

# 'MAN, WHAT A RIDE!' U.S. ASTRONAUT SAYS

Related News and Pictures, P. 3, 12, 13, 24

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (UPI) — Astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. sent American aspirations soaring Friday with history's first flight of a pilot-controlled spacecraft.

The 37-year-old Navy commander shot into space and fame at 9:34 a.m. EST (11:34 p.m. JST) aboard "Freedom 7," a 1.5 ton cabin launched by a 66,000-pound Redstone missile.

Minutes later, aboard the carrier Lake Champlain in the Atlantic, he received the personal congratulations of President Kennedy and Congress was talking of awarding him the Medal of Honor.

## Talks Get Nowhere In Laos

HIN HEUP, Laos (AP) — Military negotiators for Laos' warring factions Friday held the first major meeting to work out details of a cease-fire but were unable to agree even on a site for future talks.

Political leaders in Vientiane at the same time proposed that talks begin Saturday in the royal capital of Luang Prabang. Presumably these would be top-level negotiations on forming a coalition government.

The government pointedly ignored rebel proposals that political questions be discussed on the front. Only a military team, led by Brig. Gen. Sing Rathanasa- (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

## BULLETIN

POTEAU, Okla. (AP)—A tornado slashed through the hill country near here late Friday. First reports indicated at least eight persons were killed and 40 injured.

Shepard rocketed 115 miles above the earth and 302 miles down the Atlantic missile range in a 15-minute hop that hit a peak speed of 5,160 m.p.h.

Freedom 7 splashed into the sea at 9:49 a.m. EST. Six minutes later, safely aboard the recovery helicopter, Shepard was saying to co-pilot George Cox of Eustis, Fla.: "Man! What a ride!"

Yuri Gagarin, a Russian, had made a longer, higher and faster space trip Apr. 12. But Gagarin had gone along just for the ride. His 5-ton spacecraft was operated by automatic controls or by radio command from the ground.

Shepard, however, operated the controls which told Freedom 7 which way to point and how to orient itself for the rugged return from space through the earth's atmosphere.

At one point during Shepard's flight, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) reported:

"Astronaut is working like a (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

## Feat Praised By Kennedy

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Kennedy Friday hailed America's first manned shot to the threshold of space and pledged "a substantially larger effort" in that field.

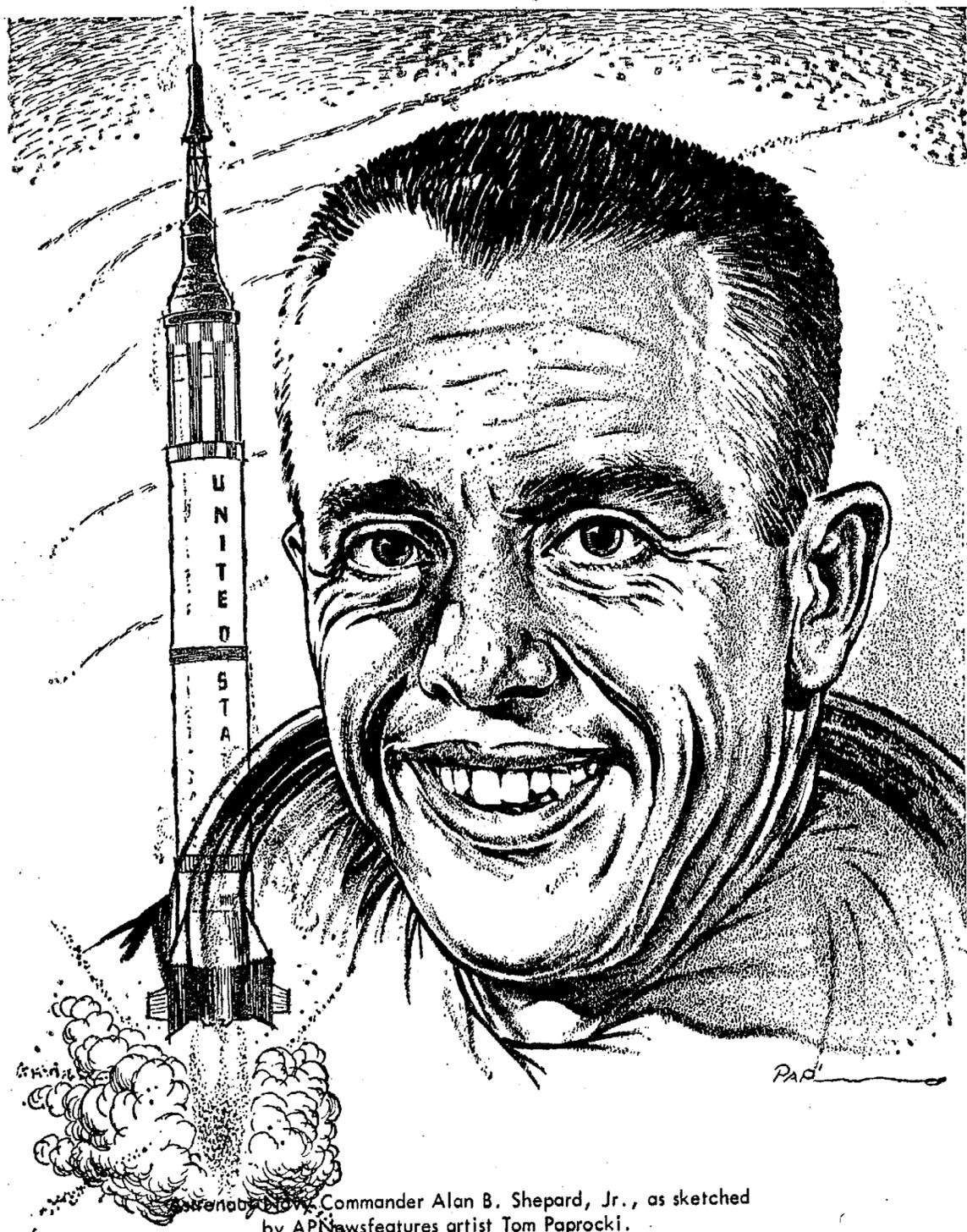
Kennedy said that his administration would seek additional funds from Congress to carry out its space program.

"We are going to require a larger effort in space," the President said at a news conference.

"We have a long way to go in the field of space. We are behind—but we are working hard and we are going to increase our effort." (Continued on Back Page, Col. 5)

## Weather

Sunday: Fair; High 75, Low 50  
Monday: Partly cloudy; High 75, Low 55  
Friday's Temperatures: High 75, Low 48  
(USAF Weather Central, Fuchu AS)



Commander Alan B. Shepard, Jr., as sketched by APNewsfeatures artist Tom Paprocki.

## Scouts Pitch Camp at Drake

FUCHU AS, Japan (USFJ)—The first of some 1,500 Japanese and American boy scouts arrived at the sprawling North Camp Drake area Friday to set up camp for their annual, three-day Boy Scout Camporee.

American, Japanese and international scouts from throughout the Kanto Plains area arrived at the camporee site in the early (Continued on Page 8, Col. 2)

## Study Troop Aid to Vietnam

WASHINGTON (UPI)—President Kennedy said Friday he is considering the wisdom of using U.S. forces in the Republic of Vietnam if such action becomes necessary to save that country from Red domination. He said no decision has been reached.

The President said Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson will discuss the question of bolstering the Republic of Vietnam against a mounting tide of Red terror and sabotage when he

visits the Far East soon on a special assignment.

Kennedy told his news conference the question of using U.S. troops and other methods of bolstering Vietnam "is a matter still under consideration."

Kennedy warned that what he called the forces of freedom are on the defensive in many parts of the world, partly because of failure to maintain the support and confidence of the people

through economic and social progress.

On the other hand he saw bright spots for the forces of freedom in Japan, India and in the unity of the North Atlantic Alliance and in the growing awareness of Latin America of the menace of communism and the necessity for economic reform.

He indicated that Johnson's talks with Republic of Vietnam (Continued on Back Page, Col. 3)