



TAKE-OFF: In background is rocket "clubhouse"

ROCKET SHOOT

A FLASH, a roar and a rocket streaks into the sky over California's Mojave Desert. Climbing three miles, it levels off and arches earthward, crashing with a loud thud—but no explosion.

Neither the Army, Navy nor Air Force has anything to do with this flight. It's a strictly amateur performance, by the Reaction Research Society, whose members make their own missiles, including the secret-formula propellant.

Amateur rocketeers have been probing the sky for a generation or more. Now they're looking forward to new rockets which will zip 40 miles into the stratosphere.

Photographs by Richard Hartt



CLUB MEMBERS assemble a missile for flight



DOES IT FLY?—Model of 'flying saucer' is examined by Arthur Louis Joquel II (left), director of "Project Spaceward" of Reaction Research Society, and Carroll L. Evans Jr., vice-president. Model was made to illustrate descriptions given by persons allegedly seeing the unexplained objects. Saucers will be object of discussion at society's open meeting at 7:30 tomorrow night at Glendale Public Library.

ROCKET TEST SET IN DESERT

GLENDALE, Sept. 19.—Five rockets, including a powerful, 12-foot, two-step model, will be launched by the Reaction Research Society tomorrow on the Mojave Desert.

The rockets were displayed here recently in the arts and lecture room of Glendale Public Library.

The missiles will be launched in a demonstration testing open to the public to show progress of work being carried

by the society, rated the best non-military rocket research group in the United States.

More than 500 cards will be carried aloft in one of the rockets. Each rocket will include cameras, radio receivers and parachute recovery mechanisms.

RADAR TRACKING—

They will be tracked by radar and visually from sighting stations situated several miles from the launching area. Flares will be attached to the films to expedite photographing their flight, both by research cameras and those of visitors.

Altitude attained by the rockets is expected to range from about a mile for the smallest to "the edge of the troposphere" (or just below the stratosphere) as members phrased it, for the large two-stage missile.



ROCKETEER—Margaret Bonnell displays 12-ft. two-stage rocket to be launched today in Mojave Desert test by Reaction Research Society.



—Reaction Research Society Photo

NEW ROCKET STUDIED—A rocket with the unusual design of cylindrical fins is examined by Robert J. DeVoe, left, and Arthur Louis Joquel II, technicians of the Reaction Research Society of Glendale. This rocket and others will be on display at the society's meeting in the Glendale Public Library, Monday, April 13.

RESEARCH SOCIETY TO MARK 10TH BIRTHDAY

Observing its 10th anniversary as one of the most active civilian rocket research organizations in the world, the Reaction Research Society of Glendale will hold a public meeting Monday, April 13, at 7:30 p. m. in the Glendale Public Library.

Featuring the evening will be a display of several rockets, some of unusual design, which are being prepared for a full-scale launching in the Mojave test area on April 26.

One of the missiles is to carry a camera to a high altitude while another has been designed with cylindrical fins to give it greater

stability in flight. Motion pictures in color of some of the society's operations will be shown, one being a rocket mail flight held several years ago when letters bearing special stamps were shot across Searles Lake. Another item will be a film of the society's work with a 20-foot-long peroxide propellant rocket.

Speakers will be Arthur Louis Joquel II, who will tell of the society's future plans, David Elliott who will outline the research program, and Robert DeVoe, who will describe the rockets on display at the meeting.

L'aviation est-elle menacée par LE PRODIGIEUX DÉVELOPPEMENT DES ENGINES TÉLÉGUIDÉS?

Après une lente mise au point, la construction des engins guidés connaît une activité intense. En Grande-Bretagne, on envisage de consacrer à leur production un tiers des effectifs de l'industrie aéronautique, ce qui peut mettre en question l'avenir même de l'aviation.

EN quelque trente années les premières fusées « postales », transportant à 5 ou 6 km un courrier à l'usage des philatélistes, ont conduit aux fusées ionosphériques qui montent maintenant jusqu'à plus de 400 km d'altitude. C'est dire que ces engins ont accompli des progrès extraordinaires.

Si on le désirait, une fusée postale pourrait transporter aujourd'hui à très grande vitesse les copies sur microfilm de toute la correspondance qui traverse l'Atlantique, comme on le fit, mais par avion, pour le courrier des combattants de Corée. Les centaines de milliards annuels qui se dépensent à perfectionner cette technique sont malheureusement accordés à des fins moins pacifiques, et les amateurs européens de fusées n'ont pas les ressources financières de leurs collègues de la Reaction Research Society, qui expérimentent pour leur satisfaction personnelle des engins à deux étages dans le désert de Mojave.

Fusée ou réacteur ?

C'est la fusée à poudre ou à liquides qui résout au mieux le problème de la propulsion des engins. Elle seule se prête aux très grandes vitesses, aux 1 800 à 2 000 m/s qu'on peut obtenir d'une V-2. Sa poussée n'est pas affectée par l'altitude, et même elle croît légèrement avec

La Reaction Research Society expérimente dans le désert de Mojave la plus grosse fusée (deux étages, longueur : 3,50 m) qu'on ait construite pour des recherches dont l'objet n'est pas militaire.



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Top Rocket Experts to^{R4} Meet Here

Rocket experts representing civilian research societies from all parts of the United States will join in a public discussion of space travel and related topics in Glendale tomorrow and will stage a rocket launching on the Mojave Desert Sunday.

Tomorrow's meeting will be held in the Arts and Lecture Room of the Glendale Public Library, Harvard and Kenwood streets, from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. An exhibit of rockets and films will be presented from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Reaction Research Society of Glendale and the Pacific Rocket Society of Los Angeles will be hosts to representatives of the Philadelphia Astronautical Society, the Intermountain Rocket Society of Salt Lake City, the Society for the Conquest of Space and the American Astronautical Federation. All of the organizations will present reports and show films on their work.

Propulsion History

Occasion of the two-day event is the first anniversary of the founding of the American Astronautical Federation, which was organized in 1954 to assist in consolidating the work of the civilian rocket research groups.

A paper on "History of Space Craft Propulsion," will be presented to the meeting by E. G. Ewing. A paper, "Interstellar Travel," by David Elliott, will be read by Carroll L. Evans Jr. Chairman of the program will be Arthur Louis Joquel, director of "Project Spaceward" who will open the session with a talk on "The Space Age Opens."

A panel discussion, with one member from each society, will be held on the topic "The Space Satellite: Its Construction and Uses." The recently announced plan of the United States to launch a satellite into an orbit around the Earth will be reviewed. Questions from the audience will be answered following the panel.



ON DISPLAY HERE—The most powerful two-stage rocket yet built by a civilian rocket society is displayed by its builders. From right: B. J. Humphreys, James Medsker and Edward B. Parker, technicians of the Reaction Research Society of Glendale. Rocket will be on display in the Arts and Lectures Room of Glendale Public Library tomorrow.

Foothill Postmasters Gird for

Extra Help To Be Hired Within Week

MONTROSE—Foothill postmasters began calling in their part time Christmas employees today as the annual avalanche of Yuletide mail began pouring into postoffices from La Canada to Sunland.

A total of 25 extra employees have been hired at the Montrose Post Office, according to Lyle Burkhart, postmaster.

Extra help is expected to reach the maximum early next week at the La Canada Post Office where a record 40 part time workers will be "working" the mail. Postmaster Edwin Cooper said that he has hired 11 more holiday workers than last year.

La Crescenta Office

Twenty-eight part time employees will help the La Crescenta Post Office function smoothly through the annual crowded situation at the La Crescenta Post Office, George R. Austin, new postmaster announced today.

Miss Madge Kearns, Sunland postmaster, will employ 15 special workers at her facility.

Several holiday workers have been added to the staff of the Tujunga Post Office, according to Harry Ellison, postmaster.

Open Next Saturday

All Foothill post offices will be open tomorrow and next Saturday from 8 to 6 p.m. However, extra Saturday opening hours will be solely confined to selling of stamps and mailing of packages. La Crescenta Post Office also will be open on Saturday, Dec. 24, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Montrose Post Office will

News of Other Communities



—News-Press Photo

SPARE TIME HOBBY—Ronald Nelson, 17, right, and Cal Van Wagner, 17, both seniors at Glendale High School and La Crescenta residents, put finishing touches on 10-foot rocket they made which will be launched Sunday in the desert northeast of Mojave. The youths, who both plan to become guided missile engineers, have been making and firing their own rockets for more than two years.

HOMEMADE ROCKET

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The Montrose Post Office will remain open on Sunday and the following Sunday, Dec. 18, from noon to 5 p.m. The La Crescenta Post Office will be open on Sunday, Dec. 18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Week-day hours at the La Crescenta Post Office from Dec. 12-23 have been changed from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Former Glee Club Holds Yule Party

LA CRESCENTA — The annual Christmas party of the former glee club of the Verdugo Hills Unit 288, American Legion Auxiliary was held at the home of Mrs. Helen Brown of 103 N. Cedar, Glendale. Mrs. Brown is former director of the glee club.

Included were Mesdames Wilford Boyer, Mabel M. Sullivan, Harriette Conant, Alice Schmidt, Katherine Hussey, Merritt Kimball, Thomas Bonetto, Arthur Benson, Elleda Stoughton, Clara Belle Daly, Bertie Hillman, Edna Ostermann, Mildred Cheadle, Margaret Howie, Guy Carlton, Caroline Mulligan, Esther Kessler, Anne Morgan, Belle Cooper, Lova Hall, Mildred Hughey and Eleanor M. Boone, aunt of the hostess of Murphysboro, Ill.

Tujunga Kiwanians To Induct Dec. 29

TUJUNGA—Harlan L. P. Wendell of the DuPont Corp., spoke on "Progress Must Be Created" at last night's meeting of the Tujunga Kiwanis Club at the Ascension Episcopal Church.

The club will install new officers Dec. 29 at the Biltmore Hotel. Hal Gaylord will succeed Ray Adams.

GUEST SPEAKER SUNDAY

TUJUNGA — Guest speaker Sunday at the Tujunga Kiwanis Club will be...



—News-Press Photo

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HOMEMADE ROCKET

Valley Boys Will 'Shoot for Moon'

By **DICK DEGNON**
News-Press Staff Writer

LA CRESCENTA — Two La Crescenta senior high school boys will be "shooting for the moon" Sunday when they fire their 10-foot, homemade rocket in the desert northeast of Mojave.

The youths, Ronald Nelson, 17, of 2435 Rockdell, and Cal Van Wagner, 17, of 3326 Honolulu, have been constructing their own rockets and firing them for more than two years. Both are seniors at Glendale High School.

Members of the La Crescenta-Glendale chapter of the Re-

action Research Society which totals more than 200 members, the boys literally spend all of their time with their "heads in the air."

Sunday's venture will be a new milestone for them. They will launch a 10-foot dry fuel rocket which they hope will reach an altitude of one mile.

The two-stage rocket will be fired at a safe distance from a 22-foot rocket launched by an electrical impulse. When the rocket reaches about 150 feet, a mercury switch apparatus releases the second stage or "head."

"We should find the rocket

about one-half mile away from the launcher," Van Wagner, a Dynamiter football and track athlete, estimated.

Chief purpose of the unique hobby, according to Nelson and Van Wagner, is to give young members of the society a keener insight into the new guided missile field.

"We feel that this work is laying the groundwork for our future education in the field," Nelson declared.

But the new hobby has its drawbacks.

"Some people think we're crazy," they said.

Liquid Fuel Next

Liquid fuel rocket work is the next step for the two La Crescentans, who both feel that "space flights is 25 years away and space travel more than 100 years distant."

"We aren't shooting for the world rocket flight record," Van Wagner added.

Only announced world's altitude record is held by the United States when a liquid fuel V-2 and WAAC Corporal traveled 250 miles into outer space above White Sands, N.M. in 1949.

However, there is no accepted record. Rocket research is believed to have begun in the late 1930s.

Approximate cost of their newest rocket, which took about two and one-half months of spare time work to construct, is approximately \$18.

Anyone for a trip to Mojave to see the "youth of the future" in action?

MRS. MULLER ELECTED DISTRICT SECRETARY

LA CRESCENTA — Mrs. Edward (Teddy) Muller of La Crescenta was elected secretary of the 48th Assembly District Democratic Council at the annual election of officers meeting held at the Altadena home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Goddard.

Lester Lees, state committee representative, is the new president. He succeeds Melbey Kidd of Altadena.

Newell Barrett of Sierra Madre, delegate to the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee, was elected vice president while Mrs. Thomas (Margaret) Lathe is the new treasurer.

New officers will assume their positions at the next council meeting on Jan. 11 at the Goddard home.

Delegates from Crescenta-Canada Valley clubs are Philip Brinegar and Milton Cook, La Canada Democratic Club, and Arthur Miller, George Herbert Childs and Joseph Perry, Crescenta Valley Democratic Club.

Both Lisle Snively and Peter Hazell, presidents of the Crescenta Valley and La Canada Democratic Clubs, respectively, are delegates to the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee and occupy seats on the 48th Assembly District Democratic Council. The assembly district includes the Foothill area from Monrovia, including portions of Pasadena and annexed La Crescenta and Montrose, to the west boundary of La Crescenta.