

Huge Jets Streaking From Coast To Coast On Shrinking Timetable

By FRANK ELEAZER
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WASHINGTON (UPI) — Airplanes are wonderful. Big jets this winter will hurtle sun-lovers from Miami to New York in 2 hours and 25 minutes, before they can fade. This trip takes a hard three days if you drive.

Other jetliners meantime flash from Atlantic to Pacific so fast you can eat lunch at both ends of the line as well as en route. By car, that kind of travel requires every bit of a week.

And take the New York to Washington run. This is a train ride of 3 hours and 35 minutes. It's a five-hour excursion by car. But by plane, I learned the other night, it is possible to cover the course in 6 hours and 13 minutes.

That's for those who didn't happen to have any luggage. Waiting for the bags to come up of course always takes a few minutes extra.

Wasn't Much Hurry

The airline folks in New York were ever so nice on the phone. If I could get to the East Side Air Terminal by 4:50, they would pop me on a bus to the airport and squeeze me onto a nice evening flight to the capital, with dinner aboard.

The plane, a two-engine propeller type, would leave La Guardia Field at 5:50, and arrive at Washington National Airport at a convenient 7:05.

I made it to the terminal in time, to find out the plane wasn't really much hurry. The flight, and the connecting bus run, had been set back 40 minutes. Just long enough to relax, read the paper, and dispatch a picture postcard to the office.

By the time we got to the airport an additional 30 minutes delay had been posted. Attendants said the plane was late leaving Albany. The weather, they noted, was foggy.

Calls Former Roomate

This allowed time for a cake and a call to a fellow I roomed with for awhile at Columbia. On my investment of a succession of three dimes in the pay phone we hit high spots of the intervening couple of decades and decided to cover the details some other time.

Had I known, we could have covered them then. However, his supper was waiting. It turned out mine was too, and would be for quite a while.

Airline attendants were helpful. They announced periodically that my flight hadn't yet reached New York. A little later they were able to announce periodically that it had, but that on account of the inclement weather and the other planes that had got there first, it was waiting its turn to come down.

As soon as it landed, the man said, it would load for Washington. Well, almost as soon as it landed. First it had to refuel, after so much circling over New York. Finally they opened the gates, and at first it was great just sitting down, after all that standing around.

Gets Smile, Meat Pie

By 9:02, when we started easing out to the runway, I had experienced sufficient relief for my

U.S. Bases In Spain Are Overloaded?

WASHINGTON (UPI)—A Democratic congressman charged today that the United States maintains about 5,000 servicemen, civilians and dependents in Spain for every six Strategic Air Command bombers "on the line" in that country.

Rep. Frank Kowalski of Connecticut said he would ask President Eisenhower and the Air Force to investigate whether "they need all these people."

Kowalski, a former Army colonel and a member of the House Armed Services Committee, added that he also was disturbed by the way the armed services used manpower at several more of the 23 U.S. bases he visited during a 36-day European trip.

The congressman emphasized he was not criticizing Air Force retaliatory power, asserting that he was "tremendously impressed by the way SAC is able to deliver striking blows. I have never seen anything so impressive."

He told newsmen, however, that there were six bombers "on the line" ready to go at each of three SAC bases in Spain, while behind them were 2,000 to 3,000 military personnel and about 2,000 dependents, plus 1,200 to 1,500 Spanish civilian employees.

Kowalski said each base was a "little American city" costing about 100 million dollars.

Pappy Boyington Shed By Wife of 14 Years

LOS ANGELES (UPI)—Gregory (Pappy) Boyington, 56-year-old World War II flying ace, was divorced on grounds of cruelty Tuesday by his wife of nearly 14 years.

"He would pick fights with me," charged Mrs. Frances Boyington, 41. "He would go into tantrums and kick doors down."

Boyington was credited with shooting down 28 Japanese air planes during World War II.

Fantastic Speeds Through Outer Space Seen

LANGLEY FIELD, Va. (UPI)—Scientists are shooting for speeds of more than a million miles an hour in space and less than 100 miles an hour close to the ground.

This roughly represents the extremes of research being pushed at its various scientific centers by the National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA).

Between the extremes are research and development projects aimed at:

—Perfecting collapsible space platforms and spaceships which automatically expand after being fired into orbits high above the earth.

—Development of radio communications capable of spanning the interplanetary void.

—Boosting rockets into "parking orbits" from which lunar probes could be launched more successfully than from stationary sites on the ground.

—Designing jet aircraft capa-

ble of speeds greater than a mile a second to handle human transportation from point to point on the earth's surface.

This and a host of other research projects, including an array of spacecraft resembling everything from a flattened needle to a flexible kite, are being reported to some 2,100 guests this week at NASA's 100 million dollar Langley Research Center here.

The hottest thing in space re-

search is a new science called magnetohydrodynamics or MHD for short. A plasma is a gas which has been made so hot that its molecules break up into electrically charged positive and negative particles.

Can Supply Speed

Such a gas is electrically conductive, and under the influence of electromagnetic forces its particles can be made to move literally at millions of miles an hour.

Since the weight of gas involved is extremely small, such motions don't generate much thrust. If you want to lift a spaceship off the ground against the pull of

PARTY POSTPONED
TOKYO (UPI)—Palace officials said today that the imperial garden party has been postponed from Nov. 9 until the spring because of the emperor's deep concern for the thousands of Japanese left homeless by typhoon Vera. The party usually draws 2,000 guests, including members of the foreign diplomatic corps.

gravity, use chemical or perhaps nuclear rockets.

But once in frictionless space, where nothing weighs anything, fast-moving plasmas, obeying the laws of MHD, can supply speeds not otherwise obtainable.

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