



C. R. Thomas, CAP

Left to right: Viola Dunton, Queen of the meet; TG-3 ready for take-off; emblem of the Air Force Association, sponsor of the meet; pilots and officials—standing, Hopkins, Frost, Grobinski, Scott, Pagan, Bikle, Starbuck, Lee, Elliott, Dickson, McCollom—kneeling, Heys, Allen, Hachel, Royce, Clayton, McIntyre, Detert, Sweet; Ray Stotts, Manager of South Dayton Airport, who played host, and Captain Mittler of the CAP.

## Wright Memorial Glider Meet

TO the citizens of Dayton, Ohio, the sight and sound of all types of military and civilian aircraft is a commonplace. But these air-minded individuals were given a special aviation treat over Memorial weekend, May 28, 29 and 30, when Dayton Squadron Number One of the Air Force Association sponsored the largest glider meet ever held here.

The event attracted thirteen contestants from Ohio and Indiana who participated in an exciting program of glider maneuvers under near-ideal weather conditions. And after three days of dawn-'til-dusk soaring and intricate glider specialties, the hometown boys managed to carry off all the top honors.

The schedule of glider events included altitude and endurance competition, bomb dropping, spot landing, paper strafing and a special speed dash. In the bomb dropping event, the pilots each dropped three two-pound lime-filled bags at a dummy target on the ground from an altitude of 2500 feet; in spot landing they had to land and roll to a stop, without brakes, as close as possible to a mark in the center of the runway; in paper strafing they released a tissue streamer at an altitude of 2500 feet and then cut it with the wing of the glider, circled, and cut the streamer again, all this to be accomplished in the least amount of time. Winners were determined by averaging the two best attempts in each event. Points were given on a 500-300-200-100 basis for the first four places.

Major Scott Royce of Dayton captured the Championship Crown with a total of 1200 points. He took first place in the altitude event with a peak of height of 4800 feet, second in paper strafing with an average of 23.65 seconds, fourth in spot landing with a 52 feet 5 inch average, and second in endurance, remaining aloft five hours, 26 minutes.

In second place with 1000 points was Paul Bikle, Dayton, who took first place in the bomb dropping event with a 69 foot average, and first in paper strafing with a remarkable 18 seconds. Major Floyd Sweet, also of Dayton, was third, netting himself 800 points with first place in spot landing, averaging 12 feet two inches, third in paper strafing with a time average of 25 seconds, and fourth in bomb dropping, averaging 192 feet.

Captain William Elliott, Dayton, won the endurance contest handily, soaring for six hours 20 minutes. He finished in a tie for fourth place by placing third in altitude competition with a mark of 3600 feet. The fourth place deadlock was shared with Lt. Col. Lawrence Ely, who placed second in altitude at 3900 feet, second in spot landing with a 29 foot average, and fourth in endurance with a time of three hours 24 minutes. Bikle edged out Royce in a special speed dash, but no points were given for this event.

On opening day there was a tense moment. Two entrants from Purdue University, on an altitude flight, ran out of thermals and had to land their sailplane six miles from the airport. In an attempt to airplane—tow the fallen glider out of the small field, the pilot of the BT-13 towplane clipped off the top of a small tree and hit some electric power and telephone lines. Only quick thinking on his part averted a possible crash. The glider sailed over the wires and landed in an adjoining field.

This was the first major activity conducted by the relatively new Dayton AFA group, and, in the short planning and preparatory period, assistance was received from many sides. Named the "Wright Memorial Glider Meet" in honor of Wilbur and Orville Wright, the event was officially sanctioned by the Soaring Society of America, and became an all-out cooperative effort involving the Soaring Society of Dayton, Dayton Chamber of Commerce, Civil Air Patrol, Ohio Air National Guard, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Miami Valley Flying Service and the Dayton Squadron, AFA.

An added boost to the glider activities was given by