

Government Agency Working on Ion Motor

New York — While the Russians jubilantly predict moon rockets in a few years, a United States government agency is giving more than theoretical consideration to a flight that would

take men to Mars and other planets. And a well known expert thinks that a 730-pound rocket could reach Mars in 400 days, according to the magazine "Electronics."

The agency recently unveiled a toy-like model of a rocketship which is propelled by small electrified particles called ions.

High Efficiency
Ion motors, which would convert electrical energy into thrust, are considered a key to space flight. Experimental devices indicate an efficiency of 98 per cent. A big version of the rocket motor could travel 25,000 miles per hour, enough to escape the earth's gravitational pull.

It is believed that an ion rocket, with electricity provided by a stripped down nuclear reactor, can be built and flown using today's technology. Chemical rockets would have to place it in a satellite orbit where it could pick up speed for its journey.

The military has already begun switching rocket science to ion propulsion. Applications may range from systems using slightly ionized high density gases to those using streams of ions. The first would be used in atmospheric flight and the latter in "extra-satellite heights."

For over a year, a group of West Coast rocket experts has sought funds to build an unmanned Martian reconnaissance rocket powered by twin ion motors and a nuclear reactor. The rocket, nicknamed Snooper, would weigh 3,300 pounds and carry a 1,500 pound electronics payload. The weight, the scientists believe, can be lifted into an orbit by an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile.

4-H Club News

Livestock Club
The Rogue River and Gold Hill livestock club met Nov. 20 for their first meeting of the year at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Gail. Mrs. Gail was elected leader of the club. Terry Gail, president; Earl Bowen, vice president; Marie Jones, secretary; Terry Robertson, treasurer; Billy Jones, historian; Lanny Parsons, song leader. Plans were made for a Christmas party to be held at Jimmy Smith's home in Rogue River. Doug Robertson, reporter

Cud Chewers
The Central Point Cud Chewers met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Anthon for their November meeting. The following new officers of the club were installed: Sue Higenbotham, president; Donna Collette, vice president; Carol Foote, secretary; Daniel Foote, reporter; Gail Grigg, song leader and Todd Cester, treasurer. Safety pictures were shown and a discussion on safety on the farm was held. The next meeting will be the first Monday in December at the Fickner home. Dave Foote, reporter

Swine Club
The Central Point Swine Club met at the Renfrow home on Sunnyvale lane Nov. 23. A film on swine raising was shown and a discussion followed. Several members were absent due to illness. Refreshments were enjoyed. Carol Foote, Reporter



SITTING in witness chair, Dr. Edward Teller, father of H-bomb, testifies as first witness in Senate missile-satellite probe. (International)

Researcher Says Load Limit Signs May Be Misleading

Tuscaloosa, Ala. — Those "load limit" signs on bridges are misleading. Actually, they are probably just as safe when the limit has been passed to a considerable degree.

According to studies underway at the University of Alabama, many structural materials are much stronger than they seem to be due principally to their inelastic properties.

Dr. W. D. Jordan, who is directing the research project for the National Science Foundation, said that some materials can carry a much greater load after they have passed their so-called "elastic limit."

He said there has been considerable research done on the elasticity factor but little is known about inelastic properties.

Safety in Design
"What is called the factor of safety in design," he said, "is sometimes really a factor of ignorance." The more knowledge we can obtain the lower we can reduce the level of the "ignorance" portion of the factor of safety. This will lead to lighter structures, still safe, at a lower cost in material and manpower.

Jordan said the elastic stage of matter is that in which the material will deform and return to its original shape. Once it passes that limit, it is in the inelastic stage.

"We are trying to determine a practical way to utilize this inelastic strength," he said. We know the material has it. What we want to know is how to go about designing a structure to take advantage of it."

Jordan emphasized, however, that considerable study would be required due in part, to the different properties in different materials, the ability of some materials to carry greater stress than others, and the fact that the way in which a load is applied will affect the action of the material.

New Mexico Land Grant Is Cut to Mere 10,000 Acres

Raton, N.M. — The Maxwell Land Grant, once the most famous piece of real estate in the West, has been whittled down to a mere 10,000 acres of mining property in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

At one time, the grant embraced 1,714,763 acres, an area three times the size of Rhode Island.

A Dutch company that acquired the grant late in the 19th century has been selling off parcels of it over the years. Within the past year, more than 100,000 acres were sold, and the company plans to retain only a 10,000-acre tract.

The Maxwell originated as a Mexican grant in 1841, when a vast area of northeastern New Mexico and southeastern Colorado was assigned to Carlos Beaubien and Guadalupe Miranda, two residents of Taos, N.M., who were on friendly terms with the governor.

By 1865, the tract had become the property of Lucien B. Maxwell, an American trapper and trader who had married the daughter of Beaubien. Maxwell built an elaborate home in the frontier town of Cimarron and became famous as an extravagant host for travelers on the Santa Fe Trail.

The validity of the original Mexican grant came under dispute after the American annexation of New Mexico but it was finally confirmed by the U.S. government. In 1871, Maxwell sold his "ranch" to a group of financiers of \$650,000, and they in turn sold it to an English syndicate for \$1,350,000.

The modern city of Raton stands within the former boundaries of the grant, along with dozens of other towns on either side of the Colorado-New Mexico line.

While ranching and mining operations are still conducted on the land, now split up among thousands of owners, it is probably best known today for its recreational attractions. It includes the New Mexico resort areas of Red River, Eagle Nest and Ute Park, and the Philmont Boy Scout Ranch.

The Dutch owners are hanging onto a 10,000-acre site near Ute Park on which is located the old Aztec gold mine. This mine flourished in the 1860's and gave rise to the settlement of Elizabethtown, which is now a ghost town. The gold is gone, but engineers believe there may be other valuable minerals on the property.

Nehru Appeals for New Summit Meeting

New Delhi, India — Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru has appealed to the United States and the Soviet Union to meet soon in a new summit conference, informed sources said today.

Diplomatic sources said Nehru has urged both East and West to try to settle world peace by means of peaceful coexistence.

Nehru told a news conference today in a review of world affairs that "America and Russia can mould this world and either raise it to undreamed of heights or hurl it to the pit of disaster."

Farmer Translates Poem Of Dante's Into German

By ERNEST SAKLER
United Press Correspondent
Bolzano (Bozen), Italy — The villagers of Ultimo (Ultimo) shook their heads when they heard that Blasius Marsoner had rented his farm and withdrawn to an isolated little house. The headshaking gave way to gasps when they learned why he had done it.

He was translating Dante's "The Divine Comedy" into German. "He's crazy," was their verdict.

And certainly no one else in that remote Alpine village had ever tried his hand at poetry, far less abandoned his farm to do so.

But the self-taught, 30-year-old farmer-poet said he had never acted more wisely. And his friend, Franz Steiner, said Marsoner's translation is a successful attempt to make Dante accessible to a wide German-speaking public.

"I would have been crazy if I had not rented my farm," said Marsoner. "I have only my mother and don't intend to marry. But the farm requires a large family to take care of it. I have found that family and have rented the farm to them. That's good for them, for the farm and for me too, for I get what little I need for my living and can devote myself to the great passion of my life, poetry."

Marsoner has a rare combination of love for both Italian and German culture in this border province of Alto Adige (South Tyrol) where the rival Italian and German-speaking groups tend to stick strictly each to its own cultural tradition.

His love for poetry started at the age of 16 when he first read a German translation of selected pieces of Latin poets. The peasant boy, who had gone no farther than primary school, was so entranced that he decided to study Latin to be able to read the poems in their original language. Three years later he knew enough Latin to try his hand at translating some verses of Virgil and Catullus.

It was some time before Marsoner got to know Dante. It was love at first sight, and he plunged into study of "The Divine Comedy" and of Italian and German commentaries.

Marsoner read translations of Dante into German, including one by Streckfuss which won the praise of Wolfgang Goethe, and another written by King John of Saxony under the pen name of Philaletes.

Little by little, the young peasant decided that he could do better than the scholars and the king. He set to work on a translation of his own.

By now, he has translated all of the "Inferno" and more than

half the "Purgatory." The few privileged persons who saw parts of the translation said they were quite impressive.

One of the big problems Marsoner faced and solved was one that has plagued all translators of Dante—whether to stick to Dante's verse form, sometimes sacrificing the content or change the verse form for the sake of faithfulness to the text and spirit.

The problem, confronting the translators of any poem, is made more serious in the case of the "Divine Comedy" by the fact that Dante used the terza rima, a continuous series of tercets in which the second line of a tercet rhymes with the first and third line of the following, and so on. This makes any translator the prisoner of the first rhymes he has chosen and virtually forces him to be unfaithful to the text in order to keep going.

Marsoner made a drastic decision. He dropped the terza rima completely and translated Dante into iambic couplets, a verse form used in the past by such German poets as Wolfram von Eschenbach and Uhland.

Marsoner, who refuses even to consider prose, is reported also to be writing poems of his own which friends say might one day prove a "big surprise."

Postman Arrives in Time at County Jail

Pomeroy, Ohio — The postman arrived just in time at the county jail here.

Sheriff Robert D. Hartenbach had just released a prisoner and sat down to read his mail. One letter was from the FBI, stating that the prisoner was wanted in Michigan for investigation of car theft.

The sheriff jumped from his chair and returned the prisoner to his cell.

Mrs. Daws Winner Of Encyclopedia

Mrs. Alice Daws, 524 North Grape st., has been selected the winner of a 30 volume Encyclopedia Americana for the week of Nov. 17 to 23 by Eugene Burns, producer of "Is That So?"

Mrs. Daws described an experience with a mink. She told how she had coaxed a mink up to the log where she was fishing by making chirping sounds. Mrs. Daws said this is highly unusual because mink are shy animals.

The feature is carried in the Mail Tribune and is distributed by the McClure Newspaper syndicate.

Orange, Lemon Tree Grown at University

Riverside, Calif. — A University of California researcher says that when you taste an orange, you're really smelling it. In fact, the same goes for any fruit.

Biochemist Robert L. Clements says the characteristic flavor is really due to volatile materials given off by the fruit. These materials stimulate "odor receptors" in the nose while the fruit is being eaten.

In other respects all fruits are rather similar in taste, Clements says. They are sweet, sour, salty or bitter to various degrees.

Dr. Clements' research on the flavor chemistry of citrus fruits has shown him the need for laboratory techniques to duplicate the nose as a detector of flavor qualities. Scientists are trying to see whether flavor can be used as an index of fruit quality.

All of the blood in the human body passes through the heart about every two and one-half minutes.

Services Scheduled For Comedy Actor

Escondido, Calif. — Funeral services will be held Saturday for veteran comedy and character actor Billy Bevan who died Tuesday at his home here. He was 70.

He had lived in Escondido 33 years but retired from films only in 1952.

Bevan began his film career as one of the famed Keystone Kops in 1912 and played in the series until 1922.

He raised avocados on his Escondido ranch which was located on Rees Road, named for his wife, former Ziegfeld ballerina Betty Rees.

In addition to his widow, Bevan is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Everett Pratt, Vista, Calif., and Mrs. Frances Oaks, San Diego.

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