with special details on the picture "Tailspin", a movie about women pilots. This in itself may seem routine news except for the fact that four of the Metropolitan Tri-State 99's have been selected for what should be a thrilling experience! Margo Tanner, Ruth Nichols, Teddy Kenyon and Betty Gillies left by T. W. A. January 17, at 12:01 a. m. for Hollywood to be present at the Premiere of "Tailspin"! While in Hollywood they will appear on an Al Jolson radio program (sorry I don't know that date) and upon returning here on February 9th for the New York preview and dinner at the Waldorf Astoria they will be on Kate Smith's program. On the return trip from Hollywood, Teddy and Betty are to take the Northern route and Margo and Ruth are to take the Southern route, United and American, respectively. At various stops on the return local movie representatives will receive their copy of the "Tailspin" film from the gals. If any 99's see in their local papers that the schedule calls for a stop in their town, the Metropolitan Tri State 99's will be glad to meet them at your airport. "For further details, see your daily newspaper", and all that sort of thing y'know. It is understood by the picture company that the 99 Organization is not sponsoring the film be it good or bad or indifferent. It is a mere coincidence that the four girls selected for the above jaunt are 99's.

While the above gals are off having their fun and frolics, we poor little Cinderellas at home are going to console ourselves with a skating party at the Gay Blades Rink, 52nd and Broadway, New York

City. Of course, any 99's visiting in the city on the night of January 26th are most welcome. Time 6:30 p. m. Dinner and things, besides skating, right at the Rink. Bring friends if you like--this is open house. Forgot to mention that at Twentieth-Century Fox's dinner and preview at the Waldorf Astoria on the night of February 9th--re "Tailspin"--the guests will include most of this town's flyers. Will give you details in the next news. Cheerio!

NEW ENGLAND SECTION - The December meeting was held on the 18th at the East Boston airport, with the joke Christmas tree and raffling off of the radio the amusement of the afternoon, accompanied by a large tea, of course. This was purely a social meeting and no business was conducted. A large number of New England girls went to the Miami air races. Those who flew down were Daisy Kirkpatrick, Hortense Harris, Ruth Stilson, Nancy Love and Getrude Meserve. Dorothy Garside, Lillian Holmes, Jean Adams and Louise Howard drove down. Dolly Bernson has been in Florida all winter. Jean Adams and Dolly planned to race at the meet, but to the disappointment of themselves and their ardent supporters, changed plans at the last minute and did not. Everyone enjoyed meeting so many 99's from other parts of the country and only regret that there was not more opportunity to become better acquainted. Chances of knowing other 99's are so few, why not send in one or more personality sketches each month to the News Letter so we'll know the club members can do something more than take an airplane up and put it down. The 99's seem to be an amazingly modest group of women individually and collectively, but the New England reporter this month has garnered a few facts about Louise Sisson. Louise lives in Edgewood, Rhode Island, flies from Providence, has two children, one husband, and the fascinating hobby of making hand wrought silver objects--candlesticks, dishes and jewelry. She wears a 99 identification bracelet she made herself, and she has made 99 charms for several of the club members. Above everything else she's the most faithful attendant of meetings in our chapter. Jean Adams is planning to spend the winter in Florida and do some seaplane flying. While she's away Hortense Harris, vice governor, will preside at the meetings. The reporter signs off with a note to Alma Harwood--"Don't forget the red blinds!"

- - Louise Sisson

SOUTHEAST SECTION - The Southeast section looks forward to a happy year ahead and here's one resolution made good--We're going to let you know each month what we are doing in the South! A pre-holiday meeting was held in Charlotte, North Carolina, on December 10, and despite cold and rainy weather that prevailed throughout the Southeast, we had a grand party at the new pilots' clubhouse at the Charlotte airport. A number of out-of-town guests were present and a buffet luncheon was served. The favors were handkerchiefs, made and presented by Jessie Woods who had made them out of the parachute that saved her life when she accidentally tumbled off the wing of her airplane in a "death ride" stunt several years ago. In the corner

of each was embroidered the 99 emblem. Jimmie Nall, C. A. A. inspector who has assisted most of the members of this section in obtaining certificates, gave an excellent lecture on radio and the important phases of navigating by beam. New members present at the meeting were Peggy Haggopain and Ann Johnson from Augusta, Georgia, and Nell McKee from Salisbury, North Carolina. Nell Behr flew in from Anderson, South Carolina, Jessie Woods flew over from Camden, South Carolina, and Carroll Boone and Clayton Patterson were present from Charlotte, North Carolina. Those eligible for membership present were Marie Hutchins, Gertrude Johnson, Edith Efird, Diddy Nelson and Nella D. Cannon. During the meeting the announcement came from the Mercy Hospital in Charlotte of the arrival of a wee 99 and a sturdy 49½ to one of Charlotte's popular flying couples--Ed and Lucille Brockenbrough. The section voted to present the twins with silver cups and a bouquet carrying the club's emblem was sent to Lucille. We are happy to welcome Lucille Greenwood of Asheville, North Carolina, as a new member and are sorry she was not able to be with us at our December meeting. Three of our members, Mable Clemson, Jessie Woods and Charlotte Frye attended the Miami air races last month.

- - Clayton Patterson

SOUTHWEST SECTION - Los Angeles Chapter - Bessie Owen gets the spotlight this month, winning third place in her Beechcraft in the Women's Closed Course Race at Miami, Florida, on January 9th. From there she is starting towards airports located in Yucatan, Venezuela, Guiana, along the course of the Amazon to Lima, and other points. She plans a 600-mile over-water flight, having installed temporary gas tanks in the back seat of her plane. Sounds like a grand new adventure, and we're all anxious to see the pictures Bessie will bring back, and hear all about it.

Melba Beard was guest of honor at a baby shower given at the home of Gladys O'Donnell. Melba thought it was a Christmas party, and it was a real surprise to her. Fourteen members attended, and the nicest thing was not a single duplication, without prior arrangement. Husband William came in just when Melba was in the midst of opening pink and blue ribboned packages--he stopped with his hand on the door knob, looked around rather panicky when seeing the feathered stork on the little table where Melba presided, and if ever a poor male felt like escaping, he did. Gladys came to the rescue and took him out to husband Lloyd's "Dark Room" where the blushes finally subsided. Today (Sunday) Melba had a tea in her prize-winning home and a grand time was had by all. A treat was the broadcasting and receiving from Melba's short wave amateur radio set, where each girl spoke to an interesting male voice. Several 49.5'ers were present (husbands); namely, Herbert Burns of the Gayle and Herbert combine; Patricia's nice husband, Mr. Peod (haven't learned his first name yet), and Nelda Anderson Hulburd brought her new hubby--and girls is he gorgeous! Tall, dark and so handsome! William Beard, Melba's hubby, looked quite happy with such able masculine support.

Rachel Donnell, our charming nurse who makes people well at the

Olive View Sanitarium, has resumed flying now that after-Christmas patients are back to normal behavior. . . Wilma Fritschy, our clever artist, won the plaudits of the girls with her cleverly designed Baby Card--a nine-page leaflet of a cute baby, going through various stages of "conduct". . . Dorothy George has a new hobby--landing Instrument Flying planes without landing gears. She swears she couldn't find it after she was on the ground!. . . Blanche Noyes made us a surprise visit today. We're so glad she was with us, and that the bandaged foot requires only one cane to get around with. It was still a good landing, because she walked away from it, much to the disappointment of the ambulance crew at Phoenix. An impatient pilot cut in front of her while landing. It was only by her skillful quick thinking that neither pilot was more severely hurt. Hasta la vista!

- - Hilda Jarmuth

SOUTHWESTERN SECTION - Bay Cities Chapter - The Bay Cities Chapter held its first meeting for 1939 in the clubroom at the Hotel Leamington, Oakland, California, on January 10th, and we were all very happy to make the acquaintance of a brand new member, Irma (Mrs. William) Wallace, formerly of Portland, Oregon, but now of Oakland. Welcome to the 99's, Irma, and may you receive lots of pleasure from the association. Irma received her private license at Swan Island Airport, most of her flying experience being in Fleets. She was brought to the meeting by Olive Bledsoe. Olive has been keeping her Fleet busy lately working towards her private license which she hopes to receive within the next sixty days. In the meantime, a little cross-country seems in order and Olive is planning to fly the Fleet on the cruise to Red Bluff with the Duck Air Services contingent on February 25-26.

Harriet Isaacson reports a trip to Pt. Reyes in the Stearman on Sunday, January 15th, and a flight to the beach at Rio Del Mar on the 8th. Other than that her flying activities have been much curtailed over the holiday season by the pressure of personal attention required by her shopping service. Dolores Guinther on Wednesday, January 11, took her Fairchild 24 and 17-year-old son, Beauford, and flew to Sacramento to visit her mother. Son Beauford has some 17 hours' solo in Dolores' Cub and will be ready for his Private one of these days soon. Sunday morning, the 15th, saw another member of the Bay Cities Chapter on the wing when Marjorie Hook flew a Fairchild on a four-ship cruise to San Jose for lunch and back by way of Moffatt Field, San Francisco Airport and the Golden Gate. The ships flew formation part of the way but as the weather got thicker finally lost one another in the fog on the way down. However, the last ship landed at the San Jose Airport within three minutes of the first one, and after lunch the sun was shining so that the ships were able to climb up through the scattered clouds and fly formation on top of them for the benefit of an amateur movie enthusiast in the end plane.

The next winging party of the Bay Cities Chapter is scheduled for February 22, when a flight of some six or seven ships (we hope!) will converge from all directions to meet at Stockton for breakfast (or brunch), and where we hope to meet a number of the flying girls of that vicinity who are not as yet members of Ninety-Nine. The Membership Committee, thanks to Ruth Ruecker's diligent efforts, is going into action early this year and we anticipate some new names on our roster of members very soon.

- - Marjorie E. Hook