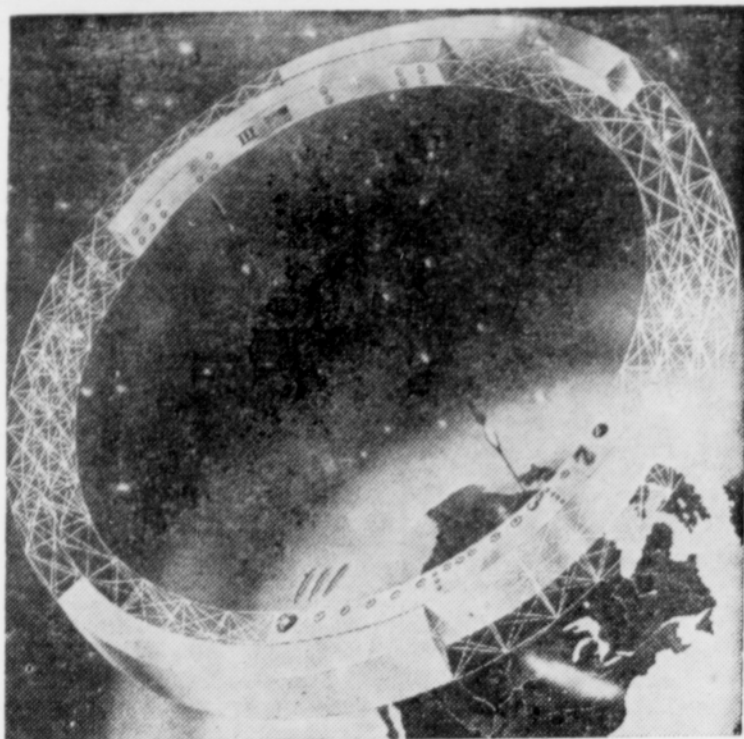




'ISLAND IN THE SKY'... A man-made planet, or "island in the sky," is envisioned by Donald J. Ritchie, ex-serviceman, as a terminal for rocket ships soaring to the moon and between planets.

IN THESE UNITED STATES

Ex-G. I. Scientist Envisions Future 'Island in the Sky'

DETROIT, MICH. — They laughed at Jules Verne and later laughed some more at H. G. Wells—but many of the "impossible" things that these men foresaw in their fiction now are fact.

So don't laugh too loud nor too long at the dream of Donald J. Ritchie, 25-year-old Detroit ex-G. I. who envisions a man-made planet, or "island in the sky," which will be a stop-off point on future journeys to the moon.

Ritchie, currently a student at Lawrence Institute of Technology in Detroit, didn't pick his dream out of thin air. Before his discharge from the army air forces, he was draftsman and designer for the air technical command at Wright Field, Ohio.

He didn't get overseas, but overseas came to him in the form of German plans and models for strange war weapons captured or otherwise acquired by our forces. Many of them were sent to Wright Field for study.

Among the war loot were plans and models of the nazis' most highly-developed rockets. Most important, however, were some recorded fragments of the German dream to establish a "base" in outer space from which they could bombard the earth. These fragments formed the basis for Ritchie's dream of an "island in the sky."

The theory is that rockets, reaching a final speed of 16,700 miles an hour outside the earth's atmosphere, would balance that of gravity with their own centrifugal force. The rockets then would revolve around the earth without further need of power. They actually would become satellites of the earth.

Money Ills Lead Family Troubles

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — Money leads the list of family troubles, records of the Family Service institute here disclose.

During an 11-month period 625 requests for help in money troubles and home management were received by the service, an increase of 60 per cent over the previous year.

The increase, according to Miss Margaret Park, family counselor at Family Service, is attributed to high cost of living, fewer women working, men working less overtime, strikes and work stoppages. All these conditions increase the number of families with troubles.

Then, too, there are the tired washing machine, the broken-back davenport, the sagging bedspring and the limping vacuum cleaner—all household musts that need replacements.

The "know how" of budgeting and managing a home is a science, Miss Park insists. "It is not merely worrying before rather than after you spend all your money—it is making money buy most to meet all a family needs, not just food, shelter and clothing," she adds.

No matter how you try, there is always a limit to that dollar. If a family needs \$30 a week and has an income of \$20, no budgeting or stretching will make up the difference, the counselor points out.

'Coolest' City Gets Ice from 'Hottest'

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz.—Although Flagstaff claims to be the coolest city in Arizona and boasts vast ice caves as a tourist attraction, the city now is importing ice. The ice comes in carload lots from Phoenix, which doesn't claim to be one of the hottest cities in Arizona, but admits it. It's all because Flagstaff has grown too fast.

Off We Go

AVIATION NOTES

NEW JOBS FOR PLANES

Ingenuity of American fliers, especially flying farmers, continues to produce new uses for the small airplane.

Rural use of the airplane, particularly in areas where farms or ranches are of large size, is growing, according to a roundup of information on airplane uses compiled by personal flying representatives of Civil Aeronautics administration.

Commercial dusting and spraying of crops and mosquito-breeding spots still ranks as the major rural use of airplanes, but this work is done mostly by companies organized for the purpose.

On large ranches, such as those in the West, an airplane can replace many a rider on a pony. Planes are used for observation and maintenance of windmills as well as for patrolling miles of fences and irrigation ditches.

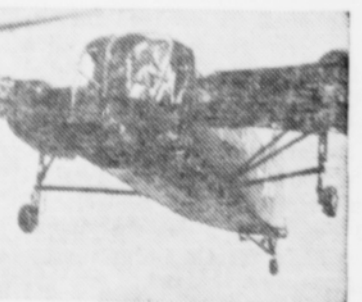
The airplanes take a more aggressive part in operation and protection of large ranches. Hunting down and shooting coyotes from the air now is a favorite and profitable sport—or business—of many ranchers owning their own planes. The coyote usually tries to run into the shadows of the speeding plane, where he becomes easy prey to the buckshot of the rancher sitting behind or beside the pilot.

Some ranchers herd wild horses by means of low-flying planes; locate lost cattle on remote sections of huge ranges, and assist cowboys in cattle roundups by utilizing the plane as cow pony.

More unusual uses of the airplane in rural areas include spreading of fertilizer, spraying of soil with oil solutions and stocking of streams and lakes with fish.

Ingenuity of young Americans returned from the global air war is accounting for many new uses of the airplane in commercial and industrial life. In addition to the standard business of pilot instruction, charter operation, aerial photography and aerial advertising, planes are being used in many diverse fields.

Transportation of fire-fighters to areas where they can head off forest fires soon may be supplemented by dropping of extinguishing chemicals from airplanes.



LARGEST HELICOPTER... World's largest and first twin-engine helicopter, known as the navy's XHJD-1, was built primarily as a research vehicle.

TAILWINDS SPEED FLIGHTS... Clipper planes to Europe have cut flying time 10 per cent by riding strong North Atlantic winds. Until lately, airlines followed a Great Circle route—the shortest distance to Ireland. Now, say officials of Pan American World Airways, navigators use weather forecasts to chart courses hundreds of miles off the Great Circle by which planes can travel with one wind after another.

NO BARE CUPBOARDS

Scientists Study 15-Year Food Program for World

By WNU Features

Filling Mother Hubbard's cupboards all over the world is the objective of the United Nations Food and Agriculture organization, now engaged in a study designed to formulate a 15-year program aimed at increasing world diets.

Intent on assuring "freedom from want"—second of the "four freedoms"—for peoples all over the world, the group of scientists comprising FAO are attempting to devise methods by which at least 2,600 calories a day will be provided for everyone.

The plan involves no charity. Rather, it's a boot-strap lifting item whereby it is hoped the nations of the world can lift themselves to decent diets.

Same Areas Affected
FAO has found that practically the same areas that are the unhappy footfalls of the world's politicians also are the areas which are among the most poorly fed: India, Java, Korea, Iran, Iraq, Transjordan and China.

Peace scholars feel that if those underfed areas had enjoyed good living for at least two generations there never would have been any more likelihood of using China's 400,000,000 as a political pawn than there is of using pugnacious Australia with its mere 7,000,000.

FAO has been at work for a year in Washington headquarters. It has 42 member nations, including all the major powers except Russia.

Early this year FAO experts took the first world food survey to get a basis for a UN program.

The program sets 1960 as a "target date" and says that to get a minimum diet of 2,600 calories by then, the world must increase its food production by the following percentages:

Cereals 21; roots 27; sugar 12; fats 34; peas and beans 80; fruits and vegetables 163; meats 46; milk 100.

The plan by no means sees everyone eating alike. It takes account of India's love of rice, Latin American preferences for beans, and so on.

It only hopes to raise the caloric intake of the poorer countries (and 2,600 calories would be 1,000 more than some are getting). It makes no attempt to get the best balance between cereals, meats and vegetables.

For the richer countries, such as the United States, it does propose a better balance.

Nations Lead
FAO found that in only 11 nations out of the 70 surveyed do the people normally average at least 3,000 calories a day. These were the United States, Canada, Eire, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Argentina, New Zealand and Australia.

In 11 other nations the people normally average 2,000 or fewer a day: Korea, India, Java, the Philippines, Iran, Iraq, Transjordan, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico and Colombia.

Navy Launches Test for Air-conditioning of Fleet

WASHINGTON — Sun-scorching after a day's work under a blazing summer sun, weary men some day in the near future may walk past a postoffice to be greeted by a navy recruiting poster with the message, "20 degrees cooler aboard ship." That will be particularly true in Midwest states, long a fertile field for navy enlistments.

The navy is planning to air-condition its fleet and toward this goal two heavy cruisers now building, the Salem and the Newport News, are being used as guinea pigs to determine the best type of equipment.

Vice Admiral E. L. Cochrane, chief of the bureau of ships, emphasized that the navy "is not trying to mollycoddle its personnel." Rather, its aim is to improve efficiency on the theory that men can work and fight better if they don't have to waste energy lambasting the heat.

Advantage in Action
As Cochrane put it, "there can be no question but that the crew in an air conditioned warship will have a distinct and perhaps a decisive advantage in action with an enemy fatigued and of lowered alertness from living in a ship that is not air conditioned."

Early reports from the south Pacific fighting fronts made it

clear that heat exhaustion was a tactical factor. Cochrane said, adding, however, that since Japanese ships weren't air conditioned either, "we fought on equal terms in that regard."

The navy's decision followed extensive experiments conducted at the naval medical research institute at Bethesda, Md., and aboard the carrier Franklin on her Caribbean shakedown cruise.

Test Two Types
Two types of air conditioning are being tested on the two cruisers. Steam jet equipment will be aboard the Salem when she is completed in late 1947. The Newport News will have equipment utilizing high speed freon compressors.

Although the Salem and Newport News will be the first combat ships to have living quarters completely air-conditioned, cooling systems aboard navy ships are not new.

About 40 years ago, temperature control was introduced in powder magazines. About 20 years ago mechanical cooling systems were installed in plotting and control rooms.

Also beginning in 1942, aircraft carriers have had mechanically cooled rooms for aviators toggled out in their heavy equipment and standing by on alert. All ships later were equipped with air-conditioned hospital space.



AGRICULTURAL MISSIONARY... Franklin Wallick of Dayton, Ohio, pictured on his tractor, is one of a group of "agricultural missionaries" who will work in China as part of a 50-man unit sponsored by UNRRA and Church of the Brethren, historic peace church with headquarters in Elgin, Ill. They will plant wheat in the Yellow river area flooded during the war.

Weathers Three Wars, Will Sit Out Next One

STOCKTON, Calif. — After living through three wars, Karl L. Horst is ready to go underground and sit out the next one. Horst, 59, has weathered the Spanish-American war, World War I and World War II.

But when an atom bomb leveled Hiroshima and Nagasaki and then snapped the seams on the Saratoga, the Arkansas and a few other assorted craft at Bikini atoll, he figured he'd had enough.

Consequently he inserted an advertisement in a Stockton newspaper:

"If interested in creating a safe shelter of refuge from atomic bombs for yourself and family, write at once."

Horst has a superbomb shelter in mind, located at some secret spot in the High Sierras. Perhaps an old gold mine could be converted or a new hole tunneled, he says.

Fabulous Carpet Used as Model for 1,000 Years

Can you imagine a carpet worth 200 million dollars?

There once was such a carpet, says Encyclopaedia Britannica. It furnished the model and inspiration for Oriental rugs for more than 1,000 years, and Oriental rugs of today may be patterned after it.

This fabulous carpet was made more than 14 centuries ago for the vast audience hall of the Persian palace at Ctesiphon. It was called the spring or winter carpet of Khush.

raw, and exceeded in cost and magnificence any created or imagined before or since.

The carpet represented a formal garden with paths, flower beds, blossoming shrubs and fruit trees.

The body of the rug was silk, the yellow gravel was represented by gold, the blossoms, fruit and birds were worked with pearls and every kind of jewel. The wide outer border representing a green meadow was solid with emeralds.

Largemouth Black Bass

The general color of the largemouth black bass is dark green above, sides and below greenish silver, three oblique dark stripes across the cheek, belly is white. The head is large and the mouth very wide, the corner of which extends beyond the eye. The largemouth bass will spawn on a mucky bottom or construct its nest in vegetation or stumps.

Mishaps Most Costly

New York state workmen's compensation board survey showed that accidents in the construction industry are more severe and costly than in any other industry. The average cost of compensation to disabled construction workers was twice the amount of payments to other disabled workers. Falls account for the most accidents.

Still Has Not Melted

The Tower of Butter, built in the 12th century, is in Rouen, France. It was erected with money contributed to the priests by the peasants who so prized butter as a food that they paid for the privilege of eating it during Lent.

Shears for Everyone

Business in scissors adds up to 10 million dollars in sales a year and uses 2,500 tons of steel, according to Steelways.

Night Watchman for Bees

The trumpeter, the night watchman of the humble bee, awakes the others in the morning.

First Wheel Cultivator

The first wheel cultivator was patented by Nathan Ide, Shelby, N. Y., in 1846.

Pucker-Up Crop

Pickles are the fourth largest vegetable crop in the United States.

Cotton Harvester

First patent on a cotton-harvesting device was issued in 1850.

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DAFFYNITION: A traffic light is a little green light that turns red as your car approaches.



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