

## Time Not Only Flies, It Skeddaddles, In Aeronautics Development

By H. D. QUIGG  
United Press Correspondent  
Miami, Fla. — (U.P.) — Time certainly flies — and in the field of aeronautics it just gets up and skeddaddles. Remember Dick Merrill.

He's the man who flew the Atlantic round-trip with his wings stuffed with ping-pong balls. Also his tail stabilizer. The idea was that they would keep him aloft if he had to plunk into the ocean.

Merrill, who is senior check pilot for Eastern Air Lines, expects in less than three years to be shoving jet transports through the high, thin air at 550-600 miles an hour.

Going Remarkable  
The remarkable thing is that this same man remembers the days of the early 1920s when he would be flying along in one of the deluxe crates of the time and

look down to find himself actually going backward over the ground. Who says things haven't improved.

"In those old days," he said in an interview, "lots of times I'd get over objects on the ground and—if there was a big wind—back up. In those days the cruising speed was about 60 miles an hour.

Speedy Trains  
"To navigate, we'd follow the railroads and highways. Many times we'd see the trains and cars run off and leave us, if we were bucking headwinds. This was true even as late as 1928, when I was flying the mail."

Merrill, spry guy of 62, was interviewed en route here from New York on a plane carrying Eastern's 50 millionth passenger. He has logged more than 30,000 hours in the air, and he figures that before the logging started

he probably had 2,500 hours or more in barnstorming and mail carrying.

Merrill began flying in 1921 in an old Curtiss Jenny. He and another young fellow started a flying circus and, as he says, "The things we did, people today would think it was Buck Rogers."

Look, No Parachute  
"To get the crowds out on Sundays they had one performer

who went from plane to ground without benefit of parachute.

"This boy," Merrill recalled, "would crawl down to the landing gear. We'd slow the plane down—get over a grass field, into the wind. He had a rope, seven or eight feet long, that he'd tie to the axle.

"He'd swing like a pendulum and let go at the end of a swing—drop seven or eight feet, roll over a couple of times, and jump

up on his feet. Of course, those Jenny planes landed at 40 or 50 miles an hour, and he maybe got off at slower than that."

There was no charge for this, nor for the aerobatics and wing-walking and parachuting. The idea was to get a crowd out and then after the show take up passengers, at \$10 a person.

But it was not big business. The plane's capacity was one passenger per flight.

### THE NOSE KNOWS

Newark, N.J. — (U.P.) — Lilly Lawrence, William Jenkins and Roosevelt McCullough were to be arraigned today on charges of possession of an illegal still because the information leaked out. The 50-gallon still sprung a leak, a neighbor reported it and police followed the smell of alcohol to the still and its operators.

Alaska has 208,000 residents in 1956 but it still has only about one resident for every 2.8 square miles.

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## Is That So?

As you regular readers will recall, P. V. Whitney of Vananda, Mont., called my hand last month about the pronghorn antelope's top speed being almost 60 miles an hour. He informed me that he had run down many a pronghorn with a horse, his dog has overtaken them, and he has timed them by auto at less than 30 miles an hour. To make it stick, he generously invited: "Come here and I'll show you how a cowboy on a good cow horse can start behind a herd of antelope, pass them, and turn them in a different direction."

Inasmuch as the British derby is run at an average speed of 35 mph over an obstacle course, I'd say a good cow pony would have to extend himself to do as well. Right? But now let's look at the mail response. Of more than 100 letters, about 30 per cent supported Whitney. Here are some of them.

J. S. Butte, Mont. "The speeds accredited to the antelope are merely hearsay and the figment of overworked imaginations. I've raced a band and I'd say their maximum speed is 35 mph, I repeat, a maximum of 35. However if you catch a young buck by himself the answer is somewhat different. Speeds may then exceed 40 mph." He adds: "If

think a lot of people have stretched the speed about 20 mph. I've chased them within two jeep-lengths and my speedometer never registered over 45 mph."

Over Level Terrain  
J.E.T., Billings, Mont. "We chased an adult female pronghorn for almost half a mile and according to the speedometer the animal traveled at about 35 mph. The terrain was reasonably level and dry; it was the middle of the afternoon, and we're satisfied the animal could not have traveled at any faster speed."

J.D.L., Concho, Ariz. "We have roped them horseback and timed them in automobiles. I find their top speed is 45 mph, for about three-fourths of a mile and then it drops down to 37 for another three-fourths mile. I do not believe that any horse can outrun an antelope on the start but a horse with a light rider can overtake them by cutting corners and through points where advantage can be had. . . I have roped a few of them in my day having been in the saddle 45 years."

N.M., Butte, Mont. "I've chased them frequently and 40 mph is the best. Also they will not jump a fence three feet high. They will get down on their belly and practically crawl."

K.S., Prescott, Ariz. "Our pilots flying off the Prescott Municipal airport have numerous opportunities to fly over and observe antelope both in herds and single. When making ground-speed of 40 to 50, they will gradually pull away from the racing pronghorn. Most pilots say their top speed is 30 to 40 mph."

All right, this is one side of the coin—next week you'll get the other. And how.

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you buzz a herd with a plane you may see one of the finest impromptu rodeos in the world, bucking antelope all over the place.

P.E.F., Hayward, Calif. "I think Mr. Whitney is right on all counts. When pressed, antelope cannot do over 35 mph. And some magazine writers have antelope coasting along at 70 mph."

R.A.B., Billings, Mont. "I have seen antelope outrun, turned and practically corralled hundreds of times from singles to bunches of 100 or more. I can furnish plenty of men who have seen this too. Besides, I have paced many with a car. At 35 mph. you will stay about even and at 40 you will outrun them."

F.B., Silver Star, Mont. "I

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## On The Side

By E. V. Durling  
(Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

What is the best implement for giving a man a haircut? A French barber, who numbers the Duke of Windsor among his list of distinguished clients, says a man can be given an "artistic haircut" only by the exclusive use of a razor. British barbers favor the scissors for haircuts. French and British barbers never use clippers in giving a man a haircut. They say clippers are for horses.

Asides  
What is the hardest to pronounce street name in the United States? How about Tchoupitoulas st., New Orleans, La. . . Among the places where hay fever sufferers are said to find immediate relief is Duluth, Minn. In fact Duluth is known as "Hay Fever Heaven."

Baggage  
On a recent overseas trip by air, Marilyn Monroe had 24 pieces of baggage. She had to pay on 500 pounds of excess baggage. That's a lot of baggage but not the record for actresses.

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The champion baggage carrier among actresses is Dolores Gray. On a trip from New York to Hollywood, Dolores once took along seven French poodles and 36 pieces of baggage. In this baggage were included, among other things, 170 pairs of shoes and 25 evening gowns.

Brides  
What was the age of the youngest bride you have known? I know of a woman who married at the age of 12. Her daughter was also a 12-year-old bride. The mother's marriage was a success but the daughter became a divorcee at the age of 14. In this connection, it is worth noting that annually in the United States an average of 230 wives of 15 years of age or under become divorcees. Imagine being a gay divorcee at the age of 15!

Long Life  
Is your waist line smaller than that of your chest measurement? If not, you better get it that way if you want to enjoy a long life. Other advice of the experts on the subject of longevity is to sleep at least eight hours nightly. Sleep in the raw. Control your temper. Don't live in the past. Wear young looking clothing. Fast one day a month. Don't attend funerals. If over 45, don't play handball or too much golf.

Sauerkraut  
Do you care for sauerkraut? I don't. Still I may give it another trial. Dietitians and physicians continue to maintain it is very healthful. One physician refers to it as "the vacuum cleaner of the stomach." Sauerkraut did not originate in Germany but in China. It was used by the Chinese to furnish the vitamins lacking in a rice diet.

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Quicker, easier washes  
**Fels Naptha** 53-oz. Pkg. 83¢

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