

Retired General, Automatic Garage Doors In Hot Battle

By BARNARD NORRIS

The Peninsula, which has always had trees, beaches and numerous other attractions to offer, has something new this year—garage doors that automatically open as a car approaches.

Judging from the tale told of a retired general now living in Southern California, however, the new garage doors won't be unmixed blessings.

It seems this general bought an

automatic door to make his retirement as sedentary as possible. He didn't want to be troubled by getting out of his car every darned time he drove in and out of the garage.

For a day or two the door worked perfectly. Every time he drove up to the garage (which was quite frequently—he was fascinated by the door and used to go without meals so he could drive in and out) a small radio trans-

mitter in his car broadcast a high frequency signal. An equally small receiver in the garage received the signal.

And up the door went.

The thing worked beautifully. The general, who was missing at least one meal every day, was losing some of his excess weight. The door didn't show any signs of wear.

And then one day the general went out to his car to drive in and out of the garage a few times. He happened to glance up as he walked into the garage. And he ducked fast.

The door was coming down on him.

After that the general kept a wary eye on the door. He found it going up and down, with no apparent time pattern when no car was near.

After arduous investigation, the general discovered that his neighbor, a ham radio operator, was at the root of the trouble. In tuning his radio, the ham frequently transmitted on the frequency which sent the general's door into frenzied action.

A veteran who had served under fire in several battles, the general decided the door was just too darned modern for him.

So he went old-fashioned. He gave up the idea of the radio business and bought one of those high frequency whistles which only dogs (and, apparently, garage doors) can hear.

He would blow the whistle. A new gadget in the garage would pick up the sound. And up would fly the door.

The general couldn't have been happier if he'd been awarded a Congressional Medal, and he started skipping his meals again and driving in and out of his garage.

The general whistled. The door went up. The general drove in. The general whistled. The door went down. The general whistled. The door went up. The general backed out—or at least he started to.

Just as his car was leaving the garage, the door came down.

The general's face took on that shade of pale pink which had once caused a master sergeant to faint when he saw it. The general's

Air-Force Pilot

WESTOVER AIRFORCE BASE

Mass. (AP)—An airforce pilot was killed yesterday when the powerful suction of a jet plane air scoop pulled him into the mechanism.

Dead was Lt. Thomas A. Kirkes, 26, of Lawton, Okla.

An airforce spokesman said Kirkes had walked in front of an F-86 fighter plane. The accident happened shortly before thousands gathered at the field to watch an Armed Forces Day air show.

teeth ground. The general's hands shook.

The general was angry.

It helped some—not much, but some—when he found what had gone wrong. A garbage truck with squeaky brakes had driven past his house just as he was backing under the garage door.

The driver of the truck had applied the brakes, and the brakes had squealed. It didn't take the general a moment to figure out that the brakes had emitted the same note as his whistle, and the garage door, like a well-trained dog, had obeyed the signal.

The general's door, it appeared, was not a one-man door.

But it took more than garbage truck brakes to discourage this particular general. He went back to the radio-signal system, this time using a different frequency than before, a frequency that the neighborhood ham never intruded on. After his car was repaired, that is.

Once again the door was in operation and all was well in the general's world.

TRAGEDY STRIKES

Then tragedy struck again. A jet plane flew overhead, apparently emitting waves of the garage door's frequency.

The door crashed down.

But this time the general laughed triumphantly. When he'd had the receiving radio changed to the new frequency he'd also had it made movable.

He had started leaving the radio under the door, moving it out of the way only when he was planning to dive in or out.

When the garage door went down without the general's orders, so to speak, it smashed the radio to smithereens.

It takes more than an automatic garage door to win out over a retired general.

Hard to mix Deep-Tone Decorator Wall Colors? Not if you have us mix these beautiful colors on our color-mixing machine.

VIKING PAINT CO.

"YOUR LOCAL FULLER PAINT DEALER"
127 Central Ave Phone 5-4297

Pacific Grove



"Builder of Distinctive Homes"

Phil D. Haskins

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

SPECIALIZING IN

Post-Adobe Construction

If you are planning a new home, and would like an artistic atmosphere with "A Bit of Old World Charm" just give me a call or better still—drop in and let's talk it over.

1147 Forest Ave. Pacific Grove Phone 2-4437

—EXCELLENT FINANCING ARRANGED—

Calle Principal
Pacific Street

Montgomery Ward

Telephone
5-4147