

1949 Biggest Year in Air Traffic of United States

Nineteen hundred and forty-nine was the biggest year the airlines of the United States have ever had, according to a report of the civil aeronautics administration.

Airlines attracted an estimated 16,500,000 passengers during the year and flew a total of about 460,000,000 miles. Their planes completed more trips due to the increasing use of the CAA's instrument landing system at 87 sites in the United States.

The combined safety rate of U.S. domestic and international airlines is 1.0 passenger fatalities per 100,000,000 passenger miles flown, the lowest in history.

On international routes, there were no passenger fatalities. Although 93 passengers were killed in four domestic accidents, compared with 83 in five accidents during 1948, the rate in terms of passenger miles flown equalled last year's 1.3, close to the all-time low of 1.2.

Manufacture of personal planes was down an estimated 52 per cent with 3,525 units made in 1949 as compared to 7,302 last year. Total number of U.S. aircraft registered dropped from 95,997 in 1948 to 92,700. This was due partially to the fact that the CAA audited its records to eliminate planes that had been put out of use.

At the year's end an estimated 510,000 certified pilots were recorded while in 1948 there were 491,306. New private pilot licenses and student pilot certificates showed reductions.

Only 45,000 student permits were issued in 1949 compared with 117,725 in 1948 and the private pilot certificate issuances were 30,000 as against 86,838. Commercial pilot certificates dropped from 8,151 to 7,300 and air transport pilot certificates from 1,100 to 1,000.

A count of women pilots was made for the first time in four years and showed an increase

from 5,122 in 1945, to 9,678 in 1949. The inventory also showed 1,811 women rated as air traffic control operators and 400 as parachute technicians, about 20 per cent of the total ratings in these specialties.

The number of airports in operation held about even with an estimated 6,100 at year's end compared to 6,016 at the end of 1948. An estimated 475 airports were closed during the year.

Accidents in non-air carrier flying indicated a poorer safety record for the year than in 1948, with 4,000 of the estimated 6,000 accidents analyzed.

Of the 4,000 accidents analyzed 421 were fatal, while in 1948 there were 392 fatal accidents in the first 4,000. Instructional flying, which dropped sharply in 1949, accounted for 26.4 per cent of the 4,000 accidents in 1949, and in 1948 it was 40.4 per cent. The percentage of non-commercial accidents, i.e., private flying, rose from 53 per cent in 1948 to 58.5 per cent in 1949.

Texas Millionaire In Assault Suit

Beverly Hills, Cal., Jan. 4 (AP)—Texas millionaire Glenn McCarthy has been served with a summons in connection with a \$210,000 damage suit in which a sports promoter accused him of assault, he said today.

"A man telephoned me Saturday and said he had the papers, so I told him to come around and serve them," McCarthy said through a spokesman. The suit was filed Oct. 1 by

Larry Rummans, 39, who accused McCarthy of beating him and falsely imprisoning him in McCarthy's Shamrock hotel at Houston, Tex., from Sept. 22 to Sept. 24.

Rummans contended the alleged beating followed an argument over his promotion, for McCarthy, of a professional football game between the All-American conference champions and an AAC All-Star team.

O. B. Robertson, Ex-Senator, Dies

Portland, Jan. 4 (AP)—Former State Senator O. B. Robertson, 70, retired banker and wool merchant widely known in north central Oregon, died at a hospital here yesterday after a long illness. He had been living in recent years at Agate Beach.

A native of Turner, he first entered business at Fossil after attending the University of Oregon. Later he moved to Portland and then was in banking at Condon and Mitchell. In 1920 he operated a large Gilliam county sheep ranch and managed the Columbia basin wool warehouse in that county.

He was a state senator from Gilliam, Sherman and Wheeler counties during the 1921-23 regular and special sessions.

His widow, Helen, of Agate Beach, and a daughter, Mrs. Bernadine R. Richards, Yamhill, and a son, Jack L., San Francisco, survive.

Juveniles Are Nabbed Shoplifting Charges

Lebanon—In a growing wave of shoplifting, two more were apprehended Saturday, both juvenile boys. Merchandise taken was recovered, although state police were summoned to arrest the lads who had left town. They appeared before police over the week-end. Both were released after police held a conference with their parents.

Tiny Sheila, Cancer-Stricken, In N. Y. in Fight on Blindness

New York, Jan. 4 (AP)—Eleven-months-old Sheila Reno, with cancer in both her eyes, grinned and laughed at reporters and photographers at Newark airport Tuesday as she arrived with her mother for treatment they hope may aid her fight against blindness and death.

Mrs. Louis Reno, 37, who brought her baby here from El Monte, Calif., where she was born with tumors in her eyes, was smiling, too.

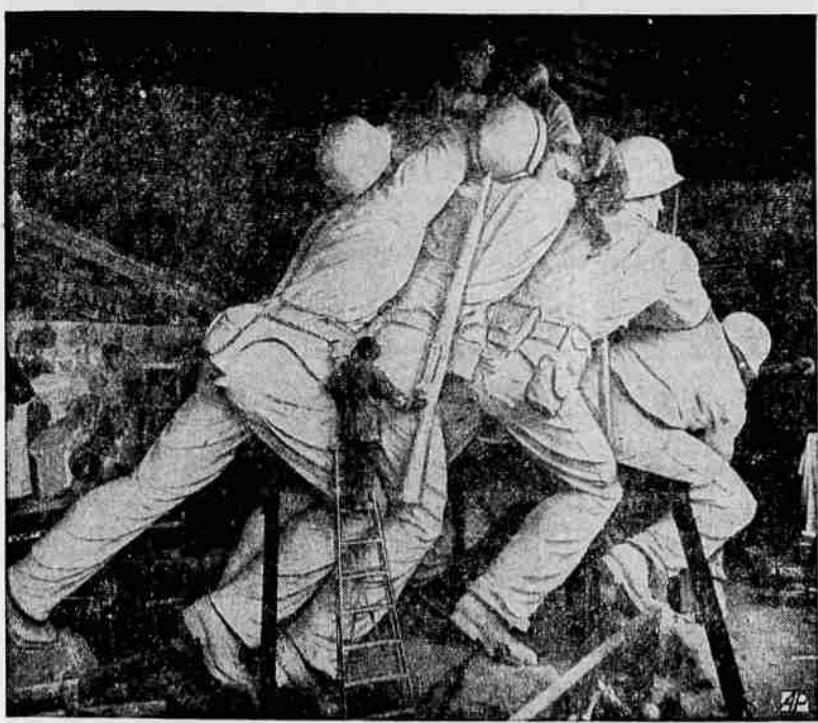
"At last," she said as she stepped off the plane. "At last we're here. I never knew people could be so wonderful."

The child's flight to a New York specialist was financed through contributions from a service club, a newspaper and the Reno family's friends and neighbors. Sheila's father and older brother, Gary, 9, remained at home.

Mrs. Reno and Sheila were taken to New York by an American Airlines official to meet Mrs. Reno's brother, Robert E. Miles of Forest Hills, with whose family they will stay.

Mrs. Reno said she did not know whether Sheila would be placed in a hospital or would be treated in the office of the specialist who has agreed to try to save the child. She said the physician who treated the child in Los Angeles had given up hope of saving her from the cancer which he said was the rarest case he had encountered in 35 years of practice.

The El Monte Lions club and the Pasadena Independent helped finance the trip here.



Marine Memorial for Virginia—Sculptor Felix Weihs de Weldon on ladder works on Marine corps memorial based on noted wartime AP picture of Iwo Jima flag-raising taken by Joe Rosenthal. The bronze group will stand on a hill between Washington and Mount Vernon.

Former Wac Shoots Husband on Dare

Pittsburgh, Jan. 4 (AP)—A plump former WAC told police she shot and killed her husband of six months after he told her "women are too dumb to use a gun."

Police said they found John Howrylchak, 35-year-old steelworker, dying on the kitchen floor of his father-in-law's bungalow yesterday after Mrs. Dorothy Ziegler Howrylchak, 29, telephoned them "I just shot my husband."

Howrylchak died as he was being carried from the house.

Farm Laborer Held for Murder

Colfax, Wash., Jan. 4 (AP)—A 27-year-old farm laborer was charged yesterday for the shotgun slaying of his former employer.

Sheriff Clarence Davis said the charge was filed after Grant E. Rio of Spokane told him: "I must have been the man who did it. But I was drinking

heavily and don't remember anything about it."

James Beckner, 20, the farmer, and a hired hand, Joseph Roberge, 25, were killed early last Saturday morning at the Beckner farm near Riparia. Rio was arrested later the same day while driving Beckner's pickup truck.

An exchange of goods with a total value of \$25,000,000 is provided for in a one year trade arrangement to expire Aug. 1, 1950, between Occupied-Japan and Western Germany.

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