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The supersonic age looks ahead. At Muroc, California, Captain Charles Yeager prepares to take the X-1 into the air under its own power. On each of its many previous faster-than-sound flights the rocket ship has been carried aloft by superforts. Air force cameras record the takeoff. With all four rocket motors wide open the world's fastest plane climbs at the incredible rate of nearly three miles a minute -- up.

The navy's candidate for aviation records is the Gorgon Fourth -- a ram-jet robot. A Black Widow fighter carries it aloft over Point Mugu, California. The flying stovepipe, whose momentum comes from the force of its exhaust gases, is designed for supersonic speeds. Navy films show the start of a sub-sonic flight which sets a record of ten minutes aloft under its own power.

But the military have no exclusive hold on air records. At Honolulu, wearing the good-luck-suit in which he flew around the world, Captain Bill Oden heads his single-engined Beechcraft Bonanza into the night. His destination is New York, five thousand miles away. Twenty-two hours later, his gas out by headwinds, he's forced down at Oakland, California. But it's still a world's ~~marking~~ record for a single engined plane! Over twenty-three hundred miles nonstop!