

SIXTH ANNUAL WRIGHT MEMORIAL GLIDER MEET

Nationally famous Larry Gehrlein of Erie, Pennsylvania, scored impressive triumphs in three events to handily win the Lane Trophy in the Sixth Annual Wright Memorial Glider Meet in Dayton, Ohio, May 27-31.

Entered in the Senior Division, the Pennsylvanian captured the General Electric Distance with a new meet record of 142 miles; copped the Convair Absolute Altitude with a mark of 5,670 feet; and took the Northrop Endurance with a time of 6 hours, 8 minutes. His final total of 6,480 was well ahead of second place Rudy Opitz of Dayton, who had 4,711.

Champion of the Junior Division was Air Force Lieutenant Dave McNey, of Youngstown, Ohio, who won the Republic Trophy with 3,450 points over second place Tom Holloran of Dayton, who boasted a 2,548 total.

The Northrop Collegiate Trophy was won by the Purdue University Glider Club.

More than 12,000 persons attended the five-day affair that attracted a record number of entries, 45 pilots and 16 sailplanes. The meet is sponsored annually by the Wright Memorial Squadron, Air Force Association, in conjunction with the Soaring Society of Dayton.

The Senior Division had another meet record-breaking performance when Julian Allen of Dayton, took the Hughes Paper Strafing event with a time of 6.2 seconds in beating his 1953 record by .2 of a second. John Biernacki of Dayton, won the Telectro Altitude Gained with 3,900 foot rise; Henry Carbaugh, of Dayton, took top honors in the B&H spot landing by stopping his glider just 7 inches from the pylon; and Rudy Opitz captured the Lycoming Bomb Drop with a drop landing just 25 feet from the target.



Miss Shirley Oney, Queen of the meet, poses with the brilliant array of trophies awarded during the meet.



McNey, in winning the Junior Crown, won the Soaring Society Absolute Altitude with a 5,000-foot high, and the Air Force Association Endurance event by remaining aloft 4 hours, 45 minutes.

Other Junior Division winners included Walter Detert of Dayton who won the Allied Bomb Drop with a 37-foot attempt; Herb Willford, of Malinta, Ohio, who took the Hyland Spot Landing with a stop just four inches from the pylon; and William McElwee of Purdue, who won the Republic Paper Strafing with a cutting time of 6.9 seconds.

Additional highlights of the meet included a delayed parachute jump by Jack McMahon who bailed out from 4,500 feet; and a series of displays including the F-86 Sabre Jet, YH-23 Helicopter, engine van, and guided missiles provided by the USAF Orientation Group from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Several squadrons from the Dayton Civil Air Patrol Group assisted in running the meet.

Front row: (Left to right) Larry Gehrlein, Senior Division Champion; Queen Shirley Oney; Dave McNey, Junior Division Champion. Back row: Marvin Frost, President SSD; Ruth Tempas and William McElwee, of Champion Purdue team.

