

**STRIKING PATTERN**—Resembling a ferris wheel in an amusement park, this missile component test boom makes a striking night-time pattern as it revolves on the radar range at the Engineering and Research Center of Ford Motor Company's aeronautics division at Newport Beach, Calif. (UPI Telephoto)

## Experimental Truck Carries 60 Tons Out of Copper Pit

Butte, Mont. (UPI)—Any homeowner, with that pesky yard to take care of, knows how heavy one wheelbarrow load of dirt and rock can feel. But just think of nearly one thousand wheelbarrow-loads at a time, in a swimming pool-size truck, bouncing up a steep grade at 15 miles an hour.

That's what the most powerful truck in the world, now in experimental use in the Anaconda Company's Berkeley pit here, can do. The giant vehicle averages 60 tons of cargo (the empty truck weighs 56 tons) as it carries waste rock out of the ever-widening open pit so the copper ore below can be mined.

**Only Four Wheels**  
The truck, developed by Anaconda and the LeTourneau Co. of Texas, rumbles along on only four wheels. But each of these wheels is "shod" with a 48-ply tubeless tire seven-feet, eight-inches in diameter. The tires, with a retail value of \$7,500 each, have tread four feet wide. The truck obtains its tremendous power from two sources—a twin-wire, overhead trolley system and an internal diesel engine. The electricity from the trolley or the diesel generator powers motors that form the hub of each wheel. With the outside power, the truck develops 1600 horsepower. On the diesel, used primarily for maneuvering in the dumping area away from the trolley wires, the rubber-tired giant has 335 horsepower.

Conventional trucks on the waste removal operation can handle only 36 tons of material on a trip and only work efficiently on a grade limited to seven per cent. The "swimming pool" with nearly double the capacity of the conventional vehicles waltzes smartly up grades of 15 per cent. A trio of Anaconda executives who guided a UPI correspondent on a "check" ride in the big truck—George Parker, assistant general superintendent of mining; Elmer Norris, pit superintendent, and Emmett Murphy, pit foreman—said they were "well pleased" with performance of the machine so far.

"Because of its mobility, the 'big one' is definitely an improvement over railroad systems used in many pits," Murphy said. Parker added that the diesel-electric truck "showed promise" of replacing—because of speed and capacity—the regular trucks, "but it will take the full six-months' trial to decide."

The driver, Charles McQueen, 38, formerly of Waco, Tex., but a Butte resident since 1953, displayed the easy manner in which the truck handles through power-boosted controls. Sitting high in a cab with the floor 12 feet off the ground, McQueen had no trouble keeping the truck under perfect control, both up and down grade. There is no steering wheel. Changes in course are made with a two-inch upright toggle switch that applies power to a steering motor quickly and firmly.

McQueen, a staff member of Anaconda's mining research department, is quite certain the truck "is here to stay," and will help improve mining methods in the Berkeley pit and other open cut operations. The Berkeley pit, which eventually will be 5,700 feet long, 2,700 feet wide and 1,175 feet deep, was opened five years ago to tap comparatively low grade copper ore on the north end of Butte Hill.

The pit's ore, pouring out at a rate of 28,500 tons a day, is mixed with richer ore from the Hill's conventional deep mines for treatment in the big smelter plant at Anaconda, Mont., 25 miles away. In addition to the "pay dirt," 65,000 tons of waste are hauled out daily in a continuous "stripping" operation.

**Brigitte Bardot Rated Contraband**  
Lincoln, Neb.—Brigitte Bardot may be a movie star to most folks, but to convicts at the Nebraska penitentiary, she's contraband. Explaining to the state prison board a rule infraction for which he had been cited, an inmate said he had been caught with contraband in his cell—a pin-up picture of Brigitte.

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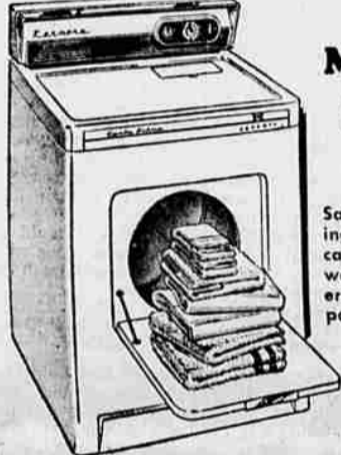
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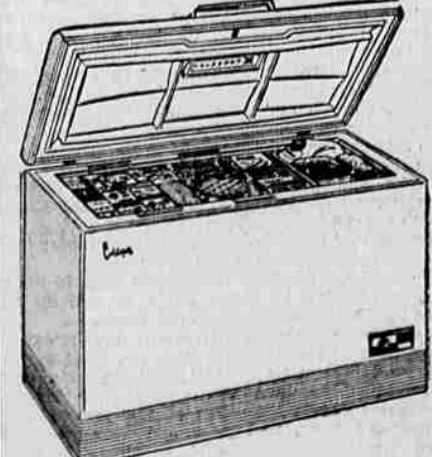
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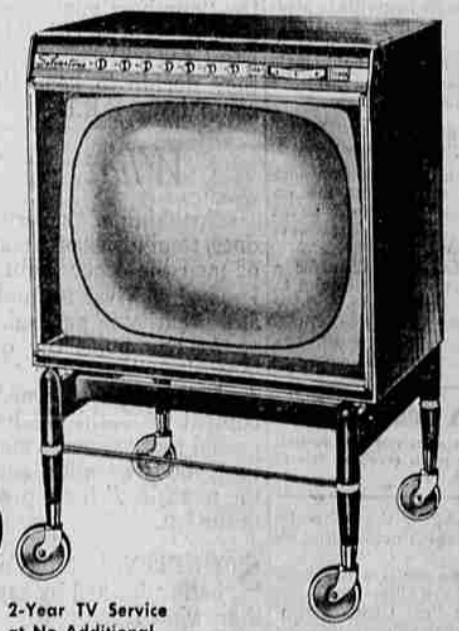
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