

New Setting for Eighth Annual National Soaring Contest



The Administration building, five pilots' cabins and framework for the 50 x 60 foot hangar at Harris Hill, Elmira, N. Y.

Harris Hill, soaring headquarters of Elmira and Chemung County, N. Y., is rapidly taking on a new appearance, and by the time of the opening of the Eighth Annual National Soaring Contest in Elmira next summer, the hill will appear completely transformed to visiting glider pilots.

Plans to make Harris Hill the most attractive and adequate center of gliding in the United States have been expanded since the \$100,000 improvement project was approved by Works Progress Administration authorities, a new project to cost \$13,808.15 having been approved. A third project, costing \$6,898.24, has also been proposed and is being studied by the W.P.A.

The original program called for paving of the three and one quarter mile hill road leading to the hilltop, preparation of a launching runway 100 feet wide and 2,000 feet long, and construction of five pilots' cabins,

two comfort cabins, a large administration building, and a glider hanger.

The \$13,808.15 project, on which work is scheduled to begin early in January, calls for erection of five more pilots' cabins and a swimming pool along the northeast side of Harris Hill. The third project, now under construction, is for erection of a caretaker's home on the hill. Construction of the administration building and the pilots' and comfort cabins is rapidly nearing completion. Each of the five cabins now being constructed will provide sleeping facilities for ten pilots. So it looks very much as though the camping days at Elmira are nearly over, and contestants will no longer find it necessary to pitch tents in the woods surrounding Harris Hill.

Inside the spacious proportions of the Administration Building will be found not only a large room to be used as a dining-room and hall for social gatherings and dances, but also a meteorological room, four operations rooms, men's and women's wash rooms, and kitchen. The pilots' and comfort cabins have already been completed and only the ceiling remains to be constructed in the Administration Building. The framework for the hanger, 50 x 60 feet, has been erected, and the steel walls and roof have arrived and are ready to be added. Rolling doors, which fold inside along the walls when opened, have not as yet arrived, but are expected long before time for the opening of the 1937 National Soaring Contest.

Many other details of improvement are being carried on at Harris Hill under the above mentioned projects. For example, a well, supplying 1,800 gallons of water per hour, septic tanks, under ground electric conduits, instrument tower for meteorological department, and grading and rolling of the entire gliding field.



Elmira's Aviation Ground School

News has come to us concerning the activities of Elmira's new Aviation Ground School, which is conducted by the State Education Department. One of our members, Stan Smith, has taken over the job of Chief Instructor in this new school, and, probably largely through his interests in soaring, has taken over the glider construction repair work as part of the educational program.

The school has completely rebuilt the old Elmira Franklin, which, as last year's contestants may remember, reposed in the barn at the American Airways' Airport in a very wrecked condition.

The Rhon Buzzard sailplane, owned by the Elmira Association of Commerce, has undergone a thorough cleaning, doping and refinishing by the students of this Ground School course. Further reports say that the necessary Airworthiness Certificate on the Buzzard has come through from Germany, which will insure the plane receiving its "G" license before the next contest.

We understand that Stan has not been confining his activities entirely to the ground, since during week-ends and holidays he has put in a few hours soaring time in

the duPont Utility, which Henry Whiteman left in his charge. It is understood that Hank expects Stan to exercise his engineering influence on this plane in an attempt to acquire a "G" license for it.



Rhon-Buzzard Sailplane, owned by Elmira Association of Commerce, being assembled by students of Aviation Ground School.