

24 February 1957

Mr. Willard L. Kauth
51 E. 42nd St.
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Dad:

I recall that when we talked during the Christmas holidays, you mentioned the fact that you might be interested in investing in some sort of small concern here. I trust you are still of the same opinion, because I think I now have my hands on something.

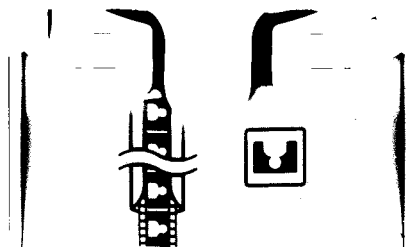
As a result of my column in *Mechanix Illustrated*, a man by the name of Orville Carlisle wrote me from Norfolk, Nebraska, telling me of a small rocket he had developed and asking if I would like to see one. I told him yes, and he sent me six rockets.

These rockets -- he calls them "Rock-A-Chute" -- are about 11 inches long. They are propelled by an expendable rocket charge. Fired from a very simple launcher, they go about 500 feet into the air and expell a parachute which lowers the whole assembly to the ground. One then merely repacks the parachute into the rocket, inserts another rocket charge, and fires again, all in the space of five minutes.

A group of rocket experts and myself here at White Sands Proving Ground have now fired over 100 rockets of this type in the past four weeks. We have found that they are 100% reliable, 100% safe, and in all respects one of the finest things we've seen in a long time. We fire big, professional rockets all the time, and so I think that when a group of professionals can become excited over a thing like this, it really has something. The parachutes never fail to come out, the rocket charges always work, and the whole works is safer than a gasoline-powered model airplane. Even the missile safety people here are very impressed with it.

Every time we shoot them, we draw huge crowds of people. I have let boys of 11 and 12 load and fire them; they are so very safe that, using commonsense, you can't get hurt.

Now, Mr. Carlisle is not a professional rocket man; rockets are his hobby and he runs a shoe store in Norfolk. But he has succeeded in developing this extremely safe, reliable, exciting, and simple rocket. Carlisle is looking for someone to produce and distribute his rockets, and nobody in the fireworks industry seems to be excited about them. This is not the case in the rocket industry; his rockets draw cheers of admiration and requests to purchase from rocket men and others down here who have seen them.



I firmly believe there is a tremendous potential market for these rockets. My basis for saying this rests on the hundreds of letters I receive every month from rocket enthusiasts of all ages all over the country. The interest is there, and, without divulging classified information, I can say that it will certainly increase within the next few years as the ICBM, satellite, and guided missile program grows even larger and more important.

From another point of view, Carlisle's units, the rocket charges, can be used to power other rocket models. We are presently making such models by hand down here and flying them, recovering them by parachute. Rocket enthusiasts are presently trying to make their own rocket power units, and this is a very dangerous thing. If someone can place on the open market a safe, reliable, cheap rocket power unit that can be used to power model rockets, he would be doing a great service in preventing many boys from blowing themselves up; most boys are only interested in flying rockets anyway.

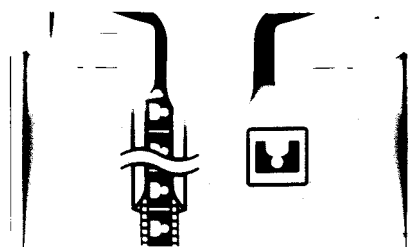
I believe we are in an envious position right here, similar to what a person would have been when the first model gasoline engine was perfected for model airplanes.

Our plans at present involve setting up a company in the State of New Mexico. We will first take Carlisle's basic model and power plant and subcontract the manufacture of the power units, the rocket bodies, and the parachutes. Since fireworks can be shipped into only 6 states, we will market the kit in two manners. Kit 1 will be the completed rocket with six booster charges; these will be marketed in the open states. Kit 2 will be a completed model with a dozen empty booster cases, a small loading press (very simple and cheap), and explicit and straightforward instructions on where to obtain the chemicals and how to load the boosters. We may even include the chemicals, but have yet to check the ICC laws, etc.. Both kits would be assembled from subcontract items, boxed, and shipped from Las Cruces, The Rocket Capital of the World.

A number of items have yet to be checked and looked into, and our plans are not firm as yet. In the first place, we have not formally organized, but plan to within a week. We are not at all certain yet regarding costs, but will have some information shortly.

If the initial kits catch on -- and there seems to be no reason why they won't -- we can easily expand the line with scale operating models of actual guided missiles such as the Aerobee, the Corporal, and the Honest John, among others. These would be offered strictly as assembly kits.

Well, I have rambled on for two pages here on something which really excites us. We are serious about producing these rocket models, and will figure out some way to beat the fireworks ordinances. And we will need capital.



We are not going to turn this over to Arthur Price. Information indicates that he did some things which were not exactly ethical in the dealings with the local group of the American Rocket Society.

I can send you pictures of these units and of the operations involved in preparing them for flight, etc.

I sincerely feel that we have a moneymaking thing here. My question is: would you like in on it? I will send you further details as soon as they are available, including the names of the persons down here who are interested in forming the company. Right now, they include myself and four others, all of whom are rocket men connected with White Sands.

We'd appreciate hearing from you regarding your possible interest in this thing. In the meantime, we'd appreciate it if you would treat it as a confidential matter.

Barbie and the kids are fine. We enjoyed our trip to San Diego, but it doesn't look as though I will be making a move in the near future. Barbie will probably write you in greater detail about this, since that subject is more her style than mine.

Cordially,

G. Harry Stine

