

'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 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 space, 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 Stages

It was announced before the test that construction of the machine completed the first of seven stages 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 on the Y. M. C. A. auditorium at 6:20 tonight. At Bible study class sessions to follow Dr. Edmond Kurlin will talk on "A Love Letter from Prison" and the Rev. P. H. Hughes on "What is the Difference Between Christianity and Religion?"

Your Program

ONE MAN HAS THIS PROGRAM:

- \$4,000 to pay his debts and final expenses.
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- \$8,000 college funds for his two children.

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Aviation

INDIANAPOLIS AIRPORT WEATHER CONDITIONS AT 9:30 A. M.
(Compiled for The Times by Government Weather Observer J. H. Armstrong and Dr. H. C. St. John, Government aeronautical observer.)

Wind east, 12 miles an hour; barometric pressure, 29.96; temperature, 64; ceiling, unlimited; visibility, unlimited; local smoke around airport.

"What makes the wheels go round in an airplane motor will be revealed to the uninitiated who attend the first annual aeronautical exposition at the Indianapolis airport May 26 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 monosoupape, 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 Whirlwinds, 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 exposition 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.

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

'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, 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 food.

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

Black Halts Long Tour

By United Press

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

The commission was headed by Gen. Paul Baudouin, director of the French commission for aeronautics and by Col. Andrea Wateau, prominent barrister 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 Brest 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 seat."

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.

Charles Robbins, Tulsa, Okla.; Bernard Kilgore, South Bend; Robert Bullard, St. Petersburg, Fla.; Claude Mahoney, Warsaw, and Leslie E. Sniff, Newcastle, Pa., conducted the initiation ceremony. They are seniors at De Pauw.

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