

# Will Conquer Space, Claims V-2 Designer

Downey, Calif., March 16 (AP). — Across the desk at North American Aviation Co.'s plant here a tall 46-year-old man with contemplative gray eyes talked of the past and of the future. Of the present, he could say nothing. A badge on his coat explained:

W. Riedel — aerophysics — propulsion.

He is Dr. Walther Riedel, chief designer and director at Nazi Germany's fabulous Peenemuende rocket plant in Pomerania. He perfected the dreaded V-2 missile, first launched on London in September, 1944. He lives here now, with his family, helping the air force build more deadly missiles.

"We in Peenemuende called the stratosphere rocket the A-4," he said. "V-2 is a propaganda name."

"It was started as early as 1937 while the rest of the world was still dreaming of such missiles. By the end of the war Germany was turning out 30 of these a day. Some 2000 were launched against England."

"Their thrust lasted only 63 seconds, but contrary to general belief they could be controlled during that period and their target fixed to an area within 1.8 miles by 1.5 miles."

"Take 39 locomotives, each weighing 110 tons. Put them in company front and roll them at 68 m.p.h. Ram them simultaneously into a concrete wall. That is the impact force of the V-2."

He said the impact was so great that 70 per cent of its 8800 pounds of metal "vaporized into a silver mist that covered the leaves of trees."

What priority did Hitler give the weapon?

"Less than that for a bathtub," he quipped. "Always lower than a fighter or a bomber. Men accept change so slowly."

Dr. Riedel was one of several thousand German scientists who elected to go with the west. Why? "Because I know the east too well." Offered a chance to come to the U. S. as a consultant in aerophysics, he accepted and has been here since 1947. His application for first citizenship papers have been turned down three times. "But I intend to keep on trying."

How about the future?

"Space will be conquered in definite stages. First, in five to ten years, there will be created a

# Entertaining Simplified In Spacious Rooms

(Editor's note: This is No. 38 in the Sentinel-News' regular Wednesday visits to the "Homes of Santa Cruz.")

By Jewel E. Woods

"Not only is your home attractive, Mrs. Ledyard, but it's so ideally suited to entertaining!"

This remark by a member, following a recent meeting of the P.E.O. at the H. H. Ledyard residence, Ledyard Acres, near Aptos, describes in a few words, one of the outstanding features of the hilltop home which is the subject of this week's visit.

It's the type of home in which guests may gather, in which relatives may congregate, in which club members may be entertained . . . and not only the guests but their hostess can feel comfortable and relaxed.

How is this achieved?

Indoors, it is provided by spacious rooms, an especially convenient dining room, through a large, extra-modern kitchen, and by a well-planned arrangement of hallways off the entrance room.

Outdoors . . . there are acres and acres of surrounding grounds containing a fully equipped barbecue (near the house), resembling an outdoor room with its high hedges on all sides of a concrete floor; there's a court for either basketball or tennis; and, on the other side of the semi-circular driveway at the front of the California Colonial house, is a

satellite that will whirl endlessly around the earth.

"In a quarter century, the satellite will become a space station where man can probably study the myriad problems of space travel. "Finally will come interplanetary flight — as sure as the 'Amen' in church."

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# H. H. Ledyard Home Has Scenic Hilltop Site

## Living Rm Has View Of Monterey Bay



well-kept area, which has the appearance of a private, rustic park.

This "park" extends down the sides of a deep ravine, at the base of which flows the Aptos creek. Natural wood poles, still covered with brown bark, were used to build the railings which edge the wide paths and rustic steps down into the tree-shaded glen, and comfortable benches have been placed at intervals.

The home, designed by Architect Lee Esty, was completed in May, 1940, on the highest point of land on the property known for years as Ledyard Acres, located about one-half mile north of Aptos on the Santa Cruz-Watsonville highway.

From the grounds—one acre covered with a pear orchard—and from the picture window in the living room, the adjoining sun room, the dining room, and the kitchen, can be seen an unsurpassed view of Monterey bay and distant points of land.

In keeping with its California Colonial architecture, the residence is furnished throughout with early

Mr. Ledyard's parents were world travelers, and among the items they purchased in foreign countries were a number of beautifully woven rugs, some of which can be seen in the above picture of a portion of the living room (looking toward the entrance hall and the dining room). One of these, an 18x3-foot runner extending into the front hallway, is handwoven from camel's hair, with an interesting pattern worked out in hand-dyed colors. Wall opposite fireplace contains a wide picture window, affording a lavish view of Monterey bay.

American or 19th century pieces, many of them antiques.

Two genuinely historical items are the polished brass andirons shown in the fireplace in the view of the living room on this page. They were made in 1753 for Gen-

eral Benjamin Ledyard, great-great-great-grandfather of H. H. Ledyard, and have been handed down from one generation to the next.

Below the bulb-and-spindle tops of the andirons are hexagon bases, and one of these carries inscriptions which give the names and years of birth and death of the previous owners. The information has been engraved in script on the smooth faces of the six-sided section. The name and date of birth of H. H. Ledyard

already has been inscribed on one of the remaining panels. Also antique are the tapestry-covered arm chairs, seen on both sides of the fireplace, which blend with other long-cherished pieces in the book-lined end of the living room, not included in the picture. One of these is a blue-covered Vic-

(Continued on Page 12, Column 2)

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