

Gemini Pair Shooting for a Couple of Firsts

CAPE KENNEDY, Fla. (AP)—Astronauts Virgil I. (Gus) Grissom and John W. Young who will ride into space Tuesday in the world's first maneuverable, manned spacecraft, may become the first spacemen to switch orbital paths.

The six Americans and nine Russians who previously rocketed into space did not have this capability.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration revealed some details of the flight which is to swing Grissom and Young three times around the world in 4 hours 52 minutes. Primary purpose is to qualify the two-seat Gemini craft for long-duration and rendezvous flights planned in the next few months.

Grissom, a 38-year-old Air Force major will be command pilot and will control the spacecraft for all but 20 minutes of

HOUSTON, Tex. (UPI)—Astronaut Walter Cunningham, 33, fractured a neck vertebra in a fall while jumping on a trampoline at the Manned Spacecraft Center, X rays showed Tuesday. The National space agency said Cunningham will have to wear a neck brace perhaps three months and will be grounded during that time.

the mission. Young will be concerned primarily with checking vehicle and life support systems such as temperature

controls, the space suit and food and waste evaluation.

Young is a 34-year-old Navy lieutenant commander. The backup crew consists of Navy Cdr. Walter M. Schirra and Air Force Maj. Thomas Stafford.

The space agency said that two major firsts are to be accomplished on the Grissom-Young flight. In addition to two orbital changes it said the crew will have the capability for the first time on a U.S. flight to steer to a selected landing area.

The Soviets are believed to have had a certain degree of control on some of their spaceship landings.

To exercise the capability, Grissom is

to flip the 7,000-pound Gemini spacecraft over during re-entry so that he and Young are flying heads down. This will offset the center of gravity and expose a greater amount of heat shield surface to the rapidly thickening atmosphere.

The intended landing spot is in the Atlantic about 70 miles northeast of Grand Turk Island.

Initially, the craft is to be rocketed into an orbit ranging from 100 to 150 miles high. During the first orbit, Grissom is to fire jet-like engines called thrusters to change the orbit to 100 to 107 miles. In the third orbit, he is to lower the path to 52 to 97 miles.

Recovery Fleet Fans Out in Atlantic

CAPE KENNEDY, Fla. (UPI)—A massive recovery fleet was starting to fan out across the Atlantic Tuesday to be on hand for America's first two-man Project Gemini spaceflight now set for March 23.

Six ships are steaming to possible landing areas ranging from the mid-Atlantic to the Canary Islands and 14 other vessels are set to sail to nearer areas Wednesday through March 22.

Recreation Community Planned

NAPA, Cal. (AP) — Plans for construction of a \$100-million-plus recreational community near Napa were announced Tuesday by developers.

The project, described as one of the largest of its kind in California, will include the property now occupied by Silverado Country Club, a championship golf course northeast of Napa.

The project will include an additional 18-hole golf course, a luxury resort hotel, convention center, health spa, restaurants, and tennis, swimming, hunting and other recreational facilities.

It will cover 1,100 acres. The project was announced by J. Ernest Ednie, senior vice president of American Factors Ltd. of Hawaii, and H. W. Westgate, president of Westgate Development Co. of San Francisco.

They reported formation of Westgate-Factors Co. for the purpose of developing the multi-million dollar project. American Factors has majority interest in the new company.

The Napa project will be the first land development of American Factors in the continental U.S., Ednie said.

American Factors currently operates 20 subsidiary and affiliated companies with claimed consolidated total assets of \$120 million and a net worth in excess of \$72 million.

The company said plans to develop the project will take six months and construction should begin within a year.

Besides the fleet of 14 warships and 6 supporting vessels, 48 Air Force aircraft will be standing by around the globe to help recovery efforts in case the Gemini craft comes down away from planned landing areas.

The prime recovery ship, the 33,000-ton aircraft carrier Intrepid, is scheduled to sail from Norfolk, Va., Saturday and head to an area about 60 miles east of Grand Turk Island in the Bahamas where the two astronauts are scheduled to land after three orbits of the earth.

The first of the recovery ships to deploy was the destroyer Cony. The vessel, carrying a special crane designed to pluck the bell-shaped capsule from the sea, left Norfolk March 8.

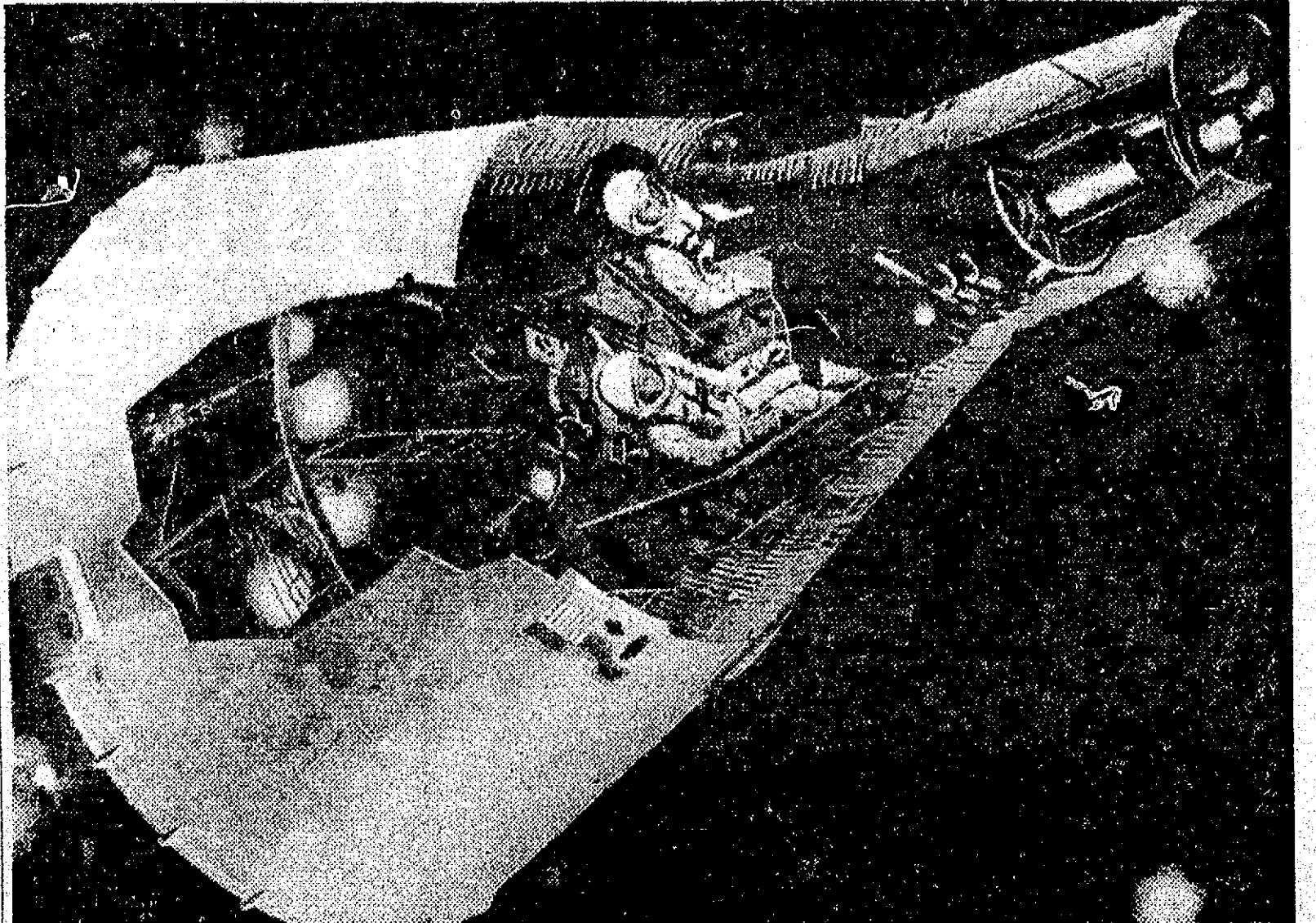
After taking on fuel at Bermuda, the Cony was scheduled to head east and steam almost 3,000 miles to the Canary Islands where the two-seater spacecraft would land in the event of a failure near the end of the rocket's climb into space.

Three other ships left port last Sunday. The destroyer Harwood sailed from Mayport, Fla., the destroyer Rich left Norfolk and the oiler Kankanee left Newport, R.I. The destroyers R.L. Wilson and Ault left Norfolk Monday.

The destroyer Bigelow was to leave Mayport Wednesday and the guided missile cruiser Boston leaves Boston Thursday.

The destroyers John Paul Jones and the H.J. Ellison sail from Norfolk Friday and the destroyers D. H. Fox, Mullinnix and Furse are set to sail from Norfolk Saturday. The minesweepers Sturdy and Swerve leave Charleston Saturday.

The remaining vessels, the destroyer Sarfield, the fleet tug Nipmuc and Coast Guard cutters Vigilant and Diligence, sail from Florida ports a day or two before launch.



This NASA drawing depicts two astronauts aboard their Gemini capsule. A Gemini capsule is scheduled to orbit the earth three times after being launched from Cape Kennedy Tuesday.

Report Russ Training More Cosmosnettes

TURIN, Italy (UPI)—An Italian listening post which has counted 14 Soviet "space deaths" since 1960 reported signs Monday of new ground preparations for a launch of women astronauts.

The brothers Giovanbattista and Achille Judica-Cordiglia, owners of Italy's largest private radio laboratory, at Torrebort, near Turin, said they had monitored Russian conversations from ground stations on wavelengths normally used for space shots on the mornings of Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

They reported that female voices were doing most of the talking. They linked the radio talk to rumors in Moscow that the Soviets were preparing a space shot using women, but said they believed the preparations were at the initial stage.

The Soviets launched the first and only woman into orbit June 16, 1963. She was Lt. Valentina Tereshkova.

The Judica-Cordiglias have been monitoring space shots, in collaboration with the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration, since they began. From time to time they have also reported Russian failures.

The Milan newspaper Corriere della Sera, quoting the two scientists, Sunday published a list of these failures, according to which 14 Russian cosmonauts have disappeared since Nov. 28, 1960.

The paper named several of them, and gave translated transcriptions of tapes on which the brothers monitored the failures. The final message from one of the cosmonauts reported doomed was: "SOS to the whole world."

Disney in 'Roses' Job

PASADENA, Cal. (UPI)—Walt Disney has been named grand marshal for the 77th annual Rose Parade next Jan. 1. The theme for the 1966 parade will be "It's a Small World."

Prairie Chickens Dying Out

CHICAGO (Special)—The prairie chicken is about to join the dodo and passenger pigeon in extinction.

At least, that's the opinion of Frederick C. Pullman, Lake Forest, Ill., an officer of the Prairie Chicken Foundation of Illinois.

"They were as common as the robins but are now almost extinct," says Pullman, whose organization is trying to raise funds to buy refuge land for the birds.

The prairie chicken, a square-tailed grouse, flourished in Illinois a century ago, but with the advance of civilization began to decline before the turn of the century. There are about 2,000 left, mostly in the southeast part of the state.

Truck Driver Burns Up Road

IUKA, Kan. (AP) — Orville Potter did not know the milk truck he was driving was afire Monday as he sped 60 miles through southwest Kansas, from near Lyons to Iuka.

Embers from the truck started about 80 grass fires. Gusty winds spread some of the fires over wide areas. For a time, one blaze threatened six oil wells.

ANDY CAPP

