

# Astronauts sent station's new railcar down track

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Astronauts sent the international space station's new railcar down a short stretch of track today in the inaugural run of the first permanent railroad in orbit.

They soon encountered a snag, prompting NASA to interrupt the test. "The solution for this is probably going to involve a lot of manual commanding from the ground," Mission Control informed the astronauts.

Space station resident Carl Walz got the railcar rolling today morning by sending computer commands from inside.

The empty flatcar crept along at less than two-tenths of an inch per second, then sped up to four-tenths of an inch per second as it traveled 17 3/4 feet and then stopped, on cue, at a designated work station.

The car was automatically latching into place when a software message indicated a failure just 10 minutes into the test.

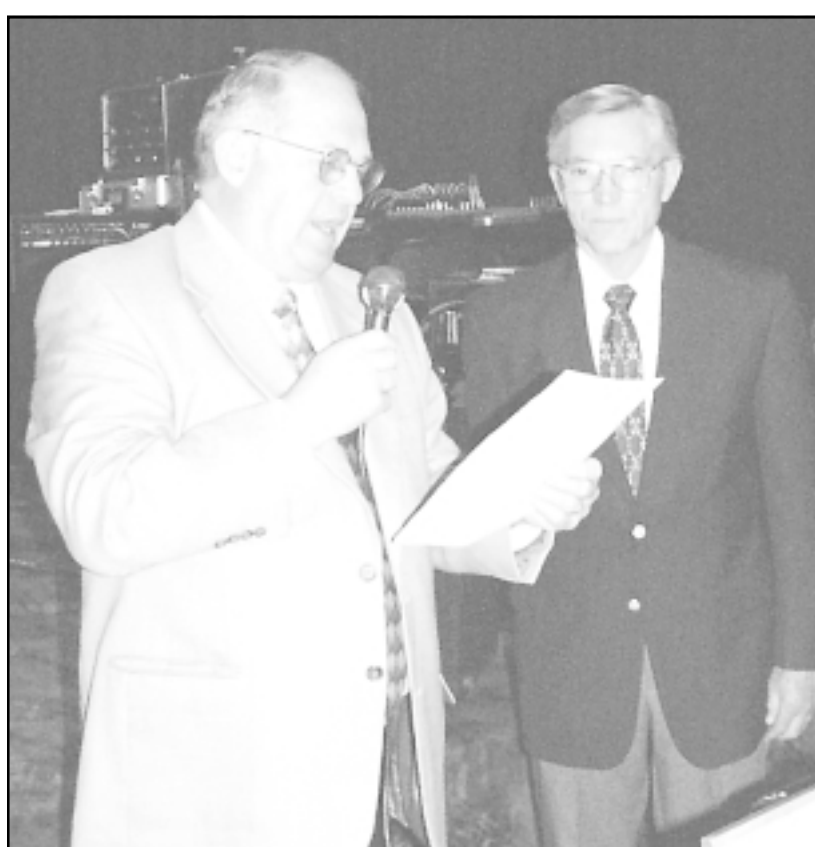
Mission Control said there was nothing wrong with the railcar. Rather, magnetic sensors on the bottom of the car apparently lost contact with iron strips embedded in the aluminum track at the work-station locations, and the software halted the latching process.

"It's believed to be perfectly aligned, just a nuance in the software and a learning process," Mission Control explained.

Despite the problem, NASA planned to move the railcar back and forth over the course of a few hours along a 26-foot section of the track that runs the full length of the space station's newly attached 44-foot girder. Most of the work was to be done by flight controllers.

Its top speed is one inch per second, but engineers did not intend to hit that.

The \$190 million railcar eventually will be used to transport the space station's robot arm from one end of the outpost to the other for construction work.



Dick Short read a list of citations Gordon Colip received during his career at the U.S. Farm Service Agency. Colip was named the Person of the Year at Saturday's annual Farm-City Banquet.

Photos by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

# Award winner was imaginative farm kid

FARM, from Page 1

1972. In 1987, he received the Administrators Distinguished Service Award when he suggested the Farmers Home Administration change its mission from "lender of last resort" to the "lender of first opportunity." This was adopted at the national level and is used today by the Farm Service Agency.

On the lighter side, Short said Colip "is a character. His dad was a farmer. He grew up on a farm. At an early age he knew about wheat, corn, cattle and pigs."

"A kid with lots of imagination, rumor has it before a family dinner he tied all of the chairs together under the table. Don't you know how proud his parents were when they went to sit down and could not get the chairs out?"

"Today he is a fisherman. He has the ability to hook a lawn chair and cast it into the water. He has the ability to have his head in the way of his wife's hook as it goes by — he can then watch his

hat go toward the water.

"He has always been there for his kids at sports activities, church and academic activities," Short said.

"He help coach softball and baseball. He taught his son how to kick the football. His son went on to play college football."

"Today he enjoys playing with his two grandchildren, Dallas and Stephanie DeLaRosa. He supposedly spoils those kids, and they can get away with just about anything with grandpa."

After being presented the award, Colip said the only thing he could say was "thank you," and that he had been surprised to receive the award.

Darin Richardson sang the national anthem while Boy Scouts from Troop 142 presented the flags. The Rev. Loren Strait of the Christian Church, gave the invocation. 4-H junior leaders served the meal.

Following the dinner, the audience was invited to a dance with the band Heartland.

# Legislators taking political redistricting lines personally

TOPEKA (AP) — Legislative leaders thought redistricting would be finished by now. It isn't.

The process, which occurs every 10 years to account for shifts in the state's population, has created strange bedfellows and further divided the Republican Party.

GOP leaders wanted the session to be the culmination of months of work on redrawing the state's House and Senate districts and U.S. House and State Board of Education districts.

After holding public hearings across the state and looking and listening to Kansans opinion both chambers started the session with the goal of finishing the remapping task by March.

The House hit its self-imposed deadline, approving a plan for redrawing the chamber's 125 districts in mid-February. But the map sat in a Senate committee for two weeks as senators tried to deal with the fallout from their

own redistricting debate.

A contentious split among conservative and moderate Republicans developed after 11 conservatives teamed with the Senate's 10 Democrats to pass a map for the chamber's 40 districts opposed by Republican leaders and Gov. Bill Graves.

"This was a predictable train wreck," said Sen. Kay O'Connor, R-Olathe, a member of the coalition. "If you disenfranchise a section of your own party, they have to go somewhere."

But Senate Reapportionment Committee Chairman David Adkins said everyone had an opportunity to participate.

"There is no reason for them to feel disenfranchised," said Adkins, R-Leawood. "They had full access to the committee process. All meetings were open and above board."

Nevertheless, conservatives' dis-

content fit perfectly with the feelings of Senate Democrats, outnumbered 30-10.

Democrats had complained from the beginning that they were not included and were being ignored.

"The leadership of the Republican Party thought they could stuff their ideas down the throat of the minority party," said Sen. Janis Lee, D-Kensington.

The coalition stunned moderate Republicans in mid-February, amending their plan into the Senate redistricting bill on a 21-19 vote.

Sen. Derek Schmidt, R-Independence, who voted against the Senate plan, called the coalition "an unholy alliance," and Senate President Dave Kerr started referring to the process as "poison."

Gov. Bill Graves vetoed that proposal, and the Adkins committee went back to work on another map. By mid-

March the coalition produced a map making a few minor changes to answer issues raised by Graves and to accommodate some moderate senators.

The Senate debated the proposal earlier this month, passing it 29-11 despite a veto threat from Graves. With two votes more than the 27 necessary to override a veto, the governor withdrew his objections.

The map passed the House by an overwhelming margin and was sent to the attorney general for review last week, with the next step an examination by the state Supreme Court.

"Democracy is messy. Nobody said it would be a tidy process," said Adkins. "While the Senate map was very hard fought, once the map passed and the governor signed it, the Senate moved on."

The Senate moved right into another redistricting quagmire — redrawing the state's four U.S. House districts.

What emerged on a 21-19 vote Saturday was a proposal backed by the White House and Republican National Committee that lumped southeast and northwest Kansas into the 1st Congressional District.

Supporters — all Republicans — said the map accomplished the GOP's goal of drawing all four districts so they favored their party and hurt 3rd District Rep. Dennis Moore, the only Democrat in the state's congressional delegation.

But the proposal was derided as grotesque and even laughable for stretching the 1st District into southeast Kansas.

The House plans to take up the map when legislators return to the Capitol on May 1.

House members could accept the Senate's amendments or send the bill to a joint conference committee, where negotiators would try to draft a com-

promise.

Some House members, including Republicans, are concerned about the Senate's congressional map.

Rep. Doug Mays, a member of the House Redistricting Committee, said he worries that the Senate plan pays too much attention to Moore.

"My biggest concern is that so much attention is being given to defeating Dennis Moore that we would put Congressman Ryun in danger," said Mays, R-Topeka. Republican Jim Ryun represents the 2nd District.

Mays said the House has been unaffected by the divisions that redistricting caused in the Senate and has met its goals. The plan for redrawing Kansas House districts is before the Supreme Court.

"The Senate has had its own problems," he said. "Had the Senate been able to resolve those, we would have been done by now."

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