

# Chance of Earth Satellite Hitting Pea-Size Meteorite Said Slim

By H. QUIGG  
United Press Correspondent

New York (U.P.)—If America's man-made basketball — size baby moon, going 18,000 miles an hour, should meet a meteorite the size of a pea, moving in from outer space at 90,000 miles an hour, what would happen?

Simple, said the expert. The meteorite would go right through the satellite. And if the baby moon were pressurized? Poof! There goes pressurization.

The expert was Dr. Homer E. Newell of the Naval Research Laboratory, which will have a to do with making and using the first space frontier vehicles which this country hopes to set orbiting the Earth some time before the end of 1959.

At a press conference at the Hayden Planetarium, on the occasion of the unveiling of a model of an artificial satellite built by Popular Science Monthly, Dr. Newell was asked:

"How big a meteorite can the satellite anticipate meeting?"

"It probably would not collide with any large one," Dr. Newell said. "There probably will be plenty of space dust — micrometeorites, they're called; they won't penetrate but might erode its skin."

### Some Possibilities

Dr. Newell said if a shooting pea from space de-pressurized a satellite, "its equipment would start to malfunction." However, if the satellite were not pressurized inside, it could be that pellet would zip through without

materially disturbing the moon's innards.

"What's the probability of its meeting a pea-size meteorite?"

"It's very, very low," the scientist answered.

"Less than the probability of having an auto accident between here and New Haven?"

"Much less," said Dr. Newell.

He disclosed that at least one of the satellites we send up will have a plastic shell — "a very hard one, shock and heat resistant. He said "It appears we can keep the temperature (inside the sphere) in a reasonable range— from somewhat below freezing to 150 degrees, Fahrenheit."

Dr. Newell said the model at the planetarium, with a skin of transparent plastic and tubes with wiring and circuits, interior and electronic gizmos, "is a reasonable facsimile of what might be done" by the government experts in building one of the real satellites.

### The Gadgets

The builder of the model, Herbert F. Pfister, associate editor of Popular Science, explained that the pedestal on which the ball was mounted was meant to simulate the nose of the third-stage rocket which will give it its final boost and aim it.

Just at the nose was a spring

to separate satellite and rocket after the last boost. Dr. Newell pointed out that since a gentle nudge will part them, there actually will be two satellites orbiting — "an instrumental and noninstrumented one."

A prominent part of the model's interior is blue cylinder with the impressive name of "proton procession magnetometer," a device to evaluate the high altitude magnetic fields that circle the Earth.

Asked what it contained Pfister said: "It's a plastic jar of plain old water, with a coil immersed in it."

## Around Hollywood

By ALINE MOSSBY

Hollywood (U.P.) — Christmas shows on television, like old carols and last year's tree decorations, are becoming repeats of well-worn favorites.

Many TV producers can win themselves a few days vacation by dusting off last year's show for another performance. Audiences, according to the fan mail, get sentimental and like to watch the programs again.

Jack Webb, hero of "Dragnet," appears tonight for the third Christmas in a filmed story about the theft of a statue from a church.

Viewers Wanted It "People asked for it again so we used it," Webb explained. "We think the story is appropriate for a Christmas police show. There's no definite crime, but it has the 'Dragnet' flavor."

Webb is also proud of the fact that the 1953 airing of the show marked the first time color film was seen on coast-to-coast television. That first year the faces came out green and the scenery red, but by now the color transmission has improved.

"We make a new color print of the film every year to keep up with new developments in color TV transmission," Webb adds.

For the second Christmas, "Medic" used its startling program that condemns the American institution, the office party. Sponsor and fans asked for a repeat.

Last year, says producer Frank Latourette, reaction among viewers was "terrific." The program was cited by the National Safety Council for pointing out dangers of driving home after an office soiree.

The Uninvited The reaction this year has been disheartening to the "Medic" staff.

"American National Studio where the series is filmed is having a big Christmas office party Saturday and they didn't invite us," the producer sighed.

CBS repeated Dickens' "Christmas Carol" last week. The show starring Frederic March and Basil Rathbone, was filmed a year ago. Flutery Spring Byington used a 1954 film on "December Bride," a story about how she hauled snow from the mountains so her daughter could have a white Christmas.

"Babes in Toyland," a color spectacular with Wally Cox on Dennis Day, will be repeated on Christmas Eve. Christmas night, another live show, "Amahl and the Night Visitors," the Menotti opera, will be staged for the sixth year.

YULE TREE STOLEN Bridgeport, Conn. —(U.P.)— A thief entered a Bridgeport hospital early Wednesday and carried off a Christmas tree complete with lights and ornaments, police reported.

## Youngster Kills Sister With Gun

Denver, Colo. —(U.P.)—Eleven-year-old Rover William Cook was so badly panicked after he shot his two-year-old sister accidentally in her crib that he picked her up and put her under a Christmas tree, where she died while he ran for help.

Police found the body of Donna Mary Cook, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cook, at the foot of the tree when they arrived at the Cook residence yesterday.

Her brother had on a Davy Crockett shirt, to which he had pinned a junior police badge, when he shot Donna.

The Cooks were Christmas shopping when Rover took his father's small caliber pistol from a drawer while alone in the house with his baby sister. He said he didn't know it was loaded as he handled it near her crib.

After the gun went off, Rover said he lifted the dying baby from the crib, put her under the Christmas tree and ran to the home of an aunt.

"Come quick! Donna is bleeding to death," the hysterical boy screamed at the aunt, Mrs. E. A. Stone. She rushed to the Cook house, found Donna's body, and called authorities.

Police said the little girl's death was "an unfortunate accident" and that Rover was left in his parents' custody.

TO APPEAR HERE—Alvadean and Sandy Coker and the Coker band will appear at Rogue Valley ballroom Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 24 and 25. The band will furnish dance music between 9 p.m. and 1 a.m. Saturday night, and following a stage show, which starts at 8 p.m. Sunday. The show will include several local people.

Commission To Vote On Recreation Site Portland—(U.P.)—Portland's exposition-recreation commission will vote on a site for the city's \$8,000,000 sports center on Jan. 4 if all commissioners are present.

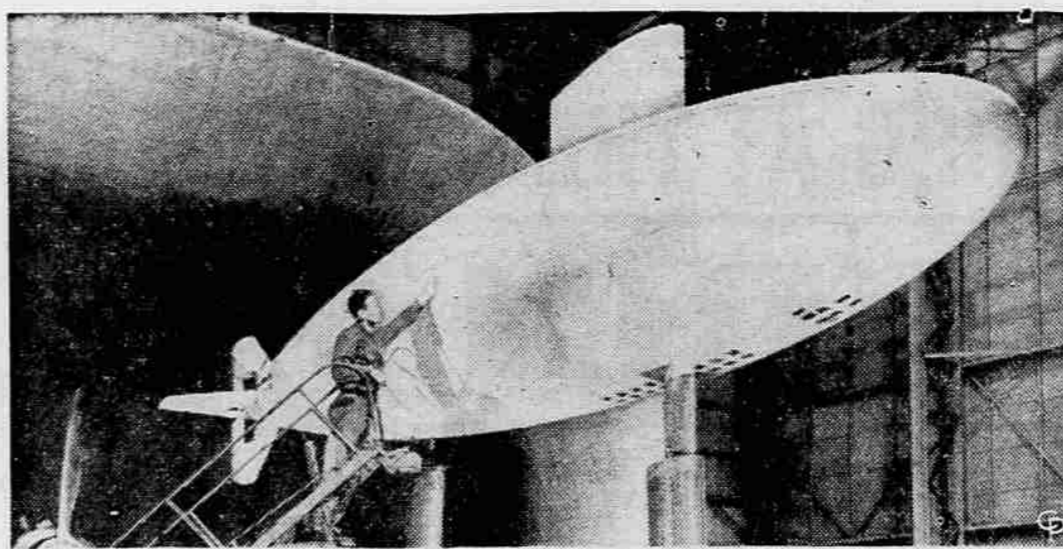
Commissioners, deciding on the vote yesterday, said they felt they owed it to the public to vote on the project site very soon.

Chairman Carvel Linden said that the presence of all five members was not a legal requirement but that commissioners have not taken any vital action in the past without everyone present.

The two newest members of the commission, Thaddeus Bruno and Gale Livingston, plan to go to Spokane, Wash., to view that city's coliseum before the Jan. 4 vote.

Oregon has 31 mountain peaks more than 6000 feet in height. The highest of them is Mt. Hood which has an elevation of about 11,245 feet.

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday; 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.



USING WIND TUNNEL at Langley Field, Va., U. S. Navy evolves new, fatter shape for submarines, giving them greater speed. This is one-fifth scale model of Albacore, world's fastest submarine. Henceforth all U. S. submarines will have this shape. (International)

## Agriculture Board Elects Troutdale Man

Agriculture —(U.P.)—The Board of Agriculture yesterday elected S. B. Hall, Troutdale, chairman to replace E. Riddell Lage of Hood River, who was absent. Lee Holiday, Klamath Falls, was named vice-chairman.

Agriculture Director James Short reported on his first year in office. He said crop damage

to nurseries and berry farms in the Willamette valley will result in losses for the next two or three years.

Extent of damage to cherries will not be fully known until next spring, he said. Center of the damage was in Multnomah county.

### SOUVENIR RETURNED

Tallahassee, Fla. —(U.P.)—The State Road Department said today John W. Jakway, of Lambert, Minn., has returned a state road marker he took as a souvenir 13 years ago. Jakway explained he recently became a Christian and wants to "make every restitution possible for every sin of my past life."

Dead line for Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday

### Northwest Plane Sets Honolulu-Portland Mark

Portland —(U.P.)—A Northwest Airlines DC-6B landed at Portland early yesterday after 7 hours and 14 minutes after taking off from Honolulu to establish a new speed record for the route.

The plane, carrying 22 passengers, landed at Portland International Airport at 3:57 a.m., helped along by tail winds as high as 132 miles per hour.

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No. 303 Can  
COVE OYSTERS . . . . . For Oyster 3 CANS \$1.00  
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