

It has been certainly the greatest satisfaction of his life that with this activity he made a notable contribution to the acceptance of the value of gliding, leading to the support of it by governments in many countries.

It is of course for his ISTUS/OSTIV activities that Louis is best known in gliding circles.

He represented the Royal Netherlands Aeronautical Association at the ISTUS congresses from 1936 to 1939, and has

participated in CIVV meetings since 1946, first for the above association and then for OSTIV. Of this last body he became Vice-President in 1948 and President in 1950.

From the latter office he retired in 1978, having firmly held the reins for 30 years, and then he was made Honorary President.

Those years were not always peaceful. Louis has always had definite opinions, is never afraid to speak his mind (in

Dutch, English, French or German), and will compromise but rarely. Once his mind is made up, he is prepared to defend his position with utmost energy. Not everybody, of course, agrees with his approach – a fact that worries this dynamic personality not one whit – but none can fail to respect him, if not as an ally then as an adversary.

Cedric O. Vernon

## Floyd J. Sweet – 15 years Member of the OSTIV Board and since 1960 Chairman of the Technical Section of OSTIV



Floyd J. Sweet passed his youth in Elmira, New York, where he received his elementary education. The desire to fly prompted him in 1929 to join a small group of sailplane builders, constructing a glider called Dagling Primary. With this glider Floyd made his first flight in August 1930. A year later he joined a more advanced group in Elmira which owned a Franklin PS-2, a sailplane with which he gained his "C"

badge – No. 45 in the USA – on 12 October 1931, making a flight of 1 hour and 12 minutes at an age of 17 years. In 1932 he entered the (third) U.S. National Soaring Championships, with which a competition "career" started, both in national and regional competitions, which lasted until 1957.

He matriculated to the university of Michigan in 1932, and joined the local gliding club there as an instructor. In 1937 he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering, after which he returned to Elmira where he was appointed to be director of the Elmira Aviation Ground School. That function he continued until 1940 when he was elected a director of The Soaring Society of America, which involved that he also had to act as secretary of the Board of Directors and as editor of SOARING.

Being an army officer since 1936, Floyd Sweet was ordered to active military duty with the Ordnance Corps in March 1941. In consequence of his gliding and aeronautical background, Floyd transferred to the Air Corps in August of that year, through which he became directly involved in the military glider programme. Within the framework of this programme, for a short period he was in charge of training a cadre of commissioned officer pilots in

Elmira, whereupon he was appointed to be director of training at the largest Air Corps Basic School in California. A manual for that training was drafted by him.

In the middle of the war, in 1943, Wright Field, near Dayton, Ohio, came the next assignment, in which Sweet served successively as a glider project engineer, experimental test pilot and director of military glider and assault aircraft development. For his contributions in that field, the Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force presented him the Edward S. Evans Trophy in 1946.

After graduation from the Armed Forces Staff Collage in 1952, Lt. Col. Sweet had an extended tour in the Pentagon, first in aeronautical research and development, and then as secretary of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board.

In 1954 he was elected President of The Soaring Society of America, and served in this capacity for three years. During that period, he represented this society at CIVV meetings in Paris, and headed the U.S. team in the World Gliding Championships in St. Yan, France, July 1956.

A transfer to Headquarters USAF Europe in 1958 brought Floyd Sweet into close contact with OSTIV, first as deputy of Dr. Wolfgang Klemperer in the Board, later as Chairman of the Technical Section (as successor of Boris Cijan in 1960) and as member of the Board (as successor of Klemperer in 1963).

Returning to the USA in 1961, Sweet retired from the military, and joined the secretariat staff of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in Washington. He completed his professional career in 1976.