

Youngsters Press Scientists for Data On Travel in Space

By SANKY TRIMBLE
WHITE SANDS PROVING GROUND, N.M. — The eyes and hearts of the nation's youth are on the stars.

Officials of the Guided Missile and Upper Atmosphere Research Center here have concluded on the basis of their mail that the days of cowboys and Indians are fading and that the space helmet set is taking over.

Like juvenile cosmic rays, the youngsters of the nation are bombarding scientists and administrators here constantly and from all directions with letters pertaining to star travel of the future.

The mail brings an average of more than a dozen letters a week, many of them complete with scientific drawings of space ships on grocery bags, suggestions on space travel, questions, answers and offers to help.

The youngsters don't question that someday man will travel into space — to Venus, Mars and the Moon. They accept it as a fact. They ask only: When can I go?

Twelve-year-old Wade Williams of Kansas City, leads a delegation of those who want to be aboard the first space ship. He says he wants to be "one of the first men to fly to the moon."

How to Cool Rockets
Charles Jeffrey Nelson, an Altoona, Pa., seventh-grader, has the answer to how to cool the skin of a rocket. He forwarded diagrams suggesting the use of an ammonia tank.

Richard Ratcliff and David Higgins, ages 8 and 10, mailed a blueprint from El Paso for an artificial satellite complete with space for "bedroom and bath" and separate compartments in the eating space for "milk and water."

One drawing called for a space ship, 8,000 feet long. There's puzzlement here about why the extra three feet. Another wrote, sending his plans for a space ship, and said:

"I do not know any fuel for it. I guess you will have to find fuel."

One youngster suggests firing the space ship from under the ocean. Patricia Ann Meadows of Ozark, Missouri, wrote to ask if jets and rockets caused the drought.

"Have They Come Back?"
Tuffield Ellenwood of New London, Ohio, asked about rockets and queried "Was one set up and didn't come back?" He and some friends saw an object they said was "tearing across the sky" and estimated the speed at 30 m.p.h.

White Sands Public Information Director William Haggard answered that "As far as I know, all have come back, but if you find out anything, let us know."

A Denver youngster, brought down in the early days of the mail bombardment to visit the base, got into a discussion on highly technical — and classified — subjects for a short time with a base official.

The discussion was hurriedly called off and the youngster made an honorary sergeant in lieu of answers.

A 7-year-old, Michael McGee of Phoenix, wants to come out to this desert scientific base and help build a space ship. Robert Cragin Jr. of Schenectady, N.Y., sent plans for a five-stage rocket and asked that folks here "Please let me know if it works."

From Nice, France, came a letter in French from a 16-year-old student who wished to remain anonymous, offering his services as a human guinea pig for upper atmosphere research, saying "astronomy is my passion."

"Rocket Shells"
Some want to know the pay, others ask about the working hours in applying for jobs. Many want pictures or discarded "rocket shells." Most of them know about security and understanding include a phrase "Tell me all you can."

There's no official comment here as to whether any of the ideas presented by the youngsters are practical. But there is every effort to encourage their scientific thinking and their vision.

Every letter is answered.

O.E. Rouse of the public information office here, for instance, wrote Joe Williams of Pittsburgh: "We too, are interested in any plans for a vehicle to travel in space, but there remain a lot of problems to be solved before a manned rocket can be launched — either from an aircraft or the ground."

"Among some of these problems are how to control heat and cold x x x whether man can survive the trip, the landing on another celestial body, whether they can live in outer space, and whether they would be able to return to earth to report on what they found."

He saluted the youngster for his interest "in our work and in the future" and added:

"We hope that you may have your wish someday to know that an interstellar flight may be made into space."

Bank Official Tells Shortage Of \$253,000

LEWISVILLE, Tex. (U) — The 66-year-old president of the closed First National Bank broke down and cried Friday as he told reporters of a \$253,000 shortage in his bank — then threatened a photographer with a pistol for taking a picture of him in tears.

Only three days ago, the bank's cashier, a Baptist deacon, shot himself to death.

The people in this little farming community of 1,500 people were stunned by the sequence of shocks, beginning with the suicide Tuesday of cashier E. R. (Jake) Wolters, 56, who had been employed by the bank since he was 20.

The bank president, C. Y. Milliken, held an interview Friday in his dry goods store.

Midway of the interview, he broke down and cried. Dallas Times Herald photographer Sheldon Hershorn took a picture.

Arising and drawing a .45 pistol, Milliken demanded the negative.

"I've been humiliated enough," the bank head cried.

Hershorn pulled out a plate and exposed the negative. It was not the negative Milliken wanted but the bank president appeared satisfied.

Reed Dolan, chief bank examiner for the 11th Federal Reserve District, said the bank's records were being audited by the FBI.

As to who got the \$253,000, Dolan said, "we can only surmise about that. I wouldn't want to identify anyone."

Suit Seeks to Halt Plywood Firm's Sale

SEATTLE (U) — A group of stockholders of Associated Plywood Mills Inc., of Eugene, Ore., filed suit in Superior Court here Friday in a move to halt sale of the company to United States Plywood Corp.

The sale was announced Jan. 17. Stockholders opposing it tried unsuccessfully to bring suit in federal court in Oregon.

In the Superior Court action here, Judge Ward W. Roney issued a temporary restraining order prohibiting company officials from transferring any assets of Associated Plywood pending a hearing before Superior Judge James W. Hodson Feb. 15.

The stockholders contended in their complaint that the sale price to United States Plywood would be \$15,043,400 whereas they said the true value of the company is about \$7 million.

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Education Secretaries Confer



Three education office workers study a display of various forms encountered in their job before beginning a panel discussion at the regional workshop of the Oregon Association of Educational Secretaries held Saturday in Salem. Left to right, are Mrs. Loretta Isom, Salem, who presided at the opening session; Charlotte Parr, Eugene, president of the association; and Winnie Bolinger, Bethel public schools.

82 Education Workers Hold Session Here

Eighty-two educational office workers held a one-day workshop her Saturday, meeting at the Public School Administration Building.

The workshop was regional with members of the Oregon Association of Educational Secretaries from Marion, Linn, Benton, Lane, Yamhill, Clackamas, Polk, Lincoln, Washington, Tillamook, Multnomah and Columbia counties attending.

The morning session, welcomed by Dr. Walter E. Snyder, superintendent of Salem Public Schools, included a discussion of the organization's program by its president, Charlotte Parr, Eugene, and a panel discussion on "State Forms and Reports." Slides and a discussion on filing also were on the agenda.

Mrs. Agnes C. Booth, superintendent of Marion County Schools, spoke to the group at noon outlining qualifications for a secretary.

Paratrooper's Second Chute Halts Free Fall

TALKEETNA, Alaska (UP)—A 21-year-old paratrooper plunged nearly 900 feet in free fall Friday and walked away with only a cut lip after his emergency parachute opened just three seconds before he hit earth.

He was Pvt. Walter J. Arion, one of 1800 members of the 503rd Airborne Regimental Combat Team who leaped into the Alaska wilderness from more than 100 C-119s in phase two of the joint Army-Air Force winter maneuver "Exercise Snowbird."

Seven men were injured in the jump. Worst casualty was a broken ankle suffered by a medical officer.

It takes about eight seconds for a body to reach earth from 1000 feet and Arion had about three seconds of life left when his emergency chestpack chute blossomed out about 100 feet from the ground.

Officers Named by News Association

SPOKANE (U) — M. J. Frey of Portland, publisher of the Portland Oregonian, was reelected president of the Pacific Northwest Newspaper Assn. Saturday.

Officers were named after the close of the group's annual meeting.

Members named three men as directors: H. H. Cahill, general manager of the Seattle Times, Ralph R. Cronise, president of the Albany, Ore., Democrat-Herald and Alex F. Ottavaere, business manager of the Bremerton Sun.

GROWING WHISKERS
SWIFT CURRENT, Sask. (U) — The men of this Southwestern Saskatchewan city are starting early this year in growing whiskers for the Frontier Days festivities held each summer. They are cultivating "jubbler beards" in honor of the province's 50th birthday.

Interim Budget Vote Near in Olympia House

OLYMPIA (U) — The first big spending bill of the current Legislature will be placed before members of the House Monday.

It is the 151 million dollar interim budget bill to run state government for three months while the state changes its fiscal year to conform with the federal government.

(The present fiscal year ends March 31. The new one will begin July 1 instead of April 1 as in the past.)

The bill, written by the House Appropriations Committee headed by Ole Olson of Pasco, will authorize expenditure of 69 million dollars from the basic general fund during April, May and June.

Olson said the committee's general fund figure is \$52,000 more than Gov. Langlie recommended, primarily because of additional money needed for public assistance and the handicapped children program.

No Controversy
He said there were virtually no controversial items in the measure, which should permit it to sail through both House and Senate in quick time and clear the decks for the big 24 month spending bill which will come up later.

The Senate will receive a revenue bill Monday which may cause last week's burning controversy between public and private power forces to flare anew.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. John H. Happy, vice chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, calls for boosts in taxes on public utility districts.

The Spokane Republican would increase from 2 to 6 per cent the tax on a PUD's gross revenues from sale of electric energy it obtains from sources other than PUD, and boost from 5 to 15 per cent the tax on gross revenues from sale of electric energy the PUD generates itself or obtains from another PUD.

School Report
Happy would earmark two-thirds of the tax revenue for support of common schools. The balance would go to counties, cities and road districts that lose normal tax revenues by reason of PUD's being tax-free municipal corporations.

Happy estimated his bill would raise approximately \$2,100,000 for schools.

Another measure ready for introduction in the Senate Monday would establish a farm marketing act in Washington. It is sponsored by Sen. Lloyd J. Andrews, a Spokane County apple grower.

His bill would authorize the creation of commissions for various farm commodities, somewhat like the commissions for the apple industry.

Andrews, chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, said his bill contains nothing to permit price fixing in certain instances.

Andrews said his bill is primarily aimed at improving farm production by research, more efficient methods for processing, handling, marketing, and means for investigating unfair trade practices.

Meanwhile a split among Republican members of the Senate appeared to be widening.

British Adding to Malay Airports

SINGAPORE (U) — Britain, which already has five airfields in Malay capable of handling military jet planes, is equipping three more in line with a program to make Malaysia a front line of Southeast Asian aerial defense.

REFUGEE FUND DRIVE
UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. (U) — A U. N. advisory committee on refugees has proposed a target figure of 16 million dollars to settle over the next four years the 350,000 refugees still remaining in Europe. The money would be sought through voluntary contributions.

GETTING UP NIGHTS
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Sundays: 12 Noon to 9 p. m.—Closed Mondays

Baker Awaits Possible 2nd Uranium Run

BAKER (UP)—Residents of this eastern Oregon city were anticipating a second "uranium rush," after Friday's announcement of a possible uranium strike closeby.

Four prospectors recorded two uranium mineral claims and staked out two more yesterday.

Noble J. Knight of South Baker showed samples of radioactive ore which showed the familiar yellow stains of uranium. The samples gave strong, geiger counter and scintillator readings.

Knight said the samples were from a vein in a flat area under overburden, and would have been difficult to detect from the air. Samples have been sent to the Atomic Energy Commission for analysis.

The first uranium rush was started several months ago in the same general area after a group of Los Angeles businessmen filed extensive mining claims.

Changes Eyed For Idaho's Primary Law

BOISE, Idaho (U) — Senate Minority Leader O. J. Buxton said Saturday a bill had been prepared completely overhauling Idaho's primary law and calling for a pre-primary convention.

The measure was discussed at a Democratic caucus Saturday afternoon and presented to the Republican leadership of the Senate for its consideration. Buxton said.

In floor action, the Senate unanimously memorialized Congress to provide funds for Libby Dam and passed a House-approved bill to authorize extension of the period for filing Idaho income tax returns to April 15, the new federal deadline.

The House, with one negative vote in each case, voted to extend initiative, referendum and recall to all second class cities and to increase payments of state education funds to four "token" counties from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

The pre-primary convention bill would require voters to register as members of a party, not now a requirement of Idaho law. Each party would select a candidate for each state and congressional office.

The names of the candidates selected by the convention would appear at the head of the primary ballot. Other candidates would be free to file against them.

Birds, Beaches Threatened by Jettisoned Oil

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (UP)—Oil dumped by a stranded tanker blanketed 600 square miles of the North Sea Saturday, trapping thousands of birds and threatening to spread over bathing beaches in Germany and Denmark.

Danes rallied to the aid of the birds and German authorities waited for favorable winds that might make it possible to burn off the spreading slick.

The Danish tanker Gerda Maersk started the trouble 11 days ago by jettisoning 6,000 tons of crude oil when the ship ran aground.

The oil has been spreading ever since. Saturday it was drifting along the coast of the Danish island of Roemoe, where it had clogged the feathers of uncounted seabirds. Schoolchildren already are patrolling the Roemoe beaches, rescuing and cleaning birds that reach the shore. The Svalen Wild Life Association is planning to set out in small boats to rescue what birds it can and give the others a speedy death.

The owners of the Gerda Maersk have offered to pay the costs of the Svalen expedition, which will concentrate its efforts in the area of the International Bird Sanctuary at Jordsand.

Resort owners on the nearby German island of Sylt are alarmed by the threat to their beaches. They said an east wind could cause "incalculable damage" by piling the slick up on the shore.

Suit Filed by Cowboy Star

HOUSTON, Tex. (UP)—Cowboy singing star Gene Autry, due here Saturday to star in the Houston Fat Stock Show and Rodeo beginning Wednesday, filed a law suit in advance.

A suit seeking \$5250 for ridicule and infringement on copyright was filed in federal court Friday against a Houston clown, Bozo St. Clair, and Pete Lout, operator of the Town Lounge bar where St. Clair sings.

Autry's suit alleged that Bozo and Lout originated and recorded a comic number called "Gene Autry" and set to the musical accompaniment of "Back in the Saddle Again," Autry's copyrighted theme song.

CLASS NAMED DEFEAT

PARIS (U) — For the first time, a new cadet class at St. Cyr, the famed French military school, will bear the name of a defeat. It is to be called "the class of Dien Bien Phu."

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Secret 'Buttons' Offer Fast, Safe Car Brakes

By ALTON L. BLAKESLEE
AP Science Reporter
AKRON, Ohio (U) — A new brake stops a car amazingly fast, smoothly and with no skid — even on ice.

At 60 miles an hour, you can stop within 120 feet, about half the stopping distance with regular drum-type brakes. You stop with no side-sway, no squealing tires, no jolt which could send you or a passenger against the windshield.

You stop as though suddenly driving into soft sand, but with no pull on the steering wheel.

These brakes are skid resistant. Properly operated, the wheels will not lock and cause skidding even on wet or icy pavements, said F. J. Young, section head of the research department of the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.

I drove a car equipped with these brakes. Quite frankly, I couldn't stop in 120 feet at 60 m. p.h. I needed 180 feet. But one reason was that I was afraid to tramp down suddenly as hard as I could — fearing a too-sudden forward thrust. Also the brake pedal was located differently than in my own car, and my foot lost a split second in moving from accelerator to brake pedal.

No Skid Marks
But I sat beside Young while he stopped within 120 feet. It was smooth, quick, like nothing I'd experienced before in a car. There was not a skid mark on the concrete highway, although this test car has made hundreds of these high-speed stops.

The brake is a disc type. Four metal discs are attached to the wheel hubs, parallel to each wheel. When you tramp on the brake pedal, two to four little buttons the size of half dollars press against each disc, and slow it to a stop.

Disc-type brakes are not new. This one was developed by the Meadville Research Corp., Meadville, Pa.

Secret Materials
Goodyear scientists developed the new buttons or brake linings which press against the discs. The buttons are made of a special organic material whose ingredients are kept secret.

The buttons already are in use on disc-type brakes on DC7 airliners, to stop those huge aircraft quickly if the pilot finds he can't make a takeoff and must stop before reaching the end of the runway. The heavy planes get rolling up to 150 mph on the ground.

The brakes have been installed for experiments in a couple of automobiles. Each disc is about a foot in diameter and fairly thin. The little buttons are only 1 1/2 inches in diameter and about a third of an inch thick.

Two in Rear
Four buttons are used on each front brake — two on each side of the disc. Only two buttons are used on rear brakes, one on each side of the discs.

Despite hundreds of quick stops, the tread on the car's tires looks almost as good as new, though they have rolled 10,000 miles. The buttons show no perceptible signs of wear. They're probably good for 50,000 to 100,000 miles of driving. If they become worn, they could be replaced easily and simply, Young said.

The secret of the buttons is they can absorb tremendous amounts of energy, without being burned or worn away by the fantastic heat and friction developed each time they are used.

Automobile manufacturers are reportedly interested in the experiments. It would be possible to substitute these brakes on present cars, if they prove satisfactory.

In the research laboratory, tests are being run on a spinning wheel which is stopped by applying the buttons. The amount of wear on the buttons is measured after 15 to 25 such high-speed stops. The buttons must be good for 100 high-energy stops to qualify for airplane use.

Jet Climbs at Record Rate

NORFOLK, Va. (U) — A Navy FJ-3 Fury jet fighter climbed to 10,000 feet in 73.2 seconds at the Oceana Naval Air Station Friday, unofficially shattering the previous record of 83 seconds.

The pilot, Lt. Cmdr. William J. Manby Jr., 34, made four tries before beating the record set only two days ago at the Miramar, Calif., Naval Air Station.

The climb was timed from the instant the plane started moving down the runway.

Manby, of South Bend, Ind., failed to better the 83-second mark the first two attempts but was timed in 78.4 seconds on the third effort. Then on the fourth try, he reached 10,000 feet in 73.2.

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Passerby Prevents Possible Death Leap

PORTLAND (U) — A passerby prevented a woman from jumping from the fire escape on the third floor of a small hotel here Friday night.

James O'Laughlin looked up and saw Mrs. Leona Moier as she was getting ready to leap. He climbed 15 feet up a drain pipe, got onto the fire escape, and then grabbed the woman by a leg as she leaned into space.

He held on until police, attracted by the woman's screams, arrived to pull her to safety. She was placed for observation in a hospital.

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