

SAFETY FIRST

THE GRAY HAIR DEPARTMENT

by JOSEPH M. ROBERTSON, *Chairman*
SSA Safety and Flight Operations Committee

In the past, reports on accidents published in SOARING have borne the simple title "Accident Report." Now, however, we have a new one. The title "Gray Hair Department" originally appeared in the U.S. Army Aviation Digest. Since that publication has now incorporated the information in other features of the magazine, the editor kindly allowed the SSA to feature a safety column with the same heading.

Eight years of reading sailplane accident reports have given me a full appreciation of the implications of the title. No one wants accidents. Certainly they do nothing to increase the enjoyment of flying. And yet there are groups and individuals whose indifference to the ever present possibility of an accident makes one wonder how they have gotten by without one.

Usually, if you observe an operation of this type closely, you will find one dominant factor. That factor

might be described as a lack of discipline. No one bothers with the rules or takes a little extra trouble to check the equipment. Maybe the instructor doesn't bother to make sure the student fully understands the instruction. There are many ways in which a little carelessness can lead to a great deal of damage.

Some people will say that to always follow the rules and to always double check everything takes all the fun out of flying. These people are the ones who lack imagination. Soaring presents many diverse and subtle elements that can be enjoyed safely. To take an obvious chance or to get pleasure only from cutting things a bit thin is sheer thick-headedness.

So take a moment to think of the results before you decide to skirt too close to the edge where a miscalculation or a little bad luck can end the whole show. Save someone from adding a few more gray hairs!

TEAM FUNDS NEEDED

Fund raising plans are now under way to help defray the expenses of the U.S. team's participation in the 1960 World Soaring Championships, to be held in West Germany next June. Paul A. Schweizer, chairman of the SSA International Team Subcommittee is coordinating these activities. Individuals wishing to contribute should make their checks payable to "SSA International Fund" and send them to Box 66071, Los Angeles 66, Calif.

Contributions to SSA for this (or any other) purpose are deductible on Federal income tax returns.

Contributors since the previous listings are named below. Send your check today and be listed in a subsequent issue.

Marc Abell

Anonymous

H. Marshall Claybourn

Columbia Basin Soaring Assn.

Sydney Feldman

Walter J. Krohne

Lloyd M. Licher

James P. Meckoll

John D. Ryan

ADDRESSES NEEDED

The following SSA members have had mail returned from the addresses shown, generally marked "moved, left no forwarding address." If you know the present address of any of them, please advise SSA.

Robert A. Abrams, 353 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 15, Mass.

Maj. Wm. P. Elliott, 3902 Wren Lane, Orlando, Fla.

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Edwin N. Fisher, 501 So. 13th, Apt. 107, Lincoln 2, Neb.

Kenneth M. Flannigan, Box 320, Middletown, N. Y.

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Hans Lagerloef, 3100 N. 35th., Lincoln 4, Neb.

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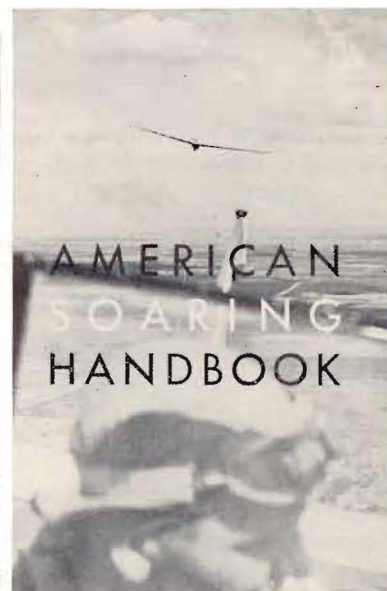
Dr. J. N. McFall, 40 Hernando, Lake City 1, Fla.

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Stuart J. Sapadin, 11501 Reading Rd., Cincinnati 41, Ohio.

Lt. Doss L. Smith, 4017 Combat Crew, Tng., Castle AFB, Calif.

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