

99 Charter Biography File

Maiden Name: Opal Logan Giberson

Married Name(s): Kunz

Date of birth: November 6, 1896

Birthplace: Missouri

Date of death: May 15, 1967

Death place: Old Auburn Cemetery, California

Occupation(s): pilot

License(s): 6830

Known stats:

1. Women's Air Derby 1929
2. National Air Races 1930
3. National Air Races 1931
4. Founded Betsy Ross Corps in 1932
5. 99s acting president 1929-1931

Miscellaneous information:

1. When Opal was 12, both of her parents died. Her aunt and uncle, Margaret and Ed Giberson, adopted Opal.
2. Married Dr. George Frederick Kunz (1856-1932) in 1923 (he was 67 when they married). The marriage was annulled in 1930, but they continued to share the same home until his death.
3. Opal and George were close friends of Thomas Edison and his wife.
4. Mrs. Edison chistened Opal's plane "The Betsy Ross"
5. After Russia sent Valentina Tereshkova into space in 1963, Opal wrote to President Kennedy and volunteered to become an astronaut (Opal was 68 at the time)

99 Charter Biography File

File contents:

1. Summary of Opal's life by Joan Alyea
2. Copy of pilot's license, aviation country clubs membership card, 99s membership card
3. 99 officer ballot dated Feb. 1930
4. Powder Puff Derby 1929 signup sheet
5. 1930 National Air Races list
6. 1931 National Air Races list
7. List of women pilots dated Jan. 1930 – names, address, license class, license number
8. One 8 x 10 black and white photo of Opal as a child
9. One 8 x 10 black and white photo of Opal and her collies; Opal and 2 unidentified people
10. One 8 x 10 black and white photo of Opal and three Navy pilots
11. One 8 x 10 black and white photo of Opal
12. One small black and white photo of Opal
13. One small black and white photo of Opal
14. One small black and white photo of Opal
15. One small black and white photo of Opal
16. One small black and white photo of Opal

Opal Kunz: Publications List

1. "Mrs. Opal Kunz, Noted Aviatrix, Dies in Auburn." Unknown publisher. May 15, 1967.
2. Kunz, Opal. "Girls are learning to fly." Women's National Republican Club. October 1930.
3. "Women Flyers Outgrow Club Name First Day." Unknown publisher. 1929.
4. "Thrilled the groundsmen at the Legion's aerial derby: Mrs. Opal Kunz." New York Times. June 29, 1930.
5. "Opal Kunz expects to fly another 300 H.P. Plane in competition." Unknown publisher. October 27, 1930.
6. "Aviation urged as career for girls." New York Journal. August 7, 1929.
7. Raymond, Mary. "Women in the air." Florida Times. Unknown date.
8. "Betsy Ross Airport Inspected." News-Journal Bureau. January 13, 1932.
9. Oliver, W.L. "World Known Fliers Visit Byrd Airport Almost Daily." Richmond News Leader. October 22, 1931.
10. "Betsy Ross flying Corps is offered a new flying field." Polk County Record. July 18, 1931.
11. "Field at Orange City given women fliers." Miami, FL Herald. July 18, 1931.
12. "Gasoline in face can't faze pilot." Los Angeles Times. May 1931.
13. "Women pilots organize." Pittsburg Sun Telegraph. December 16, 1929.
14. "American Airwomen Organize Club." New York World. December 22, 1929.
15. "Winning Fliers." Washington D.C. Herald. September 10, 1930.
16. "Eighty-Six American Aviatrices Form Club with Three Purposes." Richmond Times Dispatch. December 16, 1929.
17. "Mrs. Kunz eager to become pilot despite crash in her new plane." Unknown publisher/date.
18. "They'll demonstrate prowess at air races." Washington, PA. August 14, 1931.
19. "Mrs. Kunz gets new ship." New York Times. June 24, 1929.
20. "Ships and shapes in the Miss America of the Air Contest." Boston Transcript. October 6, 1930.
21. "She was first." Newark Ledger. May 18, 1929.
22. "Take the Air-And Like It." Unknown publisher. September 19, 1932.
23. "She commands the Betsy Ross Air Corps." Unknown publisher. January 13, 1931.
24. "She wins air race." Philadelphia Ledger. June 1930.
25. "Dashing Aviatrices hop for initial lap of First Women's." Los Angeles Times. August 19, 1929.
26. "Wants equal rights in air." Wichita Beacon. August 14, 1929.
27. "Hartford girl fliers in contest." Unknown publisher. October 7, 1930.
28. "Women flyers aiding the N.R.A. campaign here." New York Herald Tribune. September 12, 1933.
29. "Here they are-Wichita's distinguished guests today." Wichita Beacon. August 23, 1929.
30. "Mrs. Kunz speeds from Newark for coast by air to enter race." Unknown publisher. August 10, 1929.
31. "Mrs. Kunz asks sex equality in racing." Cleveland Press. August 30, 1929.
32. "Gets Solo Flight Honor." Atlantic City Press. May 19, 1929.
33. "Skill Saves Her." Pittsburg Post. May 1, 1931.
34. "Woman Flier Burned." Wichita Eagle. May 4, 1931.
35. "Woman flyer lands plane as fuel line snaps." New York Herald Tribune. May 1, 1931.
36. "Woman, gas blinded, lands plane safely." Washington Bureau. May 1, 1931.
37. "Woman flyer, blinded by gasoline, brings plane down, saves herself." Los Angeles Express. April 30, 1931.
38. "Noted Woman Ace Saved by Courage." Duluth Herald. May 1, 1931.
39. "Society Women Fliers Now Control Newark Air Service." Newark Ledger. 1930.
40. "As Tulsa Played Host to Ladybirds." Tulsa Daily World. August 24, 1929.
41. Canton, Ray. "Woman Flier, Who Volunteered for Space Flight, is Full of Surprises." Sacramento Bee. June 4, 1961.

Opal Kunz: Publications List

42. "Local students win pilot cards." Newark Star-Eagle. June 7, 1929.
43. "Lady Birds Flying On." Washington Court House Herald. August 23, 1929.
44. "George F. Kunz, Jewel Expert, Dies Suddenly. Unknown publisher. July 1932.
45. "Women's Air Corps sounds call for meeting here." Washington Times. April 28, 1931.
46. "Mrs. George F. Kunz learns to fly plane as a patriotic duty." Brooklyn Star-Times. March 16, 1929.
47. "She'll fly for her country." Detroit Times. August 24, 1929.
48. "Society Woman's New Plane Christened at City Airport." Unknown publisher/date.
49. "Pilots to wear evening clothes as society women take up flying." Unknown publisher. July 11, 1929.
50. "Elite Hold 'Hangar Party' Betsy Ross Christened." Unknown publisher/date.
51. "Mrs. Thomas A. Edison Christens New Travel Air of Mrs. G.F. Kunz." Wichita Eagle. July 15, 1929.
52. Treat, Bobbie. "Mrs. Edison sponsors new \$10,000 plane of Mrs. Kunz." Unknown publisher/date.
53. "Triple fete held at Newark Airport." New York Times. July 12, 1929.
54. "Commander of Woman's Air Corp, Speaker." Unknown publisher. July 21, 1932.
55. "Peace and war air unit formed by women flyers." Unknown publisher. January 1, 1931.
56. "Pilots to wear silk hats at Mrs. Kunz's air party." Buffalo News. July 11, 1929.
57. "Airplane Garb." Boston Transcript. August 19, 1929.
58. "Plane sponsored by Mrs. Edison." New York World. July 6, 1929.
59. "Mrs. Kunz buys new plane." New York Times. July 11, 1929.
60. "Dedicate New Hangar." New York Telegram. July 12, 1929.
61. Pelletier, George. "Former socialite woman air racer mothers R.I. group of War Birds." Sunday Journal. Unknown date.
62. "Flies to Tea." Boston Advertiser. May 11, 1930.
63. "Mrs. George Kunz Given Annulment." Newark News. January 25, 1930.
64. "She was first." Newark Ledger. May 18, 1929.
65. "Who's Who at Airport No. 27." Newark Star-Eagle. June 20, 1929.
66. "Girl flier beats male rivals in Legion Air Race." Philadelphia Record. September 7, 1930.
67. "Miss Opal Kunz Wins Philadelphia Air Race." Unknown publisher. September 7, 1930.
68. "Bests Men in Air." Springfield Leader. September 20, 1930.
69. Pelletier, George. "Women racing pilot trains fliers." Yankee Pilot. Spring 1942.
70. "Daring Woman Flier Beats Male Rivals in Free-for-All Legion Race." Philadelphia Record. September 7, 1930.
71. "Girl fliers wage campaign from air for charity fund." Unknown publisher/date.
72. "She is in air derby to prepare herself for service in war." New York World. August 22, 1929.
73. "Women flyers in Cleveland Derby dine in Mexico." Newark Star. August 26, 1929.
74. "Women's Air Derby Starts." Unknown publisher/date.
75. "Local aviatrix to attend fete." Newark Ledger. August 1933.
76. "Society takes to air at own aviation club." New York News. June 30, 1929.
77. "3 NRA Girl Pilots Near Crash in Air." Unknown publisher. September 11, 1933.
78. "Wins Solo Flight Race at Newark." Newark Star Eagle. Unknown date.
79. Trenckman, Clara. "Women and Aviation." Press release. December 29, 1929.
80. "Dear Ruth." 99 News. December 1964.
81. Alyea, Jean. "Opal Logan Kunz." 99 Profiles-Then. No publisher/date.
82. Larson, George C. "The Ninety-Nines." Business and Commercial Aviation. January 1985.
83. Brown, Margery. "Why women pilots have organized." 99 News. Unknown date.
84. "Opal Kunz flies to attend Doctor Brock Dinner." Betsy Ross Corps News. December 1932.
85. "Our Charter Members." 99 News. March 1965.