



LITTLE BOY'S MISTAKE—Guy Booth, 3, held aloft was part of a 100,000 pound shipment of West Texas mistletoe which was being loaded at Dallas for shipment all over the United States for Christmas. (UPI Telephoto)

OF SMITH & MEN

By Jack Smith

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An effervescent friend of mine — a high-spirited and patriotic woman — has been planning to buy a Renault, one of those gay little French automobiles.

She says she likes French cars because they look like hats. But now she's decided to buy an Oldsmobile instead.

"I'm not going to give those Frenchmen all that gold," she explained.

I know what she means. It's the balance of payments problem. Our imports are bigger than our exports. Our gold is leaving home.

One of these days, if this keeps up, we'll be so short of gold we won't even be able to fill our teeth.

I'm worried sick about it myself because I feel personally responsible to some degree.

For years now, I've been dealing with foreign agents. It never occurred to me that I was weakening the country.

On the contrary, I believed I was promoting peace by helping to lift the war-depressed nations to their feet. I thought that was our national policy.

That's why I bought the West German typewriter. I liked to think of my few dollars helping to load some humble German table with limburger, brat-auschweizer and kartoffelpuffer. Maybe a nickel or two went for a pot of lager at the corner rathskeller after a hard day at the local Krupp works.

And then I bought the Japanese camera. Why not, I reasoned, acquire a satisfactory piece of equipment and at the same time help to make the cash registers ring again along the Ginza?

It made me feel One World-ish to imagine my dollars being transformed into yen and then in the dainty land of ex-

quisite flower arrangements and co-educational bathtubs. I fancied that some ecstatic singsong girl, wrapping her new obi around her fragile waist, would compose a haiku in honor of the unknown American across the sea. In my dreams the obi was purple.

And then the Italian shoes. Actually, they were too pointed at the toes for my taste, and too delicately constructed. I'm used to American shoes. In American shoes I always have the feeling that in a pinch I could go in and kick a 45-yard field goal.

In my Italian shoes I felt barefooted. But my heart sang when I pictured the joy my generous expenditure probably had brought to some Neapolitan hovel.

I could see Giacomo dancing home with a bologna, a mozzarella and a jug of valpolicella and breaking, the gloriosa news to his bride Anamaria with eyes like mammoth olives. "We are rich, bella mia! I have sold the shoes to the stupid American!"

And then the automobile. I bought a gay little Renault. It looked like a hat. I used to think of myself as the patron of some pale little Cigarette, all knees, taking her first ballet lesson at the academy; or of some nouveau Picasso painting dead fish and apples in a Montparnasse atelier.

Instead of restoring the world to happiness and beauty, it now turns out, I have only been robbing Ft. Knox of gold and throwing the balance of payments out of kilter.

I will never be able to type a letter, or photograph my children at play, or dance in my Italian shoes, or peep my French horn, without feeling like Benedict Arnold.

My Marshall Plan has gone awry.

Reason Sought For Solid-Fuel Rocket Failure

Wallops Island, Va. — (UPI) — Space agency officials sought today to trace the cause of a malfunction that doomed America's first attempt to hurl a satellite into orbit with a solid-fuel rocket.

The attempt failed Sunday when the second stage of a 72-foot, 4-stage Scout rocket didn't ignite. The rocket fell into the Atlantic ocean about 80 miles away from the Wallops Island test station.

The launching at first appeared to be a success. But minutes after the thin rocket climbed into the sky, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announced the failure.

The shot had been scheduled both as a test flight of the new Scout rocket and as an attempt to put a 14-pound, 12-foot sphere into orbit to measure air density and drag at satellite altitudes.

Pioneering Venture The launching attempt was a pioneering venture in two ways. It was the first effort to launch a satellite from this little test station on Virginia's eastern shore, and it was the first attempt by any nation to put up a satellite with a solid-fuel rocket.

Officials said that the first stage of the 38,600-pound Scout and its control mechanism performed perfectly. But the second stage, which was supposed to start burning 70 seconds after lift-off at an altitude of 130,000 feet, did not ignite.

The Scout is a research satellite and space probe launcher still in the development stage. This was its third test flight. The first two were successful.

Sales of aluminum furniture this year should exceed last year's volume of \$112,500,000.

Diversification Pays; Firm To Quit Original Rail Business

By HENRY J. BECHTOLD UPI Financial Editor



Henry Bechtold is a local passenger operation which, with the exception of the World War II years, has continuously lost money since 1932.

A reorganization of the railroad in 1953 brought about the formation of Susquehanna Corp. as a holding company to control the railroad and certain bus properties, and permitted the company to separate its assets from the transportation business.

Railroad for Sale J. Patrick Lannan, Susquehanna chairman and president, said the company is determined to abandon or sell the railroad in 1961. Such a move, he noted, will eliminate a deficit of \$300,000 to \$600,000 a year in transportation operations, and gain a tax shelter and cash gain of more than \$25 million for the corporation.

While seeking its way out of transportation, Susquehanna has been moving into strategic growth industries such

as uranium and vanadium processing, electronics, and chemicals. The results of these new ventures have been exceptionally good — pre-tax earnings rose nine times from 1955 to 1959 and are expected to double again by 1961.

Before it entered the uranium business in 1956 the company made one false start in its diversification program when it attempted to become an integrated oil firm.

However, it did come up with some cash out of the deal which helped ease the company's way into the uranium business. Susquehanna provided funds for the construction of a uranium mill near Edgemont, S. D., which proved to be one of the most successful mills in the industry.

This led to a second uranium plant at Riverton, Wyo., which went into operation last year. The Atomic Energy Commission has authorized the building of a third uranium mill in south Texas which will go into operation early next year, and negotiations are under way for the company to operate a fourth mill to be owned by an agency of the state of North Dakota.

Lannan said government contacts for uranium extend through 1966, providing a stable earnings floor for the company from which it is spreading into other fields.

New Fields These fields include the production of sulfuric acid at a plant adjoining the Riverton

uranium mill. Sulfuric acid is used both in the leaching of uranium ores, and in other industries such as fertilizer making, sugar processing and oil refining.

Susquehanna also has a two-pronged vanadium plan under way which will give it capacity equal to approximately 20 per cent of the entire U.S. output of vanadium by early 1961.

Construction is nearly completed of a plant to extract vanadium pentoxide from uranium bearing ores at the Edgemont plant. And Susquehanna is in a joint venture with Minerals Engineering Co., Colorado, to produce vanadium by an entirely new chemical process — extracting the metal from hydrofluoric acid waste from western phosphorous operations.

As a heat and corrosion resistant metal, vanadium finds its principal use as an alloy in the manufacture of steel.

Lannan said a sleeper in the company's growth is the formation of an electronics division with the acquisition of Computer Engineering Associates, Inc., Pasadena, Calif. Lannan is shooting for annual sales of \$20 million in electronics alone within four years.

ARTIST DIES Newport, R.I. — (UPI) — William H. Drury, 71, artist and retired art teacher whose watercolors hang in London, Boston and New York museums, died Sunday.

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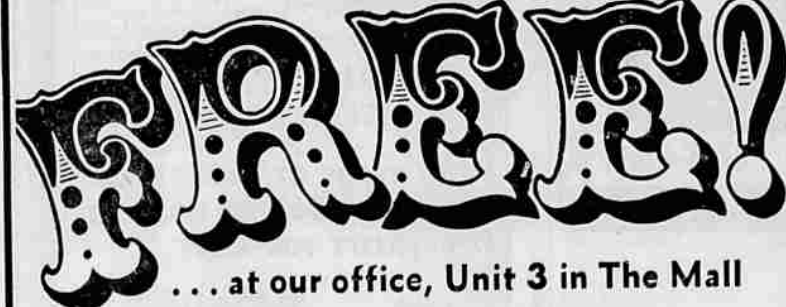
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