

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.)

Lying on a form-fitted foam rubber couch, one of the Mercury astronauts undergoes a simulated space flight during his training program. The instruments and control panel are similar to those of the actual spacecraft. The astronaut, Malcolm S. Carpenter, though not the first American in space, will be aboard one of the coming flights.

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