

## CHIMP IN SPACE

From a group of six chimpanzees -- specially trained for an historic rendezvous with space -- one is picked to make the ride -- to blaze the trail for one of Uncle Sam's human astronauts, who will be chosen to follow the chimp's rocket path. A chimp is selected for the pioneer flight because his body and mind most nearly resemble man's. In fact, scientists remind us that a chimp's mental processes are more man-like than ape-like. Dressed in a nylon suit, the male chimpanzee deemed most qualified for the momentous assignment is strapped in a pressurized cocoon-like plastic couch. In the pre-dawn hours at Cape Canaveral, he is made ready to carry out the assignment for which space medicine scientists prepared him. They call him "Ham" -- which stands for Holloman Aeromedical, the Air Force Lab where he was trained. He'll test the techniques required to put a man into space for the first time -- and to bring him back safely. He'll help determine whether sufficient life-sustaining oxygen can be supplied automatically; he's been trained to pull certain levers while in flight. Mental powers, muscle control and nervous system reaction are important in the experiment. Ham is ready to become the largest animal ever to rocket into space. The

The Army's Redstone Missile -- the same to be used by the first human astronaut -- awaits the thirty-seven and a half pound chimp. Secure in his for-fitting couch, he takes an elevator ride up the eighty-three foot long missile .....then to be placed in a space craft six feet across the base and nine feet high, a working model of the man-carrying type.

By the light of day, the test under the auspices of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration reaches its stirring peak. Project Mercury has its first astronaut. Now, in the brief span of sixteen minutes -- all the hopes and toil and planning will be resolved. Leaving a vapor trail behind, it tips over on a southeasterly trajectory. Animation (and the real thing) show the series of events that occur automatically when the space capsule separates from the rocketbooster and Ham is hurtled through the skies at - five thousand miles an hour subjected to forces 16 times normal gravity. He goes 40 miles higher and 130 miles farther than planned.. hurled 155 miles into space and 420 miles down range. Retro-rockets (or space brakes) slow the rocket for re-entry into the atmosphere. Parachutes slow the flight still more.....until at 18 feet a second, a landing impact bumper of plastic drops down..... Upon landing, the chute is jettisoned, lest it become a sail. Recovery ships steam toward the point where a Navy plane spotted the capsule coming down in the Atlantic. Sailors from the destroyer Ellison attach a line to the capsule so it can be righted and lifted by a Marine helicopter, which in turn will land it on the deck of the Donner, a landing ship dock. Here, then, is the most important moment of all -- the tense, so very dramatic period when all who have sweated out the test wonder now....hoping, and praying, one can be sure, that Ham the space chimpanzee is all right inside the little chamber which rode with the Mercury capsule. Eager eyes, eager hands, at the space cabin.... Then comes the announcement from a Nasa spokesman....."The hatch has been opened. The chimp is alive and apparently in good condition." There! You can see for yourself....Ham is very much alive! Except for a little whimpering, Ham is quickly himself again. He's the marvelous little chimp that's helped science move toward a beginning of manned travel in space!