

Modern Rocketry Father Sees Inhabited Station Floating In Outer Space

(This is the second of two dispatches in which one of the world's leading experts on space missiles relates how the present exploratory invasion of the universe — by America's sun-orbiting Pioneer TV and other satellites — is carrying us steadily toward the goal of placing men in outer space. The author, now living in retirement near Nuernberg, Germany, was after World War II and until last year supervisory physicist at the Army Ballistic Missile Agency Huntsville, Ala., and is known as the "Father of Modern Rocketry.")

By DR. HERMANN OBERTH (Written For UPI) NUERNBERG, Germany (UPI) — Even today, on the basis of space explorations to date, we know that putting an inhabited station in space is possible. The method is already before us.

Two space ships will go up and the pilot of one will bring it close to the other. Both pilots, then, clad in space suits which will allow them to move about in space, will take steel cables attached to their respective ships and, using jet power pistols for propulsion, move toward one another.

It seems a dreadful leap, at a speed of five miles per second, hundreds of miles above earth. The fact is, though, that it will be a simple occurrence — centrifugal force keeps everything floating.

The cables are joined and the pilots return to their ships and put them in motion in such a fashion that they circle each other.

The circling motion will produce centrifugal force so that the occupants of the ships will have the illusion of feeling the earth's gravity — a very important point, for the lack of this feeling, prolonged, could have serious effects on their physical and mental health.

On the other hand, conditions in the center of the linking cable will appear to be utterly weightless. Here, we will build a hollow ball of wire grating material.

It is this ball which serves as the mooring station for other space ships which bring tools and machine parts with them — and from these in turn we build, inside the ball, the actual mechanisms which will make the flights among the heavenly bodies.

The process will be carried out in this way because our kinds of rockets, with their chemical propellants, are really not very well adapted to that kind of flight because their gases exhaust too slowly.

Instead, we will build "electric space ships" inside the ball.

These electric space ships, built inside the ball, will be run on electricity produced with the aid of solar energy or atomic piles and which will be used to accelerate them.

There are, as a matter of fact, several systems already proposed for this plan and, to some extent, already in development.

These electric ships will not, themselves, land on large bodies in space. They circle them, instead, while smaller rockets with chemical propellants — so-called "space boats" — will take expedition members down to the bodies in space and back to the electric ships.

When the first such electric space ship has made its satisfactory test flight near the space station, the next step will be a flight to the moon.

It is from the moon, in fact, that the building materials for further space projects will come. It will be a lot easier to do it that way than to bring them from earth, because transportation costs will be about 1,000 times cheaper that way.

I think it probable that many of us will live to see living accommodations for people on the moon — and coal mines, iron works and other factories as well. More than that, I think that a second springboard station will be orbiting the moon and this springboard station will be the transportation point from the moon with electric space ships bringing the goods from the moon for delivery to earth.

In my book, "Man Into Space," I described my idea of a series of such constructions in space. I would like to describe just one of them now — the fixed orbit station.

If such a station orbited the earth at a height of 36,000 kilometers (22,000 miles), it would take one full day for it to orbit. If the orbit were from west to east, it would be, in effect, always standing still over the same spot on earth — because the earth itself turns on its axis.

The station would have a view of 3-7 of the earth's surface. Three of them, therefore, properly spaced, would have among them a full, permanent view of this planet on which we live.

Such a station could, among other things, receive television signals from a single point on earth, strengthen them, and beam them back to earth, either directly or by way of one of its neighbor stations.

It would be possible, under such a system, to have a single transmitter whose pictures would be received everywhere on earth.

In contrast to this wide diffusion it would be possible to focus signals very sharply at the receiving end on the fixed orbit station and at the receiving end from the station back on earth.

These signals could be read only in a small area around transmitter and receiver — and the privacy of a telegram sent that way would be as safe as a thrice-sealed letter.

With high frequencies, also, one could give such signals several hundred modulations which would not interfere with one another and would, in turn, serve as carrier signals for longer wave modulations.

"DENNIS THE MENACE"



"CAN I STAY HERE WHILE MY MOM GETS OVER A BUSTED VASE?"

Bankbook Left At Crime Leads Canadian Police To Capture Of Thieves

BROCKVILLE, Ont. (AP) — On a Saturday night last May, five men silently made their way through the gloom to No. 4 Court House Square, crept up the stairs and entered an accountant's office.

The intruders unlimbered their tools and cut a hole in the floor. A steel ladder was brought from the basement and lowered through the opening.

One by one the five descended into the premises of the Brockville Trust and Savings Co. For the next five hours they labored feverishly while Brockville slept. They hammered through a two-foot brick wall and bare an expanse of sheet steel. Acetylene torches made short work of the second barrier.

The marauders were now inside the great vault where millions of dollars in stocks, bonds, cash and jewelry had been placed for safekeeping. A short time later the five went back upstairs laden with loot estimated at from \$1 million to 10 million dollars.

The loot was washed up and departed, leaving behind a wristwatch worth about \$100, a man's raincoat and a woman's scarf. They also left several hundred dollars worth of gear.

The job was done expertly, rapidly and methodically. But one of the group made a serious mistake. He dropped his bankbook.

Less than 48 hours later, police in a Montreal suburb forced the suspect's car to the curb and arrested him. The man identified himself as Rene Martin, 23, and eventually pleaded guilty to complicity in the job.

Before he was sentenced Dec. 5 to 12 years imprisonment, Martin said five persons took part in the robbery. He said he was "not in a position to be cooperative" about names.

Martin carried keys to an apartment and locker in Montreal's Central Station. The locker contained a kit bag and a suitcase containing a fortune in loot from Brockville. More was found in the apartment.

The Brockville Savings and Trust robbery was one of a series of giant-size securities thefts in Ontario and Quebec. In January 1957, between four million and eight million dollars was taken from 132 safety deposit boxes in a Montreal bank.

Investigation of the Brockville case based evidence of an international clearing house through which hot securities were spirited away and converted to cash in other countries.

The latest strike was last New Year's Day at St. Catharines, Ont. Intruders rifled the Premier Trust Co. of \$38,919. They hid the gleam of their torches from the street behind a tarpaulin and stopped work long enough for tea and cakes.

A week later, Peter Stepanoff, 30, Moses Jackson, 40, and Henri Samson, 45, were arrested in Montreal and returned to St. Catharines where they were charged with the robbery.

Some officials believe the robbers were engineered by professionals in the hire of anonymous masterminds. Brockville Police Chief Wilbert Young went so far as to say the Brockville theft was the idea of men holding positions of trust.

Ontario Attorney General Kelso Roberts said a slick international organization could be siphoning off the loot. He named two provincial police inspectors to track down the receivers.

Developments abroad seemed to support Roberts' theory. Last Nov. 23, the FBI picked up Bernard J. Ezhaya, 45, a former union organizer, at New London, Conn., and charged him with transporting stolen property across state lines. Special FBI agents Edward J. McCabe said Ezhaya used bonds stolen in a Montreal robbery as collateral for loans at New London banks.

Last Feb. 13, William W. Rabin, 53, who called himself a business counsellor, was arrested by the FBI as he stepped off a plane at Chicago. He was booked on charges of receiving \$98,000 worth of Brockville bonds. The FBI said Rabin got \$85,000 in cash for the pledged securities in Paris and Switzerland.

Four business men and a former bank manager were arrested in Toronto Dec. 11 on charges of possessing stolen bonds. Police recovered \$40,000 in certificates of various origins.

Police raids in Switzerland, Miami, Montreal, New York and Quebec City have turned up about \$792,000 in stolen Canadian securities.

A Swiss bank is demanding \$38,000 in legitimate bonds for the stolen ones it accepted in return for a loan of \$78,000. Police believe the stolen bonds will provide a valuable lead to the person who left them there, but the bank refuses to cooperate until it gets its money back.

Roberts has warned Ontario insurance companies that they will be prosecuted if they attempt to make secret deals with criminals to buy back stolen bonds they insured. He said such overtures have been made.

Bill Protects Newsmen Who Hide Info Source

By KENNETH WHITING Associated Press Staff Writer

"I think reporters for newspapers, radio and television should have the same safeguarded relationship with news sources as lawyers have with clients and doctors with patients," an Illinois lawmaker said before introducing a bill in the state Legislature.

The proposed law, by Rep. Michael Zlatnik (D-Chicago) is part of a widespread move to extend protection to reporters who refuse to name the source of the news they gather.

Proposed new laws or amendments have been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and at least 10 state Legislatures in the wake of the widely publicized Marie Torre case.

Miss Torre, a radio-TV columnist for the New York Herald Tribune, served a 10-day jail sentence for contempt of court. She declined to name the source of comment about entertainer Judy Garland she used in a story. The publicity spurred attempts to detail just how far a newsmen may go in protecting his sources.

Four separate bills are pending in New York state, scene of Miss Torre's trial and conviction.

They provide that (1) no newspaper publisher, editor or reporter could be compelled to disclose the source of information committed confidentially; (2) persons who gather, publish, broadcast or televise news could not be punished for criminal contempt for refusal to disclose news sources; (3) newspaper, radio and television personnel could not be compelled to testify or disclose sources at

any proceedings of any court or government agency and (4) news reporters would have immunity from disclosing sources only if they had pledged secrecy to the source and the information could not have been obtained without such a pledge.

Twelve states already have laws which are generally similar and two of them, Pennsylvania and Ohio, are considering revisions to extend such protection to radio and TV reporters.

The first state to provide legal protection for newsmen was Maryland in 1896. Similar statutes are in effect in Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Montana, New Jersey, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Just last week a trial judge reaffirmed a reporter's right, under the California law, to refuse to reveal the source of a newspaper story.

Fred Sorri, reporter for the Peninsula Herald of Monterey, invoked this section of the state's civil code in declining to answer a question at a perjury trial.

The California Supreme Court previously upheld the constitutionality of the law.

Besides Illinois and New York, new measures have been dropped into legislative hoppers in Iowa, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont and Utah.

State Rep. Eyo A. Lucchina (D-Barre City) said the bill he sponsored in the Vermont Legislature was designed to aid newsmen in obtaining information particularly from government agencies. He said some news sources are drying up because of the possibility they may be named later as informants of reporters.

U.S. Rep. Francis Dorn (R-N.Y.) has introduced a bill in Congress which would provide national coverage. It would exempt newspaper, radio and TV reporters from being compelled by federal courts to disclose their sources except in cases affecting the national security.

Another point which arose in connection with the Torre case is whether the identity of news sources involves press freedom as established by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The newspaper trade publication "Editor and Publisher" took note of this in an editorial Feb. 14.

It said in part: "It is contended by some that freedom of the press is involved in this issue. Perhaps it is. People, including newspapermen, can still write what they please within certain legally defined limitations. There is no prior restraint on publication. But it seems to us there is a conflict when people (reporters) are punished for not revealing who told them something even though the information as reported is correct. No other profession is expected to put into print for others to read everything it can learn that is fit

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Language Tutor Writes Songs Mrs. Helen Hoffman, head of the foreign language department of Klamath Union High School, has written a number of songs, three recently that are appropriate for this Centennial Year. Her contributions to Oregon music include: "Oregon and Glory," "Be Our Guest," "Yalloo! For Oregon," "Oregon Lullaby," "From America With Love," "We Thank You America," "Western Love," "Spring Song for Oregon," and several others.