



The faces at the Mid-West Contest included many old-timers including John Nowak, Contest Director R. E. Franklin, author of this article, and Floyd Sweet, New Mid-West Champion. Ed Knight, the runner-up, took the picture.

THIRD ANNUAL MID-WEST CONTEST

by R. E. FRANKLIN

THE third annual Mid-West Soaring Contest was held at the Toledo Airport (Municipal) over the weekend of July 21-23. The contest was sponsored by the Toledo Gliding Club which was able to obtain sufficient cash donations from Toledo corporations and individuals to offset expenses.

Sixteen pilots and ten sailplanes participated in this year's contest. Three states, Ohio, Michigan and Indiana were represented. During the three days of the contest there were 56 airplane tows and 14 winch tows. Total soaring time was 38 hours 15 minutes.

On Friday, July 21st, the weather was almost too beautiful for soaring. A high pressure area was located North and West of Toledo. Surface winds were from the northeast at 15 to 20 miles which brought cool air from Lake Erie. This air could not be heated enough by the time that it reached the airport to produce good thermals. By 11:30 a few cumulus could be seen forming a few miles south and west of the field. Don Coleman, our weather man, did not give us a very encouraging forecast; however, after the pilots meeting ably conducted by Johnny Nowak, our contest director, we towed the ships to the line and began operations.

Paul Bikle, last year's champion, was second off the ground and managed to remain in the air for 34 minutes in his T. G. 3, thus gaining the first points of the contest. On Bikle's second flight he remained in the air one hour and six minutes with a gain in altitude of 1850 feet above low point. Other pilots who gained points on the first day were Bob Hayed in a LK-10A with a flight of 33 min. and Charles Kohls in Ed. Knight's 1-23 with a flight of 1 hour forty-three minutes and a gain in altitude of 3000 feet.

Soaring conditions on Saturday were somewhat improved. The high had moved slightly eastward but winds were still from the east to the north east and very light. By 10:30 cumulus were beginning to form south and west of the field and everyone was anxious to get going. Today most pilots specified goals and were after either distance or goal prizes.

First off was Max Clayton with Dayton as his goal. Thirty-five minutes later and a few miles from the airport he was down. In 5th take-off position was Ed. Knight in his 1-23 with Fort Wayne as his goal, a distance of 94 miles. Three hours and thirty-five minutes later he landed at his destination. The low point on the

flight was 1200 feet and maximum altitude was 4600 feet. This gave Ed. Knight two legs on his silver "C" and first place in the distance because of his low time.

Floyd Sweet in his LK-10A also specified Ft. Wayne as his goal and arrived there four hours and four minutes after releasing over Toledo.

Other pilots winning contest points on the second day were, Marvin Frost in LK-10A for 52 minutes duration; David Boice, Toledo club's novice pilot earning his C at the contest, 1 hour 20 minutes duration; Dallas Wise for 1 hour 33 minutes duration and Paul Bikle for 1 hour and 40 minutes duration.

At the end of the second day of the contest Floyd Sweet of Dayton and Ed. Knight of Toledo were tied for first place.

Saturday night every one met for dinner at the Caranor Club in Perrysburg. Beer, cocktails and good food plus motion pictures of various soaring contests made the evening a most enjoyable one.

Sunday was another beautiful day. Don Coleman presented the pilots another weather synopsis. His report showed the high had moved only slightly eastward and winds would continue light, shifting to a south easterly to southerly, with possible scattered thunderstorms during the afternoon. Soaring should be good.

Floyd Sweet and Ed Knight were fighting for that top position so both elected to try a goal and return flight to Findlay, Ohio, a 76 mile round trip. Both Knight and Sweet reached Bowling Green, Ohio, over half way to Findlay. Sweet landed at Bowling Green and was towed back for a duration flight over Toledo Airport. Ed Knight tried to soar back but missed the airport by two miles. No one else left the vicinity of the airport. Paul won the duration event after staying aloft for three hours and forty six minutes, also the altitude by slipping into a high cloud for 4100 feet above low point. Floyd Sweet made a duration flight of 49 minutes after his return from Bowling Green, which won him the contest and the Mid-West Championship.

The final results shape up as follows:

DISTANCE EVENT

Sweet—July 22 4 hours 4 minutes. 74 mile goal to Fort Wayne, Ind. (second).

Knight—July 22 3 hours 35 minutes. 94 mile goal to Fort Wayne, Ind. (first).