



THE THUNDERBIRD, Douglas Fir Plywood Association's 26-foot experimental plywood sloop, represents a departure in conventional sail boat design. Hard chines have proven to be an asset to her sailing ability. Detailed working drawings with all information on the boat, including photos and building instructions, are available from Douglas Fir Plywood Association, Tacoma 2, Washington. There is a \$2 charge.

New Sailing Craft Has Many Ideas That Make For Comfort, Speed, Use Now

A new design idea for sailing craft has done what most experts said couldn't be done.

For years, naval architects held fast to the assumption that only round-bottom hulls were practical for sail boats intended for competition. But Seattle, Washington, designer Ben Seaborn questioned this old conception and has subsequently proved that a hard chine or vee bottom sailing racer is not only practical but outstanding.

Working under commission from Douglas Fir Plywood Association, Seaborn developed a new 26-foot plywood racing sloop called the Thunderbird. When she was launched, she was turned over to a number of expert skippers for trials. In her first three outings in Tacoma, Washington, she landed two firsts and one second.

Doug Sherwood, well-known Puget Sound, Washington, skipper and seasoned racer had this to say about the new sloop: "She's both fast and responsive and surprisingly stiff in a blow."

"She heels easily but just so far; then those deep, hard chines buoy her solidly upon her best sailing lines. The cockpit is dry in seas you'd expect to leave you sopping wet."

"And she's the roomiest 26-footer I've ever seen."

Three Thunderbirds have been built and at least 12 more are under construction. The new owners will write class rules, organize a class and select a class name. The plywood association will then put up a perpetual national class trophy.

Detailed working drawings with all information on the boat, including photos and building instructions are now available from Douglas Fir Plywood Association, Tacoma 2, Washington. There is a \$2 charge.

Women Score Gains In 50's

NEWARK, N.Y. (UPI)—What do you consider the most significant development for women in the past 10 years?

More than half a million women were asked this question at fashion shows across the country by a jewelry firm.

The women cited frozen, instant and packaged foods, outdoor cooking, aerosol cans, hair-coloring, wash-and-wear clothes, automatic dishwashers and clothes dryers, automobile power steering and braking, and shopping centers. Also mentioned were the increased use of color and the acceptance of women in business and politics.

BIGGER BABIES

NEW YORK (UPI)—American babies are bigger, stronger, rougher and tougher than ever, according to a survey recently conducted by a firm (Bunny Bear, Inc.) that makes nursery products. As a result of the findings, the nursery furniture and fittings have been re-designed, making them bigger and sturdier.

Airport Gets Traffic Net

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI)—A new air traffic control system—the first of its kind in the nation—has been installed at San Francisco International Airport.

The system was designed by the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co. to cope with the problems of increased air traffic.

Chief Controller E. P. Sullivan explained that until recently radar and visual traffic observers were housed in the same room, making communication between them easy.

But then, the controller points were spread out and a new radar room was installed on another floor of the tower.

The telephone company system, which required the installation of 36,000 wire connections, is a combination of the company's latest developments with features adapted from the communications systems of the Federal Aviation Agency, the Air Force and the Navy.

It provides instant communication between controllers in the tower cab and the radar room; instant contact between the San Francisco terminal tower and other control facilities in the Bay Area; a method of breaking into a busy line with an important message; and a key unit system which can be serviced and maintained without interrupting service.

A new radar room, designed by FAA engineers, was built by the City of San Francisco atop the present terminal building. Lighting and room coloring ease working conditions. Technical innovations conserve space and increase maintenance ease.



AUCTIONEER—Slim Pickens, famed rodeo clown who also is a TV and movie actor, will auction the March of Dimes bull at the annual Red Bluff Sale February 4-6. The bull was donated by Mr. and Mrs. William T. Beaton of Napa.

Famous Rodeo Clown Will Auction Red Bluff Bull

RED BLUFF—Slim Pickens, famous rodeo clown, will sell the traditional March of Dimes bull during the 19th annual Bull Sale, February 4-6. He will auction a young Angus herd bull prospect donated by Mr. and Mrs. William T. Beaton, registered Angus breeders, of Napa.

Pickens, who also is a movie and television performer, has had an interesting career. By the time he was 16, he was in big rodeos, and 10 years ago he broke into the movies when a director saw him perform.

Over the years, he has had three skull fractures, two broken legs, a broken collarbone and breaks in the arm, hand and wrist, all in separate accidents. His job is to attract bulls from fallen rodeo performers, and he likes it.

Slim is now under contract to Walt Disney along with Edgar Buchanan. He is to co-star soon with Karl Malden and Marlon Brando.

With his wife and three children, he lives in San Fernando Valley. A daughter, Daryle Anne, 14, is an accomplished rider.

Big Bill Tilden won the U.S. men's tennis championship seven times, more than any other player.

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