

Toys Often The Beginnings Of History-Making Inventions

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

If Josiah Franklin sent a 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

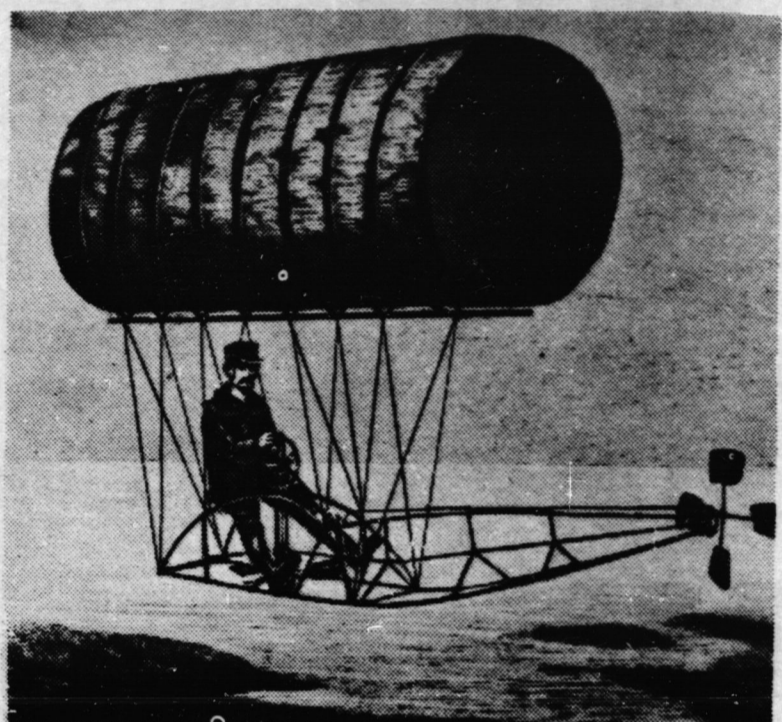
China from playthings to message conveyors and war weapons.

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 was borne off the course to safety in Sicily against his will by a gust of wind. Lack of knowledge of wind channels and courses impeded aviation advances for centuries. Many pioneer balloonists met Icarian disasters.

A Frenchman, Jean Blanchard, is credited in reference books with first ascension in the Western hemisphere, at Philadelphia in 1792. However, The Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser of June 24, 1784 related how, the previous day, a 13 year



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.

old boy, Edward Warren, arose into space and descended safely in a silken-bagged balloon constructed by one Peter Carnes. This was only a year after the first successful ascensions of Montgolfier aircraft with animals as captive passengers. Blanchard's balloon was modeled after the epochal Montgolfier craft.

Young Warren, certainly the first American aviator, may have been the first space pilot after the

legendary Daedalus and Icarus, or those venturesome ancient Chinese.

Who could guess what was a rival attraction to "ballonists" at fairs around 1900, when the young brothers Wright were about to transform gliders into airplanes? Kite-men! Yes, men were flown in kites as reconnaissance observation platforms, before it bought a balloon or a Wright airplane.

Meanwhile, incidentally a boy in Columbus, Ohio, Cromwell Dixon, had devised a sky-cycle, i.e., a balloon with a propeller, activated by bicycle-like pedals and gears.

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Snowmobiling Routes Set Up On Crown Lands

number of trails have established on Crown by the department of s and forests to accommodate some of the mobilers who prefer kind of prepared and ed trail development.

ese trails are located in of relatively heavy y cover and are lished to supplement rials developed in ncial parks and the other trails marked by mbile clubs, winter wners.

ere is no charge for the se trails which de the provision of

parking areas, toilets and garbage containers.

(1) Horseshoe Lake Trail - This trail commences from a parking lot location 14 miles north of Coldwater on the Severn Falls Road (Simcoe County Road 17). The trail is a circular 18 mile route and can be travelled in three to four hours at normal cruising speed. It provides a wide variety of terrain including lakes, marshes, high rocky cuts and timber lands. Two stop-over points have been developed.

(2) Ptarmigan Trail - Commencing from the same starting point as the Horseshoe Lake Trail, this

trail east of County Road 17 covers a total of 20 miles. It combines a long and short loop system with four stop-over points and touches Matchedash, Eastern and Dumbell Lakes.

Further information or maps may be obtained for both of the above by contacting department of lands and forests, Coldwater, (705) 686-3342.

(3) Wilson Lake Trail - This trail commences at the Shawanaga River bridge on Highway 69 approximately 19 miles north of Parry Sound. The parking lot is approximately one mile east of Highway 69 on the Wilson Lake road.

The return trip entirely through forested land is 25 miles distance with three stop-over sites including one in the village of Ardbeg. The trail requires no travel on lakes, and creeks have been bridged.

For further information contact District Forester, department of lands and forests, Parry Sound, (705) 746-2141.

(4) Kendall Trail - Located in the scenic Great Pine Ridge country northeast of Oshawa, this area provides an ideal setting for trail riding on the five miles of marked trails and open areas. Travel north from Newcastle for seven

miles on Highway 35. Turn east at the village of Kirby on County Road 9 and travel four miles to the parking area. Visitors are requested to respect the private lands which surround this recreational area.

Further information and map available from the department of lands and forests, Lindsay, (705) 324-6121.

(5) Galway Trail - A 26 mile marked trail has been

established in Galway Township approximately 40 miles north of Peterborough. The parking area is adjacent to Highway 507, about six miles north of its intersection with Highway 36. This trail passes through a wide variety of forest conditions and topography and although it passes a number of small lakes, no travel on ice is required to complete the circle route.

Celebrate Holy Day With Prayer, Thanks

For those who celebrate Christmas as a holy day, the holiday is greeted with rejoicing, with prayer and thanksgiving, in church and private devotions.

The word "greeting" has a special significance here, for herald angels singing to shepherds in the fields and a star shining in the heavens truly brought greetings — according to the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, "good news of great joy which will come to all people."

Long before the December 25 birthdate of Christ was celebrated in devotions, it had marked a season set aside for another

kind of greeting. In Northern Europe, Teutonic tribes of pagan times greeted the rebirth of the sun, of the winter solstice.

Earliest celebrations of Christmas combined some of the ancient pagan traditions. By association with Christian beliefs, old customs of greeting the sun became symbolic of a recognition — a greeting of faith, hope and life eternal.

PROOF OF PUDDING?

In European countries, finding an almond in the holiday pudding means marriage next year.

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