



PANTS WORK, TOO—A thick pair of pants works just as well as a pair of ice skates for this group of youngsters as they frolic on the ice at Minneapolis, Minn. With the mercury hovering near the zero mark, the solid, slick ice has drawn many of the younger set to the fun of sliding and slipping on the many lakes in the Minneapolis area. (UPI Telephoto)

Layman Rightfully Wonders Why Space Gadgets Ever Work

By JOSEPH L. MYLER
United Press International
Washington — (UPI) — A layman trying to understand space gadgetry might well wonder not why it sometimes fails but why it ever works.
Take the Mercury-Redstone. This is a sealed spacecraft, to Mercury astronauts in a Redstone missile.
The marriage was licensed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to make possible automatic flight tests of the capsule which — if all goes well — will carry Mercury Astronauts into space some time next year.
It was an intricate ceremony. A one-ton spacecraft had to be fixed securely to the top of a rocket, the Redstone, powerful enough to hurl it 120 miles into space and 200 miles down range from Cape Canaveral, Fla.
Ends in Divorce
A perfect electrical accord had to be established between the two so that a signal from one would trigger appropriate responses by the other.
The odd thing about this mating, as NASA calls it, is that its success is contingent upon the ease, simplicity, and certainty with which — if all goes well — it ends in divorce.
Contributing to success (or failure) are a multiplicity of sensing devices, switches actuated by such things as atmospheric pressure, the tug of gravity or the passage of time; tiny explosive charges, and electrical relays alert enough to act on impulses lasting only a few thousandths of a second.
So marvelous are these devices that NASA technicians, in discussing them, use the same terms they might employ in talking about human beings entrusted with vital duties. These lifeless things "tell," "understand," "interpret," "assume."
Engine Told To Cut Off
Consider what is supposed to happen — if all goes well — in a Redstone-boosted flight test of the Mercury capsule. At an altitude of 39.10 statute miles, a timer tells the Redstone engine to cut off.
This in turn tells the capsule to start a sequence of actions which culminates, some 16 minutes later, in the transmission of signals from a radio beacon which tells recovery craft where the spacecraft has splashed into the sea.
In the meantime, a lot of things — including divorce of capsule and Redstone — have happened: The rocket-powered escape system, no longer needed, has been jettisoned; the clamp ring which held the capsule to the Redstone booster has been blown open; "post-graduate" rockets have been fired to drive the capsule clear from the booster; "retro-rockets" have braked the capsule's descent into the atmosphere; a stabilizing parachute has opened at 42,000 feet and the reefed main chute at 10,000; and sundry devices have (A) unrefted the main chute, (B) disengaged it from the capsule upon "splash," and (C) tossed aside a reserve parachute which — if all has gone well — is not needed.
Different Set of Orders
If all has not gone well, if something has gone wrong in the booster before launch or just after, the sensing devices have transmitted a slightly different set of orders which in turn have activated the escape system.
When this happens, the escape rocket, mounted on a tower atop the capsule, pulls the cabin free of the booster and then, following the normal recovery sequence, "lowers it by chute to a safe landing."
An attempt to launch a Mercury-Redstone flight test Nov. 21 failed when the Redstone engine cut off prematurely. All of the sequential devices in the Mercury capsule preformed precisely as they were supposed to upon reaching an altitude of 39.10 miles.
The only trouble was that the Redstone never got off the pad, and so the capsule, fortunately for it, never got off the Redstone.
But this contretemps wasn't really the Redstone's or the capsule's fault. An unwanted stray impulse from a ground current had introduced some false assumptions and triggered events too soon.
Steps have been taken, NASA said, to see that this can't happen again.

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

A WINDY POLITICIAN recently startled an audience of university students by introducing Carl Sandburg as "the poet lariat of Chicago." The same distinguished gentleman concluded a campaign address with a ringing, "What we have got to do for our fair city is to restore to our fair city all those wonderful things it never had."
To show you what statehood has meant to Alaska, John Straley reports that the chain stores up there are now featuring unfrozen foods and that, although the Eskimos still drive dog sleds, they no longer require the services of dogs. They just hitch up eight Volkswagens.
Near the end of a grueling college football game, the coach called to a burly gorilla at the end of the bench and holed, "Go in there and get ferocious."
"Sure, Chief," grunted the gorilla. "What's his number?"
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CARL SANDBURG

Quotes From the News

BY UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
New York—Playboy Tommy Manville, 66, announcing that his 11th wife was expected to give birth to his first child: "I'm going to learn how to put on diapers."
Beverly Hills, Calif.—Lady May Lawford, mother-in-law of John F. Kennedy's sister, Pat Lawford, on her personal politics: "If I had been an American citizen during the election, I would have voted for Mr. Nixon."
Chicago—Peter G. Peterson, executive vice president of Bell & Howell, describing his feelings when told an alert he witnessed at the North American Defense Command was an error and missiles were not about to fall on the United States: "The only sensation I recall is enormous relief."
Los Angeles—Hernando Pinerous Garcia, who broke two big windows in the Los Angeles courthouse in an attempt to get home to Colombia: "The Immigration department says they cannot help me leave the country unless I break the law."

Diet Changes To Curb Heart Attacks Creates Controversy

New York — (UPI)—The American Heart Association has unleashed a controversy by suggesting that the risk of heart attacks and strokes might be reduced if less meat, butter and cheese were served on some dinner tables.
The association suggested that some persons might be healthier if they consumed fish or vegetable oil products instead.
In an official report approved by the association's board of directors, a research committee said there is no final proof yet that dietary changes can prevent heart attacks or strokes, but suggested that doctors might want to prescribe reduced animal fat consumption combined with "reasonable substitution" of vegetable oils and other "unsaturated" fats for some patients threatened with hardening of the arteries.
Statements Released
Simultaneously with the release of the Heart Association report, prepared statements were made public by C.E. makers of vegetable oils and the National Dairy Council.
William T. Brady, board chairman of Corn Products company, and E. A. Geoghegan, president of Wesson, the nation's largest producer of polyunsaturated pure vegetable oil, welcomed the report.
The Dairy Council warned against it. The council said that restricting animal fats in human diet could be dangerous.
Cholesterol, a fatty substance in the human bloodstream, is at the heart of the controversy. Cholesterol is both a normal constituent of the blood and an essential one. If it were entirely removed from the diet, the body would continue to manufacture it.
Question of Animal Fats
There is no question in the minds of medical authorities that cholesterol is "associated" with hardening of the arteries or that sufficiently hardened arteries can lead to heart attacks and strokes.
The question here is whether animal fats stimulate the production of cholesterol in the blood.
The central committee for medical and community program of the Heart Association said its recommendations were "based on the best scientific information available at the present time."
This information led the committee, the highest medical and scientific body of the association, to make certain recommendations to temper them with advice that medical guidance be sought before individuals make specific changes in the fat content of their diet.
Fat reduction probably is of the greatest potential benefit to over-ight persons, those who already have had a heart attack or stroke and men whose personal and family histories suggest they may be susceptible to hardening of the arteries, the report said.
Should Avoid Faddism
It also pointed out that hardening of the arteries could result from age, sex, heredity or high blood pressure as well as fat intake. Moderate fat consumption is necessary for good health, it said.
"Fat is an economical, and in limited amounts, a wholesome food," the report said. "Food faddism of any sort should be avoided and significant changes in the diet should not be undertaken without medical advice."
The report said that although there is no definite proof that fat plays a role in the production of hardening

Argentine Race Accidents Leave 16 Persons Dead

Buenos Aires — (UPI) — Men, women and children crowded the curbs of the traffic circle in suburban San Justo.
Good-naturedly they jostled one another for a better vantage point to watch the racing cars whizzing by in the final lap of the Argentine Grand Prix.
They were in a holiday mood—it was Sunday and this was the windup of the 2,872.5 mile endurance race which is one of the major sporting events in Argentina.
Before the day was over, 16 of them were dead and at least 30 others injured.
They waved and cheered — and pushed onto the roadway — as the drivers wrestled their racers around the circle and straightened out for the dash to the finish line 6 miles away.
Then Juan Carlos Navone, at the wheel of a stock car named "Lucky Seven," roared into the circle. There were cheers for him too—but they dissolved into shrieks of pain when the racer failed to make the curve. It slammed into the crowd.
Thirteen persons were killed and 20 critically injured. It was the worst single accident in the 38 years of the running of the Grand Prix.
When Navone's car finally halted, leaving a path of crumpled bodies in its wake, whole milk, cream, butter, cheese and meat. They also include coconut oil and the fat in chocolate.
The report said that polyunsaturated fats — vegetable oils, margarine and the like — appear to cause a decrease in the amount of cholesterol in the blood.

driven by Dante Trotta.
The race, which started Dec. 1, was won by Oscar Galvez. The course ran from Buenos Aires to the Andes in the west and looped back across northern Argentina to the finish line at the Municipal Autodrome. Drivers race one day and lay off the next.
Navone brought his car over the finish line in eighth place, Pale and weeping, he stepped from his racer, muttering over and over: "Those poor, poor people. What do I do now for those poor people." He collapsed into the arms of his wife and some friends. He required treatment for shock.



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St. Peter's To Hear Missionary

The Rev. Harold Ottemoeller, missionary to Ghana, West Africa, will give an illustrated lecture on African mission work of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod at St. Peter's Lutheran church, 1020 East Main st., Wednesday evening, Dec. 14. The public is invited to attend. A freewill offering will be taken.
Missionary Ottemoeller, a native of Grand Island, Neb., has completed his third three-year tour of duty in Africa. He began his foreign service as missionary in Nigeria and became his denomination's pioneer missionary to Ghana.
The Ottemoellers with their 4 children have been visiting relatives in the Northwest, making their headquarters in the Forest Grove area, where the older children have been attending school. They plan to return to Ghana in the near future.
Thursday, Dec. 15, Mrs. Edna Tams, teacher of St. Peter's kindergarten, will present her pupils in a Christmas program. Starting time is 7:30 p.m.

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