

QUARTER CENTURY

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Again the "Task System" of contesting was fully employed in this meet and it proved itself to be a most acceptable manner of contesting.

The new Schweizer 1-23 made its appearance in this 16th. The new famous Bishop Wave at Bishop, California, had been written of by Harlan Ross and Bob Symonds and flights by these pilots and John Robinson had attained over 33,000 feet. Ted Nelson of California was experimenting with self-launching sailplanes.

1950 — The 17th National Soaring Contest. Grand Prairie Airport, Grand Prairie, Texas.

This brought the National back to Texas for the second time and to a different location. The Texas Soaring Association was the successful bidder of this 17th. While the entry list was shorter than that of the big 14th in Wichita Falls, and the prevailing soaring conditions also somewhat short of those of '47, a very successful contest was brought off nonetheless.

Dick Johnson had just completed his famous Ross-Johnson 5 and made his first flights with the machine during this contest. He was soon out in front in the scoring and went on to win very easily. Runners up to Johnson were Coverdale 2nd, Ivans 3rd, Reeves 4th. In the "B" Classification Chuck Kohls was first, and in "C" Classification Geo. Lambros. Ted Nelson's team took first honors in that category, flying his latest powered-sailplane the "Hummingbird."

Best Performances:

Distance — 337 miles by Johnson.

1951 — 18th National Soaring Contest. Harris Hill, Elmira, N. Y. Back home at Harris Hill was this 18th National. The defending Champion, Dick Johnson, was on hand with his still more refined RJ-5. The question being asked was, "Could the 'RJ' and Dick do in the East what they had in Texas' big conditions. They sure could, in fact N. Y. and the Eastern U. S. proved this year that Texas and California had no "exclusive" on super soaring conditions. Johnson scored heavily and consistently, his best flight being a National Distance Record of 367 miles to Norfolk, Va.

Best Performances:

Distance — 367 mi., by Johnson.

Speed — 51.5 MPH by Johnson.

Runners-up were—Stan Smith 2nd, Bill Coverdale 3rd, Wally Wiberg 4th.

Later in 1951 in connection with a Soaring Camp conducted by Texas Soaring Association, at Odessa, Texas,

Johnson was to exceed his own and the World Distance Soaring Record in a flight of 535 miles to Silana, Kansas.

1952 — 19th National Soaring Contests. Grand Prairie Airport, Grand Prairie, Texas.

For the third time in Texas and the second time at this site, the Nationals came back to the Southwest for the running of the great 19th. From the standpoint of individual performances this meeting exceeded even the great 14th National at Wichita Falls. Two hundred mile flights were the order of the day on open days and three hundred mile distances were quite common.

Dick Johnson for the third time carried away the Du Pont Memorial Trophy and the National Championship. Behind him in the scoring came Bill Ivans 2nd, Coverdale 3rd, Paul Bickle 4th.

Best Performances:

Distance — 369 mi., by Johnson.

turesque in all of California, offered at the same time some of the most challenging conditions of both weather and terrain.

Here on the shores of Lake Elsinore in California developed one of those great flying festivals that few others have equalled. Here developed challenges to soaring pilots the like of which they had not theretofore encountered. Skillful men were able to cope with these unusual situations and the great three-time winner Dick Johnson had little difficulty in taking the championship for the 4th time. Raymond Parker, Lyle Maxey, Paul Bickle and Bill Ivans, finished in that order after Johnson.

Best Performances:

Distances—321 mi. Speed 31 MPH.

This takes us through "A Quarter Century of National Competitions." We dare say the next twenty-five will be more interesting still.

MEET YOUR FRIENDS AT THE **SSA BOOTH** AT THE 22nd NATIONAL CONTEST

Speed — 51 MPH by Johnson.

A noteworthy flight during this contest was a World's Record 260.34 miles "Goal and Return" flight by Bill Coverdale, which record still stands.

1953 — 20th National Soaring Contest — Harris Hill, Elmira, N. Y. Home again to the "Glider Capitol of America" for the 20th. This was MacCready's again with him displacing Johnson as National Champ, who did not compete in this 20th tournament. Second place was won by Stan Smith, third by Paul Schweizer, and fourth by Stephen Bennis.

Best Performances:

Distance — 215 by MacCready, 204 mi. Schweizer, and 193 mi. by William Coverdale.

1954 — 21st National Soaring Contest. Elsinore Glider Port, Elsinore, Cal. For many years now the State of California had had some of the most active soaring groups and had developed many outstanding soaring performances by some of the world's greatest soaring pilots. Now for the first time the "Golden State" was to entertain a National Soaring tournament. The site, one of the most pic-

TECHNICAL AEROMODELING

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Finally the glider may be worked to maximum altitude, but be in no hurry to release it until the wind and thermals are just right. Then nudge it into its natural turn direction and slacken the line with a flip of the wrist (or by throwing the reel in a wind). At last your creation is free to roam the high currents in fulfillment of the hours spent in perfecting towing techniques.

Free Flight

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