

GLIDER SHOW AT FORD MUSEUM

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A large exhibit of gliders and sailplanes has just concluded a successful run at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. It was sponsored by the Museum and the Michigan Soaring Association with cooperation from the SSA and local glider groups in Detroit and Toledo under the direction of Ray Jackson, SSA Governor for Michigan. The show ran for 20 days and was viewed by over 15,000 people, despite a stretch of poor weather.

The Henry Ford Museum is part of the Greenfield Village area established by the late Henry Ford. The museum has acres of permanent exhibits, many of them having to do with the history of transportation. In addition to their permanent exhibits, the museum periodically runs special shows which they feel will be of great interest. Their annual sports car show, for example, attracts large crowds. Although the museum has a good sized permanent aviation display, this was its first glider and sailplane show. It is hoped that they found it of sufficient general interest to put it on an annual basis in the future.

The exhibit was opened Saturday, March 31, by a banquet at the museum. The food (which would put even the Wurtsboro spreads to shame) was enjoyed by some 91 soaring enthusiasts and their guests. Honors for coming the longest distance went to Harry Perl, from California, with Fritz Compton of Miami in second place. SSA President Floyd Sweet, Mrs. Sweet and their children were in from Washington. Among other out of town guests was a group of seven from Chicago, including Len Peterson, Eva Scholz and Sven Anderson. The Mahoneys led a group of six from Fort Wayne, and there was a similar sized group from Toledo. Canada was represented by Al Pow and the Prices and Hansknets represented the Northwest Michigan Soaring Club. That eminent choirmaster John Novak from Toledo led group singing during the banquet.

Including those at the banquet, 132



Photo: Courtesy of The Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn, Michigan

Entrance to exhibit area showing, suspended from ceiling, 1929 "hang" glider (with pilot shown in position) and Zoegling primary trainer of 1930 vintage. Past the uncovered fuselage and wing of a Franklin can be seen Trager's "Alibi," with a 1-26 wing and tail just visible on the left.

persons attended the meeting in the museum auditorium which followed. They were welcomed there by Mr. Frank Caddy, Administrative Director of the museum, and then there was a showing of that thrilling movie "Hummingbird soaring over the Sierras." The various celebrities and out of town guests in the audience were introduced by Ray Jackson who presided. President Sweet then made the main address on the past, present and future of soaring in the United States. Following his talk there was a lively discussion by a panel consisting of

Ray Jackson, Kemp Trager and R. E. Franklin who endeavored to answer any and all questions submitted from the floor. There was a very pleasant surprise for all in attendance when Col. Sweet asked R. E. Franklin to come to the podium where he was presented with a Distinguished Service Certificate by the Soaring Society of America in recognition of his many years of pioneering work on design and operational techniques for gliders.

The exhibit at the museum occupied a space of 120 by 160 feet and