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Picture Story No. 668

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1960: EVENTFUL YEAR

3-11 One of the striking developments in space affairs during the year was the recovery of the first capsule ever retrieved from a satellite orbiting the earth. Satellite Discoverer XIII was launched into orbit from Vandenburg Air Force Base, California, on August 11, 1960. On its 17th pass around the earth, the capsule was separated from the satellite, started spinning by means of gas jets, had its speed slowed by a retro-rocket, and falling the last 50,000 feet by parachute, landed in the Pacific near the Hawaiian Islands. It was recovered by a frogman working with a helicopter. Here, U. S. Air Force Officers look over the capsule after its recovery from the ocean. (61-846)

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SPACE - ARTIFICIAL SATELLITE - DISCOVERER