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space reporter



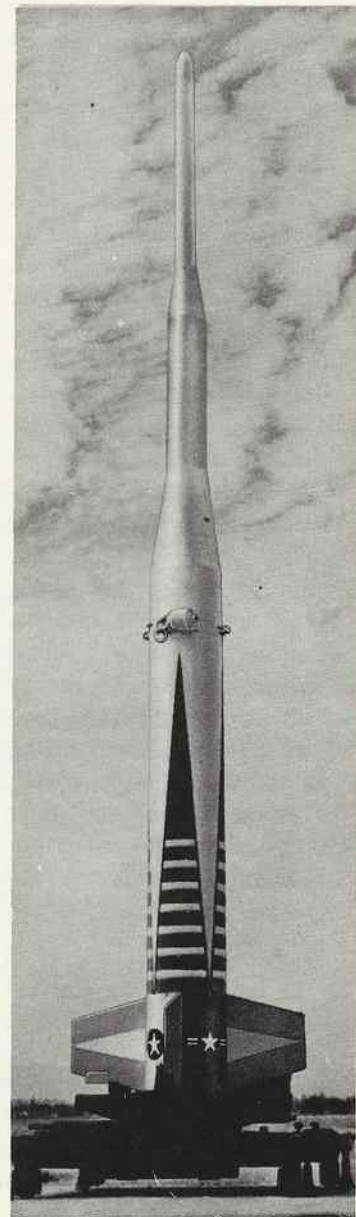
Alvis Howard, Jr.

MOON CAPABILITY ?

The largest solid propellant missile that has ever been proved out in flight test was recently unveiled by the Air Force's Major General B. A. Schriever at the annual meeting of the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences. The three-stage test vehicle is fired vertically into the atmosphere by a first or booster stage and, after it starts to descend, the other two stages are fired to accelerate the payload to super velocities.

The missile is designed to provide information which will help solve problems encountered in the re-entry (into the earth's atmosphere) phase of ballistic missile trajectories (flight paths). The first stage of the Lockheed X-17 (official name), was developed by Thiokol Corporation at Redstone Arsenal and is a modification of the Army's Sergeant rocket engine. The second stage consists of three Recruit rockets also developed at Redstone Arsenal by Thiokol. The third stage consists of a single Thiokol Recruit rocket engine.

In an exclusive interview with Space Reporter, Dr. H. W. Ritchey, Technical Director of Thiokol's Redstone Division, speculated that if an additional (fourth) stage is added to the X-17, it is quite possible that the missile could reach the moon.



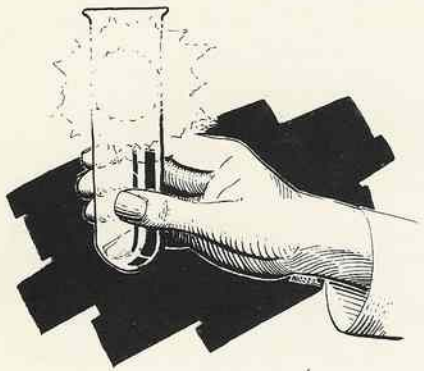
MARTIAN LIFE THEORY

Dr. I. M. Levitt of the Fels Planetarium, Philadelphia, states in his new book "A Space Traveler's Guide to Mars" that a tiny furry animal may greet the first visitors to Mars. The animals would not have lungs since Mars has so little atmosphere. He says that Martians might have a life chemistry or metabolism based on nitrogen rather than oxygen.

Dr. Levitt believes the animals would not drink water because water is so scarce, but they might get some water from the plants they eat. Also from the plants, they could get the tiny amounts of oxygen which they need. Their kidneys might not only cleanse their blood, but also generate some oxygen from their plant food. If there is plant life, the animals, by eating and digesting the plants, ultimately could set free some oxygen to re-enter the Martian atmosphere and become available again for new growth of plant life.

Many astronomers believe that plant life exists on Mars. They point to the fact that a blue area on the planet changes to green and back again to blue at regular intervals, indicating a periodic change with the seasons.





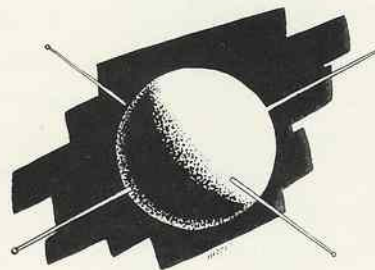
SYNTHETIC SUN

A "synthetic sun" for peaceful uses can be made in the laboratory, according to several British atomic scientists. They say it could be accomplished by utilizing the thermonuclear of H-bomb reaction and by holding down the energy of the action by magnetic forces.

The use of "high-temperature pulsed reaction" should prevent the synthetic sun from vaporizing everything with which it is in direct contact. The scientists suggested that the constant high temperature needed could be extracted from one-cubic-meter mass of deuterium-tritium gas.

FIRST SATELLITE WILL 'HEAR'

Researcher Robert C. Baumann of the Naval Research Laboratory, speaking before the American Rocket Society, said that the earth satellite to be launched during the International Geophysical Year will carry four small microphones which will be attached to the shell of the 20-inch sphere. The microphones will be linked with a "micro-meter counter" inside the shell. The microphones will tune in on tiny meteors as they whiz past the 21½ pound sphere. This will enable scientists to evaluate the number of these objects in space.



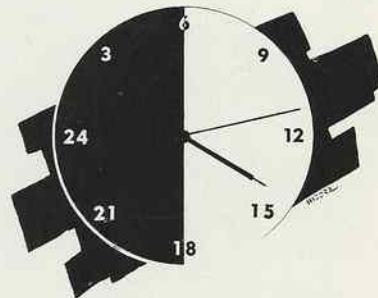
Mr. Baumann also stated that the satellite would require a 72-foot long rocket weighing 10 tons to launch it into its orbit. He said the earth satellite will be instrumental in unlocking some of the secrets of our planet and the space which surrounds us.

The earth, as it appears in photographs taken by a Navy Viking rocket at an altitude of 147 miles, seems uninhabited. Similar photographs of other planets, even the moon, might well give the same illusion.

Summing up the Vanguard project, Mr. Baumann stated: "The human race has just begun to scratch the surface of the unknown universe. Perhaps this small 20-inch diameter sphere, which we hope will become a satellite of the earth, with its electronics, batteries and measuring devices, will open the entirely unexplored reaches of space."

ARTIFICIAL DAY-NIGHT CYCLES

A regular pattern of sleep and rest for the crew of manned space ships must be established, according to Dr. Hubertus Strughold, noted expert on Space Medicine. Dr. Strughold, Director of the School of Aviation Medicine at Randolph Air Force Base in Texas, says that artificial day-night cycles similar to the pattern of earth would be a necessary discipline.

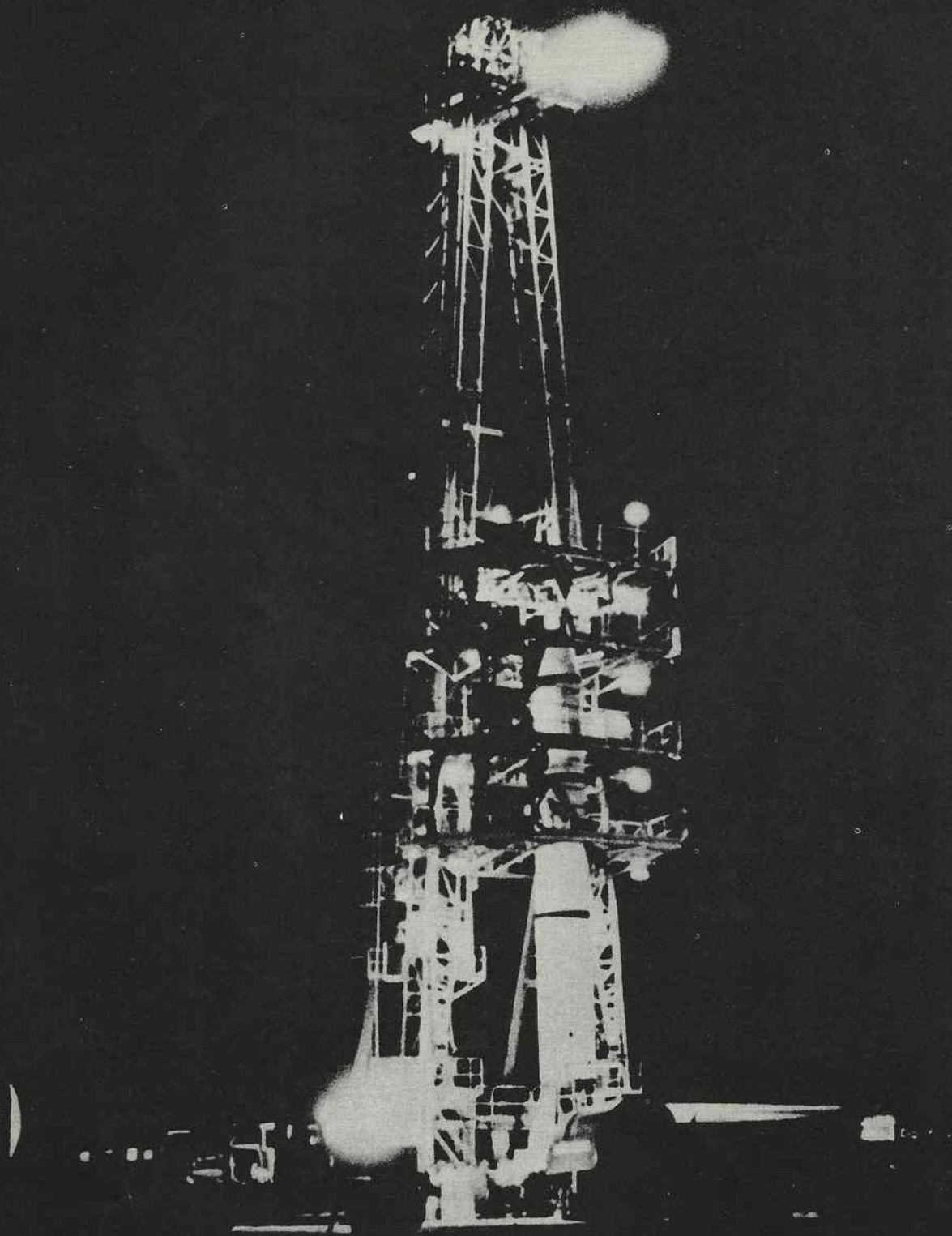


GREAT MINDS
DISCUSS IDEAS,

AVERAGE MINDS
DISCUSS EVENTS,

SMALL MINDS
DISCUSS PEOPLE.

—Anon



Final preparations are being made for early morning launching of the Army's Redstone Missile.