

NEW MOVIES

"WINGS LIKE EAGLES" a 16 MM color movie with sound narration is the latest and best thing we have seen and heard on the subject of modern soaring. It is a production of one of California's leading professional movie photographers, Mr. Tom Hotchkiss. The film is about 600 feet in length giving it a running time of approximately 15 minutes.

Mr. Hotchkiss has captured in his "Wings like Eagles" the true feeling and meaning of soaring flight. The film is expertly edited and produces a very well conceived continuity of action throughout.

All scenes were shot at Elsinore during the 21st National Contest there last summer. The color photography is superb. While genuinely good throughout, we think perhaps the in-flight shots are the most exceptional. Some of the scenes showing the sailplanes in the air in actual soaring flight and at very close range are indeed impressive. Both thermal and slope soaring is vividly depicted and explained by the narrator. Some of the sailplanes seen wheeling and turning in glistening free flight as they cavort along the face of Elsinore's favorite soaring ridge, come, it seems, within touching distance of the viewer.

The film is being released by Mr. Hotchkiss and already a quite wide demand has developed. It has been created with the idea of giving a completely understandable introduction to modern-day methods of the successful accomplishment of flying without power. This film appeals to both young and old, and will be fully enjoyed by the experienced soaring pilots as well as the novice.

"Wings like Eagles" would seem to be the most desirable medium possible for explaining the whole idea of soaring flight to those not fully or well informed on the subject. Individual enthusiasts and soaring groups might do well to consider acquiring a copy of this up to date, professionally and scientifically made film. It is by all odds the best thing of its kind that has come along for quite some time. One or more copies will be placed in SSA's Film Library and will become available for rental by qualified groups.

Copies of the film may be purchased, at \$130.00 per copy, from the producer—Tom Hotchkiss, 3759 Pierce Street, Arlington, California.



Spiraling

with E. J.

"... ROGER AND OUT"

It is probable that not a single aviation organization—including the militia, flying clubs and groups of all kinds, manufacturers of air things, aviation editors, members of the congress, any and everyone interested directly or indirectly in aviation in America, in any shape form or fashion—who, on being asked if they believed in an aviation training program for the American youth, would answer any other way than, "AFFIRMATIVE, ROGER AND OUT."

Now isn't that splendid—just about everyone agreeing that we should have a full-scale, big-time, all-out, training program that would look to and ensure our young people have knowledge of, and become indoctrinated with, things aeronautical.

Right along here now some of my smart readers—assuming I have readers, smart or otherwise—are going to ask, "Howenelle is it then that such a program is practically non-existent in this country?"

And right here is where I tell you that my answer to it is this "... ROGER AND OUT" business.

It is like Mark Twain said about the weather—everybody talks about it but nobody does anything about it. Also it reminds me of the case of the mice wanting a bell tied on the cat. They thought it a capital idea but none wanted the job of affixing the bell on the feline.

Other nations both large and small, have extensive aeronautical training program for their youth which are succeeding beautifully. And one of the most highly developed programs is that of the U.S.S.R.

My most recent authority on the subject of the Russians' program for their youth comes from no less a publication than "AIR TRAINING" the official journal of our USAF's Air Training Command. The lead article of its October 1954 issue is by Lt. Geo. New, entitled "NICHOLAI IS READY" sub headed "Russian Youth Organizations Make Sure." And here are a few excerpts from this very factual article. "DOSAAF, as it's called, has a membership of over 15 million. A boy or girl is eligible for membership at 8. As of two years ago DOSAAF was headed by an Air Force lieutenant general. By the time they are 18 they have as many as 100 jumps to their credit. If they go into flying training THEY START WITH GLIDERS (caps mine) and graduate into powered aircraft..."

Looks to me like the Russians said "AFFIRMATIVE—WILCO."

Just how much longer the powers-that-be in aviation in America, will go on sitting on their hands—I have no idea. But it could be, you know, that they will do it too long.

EJ