

## ***Rocket Mail Flight Ends in Fizzle And Flame at Greenwood Lake***

***In Fact, It Never Really Gets Started, for Two Gliders, With  
6,000 Post Cards and Letters, Fail to Get Into Air  
for Trip to Hewitt, N. J.***

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

GREENWOOD LAKE, N. Y., Feb. 9.—Attempts to shoot air mail across the State line here into Hewitt, N. J., in two rocket gliders carrying 6,000 postcards and letters specially printed for the event, ended in flame, fizzle and failure today. It is to be tried again next Sunday.

Officials of the Postoffice Department, representatives of the Daniel Guggenheim School of Aeronautics of New York University, G. Edward Pendray of the American Rocket Society and a crowd of more than 500 persons stood far off and watched.

Most of the observers were philatelists who expect a handsome profit from stamps when and if the gliders make their flights. The gliders were designed by a philatelist, Frido W. Kessler, head of the Rocket Products Corporation.

The first rocket was set up on the Greenwood Lake shore, near the Morningside Country Club, mounted on a catapult tilted at 35 degrees, so that its nose pointed in the general direction of Hewitt, two and one-half miles away, across the frozen lake.

In the wings and in a special compartment in the nose of the glider, which has no propeller, were stored 4,000 cards and letters. The cards bore red 50-cent stamps, the letters green 75-cent stamps. Both bore the same design, an engraving showing a plane in flight over Greenwood Lake and bearing the legend "First American Rocket Flight."

The first flight was scheduled for 2:30 P. M. Gloria Sleigh, golden-haired 6-year-old daughter of John Sleigh, a local philatelist, named the ship at 2:10 P. M., and the crowd was set back 300 yards while asbestos-clad mechanics got ready.

At 2:30 P. M. it was announced that the temperature was not quite right for proper mixture of the liquid oxygen and the hydrogen used as fuel. The crowd plodded patiently around on the snow and watched the sun above the Ramapos.

At 3:30 P. M. the second glider, with 2,000 more pieces of mail, was wheeled to the catapult. There was further fussing with the fuel box in the tail of the ship and finally, at 4:45, word spread that everything was ready. The crowd was pushed back again, a torch was applied to a fuse in the glider's tail.

There was a burst of flame. The glider shivered on the catapult but did not move. There was a fizzing, hissing sound, and then dead silence. The experimenters said the cable release on the catapult had frozen.

On the second attempt, as the sun was setting, there was more flame and hissing. The glider moved sluggishly up the catapult for a short distance, reached the end, and hung there. This time, it seemed, the mechanics had failed to release the cable before the power was spent.

The 6,000 letters and cards that were to have made the trip were put in a vault until next Sunday. They bear a Greenwood Lake cancellation stamp of Saturday and are addressed to the post office in Hewitt.

Neighborhood folk did not seem much impressed with the idea of starting the rocket glider only 400 yards from the Hewitt-Greenwood border, which is out in the lake. They pointed out that even without a rocket mail could be hurled over the State line. Some thought it could be done with the spring of the catapult alone.