

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

What next? In the guided missile field there is now the "Nike" for seeking out enemy bombers and blasting 'em to bits in the sky regardless of their speed or height.

The Nike is 20 feet long, and 12 inches thick over most of its length, giving it the look of a gigantic pencil with fish-like fins to steer it in flight.

Launched from ramps and fired by a booster which drops off when the Nike is well up in the sky and its own liquid fuel rocket engine takes over the job of driving the uncanny thing on its way.

"But," you say, "how does it find its mark?" Simple enough. A secret navigation system on the missile guides the Nike into the general area of the target, charted by radar. Once in the area where aircraft are operating, other electronic devices seek out the bomber and manipulate the fins to head the Nike towards the prey.

No plane is fast enough to escape these pirates of the sky and no pilot is skilled enough to keep the fastest jet at a safe distance, so the army tells us.

With this brand-new gadget it may not be a happy New Year for Russia or any other nation that sends its bombers against the cities of North America.

The arrival of a New Year suggests new things and the very latest in avoiding warfare is the uncanny Nike.

New York's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel has a private police force, large enough to police Charlottetown, Summerside and Moncton, N.B.

Some people's idea of paradise is something to do and a whole lifetime in which to do it.

On the Charlottetown-Borden highway near Bonshaw, Prince Edward Island, within a mile of each other and within a two-weeks period, there were three automobile accidents — one that brought death to three persons as the result of broken tie rods.

"I hear a woman's voice downstairs," said Mrs. Elizabeth Ainsworth of Manchester, England. Her husband told Elizabeth he still meant that she was only hearing things down there. Suspicious nevertheless, the wife ran downstairs, fell and was killed instantly. The voice she'd heard was that of a female radio announcer.

Back in 1951 R. L. Hawkins, 58, was declared legally dead on petition of his sister, after he had been missing for seven years. The sister sought full title to the estate of their deceased mother. In July, 1952, the dead man filed suit to have the ruling set aside. He explained that he was not dead at all but only out of touch with his family. He was granted a hearing on his petition for return to legal life and was driving his automobile from Fort Worth to Norman when he went into the gutter and was killed and his petition for return to the living cancelled. Strange but true!

Premortions of death are one of the most common forms of psychic phenomena. Many cases have been checked up in our part of the world as well as in the far-flung places of this globe. Here is a case of comparatively recent date which took place in Los Angeles last April:

Shortly before Mrs. Ida Arkin's son kissed her good-bye and boarded a U.S. airplane for Frisco, the mother had a feeling that her boy would die before reaching his destination. So, when the plane had flown a short time, the mother phoned Burbank Airport.

"Has the plane arrived yet?" she asked.

"No, it turned back," said the voice at the other end. "A passenger was dangerously ill."

Some minutes later the tragic news came through that Norman

Arkin had been stricken with a fatal illness shortly after the plane took off.

Elek Barna came into the world nine months after his parents' wedding. His parents claim that he was the best of babies and never cried. This amazing youngster had little use for babies' rattles or toys.

His first word was not the usual Mom or Dad. It was I. With the I emphasized throughout his fantastic career. At an age when other children wanted to be cowboys, or Indians or what not, Elek declared his intention of being a permanent Under Secretary of State.

Even as a child he foresaw his future path in life and knew that the Fates decreed that he should follow that path, even though it meant strained relations between himself and his loved ones.

Upon graduating from college, he managed to invite himself to a cabinet minister's home and persuade the daughter of the house to become his wife.

At 24 we find him a doctor of law and economics. Six months later

he brought home a character and introduced him to his wife saying, "This is a clever fellow with good connections and when I am gone he is the one who will fill my shoes. Soon after this he got his job in the ministry.

One day he took a note book and read out his schedule to his wife. Nov. 1925: first child. Dec. 1927: second baby. That's exactly how it happened.

After they'd been married he glanced into his note book. It read: 1931: holiday and a new love affair with a blond lady. That was how events shaped up in the future. But remember that I told you the man was a prophet. By the time he was appointed Permanent Under Secretary, he had developed a serious heart condition. That's the time he took out life policies to benefit his sons, and purchased a plot in a nearby cemetery for himself. He knew the time for him to die was drawing near so one night he told his wife for the second time:

"After I'm gone you will marry the man I introduced to you some time back because he's your type and likes our boys.

Skimobile Given Tests By Army

ARNTFIELD, Que. —(CP) — An invention of Sam Laporte of Arntfield, may give this northwestern Quebec mining area a new industry.

Laporte is the inventor of the skimobile, a vehicle that automati-

cally adjusts itself to different snow conditions. The department of national defence is conducting rugged tests with the skimobile in the Yukon and if it meets army standards it could probably mean a contract for more than the six Laporte has already built.

Constructed from aluminum, the skimobile is powered by a 25-horse-power motor of German make and can attain a speed of 30-35 miles an hour. Its caterpillar tread forces its way into soft snow to gain traction while the supporting skis rise.

The skimobile, weighing only 1,200 pounds, is light enough to be carried aboard transport planes and parachuted to earth. Its open platform can hold 10 to 12 men and a 1,500 pound load. It is driven in the same manner as a car.

At 8.30 a.m. on Friday, the 5th of Feb. 1953, his wife phoned for a doctor, as he was unable to go to his office. The doctor arrived but he rallied long enough to call at 9.30 to find his patient dying. But he rallied long enough to call his wife and give her his famous note book.

"You'll find the schedule for your future years in here," he said, and then calmly breathed his last. Women's curiosity made Mrs. Barna peep into the little book which had been a thorn in her side for years. This is what she read on the last page:

"Feb. 8: Cabinet. Feb. 9: my death."

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WOMEN EXECUTIVES

LONDON (CP) — Mrs. Armand Dutry, director of a London machinery export company, has founded the British Association of Women Executives to "guard the interests of women executives in industry, whose importance has been grossly overlooked."

Vast Hydro-Electric Development Program For British Columbia

VICTORIA —(CP) — Plans for a vast hydro-electric development program in the British Columbia interior including construction of a \$400,000,000 dam on the Columbia river were announced here Monday by Lands Minister R. E. Sommers.

The announcement followed talks between Mr. Sommers and Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, chairman of the Canadian section of the international joint commission.

The long-range plan envisions the building of nine dams on the Columbia river system in the east Kootenay area.

Construction of the \$400,000,000 dam at Mica Creek, about 250 miles east of Vancouver, is expected to start in 18 months and be completed within seven years, Mr. Sommers said.

Mr. Sommers did not say how

the project would be financed. A portion of the power produced would be made available to the United States.

HISTORIC DIARY

NORTHFLEET, England (CP) — Prize possession of the Hills family is a diary started in 1860. It includes records of the first execution in the Maidstone, Kent, jail in 1883 and the visit to Northfleet of the giant steamer Great Eastern in 1865.

CAR DEMOLISHED

MONTREAL, (CP) — Police reported today that Jean Taillefer, 39, of St. Eustache, escaped injury Monday when his car was sliced in two by a Canadian Pacific Railway train at the Bordeaux level crossing. They said Taillefer was still holding the steering wheel after the rest of the car had been demolished. The crash occurred after the automatic gate failed to lower properly.

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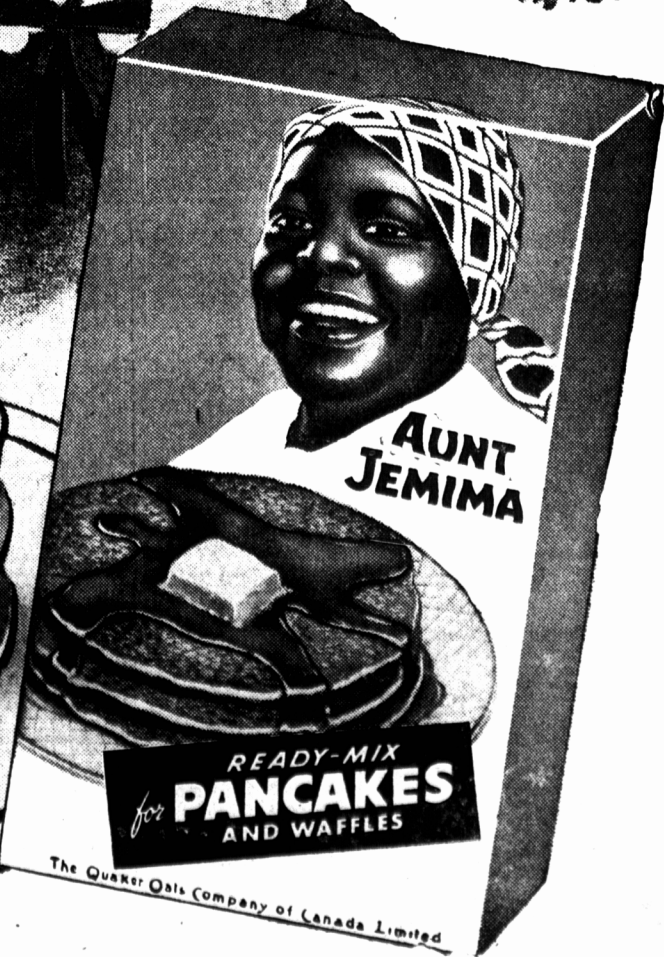
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