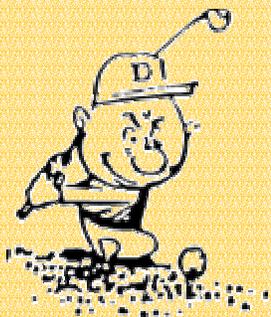




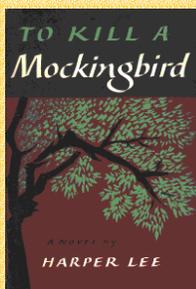
# Doodlebug Times 1961

Volume 9



*Speaking of Doodlebugs and finding oil, here are the happenings in 1961:*

- First drilling in Canadian Arctic on Melville Island
- National Oil Policy announced
- Crown Land bid system changed



*1961 Highlights:*

- Bell Labs tests communication by light waves
- Sony markets a helical scan videotape recorder
- Harper Lee wins Pulitzer Prize for To Kill a Mockingbird
- Fairchild Semiconductor makes integrated circuits commercially
- Yuri Gagarin is first man in space

## Berlin wall splits city in two

During the first half of this year tension continued to rise around Berlin, as refugees continued to flock out of East Germany, destabilizing the regime. Walter Ulbricht repeatedly asked Khrushchev for permission to take radical steps. At the meeting of Communist Party heads in Moscow on 5<sup>th</sup> August, he finally got what he wanted – closure of the border between East and West Berlin.

Two days later, Khrushchev announced in a radio broadcast that this "handy escape route" via West Berlin absolutely had to be closed. This disturbing news instilled "fear of the closing door" among would-be escapees, and a further upsurge in the number of refugees – over four thousand on 12<sup>th</sup> August

alone!

Operation "Wall of China" began at around 4 p.m. on 12<sup>th</sup> August, when orders to close the border were signed. 40 kilometres (25 mi.) of barbed wire and thousands of posts were stored in barracks. At midnight, the security services were put on the alert; East Berlin was covered by army units (NVA); 25 000 armed militiamen and the People's Police (*Vopos*) armed with *kalachnikovs* were posted at six-foot intervals along the demarcation line. By 13<sup>th</sup> August, 67 of the 81 crossing points were sealed off, soon followed by another seven. All traffic was stopped between East Germany and West Berlin. The underground and the *S-Bahn* linking the two sections of the city were no

longer in operation.

Barbed wire entanglements were placed across access points to West Berlin. Roads were dug up and barricades erected. Within a matter of hours, the entire border around West Berlin was under control.

Access to West Berlin was now barred to East Berliners and East Germans; then on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, it became impossible for West Berliners to visit the East without a residence permit.



## 1961 Doodlebug Golf Tournament

If it's September, then you know the Doodlebugs will be heading up to Banff for their annual golf tournament. 176 lucky fellows made the trek up to the mountains for a weekend of competitive golf and socializing.

Hats off to this year's Chairman, Bill Blair, and his committee for putting on a first class event. After the dust settled, last



year's Chairman, John Baxendale, won the Championship Doodlebug flight and will have his name engraved on the Hughes-Hawthorne Trophy. The low net Electro-Tech Trophy (left) was won by Wes Rabey.





Letraset is introduced

## Space Race

**April 12**

Yuri Gargarin is the first man in space, orbiting the moon once in Vostok 1.



**May 5**

Alan B. Shepherd, Jr. is the first US astronaut into space, in a suborbital flight in Mercury Freedom 7.

**May 25**

President Kennedy announces the dramatic and ambitious goal of sending an American safely to the moon and back before the end of the decade.



Sophia Loren wins Best Actress Oscar, and captivates North Americans (men anyway...)



## US commits to war in Vietnam

A summary of 1961's events in Vietnam:

**January** - Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev pledges support for "wars of national liberation", encouraging Communists in North Vietnam to escalate their armed struggle to unify Vietnam under Ho Chi Minh. John Fitzgerald Kennedy is inaugurated as the 35th U.S. President and declares "...we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to insure the survival and the success of liberty." Privately, outgoing President Eisenhower tells him "I think you're going to have to send troops..." to Southeast Asia.

**May** - Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson visits President Diem in South Vietnam and hails the embattled leader as the 'Winston Churchill of Asia.' President Kennedy sends 400 American Green Beret 'Special Advisors' to South Vietnam to train South Vietnamese soldiers in methods of 'counter-insurgency' in the fight against Viet Cong guerrillas.

**October** - The conflict widens as 26,000 Viet Cong launch several successful attacks on South Vietnamese troops. Diem

then requests more military aid from the Kennedy administration. "If Vietnam goes, it will be exceedingly difficult to hold Southeast Asia," top Kennedy aide Maxwell Taylor reports to the President and advises Kennedy to expand the number of U.S. military advisors and to send 8000 combat soldiers. The number of military advisors sent by Kennedy will eventually surpass 16,000.

**December** - Viet Cong guerrillas now control much of the countryside in South Vietnam and frequently ambush South Vietnamese troops. The cost to America of maintaining South Vietnam's sagging 200,000 man army and managing the overall conflict in Vietnam rises to a million dollars per day

