

## SECOND ANNUAL WRIGHT MEMORIAL GLIDER MEET

Even the weatherman failed to dim local enthusiasm for the four-day Second Annual Wright Memorial Glider Meet sponsored by the Dayton Squadron Number One, Air Force Association, from Saturday, May 27 through Tuesday, May 30. Showers fell both Saturday and Sunday, but crowds up to 1000 braved the elements both days, and sunny skies Memorial Day brought a turn-out of 4000 persons.

The combination of rain and mist only spurred Paul Bikle, president of the Dayton Soaring Society, to two new records and the Grand Championship of the Meet. Bikle personally scored triumphs in five of the contest's seven events, amassing a winning total of 966 points. His closest competitor and last year's Wright Memorial winner, Major Scott Royce, only Wright Memorial winner, Major Scott Royce, garnered 509 points.



The Grand Champion of the Meet, Paul Bikle, poses with the Queen of the affair, Norma Jean Wiehe, after she presented him with the Lane Trophy. Dr. J. H. Meyer, commander of Dayton Squadron Number One, Air Force Association, sponsors of the meet, stands with the champion.

Three of the events were sponsored: The Boeing Speed Dash by the Boeing Airplane Company; the Douglas Speed Dash sponsored by the Douglas Aircraft Company; and the Service Distributing Spot Landing sponsored by the Service Distributing Company of Dayton. Gas was donated by the Shell Oil Company.

Bikle's new marks were set in the paper strafing event with a time of 11.7 seconds against last year's 18 seconds, and a spot landing average of just 7.1 inch from the marker as compared to 12 feet two inches, the old record. This latter was accomplished with the use of brakes heretofore barred from the meet. He also captured the endurance contest with a time aloft of 2 hours 13 minutes. This was four hours under last year's winning total but rain held down the soaring portion of the program. Bikle also took first place in the altitude event with a 6100 foot top, and won the altitude event by gaining 4800 feet from his lowest point.

One of the entrants from the Purdue University Glider Club set a new bomb dropping mark with an average of 44 feet eight inches, considerably less than the 69 foot previous record.

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The final winner and also a member of the Dayton Soaring Society was Marvin Frost who romped home first in the speed dash, after a series of elimination heats were held.



Paul Bikle, (who won the Grand Championship of the Meet, prepares to take off in his Schweizer TG-3, in the Douglas Bomb Dropping Event. He is president of Soaring Society of Dayton.

Bikle was awarded the three-foot Lane Trophy, symbolic of the championship and donated by the Lane Jewelry Company of Dayton. Along with the other winners he also received small gold trophies for winning the various events.

Queen of the Meet, "Miss Air Force Association" of the Dayton group, Norma Jean Wiehe made the presentations to the winners. The meet was enhanced by a display of an F-86 jet fighter, a B-29 fuselage, and a B-45 jet bomber nose section put up by the USAF Exhibit Unit. On Memorial Day the crowd was entertained by the 661st United States Air Force Band from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

More than 100 column inches were devoted by the Dayton newspapers to the Meet, and Radio Station WING had eight direct broadcasts, two each day, directly from the Montgomery.

A Red Cross trailer from the Montgomery Chapter of the Red Cross was on hand to take care of any emergencies. Parking was capably handled by the Dayton Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol.

All of the credit for handling the technical aspects of the meet goes to the Dayton Soaring Society who furnished the judges, timekeepers and official scorers.



Mrs. Sophia Payton, of Columbus, Ohio, was the only woman entered in the meet. She participated in the paper strafing, bomb dropping, and spot landing events.