

# Houstonians Anxiously Wait Test On Answer To Parking Problems

Houston, Tex.—(U.P.)—Houston's oldest street, a road that was ancient when the Spaniards came to Texas, will be the scene of a look into the future in the next few weeks.

Houstonians who will take the peek hope to find an answer to a problem that plagues most American cities... the problem of traffic snarls, bottlenecks and parking.

They will look to the air... to a sleek, out-size 961 passenger transit bus which can glide, suspended, along a 970-foot steel track at speeds up to 60 miles an hour.

The idea isn't new, because the world's first Monorail system has been in operation at Wuppertal, Germany, for 50 years. The Texas version is only a test... a pilot model... but promoters envision it whisking passengers over congested city streets, highways, streams and rivers.

**Faster Commuting**  
And above all, taking big transit buses of the streets, and enticing commuters... by its noiseless, almost vibrationless high-speed operation... to leave their cars at home.

Murel Goodell, a professional engineer who masterminded the pilot model of the Texas Monorail system, says a commuter, instead of needing an hour or more, can be whisked from his downtown office to his suburban home in a matter of minutes.

An in smooth, "floating" air-conditioned comfort.  
Goodell calls his brainchild the "transportation mode of the atomic age." His consulting engineer, Col. Sidney H. Bingham, former general manager of the New York Transit Authority, is equally enthusiastic.

Goodell and Bingham, financed by a group of Houstonians, have built the pilot line at Houston's Arrowhead park, an abandoned auto racing track donated for the project by oilman R. E. "Bob" Smith. The park is

an old Spanish trail, a road which has seen foot, horse, wagon, auto and bus traffic for centuries.

**Fiberglass Coach**  
The pilot line is full scale, with a sky-blue fiberglass coach, capable of carrying 96 passengers, suspended from a steel beam which runs 970 feet between 30-foot high pedestals which arch to one side like giant walking canes.

The coach is powered by two gasoline engines and is air-conditioned. It will boast a sky-hostess whose duties will be equivalent to an airline stewardess.

# Auto Safety Devices Have Little Effect On 'Accident Prone'

**By United Press**  
Safety devices just don't work as far as our most dangerous drivers are concerned.

In spite of a long series of valuable safety improvements made in automobiles, such devices have had little effect on the 20 per cent of drivers who cause 80 per cent of the highway accidents. So says the family economics bureau of Northwestern National Life Insurance company.

The Bureau said this deadly segment of drivers, called "accident prone" by safety drivers, nearly always have twin records as repeaters, records of repeated safety law violations coupled with records of repeated accidents, until they die or are stopped from driving.

Given longer range headlights, they have merely increased their night driving speeds.

Given cars with a lower center of gravity, they take curves still faster and turn turtle as in the past.

Given tires with greater traction in rainy weather, they drive still faster on slick pavements and so skid anyway.

Given far better brakes, they dash up to a highway or railroad intersection and try to "stop on a dime." Too often they don't. Given greater acceleration for safer passing, they try to pass in still shorter spaces, so that the resulting collisions have still more impact.

Given improved windshield wipers... well, says the warning bulletin, statistics show that 78 per cent of all traffic accidents occur in clear weather, 70 per cent occur on dry road surfaces, 77 per cent on straight stretches of road. In 70 per cent of all fatal crashes, one or both

# Course In Minerals, Rocks To Start Soon

Rocks and minerals, a three-hour college course, will start at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 24, at Medford Senior High school in room 23.

Max Shafer, field geologist, Oregon department of geology and mineral industry, will be instructor for the course, which is being conducted under the direction of the Oregon state system of higher education.

Shafer said he planned to make the course apply to local conditions as nearly as possible while still complying with university requirements. The course is the same as taught at the University of Oregon.

About 25 have indicated they intend to enroll in the course, and others may enroll at the first class session.

# Western Air Lines Strikers Due Benefits

Los Angeles—(U.P.)—Striking Brotherhood of Railway Clerks against Western Air Lines will receive strike benefits starting Monday, the union has announced.

Lyle McKinney, Grand Lodge representative of the union here said the exact amount of weekly benefits for the 850 strikers was being determined by the brotherhood's international trustees in Cincinnati. The workers walked off their jobs last week on the company's 5525-mile system in 12 Western states and Canada.

# Blind Workers Sue Retirement Fund

Portland—(U.P.)—The state public employers retirement fund was sued yesterday by 17 persons employed at the service center for the blind here who seek benefits under the fund.

The suit claims the persons are subject to the control of the state, acting through supervisory personnel, in that they can be discharged and must conform to discipline and hours of work set by the employer. They stated they are engaged at the center in making articles which are sold with the proceeds paid to the state.

The suit followed an opinion by Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton in which he said the workshop employees were not state employees within the terms of the state public employees retirement act.

# Secret Military Contracts Voted Out

Washington—(U.P.)—The House Armed Services Committee has voted 36 to 0 to force the Defense Department to do more of its buying by competitive bids.

It approved a bill repealing a wartime law which permitted the military to use secretly negotiated contracts to aid small business and for purchases of certain military items. Otherwise, all buying would have to be done through advertised, competitive bids.

# Man Pleads Guilty To Umatilla Bank Robbery

Portland—(U.P.)—Jack Hill, 43, pleaded guilty in Federal Court here yesterday to the \$57,000 robbery of the Inland Empire bank of Umatilla last August.

Judge Gus J. Solomon ordered a pre-sentence investigation. Hill was indicted along with Tilman B. Benson, 36, by a federal grand jury. Benson pleaded guilty and is now under pre-sentence investigation.

# Ford Stock Soars Past \$70 Mark

New York—(U.P.)—The price of Ford Motor Co. stock today soared past the \$70 a share mark in frenzied over the counter trading.

This was a big premium over the original offering price of \$64.50, a share for the 10,200,000 shares of Ford common stock.

Brokers report demand is "simply terrific." They quoted the stock at \$70 and \$71 asked, the price they are willing to buy and sell it at.

The stock officially went on sale this morning through a giant syndicate of 722 investment banking firms. The group is committed to sell the stock at \$64.50 to those lucky investors who have been allocated shares.

But thousands of persons who were left out in the cold when the stock was originally allotted to investors across the country are offering Ford's new stockholders a big profit if they'll sell.

# Eisenhower To Hold Conference Thursday

Washington—(U.P.)—President Eisenhower will hold a news conference at 7:30 a.m. (PST) Thursday, the White House has announced.

It will be his first White House news conference since last Aug. 4, before his heart attack.

Mr. Eisenhower met with reporters in Key West, Fla., Jan. 8, but the session was comparatively brief and attended for the most part only by reporters traveling with the chief executive.

# Westinghouse Strike Goes Into 94th Day

Pittsburgh—(U.P.)—The Westinghouse Electric Corp. strike moved into its 94th day with top negotiators trying to pave the way for resumption of full-scale talks.

Federal Mediator John R. Murray met again today with Westinghouse Vice President Robert D. Blasier and President James B. Carey of the striking International Union of Electrical Workers following a second consecutive after-dark session Tuesday night.

Negotiators stood firm on their news blackout policy. There was no indication the full bargaining teams would meet in the near future unless Blasier and Carey reach agreement on certain issues.

The IUE's 44,000 Westinghouse employees went on strike at 30 plants Oct. 17. The United Electrical Workers (Ind.) called its 10,500 company workers on strike a week later at 10 other installations.

# Court Records

**POLICE COURT**  
Robert J. Morton, failure to yield the right of way, \$10.  
Richard Francis Arndt, violation of basic rule, \$10.  
Clinton Pearl Slick, violation of basic rule, \$10.  
Wayne Harold Verschoor, no operator's license, \$5.  
Larry Wayne Yarnell, violation of basic rule, \$10.  
John Henry Helman, violation of basic rule, \$10.  
Edwin LeRoy Neeley, reckless driving, \$25.

**DISTRICT COURT**  
Michael O. Basey, violation of basic rule, \$10.  
Everett R. Armstrong, no operator's license, \$5.  
Dewey D. Tipton, overload, \$105.  
Benjamin V. Shearer, defective tail light, \$10.  
Max A. Kulbe, illegal left turn, \$6.  
Carolyn C. Jasmann, failure to signal, \$15.

Wednesday, January 18, 1956  
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