

Carlisle's

CORRECT SHOES

X-RAY FITTINGS

for men, women and children

Phone 881

420 Norfolk Avenue

Norfolk, Nebraska

January 31, 1957

Mr. G. Harry Stine
1100 Circle Drive
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Stine:

You have no idea how pleased I was to get your good letter! After I wrote you and sent you the photos of the Rock-A-Chute I got to thinking that perhaps you would think I was a nut, and file everything in the wastebasket!!

I am mailing you, today, a reel of 8mm film that I took of the first successful model of the Rock-a-chute. When you run them off, remember that I am not Cecil B. DeMille!! However, they do give a pretty good idea of how the rocket works.

Within a day or two I will send you a complete outfit, all ready to take out and launch. I will send it to your home address, via Express. The package will be marked 'Fireworks', so if I go to jail, I'll go to jail!!

The reason for the delay is that I am loading up some super charged booster units for you to use. The standard boosters are called 'Charge 3', 'Charge 4' and 'Charge 5'. I am loading some 'Charge 6' and 'Charge 7' for you to try. The bigger the number, the more propellant in the unit. All units are the same dimensions--2 1/4 inches long by 1/2 inch in diameter, and 3/8 inch bore.

I will also send you a 'build it yourself kit' as soon as the Loading Manual is printed. Then you can try your skill at making the booster units.

There are dozens of things I want to write and it is hard to know just where to start, so if this letter seems to ramble on, don't be surprised!!

I won't bore you with my life's story, but some things in it may be of interest to you. I think I told you that my hobby was fireworks. Sometimes I am inclined to think that it is my business!! I am 39 years old, and ever since I was big enough to strike a match I seem to have been looking for fuses to light. My education consists of a high school diploma. After I got out of high school I worked in a department store--and in April of 1946 my brother and I opened up our shoe store.

But all of this time I have maintained a yen for chemistry--and fireworks. I was born on the 6th of July, and my mother says that that accounts for my love of fireworks.

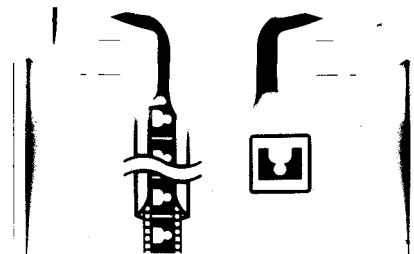
The Rock-A-Chute was born because my brother had to make a speech. As I told you he builds model airplanes, and very often he gives talks and demonstrations about airplanes. He asked me to make up some sort of V-2 that he could use in his speeches in order to demonstrate rocket power more dramatically than was possible with the Jetex.

I had made all sorts of parachute shells, and parachute rockets, but they were all one shot deals.

At any rate, the Rock-a-chute as you see it today is the result.

I do not want to give you the impression that I know everything, because I don't. But there is little about fireworks that I do not know. I can make any kind of fireworks that there is--including the fuse like the Chinese make for their firecrackers. I have had the pleasure to correspond with two men who were

Normal Shoes of All Types :- Prescription Shoes :- Split Size Fittings



Carlisle's

CORRECT SHOES

X-RAY FITTINGS

for men, women and children

Phone 881

420 Norfolk Avenue

Norfolk, Nebraska

authors of books on fireworks. They were T. L. Davis and Geo. Weingart, both of them are dead now.

But that is about enough of my success story!!

After I got the Rock-a-chute so it was about fool proof, I went through all of the red tape and monkey business of getting a patent on it. This has been an education in itself. I have had 'Patent's Pending' for over a year now, and the last report was that it would be another 6 to 18 months before it would be granted--or denied.

The next thing to do was to get the rocket on the market, I was in no position to make the booster units fast enough or cheap enough to do the job right.

So I wend down to Clinton, Missouri and showed and demonstrated the rocket to Mr. L. W. Brown. Mr. Brown owns the Brown Manufacturing Co., and the Zenith Fireworks Company. If you have ever played Chinese Checkers, you can thank Mr. Brown, as he is the man who invented and first introduced the game. He makes all sorts of games, model planes, gliders, etc. His Zenith Fireworks company makes the finest fireworks I have ever seen. One of his inventions and products is the Buzz Bomb--which you may have seen. It is a fireworks that you lay on the ground, light the fuse and it spins around and goes high into the sky where it either explodes with a bang--or throws out a spray of colored stars--depending upon what it is loaded with. The Buzz Bomb has a thin metal wing on top of it, and as it spins this wing causes the bomb to go up into the air like a helicopter.

I thought that Mr. Brown would be the right man to see, because he could load the rockets (booster units) and had a distribution system all set up.

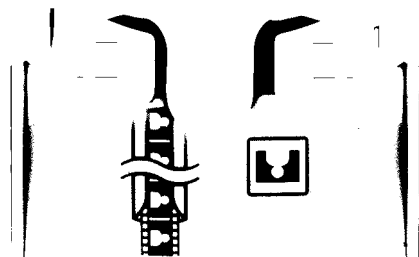
I wish I could find some one to turn the whole thing over to.

He was up here last fall and spent 5 days duck and peshant hunting with me, and we talked fireworks and rockets. I have been unable to convince him that there is a market for the Rock-A-Chute. He thinks it is a very good item, and the only objection I can get from him is that he thinks the average kid would not be able to pack the parachute properly. I have been unable to convince him that the man or boy who buys the Rock-a-chute is smarter than we think. Another thing I think slows him up is that he thinks of the Rock-a-chute as fireworks--and does not grasp the need for such a model. Please understand that Mr. Brown is a fine gentlemen, and a smart one. He has been of great help to me, and we get along just fine. He is 76 years old, and can (and did) knock ducks and pheasants dead as a door nail with a .410 better and furthur than I can with my 12 ga. magnum. He can out walk me to .

Several weeks ago I decided to try to put the Rock-A-Chute on the market my self. Mr. Brown will load the boosters for me if I want him to. He has the finest factory I have ever seen. Clean as a whistle and wonderful machines to do the work. I will try to put the ready-to-go outfit on the market so it can be sold for the 4th of July. There are only 7 states that I can ship into. But my main hope lies in the Rock-A-Chute in kit form. I can ship it anyplace in the U.S. A. There is no law preventing me from telling some one how to make the booster units, and that is what I do in the Loading Manual.

Over the years I have collected some 30 or 40 'instruction' sheets, that are supposed to tell you how to make fireworks. It has all been junk. Most of it

Normal Shoes of All Types :-: Prescription Shoes :-: Split Size Fittings



Carlisle's

CORRECT SHOES

X-RAY FITTINGS

for men, women and children

Phone 881

420 Norfolk Avenue

Norfolk, Nebraska

has been copied from old books (I have all the books on fireworks that there are) and some of it is downright dangerous.

The big problem for amateur rocket makers is the tube that holds the propellant. Unless you are very handy, it is difficult to make the tubes properly. So I supply the tubes with the kit---and they can order more from me. Another big drawback is the fuse---and I supply the fuse. As far as we have been able to learn, it is legal to send the fuse through the mail. Why, I can't figure out, as fuse has a core of black powder. But it is mailed, and I have received it through the mail---samples from fuse companies and from other outfits. As we understand it, it comes under the same class as matches, and they can be mailed if packed a certain way.

It is possible to fire the booster units by electricity. But the fuse is so simple---and cheap.

Your suggestion about making the rockets in-operative has some good merit. The rockets could be left 'un-fused', and the fuse inserted and held in place with scotch tape when ready to fire.

It is hard to try to out guess what your fellow man will do. I have seen experienced firework shooters hold a burning torch over a box of several hundred fireworks shells so they could see what they were doing!!.

You are also correct in thinking that the body of the Rock-a-chute could be improved. The thing will go with smaller fins, but I stuck on that fin design because the fins held the rocket up off of the booster unit. In the box I am sending will be one of the adjustable angle launching ramps. A short finned rocket will fly off of it ok.

I have always felt that once the systems of parachute and booster were available, the model maker would be quick to adapt it to designs of his own.

I will be interested in the report that your aerodynamic men make on the model. A cousin of mine, Dr. James McDonald, is the Scientific director of the Institute of Atmospheric Physics over at Tuscon, Arizona, has told me that there are ways to figure the thrust, weight ratio---etc. But I have never had any such testing done. You may run into him in your work. He gets over to White Sands every once in a while. The work he is doing has something to do with weather and cloud study. I keep telling him to hurry up and find a way to make it rain, as we sure need it out here!!

It will be a pleasure to get your book. I have read 'The Viking Story', and I loved it. This may be hard for you to believe, but I have suffered the same pangs of anxiety---and disappointments with the Rock-A-Chute as they did with the Viking's. And I have had plenty of them go 'Blooie' too!

Three pages is enough to ask any man to read. I would like to know more about the 'Goombah's'. Sounds like you were saying 'good bye' Are they loaded with zinc dust and sulfur---or what???

Thanks again for your letter. I'll write more later.

Best regards,

Orville Carlisle

Normal Shoes of All Types :- Prescription Shoes :- Split Size Fittings

