

News of the Day
October 28, 1957, Vol. 29-220

BALLOON-LAUNCHED ROCKET SETS MARK!

Stranger than science fiction - the Air Force experiments with a unique way to send a rocket screaming far beyond the earth. The lightweight, four-stage rocket is attached to a huge plastic balloon. The test is conducted at Eniwetok in the Pacific.

And we're ready to start - the balloon is released. The goal is nothing less than to send the rocket to the fantastic height of four-thousand miles. That's six times the top altitude record, set by a Jupiter missile.

First, the balloon soars to a height of 20 miles - to enable the rocket to escape most of the earth's atmosphere before using its precious fuel.

Preliminary study indicates the Air Force rocket exceeded its four-thousand mile goal. This is the launching of man's greatest reach into space.

NEW MISSILE RECOVERY SYSTEM

Now you're looking at the Matador. The jet-powered guided missile has been a one-shot weapon, but that was yesterday. Today parachutes permit its recovery and reuse when it is launched for research. At one hundred thousand dollars apiece, they're worth saving. A "drag" chute behind the tail is the first arresting device - breaking the bird's high speed. The Matador is almost flipped over on its back.

Three cargo parachutes lower it gently. 100 thousand taxpayer dollars saved.

57-89.

Alexander Lewis