

R I THINK I'VE SEEN IT IN THAT 196 OTHER 62 CATALOGUE

ANYWAY, THAT LITTLE FELLER THERE, WE HAD A BUNCH OF STAGES AS FAR AS ENGINES YOU SEE AN ENGINE BAD, YOU SEE THIS WHOLE ENGINE HERE AND THEN YOU HAD THE ENGINE UP ON THE INSIDE

R YES

SO IT WAS TWO OF OUR 40-LB THRUST ENGINES

R THIS WAS A STAGED ROCKET, TWO STAGE?

RIGHT, RIGHT, TWO STAGE. THIS ROCKET HERE WAS EVERY BIT OF 6 FEET IN LENGTH

R WAS THIS IN FRONT OF A SCHOOL?

IT WAS RIGHT IN FRONT OF A SCHOOL

R HOW DID YOU DECIDE ON THE NAME "COASTER"?

WELL, WHENEVER YOU HEAT (take) THIS LITTLE FELLER AND THAT ENGINE BURNS OUT THE REST OF THAT INERTIA OR THAT MOVEMENT OF THAT VEHICLE IS COASTING, SO IT JUST KIND OF FELL IN PLACE YOU KNOW, COASTER.

R AND HOW DID YOU DECIDE TO DO THIS, TO START THE COMPANY?

ALRIGHT NOW, THIS FELLER NICHOLSON HAD BUILT A MODEL OR TWO, OF THE ROCKET, AND HE HAD NO CONCEPTION AS TO WHAT HE COULD DO WITH IT AND I BEGAN TO QUIZ HIM, I SAID "SAM, WHAT'S THE THRUST...LET'S FIND OUT, AND CAN WE REFINE IT, AND I'M NOT SURE, SEE, YOU'RE BUILDING IT MANUALLY, I'M NOT SURE IT CAN'T BE PUT TOGETHER WITH AUTOMATION, TOOLING, AND ON AND ON WE WENT. AND WE GOT THE WORD, WE HAD A GOOD PRODUCT.

R WHEN DID THIS START?

IT STARTED BACK IN ABOUT THE LATTER PART OF 1957 AND THEN SOMEWHERE IN 1958 WE FORMED A CORPORATION, AND WITH THAT CORPORATION WE STAYED WITH IT FOR SOME FIVE YEARS, AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, WHERE YOU WORK ALL WEEK LONG AND THEN YOU TRY TO BUILD SOMETHING LIKE THIS ON THE WEEKEND, OR BUILD 2 OR 3 HOURS AFTER WORK, YOU BURN OUT. AND WE HAD BURNED OUT, AND ALSO WE HAD UNDER-PRICED OUR PRODUCT AND WE WEREN'T GOING ANYPLACE EXCEPT MORE WORK AND ALWAYS TRYING TO STAY UP WITH WHAT WE WERE DOING, SO WHEN WE SOLD OUT IT WAS A GOOD MOVE ON OUR PART, PIESTER DID US A FAVOUR WHEN HE BOUGHT US. YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE ME FOR BEING OUTSPOKEN ABOUT HIS ARROGANT WAYS, THE THING IS THAT IS THE WAY. I FIGURE THAT WAS THE WAY IT STARTED AND ABRUPTLY ENDED YOU KNOW, I head by. BUT WE HAD LOT'S OF ADVENTURES IN BETWEEN.

WARREN G. MAGNUSON, WASH., CHAIRMAN

JOHN O. PASTORE, R.I.

A. S. MIKE MONRONEY, OKLA.

GEORGE A. SMATHERS, FLA.

STROM THURMOND, S.C.

FRANK J. LAUSCHE, OHIO

RALPH YARBOROUGH, TEX.

CLAIR ENGLE, CALIF.

E. L. BARTLETT, ALASKA

VANCE HARTKE, IND.

GALE W. MCGEE, WYO.

ANDREW F. SCHOEPPEL, KANS.

JOHN MARSHALL BUTLER, MD.

NORRIS COTTON, N.H.

CLIFFORD P. CASE, N.J.

THRUSTON B. MORTON, KY.

HUGH SCOTT, PA.

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Washington, D. C.

June 6, 1961

EDWARD JARRETT, CHIEF CLERK

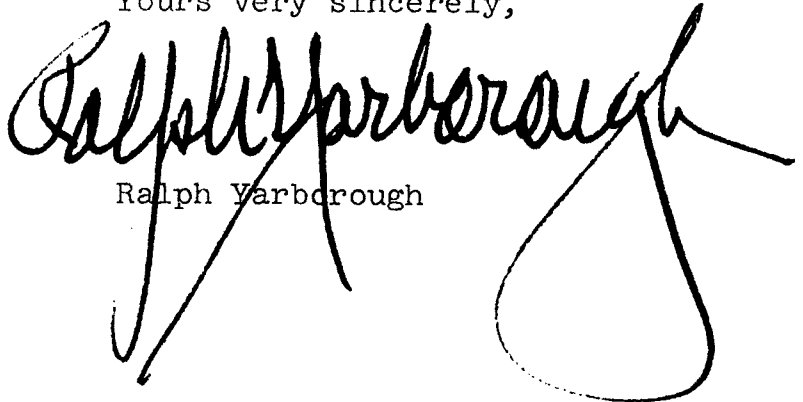
Mr. Menford L. Sutton  
Secretary and Treasurer  
Coaster Corporation  
P.O. Box 358  
Euless, Texas

Dear Mr. Sutton:

In further response to your recent letter relative to the adverse effect which you believe proposed changes in C.A.R. Draft Release 61-4 will have upon amateur rocketry, I send you herewith a communication from the Federal Aviation Agency which will explain itself.

Assuring you it gave me pleasure to have had the matter looked into for you, and with best wishes, I am,

Yours very sincerely,



Ralph Yarborough

RY:vrđ  
Enclosures



FEDERAL AVIATION AGENCY  
Washington 25, D.C.

MAY 22 1961

Honorable Ralph Yarborough  
United States Senate  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Yarborough:

Mr. Halaby has asked me to reply to your communication dated May 9, 1961, which enclosed a letter dated April 22, 1961, from Mr. Menford L. Sutton, Coaster Corporation, Euless, Texas. Mr. Sutton's letter submitted several comments regarding our recent notice of proposed rule making issued as Draft Release No. 61-4. A copy of this draft release is enclosed for your information.

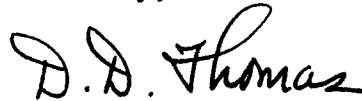
The proposed regulation would impose certain safety controls upon the firing of amateur rockets. Needless to say, the indiscriminate launching and firing of rockets and missiles into airspace utilized by air commerce present considerable safety problems as well as a hazardous situation to persons and property on the ground. Notwithstanding these proposed safety controls, the draft release contains provisions under which rocket and missile operations could be safely conducted in the United States airspace. Section 48.3 of the draft release recognizes the need for rocket operations above 500 feet and permits the conduct of such operations within restricted areas.

At the present time, the United States Army has a program of supervised amateur firings in certain restricted areas. This program is currently undergoing a review and evaluation with a view towards expansion. In addition, should the comments to Draft Release No. 61-4 indicate a more comprehensive program is needed to satisfy the requirements of amateur rocket and missile groups, we shall recommend such a program to the other military services.

Your interest in this matter is appreciated and you can be assured that those comments of Mr. Sutton which generally address the provisions of Draft Release No. 61-4 will be given every consideration in final disposition of the proposal. If we can be of further service, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Your file is returned herewith.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. D. Thomas". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

D. D. Thomas, Director  
Bureau of Air Traffic Management

Enclosures - 2

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.



REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: **AFPMF-12**

SUBJECT: **Model Rocketry**

3 July 1961

TO:	AAC (4)	AU (4)	MATS (4)	USAF (4)	AFATC (4)
	ADC (4)	SAC (4)	ConAC (4)	USAFE (4)	
	AFLC (4)	TAC (4)	CAirC (4)	USAFSS (2)	
	ATC (4)	AFSC (4)	PacAF (4)	HQ COMD USAF (4)	


1. This headquarters encourages the development of model rocket clubs and societies for hobbyists, in view of the expanding missile program and increased interest in rocketry.

2. The establishment of model rocket competition, as a part of the special services program, is also being considered at this time. It should be noted that unsupervised experimental or amateur rocketry is dangerous. Model rocketry, on the other hand, is essentially safe. Amateur rocketry, utilizing large metallic rockets powered by homemade fuels and rocket motors, requires extensive safety precautions, expert professional supervision, and large tracts of land for flight. Model rocketry is concerned with small, light, inexpensive rockets made of paper, balsa, plastic, and other non-metallic materials, powered by commercially available rocket motors. Anyone with hobby tools can build a model rocket, which is akin to model airplanes.

3. Creating interest in model rocketry, under official sanction, will tend to discourage amateur rocketry and help prevent accidents. In turn, model rocketry will encourage and develop skills useful to the Armed Forces, such as aerodynamics, meteorology, electronics, optics, photography, and mathematics.

4. Further information is contained in the attachment to this letter.

FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

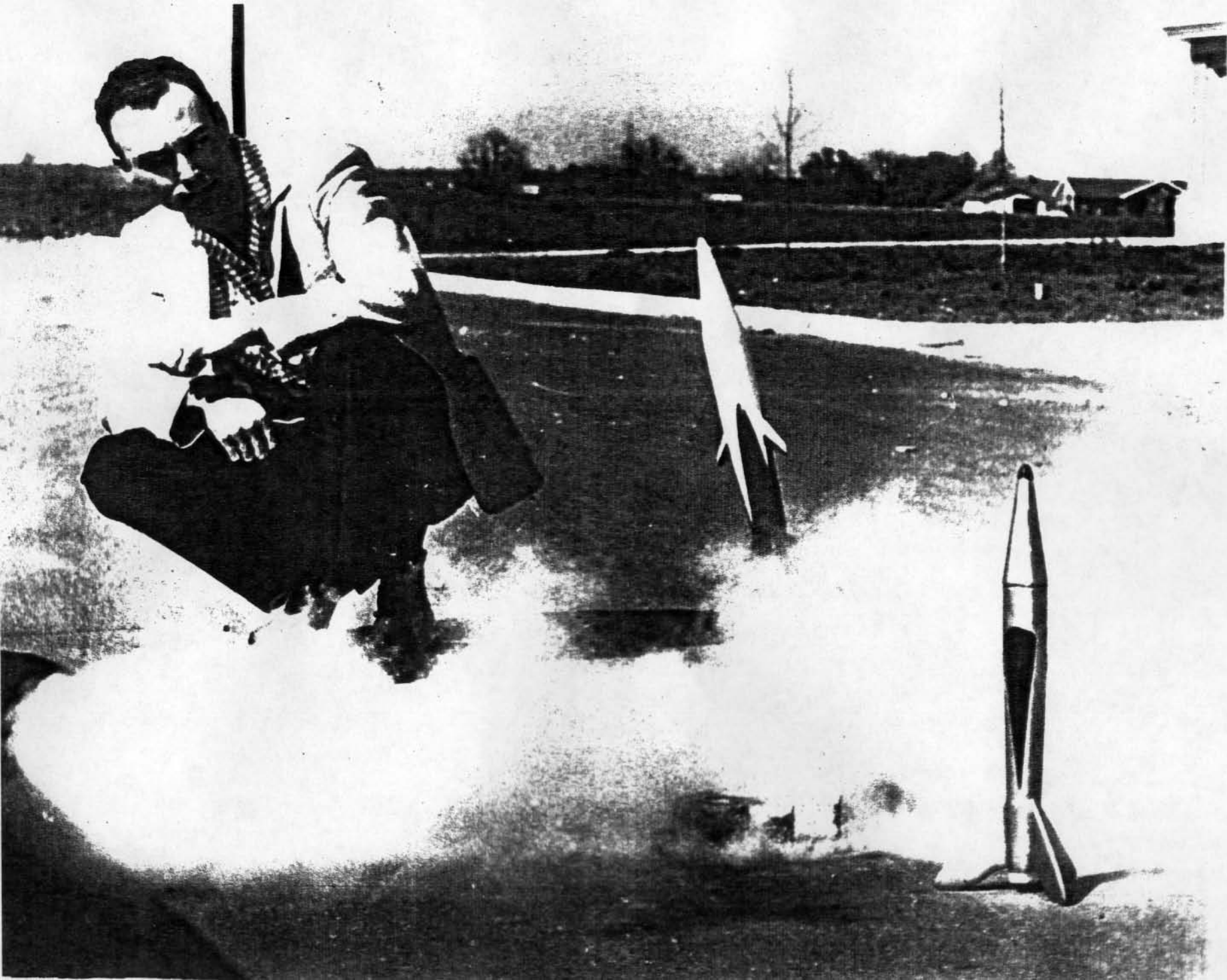
  
RUSSELL G. PANKEY, Colonel, USAF  
Personnel Services Division  
Directorate of Military Personnel

1 Atch  
Guidelines for model rocket  
activity in the AF

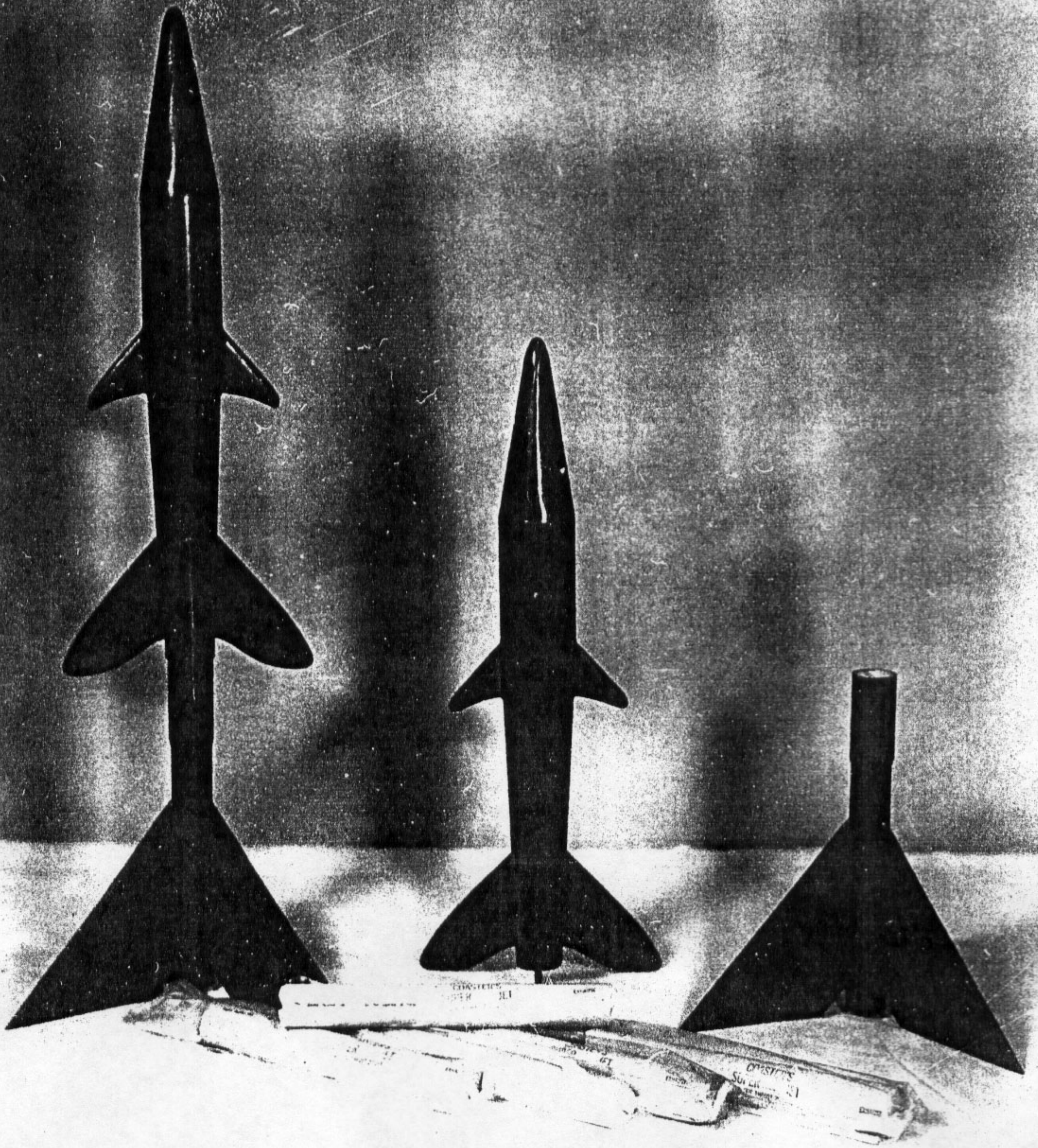
GUIDELINES FOR MODEL ROCKET ACTIVITY IN THE AIR FORCE

The following guidelines are provided and will be used in connection with any model rocket activity:

- a. The National Association of Rocketry (NAR) is the Air Force approved organization for model rocketry.
- b. NAR official standards and regulations will govern all model rocketry activity on Air Force bases.
- c. The NAR Safety Code is mandatory for all Air Force personnel participating in model rocketry.
- d. Homemade engines are prohibited.
- e. Only those engines approved by The Standards and Testing Committee of the NAR will be used in model rocket activity.
- f. Metal parts of any type will not be used in the fabrication of any part of a model rocket. A complete briefing, products list, bibliography, safety code, and NAR official standards and regulations may be obtained from NAR, Suite 1962, 11 West 42nd Avenue, New York 36, New York. There is no charge to major air commands who request this information.
- g. The unit Personnel Services Officer having cognizance over model rocket activity will coordinate the selection of a suitable launch area and other launch activities with the appropriate base safety office.











**SUPER-SON**

**COASTERS**

KIT N° 300

REAL  
ROCKET  
POWER

**SUPER-SON**

# BELL

# Helicopter NEWS

Vol. 6 No. 14

April 18, 1958

*Bellman  
sends up  
rocket!*

Story, Page 2





# Bellman Sends Up "Superson" Rocket!

A Bellman has sent up a rocket!

In fact, he sent it roaring skyward right here in Hurst.

With a swoosh, a hiss, a cloud of billowing smoke on the ground and a vapor trail in the sky, the rocket rapidly rose out of sight.

Alas, however, what goes up must come down.

So, seconds later, the rocket came gently floating down to earth via parachute.

And the somewhat undignified end of the rocket's flight was captured in the accompanying photo. (After the photographer had walked several miles through a dense, wooded, swampy area to find the rocket.)

Responsible for the successful launching (where it lands is the rocket's own responsibility, joked the photographer) was M. L. Sutton (Dept. 34-Quality), who has helped develop a toy rocket kit which he claims is the safest possible for youngsters to experiment with in their quest for knowledge of outer space.

Sutton and a friend, D. E. Dickerson, an employe of Continental Air Lines, perfected their product as a result of interest in rockets. Planning to market the toy rocket, they see it as a boon to science students.

The kit can be assembled and fired by a 12-year-old, says Sutton.

And actually, where the rocket lands can be controlled by the launcher, by judging wind direction and velocity, tilting the rocket accordingly.

The 20-inch rocket is powered with a solid propellant (they won't say what, it's a trade secret), and the propellant is said to withstand indirect heat temperatures of more than 650 degrees Fahrenheit.

The builders say it also can be hit heavy blows or be dropped without danger of igniting.

Encased in a cylinder about eight inches long, the propellant nestles in the center of the rocket body.

The rocket, named the "Superson," is fired from a vertical position, stand-

ing on its rear fins. A slow-burning fuse is used and the rocket attains a height of about 1,000 feet.

When the rocket reaches its peak, an ejection fuse fires off the warhead and a parachute unfolds to float the hull back to earth. The motor cylinder can be reloaded with the propellant.

When will the rocket be on the market? In about 60 days, says Sutton.

Cost of the kit, including rocket, propellant, parachute and instructions, will be about \$6.95.



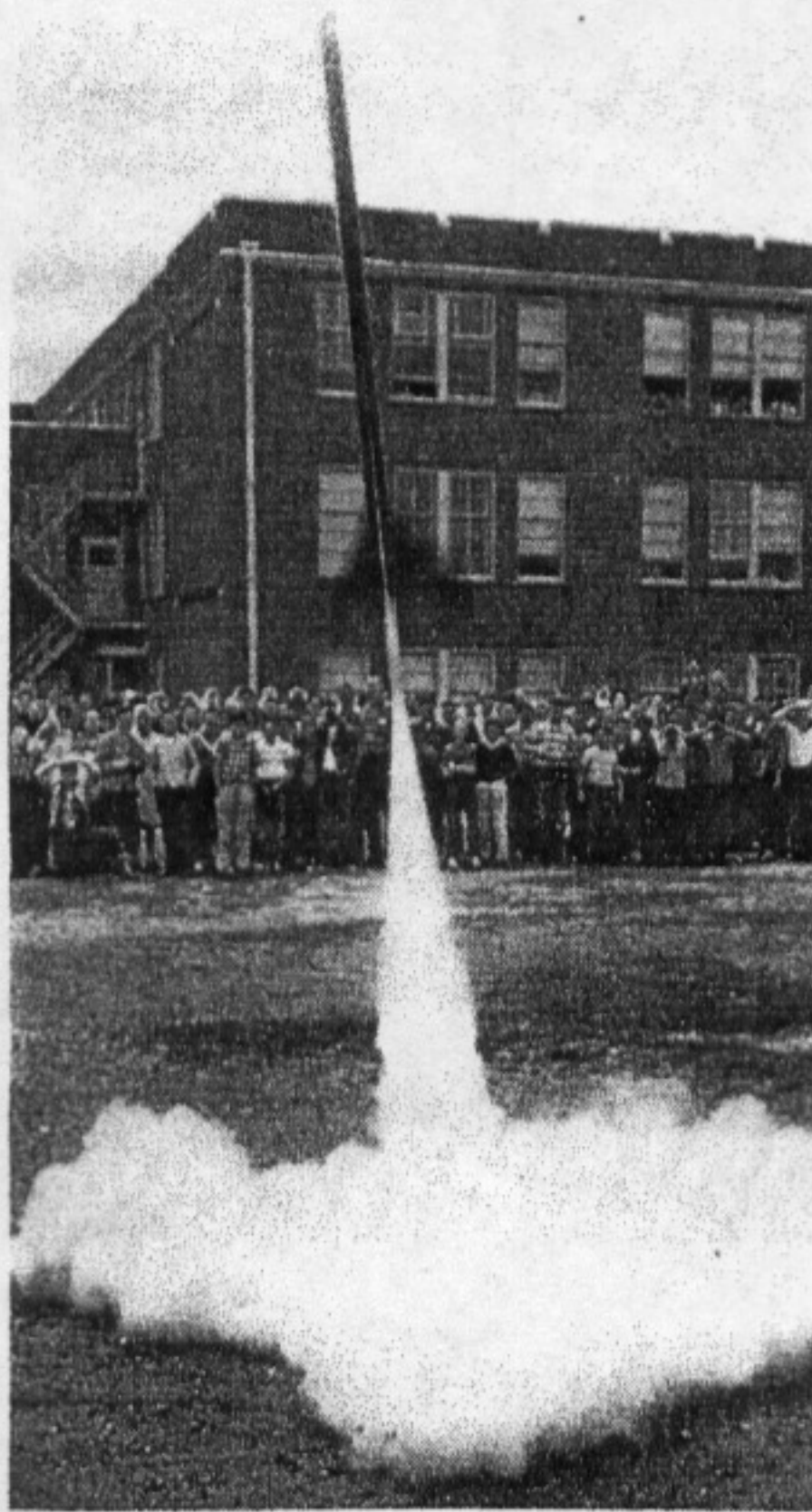
ON COVER — A split-second after cover photo was snapped by Tom Free, rocket shot skyward, roared out of sight. Above, end of flight, "Superson" undignifiedly rests in top of a tree.





*Rocket-builder Menford L. Sutton now has a four-footer that'll soar half a mile high. Here's the latest . . .*

## **about Sutton's new rocket...**



Remember the story last year about a Bell man building a 20-inch-long rocket?

Well, Menford L. Sutton (Dept. 34-Quality) is still at it.

In fact, this week he unveiled a new and larger rocket.

It's a four-foot-long job that will travel faster than the speed of sound and soar more than half-a-mile high.

Billed as the "Mercury," the toy rocket is powered by a solid propellant. The "Mercury" is fired from a vertical position. When the rocket reaches its peak, a parachute unfolds to float it back to earth.

A new twist is that Sutton's larger rocket will carry a one-pound payload. So just for laughs, he put a rubber mouse in one of his rockets. (See photo at left.)

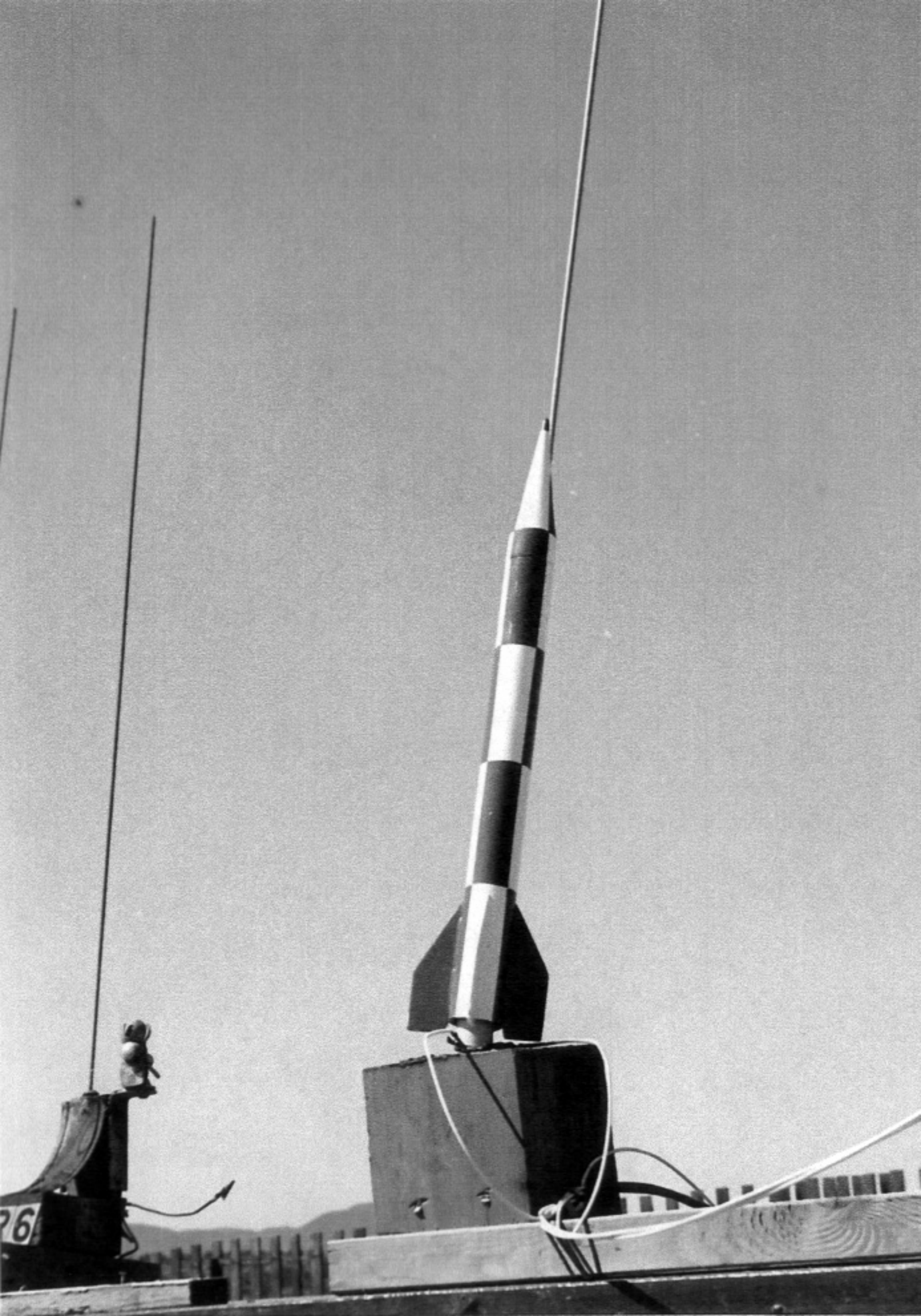
Actually, Sutton is serious about his rockets — he's positive it's a step forward in space travel.

But right now, he's got his feet on the ground — he's satisfied to make a little money out of the after-hour business venture.

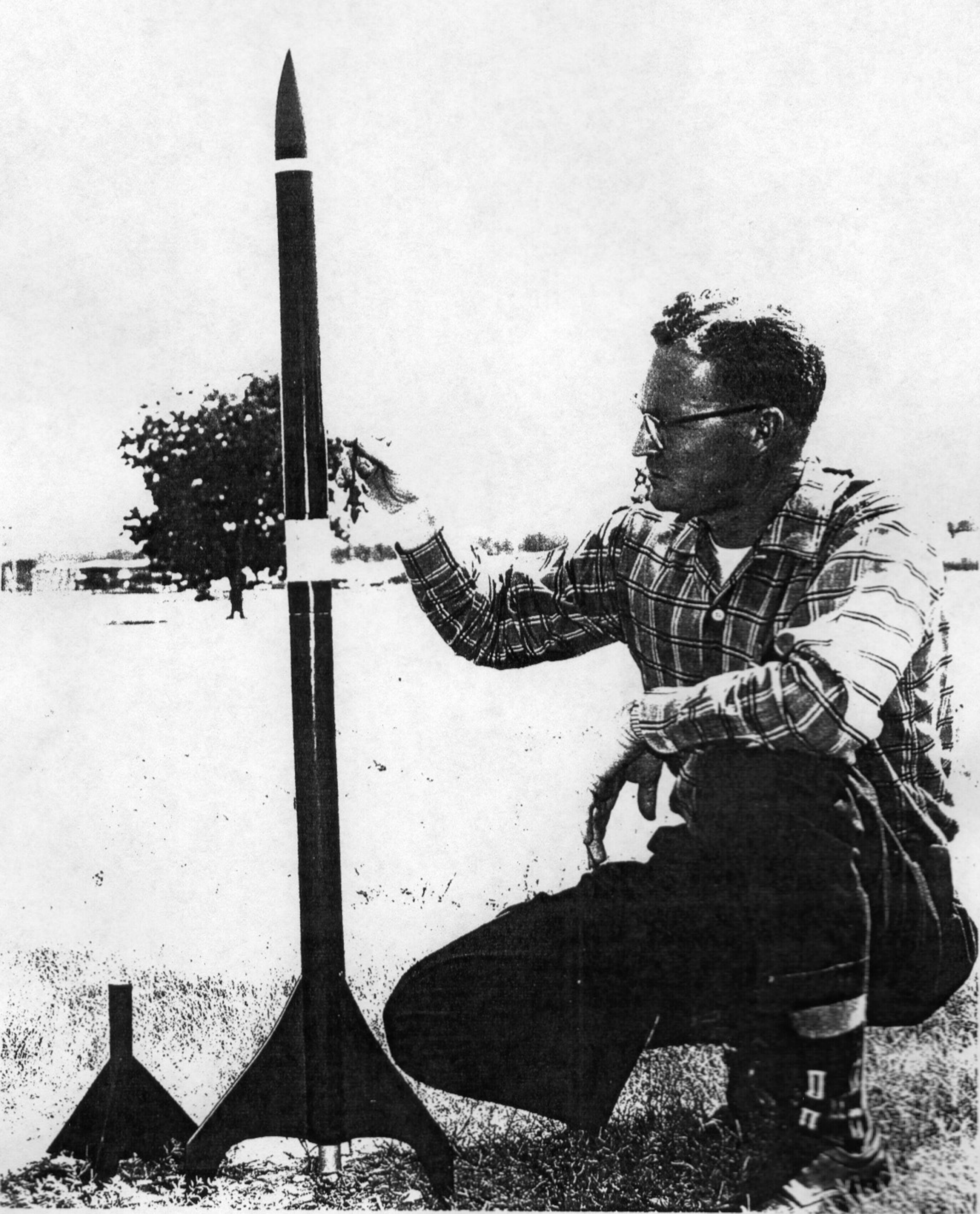


















JIMMY JACKSON "1962"

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.

COASTER'S DYNASOAR

CENTURY GLIDER

12-29-92

RANDY; THE YOUNG  
MAN (JIMMIE JACKSON)  
THAT WENT WITH ME  
TO COLORADO SPRINGS.

HAD TO BE ABOUT "1962",  
"SUMMER TIME"

~~RE~~ AFTER LACKLAND  
AFB IN SAN ANTONIO  
TX.

Sent Copy to Mr  
B...

January 13, 1958

also...

The Coaster Company  
358 Majestic Bldg.  
Fort Worth Texas

Dear Sirs:

We have had the opportunity to examine and build one of your 'Super-son' Rocket Kits-No. 300, and to study the several instruction sheets and drawings that were packed with said kit.

Please be advised that the following United States Patent, covering a toy rocket, its rocket motor and its parachute recovery system has been granted:

U.S. Patent No. 2,841,064  
Toy Rocket

Orville H. Carlisle, Norfolk, Nebraska  
Application August 30, 1954, Serial No. 453,085  
5 Claims, (Cl.102-34.1) Patented July 1, 1958

Please be further advised that the firm, Model Missiles, Inc., 1165 So. Cherokee, Denver 23, Colorado has, at the present time, the exclusive license to make, use and sell the said device as covered in the above listed United States Patent, in the United States of America, its territories, dependancies and possessions, and in Canada.

(Canadian Patent has been allowed, also, Ser. No. 748,148)

Patents are pending, or have been granted, covering the above listed device, in the Commonwealth of Australia, the Dominion of New Zealand, the Union of South Africa and the United Kingdom. The device is at present being manufactured and sold in some of these countries.

We wish to point out to you the fact that:

"No one has the right to make a device claimed in an unexpired patent without the permission of the patentee, even though the maker wishes to construct the device solely for his private use, and not for sale".

We suggest that you contact your legal counsel in order to ascertain the liabilities resulting from patent infringement.

Yours truly,

~~George W. Bittrick~~  
2801 ...  
P. O. Box 1082  
Denver, Colorado

~~George W. Bittrick~~  
George W. Bittrick,

Sh/ard