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Stakes ride in the billions

French Airbus vs. Boeing

United Press International
PARIS — When three Americans landed on French soil in August to complete the first trans-Atlantic balloon crossing in history, the French went wild.

Ben Abruzzo, Maxie Anderson and Larry Newman drew crowds

wherever they went during their brief stay in France. Pictures of them and their balloon were splashed on front pages and magazine covers. The French awarded each of them the Aeronautics Medal, the Youth and Sports medal and the Grand Medal of the City of Paris.

Now however, it is back to aviation business as usual between

France and the United States — which means back to yet another bitter competition with billions of dollars at stake, this time in the short-range passenger jet market with the Franco-German A310 Airbus pitted against the Boeing 757 and 767.

Four years ago, it was the General Dynamics F16 vs. the Dassault Mirage F1 for the sale of 348 jet fighters to Norway, Denmark, Belgium and the Netherlands for \$2 billion. With potential orders anticipated up to as much as \$10 billion, it was the "arms deal of the century." The Americans won, flaps down.

Last year, it was the Concorde and French efforts to win landing rights for the supersonic jetliner in New York. The British, co-builders of the Concorde, fidgeted nervously while the French all but accused the Americans of trying to torpedo the Concorde, not because it was noisy, but because the United States had nothing to match it, the U.S. Congress having scuttled plans for an SST (supersonic transport) years before.

The French won the battle, although they may have lost the war. For the Concorde has proved to be a financial albatross for the French and their British partners.

The new battle involves the A310 Airbus and the Boeing 757 plus its latter and smaller version, the Boeing 767.

The A310 Airbus is to be manufactured by Airbus Industrie, a predominantly French and West German consortium with Spanish minority participation. Forthcoming production of the 757 was announced by Boeing a few days after Airbus Industrie's decision to launch the A310.

According to industry analysts, the non-communist world will need 2,000 to 3,000 such 180 to 200-seat medium-range planes in the coming years, as domestic airlines keep expanding. With each such jetliner costing approximately \$25 million to \$30 million, the stakes are in the tens of billions of dollars.

France, the moving spirit behind Airbus Industrie, does not expect the European consortium to be able to win more than one third of the orders at best.



Hotdogs could take unique turn-o-round

United Press International
DENVER — The man who brought the world perfumed horse manure and fiberglass burial vaults says he is now ready to bring America the round hot dog.

Darwin Hiddleston, 61, said the inspiration for the circular hot dog came to him 10 years ago in a dream resulting from a bad experience at a California drive-in movie with chili dog stains.

"The kids were hollering for chili dogs. Then it just seemed there was chili over us, the kids, the upholstery. And it squirted all over my new white Palm Beach suit," Hiddleston said. "There must be a better idea."

The better idea was the doughnut-shaped hot dog, known as the "Rock-O" in honor of Hiddleston's nickname. It fits on a hamburger bun and has a hole in the middle for sauerkraut, chili, cheese or other trimmings.

At the time of the dream, patent attorneys told Hiddleston and his wife, Sally, the time for round hot dogs had not yet come.

"Think up a better hot dog and you're immediately branded as some kind of nut," he said. But last spring, Hiddleston resigned as chief embalmer at Olinger's Mortuary to devote himself to promoting Rock-Os.

He has designed an adaptor to convert vertical hot dogs into circular hot dogs and has begun negotiations for supermarket sales as well as franchise operations.

"With good promotion, schoolkids' contest for the best Rock-O stuffing and so on, we could franchise this for \$250,000 or \$300,000 in each and every state," he said.

Hiddleston's other inventions — the perfumed horse manure and fiberglass burial vaults — had mixed reviews. He made \$100,000 from Thoroughbred Perfumed Horse Manure, but bombed out on the caskets.

On Dasher, on Prancer, on 'Oops!'

United Press International
BIGLERVILLE, Pa. — Ed Gotwalt, true showman that he is, wanted to make a lot of children happy this year by arriving at Santa Claus in an unconventional way — in a hot air balloon.

Instead he ended up stuck in a tree about 50 feet above the ground in full costume and beard.

Gotwalt was stranded for more than two hours Sunday on top of the trees after the balloon got snagged on branches and deflated.

Gotwalt, 42, had hired balloonist Jeff Dull, 23, and took off shortly before noon from rural Walnut Bottom, about 18 miles west of Carlisle.

"We were flying over the mountain range toward my store and hit a downdraft (that) sucked the balloon down, actually, and we crashed into the trees," Gotwalt said.

A plane passing overhead saw the deflated balloon and notified authorities.

Using a complicated system of ropes, ladders and pulleys, a state police rescue crew secured Gotwalt and Dull and lowered them to the ground.

"I ho, ho, hoed all the way down. I really did," Gotwalt said.

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THURSDAY EVENING SPECIAL
Italian Candle Light Spaghetti Dinner SERVED WITH SPICED MEAT BALLS AND SAUCE Parmesan Cheese - Tossed Green Salad Choice of Salad Dressing - Hot Garlic Bread Tea or Coffee

<p>FRIDAY EVENING SPECIAL BREADED FISH FILET w/TARTAR SAUCE Cole Slaw Hush Puppies Choice of one vegetable Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Tea or Coffee</p>	<p>SATURDAY NOON and EVENING SPECIAL Chicken & Dumplings Tossed Salad Choice of one vegetable Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Tea or Coffee</p>	<p>SUNDAY SPECIAL NOON and EVENING ROAST TURKEY DINNER Served with Cranberry Sauce Cornbread Dressing Roll or Corn Bread - Butter - Coffee or Tea. Giblet Gravy And your choice of any One vegetable</p>
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"Quality First"

Singles like home-buying

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Young, unmarried men and women increasingly are buying houses to prove to their employers they are stable and reliable, a mortgage insurance company president says.

Singles have moved so decidedly into the housing market, said Jackson W. Goss, president of Tiger Investors Mortgage Insurance Co. of Boston, that he predicts they will

make up 20 percent of all home purchasers during the next two years. "We predict that approximately one out of every five homes sold in 1979 and 1980 will be purchased by singles," Goss said. "This is quite a development when one remembers that 10 years ago singles represented less than 4 percent of the market and that five years ago the same group counted for one of every 18 buyers," he added.

A new survey of single persons the 24 to 29 age bracket indicates that purchasing a home was the No. 1 priority on their must-have list, Goss said.

Highlights of the survey: —Young singles said owning home indicated to their peers, employers and business associates credible picture of stability. This was particularly important in convincing employers that singles are stable people.

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