

GOLD AND DIAMONDS DISCOVERED AT ODESSA

By E. J. REEVES
President, Texas Soaring Association

The inauguration of TSA's "Texas Soaring Record Attempts" at Odessa, ushered in a new form of, shall we say, Soaring Congress. This meeting was strictly informal and had a "way of going" that was found to be highly satisfying to all who participated. Now, to be sure, there have been many soaring camps, get-togethers, etc., in the past, both in this

plane in free flight from here to as far there as possible. Really a very simple formula, don't you think?

Here he could relax as never before at a soaring meet or contest. He was competing really with no one, had no contest standing or position to maintain. If he felt no urge to fly, he might drive



E. J. Reeves, president of TSA, stops to look pretty with Virginia Yerian and Mary Carsey. There was very little of this type of standing around on the morning of Aug. 5 when this photo was taken.

country and in other places, but never as far as we know any such meeting as this.

Here was organized a meeting whose entire effort was pointed at attempts at a particular and specific accomplishment. Now you may say, "But really, isn't the same thing true of every cross-country flight and especially those at the various contests?" We say absolutely not, it is not quite the same at all.

Here there were no ceremonies, no rules, other than the FAI requirements for records and "C" badge attainments. No pilots' or other organizational meetings. No met sessions, safety councils, technical sessions, starting times, contest numbers, take-off positions, contest standings, points, prizes, awards, registration, entry fees, etc. You came and went as you liked, you were strictly on your own and everything was free and easy. You went flying when the spirit moved you or when you decided the conditions were to your liking. The participants could and did concentrate on only one thing—that of moving a sail-



Roy Tavender, visitor from London, England, Jon Carsey, president of SSA, and June Wiberg were all busy at Odessa. June was the uncrowned retrieving champ.

crew for another pilot, hunt horned toads, tour out to New Mexico to see the caverns; any number of interesting possibilities presented themselves. He might take turns at flying the tow ship and later sit with the gang at the hangar and sweat out the telephone calls from those who went.

It was fun, it was different and when it did come time to fly he was calm, cool and collected and did the flying job of his life. No laboring under the pressure of competitive flying or pushing against the heat of contest standings. Yes, we say "Something new has been added"—and we hope, all for the good of soaring.

The Texas Soaring Association is very proud of the pilots' accomplishments during our "Texas Soaring Records Attempts." We especially appreciate the assistance given the activity by our fellow Texans at Odessa. Actually TSA as an organization contributed little other than the idea for this meeting. The selection of the best possible launching site was