

# A Dream Takes Wings

By WILLIAM SCHELL JR. Men will work long hours to make a cherished dream come true.

Today a dream has come true for Frank Thrash, of 5202 Torrance Blvd., in Rockford, Ill., half way across the nation from his home in Torrance.

For countless hours upon hours at night and during the weekends Frank labored long and hard building his own airplane with his own hands and his own hard-won knowledge earned through the painful process of trial and error.

But tonight every moment of those hours is worthwhile.

Frank has realized his dream of flying his own airplane halfway across a continent to proudly display his work of art to people who will appreciate exactly what he has accomplished.

And Connie, his wife, who helped Frank along every step of the way is with him at the National Fly In of the Experimental Aircraft Assn., a group of people who also build planes at nights and week ends.

It took 18 months to build. The work was done in the

double garage at the home of Frank and Connie.

**28-Year-Old Plans**  
The plane was built from a set of plans for a Stolp-Adams Starduster, designed 28 years ago.

The major parts were assembled in the garage, then taken to Jack Trier's hangar at the Torrance airport and put painstakingly together.

Almost all of the plane was built by Frank's hands except the motor and wheels.

It has a steel tube fuselage covered with fabric.

It has a 125 horsepower engine with a cruising speed of 125 miles per hour and a top speed of 140.

Frank had to learn how to weld before he could start.

When Frank built the plane, Connie upholstered the cockpit.

The plane has a complete electrical system, including a starter, a radio, and lights for night flying.

The wing span is 19 feet. The plane is 17 feet long and weighs 804 pounds.

**Moment of Truth**  
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The moment of truth came last Friday when Frank took off from Torrance Airport on

his great adventure.

The first stop was Phoenix, Ariz.

He flew only during daylight hours.

The plane took off like a bird, only prettier to Connie who stood and watched.

Then she got into another plane piloted by Bill Warwick and followed Frank into the eastern sky.

Frank and Connie will have a lot to talk about when they come back.

But nothing they can say can beat the wonder of having a dream come true.

## REALTORS' LADIES TO STAGE PICNIC

The women's division of the Torrance - Lomita Board of Realtors, will stage the board's annual picnic Saturday at 3 p.m. at Torrance Park.

Chairman of the women's division, Doris Lippard, announced that board members, their wives and guests, would gather at the park, and that the picnic baskets would not be opened and served until 5 p.m.

A planned program of family games will follow the picnic lunch with prizes going to the winners. The picnic is scheduled to end at 9 p.m.

## Carson Brightening Up Is Pointed Up By Hahn

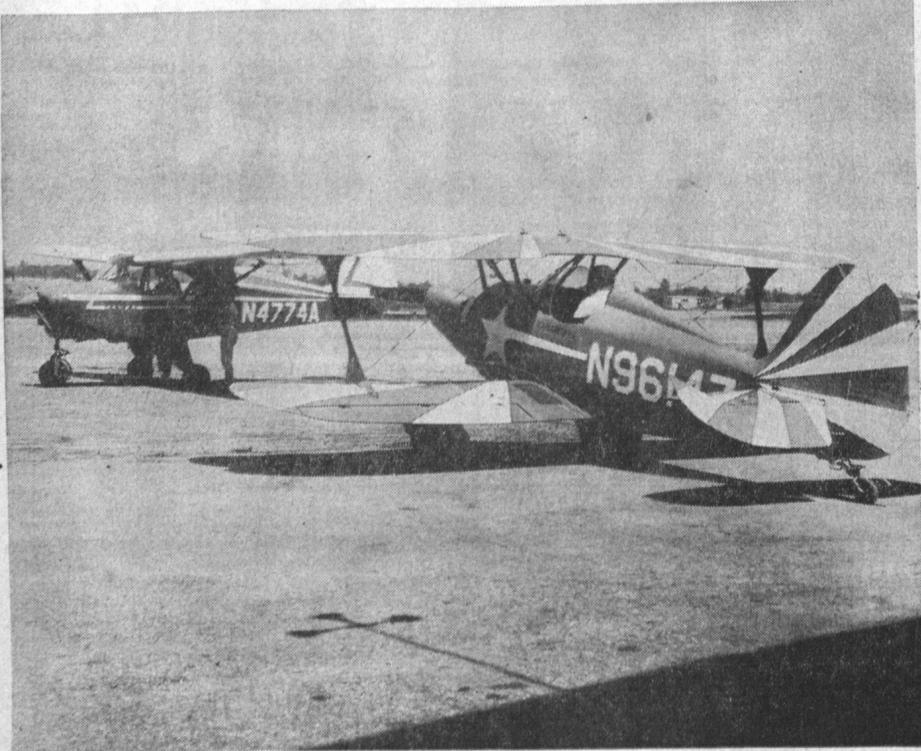
The Carson area is now the subject of intensive "brightening up" activity, Supervisor Kenneth Hahn pointed out today.

The supervisor noted that repainting of crosswalks with white paint is now in progress at several intersections.

In addition, curbs at major intersections are being painted red from the corner to points 15 feet in either di-

rection. "Advantages of this program are evident in traffic safety for motorists and especially to children crossing the streets," Hahn said.

"By prohibiting parking within 15 feet of the corners, the motorist is given greater visibility and the hazard of a child dashing from behind a parked car near an intersection is eliminated," he added.



**AIN'T SHE PRETTY?**—And it all belongs to Frank and Connie Thrash. Frank built the pert little biplane from plans 28 years old on nights and weekends and Connie upholstered the cockpit. Last Friday Frank took off from Torrance Airport to fly half-way across a continent to Rockford, Ill., for the National Fly In of the Experimental Aircraft Assn. meeting.



**THE TEST COMES** when Frank Thrash slips into the cockpit of the plane he built to take off for Rockford, Illinois. The plane took off into the sky as pretty as a bird. Frank's wife Connie followed in another plane piloted by

Bill Warwick. Today Frank, Connie and the plane are attending the National Fly In of the Experimental Aircraft Assn., people who also build their own planes.

## HOSPITAL BUS SERVICE SCHEDULED

Direct bus service for employees at Harbor General Hospital has been made available through a cooperative agreement between the county and the City of Torrance.

The Torrance municipal bus line will be allowed access to the hospital grounds to pick up and discharge passengers.

"Prior to this agreement, persons leaving the hospital were forced to cross over major highways to reach a bus stop," Hahn noted.

"This created a safety hazard because of the heavy traffic on Carson Street and Vermont Avenue."

The agreement has already been approved by the City of Torrance on recommendation of city manager Wade Peebles.

"I feel this is a good arrangement to provide safety and convenience to patients and visitors of this major county hospital," Hahn said.

Harbor General is located at 1124 W. Carson Street. The bus stop on the grounds will be located in front of the Out-Patient Building.



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