

28 February 1957

Dear Orville:

Mechanix Illustrated is very interested in an article on the Rock-A-Chute. They want me to write it, so I will share the proceeds 50-50 with you; after all, it is your idea and hardware.

I need from you a picture of yourself with one of the Mark II units. Get a good one. Although I can pretty well piece together the history of the unit from your letters, it might be well if you would whip up a brief resume so that I won't overlook anything important. Since MI is hot for this as soon as I can get it to them, I'd appreciate a fast job on your part.

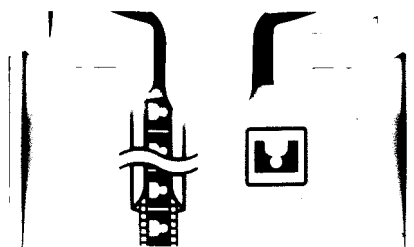
The local group of people who said they were interested in Rock-A-Chute are now not so sure. They have no experience in production and marketing, although they are sharp rocket people. The best they wanted to do was to subcontract everything and act as middle-man. This is no damned good for my money.

So I think this article may help us. I will slant it to say, "Jeepers, here is something that a million model rocket enthusiasts have been looking for, but nobody wants to risk making it. Shame upon them, for in their caution and inaction they are probably causing large numbers of injuries sustained by enthusiasts attempting the manufacture of their own rocket motors. Why doesn't somebody pick up this item which is the first safe, reliable, simple, and inexpensive model rocket motor?" I suspect you will get some inquiries after it hits the stands.

If you don't, I suggest this course of action in which I will help. We'll get MI to buy the publishing rights for the details of the power plant and ejection system. Then we will supply them with plans and details for building model guided missiles to be powered by the rocket motor unit. For all of this they pay; they've got money. They've also got a model and hobby department. On the rocket motor and ejection system, you carry off the cash. On the plans, we split. Okay?

This may be the only money to be had from this gadget if nobody is interested in producing it. My interest in it is getting it into the hands of rocket enthusiasts to keep them from blowing their crazy brains out with zinc and sulfur dust, etc.. If this unit will take and throw a missile out of sight in the zenith, what more could the kids want?

The Parabee went practically out of sight (about 700 feet) on a Charge 5 on the first shot. But I built the body out of a rolled balsa tube 1/32" thick. Don't try it. The Parabee split wide open like a banana when the ejection charge went off. The secret is to use paper or roll a sheet of balsa with a lap joint. You must coat the balsa tube with two layers of Silk Span and about five coats of dope, making a strong, light tube which



is extremely difficult to collapse or split without jumping on it.

I am working on the plans for a model of the ASP rocket. It is a little gem. We are calling it VIPER (standing for Very Ingenious Parachute Ejection Rocket!). I am also working on the plans for Honest Abe, a model of the Honest John artillery rocket. As soon as they are completed, I will send copies along.

Picked up a gadget which solved the problem of making nose cones. It is a little "toy" woodworking lathe made by Cincinnati and retailing for around 20 bucks. With about an 18" bed, it will turn anything up to 3" in diameter and is just right for nose cones. Does a ~~xxxx~~ beautiful job on hardwoods. I have some nose cones which look so beautiful that I don't want to paint them!

Suggestion: we have found that the nose cone stays on better and comes off easier if the portion sticking into the front of the rocket body is about 1/4" long, as in the Parabee plans.

I'm enclosing a check for \$20.00 as I told you I would over the phone. It's about time I started helping you defray some costs.

Cordially,

G. Harry Stine

