

NASA: Astronaut Cooper Saw Exactly What He Saw

CAPE CANAVERAL (UPI) — Some experts were flatly convinced U.S. astronaut L. Gordon Cooper Jr. was suffering from hallucinations.

Others were less incredulous, but preferred to believe that "outside influences" such as atmospheric conditions or perhaps even weightlessness were primarily responsible for it.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) put a five-man scientific team to work on the problem. After weeks of research, the group came up with its rather startling answer:

Astronaut Cooper saw exactly what he saw on earth below during his 22.9-orbit voyage around the globe last May 15-16.

Thus, with no ifs, ands or buts, one of the most remarkable scientific reports of the year was vindicated. It could have an important bearing on future manned space flights, and even on the development of "spy-in-the-sky" satellites for policing military build-ups on earth.

All the flurry centered around

Cooper's report of spectacular views of earth. At one point, he said, "I could detect individual houses and streets" in the Himalaya mountains, on the plains of Tibet and in the southwestern desert area of the United States.

Sees Road Clearly

On another occasion, the astronaut said, "I saw what I took to be a vehicle along a road in the Himalaya area and in the Arizona-West Texas area. I could first see the dust blowing off the road, then could see the road clearly . . ."

And still another: "I saw a steam locomotive by seeing the smoke first; then I noted the object moving along what was apparently a track . . ."

All of which triggered a hot debate in scientific circles. Experts quickly noted that cars, locomotives, houses and such are only a comparatively few feet wide, that a road is scant yards across and that Cooper was claiming he saw them from orbital heights of more than 100 miles.

Some said outright that it was

impossible, that Cooper must have suffered hallucinations or some sort of space-going variation of the "raptures of the deep." Others said perhaps the atmosphere magnified the objects on earth, or that the astronaut's vision was improved by the effects of weightlessness in orbit.

Confirm Astronaut's Views

Not a bit of it, said the NASA scientific team headed by Dr. John A. O'Keefe: " . . . from knowledge of the factors which affect visibility under these conditions, there appears to be no reason to suspect that these identifications (by Cooper) were not generally accurate."

In the first place, it was pointed out, Cooper has exceptional vision. A recent examination measured his eyesight at 20-12 — meaning he could see objects at 20 feet that a person with normal 20-20 vision could not detect beyond about 12 feet.

Secondly, Cooper enjoyed "unusually good weather conditions." His report stood out all the more in the light of a general lack of similar sightings by

three previous U. S. orbiting astronauts. But on all three of the earlier flights, cloud cover

Successor Is Named On Wildlife Committee

SALEM (UPI) — Rep. Ed Ridderbusch, D-Tillamook, Friday was named to the interim committee on wildlife to succeed Rep. W. O. Kelsay, D-Roseburg, who was killed in an auto crash Oct. 4.

The announcement was made by House Speaker Clarence Barton, D-Coquille.

Barton said the appointment of Ridderbusch, "who has long been active in fish and game pursuits and tourist trade for Oregon, will maintain geographic and interest balance in the committee."

Sen. Andrew Naterlin, D-Newport, has assumed chairmanship of the committee. Kelsay was chairman.

around earth was heavy.

His view was aided by the rarified atmosphere in the Tibetan plain, which rises 16,000 feet above sea level, and by the low humidity, cloudless weather over the U.S. southwest. He did not see other more massive sights such as Los Angeles or Calcutta — even though he flew right over them — because of obscuring haze or clouds.

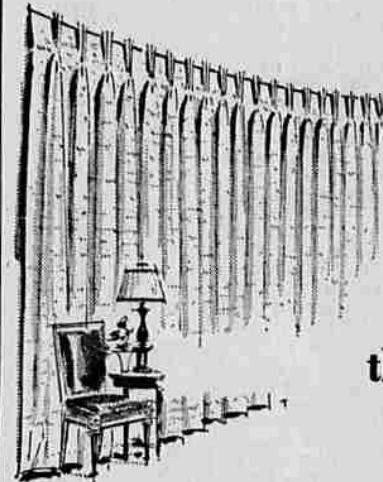
As for spotting roads of perhaps less than 50 feet across, the NASA experts pointed out that U. S. rockets are far back as the Viking series in the early 1950s had made similar sightings from altitudes of up to 150 miles.

American military leaders are reported to have found Cooper's report impressively encouraging. The Air Force is developing a camera-carrying "spy" satellite called Samos to photograph sites on earth from perches in space as lofty as Cooper's.

One more point is certain: such grandiose views right outside the spaceship windows should make flights into orbit interesting experiences for many years to come.

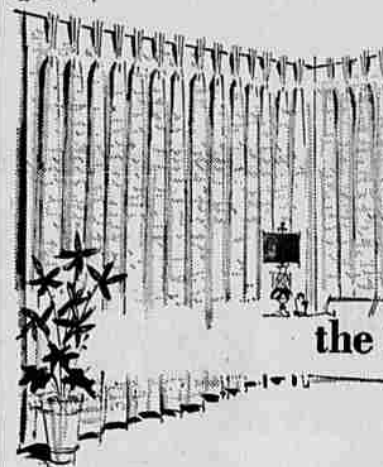
PENNEY'S
ALWAYS FIRST QUALITY

COUNT ON PENNEY'S FOR the new look in draperies



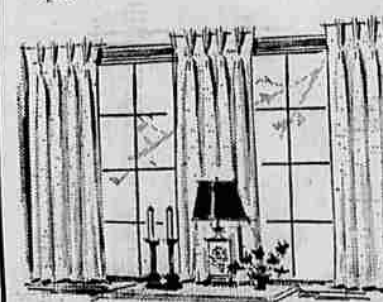
the horizontal nub

... FRAIZER handsome new texture with a fine line nub that sweeps across the width! The look is rich, restrained and excellent in any decor. Rayon and acetate. Colors are the favorite white, oyster, tan, green, gold.



the linen-look bouclé

... GOBI, new wonderful rough-texture with a touch of flax woven in for the natural linen color effect so high in decorating favor this year. Rayon and acetate. Choose either natural linen-color or pure white.



the smoother antique satin

... this is the new look, finer, draper, with a gentle slub . . . very elegant. A beautiful background for traditional or contemporary decorating schemes. Rayon and acetate. White, tan, rose, saddle.

Penney Days Savings!

\$5
single width
48" x 84"

\$10
double width
96" x 84"

\$15
triple width
144" x 84"



clearance! shorty drapes

GUARANTEED NOT TO SUNFADE FOR 2 YEARS!

Run, don't walk for these fantastic values! Colors are wonderfully vibrant, guaranteed not to fade from the rich, de-lustered lofted Chromspun (R) acetate. All sill lengths with triple-crown pleats, 3-inch hems.

\$388

Single width
48" x 45" 48" x 54"

\$688

One/One Half Width
72" x 45" 72" x 54"

\$888

Double Width
96" x 54"



YOU'D GLADLY PAY MORE FOR THIS QUALITY . . . AND THINK IT A BARGAIN . . . COME EARLY!

CHARGE IT!

Penney's is open Thursday and Friday 9:30 to 9:00 Tuesday, Wednesday, Monday and Saturday 9:30 to 5:30



WASHDAY IS A WALTZ

with an ELECTRIC CLOTHES DRYER

Gone are the days when every homemaker was a waltz-watcher on washdays!

Gone are the days of back-breaking washday drudgery - dragging heavy wet clothes outside to a clothesline to dry . . .

Gone, matter of fact, is washday!

With an electric clothes dryer, any day, any weather, any time is washday . . . and it's all as easy as turning a dial!

With an electric clothes dryer, you . . .

WALTZ THROUGH WASHDAY

. . . and dry your clothes gentler, smoother, and faster as well!

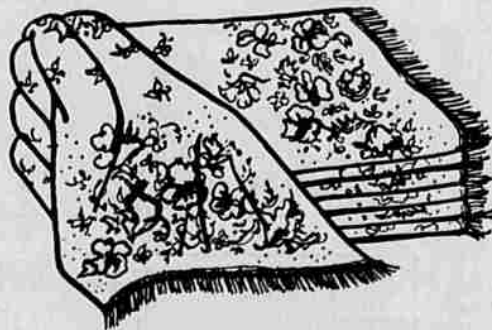
- Bergh's Appliance Service 672-1661
- Carter Tire Company 672-3393
- Montgomery Ward & Co. 672-5553
- Phil's Appliance 672-1700
- So. Stephens Hardware 672-3751

- Trowbridge Electric 673-5521
- Umpqua Valley Appliance 672-1616
- Canyonville Hardware 839-4391
- Hall's Western Auto 863-4431
- Groom's Appliance Center 863-4494



See the latest models displayed by your favorite Cal/Ore Electrical League dealer.

FREE!



16-piece Queen Marie SHEET AND TOWEL SET

Beautifully gift wrapped in three separate boxes, these colorful sets, from J. P. Stevens & Company, are yours as a gift with your purchase of an electric clothes dryer from a Cal Ore Electrical League dealer before December 14th. Use them to add exciting beauty to your own bedroom and bath - use them as gifts to friends. See the Queen Marie gift set displayed by your favorite Cal Ore Electrical League dealer. Retail value: \$24.95.

.. YOURS ABSOLUTELY FREE!

This offer is good only on new dryers installed in the homes of metered customers of COPCO Division, Pacific Power & Light Company; Klamath Falls, Lakeview, and Alturas Districts of Central Division, Pacific Power & Light Company; City of Ashland, Douglas Electric Cooperative, and Surprise Valley Electrification Corporation.