

PROJECT MERCURY

America's first spaceman has tasted the excitement of flying into the unknown and coming back to earth to tell about it. His pioneering flight has opened infinite vistas of the universe for exploration by man. The accomplishment, of course, was not a surprise. It has been known for some years that Project Mercury was underway, that the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration had as one of its many space projects the development of a manned spacecraft, and that thousands of scientists and engineers were engaged in the great effort. Now, with the feasibility of manned space flight established, the endeavor is moving ahead. In prospect are orbital flights for the astronauts, advanced spacecraft, and flights to the moon and planets. What will be found in the reaches of space will be a tale of discovery unfolding in the years, generations, and ages to come. Ahead lies a time of great adventure and progress for mankind. (The accompanying pictures show some of the steps that led to America's first pioneering leap into space.)

Large chamber is used in high altitude tests for spacecraft and astronauts. It simulates the airless environment of space. Other chambers provide extremely hot and cold environments.

(Photo No. 61-4506. Accompanies "First U.S. Man in Space" Packet.)



SCIENCE - ASTRONAUTICS: Proj. MERCURY