

# Astronauts To Get Missile Ride Over South Atlantic as Part of Training

By JOSEPH L. MYER  
UPI Correspondent  
Washington—UPI—Some of all the seven Americans chosen as the first U.S. astronauts will get a ride in the nose of an Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile over the South Atlantic as part of their training.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration said the flight over the missile range from Cape Canaveral, Fla., to Ascension Island would precede launching of a manned satellite into orbit around the earth.

To assure that every precaution is taken before the future spacemen even board an Atlas, animals first will be sent on the missile ride. Monkeys, dogs, pigs and possibly bears will be used in the tests.

The seven "Mercury Astronauts," chosen above all others for the honor and the glory and the danger of being the first to carry their country's colors into space, were presented publicly Thursday by NASA.

**The Best Qualified**

The men—one Marine, three Navy and Air Force test pilots—were described as the Americans best qualified for Project Mercury, as the manned satellite program is called.

They cherish the honor, aspire to the glory, and despise the danger.

The Mercury seven and their present addresses are: Navy Lt. Malcolm Carpenter, 34, Garden Grove, Calif. Four children.

Air Force Capt. Leroy G. Cooper Jr., 32, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. Two children.

Marine Lt. Col. John H. Glenn Jr., 37, Arlington, Va. Two children.

Air Force Capt. Virgil I. Grissom, 33, Enon, Okla. Two children.

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Walter M. Schirra Jr., 36, Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent, Md. Two children.

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Alan B. Shepard Jr., 35, Virginia Beach, Va. Two children.

Air Force Capt. Donald K. Slayton, 35, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. One child.

**Have High I.Q.s**

In appearance they look like almost any group of tanned, healthy, close-cropped American males. They laugh easily and give the impression of knowing what they are doing and where they are going.

But not one of the hundreds at Thursday's mass news conference with the astronauts at NASA headquarters came away with the notion that

these young men are just average representatives of their generation. One of their examiners let it be known that their I.Q.s run above 130 which, he said, "is very higher than any of ours."

NASA Director T. Keith Glennan, in introducing the select seven, described them as "superb." Another NASA official later predicted these gifted men eventually will form the nucleus of America's first "Academy of Astronauts."

All of the seven took the attitude that the Mercury assignment was just an extension of the work they already had dedicated their lives to as test pilots.

**Set for 1961**

One reporter asked what "sustaining faith" lay behind the pilots' decision to volunteer for a job unique in the history of man.

The seven replied they were buoyed by religious faith, their wives' faith in them, their faith in themselves, and their faith in the people planning Project Mercury.

All are in the process of being uprooted with their families from the place they called home before Project Mercury moved in on them. They have been given until April 27 to transplant themselves and their families to NASA's Langley Research Center near Hampton, Va.

Mercury, briefly, is a project to fire a man into orbit in 1961, if possible—and bring him back alive.

Only one of the seven can, of course, make the first historic voyage into space. He will be picked on the day the first U.S. manned satellite is launched. But NASA officials promised that his colleagues will have their chance to contribute to the young art of as-

tronauts in subsequent Mercury flights.

The climax of Project Mercury will come on the day when a controlled space capsule blasts off from Canaveral with a pilot inside.

It will course around the earth two or three times, at intervals of about 90 minutes, at an altitude of 100 to 150 miles. Then, coming in over the Pacific toward California, the pilot will fire three reverse rockets which will force the air-conditioned capsule to begin its descent.

It will re-enter the atmosphere near Canaveral. A small parachute will not out at 160,000 feet to slow its plunge. At 110,000 feet a bigger one will open to drop man and capsule gently into the ocean. Four waiting ships, if the plans work, will retrieve the buoyant space bulb and its human passenger.

**Only a Start**

Even if it fulfills all expectations, Mercury will be but a "stepping stone in development of space exploration techniques," the NASA said.

"Once it has been conclusively demonstrated that man can exist in the environment of outer space," the space agency said, "it is likely that the program will extend to sending two men into orbit, then a team.

"Scientists foresee construction of an orbiting space laboratory and development of a method of ferrying personnel and equipment to this station."

Then-manned trips to the moon, Mars, Venus.



**FASHION NOTE**—"Casual" would be the term used to describe the clothing worn by Medford High school students during "Grubby Day" Thursday of this week. Above, Steve Hoots takes a close look at the smart-looking Alpine climbing boot worn by fellow student Joy Bauman. Miss Bauman wore a chic sneaker laced with binder twine on the other foot and stunning two-toned lipstick. Looking on are, left to right, Jan Edwards, Merle Hampton and Bobbie Jean Hale. Jan wears an oversized set of pop beads over a size 44 sweat shirt and Merle looks fashionable in a racy two-piece denim suit. Bobbie Jean's feet are in the altogether to achieve the "informal" look. Grubby Day traditionally marks the beginning of a week

**Installation Planned For VFW Officers**

Rogue River—Recently elected officers of Veterans of Foreign Wars post 4116 and auxiliary, Rogue River, will be installed Friday, April 17, at 8 p.m. in the Rogue River VFW hall.

Col. Ted Hopkins, Rogue River, will install officers of the post, and Mrs. Hopkins will be installation officer for the auxiliary. The public is invited.

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**Medford Airport On FAA Job List**

Washington—UPI—The Federal Aviation Agency has recommended airport improvements in Oregon totaling \$9,659,000 in its newly revised "National Airport Plan."

The agency emphasized that the recommendations "have been computed without regard to the question of availability of either local or federal funds."

The recommendations include:

**Klamath Falls**—Construction of a terminal building to handle an expected 40,000 passengers. Funds have been locally allocated for the terminal.

**Medford**—Construction of taxiways and a tie-down area for smaller planes; lighting, auto parking space and related improvements for an estimated 168,000 passengers.

General improvements also was noted for Grants Pass.

**Bank Plans Series On Estate Forums**

The U.S. National Bank of Portland will conduct another in its spring series of estate planning forums in Medford, Wednesday, April 15, bank officials have announced. The forum will be held in the Pioneer room of the Jackson hotel starting at 7:30 p.m.

Allen F. Perry, manager of the Medford branch, will preside, and Ashland and Grants Pass branches will be represented. Opening remarks and introductions will be made by William R. Bradshaw, U.S. National trust officer.

Forum discussions will be held on planning for family protection by W. D. Hinson, planning for property conservation by G. M. Tretheway, and planning for tax saving by H. E. Butler.

This is the 10th consecutive year the forums have been held since they were originated by the bank's trust department.

**Shooting Preserve Amendments Accepted**

Salem—UPI—The House Friday concurred in Senate amendments to a bill setting public shooting preserves in Oregon and re-passed the bill.

Control of the bird preserves would be under the state game commission.

**Timber Access Road Nearing Completion**

Construction of the new Tolman creek timber access road in Rogue River National Forest is near completion, according to District Ranger Harold Thomas of Ashland.

The seven miles of road is being constructed by Steve O. Wilson, Medford, as subcontractor for Timber Conservation company. The latter company purchased the Tolman timber last summer and assumed the obligation of building the road as part of the timber sale contract requirements, Thomas explained.

Pineapples and peaches are the most popular canned fruits.

**Seacoast Senators Support Duners Park**

Salem—UPI—State senators from counties bordering the Pacific ocean Friday introduced a Senate joint memorial asking Congress to establish the Oregon coastal dunes area as a national park.

Joining in introducing the memorial were Sens. Robert Straub (D-Eugene), C. D. Chapman (D-Coos Bay), Andrew Naterlin (D-Newport) and Dan Dimick (D-Roseburg).

**Bill for DST Referendum Voted Out Unrecommended**

Salem—UPI—House Bill 422, referring the question of daylight saving time in Oregon to the voters at the general election in November, 1960, was voted out of the Senate Committee on State and Federal Affairs Friday without recommendation.

Sen. Jean Lewis (D-Portland) announced she would file a minority report recommending the bill's passage.

The bill was amended excluding the part of eastern Oregon which is on Mountain standard time.

The two reports will probably be read and acted upon in the Senate Monday morning.

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