

N E W S   L E T T E R

of the

N I N E T Y - N I N E S

International Organization of Women Pilots

---

October  
Editor, Jimmie Kolp

99

1939  
Box 591, Electra, Texas

---

We are sorry to report the resignation of Jimmie Kolp as editor of the News Letter, effective with this issue. She has done a splendid job and we are indeed grateful to her for all she has accomplished.

The new editor is Mrs. Fanny Leonpacher, Box 432, Lafayette, Louisiana. Reporters should send their material to her by the usual 20th of the month, starting with the next issue.

- - B. G.

The 99 banquet held Saturday night, September 2, at the Hotel Cleveland, was a big success. Gil Robb Wilson was Master of Ceremonies. The speakers were Mr. Greve, President of the Air Races; Haven Page, Counsel for the Private Fliers Association; Grove Webster, Chief of the Private Flying Division of the C. A. A., and Miss Ya Ching Lee, Chinese girl pilot. Daisy Kirkpatrick read one of her delightful poems.

LITTLE NINETY-NINE

Here's to the girl with shining wings.  
Who loves the sky, the clouds, and sings  
While piloting her plane about  
She's just a bit ethereal no doubt.  
That's fine.  
Little Ninety-Nine.

I think it must be very true  
That some brave ancestor to you  
Sailed in the Mayflower to this land  
So that she too might lend a hand.  
Your line.  
Little Ninety-Nine.

Perhaps great-grandmamma drove West  
In covered wagon with those loved best  
To build a country strong and new  
And found a home for me and you.  
Your kind.  
Little Ninety-Nine.

So happy lady of the sky,  
Little sister to all who fly.  
You've helped build Aviation's fame  
By gayly piloting your plane.  
A pioneer, too,  
Here's to you.

Thanks to the committee, headed by Mrs. Mary King, which made all the arrangements for the meeting, banquet, headquarters, transportation, etc. And thanks also goes to Mrs. Arlene Davis, who entertained all the Ninety-Nines and their friends at a lovely buffet supper at her home on Sunday night.

Ninety-Niners will be pleased to know that something definite has been done about a memorial to Amelia Earhart, at least for next year, but this was not the only accomplishment of the Annual Meeting held Sunday, September 3, at the Hotel Cleveland. Present were twenty-five delegates, plus an equal number of members. During last year's meeting a committee was appointed to sift and weigh the various suggestions as to an Amelia Earhart Memorial, and Ruth Nichols reported the findings of the Committee as follows:

A majority of the committee favored the establishment of a Blind Flying Scholarship Fund for a deserving Ninety-Niner which would be known as the Amelia Earhart Scholarship. Other suggested plans included the hanging of a portrait of Amelia in a room at the new airport being constructed at Washington, D. C.; an Amelia Earhart Memorial Race, and joining forces with the Amelia Earhart Foundation. The membership voted to try the Blind Flying Memorial Scholarship for one year. This would require raising \$4,000, the interest from this sum being used for the scholarship--approximately \$240. per year. If we were not successful in raising half this fund, it would be turned over to the Amelia Earhart Foundation in California.

Louise Thaden was appointed chairman of a committee to work on plans for sponsoring an Amelia Earhart Memorial Race. She was confident that this would cost us nothing. Election of officers and nominating committee could not take place as the ballots were illegally opened before the meeting. The committee was instructed to draw up new ones immediately, and it was felt that not less than three weeks after the meeting would elapse before the election was completed. The National Secretary, Elizabeth M. Phillips, read the minutes of last year's meeting and was complimented for taking over as efficiently as she had under very unfavorable conditions. In the absence of Barbara Southgate, National Treasurer, Margaret Ludwigsen read the Treasurer's report. It contained a recommendation that all Secretary and Treasurer's reports be kept on a business-like basis. A great deal of confusion seems to exist from poorly kept records, and it was felt, it was stated, that a uniform system should be established and efficiently maintained. Margaret Ludwigsen was appointed to draw up the suggested system. In this connection it was also requested that whenever a letter on 99 Club business is written, the writer put the date, her name, as well as her title, and if there is any personal matter to be put in the letter, that it be attached on a separate sheet, clipped to the business letter. The report of Daisy Kirkpatrick, former National President, was read and discussed. The National President, Betty Gillies, certainly gave everyone a chance for expression, and it was felt that this would help our organization. Nevertheless, some of the members preferred strict parliamentary procedure, so it was suggested that at the next meeting a parliamentarian be secured who will permit us to

conduct the meeting along more formal lines. Two new amendments were: Inactive members must have two hundred hours in order to stay in the Club. Life membership will be given ex-presidents.

- - Fanny Leonpacher

ALL-OHIO CHAPTER - The curtain falls, and the Air Show has ended! As in a dream, we have hurriedly said "Hello" and regretfully uttered "Good-by." We'll log the happy time spent with you all and truly hope that your stay here was very pleasant so you will come again next year. Among our Air Race memoirs, we place first our own Arlene Davis, who braved the cross-country winds to place in the Bendix Race. Congratulations, Arlene, we are proud of you! And many thanks for the lovely buffet dinner given for the Ninety-Nines at your home, Sunday night. Colorful was the Ninety-Nine banquet Saturday evening, where everyone looked so exquisite--later the fun had at the Aviation Ball. Ah! why do the Air Races come but once a year??? Maybe in time we'll recuperate from the rain, Labor Day, or the hang-overs, or the nights we didn't sleep! Anyhow, it was all loads and loads of fun! Eulogies to Mrs. Laughlin, who deserted her family and a birthday celebration in order to attend our meeting of September 11th. However, Mary King and Marion Pease saw to it that we had a birthday party of our own. After dinner they had Mrs. Laughlin presented with a lovely cake, bearing three flickering candles. Many happy returns, Mrs. Laughlin, and we hope you didn't miss too much of your party at home. At the same meeting we were honored by the presence of Ya Ching Lee, the very adorable Chinese flyer, who completely won our hearts with her gratitude speech. Another distinguished guest was petite Hortense Harris, who makes us envy the luck of the Bostonians who boast her membership. Florence Boswell sent us a preview display of the Clara Livingstone Porto Rican linens to be sold at the "Flying Gift Shop", which in this case will be in Mrs. Boswell's home, on September 27. We certainly hope it will turn out successful in due compensation to Clara Livingstone for bringing the Shop to Cleveland, and to Florence, who so willingly opened her home to conduct this sale. The linens are superb, and the airplane designs would delight anyone's heart!

Fall, and school chimes beckon to two of our fledglings--Marion Jackson, who returns to Stanford University entering her senior year, and Grace Birge, who is sympathizing with her students, begrudging the return of school days. Helen Curtiss, our chairman, has the grandest way for recuperating from strenuous ordeals (such as the Air Races). She up and takes a flying trip--this time to scan the skies over Michigan. Mary Winstanley, who was "Station Wagon Mistress" during the Races, has moved closer to town. She makes her home now in Maple Heights, Ohio. And before "Switch Off", we sincerely hope that everything turned out to meet expectations for our new Indiana Chapter, who had their first meeting Sunday, September 17. You, Jane Templeton, and you, Marjorie Jan Stables, sure must be elated and proud mammas of this new wing of the 99's. And to Florence Boswell fall honors for organizing two new Chapters in the Section since she was elected governor. In concluding, we offer heartiest congratulations to our Ninety-Nine officers. May you have clear weather and bright horizons for your sojourns.

P. S. With a heavy heart, your reporter says "Switch-Off" for the last time.

- - Ann Barille

SOUTH CENTRAL SECTION - Jimmie Kolp left the airways for the highways in July and August and took a long motor trip with her husband to Denver, Salt Lake City, and the West Coast, looking up 99's all along the way. She talked with Hilda Jarmuth at Los Angeles, and visited with our vice-governor, Harriet Davidson, at Albuquerque. And whom did she meet in Frisco but governor, Una Goodwin. They had a grand time sight-seeing. Una's vacation included Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Antonio. In Seattle she visited Laura May Brunton, in whom she found a charming friend. She regretted not being able to get in touch with Cora Sterling whom she had been looking forward to seeing while there. In Long Beach she saw Malcolm Clark. We hear from Sally Duncan that flying activity is steadily increasing at her home port of Coffeyville, Kansas, due to her husband's popular flying school. His feminine student contingent numbers six, with three others coming up, and it looks as though the 99's flying Duncan sisters, Sally and Opal, will soon be in the midst of a 99 membership campaign. Opal is still concentrating on acrobatic flying and does her snap rolls and loops to perfection. Looping is Sally's favorite maneuver. The Coffeyville group have been having fun this summer flying X-C to breakfasts. One flight of 25 went to a wing-ding breakfast at Tulsa, where the Thunder Birds Club of Ponca City also were guests. Undoubtedly there is rushing business at many enterprising flying schools. Together with the report from the Duncan school in Kansas, we hear from Instructor Edna Gardner Kidd way down in New Orleans. Edna says that work at Southern Air Service and School has been increasing at such a rapid pace that she can scarcely find time to eat. 99's will be glad to hear of this fine success which Edna is having in her school. Hellon Gandy, now with the Clinic-Hospital of San Angelo, is happy in her work there, and inasmuch as she is on 24-hour call, had had little time to get homesick for Oklahoma. She writes that a flying club is being organized at the local airport, but that so far she is the only flying "fem" in that section. The other member of our section in the medical profession--Helen Thevenot of Houston--is also on full schedule. Helen is enrolled in a pre-medic course at the University of Houston, going to school evenings, and at the same time continuing her work each day as assistant to the local C. A. A. Medical Examiner. Helen received a thrill when the C. A. A. selected the University of Houston as one of the schools in its pilot training program. She is continuing her flying with the Houston Flying Club, which has a late model Aeronca.

Jennie Tschoep has now been with the Aircraft Steel and Supply Company of Wichita for several months, and is very enthusiastic about her job of not only flying the company's Stinson, but also selling aircraft supplies. Her territory covers Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and portions of Nebraska and Missouri. She seeks business at every airport on which she can land in those five states, and is usually "on the road" three or four days each week. In one two-weeks period she logged twenty-five hours. She greatly enjoys being a 99 and looks up members at every opportunity. Recently, when at San Antonio, she met Posie Medlicott; at Dallas she became acquainted with Jeanne LaRene Foote. At the July section meeting at Tulsa, she met several other members whom she had not previously known. Users of the various materials which her company offers find it a novel and pleasant

experience to be called upon by an attractive young woman salesman who flies herself about, and she finds they are glad to do business with her. Naturally, she receives a lot of unsought publicity in the newspapers, which she doesn't mind as long as it helps her in her sales work. As Jennie puts it--she sees a lot of country, meets a lot of nice people; there's nothing like it and she wouldn't trade flying for anything in this world. So let's wish success to this enterprising girl, happy landings at all the airports she contacts, and wind socks full of orders to boot.

From Tulsa we hear that Dorothy McBirney is going on a September vacation to the West Coast and while there will keep an ear open for any reverberations from the trails of Una and Jimmie. Dorothy Morgan is the winner of a Tulsa weather endurance marathon. During August there were as many as twelve successive days with a temperature of 100° and over. Daughter Sharon had a one-year birthday on August 29th, and has come through the summer in such fine fashion that the doctor was moved to compliment Dorothy on the fine care she had given her. Dorothy had a two-day trip with her husband, flying up into Indiana and Illinois. Gayle Horrall is still in the ranch country and is headquartering at the Parco Hotel, Parco, Wyoming, which is near her husband's pipeline contract job. Every time they get a day or two respite, they fly up to the Piney Ranch at Story for riding and fishing.

Fanny Leonpacher, along with her wife and mother duties, has gotten herself into business. She has the agency for several airlines, routing her passengers out of New Orleans, Monroe, Louisiana, or Houston, inasmuch as no airline stops at her home town of Lafayette, Louisiana. She says it's fun, sometimes profitable, and keeps her conversant with airlines and routes. We know the South Central Section wants to know which of its members were able to get to the Cleveland annual meeting. We were ably represented by Jimmie Kolp and Fanny Leonpacher. Paging Posie Medlicott: A fellow pilot has told your reporter that you are entering the Air Corps via matrimony. If this is official, congratulations to the Air Corps and happiness to the bride. Won't you confirm? This section welcomes Zoe Audrey Stephens, who we understand has recently moved from the Southeastern Section to Dallas, Texas. We're looking forward to knowing you, Audrey, and would like your address for the News Letter so that our section can look you up. (This address is 4401 Cedar Springs, Apt. 8, Dallas.)

- - Frances H. Brown

MICHIGAN CHAPTER - Due to the fact that there was no September meeting of the local chapter, there is but very little news we fear. Those girls contacted by yo reporter in search of news mostly had been no where and seen no one (they said). We have not seen those who attended the Air Races and the National Meeting, but we trust that they all had a wonderful time and a pleasant trip. Jeannette Lempke and Mabel Britton flew their ships to Cleveland. Leora Stroup was there in the uniform of the Aerial Nurse Corps on active duty in the field hospital. Marion Jane Weyant, our Lansing member, also attended, although she left her Aeronca at home, we understand. Alice Hammond, accompanied by her husband, John, was the official delegate from this Chapter. One of our most faithful 49½'ers, Dr. Harry Britton, is confined to Harper Hospital, Detroit, where he has just

undergone an operation. May we take this means of wishing you a speedy recovery? Alice and John Hammond are about to wind up their seaplane flying for this summer. The Cub will soon be a land bird again. The advent of the arrival of Mary Helen Montgomery, young daughter of Helon and Larry Montgomery, has caused them to provide a trailer for her exclusive use. They keep it in the hangar at Triangle Gliderport, where they fly each week-end. The baby accompanies them on their weekly jaunts to the airport and seems to thrive in her trailer home. Recently they participated in the American Open Soaring Meet at Frankfort, Michigan, and Baby Mary Helen seemed to enjoy her nomad existence. Papa Larry became the new soaring champion by virtue of his flight to North Port on a cold front. We'll see you all at Hartung Airport in Detroit on September 24 for Michigan Girl Flyers' Day, when all the Michigan ladies try their luck at bomb dropping, paper strafing, spot landing, etc., for the Joyco Hartung Trophy. So far it has three names engraved on its shining surface--those of Dorothy Carpenter, Doris Lowry and Jeannette Lempke.

- - Helen Montgomery

NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER - We feel we really have something to brag about this time. A meeting was held at the home of Helen Walker, Warren, Pennsylvania, on September 17 and EVERYONE flew in. From Pittsburgh came Leona O'Shea in an Aeronca, late as usual but very welcome. Frances Allen and Helen Ritchie came from Latrobe in Frances' Aeronca with two drops of gas left and their fingers crossed. A convoy of four Cubs flew in from Meadville with Ruth Barclay, Betty DeVore, Virginia Rushlander and Ellen Smith at the controls. One of the Meadville Cubs returned home leaving Ruth Barclay and Ellen Smith to fly back together. At this time their ship is still on a hill top about twenty miles from Warren, all in one piece but with a very weary motor. Not having heard we trust no one else had to depend on a farmer's Ford for transportation from the wilds. Personally, our reaction was, "Thank Heavens for the Ford!"

An election of officers was held with Helen Walker being elected Chairman; Leona O'Shea, Vice-chairman; Ruth Barclay, Secretary-Treasurer, and Ellen Smith, reporter. An invitation was extended to the Middle Eastern Section to hold the fall meeting in Meadville, Pennsylvania, on October 1. A breakfast meeting is being planned for 10 a. m. After doing more than justice to the grand tea served by Helen we all departed for home. Three of our newest members deserve a line here. Virginia Rushlander, junior member, received her solo license three weeks from the time she took her first lesson and at the age of sixteen. We are trying to figure the status of a flying father of a 99er. Is Virginia's father a 49 $\frac{1}{2}$ er or does he rate a bit higher? Betty DeVore soloed in 1931 but was forced to give up flying for a while but is now well on her way to a private license. Ruth Barclay, private pilot, and her husband are the owners of the Penn-Mead Airport where there is always welcome on the door mat to any 99ers going through. All these girls are from Meadville, a little town of 20,000 which now has five 99ers--pardon us while we put our noses up in the air! Phyllis Burchfield of Titusville is now selling Aeroncas and is doing a lot of cross-country flying in hopes of snagging a few orders on the wing. How about letting me

know what is going on down around Huntington, West Virginia? Come on, everyone, write and tell me all about the new kitchen curtains, the cute things baby says, how your sniffles are, and what kind of a trip that last breakfast flight turned out to be. In other words, send any news you have to me at Box 334, Meadville, Pennsylvania.

- - Ellen Smith

#### NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

News of New England, there is always some,  
Our girls never stay at home;  
Nancy Love went to Cleveland in a Stinson plane,  
Then she and Bob flew to Brocklin, Maine,  
Where with Allan Bernis they spent a few days,  
They had neither fog nor a bit of haze.  
Constance Sheridan and Florence Cates instead of dating  
Went and obtained their Private rating.  
Ruth Hamilton quietly at the airport stayed  
And finally got a Commercial grade.  
While Gertrude Meserve got one too, and how,  
Also an Instructor's rating, Wow!  
Daisy Kirkpatrick flew to Cleveland as well  
In a Standard Oil ship, about the races, hear her tell  
She picked up a peach of a cold as well.  
Carolyn Moran and Moya Mitchell on a hunch,  
Flew a 105 Stinson to Hyannis for lunch.  
For a week end to Ithaca, New York, which is her home  
Carolyn went by road, how she loves to roam.  
Hortense Harris flew to Cleveland for the races  
She enjoyed her trip, saw many familiar faces,  
Jean Adams spendsher time on Nantucket Isle  
When she tells about it, see her smile.  
Carolyn Moran doesn't care for men any more,  
Her real love is a yellow Fairchild '24.  
Constance Sheridan really buckled down  
To win her private rating crown.  
That's all 'till next time when  
Our Daisy will be back again.

- - Moya Mitchell

MISSOURI VALLEY CHAPTER - How difficult it is to keep up with the activities of our members during the summer! Our luncheon on September 16 brought us together again, this time in honor of Ivah Carlson, whose marriage to F. G. Maxfield (Max) took place on July 3 in Omaha. Sonnee Mae Joe did some clever work on decorations to make the occasion really festive. We learned at this time that our new 49 $\frac{1}{2}$ er, Max, has his own ship (now, theirs), a Kari-Keen Coupe. While honeymooning in California, Ivah and Max had the pleasure of a flight with Dolores Gunther, a Ninety-Niner, who has her hangar at Bay Cities' Airport, Oakland. Other interesting news was relayed by various members. Dorothy Broadfield stunted at the Council Bluffs Air Show, which was held July 29 and carried passengers at that time and at various other times during the summer. Adele is a lady of leisure now;

she is no longer with the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company. Dorothy Berendson, who happened to be in Moline at the right moment, sat at the controls with Clarence Chamberlain on some of his passenger flights. Belle flew from Omaha to Chicago and back. Belle, our new member, Leah Ziegler, and your reporter, enjoyed attending the National Air Races and our National Ninety-Nine meeting. Bernie Eno, who had expected to be there, had to forego that pleasure this time. Gwen Hess of Lincoln met with us at our luncheon this time, but Irene was back in Wyoming before we got together. Those who were here in August had the pleasure of another visit from Florence Boswell. We hope that Florence comes back again when we are all here. We are pleased to welcome into our chapter, Leah Ziegler of Kansas City, and Mrs. Piper of Iowa City, Iowa. We were disappointed that we couldn't accept the invitation of Mrs. Piper and the Chamber of Commerce of Iowa City to have our September meeting in Iowa City.

- - Beatrice Mack

SKETCH OF ELIZABETH MEYER HAYWOOD - Introducing a South Central Section 99 who lives at the southernmost tip of the Lone Star State: Elizabeth Meyer Haywood (Mrs. James E.), of 11 Warren Avenue, Brownsville, Texas. Born in the Buckeye state, in Cincinnati, Elizabeth is married to a native Texan, whose mother is likewise a native Texan, and now there is a wee Texas son who arrived June 25th. To detail a few facts about Elizabeth before she became so enamoured of Texas: She prepped at Miss Kendrick's School for Girls in Cincinnati, and then attended the University of Cincinnati, where she received B. S. degrees in '33 and '34. She is a member of Chi Omega. She also studied voice at the Cincinnati Conservatory. In the year following her graduation from the University she taught school. In June of '35 she became interested in flying and took instructions under Carl Friedlander with Vermilya-Huffman Company, Lunken Airport. During her early solo hours, Elizabeth had an experience about which we do not have the details, except that it was captioned in the Cincinnati press "Amateur Woman Flyer is Unshaken, Stranded in the Clouds." While attending the 1935 National Air Races, our Elizabeth, together with another Elizabeth (Wuest) instigated the plan to form a 99 chapter in Southern Ohio. Their enthusiasm won them newspaper comment with the headline - "Women fliers at Lunken Airport are 'up in the air' because there is no local feminine air club, declares Cincinnati's school-teacher pilot." Becoming really serious about her flying, Elizabeth, in September of that year, bought a Porterfield and in November received her Limited Commercial License, No. 33078. She then went into commercial aviation, becoming associated with the Vermilya-Huffman Company, and leaving Cincinnati to go with that company's branch at San Benito, Texas. It was this move to Texas which sealed her fate. Her husband is an aeronautical engineer with Pan American Airways. As Elizabeth aptly expresses it--"my music, my teaching, my flying--each started as a vocation, and each has ended up by being one of my beloved hobbies, for my current and forever-after vocation will be, I guess, being a good wife and a good mother."

- - Frances H. Brown

DON'T FORGET THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 4TH - TENTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER-DANCE, WALDORF ASTORIA, NEW YORK CITY. Write Marjorie Ludwigsen if you plan to attend. Her address is 4 Irving Place, New York, N. Y.