

SCHRIEVER, '31, HEADS MISSILE PROGRAM

Aggie General Leads U.S. In Space Race



Another ICBM Rocket Success Gen. Bernard A. Schriever watches as a huge solid-fuel Minuteman ICBM rises majestically into the sky from its launching pad.

By ALAN PAYNE Battalion News Editor

Thirty years ago last May, Bernard Adolf Schriever walked from A&M with a degree in engineering to greatness and fame as chief of the U.S.'s huge Air Force Systems Command.

Now a 51-year-old four star general, Schriever commands Air Force research and development as well as most of the Defense Department's missile and space programs.

The general's success, however, came only after a long, rocky fight from an immigrant's status in New Braunfels, to San Antonio and then A&M, flight school and finally to the highest echelons of the U.S. Defense Department.

Schriever walked from A&M to a world in the depths of depression. He could not find a job in engineering and was never again to return to that actual profession.

While in high school and later at A&M, he compiled extremely high marks in his studies and finished near the top of A&M's Class of '31.

When he graduated, Schriever's only job offer was \$250 a month as a golf professional. He turned this down, explaining, "I decided I hadn't gone to college just to become a golf pro."

As a youth, Schriever had been quite competent in golf. He was reared at a golf course-sandwich stand in Brackenridge Park at San Antonio as a German immigrant.

His mother and brother Gerhard, now an Air Force colonel, came to the U.S. to join their father in New York. The father, a ship's engineer, sent his family to Texas and registered himself as an immigrant.

The family had been in Texas less than a year when the elder Schriever was killed in an accident. Mrs. Schriever took a job then as a housemaid.

Her employer built the Schriever's a small refreshment stand in Brackenridge Park and also taught the two boys to play golf. Then when the employer died, Mrs. Schriever took over the stand full time.

Ben was soon a caddy and later a player. He was shooting in the 60's and low 70's by the time he entered college, finishing most of the tournaments he entered in one of the two top positions.

Schriever finished A&M with a reserve Army commission in the field artillery and followed the military services when the depression prevented him from finding employment as an engineer.

Less than two years later, he was accepted as an active duty aviation cadet and won his wings at Kelly Field.

After two years as a bomber pilot, Schriever found himself once again unemployed because the Air Corps could not support all its reservists.

Then followed an unsuccessful year as commander of a Civilian Conservation Corps camp in New Mexico. A week after he was released he reached the semifinals of the Texas State Amateur tournament and once again seriously considered professional golf.

Schriever then got that one big break and found himself fast winging to Washington and the very top in the U.S. defense plans.

He was called back to the Air Corps for active service, placed under the command of Maj. Gen. George H. Brett and married Brett's daughter, Dora.

After receiving his regular commission he became a test pilot at Wright Field, was sent to Stanford to earn a master's degree in aeronautical engineering and then served in the Pacific, where he rose from captain to lieutenant colonel.

By the early '50's Schriever was scribed as an unpopular Air Force colonel involved in a running fight with top generals in his service. Things came to a showdown over the proposed B-52 heavy jet bomber for carrying atomic bombs and other weapons.

Schriever, with the backing of several scientists, argued violently with Air Force Gen. Curtis LeMay that before the B-52 could

be ready, improvements would make the atomic bomb small enough for B-47's.

To the bewilderment of both superiors and subordinates, Schriever won his fight, the plan was a huge success and he was rapidly on the way to becoming a four-star general, himself.

The fight could easily have been the downfall of his career. His superiors admired him, however, for his determination and courage in fighting for what he believed.

Immediately after receiving command of the U.S. missile program, Schriever secured numerous top-flight scientists and mathematicians and the advanced U.S. space program was off the ground and on its way.

The hydrogen bomb was reduced in size, ICBM's became household topics, the Ballistic Missile Division was formed, the Atlas program was given the highest military priority in the nation, Titan and Thor missiles were launched, the Minuteman was a success and suddenly Gen. Bernard Adolf Schriever was on the lips of every American.

Many A&M graduates have tremendous success stories to tell, but few if any can rival the story of Bernard Schriever.

His formula seems quite simple

Speaker Rayburn Returns To Bonham From Hospital

DALLAS (AP)—House Speaker Sam Rayburn, ill with incurable cancer, left Baylor Hospital today and returned to his home at Bonham.

The 70-year-old speaker entered the hospital here Oct. 2 complaining of a backache, which he then

attributed to lumbago. Physicians later diagnosed his illness as widespread and incurable cancer.

The team of doctors attending Rayburn issued this medical bulletin at 6 p.m. Monday:

"Mr. Rayburn has had a relatively comfortable day. As announced in the news bulletin this morning, Mr. Rayburn received chemotherapy today. The drug was FUDR. There has been no major change in his condition.

"It is too early to determine the extent of improvement in his condition as a result of the treatment to date. It may be several weeks before beneficial effects of the treatment may be apparent.

"Although the doctors at Baylor have not changed their recommended course of treatment presently being administered and contemplated for the future, the family has decided to return Mr. Rayburn to Bonham, feeling that the paramount consideration at this time is deference to the desire of the speaker to return to his home."

Holton issued a statement from the family of the speaker. It said that "in making this decision to return him to Bonham, the determining factor was the speaker's often expressed desire to end his days among, in his words,

"Those friends and neighbors who for so long have given me a love and a loyalty unsurpassed in any annals."

Aggie Debaters To Open Season In Fort Worth

The A&M Debate Club will open its forensic season this weekend with a visit to Fort Worth for the annual TCU Debate Tournament.

The Aggies will enter four teams in the contest, which will include over 100 teams from nine states.

The subject this year is Resolved, That Labor Unions should be under the jurisdiction of anti-trust legislation."

The organization last night accepted several new members: James E. Sartain, Larry A. Heron, Tim A. O'Neal, Karl L. Rustain and James M. Roberts. In addition, this year's officers were officially confirmed. They are Robert M. Denney, president; Charles Grey, vice-president and Dick Shengel, treasurer-secretary. The Debate Club meets every Monday night in the Birch Room of the Memorial Student Center.

Engineer Meet Now Underway

Latest methods of evaluating performance of petroleum reservoirs will be emphasized at the fifth Advanced Petroleum Reservoir Engineering Course, which began yesterday and will end Nov. 10.

Information gained at the course may be used as a basis of selecting field operating procedures to achieve optimum recovery.

James W. Amyx of the Department of Petroleum Engineering one of the course instructors, said the two-week session will include 12 hours of lectures on transient flow and well performance. A total of 24 hours of lecture and computation will be devoted to recovery methods, 32 hours to reservoir performance and eight hours to application of digital computers to reservoir engineering problems.

The first session opened at 8 a. m. yesterday in the W. T. Doherty Petroleum Engineering Building.

A limited number of openings is available both in the upcoming course and the spring offering slated March 5-16, 1962.

Representatives from 113 major

and independent oil companies, along with others, are scheduled to attend. They include oil people from Indonesia, Canada, California, Oklahoma, Texas, Mississippi and Colorado.

Other instructors at the short course are Robert L. Whiting and D. M. Bass Jr. of the Department of Petroleum Engineering.

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