

# About Life-- No fear of flying...

By Laura Henkes  
Of the Print

Florence Lee, a CCC biology and botany instructor, has been flying for approximately ten years. She sums up her philosophy: "I am one of these people who try anything once. And I tried it, and I liked it. They took me for one ride, and I was hooked."

Even though the number of persons with private pilot licenses are increasing every year, and flying appears to be commonplace, private pilots are really a very small minority of the population--and female pilots are few and far between.

There is something about flying that is completely different from all other sports and physical challenges. In flying, the person is involved in a whole other world different from "earth" (or "home") and is required to maintain control in this environment.

Other areas, such as skin diving, swimming, skiing, boating, etc., remove the person from direct contact with the earth--but not completely. Nothing can match the insecurities which are aroused when evaluating that buffer of molecules that we call air, but generally consider as nothingness, between a plane and the earth.

What is it that determines whether or not a person will learn to fly? Are people who fly a different breed from the rest of us?

Lee does not consider the fact that she is a private pilot exceptional; however, she is the first to admit that "people that fly are a different type of personality--a little more self-

confident and independent. I like flying because I am doing it. I am going to take the airplane off the ground. It gives me lots of self-confidence." She adds, "If I can do that, I can do anything."

Many persons have a "fear of flying." Lee definitely does not have this problem (especially considering she would like to learn aerobatics). However, she adds, "My heart always beats a little faster when I get in my airplane to take off--maybe as a kind of healthy respect about what I am going to be doing."

Florence is a member of the "99'ers," a national women's flying club. In addition to sponsoring races and flying blood in and out of state for the Red Cross, they also have a special program for spouses who have a fear of flying. This program, which includes demonstrating the basics of landing and taking off, has a high success rate.

The very separation from earth that the average person abhors--and the complexity of looking at their lives "down there" from a foreign perspective--are the delights of the pilot. Florence feels it puts her "personally and people in general in a different perspective, looking down at this great big planet." She enjoys flying in the fall, observing the color variation in the leaves, the land, the cows, etc. "It is very rejuvenating," she muses.

People that fly seem to be "action" people, and Florence is no exception. Consider the process involved in getting interested in something in particular, making the decision to

act, and then finally following through with that decision.

How many of us who think we might like to learn to fly would actually follow through if everything were supplied free of charge, today? Russian author, Ayn Rand, seems to have a handle on our tendency toward anxiety and procrastination: "It's the hardest thing in the world--to do what we want. And it takes the greatest kind of courage."

We often look too far and too high for persons who are examples of strength symbols. And in reality, the persons who affect and influence our lives most are those around us every day--our friends, acquaintances, parents, teachers, and colleagues. They add interest and dimension to our lives.

Whether she thinks she is or she wants to be, Florence Lee is an example and a strength symbol to us all through her interest and adventures in aviation.



FLORENCE LEE

Staff Photo by Reid Carscadden

## Grammarians travel to Boise

The CCC College Bowl team will be going to the regional competition in Boise, Idaho, Feb. 13.

According to Coach Dick Andrews, there is still time for you to get involved in the College Bowl team and make the trip to Boise.

Participants must attend the competition games Feb. 1 in CC 101.

Five people will then be selected to go to the regionals in Boise.

Despite the teams 0-5 record, Andrews is leading his team on to what he termed a "hopeful season." He noted that CCC is the only two-year school in the College Bowl competition and faces tough opponents from four-year schools.

The College Bowl is a competition between educational institutions, Andrews explained. It's a game of questioning and quick recall. The questions cover a wide range of topics. Anyone who is knowledgeable in one topic or in a broad range of subjects is invited to join the team.

For information, contact Dick Andrews at ext. 371.

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