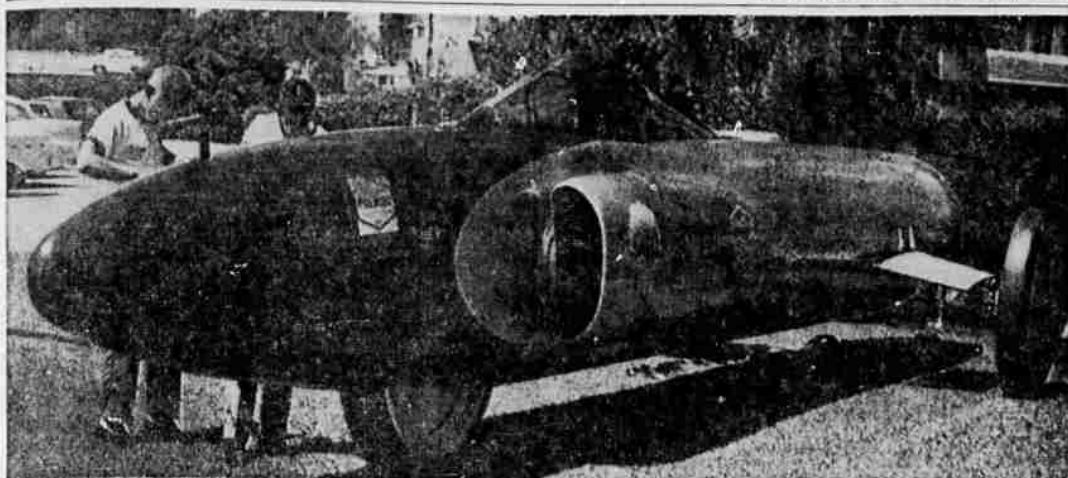




UNUSUAL CAR - The three-wheeled bullet-shaped "Spirit of America," designed to travel 500 miles an hour, is unveiled in Los Angeles. Powered with a J-47 jet engine, the unusual car with driver Craig Breedlove at the controls, will attempt to break the world land speed record on Utah's Bonneville Salt Flats in August. The record of 394.196 miles per hour was set by the late John Cobb of England 15 years ago. (UPI)

Genetic Risk Is Posed by Space, Claim by Experts

By JOSEPH L. MYLER
Washington (UPI) - One qualification for astronauts of the future conceivably could be a willingness to stop having children.

That possibility is suggested by recently published congressional testimony on space radiation hazards.

There seems at the moment to be no way for astronauts to avoid at least some additional radiation exposure during long trips of more than a few hundred miles from earth.

Scientists generally agree that any radiation dose, however slight, can do genetic damage which is passed on from generation to generation.

Flew Too Low
Astronauts John H. Glenn Jr. and Malcolm Scott Carpenter, and cosmonauts Yuri A. Gagarin and Gherman S. Titov, flew too low in their orbital flights around the earth to encounter serious radiation hazards.

Had they gone hundreds of miles higher they would have entered the inner Van Allen radiation zone around the earth - a zone which its discoverer, Dr. James A. Van Allen, describes as "uninhabitable by present-day spacecraft." A day in the most intense part of this region might be fatal.

Just shooting up through the Van Allen zones, without lingering in them, would subject astronauts to greater doses than are tolerated for workers in atomic industry on earth.

Similar zones presumably exist around Mars and Venus. The greatest radiation danger in interplanetary space would come from heavy bombardment by particles spewed from the sun during solar flares. But solar flares of the dangerous variety are rare.

Will Be Exposed
Nevertheless, it appears likely that astronauts leaving the earth on far-ranging voyages of the future will get some radiation exposure in addition to what they normally receive on their home planet.

Dr. Clarence P. Oliver of the University of Texas zoology department told the house space committee that this extra exposure would pose "a genetic risk."

To keep from tainting future generations, he suggested it might be a good idea for people who go into space "for any extended period" to "re-

The Memory Cell

Dick West Spoils Neighbor's Day In Electronic Lawnmower Discussion

By DICK WEST
Washington (UPI) - A suburban neighbor of mine subscribes to a number of quasi-technical magazines—"Home Mechanics," "Popular Electronics," "Popular Electronics," and that sort of thing. In the backyard the other day he was telling me about an article he had read on the prospects of developing electronic computers for household use.

"The article predicts that it will eventually be possible to buy computer attachments for power lawnmowers," he said.

Sergeant Looks Forward To 20-Year Retirement

By SAMUEL KIM
United Press International
Seoul - (UPI) - The oldest U.S. Army sergeant in Korea, and perhaps the world, is counting the days until his retirement from the Army to find a new job.

Sergeant First Class Ralph Smith, 75, is a bachelor because he could not marry "the girl of my dreams."

He is a father, however. When he was 68 and serving in Korea, he adopted a nine-year-old Korean boy, who now attends school in Sierra Madre, Calif.

"I took an interest in the lad from the first moment I saw him," Smith said. "He was a refugee from North Korea and such a deserving boy that I wanted to do something for him."

The boy, Jung Dong Oop, was renamed James R. Smith after he was adopted. He now lives at 427 West Highland Ave., Sierra Madre.

Now on his third tour of duty in Korea, Smith is serving with the Seventh Logistical Command's 55th Quartermaster Depot at Ascom City, near Seoul, as the supply sergeant of the storage division.

He first arrived in Korea in December, 1954.

Retirement?
"Not before I get my 20

fuse to have any more children."

Authorities say the world's population will double in the next 40 years. In view of this "population explosion," Oliver said, no harm would be done in any case "if a few of us quit having children."

said. "That will be the millennium we have all been searching for."

As he explained it, quoting from the magazine, you would hook the computer to your mower and cut your grass in the usual way.

The computer would record the distance traversed, the directions travelled and the angle of the turns, storing this information in its "memory cell."

Then, the next time your lawn wanted trimming, you would simply fire up the mower and send it off on its own.

Guided by the computer, it would duplicate the route you had previously covered, including the accidental de-

tour into the flower bed to decapitate a couple of geraniums.

While this was happening, the master of the house could retire to the hammock and read the latest issue of "Popular Electronics," and that isn't all.

As foreseen by the magazine, the more advanced models of the computer-mower would be housed in a tiny garage equipped with "electric eye" controls.

The beam of the "eye" would be located about four inches above the ground, so that when the grass grew to that height it would break the circuit. This would cause the garage door to open.

The mower would then emerge, cut the lawn as previously described, and return to the garage. Thus the homeowner would be assured of a neat lawn all summer, even while away on vacation.

"Sounds wonderful, doesn't it?" my neighbor exclaimed. "I can hardly wait until they get it on the market."

I admitted it made the future look rosy, but at the same time I was beset by certain misgivings.

"Suppose," I said "that the grass happened to reach the height of four inches at two o'clock in the morning. What's to keep your mower from charging out and waking up the whole neighborhood?"

I was sorry I said it, because it ruined his entire day. Crestfallen, he headed for the house, presumably to cancel a magazine subscription.

All is not lost, however, if science can develop a computerized lawnmower, there's no reason why it can't also produce a type of grass that will stop growing at midnight.

He was drafted into the Army shortly after the United States entered World War I and was discharged in 1919 after a year and a half service with the Quartermaster Corps at then Camp Meade, Md.

Returned to Army
He returned to the service in 1942 after World War II broke out.

During the 23 years between his first and second Army stints, Smith, a bookkeeper by vocation, worked in his native Maryland for a marine and rail supply firm, A. Smith and Sons, at Curtis bay.

As to what prompted his return to the Army, Smith said: "Most of the items we dealt in were made of brass and bronze. The war effort caused a great shortage of these materials and to make a long story short, I decided to go where the brass was."

Called "Young Fellow" by his fellow soldiers here, Smith said when he is discharged from the Army he will make his home in Los Angeles, Calif., with his adopted son and "will try to find a job with the Army Reserve."

Asked why he never married, he said:

"The girl of my dreams lost a brother in a drowning accident in 1910. After that she decided to devote her life to teaching and I believe she is now a principal at one of the schools in Baltimore, Maryland. If I couldn't marry her, I didn't want anyone else, and I still feel the same about it."

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TOURS UN—Laotian neutralist Premier Souvanna Phouma puffs on his pipe as he tours the United Nations building in New York. The Prince arrived from Washington, where he said he was "very pleased" with his talks with President Kennedy and other United States officials. (UPI)