Ryan Electronics Gets Special Space Cabinet

Ryan Electronics of San Diego, division of Ryan Aeronautical Company, has been awarded a $450,000 contract by National Aeronautics and Space Administration's George C. Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Ala. covering the design, development and fabrication of high altitude radar altimeters for the Saturn space vehicle.

Under the agreement Ryan Electronics is to develop a radar system capable of recording altitude measurements up to 250 miles. Although radar altimeters are being used in current rockets, none meet the long-range requirements of the Saturn program.

The Ryan Saturn radar altimeter will measure the travel time of a single radar pulse transmitted from the vehicle to the ocean (in this application) and reflected back to the vehicle. Weighing only some 16 pounds, the compact unit will be employed in later multi-stage firing of the 1.5 million pound thrust Saturn.

The first Saturn booster carrying two inert upper stages will be launched by the Marshall Center later this year from Cape Canaveral, Fla. Radar altimeters will not be needed in early Saturn booster flight tests where retrievals of low altitude of about 100 miles will permit land-based and shipboard track.

Saturn, a project of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration under direction of Dr. Wernher Von Braun, represents the largest space vehicle under development in the United States. It will be capable of sending payloads of several tons into orbit, to the moon, and into deep space. One of the main purposes of Saturn is manned space exploration leading to lunar landings of men and equipment within this decade.

Ryan Electronics recently announced receipt of another space electronics contract for the design, development, and fabrication of radar altimeter and Doppler velocity sensor equipments for NASA's Surveyor lunar soft landing vehicle. Surveyor, the second of a series of spacecraft planned for moon landings, involves a soft landing of an instrumented vehicle on the on the surface of the moon.

Ryan Electronics is involved in a number of space projects covering such space system problems as lunar landings, orbital control, rendezvous terminal guidance, anti-satellite terminal guidance, satellite vertical reference, gravitation control, and communication antennas.

Vets Can Get New Disability Compensation

Veterans who are disabled or survivors of those who were killed in accidents on the way home from separation centers prior to 1957 were made eligible for certain benefits by recent action of Congress, it was announced by Mort Webster, manager of VA's Los Angeles regional office.

These benefits have always existed for veterans separated after December 31, 1956, who were considered by law to be still in the military service until midnight of the day they were discharged, and in some cases even until they reached home.

Veterans separated before this date, however, had been considered to be civilians as they traveled homeward and thus an accident resulting in disability or death was not considered service-connected, Webster said.

Through the new law, Congress has made veterans, disabled before 1957 in such travel, or dependents of veterans, killed in such travel, eligible for service-connected benefits.

These benefits are not automatic, Webster pointed out, but must be sought through application. Contact representatives at the nearest VA office will explain the benefits and help eligible persons prepare their applications.

Small Tree, Large Shrub?

Certain shrubs in almost every older garden have outgrown their shrubby character to become small trees. And the change is not at all unwelcome, for some of these obstreperous numbers are most attractive in their new roles.

Certain of the Pittosporums make excellent small trees. Likewise do Strawberry Tree and our old friend Escallonia. They are especially suited to growing up against a house, since their moderate size is never overpowing and, according to the California Association of Nurserymen, their root systems seldom cause trouble with foundations and walks.

In the Pittosporum family, Victorian Box is a favorite, being of an open, airy habit with glossy green foliage and waxy spring flowers that dispense tht most heavenly fragrance. These flowers give way to small seed pots which burst in fall.

The lesser known Strawberry Tree's trunk is a lovely reddish color when the bark peels back to reveal it. As either a shrub or tree, it is extremely attractive.

Escallanias are most often though of as medium to large shrubs, but White Escallonia will definitely grow to small-tree size and rather rapidly at that. Its late summer mass of flowers is one of the big attractions, but it is the tree without flowers which you live with most of the year. And a good tree it is, forming a light, overhead canopy that never gets out of hand and needs little attention once it matures. As with all of these shrub-trees, you can hasten the ultimate form by pruning out the lower branches from the start. Conversly, you can keep them down by pruning out the tops —so take your pick.

Firm Making New Initiators

Pyrotechnic initiators with electronic circuitry are in production by Fleming Industries, Inc., Torrance, Walter H. Fleming, president announced today.

Designated Model IN-113, the heavy duty electronic unit provides a high degree of safety and reliability. The initiator contains a low brisance squib which will not fire with 250 VAC RMS applied continually but will always fire at 500 VAC RMS (700 VDC) or more.

The squib has a controlled burning rate for igniting secondary charges without detonation. The initiator is completely shielded and filtered for protection against RF and other radiation.

The illustrated unit, ¾" in diameter by 2⅜" long, is being produced in quantity for use on the Saturn space vehicle, Fleming said, and is available with a variety of electrical and pyrotechnic characteristics.

The initiator meets all applicable military environmental specifications and has been qualified to prime manufacturers' standards as well.

County Convo Set for School

"The Present Day Threats to Our American Heritage" will be the topic for speaker John Morley when he addresses the County-wide teachers Institute Session Friday evening, Sept. 8.

The opening session of the in-service education program for the year will again be held in the Whittier High School auditorium, 610 West Philadelphia St. in Whittier at 7:30 p.m.

The program will also serve as the first county-wide meeting of the American Heritage project which is giving special emphasis to "The Schools' Responsibility for Understanding and Protecting Our Heritage and for Strengthening Our Way of Life."

Morley's keen observations gathered through personal observations in the critical areas of the world will be of great value to all in reaching the objectives of the project.

Although institute sessions are usually of particular interest to those engaged in educational work, this program will be of special significance, thus a cordial invitation to attend is extended to all interested.