

TWA & the Turtle

(Originally from "Skyliner", the TWA staff magazine. It was reprinted in the Guardian, thence in "Funny Amusing & Funny Amazing" by Denys Parsons (1969), and now it's here.)

The pilot of a private aircraft called the control tower at Kansas City's municipal airport and said: „You might inform the TWA plane which is about to take off from the north end that the object near my position that looks like a rock is really a turtle on the runway.“

Boeing 707 captain to control tower: „Tower, we heard that transmission. Understand. One turtle crossing runway.“

Control tower: „Based on available pilot's report, turtle's course is oriented South-east, heading towards Gate 5.“

707 captain: „Kansas City tower, can you give us info on the turtle's speed and estimated time of runway clearance?“

Control tower: „Computer calculation indicates turtle speed around 200 feet an hour - maybe less in this quartering headwind. If threatened course and speed are maintained, runway should be clear in 8 minutes.“

707 captain: „Unable to wait due to fuel depletion. Will employ evasive action on takeoff roll.“

Control tower: „Roger, TWA. Cleared for takeoff. Be on alert for wake turbulence behind departing turtle.“

