

BOB CONSIDINE

On the Line



New York, June 9—The Boeing people, deprived of building the world's fastest passenger airplane, the American SST, are building the world's slowest passenger car.

Space writers were given a briefing on this celestial slowpoke the other day. It's the Lunar Roving Vehicle (LRV) which will be hoisted to the moon next month aboard Apollo 15 and go browsing over more of Lunain than all previous lunanauts have covered on foot. Lunain is a new NASA word related to terrain.

If its non-rubber tires and batteries hold out, LRV will carry two astronauts over an area roughly equivalent to the Borough of Manhattan.

The program calls for it to roam 36 miles at speeds somewhere between five and ten miles an hour, depending on roadbed. Actually, it is designed to do almost twice that distance, but nobody in the space agency wants to take a chance that something might happen and immobilize the car too far away from the Lunar Landing Module to permit the astronauts to trudge back.

"Suppose it has a flat?" a space reporter demanded at the briefing.

The patient man from Boeing explained that this was hardly likely inasmuch as the tires are not made of rubber and are not inflated. They are a wire mesh with gripping layers of flat, heat-resistant titanium for grooves. They are designed to hurdle moon obstacles as high as 12 inches, straddle crevasses more than two feet wide, and go up inclines as steep as 25 degrees.

Rochester Native A Priest 25 Years

Latrobe, Pa.—Lt. Col. Christian G. LeFrois, base chaplain of Kelly Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, celebrated 25 years in the priesthood on June 18. A Benedictine monk of St. Vincent Archabbey here, Father LeFrois was ordained on June 16, 1946, by the late Bishop Hugh C. Boyle of Pittsburgh.

A native of Rochester, N.Y., he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George LeFrois of 955 Stone Road, Rochester. Father Christian was educated at Aquinas Institute, Rochester, St. Vincent Scholasticate College (B.A. in philosophy), and Seminary.

The tires cost \$100,000 each, if you're interested. The four LRVs that have been ordered cost \$38,000,000, not including the equipment that will be heaped on them — such as color TV for transmissions back to Grogan's Bar and Grill on Third Avenue and electronic devices that will enable the wandering astronauts to find their way back to their home-away-from-home during their three lunar spins.

Another reporter at the briefing — where do they find these guys? — asked about "the dead man's hand on the throttle." The guy from Boeing said, in effect, "Well, we don't believe the driver or the guy riding shotgun on the LRV will drop dead. If the driver does, the vehicle will continue on its course. There is no automatic shutoff. If he is making a turn, and dies, the wheels will adjust themselves and the vehicle will come back on line."

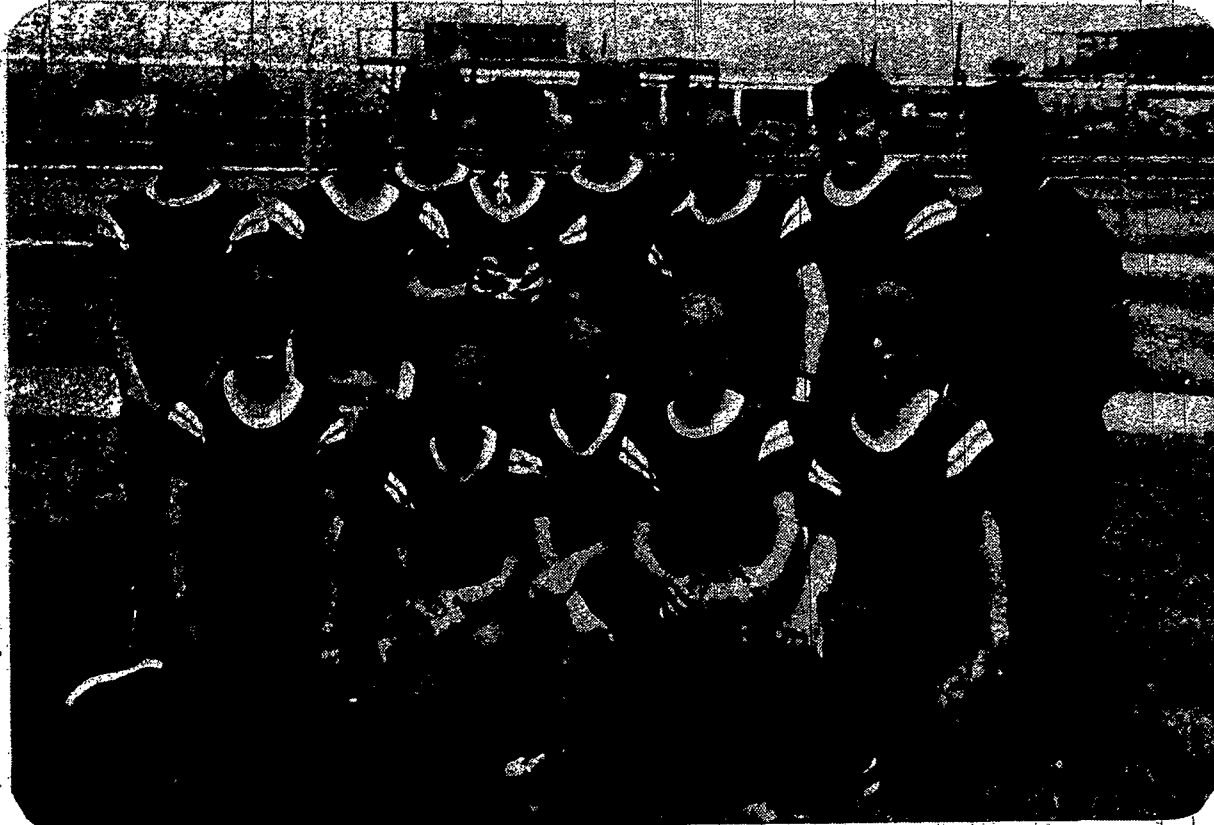
It didn't please the reporter. "Suppose they are bumped out of the vehicle?" he asked, relentlessly.

"Well," the man answered, "that doesn't seem very likely because they'll be wearing seatbelts, even at that slow speed. But if they are, well, it goes so slow that they could run it down, hop aboard, and take charge again."

Countless millions of viewers here and abroad will see three trips involving the LRV. If all goes well, they will see (in glorious color) the awesome depths of a lunar rill that may have been the result of a volcanic flow that would pale Grand Canyon. The little runabout is scheduled to nuzzle up to abrupt lunar mountains as high as 12,000 feet.

En route to the moon, the LRV will fold up like an embryo and fit snugly into hardly half the space of your station wagon baggage compartment. It will be able to withstand temperatures twice as cold as the Antarctic and twice as hot as the Sahara.

Resale value? Well, the man didn't go into that.



St. Andrews Wins Softball Championship

St. Andrews defeated Christ the King, 7-4, to win the 1971 CYO Softball League. Earlier St. Andrews had posted a 6-0 record to win the Blue Division. Christ the King copped

the Red Division in a three-way playoff with Our Lady of Mercy and St. Rita's. A late-

inning rally provided Andy Campanaro's fine team with the margin of victory.

Pilgrimage Set To St. Anne's

A pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre, Canada, leaves Clyde Saturday, August 14. It will visit Our Lady of the Cape on the Feast of Assumption. Visits are also scheduled to St. Joseph's, Our Lady of LaSalette in New Hampshire, with a visit to Auriesville, on the return route.

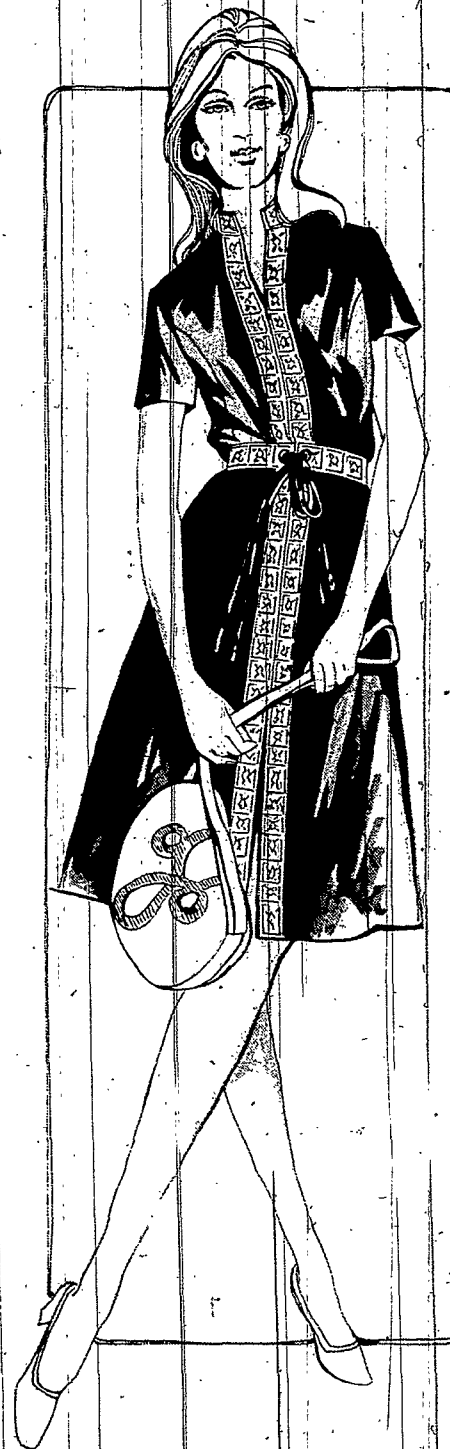
A few openings remain on the 38-passenger bus chartered for one week.

Interested persons may contact Mrs. Margaret Colasurdo, 172 Lock Street, Clyde.

CYO Readies Swim Program

Ruth Whelehan and her crew of instructors are preparing the Tiny Tot and Learn to Swim programs to begin June 28. There are some openings available.

Tiny Tots Program is for boys and girls 5 and under and the Learn to Swim, boys and girls ages 6-14. For further information and registration, call CYO, 454-2030.



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