

ON TEST SITE . . . Tom Coleman, head of Coleman Engineers, points to path a simulated pilot takes to test ejection equipment at the company's Utah installation. Work done here in the interest of pilot safety was viewed last week by newsmen and scientists.

Newsman, Scientists At Coleman Tests

How one of Torrance's new industries is playing a vital role in solving the problems of supersonic flight, was revealed to newsmen last week at Hurricane Mesa, Utah, where Coleman Engineering Co. and the Air Force are carrying on tests of escape systems to reduce pilot fatalities and injuries.

Early in 1953 the Coleman company was requested to prepare plans for a high speed test track with a vertical drop-off and that year actually began construction. Known as Project SMART the company has since made some 100 runs with rocket sleds at speeds up to 1800 miles per hour. On many runs, a dummy pilot, known as "Hurricane Sam" has been successfully ejected and floated safely down the mountain side.

Scientists on Hand
The most recent test was witnessed by the newsmen and 140 scientists and technical experts attending a three-day symposium at Zion Park lodge. Among them were Coleman officials who soon will be residing in this community and Richard Gillmann, of Precision Equipment Co. of Torrance.

All were on hand at 10 a.m. Friday for a routine test run down the two-mile track. Everything went off perfectly. The rockets fired on schedule and the sled tore down the track as a land speed few people have ever witnessed. At the appointed time the dummy pilot was ejected. But, just as happened to many unfortunate pilots, the chute failed to open and "Hurricane Sam" went to his reward far down the Virgip river valley.

1800 Miles Per Hour
However, officials were quick to emphasize, perfection is not expected on each test run and always something of value is gained from each effort. The dummy pilot has

Normandale Coach Feted

Y. F. Hammatt, Normandale playground director, was presented an appreciative award plaque for his community recreation leadership, by the chairman of the Normandale sports committee, Peter R. O'Brien.

A banquet was held Tuesday night to honor the volunteer coaches and present trophies to J. Matthews, Angles coach, for baseball and track; E. Cortez, Stars coach, for basketball; M. Mullins, Beavers coach, for baseball; and E. Porter, Oaks coach, division winner for baseball.

Certificates were presented to all as well as medals for the boys on winning teams. A jacket was presented to the chairman by Hammatt for his assistance in accommodating 350 boys the year around in all the sports.

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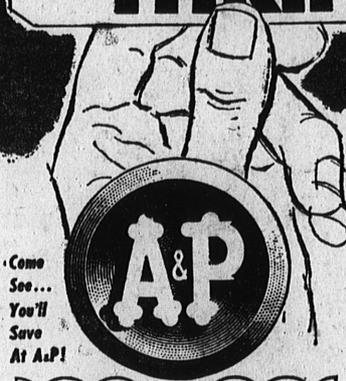
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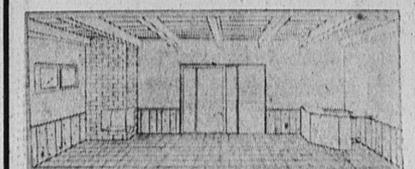
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