

Carpenter Predicted 'Ride' 3 Years Ago

By HOWARD BENEDICT
Of the Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. —When Malcolm Scott Carpenter was selected in 1959 as one of the seven Mercury astronauts, he was thankful to be rescued from what he considered a grueling assignment—a two-year tour of duty on an aircraft carrier.

On the carrier, he would face long periods away from his family and the disappointing prospect of a non-flying job. The Mercury orders arrived just two days before the ship was to depart San Diego. When the carrier commander asked him what he was going to do, Carpenter replied: "Ride the nose cone of an Atlas three times around the earth."

"I remember being a little amazed at my own words," Carpenter said recently. "I knew little about the program then. By now, I know a good deal more, but the whole idea fills me with awe."

Carpenter, 37, a Navy lieutenant commander, was thrust suddenly into the pilot role for the second U.S. manned orbit flight last March 15 when it was disclosed that the chosen astronaut, Air Force Maj. Donald K. Slayton, had minor heart trouble. Carpenter had been backup pilot for Marine Lt. Col. John H. Glenn Jr.'s orbital flight on Feb. 20.

The handsome, crew-cut Carpenter has been a vital member of the astronaut team. His specialty is navigation and communications and he has worked extensively with engineers and technicians to develop a foolproof communications system for the Mercury capsule.

Carpenter is an exemplary citizen now, but it took him a little time to find himself. He said recently that in his youth he was a drifter and "sort of a no-good" in his home town of Boulder, Colo., where he was born May 1, 1925.

"I didn't study hard and I had to quit high school football because I couldn't devote myself to learning the plays," he said. "I stole things from stores and I was just drifting through, sort of a no-good." After high school graduation in 1943, he enlisted in



the Navy and got a start on his flying career in the Navy V-5 flight training program.

After World War II, he entered the University of Colorado but had trouble adjusting and twice was flunked out of school.

He became a laborer in Boulder. But not long afterward, when he was 20, he had an auto accident, which changed his whole life. He was unconscious for four days, and during a two-week convalescence in the hospital he decided to return to college.

He came within three credit hours of earning a degree in aeronautical engineering from Colorado in 1949 but encountered difficulty with a course in heat transfer. Before he could pick up the credits, he courted and married his wife, Rene, also a Colorado student, and rejoined the Navy.

After graduation from the Navy test pilot school in 1954, Carpenter began the dangerous job of working the kinks out of some of the nation's newest, fastest fighting planes.

Rene, a pretty blonde, recalls some anxious moments when he was a test pilot at Patuxent River, Md. She said she was nervous every time he didn't show up at 6 o'clock sharp for dinner.

But she says they have discussed the dangers of his job and have learned to live with them. They spend little time worrying—even about the hazards of space flight.

Carpenter and Rene, who also is from Boulder, are very close and write lengthy letters to one another when separated. He writes in detail about

his Project Mercury work and once penned 17 pages.

Soon after he had gone to Washington for one of his first briefings as an astronaut, Rene wrote him: "I think you were born for this and God knows I'd rather have you in space than at sea. I'm so darn happy and proud of you."

With four children, they have the largest family of any of the astronauts. The youngsters are Mark Scott, 12, Robyn Jay, 10, Kristine Elaine, 6, and Candace Nixon, 5. A fifth child, a 6-month-old son, died in 1951.

Green-eyed Rene, fulfilling a long-time desire, came to nearby Cocoa Beach with the children to be close when Carpenter is rocketed toward space. This is the first astronaut family to be in the Cape area at launch time.

"There's nothing at all like it," Rene says, "to stand on the beach and see it going up—and the prayerful attitude of the crowd."

She said her husband wanted the sons, Scott and Jay, to witness the launching firsthand. Although daughters are not as space conscious, he wanted them to be nearby also.

Carpenter is devoted to the children and spends as much of his free time as possible with them at their home at Langley Air Force Base, Va. His hobbies are skin-diving, archery and water skiing.

He is an Episcopalian who has "an abiding faith which sustains me at all times."

Downs to Leave 'Tonight' Show

NEW YORK (AP)—Announcer Hugh Downs will succeed John Chancellor in September as host of the National Broadcasting Company's television "Tonight" program, the network said Wednesday.

Downs also will continue on "Concentration," NBC-TV's daytime program.

However, he will leave the "Tonight" show, with which he has been associated since 1957. Chancellor, among other new assignments, will be anchorman on six pre-election NBC news specials this fall.



31 Rocket Engines Involved in Orbit

It's a complicated vehicle, all right. No less than 31 different rocket engines—ranging in size from 150,000 pounds of thrust to one pound of thrust—were used Thursday by astronaut Scott Carpenter. These propulsion units are numbered in sketches above.

• The first five are on the Atlas booster: Two big boosters on either side (1 and 2) develop 150,000 pounds thrust each. A sustainer engine (3) between them develops 60,000 pounds. Two small vernier engines (4 and 5) help stabilize the vehicle.

• Two rockets (6 and 7) are in the escape assembly: In case of trouble in the first few minutes of flight, a 52,000-pound

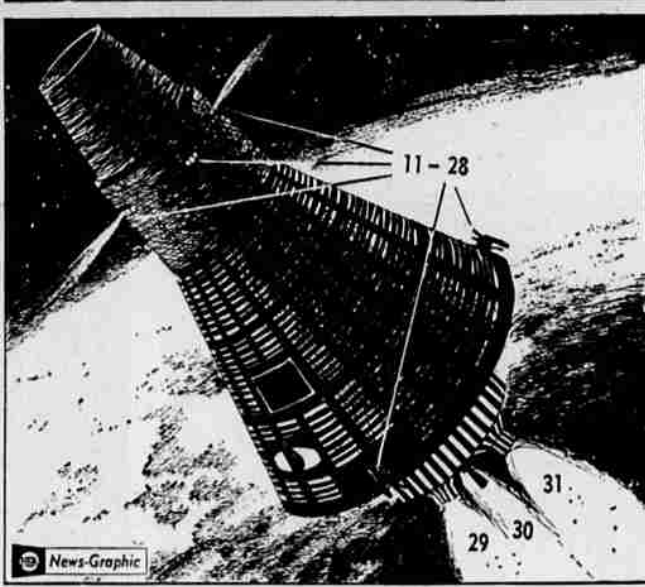
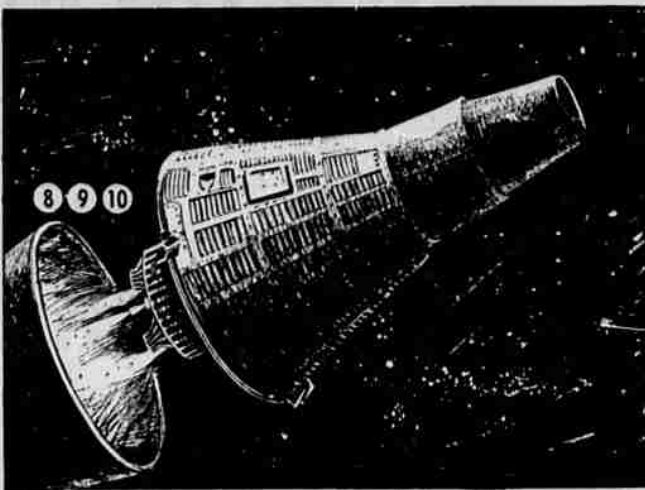
thrust engine would pull tower and Mercury capsule away from the Atlas. A smaller rocket of 800 pounds would separate the tower from the capsule so that the capsule's parachute could open. But otherwise, the tower assembly is jettisoned at an altitude of 292,000 feet.

• The remaining rockets are on the Mercury capsule: At about 500,000 feet, the capsule is kicked away from the sustainer engine with three post-graduate rockets (8, 9, 10), each of 400 pounds thrust. Eighteen small thrusters (11 to 28) on the spacecraft are used by the pilot to maneuver the capsule while in orbit. They range from 1 to 24 pounds thrust. As flight

nears its end, three retrorockets with a thrust of 1,000 pounds slow the capsule so that it falls back into the atmosphere.

Has Oldest Forests

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—J. R. Hendrickson, director of the University of Malaya's Zoological division, says this country probably has the oldest continuous forests in the world and thus "is a repository for many remnants of animal life that are found elsewhere only in fossil form." Hendrickson said that among these were the flying lemur, a monkey-like species believed to be 70 million years old, and a wide variety of flying squirrels.



Plane Missing After Collision

HONOLULU (AP)—One plane landed safely and another was missing after collision of two Marine Corps F8U Crusader jet fighters eight miles southeast of Oahu Island Wednesday night.

A Marine Corps spokesman said a plane piloted by 1st Lt. G. G. Keyes landed at Kaneohe Marine Air Base after the accident.

Marine helicopters, two Coast Guard planes and two Coast Guard patrol boats were dispatched to the area where the collision occurred but found nothing.

The name of the pilot of the missing plane was withheld.

John Glenn Rated Top Family Man

Astronaut Named 'Father of the Year'

NEW YORK (AP)—A man acclaimed for doing a good job above the Earth Thursday was honored for doing a good job on it. Marine Lt. Col. John H. Glenn Jr. was named the nation's "Father of the Year."

Although Glenn, as the first American to orbit this planet, has been as far away from his family as any man ever has been, he was rated tops as a family man by the National Father's Day Committee.

It also praised his courageous performance in his orbital flight last Feb. 20, and "his modesty in insisting that the honors heaped upon him belong to the space program itself and not to him personally."

The committee cited Glenn's "rare gifts of intellect, charm and daring" and called him "America's newest hero in its quest for peace and universal freedom."

He and his wife, Anna Margaret, have two children, John David, 14, and Carolyn Ann, 13.

In ceremonies at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, the committee also presented awards in various categories to nine other persons, including:

Actor Robert Morse, "Stage Father of the Year"; entertainer Arthur Godfrey, "Radio Father of the Year"; actors E. G. Marshall and Robert Reed, "TV Father and Son of the Year"; attorney Louis Nizer, "Literary Father of the Year."

Actress Olivia de Havilland, "Woman of the Year"; boxing champion Gene Fullmer, "Sports Father of the Year"; conductor and composer Meredith Willson, winner of "Humanitarian Award"; entertainer Don Mahoney, "Blind father of the Year," and printer Jack Markowitz, "Worker Father of the Year."

Legs Give Out

ACQUI TERME, Italy (AP)—Vincenzo Cavallo, grabbed by bank guards here after picking a bank client's pocket of \$80, told police as he was being booked: "But for these shaky old legs of mine, they wouldn't have caught me." Cavallo is 80.

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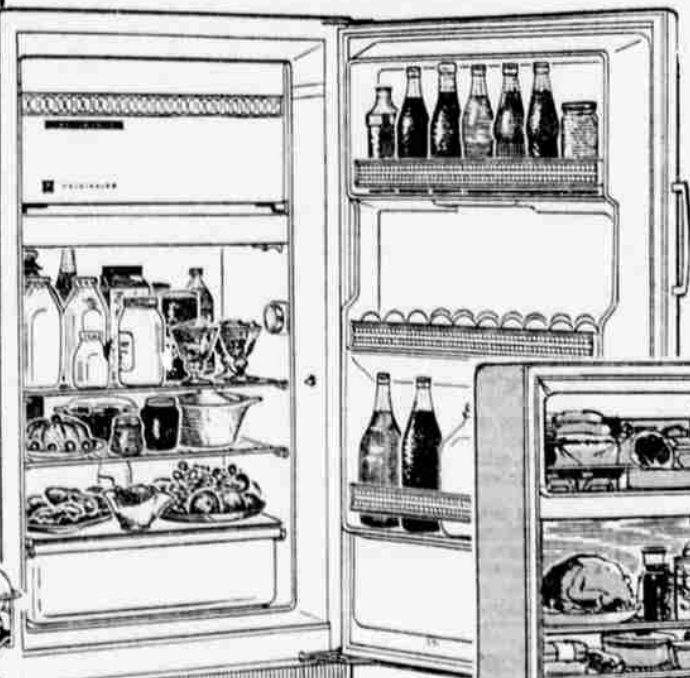
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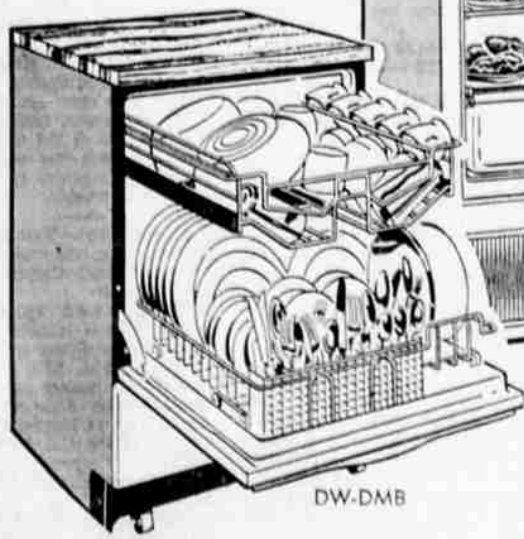
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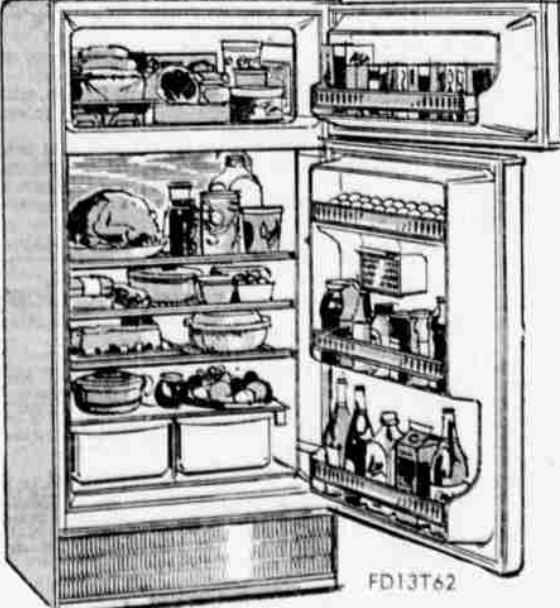
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