

# Horizon Sensor May Help Home Building

By GEORGE J. BARDER  
United Press International

Washington—UPI—A gadget which enabled 36-year-old astronaut L. Gordon Cooper to fly straight to target may some day help build a cheaper and better home.

It's already being used experimentally to produce more uniform steel and glass.

The gadget is the horizon sensor. It told Cooper whether he was flying true in space. Before his re-entry into the atmosphere he used the sensor to determine his space capsule's position in relation to the horizon. The information enabled him to correct his "attitude" to the required degree.

But the horizon sensor is nothing more than a measuring device, using infra-red elements sensitive to hot and cold. And as a measuring device, a steel firm is testing the space gadget to increase the efficiency of steel production.

Measures Hot Steel

The infra-red sensor mea-

asures the uniformity of hot steel rods moving along assembly lines at speeds of 35 to 70 miles an hour.

Heretofore, it was necessary to take the hot steel to a cooling room before measurement. Frequently assembly lines had to be shut down overnight to await the information before adjustment could be made.

With the infra-red sensor, delays are no longer necessary.

A leading glass manufacturer also is trying out the

Whipping Skipped In 'American' Sauna Bath

New York—UPI—Now there's an American version of the famed Scandinavian Sauna bath in a hot tub (to open the pores), then massage with copious application of common table salt—until the skin tingles. Follow with a quick rinse in cold water.

You can skip the birch whipping, traditional in Saubath. Just relax for five minutes to provide a comparable sensation.

Heat, High Humidity

Burden Heart Motion

New York—UPI—Dr. George E. Burch, editor of the American Heart Journal, reports that studies of cardiac patients show heat and high humidity put an added burden on the heart.

Dr. Burch, of Tulane University School of Medicine, does the reporting in a new film—"The Air Around Us."

sensors to measure hot glass rods as they are produced.

This is just one of an increasing flow of technical im-

provements for industrial science starting to spill over from space research. The national space agency has just

## Jenkins Speaks at Ashland Chamber on Tourist Business

to spend a few extra days in Oregon is the most important single project on which residents of the state should concentrate, according to Frank Jenkins of Klamath Falls in a talk before the Ashland Chamber of Commerce Tuesday.

Jenkins, former publisher and editor of the Klamath Falls Herald and News, now writes a column for that paper which also appears in the Medford Mail Tribune and the Roseburg News-Review. He also serves as chairman of the tourist information committee of the state highway department.

More than 9 million tourists visited Oregon last year and brought with them some \$217 million in new dollars to bolster the state's economy, Jenkins said.

Have to Stop Them

"But the great problem," he said, "is that each tourist who came spent an average of only 2.93 days in the state. What we've got to do is to stop them as they go past." He offered several sugges-

will eliminate the need to machine edge his products and thus reduce costs.

Another method is what is called a "seam tracker and proximity control unit." That's technical language for an electronic gadget which guides a welding torch accurately along a seam separating two pieces of metal, and guides it with amazing accuracy. The agency says the tracking error is "less than the width of a fine pen line even when there is a poor fit between the working parts of the seam."

A leading farm manufacturer is checking into the use of the device. He believes it

Some of the off-shoot developments were unexpected and surprising.

At the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., a solid propellant fuel was being developed in a star-shaped mold. However, the fuel was sticky and wouldn't come away from the mold. Conventional lubricants couldn't clean from the mold. The laboratory tried out a substance known as F-E-P which is very much like teflon, used to coat frying pans so that food won't stick to the utensil. It worked perfectly.

Many Uses

The substance also worked for a hat manufacturer who found that, with use of the coating, felt wouldn't stick to hat molds. The agency believes the idea also will be practical for furniture manufacturers, and plywood plants.

One big development coming along is the use of dry lubricants for moving parts in space. The agency believes developments with dry lubricants will be of great benefit to the bearing industry.

But the "earthly" develop-

not confined to industrial use. Practically every known science is involved, including medicine.

One device being worked on now is expected to become a research tool for study of the heart. With long trips coming up in space, NASA is trying to develop an electrode which astronauts can wear for prolonged periods to obtain cardiographs. Present electrodes cause skin irritations when used for more than brief periods. Once developed, physicians will be able to have patients wear the electrodes day after day to study heart reaction during normal activity.

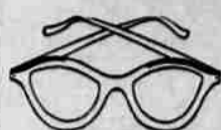
Aids Health

The agency also is convinced that much of its research on air, water and waste disposal will be useful, not only to astronauts, but to public health here on earth.

Some NASA discoveries are found to be useless for space, but can be used on earth. One gadget may make speech at political conventions cheap as well as plentiful. The device was developed in an attempt to overcome the brief radio communications blackout en-

countered when an astronaut is coming down from space.

A space scientist figured out a cheap method of using a ray of light plus a corner reflector for voice transmission. It won't work for the astronaut. But the so-called "retrometer" is expected to be extremely useful for communication in noisy plants or at large meetings, such as political conventions.



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