

flight accomplished during this contest was to stand for several years as the National Distance Record and marked young Du Pont as one of the world's great airmen.

*Best Performances:*

Altitude, 6,224 feet. Duration, 6 hours 8 minutes. Distance, 158 miles.

A momentous event later in this year 1934 was the 'Lustig Sky Train' in which three Franklin gliders were aero towed, in tandem, over New York City with Jack O'Mera, Stan Smith and R. E. Franklin at the controls. This year marked the advent of aero towing in America.

Late in the year 1934, soaring in America was to suffer one of its greatest losses in the untimely death of one of its great mentors, Mr. Warren E. Eaton, in a most unusual accident which occurred when Mr. Eaton was giving a demonstration flight at Miami, Fla. This tragedy occurred on December 1st, 1934. Typical of the thousands of messages of condolence received and one of the most expressive was that of Mr. Harry F. Guggenheim which said—

"HE GAVE HIS LIFE AS HE LIVED . . . HEROICALLY FIGHTING TO EXTEND THE BOUNDS OF MANKIND'S MASTERY OF THE AIR."

1935—6th Annual National Soaring Contest. Site No. 1 (now Harris Hill), Elmira, N. Y. This was to be the first National Contest to be conducted from this site, then designated No. 1 and later to be officially named in honor of Lt. Hank Harris who had the previous year lost his life in a freakish accident with a tow car. Harris Hill is now world famed as one of the most beautiful and best equipped soaring sites, and provides at the same time perhaps the world's best soaring conditions. We are certain that more flights have been launched and more time and miles flown from Harris Hill than from any other place in this country.

Richard C. Du Pont was to repeat as National Champion in this 6th National, having won handily the year previously. Most unusual in connection with the scoring in this contest was the fact that a relatively newcomer to the sport, Chester 'Chet' Decker of New Jersey accumulated the exact same point total as did Du Pont. A dead heat in other words, the first and only such occurrence we have ever heard of in the sport

of soaring. Du Pont being the defending champion and his performances in this contest not being exceeded by another competitor, the Contest Committee had no choice but to award him the Championship.

*Best Performances:*

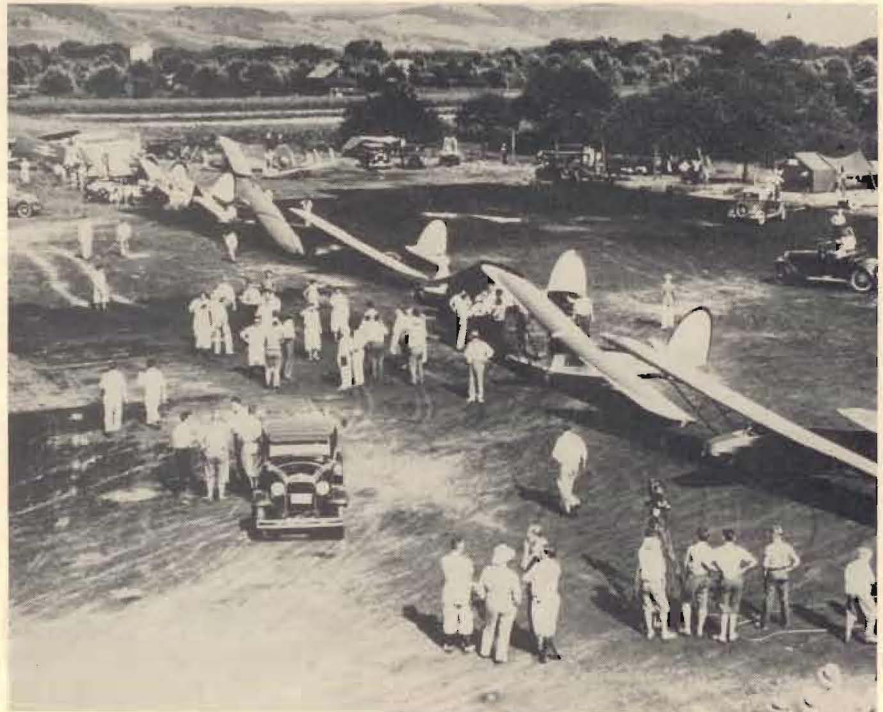
Altitude, 4,980 feet. Duration, 7 hours 11 minutes. Distance, 120 miles.

This 6th year of competition soaring in America in 1935, saw by far the longest list of pilot and ship entries in the history of the sport to that time. Ninety-six pilots were officially entered in the contest, with forty gliders, although only thirty-one of the gliders were flown.

This year 1935 marked the entry of The Soaring Society of America

A list of the types of gliders in the competition at the 6th, reads as follows: 13 Standard 'Franklin' Secondaries, 2 Special 40' 'Franklin' Secondaries, 5 'Baker-McMillan' Cadets, 1 'Gross F-5' four-place sailplane, 1 'Funk Brothers' two-seater, 1 'Haller-Hirth,' 2 'Preufling' Secondaries, 1 'Lawrence Institute of Technology' Gull Wing Secondary, 1 'Bowlus-Du-Pont' Albatross sailplane, 1 Darmstadt Sailplane, 1 'Waco' Primary, 1 'Mead Challenger' Secondary, and 1 'Preufling' conversion.

1936—7th Annual National Soaring Contest. Harris Hill, Elmira, N. Y. Chester Decker was to come roaring back in this 7th National to lift the championship from the famous Dick Du Pont who had won the two



Acme

Scene at 2nd National Contest 1931 at the old Canton Ave. Airport at Elmira, N. Y. Note vintage aircraft, automobiles, etc.

into the National Aeronautics Association and thereby identifying the Society with both national and international organizations for sportive aviation. Also during the year a noteworthy soaring flight was accomplished by Mr. Lewin Barringer when he ridge-soared a distance of nearly 160 miles in a flight from Ellenville, N. Y. to a point near Harrisburg, Pa. It is thought that this feat has probably never been equalled or exceeded even to this day. SSA and the soaring movement in America was flourishing under the direction of then Lt. Cmdr. Ralph S. Barnaby, USN.

previous years' championships. It will be remembered that Decker had actually tied Du Pont's score in the '35 melee.

*Best Performances:*

Altitude, 6,516 feet. Duration, 8 hours 48 minutes. Distance, 146 miles.

This top altitude of the 7th was a new record and was flown by Emerson Mehlhose, the accomplishment winning him a \$500 prize which had been set up for anyone who could exceed the old mark of 6,224 feet.

(Continued on Page 6)