

Orange Pealings

Anatomy of accidents...

THE NINE ASTRONAUTS gave as good an accounting of themselves at their press conference in Chapel Hill yesterday as their predecessors have in outer space. All were candid yet diplomatic, unassuming yet sincerely confident, and while quite able to express themselves individually, never forgetting an over-riding team spirit. —That oft-quoted line about the press conference being the only thing they've been afraid of to date was a quip proposed in jest by Planetarium Director Tony Jenzano, incidentally, rather than by one of the nine fliers.

THE OUTER SPACE BUSINESS is really a lot of fun, astronaut Frank Borman declared, calling it "more or less a hobby—not a job." All of them are professional test pilots, and some yet do a bit of recreational flying in conventional small aircraft, just for kicks, they noted.

DILIGENT INVESTIGATION has still failed to uncover the cause of a fire that destroyed a section of the building telephone exchange in South Building on the UNC campus last Saturday morning. One possible clue suggested is that it might have had a link to the surge of electricity that injected into the automatic clock-setting system in the same box at 8 a.m. daily, since the fire alarm was shortly after that time. But that charge of juice is only 72 volts.

CONTRACT FOR THE 3-MILE dual-laning job on the bypass highway alongside Eastgate will be given to low-bidder William Muirhead of Durham. The \$60,000 job will include flared-out turning lanes in the various intersections along this congested and treacherous stretch of road.

HAD CIRCUMSTANCES BEEN only a little different there might have been a need for a hearse, or at least several ambulances instead of just one at the freak Raleigh Road wreck last Saturday night. Ambulance driver Curtis Woodleaf tried every possible maneuver of driving to gain some traction while his Cadillac ambulance slid down the icy hill. In retrospect later he said he was at least glad that his vehicle hit the parked police car behind the pile-up, if it had to hit any cars, rather than ploughing into the cluster of people and autos a few feet farther on.

BUSINESS FIRMS THAT have not yet removed their advertising signs from the public sidewalk in downtown Chapel Hill may expect to be summoned into Chapel Hill Recorder's Court any day now, if their violations continue. Town officials warned this week. The main trespassing holdouts continue to be the major gasoline companies.

SPEAKING OF TRAFFIC AND highways, the long-range thoroughfare plan for Chapel Hill, 10 years in the making to date

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SATURDAY NIGHT SCENE—The banked curve of the Raleigh Road hill on the east side of Chapel Hill proved the downfall of a dozen motorists during a few treacherous minutes last Saturday night.

A heavy mist-like rain freezing on the asphalt surface made the roadway a solid sheet of ice, scuttling cars into each other like bowling balls. —For a chronology of the freak pile-up see Page 3.

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They'll see the world this way...



ASTRONAUTS HERE — Three of the nine astronauts in Chapel Hill for celestial navigation studies at Morehead Planetarium this week, seen with a sphere of the mock galaxies surrounding a

globe of the earth, are (left to right) Neil Armstrong, James Lovell, and Elliott See. (Another photo on Page 6.)

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