

The Midland Reporter-Telegram

Same Old Story

Partly cloudy, continued warm and humid through Friday. Southerly winds late Thursday, 10 to 15 miles an hour.

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Surgeon Says Flight To Moon Possible In This Generation

It's conceivable man successfully may complete an outer space flight to the moon in this generation.

A noted medical authority on space flight, Dr. James G. Gaume, said here Thursday it's possible a trip to the moon can be completed in the not too distant future.

"But I'm not saying just how long it will be," cautioned Dr.

ship in space. It is closed off completely from outside air.

"It supplies its own oxygen, and removes waste products by chemical means," said Dr. Gaume. "And recirculates body moisture to cool and condition the cabin, at the same time, purifying it for drinking water."

Dr. Gaume has been with the Air Force School of Aviation Medicine research team since last January. He formerly practiced medicine in Ellinwood, Kan.

He is a veteran of World War II, where he served as a flight surgeon. Dr. Gaume spent some time in North Africa, Italy and Indochina.



Dr. James G. Gaume

Gaume, speaking to Midland Rotarians in Hotel Scharbauer.

"Man already has ascended to 90,000 feet in a balloon," he pointed out, "and suffered no ill effects. The rocket powered research airplane, the X1A also has attained that altitude."

"But too often people think of space flights as fantastic, or that it's too far off ever to be completed. That's not so," Dr. Gaume continued at the club's weekly noon luncheon meeting.

"That's where space medicine enters the picture. Space medicine is the solution to problems that man will have to encounter to survive in an out-of-space flight," said the 40-year-old research associate.

He told the Rotarians that balloons are being used to attain such high altitudes to obtain equivalence data.

"This gives us the exhibits of problems found in true space outside the atmosphere," he said.

Gaume told of a 19-year-old airman who recently made a simulated flight one-third the distance to the moon.

"It was on the ground," he said, "in a unique space cabin simulator at the Air Force School of Aviation Medicine near San Antonio."

"The young airman spent 24 hours in a hermetically sealed cabin. It was the first time a person ever spent that much time in the cabin," Dr. Gaume said.

He pointed out that the simulator roughly is the size and shape of a furnace, designed to produce experimentally the same climatic conditions that a flyer would meet