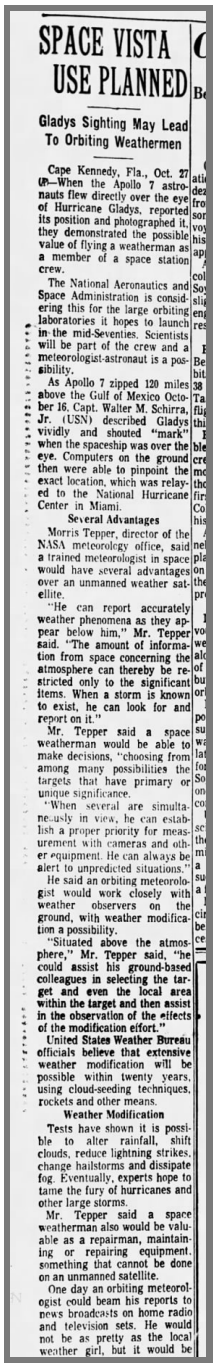

SPACE VISTA USE PLANNED

Gladys Sighting May Lead To Orbiting Weathermen

Cape Kennedy, Fla., Oct. 27 (AP)—When the Apollo 7 astronauts flew directly over the eye of Hurricane Gladys, reported its position and photographed it, they demonstrated the possible value of flying a weatherman as a member of a space station crew.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is considering this for the large orbiting laboratories it hopes to launch in the mid-Seventies. Scientists will be part of the crew and a meteorologist-astronaut is a possibility.

As Apollo 7 zipped 120 miles above the Gulf of Mexico October 16, Capt. Walter M. Schirra, Jr. (USN) described Gladys vividly and shouted "mark" when the spaceship was over the eye. Computers on the ground then were able to pinpoint the exact location, which was relayed to the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

Several Advantages

Morris Tepper, director of the NASA meteorology office, said a trained meteorologist in space would have several advantages over an unmanned weather satellite.

"He can report accurately weather phenomena as they appear below him," Mr. Tepper said. "The amount of information from space concerning the atmosphere can thereby be restricted only to the significant items. When a storm is known to exist, he can look for and report on it."

Mr. Tepper said a space weatherman would be able to make decisions, "choosing from among many possibilities the targets that have primary or unique significance.

"When several are simultaneously in view, he can establish a proper priority for measurement with cameras and other equipment. He can always be alert to unpredicted situations."

He said an orbiting meteorologist would work closely with weather observers on the ground, with weather modification a possibility.

"Situated above the atmosphere," Mr. Tepper said, "he could assist his ground-based colleagues in selecting the target and even the local area within the target and then assist in the observation of the effects of the modification effort."

United States Weather Bureau officials believe that extensive weather modification will be possible within twenty years, using cloud-seeding techniques, rockets and other means.

Weather Modification

Tests have shown it is possible to alter rainfall, shift clouds, reduce lightning strikes, change hailstorms and dissipate fog. Eventually, experts hope to tame the fury of hurricanes and other large storms.

Mr. Tepper said a space weatherman also would be valuable as a repairman, maintaining or repairing equipment, something that cannot be done on an unmanned satellite.

One day an orbiting meteorologist could beam his reports to news broadcasts on home radio and television sets. He would not be as pretty as the local weather girl, but it would be