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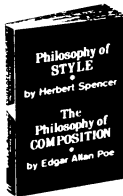
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Space Race Pace Quickens

(Continued from p. 397)

then becomes almost certain that it exists in many other places. And who can say then that there is definitely no life form as intelligent as ours?

Even if none of these reasons are valid, there is the omnipresent public relations duel with the Soviet Union to justify getting there first. Indeed, there may be no getting there second.

A whole new kind of government official has sprung up in recent years, called the "space lawyer." One of the space lawyers' most difficult problems is to determine the validity of actually staking a claim on the moon. Will it be the same as filing a claim on a gold mine? Or signing a treaty for the boundaries of a colony?

Twenty billion dollars! And it will all be riding in the spacesuit pockets of three men—the Apollo astronauts.

• Science News Letter, 87:387 June 19, 1965

INVENTION

Current U. S. Patents

A miniature air raid alert installed in individual buildings and activated by general power reduction could eliminate the ear splitting community air raid system—By William McCann

➤ A TINY AIR RAID alert, connected to a radio or buzzer in the home, could eliminate the ear-splitting community air raid siren.

The newly patented alert, remotely controlled by a central power operator, would sound its alarm when the voltage in the home was lowered by the operator.

Although a community siren is ear-piercing up close, families living in fringe areas often have a difficult time hearing it. Furthermore, if something goes wrong with the central siren, the whole community is left without warning. The home air raid alert would do away with this difficulty. In addition, deaf people also would be able to heed the alert by substituting a flashing lamp for the radio or buzzer, so that when the voltage goes down, the lamp goes on.

Thomas D. Hardesty, Lorain, Ohio, earned patent 3,187,139 from the U.S. Patent Office in Washington for his home air alert.

Inflatable Splint

A newly patented rubberized splint can be wrapped around a person's arm or leg and inflated like a tire.

The splint consists of a pad, cover and a valve for pumping in the air. The pad is a series of inflatable tubes or cells running lengthwise and connected side by side.

The cover serves to restrict outward swelling of the cells and causes them to apply pressure inwardly for immobilizing purposes and to stiffen the pad for traction purposes, reported Robert E. Bailey, Worland, and Richard C. Leaverton, Casper, Wyo.

GENERAL SCIENCE

Moving Spaceship Costly Even on the Ground

➤ WHEN A SPACESHIP goes somewhere it's an expensive proposition, even when it is just floating down the river.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has just spent \$784,600 to float three Saturn rocket stages from place to place on barges. The huge boosters, much too big and heavy to travel by road or rail, are being built at NASA's Michoud superfactory in New Orleans. From there they must go to Huntsville, Ala., for test firings, next be sent back to Michoud, and then shipped down to Cape Kennedy in Florida.

Two of the barges, named Promise and Palaemon, will be used to carry the Saturn I and IB boosters, while the third is intended for the huge Saturn V.

To go from Huntsville to the Cape by river and ocean takes 10 days, non-stop.

• Science News Letter, 87:398 June 19, 1965

Spaces between the adjacent cells provide tiny openings to allow the splint to "breathe" and thus minimize skin irritation.

In addition, the splinted area can easily be X-rayed.

Messrs. Bailey and Leaverton earned patent 3,186,405 for their inflatable splint.

Other Interesting Patents

A rocking chair that rocks by electricity received a patent. John W. Fuller, Wilmington, Vt., earned patent 3,186,008 for the rocker, which he claims may also be used with a cradle to electrically rock baby to sleep.

A two-stage bullet that its inventor claims makes one gun practical for hunting everything from squirrels to elephants received a patent this week. Albert S. Hancock Jr. earned patent 3,186,342 for the bullet, which is fired through the barrel as a unit, but separates just beyond the muzzle of the gun. The first stage falls soon after leaving the muzzle, while the second travels to the target.

A slope-sighting device that lets a golfer "read" the green earned patent 3,186,092 for Charles S. Bertas, Covina, Calif. The golfer looks through the optical viewing instrument so that he can more accurately estimate the slope or little bumps of the green between the ball and the hole.

For a list of registered patent attorneys and agents and other Patent Office information, write the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, or call 202-967-4058 for specific information.

• Science News Letter, 87:398 June 19, 1965