

Balloon Ascension To Stratosphere Turns To Failure

Crosby, Minn.—UPI—A gigantic plastic balloon containing a female monkey, frogs and goldfish as passengers collapsed today at 60,000 feet about an hour after it started a 25-mile trip to the stratosphere.

Air Force spokesmen said it would have been the largest plastic balloon ever launched.

A Winzen Research Laboratories official here said it was not known what caused the failure. He did not know whether the monkey or other contents of the balloon survived.

Similar Attempt Failed

A similar launching attempt on July 30 failed when the balloon of about the same size was destroyed by sharp air currents at 40,000 feet. The balloon soared skyward from an open-pit mine near here at 6 a.m. (c.d.t.). The Air Force lost contact with it at 7 a.m.

The monkey was strapped with photosensitive plates to measure the cosmic rays. The Air Force stressed that the flight was planned to insure the monkey would not be harmed as a result of the test. To Study Damage

The frogs and goldfish, as well as onions and potatoes, were sent aloft to study any cell damage that might occur at the 25-mile altitude.

In addition, fruit flies and a type of fungus, neurospora, were included in the cargo to see if cosmic rays cause any genetic or hereditary changes.

The giant balloon, made of thin polyethylene plastic, measures 233 feet in diameter and weighs 650 pounds. It has a capacity of five million cubic feet when inflated to its full.

Hoover Favors President Pension

San Francisco —UPI—Former President Herbert Hoover—a wealthy man who is said to have given away his presidential salary for humanitarian purposes—favors a pending bill granting pensions to ex-presidents.

Hoover who will be 84 next Sunday, gave his views on the proposed \$25,000-a-year pension Wednesday before leaving for New York.

He said former presidents become "semi-public servants" taking on public duties and serving as chairmen of civic and charitable organizations.

Hoover estimated that both he and former President Harry Truman write 4,000 to 5,000 letters a month, practically all as a matter of public duty.

"I think a pension ought to be given and ought to be accepted," he said. "It could be used either to support the families of former presidents or it could be used for charity."

Hoover pointed out that judges and generals retire on pensions.

"About the only person who doesn't is a president," he said.

Alert Girl Saves Brothers, Sisters

Dallas, Ore.—UPI—An alert 15-year-old girl was credited with saving the lives of her four younger brothers and sisters Wednesday morning as fire swept their two-story frame home here.

Frances Shaffer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Clayton, was taking care of the children while her parents and four other children were picking beans near Independence.

Dallas Fire Chief Dan Duff said Frances smelled smoke and dashed to the second floor and awakened her nine-year-old brother, Joey.

Frances then led Joey, Danny Shaffer, 7, Linda Clayton, 3, and Tommy Clayton, 2, from the blazing home. The plucky girl then ran to a neighbor's home and alerted the fire department.

Chief Duff said Joey probably would have been asphyxiated in his sleep if the girl had been a minute or two later.

A pet monkey and a small dog were burned to death in the blaze, only a few blocks from the downtown business district.

Medford Man Bound Over To Grand Jury

Herbert Joe Taylor, Medford, was bound over to the grand jury after appearing in district court Tuesday on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon.

He is being held in the Jackson county jail on \$3,500 bail.

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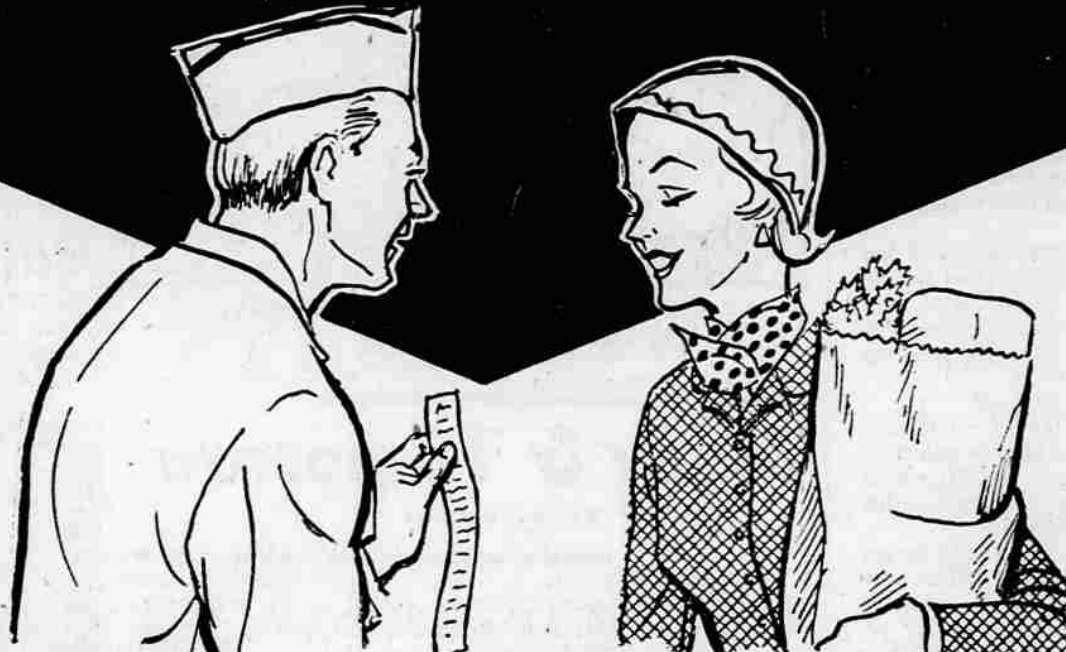
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