



Is this January?

staff photo by Octavio Garcia

Kirk Baird takes advantage of the unseasonably warm weather during the weekend and gets some running in. Baird, an accounting senior from Sherman, was on what he called a "short" nine-mile run.

Tight budget brings ideas

NASA to try new probes

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Faced with a tight budget for the foreseeable future, the space agency is designing an economy class of solar system probes that will be able to go to a variety of places and do one job at a time.

The new spacecraft, planned to fly in the 1990's, will be called Mariner Mark II, after the highly successful Mariner series that explored Mars, Venus and Mercury in the 1960's and early 1970's.

The plan is to build these new interplanetary cruisers with existing technology and use any advances that come along to reduce costs rather than expand

capabilities as has been the practice for past spacecraft going to the planets.

Marcia Neugebauer, acting manager of the development project at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif., said the goal is keep mission costs between \$150 million and \$300 million in 1982 dollars. This compares with costs ranging up to \$2 billion in today's dollars for the four-spacecraft Viking 1 and 2 missions in 1975.

In previous National Aeronautics and Space Administration planetary missions, the emphasis was on improved performance with each mission returning greater

amounts of more sophisticated information than its predecessors.

"Today, because of severe economic restraints, the outlook is different," Ms. Neugebauer said in the Feb. 4 issue of Science magazine.

The missions being considered for the economy space probe range include Mars and Saturn orbiting flights, encounters with comets and asteroids, flights to send probes into the atmospheres of Saturn's moon Titan and the planets Uranus and Neptune, and even an attempt to return comet samples to Earth orbit.

The space shuttle will be used

to launch the Mariner Mark II spacecraft. A rocket attached to the probe will give it the push needed to go from Earth orbit to its far-off target.

The spacecraft will be assembled in modules around a central nerve center module which will be easy to rig the basic sign for a variety of different jobs.

Many of the missions under consideration require long duration flights, lasting up to years so reliability will be important in spacecraft design. Neugebauer said the probe would have to be able to carry itself for many days at a time without commands from Earth.

Willie gets tribute for benefit concert

United Press International
DENVER — Willie Nelson got a big thank you Tuesday from Pueblo area lawmakers who said they could easily understand why the country and Western singer with a "straggly beard" and "well-worn jeans" was so well-received by people across the nation.

The lawmakers introduced a tribute in the Colorado Legislature to praise Nelson for the benefit concert he performed at McNichols Arena in Denver Monday night. It drew 16,000 fans and netted the Colorado State Fair in Pueblo an estimated \$55,000 to \$60,000.

Nelson, a Texan who owns a home near Evergreen, Colo., gave up his standard fee of \$50,000 in order to perform the benefit after he learned of financial problems the State Fair was suffering.

A tribute honoring Nelson was introduced by Sens. John Benoit and Harvey Phelps and Reps. Bob Leon Kirscht, Stan Johnson, Leo Lucero and Larry Trujillo Sr., all of Pueblo.

"We wanted to thank him and felt this was a good way to do it," Benoit explained.

The tribute begins by describing Willie Nelson as "what can be said that hasn't already been said — musical impresario, lyricist, musician, actor, writer, megaword winner — a legend in his own time."

The tribute states that no other entertainer in recent history has probably exerted more influence in the field of country-pop music.

"From his straggly beard to his well-worn jeans (not forgetting his famous headband and diamond earring), he has been emulated, imitated, adored and idolized by every strata of society and every age group," the tribute claims.

"Recognizing the quality of life within the state of Colorado, Willie Nelson is a bona fide landowner and citizen of our state. To display his interest and concern for the monetary shortfall of our State Fair, Willie Nelson has donated his time to appear in concert to benefit the Fair."

Newport ship sales up

United Press International
NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — For the second year in a row, Newport News Shipbuilding Co. said it made more than \$1 billion in sales.

The yard's 1982 sales reached \$1.3 billion, up 19 percent from 1981 sales of \$1.1 billion, shipyard officials said.

Operating income increased 35 percent to \$111 million from \$82 million in 1981, the fourth year of higher operating income.

Including the December Navy contract of \$3.1 billion for two Nimitz-class nuclear-powered aircraft carriers, the shipyard had a year-end backlog of \$8.5 billion.

The Navy contract is the largest the service ever had awarded.

"We are pleased with our 1982 financial performance," said Edward Campbell, company president and chief executive officer. "Much of the credit goes to our employees, salaries and hourly paid, who have responded to the challenge of working smarter and increasing productivity."

The shipyard delivered three Navy ships and launched two submarines to the service in 1982, officials said. The Nimitz-class carrier Carl Vinson and the Los Angeles-class nuclear-powered submarines Atlanta and Houston joined the fleet from the Newport News yard.

The Los Angeles-class submarines Buffalo and Salt Lake City were launched, and the yard worked on the Nimitz-class carrier Theodore Roosevelt and nine nuclear-powered submarines.

Newport News Shipbuilding is a subsidiary of Tenneco Inc., a Houston-based conglomerate. Tenneco also announced Tues-

day that net income for 1982 and for the year's fourth quarter were up.

Tenneco chairman and chief executive officer James Ketelsen said 1982 income from continuing operations was \$840 million, up 5 percent from \$798 million in 1981.

Ketelsen called the increase "a

commendable achievement in a tough year."

Tenneco sales and operating revenues in 1982 were \$15 billion, about the same as in 1981.

In the fourth quarter of 1982, income from continuing operations was \$278 million, up 9 percent from the 1981 figure of \$254 million.

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