

Astronauts Getting First Feel of Journey Into Unknown Outer Space

Editor's note: The National Aeronautics and Space Administration for the first time has permitted reporters and photographers to visit its 710-acre \$150 million Langley Research Center at Hampton, Va., where the seven Mercury astronauts are training for the manned satellite program. Following is a progress report on the Mercury project.

By JOSEPH L. MYLER
UPI Correspondent
Langley Research Center,
Va.—UPI—The seven Mercury astronauts training for one of

the most eerie and hazardous adventures man has been called on to undertake—a trip into unknown outer space—know how it feels to float weightless in air or to spin wildly at high speeds.

They have experienced these extremes of gravity; weightlessness, or zero gravity, and the pull of the centrifuge, 25 times that of normal gravity. They know other extremes;

that of the ocean's pressure deep underwater and of the laboratory pressure chamber.

They also have experienced the horror of eating baked potatoes minus the skins and with nothing but a thick steak to solace them.

They have tumbled ludicrously during periods of weightlessness, of zero gravity, such as will be the standard operating condition of space travel.

ers. They have gone skin-diving in the weird other-world of the sea.

Immured in Chambers

They have been immured in pressure chambers, made to serve as guinea pigs to test special "low-residue" space diets (minus potato skins), put through exhausting medical studies, subjected to innumerable scientific lectures. They have been quizzed, probed,

and watched like so many laboratory specimens.

Constantly in the past four months it has been impressed upon them that one day, about two years hence, one of them will undertake a strange journey from which he can hope to return safely only if a multitude of operations and gadgets work as planned.

How are the astronauts standing up? How do they look? How do they like each other being herded together for months? How do they like their space mentors and medical tormentors?

The one-word answer to all these questions is fine. These men, ranging in age from 32 to 37, are bronzed, lean, healthy, keen-eyed and, to all outward seeming, happy.

Weightlessness Lots of Fun

How is it when weightlessness takes over and the pit of the stomach loses its anchor to earth? "A lot of fun." What's it like to be whirled into a centrifuge until the forces tugging at you are 25 times the normal pull of gravity? "An extremely interesting experience; I wouldn't have missed it."

These men are training for perhaps the most eerie and hazardous adventure modern man has been called upon to undertake. But, though serious, there is nothing grim about them. A lecturer remarks that "we have a reasonable hope of getting the astronaut back alive."

The seven candidates, sitting in the front row, laugh as through a joke had been made. Two of them shake hands in mock solemnity. From left to right there is not a single visible flicker of apprehension.

No Accomplishments

The astronauts were picked early this year from 32 of the nation's finest military test pilots to train for the manned satellite program, dubbed Project Mercury, which was kicked off last October by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

But according to the project director, a naturally conservative 45-year-old named Robert R. Gilruth, "we have no accomplishments to report—just plans and first steps."

"We do not need any new scientific breakthroughs," Gilruth said. "We do, however, expect many difficulties and surprises as the program develops."

But he believes the astronauts have a better chance than some pioneers of the past. Recalling Charles A. Lindbergh's 1927 flight to Paris in an overloaded single-engine plane that almost didn't get off the ground, he observed:

"These boys will have a better chance than he did."

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. 7
Thursday, July 9, 1959

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West Begins in Northeast Oregon

The following is a condensation of a motorlog which appeared in the Sunday Oregonian, one of a series sponsored annually by The Oregonian and the Oregon State Motor Assn. These travel articles describe vacation trips and vacation spots of particular interest to out-of-state visitors coming to Oregon for the Centennial Celebration.

By RICHARD NOKES
City Editor, The Oregonian

"Out where the handclasp's a little stronger; out where the smile dwells a little longer—that's where the west begins."

As a boy I can remember reading the poem, "Out Where the West Begins," on a leather plaque mounted on the wall in the parlor.

I never was certain where that beginning of the west was; now I know. It is in the four counties that lie in Oregon's extreme northeast corner—Wallowa, Baker, Union, Umatilla.

Just back from a 1,000-mile family motorlog from Portland up the scenic Columbia and through the Northeast Oregon Vacationland, I can say that nowhere in travels from Shanghai to Boston have I found a friendlier people than those in the western wonderland.

Our motorlog in the white Ford of the Oregon State Motor Assn. took us to the county seat of each county; through cities and hamlets, through snow-bordered mountain passes, down valleys so green, under skies so blue, that the color camera fair jumped from its holster. En route we enjoyed boating on lakes, fishing in dashing streams, swimming in warm spring water,



This colorful old City Hall in Elgin, Ore., houses more than the city government. It also is the Rex Theater, the Elgin Public Library and the home of an insurance office. Elgin is at junction of Highways 204 and 82 and is the gateway to the Wallowa country. Near Elgin are some of the finest ski areas—Tollgate and Spout Springs—in the Northwest. Indian Valley Days held here recently helped to celebrate Oregon Centennial.

horseback riding on a dude ranch.

Wherever we went, the hand of hospitality was the warmest possible. Motel operators and service station men were always ready with directions. People we had never before seen went out of their way to help us pan gold, to show us color slides of the high Wallowas, because clouds obstructed our view and to lend a hand to a frightened little city girl who fell off her horse.

From Wallowa to Baker we

heard words of praise for the American Indian Encampment which will be held on the Pendleton Round-Up grounds July 18-26.

Folk up here in the northeast corner of the state have learned there is strength in cooperation and they are promoting jointly what they have to offer. They'll join in making the Indian Encampment a success, and they'll join in making the Exposition display a success, just as they are joining in helping each other in their own events such as the Milton-Freewater Pea Festival, Joseph's Chief Joseph Days, Elgin's Indian Valley Centennial Days, La Grande's big parade and street fair, Baker's Stampede and Donnybrook Fair.

The Encampment will be the biggest Indian event ever held in the Northwest—second in the West only to the Indian Congress held annually at Gallup, N.M., they believe.

Officials said 100,000 visitors, at a minimum, are expected in Pendleton the eight days of the Encampment. Gov. Mark Hatfield has sent invitations to 2,300 Indian tribes in Canada and the United States, and more than 4,000 Indians are expected to participate actively in the event.

Host tribes will be the Umatillas and Nez Perce, with the Cayuse, Walla Walla and Yakima tribes also playing important roles.

Thousands of Indians are expected to return to tepee life

for the Encampment. Teepees traditional to each tribe will be erected by the delegates.

Indian Arts and Crafts will be shown in a museum in the Pendleton Armory.

Indians will compete in their own games: war dances, hoop dances, bow and arrow shooting, basket weaving, tepee race for women, sign language, lance throwing, Indian wrestling. There'll even be a smoke-signal contest.

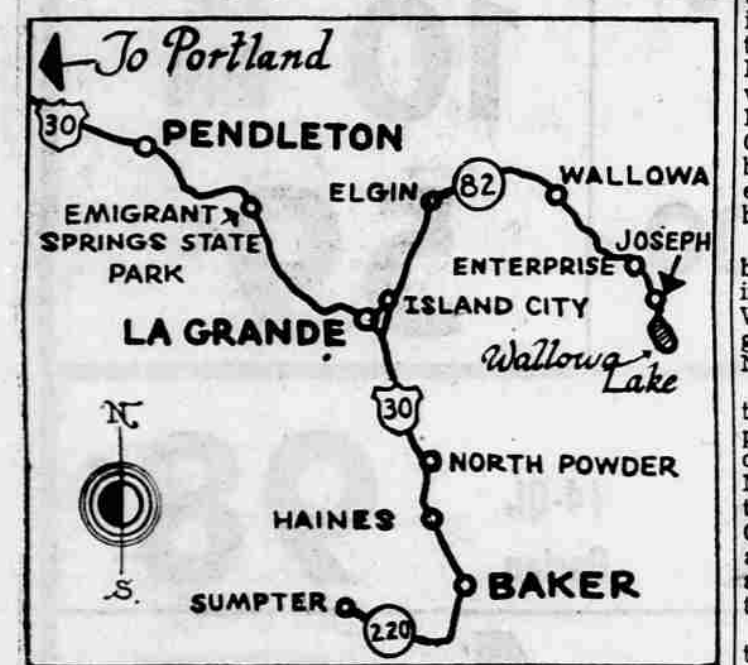
Tribal ceremonies will be held nightly and a Miss Indian International Beauty Contest will be held. Admission will be \$1 with an additional 50 cents to visit the museum. Any profit will go toward making the encampment an annual event.

Promotion Planned

Pendleton also will have the final word in Oregon's celebration this summer. The annual Pendleton Round-Up Sept. 16-19 is the last major scheduled event of the Centennial.

La Grande has held its principal Centennial event, under a well-organized county committee headed by Dr. Carlos Easley of Eastern Oregon College. But several events remain on the calendar there. One of these is a play about the life of Marcus Whitman entitled "Doctor in Buckskin," by Dr. Al Kaiser, also of EOC. The play will be sponsored by the Eastern Oregon Advancement Assn. in the college coliseum.

Dates are July 23-25, Aug. 30-Aug. 1, 2, Aug. 7-8-9, Aug. 14-15-16.



Map shows the principal highways traveled by The Oregonian's motorloggers on their trip through beautiful Northeast Oregon Vacationland. Horses, Indians, gold and mountains were highlights of the trip through this historic corner.

Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

Cats and Dogs Aren't Natural Enemies

It all began probably when someone yelled "sic 'em" to his dog and the obedient animal took off after a cat.

It's silly to think that dogs and cats are mortal enemies and that every dog is only waiting his chance to chase every cat he can find. There is no natural animosity between these two animals. Without man's encouragement and training, a dog would bother to chase a cat.

More Excitement

Why should he? He would much rather chase a ball or a stick or even chase his own tail. These would furnish excitement, as well as exercise and a competitive game. There is no danger involved. He can't get his eyes scratched out. No dog is so dumb as to think that all cats will run and climb a tree. There's always the possibility the cat will stop and then the wise dog will keep right on going, will even swerve slightly to the right or left, thereby "saving face."

Ordinarily the cat being chased is not as scared as she acts. She may run and play the game up until the time she finds she can be the master of the situation by making a stand. The dog, too, knows just how fast to run and how far behind it is safe to be. He doesn't want to catch her and get four paws full of sharp claws in his face. Should he overrun his fleeing "prey" he will suddenly change his original intention and find urgent business elsewhere. If he has learned anything at all from life, he has learned that an angry and cornered cat is something to be left strictly alone. If he hasn't learned he is as stupid as the human who yells "sic 'em" at him.

Even though the dog and cat are animals of directly different temperaments, as far apart as any two varieties of animals could be, there is no open or continuing "bad blood" between them. Neither is there a constant conflict between any group of animals, of any kind. None are traditional enemies of any others. The predator kills only because he is hungry, not because he is angry.

Animals are mostly tolerant. Unless there is a local fight between two individuals, over food, a mate or a strip of disputed territory, there is no conflict. If a fight does develop, it is seldom carried to the extreme where one or the other is killed. Seldom is even an undecided grudge carried over to the following day. Mankind is pretty much alone, of all living things, in his desire to seek revenge.

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1959)

Scientists Working On Gigantic Radar

Ithaca, N.Y. (UPI)—Cornell University scientists are working on a gigantic radar system that might gather data which once seemed accessible only to artificial earth satellites.

The system, twice the size of a football field, is not expected to substitute for the satellites but will free them for other work, its designers say.

Defense Department authorities are considering two possible locations for the proposed space radar, one in Puerto Rico and the other in Texas.

The radar will be used to obtain information that might aid man in becoming a space traveler. The 1,000-foot dish will probe the thick cloud cover around Venus and is also expected to provide information about Mars and the sun.

BUBBLING MARKET

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