

Explorer Satellite 'Missing' For Seven Minutes; Men Worry

Washington — (AP) — For seven minutes early last Saturday our satellite was missing, Werner von Braun and his friends feared.

Von Braun, known in the Army these days as "the happy Dutchman," was a worried man 106 minutes after his Jupiter-C rocket blasted away from the Florida Coast Friday.

He and other scientists peering the Pentagon floor with Army officials had carefully figured that at 9:34 p.m. (PST) the satellite carried aloft by the rocket — if it was going into an orbit — should be whizzing over San Diego, Calif.

But the minutes rolled past 9:34 and no word from California trackers.

It's history now that the man-made moon finally hove over California, successfully orbiting around the earth.

But only today did the Army disclose details of the "operation sweat-out" that von Braun and others went through until the word came: "It's in at San Diego."

Longer Orbit
Von Braun said later the satellite apparently had gone a little higher and into a somewhat longer orbit than expected. For that reason it was seven minutes late getting to San Diego.

The drama was played out in the communications room at the Defense Department here where von Braun and others kept in touch with developments both at the Cape Canaveral, Fla., missile test center and the Army Ballistic Agency at Huntsville, Ala.

They sent and received messages simultaneously over a tele-communications device like a teletype. By phone they carried on conversations with trackers at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology and elsewhere.

At 6:34 p.m. (PST) Canaveral reported: "Jupiter C is at launch time minus one hour and counting. An air of cautious optimism prevails." Thereafter Canaveral used the symbol "X" to denote launch time.

Fuel Leak Feared
At X minus 45 minutes came a startling development. Canaveral reported: "Checking a possible fuel leak." The crestfallen officials waited. Finally Canaveral came back: "No leak. That was just a little overflow to be wiped off."

Then the messages from the Cape went like this: "X-17 and counting. Things still going smoothly."

"X-10 and the blockhouse is buttoned up."

"X-2. Lift off is scheduled for 16 seconds after X-0."

Then it came: "Firing command and lift off!"

"Lift off started. It's going."

"Still going."

"Still going."

At that point the communications operator could not restrain himself. On his own he punched out:

"Looks gud."

Six minutes and 43 seconds after the launching Canaveral reported the second stage of the rocket had fired "okay."

The drama switched to the California tracking stations and the Army Ballistic Missile Agency (ABMA) which was hooked into the communications system.

Some of those in the room wanted to announce the successful launching of the rocket. But von Braun wanted to be sure all stages had fired.

Finally the confirmation came and von Braun, Pickering, Porter and Van Allen moved to a room where telephones were open to California. Pickering kept in constant touch with his man at the California laboratory.

Three 'Fixes' Necessary
Pickering said he wanted three "fixes" from his California people before he would declare the satellite in orbit.

Pickering to the laboratory: "Have you picked up anything yet?"

Laboratory assistant: "Heard a faint signal."

Von Braun (in an aside): "Aw, that was probably his electric razor."

At X plus 105 minutes Pickering told the laboratory: "You ought to be getting it."

At X plus 106 minutes (the time figured for the satellite to be over San Diego) the laboratory reported: "Nothing yet."

The same report came at X plus 107 minutes.

Von Braun: "It must have gone farther than we planned."

Pickering to his laboratory

man: "Frank, why haven't you got something?"

At X plus 113 minutes Pickering, his ear still to the phone, held up his finger for those in the room and gleefully exclaimed:

"I've got 'one' fix. Then into the phone: 'Give me another one.'"

Those in the room saw him mark two fixes on a pad of

paper. Still he insisted "give me another one." Then, just as the Naval Research Laboratory here gave him still another "fix," Pickering jubilantly exclaimed:

"It's in. We've got San Diego."

Shortly afterward the President announced that the Free World's first satellite was in orbit around the earth.

What Is The Law?

This column is prepared as a public service by the College of Law, Willamette University, Salem, to explain basic legal principles, not to provide legal advice. The reader is cautioned not to apply these cases to his own problems without an attorney's advice, for differing facts may change the outcome.

CASE OF MISSING WIFE

Elmer notifies the police that his wife has been missing five days. One week later, Elmer rushes into the police station and tells the police that he has killed his wife. He makes a written statement to this effect and signs it. The body of Elmer's wife has never been found. Can Elmer be convicted of killing his wife?

To avoid the injustice of a conviction where no crime exists, the law has adopted a rule of caution which holds that the corpus delicti must be proved before a conviction can stand. This is emphasized where the state's case depends on an out-of-court confession by the defendant.

Two Components
Corpus delicti, in a homicide case, consists of two components: first, proof by the state that the death of a human being did occur and second, proof that the death was caused by the criminal

INSULT TO INJURY

Effingham, Ill. — (AP) — A passing vehicle added insult to the injury suffered by state employee Walter Turner. Scooping salt from a truck onto a snow-covered highway, Turner hit his face with the shovel. The passing vehicle ran over the false teeth that had been knocked from his mouth.

act of another.

Must the state actually produce the body in order to establish the corpus delicti? Some courts have held that corpus delicti must be proved by direct evidence. This means that the body of the deceased, or portions of it, must be found and sufficiently identified to establish the fact of death of the person charged to have been killed. Other courts have held that the corpus delicti may be proved by circumstantial evidence.

Circumstantial evidence can be something like an article of clothing of a victim discovered at the supposed scene of a murder.

Can't Be Convicted
In a recent California case, the defendant was found guilty of killing his wife even though the body had not been produced. The state evidently proved the corpus delicti by circumstantial evidence.

A person, therefore, cannot be convicted of a homicide, or any other crime based on an unconfirmed, out-of-court confession. This type of confession was made by Elmer when he arrived at the police station.



Tom Tucker and his wife, Betty, will entertain members of Rogue Valley Knife and Fork club at a dinner meeting Wednesday, February 5, at Rogue Valley Country club. Reservations are to be made no later than today with the club secretary, Mrs. Richard House, 15 Corning court. The Tuckers are booked as "mentalists" and their topic is announced as "Sh-h, Don't Think Too Loudly."

Reds Won't See U.S. Satellite

Washington — (AP) — The Explorer satellite never will pass over Russia. But no snub was intended.

U.S. and other scientists picked the course of the U.S. satellite for scientific—not political—reasons. They felt the course the best for securing the data they sought. It goes no farther north than 35 degrees of latitude.

The Russians launched their sputniks on a course that passed over the United States.

They had a scientific reason, too. The course also passes over Russia and they wanted to be able to see their own satellites.

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2 FOR EXACTLY THE PRICE OF 1
2 FOR EXACTLY THE PRICE OF 1

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Mostly odds and ends and single pairs... also slippers in this group and all go at **2 for 4.95**

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Wedgies... better grade flats and casuals... dark colors only. **2 for 9.95**

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"GROUP 4"

Many smart dress shoes... med. and high heels... black... brown... red and blue... All at **2 for 12.95**

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