

# Model rocket blasts mean summer has finally arrived

The rocket's red glare was observed by a gathering of 35 some-odd kids and adults on the McKim farm just north of Sanford last Saturday as Dave and Laurie held their annual solstice party.

The get-together of life-long friends and recent acquaintances invariably includes the propulsion into the vast blue sky of a miniature rocket or two to signal the long-awaited coming of summer. And as always, it was a riveting spectacle for guests ranging in age from two to 50 as these homemade babies darted skyward.

According to Dave and his partner in rocket science John Trainor, the mini-projectiles, which measure in at around a foot and a half and three feet respectively, were designed to be sent into the blue with a gentle jolt from one of those batteries kept on hand by home hobbyists for their various experiments. But Dave and John, whose innovative

adventures date back to when they would successfully parachute hamsters off bridges in padded plastic containers as kids, were not satisfied seeing their handwork given such a modest sendoff. Consequently, they created a much more exhilarating blast off by hooking the rockets up to a full-sized car battery. Now that's thrust! Those of us who had never witnessed the aerial display stood wide-eyed in anticipation as the cable was touched to the battery of Dave's old Buick, activating the first igniter. The rocket took off like a patriot missile and within a few seconds had gone far beyond the limits of my limited optical prescription. But sudden-

ly a puff appeared some several hundred yards above, pinpointing the location of the craft. This, it was told later, was accomplished by pouring a "charge" of baby powder into the nose cone, which is designed to pop off when the rocket is just about to begin its descent earthward. At first I was given to a slight attack of panic as the narrow red cylindrical form appeared to be about to plummet towards the assembled throng with all the speed gravity could help it muster.

But of course, Dave and John had thought of that angle as well. A small parachute unloaded itself from within the unattached nose cone and set the rocket sailing softly downward. The



From Where I Live

Bruce Stapley

contraption was blown by the wind towards a nearby bush and when it finally touched down, the kids were sent like hunting dogs in pursuit.

The rocket was brought back and prepared for another lift off, after which the excitement level was upped a notch by bringing out the second, larger model. After a few last minute adjustments, it too was jump started heavenward, returning gracefully to the long grass next to Dave and Laurie's rustic country home.

As the sun finally began its own colorful decline, Dave brought out the fireworks left over from the Victoria Day weekend. But by that time, our two-year-old son Drew had reached his limit and started to fade fast after an afternoon of riding around in little Lucas McKim's fleet of climb-aboard construction vehicles and watching rockets take off.

We drove down the long driveway as the Roman candles and other assorted pyrotechnical devices began to burst forth in their assorted colors behind us. Meanwhile, we were treated to a spectacle of our own as thousands of fireflies set off their luminescent charges on either side of the car when we headed down the road. All in all, I think we did justice to the 1995 summer solstice last Saturday.

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2. Batman Forever	★★★	PG-13	Action	Much	Mild	Mild
3. Congo	★★	PG-13	Adventure	Much	Much	None
4. Bridges of Madison	★★★	PG-13	Romance	None	Some	Some
5. Casper	★★	PG	Family	Mild	Mild	None
6. Braveheart	★★★	R	Adventure	Lots	Much	Some
7. Die Hard with Vengeance	★★	R	Action	Lot	Lots	Some
8. Crimson Tide	★★★	R	Thriller	Much	Lots	None
9. Forget Paris	★★	PG-13	RomCom	None	Some	Mild
10. While You Were Sleeping	★★★	PG	RomCom	None	Some	Mild

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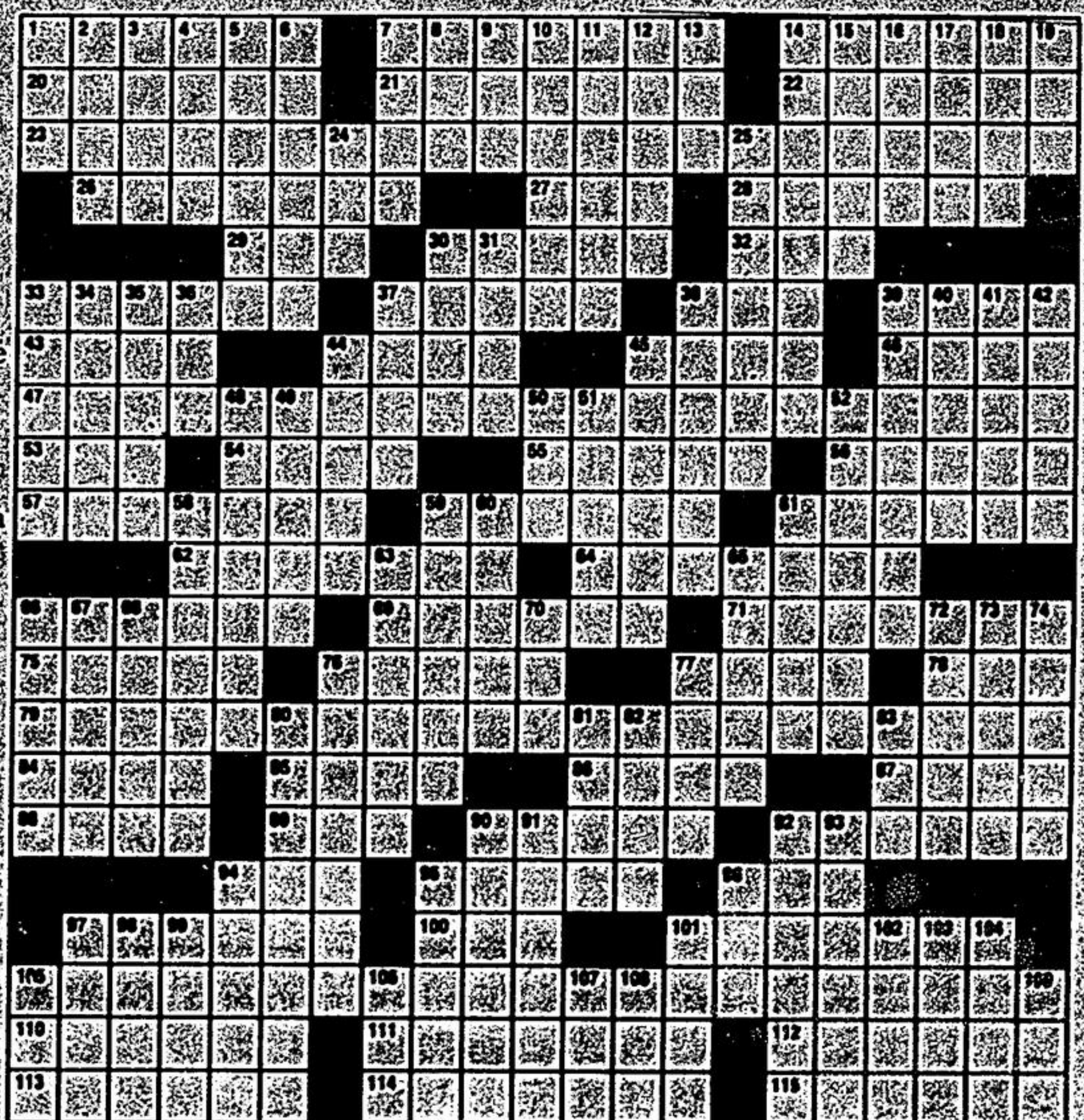
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## EPITAPH FOR AN INVENTOR

BY FRANCES HANSEN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- |                                 |                                    |  |                                 |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                   | 54 Pumped-up body                  | 101 Move                               | 25 Tub's problem                |
| 1 Check                         | 55 Rough, as a road                | 105 End of the epitaph                 | 30 Teed off                     |
| 7 Fast time                     | 56 Simon and Diamond               | 110 Less fleshy                        | 31 Novelist Seton               |
| 14 Baked desserts               | 57 Stare at                        | 111 Regrouping tactic                  | 33 "Long time"                  |
| 20 Put through a strainer       | 59 Beaut                           | 112 1992 Wimbledon winner              | 34 Adhesive                     |
| 21 It's much (thanked in March) | 61 Ally of St. Elmo's Fire         | 113 Takes it easy                      | 35 Paris's Musee de             |
| 22 Jinx                         | 62 Sites for bookcases             | 114 Computer memory                    | 36 Jewish                       |
| 23 Start of the epitaph         | 64 Having chairs maybe             | 115 Hardy novel locale, usually        | 37 The "M" in M-1 rifle         |
| 26 Seventh-inning ritual        | 66 Skullcap                        | <b>DOWN</b>                            | 38 Encouraged, in a way         |
| 27 Type of whale                | 69 How to draw an egg              | 1 Kabibble of Kay Kyser's band         | 39 Tries again to make rain     |
| 28 These can be lucky           | 71 Behan's Boy                     | 2 Architect van der Rohe               | 40 "Dallas" miss                |
| 29 Overly                       | 75 Violinist Mischa                | 3 Natty                                | 41 as the hills                 |
| 30 One with a pitchfork         | 76 Connaught county seal           | 4 At all                               | 42 Sucker                       |
| 32 Nevada town                  | 77 Japanese sandal                 | 5 Kind of key                          | 44 Food wrapping, informally    |
| 33 Start of a well-known hymn   | 78 Coded matter                    | 6 Life support?                        | 45 Rebel                        |
| 37 Painter of waterlilies       | 79 More of the epitaph             | 7 Multitude of occurrences             | 48 Good beating                 |
| 38 Symbol of electric flux      | 84 Hospital supplies               | 8 Take steps                           | 49 Actor Tom of "Amadeus"       |
| 39 Obtain                       | 85 Be held in esteem               | 9 Jongg                                | 50 Buddy                        |
| 43 Down-home entertainment      | 86 Forbes profilees                | 10 Carol starter                       | 51 European blackbird           |
| 44 Late great Grant             | 87 Years ago                       | 11 Master                              | 52 Be left                      |
| 45 ouil (certainly), Fr.        | 88 bien!                           | 12 With full force                     | 58 Bats                         |
| 46 Gottfried's sister, in opera | 89 Pacino and Gore                 | 13 Falstaff's rascally crony           | 59 Work out                     |
| 47 More of the epitaph          | 90 Boxer with a 90-9 career record | 14 Ill-natured                         | 60 Lake of the Ozarks tributary |
| 53 Tiverton river               | 92 Wasn't serious                  | 15 Football's Grier                    | 61 Avowed                       |
|                                 | 94 Puppeteer Baird                 | 16 "Bridges of Madison County" setting | 63 Triptych side panels         |
|                                 | 95 Steven of Aerosmith             | 17 Neighbor of 16-Down: Abbr.          | 65 Cousins of musettes          |
|                                 | 96 Half a sawbuck                  | 18 Big winnings                        | 66 Half of a Disney duo         |
|                                 | 97 Aware of                        | 19 Boozehound                          | 67 Inventor Sperry              |
|                                 | 100 Cricket sides                  | 24 "Apocalypse Postponed" essayist     | 68 Dean Martin subject          |
|                                 |                                    |  | 70 Truncate                     |



- |   |                              |                              |  |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 72 E. C. Bentley detective              | 82 Well up                   | 95 Namely                    | 103 1994 title role for Shirley MacLaine |
| 73 Within — of (near)                   | 83 Some fashion tips         | 96 "For shame!"              | 104 Facility                             |
| 74 Filled a hold                        | 89 Go-getter                 | 97 Owl's question?           | 105 Pugilists' org.                      |
| 76 Hardy intellectual                   | 91 Lough Erne location       | 98 Gaels of college football | 106 Relatives of aves                    |
| 77 Site of King David's royal residence | 92 Common card-table project | 99 Nordica products          | 107 Shelley's "Skylark"                  |
| 80 Rats                                 | 93 Incense                   | 101 Little bit               | 108 Schlep                               |
| 81 Farm unit                            | 94 John Brown's Body poet    | 102 Puzzle solvers' cries    | 109 Fort — N.J.                          |

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