

Editorial—

Deadly 'Copter Rotors

We hear of deaths, or terrible injuries, caused by helicopter rotors now and then. It seems to us that "now and then" is getting to be a little too much to take because, it seems, no one is doing anything to stop or prevent these mishaps.

Helicopters are becoming of general use more and more in Alaska. They oftentimes carry personnel to job sites and do other things, of course. We do not know what is being done to safeguard people from the lethal danger of the whirling rotors. If some measures are being made to protect people, it has not been enough. People are still being killed and that's too much already. Somebody is negligent. Manufacturers of the helicopters can come under this category.

We fail to understand why very little, apparently, is being done to prevent helicopter accidents caused by rotors. Why couldn't someone design a system that would fence the blades upon landing or before taking off? The system could be of retractable type that would be operated by the pilot.

We are sure there are inventive minds that could fashion a circular fence, or some such design, that would automatically enclose the rotor area. If this is done, the fence had better be painted with glaring luminous colors so anyone can see it.

If man can go to outer space, he should be able to fashion a fence set to protect people from death by helicopter rotors.