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Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

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Aeronautica

B

Volume 64, Issue 11

April 4, 1990

TBM 700 receives first airworthiness certification



(photo courtesy Avion)

New concepts...

The newly certified TBM 700 has met with positive feedback from consumers who say they like the idea of a high-performance corporate aircraft.

by Joseph A. Salerno
Aeronautica Editor

One of the newest concepts in airplanes today is the Franco-American TBM 700, a cabin-class, single-engine turboprop designed jointly by Aerospatiale and Mooney (70- and 30-percent partners respectively). It is powered by a 700-shp Pratt & Whitney PT6A-64 engine which is classified as a 'mature engine' and is capable of 1,485 thermodynamic horsepower. The wing for the plane was

designed from a 'clean sheet of paper' and the overall design of the plane is remarkably streamlined, with speed capability in excess of 300 knots. As a result of the engine being placed far forward of the cabin area, there is very little if any noise from the engine and no engine vibration.

Certification

The TBM 700 has finally cleared its first real regulatory hurdle of basic aircraft certification from the French civil aviation authority DGAC, after four years of development

and flight testing.

"Next to its first flight, this is the second most important milestone in the evolution of the airplane," says Pierre Gautier, chairman of TBM s.a. supervisory board.

Says Claude Lelaie, director of TBM700 design and development, the ruling issue on Jan. 31, 1990, "guarantees production of the airplane and validates everything about the TBM's basic design and performance capabilities. Ninety percent of what's left in the certification process in the United States and other countries is mostly paperwork."

It is expected that basic FAA certification up through FAR 23 Amendment 33 will be received, and then the TBM will undergo supplemental certification for IFR operations and icing conditions. Complete certification is expected by mid-1990 and deliveries are scheduled to begin in July.

Interest in the concept of a high-performance personal/corporate aircraft with a single turboprop engine has continued to grow since the introduction of the TBM 700 at the 1987 Paris Air Show. To date approximately 45 orders and 180 options have been placed for the aircraft.

Prototypes

The TBM 700 has a total of three prototypes in the air with the successful first flight of prototype number three on Oct. 11, 1989.

According to Alain Aubry, president of TBM s.a. executive board, multiple prototypes provide test beds for the ongoing certification process while allowing one

prototype to serve as a demonstrator for the marketing effort. Prototype number one, which made its maiden flight in July 1988, has accumulated more than 363 flight hours in 287 flights. Number two, which made its first flight in August 1989, has flown 104 hours in 91 flights. Since October, prototype number three has accumulated 72 hours in 69 flights. Number three also is scheduled to begin a six-week demonstration tour of the United States.

Demo tour

Having begun last March, the North American demonstration tour of TBM prototype number three is intended to be more than a formal unveiling for potential North American buyers.

Another purpose of the tour is to test market the airplane, particularly the interior, so that input from the North American flying community can be considered and incorporated into the final production model. To test its heating and cooling systems, the tour will also expose the airplane to a wider variety of environmental conditions and temperatures.

Claude Lelaie

Ninety percent of what's left in the certification process in the United States and other countries is mostly paperwork.

Boeing laminar flow research continues

by Joseph A. Salerno
Aeronautica Editor

The latest phase of ongoing research into a technology that could sharply improve aerodynamic efficiency of future aircraft is a series of recent wind-tunnel tests at Boeing Commercial Airplane Group. The tests have set the stage for in-flight trials expected to start within two months.

The research is aimed at preventing much of the turbulence, which increases skin-friction drag and fuel consumption, that occurs naturally in flight on the boundary layer of air — the thin layer immediately next to the surface of a wing or other parts of the airframe.

It was shown by early research that careful shaping of the wing could achieve some laminar flow, but this approach, known as natural laminar flow, works only under rather

restricted conditions. A more powerful technique, called laminar flow control, extracts a small amount of the boundary layer air through a porous or slotted wing skin by means of a suction system.

Laminar flow control has limitations, too, as the holes or slots along major portions of the wing surface could compromise structural soundness, but Boeing has met this challenge by developing and patenting a new variation known as hybrid laminar flow control (HLFC), which limits the air extraction system to just the leading edge, followed by a run of natural laminar flow.

The HLFC concept was tested in

late 1989 on a simulated section of wing during more than 300 hours in a Boeing wind tunnel, whose leading edge was fitted with a specially fabricated skin made of titanium perforated with two million tiny holes drilled by an electron beam and spaced 1/20 of an inch (0.127) apart.

Air over the leading edge was extracted through the holes into a series of long metal channels or flutes bonded to the reverse side of the titanium skin. An ejector pump created a gentle suction in the flutes, drawing in just enough air to maintain a laminar flow on the leading edge.

During the wind-tunnel tests, Boeing researchers used a sensitive instrumentation on the wing surface to

measure the amount of laminar flow obtained, and results confirmed that careful design of the wing had obtained laminar flow for up to six feet (1.83 m) beyond the perforated leading edge. This combination of active control by suction followed by a run of natural laminar flow is the basis of HLFC.

It is believed by Boeing's researchers that this concept holds potential for reducing fuel consumption of an airplane by up to 10 percent or even more, depending on length of light and extent of HLFC application on the airframe.

Beginning in the second quarter of this year, flight testing of the HLFC concept will be conducted under a cooperative program which is jointly funded by Boeing, NASA, and the U.S. Air Force, and will be done on a Boeing 757 jetliner. It will be the first in-flight evaluation of HLFC.

...this concept holds potential for reducing fuel consumption of an airplane by up to 10 percent...



(photo courtesy Boeing)

Flowing smoothly...

developers at the Boeing wind tunnel facility test a laminar flow wing construction which has met with success.



(photo courtesy General Vought)

A new suit...

The new Chance-Vought YA-7F, a derivative of the Corsair II, employs new wing structures, a lengthened fuselage and a new powerplant.

Vought releases the YA-7F close air support aircraft

by Ron Young
Aeronautica Writer

The YA-7F, a re-engined and modernized Air National Guard A-7D, has successfully begun its flight test program.

The YA-7F is an upgraded A-7D Corsair II designed to provide a unique combination of responsiveness, lethality, and survivability. The airframe modification program is one of the most extensive upgrades ever done on an in-service aircraft.

The aircraft is CTV's direct response to a U.S. Air Force request for an interim aircraft to fill the Close Air Support/Battlefield Air Interdiction (CAS/BAD) requirement.

CAS/BAD involves close air support of friendly ground troops engaged in combat with the enemy on the front lines and air strikes deep into enemy territory. It is an integral part of the way the U.S. Army intends to fight the next war — currently referred

to in military doctrine as the "Air Land Battle."

Airframe enhancements

Modifications to the A-7 include both wing and fuselage alterations. Externally, the most obvious change is fuselage length. Plugs of 18 inches aft and 29.5 inches forward of the wing provide additional space for both fuel and avionics in addition to redistributing the proper weight and balance.

Strakes, lift dump spoilers, and trailing edge flap augmenters are included into the new wing design and aid in a reduction of both landing approach and touchdown speeds. A 20 percent decrease in landing ground roll also benefits from the new wing design.

The YA-7F also incorporates a new vertical tail fin cap for additional stability during high angles of attack.

Engine configuration

see Vought, page B9

NASA develops reconfiguration system

by Joseph A. Salerno
Aeronautica Editor

NASA research pilots have met with success during testing of a flight control system that detects in-flight failures and automatically reconfigures an aircraft's ailerons, rudders, and elevators, allowing pilots to continue their missions or land safely.

The first system of its type in the aerospace industry, the self-repairing flight control system has been demonstrated on NASA's F-15 Highly Integrated Digital Electronic Control research aircraft based at Ames-Dryden Flight Research Facility, Edwards, California.

The primary purpose of the system is to detect damaged flight control components and adjust undamaged flight surfaces so the pilot can maintain good aircraft response, and when a failure is sensed, the system will select the best pre-computed solution from a set of control laws loaded into the F-15's computer. The system also can constantly monitor subsystems throughout the aircraft to diagnose and identify failures that are hard to repeat and isolate during post-flight maintenance.

"This is very significant and far reaching development in aviation," said James F. Stewart, project manager of the F-15 research program at Ames-Dryden. "Once it is fully developed and operational, the self-repairing flight control concept could greatly increase tactical aircraft survivability in combat and enhance safety during training missions. It also has the potential for adaptation to civil aircraft, enhancing aircraft and passenger safety."

NASA research pilot James Smolka, flying at Mach 0.7 on the initial self-repairing system demonstration flight, purposely locked the F-15's right horizontal stabilator to represent a failure of hydraulic or electronic systems, whereupon the self-repairing system instantly reconfigured the remaining stabilator, ailerons, and rudder to establish aircraft pitch and roll control with the right stabilator remaining in the "failed" state.

The system correctly identified the "damage"

and reset the other flying surfaces to restore normal controlled flight during a battle damage scenario in which control effectiveness of the right stabilator was changed to simulate flight with 80 percent of the span missing.

The pilot receives new flight limits, such as reduced speed or maneuvering loads that the failure or battle damage may impose, during self-repairing system activation, when a preprogrammed visual warning appears on the cockpit heads up display that explains the type of system failure.

The maintenance diagnostic capability of the self-repairing system was demonstrated by five types of failures programmed into the F-15 research aircraft's flight computer, each selectable by the pilot and set to activate only under specified maneuver conditions. The system was able to identify all five intermittent electrical, mechanical, and hydraulic faults, and after the F-15 aircraft returned to Ames-Dryden, the failure data and appropriate repair instructions were displayed on a ground station screen that would

have facilitated repair work to return the plane to 100 percent flight status.

Before the technology is used in future aircraft designs or retrofitted on existing aircraft, an advanced self-repairing system is expected to be developed and thoroughly tested. The operational envelope of such an advanced system may include landing tasks, supersonic speeds, and flight in automatic terrain-avoidance and terrain following modes.

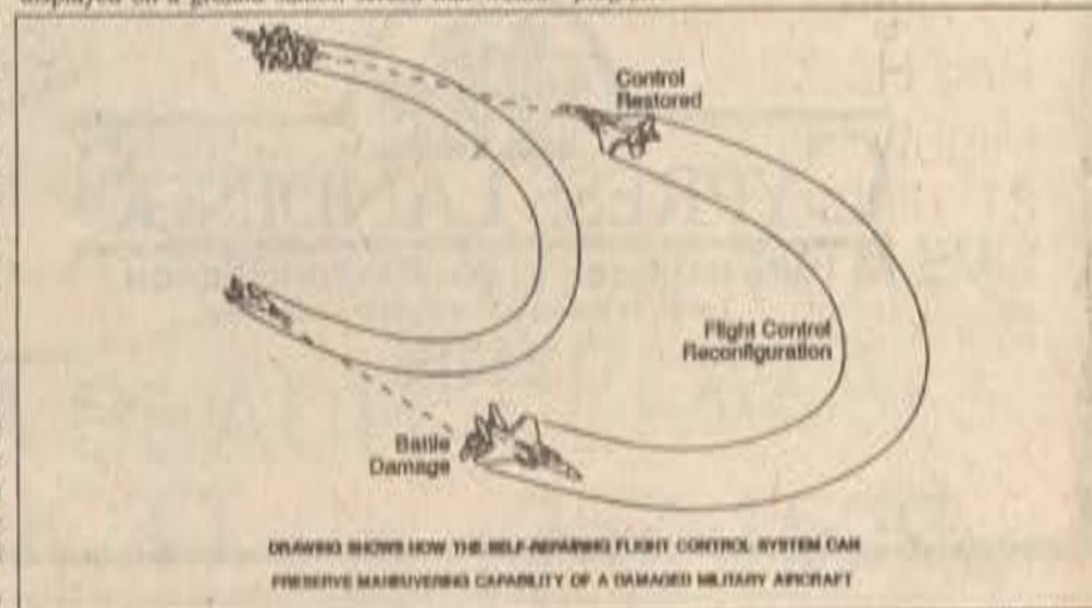
Feasibility studies on the system began in 1984 at the Air Force's Flight Dynamics Laboratory, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Ground-based and in-flight simulators verified the data before development of the system demonstrated on NASA's F-15 research aircraft.

Tom McMurtry, chief of Ames-Dryden's Aircraft Operations Division and Ames-Dryden chief test pilot Bill Dana are other NASA pilots taking part in the system development.

McDonnell Aircraft Co., St. Louis, and General Electric's Aircraft Control Division, Binghamton, N.Y., developed the self-repairing system under contract to NASA's Ames-Dryden facility. The U.S. Air Force Wright Research and Development Center, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, sponsors the program.

"This is a very significant and far reaching development in aviation..."

James F. Stewart



DRAWING SHOWS HOW THE SELF-REPAIRING FLIGHT CONTROL SYSTEM CAN PRESERVE MANEUVERING CAPABILITY OF A DAMAGED MILITARY AIRCRAFT



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Excited...
Kathryn Sullivan is fully suited up during training procedures for her next flight aboard *Discovery*. Although no EVAs are planned, the crew practiced several maneuvers should they become necessary in the deployment of Hubble.

Hubble launch draws near

Lift off to be attempted two days earlier after readiness review

by Jose L. Vazquez-Delgado
Space Technology Writer

At the conclusion of last week's flight readiness review, NASA set April 10 as the target date for the launching of the Hubble Space Telescope.

The STS-31 launch window opens at 8:45 a.m. and closes at 11:15 a.m. Duration of the mission is five days, one hour, and 15 minutes and *Discovery* will be returning to Edwards AFB in California.

The original launch date for this mission was April 12, but because workers were ahead of schedule, the date was moved up by two days.

During this mission the shuttle will fly a 320 mile high orbit being the highest orbit flown in the shuttle program. NASA hasn't flown any spacecraft that high since the Apollo moon missions back in the late 60's and early 70's.

While the astronauts are orbiting the Earth at a speed of 18,000 mph, they will conduct medical research after the Hubble deployment is accomplished. The Hubble Space Telescope will be released during the second day of the mission. The orbiter will

then follow Hubble for two days while all systems onboard the telescope are checked out by ground controllers.

In the eventuality of any malfunction, the astronauts will grapple the satellite with the remote manipulator arm and stow it back in the cargo bay for return to Earth. If kept in orbit, a two to four month systems check will be conducted before the telescope is declared operational and any pictures are taken.

Astronauts McCandless and Sullivan, who have been space walk training for this mission for the last five years, will be able to perform a contingency space walk if the need arises.

The telescope has grapple fixtures and maintenance panels with easy accessibility for in orbit shuttle repairs.

The five man crew, Shriver, Bolden, Hawley, McCandless, and Sullivan, are all prepared for America's most impressive scientific payload of this decade. The Hubble Space Telescope will be the most exciting payload ever to be deployed from the shuttle and the first of NASA's four great observatories to be launched this year.

...the shuttle will fly a 320 mile high orbit...NASA hasn't flown any spacecraft that high since the Apollo moon missions...

Space walk tests station systems



Free flying...
Bruce McCandless performed the first free flight EVA in 1984. EVAs have not been a feature of the past several missions, but many are planned on upcoming flights to test the systems for space station *Freedom*.

by Michael Fried
Space Technology Reporter

The last time the U.S. conducted a space walk was in 1985, and for that reason NASA plans another in November.

It's been five years since there has been an EVA (Extra Vehicular Activity) and the first opening for such a mission will be this November. After the Gamma Ray Observatory is released, the cargo bay will be empty, allowing NASA to brush up on their EVA techniques.

The plan is to test out future space station equipment. NASA will be relying on EVAs to construct and maintain the station, which NASA has little experience doing.

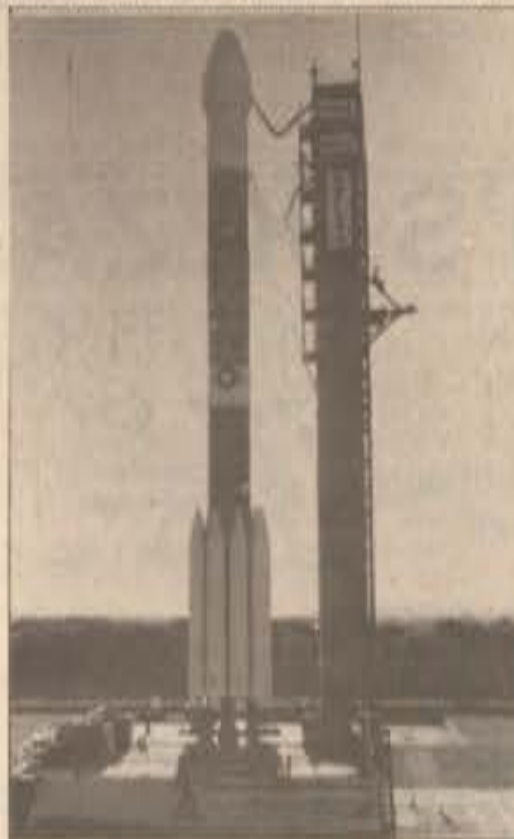
The use of carts will be used to accelerate astronauts the length of the beams instead of the tedious hand over hand method currently being used. If the astronaut workload can be decreased, the endurance and productivity will improve.

For many ground controllers, the EVA will be a new experience due to a changing workforce. For NASA, it's time to practice its techniques.

Astronauts Jerry Ross and Jay Apt will perform the space walk. During the walk the astronauts will test three different carts designed to slide along beams. The total cost of the equipment is \$5 million which can all be directly applied to the space station.

The spacewalk will be looked at closely by station designers as the construction phase of flight hardware is slowly approaching. Designers are not yet certain on whether or not to depend on robotics or EVAs for construction and maintenance of the space station *Freedom*.

STS-31 may entail an EVA if the deployment of Hubble needs assistance.



Monday?..
If *Discovery's* launch is not attempted Tuesday, a McDonnell Douglas Delta II rocket is scheduled to lift off from Cape Canaveral Monday at 6:28 p.m.. The rocket launch will occur Thursday at 6:29 p.m. if STS-31 lifts off as planned.

Free-flight testing of Pegasus rocket begins today

by Derrick Seys
Space Technology Editor

The Pegasus rocket may surpass a testing milestone today by being released from a B-52 aircraft over the Pacific Ocean.

According to Don Haley of NASA's Dryden Flight Research Facility Edwards, Calif, the release will occur approximately 62 miles southwest of Monterey, California shortly after 3:00 p.m. EDT.

The flight plan calls for the B-52 to depart from Edwards Air Force Base at 11:00 a.m. PDT Wednesday with the streamlined Pegasus rocket under its wing. Inflight tests will be conducted during the one hour climb to 45,000 feet.

This test will be the first release of an inert vehicle and be a dress rehearsal for upcoming tests.

After successful drop tests of the inert vehicle, an active rocket will be tested. These flights will require the first-stage motor to fire five seconds after Pegasus is dropped from the B-52 pylon. In an actual mission, two more stages will carry the payload into orbital altitude.

The three-stage Pegasus rocket is designed to place small one-ton satellites into space from an airborne B-52. The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is the first customer of the small rocket.

Last February, the final captured test occurred and no problems arose. This allowed Orbital Sciences Corporation, builder of the vehicle along with Hercules Corp., to proceed with free-flight tests.

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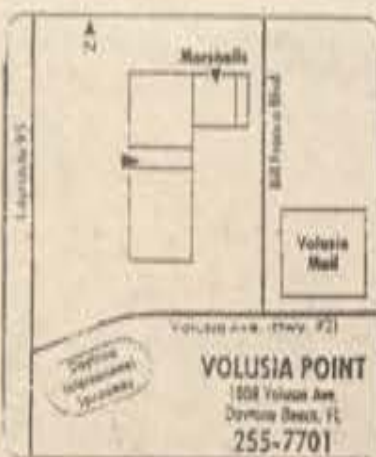
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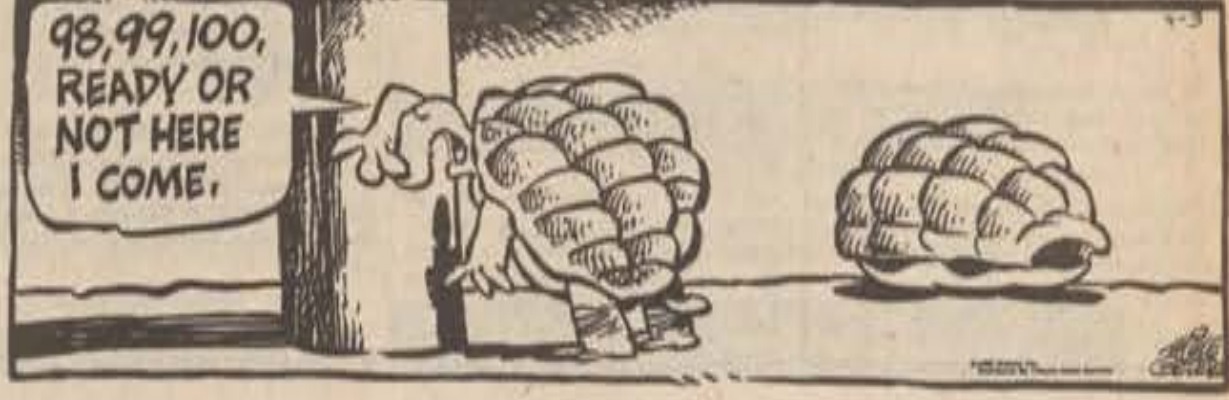
Far Side

by Gary Larson



Mother Goose and Grimm

by Mike Peters



Cafeteria

(continued from page A2)

limit. As I hand the cashier my card, she starts shaking her head and ticking off the violations I have committed: I have obtained five side orders. Bacon on the cheeseburger is considered a side order.

I have cucumbers on my salad. A side salad may only consist of lettuce, croutons, and bacon bits.

I have a small cup of frozen yogurt. I can only purchase ice cream.

I have two juices. Only one small drink is allowed when purchasing juices.

Where did all these rules and regulations come from? Now I have to pay the difference and apologize to all the students waiting impatiently behind me.

Morrison's Cafeteria should tone down their regulations. The system is not bad, it just needs to be revised. How can bacon on a cheeseburger compare with french fries as a side order?

As the sign indicates, two small drinks should mean two small drinks of anything. And most of all, a student should be able to purchase anything in the cafeteria, like the frozen yogurt. I predict that a simpler system would be less stressful for both the students and cashiers.

Teresa Powell
Box H222

Jude

(continued from page)

great framework for the music.

Side one starts out with "Hallowed Ground," a heartfelt song with soul. "Baby It's Tonight," a pop influenced song pulls second position. A strong '70s tint is present here.

Side two proves to be the better of the two sides with more expansive selections of music. "Stranger to Myself" powers out right from the start with a heavy bass line setting the framework.

A song with great harmonies, most prominent being the opening one, is "This Time it's Us." This one has some good soul to it.

"Heart of Blues," a song inspired by blues master Robert Pete Williams, proves to be the best track on the

album. Jude pulls no punches in this one, ripping out some excellent blues riffs.

Though *A View From 3rd Street* is deeply personal, Jude succeeds in making music that anyone can comprehend. "If you tell a true story from your heart," he says, "people will know what you mean."

As for life on the left coast, the mid-westerner says with a laugh, "I've learned to accept Los Angeles, as long as I stay on the unfashionable east side."

And as for the apartment on 3rd Street, Jude Cole has moved onward and upward.

With the simplicity of truth, he says, "It served a purpose."

Vought

(continued from page B1)

The aft section of the Corsair II has been reconfigured to accept either the Pratt & Whitney F100-PW-200 or the General Electric F110 engine and fitted with a new engine removal door and tail cone. With the new more powerful engines, the aircraft has nearly doubled its thrust capability - nearly 26,000 lbs. In addition, acceleration has increased five fold.

The first level supersonic flight of an A-7 occurred on Jan. 16 on test flight No. 7, when YA-7F No. 1 accelerated from .85 Mach to 1.04 Mach.

Ordnance
Like the A-7d, YA-7F can carry payloads of up to 17,300 lbs. of virtually any munition in the current Air

Force inventory. This is accommodated on the aircraft's six wing- and two fuselage-mounted pylons.

The internal 20 mm gun with 1000 round ammunition capacity and two AIM-9 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles are retained.

Testing
A 10 month flight test program was initiated that will be used to demonstrate the aircraft's enhanced capabilities. First flight occurred on Nov. 29, 1989 at CTV facilities in Dallas, Texas and has since progressed to Edwards AFB, California. Aircraft No. 2 is scheduled to complete engine run and taxi tests and is to progress to first flight sometime in early April.

Skyfest

(continued from page 1)

Patty is currently the top ranked female performer in the United States. This second day also saw another new attraction, that of a USAF front line F-16 performing dog-fighting maneuvers. The previous days showings made second appearances this day also.

Following the show, and early Monday morning, crowds of people lined the fence around DAB to witness the departures of the static displayed aircraft, and it proved to be almost better than the actual airshow.

Every departing F-16 made fly-bys at speeds only a few knots under mach and with full afterburner. Not to be outdone, the F-4 Phantoms made their departures with just

as much spirit. At one point, an F-4 and an F-16 made high speed passes chasing each other around the airport. For a minute it seemed that they would break Mach.

The most spectacular departure was made by the US Navy F-14 Tomcat, which came closest to breaking Mach speed than any other aircraft at the show, reaching speeds right on the threshold of the speed of sound.

A little known fact is that three of the Thunderbirds who performed were Embry-Riddle graduates. Riddle graduates also flew in one of the static EA-6Bs, one of the A-10s, and were members of the C-5 Galaxy crew, and the Air National Guard F-16 crew.

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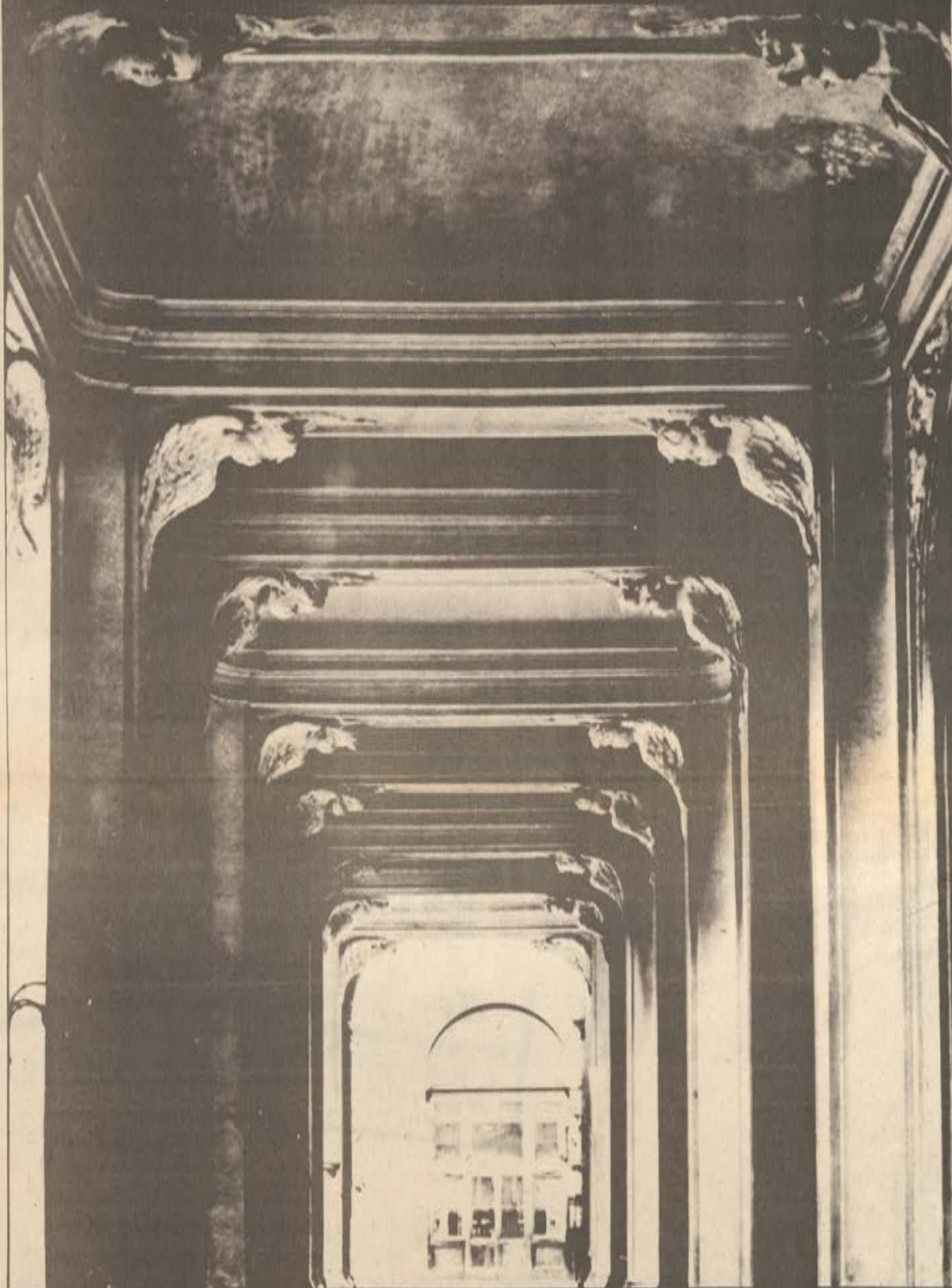
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