

Daily Breeze

TUESDAY
March 26, 1996

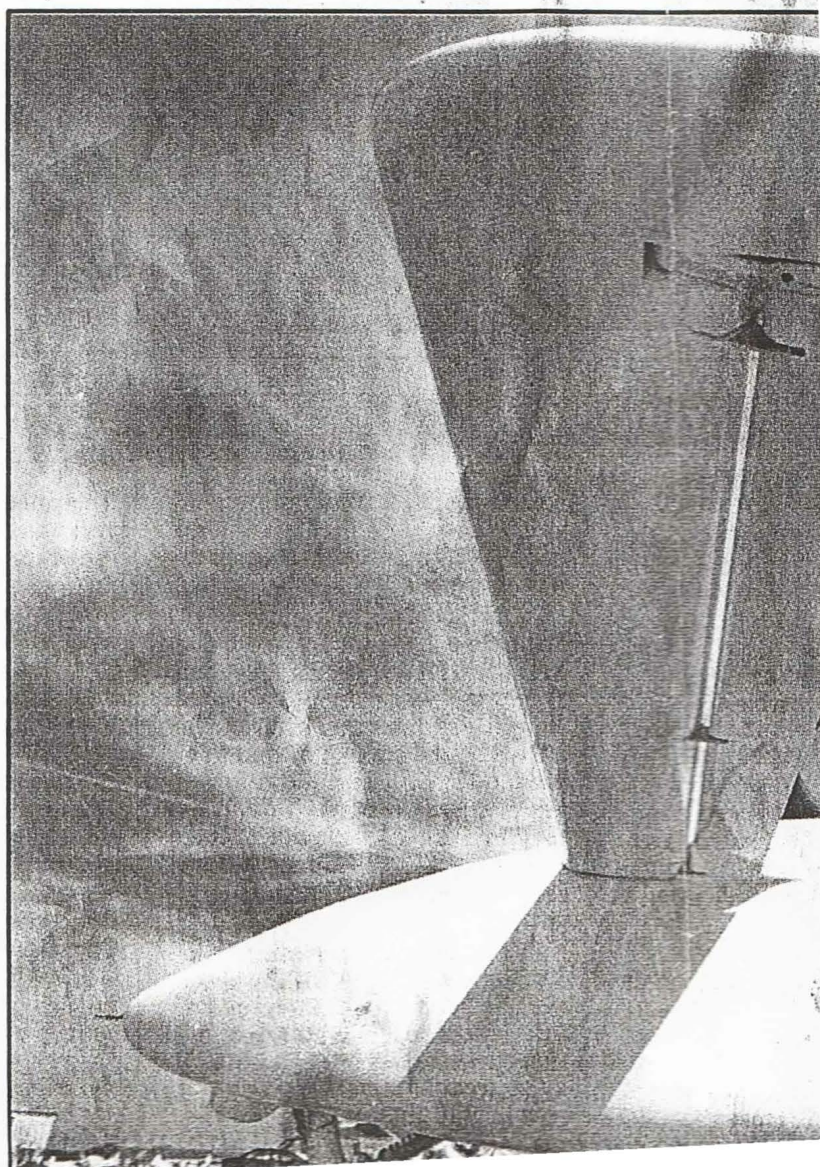
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A DREAM TAKES FLIGHT

Bruce Elkind's hor
weekend in the sl

"It's amazing. It's almost a miracle," Elkind says of his plane. "You build it and it flies. It flies so darn good. Aesthetically speaking, this is the most beautiful sight in the world." Elkind says it took him \$70,000 and roughly 3,500 hours of work to make the four-seat aircraft, which can reach speeds up to 220 mph. "It's strange," Elkind says of the time, effort and money put into the project. "You just get a bug in your system and it overwhelms you."

BRAD GRAVERSON/
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



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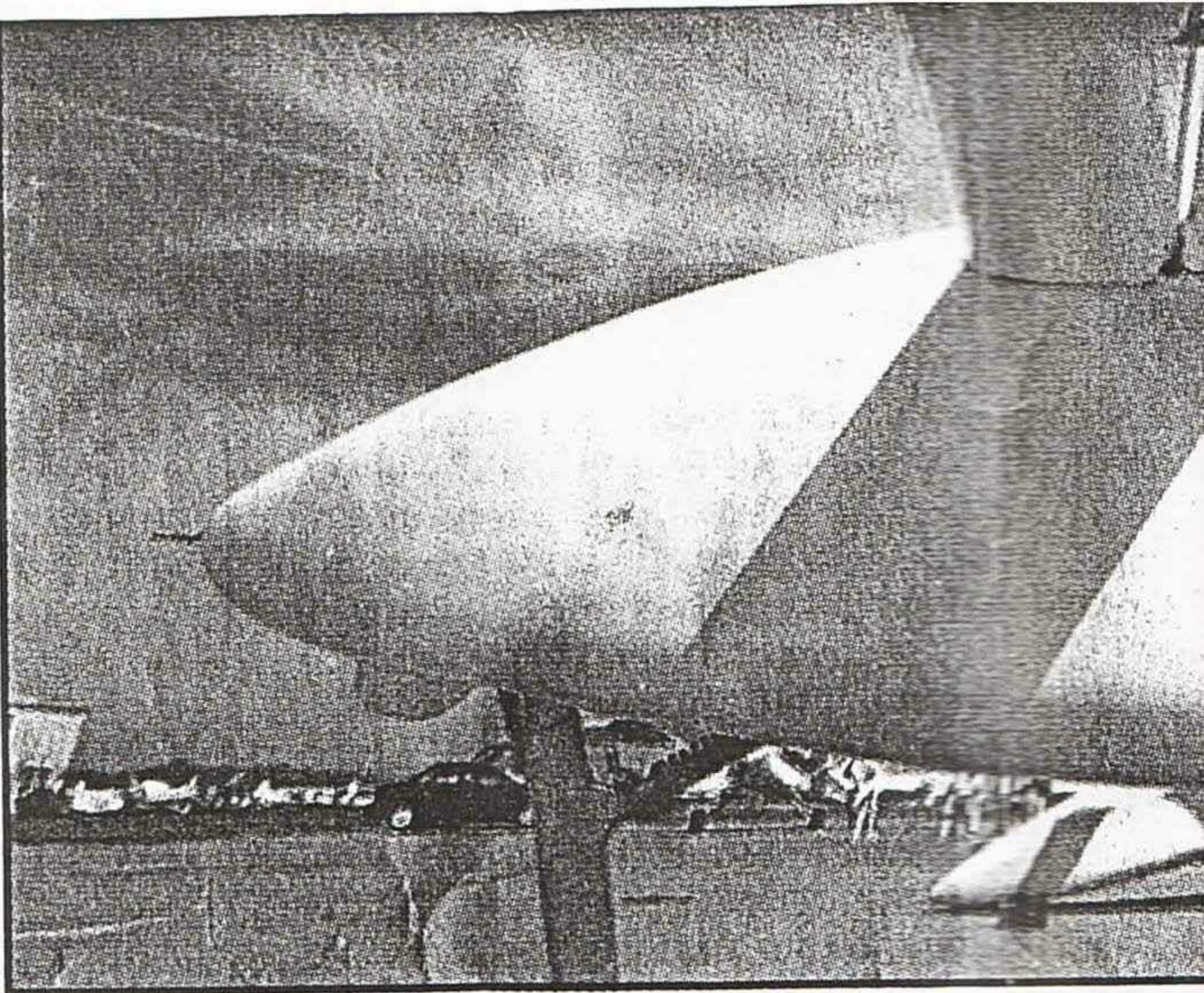


Elkind's homemade Cozy Mark 4 aircraft makes its debut flight over the end in the skies above Camarillo Airport.



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**BRAD GRAVERSON/
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**



Hawthorne man's years of hard work pay off with homemade plane's takeoff

By Gilien Silsby

STAFF WRITER

At 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon, his baby was born.

It took 3,500 hours and \$70,000, but Bruce Elkind's four-seat homemade airplane showed its first sign of life when it sailed high into the air.

On Sunday, Elkind, 40, of Hawthorne pushed his freshly painted Cozy Mark 4 out of its hangar at Camarillo Airport and nervously watched his test pilot maneuver the plane down the runway.

"I'm a wreck," Elkind said as he moved from one foot to the other, cracked his knuckles and feigned a cry. "It's not an airplane until she flies."

For 844 days, Elkind had waited for this moment.

He thought of the long nights building the aircraft from blueprints in his garage, carving fuselages from blocks of blue foam, wrapping fiberglass around the wings and carefully crafting a long, sleek nose. He tried not to think about the \$70,000 it cost him.

Within moments, Elkind saw his airplane pick up speed and gradually head toward the sky, climbing to 1,500 feet.

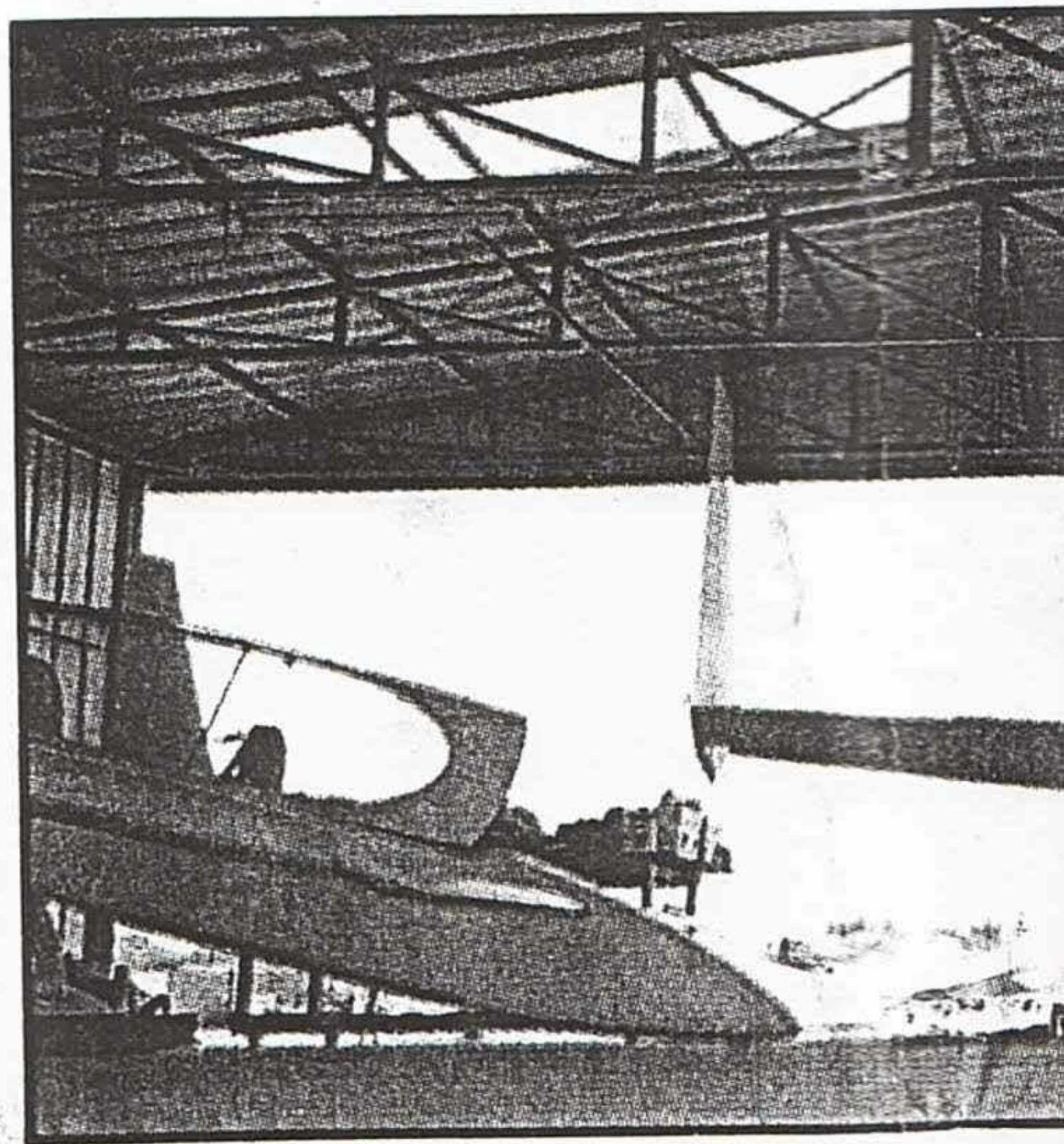
"It's amazing. It's almost a miracle," said Elkind, tears welling in his eyes. "You build it and it flies. It flies so darn good. Aesthetically speaking, this is the

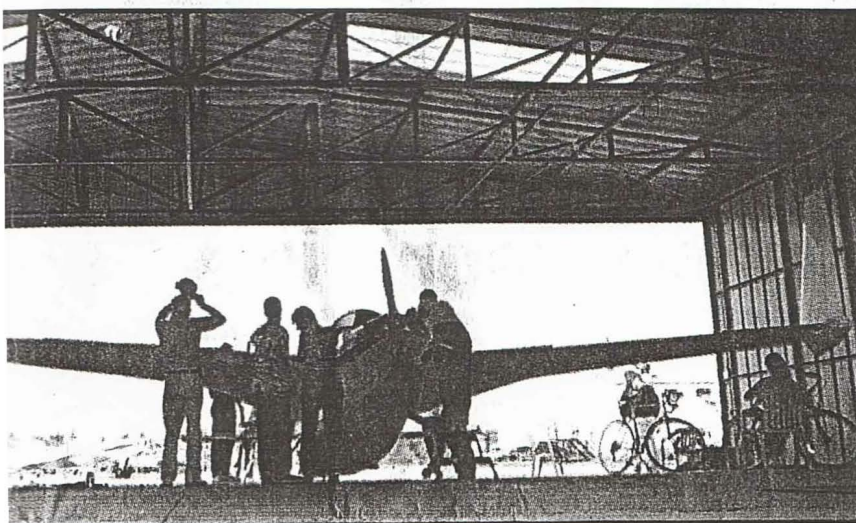
most beautiful sight in the world."

Elkind decided to have the plane, which has a 28-foot wingspan, test-flown in Camarillo because the airport is surrounded by fields and open space. In the event of an accident, the plane could land safely, away from a populated area.

Elkind will fly his plane for the first time in the next few weeks after slight adjustments to the aircraft's nose. He had planned to jump into the plane after it made a few laps around the airport, but the controls need to be adjusted.

DREAM/BACK PAGE





Test pilot Tom Howard talks with builder and owner Elkind during a pre-flight check on the experimental plane, above. At left, Elkind, his family and other volunteers help prepare the plane for its first flight Sunday.

notes that the two attorneys Fellow hired since becoming city attorney in 1993 are women, and that three of the five deputy city attorneys are women. Several people who work or have worked with Fellows also said they never saw him mistreat anyone.

"I've never heard a negative thing about John," said a female co-worker who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Nobody says anything bad about him."

Clark, who makes about \$95,000 a year, filed her lawsuit last month and amended it Thursday. The amended lawsuit dropped libel and slander claims contained in the initial complaint.

Clark alleges the discrimination has occurred during her entire 15-year career in Torrance, which has spanned the administration of three city attorneys. She continues to work in the criminal prosecution division of the City Attorney's Office.

Among other things, Clark claims that

- Men got assignments that should have gone to her.

- She was disciplined while men weren't, although they engaged in "known sexual misconduct in the courthouse and on city property."

- She was excluded from staff meetings and blamed for mistakes made by male co-workers.

- Fellows has shouted at her so loudly that co-workers could hear and has shouted at her in front of her children.

Garrity's August 1995 letter warned that incidents such as the alleged sexual misconduct would be exposed in court unless the city paid Clark \$750,000, gave her a letter of recommendation and kept terms of the settlement secret.

Torrance will address most of the issues in court, according to Latham & Watkins' statement.

However, it does say that men and women alike have had their duties and offices changed during an ongoing, three year reorganization of the City Attorney's Office. In addition, Clark did not apply for two assistant city attorney positions or the city attorney job when they became available, the statement says.

Fellows also has been negotiating with the city's labor union to reclassify secretaries in his office as legal secretaries which would increase their pay, two sources said.

"This is just another case with no merit," said Wayne Flick, a Latham attorney. "Unfortunately this will cost the people of Torrance a lot of money to make the court realize it has no merit."