

10 February 1957

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Feature Editor
Mechanix Illustrated
547 67 W. 44th Street
New York 36, N.Y.

Dear Larry:

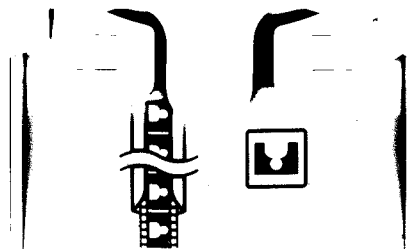
The amount of mail which came in as a result of the column about "The World's Safest Business" was truly astounding. The post office at WSPG hates me now, I think. I have been averaging six letters per day since the 1st of the month. All letters have been from amateur rocketeers looking for information of a detailed nature.

By far the most interesting letter came from Mr. Orville Carlisle, 420 Norfolk Avenue, Norfolk, Nebraska. Mr. Carlisle, the owner of a shoe store, has worked with rockets and fireworks as a hobby all his life. He has developed and has patents pending on a gadget known as "Rock-A-Chute." This is a little rocket about an inch in diameter and 11 inches long with a replaceable solid propellant rocket charge which fires up into the air and ejects a parachute.

Mr. Carlisle sent me some of his units, and, with the help of several experts from WSPG, we have tested them. We have consistently fired them as high as 1000 feet, following his instructions exactly and using no tricks of the trade. The parachute deployment is 100% reliable. The rocket is extremely safe. We have fired one airframe as many as 15 times already, and have recovered it, repacked the chute, and fired it 6 times in an afternoon. There are no falling objects involved except a few scraps of paper. It is absolutely safe to handle and fire. Even kids can do it...and have. His toy has attracted so much attention at WSPG that people here are starting to think of using his principles and units to propel experimental aerodynamic scale test models.

I am fully convinced that Mr. Carlisle has developed something of great use and interest to rocket enthusiasts of all ages. I have no financial interest in the small company he has formed, but I do feel as though I should offer my moral support to his device. I also think that Mechanix Illustrated could benefit by looking into this matter further, since the Rock-A-Chute may well provide amateur rocket men with the chance to gain experience with an extremely safe, yet high performance rocket system.

Mr. Carlisle (whom I have never met) plans to make these units commercially available this summer. He is in limited pilot production, but needs a larger company to handle the full production of these units. Zenith Fireworks Company is presently loading his rocket units, but will not take on the entire project.



He has talked with several companies, but no one seems to be interested. No one appears to recognize the growing interest in rockets in America.

Since I have never met the man and have had no contact with him ~~xxx~~ except through the mails, my conclusions are based solely on the hardware which he sent to me. It works. Every rocket man down here who has seen it in action has been extremely impressed by Rock-A-Chute.

What can we do to help him and thereby help young American rocket enthusiasts?

I enclose the set of photos which he sent to me and which pretty well show the entire set-up. The professional men here agree he has done an excellent job. I do not think that any greater compliment can be paid to it.

Got any ideas?

Cordially,

G. Harry Stine