

Riding The Rails To Trains Of Tomorrow

By RAY CROMLEY

WASHINGTON (NEA) — Railway design engineers dream of ways to rocket the nation's ailing railroads into automation by using the scientific gadgets developed for space travel.

Their fondest dream is a completely push-button railway. Some day, these planners say, "decision-making electronic brains" would be located in small turret-like structures along the track. Radio impulses sent by these devices would direct the train's movements. They would switch, start, speed up, slow down, stop the trains.

These operations would be monitored by train dispatchers in their control towers many miles away.

This won't come for decades, of course, if it ever does. By the very nature of railroads, change comes slowly, usually on one private road at a time.

But here's a quick rundown on the ideas the planners are discussing in their conference rooms today:

Split-second timing and electronic planning to clear the tracks and send super-fast railroad trains hurtling across the continent from New York to San Francisco at fantastic speeds.

Photo-electric eyes for train doors and rail platforms to automate the loading and unloading

of passenger trains.

Electronic reservations and the issuing of tickets automatically by electronics. When this plan goes through, you'll be able to phone in for a reservation, buy your ticket, have it charged to your telephone number—all by electronic gadgetry.

Almost complete long-distance supervision of trains. Radar and TV on the front of locomotives would give information not only to the engineer and crew; it would be sent on to a dispatcher in a control room perhaps a hundred miles away. It would mean that the dispatcher could continually look over the shoulder of the train engineer.

Radio telephones in all trains, so that the dispatchers can keep in constant communication with the train, the engineer in constant contact with the crew.

Train crews will communicate with wayside stations by radio and micro-wave systems. Crews will be kept informed instantly on the latest weather and track conditions ahead.

All-glass cars so that passengers can see out in every direction. A reverse-mirror process built into the glass will prevent people outside from looking in. The glass will be tinted to shut out the sun's glare. At night, the glass cars will be lit up with a

variety of colors "to bring relaxation."

The glass will be insulated to shut out noise and dust. "Stabilizers" and "centrifugal neutralizers" will counteract jolts and sharp curves.

A taped high-fidelity system to bring all passengers the latest news and weather.

All-purpose electronically controlled machines, each operated by one man, which would gather up track into one end as the machines moved along, and emit entirely new track at the other—rail crossties, rock ballast and all, laid in place and ready to use.

Automatic freight yards which would speed the "breaking up" and assembling of trains. Here's how a railroader describes the operation:

"A freight train will enter the yard after a fast trip between cities. A locomotive remotely controlled from a high tower will push the cars up a raised section of track called a 'hump.' Each car will be weighed, inspected, oiled, recorded and uncoupled automatically before it reaches the hump's crest.

"From there, the cars will coast downhill to 'classification' tracks fanning out below like branches from the trunk of a tree. A tape containing information on each

car will be fed into an electronic brain, which in turn will activate devices to guide the car onto its proper track. Its speed will be controlled by automatic 'retarders.' Radar eyes will check its progress. Switches will be set ahead of the car automatically.

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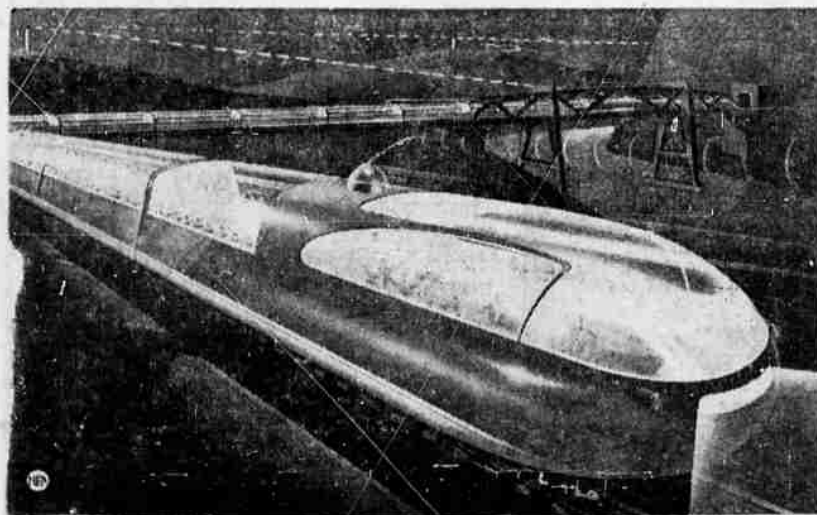
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A PASSENGER TRAIN of the future—maybe—in the designer's eye.

Poet's Corner

SIGN OF SPRING

It's a sure sign of spring
When housewives are busy:
Cleaning and washing woodwork
And putting the family in a tizzy.
She starts in quite early
Also works till it's late;
As she cleans all the cupboards
Things are in such a state.

With her hair tied up,
And broom in her hand;
She sweeps everything clean.
It's more than she can stand.
As the rooms start to sparkle
Her face begins to glow.
It was really worth the effort
As any housewife will know.

Jennie Charles,
1749 Menlo Way.

OUR WORLD

How many times in a day do
you think
Of the world we have around us?
The majestic mountains tall and
strong,
The mighty rivers wide and long,
Pacific and Atlantic, the oceans
deep.
The great Grand Canyon, rocky
and steep,
The Eiffel Tower standing tall,
The Tower of Pisa which will
never fall,
Ancient Pyramids, the tombs of
old kings,
Our Empire State Building and
many other things,
Gigantic turnpikes stretching for
miles,
Beautiful cities converted from
wilds.

Yes, our world is a wonderful
place,
We are making progress at a fan-

tastic pace,
But I wonder how many stop to
face,
Nothing would be here without
God's Grace.

Pamala Meyer, 4-B,
3542 Summers Lane.

MY SCHOOL! AND YOURS?

By Pelican Petunia

When newcomers move in, are
you one of those
Who whisper, and gossip, and
wrinkle their nose,
And declare the high school is the
cause of all woes?
How come you told someone that?
Huh?

Communitic? A fact! There's
quite a pink tinge!
Each teacher is hanging by only
one hinge!

In short, K.U.'s a perpetual
binge!
Are you speaking first hand, Fel-
la? Huh?

The kids? All delinquents, exist
wall to wall!
You wouldn't repeat what goes on
in the hall!

As for studies, they don't do any
at all!
Can you honestly make that re-
mark, Buddy? Huh?

Yes, most of their time is spent
on the frills;
Loafing, fighting and dragging are
most of their skills;
And the poor local people must
pay all the bills!

Did you vote for that budget? Be
honest, now, Huh?

What you need is to look at the
rest of the state!

If you're interested, take time to
investigate.

You'll feel pretty silly, seeing how
high we rate!
Then tell someone the truth, will
you? Huh?

Our graduates shine wherever
they go!

Craft, art, or profession, their
genius will show.

While honors and chances continue
to grow.

Tell your new neighbor that, Will
you, huh?

Departments and faculty stand at
the top;

Opportunity beckons; and never
cries, "Stop!"

And the students? They're Klam-
ath's most promising crop!

Try telling it straight, Will you?
Huh?

Like a mountain set out on a
plain, is K.U.

How can you compare, to judge
what is true?

But, oh, from the top, there's a
wonderful view!

Come see for yourself, Will you?
Huh?

Our school's what we make it in
everyone's eyes;

Get with it, and back this, our
prime enterprise!

Now, see how you feel, when the
folks criticize!

Then YOU! tell THEM off! Will
you? Huh?

Help crack down on the bad, and
uphold what is fine;

For the two out of step, there's
a thousand in line!

It's a wonderful school! It's both
yours and mine!