

## INVENTION

# Patents of the Week

A launch for shooting meteorological rockets in vertical positions from aircraft flying on the level, which earned a U.S. patent, will aid investigations of weather conditions.

► A METHOD and apparatus for launching meteorological rockets from aircraft in motion received patent 3,094,896 from the U.S. Patent Office.

The device will allow rocketsondes, used for measuring and transmitting atmospheric conditions, to be launched vertically from a plane flying on the level.

Radiosondes have been carried skyward by balloons or dropped from airplanes. The rocket-propelled rocketsonde is launched from ships or from the ground. The new launching technique developed by three Pennsylvania scientists carries rocketsonde development one step farther.

The invention includes an improved support for holding the rocket in launching position, which automatically releases after the rocket is fired and is unaffected by temperature changes.

The rocketsonde will be able to investigate weather conditions at greater altitudes and wider areas, because the launching station can be quickly moved around. It was invented by Ralph C. Carson Jr. of Willow Grove, Pa.; Salvatore J. Grillo of New Britain, Pa., and Tor W. Jansen of Southampton, Pa. Rights were assigned to the Secretary of the Navy.

## Transonic Flight Line Computer

An airborne computer that calculates flight data while an airplane is traveling faster than sound earned patent 3,094,868 for Niels Yde Andersen Jr. of East Aurora, N. Y., and Hiramie T. McAdams of Williamsville, N. Y.

The invention includes a pressure probe or sensing device on the outside of the plane, transducers to convert the pressure values on the probe into impulses for the computer, and the computer that translates the impulses into accurate measurements of outside pressure.

The computer measures the free stream values of static pressure, impact pressure, angles of attack and sideslip and Mach number (velocity) of the aircraft. Rights to the invention were assigned to the Secretary of the Navy.

## Defoliation of Cotton Plants

A method of stripping leaves from cotton plants by spraying the air with ammonia vapor gained patent 3,095,298 for James B. Fisher of Westhaven, Calif., and George W. Cazaly of Hanford, Calif.

The method involves surrounding the plant with about two-hundredths to six-hundredths of a pound of anhydrous ammonia vapor per cubic yard of air. Contact should last no longer than five seconds.

Ammonia vapor improves on earlier defoliant because it aims at the lower part

of the plant where cotton boll rot could set in if not defoliated, it leaves no residue, and is only sprayed once. Irrigation of the cotton may be continued up to one week prior to defoliation treatment. Rights were assigned to California Research Corp., San Francisco.

## Other Significant Patents

Patents also include:

A blood circulation device that affects metabolism by placing part of the body in a liquid pressure chamber, for which Norman A. MacLeod of La Habra, Calif., received patent 3,094,983.

A process for manufacturing paper from synthetic fibers on a conventional paper-making machine. Richard T. Jackson of Phillipsburg, N. J., and Donald G. Magill Jr. of Milford, N. J., were awarded patent 3,095,345. They assigned rights to Riegel Paper Corporation, New York, N. Y.

A comb and hair brush for discharging static electricity from hair by a grounded extension cord attached to the bristles and teeth of the comb and brush. James R. Stith of Fort Worth, Texas, received patent 3,095,523 for this device.

A vapor barrier film consisting of wax dissolved in oil and light hydrocarbon to be spread on reservoirs to decrease evaporation of water, for which George W. Eckert of Wappingers Falls, N. Y., and Kenneth M. Hall of Beacon, N. Y., were awarded patent 3,095,263. Rights were assigned to Texaco, Inc.

• Science News Letter, 84:29 July 13, 1963

## TECHNOLOGY

### Science to Aid Law Research at Los Angeles

► SCIENCE and technology will be harnessed to the administration of justice at a new law-science research center at the University of California, Los Angeles.

It will find ways "to prevent the legal process from becoming so afflicted by the mass of data that it generates as to jeopardize the maintenance of the rule of law in a free society," Prof. Edgar A. Jones, director, explained.

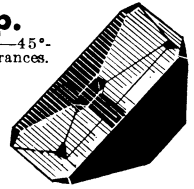
The center will study the use of computers and other electronic equipment designed for swift and efficient processing, selection, retrieval and comparative analysis. It will carry out research on disciplines other than law in the administration of justice.

Fields to be explored will include engineering, economics, psychology, philosophy, political science, sociology, mathematics, systems analysis, institutional organization, corporations and labor unions.

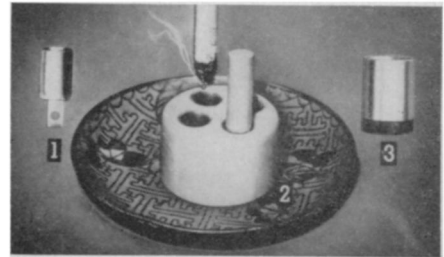
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