

Static Discharge Still Seen Cause Of Airplane Crash

By ROBERT J. SERLING
UPI Aviation Editor
WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Federal Aviation Agency has added fresh impetus to belief that lightning or a massive static discharge blew up the Pan American World Airways jet that crashed at Elton, Md., Dec. 8 killing all 81 aboard.

The agency disclosed yesterday it was considering an order requiring installation of a device to prevent electrical discharges on the wingtips of all jets. The modifications would not involve grounding the planes.

Early Model
The FAA said the Pan American plane was one of 98 early model Boeing 707's which carried the so-called "static discharge eliminators" on horizontal tail surfaces but not on its wingtips. A few early DC's also are believed to carry them only on the tail surfaces.

wick which "bleeds off" static discharges that might interfere with radio communications. But there is some evidence they also serve as tiny lightning rods and are capable of rendering a one-million-volt lightning strike harmless.

The Civil Aeronautics Board said last week it had found evidence of a lightning strike on the left wing of the Pan American plane. It also said that a fuel-air mixture explosion had occurred in a left wing fuel cell, although it carefully avoided saying that the explosion resulted from the lightning strike.

Exposed Previously
The FAA emphasized there was no evidence that the absence of the discharge wicks invited a lightning strike. Jets carrying the static eliminators only in their tails have been exposed to lightning bolts and huge static discharges hundreds of times without experiencing difficulty.

The agency also noted that an aircraft itself is its own best protection against lightning because it is not grounded. But, an FAA spokesman said, safety experts are concerned that absence of discharge wicks from the wingtips — if accompanied by unusual circumstances — might be a final loophole for tragedy.

2,300-Pound Cookie Wins Baking Prize

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (UPI) — Bethel College sophomore Paul Goodman, San Jose, Calif., won a Christmas cookie baking contest Wednesday by submitting a 2,300-pound cookie.

Goodman said he sold shares to about 250 classmates, raised \$350 and bought the ingredients — more than 1,000 pounds of cookie mix, about 800 pounds of powdered sugar and large quantities of shortening.

Sam Sherwood, the somewhat shocked radio station KDWB program director who set up the contest, gave Goodman \$3,749, based on an earlier agreement to pay \$1.63 a pound for the biggest entry. Sherwood said he had expected a five pound cookie.

Remarkable growth has been made by the Graduate School in recent years and it is a reflection of increasing demands for highly-trained specialists, Dean Hansen noted. There are three times more students working for advanced degrees now at OSU than 10 years ago and

1,250 Students Enrolled In OSU Graduate School

CORVALLIS — Students from all 50 states have been drawn to Oregon State University for graduate study this year, according to a report prepared by Dr. Henry P. Hansen, dean of the Graduate School.

A record 1,250 students are enrolled in the OSU Graduate School this fall. This represents about one out of every eight students on campus.

More than 500 of the 1,250 received their bachelor's or master's degrees — or both — from an Oregon college or university. Now they are working for either their master's or doctor's degree at Oregon State, Hansen noted.

There are 138 graduates from California schools; 124 from Washington; 42 from Utah; 33 from Iowa; 32 from Illinois; and 29 from Colorado colleges and universities.


Ex-Convict Admits False Tax Return

PORTLAND (UPI) — A former state penitentiary inmate pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court here Wednesday to a charge of filing a false income tax return while he was behind the walls.

Thomas D. Vorse, 39, of Olympia, Wash., admitted he received a \$97.09 refund after filing a 1960 tax return showing gross income of \$907.36. The government contended he was not entitled to the refund.

Vorse entered the plea after waiving grand jury action. Judge Gus J. Solomon ordered a presentence report.

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Sliced Pineapple Del Monte No. 2 Can 35c	Seasoned Peas Del Monte-303 Can 2 cans 39¢
Peaches Gold Hill-2 1/2 Can 5 for \$1.00	Fancy Peas Del Monte-303 Can 2 cans 39¢
Shortening Crisco 3-lb. can 69¢	Peas & Onions 303 Can 2 cans 45¢
Potato Chips Nalley Jumbo-69c Size 59¢	Onions Wh. Boiled, Oregon's Finest, 303 Can 2 cans 59¢
Corn Chips Nalleys 11-oz. bag 49¢	Jams Mary Ellen-20-oz. Jar 2 for 99¢
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