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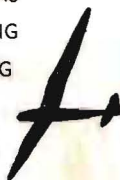
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### BIKLE REACHES 46,267'

On February 25th, SSA President Paul F. Bikle soared his Schweizer 1-23E sailplane to 46,267 ft. over Mojave, Calif., in a standing wave off the Tehachapi Mountains. The flight had an altitude gain of 42,303 ft. so it would appear that new world soaring records for single-place absolute altitude and altitude gained have been set if his applications are subsequently approved by FAI. Mojave, where the altitude was ob-

tained, is just to the southeast of the mountains and 25 miles north of Lancaster where Bikle lives.

Bikle's absolute altitude exceeded Bill Ivans' 10-year old record of 42,100 ft. by the necessary 1% to establish a new record. His altitude gained exceeded by the necessary 1% a 35,760 ft. mark set up on January 4th in Poland by Stanislaw Jozefczak in a Mucha-100a sailplane in a wave near Nowy Targ.

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### STARR WINS AT TORREY

Sterling V. Starr of San Diego, Calif., won the 15th Annual Pacific Coast Midwinter Soaring Championships at the Torrey Pines Gliderport near his home over the weekend of February 25-26. Amassing a total of 544 points, his victory was highlighted by a 40 mile cross-country flight from a winch launch during which he attained an altitude of 4600 feet. A complete report of the contest will be published in the next issue of *Soaring*.

### CEILING TO LOWER

FAA has announced that the floor of the Continental Control Area will be lowered from 24,000 feet to 14,500 feet effective April 6, 1961. Thereafter, everything above 14,500 feet will be controlled air space, however, VFR flights may penetrate this area if visibility is at least five miles and separation from clouds is maintained 1000 feet vertically and one mile horizontally, otherwise they must abide by instrument flight rules.

SOARING