

LARISSA STROUKOFF MEMORIAL TROPHY



Mr. Michael Stroukoff, President of the Stroukoff Aircraft Corporation.

Whether he realizes it or not, probably the proudest winner at this year's National Contest should be Steve Bennis, the first holder of the beautiful new Larissa Stroukoff Memorial Trophy and award, one of the most striking and generous gifts which the Soaring Society has been privileged to receive and administer. The trophy and award, to go each year to the winner of the goal and return event in the National Soaring Contest, comes from a fund left by Larissa Stroukoff, the late wife of Michael Stroukoff, President of the Stroukoff Aircraft Corporation, for the purpose of assisting young people in their aviation interests.

Mike, as he is affectionately known throughout the aviation world, has long been an enthusiastic supporter of soaring, and a frequent attendant at National Contests, where his cash prizes for flights to his home field at Trenton, and for other events have been notable attractions.

The idea of a trophy and award has been in Mr. Stroukoff's mind for some time, and his desire to implement it for the 22nd National Contest was voiced to President Floyd Sweet last spring. Floyd turned the project over to Vice President Ralph Barnaby, who arranged a meeting between Mr. Stroukoff and Philip Kind of S. Kind & Sons, Jewelers and Silversmiths of Philadelphia. On June 6th, standing at a jewelry show case in the Kind store, with pencil and ruler in hand, Mr. Stroukoff personally drew on the back of a manila

envelope the sketch from which the trophy was built!

The finished trophy in its attractive carrying case was delivered to the Soaring Society headquarters in Elmira on July 2nd, a truly remarkable performance.

With the trophy, which is perpetual and passes along from winner to winner, the Larissa Stroukoff Foundation has provided, as well, a fund of \$5,000.00 which, by instruction from the donor, has been used to purchase a \$5,000.00 3% Treasury Bond of the United States of America. The income from this bond will be used, as provided in the terms of the gift, largely as a cash award to the winner each year.

In addition to the cash award, the winner also receives for his permanent possession a beautiful certificate



The Larissa Stroukoff Memorial Trophy which is to be awarded each year to the winner of the Goal and Return event during the National Soaring Contest.

showing in its background a likeness of the trophy.

It has been Mr. Stroukoff's oft-expressed desire to provide a strong incentive to draw young people into aviation pursuits in general, and, in particular, to do so through stimulation of interest in soaring which he has long recognized as having in itself a strong appeal to youth. This gracious gift cannot fail to assist in fulfilling his hope. The Soaring Society is proud to be the custodian of this generous gift.

PATTER

(Continued from Page 18)

It didn't hurt her, but I bet her wings would have looked like those of an albatross on the down stroke if one of the boys would have taken her picture the moment we hit. Did you hear that tall grass slapping the wheel 10 feet before we landed? You don't have to worry about dropping her in when you land a little fast like that. Like they say — there are old pilots and bold pilots, but no old, bold pilots.

Well, how did you like the flight? I know it was only 20 minutes long and I can't tell you much about what I think about flying or how I love it in such a short time. Nor can I tell you all of the things I've learned about it or the fun I've had with my friends who feel the same as I do about it. I could never explain to you how, after a few days on the ground, I get hungry for the air and for the feeling it gives me to have lots of it under my wings. I could never describe the beauties I've seen from the cockpit, the Cumulus build-ups painted a thousand colors by the sunset. I could never tell you all of these things on a flight of 20 minutes.

But these sensations, excitements and beauties are real and can be had by you or anyone else who goes forth into the skies on silent wings to seek them out. Perhaps after our short flight you will see soaring in a different light and look upon a sailplane with friendly, understanding eye. Perhaps now you will be inclined to enjoy to a greater extent your share of the operation and the good fellowship that goes with it. Lilienthal had to build his own glider and even build a hill from which to glide in order to make flights much shorter than the one from which we have just returned. I would do the same as Lilienthal, if I had to, but I don't. You see, it's much easier these days.