

STAR GAZER

By CLAY R. POLLAN

Your Daily Activity Guide According to the Stars

To develop message for Friday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

DATE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1962	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1963	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

New Fiberglass Decorations Come In Complete Line

New Fiberglass Christmas trees and decorations are being introduced this year in a complete line, which includes trees, wreaths, stars, centerpieces, and door charms. They are absolutely fireproof and are available at moderate prices, say the makers, Owens-Corning Fiberglass.

Thousands of soft Fiberglass roving form the "needles" of the tree. The trees may be trimmed with regular tree lights, are easy to store and assemble, quickly spring back into shape after storage, have a natural look, and are reusable.

Variety of Colors
Trees and wreaths are available in green, white, pink and blue colors. The half-tree door charm, centerpieces, and stars are produced in contemporary white.

The Fiberglass "Merry Christmas tree" is particularly adaptable to trimming, yet it is ideal in decorating homes, apartments, offices, stores, restaurants, hospitals, or as premiums or business gifts. Each tree is mounted on a stand.

Individual cartons, the deluxe trees are available in 18", 24", 36", 60", and 80" lengths. Quick assembled "peg-in" type trees come in 60" and 78" lengths.

Wreaths, decorated with colored ribbon are 20 inches in diameter. Half-tree charms are wall-hanging decorations complete with ribbons and ornaments and are available in 12", 18", and 24" lengths. Centerpieces for table decorations are 22 inches in length with glass candle ornaments. Wall-hanging stars are 19 inches across in dimension.

Traffic Signs 'Star in East'

Something as commonplace as a traffic sign could mean the difference between a joyous Christmas with loved ones or a pain-wracked holiday in a hospital bed.

With Christmas falling on Tuesday, many businesses will be closed Monday so employees can enjoy a four-day holiday. Hundreds of thousands will go by auto to visit relatives and friends. Many will drive on strange roads and will have to rely on traffic signs to help them along the way.

Danger might lurk on these unfamiliar roads because signs may be missing, damaged or inadequate. Despite their value, signs often are the most neglected part of our highway system, as weathering, vandalism and accidents annually make more than 350,000 highway signs useless.

Experts believe that signs that give motorists insufficient advance warning of what lies ahead are among the greatest problems of safe night driving. The lack of proper night visibility is an important defect in most sign systems throughout the country.

In many areas modern signs are being installed that shine in automobile headlights and can be seen hundreds of feet away. These take the guesswork out of nighttime driving and help make a motorist's journey safer and easier.

Regardless of where you drive for the Christmas holiday, traffic signs can be your "Star in the East" to lead you safely to your loved ones. Observe them and obey them.



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Astronauts' Homes Differ From the Average

By TRAVIS HUGHES
Houston, Texas—(UPI)—Designing and building a home for one of America's astronauts is quite a bit different from constructing a house for the average citizen.

Just ask Houston home-builder Frank Marsters. He built homes for five of the seven original astronauts.

His clients—John Glenn, Scott Carpenter, Walter Schirra, Virgil Grissom and Donald Slayton—and their families—had a primary requirement. Above all they wanted privacy built into their homes.

When the astronauts learned last year that they would be transferred to Houston and stationed at the new manned spacecraft center, they began to look for homes.

The Houston Homebuilders Assn., proud to have the astronauts coming to the community, offered free furnished homes in Sharpstown on the southwest edge of the city. **Did Not Accept**

But after much deliberation and publicity, the astronauts announced they felt accepting the free homes would not be in the best interest of the space program. The decision was based on a policy that government employees steer clear of special privileges offered because of their position.

Anyway, the astronauts would have had a daily 60-mile round trip across town from their homes to the center on Clear Lake where they will work.

So the wives of the astronauts began flying into Houston from temporary headquarters at Langley Field, Va., last winter to look over homes and homesites. When they learned the geography of sprawling Houston, they concentrated on the Galveston Bay area near the space center site.

During one trip to town, Mrs. Rene Carpenter contacted Marsters, who was building homes in a subdivision called Timber Cove. The development was only five minutes from the space center site and attracted many of the incoming scientists and technicians.

Pie-Shaped Lot
The Carpenters especially liked a big pie-shaped lot at the end of a boat slip. They and the Glenns bought adjoining lots there and began meeting with Marsters' architect on house design.

Meanwhile, two blocks away, the Grissoms and Schirras bought adjoining lots on Pine Shadows lane. Both families were in their homes by Schirra's orbital flight last October.

Slayton and his family decided to build on a heavily wooded bayou about five miles west of Galveston bay. His home was the last one started and will not be ready for occupancy until spring of 1963.

Astronaut Gordon Cooper chose a house across Taylor lake from Timber Cove. The Cooper home, in a development called El Lago Estates, has access to boat facilities just 100 feet from its sloping backyard.

Of the seven, only Alan Shepard moved into an apartment. His family occupies a large suite in a high-rise apartment building near Hermann Park in the Rice University district.

Nine new astronauts, selected earlier this year, are beginning to settle down in Houston. Several have houses on the drawing boards or under construction.

Service Pilots
Two of the new spacemen are civilian test pilots making \$17,000 a year from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. But the other seven newcomers are service pilots without most of the financial advantages of the original seven astronauts.

Consequently, the second group, excluding the higher-paid civilians, probably will have to settle for more modest homes.

The price tags on the custom-built houses of the original astronauts have not been divulged, but their type of

homes are generally believed to be in the \$30,000 to \$40,000 category.

One unique requirement that complicated design work was the privacy angle. This resulted in windowless fronts on the houses and enclosed gardens to make up for the missing out-of-doors views.

The built-in privacy was tested in October when Schirra made his six-orbit flight. Long before dawn that morning, mobile television trucks and cameras, plus scores of newsmen and photographers, were stationed outside the Schirra home. Yet the family slept peacefully inside until an hour or so before the launch. Mrs. Schirra seemed surprised to find the street filled with people when she came out to talk to newsmen, though she had seen live pictures of her home on television during the launch program.

Marsters says the individuality and imagination of the astronauts and their wives was apparent from their specifications and ideas about what they wanted in a house.

Intelligent Ideas
"But their ideas were intelligent," he said. "Some people have a screwball notion about what they want. I mean putting rooms around where it adds a lot of complicated plumbing and wiring."

"It didn't take the astronauts and their wives very long to see what was practical and they worked with our architect real smoothly."

Distinctive features of the homes are:
A ranch-style facing on the end of a boat canal. The exterior is finished with used brick and natural cedar. The street side of the house is walled for privacy while the side that faces the water is floor-to-ceiling glass.

The interior of the Glenn home features a 33-foot-long family activity room, with basket weave brick floor, exposed beam ceiling and eight-foot-long fireplace. The large master bedroom suite includes Glenn's study. There are bedrooms for each of the Glenn's two teen-aged children and a guest room.

Outside, the patio has a sunken electric barbecue pit. There also is a walled-off boat storage area. The garage, shop and service rooms are on the front side of the house.

Carpenter
An Oriental contemporary designed house built next to Glenn's on the boat slip. Carpenter and Glenn plan to build a boat dock and house on the water below their common backyard.

The interior of the Carpenter home is zoned into adult and children's areas. There is a large bedroom for the two girls and smaller separate rooms for the two boys. The boys have their own entry and access for a playroom and shop. The living and dining room area features a lava stone two-way fireplace. Rene Carpenter has decorated the house with Oriental art objects.

Grissom
A flat roof contemporary with five skylights but a windowless front side. Glass walls on the back side give a view to the patio and swimming pool from the Mexican tiled family room. There is a bedroom with built-in work space for each of the two Grissom boys. The living room and dining room have glass walls and sliding glass doors opening onto a walled palm garden in the front. The exterior is finished in glazed white brick with redwood trim.

To compensate for its windowless front, the Schirra home has a large Oriental garden with a miniature waterfall facing a full length glass wall in the living room and the study. There also are two patios, one walled and open and the other roofed. An overhead door in the rear gives Schirra access to a section of the garage used to store his boat.

A ranch-style house finished in rock with redwood trim.

Glass is fixed above a gable in the master bedroom, affording a visual contact with the outdoors without losing any privacy. The large family room, where Mrs. Schirra, her mother and the two children watched Schirra's televised blastoff, has a double fireplace backing on the living room.

Slayton
A large red brick and cedar house built on a bend of a beautifully wooded bayou in the Friendswood community, five miles west of the other astronauts' homes.

The high-pitched roof is finished with natural cedar shakes. Extensive glass is used in the rear to show off the bayou scene and big backyard. The front and back of Slayton's oversized lot are crowded with moss-draped pin oaks and pine trees.

Inside, the home is highlighted by a sunken living room and large rooms. The Slaytons have one son.

Cooper
A ranch-style house finished in rock with redwood trim.

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The Cooper home uses lots of ornamental western designs in the posts and beams around the front walkway. A white wall partially hides a patio in the cypress and elm shaded front yard.

The backyard drops sharply away from the house, giving an unobstructed view of Taylor lake. The western theme is carried out on the interior.

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Eagles Schedule 'Can' Dance Dec. 8

The Saturday night dance at the Eagles hall this week will be a "can" dance with an admission of two or more cans of vegetables to help fill the Christmas baskets for the needy. It has been requested that only canned vegetables be donated.

The Crater Lake Aerie of the Eagles lodge is having three activities this year for this purpose, the first having been held the week before Thanksgiving.

Gene Lowe's orchestra will furnish the music.

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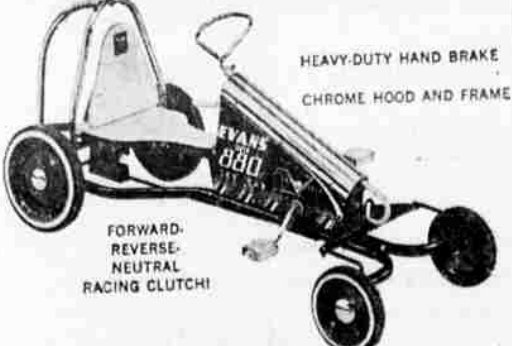
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