Cape Mercury Site Dedicated Tuesday

Honors Manned Flight

National leaders in government and industry plus two participating astronauts gathered outside Pad 44 on Cape Kennedy Air Station this afternoon to dedicate a 10-foot high stainless steel monument to the highly successful Mercury program.

Project Mercury's success is a bright spot in the history of our nation when it badly needed such a boost. I know that we will still have widespread public support of our national space program in spite of the criticism of some shortsighted individuals.

Indicating a Presidential push for more federal spending, in these areas where Congress met in January, Dr. Welch said further, "in my way of thinking, Mercury, Gemini, Apollo and MOL (the Air Force's manned orbiting laborator) are the essential but still just the initial steps in the great voyage of mankind into space.

"We are moving ahead in the space program and I would hope that the resources devoted least amount of our non-national scientific and space flight."

When the late President Kennedy proposed the manned lunar landing program his financial success was a key instrument in our national space program. The $2 billion that NASA spent in 1965 NASA budget is still $2 billion.

The ceremonies this afternoon were conducted cooperatively by the NASA, the Air Force and General Dynamics Corp., under whose division -- General Dynamics Corp., the Astronaut Project Office was built and which left the Mercury project with four individual astronauts..."  

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

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Beaver's Slayer Being Held For The Grand Jury

Sheriff's criminal agents, investigating Sunday night's fatal shooting on Lake Dr., the west Cape Canaveral limits where six shots fired at close range took the life of 27-year-old John Edward Beaver, today reported Beaver was mortally wounded when he went to talk to the man who charged with his murder.

Beaver was killed as he got out of his car at the residence of Melvin Davis, 24, of 417 Lake Dr.

The shooting came after Davis and Beaver had been involved earlier in an argument concerning something Davis allegedly won at the boat.

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Bennett Traffic Is Off, 10,000 Cars

Traffic over the Bennett Causeway dropped nearly 10,000 cars since the opening of NASA Causeway at Apollo Point, according to comparative figures released by Bennett Causeway Manager Dick Karmel.

During the week of Oct. 21-31, the last full week of operation before the opening of the NASA Causeway, 70,465 vehicles used the toll facility. For the period from Nov. 1-7, 59,962 cars crossed the Bennett Causeway, a traffic drop of 9,503 vehicles.

Karmel stated that the greatest drop in traffic, about 1,100 vehicles per day, occurs on weekdays with the remaining drop on Saturday and Sunday.

Lockheed Forms Bid Team For MOL Contract

Lockheed Missiles & Space Co. has formed a team of leading aerospace firms to compete for the Air Force's proposed Manned Orbital Laboratory (MOL).

Joining Lockheed as subcontractors in the contract bidding will be Radio Corporation of America, and General Precision. Also bid support will be the Air Research Division of the General Electric Co.
Cape Mercury Site Dedicated

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The dedication ceremony was the culmination of the Project Mercury program, which was launched in 1958. The first Mercury spacecraft, "Mercury-Redstone 4," was launched on May 5, 1961, and astronaut Alan B. Shepard became the first American to go into space. The program aimed to put American astronauts in orbit and eventually to the moon. Dr. Wernher von Braun, director of the Redstone Arsenal, was instrumental in the program.

Rep. Carl Albert (D-Oklahoma), chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, sponsored the program. In 1962, astronaut Gus Grissom made the first American spacewalk. The program continued to progress, and in 1963, astronaut John Glenn became the first American to orbit Earth.

Gold medals were received by Dr. Robert C. Gilruth, director of the NASA Space Flight Center, and Brig. Gen. Wally Schirra, director of the Office of Operations at the Kennedy Space Center.

Chris Kraft, flight director, Dr. Robert R. Gilruth, director of the NASA Space Flight Center, and Wally Schirra, director of the Office of Operations at the Kennedy Space Center, were presented with gold medals.

Dr. Wernher von Braun, director of the Redstone Arsenal, was also presented with a gold medal. He was instrumental in the development of the Redstone and Jupiter-C rockets, which were critical to the success of the Mercury program.

In conclusion, the dedication of the Cape Mercury Site marked a significant milestone in the history of American space exploration. The program's achievements, including the successful launch of astronauts into orbit, were a testament to the ingenuity and dedication of the scientists, engineers, and astronauts who worked tirelessly to make this vision a reality.