



treme right is the Cirrus Wall Cloud. The wind direction is from right to left.

Bob Symons

# WEEK-END AT BISHOP

and BOB SYMONS

As the wind velocities were light (see pibal chart), the wave was found within one half mile of the downwind side of the crest of the mountains. Release was made rather high, at about 11,500' A.S.L. The turbulence area downwind was very mild and while in the wave Per and Bob indicated a steady four to five hundred feet per minute up. The climb continued until the needle was at the top of the drum on the barograph, at 27,000'. As it was no longer worthwhile to keep on climbing since no record could be made of it, they left the area and started down.

Bill Ivans reported a 3 G load in the turbulence while still on tow near the 11,000 foot level. He also towed into the wave and released at 12,100. The climb stayed at 900 to 1000 fpm and he then started a beat north and south of about five miles. At 14,000 feet he put on his mask and checked the oxygen system. At 17,000 the climb was 400 to 500 fpm. The canopy now started to frost over on the inside due to moisture from his breath. He tried swabbing a mixture of half alcohol and glycerine on the canopy and it worked well up to 22,000 feet. He scraped with his glove but the cleared spot would frost over again in about 20 seconds. He could always see the horizon dimly through the small holes in the ice crystals, but could not distinguish land marks. Bill felt warm up to 20,000 but above that his feet

began to get cold, despite two pairs of socks, heavy shoes and flying boots. The cockpit of his glider was completely insulated with a fiber glass blanket from one to three inches thick. The climb was now 2000 fpm and he had been off tow 45 minutes when he reached 27,500 feet where the lift weakened. He noticed the lenticular cloud 40 miles to the south near Mt. Whitney and headed in that direction, with his sinking speed normal. His indicated speed was 100 mph and he flew for 30 minutes, descending to 18,000 feet before encountering the wave and starting to climb slowly. The lenticular cloud above him was estimated at 35,000 feet. The lift was 500 fpm and at 26,000 he headed into the wind with apparently zero ground speed. He did not move a control for over fifteen minutes, due to the very smooth air, and his climb decreased to 200 fpm. Since he had an A-14 regulator and A-13 pressure breathing mask, at 29,000 feet, he turned the diluter handle to 100 percent oxygen and set pressure knob at safety position, which produced a positive pressure in his mask. He scraped the canopy, checked his finger nails for color and tried without success to wiggle two hunks of ice which looked like feet. He started back toward Bishop and opposite Independence, California, he reached his ceiling at 30,500 feet indicated. The canopy ice was now 1/64 to 1/32 thick and it was almost necessary to