



KANSAS
at a GLANCE

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SO YOU'RE READY TO LEARN ABOUT KANSAS, HUH? WELL, LET'S GET GOING! WE'VE GOT LOTS TO COVER, INCLUDING THE STATE'S HISTORY, CULTURE, GEOGRAPHY AND ECONOMY. WE'LL ALSO MEET SOME OF KANSAS' MOST FAMOUS PEOPLE — BIG THINKERS LIKE JAMES NAISMITH, AMELIA EARHART AND PRESIDENT DWIGHT EISENHOWER. SO BUCKLE YOUR SEAT BELT AND GET READY FOR A WILD RIDE.

YOU'RE GOING TO LEARN A LOT!

History

Kansas had a dramatic history even before it became the 34th state in 1861. In fact, Native Americans were in the area as early as 12,000 B.C. As a result, the history of the state is entwined with that of the Native Americans, whose culture and language have had enormous impacts on modern-day Kansas.

Between 1541 and 1739, explorers from Spain and France came to the area in search of gold, trade and knowledge. In 1803, Kansas became part of the Louisiana Purchase, and 51 years later, it was organized as a territory that included the eastern half of Colorado.

In the mid-1850s, conflict over the slavery question in Kansas led to bloody battles between freestaters and proslavery forces. The conflict earned the state the nickname "Bleeding Kansas." By 1861, the conflict ended with Kansas joining the Union as a free state and naming Topeka the capital.

After the Civil War, the influx of white settlers and the large number of Native Americans created tension between the two groups, who were equally suspicious of

each other. Military posts were built to protect both the settlers and the Indians. Small towns, schools, churches and industries soon followed the posts, and Kansas' population began to rise.

By 1870, the Kansas (now Union) Pacific Railroad reached the Colorado line, and the Santa Fe Railway followed two years later. With the railroads came the great cattle drives, turning towns like Dodge City, Abilene, Newton and Wichita into prominent shipping centers. The introduction of Turkey Red wheat by Russian Mennonites in 1874 was a milestone for Kansas agriculture, as the wheat was ideally suited to the climate and soon made Kansas one of the leading wheat producers in the nation.

The 1900s brought mining, oil production, the discovery of natural gas and helium fields, the meatpacking industry and airplane manufacturing plants. It was during this century that Kansas changed from being a cattle and wheat state to being a thriving industrial and diversified agricultural economy.

1541: The Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado becomes the first white man to enter present-day Kansas.

1803: The United States buys Kansas from the French as part of the Louisiana Purchase.

1854: Kansas is organized as a territory that includes much of present-day Colorado.

1855-61: A brutal territorial conflict erupts between those who want Kansas to enter the Union as a free state and those who want Kansas to be a slave state. The tense period earns Kansas the nickname "Bleeding Kansas."

1861: Kansas becomes the 34th state to enter the Union and names Topeka its capital.

1861-70: The era of railroad expansion and cattle drives begins in Kansas.

1874: Turkey Red wheat is introduced to Kansas, ushering in a new era of agriculture.

1930s: A devastating drought causes much of the state to become engulfed in the "Dust Bowl."

1952: Dwight D. Eisenhower, a native of Abilene, is elected the 34th President of the United States.

1954: The U.S. Supreme Court issues its famous *Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education* decision, which declares segregation in schools unconstitutional.

1978: Nancy Landon Kassebaum is elected as the state's first female U.S. Senator.

1996: Bob Dole loses to Bill Clinton in the Presidential Election.

Facts and Symbols



Photo courtesy of Steve Mulligan

Basic Facts

Population: 2.8 million
Capital: Topeka
Largest City: Wichita
Size: 411 miles long by 208 miles wide
Number of Counties: 105
State Nicknames: Wheat State, Sunflower State, Jayhawker State
State Motto: "Ad Astra per Aspera"
(Latin for "To the Stars through Difficulties")
State Song: "Home on the Range"
State Animal: American Buffalo
State Insect: Honeybee
State Reptile: Ornate Box Turtle
State Amphibian: Barred Tiger Salamander
State Flower: Sunflower
State Soil: Harney Silt Loam
State Bird: Western Meadowlark
State Tree: Cottonwood
Highest Point: Mount Sunflower (4,039 feet)
Lowest Point: The Verdigris River (680 feet)

Famous Kansas Symbols

The State Motto

You'll need to know some Latin to understand the state motto, "Ad Astra per Aspera," which means "To the Stars through Difficulties." The phrase was first used by John J. Ingalls, who helped write the state's constitution prior to the Civil War. Ingalls believed that Kansans could "realize the impossible" if they worked through their difficulties. He stated the motto in Latin to give it dignity, and it stuck.

State Capitol

Everybody needs a home, right? Well, the Kansas government's home is the Capitol in Topeka. The grand building with the dome is full of offices and meeting rooms, which are used by elected officials. The governor has an office on the second floor. The Kansas House of Representatives has a large meeting room in the west wing, and the Kansas Senate has one in the east wing. It's in these rooms that Kansas legislators make laws.

Ad Astra Statue

What's atop the Capitol dome in Topeka? Before 2002, there was just a big light bulb up there. But today, a statue called Ad Astra is mounted on top. The statue depicts a Kansa warrior who is aiming his bow and arrow toward the North Star. The Kansa people lived in this place we call Kansas when explorers first visited.



Photo courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

Why is the warrior aiming his arrow toward the North Star? Well, in the old days, the North Star was important to explorers because it always pointed north and helped them find their way. The statue symbolizes the idea that Kansans always find their way if they aim for the stars. The statue's name, Ad Astra, comes from the state motto, "Ad Astra per Aspera."



Great Seal of the State of Kansas

The Great Seal of the State of Kansas tells the state's story in pictures. The east is represented by a rising sun. Industry is represented by a river and steamboat, while agriculture is symbolized by a settler's cabin and a man plowing the land.

Beyond this is a wagon train heading west and a herd of buffalo pursued by Indians on horseback. Across the top is the Kansas motto, "Ad Astra per Aspera." Beneath that is a cluster of 34 stars, which identify Kansas as the 34th state to enter the Union.

Kansas State Flag

The Kansas State Flag, adopted by the Kansas Legislature in 1927, is a rectangle of dark blue with the state seal at its center. Above the seal is the state crest, a sunflower resting on a twisted bar of blue and gold, representing the Louisiana Purchase. The word "Kansas," added in 1961, is below in gold lettering.

Tragic Prelude

Tragic Prelude is the most famous of the murals painted in the Kansas State Capitol by John Stewart Curry and is a vivid representation of the unrest that gripped Kansas in the years before the Civil War. Located in the Capitol's east wing, the mural centers on abolitionist John Brown and is loaded with symbolism. In Brown's left hand is the Bible, while in his right hand is a "Beecher's Bible" — better known as a rifle. Flanking him are contending abolitionist and pro-slavery forces, and at their feet, two figures symbolize the 1.5 million people killed or wounded during the Civil War.



Photo courtesy of David Mathias

PEOPLE

Athletes and Coaches



Photo courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

Jim Ryun Wichita

Jim Ryun's athletic career didn't exactly start with a bang. Hampered by a hearing impairment and asthma, the self-described nerd was cut from the church baseball team and the junior high track team and was the last person chosen for the high school track team. But Ryun soon emerged as a gifted runner, and in 1964, the lanky Wichita native became the first prep runner

to run the mile in less than four minutes, notching a time of 3:59. A year later, he set the high school and U.S. open-mile record of 3:55.3, a mark that stood for 36 years.

Ryun went on to compete at the University of Kansas as the nation's top amateur runner. He participated in three Olympic Games, winning a silver medal in the 1500 meters in 1968. Ryun also held the world record in the mile, 1500 meters and 880 yards.

After retiring from racing, Ryun operated Jim Ryun Sports and traveled as a public speaker. In 1996, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, representing Kansas' 2nd Congressional District, and served five terms.

Gale Sayers Wichita

Gale Sayers' nickname said it all. Dubbed "The Kansas Comet," the Wichita native used his blinding speed and elusiveness to become an All-American football player at the University of Kansas and an eventual Hall of Fame halfback for the Chicago Bears. When a series of knee injuries prematurely ended his NFL career in 1971, the Jayhawk alumnus embarked on an equally successful career in athletic administration and sports marketing. In 1984, he launched a computer supply business that became an industry leader in the distribution of high-tech products and services. Sayers is also a noted philanthropist and a popular public speaker.

James Naismith Lawrence

In 1891, while working at a YMCA in Springfield, Mass., a young physical education instructor named James Naismith devised a game to relieve his students' boredom during indoor winter classes. The game involved a ball and peach baskets and would soon evolve into the sport



Photo courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

now known as basketball. In 1898, Naismith moved to the University of Kansas to become a professor and the first basketball coach at the school, which went on to develop one of the nation's most storied basketball programs.

Other athletes and coaches of note include: Barry Sanders, Lynette Woodard, Jackie Stiles, Clint Boyer, Dean Smith and Walter Johnson.

Inventors and Pioneers



Photo courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

Amelia Earhart Atchison

When 10-year-old Amelia Earhart saw her first plane at a state fair, she was not impressed.

But the Atchison native soon changed her tune. In 1921, she took her first flying lesson and bought her first airplane. In 1932, she became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic

Ocean. Three years later, she became the first person to fly solo across the Pacific Ocean.

In 1937, Earhart attempted to become the first woman to fly around the world. On June 1, Earhart and her navigator departed from Florida and began the 29,000-mile journey. But on July 2, with just a few thousand miles left on their trip, the pair vanished over the Pacific and were never found. Since that fateful voyage, Earhart has been remembered for her courage and achievements in aviation and for women.

Jack Kilby Great Bend

It's ironic that Jack Kilby's desire to make things smaller improved the world in such enormous ways. In one of the most influential technological breakthroughs in history, Kilby in 1958 unveiled the world's first microchip, thus laying the foundation for the entire field of modern microelectronics and high-speed computers of today's Information Age. Although it was his Nobel Prize-winning brilliance that made him famous, it was his modesty that won the hearts of friends and colleagues. "For guys like me," he said, "the prize is seeing a successful solution." From cell phones to iPods to computers, Kilby's solutions are everywhere.

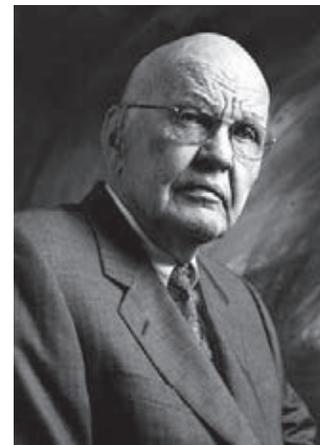


Photo courtesy of Texas Instruments

PEOPLE

Dan Carney Wichita

In 1958, Dan Carney and his brother borrowed \$600 from their mother to open a pizza parlor in their hometown of Wichita. It was a gutsy move for the brothers, who weren't even sure how to make a pizza, let alone run a pizza business. Almost 50 years later, Carney today is credited with developing a Pizza Hut empire that boasts stores in more than 80 countries and territories around the world, making it the largest and most successful pizza franchise on Earth. "I think I'm an entrepreneur," Carney once said. "I enjoy building things up or trying to build them up."

Other inventors and pioneers of note include: Ron Evans, Walter P. Chrysler and Edward J. Dwight Jr.

Television and Movies

Paul Rudd Overland Park

From the University of Kansas drama department to the big screens of Hollywood, actor Paul Rudd has won over countless audiences with his thespian talents and boyish good looks. Raised in Lenexa, Rudd studied theater in Lawrence before attending Pasadena's American Academy of Dramatic Arts on a Spencer Tracy Scholarship. He also spent a semester at Oxford's British Drama Academy, where he appeared as Hamlet in scenes directed by Ben Kingsley. Since returning to the United States in 1990, he has appeared in a number of big-screen hits, including *Clueless* (1995), *The Cider House Rules* (1999) and *Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy* (2004).

Hattie McDaniel Wichita

Hattie McDaniel was born in 1895 in Wichita and went on to become one of the greatest entertainers of her time. She was the first black performer to win an Academy Award, being named Best Supporting Actress for her role in *Gone with the Wind* (1939). She was also the first black woman to sing on the radio.

McDaniel appeared in over 300 films during her career and has two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame – one for her contributions to radio and one for motion pictures. In 1975, she was inducted into the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame and in 2006 became the first black Oscar winner honored with a U.S. postage stamp.

Other actors of note include: Dennis Hopper, Vivian Vance, Don Johnson, James Reynolds and Kirstie Alley.

Musicians

Martina McBride Sharon

While it wasn't until 1992 that Martina McBride exploded on the country music scene, Kansans knew about the little

woman with the giant voice long before that.

Raised in the Kansas town of Sharon, McBride's career began at age 7, when she performed at local dances with her dad's band. Since then, she's become one of the biggest names in music, racking up 22 Top 10 hits, six No. 1 singles and 10 albums, seven of which are certified platinum or higher. She has won the Country Music Association's Female Vocalist of the Year four times and the Academy of Country Music's Top Female Vocalist award three times.

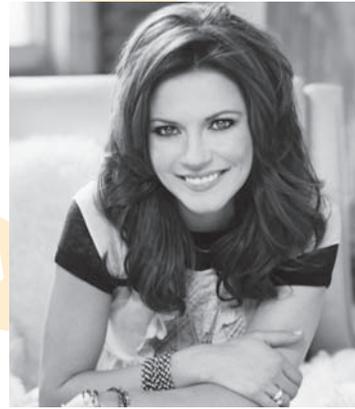


Photo courtesy of Andrew Southam

Known for her angelic soprano voice, McBride's hits include *Independence Day*, *Whatever You Say* and *This One's For the Girls*. Paying tribute to her Kansas roots, McBride's live shows often include a tear-jerking rendition of *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*.

Charlie Parker Kansas City

Born in Kansas City, Kan., Charlie "Yardbird" Parker was a jazz saxophonist and composer and considered one of the greatest jazz musicians of all time. Parker played a leading role in the development of bebop, a form of jazz characterized by fast tempos, virtuoso technique and improvisation based on harmonic structure. Parker's innovative approaches to melody, rhythm and harmony exercised enormous influence on his contemporaries, and his music remains an inspiration for musicians in many genres.

Other musicians of note include: Kerry Livgren, Coleman Hawkins and Melissa Etheridge.

Artists, Writers and Poets



Photo courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

William Allen White Emporia

For nearly 50 years, when William Allen White had something to say, Kansans listened. Born in 1868 in Emporia, White worked for newspapers in Topeka and Kansas City before purchasing the *Emporia Gazette* in 1895 and building a reputation as one of the most revered newspapermen in the country. White's output was astounding, with his countless articles, editorials and books earning him the title "The Sage of Emporia." White was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1923 for his editorial *To an Anxious Friend*.

PEOPLE

Gordon Parks *Fort Scott*

Gordon Parks was a groundbreaking photographer, filmmaker, writer and composer best known for chronicling the experience of black



Photo courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

Americans in the postwar era. Parks was the first black staff photographer for *Life* magazine and the first black to produce and direct a major Hollywood film, *The Learning Tree*, in 1969. By the time he was 50, he ranked among the most influential image makers of the generation. In 1970, he helped found *Essence* magazine and was its editorial director from 1970-73.

Other artists of note include:

Langston Hughes, Elizabeth "Grandma" Layton and John Stewart Curry.

Civic Leaders



Photo courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

Dwight D. Eisenhower *Abilene*

Dwight D. Eisenhower was a five-star general in the U.S. Army and later the 34th President of the United States. He served as Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe during World War II and orchestrated the D-Day invasion of France that rescued the

continent from Nazi control. Nicknamed "Ike," Eisenhower was elected President in 1952 and served two terms in the White House. As President, Eisenhower oversaw the cease-fire of the Korean War, kept pressure on the Soviet Union during the Cold War, made nuclear weapons a defense priority, launched the Space Race and began the Interstate Highway System.

Bob Dole *Russell*

With a record of public service spanning more than 60 years, Bob Dole stands among the most enduring and respected statesman in American history. His legacy includes a 28-year run in the U.S. Senate, which ended in 1996 when he resigned to run as the Republican presidential nominee. Dole was twice the Senate Majority Leader and once the Minority Leader, providing him a platform to fight for the disabled, farmers and a more fiscally responsible government.

Richard B. Myers *Merriam*

Perhaps nobody has had a tougher first day on the job than Richard Myers. On Oct. 1, 2001 – less than one month after the September 11 attacks – the Merriam native took over as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, making him the nation's highest-ranking military officer and the lead advisor to the President, the Secretary of Defense and the National Security Council while the nation entered an era of previously unthinkable security concerns. Myers served as Chairman until his retirement in 2005.

Other civic leaders of note include:

Alf Landon, Nancy Kassebaum Baker and Charles Curtis.

Frontiersmen and Cowboys

Wyatt Earp *Dodge City*

Wyatt Earp is best known as the fearless frontier lawman of Wichita and Dodge City and a survivor of the famous Gunfight at the O.K. Corral in Tombstone, Ariz. Soft-spoken with nerves of steel, Earp survived countless gunfights due to his extraordinary patience and resolute manner.

Thus, he was instrumental in maintaining the peace in Kansas' dangerous Wild West cattle towns. Perhaps the best evidence of his skill is that he died of natural causes at age 80 — a peaceful death typically not afforded to Wild West lawmen of his era.



Photo courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

George Armstrong Custer *Fort Riley*

The end of the Civil War saw Fort Riley assume a big role in providing protection to railroad lines being built across Kansas. With this big role came a big name — Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer, the legendary Civil War commander, who arrived at the Kansas outpost to take charge of the newly created U.S. 7th Cavalry Regiment.

Based out of Fort Riley, Custer and the 7th embarked on a campaign in Kansas and eastern Colorado. The expedition was strategically uneventful but resulted in Custer's court martial at Fort Leavenworth and one-year suspension from the Army, in part for returning to Fort Riley to see his wife without permission. Custer left Kansas soon after and was eventually defeated and killed at the famous Battle of the Little Bighorn, which has been enshrined in history as "Custer's Last Stand."

Other frontiersmen and cowboys of note include:

William Tecumseh Sherman, Buffalo Bill Cody and Wild Bill Hickock.

GOVERNMENT



Photo courtesy of the Meredith Corporation@/Michael C. Snell

Kansas became the 34th state in the Union on January 29, 1861. The state government is based in Topeka, which has served as the capital since then.

Kansas leaders have never been afraid to try new things. The state pioneered the use of the direct primary election and also led the nation in granting suffrage to women. In fact, the original state constitution guaranteed women equal privileges with men in the ownership of property and control of children, which was very uncommon at the time.

Kansas has three branches of government:

The Executive Branch enforces Kansas laws and includes elected state officers such as the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General and members of the State Board of Education. All serve four-year terms.

The Legislative Branch is the lawmaking branch. It is composed of the Senate and the House of Representatives. There are 40 senators and 125 representatives, all elected by the voters of Kansas. Senators serve four-year terms and representatives serve two-year terms. The Legislature meets annually for three months starting in January.

The Judicial Branch interprets laws enacted by the Legislative Branch and settles disputes. This branch includes the state's Supreme Court.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Kansas has a diverse economy and is the home to many big companies. The state's two largest industries are airplane manufacturing and agriculture. Other major industries include meatpacking, flour milling and the biosciences.

The variety of industry creates a healthy state economy and a good job market. Unemployment in Kansas is low, which means you'll have no problem finding a job after you finish school! The state's central location makes it an ideal site for many businesses.



Photo courtesy of Spirit AeroSystems

How big is the Kansas airplane industry? Well, Kansas makes more airplanes than any other place on Earth! In fact, more than half of the world's general aviation aircraft are produced here, which means that the next time you fly on a plane, it will probably be a plane built in Kansas. Wichita is the home to airplane companies such as

Boeing, Spirit AeroSystems, Cessna, Bombardier Learjet and Hawker Beechcraft. Thus, Wichita is known as the Aviation Capital of the World.

Kansas helps feed the world by being one of the nation's leading agricultural states. Nearly 50 million acres of Kansas land are devoted to farming. Leading crops and livestock products are wheat, corn, soybeans, sugar beets, oats, cattle, sheep and hogs.

Kansas is the leading state in wheat production, growing approximately 20 percent of all wheat produced in the United States. In fact, it would take a train stretching from western Kansas all the way to the Atlantic Ocean to carry all the wheat grown annually in Kansas. That's a long train. And a lot of wheat!

Kansas is also one of the top three beef producers in the nation. So the next time you have a hamburger, there's a good chance it will be from a Kansas farm!

The biosciences are also big in Kansas. The biosciences are a combination of agriculture, medicine and science and include industries like animal and pet nutrition, pharmaceuticals and human health. In fact, Kansas State University in Manhattan is one of the leading bioscience research centers in the world.

GEOGRAPHY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Why is Kansas called the nation's Heartland? Well, partly because Kansas is the exact geographic center of the contiguous 48 states. Kansas is 411 miles long and 208 miles wide, making it the 14th biggest state in the country. Its elevation ranges from 700 feet in the southeast to more than 4,000 feet in the west. Kansas has a great variation of climate, terrain, soil, plants and animals.

Kansas has five river systems and more than 50,000 named streams, including the Missouri, Kaw and Arkansas rivers. The state has 24 state parks, 45 state fishing lakes and nearly 100 wildlife areas.

Kansas is home to the famous Flint Hills, which comprise the last tract of untouched tallgrass prairie in North America. Hundreds of years ago, this prairie extended across the entire continent and was loaded with buffalo. But today, all that remains of the prairie is in Kansas, making the Flint Hills our state's proudest natural treasure.

Kansas has a varied climate with an average annual temperature of 56 degrees and average annual rainfall of 27 inches. Kansas enjoys nearly 300 sunny days each year (so be sure you wear sunscreen!) and is also one of the windiest states.

Kansas ranks among the top mineral-producing states and leads the nation in the production of helium, which is the gas that makes balloons float. Kansas also produces petroleum, propane, cement, salt and natural gas.

The state is also great for hunting and fishing. Hunting enthusiasts enjoy a wide selection of game. In fact, Kansas boasts the largest flock of prairie chickens on the entire continent! And for fishermen, Kansas has largemouth bass, bluegill, flathead catfish, Kentucky or spotted bass, striped bass and walleye. So cast your line and keep your eye on the bobber!

Fun Trivia!

HANG ON TO YOUR HAT!

DID YOU KNOW THAT DODGE CITY HAS BEEN RANKED THE WINDIEST CITY IN THE NATION? IT'S TRUE! ACCORDING TO A RECENT NATIONAL CLIMATIC DATA CENTER STUDY, THE AVERAGE WIND SPEED IN DODGE CITY IS NEARLY 14 MILES PER HOUR, WHICH IS STRONG ENOUGH TO BLOW THE ICE CREAM OFF YOUR ICE CREAM CONE! SO THE NEXT TIME YOU'RE IN DODGE CITY, TAKE NOTE OF THE RECORD-SETTING WINDS. AND HANG ON TO YOUR HAT!

UP, UP AND AWAY!

SO YOU KNOW THAT HELIUM IS THE GAS THAT MAKES BALLOONS FLOAT, RIGHT? WELL, HELIUM WAS FIRST DISCOVERED IN NATURAL GAS NEAR THE KANSAS TOWN OF DEXTER IN 1903. SOON AFTER THE DISCOVERY, GEOLOGISTS LEARNED THAT KANSAS SITS ATOP A GIANT UNDERGROUND DEPOSIT OF NATURAL HELIUM. KANSAS WENT ON TO BECOME A LEADING PRODUCER OF HELIUM, WHICH IS USED TODAY FOR A NUMBER OF COOL THINGS, INCLUDING BLIMPS, LASERS AND THE SPACE SHUTTLE'S ROCKET BOOSTERS. OH, AND DON'T FORGET BALLOONS.

MONKEYS IN SPACE!

THINK MONKEYS SIT HOME AND EAT BANANAS ALL DAY? WELL, NOT ALL OF THEM DO. IN 1959, A KANSAS-BORN RHESUS MONKEY NAMED MISS ABLE BECAME THE FIRST "MONKEY ASTRONAUT" TO TRAVEL TO OUTER SPACE AND RETURN SAFELY TO EARTH! JOINED BY A PERUVIAN SQUIRREL MONKEY NAMED BAKER, MISS ABLE BLASTED OFF INTO OUTER SPACE ABOARD THE JUPITER IRBM AM-18 MISSILE FOR HER HISTORIC 16-MINUTE FLIGHT. SEATED INSIDE THE MISSILE'S NOSECONE, THE TWO MONKEYS WITHSTOOD FORCES 38 TIMES THE NORMAL PULL OF GRAVITY, WERE WEIGHTLESS FOR ABOUT NINE MINUTES AND REACHED A TOP SPEED OF 10,000 MILES PER HOUR! THE MONKEYS SURVIVED THE FLIGHT IN GOOD CONDITION.

