

Crossfield Picked to Pilot 4,000 MPH Rocket Ship X15

By HERBERT D. WILHOIT
LOS ANGELES (AP)—A pilot who looks more like a banker than a space man may be the first human to fly 4,000 m.p.h.

Scott Crossfield, 35, was named yesterday to pilot the rocket-powered North American X15 on its maiden flight next year.

Almost anybody would take this concept very seriously. The 150-pound family man is a quietly confident businessman and an aeronautical engineer, which he is.

He is the man who first flew twice the speed of sound—1,327 m.p.h. in the Douglas Skyrocket in November 1953—and he is the man who may pilot the X15 higher and faster than any other manned aircraft. The Pentagon in Washington has said the X15 may achieve such unbelievable marks as 4,000 m.p.h. and 200,000 feet altitude.

"This is my business, my life work," Crossfield said matter-of-factly when newsmen asked how he felt about approaching this project.

"The X15 is a flying research laboratory. It is simply an extension of the designs and accomplishments of the X1, X2 and X3 series.

"There is no concept that requires a superhuman to fly this aircraft. There is no extreme requirement on the pilot. I will require no 'training' as such. I am living with this aircraft, from the concept through the drawing boards, the mockup, the actual construction, the testing and, finally, the flight.

"This thing will not be a piece of cake, of course. But the whole project is developed step by step so that there will be no unknown phenomena."

Many of Crossfield's own ideas are being engineered into the X15. It is being fabricated by North American and its liquid propellant rocket engine will be built by Reaction Motors, Inc., Denville, N.J. Nearly all of its details are security secrets.

Presumably it will be dropped from a mother plane over Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., as were the X1 and X2 research speedsters which ran the records up to better than 2,200 m.p.h. and 90,000 feet altitude.

"From the pilot's standpoint," Crossfield said, "we are not restricted in your theoretical 4,000 m.p.h. and 200,000 feet. Mechanically, we can put a pilot at any altitude and speed we want."

He said he was permitted to disclose that the X15 will have "better emergency (bailout) provisions for the pilot than any previous rocket aircraft."

Asked what his wife thought about the X15 project, Crossfield laughed and said: "I never asked her."

Russ Build Up Satellite Arms In Tough Push

By CHARLES M. McCANN
United Press Staff Correspondent
Soviet Russia seems to be carrying out a big military build-up in the Communist satellite countries of Eastern Europe.

The build-up is reported to include the construction of rocket and guided-missile bases in Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Poland and possibly Hungary.

The superhighway—Autobahn—which extends across East Germany is being improved so that parts of it will serve as landing strips for jet fighter planes, according to one report.

Troop Build-up Reported

Russian troop reinforcements are said to be moving into some of the countries concerned. In others, according to dispatches from West Germany, garrison troops are being replaced by fresh units from Russia which would be more trustworthy in event of trouble.

While this is going on, the Soviet government also is conducting a somewhat puzzling and contradictory diplomatic campaign.

This includes threats to Allied countries of frightful destruction in event of war, bids for better relations with the big Western powers and hints of important concessions in the current United Nations disarmament negotiations in London.

What the whole business adds up to, it is difficult to figure out. But for one thing, it looks as if the Soviet government is really worried over the threat it would face if the United States and its allies maintain in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries.

Fear German Uprising

Further, though Communist-ruled East Germany seems to be quiet and tough "realist" leaders are in control there, the Russians seem to fear the possibility that an uprising might break out there at any time.

It must be remembered, too, that the satellite countries have become economic liabilities since the Polish and Hungarian revolts, and that they are likely to remain so.

Hence it may be that the reported build-up of military strength and striking power in the satellite countries is largely defensive.

It may be also that the recent optimism over the possibility that a start may be made toward disarmament is justified.

That would mean that the Soviet government is "ready" at last to agree to limited aerial inspection of military facilities.

May Be First to Fly 4,000 MPH



LOS ANGELES—Test pilot Scott Crossfield talks with newsmen yesterday after he was selected to pilot a rocket powered experimental plane which may reach a speed of 4,000 miles an hour. Crossfield, who already has flown twice the speed of sound, will pilot the North American X15 on its maiden flight next year. The Air Force has said the plane may achieve such unbelievable records as 4,000 mph and 200,000 feet altitude. (AP Wirephoto)

Rabies Victim Dies in Agony; Kin Get Shots

SANTA ANA, Calif. (UP)—The wife and daughter of a rabies victim who died maddened and agonized are taking painful anti-rabies shots because they kissed him before he died, a county health officer said Thursday.

The victim, Clyde Pennington, 41, of Anaheim, Calif., probably lost his life because of his love for animals. He died in a rabid fit April 11 but it wasn't until Wednesday that authorities determined he was a rabies victim.

Dr. Edward L. Russell, county health officer, said Pennington's wife, Sally, and their daughter, Jeanette, 7, both are taking the Pasteur treatment for rabies because rabies can be passed by contact with the saliva of a victim and they may have picked up the germs when they kissed Pennington.

Five other persons who had contacts with Pennington also have begun the treatments as an extra precaution, Russell said.

Pennington was described as liking animals so much he befriended every dog he encountered.

Before his death he broke out of the hospital where he was being treated for his then-untidified illness, smashing doors and windows, and halting attendants before they subdued him.

Eden About to Leave Hospital

BOSTON (AP)—Sir Anthony Eden, former British prime minister, will be discharged from New England Baptist Hospital next Monday.

Dr. Richard B. Cattell, who operated on Sir Anthony April 13 for bile duct obstruction, said Friday that the 58-year-old statesman would "spend a week near Boston following which he will travel by air to Ottawa on May 6."

During the visit to Ottawa, a hospital bulletin said, "Sir Anthony and Lady Eden will be the guests of the Governor General, Sir Vincent Massey, who is a personal friend of Sir Anthony."

Sir Anthony came here by air on April 7 from New Zealand where he had been resting after leaving office. The operation was his fourth major surgery in four years.

Aged Woman Truck Victim

PORTLAND (AP)—A tractor-trailer struck and killed Mrs. Florence E. Young, 85, here Thursday.

It was the city's 16th traffic fatality of the year, compared to 19 in this time in 1956.

Arthur Vuylstek, Portland, suffered head and leg injuries when the tractor bounced off the rear of his car and hit Mrs. Young. Vuylstek had stopped to let the woman pass in front of him. The tractor driver was Kyle J. Drake, Portland.

Unacceptable, Israel Terms Suez Formula

JERUSALEM (AP)—A Foreign Ministry official said Friday the new Egyptian Suez plan is unacceptable to Israel.

He said freedom of passage through the canal is vital to Israel and "we shall vigilantly pursue the securing of this inalienable right."

The spokesman reiterated that Israel intends to try to send a test ship through Suez but that it is a question of timing. He said Israel has no intention of sending a test ship before details of operating the waterway are clarified or while negotiations were underway.

92,000-FOOT TEST Balloon Preview of High Bailout Slated

By WILLIAM B. HARWOOD
BALTIMORE (AP)—A preview of the Air Force's next high-altitude bailout attempt will be staged next week at New Brighton, Minn., with a balloon flight to 92,000 feet.

But instead of men, the gondola will carry a manikin whose joints are made to simulate the joints of the human skeleton.

If next week's test is successful, the gondola will be manned for actual bailout, experiments this summer at the Air Research and Development Command's Alamogordo, N.M., development center. The current bailout altitude record is 45,200 feet.

For the unmanned test, a giant plastic balloon will raise the gondola to the test altitude—more than 16 miles up.

At 92,000 feet, the balloon will be cut loose and a 14-foot stabilization chute will open on the gondola. This will not slow its descent to any appreciable extent at that high altitude and the gondola will free fall together to 20,000 feet. At that altitude, the strapped-down passenger will cut loose the small chute and a 64-foot cargo parachute will open on the gondola. Since the dummy can't do it, these two actions will

Scouts Display Skills Red China Won't Ban Rival Parties

PORTLAND (AP)—Boy Scouts will hold their annual Krafsto at the Pacific International Livestock Pavilion here Friday night and Saturday.

Some 10,000 Scouts will fill 340 booths with demonstrations of scouting skills.

After the New Brighton test flight, the gondola will be transported to the Wright Air Development Center, Dayton, Ohio, where four volunteers for the summer tests will simulate the ascent and subsequent descent in an altitude chamber. They will try for a maximum altitude of 92,000 feet. The four volunteers are Capt. Harry P. Nielson, project officer; Capt. Harry Collins, 1st Lt. Austin W. Kibler and M.Sgt. George A. Post, all members of WADC's Aero Medical Laboratory.

Red China Won't Ban Rival Parties

HONG KONG (AP)—Red China Friday promised its non-Communist parties they would be able to continue in existence "for a very long time."

The "long-term coexistence of all democratic parties in China is a fundamental policy of the Chinese Communist Party, not a temporary expedient," said the official Peiping Peoples' Daily in a policy statement.

Israel to Free Spy
JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli authorities said Friday Mary Frances Hagan, 29, of Huntington, W.Va., will be released from prison Sunday and will leave immediately for the United States. She was convicted last October of spying for Syria and sentenced to one year in prison.

A LENGTHY 'VISIT' CHICAGO (UP)—Anthony McGauley, 55, is convinced his wife is never coming back. McGauley sued for divorce Thursday on the ground that he has waited long enough for the return of his bride who never came back from a "visit" to Scotland 29 years ago.

LEGALS

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Sealed proposals for "Grading and Graveling" will be received by the Marion County Court, Room 110 Courthouse, Salem, Oregon, until 10:00 A.M. on the 13th day of May, 1957, and then will be publicly opened and read.
The work consists of 231 miles of grading, graveling and draining of County Road No. 408. Plans and specifications may be obtained from the Office of the County Engineer, Courthouse, Salem, Oregon. Bids must be accompanied by a bid bond or certified check for 10% of the amount of the bid and bidders must be pre-qualified in accordance with the laws of Oregon.
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