

THE WEATHER—Generally fair through Wednesday. High today near 80, low tonight 55 to 65. Northerly winds. Sun sets today 5:41, rises tomorrow 6:41.

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Cape Mercury Site Dedicated Tuesday

Honors Manned Flight

National leaders in government and industry plus two participating astronauts, gathered outside Pad 14 on Cape Kennedy this afternoon to dedicate a 13-foot high, shimmering stainless steel monument to the highly successful Mercury program.

Project Mercury's success "is a bright spot in the history of our nation to catch up to our Soviet competitors" President Johnson's consultant on space projects, Dr. Edward C. Welsh, told an audience of several hundred.

He continued, "Mercury served to lift the self-respect of our nation when it badly needed such a boost. I know that we still have widespread public support of our national space program in spite of the criticism of some short-sighted individuals."

Indicating a Presidential push for more federal spending in these areas when Congress meets in January, Dr. Welsh said further, "to my way of thinking, Mercury, Gemini, Apollo and MOL (the Air Force's manned orbiting laboratory) are the essential but still just the initial short steps in the great venture of manned space flight.

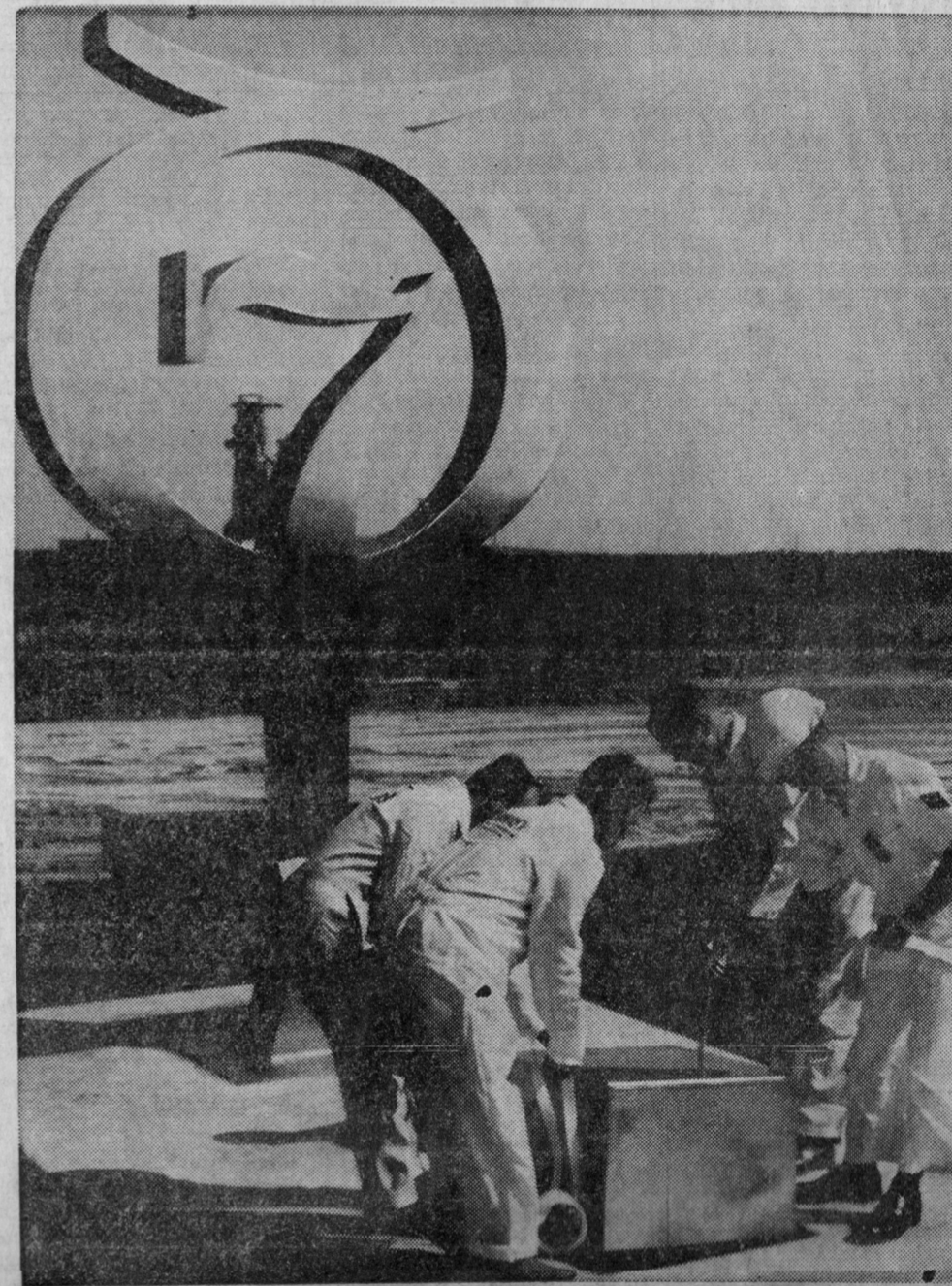
"We are moving ahead in these projects, and I would hope that the resources devoted least commensurate with the growth in our gross national product. Any slower pace would not be in our national interest."

When the late President Kennedy proposed the manned lunar landing program his financing was keyed to 1 per cent of our gross national product which today is a burgeoning \$620 billion yet the 1965 NASA budget is \$5.3 billion.

The ceremonies this afternoon were conducted cooperatively by the NASA, the Air Force and General Dynamics Corp. under whose division — Astronautics — the Atlas space booster was built and which lofted the Mercury capsule with four individual astronauts four times successfully into earth orbit.

Present and representing all seven original astronauts were: Walter Schirra and Virgil Grissom.

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Time capsule placed in base of Project Mercury Monument on Cape

Cape Mercury Site Dedicated

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The monument is constructed of the same type stainless steel used in the Project Mercury rockets. It stands 13 feet high, 6 feet wide and is fashioned in the shape of the astronomical symbol for the planet Mercury. The number "seven" in the center of the symbol denotes the seven Mercury astronauts.

A bronze tablet on the monument carries the inscription "Si Monumentum Requiris Circumspice" which is also found on the tomb of architect Sir Christopher Wren in St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

Translated it says "If you seek a monument, look about you."

Dr. Welsh was presented by Roger Lewis, General Dynamics president, who was introduced in turn by James R. Demsey president of the Astronautics division.

Rep. Carl Albert (D-Okla) House majority leader and a member of the House Space Committee, spoke.

The Mercury program was initiated in 1958. Astronaut Alan B. Shepard made the first flight, a suborbital jaunt on a Redstone rocket. Astronaut Gus Grissom made another suborbital flight before John H. Glenn became the first American to go into orbit on Feb. 20, 1962. The program ended with the 22.9 flight of Gordon Cooper on May 16, 1963.

Gold medallions were received by: Dr. Edward C. Welsh, acting chairman and executive secretary, National Aeronautics and Space Council for President Johnson and himself.

Arnold Frutkin, director of international programs who received the medallion for James E. Webb, administrator of NASA, and Dr. Hugh L. Dryden, deputy administrator of NASA.

Ken Kleinknecht manager, Project Mercury, for himself and Dr. Robert R. Gilruth, director, Manned Space Flight Center.

Astronauts Wally Schirra and Gus Grissom for all seven astronauts.

Chris Craft, Flight director, project Mercury.

G. Merritt Preston, manager, Cape Kennedy, Manned Spacecraft Center.

Dr. Kurt Debus, director, Kennedy Space Center.

Jack Kuettner chief Saturn system intergration office, accepting for Dr. Wernher von Braun.

Lt. Gen. W. Austin Davis, vice commander, Air Force Systems Command, accepting for Air Force Secretary Eugene Zuckert and Gen. Bernard Schreiber, Commander of the Air Force Systems Command.

Col. Elmer Richardson for Maj. Gen. Vincent Huston, Commander, Eastern Test Range and Lt. Gen. Leighton I. Davis, Commander National Range Division.

Maj. Gen. Osmund Ritland, deputy commander for Space Flight.

Col. Otto Ledford for Maj. Gen. Ben Funk, commander, Space Systems Division.

Rear Adm. H. G. Bowen, chief of the Project Mercury recovery forces.

Atty. Gen James Kynes accepting for Gov. Farris Bryant.

Industry participants were presented silver medallions and were received by:

Al. F. Donovan, senior vice president, technical, Aerospace Corp., for Dr. Ivan Gettings, Aerospace Corp. president.

Ben A. Hohmann, group director, Gemini Launch Systems, Aerospace Corp.

Tom Fitch, president, Washington Steel Co.

Paul Sandemeyer, president, Sandemeyer Steel Co.

Walt Williams, vice president and general manager for manned systems, Aerospace Corp.

James McDonnell, president of McDonnell Aircraft, who was not present at the ceremonies.

Others present were: S. E. Skinner, chairman of the board, Aerospace Corp., and Maj. Gen. Benjamin Foulois (AF-ret.), former chief of staff, Army Air Corps.