

FIFTH MID-WEST SOARING CONTEST

Toledo's Fifth Mid-West Soaring Contest got off to a slow start on Thursday, July 3rd, 1952. The elements were against us as overcast skies and thunderstorms moved through the area, but with the passage of a cool front during the night Friday brought clear and cool weather and promises of good soaring conditions.

On July 4th Chuck Kohls was the first off the ground on a weather flight in the Toledo Glider Club's 2-22. His flight of 25 minutes indicated good thermals. Next off the ground to remain aloft 3 hours and 23 minutes was Ray Johnson in Dallas Wise's TG-2 which Ray had purchased and repaired after Dallas' accident early this year.

Outstanding flights of this day were Marvin Frost's duration flight of 5 hours and 38 minutes. Roudolp Opitz's flight to Medina, Ohio just short of his goal which was Akron, and Ed Knight's duration flight of 5 hours 12 minutes which ended at Willow Run Airport near Detroit and qualified him for his Silver "C" Certificate.

Saturday, July 5th was another beautiful day with winds from the northeast off Lake Erie. The cold air from the lake has a bad effect on thermal conditions for several miles inland and the Toledo Airport is on the edge of the affected area. At the pilot's meeting it was decided to make this a task day with Adrian, Michigan as the task city. The Adrian Chamber of Commerce has been very cooperative and has posted prizes for several years for the first glider to reach their city. This year three very nice prizes were offered. Although it was not required that everyone try to go to Adrian, most of the pilots named Adrian as their goal.

The problem was to get out of the lake air near the airport and once this was accomplished thermal conditions throughout the area were excellent. The only one to complete the task was Ed Knight flying a Schweizer 1-23. Except for Floyd Sweet who named Fort Wayne, Indiana, as his goal and completed his flight of 94 miles in 4 hours; and Rudolph Opitz with Cincinnati as his goal but landed at Dayton, Ohio, 120 miles from Toledo, no one else managed to get away from the vicinity of the Toledo Airport.

At the conclusion of Saturday's flights Opitz and Sweet were very close in total points and there was some speculation as to whether or not Opitz would make the long drive back to Toledo for Sunday's competition.

Saturday night the group gathered at the Carranor Club in Perrysburg for a dutch treat dinner and free beer. This was a gala evening and was climaxed by the presentation of souvenir glasses to all pilots and their crews by Contest Director John Nowak. A set of eight Libbey Glass Company's "old-fashioned"

glasses were presented. These glasses were suitably marked with the date and a 1-23 sailplane in a towering cumulus.



J. NOWAK, F. SWEET AND R. OPITZ

After dinner songs and beer drinking went on until the small hours of the morning. The many red eyes and hoarse voices of the pilots on the flight line on Sunday were evidence of a rather gay evening.

We were again blessed with fine weather on Sunday and found Opitz at the airport for our pilots' meeting after a sleepless night on the road. Except for two goal and return flights by Floyd Sweet and Rudolph Opitz to Findlay, Ohio, all other flights were local.

The Fifth Mid-West Contest was officially concluded at four P.M., but it was agreed that any sailplane in the air on a cross-country flight would have until six P.M. to report to the contest committee. Opitz returned from his goal-and-return flight five minutes before the six o'clock deadline and had accumulated enough points to win the contest.

The following statistics give all pertinent information regarding the prize winners and participants. While the Mid-West Contest is not a large one, we here in Toledo believe that everyone had a good time and enjoyed the informal get-together. There were no casualties or minor accidents of any kind.

We hope that next year many more people will come to Toledo to participate in the Sixth Mid-West Contest.