

'Poor Boy' Plane May Put Aviation In Hands of Many

Houston, Tex. —(U.P.)—A Houston engineer has come up with an airplane that may do for flying what Henry Ford's Model T did for motoring—put the cost within reach of the many.

The "poor boy" plane—a single-engine two-seater called the Nesmith Couger—can be put together for no more than \$1,600 and the plans are free—just ask Robert E. Nesmith for them.

Nesmith, head of a Houston contracting and engineering firm, designed and built the do-it-yourself plane in his spare time in little over a year.

Nesmith put the plane through its paces at the municipal airport, taking off at 60 miles per hour, cruising at 180 mph and landing at 59 mph without wing flaps down.

"Everything worked out fine," Nesmith said after the test flight. "It does just what I hoped it would."

The plane is only 5½ feet high, 19 feet long, has a wingspread of 22 feet, 2 inches, and weighs just 625 pounds. It has a 108-horsepower Lycoming engine and a range of 1,000 miles.

Nesmith said anyone can build the plane—which is the only way they can get it—in a garage or backyard, using spare time and spare cash.

Only the engine, wheels and propeller are stock. The rest is airplane fabric, sheetmetal and plywood. The plane has dual stick controls, enclosed cabin, radio and all safety features.

Nesmith, who has been flying for 30 years, built his first plane while he was in high school. The Couger is his seventh and he's already building another, a twin-engine, four-seater job.

Why doesn't Nesmith sell the plans for his plane?

"Why should I," he asked. "I'm worth \$6,500,000. I think wealthy men should do things for the people. Most men can't afford to plunk down \$5,000 or \$6,000 for a plane."

President Signs Excise Tax Bill

Washington —(U.P.)—President Eisenhower has signed a bill cancelling the 10 per cent federal excise tax on tickets to movies, plays, concerts, sports events and similar amusements costing 90 cents or less.

Previously the exemption was 50 cents. Increasing it to 90 cents will cost the treasury an estimated \$60,000,000 a year in revenues.

The bill—signed Monday—was sponsored by Rep. Cecil R. King (D-Calif.) and backed by theater owners whose business has been hit in recent years by the advent of television. King said it would "save 5,000 movie houses from going out of business."

The President also signed bills that permit the Atomic Energy Commission and colleges and universities to buy atomic reactors for training scientists. The bill also makes it a federal offense to trespass on atomic energy installations.

Burgess-McLean Rift Hinted by Mother

London —(U.P.)—Eve Bassett, mother of turncoat diplomat Guy Burgess, hinted today that her son has broken with Donald MacLean, his companion in flight through the Iron Curtain.

Mrs. Bassett, who returned Monday night from a visit with her son in Moscow, said he "is very happy and looks tremendously fit."

When she was asked about MacLean and his American-born wife Melinda, Mrs. Bassett snapped: "I saw and heard nothing of those people." She accented the word "those."

Yugoslavia Prohibits Printing Pope's Letter

Belgrade, Yugoslavia —(U.P.)—Communist authorities here have prohibited publication of Pope Pius XII's June 29 letter to Alois Cardinal Stepinac and other Catholic prelates imprisoned behind the Iron Curtain.

Army To Draft 17,000 Men During October

Washington —(U.P.)—The Defense Department announced today that the Army will draft 17,000 men in October, 3,000 more than September.

The increase was ordered because the Army wound up the fiscal year ended June 30 below its authorized strength, the Pentagon said.

The October call raises to 2,101,430 the total number of men drafted for military service since the Korean war started.

Hailstones Bring Out Snowplows in England

Tunbridge Wells, England —(U.P.)—This southern city had to call out its snowplows Monday night to clear away five-foot drifts of hailstones deposited by a freak summer storm.

Thousands of tons of ice rattled down on Tunbridge Wells in half an hour in hailstones up to golf-ball size. The storm climaxed a period of crazy weather that gave Britain its lowest early-August temperatures in 76 years.

14 Persons Injured In Train Derailment

Mitchell, Ill. —(U.P.)—Five cars of New York Central passenger train left the tracks Monday injuring 14 persons.

The last two coaches and three Pullmans of the train from St. Louis to New York were derailed as the train was traveling 43 miles an hour.

A broken wheel assembly on one car was blamed. The railroad said 10 passengers and 4 crewmen were treated at the scene for injuries. None was hospitalized.

Volunteers Join In Hunt for Girl

Newport Beach, Calif. —(U.P.)—Hundreds of volunteers joined authorities today in a door-to-door search for a five-year old Waterloo, Iowa, girl feared kidnapped from this beach resort area.

The girl, Barbara L. Blasler, vanished while playing in the sand Sunday as her father, Gordon Blasler, and brother, Larry Wayne, 8, were swimming in Balboa Bay channel. When lifeguards failed to find her body in the narrow channel, police said it appeared the child had been kidnapped.

Officers said dragging operations would continue but pressed their investigation on the possibility that little Barbara was the victim of a sex deviate. No trace has been found of the child since her father left her to play in the sand while he took his son swimming. Blasler was vacationing here with his children while the mother, who is expecting another child, had remained in Iowa.

Italian Paper Tells Of Red China Revolt

Rome —(U.P.)—The Italian Communist party newspaper l'Unita disclosed today a revolt broke out in Communist China near the Tibetan border last February and that some of the rebels are still holding out.

A Peiping dispatch quoted Liu Ke-ping, president of the National Minorities Committee of the Chinese Communist Parliament, as saying rumors of the revolt probably accounted for the Indian reports of a revolt in Tibet. The interview also was broadcast today by Peiping Radio.

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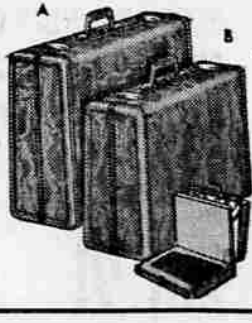
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