

NATIONALS NOTES

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Odessa, Texas, where the sun spends the winter and August brings the thermals, is the site of the 27th Annual U.S. National Soaring Championships to be held August 2 - 11, 1960.

Odessa, with a population nearing the 100,000 mark, is located midway between Ft. Worth and El Paso at the intersection of U.S. Highway 80 (Interstate 20) and the International Parks Highway 385. Four-lane highways enter Odessa from every direction except from the south. All modes of travel are available to prospective contestants or spectators visiting Odessa.

Headquarters for contestants and their crews will be the Lincoln Hotel located in downtown Odessa. For those who wish motel facilities there are over 600 units available with swimming pools and all the trimmings.

According to those enthusiasts who have participated in other soaring

activities at this site, the word "Odessa" means 'the ultimate in soaring. Odessa, thermals included, has contributed to more world soaring records than any other area in the world. Seven of the current world soaring records were established in this West Texas area; single-place distance, two-place speed over 100, 200 and 300 kilometer triangles; and single-place speed over 100, 200 and 300 kilometer triangles.

Site of the 1960 Nationals will be the Ector County Airport, located approximately four miles north of

the downtown area on highway 385, commonly referred to as the Andrews Highway, Andrews being the next sizeable town to the north. Entrance for contestants, crews and spectators will be on Hillmont Street.

Meet officials have expressed the opinion that spectators will have the opportunity to see many different models of sailplanes in action, from the BG-7 to the latest experimental designs. Advance registrations should be made as soon as possible to enable meet officials to outline meet activities to fit the contestants.

The Championships will be sponsored by the world-famous Chuck Wagon Gang. This is a group of 250

Part of the Odessa Chuck Wagon Gang serves it up to the participants at the 1959 Odessa Soaring Camp.



Photo: E. J. Reeves

Ector County Airport, Odessa, Texas, where the 1960 U.S. National Soaring Championships will be held from August 2nd through 11th. Numbers indicate: 1, sailplane tiedown and hangar area; 2, intersection of highway 385 and entrance road to contest area; 3, sailplane landing mat; 4, towplane landing area; 5, spectator area; and 6, powerplane operations, tiedown and hangars. The runway parallel to the highway is 16-34.

