

New Nortronics Tracking Device Proves Successful

Assignment TV

By **TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY**

The big question faced by young people since time began is: "What am I going to be when I grow up?" Recently I met with a young woman who solved that problem a long time ago. Her name is Patty Duke. She considers herself fortunate because since the age of eight she has known she wanted to become an actress.

Five years later, after rigorous training, she won the choice role of the young Helen Keller in "The Miracle Worker" on Broadway and was given the honor that all performers dream of receiving—her name above the title of the show. She was awarded an Oscar for the film role and became the most highly praised actress for her age in theater history.

Today, at 18, Miss Duke has a television series of her own, and this time her name is the title. "The Patty Duke Show"—TV's highest compliment. After such big-time honors in the theater, to do a TV show must indeed seem to be what Sheilah Graham calls "the small time."

Actually, it's not bad at all. What other small girl has been allowed to grow through that awkward period when she's too old for toys and too young for boys with an audience of 15 million, plus a piece of the profits? Even little Margaret O'Brien was whisked out of sight during THAT time.

MISS DUKE is pleasant and polite and expresses herself intelligently. She is nice looking, but plain and her mouse-colored hair, which has been lightened slightly for the TV cameras, is arranged without much style or imagination. But she has something which is more important than beauty. She has talent.

"People don't recognize me on the street very often," she said a little wistfully.

Certainly her personal life to date seems to have been secondary to her career. She lived her early life on New York's East Side. At the age of eight years she came to the attention of an acting coach named John Ross and his wife.

"I'll never forget that first meeting," she said. "I couldn't see how they saw any possibilities in me. I was just a wide-eyed, skinny kid with a do-it-yourself haircut and the dreadful handicap of the dead-end-and-doze New York accent. During those early years Mr. Ross worked with me for hours every day. They were the only ones who believed I could act."

SHE HAD THE advantage of growing up during a time when television was a paradise for actors. There were at least a dozen big dramatic series with a new play every week. Her first role was on "Armstrong Circle Theater." And during the next few years she appeared in 50 live television dramas. When the opening came for a young actress to play the powerful part of the deaf mute in "Miracle Worker," she was ready.

Ross, who looks more like a fight manager than an acting coach, is her constant adviser and companion. Miss Duke lives with the Rosses and has for some time. It is said that her father has not seen her for years, and she is estranged from her mother. The Rosses have been her inspiration and her shelter.

Miss Duke has never seen herself on television. "Mr. Ross says that children do not profit from watching their own performances," she said.

ILLNESS NOTED
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reminded her that she is no longer a child. "I still don't watch myself," she added.

"The Patty Duke Show" is one of the most difficult to film because she plays two roles—Patty and Cathy. This means that each scene which has both girls in it must be shot twice—once with Patty talking to Cathy's stand-in and again with Cathy reacting to Patty's stand-in.

Results of a recently concluded Air Force flight test program indicate that rapid recovery of astronauts returning from space missions may be assured through the use of widely ranging airborne optical tracking stations to pinpoint spacecraft re-entry and descent.

In a series of five flights over the Western Test Range, a celestial navigation system, originally developed by the Nortronics Division of Northrop Corp. to aim the Skybolt ballistic missile, demonstrated it could accurately track the orbital path of the Echo I communication satellite.

Key to the program's success was the ability of the inertial navigation system's star tracker, which provides guidance reference by optically identifying and acquiring stars, to similarly recognize and "lock onto" the orbiting Echo satellite.

A C-131 TRANSPORT aircraft was used for the flight trackable for a maximum of only six minutes per test, the five flights produced a total of 17 minutes of tracking time by the precision airborne navigator. Ground instrumentation, which included radar and theodolite instruments, could follow the orbiting satellite for less than a third of this period.

According to Nortronics engineers, the high-flying navigation system was able to track the satellite during its brief passes over the missile test range even when independent ground instrumentation, used for measurement reference, could not.

Even though Echo I was tracked by the northrop system was against a bright, daytime sky, with Echo I on 40 degrees from the sun. Eighty per cent of the tracking mission was found to be well within the strict error boundaries established by orbital predictions generated by Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory instruments.

Specifically, the tests demonstrated that the optical star tracking device, backed up the precise aircraft location information from the navigation system's airborne computer, can provide the important angular measurements needed to accurately pinpoint spacecraft and satellites.

THE CELESTIAL sensor was able to identify Echo I by the amount of sunlight reflected from its surface. Prior to the satellite tracking operation, it functioned in its familiar star navigational mode to fix exact aircraft location for reference against Echo tracking measurements.

Northrop Northman also is currently developing for the Air Force an airborne photographic system using similar optical tracking equipment to provide precise film records of missile launch and flight at Cape Kennedy. The high resolution camera system will fly at approximately 40,000 feet during the launch operation to overcome the problems associated with cloud cover which currently inhibit ground cameras. It is expected to become operational this summer.

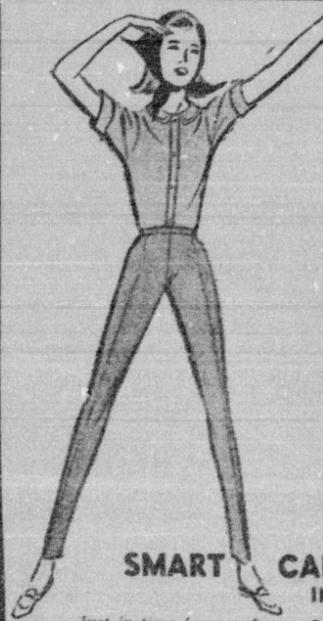
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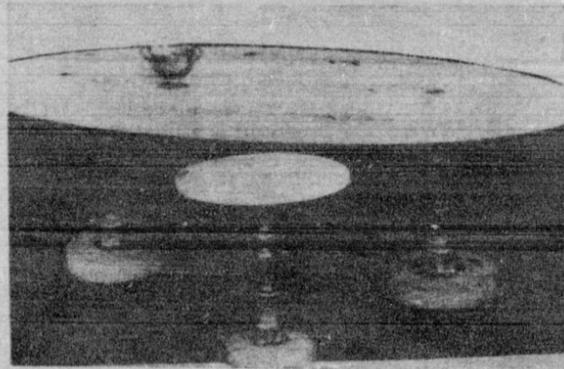
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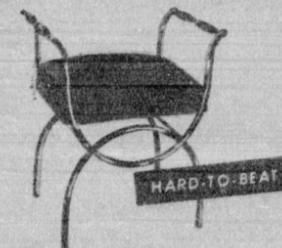


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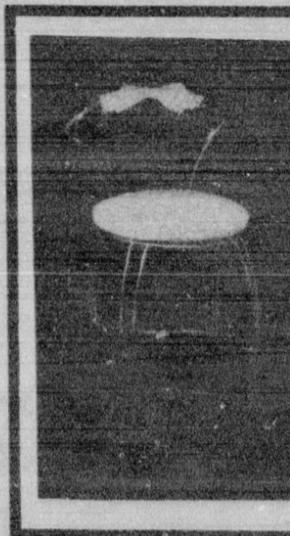


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