

Space Station Needed at Once

La Paz Warns That First Nation With Base in Sky to Rule World

By LEIF ERICKSON  
 of the Associated Press

The United States "better get on the ball quickly" if it is not already working on a "station in space," says Dr. Lincoln La Paz.

La Paz, director of the University of New Mexico's Institute of Meteoritics, published a mathematical discussion of nearby earth satellites, natural and artificial, in the January-February, 1954, issue of the publications of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

He wrote on employing such satellites to test Einstein's theory of relativity.

But La Paz is concerned with military use of such bodies. In dead earnestness, he declares: "The nation first establishing a station in space will win absolute control of the earth."

"If the Russians do it first, we and the rest of the world will become just as tractable as they want us to be."

La Paz, called "Mr. Fireball of Albuquerque," is an expert of meteors and meteorites. He has spent his scientific life searching for and studying the cosmic masses which survive flight through the atmosphere and crash into the earth.

La Paz brought Clyde Tombaugh, who discovered Pluto, the ninth major planet, in 1930, to the University of New Mexico in 1946 but soon lost him to White Sands Proving Ground.

At White Sands Tombaugh has since organized a search for small nearby moons which may be orbiting undetected about the earth.

If Tombaugh's search for a small nearby satellite—say 1000 miles up—is successful, La Paz believes it can be manned as a "station in space."

"Using such natural stations would save many billions of dollars of taxpayers money which would otherwise have to be spent building an artificial satellite vehicle."

"Hauling materials a thousand miles up in rocket-powered missiles would cost more than boondoggling."

How would a space station achieve absolute military domination of the earth?

"First," La Paz answers, "by providing an ideal site from which to keep hostile areas under telescopic and radar scrutiny. Such a station would speed around the earth every two hours."

"Second, if retaliation becomes necessary, by employing the station in space as a site from which to launch and guide missiles armed with atomic or hydrogen warheads."

La Paz takes issue with those who regard as premature considering making military bases out of any moons that may be found in Tombaugh's hunt for natural satellites.

"As long ago as the 1920's

Wernher von Braun, under whom the V-2 rocket was developed at the Nazis' Peenemunde center. But the Russians captured the great majority of the Peenemunde rocket experts and have long had control of the German rocket bases along the Baltic.

"We simply cannot safely discuss the progress that German rocket and space scientists may have made," says La Paz.

"Also," he declares, "Russian study of meteoritics is much better systematized and far better financed than here."

"The meteorite committee of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR has the backing of the acknowledged rocket altitude

record is only 239 miles. This was achieved by a two-stage rocket—a V-2 from which a smaller WAC Corporal was launched near the peak of the V-2's straight up flight.

La Paz concedes there are many separate problems to solve before real space flight is possible.

Such hazards as space dust, meteorite impact, and cosmic ray bombardment must be overcome. These and the problems of mere existence in zero gravity are not to be taken lightly, he says.

Fuels producing necessary power and metals able to resist

almost incredible temperatures must be produced.

No one man nor group of men should attempt to solve the many obstacles blocking the road to space. But La Paz contends that organized direction, as in the Manhattan Project which produced the atom bomb, will achieve the step-by-step progress required.

"We should be working in the same carefully organized way to establish the first station in space."

"Such a station—providing unexcelled observation and armed with atomic or hydrogen missiles—could be a modern sword of earth."

**Gene Autry Is Sued For \$100,000 Damages**

LOS ANGELES, March 20 (AP)—Battery damages of \$100,000 are demanded in a suit filed by a clock salesman today against cowboy singer Gene Autry.

The suit alleges that Autry "wantonly, maliciously and outrageously assaulted" Harrison Willard last April 3 and beat him on the head. Willard's attorney said the altercation was the outgrowth of a traffic accident. Damocles, forever threatening but forever insuring peace on earth."

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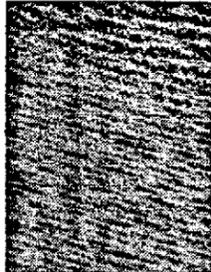
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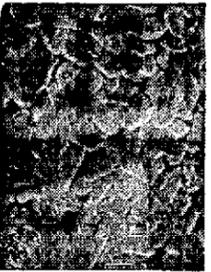
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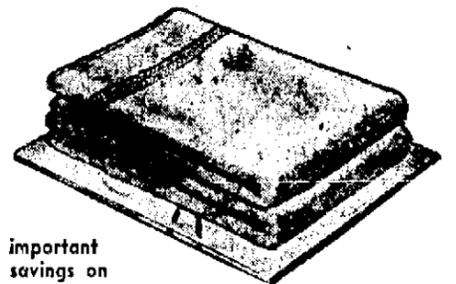
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