

# TO TEST CLUSTER-BALLOON

## Piccard Says Craft of Many Small Bags May Reach New Heights

ROCHESTER, Minn., July 5 (AP). —Dr. Jean Piccard, stratosphere explorer, said today that he was ready to test his strange craft of eighty small rubber balloons.

Weather permitting, he will take off within ten days to learn how the four-foot balloons, filled with hydrogen, behave in the air.

"If the flight shows they can be manipulated, we have discovered a new craft that should carry man higher than he has ever gone in a free balloon," Dr. Piccard said.

Tests at the University of Minnesota, where Dr. Piccard is connected with the aeronautical engineering department, showed that clusters of small balloons had greater lifting power in proportion to their weight than a single bag, he said.

Dr. Piccard expects to reach 2,000 or 3,000 feet in his attempt. If the flight was successful, he said, he would construct a craft of 2,000 rubber balloons for an attack on the higher rarified air.

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