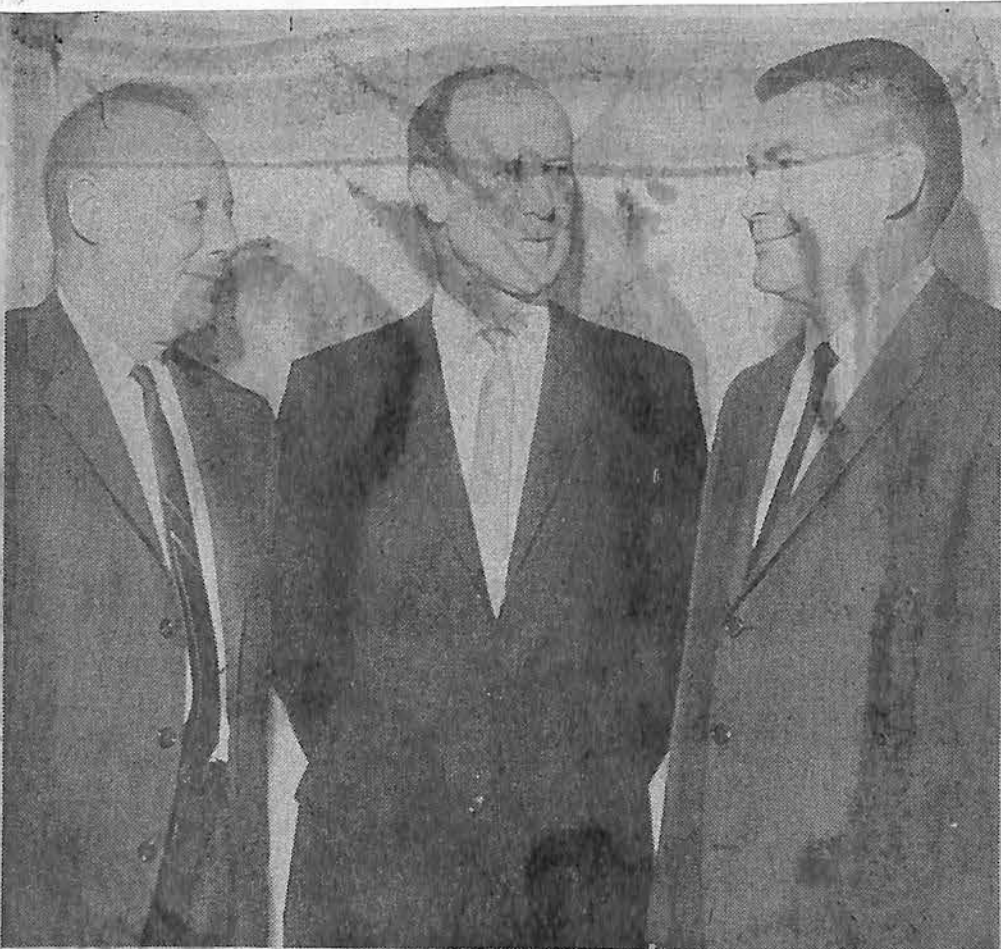


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—San Diego Union Staff Photo

Dr. William Pickering, center, space scientist and speaker at event launching local museum, talks with

Karel Bossart, left, missile designer, and Don Germeraad, former Convair test pilot, who helped found museum.

Aerospace Museum Dedicated In Park

Banquet Hails Opening Today Of New Facility; Pickering Talks Of Mariner Trip

A report of America's most successful exploration of deep space marked last night's dedicatory banquet of the Aerospace Museum on Zoo Place in Balboa Park. The museum will open at 10 o'clock this morning.

Dr. William H. Pickering, president of the newly formed American Institute of Aeronautics and director of the California Institute of Technology's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, described the voyage of Mariner II to Venus.

He said it was the first of a series of such instrumented and unmanned explorations to blaze the way for man to visit the moon and planets.

RELY ON COMMUNITY

The museum received a gift from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of historical significance. Ralph Jackson, NASA representative, announced the museum will have the rocket engine from the X-1 plane which first carried man faster than the speed of sound.

Preston Fleet, president of the Aerospace Museum Association, told the audience the museum must depend on the interest and enthusiasm of the whole community to

realize the ambitions of its founders.

Fleet said it is planned to make the museum a center of space and aeronautical activity from groups ranging from model airplane makers to technical engineering societies.

He said the museum will have its own educational program to interest increasingly greater number of persons in the progress of the space and aviation arts.

MESSAGES READ

In line with its program of community service, he said, the museum will have meeting rooms to accommodate up to 1,000 persons and a dining room.

A long list of messages congratulating the museum association on its new activity was read by Councilman Frank Curran. Senders of the messages included former President Eisenhower and Gov. Brown.

Many of the messages alluded to San Diego's leading position as a city in which important chapters in aviation and space history have been written.

Pickering joined in the tribute to the museum founders

(Continued on a-22, Col. 7)

Aerospace Museum Dedicated In Park

(Continued from a-17)

and commented that museums are laboratories of teaching and learning.

The Jet Propulsion laboratory developed the Mariner.

In his address, Pickering described the many technical problems that had to be overcome in sending the unmanned Mariner II space probe to Venus and beyond.

He stressed the necessity of keeping the probe in such an attitude that its solar batteries were always exposed to the sun while its antenna was always pointing to the earth.

He said his laboratory had to use "every trick in the book" to enable it to obtain intelligible signals from a 3-watt transmitter sending from 54 million miles out in space.

He said this was the distance of the Mariner II at

the time of its last transmission, when it was well beyond Venus on its trip to the sun.

Pickering was introduced by Karel J. Bossart, technical director of General Dynamics-

Astronautics and the "father of the Atlas." The banquet was held in El Cortez Hotel.