

Mars Expedition Slated for '60's, Report Experts

Santa Monica, Calif. - (Science Service) - The U. S. will be able to send three men on a 14-month expedition to Mars in a nuclear-powered 2-stage rocket ship during the 1960's, three space experts here assert.

The rocket ship would go into orbit around Mars, and the exploring party would use a chemically propelled "taxi" to go down for a close look at the Maritain landscape. After exploring for two months, the party would refuel their orbiting space ship and head back to earth.

Launch Supplies First

Tanks of hydrogen, for refueling purposes, would be launched about a month earlier than the manned ship to make certain they are on course and that the hydrogen will be available on Mars. These tanks, taking a slower, easier path, would arrive at Mars after the manned ship. Three tankers each carrying 88,000 pounds of propellant could provide enough fuel for the return flight.

In addition to its 3-man crew, the space ship would carry 55,000 pounds of life-support materials, plus the fueled chemical rocket for surface exploration. Food and water alone would weigh 19,000 pounds.

After "years of research and investigation," said the Douglas Aircraft company here, feasibility of such an adventure was ascertained by M. W. Hunter, assistant chief engineer of space systems, E. B. Konecki, chief of life sciences, and R. F. Trapp, nuclear engineer.

Married Life Will Last Longer by '80

Chicago - (Science Service) - Married couples will have more than 15 years together after their youngest child has left home, a team of U. S. Bureau of the Census workers predicts for 1980.

Important changes in birth rates, age at marriage and other vital statistics are gradually being reflected in a changed family life, Dr. Paul C. Glick, Dr. David M. Heer and John C. Beresford reported to the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting here.

The full force of the post-war "baby boom" will be felt beginning in about five years: the number of first marriages and the average annual increase in the number of households and families will rise substantially, they said.

Furthermore, relatively more women are having their children before the age of 40. From now into the near future, the researchers predict, the average married couple will have close to one-third of their married life remaining after the last child leaves home. Women will have increasingly more time during which to perform their roles as wife, joint breadwinner, society lady and community servant.

New Device Finds Atom Particles

Pasadena, Calif. - (Science Service) - A new kind of device for detecting the particles given off by exploding atoms was reported to the American Physical society meeting here.

Semiconductors, the materials that make transistors possible are used in the new particle detectors, Dr. J. W. Mayer of Hughes Aircraft company, Los Angeles, said. The devices can be made small enough to fit into a hypodermic needle or other little instruments.

Dr. Mayer reported that the "solid state ionization chamber," as it is called by physicists, is in use for detecting protons, deuterons (the nuclei of heavy hydrogen), helium three, alpha particles and the fragments produced when uranium fissions.

Note in Bottle Takes Long Trip

Omaha, Neb. - On the spur of the moment one day in 1954, Gerald Densky, 17, placed a note in a bottle and tossed it into the Missouri river.

Three years later the bottle turned up on the shores of the Elbe river in North Germany, probably 8,000 miles away.

Surprised Gerald learned about it in a German post-marked letter from one Otto Sprecht, who wrote of finding it on the river bank.

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