

Venezuela to Start Plane Crash Probe

Disaster That Killed 74 Out of U. S. Jurisdiction

NEW YORK (AP)—Venezuelan government inspectors flew northward today to try to find out why a giant four-engine airliner burst into flames and fell into the sea within sight of New York, carrying 74 persons to their deaths.

The Venezuelan Super-Constellation crashed 32 miles off the New Jersey coast early yesterday, beyond the territorial waters of the United States.

It was out of the jurisdiction of the U. S. Civil Aeronautics Board, but the CAB quickly went into action, collecting what evidence it could and standing ready to help its Venezuelan counterpart probe the tragedy.

Due Tonight—Officials of the airline—Linea Aeropostal Venezolana—said Venezuelan inspectors flying from Caracas were due to arrive tonight.

Twenty of those aboard were Americans. Of the Venezuelans, 24 were students in this country, ranging in age from 12 to 20, returning home for summer vacations. Others were French, Italian, Spanish.

The plane left Idlewild Airport at 11:18 p.m. Tuesday night. Not far from New York, one of its engines began spinning wildly out of control. The big ship swung around to return to Idlewild.

On the way back, shepherded by a Coast Guard plane, the pilot, Capt. Luis Plata, prepared to dump 5,000 gallons of explosive gasoline into the ocean, routine precaution.

The pilot's last words on the radio were: "Roger, we're cleared to drop gas. . . Roger, we have New York in sight."

Burst of Flame—Suddenly a burst of flame belled out under the aircraft.

Someone in one of the airliners in the area shouted a warning: "get your speed about 160—get your speed about 160—you're on fire."

But there was no time. Like a falling star, the plane nosed over and dove almost straight down, seemed to pull up once, and then struck the ocean.

The first boat to reach the scene—a Navy transport—messaged back: "Found no survivors. . . Expect to find none."

All day Coast Guard cutters patrolled the spot, picking up what debris they found. Only a few bodies surfaced.

A boy's military cap, with the autographs of three girls in the lining. . . A partly burned black book of telephone numbers. . . A torn picture of a Venezuelan army officer and his wife, inscribed affectionately to his daughter, one of the victims.

A piano instruction book, with a teacher's penciled notation: "Keep your thumbs curved." . . . A charred first aid kit. . . A shoe. . . A packet of letters. . . A spent flare. . . Passports. . . A little girl's dress. . . An overcoat containing a paperbound edition of "The Dead Sea Scrolls."

That was about all.

This was the worst plane disaster involving a regular airline flight in aviation's history.

Truman Makes Appeal for Better Life

OXFORD, England (AP)—Harry S. Truman has called for a new magna carta to include "economic well-being. . . health, education and decent living standards among our inalienable rights."

The former U. S. president made an appeal for a better life for underprivileged people in a speech last night before 400 graduates of Oxford's Christ Church College. Earlier yesterday the ancient British university conferred an honorary doctorate of civil law on him.

"Every man should have the benefit of the best in medicine, he continued, and every boy and girl the highest educational training from which they can profit. The aged, he added, should be free of economic worries in their declining years."

"In short, we must declare in a new magna carta, in a new Declaration of Independence, that henceforth economic well being and security, that health and education and decent living standards are among our inalienable rights," Truman declared.

The nations of the West, he said, must extend the benefits of their democracy and abundant ways of life to the rest of the world. Then in an obvious reference to the American Negro, he added:

"In my country, to our sorrow, there are those who are still denied full citizenship in some of our states, and denied full stature as human beings by some of our citizens still living in an intellectual and moral dark age."

Fishermen Want Air Conditioning

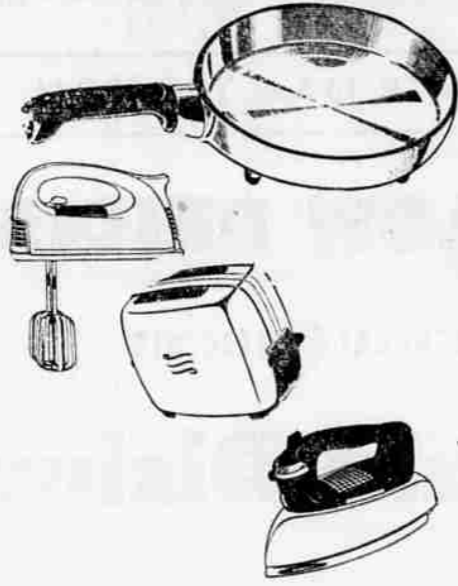
OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—In Oklahoma even the fishermen demand the comfort of air conditioning.

The state's Planning and Resources Board says anglers have refused to stay in the state's new 20-room fishing lodge at Lake Texoma because it is not air conditioned.

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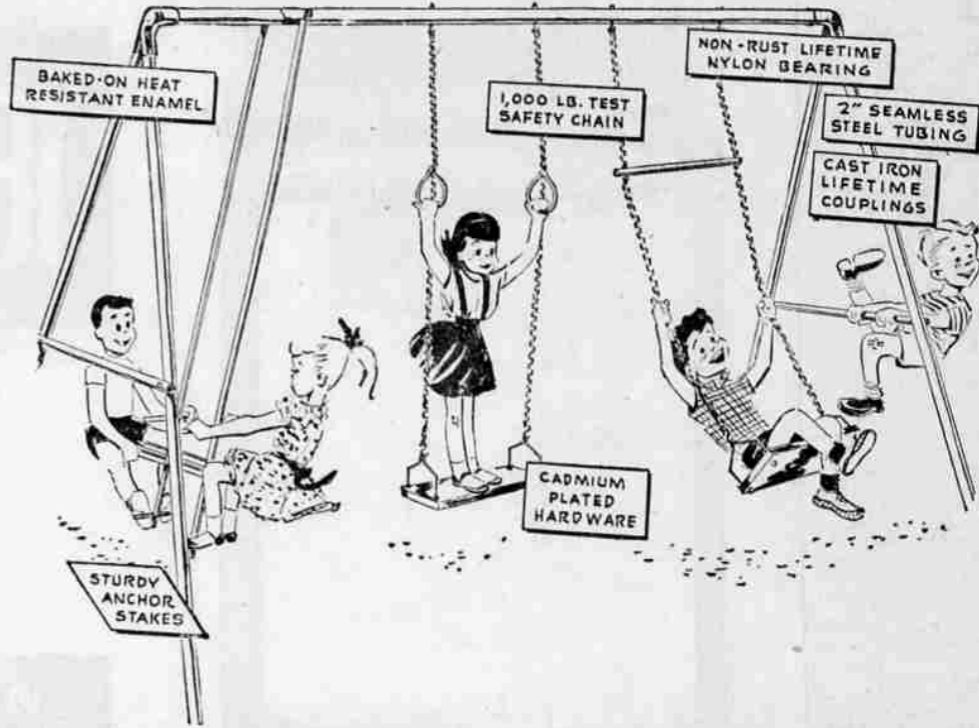
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Lightweight, yet powerful enough for tough mixing job. White and kitchen colors. **12⁷⁷**
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Delivers toast as you like it . . . light, medium, dark. Extra-high toast lift. **13⁵⁰**
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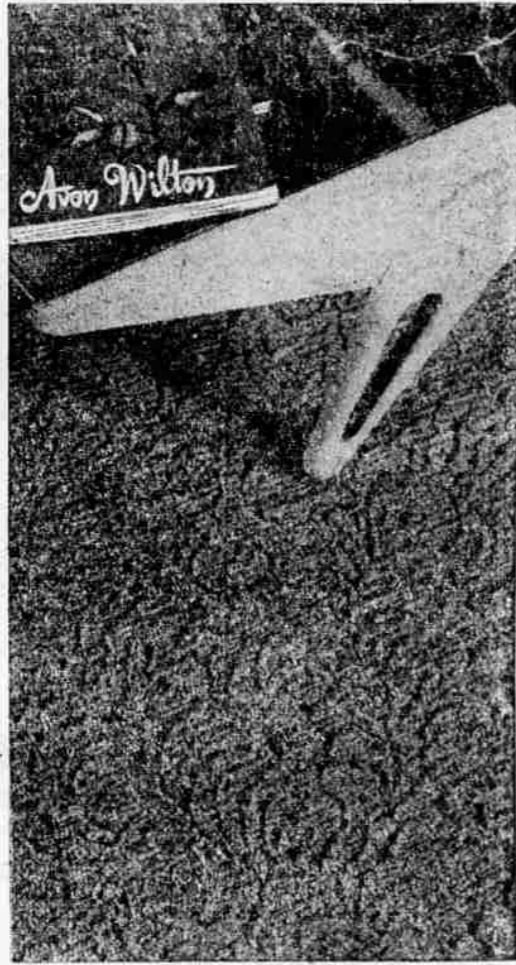
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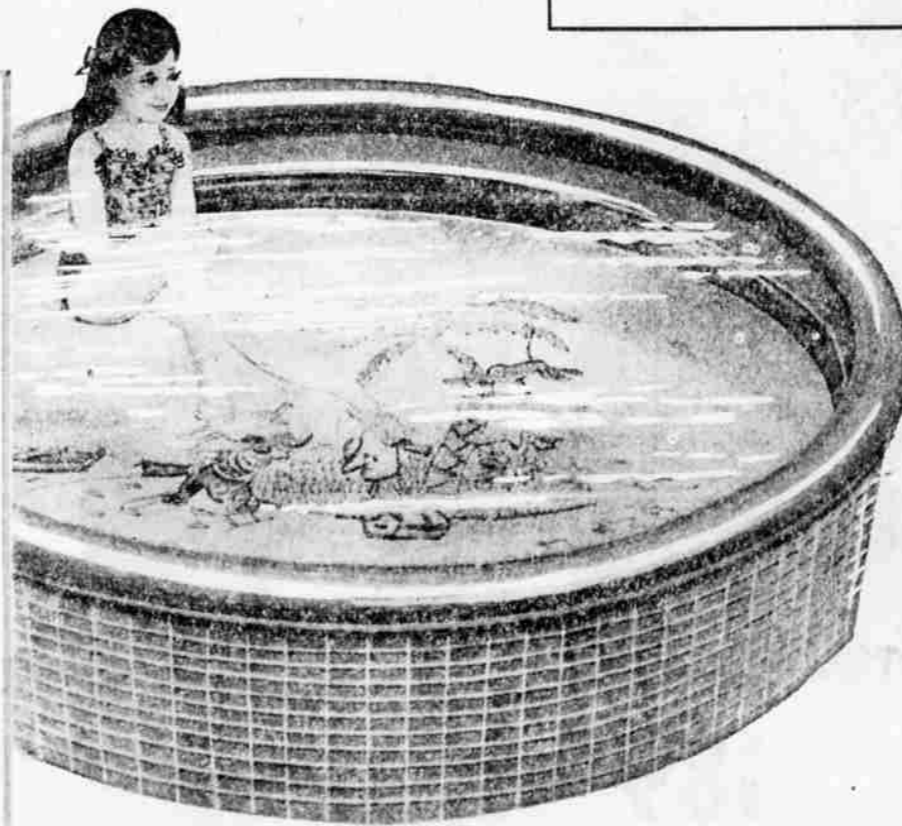
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