

He Wanted To See The Far Side Of The Moon

By GEORGE KITCHEN
Canadian Press Staff Writer
WASHINGTON (CP)—The head man of the United States earth satellite program is a soft-spoken one-time Halifax school boy who long has harbored a quiet curiosity to see the far side of the moon.

Chances are, if the U.S. puts enough money and effort into its satellite operations, he'll get his wish in the not-too-distant future. He is Dr. John Peter Hagen, 49-year-old astronomer who grew up in Nova Scotia, emigrated to Boston with his family 30 years ago, ditched a budding law career for science part-way through college and was picked out of relative obscurity in 1955 to direct the U.S. Navy's satellite operations.

MOON NEXT STEP
Since then, he has become a "name" figure in the U.S. scientific fraternity. In the process, he has experienced frustration, disappointment and, finally, jubilation when on March 17 his efforts put aloft Vanguard I, official U.S. entry in the 1957-58 International Geophysical Year satellite sweepstakes.

As director of the original Vanguard project, under navy auspices, Hagen heads the official U.S. satellite program, although the army later came in with a program of its own and actually got a satellite in orbit—Explorer I—two months ahead of Hagen's Vanguard.

With his satellite program under way, Hagen now believes the "next logical step" would be to orbit a satellite as far as the moon. It would depend on the willingness of the country to go ahead with research, but he thinks it certainly could be done within a year or so.

With sufficient tools, he said in an interview, a satellite going up that far could be captured by the moon and become a satellite of the moon itself. More important, it could photograph the far side of the moon—something mankind has never seen.

Hagen confessed that he, like other astronomers, has what he calls an "intellectual" curiosity about the far side of the moon. "We would learn a lot about the moon by seeing it all way around," he said. "We'd learn its real dimensions and its shape. Right now, for instance, we don't know whether it bulges out on the other side."

WANTS TO GO BACK
A native of Amherst, S., Hagen has been called a prime example of the Canadian practice of exporting raw materials for manufacturing into finished products abroad.

Saint John and Moncton, N.B., until the family moved to Halifax in 1917. He now considers Halifax his boyhood home since he received much of his basic education there, attending Joseph Howe and LeMarchant public schools and, later, Bloomfield High School.

In 1928, the family moved to Boston and it is one of John Hagen's keenest regrets that he never has been able to find time to revisit the Maritime provinces, though he has from time to time been to Ottawa on scientific missions.

"The closest I've ever been to Nova Scotia since my school days has been in an airplane—flying overhead to or from Europe," he said. "I keep intending to go back for a visit but, somehow, a scientist doesn't find too much time for vacations."

Since he took over the Vanguard project in 1955, Hagen has spent up to 16 hours a day, including weekends, directing the intricate, complex problems involved in stepping into space. He customarily carries his lunch in a black dinner pail so as not to lose time.

SWITCH TO SCIENCE
A man of gentle humor, Hagen said his recollection was that Nova Scotia is "just about populated with Hagens." His parents, John Thomas Hagen and the former Ella Fisher of Port Mouton, N.S., now live in Dorchester, Mass., but make periodic trips back to the Maritimes to visit their many relatives.

Hagen, a U.S. citizen by virtue of his parents having taken out citizenship papers when he was a minor, recalled that he always had majored in science, even as a youngster in Halifax, but had made a legal career his professional goal.

He studied law at Boston University but switched to science when Wesleyan University in Connecticut offered him a job as a teaching assistant in physics. The Depression was deepening rapidly and, Hagen said, a ready-made salaried job as a teacher looked more inviting to him than the prospect of hanging out his law shingle for clients who might never come.

He pitched wholeheartedly into

science at Wesleyan, taking his Master's Degree in 1931. He spent two years in graduate work at Yale and, in 1935, joined the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory on the outskirts of Washington. He experimented with radar in the 1940s, received a doctor's degree in astronomy at Washington's Georgetown University in 1949 and then turned his attention to radio astronomy.

It was from the naval laboratory, where he was superintendent of the atmospheric and astrophysics division, that the United States government selected him three years ago to take charge of its earth satellite program.

NOT A RACE
As director of that Vanguard project, Hagen was responsible for getting the first U.S. satellite aloft. Last October, months before he was ready to attempt his first launching, the Soviet Union beat him to the punch with its successful firing of Sputnik I.

But it was characteristic of John Hagen, who says he never viewed the program to launch earth satellites "as a race," that

once bested in his own effort he should turn with equal vigor to obtaining every possible ounce of scientific information from that first Soviet satellite.

He gathered his scientists around him, set them to work and within less than 48 hours was able to announce that he had "a picture" of the Soviet satellite.

U.S. prestige abroad was badly shattered by the Soviet success and the pressure was on Hagen to equal or better it. He stepped up his timetable and tried to get Vanguard I off the ground Dec. 6. It fizzled and American pres-

tige slumped a few more points. He tried again Feb. 5 and produced another flop. Meantime, the U.S. Army stepped in Jan. 31 and successfully put its own satellite, Explorer I, into orbit.

BIGGER SPHERES COMING

On March 17, sporting a glowing St. Patrick's Day tie (though he says he's Irish in name only), Hagen sat in his laboratory in the Vanguard control centre and heard the glad news that Vanguard I was successfully in space.

True, it was only grapefruit size—and sour grapefruit at that, the Russians said. But it is the

forerunner of seven larger spheres all designed to probe the outer reaches of the earth's atmosphere and contribute greatly to man's knowledge of near and outer space.

Hagen lives in suburban Arlington, Va., with his wife, whom he met while studying in Boston, and their two sons, both of whom have shown an intense interest in science but not as yet in space and celestial signals.

BIG INDUSTRY

On the average, 40,895 Europeans and 327,000 natives are on the job every day in South African gold and uranium mines.

Sees Need For New Category Of Relationship

NEW YORK (CP)—The World Telegram and Sun says editorially Canada and the United States should develop a "new category of relationship," perhaps including a free trade agreement.

Commenting on President Eisenhower's forthcoming visit to Ottawa and a recent congressional report on Canadian-U.S. relations, the newspaper says: "We hope this is the first of a

series of events that will show our Canadian friends we don't take them for granted."

Calling then for a new relationship, it says: "For 13 post-war years Americans have preached, and often pressed, West Europeans to unite—to tear down economic, financial and political frontiers between them—despite their different cultures, languages, economies, etc."

"Why not follow some of our own advice?" "Why shouldn't there be a free trade area between the United States and Canada?" "We hope Gen. Eisenhower will use his July visit to set the fears

of our Canadian friends at rest by outlining 'a new category of relationship' both countries can afford. Neither of us can afford even the petty irritations which have arisen."

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