

28 February 1957

Lawrence Sanders
Feature Editor
Mechanix Illustrated
67 West 44th St.
New York 36, N.Y.

Dear Larry:

Glad you liked the anti-grav article, and I wish I could give you more information on the disc airfoils. Unfortunately, I can't because I just plain do not know anything more than what I have written. Let me point out that a disc airfoil is, in essence, a flying saucer. You can take it from there. I don't know if the flying saucers, or UFO's, are gravity powered or not. But I do know that the UFO's are not built here by anyone I know about. I also know that the experiments were not performed in this country; the U.S. Scientists haven't gotten that far yet because they are being laughed at by the more conservative scientific element.

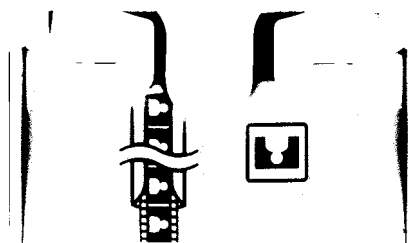
I have made arrangements for the photographer to take pictures of the Rock-A-Chutes a week from Sunday. I will start the article shortly. The art will show both WSPG rocketeers and kids working with the Rock-A-Chutes. I have written Carlisle for a photo of himself with one of his rockets.

The photog I have for the job is Al Kniele, chief of the Navy photo lab at WSPG. He is good on this sort of thing and has seen the unit in action. He will bill you as you indicated in your letter.

The crying shame about Rock-A-Chute is the fact that nobody wants to make it. Carlisle has tried all the fireworks people without success. I tried to instigate a group of WSPG people to do the job when they expressed considerable interest, but they chickened-out from lack of experience in production and marketing. Aerojet-General Corporation actually tried to go into production on this sort of thing several years ago, but were prevented from doing so because of commitments on Navy contracts. The fireworks laws are also all fouled up on it, although the Rock-A-Chute is actually safer than a gas-powered model airplane.

My interest in this thing is one which is essentially altruistic because I guess I am basically that way. This unit is a safe, simple, reliable, and inexpensive rocket power plant. Young rocket enthusiasts can learn a lot from it, and it will eventually help ease the scientific manpower shortage by getting kids interested and keeping them interested. In addition, it will prevent them from getting hurt making their own rocket units. This one satisfies all the requirements since it will take a 12-inch rocket and put it out of sight in the zenith. Who could want more?

Our own efforts here at WSPG have been concentrated in developing a group of scale model missiles powered by the basic



Rock-A-Chute power plant. We have had some great firings and this thing may eventually save the government several hundred thousand dollars in allowing cheap aerodynamic test models to be flown. We have built and flown a Parabee (scale model Aerobee with parachute) and a Grundoon (A baby Pege parachute rocket). We are presently also at work on a model of the ASP which we call the Viper (standing for Very Ingenious Parachute Ejection Rocket!). Drawings are also in the works for the Honest Abe, a model of the Honest John. We have to give them these nicknames to keep from confusing them with the real thing. We are considering construction of model Corporals, Falcons, V-2's, Sidewinders, and Vikings. For the benefit of your hobby editor, I can make available all the plans and construction details for these ~~miniature~~ model rockets to be powered by the Rock-A-Chute unit. The big problem is to get somebody to produce the rocket units on a large scale to make them generally available to rocket enthusiasts who want to build the models.

Perhaps you might consider paying Carlisle a fee for the details on the manufacture of the Rock-A-Chute units, including all details of material, etc.. This could be featured as a Mechanix Illustrated rocket power plant for powering guided missile models from plans you publish. Something like this might even make a good Fawcett paperback. It would be a scoop among scoops. After all, what other magazine has published details on how to make a solid propellant rocket motor along with plans of missiles which it can power?

By the way, this thing can cough up a "satellite" instead of a parachute. The "satellite" wouldn't stay up there, of course, but it might be worth thinking about. Popping the rocket apart would destroy its stability, and it would flutter to the ground harmlessly. We have done this here with great success, flying the Grundoon initially without a parachute and destroying its stability so that it could be recovered without having it dig a hole. Makes it safe, too.

There are tricks to building these things, tricks which are not readily apparent to the average model builder and which would help protect you from being copied elsewhere.

Enough of this. I could spout ideas all night. This thing has potentiality.

As a matter of interest, I donated the check for the last column to the local astronomical society so that they could buy satellite tracking telescopes for Project Moonwatch. Since I don't have time to participate, it made me feel better.

Cordially,

G. Harry Stine

