SPACEPORT NEWS

Volume 2, Number 49 | NASA Launch Operations Center, Cape Kennedy, Florida | December 5, 1963

CANAVERAL'S NAME CHANGED TO KENNEDY

Cape Canaveral is now Cape Kennedy.

The name change came about last week in a tribute to the late President's dreams of American pre-eminence in space.

President Johnson announced it in his Thanksgiving address.

"To honor his memory," he said, "and the future of the works he started, I have today determined that station No. 1 of the Atlantic Missile Range and the NASA Launch Operations Center shall hereafter be known as the John F. Kennedy Space Center.

"I have also acted, with the understanding and support of my friend, the governor of Florida, Farris Bryant, to change the name of Cape Canaveral. It shall be known hereafter as Cape Kennedy."

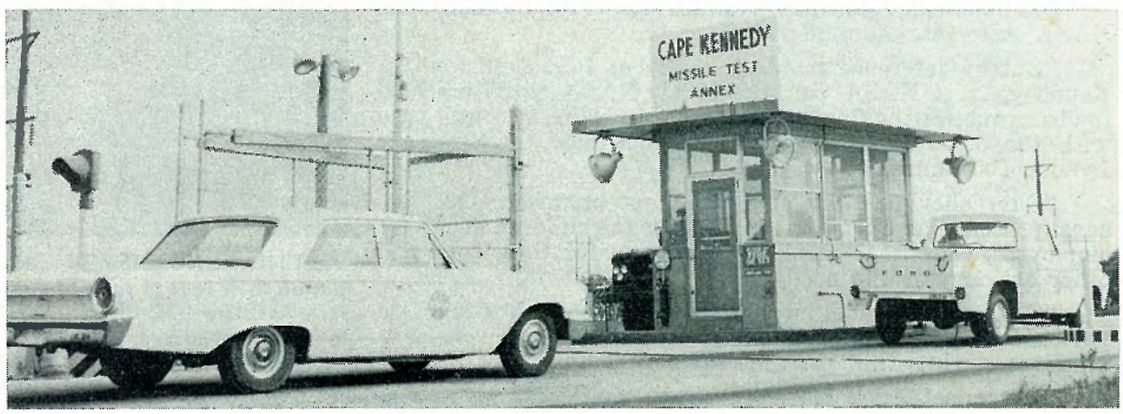
A Major Goal

Johnson, a day earlier in his address to the Joint Session of Congress, said, "Kennedy's dream of conquering the vastness of space was one of the nation's major goals which had been vitalized by his drive and dedication."

Dr. Kurt H. Debus, LOC Director, said Johnson's action was very fitting with Kennedy's intense interest in the area.

The late President had visited the spaceport three times in the past 21 months, the last tour coming just six days before his untimely death.

He had been impressed with the Saturn program, and had stated in several of his last speeches that the U.S. would have the most powerful booster in the world after SA-5 was launched.



ONE DAY after President Johnson's edict to change the name of Cape Canaveral to Cape Kennedy, Pan Am sign painter Bernie Roberts had made the switch at the Cape's south gate.

THE EXECUTIVE ORDER

Whereas President John F. Kennedy lighted the imagination of our people when he set the moon as our target and man as the means to reach it; and

Whereas installations now to be renamed are the center and symbol of our country's principal assault on space; and

Whereas it is in the nature of this assault that it should test the limits of our use and grace, and strength and wit, and vigor and perseverance — quality fitting to the memory of John F. Kennedy.

Now therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, I hereby designate the facilities of the Launch Operations Center of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the facilities of Station #1 of the Atlantic Missile Range in the State of Florida, as the John F. Kennedy Space Center; and such facilities shall be hereafter known and referred to by that name.

Lyndon B. Johnson

MILA Pact Awarded, VAB Bid Date Set

The Canaveral District of the Army Corps of Engineers has announced the signing of a $176,440 contract for additional work in the Merritt Island Launch Area and also set a new date of Jan. 7, 1964, for opening bids for the general construction of the moonport's Vertical Assembly Building.

C. A. Meyer Paving and Construction Co. of Orlando was awarded the new contract to prepare the site for the industrial water supply system for Launch Complex 39.

Bids for general construction of the Vertical Assembly Building are scheduled to be opened at the Hotel Robert Meyer in Jacksonville at 2 p.m. on Jan. 7. Approximate cost of the construction is $55 million.

Work on the pile driving and foundation for the 52-story tall building is already well past the halfway point.

Employees To Forego Exchanges

For the second straight year, employee interchange of Christmas cards will be foregone by many, so that underprivileged families in the area may receive needed food and clothing.

Last year more than $1,000 was collected and turned over to the Salvation Army for distribution in the form of food baskets and clothing to needy families in Brevard County.

The money contributed would ordinarily have gone for the purchase and mailing of Christmas cards to friends and working associates that employees are in daily contact with.

The idea for such a drive stems from the long-time custom of the service for a military establishment to designate a centrally located bulletin board where servicemen can post Christmas greetings to their comrades in arms.

This tradition acknowledges the inability of the majority to mentally recall and to financially recognize the many individual acquaintances which result from day to day work association in a large

(See EMPLOYEES, Page 8)

SPOTLIGHT

A REMINDER

The following message is from Dr. Robert C. Seamans, Jr., NASA Associate Administrator:

"Out of deference to the memory of President John F. Kennedy, it is NASA policy that all NASA activities held in observance of the Christmas season should be in consonance with the 30-day mourning period proclaimed by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

"Our policy permits on government premises such seasonal practices as Christmas parties for the children of NASA employees, Christmas caroling and drives for toys, food and other articles for the needy.

"On the other hand, management will not authorize office parties or any other festivities of a gala nature on government premises during this pre-Christmas period.

"As to activities off government premises, we expect NASA employees will conduct themselves in a manner befitting this period of mourning."

CONGRATULATIONS – AGAIN

It almost seems to be getting old hat to congratulate Goddard Space Flight Center's Field Projects Branch for their work here at the Cape, but their activity last week should not go unnoticed.

Within a span of 16 and a half hours, Bob Gray and his talented team carried off a remarkably successful launch doubleheader.

First off the pad was the highly complex Interplanetary Monitoring Platform spacecraft — IMP. Then, the next afternoon it was the Centaur's turn. Both launches resulted in placing payloads into orbit.

IMP rode spaceward atop the ever-reliable Delta booster. It was the 20th consecutive successful launch of the vehicle—an unmatched record, and one difficult to fully appreciate, because there is no standard to measure it by. Like football's Y. A. Tuttle, the Delta team extends its own record with each launch.

And, although the Centaur flight was the first success for the bird, perhaps it too will be the first of 20 straight.

Certainly then, the people of the Field Projects Branch and the contractors involved are deserving of praise.

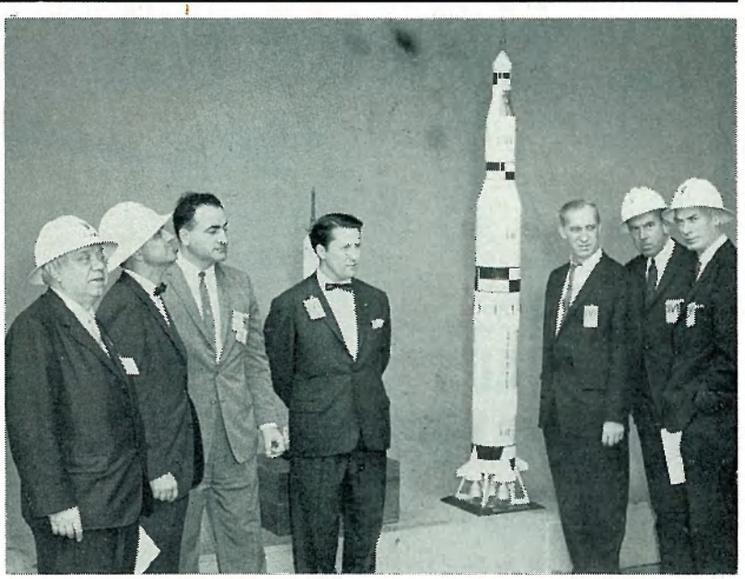
Rocketry is such a complex art that no launch can be considered routine, but these people make even the most difficult ones look commonplace.

What is their secret?

The countless hours of painstaking care, attention to detail and sincerity of purpose necessary for mission fulfillment, are hidden behind the headlines.

SPACEPORT NEWS

Published each week by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Launch Operations Center, Cape Kennedy, Florida.



VISITING CONGRESSMEN were briefed on NASA's Saturn project during their tour of the Cape last week by Rocco Petrone, third from left, Assistant LOC Director for Plans and Projects Management. Left to right are Roland V. Libonati (D.-Ill.), Richard H. Ichord (D.-Mo.), Petrone, Kenneth Gray (D.-Ill.), Harold Ryan (D.-Mich.), Robert Stafford (R.-Vt.), and Otis Pike (D.-N.Y.).

ELECTRICAL STATION CONTRACT AWARDED

A $515,975 contract for construction of an electrical substation has been awarded to the joint venture firms of W. V. Pangborne and Co., Inc., of Philadelphia, and Lowry Electric Co., Inc., of Coral Gables.

At the same time, the Corps of Engineers announced that it is seeking bids for modifying a Propellant Systems Component Laboratory for LOC. The work on the laboratory, located in the Merritt Island Launch Area, will cost about $150,000.

The 69,000-volt electrical substation will be located on the west side of Highway A1A, about a half mile south of the Vertical Assembly Building, where the Saturn V moon rockets will be assembled.

The high voltage structure will consist of a structural steel framework with concrete foundation footings. Overall, it will be 28 feet wide, 264 feet long and 36 feet high.

SPACE ALMANAC

A CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN SPACE EXPLORATION AND RESEARCH.

1 Year Ago

Dec. 10, 1962 — NASA launched a 186-lb. payload of scientific instruments for Commonwealth of Australia from NASA Wallops Station, but Aerobee 150A vehicle malfunctioned 42 seconds after liftoff and payload did not reach intended altitude. Payload instrumentation, designed to measure VLF radio waves in the ionosphere, functioned successfully throughout the flight.

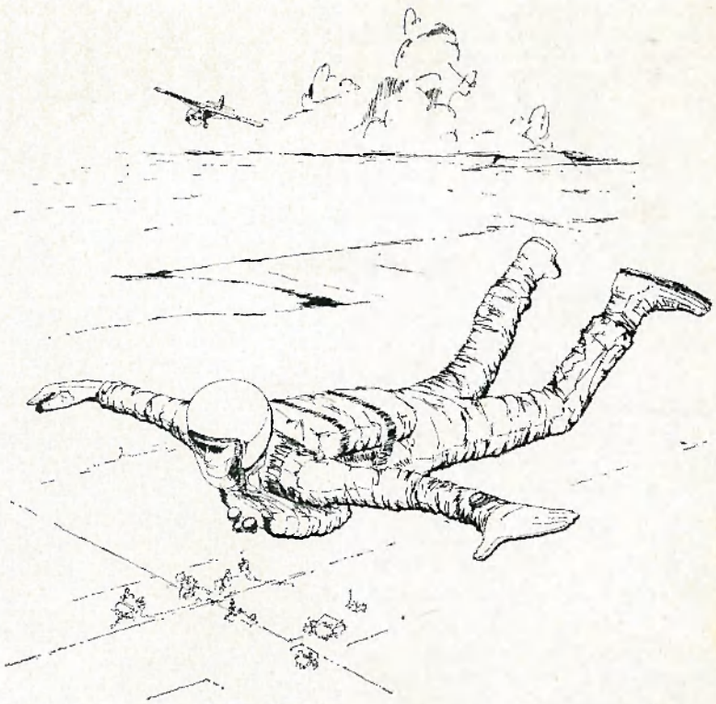
FORBIDDEN FRUIT

Although it's the Christmas season, and citrus shipments up north are heavy, LOC's Security Office has asked employees not to send relatives oranges from the Merritt Island Launch Area.

A number of complaints have been received from grove lessees concerning loss of the fruit. The penalty price for theft far exceeds the oranges' market value.

Geronimo!

SKY DIVING ENTHUSIAST REVEALS HOW IT'S DONE



When the group of sky diving Orlando Paragators arrive at the Cape Saturday for a tour of NASA facilities, they will be escorted and briefed by a NASA official who shares their enthusiasm for falling out of a speeding airplane.

Jay Viehman of LOC's Protocol Office, is an ex-parachutist who still has the yen to plummet through space.

Jay joined a sky diving club while still in service at Hanscom Field, Mass.

How does it feel to step off into nothingness and assume a spread eagle position, as depicted in the drawing at right?

Jay Viehman

"It's tremendously exciting," Jay exclaims. "On my first jump I got so interested in looking around, I almost forgot I had work to do.

"The thing that really hits you is the quiet. The stillness is deafening."

Jay had no fears about that first jump or any succeeding ones. "You go through such an extensive training program, all apprehensions disappear."

Landed In Tree

The safety training paid off on Jay's second jump. He landed in a tree. "I just put my arms straight up over my head," Jay recalls, "and drifted down through the branches. I wasn't hurt at all."

Jay says the actual landing following a jump is no more jarring than hopping off a chair.

"They teach you how to roll and tumble though, during training," he adds, "because wind drifts sometimes hit you as you land, and may cause you to lose balance.

"And there's no big jerk when the chute pops open either." Jay explains that parachutes used by sky divers are much more streamlined and lighter than those used by the military.

He highly recommends the sport to others, and believes it would be even more popular were it not so expensive.

15,000 Feet

Divers may plummet out of planes at any altitude from 2,500 feet on up to 15,000, Jay says. The higher they are, of course, the longer they can free fall.

"Once you assume the correct spread eagle posture," Jay says, "you are in effect like a glider."

Is the sport dangerous? Jay claims with proper training and safety precautions, it is as safe as golf, tennis or any other sport.

It is, also, a sport of great skill, in which champion jumpers, after endless training, can leap from several thousand feet to the bullseye center of a marked target with surprising regularity.

"The closest I ever got," Jay says, "was 40 feet from the center."

But despite his love for leaping out of an airplane, Jay has given up sky diving.

"When I started, I was single," he says, "but now that I'm married, it petrifies my wife to think of me jumping, so I had to stop."

WAGE BOARD HOURLY PAY RATES BECOME EFFECTIVE SUNDAY

Newly authorized hourly pay rates for NASA Wage Board employees in this locality, as listed below, are effective Sunday.

Authorized hourly pay rates listed on this wage schedule apply only to NASA wage board employees assigned within commuting distance of Cape Kennedy.

WB	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	WL	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	WS	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4
1	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	1	2.09	2.20	2.31	2.42	1	2.67	2.81	2.95	3.09
2	2.04	2.15	2.26	2.37	2	2.25	2.37	2.49	2.61	2	2.95	3.11	3.27	3.42
3	2.19	2.30	2.42	2.53	3	2.40	2.53	2.66	2.78	3	3.24	3.41	3.58	3.75
4	2.33	2.45	2.57	2.70	4	2.57	2.70	2.84	2.97	4	3.38	3.56	3.74	3.92
5	2.47	2.60	2.73	2.86	5	2.72	2.86	3.00	3.15	5	3.52	3.71	3.90	4.08
6	2.61	2.75	2.89	3.03	6	2.88	3.03	3.18	3.33	6	3.68	3.87	4.06	4.26
7	2.76	2.90	3.05	3.19	7	3.03	3.19	3.35	3.51	7	3.83	4.03	4.23	4.43
8	2.91	3.06	3.21	3.37	8	3.20	3.37	3.54	3.71	8	3.97	4.18	4.39	4.60
9	3.06	3.22	3.38	3.54	9	3.36	3.54	3.72	3.89	9	4.16	4.38	4.60	4.82
10	3.20	3.37	3.54	3.71	10	3.52	3.71	3.90	4.08	10	4.32	4.55	4.78	5.01
11	3.42	3.60	3.78	3.96	11	3.76	3.96	4.16	4.36	11	4.65	4.89	5.13	5.38
12	3.64	3.83	4.02	4.21	12	4.00	4.21	4.42	4.63	12	4.96	5.22	5.48	5.74
13	3.76	3.96	4.16	4.36						13	5.28	5.56	5.84	6.12
Shift Differentials:			2nd Shift: .12				3rd Shift: .18			14	5.61	5.90	6.20	6.49

Poor Man's Grand Prix

How To Build A Rocer In Three Short Months

Tired of paying auto repair bills? Like to tinker with mechanical things?

Then the man to see for advice is LOC's John Bentley. He just finished building his own Formula V race car, and will put it on the line Saturday in a special race during the Nassau Speed Week.

John Bentley

What is a Formula V?

"This is something that began about 18 months ago," Bentley said last week before leaving for Nassau. "Essentially, it's a poor man's Grand Prix car.

"Actually," he went on, "you buy a kit for a little less than a $1,000. In it are the car's frame, rear suspension, brake lines, steering wheel and column, instruments, seats and body parts.

Find A Wreck

"Then you find a wrecked Volkswagen to add the engine, transmission, brakes, steering gear, wheels and tires, and build the car."

Bentley combed several local junk yards before finding the materials he needed, from not one but two wrecked cars.

He spent "every spare minute" for the past three months to put his racer together. "The kit looks like it would be easy to assemble," he says, "but a lot of things didn't fit exactly right, and I wound up improving many parts as I went."

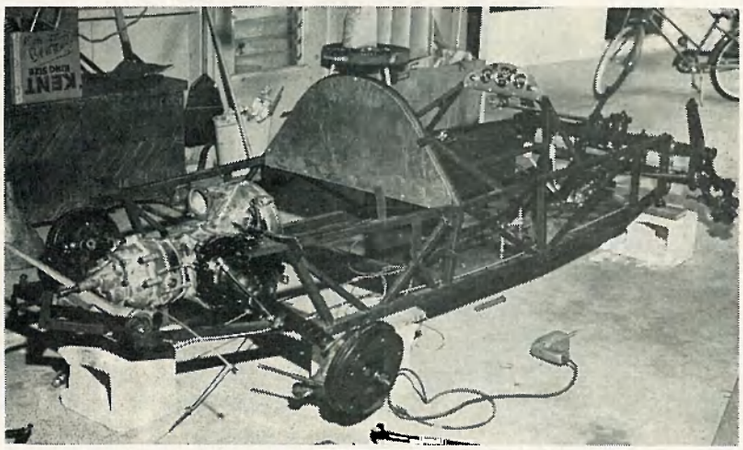
He was helped occasionally by two office co-workers, Ken Chambliss and Mike Konjevich.

Bentley is practicing with his homemade racer today, and will continue to tune it up until Saturday's race. It will do 110 mph.

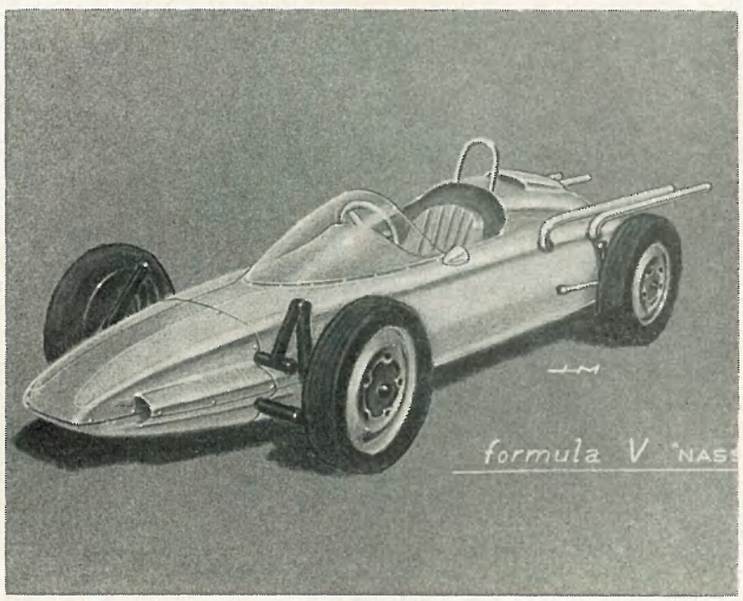
The race for the Victor Sassoon trophy is one Bentley has looked forward to for a long time. He is a professional driver with considerable experience, and says, "This will be a race where driving ability will tell. All the Formula V cars have been built to such finely specified measurements, they will be near equal in speed and power. Therefore it will be up to the individual skills of each driver."

"I got a tremendous kick out of putting it together," he says, "and I may keep it for other races."

BEFORE



DURING



AFTER

Mission Requirements For Future Determined

Mission requirements for high-performance aerospace systems of the 1970's and 1980's have been determined, and designs are on the drawing boards of today's space-age architects.

But, a major difficulty — lack of proper materials — must be overcome before the designs can be transformed into spacecraft which will meet future flight requirements.

Even for today's space efforts, materials are not available which can withstand all of the temperature, pressure, radiation, corrosion and stress conditions which they encounter.

In many cases, vehicle performance is minimized, and artificial environments are essential to prevent failure in major systems.

A new class of composite materials designed to overcome extreme heat and related problems involved in obtaining maximum performance in space is now being tested.

WHERE IT'S CHRISTMAS 365 DAYS EVERY YEAR

There's a small town about 30 miles due west of the Cape where it's Christmas every day of the year.

To many Orlando commuters, Christmas, Florida, on Highway 50, is all too familiar. It marks the halfway point in their daily journey.

To Cape workers who live elsewhere, the town is little known and only mentioned at Christmas time.

For this community of about 500, by nature of its name, has one of the world's most popular postmarks.

Yuletide mail from all over the world is funneled into the town's tiny post office for restamping — in red ink — of the Christmas mark.

"We processed more than 300,000 cards, letters and packages during the season last year," says Mrs. Juanita Tucker, Postmaster of Christmas for the past 31 years and sister-in-law of LOC driver Marvin Tucker.

"People come here from all over the state, Jacksonville, St. Pete, Miami, as well as from the Canaveral area," she says, and many of them have been doing it for years."

The rush so inundates her every December — the mail load increases about 200 per cent over a normal month — that she hires half a dozen part-time hands to help her.

The peak usually runs between the 10th and the 17th, when working hours often stretch past midnight.

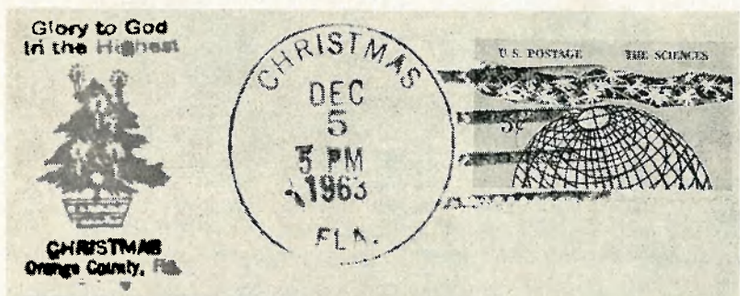
Although Christmas has had its own post office since 1892, the postmark's popularity didn't really come into being until World War II, when hundreds of servicemen stationed at Florida camps drove there to send letters home. Since then, the annual pilgrimage has steadily increased.

Mrs. Tucker has a cancellation machine to process the volume of mail, but still hand stamps the postmark on most cards, "because it comes out clearer."

She also provides, as an extra service, a Christmas tree cachet and a green ink pad, to add colorful decoration to the outgoing parcels.

Mrs. Tucker, whose mother preceded her as Postmaster for 16 years, wouldn't trade her job.

"We have the nicest people stop by here," she says. "Everyone seems so full of love and hope and good will. It's a spirit we try to maintain in Christmas all year long."



FT. CHRISTMAS HAS HISTORIC ORIGINS

Although Christmas, Florida, is only besieged with visitors during December each year, the town has an interesting historical background that would warrant a trip any season.

It got its name on December 25, 1835, when a group of soldiers and settlers set up a log fort on the outskirts of the present town site, to ward off hostile Seminole Indians.

The settlers called the site, appropriately, Fort Christmas — a name that remained intact until the "Fort" was dropped when the town's post office was established 71 years ago.

The area is also noted for its game reserves and the beauty of its hammocks and woodlands.

Christmas Postmaster Mrs. Juanita Tucker

BAONULO OUTLINES CONSTRUCTION PLANS TO FT. WORTH SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS

Colonel Aldo H. Bagnulo, Chief of LOC's Facilities Engineering and Construction Division, told members of the Society of American Military Engineers in Ft. Worth, Texas, Tuesday that the molding of the Merritt Island Launch Area is much like building a small city in its entirety.

Colonel Bagnulo outlined the Manned Lunar Landing Program to the engineers and told them how immense the facilities to support that program are.

"The Vertical Assembly Building, in terms of volume," he said, "is the largest structure we know of in the world. If the Pentagon could somehow be shaped to fit inside it, the VAB would still be one-third empty.

"Clouds could form inside this building," Colonel Bagnulo said, "and send down rain, all inside the structure."

He also told the group the crawler-transporter that will carry the Saturn V moon rockets to the launch pads, will weigh five and a half million pounds, and be just a little less than half a football field in length.

"When it is the avowed national goal to reach the moon, it is only natural that most people picture scientists, technicians or astronauts as associated with the program," he said.

"But, as evidenced by the scope of construction work I've discussed, it is easy to realize men in such earthy professions as architecture, civil engineering and building are not only active in the space program, but absolutely essential to its advancement."

NASA Wives Meet

The NASA Wives Club held their monthly meeting at the Patrick Officers Club yesterday.

Activities included a card party, social hour and lunch. Hostesses were Mrs. Jack Ault and Mrs. William Miller.

There will be no January meeting, due to holidays.

Three LOC Representatives Speak At Orlando Seminar

Three LOC representatives were among the 14 NASA officials and many other dignataries to share the speaker's podium this week at the two-day Florida Aerospace Industry Seminar in Orlando.

Albert F. Siepert, Deputy LOC Director, spoke Tuesday on NASA's Florida activities, and was followed by LOC Industry Assistance Officer Tom Davis, whose topic was LOC's role in space programs and related procurement programs, and Vincent Parr, Assistant Chief of Quality Assurance, who spelled out QA requirements for LOC contracts.

Purpose of the seminar was to discuss contract procurement and quality requirements for spacecraft fabrication, and to offer counseling on the use of space technology in consumer industry.

More than 1,500 key Florida businessmen, industrialists and educators attended the meet, which was held at the Cherry Plaza Hotel. It was sponsored by the Florida Council of 100, an industrial promotion group.

Also attending were U. S. Senators Spessard Holland and George Smathers, Governor Farris Bryant and U.S. representatives of the 12 Florida congressional districts.

Dear Sir:

Why are you spending so much money on space and things that aren't needed, when people are starving.

Peter M.
Cleveland, Ohio

PS—I am only 10, and do not know what I am talking about.

Counsel Appointed

The appointment of Walter D. Schier as NASA general counsel has been announced by James E. Webb, Administrator. Schier has served as deputy general counsel since April 1961. He is 39 years old and a federal career employee.

First Launch From India Successful

NASA and the India Department of Atomic Energy have announced the first rocket launching from a site which will be an international rocket launching facility at Thumba near the southern tip of India.

India has offered to make this facility available to other nations for scientifically worthwhile space research projects.

The Thumba site, in addition to its unique character as an international rocket range, offers many advantages. Located at the Earth's magnetic equator, it makes possible the investigation of important phenomena which can be studied only, or to greater advantage, in this region.

In this first launching, sodium vapor released from the rocket payload formed a cloud enabling ground observers to plot the direction and speed of the upper atmosphere winds. Four launchings of such sodium vapor payloads are planned in this series.

The Indian Department of Atomic Energy is supplying the four sodium vapor release payloads, the launching site and necessary facilities.

NASA is providing four Nike-Apache rocket vehicles and the loan of a launcher and photographic equipment. NASA trained the Indian personnel who are conducting the experiments.

NASA agreements for joint space research projects, such as these experiments at Thumba, provide that there will be no exchange of funds between the cooperating agencies and that the scientific information developed will be made available to the world scientific community.

SPACECRAFT SPECIALISTS TO SKIP SOAP

Spacecraft workers of the future may have to wear clothespins on their noses.

If a U.S. Public Health Service sanitary engineer has his say, technicians working on the first satellite to land on Mars will be barred from taking baths before they report to work.

L. B. Hall, special quarantine officer on loan to NASA explains it this way:

"The Mayo Clinic has information that dissemination of organisms from the human body is five times as great just after one takes a shower than it is, say, a few hours later.

"One theory," Hall goes on, "is that the use of soap may break down the body oils which help prevent dissemination of these organisms."

Bathless workers are just one possible measure Hall is considering to avoid transporting microbes of any kind to the planet when the time comes, possibly in 1966.

Even such minor ills as dandruff, athlete's foot and the common cold may disqualify a worker from helping assemble the first unmanned spacecraft to Mars.

Vent System Repairs Made At Complex 37

During a propellant loading test of the Saturn SA-5 launch vehicle last week a low order explosion and fire occurred in the gaseous hydrogen facility vent system some 500 feet from the launch pad on Complex 37.

The facility vent system leads to a pond where hydrogen gas is normally burned.

Preliminary indications are that a small leak in the vent line caused an accumulation of hydrogen gas in the vent line trench leading to the burn pond. This concentration of gas exploded and continued to burn at the point of the leak until extinguished.

There were no injuries. No damage was done to the Saturn vehicle or the launch pad.

Repairs to the facility vent system are in progress and only slight impact on the launch schedule is expected.

IMP, Centaur Go Into Earth Orbits

NASA has computed the orbits for two satellites — Explorer XVIII (IMP) and the Centaur — launched from Cape Kennedy within 17 hours of each other last week.

Scientists at the Goddard Space Flight Center, reported Friday that Explorer XVIII was 110,000 miles from earth. Goddard project officials say scientific data telemetered from the spacecraft during its first 2½ days in space have been excellent.

Preliminary orbital data indicate that the apogee of Explorer XVIII may be below original estimates, but still within the parameters needed for a successful mission. These parameters are also within the expected variation of the Delta rocket's performance for the orbit.

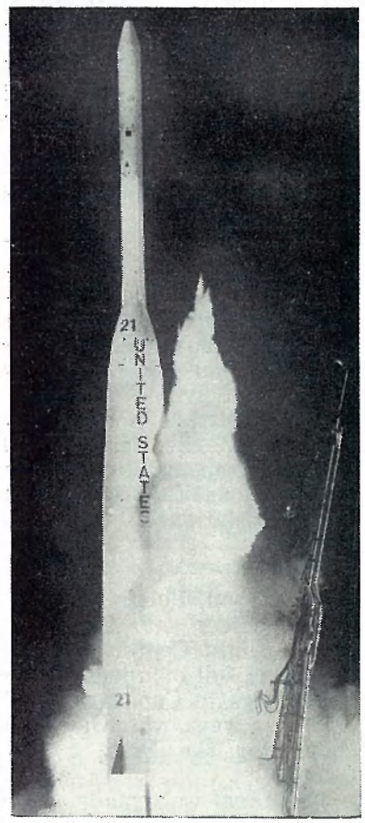
This orbital data—based on information received by the new Goddard range and range-tracking system and the world-wide network of minitrack station—show that the apogee of Explorer XVIII will be about 122,800 miles. Its perigee will be 120 miles and its orbital period will be about 4 days. Its angle of inclination is 33.3°.

At apogee, its speed will be about 780 miles per hour and at perigee it will whip around the earth at 24,250 miles per hour. Periodic statements on the Satellites orbit will be issued as new data becomes available.

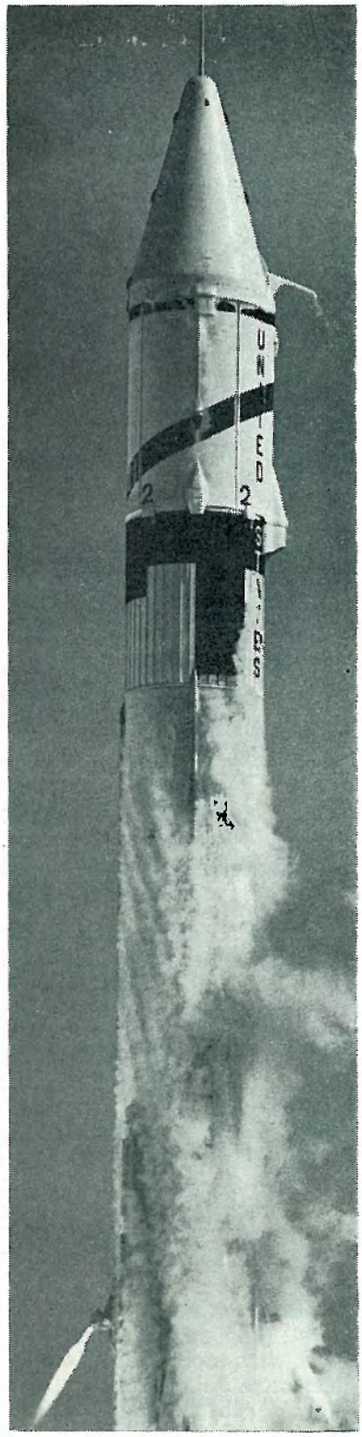
The orbit of the second stage of the Centaur launch vehicle is now relatively fixed since it has made 25 passes around the earth. The Atlas-Centaur was launched from Cape Kennedy last week in a test of vehicle performance.

The perigee of the Centaur Stage has been fixed at 340 miles. Its apogee is 1,050 miles. The angle of inclination is 30° and the orbital period is 108 minutes. Its velocity at perigee is 17,550 miles an hour and its apogee velocity is 15,150 miles an hour.

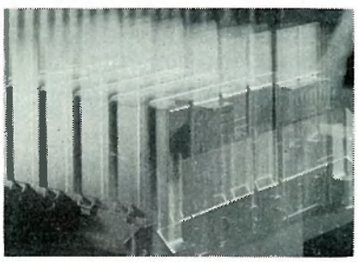
★ ★ ★ ★



IMP Liftoff



Centaur Liftoff



THIS BLURRED device is not the result of a shaky photographer's work. It is, rather, the Centaur's guidance computer filmed during a vibration test prior to its successful flight last week.

100th THOR BOOSTED IMP

The Delta booster that placed IMP into orbit was the 100th Thor vehicle launched from Cape Kennedy.

The Douglas-built vehicle was first test fired here on January 25, 1957, and has scored 75 successes, including IMP's, and 13 partial successes.

The 90-foot-tall, 57-ton Delta flew a higher-thrust third stage motor for the first time Tuesday, to give it the extra kick needed to place IMP in its highly eccentric orbit.

The Thor became an operational Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile in November 1958, and was first launched by a military training crew in April 1959.

NASA first used the Thor as a booster for its spacecraft on the Pioneer series in 1958. Since then, Thor space boosters have made 29 successful orbital firings in 39 tries from the Cape, including the 20 successive Delta flights.

RCA Wins $4 Million Contract

The RCA Service Company of Camden, N. J. has been selected for final negotiation of a contract to operate a technical communication system at LOC.

The contract award is expected to exceed $4 million over a three-year period, and is to be on a cost-plus-incentive fee basis for a period of three years with provision for annual review.

Under terms of the contract, RCA will operate and maintain technical communication circuits at Merritt Island, including telephone equipment, in hazardous or remote areas determined to be operationally critical and under the immediate control of launch personnel.

The contractor also will operate a complete cable distribution system and all other communication equipment with the exception of conventional business telephones service and dial telephone exchange.

A further provision of the contract calls for support of master planning and expansion of the communication system on Merritt Island.

RCA was selected in a two-step selection process from a total of 14 companies which submitted proposals. The original 14 proposals were narrowed to three companies with whom competitive negotiations were conducted. RCA was selected for final negotiation as a result of this phase of the competition.

The communication system when completed, will link a total industrial network of 50 buildings with Launch Complex 39 from where NASA will launch future manned space flight missions.

Who Said That?

"We can hardly expect to achieve pre-eminence in space if we content ourselves with Earth - orbital experiments while the Russians proceed to the Moon, and beyond."

James E. Webb
NASA Administrator

Colonel Asa B. Gibbs, Veteran Cape Offioer, Announces Retirement

Colonel Asa B. Gibbs, a long-time veteran of missile research and development, and Director of NASA's Test Support Office at the Atlantic Missile Range retired Saturday.

Dr. Kurt Debus, LOC Director, said of the retirement: "I would like to salute Col. Gibbs, a long-time missile veteran, for his fine service to the Launch Operations Center. His performance in a a "two-hat job" exemplifies the excellent NASA-Air Force teamwork we have here at the Cape."

Colonel Gibbs, who had been assigned to NASA since 1960, was responsible for the implementation of the many support functions for satellite and space probe launchings at Cape Kennedy. He also served a dual role as NASA test support representative on the staff of the Air Force Missile Test Center commander.

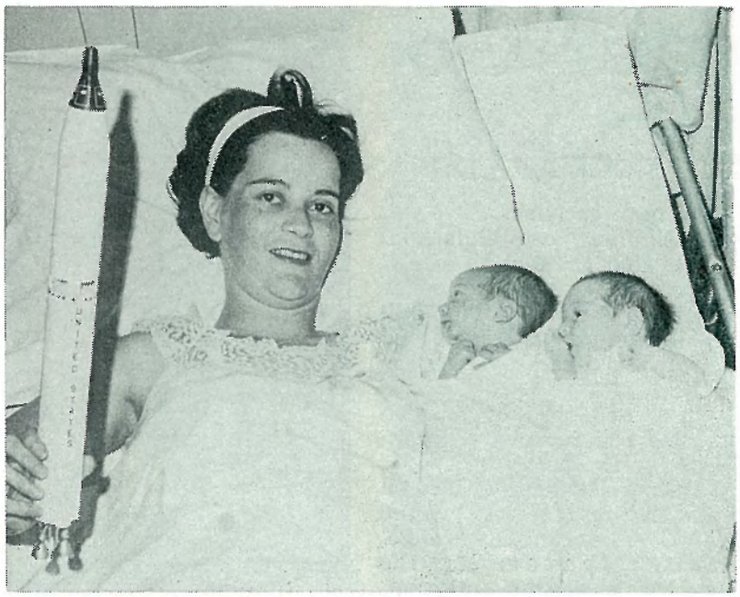
Prior to the NASA assignment, Colonel Gibbs had been commanding officer of Cape Canaveral from 1952 to 1954 when it was an auxiliary Air Force Base.

Colonel Gibbs then served as the first director of tests for AFMTC from 1954 to 1955.

He was the Air Force program officer on the Vanguard satellite project, and was deputy director for the Atlas program.

A native of Beaumont, Texas, and a graduate of Texas A & M, Colonel Gibbs did graduate work at MIT, and holds a Master of Science degree in electrical engineering.

Colonel Gibbs



AS NASA MOVES from Mercury to Gemini, Carol Nolan, a member of the NASA headquarters staff, embarked on a Gemini program of her own by giving birth to twins in Washington. Carol, shown here with her future astronaut and astronette, holds a model of the Gemini configuration. Mother and the babies, named Clifford James II and Nadine Ann, are doing fine. Daddy, at last report, was still in orbit.

Base Heating Effects On Saturn V Checked

The first stage of the moon-bound Saturn V rocket vehicle is being evaluated with model tests at NASA's Lewis Research Center.

The current tests are concentrated on base-heating effects. Base-heating can be a severe problem with rocket vehicles pouring out exhaust gases at temperatures as high as 6000° F. Should these hot gases recirculate around the rocket base, they could seriously damage or even destroy the vehicle.

Base-heating problems can be studied on the ground in tests with models. Lewis engineers are doing just that, using a 1/45th scale model of the Saturn first stage, called S-I, in two wind tunnel test series.

In addition to simulating the physical conditions of air speed and altitude, test variations included changes in the base, nozzle gimballing and one-engine-off effects.

When the tests are completed, base-heating of the Saturn will have been thoroughly studied at conditions throughout its flight plan.

Thus, when the first Saturn is ready for flight, its booster will have already "flown" a complete mission in Lewis' wind tunnels.

NASA NEWCOMERS

Thirteen new employees have joined LOC in the past week. They are as follows: Jeanett Day, John Fike, Theresa Fisher, Imogene Hamilton, Robert Jones, Ned Morrison, Susan Morton, Hurley Powell, Lois Rice, Harold Shaber, Richard Walker, Rachel Windsor and Marlene Whitson.

Employees To Forego

(Continued from Page 1)

organization.

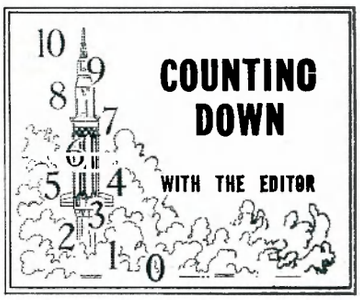
Harry Shockey of the Vehicle and Missile Systems Group adapted the idea locally last year and the drive was highly successful.

This year contributions should be forwarded to the Community Development Office, LO-RC, and checks should be made payable to the Salvation Army.

Doctors' names will be published and cumulative contributions totaled in the NASA bulletin. Contributions should be mailed by December 19th.

15,000 Meteoroid Hits

Microphone impact sensors aboard NASA's Explorer XVI satellite recorded more than 15,000 hits by meteoroids over a seven-month period.



The amount of the new pay increase for Federal employees, according to the Civil Service Reporter, will depend upon the wishes of the members of the Senate and House, and upon the employees.

The paper put it this way: "According to members of Congress who are friendly to CS workers, the legislation will require the wholehearted support of every employee.

"Said one congressman: 'if I were a CS worker, I would contact my representative in the House, and my two U.S. senators and express my desire that they support this legislation.

" 'I would see to it that every member of my family who is a voter, and all my friends, would write to those who represent them in the Congress, asking that they vote favorably.

" 'Unless this is done, the employees themselves will bear the responsibility for any congressional failure to enact this legislation at this session'."

* * *

Ed Mason, Public Information Officer at Goddard's Space Flight Center, brought a satchel full of unusual tape recordings to Canaveral with him last week when he came down for the Delta - IMP launch.

The tapes were made of the actual in-flight beeps, blips, bops, grunts, groans and creaks of NASA satellites.

Vanguard, Relay, Syncom and others all had their own distinctive tones and pitches. Some were eerie to the ear, almost at screeching level, others were pleasant.

A few even had sort of a rhythmic quality, sounding something like a way-out string quartet. If there are any sort of intelligible ears in space that happen to hear this kooky concert, it might be comforting for "them" to know much of the music here on Earth is pretty way-out too sometimes.