

Ryan Given Order to Design New 'Flex Wing' Glider for Army

Unmanned towed gliders capable of multiplying as much as six times the cargo carrying capacity of Army aircraft will be designed by Ryan Aeronautical Co. in another application of its unique "Flex Wing" principle, which was conceived by NASA and is being considered by the Army for several military applications.

A study contract has been awarded Ryan by the Army Transportation Research Command to perform prototype en-

gineering for several configurations of such logistics gliders aimed at greatly expanding the usefulness of Army aircraft.

In this concept, the "Flex Wing" would be towed behind the aircraft, with payloads of as great as 10,000 pounds and more suspended beneath the glider. All types of supplies, weapons and fuel could be airlifted in this manner to provide speedy logistics support to Army units in the field.

AFTER A 90-DAY study period, fabrication of prototypes of such "Flex Wing" gliders may be initiated.

The Army contract is the third announced order for studies of "Flex Wing" applications.

An earlier Army Transportation Research Command contract provided for testing of a manned, powered "flying test bed" to demonstrate fundamental functional and aerodynamic characteristics. This pro-

gram is now under way in the San Diego area, utilizing a prototype vehicle built by Ryan.

ALSO BEING conducted is a contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to study adaptability of the "Flex Wing" for recovery of the first stage booster of the Saturn space vehicle, bringing it gently to a pre-determined landing site by means of an unmanned glider.

Unlike conventional aircraft

with rigid metal-covered surfaces, the Ryan "Flex Wing" is of flexible, plastic-coated material attached to a keel and leading edge members so as to form an arrow- or V-shaped, kite-like surface.

THE FLEXIBLE wing concept offers an extremely lightweight, large aerodynamic lift surface and a simplified control system using center-of-gravity shift instead of displacement of conventional control surfaces. Designed to be folded into a compact package, it can be quickly deployed for

varied missions. Ryan has proposed a remarkably wide range of applications, including both manned and unmanned vehicles — powered or unpowered. These may vary from small, powered reconnaissance drones maneuvered by remote control, to huge, unpowered wings capable of recovering payloads and rocket boosters of 50 tons or more. The wing has been tested, in free flight and wind tunnels, from low subsonic velocity to speeds of Mach 4.9 and from low altitudes to 200,000 feet.



BEST BUYS FOR THE WEEK

In Torrance Markets

PROTEIN FOODS
Be thankful there are so many ways to prepare chick-

ens and turkeys. Also, be thankful to the poultry industry which provides us with these delicious, economical foods.

Chickens (fryers and stewing chickens) plentiful and low cost. Had a fricassee or chicken and dumplings lately?

Turkey production is at a record level. A large bird will give generous servings of tender roast turkey, with some left over for casseroles, pot pies, salads and sandwiches.

What Size Turkey to Buy?
Allow ¾ to 1 pound per serving if you select a small turkey . . . 12 pounds or less. Plan to allow ½ to ¾ pound per serving from birds 17 pounds or over.

California turkey producers are bringing ideas to homemakers in the Los Angeles area. You will see the preparation of frozen-stuffed turkeys demonstrated in a number of markets.

LAMB and BEEF are the other headlines in the meat departments. We'll have to wait a few weeks for more plentiful pork. It usually shows increases in October.

EGGS. School is in session, and that always brings good breakfasts to mind. Start the children off well "fueled" up by including an egg in the menu. Eggs make good sandwiches, too.

FROM THE SEA
Spiny lobsters, sole and rockfish are the seafoods to watch for this month. Rockfish are familiar to California sport fishermen. There are more than 50 species of rockfish recorded by catches from Eureka to San Pedro.

ON THE PRODUCE STANDS
Many of the summer fruits and vegetables continue in market while autumn favorites begin to appear. Pomegranates are joining other fine quality fruits: APPLES, AVOCADOS, FIGS, GRAPES, NECTARINES, PEACHES, PEARS, PLUMS, MELONS . . . cantaloups, cranshaws, honeydees, casabas, Persians, and watermelons.

Sweet potatoes and winter squash add their color and flavor to our menus along with practically every vegetable produced in California all summer long.

CARROTS, CORN, CUCUMBERS, SNAP BEANS, LETTUCE, EGGPLANT, BELL PEPPERS, DRIED ONIONS, POTATOES, ROMAINE.

Atkinson in Hot Rod Win

Art Atkinson, South Pasadena, roared into the lead on the 17th lap and went on to win Sunday afternoon's 30-lap CJA Hot Rod main event at Western Speedway in Gardena. Atkinson took the lead from Audie Madron of Compton and Second place went to Steve Kennick of Inglewood, with Mike Chapman, Duarte, third. Fourth went to Audie Madron, Compton, while Ron Garriott, Gardena, was over fifth.

A spectacular eight-car crash on the 14th lap of the main event highlighted the day's nine event card. Wayne Page leading the feature, blew his engine going into the first turn, spilling water and oil all over the track. Involved in the resulting crash were: Ed Van Eyk, Dave James, Glenn Howard, Jay East, George Durade, Chuck Townsend, and Steve Kennick. No one was injured. On the last lap of the main, Jay East, Dee Hart, and Chuck Townsend also tangled.

Some Bulbs Can Be Planted Now, Experts Report

With most of our better known spring bulbs—daffodils, tulips and hyacinths — September is too early to plant. Best wait until summer is gone for sure and fall's cooler weather has arrived to stay. With many so-called babies of the bulb family, however, September is none too soon. They thrive on heat and the sooner their growth starts, the better.

Freeias, especially, are best when planted early. Likewise ixias and sparaxis, fellow South Africans that thrive in the warmest weather. And still another South African, the summer-flowering watsonia, should go in at the first opportunity.

IF NONE of these minor bulbs is any more than a name to you, it's high time you met them first hand. They are of the easiest culture, and while not spectacular, have definite charm that grows with the years. Their best effects come from massed plantings of single varieties—the more massed they are, the better.

The modern freeisia is a far cry from its original self — hybridized into lovely shades and large flowers. The fragrance alone is worth the planting, but an edging of freeias can be one of spring's earliest and most charming sights.

THE CHEERY sparaxis looks like an overgrown freeisia or an undergrown gladiolus—take your pick. The flowers are usually bi-colored, but solid colors are not unknown. Shades of yellow, white and red are to be found. Ixias are not for shaded or sunless gardens, as the cup-like blooms require direct sunlight to open. Thus fog belt gardeners are warned by the California Assn. of Nurserymen to plant them and pray for good May weather.

There are other spring bulbs outside the big three that can go in this month or next, as you have the time and inclination. Muscari, or grape hyacinth is probably best known and most useful.

WHEN PLANTED en masse — and we really mean massed — they offer lovely rich blues that often come with the freeias in early spring. Try ringing the base of a tree with them, or using them to define a border. They won't stop traffic on your street, but many a casual passerby will enjoy them along with you.

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