

Rocket Aims Destruction At Mainland

CAPE CANAVERAL (UPI) — For eight horrible seconds the sleek, white rocket—instead of arching harmlessly over the Atlantic—veered sharply over the heart of the Cape and aimed death and destruction toward the mainland.

At the end of those eight seconds, which seemed much longer, a range safety officer triggered a pair of "destruct" switches which blew the Minuteman ICBM into hundreds of fiery fragments, including tons of volatile solid propellant, into a "safety area," keeping damage at a minimum.

There were no injuries in the spectacular accident here last October.

A year and a half earlier an Atlas missile knifed into the sky in the first effort to orbit an unmanned space capsule.

"She looks like a good one," an observer remarked. Others thought so too.

But an Air Force officer intently watching electronic indicators on an instrument panel knew better. The indicators told him the rocket was off course.

He let the missile rise for a few more seconds, then triggered the switches which sent an electric impulse to an explosive package inside the Atlas.

Erupts in Flame
Instantly, the mighty missile erupted in a ball of fire 15,000 feet in the air. Chunks of flaming debris showered to the ground, some falling on the blockhouse which protected missilemen at the launch site.

The space capsule was blasted free by a rocket escape system and was dropped undamaged into the ocean by parachute. There were no injuries.

That these two unsuccessful launchings were not further marred by deaths or injuries can be attributed in large measure to what scientists here call the impact prediction system.

The complex system provides the range safety officer, the man who must trigger the "destruct" switches if necessary, with information on where the missile would impact if fuel were to be cut off during powered flight.

The system also enables recovery forces to be on the way to the scene even before the nose cone impacts.

Trains Safety Officers
As the nation's pioneer launching site, the spaceport here helps train safety officers from other bases and scores of missilemen from operational bases and military schools pass through here for observation and training.

Safety officers work closely with the launch agencies. The launchers indicate what they would like to attain and then it is determined whether it can be done safely.

Charts are drawn covering the entire course of a planned launch. The charts show such things as distances from populated areas, islands along the route and emergency procedure.

During the launch itself several officers besides the range safety officer man various instruments to observe plotted flight data.

Because of these safety measures the potentially dangerous missile program—which involves explosives, great pressures, high voltage and super-inflammable fuels—has a safety record that outshines that of many other industries.

Italy Readies

ROME (UPI) — Premier Giovanni Leone's stop-gap government made final preparations Saturday for a two-day visit from President Kennedy.

On Monday, when Kennedy arrives here, Leone's Christian Democratic cabinet, which has not yet been approved by Parliament, will begin a crucial battle for its political life.

Leone will outline his policies to the legislature and ask for a vote of confidence he must get in order to stay in power. Failure could force President Antonio Segni to call for new elections.

Italy's current political crisis erupted when the country's Communist party picked up about a million votes during balloting last April.

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"I'M BUILDIN' ME A TOOTHPICK!"

Don't Let Too Much Get You Disturbed

By ANN LANDERS

Dear Ann Landers: I wish these girls would quit crying because they have figures like ironing boards. My problem is just the opposite and I would gladly change places with any of them. It's easy to add to what you don't have, but nothing can be done when you have too much.

Ever since I was 12, I have been subjected to crude remarks because of generous over-endowment. All through school I've had a collection of private nicknames you wouldn't believe. I tried walking hunched over, carrying my books in front. I wore loose blouses. Nothing helped.

You can't imagine what it's like for a young girl never to be able to wear a sweater or a strapless dress or a low-cut gown. And what a job finding a decent fit! I need a size 10 dress with a 14 top.

So please tell the Flat Flossies to stop moaning. If they had to wear a double D cup they'd know what trouble is.—ALL ME

Dear You: An embarrassment of riches, you might call it. Here's your letter and let's hope it cheers up the Flat Flossies — although they will probably find little comfort in knowing that someone else has too much of what they'd like more of.

Dear Ann Landers: I am the mother of four teen-agers. These are perilous times for growing up, but I am not concerned even remotely about my daughters. Ann, it's the boys that worry me. Tom is 16 and Jim 18. They are obedient and respectful, excellent students, well-behaved and outstanding in athletics. So what is the problem? It's the way the girls run after them that worries me sick. How much temptation can a young fellow stand?

Now that school is out the phone rings night and day. Both boys have summer jobs, but when they come home at 5:30 there is a list of girls who have telephoned. Every night two or three girls drive up in their convertibles. Sunday a girl came over in her car. She was wearing a bikini.

I wouldn't think of allowing my daughters to be so shameless. What can a mother do?—AT-LANTA, GA.

Dear Atlanta: The world has always had shameless females and I see no evidence that this sort of woman is disappearing.

Your work is done. Mother—or it isn't. If your boys were taught early to respect themselves and others you need not worry. If you failed to teach them, worrying now won't help.

Dear Ann Landers: Several letters have appeared in your column from mothers who received used clothing for their children. Some were delighted—others in-

sulted. I hope you will find space to print just one more.

I grew up during the depression. Every evening gown I ever owned went to at least four proms. My maternity dresses went the rounds, too. Nothing was wasted.

When we moved to another city I offered some clothing to a woman who hasn't spoken to me since. So when my husband decided to discard an expensive sport jacket I gingerly offered it to a mother who could well afford to buy her son a new one. She gave me in return some play clothes for my younger children. It kills me to send kids out in brand new clothes to play in the mud. I was delighted to have the hand-me-downs.

This woman and I are now good friends. The secret is to know which people will be offended and which ones will be pleased. And the only way to find out is to ask.—DID IT

Dear Did It: Thanks for a nice, homey letter. There are more people like you than the other kind. And I'm glad!

Confidential to Anti Ash Flicker: The moment she lights up hand her a nice big ash tray. She'll get the point.

French Face Hard Times

PARIS (UPI) — President Charles de Gaulle's government faces the worst labor and farm unrest since the month-long winter strike by more than 200,000 coal miners severely cut French factory production and threatened to paralyze small industry.

There were these developments:

—In Paris, the ground navigation staffs at Le Bourget and Orly airports were scheduled to begin a 48-hour strike at 7 p.m. which would tie up international air traffic.

—Thousands of metro (subway) workers contemplated further action in the wake of their surprise 24-hour walkout Thursday.

—Police ringed the state-run aviation aircraft factory in Toulouse following a company lockout.

—Vegetable and fruit farmers demonstrated for higher prices for their products.

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