

## 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 whirlingig — 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 ballonists 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 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.

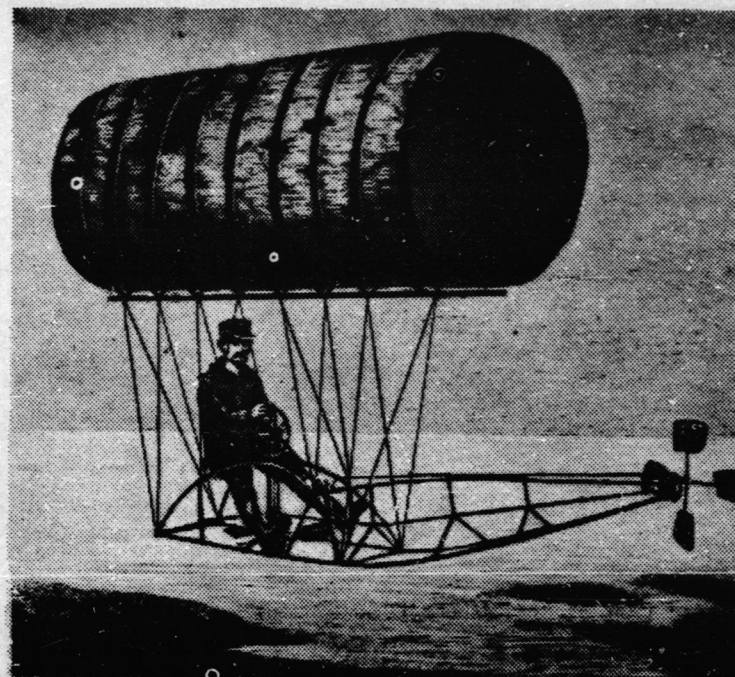
Young Warren, certainly the first American aviator, may have been the first space pilot after the legendary Daedalus and Icarus, or those venturesome ancient Chinese.

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.

In 1970, 10,698 persons died in Canada from respiratory diseases and 527 persons died from tuberculosis, points out the Norfolk-Halifax TB and RD Association, the Christmas Seal people.



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

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## Stored Grain Can Be Dangerous

Farmers are handling more grain today than ever before. They're doing it faster, with larger equipment and fewer people.

Norman Robinson, coordinator of farm safety, Workman's Compensation Board, says that many farmers do not realize the dangers involved with flowing grain, and accidents in grain-handling operations are on the increase.

It takes very little time to become helpless in flowing grain. A farmer standing about a foot deep in grain will be standing in grain above the knees in 3 to 4 seconds. Fast-dumping augers in use on many farms can bury children before you realize it, so keep them out of bins and wagons, says Mr. Robinson.

In flat-bottom bins, flow is off the top, down a center cone. Some difficulty in unloading may occur when the grain bridges. Walking on the surface to break the bridge is extremely dangerous. If it collapses the operator could be buried under bushels of heavy grain. The best rule is never to walk

on stored grain. Big hopper-bottom wagons are also a potential hazard, particularly when they are used as holding bins and it is necessary to climb in to break

bridged grain. Even grain stored on the floor can be a threat, although it may look safe enough.

Removing the outer foundation of the pile can result in an avalanche that may bury you.

It makes sense to follow these rules: Install ladders in all bins.

If trapped in a grain bin or silo, stay near

the wall and walk the grain down until flow stops.

If it is absolutely necessary to enter a bin, use a rope and safety harness. Make sure there are men outside ready to help you.

Understand that flowing grain can be dangerous and warn others of the hazards. Accidents don't have to happen.

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