

# SOARING NEWS BRIEFS . . .

On July 27th, during a severe electrical storm, **Bonnie Brook**, the home of **Paul A. Schweizer** and his **Father**, was struck by lightning and almost completely destroyed. Bonnie Brook was one of the oldest and most elegant homes in Chemung County. It was originally built more than 130 years ago and had been very tastefully added to many times. Each addition seemed to have been made for a separate special group of members of the owner's family, and therefore had its own stairway (it had 5) and own bath, which made the house especially convenient for Paul to entertain soaring house guests and for Papa Schweizer to care for his many friends and his sons, daughters and grand children. Bonnie Brook, in five years had won a place second only to that of Paul and "Papa" in the hearts of many, many soaring people of the U. S. and the world.

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The **F.A.I. Gold Medal**, the highest F.A.I. can bestow, for 1954, was awarded to **General James H. Doolittle**, of the United States. The Gold Medal is "granted to persons who have contributed greatly to the development of aeronautics by their actions, work, achievements, initiative or devotion to the cause of aviation." The **Lilienthal Medal** for the most outstanding performances in gliding and soaring in 1954 went to **Philip A. Wills** of England. The 1955 F.A.I. General Conference, as well as the Gliding Commission Meeting was held in Paris June 17th through 25th, last. The Commission Meetings will be held in Vienna.

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The F.A.I. (Federation Aeronautique Internationale) at its Annual Conference in Paris, awarded a **Paul Tissandier Diploma** to our own **Ralph Barnaby**. This award is for "eminent services to aviation" and is considered one of the highest honors to be received in the world of aviation. Other Americans receiving the Diplomas were Ben O. Howard, E. H. Heinemann and J. H. Kindelberger.

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The **F.A.I. Gliding Commission** at the Paris Conference abolished one and added two new Classifications of Gliding Records. **Duration Records** were abolished in the interest of safety. The two new classifications are

**speed over triangular courses** of 200 and 300 kilometers.

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The 1955 **French National Soaring Championships**, held at St. Yan included five different tasks, one of which was along a compass course—the distance of a landing from this course being deducted from the points the pilot would have gained had he landed exactly on course. The contest was won by **Erich Frowein**, a German, flying an HKS. 2nd was **Paul Lepanse**, of France, flying a Brequet 901. World Champion **Pierre**, flying an Air 102, placed 6th. Under rules of some European National contests, invited contestants of any nationality can win the championship.

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A British pilot, **L. R. Robertson** on May 29, flew his Olympia from **Camphill** to **Blackpool** to win a prize of 100 pounds that was posted nearly 20 years ago by the Blackpool Daily Dispatch. His flight lasted 3 hours and he put down at Squires Gate beside the Blackpool and Fylde Gliding Club's T-21, which was being towed out to take-off position.

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The **Central Aero Club de L'U. R.S.S., Moscow**, reports that in 1954 it conducted 11,991 conferences on aviation subjects, and that it made 1,939 visits to air fields in the interest of aviation education. It also reports 154 aviation competitions, both motorless and powered, and 424 modeling competitions, altogether involving 18,894 people. According to the report to FAI, 36 International Records were established, none of them in soaring.

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Recent reports from **Fred Slingsby**, manufacturer of the **Sky** and newer **Skylark**, indicates that he is going into the manufacturing of **two-seaters** in a big way, "as two-seaters will be in greater demand in the future than single seaters." He states that current sales of two-seaters include orders from the Burma Air Force and from Argentina.

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**Mrs. Anne Burns** of Farnborough, England, soared 134 miles on her first solo flight. The flight was from Farnborough to Tern Hill, and is a new official **British feminine distance record**.

First of the new series of **Hummingbirds** has been delivered to **George and Margaret Downsbrough** who accepted it at Denver, Colorado and soared it back to their home, in a series of flights, at Smoke Rise, Butler, New Jersey. The second Hummingbird will go to **James W. Simmons, Jr.**, of Dallas. It is to be delivered before September 1st. All of the six ships now under construction are to be completed by the end of November 1955.

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Revival of an old soaring club came to light in the form of a bulletin called "Early Birds" from the **GREATER ST. LOUIS SOARING ASSN.** While most of the names mentioned are new, one is a very substantial soaring personality of many years. He is **Howard C. Blossom**, who holds a warm spot in the heart of this humble reporter because he has supported morally and materially SSA's recent worthwhile projects. GSLSA's address is 311 S. First St., Belleville, Illinois.

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A newly appointed member of the **State of Ohio Aviation Board** is **Ed Knight**, who is a long time soaring enthusiast and SSA member, a former SSA Director, a principal leader in the Toledo Glider Club and sponsor and host to many Midwest Soaring Meets.

## GOODHART SETS NEW BRITISH RECORD

Commander **Nick Goodhart**, high scorer in America's 22nd National, went out to Texas in mid August for tries at distance. He was the guest of Texas Soaring Association and was given the use of the "Weihe" sailplane which was donated to TSA last year by Capt. J. Shelly Charles.

During his stay in Texas Commander Goodhart found soaring conditions not up to the usual standards for that area at this time of year. He was however able to soar on one day and that proved quite good. His flight from Grand Prairie to a predetermined destination at English Field, Amarillo, Texas, covered a distance of some 320 miles.

This flight by Goodhart in Texas will, when homologated by the British Gliding Association, stand for a **new British record** for distance in a straight line and distance to a predetermined destination. Also this flight accomplished the distance and goal legs for Diamond "C" and will be the **first Diamond** in Britain.