

# Research on Space Plane Halted Five Years Ago, Engineer Says

## Fund Lack Cited for Stoppage

Details for a manned vehicle designed to travel 6000 miles per hour and 140 miles above the surface of the earth were revealed this week by a Douglas Aircraft Co. engineer.

Kermit E. Van Every, chief of the aerodynamics section at the El Segundo, Division of Douglas, said a design study was launched in June, 1953, for a hypersonic airplane, the Navy's D-558-III. The Mach 9 project later was dropped for lack of funds, and various government agencies decided to pool their efforts on another vehicle, the X-15.

In a paper delivered before the Society of Automotive Engineers at Rodger Young Auditorium and titled "Design Problems of Very High Speed Flight," Van Every stated that tomorrow's space pilot will have to fly a narrow channel through the sky to avoid self-destruction.

### Flight Limits

Boundaries of this "corridor of continuous flight," he related are dictated by aircraft lift requirements and structural heating limitations. The former imposes a minimum on the speed a pilot must fly to maintain level or climbing flight, while the latter is a temperature problem restricting his maximum speed.

The best presently available "super alloys" will withstand temperatures up to 2000 degrees F. for sustained flight, Van Every reported.

### Simple Design

To save time and money in construction, the Douglas aerodynamicist disclosed the D-558-III would have been "straight forward and simple" in design. It would have been rocket powered, dropped from a "mother plane" at about 40,000 feet, and have followed a ballistic flight path (high arc) of about 38 degrees from burn-out.

Although higher altitudes could be achieved with a steeper angle of climb after a ship's rockets run out of fuel, Van Every said the resultant "G" load (force of gravity) on a pilot is too great during pull-out on re-entering the earth's atmosphere.

The D-558-III, according to charts used by Van Every in his presentation, would have flown 8870 feet per second and reached an altitude of 750,000 feet. The entire flight cycle from release by the "mother plane" to the sleek craft's landing approach would have lasted only eight minutes and have subjected the pilot to a tolerable force of 10.2 G's.

Van Every who helped to design the Douglas D-558 Sky-streak and D-558-II Skyrocket, two pioneer research aircraft which set numerous world speed altitude records, said primary objective of the D-558-III study for the Office of Naval Research was to investigate the aerodynamics, structural, operational, and human factor problems involved in making true space travel practical.

These problems include solar radiation, heat and humidity, weightlessness, and "perhaps the greatest unknown issue," adverse psychological effects, he concluded.

## Dance Funds To Go Toward Scout Hall

A St. Patrick's Day dance to raise funds for the new Harbor City Scout Hall will be held March 15 at the Retail Clerks Union building, 260th and Bellepointe, Harbor City.

Dancing will be from 8:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., with donations of \$1 per person.

Sponsored by Scout Troop 743 and Cub Pack 743-C, the project already has \$300 previously contributed at a previous dance.

"The Clovers," an orchestra with all electrical instruments will play for the dance. The auditorium will be decorated in a St. Patrick's theme, led by Laura Elms.

Heading the dance are Gloria Blum, chairman; Jean Alexander, publicity; and Dorothy Alexander, ticket chairman, assisted by Verda Samson, Cubs; and Jean Alexander, troops.



CHARLES FRANKLIN ... Given High Post

## Franklin Given High Republican Party Position

Charles Franklin, Republican nominee in the 17th Congressional District in 1956, today was named executive director of Republican Associates, according to Executive Chairman Homer M. Preston.

Franklin takes over the executive director's post following a six-months' association with the GOP organization during which he has organized the Los Angeles Plan and handled other political projects.

He succeeds Philip Knox Jr., who recently assumed the position of regional director of the Republican State Central Committee.

The new executive director is a graduate of the University of Southern California Law School. He is a member of the Republican State Central Committee, the California Republican Assembly, and is an alternate on the Los Angeles County Central Committee. He resides in Rolling Hills.

Republican Associates is a group of 2600 business and community leaders who sponsor public relations programs in behalf of the Republican Party and the free enterprise system.

## Spring Fun Scheduled By Torrance 'Y'

Keeping pace with the increased youth membership the Torrance YMCA is planning an extensive spring program for boys and girls.

The Adventure Club for boys 8-12 will continue to take Saturday trips to various points of interest in the Los Angeles area. Beginning with a viewing of Cinerama's "Seven Wonders of the World" on Feb. 22, the Adventure Club will run until March 22. Included will be a boat ride tour of the Los Angeles harbor, roller skating, and many other fun-packed trips.

During Easter vacation the Y will feature two special activities. The first will be the annual "Learn-to-Swim School" open to any boy or girl 8-11 who does not know how to swim, at the Victor E. Benstead Plunge.

The second Easter vacation program will be the caravan trip to Pinnacles National Monument for boys 11 and older. Side trips will also be made to Santa Barbara, Morro Bay, Big Sur Redwoods, and Monterey.

The YMCA gymnastics school will be held on four Saturdays from April 19 through May 10. Classes include lessons in Aiki-do, tumbling, and acrobatics, followed by a swim in the ocean.

Further information about any of these activities may be obtained at the Torrance YMCA, 2080 Washington Ave.

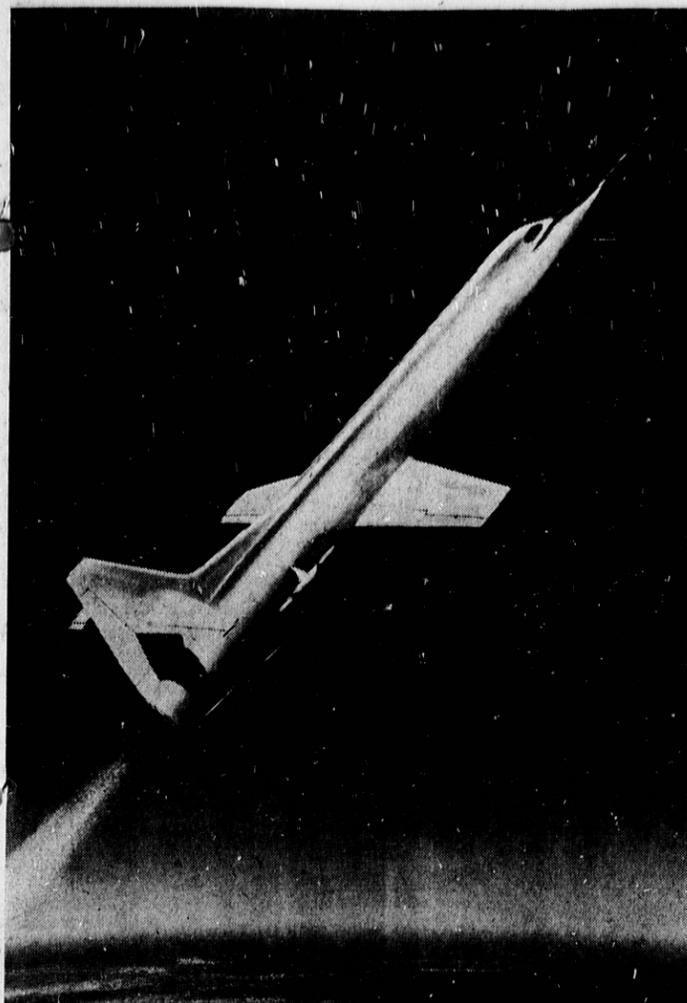
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# Torrance Herald

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TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1958

Nineteen



MACH NINE PROPOSAL ... Subject of a design study conducted by the El Segundo Division of Douglas Aircraft Co. in 1953-54 was this manned aircraft, designated the Navy's D-558-III. Rocket powered, the space plane was designed to fly 6000 miles per hour and 140 miles high. The project was dropped for lack of funds.



LETTER FROM THE WHITE HOUSE ... Mrs. Lorna Wilson and her son David, 9, look over the letter which they received from Gabriel Hauge, special assistant to President Eisenhower. She had written the president, expressing her concern over economic conditions. The letter said an upturn is expected. (Herald Photo)

## Housewife Receives Reply To Letter Written to Ike

A young Torrance housewife who wrote the president about the economic situation received a reply Tuesday from Gabriel Hauge, special assistant to President Eisenhower.

He assured her that the administration expects an upturn in business later this year because the underlying forces of growth in the economy are

strong. He also assured her that "your concerns are much in the president's mind."

### Woman Concerned

Concerned because her husband's hours were cut and several friends and relatives had lost their jobs, Mrs. Lorna Wilson, 23411 Panama St., wrote a letter to the president "to let him know how I and a lot of little people feel about the situation."

She wrote, she said, because in President Eisenhower's recent address to Congress, there was no mention of the increasing amount of unemployment. She expressed her fears about the future and the ability of her and her husband to provide for their children, David, 9, and Alice, 6 months, if the recession continued.

### Letter Received

Tuesday, she received the following letter, signed by Presidential Assistant Hauge:

"The President has asked me to thank you for your recent letter about the economy. The President has read your letter carefully and with great sympathy because he understands how changes in the economic situation give rise to your feelings of anxiety.

The President hopes you will take heart for the future. He is determined to take every

sound measure which arises within the power of government to keep the present let-up in business from accumulating into a depression. For several months now there have been declines in certain parts of industry and a leveling off in some others. As a result, there has been some loss of jobs and some loss of overtime and pay. Our best judgement, however, is that the underlying forces of growth in the economy are strong and should reassert themselves later this year.

"I am sure you know the president is deeply interested in the welfare and problems of all Americans. He appreciates your writing him so sincerely and wants you to know that your concerns are much in his mind."

### Not Wasting Time

Mrs. Wilson said she was surprised and pleased to get a personal letter from the White House. She said that several people had told her she was wasting her time to write the letter originally.

"I really didn't expect an answer at all," she declared. "I hope he is right about the conditions getting better later this year. A lot of people would be very happy if it does."



SHE LOVES CATS ... Mrs. Joseph Giacinto, who "just loves cats," pets Caesar the Lion, who is currently staying in the family's garage at 2715 W. 178th St. Mrs. Giacinto and a South Gate man are training Caesar for circus and public appearances. The household also includes a pet cheetah, several ocelots, and for the time being, a timber wolf and three skunks. (Herald Photo)

## Neighbors Remain Dubious As Lion, Wolf Join Family

By TOM RISCHE  
Herald Staff Writer

Mrs. Joseph Giacinto, 2715 W. 178th St., just loves cats and so do the other members of her family. Uneasy neighbors have eyed the family's growing cat collection for some time, but some of them were quite upset by the latest additions.

They got used to Chate, the family's pet cheetah, and several ocelots which the Giacintos kept in their back yard. They aren't sure whether they can ever get used to the latest addition—Caesar, a five-year-old lion.

The Giacintos also had some other animals, only guests, however, at which some eyebrows were raised—a timberwolf and three skunks.

### Sweet Cat

"Isn't he sweet?" Mrs. Giacinto asked a HERALD reporter as she stroked Caesar's mane. "He's so gentle considering his size. He probably could kill you with a swipe of his paw, but he really wouldn't mean it. He just doesn't know his own strength."

About this time, the reporter was looking around to see where he could climb—just in case.

Mrs. Giacinto and Tiny Huer, South Gate, are training Caesar and Fang, the timberwolf, for work in circuses and at store grandopenings. The training takes place on a South Gate arena, but the Giacintos were storing the animals. Fang

and the skunks were scheduled to leave last night for new homes in South Gate, but Caesar probably will be around for a while.

### Kept in Cage

The lion is kept in a cage in the back of a panel truck. The truck is stored in the Giacinto garage at night. He formerly was the property of the Griffith Park Zoo.

"It's a little unusual to start training a five-year-old lion," Mrs. Giacinto explained. "Usually you have to start when they are much younger, but we're making good progress."

She described herself as "wild about cats" ever since she was a little girl. This is her first attempt at training a lion, but she has made a house pet of Chate, the 75-pound cheetah. They have built a special room off of the living room for him to live in.

To demonstrate what a good pet Chate was, Mrs. Giacinto let him into the room while a nervous reporter edged toward the door. Chate tried his claws on the sofa while Mrs. Giacinto threw her arms around his neck and kissed him.

"See what I mean?" she said as the reporter made his exit. Although neighbors have complained to the police, Mrs. Giacinto said she didn't see why anybody should have any objection to her pets.

"The children love them," she said. She admitted she wasn't too enthusiastic about the timberwolf, but just loves any kind of cat.

The animals are a great attraction for the neighborhood children, but mothers eye them suspiciously, ready to take to their heels, if need be.

## Girl Scouts Name Service Team Leaders

Mrs. Laura Pesola, neighborhood chairman of Area II, North Torrance Girl Scouts, presided over the first meeting of the newly formed group.

The service team selected was as follows: Mrs. Frances Heynes, assistant neighborhood chairman; Mrs. Jan Schultz, troop organizer; Mrs. Patricia Pettyjohn, troop consultant; Mrs. Betty Shelton, troop representative, Evelyn Carr School; Mrs. Delores Reeves, troop representative, Edison; Mrs. Marjory Daws, troop representative, Perry; Mrs. Helen Konler, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Marilyn Shimmin, news chairman; and Mrs. Marjory Daws, finance chairman.

## Local Artists Show Works In Art Show

The works of three local artists are represented in the sixth annual All-Media Show at the Long Beach Museum of Art, 2300 E. Ocean Ave., Long Beach.

Cliff Nelson, 4127 W. 177th St.; Robert J. Mader, 1601 Hickory Ave.; and Alvin J. Beller, Lomita, are among the 158 artists whose works are included. Eleven of the works were chosen for purchase by the museum.

The show opened Sunday and will close Feb. 25. It will be opened Monday through Saturday from 10 to 5 p.m., Fridays from 7:30 to 10 p.m., and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m.



SCOUT HONORED ... Robert Dean Wolf, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don B. Wolf, 21804 Halldale Ave., received the coveted Don and Country Award—one of the highest in Scouting—at the 9:15 a.m. services at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Sunday. Presentation of the award was made by Rev. Hugh Perry, rector of St. Andrew's. Ken Miller, leader of Explorer Troop 315-X, described the award prior to the presentation. Young Wolf is a junior at Narbonne High and has been active in football and track there. He is a senior acolyte at St. Andrew's and a member of DeMolay. (Seeman Photo)