SPACEPORT NEWS

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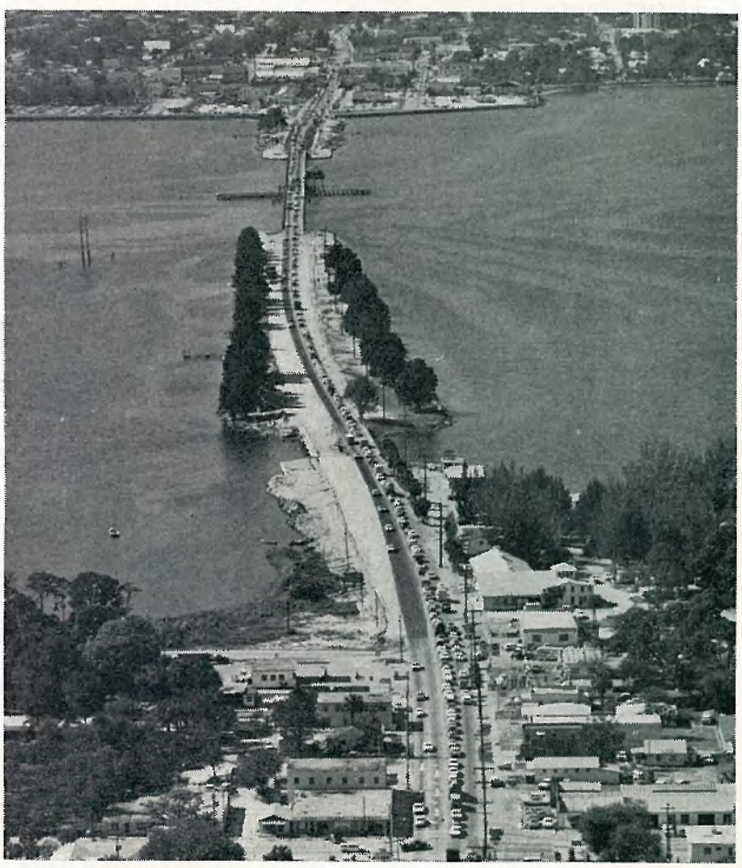

CONGESTED TRAFFIC on highway 520 causeway between Cocoa and Cocoa Beach should be relieved by four-laning project now coming to an end. All four lanes are in use now over much of the route but the bridges at the Banana and Indian Rivers are still two-way. For comments of Cape people on this problem, see "Capeside Inquirer" column on Page 6.

Astronaut Cooper To Try First Unpressurized Flight

A decompression experiment by astronaut Gordon Cooper during his forthcoming flight will be the first exposure of a human to the vacuum of space, protected only by a full pressure suit.

The experiment also will be a direct lead-in to Project Gemini. Scheduled to begin next year, Gemini eventually will involve manned operations outside the protective cabin of the spacecraft.

Cooper's experiment will entail draining the air out of the Mercury spacecraft while it is orbiting in the vacuum of space, leaving him with only his space suit for protection. The suit is designed to function in an atmosphere of pure oxygen at a pressure equivalent of 27,000 feet altitude.

Depressurization of the cabin will be necessary on certain Gemini flights when astronauts will leave the spacecraft and attempt tasks out in space.

LOC'S NO. 2 MAN

Siepert Named Deputy Director

Albert F. Siepert, NASA's Director of Administration since the agency was established in 1958, has been appointed Deputy Director of LOC, effective about April 1.

As immediate deputy to LOC Director Dr. Kurt Debus, Mr. Siepert will be responsible for the organization and overall management of Center operations. He will have a special responsibility in maintaining effective working arrangements with local communities, the Air Force Missile Test Center, the Corps of Engineers, other NASA field centers which assign flight missions to Cape Canaveral, and various contractors which support NASA programs.

Albert F. Siepert

As Director of Administration for NASA for five years, the 47-year-old Siepert played a key role in the basic organization of the agency. He developed agency management policy in such fields as procurement, personnel administration, security and financial management.

In 1949, Mr. Siepert was designated the chief negotiator in arranging the transfer of the German rocket team from the Army to NASA. This included the resources and staff of the Missile Firing Laboratory headed by Dr. Debus, the group which now forms the nucleus of the Launch Operations Center in its preparation for developing and operating the extensive Merritt Island Launch Area.

A native of Peoria, Ill., Mr. Siepert was graduated from Bradley University. Later, he took graduate study at American University. Bradley, in

(See SIEPERT, Page 3)

Accumulated Sick Time Totals Over $4 Billion

Careful use of sick leave by Government employees has caused a backlog of $4 billion to accumulate in the fund, a Civil Service Commission study has revealed.

Washington observers believe this staggering amount makes it unlikely that the administration will recommend — or that Congress could approve — any plan to reimburse employees for unused sick leave on retirement or departure from Government service.

Many federal employees feel there should be some incentive and reward for careful use of sick leave, the study indicated.

THE INSIDE STORY

SPOTLIGHT

"WELCOME ABOARD!"

The Navy has the precise term for occasions such as this: "Welcome Aboard!"

And, although it may be a few weeks premature since he isn't to assume his duties until early April, we extend a welcome to Mr. Albert Siepert, who has been appointed LOC's new Deputy Director.

Mr. Siepert brings to LOC a wealth of experience and an enviable reputation for "getting things done." Some idea of just how well he gets things done may be evident in these accolades to his outstanding executive ability: the Arthur Flemming Award, HEW's Distinguished Service Award and the Bradley University Distinguished Alumnus Award.

But perhaps equally enlightening if not so dignified is a comment from a NASA employee who viewed Mr. Siepert from a far lower rung of the ladder in Washington. He said, simply, "He is sharp . . ."

Dr. Debus said Mr. Siepert will be "invaluable to LOC's operation." And as rank and file members of the LOC effort in the Cape area, we can do no less than to pledge value for value received.

Meanwhile, to Mr. Siepert, once again our barnacle-encrusted but sincere greeting:

"Welcome Aboard!"

ONE MORE REASON

A chilling reason for at least equal competence if not mastery of space was discussed in an awesome presentation before the 8th annual meeting of the American Astronautical Society in New York last month.

Entitled "A Possible Military Application of a Cis-Martian Asteroid," it is a discussion of the possibility that one of the asteroids or small planets whose orbit comes close to the earth could be diverted from its orbit by hydrogen blasts in such a manner as to impact on a pre-selected target on earth—masquerading as a natural catastrophe. The attacker, the report suggests, could hope to escape blame and retribution from surviving retaliatory forces.

Offering substantiating figures, the report shows how an asteroid bomb striking Kentucky would knock out the eastern half of the country with a force a thousand times greater than any nuclear weapon feasible.

An alternative method, the report added, would be to aim an asteroid bomb at the Atlantic ocean. Tidal waves 20,000 feet high could be expected from such an impact, and these would decimate the Atlantic seaboard and all western Europe.

SPACEPORT NEWS

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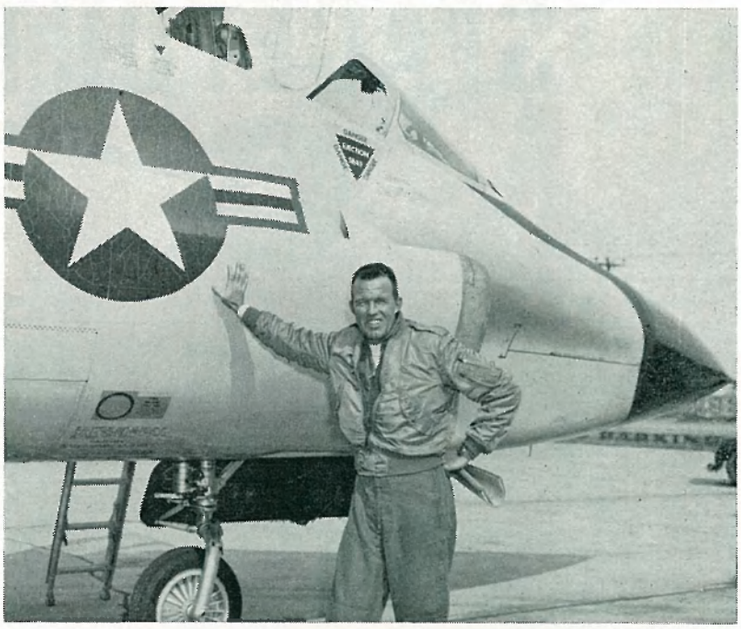


ASTRONAUT GORDON COOPER maintains his flight currency in Century series jet fighters. The F-102 above, while mundane compared to the vehicle he will use in his flight in May, still provides fast transportation from his office in the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston to Patrick Air Force Base.

Encounter With Other Life Expected Within Ten Years

"Man will probably 'meet up' with some form of extra-terrestial life within ten years."

This was the prediction of Rainer Berger, senior research scientist at the Lockheed - California Company, Burbank, in an address to the ninth annual meeting of the American Astronautical society.

Although life on other planets may not look much like the plants and animals on earth, it will have the same chemical make-up, he said.

The freezing clouds of ammonia and methane gas that shroud the planet Jupiter may be a deceptive envelope hiding warm oceans hospitable to life, the astronomers were told.

The temperatures of the outer atmosphere of Jupiter, the biggest planet in our solar system, is about 202 degrees below zero, Berger said. But despite the cold, the poisonous clouds may act as a greenhouse, absorbing and imprisoning heat from the sun so that the surface of Jupiter may be near room temperature.

The most abundant elements in the galaxy are hydrogen, helium, oxygen, nitrogen and carbon. Thus, it is likely that, just as living things on earth are made of these common elements, life on other planets will be composed of the same elements, Berger said. Especially is this likely as far as carbon is concerned, he added, because no other element can match carbon in the number of compounds of which it is a part.

SPACE ALMANAC

A CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN SPACE EXPLORATION AND RESEARCH.

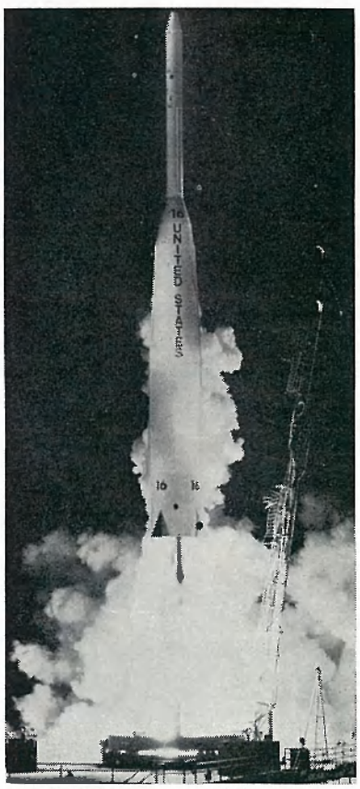
Five Years Ago

February 26, 1958 - James H. Doolittle, Chairman of NACA, testified before Senate Committee on Appropriations that "four years ago, about 10 percent of our activities were associated with space; two years ago, about 25 percent; and in 1959, we will be devoting almost half of our time on missiles, anti-missiles and satellites and other space objectives."

MILA UTILITIES PACT TO TOP $4.4 MILLION

Two California firms are apparent low bidders in a joint venture proposal to construct primary utilities in NASA's Merritt Island Launch Area (MILA) for $4,454,580.

The two are Paul Hardeman Construction Co. of Stanton, Calif., and Morrison-Knutsen Co., Inc., Los Angeles. They are also to build MSC's Operations and Checkout building on Merritt Island under another joint venture contract for $7.6 million.



SYNCOM SHOT was fifteenth straight success for Delta launch vehicle. Spacecraft telemetry minitrack tapes have been flown to Washington from stations in South Africa and from tracking ship for further detailed study. In spite of the fact that the Syncom satellite is now mute, engineers consider the test largely successful because so many of its objectives were met.

Announcement of the apparent low bid on utilities construction was made by the Corps of Engineers who will administer the contract in behalf of NASA. It was the lowest of 11 submitted.

The contract will call for the utilities work to be completed by Sept. 7, 1963. To be constructed are streets, a water distribution system, sewerage system, electrical circuits and a central heating plant, all to serve about 40 buildings which will make up the MILA's industrial complex.

The contractor will be required to schedule work so that it does not interfere with simultaneous construction of an $8 million Manned Spacecraft Operations and Checkout Building.

Several other contracts for various work have been awarded by NASA's Launch Operations Center.

American Bosch Arma Corp., Garden City, N. Y., has been awarded a $96,637 contract to conduct a design feasibility study on "solid state circuits" in the Saturn V propellant transfer control system. A "solid state circuit" utilizes transistors, diodes, etc., instead of electronic vacuum tubes.

The award is the first part of a two-phase study under which the government has an option to continue the study. If the option is exercised, the contract can be increased by $86,583 for a total of $183,490.

Phase I of the study is to be completed within six months. A six month completion period also is stipulated for Phase II, if the option is exercised.

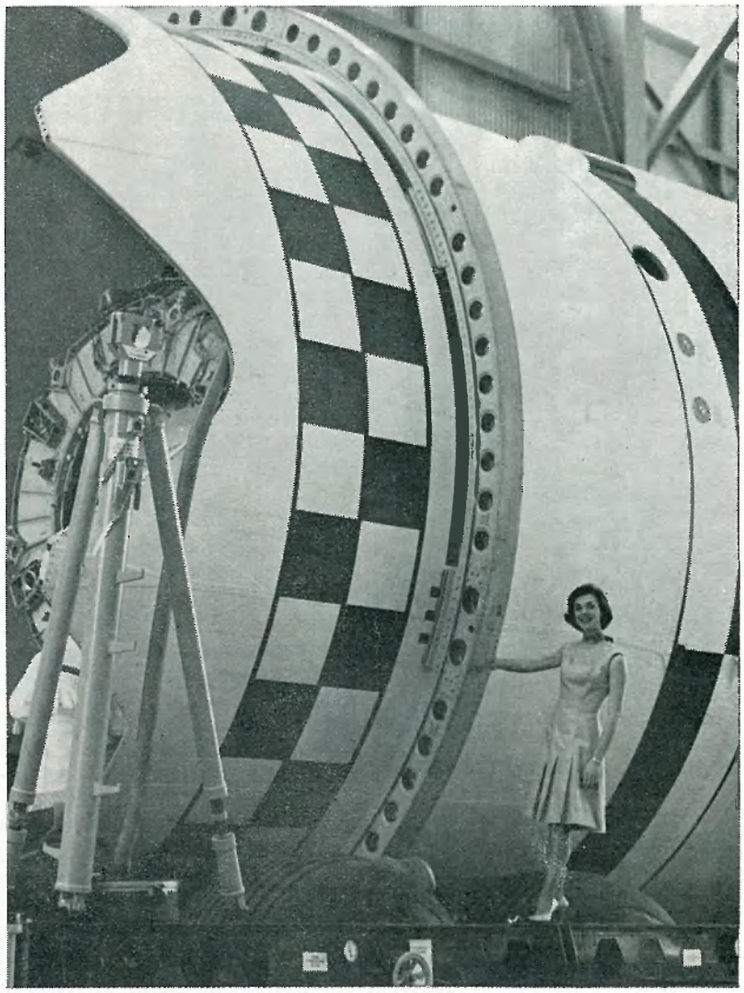
Another contract awarded by LOC has gone to the Martin Corporation Co. of Merritt Island. It is for $99,888 to construct a launch operation support building at Launch Complex 37. It is to be completed in May.

NASA Administrator Calls For Broad Effort

NASA is hoping to get industry in all 50 states to participate in its activities according to Administrator James E. Webb.

"The mastery of space is a national undertaking," he said, "and we would make it truly national in its accomplishment.

"The effectiveness of this competition is evident in the extent of our work which is performed outside NASA."



SERVING beautifully as a basis of comparison to show the size of the huge S-IV Saturn stage is pretty Joan Haley, Management Analysis Office. The S-IV will be coupled with a dummy booster for a facilities check of Launch complex 37.

Space Medics To Study Post Flight Symptoms

Astronaut Gordon Cooper will be watched carefully during and after his May flight for signs of "orthostatic hypotension," a strange condition which afflicted Astronaut Walter Schirra during his October flight.

The condition has been characterized as possibly the first clinical sign of adverse affects of space flight. Schirra was found to have the condition — marked by swelling and dis-coloration of the lower legs — after his return from his 10-hour flight.

Dr. Robert C. Voas, training psychologist for the astronauts, discussed the condition during a series of lectures on aerospace medicine in San Antonio, Tex.

Dr. Voas said when the astronaut moved from a lying to a standing position during post-flight examinations, his heartbeat increased from 70 to 100 and his blood pressure showed a significant drop in systolic pressure. (Systolic pressure is the second figure in a blood pressure reading).

The condition persisted until Schirra went to bed for the night, but was not present the next morning.

The condition was not noted in either Glenn's or Carpenter's flights, but Dr. Voas said this might be explained by the fact they were in orbit only half as long as Schirra and were in the ocean somewhat longer after recovery.

Schirra said he did not feel dizzy or unsteady, as a bed patient might on standing up, Dr. Voas said. Normally, orthostatic hypotension is accompanied by such feelings of weakness, he explained.

Rescue Team Helps Assure Safety of The Astronauts

A team of 12 men here are honed to a fine edge in training for a mission they expect — and fervently hope — will never take place.

They are members of a special rescue team who, during manned launches, have one mission, and one only — saving the astronaut in case of accident or subsequent fire or explosion.

Their principal tools are especially designed and highly modified M-113 personnel carriers which have been rebuilt into fire fighting and rescue vehicles. They are equipped to combat the fire which could be expected to engulf the missile in the event of failure at launch time. Their job is to extinguish the flames and bring the spacecraft out safely.

Ungainly Vehicle

The vehicles are ungainly in appearance but they have unusual qualities. One, the rescue vehicle, is covered with an insulating foam which enables it to withstand temperatures as high as 2,000 degrees for 12 minutes.

The crew's station during launch is 750 feet from the base of the booster. They are in constant radio communication with the test conductor and with the Launch Area Recovery Commander who is in a helicopter circling the launch site.

If a hazardous condition develops and the test conductor decides the astronaut should leave the spacecraft, the astronaut would fire the hatch on the spacecraft, climb out, cross a cat-walk to an elevator and descend to the waiting M-113. If he were unable to help himself, the crew would go up in the elevator, cross over the spacecraft and take him out.

Or, in case of fire or explosion, or if the spacecraft falls back to the pad, the vehicle is equipped to lift it clear of the fire and move it back.

Individually, the team members are somewhat casual about a hazardous assignment. But each has great respect for the abilities of the other members.

Sound, Capable

"I never worry about it," Air Force Captain Robie Hackworth, who is NASA's Aeromedical Representative on the team explained. "First, because of the exceptional soundness and capabilities of the others. And secondly, we know the test conductor and pad safety officer who direct our movements have adequate information in any situation to make sound decisions."

Lee Hipp, the assistant fire chief who has headed the fire fighting section of the team since it was founded in 1961, concurs.

"We know our equipment and how to use it. We know what we can do and we know pretty well what to expect in any situation."

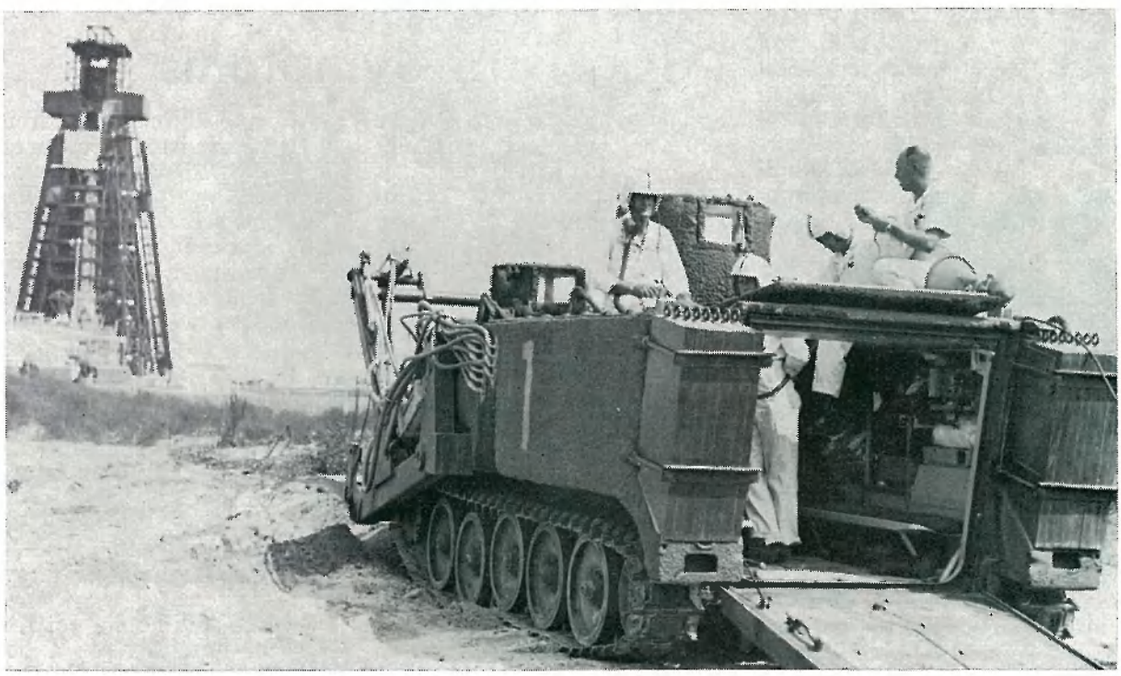
In addition to Hackworth and Hipp, other members of the team are Elmer Brooks, pad safety; Claude Stokes, C. E. Neal and George Partelow, crew chiefs; David Van Ness, Jack Cutter, Bill Mattingly and Ronald Griffin, drivers, and Paul Hanna and Franz Vulpius, firemen.

FIRE FIGHTERS suit, made of asbestos and reflective materials is donned by Lee Hipp before practice mission. He has headed fire fighting unit in the rescue team since its formation. Suits enable firemen to enter areas where temperatures exceed 2,000 degrees.

Robie Hackworth

These are competent men who are rather embarrassed by the terms usually used to describe the manner in which they face their duties. And all would point quickly to the men whose safety they intend to do their best to assure — astronauts.

But to the astronauts, their presence must be reassuring, indeed.



M-113 Armored personnel carriers developed by the Army for NASA are stationed 750 feet from the pad during launches of manned spacecraft. Two of the units are fire fgihters while the third, covered with high efficiency insulation, is a rescue vehicle designed to pick up spacecraft in case of emergency.

Profile: Col. Clarence Bidgood

Facilities Chief Has Been Soldier, Builder, Educator

When asked what he did when not engaged in official duties, Colonel Clarence Bidgood, Chief of LOC Facilities, replied simply, "I sleep."

Indeed, for a man tied so intimately and continuously to such far reaching responsibilities, this statement is probably neither humorous nor inaccurate. There is actually little time for anything else.

Currently, and for several years to come, NASA's major mission is to land one or more American astronauts on our moon. There is far more to this job than designing the exotic launch vehicle equal to the difficult task.

Intricate Assembly

As Bidgood points out, "As long as rockets begin and end their journeys from Earth, the problem for providing their take off and landing sites rests squarely with the civil engineer."

In the case of the Manned Lunar Landing Program, he refers, of course, to the intricate assembly of steel and concrete on Merritt Island, known as Launch Complex 39.

This unique launch facility, largest in the world, is now in early stages of construction across the Banana River from Cape Canaveral.

Among the structures will be the world's largest enclosed space, the massive Vertical Assembly Building, where all stages of the huge moon rockets will be put together and checked before launch.

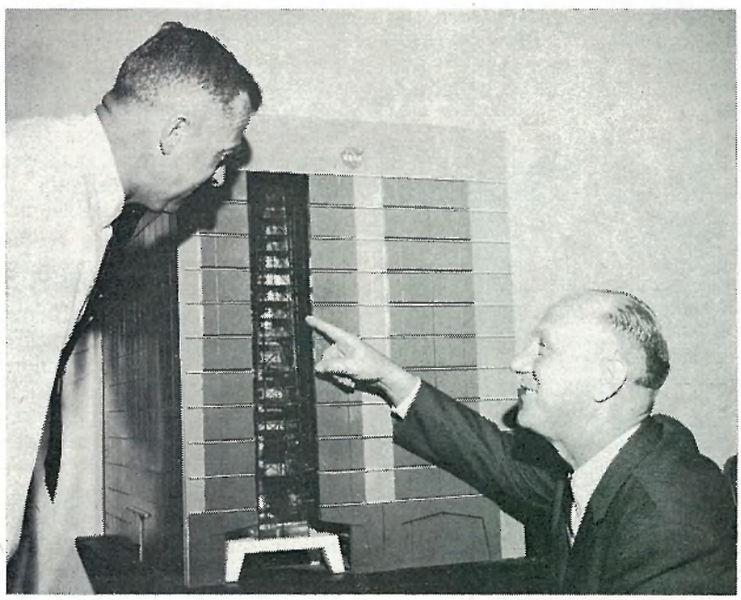
Bidgood's current difficult job is his first primarily civilian venture. Since graduating from West Point in 1935, he has had a variety of military assignments around the world. Perhaps the most unusual and inventive of these was between 1942 and 1946 in the Philippines and Japan.

One of the prisoners taken by the Japanese in the unfortunate but long remembered Bataan campaign in World War II, Colonel (then Major) Bidgood spent almost four years with the filth and boredom of prison camps in the Pacific.

Not the kind of man to sit still, even when captured, he combined a yankee ingenuity with an engineering background and improved sanitary conditions in several camps, though only rudimentary tools were available.

When it appeared obvious that something should be done for lagging morale of his fellow prisoners, Bidgood called on his considerable skill as a teacher.

Tops in math, he held regular classes in algebra and geometry at the camps. With the intricacies of number problems occupying their minds, the horrible conditions of Cabanatuan, Osaka, and Shikoku, seemed less important.



COLONEL BIDGOOD, right, Chief of NASA's Facilities Office here is responsible for the massive and sophisticated construction projects which will be the base for the nation's space journeys. He is shown looking over a model of the Vertical Assembly Building with R. P. Dodd, Deputy Chief of Facilities.

FACILITIES CHIEF, center, returns salute during review and presentation at army base in Maryland. The soldier-engineer was hand picked by NASA management for the demanding job of building huge facilities for space center.

Detests Idle Minds

Later, the fact that he detests an idle mind placed prisoner Bidgood in the role of lecturer to other Americans on the techniques of highway design and construction.

The 1st Calvary Division freed his group on the Island on Honshu in September, 1945.

It is interesting to note that Bidgood was well qualified to teach. He had done it before professionally for the Army Engineer School at Fort Belvoir and his honors include a Masters of Science in Engineering from Cornell.

The design and construction of large structures is not new to the LOC Chief of Facilities. He has had charge of many major flood control projects in the States, and in 1953, he went to England to supervise construction of U. S. airfields in that country.

Hot and Cold

A position held not long before his move to Florida ran from hot and cold; he was involved in the management of developing nuclear heating plants for the Department of Defense as well as the conduct of research into the nature of snow, ice, and permafrost for the Army.

A registered professional engineer, Bidgood is active in the Society of American Military Engineers and the Association of the U. S. Army.

He lives in Satellite Beach with wife, Isabel, and daughter, Jayne Best, whose husband is Lieutenant of Army Ordinance. Bidgood's son, First Lieutenant F. C. Bidgood is with the Army Corps of Engineers in Korea.

Bidgood, who was carefully hand-picked to handle this extraordinarily sophisticated construction job, is a no-foolishness hard worker. He expects above par performance from his staff as a matter of routine, but the scope of his responsibility not only justifies but predicates his seldom broken seriousness.

When the first moon-bound American boards his ship, it will be at the earthside space station built under the watchful eye of NASA's Colonel Bidgood.

Sheriff Sees Sites

Leigh Wilson, recently elected sheriff of Brevard County, made his first official visit to Launch Operations Center as the guest of NASA Security Officer, Charles L. Buckley, Jr., who escorted Wilson on a tour of the Cape and the new Merritt Island area.

Capeside Inquirer

Cape People View Causeway Widening In Different Ways

With the 520 Causeway four-laning project nearing completion, Spaceport people were asked for their views on the following question:

A million and a half dollars are being spent to widen to four lanes the 520 Causeway from Cocoa to Cocoa Beach. However, the bridges over the Banana and Indian Rivers will remain two lanes wide.

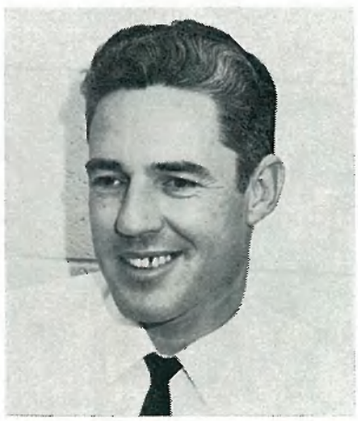
How do you think this will effect traffic problems?

Carol A. Bomstad
Personnel

"Traffic will definitely move faster when the new lanes are completed. If the gate system doesn't work out, there will be a serious problem when traffic has to merge to cross the bridges."

Charles Taylor
Research and Development

"I don't believe the new road will help the traffic situation much, only five minutes or so. As long as heavy traffic exists, they should have four-laned the bridges."



Sam Mayo
Security

"As I understand it, this will result in a stop-and-go alternating lane process which is certainly an improvement over present conditions. Best results would come from free-flowing traffic."

Bobbi Miller
Industrial Relations

"The bridges should have been four-laned also. There will still be a traffic back-up, especially on Merritt Island. I think they goofed!"

NASA Scientist Designs Sun-Powered Rocket

A rocket that uses rays of the sun as its source of energy or fuel has been designed by a scientist at NASA's Lewis Research Center in Cleveland.

John C. Sanders, chief of the dynamics and controls branch of the NASA facility at Hopkins Airport said the rocket utilizes a 200 foot diameter mirror to focus the sun's rays on a pebble-bed heat exchanger.

Ruth Ann McLain
Financial Management

"In the past, by cars sitting in an idling state for such lengths of time, the people have already paid for four laning the causeway bridges in excess gasoline money, (7c per gallon.) Without the four-laned bridges, there won't be much improvement."

Bernie Miller
Payroll

"Although a slight bottleneck condition will exist, I believe that through the light and gate systems, traffic will move freely and be a boon to motorists."

Lewis E. Melton
Financial Management

"The answer to this problem lies in the control of traffic directionally or the effective use of the gate system. I think it will work."

"Shirtsleeve" Cabin Environment Seen In Future Spacecraft

A reusable spaceship providing a "shirtsleeve" cabin environment on orbital or lunar flights was predicted by a Douglas Aircraft Company engineer in a paper presented to the annual meeting of the Institute of Aeorospace Science in New York.

Robert L. Gervais, nuclear systems project engineer in Douglas' Missile and Space Systems Division said the nuclear-powered, carrier is technically feasible within the next ten years.

He said such a spacecraft would permit scientists to fly beyond the earth's atmosphere without having to don a cumbersome spacesuit or undergo the long, rigorous physical conditioning of today's astronauts.

First consideration in the design of such a space vehicle is the protection of the passengers, with emphasis on shielding them from radiation hazards.

Scientist Sees Danger From Space Life Forms

Microscopic life forms from another planet could cling to returning spacecraft and destroy life on earth.

This was the warning of Dr. Soloman W. Golomb, of the California Institute of Technology who said a life form inadvertantly imported to earth might successfully compete with earth forms for the basic raw materials of life.

"There's been a great deal of thought given to preventing contamination of the moon and planets during visits by earth space vehicles, but an even greater problem that is entirely overlooked is what about microscopic organisms carried to the earth on return flights."

Golomb, who spoke before the ninth annual meeting of the American Astronautical Society said there is little reason to believe that alien life forms would be more efficient than earth forms in the struggle for survival, but that it is a potential danger which must be recognized.

NASA Women's Club Sponsors Valentine Dance

A benefit Valentine dance and party given by the Women's Social Club Friday night in the Patrick Air Force Base Officers' Club was so well received by NASA people that it was a sell-out days before the dance.

The club was formed in April of last year for a two-fold purpose: first as a social and service club and, second, as a means of getting to know each other here at the Cape.

"The NASA complex here is so vast," Burt Williams, club president, said "that my counterpart in another office is sometimes only a voice on the telephone. So we wanted to get to know each other, if for no other reason, for the sake of our work."

The club's service project this year is the Brevard Training Center in Rockledge. Funds from projects like the valentine dance will be used to purchase special equipment for the school.

Club officers are Burt Williams, Procurement and Contracts, President; Rudy Rudolph, Financial Management, Vice President; Shirley Fergerson, Office of the Director, Secretary (alternate); and Mary Coleman, Financial Management, Treasurer.

SWINGING NASA people, after dancing twist much of the evening, returned later to old standby, jitterbug. Tickets were all sold several days before the dance.

CLUB MEMBERS who made up dance committee were, from left, Anne Hull, Manned Spacecraft Center; Kay Fidler, Goddard Space Flight Center, Field Projects Branch; Rudy Rudolph, Financial Management; Burt Williams, club president, from Procurement and Contracts; Shirley Fergerson, Office of the Director; Mary Driver, Personnel, MCS; Marilyn Krause, Office of Technical Staff; and Charlotte Shankle, Test Support Office.

Onlooker Finds Syncom Launch Stirring Sight

Delta's unbroken record of perfect launches jumped to fifteen this week when the now mute Syncom was boosted to orbit from Cape pad 17B.

Perhaps routine to the experienced Goddard crew, even the most sophisticated outsider would have found it a curious, fast moving drama.

Three times observers stood tensely in the cold midnight air before the bird arched into the eastern sky.

First, at T minus 76 seconds, a blockhouse gauge showed a second stage malfunction. The count stopped and two technicians rushed to the pad beneath the live, highly explosive Delta to find the error was in ground recording equipment.

At T minus one second, breath holding time, the count again was halted. A paper graph recording engine functions, had jammed.

Fifteen minutes later, scientists, reporters, and engineers watched as brilliant light bathed the Cape from end to end, and the mighty Delta began its perfect journey.

Instantly, radar and computers fed motion to electronic pens that traced the rocket's path. On the line, slightly off, and back to perfection — the pens placed Delta precisely where it should have been at the end of powered flight.

Simultaneously, air was exhaled from hundreds of lungs in a barely audible cheer. The rapid chatter and clasping of hands capped Delta's perfect launch.

OOPS!

If you read the article on the Saturn name changes that appeared in last week's paper, chances are you're more confused now than ever — thanks to a typographical error.

We said, Saturn C-1B is now known as Saturn 1B, and C-5 becomes Saturn V. And we were right.

But the type gremlins caught us on Saturn C-1. It is now known officially as Saturn I.

French Said Planning Own Cape Canaveral

West Germany and France reportedly have reached agreement on the use of a missile launching site — a French Cape Canaveral — to be developed on a Mediterranean Sea Peninsula near the Spanish border.

West Germany will have full use of the missile launch test facilities and will contribute funds toward the site's development, according to a North American Newspaper Alliance report. It will be used to test French and West German military missiles and also boosters and capsules to be developed under the European Space Research Organization's program.

Bonn is acquiring use of the site near Perpignan within the framework of the general Franco-German military cooperation agreement. Sources in the defense ministry in Bonn said construction of the missile center would enable France and Germany to speed up rocket research.

Apollo Escape Rocket Test Hailed As Successful

A two-ton solid fuel rocket motor, designed to jerk the three-man Apollo spacecraft to safety if an explosion occurs during launch, underwent its first public firing at a Lockheed facility in California and was declared a success by NASA engineers watching the demonstration.

The rocket, only 15 feet by 2 feet, but developing the 150,000-pound trust of an intermediate range missile, was bolted nose-down in a concrete test cell. Plumes of flame from its four nozzles shot high in the air with a roar head for miles.

Officials said it would pull the Apollo craft out of danger in seconds, at any time during the launch of the Saturn V booster.

The rocket, mounted on a tower atop the spacecraft in the nose of the Saturn, is designed to blast its human payload 4,000 feet high and about the same distance to one side. Today's Mercury spacecraft have a similar but smaller escape system, powered by a rocket with 52,000 pounds thrust.

Like the Mercury, the Apollo spacecraft would be lowered to ground by parachute after the burnout of the escape rocket.

ADMIRAL Walter F. Boone, NASA's Deputy Associate Administrator for Defense Affairs visited the Cape Monday for briefings and conferences with Dr. Kurt H. Debus, Director of the Launch Operations Center. A tour by helicopter followed briefings on Saturn, Gemini and new facilities.

Lunar Film Available

One of the newer films available from LOC's Audio-Visual branch for showings at official gatherings, club or church affairs, etc., is "Apollo Lunar Orbital Rendezvous Technique."

This is a comprehensive, fully-animated film dealing with the Saturn V vehicle and the proposed flight plan of Project Apollo.

SIEPERT NAMED

(Continued from Page 1)

recognition of his accomplishments, presented Mr. Siepert with its Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1960.

Mr. Siepert was one of the first government "interns" or trainees under the auspices of the National Institute of Public Affairs. He served his internship with the Farm Credit Administration.

He since has held administrative posts with the Home Owners Loan Corporation, the Alien Property Custodian and the Bureau of State Services of the Public Health Service.

In 1948, Mr. Siepert was named executive officer of the National Institutes of Health, now the Federal government's largest medical research facility. He held the post for 11 years and was a key participant in the major reorganization and expansion of the Institutes during the early years of his appointment.

Award Winner

For his executive leadership, Mr. Siepert was presented with the Arthur Flemming Award in 1950 and, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare's Distinguished Service Award in 1955.

Dr. Debus said of Mr. Siepert's appointment as Deputy Director of LOC:

"We are fortunate in having a man of his stature, experience and qualifications as Deputy Director. He will be an invaluable asset to our operations at LOC."

Mr. and Mrs. Siepert will live at 149 Bimini Road, Cocoa Isles, Cocoa Beach. They are scheduled to move about April 1.

The Sieperts have two children, Gill and Merrily, both students at the College of Wooster in Ohio.

CANDIDATE for "Novanaut" in the Titusville Junior Women's benefit, Galaxie Gala Follies, is John Brewer, Mechanical Structural and Propulsion Branch. Candidates are being sponsored by various organizations and will be elected on a penny per vote basis, with all proceeds going to the North Brevard Rehabilitation Center. Containers have been placed in banks and drug stores in Titusville. The "Novanaut" will be announced during the final act of the Follies on Saturday, February 23. Brewer is sponsored by the Titusville Toastmasters.

"Sometimes in launching a missile is it possible to use an up right short down left then up right thrust, also for a successful finish? I cannot draw hence this written attempt to attract your attention to this zig zag motion that I believe space requires."

Herbert L.,
St. Louis, Mo.

HALF-WAY MARK

Russia's rocket probe to the planet Mars is past the half way mark, the Tass News Agency said.

The agency said the Mars probe is more than 30 million miles from earth.

NASA NEWCOMERS

New NASA-Cape employees since last week:

Data Systems: R. F. Hart.

Facilities: Roy McCowan and Willie Canady.

Financial Management: Jane Ball and Willard Vick.

Heavy Space Vehicle Systems Office: Charles E. Brooks.

Inspection Office: V. A. Goldsmith and Robert W. Pfau.

Operations Support: V. A. Gfeller.

Test Operations: K. E. Knell.

Personnel: Mildred Hudson.

Support Services: John E. Pryor.

SIGN OF THE TIMES

Sign seen on 1956 model automobile in Fort Lauderdale: "Made in Cape Canaveral from used rocket parts."