

'Moon Shot' Will Answer Big Question

WASHINGTON (NEA)—There's more than a propaganda victory at stake in the race between the U.S. and Russia to achieve the first successful "moon shot."

The show-down is expected to come this month.

Conquest of the moon, whether it's hitting it with a rocket or

sending a rocket around the moon, will be cold proof of whether the U.S. is many years behind the Soviets in space research or whether the Reds just happen to have bigger space rocket engines at the moment.

There are reliable reports that the Russians have had one or more failures in moon shots, but that they are planning to continue firing at a desperate rate to get there first.

The White House has officially announced that the Air Force will get the first three chances to get to the moon for the U.S.

AF scientists have been rushing to prepare three Thor intermediate range ballistic missiles (IRBM) which will be the first stage engines. The second stage of the AF moonrocket will be the second-stage engine of the Navy's Vanguard missile, and the third-stage engine will be a new solid-propellant power plant.

Firings are scheduled to begin sometime after mid-August. If none of these is successful the Army will be given a chance at the moon with two Jupiter IRBMs, specially equipped for the big lunar attempt.

Ever since Russia got its first Sputnik into orbit almost a year ago U. S. military space experts have adopted the line that the Soviet space lead was limited to the great size of its rocket engines. It is believed by U.S. experts that Russia has at least an engine with a thrust of one-half million pounds and perhaps one with a thrust of a million pounds.

America's most powerful rocket engine in use propels the Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). It is a combination of three engines, firing simultaneously, which deliver a total of 400,000 pounds of thrust.

Work is being rushed in the U. S. to build a million-pound thrust engine. Progress on it is a secret.

U. S. spokesmen have tried to minimize Russia's historic feat of putting the first satellite into or-

bit by claiming that the U.S. was even with Russia in many aspects of space research other than in rocket engine development, and ahead in some.

It has been said that the great number of aircraft companies, electronic firms and engineering and scientific organizations in the U.S. at work on various space projects give the U.S. a broader base for progress in this field than exists in Russia. Specifically, it has been claimed many times that the U.S. is ahead of Russia in the development of guidance systems.

A successful moon shot will require an extremely sophisticated guidance system. In addition, such an accomplishment will indicate a considerable jump in the state of the art of rocketry and space flight beyond mere satellite launching.

Thus, if the Russians hit or circle the moon first, this feat will explode the hope of some U.S. experts that the Reds are behind the U.S. in guidance systems and other facets of space flight.

Successful guidance of a rocket that will circle the moon and

return to the earth's atmosphere—where it will be destroyed by friction with the air—actually will be a near incredible scientific feat.

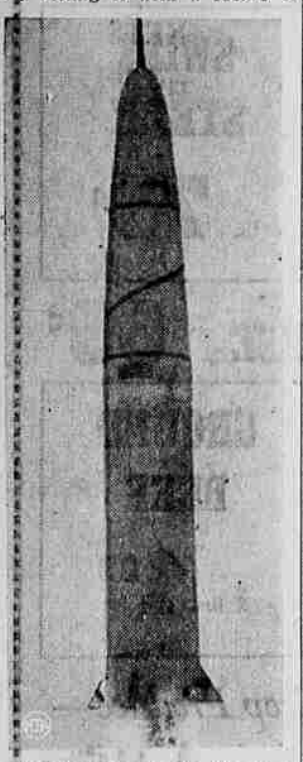
The moon is a quarter of a million miles away, circling the earth in space and therefore a tricky target. After about a two-day trip through space at just the proper split-second, the rocket has to slow down so that it will circle the moon and head back towards earth instead of roaring past the moon into infinity.

This feat requires a guidance system that will slow down the rocket from the speed of 25,000 mph, which it needs to escape the earth's gravitational attraction, to 2,500 mph, the proper speed for circling the moon. Finally it has to be guided away from the moon's pull to head back to earth.

This rocket is expected to collect scientific data on the moon. Thus its "brain" will have to activate this equipment at the proper instant and then cause the information to be sent back to earth.

These are just a few of the obvious demands on a moon rocket's guidance system.

One of two possible guidance systems will be used in the first AF shot. One is a timing system whereby the missile is made to do certain things on a pre-set schedule. The other is a "command system" whereby controllers on earth will cause the rocket to take certain actions. Details of both systems are secret.



THOR IRBM will be the first stage of the U.S. moon rocket.

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WALKING THE WEB—Though this looks like the work of a giant spider, it is actually an ages-old bridge form in Tibet. The two women are crossing a river in the Loyu area of Tibet on a cane-rope bridge.

Observer, La Grande, Ore., Thurs., Aug. 14, 1958 Page 4

Texas Goodwill Ambassador Has Good Words For Alaska

SEATTLE (UPI)—Fred Nahas, Texas' official goodwill ambassador to Alaska, said Tuesday after his first trip to the prospective new state that "there's nothing in 48 to compare with it."

Nahas, president of Radio Station KXYZ in Houston, arrived here aboard a Pan-American Airways plane from Juneau where

he exchanged the official greetings of Texas Gov. Price Daniel for the Alaska territorial flag which will become the state flag on Admission Day.

"When I presented our official Texas congratulations to former Gov. Mike Stepovich, he reminded me that Texas no longer would be the biggest state, and I said, 'wait until the ice melts.'"

"But aside from all the good fun and joking Texans and Alaskans have had since the statehood bill was signed," Nahas added, "we of Texas are sincere in our first official gesture of friendship and we are proud to welcome a new state."

The Texas ambassador stopped overnight here before flying to Yellowstone National Park to resume a vacation with his family.



Brothers Held By L.A. Police On Robbery Suspicion

LOS ANGELES (UPI)—Police have seized two brothers who allegedly financed their Las Vegas gambling spree by robbing two Portland, Ore., markets, a North Hollywood service station and a by-products firm in Vernon, Calif.

Arrested at their homes and booked on suspicion of robbery were Ronald G. Crater, 24, an

REDS RELEASE FILM

LONDON (UPI)—A film of the recent meeting in Peking of Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev and Communist Chinese leader Mao Tse-Tung has been released in Moscow, Radio Moscow reported today.

aircraft worker, and Edward C. Crater, 37, a truck driver.

Det. Sgt. J. J. O'Donnell said the pair admitted robbing \$3,250 from the Portland markets in October and March of last year.

O'Donnell said the brothers confessed they used the loot to go to Las Vegas, where they spent or lost half of the money, and then returned to their wives and explained that they won the other half.

Police said Edward has been convicted twice of burglary.

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