

NEWS FROM U.S.A.

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New York's Idlewild Airport protects air passengers from getting soaked by a new loading deck - the first of its kind in the world. The plane's wheels are moved onto plates in sunken tracks and locked in place. The plates are set in motion, and steadily even giant stratocruisers are drawn towards the terminal buildings.

At the end of the tracks, the plane's doors are flush against the loading and unloading deck. So off step passengers and crew with no more than a few drops of rain to spoil their arrival. The new gadget may soon become commonplace at American airports.

Into New York come the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. Travelling with them on board the liner United States are their pug dogs "Treater" and "Disraeli". The Duke and Duchess are spending Christmas in America. From New York we move to California for a glimpse of a home of the future. Glass panels separate the stone steps that make the roof; pity the poor window cleaner.

To climb up the wall is easy enough for the lady of the household. Glass encircles the chimney which stands like a tent-pole in the middle of the house.

A more than cosy fire - and cosy enough seats, though in fact the frames are made of concrete and help to hold the roof up. Another novel feature are the beds, which look like slices of cake - sponge cake in fact, for the mattresses are of eight inch thick foam rubber. When bed-time comes around, it's a simple matter to pull the wall into place and cut the bedroom off from the rest of California's revolutionary round house.
