

Ashland VFW Has Officer Election

Ashland—James V. Williams was elected commander at last week's meeting of Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Keith Peterson was chosen vice commander; Wesley Woodcock, junior vice commander; E. H. Braunig, quartermaster; Fred Kerby, post advocate; M. C. Wood, post chaplain; Dr. Robert Hoffman, post doctor, and A. C. Hazelrigg, post trustee.

Visitors at the meeting in the headquarters building on A st. were District Commander George Connell, Gold Hill, and District Inspector Glen Hutchinson.

The business session, conducted by retiring commander Hazelrigg, included plans for the joint installation ceremonies of post and auxiliary officers in May.

Tips are Given for Choosing Sunglasses

New York - A fashion coordinator came up with these sunglasses tips for three faces:

Frames that slant up from the center are good for a wide face; a square face can be softened with a frame that comes up and out and a diamond-shaped face calls for frames with a low-arched bridge and wide eye area.

Man and Space

Elasticity of Mercury Capsule Being Determined

By ALVIN B. WEBB Jr.

Cape Canaveral—(UPI) - Concede the Russians what you will, but to the United States must go the honor of having built what seems to be the world's most elastic spaceship.

The result could be the first endurance contest in space—a sort of flagpole sitting-in-the-sky, starring astronauts. If science is willing to take a backseat.

At the heart of the matter is America's famed Mercury space capsule and, more specifically, its remarkably

stretchable abilities which appear to have no limit.

Two years ago, scientists placed what seemed a firm limit on a man-carrying Mercury capsule—three orbits, no more. The experts cited all sorts of reasons why anything more was entirely out of the question.

Today, the same scientists are getting the same type of capsule ready to take an astronaut, L. Gordon Cooper Jr., 22 times around the world sometime in May.

And still the end isn't fully in view. Plans already are

under way for a possible Mercury capsule manned flight of perhaps 70 orbits this year—and the experts say it is entirely feasible.

Somewhere along the line, a fair degree of elasticity has set in. From three to 70 orbits is a long stretch.

It is now apparent that Project Mercury, America's first man-into-space program, was on the ultra side of conservative when it started estimating the capabilities of the space capsule two years ago.

Only after the three-orbit trips of astronauts John H.

Glenn Jr. and J. Scott Carpenter last year did Mercury's scientists begin to open the throttle. Additions to the vital oxygen, food and fuel supplies quickly made it possible for astronaut Walter M. Schirra Jr. to double the capsule's original performance with a six-orbit trip in October.

But physically, the Mercury capsule is the same rigid item that it was two years ago—shaped roughly like an old-time television picture tube with barely enough room for an astronaut to breathe

and push buttons and switches.

There is a price to pay for these extra orbits. The added ounces of fuel, food and water must come from somewhere. Since the maximum weight of the capsule is inflexible, the subtraction generally starts in the scientific experiments carried aboard.

Which is another way of saying the longer the flight of a manned Mercury capsule, the less it can do on a scientific level—which contradicts the idea of Project Mercury in the first place.

There is a breaking-off point where a Mercury capsule flight from a coldly mathematical viewpoint, ceases to be a thing of science and becomes instead an orbiting platform suitable for little more than an endurance contest on the part of the astronaut.

The question is, where is that point?

Even the scientists don't seem certain.

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