WOMEN FLYERS — Preparing to take an excursion in a helicopter, these three women are members of an exclusive eight-man South Louisiana chapter of the Ninety-Nines, an international organization of women pilots. Left to right are Margaret Ruth of Lafayette, Dione Comeaux of Baton Rouge (who is president of the chapter) and Jan Phillips of Shreveport. They organized to enjoy the bounties of the hobby, and later to belong to national youth groups, educational groups such as the National Aviation Education Foundation, the Civil Air Patrol, Civil Defense, and the Navy. A sisterhood is fostered among themselves and united for promoting aviation in general.

Flying Through Blue Yonder
No Dream For Ninety-Nines

Flying through the wild blue yonder is no dream for a group of women pilots. Called the Ninety-Nines, Inc., the group is part of an international organization of licensed women pilots. The South Louisiana chapter, presently has about 18 members. It was organized in May, 1966. The other state chapter is based in New York.

Membership in the Ninety-Nines is limited to women possessing active pilot licenses and is by invitation only. Prospective members must be sponsored by a Ninety-Niner and must attend at least two meetings of the group before being offered to join. Among the Lafayette members of the chapter are Jan Phillips, Mrs. Margaret Ruth and Karla Noel of New Iberia, Margaret Ruth, Grace Reilly of Hammond.

Another endeavor of the Ninety-Nines is "adopting" student pilots who have not earned their licenses and helping them in whatever way they can. These student pilots are called flyers and may retain their status for two years before becoming eligible to join the Ninety-Nines.

Not entirely a social organization, but rather a society of women pilots, the purpose of the Ninety-Nines is to foster a closer relationship among women pilots, and to maintain an interest in the advancement of the aviation in general.

There are presently about 3000 members, who live on every continent in the world. The eight national sectional chapters in the United States, the chapters which may have from 5 to 80 members each, and hold monthly meetings. Sections have bi-annual gatherings, and an international convention is held annually.