

Ripped from the ROUNDUP

Ripped straight from the pages of old Space News Roundups, here's what happened at JSC on this date:

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The Manned-Spacecraft Center – Florida Operations at the Merritt Island Launch Area (MILA) concluded October 18 the installation of pyrotechnics and weight and balance tests at the industrial area on the Gemini Titan GT-2 spacecraft. The GT-2 launch is slated for the last quarter of this year, and will be the first and only ballistic flight of the Gemini program. It will preface the two manned orbital flights scheduled for the first quarter of 1965.

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Dr. James C. Fletcher, NASA administrator, announced that the first few space shuttle development flights will return from space to NASA's Flight Research Center, Edwards, California.

"We plan to make the first horizontal flight tests of the Shuttle orbiter, launched from a 747 aircraft, at NASA's Flight Research Center at Edwards (Air Force Base)," said Fletcher. In addition we plan to use Edwards as a secondary landing site for operational Shuttle flights when weather or other considerations make it desirable."

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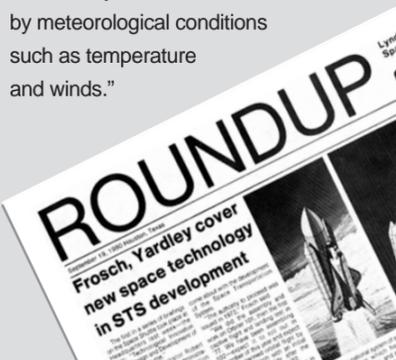
The Pegasus Two spacecraft assembly, launched by NASA in 1965, will re-enter the Earth's atmosphere on or about November 5.

Pegasus Two was one of three satellites used to gather micrometeoroid data for use in design of spacecraft. Re-entry heat will destroy 9705 kg. (21,400 lb.) of orbital hardware which means about 726 kg. (1600 lb.) may survive re-entry in several pieces.

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Continuing satellite observations have confirmed that the ozone hole over the Antarctic this year has equaled the record-setting hole observed in 1987, NASA scientists said last week.

"It's becoming clear that the ozone hole is not going away in the near future," said Dr. Arlin Krueger, the principal investigator. "The depth of the ozone hole each year will be determined by meteorological conditions such as temperature and winds."



JSC to kick off Combined Federal Campaign 'Working Together-For a Better Tomorrow'

JSC officially will kick off the annual Combined Federal Campaign on October 25, establishing a goal of \$510,000 for 1999.

The theme for the Texas Gulf Coast CFC, of which JSC's efforts are a part, is "Working Together – For a Better Tomorrow." The JSC campaign will run through December 3.

The CFC was established by executive order in 1961 to provide a single charitable fund-raising campaign within the federal community. Except for relief drives and emergency disaster appeals, the CFC is the only authorized on-the-job charitable fund-raising campaign for federal civilian, military, and postal service employees. The CFC gives JSC employees the opportunity to contribute to local, national, and international health and welfare charities. The Office of Personnel Management establishes the regulations governing the CFC including the charities that participate in the campaign.

There are more than 1,500 charitable organizations in the Houston CFC. These

Center's goal is \$510,000

agencies are listed in a brochure that will be available online and copies will be available from each organization's coordinator. Employees may direct their contributions to the charitable organization(s) of their choice by listing the agency code on their pledge forms along with the dollar amount they wish to give to that charity.

JSC employees may participate through payroll deduction by specifying an amount to be withheld every payday that will continue throughout the year. Deductions for pledges made during this campaign will begin in January 2000. Payroll deduction is a convenient way to give and is much easier on family budgets.

Last year, JSC employees and retirees gave more than \$514,000 of the

\$2.6 million contributed by federal employees throughout the Houston area. This year, the CFC goal is \$3 million.

JSC CFC Coordinator Teresa Sullivan said there are some interesting incentives this year for employees who pledge one hour's pay or more. Those who pledge one hour's pay per month will receive a CFC lapel pin. Those who pledge two hours' pay will receive a lapel pin and a compact disc holder. Those who pledge \$600 or more per year will receive a lapel pin, badge lanyard, and a personalized certificate of appreciation signed by a prominent Texan.

In addition, those employees contributing one hour's pay per month or more will be eligible for a drawing for five three-month reserved parking spaces. The drawing will be held at the conclusion of the campaign. ■

For further information, contact your organization's coordinator or Sullivan at x31034.

'Rocket Boys' Author Homer Hickam returns

By Jeff Peters

Homer H. Hickam Jr. summarized his childhood and career to a capacity crowd at University of Houston-Clear Lake's main auditorium on September 25. However, there was more than what has happened in his life – he also expressed his hopes and dreams for NASA's future and the future of today's youth.

"Everyone needs to find their one passion in life," Hickam urged, "even if that means turning off all negativity. Turn off the local news broadcast. Turn off your parents if you need to!"

He also made two interesting points on NASA's future. First, a revolutionary new propulsion system is necessary for the next human space flight breakthrough. Secondly, he equated the first Antarctic expeditions and its current research stations to the early Moon expeditions during the Apollo era. Between the first explorations to the South Pole, and the establishment of the first research outposts there today, was a period of about 40 years.

"In the next ten to fifteen years, I am confident that we will have a Moon base,



Homer Hickam, Jr.

much like the complex currently in the Antarctic," Hickam said.

Hickam also discussed his involvement with the movie "October Sky," which is adapted from his book entitled "Rocket Boys." Hickam elaborated on some of the most notable variations from the book version, saying there were actually three machine shop workers that helped with the Rocket Boys experiments. Also, Homer never actually worked in the Coalwood coal mine and his father was not as harsh as the movie portrays him to be. "Be sure to look for me in the audience at the next Academy Awards," added Hickam.

Hickam grew up in Coalwood, West Virginia, as the youngest son of a coal mining supervisor. Inspired by the launch of Sputnik 1 in 1957, he led a group of friends, now called the Rocket Boys, to build and launch model rockets and went on to win the National Science Fair in Indianapolis in 1960. Now retired from his job at Marshall Space Flight Center as a scuba instructor and payload trainer, Hickam has returned to his love of writing. In addition to his current lecture circuit, he is working on his fourth book. ■

TICKET WINDOW

The following discount tickets are available at the Exchange Stores

General Cinema Theaters	\$5.50
Sony Loew's Theaters	\$5.00
AMC Theaters	\$4.75
Fiesta Texas	adult ... \$18.25 (child under 48") ... \$15.50
Astroworld one-day admission	\$21.00
Moody Gardens (2 of 6 events) (does not include Aquarium Pyramid)	\$10.75
Moody Gardens (Aquarium only)	\$9.25
Sea World	adult .. \$27.25 child (age 3-11) ... \$18.25
Space Center Houston	adult .. \$10.25 child (age 4-11) ... \$6.50
(JSC civil service employees free.)	
Space Center Houston annual pass	\$18.75

October 2 - November 14

Texas Renaissance Festival .. adult .. \$15 child .. \$6.50

Effective October 1, the JSC Exchange will accept personal checks with a valid Texas driver's license. We will no longer require a NASA badge. There will be a \$25 charge on all returned checks.

Exchange Store hours

Monday-Friday

Bldg. 3 7 a.m.-4 p.m.

Bldg. 11 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

All tickets are nonrefundable.

Metro tokens and value cards are available.

Franklin Planners now available.

For more information, please call x35350.