

# Air Force Plans Jumps From Balloon at 90,000 Ft.

DAYTON (O.), Aug. 9.—(INS)—Parachute jumps from balloons at heights never before attained by man were planned by the Air Force today.

Wright Air Development Center at Dayton announced that six jumps will be made next year from a balloon ranging up

to 90,000 feet—roughly seventeen miles up.

The present world's altitude record is 72,395 feet, set in the Balloon Explorer II in 1935.

The tests will be made at Holoman AFB, N. M., by Capt. Edward Sperry and Lt. Henry

P. Nielsen, co-holders of the world's record for ejection from a jet plane at 45,200 feet.

The new tests will be designed to see how far a pilot can jump through rarified air before opening his parachute. One of the jumpers will leap from the top of the balloon's ascent, opening his chute farther down. The other will cut the balloon loose and ride the gondola down to

about 20,000 feet before jumping. Both will wear pressurized suits.

The balloon will be named Explorer III.