



Map showing the Mojave Desert and the surrounding country. Only the largest of the mountain ranges are indicated. Major roads which must be followed in desert flights are shown.

the-spot observations at the time of projected take-off. El Mirage lies at an elevation of 2,860 feet, about 17 miles north of the San Gabriel range of mountains. This range, which runs east and west, rises to over 10,000 feet. There are two prominent passes through this range; Cajon Pass to the east of El Mirage and Soledad Pass to the west. The usual situation is to find cooler, stable air flowing northward through these passes and spilling out over the desert to the east and west of El Mirage. (See

Map.) Where these air masses reach the warm, unstable desert air a shear line frequently results which can be quite useful in furnishing lift for local flying, but these areas of stable air to the east and west of El Mirage mean nothing but trouble for pilots attempting to go cross-country in those directions. The Soledad Pass is 30 miles closer to the ocean, and cool, stable air coming up through it generally blankets the western side of the southern Mojave Desert area so that long flights directly to

the west are usually impossible. Even if you got past the air coming up through the pass, you are generally moving closer to the ocean, and with the general circulation usually being from the southwest this is a very unpromising cross-country prospect.

The most common situation in the Mojave Desert is to have clear skies with dry thermals over the desert floor, but with some Cu over the mountains. Sometimes we have nice thunderstorms which form over the mountains, but usually we don't find