



Photo by Richard Wich, courtesy Elmira Sunday Telegram

NORTHEASTERN CHAMPIONSHIP

By GENE BARDWELL

HARRIS HILL, Elmira, N.Y., completed another "mission" in its program to retain its title as "The Glider Capital of America," in the successful conduct of the Northeastern States Championship Soaring Contest over the Labor Day week-end. Opening on Friday, August 29, the meet attracted 40 contest pilots and thousands of spectators. Weather was not ideal for soaring, but 147 launchings were made, and 30 contest flights were recorded, for a total mileage of 459, with an aggregate of 43 hours, 23 minutes flown, and a total gain in altitude of 39,550 feet.

Donald H. Pollard of Roanoke, Va., won the N.E. States Championship, by amassing 477 contest points. His prize money added up to \$490.80. This included first prizes of \$100 each for distance and altitude, \$190.80 in point awards, and \$100 for the championship. Don flew, by special arrangement with the French Government, an "Air-100," one of the sailplanes entered in the National contests last July by the French pilots participating in the Wichita Falls meet.

National Soaring Champion Dick Comey did not compete actively in the N.E. States contest. He was

busy in his capacity as General Manager of the Soaring Society of America, promoting interests of SSA, attending SSA Directors' meeting, and assisting the contest staff. He found time, however, to put on some demonstration flights in his championship sailplane, the Schweizer 1-21.

Harold H. (Bob) Taylor, of Schweizer Aircraft, and a director of the Elmira Area Soaring Corp., was contest director. Bob, and his large staff of assistants served on a voluntary basis, the same as in the Memorial Day contest, again demonstrating that a formal meet can be operated without highly-paid personnel, when the staff consists of men with know-how, and with an active interest in the project. Bernard L. (Barney) Wiggin, chief meteorologist at the U.S. Weather Bureau in Buffalo, was contest meteorologist, delighted again to be on the Hill, and giving invaluable service to the competing flyers. Another oldtimer serving at the meet was H. J. Sargent, chief statistician, while Ben Shupack, a Director of the SSA, was one of his assistants. Lynd Daggett of Ithaca was another non-Elmiran on the statistical staff, which included a quintet of glider-glamour girls from