

DEAR EDITOR....

How Plane Crashes Might be Avoided

Several months ago I wrote the following letter to the Douglas Aircraft co. in Santa Monica:

"Up to 7 years ago I made several flights to Europe. At that time—generally speaking—I cared less about safety.

However, today, for certain reasons, I value my life much more, although there are several important things I wished to settle personally on the Old

Continent. I am, however, reluctant to fly any more and I cannot afford the time to travel via sea. I even refuse myself a trip to the East Coast, simply because I do not trust the airlines.

"I have often wondered why we have not yet a passenger plane, where the risks are greatly diminished, maybe through a simple idea, like the following:

"Among other occupations I am also an inventor, however not in your field. But I feel sure that safety could be improved greatly, if

"The motors and propellers

were built in the middle of the plane, instead at the head. The propellers should be erected so as to move upwards and forwards. To start they would have to be turned upwards, so that the plane would not move forwards on the runway, but upwards straight into the air and then they would be geared slowly to the forward direction until the full speed is reached. The same procedure would be applied for the landing. It would very much look like the helicopter movement. Personally I believe that there could not be great difficulties.

"People are mostly afraid of landings on the long runways. As a matter of fact a very great percentage of accidents occur after the start or during landings. Millions more people, who today refuse to board a plane for the same reasons as I do,

would travel via air, preferring a slower but safer plane. Please let me know your opinion.

Yours very truly . . ."

The answer I received was rather evasive but the last paragraph was a little more encouraging:

"Your particular idea has been proposed many times before and Bell Aircraft corp. has built an airplane designated the XV-3, which utilizes tilting rotors. You may be interested to know that conversion from rotor to propeller attitude is completed in 10 to 15 seconds . . ."

I did not do any more about this matter until the air catastrophe of February 1, 1957, when a Douglas airliner crashed in New York causing 20 deaths and a score of injured passengers.

The other day I went to Douglas for information about this

tragedy. To my straight question whether this incident could have been avoided if the planes were built in the way as outlined in my letter, I received the answer: "very probably."

Because of the military secrecy regarding new airplane designs, however, I could not get any technical details, but I learned that finally not only Douglas but also the other aircraft companies are seriously taking into consideration the building of planes which will be launched from a "much shorter space . . ." which means that the planes will be built in a way which will allow a kind of helicopter maneuvers.

You remember what the captain of the crashed airliner said on February 1. "I just couldn't get her up . . . She just wouldn't go up . . ." Naturally he could not stop the plane any more once it was in fast motion. If the plane would have had rotors and if it would not go up, at least nothing could go wrong. They would simply have to board another plane.

So my visit to the plant had the good result to learn that we can at least hope to have in a year or two, planes that will be 50 per cent safer.

Sincerely yours,
(S) Adolph Ernst

Lomita Incorporation

There seems to be abundant money to force incorporation on Lomita, but if it is necessary to bring in outside "experts," something is wrong with what is offered.

The Lomita Civic League repelled the January Invasion without outside help or money.

Needs Postcards

Editor
Torrance Press

I need unused scenic postcards for Veterans in hospitals. Postage stamps are placed on each card, and left with the boys who love to write home on these cards.

Also needed for the boys are foreign stamps to help them pass the time. Please send everything to me and advance thanks.

(S) Mrs. Anna Seidenberg
GI Mail Call
San Pedro, California

Flags

Editor
Torrance Press

The Board of Education expresses appreciation to the Torrance Press for its part in providing "All-America City" flags for all the schools.

Yours very truly,
(S) J. H. Hull, Secretary
Board of Education

All Scouts Invited

Editor
Torrance Press

All Boy Scouts appearing in uniform will be admitted as my guests at the Harbor Area Lions Club Associated Drag strip Sunday, March 31, between 10:30 a.m. and dark.

As President of the Associated Lions Drag strip, a non-profit organization, we hope to foster interest of youngsters in competitive sports, and to demonstrate to them how hot rod youth groups are organized to promote safety and encourage sportsmanship in their communities. The strip is holder of the world's record for cars on fuel at 166 miles per hour from a standing stop, one-quarter measured mile electronic timing and 145 miles per hour for gas driven vehicles.

The Strip is located in Long Beach on 223rd street, 1 block east of Alameda Blvd., and we encourage all Boy Scouts to be our guests for this Sunday.

(S) A. W. Hinz

Puzzled

Editor
Torrance Press

I really must commend you on expressing your views honestly, especially in your letters to the public. I wonder if you would answer a question for me that seems quite puzzling?

As I am new to California, I have never heard of a "personal property" tax, but have been told that the family car is not included when taxing personal property. The assessor, when calling at our home, however, asked my wife what kind of a car we have and wrote it down!

I called the tax office in Los Angeles about it and they advised that cars are not included and any tax on them is paid for when we get our license tabs the beginning of the year.

I have asked around the neighborhood and the residents on our street say the assessor asks them, also, what kind of a car they have!

As I am a veteran and have a home under the GI Loan bill, the more I pay on personal property the less deduction I get on my taxes, so naturally, if my car should not be included I don't think the assessors should take advantage of people's lack of knowledge about it and put it down! I understand the assessors are from Los Angeles County, and not from our City.

Will appreciate any information you can put in your column about this. (Lived in Florida previously and was exempt first \$5,000 for being a veteran, so was quite surprised that California is only \$1000. Iowa veterans are exempt from any taxes of any kind for life).

(S) Puzzled Citizen!

(Editor's note: The county assessor's office indicated that these questions are asked to determine veterans' eligibility for exemption. The family car is not taxed at this time since it is taxed separately when the yearly license tab is obtained.)

Dr. Nielsen Will Head Hospital Staff

The medical staff of the new Riviera hospital of Torrance, which is scheduled to be completed in June, held its first meeting on Wednesday evening, March 20, at the Torrance Woman's club, for the purpose of organization.

A full program of business included election of officers for the 1957-58 year, a progress report by Jack Saylin, administrator of the hospital, and preliminary discussion of the proposed by-laws submitted by the steering committee of the medical staff.

Dr. Robert F. Nielsen was unanimously elected chief-of-staff. Functioning with him will be Dr. Fritz C. Westerhout, as assistant chief-of-staff, Dr. John E. Micks as secretary-treasurer, and Dr. Tom G. Halasey as assistant secretary-treasurer.

Drs. Richard C. Schaeffer, John A. Wilson Jr., and J. Bernard Rivo were elected as executive committee members. Installation ceremonies will be held some time in May.

The appointments of Dr. John Woodruff as radiologist and Dr. David Dickey as pathologist were announced.

The next meeting of the group will be on Wednesday evening, April 17, at the Torrance Woman's club, when the by-laws will be adopted and committees formed to complete the organizational program.

Savings-Loan Leads In Home Loans

Leading all other savings and loan associations in Southern California in the number of home loans for the year 1956, American Savings and Loan association made a total of 4400 loans during the year for a dollar total of over \$40,000,000, according to Stuart A. Ripley, American Savings president.

American Savings operates offices in Whittier, East Whittier-Friendly Hills, La Puente, Temple City, Montrose, Redondo Beach and Manhattan Beach.

You're Welcome

Editor
Torrance Press

On behalf of the student body and staff of Torrance High school, we wish to offer a long overdue commendation to you and to the Torrance Press newspaper for the wonderful assistance you have given us in publishing our school activities.

It is due to this fine assistance and spirit of cooperation that we are able to present a successful program of activities—a credit not only to our school, but to our community as a whole.

With sincere thanks,
(S) CARL R. AHEE,
Principal
L. L. BERESKIN,
Student Activities advisor

John S. Gibson Jr. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Establishment of branch offices of the Traffic and Planning Departments in the harbor area, is hailed by Council President John S. Gibson Jr. as one of the outstanding achievements of 1956.

These new offices, located in the Wilmington Branch City Hall, provide all the services of the main office in Los Angeles with greater convenience to all persons living in the southern part of the 15th district.

"This move toward decentralization of essential services already has proved a marked convenience in residents of the district," Gibson said, adding "assignment of personnel to the branch offices in the district also has materially reduced the time for processing of applications."

Councilman Gibson, unopposed for re-election in his 15th district, made these assertions while reminding his constituents of the municipal election next Tuesday.

"Only by your expression at the polling places can the representatives of government know your feelings," Gibson said in urging every registered voter to exercise his right of franchise.

GAS COMPANY PERSONNEL INCREASED

Figure just released by the Southern California Gas co. show 9,328 new customers were added last year here in the firm's Southwest Division, which serves the Centinella Valley, Torrance and the beach cities.

Vote Tuesday April 2nd

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<p>99¢ VALUE RUBBER RUNNER Corrugated, soft under foot. 1/2" in. ft.</p> <p>75c</p>	<p>\$1.49 VALUE Vinyl Plastic LINOLEUM Lovely Colors. sq. yd.</p> <p>88c</p>	<p>VALUES to 2.49 INLAID LINOLEUM Large roll ends. As low as sq. yd.</p> <p>99c</p>	<p>\$5.95 VALUE Hvy. Felt Base Enam'd Rugs 9' x 12' ea.</p> <p>\$3.95</p>

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