

13, 1927

## BUREAU OF AVIATION PLANNED IN FLORIDA

### Air Tour Will Be Held in State Following Miami Show, January 13-15.

Miami, Fla., October 12.—(AP)—Establishment of a state bureau of aviation to operate as a unit of the Florida State Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of capitalizing major and minor activities for development of flying in Florida was urged before the statewide aviation conference here today by R. G. Grassfield, manager of the state chamber. Action on Mr. Grassfield's request probably will be taken later in the afternoon when the committee on resolution will report.

Certainly that an air tour, covering practically every city in Florida, would be staged following the All-American air meet in Miami January 13, 14 and 15, was announced by A. H. Heerance, municipal aviation director of Miami, and chairman of the state air tour committee. The National Aeronautic Association has given its sanction to the tour and will arrange details of the event, Mr. Heerance said.

Responses from leaders indicated that the tour will develop into a series of aviation meets requiring approximately three weeks. More than 50 planes, including contingents of army, navy and marine aviators, in addition to commercial craft of many types, will make the tour and participate in contests.

Representatives from Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sebring, Daytona Beach, Haines City, Lake City, Stuart and Sarasota indorsed the tour plan and pledged their assistance in making it a success.

## 75 Prohi Agents

# Non-Contestants Earn Share Of Reliability Tour Glory

THEIR WORK JUST AS IMPORTANT TO EVENT'S SUCCESS

BY E. A. M'DONNELL,  
Associated Press Staff Writer With  
the National Air Tour.

The glory in an affair like the national air tour naturally falls to the contestant pilots. They are the boys who figure in the standings and whose ships attract the attention of the crowd. But these lads flying the so-called official and service ships are no less skillful at the stick and the wheel.

There is, for instance, Lee Shoehair. Lee isn't competing, but he's a considerable factor in the success of the 1929 aerovon. Particularly Saturday. When Captain Frank Hawks, the tour referee, found that his Lockheed's gasoline line had sprung a leak, Lee generously volunteered to taxi the personable Frank from Jacksonville to Macon and thence here.

And has Lee a ship! It's that glistening, pure white craft, Miss Silvertown, the one with the ultimate streamlining, even to the "goloshes" on its landing gear. It is capable of more than 200 miles an hour. And this Shoehair boy surely utilizes its capabilities. Miss Silvertown is the ship with which he won the cross-country non-stop race from Los Angeles to Cleveland in the recent national air race.

### Frank Hawk's Records.

This boy Frank Hawks, whom we mention, is no slouch either when it comes to gallivanting back and forth across the country. His Lockheed, a sister ship of Shoehair's, holds both the east-west and the west-east non-stop records between Los Angeles and New York.

Then there is Rogee Q. Williams. Rogee is the little fellow whose only

mistake, Will Rogers said, was in announcing that he was heading for Rome instead of Spain. With Lloyd Yancey he flew from Old Orchard, Maine, to San Sebastian, Spain, and thence to Rome. If you should have the good fortune to meet Rogee in the neighborhood of his Columbia Triad amphibian, he'll probably reach skyward with his right hand. Don't be alarmed. He'll just be giving you the fascist salute, which he learned from no less a personage than Mussolini himself.

### Reporters' Haven.

That "flying editorial room," the Firestone Ford, which is the official press ship of the tour, has a pilot who hasn't figured much on the front page, but he's no fledgling despite that. He is Lester W. Bryant, of Dearborn, Mich., a Ford transport pilot, only 22 years old; but he surely puts that huge aggregation of hurtling metal down on a field as softly as if he were handling a tiny biplane. Another pilot on that craft is William K. Wilson, of Akron, Ohio, but Bill says Lester is doing too good a job to need any "spelling." Hence he is riding as a passenger, representing the rubber firm that owns the craft.

The Wright Aeronautical Corporation's service ship, the "flying garage" as the tour boys call it, also is a Ford tri-motor. It is piloted by Commander George Chapline, a former sea dog of the navy who learned air navigation while working for Uncle Sam.

Another "garage" ship is that of Pratt & Whitney, motor manufacturers. It is a Vought Corsair biplane in charge of Benny Whelan, who learned flying where the Wright brothers achieved their earlier triumphs, at Dayton, Ohio.

Stanton and Steve Lacey are assigned to the automobile of C. J. Chastain.

The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company has provided an automobile for tourists in the official press ship.

## Atlanta Autoists Volunteer Cars