

"Fuelless" Motor Stirs Up Strife Among Inventors

Just What It Is And Who First Conceived Idea Much In Debate

Pittsburgh, Feb. 27. (AP)—F. W. Mochstetter, of the Hochstetter Research Laboratories, here, today declared "the fuelless" motor of Lester J. Hendershot, 29-year-old West Elizabeth, Pa., inventor, was a "generator and not a motor at all."

Hochstetter, who said he had negotiated with Hendershot on "what appeared from newspaper reports to have been the same thing he is now trying to promote," asserted "it doesn't take electricity from the air—it gets its electricity from a concealed carbon pencil battery."

Hochstetter exhibited models of what he claimed were early models of the Hendershot motor, and said the current was supplied from cells, and in one instance from the current in a house.

Hendershot, queried on Hochstet-

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FUELLESS MOTOR

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ter's statement, said he could not "understand what Hochstetter has in mind."

"Of course I had pencil cells in those things—I was experimenting with another affair—an effort to take electricity from the air. And I still believe I actually did take some power from the air. But it had no practical use. Why, I even dated the pencil cells to see how long they would last."

Asked about the house current, Hendershot laughed and replied:

"That's a joke on Hochstetter. I suspected tampering with my model in my laboratory. I thought some one was trying to discover the principle of the thing—and I decided to put something there for them to find to lead him away from the real idea I was working with."

"If Hochstetter's charge of fraud is authentic, why did he wait three years to bring it up?" asked Hendershot. "It always has been my understanding that prisons were built for fellows who manage to collect money on a fake. As I said before, I don't quite see his game."

Hochstetter's attorney, E. H. Wicks, displayed a contract signed by Hendershot and an associate, which was said to have covered the sale of the early model to J. C. Trees and M. L. Benedum, local capitalists, for \$150,000, of which Wicks claimed \$25,000 had been paid to Hendershot and his co-worker.

The laboratories man said he was "making this statement solely in the interest of the public and so as not to discourage legitimate investors who might be working along the same lines; we have no financial interest in the machine."

Discussing the comment of scientists who have said there was not even enough electricity in the air to light an electric lamp, Hendershot declared he did not claim to take electricity from the air. "I utilize the magnetic field set up by the earth."

"I didn't build the motor that was demonstrated at Detroit," the youthful inventor said. "That was built by army men under orders from Major Lanphier and under my direction. I didn't even so much as wind the motor—they built the motor—and it works. That's my answer to all critics—my motor works."

Hochstetter said he had sent telegrams to Col. Lindbergh, S. W. Stratton of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Major Thomas G. Lanphier of Selfridge field and E. G. Liebold of the Ford interests, advising them to "please communicate with me or Mr. J. C. Trees before committing yourself to any statement in reference to the Hendershot motor."