

Pioneer Satellite Said Triumph for U.S. Space Effort

Washington, (Science Service)—America's new planetoid, now hurtling headlong into the ground-the sun orbit, is a triumph for the U.S. space effort. Here is why:

1. The first and third stages burned to within one second of normal; the second stage burned to within one-tenth of a second of normal. The planetoid thus left the earth's orbit at a speed of 36,430 feet per second, only 120 feet per second slower than the speed scientists were "shooting at."

2. Guidance was built into both the first and second stages of the three-stage Thor-Able launcher. The second stage guidance was to be used for tricky corrections in the planetoid's complex sun-going path. But the initial guidance was so accurate that the second stage guidance system was not used.

3. The 94-pound planetoid was successfully balanced to have its center of gravity at the right spot to prevent wobbling in space. To locate this center of gravity at just the right spot, all the instruments had to be carefully arranged inside the beachball-sized casing. Even the lengths of wire used in its intricate electric system played a significant role in controlling the planetoid's stability.

4. The planetoid will be talking back, upon command from earth, with what is believed the strongest space-going radio ever launched. The 150-watt transmitter is to operate five minutes out of the hour, resting 55 minutes to recharge its batteries with solar cells.

To broadcast on 378 megacycles, the radio telemetered signals should be received on earth until the planetoid is about 50,000,000 miles away. Scientists at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration say radio contact should be maintained for about 151 days. Radio contact

then can cease until the planetoid next comes into broadcasting range of the earth.

The purpose of the new planetoid is to gather new information on the solar corona in an area that has not been "gouged out" by the earth and its magnetic field. Because the planetoid will be circling the sun on a pristine

orbit, it should be traveling through a representative sample of "undisturbed" solar corona.

A second purpose of the planetoid is to gather data on high-energy particles in space. By receiving such information from both the new planetoid and earth-circling satellites, scientists can learn more

about the movements of such particles as they romp through space.

Pioneer V vital statistics: Launched at Cape Canaveral, Fla., March 11 at sunrise so that the rotation of the earth would tend to sling it off into an orbit falling inside that of the earth. Estimated "year" for the planetoid is 311

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. Thursday, March 17, 1960

Little Progress in Improving Bread

Ithaca, N.Y.—A food expert says little progress has been made in the last 2,000 years in improving the nutritive value of bread.

Prof. Clive M. McCay, of the Cornell University Graduate School of Nutrition made the charge while urging more careful diets, especially among the elderly.

McCay has developed what he calls the "Cornell Recipe" which includes white unbleached flour, wheat germ, soy flour and nonfat milk solids.

The professor feels the average person allows his diet to get worse in old age. He blamed the decline in diet on "unnecessary economy with

food, dentures, poor cooking arrangements and eating alone.

"Even people living from public assistance payments in the poorest states have adequate income for a wholesome diet, if the money is spent in the selection of good food and the food is prepared properly," he said.

He suggested that the elderly read and study literature on foods and nutrition.

Tranquilizers Gaining as New Suicide Method

New York—(Science Service)—Tranquilizers are becoming more popular as a method of committing suicide, a New York doctor said here.

Just as the barbiturates superseded bichloride of mercury in 1935, so it is safe to predict that tranquilizers may one day soon replace the barbiturates as an important agent of choice in suicide. Dr. Joseph Hirsh predicted in Mental Hygiene.

The Yeshiva University associate professor referred to seven reports of overdoses of meprobamate and their poisoning effects.

Little Actual Change

"There has been little actual change in the fashions of suiciding over the centuries, he noted. The basic methods still involve the use of cutting and stabbing instruments, guns, crushing as a consequence of leaping from a height or beneath a vehicle, various methods of traumatic asphyxiation and poisons.

A breakdown of these methods among some 32,000 suicides in New York City between 1925 and 1954 reveal that:

Gas was the choice for 11,038; hanging for 6,241; jumping from heights, 4,680; poison, 4,104; firearms, 2,848; cutting and stabbing, 1,150. The remainder was divided among drowning, crushing (beneath trains) and other methods.

Many suicide methods are multiple, Dr. Hirsh noted. For instance, ingesting poison before leaping from a window or bridge is not uncommon. It appears the victim believes that a good job can be made better by doubling, tripling or quadrupling the dosage or that if one lethal agent can insure death, two or three will "make you dead."

Process of Punishment

Children and elderly people who commit suicide, he continued, often do not view their act as a terminal one. Rather, they view it as a process of punishment, of gaining love and affection or of relieving pain.

Both young and old often express in suicide the violence of children who, when rejected, unloved or traumatized by the loss of loved ones, behave violently. Thus they tend to make their death as shocking as possible.

Surplus Tank Helps In Wrecking Jobs

Buffalo, N.Y.—John Kostoff employs a novel method of carrying out his wrecking business.

In addition to using a boom-and-bucket in demolition jobs, Kostoff uses an M-24 Army surplus tank for wrecking purposes. It works fine.

Kostoff purchased the surplus tank for \$5,000. Driving one is, nothing new to him. The 35-year-old house-wrecker was once a tank pilot in Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army in Europe.

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