

Fall From Auto Kills Youngster

OREGON CITY (AP) — Three-year-old Pamela Lang was killed when she fell from the car in which she was riding and was crushed beneath it Monday.

The Clackamas County coroner's office said the accident occurred near the Clackamas Heights home of the child's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Lang.

British Successfully Fly Hovercraft, A Flying Saucer Sort Of Contraption

COWES, Isle of Wight (NEA)—Britain's first flying saucer consisted of two tin cans, one of them originally containing cat food, and cost about 10 cents to make.

From this crude working model

has grown the Hovercraft, a saucer-shaped, four-ton vehicle which skims over land and water with the ease of a magic carpet and attains a speed equal to that of the Queen Mary.

Here at Cowes, where the Hovercraft has just undergone successful tests, the experts are predicting that the strange vehicle will revolutionize transport.

Hovercraft of 10,000 tons which will cross the seas at 150 miles an hour are spoken of as definite possibilities.

Combining characteristics of aircraft and ships, the Hovercraft employs a revolutionary lift principle known as the air cushion. The Hovercraft rides on an air cushion which the vehicle itself generates along its bottom surface. "I don't want to sound melodramatic," says its inventor, 49-year-old Christopher Cockerell, "but if the Hovercraft were developed by the Russians it would give them the equivalent of warm water ports in winter."

With Hovercraft loading on land and skimming across ice to water, the Soviets would be freed from their ice-locked harbors. Cockerell also pointed out the Hovercraft's possibilities for development as a one-bomb carrier. Its potential already has brought military observers to watch the vehicle being tested.

In his East Cowes home, the pipe-smoking inventor demonstrated for me the original tin can model from which the Hovercraft dream was realized.

It consisted of a cat food tin fitted inside a coffee can. The two were connected to a reversed vacuum cleaner by a length of lead pipe. A pair of ordinary bathroom weighing scales completed the experiment.

Air from the vacuum cleaner was pumped down and around the smaller tin and out through the clearance at the open rim, thus trapping a bubble of high-pressure air on the bottom of the gadget.

When Cockerell held the gadget over the weighing scales they registered a pressure of three pounds, whereas the air jet from the vacuum cleaner alone gave only one pound of pressure. The closer the inventor brought the miniature Hovercraft to the scales the greater the pressure.

From this and more sophisticated tests Cockerell verified the Hovercraft principle: that a heavy craft can be supported, near the ground, on an air cushion that is produced by a thrust much less than the total weight of the craft. One can quadruple the weight of the craft by merely doubling the thrust, which means that the Hovercraft's efficiency increases with its size.

Shatteringly simple, and yet inventive Cockerell was to peddle the idea for nearly four years before he received an encouraging nibble.

"Impractical, unworkable," were the replies he received from government ministries and aircraft manufacturers alike. Finally, at his own expense, he constructed a two and a half foot model of the Hovercraft, took it to the basement of the Admiralty for a trial.

Sucking on his pipe, the mustached inventor recalled the scene.

"The model buzzed around just above the floor, kicking up a terrific row and filling the place with diesel fumes. Finally, it ended by chasing an Admiralty official to the other side of the room where he took refuge by climbing onto a table."

The immediate result was that the Ministry of Supply took the project out of Cockerell's hands and put it on the "secret" list, where it gathered dust for nearly a year.

It was not until April, 1958, that the National Research Development Corporation, an agency formed to back unorthodox inventions, decided to finance a prototype of the Hovercraft.

The contract was let to Saunders-Roe Ltd., aircraft builders, and the present vehicle constructed in under eight months. It is powered by a 450 h.p. engine, which drives a four-bladed axial fan to supply the air cushion and propulsive thrust.

In operation, the Hovercraft, skims over the waves at a height of about one foot and a speed of 30 miles an hour.

In a recent test, it flew in from the sea, glided over a rough bank of shingle and scrub 20 feet high, reversed and maneuvered back over the sea without breaking the surface of the water.

The Hovercraft is likely to be developed first as a fast ferry over medium distances, making possible a 10-20 minute trip between England and the continent.

"DENNIS THE MENACE"



Grocer's Daughter Slated To Wed Young Rockefeller

KRISTIANSAND, Norway (UPI) — Pretty Anne Marie Rasmussen faces a lot of problems Cinderella never dreamed of when, on Aug. 22, she becomes a Rockefeller.

She already has had a taste of one problem—the publicity that accompanied her romance with Steven Rockefeller, and, by her own admission, she was "scared stiff." More problems are on the way when Anne Marie leaves her home in the quiet town of Sogne to set up housekeeping in a New York apartment.

But friends will tell you she is a stable, well-adjusted girl, with old-fashioned values, and she is quite ready to take on the challenge.

Anne Marie was born 21 years ago on the island of Boroeyva outside Tvedestrand, where her father had a household goods store. She moved to Sogne, on the southern tip of Norway, after World War II.

Anne Marie loves good music and art. "You can keep your rock and roll as far as I am concerned," she says. "When I dance, it is in the old-fashioned way."

Some reports would have it that Anne Marie grew up in an overly strict, Lutheran home, dimming her capacity for a good time. But Anne Marie denies this.

"I like to have fun and I think I am a natural Norwegian girl," she says. She has the sparkling blue eyes and blonde hair to prove her point.

Anne Marie has had comparatively little formal education. She attended a rural elementary school for seven years. In 1956 she went to New York to study English, spending two years at supplementary school.

Her quest for work to pay for her studies took her into the Rockefeller home as a maid. There she had her first introduction to Steven. She also worked in a department store and an insurance company, returning home last April.

John Hopkins University produced the bolometer, a device which can detect such a small object as a burning candle 25 miles away.

Bill Cutting Road Funds Threatens Oregon Building

SALEM (AP) — The Oregon Highway Commission will be unable to let more contracts on interstate highways in the present fiscal year if Congress passes the highway bill proposed by the House Ways and Means Committee, State Highway Engineer W. C. Williams said today.

Williams said that in this fiscal year, which began a month ago, Congress had promised Oregon 48 million dollars in interstate funds. Under the House committee's proposal, that would be cut to 12 million.

That 12 millions, he said, would be used almost entirely to pay for construction already under contract.

He said completion of the Baldock Freeway into Portland, and the Eugene-Albany section of the Pacific Highway, still could be accomplished by the fall of 1960.

But no new projects could be started, including work on the Pacific Highway through Portland.

Williams returned to his office today after a meeting in Chicago of 41 of the 48 state highway engineers.

He said the engineers feel they "could not live with too long a shutdown, but that they could go along with stretching out the interstate program until 1975." That would make the interstate program last a total of 19 years, instead of the original 13.

Williams was critical of Congress for putting one billion dollars a year in automobile excise taxes into the general fund, instead of using it to build roads.

He said the Highway Commission already has bought six mil-

lion dollars worth of right of way for the East Bank Freeway, the future Pacific Highway route through downtown Portland.

"But that has come to a halt now," he said, "and the property will just have to sit there until we get some money to build it."

He said that only two pieces of right of way have been bought for the Minnesota Freeway, which will be the Pacific Highway route from downtown Portland to the Interstate Bridge across the Columbia. No more right of way will be bought for that until more money becomes available.



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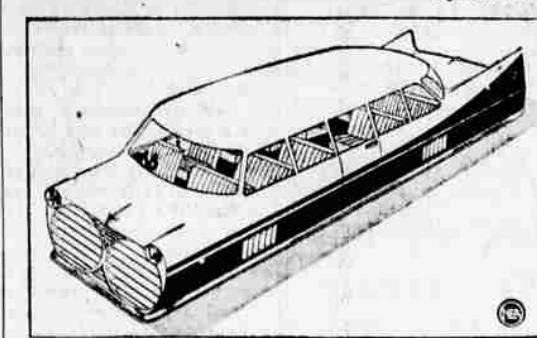
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EXPERIMENTAL HOVERCRAFT rises from the ground on a cushion of air in demonstration.



HOVERCAR, shown in artist's conception, is one possible development of revolutionary lift and propulsion principle.

EDISON MONUMENT
WEST ORANGE, N.J. (AP) — Glenmont, the 23-room mansion of Thomas A. Edison, has been dedicated as a national monument. Edison's son, former New Jersey Gov. Charles Edison, turned over the key to the residence Monday to a representative of the Interior Department. The home is filled with the inventor's books, mementos and furniture.

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The Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in 1947, are about 1,000 years old. They are believed to antedate the Old Testament by 1,000 years.

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