

# Elmira in '48

After much research by the Chairman of the SSA Contest Committee to determine what cities were interested in holding the National Contest in 1948, the bids in hand were weighed against the prospects for additional bids and a final vote was taken on the matter by mail late in October.

It was felt that the Sponsor should be selected as early in advance as possible in order to allow proper time for adequate preparations for an event of this size. Cities who were unable to crystallize their bids in time for consideration this year were encouraged to bid instead for the 1949 National.

As a result of the mail vote by the Board of Directors sanction for the '48 National was awarded to the Elmira Area Soaring Corporation subject to working out of final details.

It was felt that Elmira, by proper use of the Chemung County Airport, could adequately handle all pilots and gliders participating in the Contest.

Two conditions of the sanction agreement should be of interest to those planning to participate. The EASC will put up a minimum of \$5000 to be awarded to the entrants. (This is in addition to \$1500 in record awards which have been standing since last summer.) The Contest Management will furnish a minimum of eight tow planes and pilots.

The dates were selected by the SSA Contest Committee and the EASC on the basis of holidays, the end of the school year, and the statement by Barney Wiggin, "There is a period in late June and early July when atmospheric instability in the Elmira area is at a maximum, normally."

The length of the Contest, 12 days starting June 30th, should be long enough to merit the attention of west coast and foreign pilots and at the same time be more practical economically from the standpoint of both the entrants and the Sponsor.

At the moment, the EASC, aided by the SSA, is energetically initiating a campaign to raise adequate additional prize funds.

The Contest Management have expressed interest in starting things off June 26th with an informal pre-contest period. The Awards Banquet will be held July 11th.

Plans are also afoot to hold a contest in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area timed so the west coast boys can take it in on their way home. There may even be a third contest in the series at Dayton or Atlanta.

R. J. C.

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