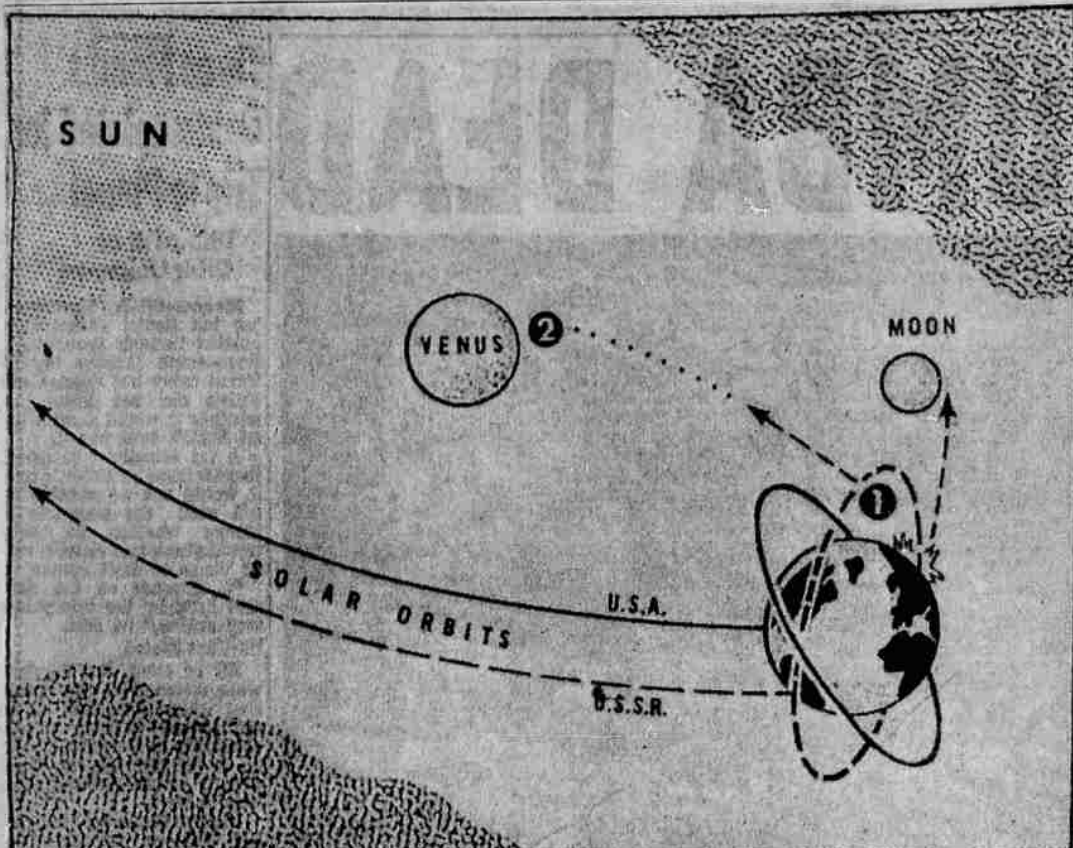


Probe Starts on Soaring Missile Costs, Construction Lag



RUSSIA JUMPS AHEAD—The launching by Russia of a 1,415-pound space ship toward Venus, fired on command from a new orbital Sputnik, put the Soviets at least 1 1/2 years ahead of the United States in another space race venture—the start of unmanned exploration of other planets in the solar system. The diagram indicates (1) where the piggyback rocket was blasted off toward Venus, hoping to reach the vicinity of that planet (2) in late May. The latest

Russian feat more than balanced the heavenly score, which shows that the U.S. has launched 33 satellites (solid line) to Russia's 11 (broken line) and has two solar probes in orbit to the USSR's one. One Russian lunar probe struck the moon head-on. It will not be until mid-1962 when the Earth and Venus will again be in favorable position for another attempt.

(UPI Telephone)

Subcommittee Calls Civilian Construction Men

Washington — (UPI) — House investigators began an inquiry today into soaring costs and lagging construction work on launching pads for U.S. intercontinental ballistic missiles.

A House military appropriations subcommittee called civilian construction officials and Air Force and Army officers behind closed doors to give an explanation.

Concerned Over Costs

Subcommittee sources indicated the construction delay on the elaborate steel and cement missile shelters has been at least partly made up. But they said skyrocketing costs deeply concerned subcommittee members.

Rep. George Mahon (D-Texas) a leading Congressional military expert, told a reporter the lag in getting missiles on the firing line was "a very serious element" in the edge he said Russia now holds over the United States in the ICBM field.

"The missile lag," Mahon said, "now appears to be mostly in getting them in an operational position."

Behind Timetable

Though exact information on the building lag was difficult to pin down, some military experts believed construction of operational launching facilities for the Atlas missile were about nine months behind the original timetable.

They said the United States now has approximately 10 missiles ready to be fired in case of war but pointed out that under the original schedule these were supposed to have been ready in January, 1960.

The Defense Department has announced that 13 Atlas squadrons — each equipped with about 10 missiles and costing about \$200 million for construction alone — are planned for 10 Air Force bases throughout the United States.

Man Charged With Assault and Battery

Medford police early Sunday took Jack Maurice Shoemaker, 18, of 2070 Ridge Way, into custody on a citizen's arrest charging him with assault and battery.

In addition, police filed their own charge against Shoemaker charging him with disorderly conduct.

Shoemaker appeared in municipal court with his attorney this morning and requested additional time in which to enter a plea. Municipal Judge Ronald Ricketts gave him until next Friday. It was indicated that he would plead innocent to both charges. He has been released on \$150 bail.

Doris Marie Benasco, a waitress at Bateman's cafe, 2392 North Pacific highway, signed the arrest complaint against Shoemaker. She charges that he slapped her in the face and broke her glasses during an argument at the cafe about 12:30 a.m. Sunday.

Police charged Shoemaker with disorderly conduct after he allegedly used profane language in front of a police officer.

Venus, Mystery Sphere, Puzzle to Astronomers

By United Press International

Venus is a fog-shrouded sphere of mystery spinning through space in an orbit between 160 million and 26 million miles from earth.

Named after the Roman goddess of love, the planet has a most completely defied efforts of astronomers to probe its surface.

The planet is considered of great interest because scientists feel there is a possibility it may either sustain human life or be somewhat similar to the earth.

The planet is slightly smaller than earth, with an estimated diameter of 7,700 miles. It moves around the sun at an average distance of 67 million miles in 225 days.

The planet, like the earth, is enveloped in an atmosphere, but unlike the earth the clouds appear to form a complete wrapping around its surface.

Venus shines with a dazzling light because of the great intensity of the solar radiation present. This radiation is almost twice the amount of the earth's surface.

The atmosphere of the planet appears to consist mainly of carbon dioxide. For some time it was believed it contained no free oxygen or water vapor.

But in 1959 a telescope sent to an altitude of about 100,000 feet indicated that both free

oxygen and water vapor were present, according to American scientists. This discovery has not been completely confirmed.

Scientists estimate that with free oxygen and water vapor present, Venus, because of its nearness to the sun, would be a steaming jungle.

Previously it had been

thought that its surface was nothing but a desert.

The latest observations also indicate that the planet does have seasons. The current estimates place its daytime temperature range from about 212 F., the boiling point of water, on its sunny side, to about 10 degrees F. on its dark side. Venus is the second planet

in order around the sun. Closest to the sun is the planet Mercury.

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Russian Shot At Venus Called 'Remarkable'

London — (UPI) — Western scientists today termed the Soviet Union's piggy-back rocket shot at Venus a remarkable achievement that may help plumb the mysteries of earth's cloud-covered sister planet.

"This venture demands 400 times as much precision as their previous shot at the moon," said Prof. Jan. H. Oort, director of the Leyden Observatory in Holland.

"I am led to believe that the Russians must have developed a highly reliable system of guiding a rocket while it is traveling through space."

French space expert Prof. Alexandre Ananov said Soviet scientists seemed to be trying to leap-frog space achievements by "firing big space ships with room for two or three men far out into the solar system."

Would Be Remarkable

He said it appeared to him that the Russians might leave to the United States the task of putting the first man in space close to earth.

Finnish astronomy Prof. Gustaf Jaernfelt said the feat would be "most remarkable" if the rocket ship were able to take pictures to show what kind of a surface Venus has.

Prof. A. C. Bernard Lovell, director of Britain's Jodrell Bank radio telescope, described the shot as "fantastic."

Prof. Ananov said the Venus project had tremendous propaganda value for the Russians.

"If you demonstrate you have the technology to put a satellite into orbit around the earth and fire a rocket off that satellite at the right moment, with the right trajectory and the right velocity to hit Venus, your ability to hit any point on earth becomes all the more impressive," he said.

INCENTIVE NEEDED

Norfolk, England — (UPI) — The Young Men's Friendly society today invited young women to be friendly and join the club "to attract more men."

Membership of the club has sunk to ten.

Regional Edition

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MEDFORD TRIBUNE

Congressmen Tell Impatience Over Delay in Progress

Washington — (UPI) — "Some of us, frankly, are getting a bit impatient." That was how Rep. Samuel S. Stratton (D-N.Y.) viewed the progress — or lack of it — in the first six weeks of the 87th Congress.

Consideration of President Kennedy's "New Frontier" legislative program was just about to get underway as Congress entered its seventh week today.

But this probably won't be the day action starts, because congressional leaders were planning to wait a few more days to allow Republican members to return from across the country, where they have been making Lincoln Day speeches.

Stratton, voicing his impatience in a letter to constituents, said "Indeed, I wonder if the country itself can really afford such a leisurely pace."

And he wasn't the only one to complain aloud to the homefolks about inaction on Capitol Hill. Rep. August E. Capitol Hill, Rep. August E. Capitol Hill, Rep. August E.

"The legislative lull in Congress continues. I doubt whether the first phase of the actual lawmaking process will begin in earnest for several more weeks."

The Republican members said the "no business" agreement during their absence from the Senate and House this week would delay little if any legislation, because nothing was ready for floor action.

Congress convened Jan. 3. Then the House bogged down in a long fight over the make-up of its rules committee. The Senate, after a brief battle over procedural rules, had to tackle confirmation of the Kennedy Cabinet and other top administration officials.

Other congressional news: Russia: Ambassador to Moscow Llewellyn E. Thompson was scheduled to brief the

Senate Foreign Relations Committee on All Aspects of U.S.-Russian Relations

Washington — (UPI) — The Senate Foreign Relations committee on all aspects of U.S.-Russian relations. He was called to a closed, afternoon session.

Snow: (Sen. Kenneth B. Keating (R-N.Y.)) announced he would ask the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Weather Bureau "whether we can't employ the tools of modern science to break up some of these terrible snow storms before they hit."

Stock Market Dips Moderately

New York — (UPI) — Stocks dipped moderately today as trading dropped off in response to observance of Lincoln's birthday.

Aircraft and defense issues picked up around a point on average but most groups were down small amounts.

General Electric opened 40 minutes late at 61 1/2 off 3/8 on a turn-over of 40,000 shares while Westinghouse opened a minute later at 41 1/8 off 3/8 on 15,000 shares. Both issues have been weak in reaction to unfavorable antitrust publicity.

Combined with a loss of around 1 1/2 in Eastman Kodak, the issues depressed the Dow-Jones industrial average close to 2 points at midmorning. Steels, oils and motor stocks were down small fractions.

Sales of Cartridge Pens on Increase

Fort Madison, Iowa — (UPI) — Cartridge fountain pen sales currently account for better than one-quarter of the entire U.S. fountain pen market in dollar volume, E. P. Reavey Jr., marketing director of W. A. Sheaffer Pen Co., said.

The cartridge pen, introduced in 1954, has climbed to 26.25 per cent of the total fountain pen market for the first eight months of 1960 with an estimated \$12 million volume predicted for 1961.

Entrance Forms Are Checked by Computer

New York — (UPI) — The first use of a computer system with a magnetic tape memory in the processing of college entrance examinations and other nationwide testing programs has been announced by Radio Corporation of America.

The RCA computer system, working with an Educational Testing Service electronic scoring and transcribing machine, has the capability of processing 6,000 test papers an hour.

LIGHT METAL
Pittsburgh — Magnesium is one of the lightest of all commercial metals.

United States Three Years Away From Venus Shot

Washington — (UPI) — The United States is about three years away from matching Russia's feat of launching a spacecraft toward Venus.

Scientists said it would take this country that long to achieve the necessary rocket power to send a space probe to Venus or other planets.

President Kennedy was informed Saturday night of the Soviet launching, before it was officially announced by Moscow, and the United States has been tracking the Russian craft.

However, White House Press Secretary Pierre Salinger said Kennedy would have no comment. This country maintained a news blackout on tracking information about the Venus shot and the 7.1-ton sputnik launched Feb. 4.

The target year for sending a U.S. rocket to the vicinity of Venus or Mars is 1964. The next ideal launching period for a shot to Venus will come late in 1962 but the United States apparently won't have sufficient rocket power for the attempt by then.

American hopes for firing a reconnaissance rocket to Venus rest with the Saturn "super-boosters," a rocket with 1.5 million pounds of thrust. The Saturn's first stage is scheduled for a test flight later this year.

WORKER ELECTROCUTED

Lafayette — (UPI) — A 26-year-old employee of a Yamhill county municipal telephone company was electrocuted here Friday.

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