

# The SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Meet



The Third Annual Spring Meet of the Southern California Soaring Association was held at the Arvin-Sierra Soaring Site, near Arvin, California, on the two week-ends of April 8 and 9 and April 15 and 16. Excellent weather prevailed and the meet was most successful. Over 200 flights were made (with no accidents). Three new C licenses and four Silver C legs were earned. At the time we go to press, there is no official goal flight record, so that the goal flight of Dick Essery and Paul Hepburn to Taft, a distance of 43 miles, may turn out to be a world record.

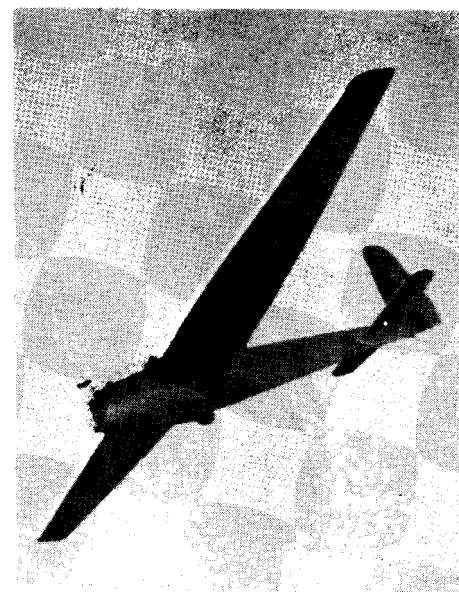
The winning pilot was Woodie Brown with 376 points. Second was John Robinson and third was Dick Essery.

The main feature of the meet was the dedication of the Arvin-Sierra Soaring Site. W. R. Bergman, a well-known Bakersfield attorney, was chairman. Dr. Wolfgang Klemperer and Hawley Bowlus spoke. Bowlus, who discovered the site, told of its development and advantages. Notable persons present at the ceremony were Hugh Brewster, inspector United States Civil Aeronautic Authority; Cecil Meadows, superintendent Kern County Airport; A. I. Tucker, president Arvin Boosters' Club; Gay Hoffman, president Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce; Doctor Wolfgang B. Klemperer, of Douglas Aircraft Company of Santa Monica; and L. H. Steward, official of United States Civil Aeronautic Authority. Lucretia Buxton was honored at the ceremony by the presentation of a floral emblem by the Kern County Junior Chamber of Commerce. The presentation was made by Frank T. Miles, chairman of publicity committee.

Immediately afterwards, Woodie Brown took off for Arvin in his "Thunder Bird" with a load of airmail. He won the prize of the Arvin Boosters' Club for the first pilot to land in that city. Bowlus carried the mail on the following day, and landed in a vacant lot a block from the post office.

John Robinson put in six hours and forty minutes in two flights on the first day. On the second flight, he announced a goal of either Bakersfield or Tehachapi, and landed at the latter town, sixteen miles away, after attaining an altitude of slightly over 4,000 feet.

During the second week, Hawley Bowlus made a goal flight to Bakersfield, twenty-three miles away. John Robinson and Woodie Brown each flew to the vicinity of Taft, a distance of forty-three miles. During the week, Dick Essery flew the "Transporter", with Paul Hepburn as passenger, to the same town. Also,



"The Robin" diving through a downdraft

during the week, John Robinson flew twenty-seven miles to Grapevine.

On the first Saturday, Lucretia Buxton took up Paul Pierce in the "Transporter". Mr. Pierce, who was making his first motorless flight, announced for fifteen minutes, his impressions to the world over the Columbia Broadcasting System, as part of a half-hour program devoted to the meet. The first fifteen minutes was broadcasted from the ground. The hook-up included eighty-one stations in the United States and twenty-six in Europe.

Lucretia and the "Transporter" were so busy taking up radio announcers, camera men, and guests, that they were unable to make a single contest flight. They did a fine job and accomplished a lot toward spreading the good word among the uninitiated.

During a lull in the soaring activities, a spot landing contest was won by Speed Westphal in a borrowed glider with a distance of eighteen inches. Walter White was second, with eight feet, and Walt Heideman was third with nineteen feet, one inch.

While the spot landing contest was in progress, Dick Essery noticed that three wind socks on different parts of the field were all pointing toward the same place. He decided that they must be pointing to the center of a thermal, so, with the help of the radio, he took off, flew toward the point in question, and made 2,000 feet

The Bowlus "Baby Albatross"

Photo by Jim Campion

