

PLANES IN THE NEWS

The name Comet may soon dominate airline news again. Metal fatigue problems understood, the Comet 3 will go into service profiting by the Farnborough tests. Then, says famous test-pilot Cunningham.... Perhaps the nearest thing yet to airliner perfection.

30 The Bell aircraft is another experiment in vertical take-off. At Fort Worth, Texas, newsreels took first pictures of the Convertiplane. The big rotors will take her straight up, then pivot to ordinary propeller position, to give forward flight at nearly 200 m.p.h. The plane is a troop-carrier, holding many more than a helicopter and flying much faster. The time may not be far off when commercial airliners will use <sup>the same</sup> ~~the~~ idea.

Blindfolded, <sup>under</sup> ~~with~~ police supervision at Miami a stage <sup>artist</sup> ~~performer~~ calling himself a mentalist performed a stunt to get publicity for <sup>the</sup> ~~his~~ act. He insisted the blindfolding be 100% and then <sup>sealed</sup> ~~the~~ locked hood <sup>and</sup> ~~he~~ undertook to fly a seaplane. Nobody volunteered to be a passenger.

Blindfold take-offs have been done before. Landing's a very different matter. But not, apparently, to a mentalist, this one claiming what he calls extra-sensory perception, ~~and~~ <sup>P</sup> pilots among the onlookers said he must want quite a lot of it for this all-but impossible feat - or else he had a trick or two concealed in the fuselage.

Feb. 11, 1955

Music: Prelude (The Caddy) PN930  
Lawson  
Forster  
Non  
Issue #52

UNUSUAL STUNT: HE FLIES A PLANE BLINDFOLDED

Headed for the "wild, blue yonder" the hard way — blindfolded 'Count' Alessandro di Cagliostro. In Miami they're making sure that the self-styled commercial pilot, who calls himself a "mentalist," is so completely sealed-in, that there will be no hoodwinking when he gets behind the controls of a seaplane. And away we go over Biscayne Bay.

How does he do it? Extra-sensory-perception, says the pilot. Mental telepathy. After 13 minutes aloft, as pretty a landing as you'd find, with or without vision. Frankly admitting this is a publicity stunt to make theatrical bookers aware of his ability as a mentalist, Cagliostro has still achieved a trick so unusual, that even veteran stunt-pilots are puzzled.