



Photography by S. A. ALDOTT

GOAL FLIGHT BEYOND 500 MILES

by WALLACE A. SCOTT and Ka 6 "04 SUGAR"

After the termination of the 31st National Soaring Championships at McCook, Nebr., a number of pilots were looking forward to the Marfa Records encampment which was to be held at the Marfa-Alpine, Tex. airport. The encampment was still in progress at the time this was written, but some of our pilots were flying out of Odessa because of the, poorer-than-usual, weather experienced at Marfa. Consequently several fine flights were made from there, some reaching near the 500 mile mark. These will be reported by our Marfa "bookkeeper", J.C. "Red" Wright in *Soaring*, I am sure.

My family "crew," I and the Ka-6 went to Marfa on July 17th to enjoy the mountain flying and good companionship. The pilots were becoming rather restless, those seeking records, as the weather was not cooperating. Many were trying though anyway and having fun doing it. After flying locally for a few days and climbing Mount Livermore and Old Sawtooth, I also became restless, so early Tuesday morning of the 21st, I declared a

goal to Springfield, Colo. If the weather did not work out, my plans were to land at Odessa. This I did.

Wednesday July 22nd gave promise of possibly a good flight in the future. Our favorite weather man, Dan Owens, at the weather bureau, also thought that the next day looked promising. I tried to contact the boys at Marfa, but could not satisfactorily arrange a conference call with the proper people, so left word that I will call again early next morning.

The family and I overslept and did not start moving until after eight the next morning. The skies had a few patches of high residue of some overdevelopment from the preceding night and scattered patches of cumulus castellatus. This could be good. All of the weather data could not be gathered before 9:00 AM, but I called my friend Buzz Hurt asking him to please stand by for an air tow at around 10:00 AM and to act as my observer. The wheels got in motion after completion of the weather check. Odessa, minus-four stability, Amarillo a plus-one, zero sta-

bility further up the line. The winds were not too promising, but acceptable. Arriving at the airport at 9:30, my son and I tried to plot a course utilizing the winds. Everything was so busy that I forgot about my friends in Marfa. The winds were to be slightly Southeast to start with, then further up the line they were predicted to be southerly and finally southwesterly further on. I plotted a curve on the wall map with these winds in mind, picked a general area for my goal, put the string on Al Parker's world goal destination of Great Bend, Kan., added about 25 miles to this, then put the string on the general area in mind and it hit Goodland, Kan. airport on the nose. I planned to fly straightaway, forgetting the slight crosswinds as they should average out.

As I was making the goal declaration, Buzz drove up and signed it. Things were hectic, I had so much to do. Replace radio batteries, and other chores. Buzz helped all he could. We got to the take off line, buttoned up and the take off roll started at 10:02. Buzz head-