

# 1962 Year of Space Strides; Longer Flights, Moon Trip Scheduled

Editor's note — 1962 was the year of the big lift in America's space program. John Glenn showed the way in orbital flight, and a lot of the "missile gap" myth was dispelled. What was 1962's contribution to the history of space conquest, and what will 1963 bring? One of America's leading writers on rocketry, a veteran Cape Canaveral reporter, reports the events and outlooks of this turning point era in a three-part special report. The first dispatch reports on the space exploration milestones of 1962.

By ALVIN B. WEBB JR.  
Cape Canaveral — 1962 was the year of a glamorous new age, 1962 will go down as the year of five spacemen and one space myth.

The men were three Americans and two Russians who rode rockets into orbit around earth and proved that one can find space habitable if not very hospitable.

The myth was the infallibility of Soviet rocketry. It was officially exploded when U. S. leaders disclosed Russia had suffered at least six major space failures in two years.

Astronauts and exploded

myths grabbed the headlines, but 1962 was a year of many other strides spaceward—the year of Telstar and intercontinental television; of mighty Saturn rockets and a glimpse at the tunderous future: of Mariner and the first close-up look at another planet.

### Failures, Too

And, because this was still just year 5 of the space age, there were failures — Rangers that tried to explore the moon but missed, the powerful new Centaur rocket that failed and many satellites that remained grounded.

By and large, the failures were lost in the rash of U. S. space successes that began at 9:47 a.m. EST. at Cape Canaveral on Feb. 20 and ended four hours 56 minutes later in the Atlantic Ocean.

On this day, a freckle-faced U. S. Marine leaped into space aboard a thunderous Atlas rocket. Three times he soared around the globe and awed millions with his description of the "tremendous view" from space.

The fact that John Glenn's flight came six months after and fell 15 orbits short of the space flight of Russian cosmonaut Gherman Titov was almost forgotten.

Twice more U.S. astronauts roared successfully into space and returned safely. M. Scott Carpenter duplicated Glenn's three-orbit flight on May 24, and Walter M. Schirra Jr. belted it with six orbits on Oct. 3.

### Readies Longer Flight

As the year ended, the U.S. man-in-space program was readying a day-long 17-orbit flight for another astronaut, L. Gordon Cooper, next April, and pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into a stepped-up drive to reach the moon in five or six years.

The United States is striving to beat the Russians to the moon. But despite the successes of the three astronauts, America found in 1962 that it still trails the Soviet Union in manned spaceflight. The Russians left no doubt of that with a mid-summer space spectacular.

On Aug. 11, Soviet Maj. Andrian Nikolayev was hurled into orbit aboard the Vostok 3 spaceship.

About 24 hours later, while Nikolayev was in his 16th orbit, another Soviet spaceship, the Vostok 4, blasted into orbit with Lt. Col. Pavel Popovich aboard. The Vostoks at one point were within three miles of each other — a stunning accomplishment.

Before it was finished, Nikolayev had soared 64 times around the world and Popovich had made 48 orbits — a feat that U. S. experts said this nation could not hope to match until 1964.

### Have Own Troubles

On the whole, however, 1962 was not a vintage year for Soviet space accomplishments. Most of their orbital shots were in the "cosmos" series — unmanned satellites that apparently are busy and hastily gathering scientific information the United States has long since collected.

Only once more did the Russians approach their patented

"spectacular" — on Nov. 1, when a one-ton probe was sent hurtling toward the planet Mars. The "Mars 1" is expected to reach the red planet in mid-1963, possibly to provide information on the legendary Martian "icecaps" and "canals."

## Businessmen Asked to Check Mailing Practices

With new postage rates due in 12 days it is important now that local businessmen "take a close look at their mailing practices to determine if they are operating with maximum economy and efficiency," according to Postal Inspector John A. Eidswick.

"Businessmen should search for more efficient and economically sound methods of handling their mail because they may be able in many cases to offset the postage adjustments effective Jan. 7," he said.

Proper use of postage scales and meters, in particular, can prove to be a good source of postage savings, he said. Specifically, he explained, businessmen can minimize losses by making certain that mail, particularly first-class and air mail, is correctly weighed and the correct postage carefully applied.

### Can Add Postage

Individuals unfamiliar with the meter machines can add more postage than is necessary — which results in a direct loss to the business. The post office wants correct postage, but is anxious to encourage the development of mail "know-how" to make certain that postal patrons pay no more than is fair.

During the past two years the post office department has placed special emphasis on devising new techniques and "know-how" to assist business in mailing operations, Eidswick said.

"For example, all post of-

But by this time, the balloon of Russian infallibility had been punctured. In September, the U. S. space agency revealed a list of six Soviet space failures, including two earlier shots at Mars and four at Venus.

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LAST SHIP UNLOADED—This is an aerial view of the Duluth, Minn.-Superior, Wis., port facilities after the last ship was unloaded this winter. Snow covers the ships and the ground as ice begins to fill the channel. (UPI)

## Kitchen Surgery Saves Tiny Baby

Stanford, Calif. — (UPI) — A Palo Alto physician saved the life of a 12-week-old baby with open heart massage performed in the makeshift surroundings of a household kitchen Tuesday.

The infant, Orian Merler, had stopped breathing for nearly five minutes when Dr. Jack Remington arrived at the Palo Alto home of Mr. and Mrs. Ezio Merler.

The physician quickly opened the baby's chest with a knife and massaged his tiny heart until an ambulance and resuscitator crew arrived.

The baby was in critical condition today, according to Palo Alto Stanford hospital.

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