

*Missing Thunderjet, safely landed on Allen Avenue*

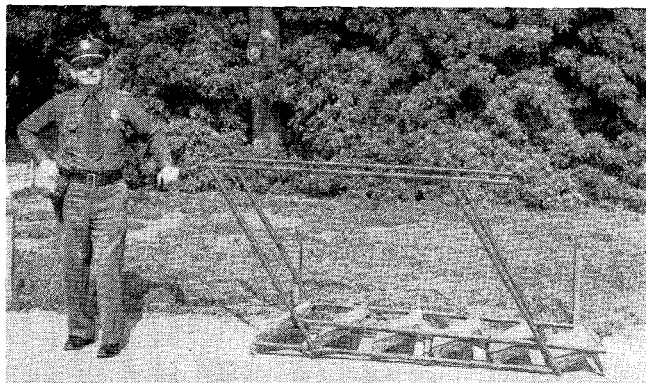
**N**EVER A DULL MOMENT," said Dean Strong, when he was informed that a group of students had spirited several tons of wingless F-84 jet fighter, complete with truck and trailer, from the campus—and deposited same at the door of Col. Small's home in Altadena. Despite the general approval of the student body, however—who rated the prank one of Tech's biggest and best—the FBI chose to take a very dim view of the proceedings.

The Air Force Cadet Recruiting Service had brought the jet along as window dressing for its visit to the Caltech campus. The first indication of greater things to come was the disappearance, in broad daylight, of the plane's \$1200 plastic canopy. Then a group began to take measurements and "case the joint" to determine the feasibility of moving the entire plane to some other part of the campus. The plot snowballed, and the conspirators were soon determined to deliver the jet to the Oxy campus—until they remembered that Oxy was not in session. By the evening of February 3 an agreeable—even inspired—alternative plot had been hatched; the plane would be delivered to the home of the commanding officer of the Caltech AFROTC.

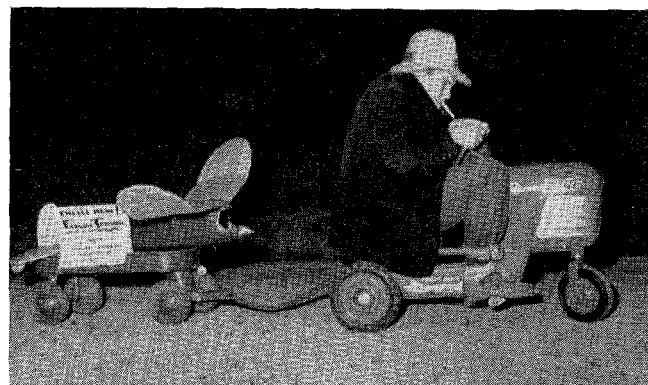
The operation got into high gear sometime around midnight when certain individuals thought they had the tractor hooked up to the 65-foot trailer bearing the plane, and set off in a cloud of enthusiasm. With a resounding crash the trailer fell off and everyone scattered. Regaining courage—some three hours later—the adventurers returned with a fork lift, and this time successfully coupled the trailer and drove away. Unfortunately, the trailer brakes were still on, and part of the tail of the plane was ripped off on a tree. Otherwise, the journey to Altadena was uneventful.

The plane's new resting place was duly noted, in the morning, by Col. Small, a large part of the public, the press—and the FBI. Because government property was involved—and damaged government property, at that—the FBI was ready to step in and make one of its traditionally thorough investigations. However, the Deans eventually worked out an agreeable compromise with the authorities. The students will now pay for the damages to the Air Force equipment and to the Buildings and Grounds fork lift. All told, this is a little matter (sob!) of \$1100.

—Jim Crosby '54



*Police Officer Newton grimly guards remaining evidence*



*Ricketts Rowdy re-enacts the crime*