

BIG ROCKET POISED FOR SKYWARD TRIP

Inventor Hopes Eventually to Reach Moon.

Ayer, Mass.—The big brother of the sky rocket with which you used to celebrate Fourth of July is poised here for one of the most extraordinary flights in history.

Some time in the not far distant future, if all goes well, this 12-foot steel projectile will rise with incredible speed from a tower at Camp Devens on the outskirts of this quiet little town and nose its way skyward, seeking the secrets of altitudes never reached by a man-made device.

The rocket's noisy zoom into space will mark the latest step in a series of unusual experiments started twenty years ago by Dr. Robert H. Goddard, Clark university scientist.

Popular fancy has drawn a seemingly indelible halo of romance around Professor Goddard's rocket during the years that he has busied himself with his work in the rather prosaic atmosphere of a laboratory.

To Record Air Data. Even his insistent declarations that he has no lunar aspirations have failed to destroy the general belief that he hopes eventually to send his strange contraption to the moon.

Those who toy most fervently with this fascinating theory like to think that there will be a man inside the huge steel tube as it speeds over the 20,000 or more miles to its fanciful destination. No one appears to have given much thought to the rather knotty problem of how the man would get back to earth, once he had completed his journey.

But Professor Goddard protests that the paramount object of his experimentation at present is to obtain accurate data on meteorological conditions at various altitudes.

His big rocket is equipped with numerous devices for recording such information—devices which are intended to return to earth with the aid of a parachute attachment.

Test Rocket Noisy. Doctor Goddard has kept secret the exact method by which his projectile is propelled. It is understood, however, that the general idea is for a series of timed explosions to speed the rocket on its way, with a fresh blast expediting its flight as the power begins to wane.

At Auburn, near Worcester, several months ago, Doctor Goddard shot a rocket skyward. The scientist appeared well pleased with the outcome of the test flight but the attendant explosions alarmed residents of the countryside.

It was suggested by the fearful that recording devices carried by the rocket, in returning to earth, might smite a native. Doctor Goddard argued that the object which returned to the ground invariably landed only a short distance from the point from which the rocket had been loosed. Finally he compromised by transferring his experimental station to Camp Devens.

Company Plans to Get Lands for English Lads. Sydney, N. S. W.—A company is being formed to provide a scheme of land settlement for lads coming from England.

It will have the title, Little Brother Farm Settlement Ltd., and the prospectus has been issued. The company will acquire land within a reasonable distance of markets, suitable as a group settlement for intense culture, upon which Little Brothers who have been in the Commonwealth for not less than three years, and are in possession of a banking credit of not less than £200, may be settled under conditions to be determined by the board of management.

The scheme provides for the marketing of vegetables, poultry, pigs, etc. Land acquired by gift or purchase will be divided into suitable farms up to 10 acres. No dividends exceeding 6 per cent will be paid.

Seattle Stores Insects on Ice During Winter. Seattle, Wash.—Putting insects away on ice is a new use of the municipal cold storage plant here. To combat grasshoppers, caterpillars, crickets and moths, which annually cause heavy losses to farmers and orchards in the Northwest, mummies, giant grasshoppers from interior China, have been imported and are held dormant until spring, when they may be shipped and distributed in infected areas.

The mantis increases in size during its eating period of life until the normal growth of about four inches long is attained. Then it lays eggs and dies.

Police to Use Dictaphone to Block Cruelty Plea. Budapest.—In order to forestall claims of ill treatment by prisoners who, on being brought to trial after confessing their crimes to the police claim that confessions were extorted from them, the examination rooms of a number of Hungarian jails are to be equipped with dictaphones.

WILL SPEED UP AMERICAN MAP

President Hoover Wants to Complete Big Task in Eighteen Years.

Washington.—Recognizing the importance of accurate maps to engineers, President Hoover has announced his intention of asking congress for funds to speed to completion the topographic mapping of the United States. Under his plan the job will be completed in eighteen years, instead of eighty-eight years, the time required if the work proceeds no faster than its present rate.

So far the undertaking is less than half done, and engineers have been urging the government to push the work more rapidly. Two agencies will carry out the project. The coast and geodetic survey will establish a system of triangulation controls. The geological survey, using this system as a framework, will then proceed with the topographical mapping of the country.

Work of a Century. In the last 100 years the coast and geodetic survey has established a complete system of triangulation stations along the Atlantic, the Gulf and the Pacific coasts. Such stations extend also up navigable rivers to the head of tidewater. In addition, thousands of stations have been established in other parts of the country and along the border between the United States and Canada. The work, however, has been proceeding slowly and a vast area still remains to be covered.

In 1900 the coast and geodetic survey had completed only 7,000 miles of arc of the first order. Now, the total is 26,000 miles, and the engineers are adding to this at the rate of about 1,000 miles a year. The coast and geodetic survey has been following a plan which calls for arcs of first and second order triangulation throughout the country, the triangles being so spaced that no place in the country will be more than twenty-five miles from a triangulation station. This will be brought about when 49,000 miles of arcs are added to those now existing. The intermediate areas will be covered by third order triangulation, or by traverse surveys by those who want to make detailed surveys, charts or maps.

Pick Central Point. Thirty years ago a central point was selected for making surveys and charts in the United States and contiguous waters. The station is known as Meade's ranch and is located about twelve miles north of Lucas, Kan. In 1912 the geodetic engineers of Canada and Mexico also adopted this as their initial station, so there is now a single central or initial surveying station for all of North America. Its use will preclude discrepancies in the charts and maps of territory close to the borders of either of the adjoining countries.

Throughout the 100 years of its existence the coast and geodetic survey has endeavored to mark its triangulation stations in such a way that there would be no difficulty in finding them at any time in the future. It has not always been successful for nature and the works of man have destroyed some of the markers. Campers and others have occasionally taken them up in the hope of finding buried treasure nearby.

Blocks of stone or masses of concrete were set up, often carrying the letters "U. S. C. S." Few people knew just what the letters meant, or what the markers were for. For the past twenty years the survey has adopted a plan of putting a properly inscribed metal tablet into the stone or the concrete at each triangulation station. This tablet tells the visitor that he may learn the significance of the station by writing to the director of the survey at Washington. In thus taking the public into its confidence the survey has saved many of its markers from destruction.

Value to Industries. "It is difficult to overestimate the value of a good topographic survey to the industries of a nation," says Dr. William W. Bowie, chief of geodesy in the coast and geodetic survey. "It makes no difference whether the engineer is laying out a new highway, erecting a hydroelectric plant, draining a swamp, extending canals from an irrigation reservoir or controlling the flood waters of a river, he should have an accurate topographic map from which to scale distances and compute slopes. Without such a map he is working with insufficient data, and his operations are likely to cost him far more money than would be expended had the topographic map been available.

"The topographic map cannot be made true to scale and have its various topographic features placed in their proper geographic positions unless the map is controlled by triangulation.

"In the United States we have for many years suffered from the lack of first order triangulation in our surveying, mapping and charting, but this situation is greatly improved, and the situation in this country in the near future should be entirely satisfactory.

The great arcs of triangulation bear nearly the same relation to charts, maps and surveys that the steel framework bears to the individual parts of a building, such as the doors, walls, windows and elevator shafts.

Without the steel framework the building would not stand up; the framework is needed to hold the various parts of the building together, and to co-ordinate those parts. First-order triangulation has the same function in the topographical mapping of the country.

Important Benefits. The triangulation program will yield important benefits to individual states and other political subdivisions. For it will enable them to accurately determine the longitudes and latitudes by which to locate their boundaries. Many counties do not know their exact boundaries or area.

A county in a southern state not long ago wanted to float a loan with New York bankers. When asked what the area of the county was, its officials could not inform them, for the reason that it had not been accurately mapped. So the New Yorkers had to make a survey of their own before they could make the required loan. Completion of the system of triangulation controls will remove such uncertainties.

It will cost the coast and geodetic survey about \$4,500,000 to complete its part of the work within the next ten years.

If You Stutter Try Using Your Left Hand. Los Angeles, Calif.—M-m-m-maybe you s-s-s-stutter b-b-because you use your r-r-right h-h-hand in-s-s-tead of your l-l-left.

Dr. Milton Metfessel, who is professor of psychology at the University of Southern California, has found that left-handed persons who have become accustomed to using their right hand often stutter.

"If a person is physiologically left-handed—that is, born to use the left hand, either because other people do or because he has been forced to, the mental workings of the patient may be so disturbed as to make him stutter," said Doctor Metfessel today.

He added that some people are not really aware that they are physiologically left-handed, though they seem to use the right easily. He has perfected tests which detect such cases, since he first must make sure whether or not a person has been born left-handed.

"Of course, all left-handed persons do not stutter," said the professor, "and if left-handedness is the cause of their stuttering, it must be treated carefully to prevent a worse condition."

Italy to Send Planes in Nonstop N. Y. Hop. Rome.—The Italian government is preparing to send a fleet of ten military hydro-airplanes on a nonstop flight from Italy to New York next March.

Crews of the ten great Savoia-Marchetti ships have been undergoing an intensive training for the transatlantic trip and several of them have undertaken flights for 40 consecutive hours over Lakes Garda and Barcciano.

The air ministry, which is to direct the flight, has arranged for co-operation with the navy and scout ships and destroyers will be stationed along the route ready to assist in the event of an emergency. Italo Balbo, air minister, will command the flight in person.

The project will constitute the 1930 cruise of Italy's aerial navy. In 1923 the air forces carried out an extensive flight over the western Mediterranean sea and northern Africa. This year the ships flew over the eastern Mediterranean and Black sea.

France in 5th Place in Europe's Population. Paris.—The government has published statistics which show that France, in 1789 the largest nation in the western world, has fallen to fifth place in Europe as a result of its decreased birth rate. In 1789 France had 26,000,000 inhabitants; Russia, 25,000,000; Austria, 18,000,000; England, 12,000,000, and Prussia, 6,000,000. At present France has 40,000,000; Italy, 41,000,000; Japan, 60,000,000; Germany, 64,000,000; the British empire, 73,000,000; Russia, 115,000,000, and the United States, 118,000,000.

Wedding Cake Weighing 200 Pounds Has 360 Eggs. Buffalo, N. Y.—When Rose Ruddank was married recently to Charles Farber, her father, a baker, decided he'd let some one else bake the wedding cake and thus enjoy the occasion the more. And its lucky for him he did. Walter Cichocki, hired to do the job, turned out a cake weighing more than 200 pounds. It required 92 pounds of sugar, 36 pounds of butter, 360 eggs, 36 pounds of frosting sugar, and 26 pounds of flour.

Swerving From Right Cause of Accidents. Boston.—Failure to keep on the right side of the road when the motorist's view is obstructed is the principal cause of automobile accidents, at least in Massachusetts. Out of a total of 3,556 accident cases studied, this factor prevailed in 1,084 instances. Other causes were listed as follows: Speeding, 969; drunken driving, 417; failure to keep right side of road when meeting vehicles, 408; reckless driving, 355; unlicensed driving, 232.

SAW MURDER OF CZAR'S FAMILY

Writer Gives Only First-Hand Account of Russian Royal Tragedy.

New York.—Gleb Botkin, son of the personal physician to the late Czar Nicholas of Russia, has written for the North American Review what he describes as the only first-hand account of the murder of the Russian royal family at Ekaterinburg, on the night of July 17, 1918, by a Bolshevik firing squad.

Botkin's story, he asserts, is the eye-witness version of the massacre told to him by the mysterious "Princess Anastasia" whose arrival in America two years ago created a sensation, which was heightened by the fact that she never gave public confirmation to the claims made by her friends that she was the youngest daughter of the czar and the only survivor of the massacre.

"I not merely believe her to be Anastasia—I know that she is," declares Botkin, whose childhood was spent as a playmate of the czar's children, who accompanied the royal family on the first stage of its exile, and who, since his arrival in America in 1922 has made a livelihood as artist and author. His father was among those slain along with the czar, zarina, Prince Dolgoronkoff, and the grand duchesses.

Saw Czar Shot Through Head. "She tells in detail of all the events preceding the shooting on the night of July 17, 1918," he relates. "Her last recognition is that she saw the Comissar Yourovsky shoot the emperor through the head. She herself hid behind her sister Olga. Then she heard Olga scream and lost consciousness.

"She came to herself in a peasant cart, traveling along the highway with two men and two women. She was covered with wounds and for a long time remained semi-conscious. Later it was explained to her that the two men were among the Bolshevik shooting squad and accompanied the bodies of the victims to the forest. They noticed that Anastasia was alive and in the night preceding the cremation of the bodies, stole her and brought her to their farm. From there, taking along their mother and sister, they started on the same night in a cart in a southwestern direction. After weeks of weary travel they reached Rumania.

"There Anastasia married one of her rescuers and gave birth to a son. Soon afterward her husband, Tchakowsky, was killed in the streets of Bucharest. Anastasia's son was taken away from her and placed in an orphan asylum where he is said to have died. Anastasia made her way to Germany, where she wanted to find her god-mother, Princess Irene of Prussia. Arrived in Berlin, she threw herself from a bridge in a fit of despair, but was rescued by the police. Since she refused to answer a single question, she was placed in an insane asylum. It was there that she was recognized by Russian visitors who had known her in childhood. They obtained her release from the asylum in 1922."

At the instigation of his sister who had visited the young woman then known as Madame Tchakowsky in Berlin, Botkin went abroad in 1923 and was instrumental in bringing Anastasia to New York.

Leeds Oppose Her Fight for Fortune. Here she was received as the guest of Mrs. William B. Leeds, the former Princess Xenia of Greece, a distant cousin of the czar. But later, Botkin charges in the North American Review article, the Leeds took the side of other distant relatives who were claiming the considerable fortune left by the czar in England, Germany and Finland.

"They readily admitted her identity," she says. "But somehow the policy of the imperial family prevailed. Anastasia was not to be officially acknowledged."

Anastasia left the Leeds' Long Island estate suddenly, spent a short time in the tiny studio apartment of John R. Colter, New York newspaper man, then found haven for a year with friends in Garden City, L. I., relates Botkin. For the past year she has been living with Miss Annie Burr Jennings, a member of an old New York family, in her suburban home.

Trick Watches Latest Fad Among Parisians. Paris.—European watch manufacturers have gone modern and this year's watches look like anything but a watch. The smartest boulevard shops show watches with only four hours indicated—3, 6, 9, and 12. You have to guess the rest. There is another without hands. When you want to know what time it is you press a button and the dial lights up with lighted hands pointing directly to the hour.

There are watches hidden in cufflinks, in women's necklaces, and in a leather strap no wider than a shoestring. It seems, however, the smaller they are the higher they come.

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