

this is the back cover of the July 1969 edition

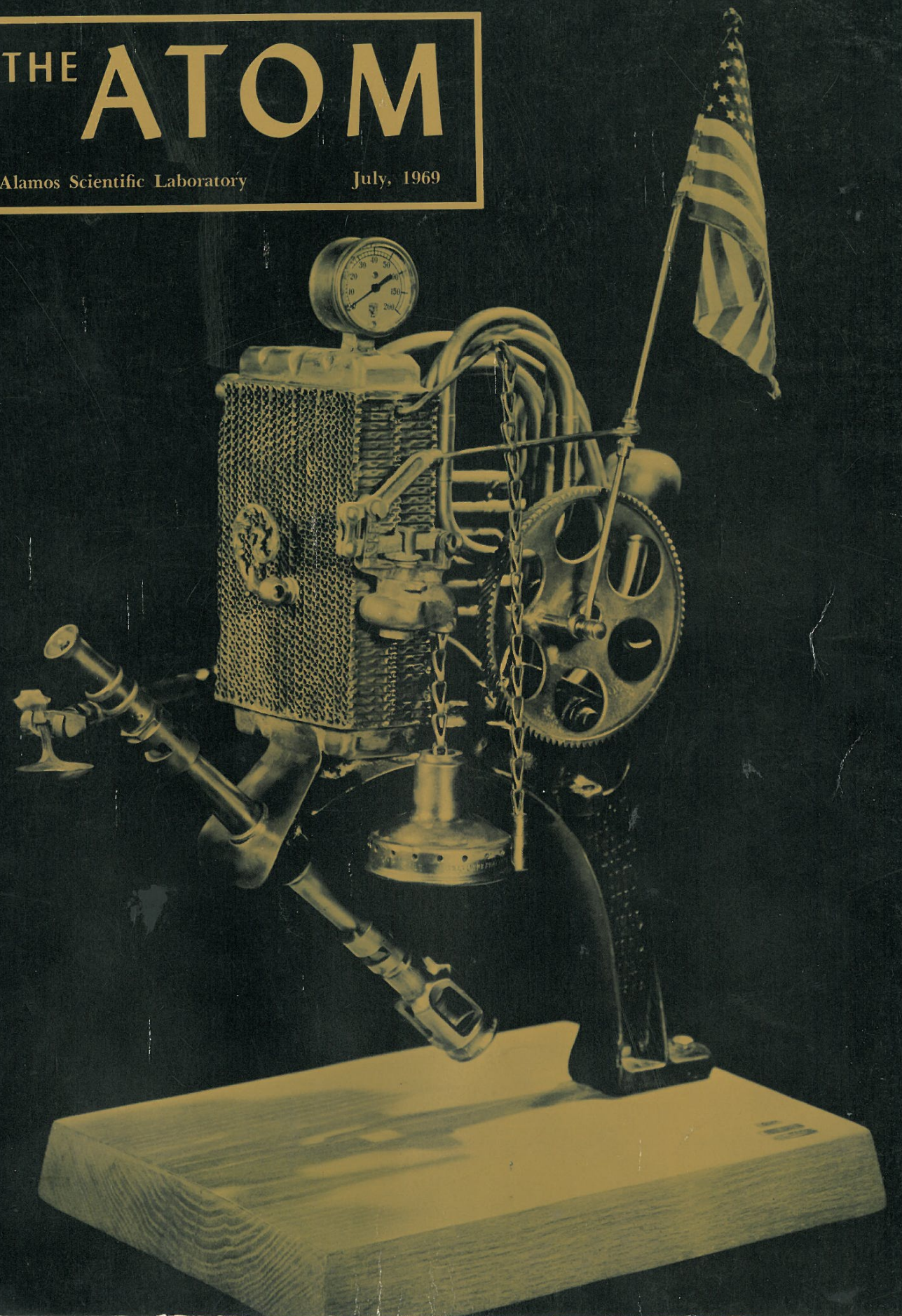
From the old and scenic Espanola Wagon Bridge, a youngster dives into the Rio Grande River. The bridge was moved upstream from near Espanola long ago. It replaced a bridge built in 1881 that was washed away by flood waters a few years later. It links Embudo and the Jemez House Boys Ranch.



THE ATOM

Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory

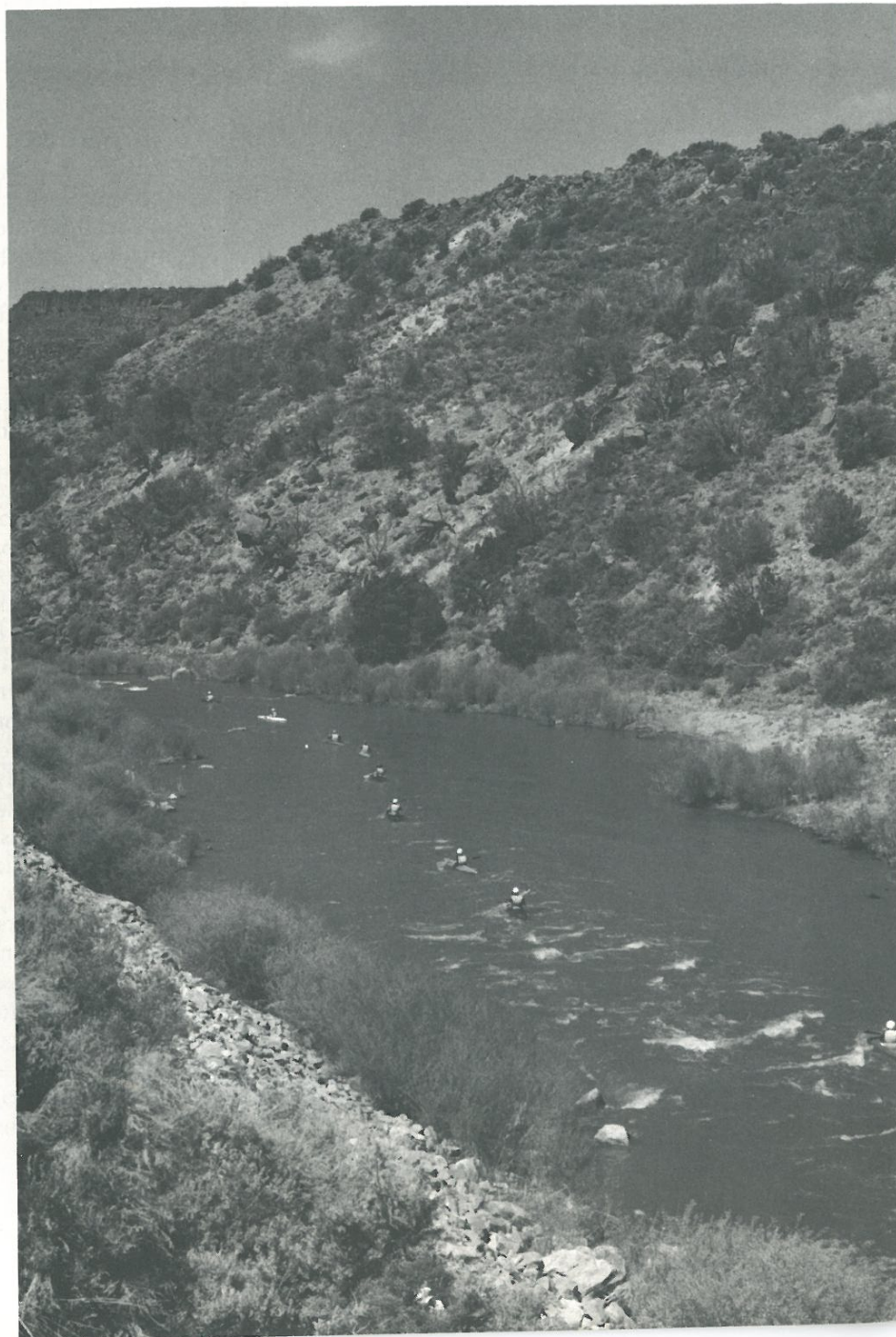
July, 1969



The Year of the "Under 21"

A morning practice run acquainted the kayak team of the Colorado Academy of Denver with the hazards of the Rio Grande. Rules stipulate contestants must make at least one trial run prior to race.

Al Grubestic and son John, Santa Fe, look over a map of the race course. They were among an estimated 2,000 spectators.



Traditional domination of the Annual Rio Grande White Water Race by Los Alamos entrants was upheld last month as the Atomic City boaters took five of six awards. It was, however, the year of the "under 21."

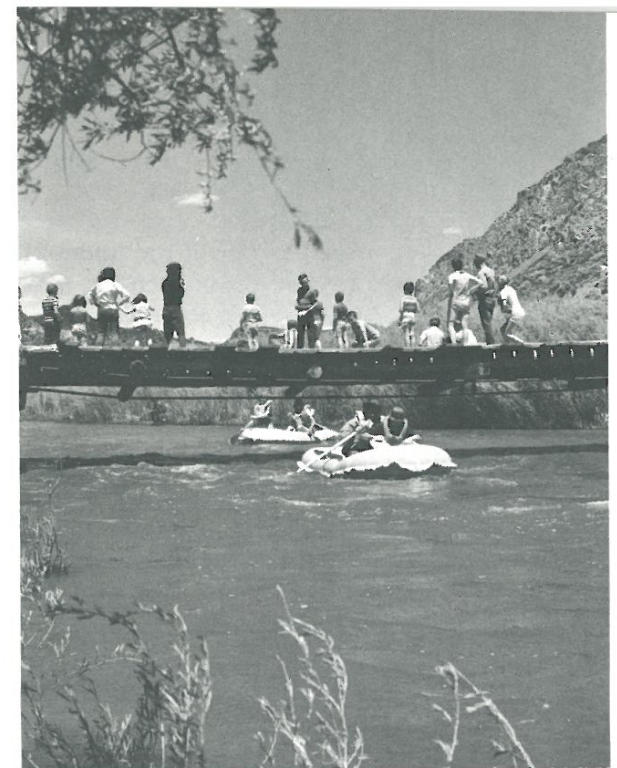
For the first time in the race's history, persons under 21, with the consent of both parents, were allowed to enter. And both the rubber raft and the kayak titles fell to these youths.

Jerry Morton, son of William H. Morton, GMX-8, and Russell Sullivan, son of John H. Sullivan, CMF-4, paddled their rubber raft through the grueling 4.4-mile stretch of rapids, rocks and whirlpools in a time of 42 minutes and 55 seconds to top the list of 22 entries. Both will be seniors at Los Alamos High School next year.

Mary Lou Bolsterli, a teacher at the high school, and Hans Ruppel, T-9, were second in raft competition with a time of 45 minutes and six seconds, and a trio, made up Edward Norris, J-11, John Martin, P-DOR, and Walter Matuska, J-15, was third with 46 minutes and 27 seconds.

Roy Cromer, a graduate of Los Alamos High School who is a student at the University of New Mexico, narrowly won first place in kayak competition. Cromer, whose father is recent Lawrence Award Winner Don T. Cromer, CMF-5, beat 10 other entries in the division with a time of 23 minutes and 13 seconds. He finished the course 23 seconds ahead of Los Alamos High School senior Hugh Turner, son of Thomas Tur-

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Ed Storms, CMB-3, with oars, and partner Martin Sullivan, a high school student, clear the low-hanging Glen Woody Bridge.



Many paddlers lost their balance as their river crafts twisted and turned in the rapids. The only one of a four-some from the Sandia Corporation maintaining his when this photo was taken is Mac Weaver, left. Others in the raft are Tim Taylor, Dave Overmier and Jim Linn.

Jim "Stretch" Fretwell, CMF-9, starts a rubber raft down the fast-running Rio Grande as Dick Glass, N-7, records the starting time.

... the Under 21

continued from preceding page

ner, MP-2. Frank Smith, another of the under-21 group from Colorado Academy of Denver, took third place in 31 minutes and 13 seconds.

Jim "Stretch" Fretwell, CMF-9, who originated the race 12 years ago said, "This was the best showing of boaters and spectators we've ever had."

The boats shot the rapids beginning at a point near Pilar, New Mexico. The fast-water race took them beneath the low-swinging Glen Woody Bridge about mid-way in the course, past a new rapid formed by flash floods last summer, through the Big Rock Rapids where the river pinches down to a width of five feet; and through the Sousehole Turn where the fast moving water makes a treacherous turn short of an irrigation diversion dam.

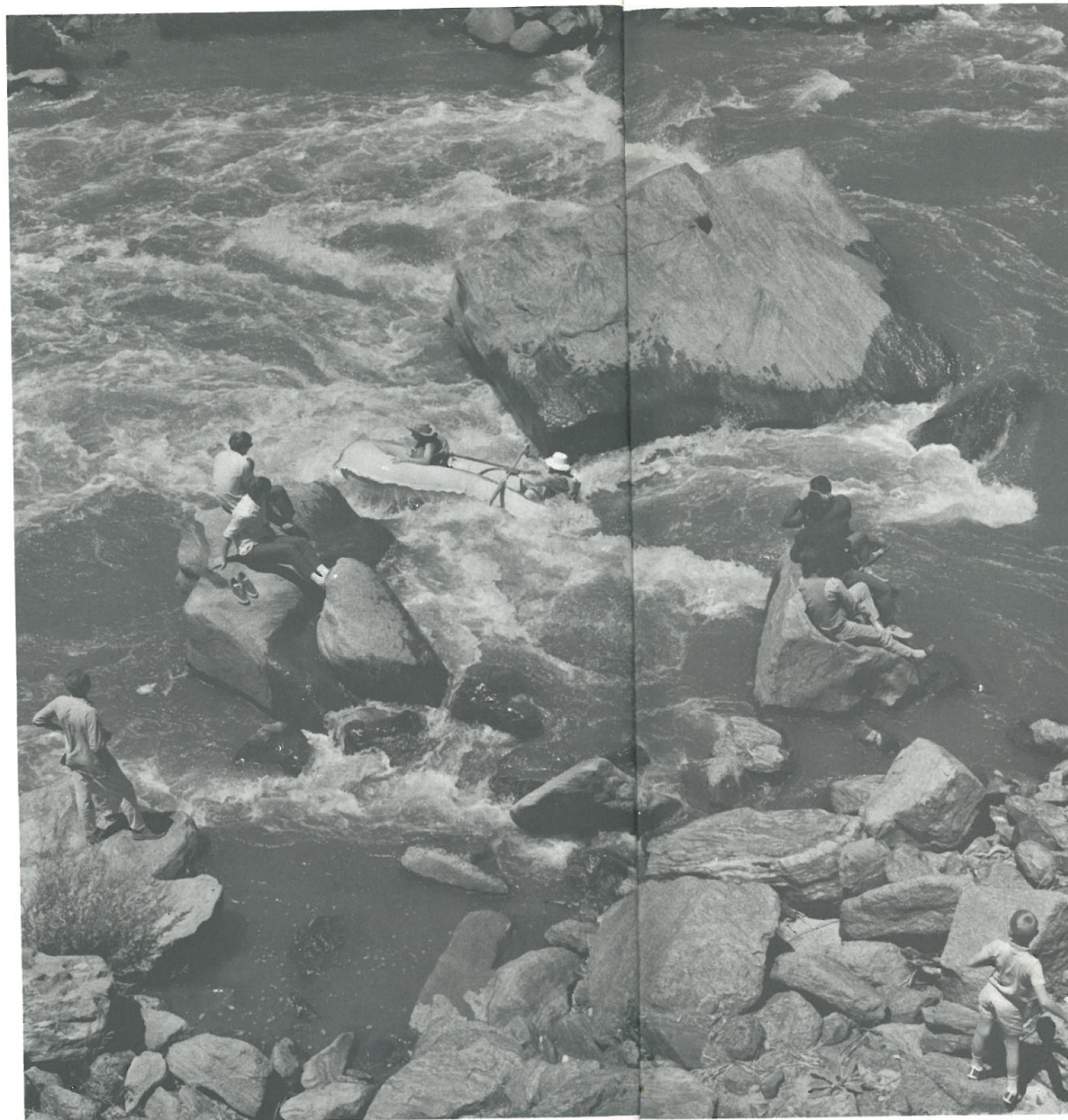
An estimated 2,000 spectators leap-frogged their way downstream on Highway 64 to watch the rafts and kayaks twist and turn through the white water.

Contestants were started at one-minute intervals in the race against the clock. Fretwell noted that record times are not established because wind, water level and swiftness of the river current varies from year to year.

Two-way radio communication was provided by the Atomic City Citizens Band Radio Club, Inc. at strategic locations along the race route to help officials in timing and identifying the contestants. Those manning the mobile radio units were also prepared to help in locating and summoning aid for stranded and disabled participants. The Los Alamos Auxiliary Fire Brigade search and rescue vehicle was on hand in case of injury.



A full afternoon of racing completed, contestants and spectators await the tabulation of results at the finish line. It was located at the Taos-Rio Arriba County Line.



Left, Mrs. Jessie (Paul) Rudnick, T-DOT, and Mrs. Laura (Bob, P-DOR) Watt guide their raft through Big Rock Rapids.

Right, after capsizing, this Denver contestant succeeded in landing his kayak before it was drawn through Big Rock Rapids. He did not fare as well as his craft however, and crawled ashore some distance below the rapids.



Above, Charles Shampine, Los Alamos Fire Department, and Tom Gregory, GMX-1, members of the Atomic City Citizens Band Radio Club, check start and finish times with Glass. Wearing hard hat, at rear, is Wendell Smith, SD-5, also a member of the radio club. Left, Jerry Morton and Russell Sullivan, in front of banner, receive the plaque for winning first place in the raft division of the race. At left is Fretwell. With camera in foreground is Ken Chellis, MP-3.