

# The Boy Who Was Space Pilot

Toys are sometimes the beginnings of wonderful things

Give a boy a toy — perhaps a kite, a balloon, a top, a hoop, jumping jack, hobbyhorse, or whirlingig — and his imagination and experimentation may produce a historic scientific discovery or invention.

If Josiah Franklin sent young son Ben out with the injunction, "Go fly your kite," it was very beneficial. The kite Franklin learned to make and fly in youth was his eventual means of confirming the identity of lightning and electricity, and his invention of lightning rods. Similarly, Franklin's experiments as a boy with kit propulsion as he swam in a pond stimulated the acquisition of further knowledge of wind and current reactions that led to his being the

great pathfinder of the Gulf Stream. Again, the boy John Fitch's revolution in ship propulsion sprang from his whittling and placing of paddlewheels on boats with which he played. Centuries before their times, fireworks made as toys or colorful and noisy amusements in China, where gunpowder was discovered, led to ventures with rockets — progenitors of all reaction or jet motors — as carriage propellants. Kites had already been advanced in China from playthings to message conveyers and war weapons.

There could have been an Icarus, figuratively speaking, in the Far East long before the legend of the latter rose in the West. Fortunately, later-day youths in the Western world were never discouraged by what mythologists recorded of this presumed first space pilot from braving the skies with contrivances of their own. In their practical way of thinking, the facts about Icarus' flight might have been altered to make his fate appear a "lesson" to

youths. The version taught had Icarus' escape from the labyrinth in which he and his father Daedalus were imprisoned come to disaster because he disregarded his father's advice. The assumption was that Icarus crashed only because he flew higher than his father, and thereby let the sun melt wax in his wings. Yet, analysis suggests he really

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## Space

borne off the course to die in Sicily against his by a gust of wind. Lack of knowledge of wind patterns and courses needed aviation advances centuries. Many pioneer aeronauts met Icarian fates.

A Frenchman, Jean Blanchard, is credited in reference books with first ascent in the Western Hemisphere, at Philadelphia in 1792. However, The Montreal Journal and Times Advertiser of Dec. 24, 1784 related how, the previous day, a 13 year boy, Edward Warren, leapt into space and landed safely in a hen-bagged balloon constructed by one Peter Pheasant. This was only a year after the first successful ascensions of Montgolfier's kites with animals as cargo and five passengers. Blanchard's balloon was inflated after the epochal Montgolfier flight.

Young Warren, possibly the first American space pilot after the legendary Daedalus and Icarus, or those of the more recent and more venturesome ancient Chinese.

Who could guess that a rival attraction to the "Kite Men" of the "Kite Men" at fairs around the world, when the young men were about to transform gliders into

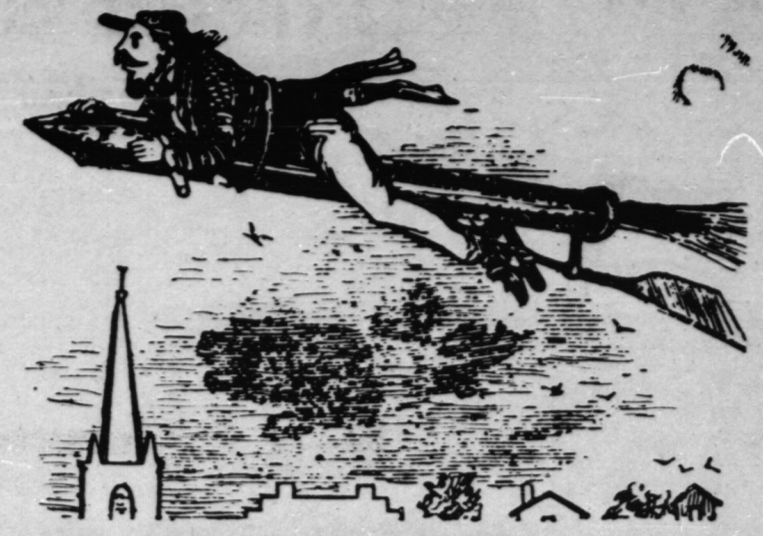
bicycle-like pedals and gears. This was not a new idea, but Cromwell made it practical enough for him to give exhibitions at fairs, and let it be suggested he might eventually pedal to the moon!

Meanwhile, a boy in Columbus, Ohio, Cromwell had devised a toy... and something great could be the result.

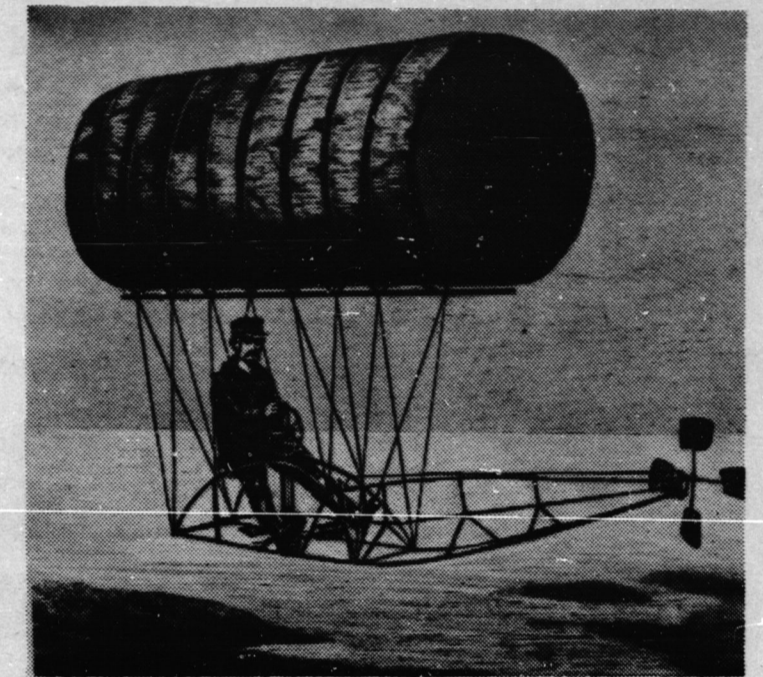
GARDEN PLANNED VANCOUVER (CP) — The University of British Columbia plans to spend more than \$5 million during the next 10 years on a botanical garden for teaching, research and public showings. The university says the money will come from private, trust and government sources.



Classic painting of Icarus' disaster as first space pilot with inference he disregarded instructions.



This hot idea was pictured in 1860s, when rocket-guns had been introduced in the whaling industry.



Prof. C. E. Ritchell envisioned sky-cycle back in 1878, but his design proved unmanageable against winds.

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FRI. 11th	9 A.M. til 9 P.M.
MON. DEC. 13-14-15-16 & 17	9 A.M. til 9 P.M.
SAT. 18th	9A.M. TIL 6P.M.
MON. 21st	
TUES. 22nd	9A.M. TIL 9P.M.
WED. 23rd	
THUR. 24th	9A.M. TIL 6P.M.

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