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### INVENTION

# Current U.S. Patents

The hazards of overshooting a runway or being unable to stop shortly before takeoff would be minimized by adopting a new circular airport runway system—By William McCann

➤ A RING-AROUND airport with never-ending runways that are banked like the turns of an auto race track was granted a patent by the U.S. Patent Office.

All of the airport facilities, operations and aircraft are located in a large center area enclosed by a wide banked circular track. Passengers can reach the center area by means of tunnels which go under the track from outside.

For takeoff from the ring-around airport the pilot steers his plane onto the runway from the inside ring area. He rolls the plane around the track for as many loops as needed to take off safely.

On a straight runway, once a pilot has started with his engines wide open, he has passed the "point of no return," reported Woldemar A. Bary, East Stroudsburg, Pa., in patent 3,173,634. On a ringed track, however, the pilot can return for engine check if something should go wrong.

Also, on a straight runway a pilot may come in too fast for a landing and overshoot the runway. Since the circular runway is endless, this hazard is eliminated, the inventor reported.

Mr. Bary, one of the original founders of Sikorsky Aircraft in the early 1920's and co-builder of one of the first metal airplanes, called the invention a radical and

new approach that may be of tremendous importance and value to future airport design.

### Handbag Tent

Swimmers can now put on their bathing suits inside their own beach bags.

The canvas bag, which is carried like ordinary hand luggage, is equipped with a pocket to carry personal articles and can be quickly opened out into a small bathing hut.

It has three small legs attached inside, which are taken from the bag and expanded like a telescope to form a triangular structure. The canvas skirt is then draped over the legs.

The hut may also be used for protection against sun, wind and rain.

Yves Francisque Julien Jaime, Isere, France, earned patent 3,173,435 for the handbag tent.

### Other Interesting Patents

A safety cap that keeps children from getting into bottles of medicine or harmful chemicals earned patent 3,173,565 for Edward F. Gray, Wauwatosa, Wis. The lock-on cap will not open to normal twisting and turning.

A collapsible paint bucket can be made smaller as the paint is used up. It earned patent 3,173,573 for James W. Donegan, Middletown, N.Y.

A newly patented baseball bat lets the player get a "hit" even if he misses the ball. The bat is equipped with a sounding means that produces a sharp "crack" every time the bat is swung. It earned patent 3,173,688 for Joseph Green, Hewlett, N.Y.

A portable flood barrier that protects an underlying levee earned patent 3,172,267 for Frank F. Fisher, Detroit, Mich. The barrier, made of sections of reinforced steel, can be put together in a hurry to hold back flood waters.

A device that lets an electron beam weld or cut by remote control earned patent 3,172,989 for Gordon E. Nelson, Tarriffville, Conn. Patent rights were assigned to United Aircraft Corporation, East Hartford, Conn.

For a list of registered patent attorneys and agents and other Patent Office information, write the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, or call 202-967-4058 for specific information.

• Science News Letter, 87:222 April 3, 1965

**CORRECTION:** Captions and photos transposed in SNL, March 6, 1965. Color Coordinator, p. 147, refers to picture on p. 151. Blood Tester, p. 151, refers to picture on p. 147.

## MICRO-ADS

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