

# A Traffic Spy With Know-How

By Jim Houston  
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**F**RANCIS GARY Powers is still flying, but these days he is spying on Los Angeles freeway traffic instead of the Russians.

Powers is the U-2 spy plane pilot who was shot down over the Soviet Union in early 1960, subjected to a sensational Moscow trial and sentenced to ten years in prison for espionage.

He spent nearly two years behind bars before he was freed in 1962 in exchange for Soviet master spy Rudolf Abel.

After his return to the United States, Powers severed his ties with the Central Intelligence Agency and wound up in Burbank as a test pilot for Lockheed, builder of the high-flying U-2.

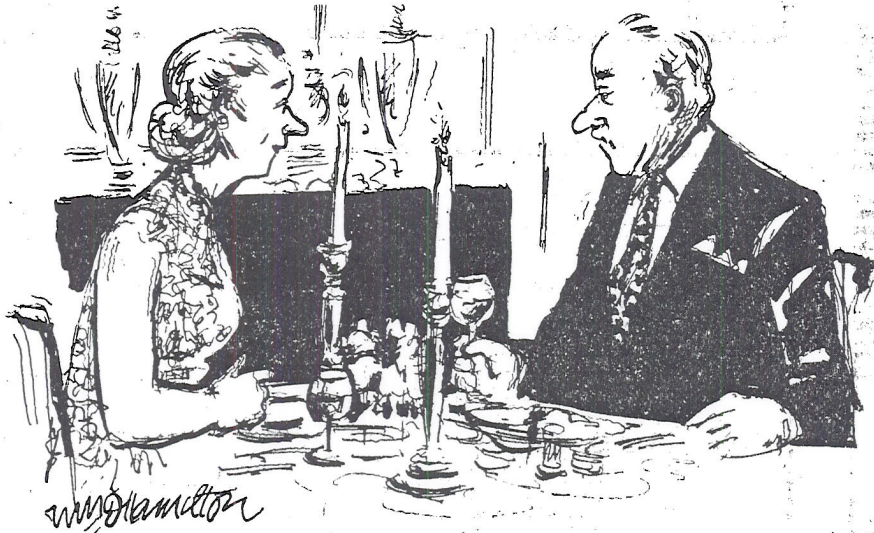
That job lasted until 1970, when Powers suddenly found himself looking for work. That same year he wrote an account of the U-2 incident called "Opera-

tion Overflight," which which was a brief best seller.

Then three years ago Powers got another flying job. Los Angeles radio station KGIL hired him to do daily aerial broadcasts on the rush-hour freeway traffic. Flying along in a Cessna Cardinal, he gives motorists a live, running report on the freeway traffic situation during the morning and evening rushes.

"It's pleasant, interesting work," Powers says. "Los Angeles is a beautiful city to fly in, and I like flying."

## The Now Society



"Oh, Henry, now don't get all low and blue again. Remember, you're absolutely loaded!"

AS FOR the U-2 incident, Powers says he has no qualms about it, that it was part of "a very necessary program." But he still feels disappointment at the way the government handled the affair and feels that his CIA employers let him down when he needed them most.

But Powers, now 46, is too busy to dwell on the past. In addition to his radio job, he is working with NBC on a television movie version of his story. Starring Lee (Six Million Dollar Man) Majors, it should show sometime next fall, Powers said.

And there's the old house in suburban Sherman Oaks that Powers, his second wife, Sue, and son, Gary, ten, have been busy remodeling for the last several years. Powers also has a 19-year-old daughter in the Air Force.

What little time is left over, Powers says, he spends playing golf.