

From two hundred feet up, it looked to Firefighter Angus Pringler as if he were about to leap into a giant custard pie. Logically, of course, he knew that it was a Browder Life Safety Net, and that he wouldn't graduate to the rank of lieutenant of the Rancho Cucamonga Volunteer Fire Department without jumping onto it. Telling himself that 'people do it all the time and survive,' Angus stepped across the window threshold. Down, down, down he fell, his fear gradually giving way to a feeling of exhilaration – that is, until he realized that some wisenheimer in the department really *had* substituted a giant custard pie, which, alas, did little to slow his descent of thirty-two feet per second per second.