

Air Cushion Tunnel Train Envisioned for East Coast

By REYNOLDS KNIGHT
While many in and out of the railroad industry moan that the end of passenger trains is near, those with greater optimism keep envisioning new ways to make trains run faster and attract more riders.

Latest happy forecast of a group of experts is a series of six-passenger capsules traveling 300 miles an hour, on an air cushion, in a covered tunnel, carrying riders from Boston to New York in less than an hour.

The tunnel would go on down to Washington from New York. The whole train would not have to stop to let off the New York Passengers. The car or cars they are in would be dropped off as the train went through New York City, on the way down to Washington.

When would this brave new train be ready? Massachusetts Institute of Technol-

ogy, in Boston, says it could be operating by 1980.

HOT PARTS — Controls located as far away as 1,000 feet are now directing flame shape-cutting machines without touching a master pattern.

A system called Ratio Control, of the National Cylinder Gas division of Chemetron Corp., Chicago, photoelectrically scans line drawings and eliminates the use of traction wheels usually found on tracing guides. Scale line drawings in 1-to-1, 1-to-4 or 1-to-10 ratios can also be used. Machine operators simply select the desired ratio by turning a three-position selector switch on the control console.

NCG says the remote location of the tracing table means that the unit can be operated in a relatively dust-free enclosure, assuring further accuracy.

THINGS TO COME—Easier identification of what's in the file cabinet is possible with new transparent file envelopes. . . . A hand-size reel for appliance cords that holds eight feet of cord and can be stopped at any length. . . . Portable leaf holder that spreads flat for filling and then forms neat bundle for carrying to disposal area. . . . Tissue dispenser for motorists that attaches to rear-view mirror and holds tissues firmly in place and within easy reach of driver. . . . Trips pickup tool for handling odd-shaped or very delicate objects. Looks somewhat like a pen with plunger that opens three resilient fingers. Release of plunger lets fingers take hold. . . . King-size mailbox, large enough to take magazines without folding, can also take newspapers handily. . . . Two-way radio for motorists, for calling aid when needed on highway.

It's transistorized, and operates on citizens' band. . . . Snap-on sunglasses that double as safety glasses, contoured to protect eyes from all sides.

'INTERDEPENDENCE DAY'—It's not only money that colleges need today, but non-financial aid as well, businessmen and industrialists were told recently by an executive of one of America's largest industrial and financial institutions. Colleges need the help of industry in carrying out administrative activities, the services of businessmen as part-time instructors, and assistance in obtaining state and federal grants for research and other projects.

William L. Wilson, vice president of C.I.T. Financial Corp., has called for college sponsorship of business-education conferences at the local level to explore this area of non-financial college

aid, as a source of benefits to both sides. He urged on the Council For the Advancement of Small Colleges establishment of "Interdependence Day" when college officials could review with local businessmen the colleges' "needs of a non-financial nature that industry might be able to fill, the increased contributions that educational institutions might make to the economic life of the community, and the opportunities for collaboration by education and business on projects for the benefit of the whole environment."

A recent sponsor with Columbia University of a symposium on "New Dimensions for the Business-Education Partnership," C.I.T. has offered to colleges a portfolio of guidance material to assist in setting up local business-education conferences.

SCIENCE NEWS—A family of chemicals has been

found that appear to act as sex hormones but without the side effects. Among possibilities for the new chemicals were said to be fertility control in both men and women; treatment of arthritis inflammation and prevention of coronary disease by control of blood cholesterol. . . . Corn, important to Americans throughout their history, continues to grow in importance. Today it is a major source of starch, corn oil, gluten and steepwater. In our food, the clothes we wear and the paper we use, Americans make use of corn some way, every day. . . . New emphasis is placed on the importance of our tidal waters as a source of seafood. The Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife of the Interior Department wants steps taken now to protect tidal waters from pollution. . . . X-ray movies of the heart are urged on all over 40 to de-

tect advance warnings of potential heart trouble.

BITS OF BUSINESS—Sign of good times in '66: General Motors Corp. to boost capital spending to a record \$1.3 billion, three-quarters of which will be spent in U.S. . . . Taxes will go down and go up in 1966. Excise taxes will have another reduction, but social security taxes will

go up. . . . Commerce Department has awarded \$952,000 contract for construction of four high-speed railroad test cars capable of 150-mile speed. . . . First flow of oil to shore from Cook Inlet is new big step in fledgling Alaska oil industry. . . . Free world nickel consumption in 1965 will set a new record at 730 million pounds.

Receives Top Award

Major Delmar F. Gilkeson, formerly of Torrance, has been awarded the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal at Offutt AFB, Neb.

Major Gilkeson received the medal—the second such award he has won—for meritorious service as chief of the administrative services and executive officer to the commander of the 93rd Bombardment Wing at Castle AFB, Calif.

A graduate of El Camino College, Major Gilkeson received his bachelor of science in education from the University of Southern California under Operation Bootstrap.

His wife is the former Patricia J. Suttle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Suttle of 723 1/2 Sartori Ave. Major Gilkeson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Gilkeson, now live in Paradise, Calif.

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