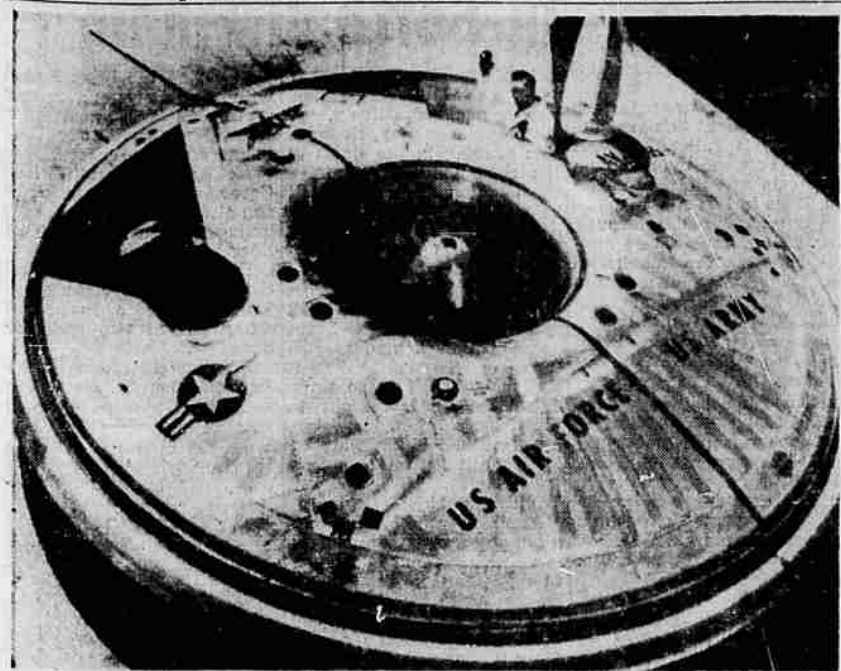




FLYING SAUCER DEVELOPED — This disc-shaped "Avrocar" was developed by AVRO Aircraft Ltd. of Canada under sponsorship of the U.S. Army and Air Force. It operates within the ground cushion riding on air. However, after obtaining minimum velocity, it functions as an aircraft supported by aerodynamic forces generated by its forward motion. (UPI Telephoto)

Rail Merger Proposals Said Acceleration of Ancient Trend

By HENRY J. BECHTOLD
UPI Financial Editor

New York (UPI)—The railroad merger proposals that have held the headlines in recent months are not a new phenomenon but an acceleration of a trend that began soon after formation of the first companies more than 130 years ago.

At one time there were about 6,000 different railroads in the United States, but by the turn of the century this was cut to 1,224 carriers, and today there are some 410 line-haul roads operating 218,000 miles of right of way.

The major lines of today are the result of innumerable combinations of smaller roads—the nation's largest railroad, the Pennsylvania Railroad, consists of more than 600 original companies.

Now, 25 of the class I railroads are involved in merger talks which could result in nine systems ranging from 4,730 to 24,728 miles. These moves could ultimately reshape the structure of the railroad industry. With this in mind, the Association of American Railroads has released a fact sheet with all the pertinent data on rail mergers.

Expanded After War

The greatest expansion of the principal railroads, both through new construction and voluntary consolidation, took place in the period following the Civil War and prior to the turn of the century. More than 70,000 miles of track were built from 1880 to 1890, and 425 mergers took place from 1884 through 1888.

The association notes that restrictive legislation and various court decisions in the early 1900's impeded or prevented mergers that threatened to reduce inter-railroad competition.

However, World War I and the federal take-over of the

railroads brought a reversal of policy. Congress, in 1920, directed the Interstate Commerce Commission to prepare and over-all plan for consolidation of all the nation's railroads into a limited number of systems.

It wasn't until 1929, however, that the ICC published a plan for consolidating the railroads into 21 independent systems. The plan was never put into effect.

Other plans subsequently were advanced by various interest groups. The principal Eastern roads in 1931 proposed to modify the ICC plan by providing four instead of five Eastern systems, but the depression thwarted any action on this plan.

Then in 1933 the National Transportation Committee, headed by former President Coolidge, recommended compulsory consolidation of railroads under private ownership through national-wide control of regional operating companies by a top holding company. Congress, however, rejected this plan.

In the period 1940-1958 the total number of line-haul railroads declined from 528 to 410. At the same time class I railroad mileage rose from 175,764 to 189,068, while the mileage of the secondary lines dropped from 11,790 to 8,990, reflecting the absorption of smaller roads by enlarging class I carriers.

Now the urge to merge has accelerated in 1960, and the railroads are hopeful that this will be the solution to their shrinking profit margins.

Designers Reveal Line of Christmas Gift Suggestions

Los Angeles (UPI)—If the nation's designers and importers of gifts have anything to say about what will be under your Christmas tree this year, you might find a 315-pound solid hardwood ape.

It may be a four-foot-long paper mache red, yellow and blue tiger; or a do-it-yourself Hawaiian luau kit; or a preserved barzai tree or a fibreglass waterfall that looks like rock; or, it's the truth, an American-made copy of an original Japanese table bowl set.

These were a few of thousands of gift suggestions shown to more than 10,000 buyers at the 51st annual California Gift Show. The exhibits contained conventional as well as unusual gift items with which their sellers hope to stock the Christmas shelves of merchants.

More than 375 exhibitors presented their wares, which

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'Saucer' Being Developed To Transport Men in Inner Space

Washington (UPI)—The Defense Department, which insists there are no flying saucers bringing little men from outer space, has disclosed a photo of a saucer it's developing to haul big men in inner space.

The picture showed a pie-shaped craft with a fan-like apparatus running through the center and two plastic canopies on top.

One of the canopies was open and a man seated inside the saucer was waving at the camera.

The top of the saucer was dotted with a number of small openings. It bore an Air Force insignia and two markings, "U.S. Air Force" and "U.S. Army."

The photo, made public Monday night, was the first official picture ever released of this country's planned flying saucer.

Little is ever said in Washington about the hush-hush project. But it is known that the United States is pushing development of the radical

Hunting, Fishing Declared Good Tranquilizers

Washington (Science Service)—Fishing and hunting, outdoor living opportunities expanded by federal water resources projects, provide a better antidote for the stress of modern living than tranquilizer pills.

The availability of these preferred antidotes found in nature will depend in future years on action taken to protect fish and wildlife from being evicted from their natural habitat of water and land, the U. S. fish and wildlife service warned in a report released by Sen. Robert S. Kerr (D-Okla.), chairman of the Senate committee on national water resources.

The service's report urged that fish and wildlife be given a greater share of the national water supplies, that animal conservation be given equal importance in water development projects (not just a by-product role), that research on fish and wildlife problems be increased, and that the need for maximum production of salt water fish be recognized.

Citing the need to expand fishing and hunting opportunities, the report stated that 25 million Americans more than 11 years old spent 567 million man-days and more than \$3 billion in the pursuit of these sports in 1955. Within the next 20 years, it is estimated, 68,000,000 Americans will be spending 1,260 million man-days and \$6.3 billion for these purposes if facilities are available.

At present there are more than 185 million acre-feet of water available for fish and wildlife. This is more than enough to cover Texas a foot deep. By 1980, twice that amount will be necessary and by the year 2000, 465 million acre-feet will be needed.

Hypnosis Said Not Good Sportsmanship

Chicago (Science Service)—The use of hypnosis in athletics is dangerous and unsportsmanlike, two committees of the American Medical Association charge here.

The use of hypnosis in athletics may aggravate physical impairments of which the athlete is unaware, according to the AMA committee on hypnosis and the committee on the Medical Aspects of Sports.

"Another danger," the two committees warn, "is that an athlete might exceed the limits of his physical ability."

He also could expose himself to injury by concentrating so intently on his performance that he ignores previously learned safety measures.

Open Burning May Face Court Test

Portland (UPI)—The Portland city council Wednesday opened the way for a possible court test on open burning, by reinstating an ordinance requiring fire permits from the city. A section on enforcement, however, was not reinstated.

The requirement had been suspended several weeks ago when the city hoped to avoid becoming the enforcement agency for the Oregon State Sanitary Authority ban on open burning.

The new action means the city will issue burning permits, but enforcement of the OSHA burning ban will be left to the OSHA. Affected companies would then be in a position to question the ban in court.

New Coast Guard Chief Announced

Portland (UPI)—Capt. Willard J. Smith was announced Wednesday as the new chief of operations for the 13th Coast Guard District.

Capt. Smith will relieve Capt. R. F. Shunk, who has been acting chief of operations since the transfer of Rear Admiral C. C. Knapp to Alaska.

Capt. Smith served as commandant of cadets at the Coast Guard Academy, New London, Conn., prior to his transfer to the Pacific Northwest.

that her husband placed a sewer from seeping in. He failed, drain in the basement and sat she said.

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10-Gal. Plastic Lawn Barrel Reg. 4.98 ea. \$2.49

Stationery Reg. 59¢ box 39¢

Dream Kiss Bag Candy Reg. 39¢ lb. 29¢

Zee Wax Paper 100-Ft. Roll 5/1.00

Vets Dog Food No. 1 Tin 13/1.00

APRICOTS \$1.98 LUG

PEACHES 2 LBS 29¢

Tomatoes Large Slicers 2 lbs. 29¢

Cucumbers Each 3 for 10¢

Cantaloupes Jumbo Size 5 for \$1.00

Cottage Peas 303 Tin 8/1.00

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Mayonnaise Best Foods qt. 59¢

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