

Twinkling Lights Around Balloon Prove Mystery

By Science Service
A first-class mystery surrounds the U.S. space agency's test of a 100-foot balloon last week. No one knows what the little sparkling lights were that twinkled around the sphere.

Seen by hundreds of persons, including scientists of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the lights sparkled faintly during the brief time the balloon was illuminated by the sun. NASA reported that "there is tremendous scientific interest" in the lights, and two prominent theories as to what they may have been.

Theories Advanced
One is that bits of the aluminum coating may have flaked off the huge plastic balloon as it was inflated 250 miles above the earth.

The other theory is that the casing may have broken when the balloon was ejected into space, scattering metal fragments around the balloon.

To solve this puzzle, NASA scientists will study photographs made during the balloon's brief flight. The exact number was unavailable, but NASA reported that 15 to 20 tracking stations had been alerted to the balloon shot, and that one station alone took 40 or 50 pictures.

These will be examined to determine the size of the sparklers, the paths they traveled and how long they twinkled. Before this can be done, the scientists will have to determine when each picture was taken and where the balloon was at that moment.

No date was mentioned by which time the answer may be known.

Warnings Ruled Out
NASA definitely ruled out speculation that the balloon carried a network of flashing lights to warn airplanes as it fell through darkness into the Atlantic ocean. This was unnecessary, NASA said, because range clearance already had been obtained from the Federal Aviation Agency in Norfolk, Va., and no airplanes would have been in the vicinity.

The balloon was launched from Wallops Island, Va., and was believed to have plunged into the ocean 500 miles due east.

The U.S. Office of Education reports a 10.4 per cent increase in the number of college juniors majoring in science and mathematics between the 1957 and 1958 school years.

Court Records

MUNICIPAL COURT
Perry Houston Snead, violation basic rule, \$10.
Lyle Estelle, failed to yield right of way, \$25.
Fred Nelson Pellett, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Glenn Elvin Cave, violation basic rule, \$10.
Lewis Calvin Smith, failure to yield right of way, \$15.
Wayne Curtis Johnson, disobeyed traffic sign, \$5.
Thomas LeRoy Davis, following too close, \$25.
Louis Clifford Burns, violation basic rule, \$10.
Ria Lucille Robison, improper left turn, \$5.
Carole Alene Rose, improper passing, \$10.
Robert Eugene Goodwin, disobeyed traffic sign, \$5.
Verna Lucille Allen, disobeyed traffic sign, \$10.
Eugene Wayne Brooks, violation basic rule, \$10.
Kenneth Charles Hudson, driving without headlights in fog, \$25.
William B. Henderson, violation basic rule, \$10.
Harley Archie Blanchard, violation basic rule, \$10.
Philip H. Stansbury, disobeyed traffic sign, \$10.
Paul Roy Johnson, improper left turn, \$5.
Charles William Brooks, disobeyed traffic sign, \$5.
Claude Patricia Vigil, disobeyed traffic sign, \$5.
Dale Colline Haggard, impaired vision, frost on all windows \$5, violation basic rule, \$10.
John Frank Culp, inadequate equipment, \$5.
Alfred Gilhouse, no operator's license in possession, \$5.
Arthur Joseph Paisley, disobeyed traffic sign, \$5.
Camille Sanford Lloyd, violation basic rule, \$10.
Dale Robert Matheny, excessive noise, \$5.
William Elvie Raines, improper lane usage, \$5.
Robert Anthony Unger, violation basic rule, \$10.
George Vukich, violation basic rule, \$10.
Warren A. Stearns, disobeyed traffic sign, \$5.



SERIOUS PROBLEMS—The problems of downtown Harrisburg, Pa., are serious and difficult. Attempts to solve them have been dramatic and encouraging. Photo shows general view of the capitol group of buildings with two new buildings in upper left.

Attempts To Solve Problems Of Harrisburg, Pa., Dramatic

Harrisburg, Pa. — (UPI) — The problems of downtown Harrisburg are serious and difficult. Attempts to solve them have been dramatic and encouraging.

Pennsylvania's capital city is criss-crossed by major east-west and north-south through routes that connect the four corners of the state. The shopping district is jammed into a four-block-wide strip between the Susquehanna River and the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

State government buildings take a huge bite out of what's left of the area between the river and the railroad — and disgorge 14,000 people into downtown streets every weekday afternoon at five.

Congestion Aggravated
Ten years ago, this congestion was aggravated by the fact that the city was connected with its big "West Shore" suburbs across the river by only two bridges, which carried through traffic as well as commuters and shoppers right into downtown Harrisburg.

Today, new bridges, expressways, elevated highways and a parking lot in the middle of the river are helping Harrisburg to keep up with the increase in traffic, and maybe one jump ahead.

Four bridges now carry the traffic that crowded onto two a decade ago and the Pennsylvania Turnpike accommodates major through traffic across the river a few miles south of the city. The M. Harvey Taylor Bridge just north of the downtown section leads autos, trucks and buses to a boulevard that skirts the most crowded section of Harrisburg.

Another bridge is going up south of downtown which will carry traffic to an expressway through the city. When it is completed in a few months, the two original bridges are expected to be used only by those vehicles whose destination is downtown Harrisburg.

Rearranging Flow
The city is also rearranging traffic flow to keep cars, trucks, and buses moving faster and more safely. Streets are being made one-way, and on the main business street, one lane is reserved for buses.

The traffic bureau says traffic volume downtown is increasing twice as fast as in the rest of the city, but the accident rate downtown has declined 33 per cent and traffic moves 37 per cent faster since the new scheme was begun.

Harrisburg's cramped downtown area serves a city of just under 100,000, a metropolitan region of a quarter-million

and rural areas as far away as 40 miles away. In addition, the state government attracts people from the entire state.

These factors create a unique parking problem, and the city has tried to solve it in a unique way. Part of an island in the river, was paved over to make room for 1,088 cars. Parking is free, and motorists can take a shuttle bus to Market Square for a nickel.

The state has built underground garages and is building more, and has cleared several blocks adjacent to the capital buildings for surface parking. There are four times as many commercial parking spaces available as there were 10 years ago.

Skyline Transformed
Harrisburg's skyline, once dominated by the Capitol dome and the Market Square Presbyterian Church spire, is being transformed. Five new tall buildings are either under construction or in the planning stage. Three of

these, including a 10-story apartment house now going up, are part of a new project designed to replace a slum area within two blocks of the Capitol. The housing authority plans to have 1,430 units in use by 1961.

The state, which has spent 35 million dollars on new buildings and repairs and renovations for old ones in the last 10 years, plans to spend another 16 million dollars in Harrisburg within the next two years.

Mayor Nolan F. Zeigler says that not only the buildings and the streets but the people of Harrisburg as well are undergoing a change.

"Perhaps the biggest change," the Mayor said, "is that the people of Harrisburg have been awakened to what is happening, to the problems the city faces. They were asleep before. Now one person after another is devoting time and energy to helping the city."

Veterans, widows or guardians of children not now eligible for pension administered by the VA, but who believe they become eligible after June 30, 1959, are asked to do nothing until after the first of the year.

Man Raking Yard Wounded by 'Shot'

Nebraska City, Nebr. — Arthur Szabo, 20, told police he wounded himself with a rake. Szabo was raking rubbish into a bonfire, he explained, when all of a sudden there was a loud explosion.

Pointing to wounds in his hip, thigh and arm, Szabo theorized: "I must have raked up a shotgun shell into the fire."

Coffee Break's Value Lies in Better Relations

Los Angeles (Science Service) — The greatest value of the coffee break is not the physical stimulation it provides, but the opportunity to maintain good relations among employees.

So believes Dr. Jean S. Felton, professor of occupational health at the University of California School of Public Health at Los Angeles.

It has been demonstrated in the laboratory that caffeine acts on the brain to promote clearer, rapid thinking and to forestall fatigue, he says.

Never Demonstrated
However, these stimulating effects have never been scientifically demonstrated in the work situation.

"Probably the greatest value of the coffee break is the opportunity, particularly to those in repetitive work, to cease their labors periodically and establish or develop further relationships with co-workers."

"Whether welders are on a smoke-break at the coffee dispenser or typists at the snack bar, there are values in these groupings," he says. "Experiences are exchanged and tensions loosened. Plans are made for joint activities, romances are nourished, and low-level counseling executed."

Town Meeting
"The coffee break is also the town meeting brought up to date and dressed in working clothes. It serves as a general forum for exchanges of beefs and gripes. Grapevine products are tried for size, and group thinking gives impetus to what eventually may become a change in company policy."

The coffee break is probably here to stay, he concludes. But he recommends some controlled studies to see if it actually increases production, minimizes absenteeism and reduces accident frequency, as has been claimed.

Air Force Team To Visit Campus
Ashland — Because it is the one program that is open to both men and women college graduates, the Air Force Officer Training School (OTS) will probably be of most interest to students, according to Maj. LeRoy H. Thomas, commander of the Air Force recruiting service in Oregon, who announced that an officer selection team would visit Southern Oregon college Nov. 9 in the Britt Student center.

Heading the team will be Lt. Robert Alfred, recruiting officer, who will discuss with interested students the various ways of obtaining Air Force commissions.

Major Thomas pointed out that lawyers, nurses, physical and occupational therapists, and dieticians would also be given an opportunity for interviews, with the primary emphasis being placed on the Air Force flying program for pilots and navigators.



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

We Do Know What Life Isn't—Spontaneous

A small boy and his father were walking along the edge of a field when the youngster's alert eyes discovered the body of a dead animal in the weeds. Naturally curious the boy bent down to examine his find. Immediately he became excited. "What," he wanted to know, "are all those little white worms doing there?"

"They are maggots," replied the man with evident disgust as he attempted to hurry the boy away from the gruesome sight. For the first time in his young life the child had discovered maggots working in dead flesh. He literally bubbled over with questions. "How did the worms get in there; where did they come from; where would they go after the animal was all eaten?"

Thoughtless Answers
I suppose there are many adults who sometimes answer a child's questions with the first thing that comes to mind regardless of whether or not we know the right answer. Seldom will we admit to a curious child that "we do not know." There are times too, when we think we know, not realizing that our information may be biased or colored or clouded by myths, legends or even superstitions none of which have any truth in scientific fact.

The erroneous explanation the father gave his son, when asked, "where did the worms come from," was they "just grew; a result of decaying flesh." The father's information was based entirely on an age-old superstition that "maggots just developed in a long-dead carcass."

Like the "horsehair" turning into a snake after soaking in a watering trough, the idea of worms "just growing" in decomposing animal or vegetable matter, are both superstitions that actually had their beginning further back in human history than we realize. When men first began to exercise their brains by thinking, they attempted to explain the mystery of life as a spontaneous occurrence. Old time philosophers believed in this, it was the only way they could explain the existence of life.

An animal died, decay set in and "bang," maggots appeared right out of nowhere. Those ancient thinkers were sometimes like the modern father telling his son that "maggots in rotting flesh just grow."

Neither knew the right answer but to satisfy an inquiring mind, they fabricated an answer.

In fact, it has only been within the comparatively recent past, that science has discovered a biological truth that should have been evident from the first; that the maggots in the decaying flesh are the legless, naked larvae of certain flies that laid their eggs in the carcass.

In Nature's complex plan,

the worms reduce the dead flesh to reusable parts. It has been a little difficult for many of us to realize that life is an elaborate arrangement of cells whereby a living is alive. No life of any kind can exist except from previous life. Every living thing on this earth has descended from a pre-existing organism. What life is has never been answered yet, but it certainly isn't spontaneous.

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1959)

Sudden Retirement Said Like Diving Bends

East Lansing, Mich. (Science Service) — The aging person who retires suddenly is like the deep-sea diver who surfaces too rapidly. Both suffer from the bends. While the diver's affliction is physical, the retired person's is psychological. But both are caused by reducing the pressure too quickly. Dr. Harold H. Apperson of Michigan State University reports here. Psychological bends, he says, can be avoided by making retirement a gradual process, just as bends in a diver that has been brought to the surface too quickly are combatted by placing him back under pressure and relieving that pressure gradually.

Woman Finds Place for Winnings

Alfred, N.Y. — Mrs. Edward P. George won \$19.45 in a game, she was overjoyed and wondered what she was going to buy with the unexpected windfall. She didn't wonder long. "My husband got so excited when he saw the money," Mrs. George said, "that he grabbed me and gave me a bear hug. "But then we heard a snap." Two of Mrs. George's ribs were cracked in her husband's enthusiasm. Doctor bills came close to \$100. Mr. George's only comment was: "Can you imagine what I might have done to her if the winnings were bigger."

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