

MOTOR WORKS, IS INVENTOR'S ONLY ANSWER

Device Now Center
Of Controversy
Over U. S.

SILENT UNTIL RIGHT TIME

Claims of Hendershot Are At-
tacked by Local Lab-
oratories.

That his motor will run and has power-mechanical energy that can be put to practical use, was the unequivocal answer yesterday of Lester J. Hendershot, young West Elizabeth inventor, to the claims of scientists that his "fuelless motor" is impossible of accomplishment. The motor, since it was demonstrated last Friday at Detroit to a group that included Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh, has become the center of controversy in scientific circles all over the country.

In the face of scientific skepticism Hendershot stands firm.

Will Hold Secret.

"I can tell no more," he said yesterday, "until the right time comes. There are some who would have me become excited and blurt out the secret for their own profit. But I won't do that."

Hardly was the ink dry on the newspapers that announced a successful trial when F. W. Hochstetter, of the Hochstetter Research Laboratories, Pittsburgh, a former associate of Hendershot, summoned newspaper representatives and declared that Hendershot's motor was a fraud.

"It isn't a motor at all, it's a generator," Hochstetter declared, "and 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 Hendershot's motor, and explained in detail how the current was supplied from cells, and in one instance from the current in the house.

Sold Invention, Claim.

E. H. Wicks, attorney for Hochstetter, showed a contract allegedly signed by Hendershot in which Hendershot and an associate, John E. Snee, 1906 House building, sold to J. C. Trees and M. L. Benedum the invention for \$150,000, of which he claimed \$25,000 had been paid to Hendershot and Snee.

The contract proposed a corporation to exploit the device, giving the inventor and his associate minority interest, and agreeing to "covenant, complete, perfect and hold for the benefit of and assign to said patent-holding corporation, the absolute

PHYSICS HEAD SAYS FUELLESS MOTOR IS HOAX

Machine Has Ear-
marks of Other Fakes,
He Declares.

DOUBTS MAKER'S CLAIMS

Dean Sieg Says Magnetic
Field of Earth Can-
not Be Utilized.

The fuelless motor that is said to take its power from the earth's magnetism has all the earmarks of other "amateur" fuelless motors that have been investigated and found to be hoaxes, in the opinion of L. P. Sieg, dean of the college and of the graduate school and professor of physics at the University of Pittsburgh.

Dean Sieg stated yesterday that what he knows of the motor, through newspaper accounts, it appears to be another hoax like the "great" Keesley motor, which fooled the world until it was found to be operated by compressed air, and the "mystery" motor brought out by an Armenian in the World War, for which an appropriation was made by Congress when the trick was discovered.

Commenting on the claim of Hendershot, that the latest fuelless motor takes its power from the magnetic field of the earth, Dean Sieg stated that there is nothing there that can be utilized. Even if the magnetic field were a great deal stronger it could not be used, he said, because an electric current could not be used in conjunction with it. He doubted that any current could be obtained sufficient power in a motor to propel an airplane.

He said, though, it is strange that the new motor was demonstrated to Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh, a thoroughly experienced aviator but not a scientist, and to others, none of whom are scientists.

What should have been done at the time, he said, was to bring in scientists and physicists, who, in his belief, would determine the practicability of the motor almost at once.

POLICE KNEW OF GANG PLOT TO ROB TRAIN

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The "leader" of the robber band, after he had, in desperation, appealed to other members of the band instructions to rush away to their vacation.

The police said their wire tapping team permitted them to hear a woman friend of "Lampy" upbraid him because he had not given her enough of the loot for the purchase of a fur coat and threaten to reveal.

Lampy also brought the release of the men and two women arrested Saturday when the catch netted 14 men and six women, and the arrest of 18 more men, who were turned over to the Federal authorities.

Solves Other "Jobs"

Blamed with Cleaver as a leader of the robber band was William Weaver, also said to have confessed. The arrests brought the partial solution of several other robberies. Hugh Fehon, president of the State Mortgage Company, picked up Cleaver and two others as the men who rifled 40 safety deposit boxes and escaped with \$70,000 cash from a bank.

Moreover, confessed author of the robbery plan, told in his confession that the robbery was planned in minute detail, using a cardboard box and a cardboard station to represent that at St. Maria's. Only the content had not been rehearsed. It was that the robbery was done so quickly that the policemen in the neighborhood at the wrong station missed at St. Maria's a full minute after the robbers' automobile had moved away, although they raced toward it immediately upon hearing the crash of the explosive as it wrecked the end of the mail car.

Inventor and Early Products



Lester J. Hendershot, West Elizabeth inventor, right, and three of his early inventions which F. W. Hochstetter of the Hochstetter Research Laboratories, Pittsburgh, claims were fakes. Hendershot declares there was no fake about the early inventions, designed to take electricity from the air, and that they are in no way related to his fuelless motor demonstrated before Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh and others at Detroit last Friday. The man holding the model is an employe of Hochstetter's.

Motor Runs, Inventor's Reply

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right, title and interest in and to any future invention or discovery that they or either of them may develop of like kind, purpose and or use or any variation, extension or supplement to the invention and discovery hereinabove mentioned."

This contract had reference to a contrivance to obtain "electrical power from natural, static or atmospheric electricity without the use of chemicals or storage batteries."

Ingenious Transformer.

"The machines Hendershot made did have a battery—a pencil carbon battery. A later model, we discovered, was secretly motivated by the house current—cleverly concealed wires with his machine acting only as an ingenious transformer to reduce the house current to a current proper for igniting miniature electric bulbs.

"We have no financial interest in this machine," Hochstetter declared. "We are making this statement solely in the interest of the public and so as not to discourage legitimate inventors who might be working along the same lines."

Hochstetter then described the initial model.

"There is a mercury vacuum tube—that part is pure camouflage—with a coil and tin foil around it. A supposed brass aerial contains pencil cells. In the circuit are two magnetic coils and two solenoids, and connecting the aerial and the mercury tube are six copper loops. The machine will light a bulb.

"The fact is, however, that wires from the cells carry the current from the cells almost directly to the bulb, and that is all there is to it."

Wires Lindbergh.

Hochstetter yesterday sent to Colonel Lindbergh, S. W. Stratton, of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harry F. Guggenheim, Major Thomas G. Lanphier, of Selfridge Field, and E. G. Liebold, of the Ford interests, the following telegram:

"Before further committing yourself to any statement in reference to the Hendershot motor, please communicate with the undersigned or J. C. Trees, of this city, as we have had some negotiations with this man on what appears to be from newspaper reports to have been the same thing he is now seeking to promote and which proved worthless."

Replies to the telegrams had not been received last night.

"I can't understand what Hochstetter has in mind," Hendershot said last night. "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."

Explains Wires.

Asked about the concealed wires leading from the house current to another model, Hendershot laughed and replied:

"That's a joke on Hochstetter. I suspected tampering with my model in my laboratory. I thought someone 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 with which I was working.

"At that time I told A. B. Dally, Jr., associated with Trees at that time, that I was preparing a trap for whoever was tampering with my work.

"If Hochstetter's charge of fraud is authentic, why did he wait three years to bring it up? 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."

Discussing the comment of scientists, notably that of B. Cheuneau of Paris that there isn't even enough electricity in the air to light an electric lamp, Hendershot declared:

Uses Magnetic Field.

"I don't 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. That was built by army men under orders from Major Lanphier and under my direction. I didn't even so much as wind the rotor—they built the motor—and it works! That's my answer to all critics—my motor works!"

In answer to the remark of Hochstetter that he probably had gotten all the money he expected to get from his new backers and didn't care

whether his hoax was discovered or not, Hendershot said the last money he had received had been for inspecting concrete on the Clairton road last summer, and about \$400 he had borrowed from friends, adding, "and believe me, I'm in rather straightened circumstances right now."

"You don't have to take my word," Hendershot said, "any one who is sufficiently interested can easily verify my motor by conferring with the men who built the Detroit model and operated it."

Baffles Scientists.

The fuelless motor which has come out of the "street back of the railroad" in West Elizabeth, has the scientists of America puzzled, baffled and intensely interested.

Interest is heightened by the fact that Colonel Lindbergh, who witnessed the demonstration of the motor at Detroit, flew to New York Saturday with H. K. Knight, his backer on the Paris flight, and several other business associates. Saturday night and Sunday, Colonel Lindbergh repeatedly answered persistent questions by saying that his trip "was entirely a personal matter."

While representatives of the Guggenheim Foundation for the Advancement of Aeronautics said in New York they had not heard of the motor and had no interest in it, a dispatch from Santa Barbara, Cal., quoted Harry F. Guggenheim as saying that Major Lanphier had discussed the motor with him several weeks ago. The definite statement of W. B. Stout, head of the Stout Air Lines of Detroit, in which he said he saw the motor and that it ran, also has stirred intense interest.

Blaze of Curiosity.

It is certain that the inventor and all those concerned in the demon-

12-Year Courtship Plenty, So He's Hustled to Altar

Special to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the New York World.

DES MOINES, Feb. 27.—A lady can be expected to wait only about so long, Miss Iva Jane Schumann, 35, intimated today when she appeared to obtain a license to marry J. W. Hook, 42.

According to Miss Schumann, Hook has been wasting so much time for the last 12 years that she feared he was never going to get right down to cases and propose marriage—so she made use of her leap year prerogative and hooked Hook by doing it herself. She brought him along.

stration will be in a blaze of public curiosity until the mystery is cleared—for mystery it is, to all informed opinion.

The best informed authorities on terrestrial magnetism and other scientists, when questioned today about the motor, refused to speak for publication, but without exception they insisted that if the invention has been brought to a point where it will do useful work, it embodies principles and energies absolutely unknown to the scientific world. A New York scientist and technician, formerly editor of a scientific journal of national circulation, commented as follows:

"Harrison Grew, English scientist, built a motor run by atmospheric electricity, but the energy derived from it was almost infinitesimal. To expect to develop a useful motor on this principle would be just like trying to steam up a locomotive by holding a match under the boiler. The suggestion that the motor is run by forces of terrestrial magnetism isn't worth a moment's consideration. The energies of the earth currents are too well known to make this even a remotely possible factor.

Thoroughly Sounded.

"The potential energies available from atmospheric electricity also have been thoroughly sounded. B. Chauneau of Paris, one of the foremost research workers in this field, has calculated available force from this source and his work alone is sufficient proof that whatever this new motor is, it is not driven by atmospheric electricity. Any scientist of any standing whatever will tell you that it is impossible to get enough electricity out of the air to light an electric lamp.

"I happen to know Mr. Stout and I also know his attorney, Mr. Breckenridge. I am impressed by what they say about the motor, and of course, in view of its apparent scientific impossibility, utterly baffled."