

# 'ROCKET' AUTO TRAVELS 125 MILES AN HOUR IN TEST

**REACHES HIGH SPEED IN ONLY FORTY SECONDS**

**First of Seven Steps in Developing New Type of Plane.**

**2,000 WITNESS FEAT**

**Predict Trans-Atlantic Hop to Be Made Soon in Five Hours.**

**BY FREDERICK KUH**  
*United Press Staff Correspondent*

BERLIN, May 23.—A "rocket" automobile, constructed by scientists as the first of seven steps toward a "rocket" airplane capable of reaching new limits of speed, attained a speed of more than 125 miles an hour within forty seconds of its start at the Avus race track today.

Within six seconds, from a standing start, the car was making eighty-seven miles an hour.

Newspapers, enthusiastic over success of the test, predicted that a rocket airplane—which it is hoped to perfect within six years—would bring down the flight time from Berlin to New York to five hours.

Construction secrets of the machine are guarded closely.

But the United Press learned recently that the "rocket plane" is to be propelled by a series of rocket discharges, and would descend by means of gliding.

**First of Seven Steps**

It was announced before the test that construction of the machine completed the first of seven steps toward conception of a man-carrying skyrocket capable of reaching neighboring planets.

That was the first official test of the "rocket automobile."

Fritz Von Opel, former German racing champion, piloted the car in the test. Spitting flames, smoke and gas, the strange contrivance started almost like a big bullet down the straightaway of the track. Because of fear that the machine might get out of control at turns, only 2,000 people were admitted to the test, but it had been well-staged and millions of radio auditors were able to "view" the test.

Von Opel, son of a leading automobile manufacturer, before he started the car, broadcast a speech about it over the radio. He described the seven stages of the car to a "rocket airplane."

**Plans 200 Miles Speed**

A few minutes later, listeners started at a shot-like explosion that marked the car's start.

The second stage of the seven, Von Opel said, would be construction of a similar automobile capable of a speed of more than 200 miles an hour, and of a "rocket" motorcycle with a speed of nearly 140 miles an hour.

It would be necessary, Von Opel said, to run the faster "rocket" car on railway-like tracks, because it would be too fast for roads.

"The third stage," Von Opel narrated to his spellbound radio audience, "will be a rocket airplane capable of speeds of from 175 to 250 miles an hour."

"The fourth will be a plane constructed to explore unattained altitudes in space. It will be equipped with special meteorological instruments."

"Fifth, there will be a faster plane manned by a crew within sealed chambers."

"Next will come an altitude rocket-plane capable of reaching a height of from twelve and one-half to eighteen miles, traveling at a speed of more than 625 miles an hour. This would make it possible to fly nearly around the world in a day."

"The seventh stage will be an interplanetary space rocket capable of reaching neighboring planets."

**BIBLE CLUB TO MEET**

Will Hear Habit Talk Given by Col. A. J. Dougherty

Col. Andrew J. Dougherty, commander of the 84th division organized reserves, will speak on "Habit Formation" at the Bible Investigation Club session in the Y. M. C. A. auditorium at 6:20 tonight. At Bible study class sessions to follow Dr. Edmund Kurlin will talk on "A Love Letter from Prison" and the Rev. P. H. Hughes on "What Is the Difference Between Christianity and Religion?"

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**INDIANAPOLIS AIRPORT WEATHER**  
 CONDITIONS AT 9:30 A. M.  
 (Compiled for the Times by Government Weather Observer J. H. Armstrong and Donald McConell, Government aeronautical observer.)

Wind east, 12 miles an hour; barometric pressure, 29.97 at sea level; temperature, 64; clear ceiling, unlimited; visibility unlimited; local smoke around airport.

"What makes the wheels go round in an airplane motor will be revealed to the uninitiated when the first annual aeronautical exposition at the Indianapolis airport May 25 to 29, by means of cutaway motors.

Included in the \$1,500,000 military exhibit from Wright field, Dayton, Ohio, will be several cutaway motors, operated by electric motors, so visitors can see the various mechanical operations.

The exhibit will include one of the earliest type airplane motors, a Gnome rotary engine of the type used in French Nieuport pursuit planes early in the World War.

**Motors in Two Types**

These motors were made in two types, seven cylinders and nine cylinders. The motor was called a monocoque, because it has only one valve instead of the customary two valves, intake and exhaust.

One of the cutaway exhibits will be a Lawrence three-cylinder radial air-cooled engine, forerunner of the present Wright Whirlwind motor, used extensively in planes today.

With the little sixty-horsepower Lawrence will be one of the newer J-5 Wright Whirlwinds, a nine-cylinder air-cooled motor developing 225 horsepower.

Another exhibit will be a Pratt & Whitney Wasp, a nine-cylinder, 400-horsepower radial air-cooled motor being used by the Army. This motor also is used by the Western Air Express planes.

**Display Is Extensive**

A cutaway model of the famous Liberty plane motor developed by leading engineers of the country during the war will be exhibited.

The Allison Engineering Company, Indianapolis, will exhibit an inverted air-cooled Liberty motor, built for the Italian government, which operates upside down. A peculiar feature of the motor is that it develops greater horsepower upside down than right side up.

The Allison company also will exhibit two new type Root superchargers, used for high altitude flying. They will be operated under glass, so visitors may see how they work.

The military exhibit also will include various types of military plane equipment, ranging from the largest airplane wheel, five feet in height, and the smallest, one foot, to aerial bombs, machine guns used in the war, cutaway aerial cameras, and models from Wright field of various types of airplanes used by the Government in past years.

**Start Installing Exhibits**

Work of setting up various military, commercial and accessory exhibits will be started Thursday.

The exhibition plans are being arranged by Capt. H. Weir Cook, regular army instructor for the Indiana National Guard observation squadron, and Paul H. Moore, Chamber of Commerce aviation secretary.

Visitors may reach the exposition at the Indianapolis airport by driving west on Washington St. and the National Rd. to Holt Rd., then south about one mile, or on special street cars.

**Seek Air Service**

EVANSVILLE, Ind., May 23.—The army recruiting station here is swamped with applications for entrance into the air corps. Officers in charge of the station declare that the high educational requirements is the only check to keep the air corps from becoming larger than the Army.

**'We' No. 2 Is Here**

Bound for Washington in a Ryan monoplane, the duplicate of Col. Charles Lindbergh's "We," E. R. Coyle, sales manager of the Anheuser-Busch Company, St. Louis, made a brief stop at the Indianapolis airport Tuesday afternoon.

The plane, piloted by Joe Hammer, made the trip from St. Louis at the rate of 108 miles an hour against a brisk northwest wind. Coyle is arranging the inauguration of a fleet of half a dozen planes for use of the company's sales service department. Some of the planes

will be equipped with refrigerators and used to make quick deliveries of yeast.

Indianapolis will be on the Chicago-Detroit-St. Louis yeast route of the company, according to Coyle.

**Black Halts Long Tour**

AMSTERDAM, May 23.—Van Lear Black, publisher of the Baltimore Sun, has suspended his London-Cape Town air trip because the wingtips of his airplane have become flabby, probably due to vibration, the Dutch air lines announced today.

Previously the company had announced that a flooded landing field at the next stage had caused the suspension at Khartoum.

As there was no opportunity to repair the plane at Khartoum, the company said, the plane would be shipped to Amsterdam for repair. It was understood, the company said, that Black would resume his flight, that he intended to extend to Tokyo and return, after reaching Cairo on his way back from Cape Town.

**Banker Flies Here**

John Frost, San Antonio banker, flying his own Ryan biplane, stopped over night at the Indianapolis airport Tuesday on his way to Cleveland. He was accompanied by Mrs. Frost and a mechanic.

**Italian on Long Flight**

NEW YORK, May 23.—Caesar Belli, Italian aviator, whose mystery plane has caused much conjecture in aeronautical circles, will leave from one of the flying fields on Long Island for a nonstop flight to Rome within a week, he said today.

**Lindy Booms Air Stocks**

NEW YORK, May 23.—Col. Charles A. Lindbergh's connection with a commercial aviation enterprise was credited with touching off a boom in airplane stocks in Wall St. today.

Wright Motors and Curtiss both advanced rapidly at the opening of the New York Stock Exchange. The former went from \$168 a share to \$176 a share in the first hour. The latter was up \$9.50 a share at \$130.

On the curb market, stock of the Transcontinental Air Transport Corporation, the company by which Lindbergh has been employed, advanced with a sale of 1,700 shares at an increase of yesterday's closing price of \$6.12½ a share. The early quotation today was \$33.37½ a share.

Traders said the upward movement reflected the confidence of the financial world in Colonel Lindbergh's judgment in matters of aviation.

Air Transport stock was listed on the curb market only about a week ago, after the company had announced its plan to inaugurate a coast-to-coast airplane and railroad service. It opened at \$20.50 a share and has been climbing steadily ever since.

Lindbergh's connection with the company, announced after the close of yesterday's market, gave transport stock its biggest boost, however. The feeling that Lindbergh always succeeds served to enliven the imagination of traders, who have been waiting for him to make a connection with a commercial enterprise.

**Plan Show Exhibit**  
 Charles E. Planck, representative of the Embury-Riddle Company, Cincinnati, contractor for the Cincinnati-Chicago air mail route, was expected to arrive in Indianapolis this afternoon to make arrangements for the Embury-Riddle exhibit in the first annual Indianapolis aeronautical exposition at the Indianapolis airport Saturday to Tuesday.

In addition to a new type Fairchild plane, for which the company is district representative, Embury-Riddle will exhibit charts and other equipment used in its student training course.

**Seek Better Airport Light**

Capt. H. Weir Cook, regular Army instructor attached to the National Guard observation squadron, and Harry Brunell, Indianapolis Power & Light Company, flew to Cincinnati Tuesday afternoon to inspect lighting arrangement of the Cincinnati airport.

They expected to gain pointers from the Cincinnati airport lighting to be used in bettering lighting of the Indianapolis airport.

**Dreams of Air Marvels**

Continuous round-the-world flights without stops for gas or passengers were part of a dream of future aeronautical progress related by Paul H. Moore, Chamber of Commerce aviation secretary, in the second of a series of lectures on aeronautics Tuesday night.

Moore told the class he believed the day would come when lighter-than-air craft would receive passengers, gasoline, freight and other supplies from airplanes landing on the top of the gas bag while it is traveling 80 or 100 miles an hour.

He predicted airplanes will, in the future, be used for comparatively short flights and dirigibles for long flights.

The lecture course is to provide a clear, non-technical understanding of aviation essential to an intelligent comprehension of newspaper and magazine articles on aeronautical subjects.

**French to Tour Airports**

NEW YORK, May 23.—The first aeronautical commission to be named by the French government arrived on the liner France today.

and announced plans for a national tour of American airports and inspection of the air mail system.

They were welcomed at the pier by Leighton W. Rogers, head of the aeronautical section of the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce in Washington and by James F. Hodgson, personal representative of secretary of Secretary of Commerce Hoover.

Friday the eleven members of the commission will start an air trip that will take them to Los Angeles and back, with stopovers arranged at the principal cities.

The commission was headed by Gen. Paul Bouchardelle, director of the French commission for aeronautics, and by Col. Andrea Wateau, prominent aviator and a noted war-time aviator.

At the same time it was learned that Lieut. M. Paris would start a flight across the Atlantic from Paris within the next week in a new flying boat which the French government is anxious to test. Paris plans to stop at the Azores and then land at the foot of the Statue of Liberty.

**Plane Lands by Parachute**

TRACY, Cal., May 23.—A small biplane has been landed safely from 2,000 feet by means of a huge parachute, without injury to its pilot or damage to the plane.

The experiment, performed privately here, was designed to prove the possibility of using a parachute for disabled planes to insure safety of passengers.

A Jenny biplane, piloted by E. J. McKeon, was used in the test. The plane dropped about 2,000 feet, with its motor idle, when the huge parachute, more than 100 feet in diameter, opened out.

McKeon stated with the ship as its speed rapidly slackened. He said he felt only a slight jar when the plane landed and the folds of the parachute enveloped him.

The biplane was not damaged, except for a minor bend in the tail skid.

The parachute is the invention of Charles Roderick, San Francisco, who, with numerous other airmen, expressed complete satisfaction over result of the experiment.

**Drops From Balloon**

SEYMOUR, Ind., May 23.—Miss Hazel Bruce of Indianapolis, made her first ascension in a balloon and parachute the drop here Sunday, to feature the opening of Shields Park for the summer. Her drop was made with a double parachute. She landed in the middle of N. Ewing St., without mishap to herself or the huge crowd that followed her flight.

**Three-Point Air Route**

EVANSVILLE, Ind., May 23.—A three cornered air route, with Evansville as one of the points, is contemplated by the Bucyrus (C.) Steam Shovel Company. The concern plans to operate a service between here and Erie, Pa., and South Milwaukee, Wis., where its other plants are located.

The idea is to speed up production and increase efficiency. An aviation expert, employed by the company, will arrive here Saturday to look over the local situation.

**Anderson Flier Here**

Oren Welch, Anderson, visited Harold C. Brooks at the Hoosier airport, Kessler Blvd. and Lafayette pike, Tuesday evening. Welch made the trip in one of the new OW-2 planes built by the Oren Welch Manufacturing Company at Anderson.

**Air Mail to Soldiers**

Wartime mail delivery conditions are being followed by Lieut. Walter R. Peck, Schoen field commander, in delivering mail to the members of the Eleventh infantry on their annual march from Ft. Benjamin Harrison to Camp Knox, Ky.

The regiment started its long jaunt Tuesday. Today Lieut. Peck, flying an army plane, delivered mail to the outfit at Franklin, Ind. Daily flights to carry mail will be made until Camp Knox is reached, May 31.

**U. S. AGENT TAKES FILE**

Mail Violations by Brokerage Concern Probed.

Wallace Weatherholt, State securities commissioner, today refused to comment on action of a department of justice special agent, who Tuesday removed three complete files from the commission office.

It was understood the special agent was in Indianapolis examining records with reference to alleged postal violations in operations of a Washington, D. C., brokerage concern in Indiana and other mid-west States.

**NEGRO YOUTH ESCAPES**

Climbs Out Basement Window of Detention Home.

Virgil Ross, 15, Negro, of 2701 N. Oxford St., escaped from the Detention Home, 225 E. Michigan St., today by climbing out a basement window.

He was arrested Tuesday on burglary and petit larceny charges, accused of breaking into the home of Joseph C. Edwards, 3465 N. Dearborn St.

**I. U. Senior Day Set**

BLOOMINGTON, Ind., May 23.—Indiana University seniors have named Friday, June 8, as the date of the traditional senior "Swish." Members of the graduating class will picnic together in the afternoon and will dance the "Swish" during the evening. Commencement will be held June 11.

**French to Tour Airports**

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**VICTORIES FOR AL CLAIMED IN TEXAS PARLEY**

**Criticism of Short Dresses, Remark on Steps Cause Turmoil.**

**BY GORDON SHEARER**  
*United Press Staff Correspondent*

BEAUMONT, Texas, May 23.—The forces of Governor Al Smith of New York, claimed initial victories in the Texas Democratic State convention today as the delegates met for their second session.

Although the dry "harmony" faction, led by Governor Dan Moody, held the upper hand on the convention floor, Smith supporters claimed that the convention's approval of a resolution to select national delegates by congressional districts would give them twelve of the State's eighteen districts.

Indications today were that the Texans would go to the national convention asking for a dry plank and dry candidates, but not pledged to oppose the Smith candidacy.

One of the three factions which fought for control of the convention Tuesday desired delegates instructed against the New York Governor.

Various committee reports were the order of business today. The night session of the convention adjourned in an uproar.

P. S. Sanders, head of the Palo Pinto County delegation, criticized the present-day shortness of women's dresses, and commented that "while dresses once nearly covered the instep, now they scarcely covered the stepin."

**Women Demand Apology**

Women delegates poured into the aisles, demanding an apology. Men delegates cheered and shouted encouragement to the enraged women.

B. C. Jackson of Hillsboro, who had signed the majority committee report to seat Sanders, demanded withdrawal of his name, and an opposing delegation, headed by Sanders' rival for the Legislature, was seated in place of his group.

**Rival G. O. P. Delegations**

DALLAS, Texas, May 23.—Texas Republicans will send two rival delegations to the national convention at Kansas City next month.

After one of the most disorderly State conventions in Texas political history, a faction led by Representative Harry Wurzbach met in a rump session and selected a full slate of delegates to compete against those chosen by the faction of R. B. Creager, national committeeman.

The Wurzbach followers were ejected from the convention by police after the proceedings had been enlivened by several fist fights.

The Creager faction, which retained control of the regular convention, instructed its delegates to vote for Herbert Hoover, while their rivals chose an uninstructed group. The group which is seated at the national convention will control 25 votes.

Physical combats between the rival factions wrecked the interior of the city auditorium.

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**More Cheer, Less Murder in News, Urges Nicholson**  
 Show Chief



R. Hilgedick

Young men of the merchandising department of the Indianapolis Power and Light Company will present a minstrel show at the meeting of the Parent-Teachers Association of Broad Ripple High School at 8 o'clock tonight at the school.

R. Hilgedick, merchandise manager, will direct the performance. End men are: William Shine, Edward King, Harold Brown, William Kriner, interactor, James Veach, soloists, Russell Johnson, E. H. Caldwell, Al Smith and Bill Kriner. The latter two are WFBM radio stars, known as Al and Bill.

Slack Speaks at Noblesville Mayor L. Ert Slack addressed Kiwanis' luncheon today at Noblesville.

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