

SPACE CITY COVER SOCIETY

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Space Log

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APOLLO 16 DELAYED UNTIL APRIL....Originally scheduled for launch on March 17, Apollo 16 has been re-scheduled for launch at 11:54 a.m. April 16. If all goes as planned, there will be a Moon-Landing in the Descartes region at 2:06 p.m. April 20. Capt John W. Young, the Apollo 16 commander, along with Col Charles M. Duke will be spending almost an hour longer than three days on the Moon. This will include about 21 hours roaming its rugged surface. While they are performing their duties, the third member of the crew, Thomas K. Mattingly II will stay aboard the Apollo mother ship. Full details of the mission will be published in the February 1972 issue of THE SPACE LOG.

NAVY RECOVERY FORCES TO CACHET APOLLO 16 MAIL....Listed here are the details for sending in your covers for Recovery Ship cachets and even though the mission has been delayed we would still advise honoring the deadline date of February 25. And this means that your covers must be in the hands of the Recovery Force Coordinator by that date.

The U. S. Navy's Manned Spacecraft Recovery Forces in the Atlantic and Pacific will cachet and cancel philatelic mail for the March 17, 1972 launch of Apollo 16. The special Apollo 16 covers will be processed through designated coordinators at Norfolk, Va., and Honolulu, Hawaii. From the Hawaii site, covers will be forwarded to the recovery ship. Atlantic covers sent to Norfolk will be processed through the local Post Office, which will use the standard "U. S. Postal Service" cancellation device. This cancellation will not contain the name of an Atlantic recovery ship, since the Atlantic Recovery Force composition will not include a ship with postal facilities.

To insure adequate time for handling covers, collectors throughout the world should send PRE-STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED envelopes to the appropriate coordinator before February 25, 1972. Current U. S. Post Office regulations require that only United States postage may be used on covers. Cash, money orders, or checks in lieu of postage cannot be accepted. Collectors are requested to furnish standard-size covers, 3 5/8 x 6 1/2 inches to simplify handling. A three-inch square should be allowed on the left-hand side of envelopes so the cachet may be applied. If adequate space is not left, the cachet cannot be applied to the front of the envelope without covering the cancellation or return address.

Each recovery force coordinator will ACCEPT ONLY TWO (2) COVERS PER COLLECTOR. When more than two are received, the extras will be returned unprocessed. Covers received too late for processing will also be returned. Addresses for the Atlantic and Pacific area coordinators are: ATLANTIC: Apollo 16 Covers, Task Force 140, Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Va. 23511; and for the PACIFIC: Chief-in-Charge (Apollo 16) Task Force 130, Navy Terminal Post Office, Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, 96610.

As we did for Apollo 15 recovery covers, we will be glad to help collectors out by sending in the TWO COVERS for them. But let us remind you that if you send these in yourself or through some other cover service, please do not ask that we send them in also with your name. The Recovery Forces are keeping a card file on each collector and when a total of more than two are sent in, from any or all sources, the covers will be returned to you. From what we have been able to find out more than 100,000 covers from a total of about 250,000 for Apollo 15 were returned to collectors UNSERVICED. Please do your part in not trying to take advantage of getting more than your two covers. This is a great service being rendered to space collectors by the U. S. Navy.

If you want to have us send in the covers for you, we will service them for the Pacific area only. This is due to the fact that the Atlantic force will not have the name of the ship in the cancel. Send for either one or two, but not more than two per person at 50¢ per cover. We will use a standard size rag bond envelope, address with a peelable label, 8¢ commemorative affixed and send them on to the Pacific recovery force. However, your order must be in Houston no later than February 16. This is to allow us time to do the above and get them to the coordinator by the deadline of February 25. However, we must caution you that that we cannot be responsible for non-delivery of covers as we will not have extras as we usually do with our own covers.

APOLLO 16....

APOLLO 16....Astronaut Thomas K. Mattingly watched the next to last moon rocket move to its oceanside launch pad on December 13 and said the space program is just beginning. He told the crowd of 10,000 watching the event that he recently inspected full-scale models of the Skylab and he was impressed with its capabilities. "You just can't escape the impression and belief that we have just taken our first baby steps", and he continued "I can tell you the space program is just beginning".

APOLLO 16 CREW RAPS FUND CUTS....Past reductions and rumored further cuts in the space program will save little money and cause great scientific loss, the next men scheduled for a moon landing said in a recent pre-launch conference at the Manned Spacecraft Center.

BY-PRODUCT OF APOLLO 16....The Apollo 16 space team's primary mission is to gather more data from the moon, but the most interesting information the mission will bring to some scientists will come from millions, even billions of miles beyond the lone natural satellite of the earth. This information will be gleaned from a small experiment aboard the Apollo 16 lunar landing craft about the age and composition of cosmic rays - these strange streaking bits of matter that can penetrate a spacecraft, that can pierce thousands of feet of rock. Many of these speeding galactic particles will pass into and through a series of panels that will be attached to the outside of the Apollo 16 landing craft.

APOLLO 16 LANDING SITE....The Apollo 16 astronauts will be exploring what amounts to the Himalaya region of the near side of the moon. This lunar central highlands area is "topographically the highest region of the near side of the moon" scientists said recently at a gathering at MSC. "It really isn't as horrible as it looks when you look at it at first, but it has stopped everyone when they first see it", Dr. E. O. Elston said on exhibiting a drawing of the site.

JOINT U. S. - RUSSIAN SPACE FLIGHT????

FIRST MEETING... If discussions of a docking system for manned spacecraft for this country and Russia can be moved from the study stage to space flight test, "the mid '70s is a reasonable time to think about it", Robert R. Gilruth, director of the Manned Spacecraft Center said. This was on June 28, 1971 during the first meeting of working groups from the two countries. At that time one thing agreed on was how data will be exchanged between the two countries so that work on a common docking system can proceed between the formal talks.

APOLLO 15 COMMANDER FORESEES JOINT SPACE FLIGHT.... Flanked by his two Apollo 15 crewmates, James B. Irwin and Alfred M. Worden, flight commander Davis R. Scott told an overflow audience at the National Press Club in August that he knows six Russian cosmonauts personally "and I'd be glad to fly with them anywhere". He continued, "I hope we get that chance because in this manner we can tie the two countries together. Science has a common language, and among pilots, flight has a common language".

RUSSIANS CITE NEED FOR U. S. - SOVIET SPACE COOPERATION ...In early December the Soviet government declared that the "symbolic meeting" of its Mars 2 and the U. S. Mariner 9 probes above Mars is evidence of the need of greater scientific cooperation between the two space powers. The Kremlin call for an increased exchange of data between Soviet and American scientists came less than 24 hours after the Russians announced that their unmanned Mars 2 spacecraft had glided into a wide elliptical orbit around Mars.

NASA ASKS FOR U. S. - RUSSIAN SPACE FUNDS.... While U. S. space officials conferred with their counterparts in Moscow the first week in December, NASA requested start-up money for a project that will include two such flights. The missions would be flown starting in 1974 at the earliest. Of highest priority is a flight on which two astronauts would rendezvous and dock with a Soviet Salyut space station. If this mission goes as planned astronauts and cosmonauts would join in a second mission to conduct scientific experiments aimed at prospecting for Earth resources from space. These meeting in Moscow began November 29 and ended December 7.

JOINT SPACE PLANS CLOAKED IN SECRECY.... With the return of the 14 MSC personnel who went to the Russian-American talks, permission for newsmen to interview them was not given and threw a cloak of mystery over the meetings. "Further details must await confirmation of results by the heads of the academy (Russian Academy of Sciences) and NASA within two months, an MSC spokesman said. Houston Post reporter Jim Maloney has asked for interviews with Robert R. Gilruth, MSC Director, Christopher C. Kraft, deputy and Glynn S. Lunney, chief of the MSC office of flight directors. "Interviews will not be permitted until the results of the talks are agreed upon", the MSC spokesman said. So this means that we will not have further news on this until either February or March.

STAFFORD LIKELY MISSION HEAD???? It has been rumored that Col Thomas P. Stafford who participated in the first manned rendezvous of spacecraft is preparing to command an Apollo spacecraft which may join a Russian space station. He first flew in space aboard Gemini 6 when he and Wally Schirra rendezvoused with Gemini 7. He also commanded Gemini 9 and then Apollo 10, which flew to within 10 miles of the moon's surface. He has flown 290 hours and 15 minutes in space.

MARINER 9....

Saturday, November 13, 1971 was a big day in the history of the U. S. space program as Mariner 9, the fourth American Martian explorer became the first from any nation to orbit the planet Mars. Nearly half of the spacecraft's weight was spent in braking its velocity for orbital insertion at 6:25 p.m. (CST). It took engineers and scientists at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California six minutes and 43 seconds later to know of its success....as that is the travel time - at the speed of light - from Mars to Earth, a distance of 75,014,000 miles.

MARINER EYES MARS THROUGH DUST STORM....Even though a dust storm blot-
ted out the face of Mars and continued to hamper photographic reconnaissance operations of the unmanned Mariner 9 spacecraft, some details were seen during its first orbits. These were: possible sand dunes; the Southern polar cap, shrunken by the Martian summer and divided into two parts, and some white markings low in the Southern Hemisphere that may be frozen carbon dioxide snow such as was seen by a Mariner probe that flew past Mars in 1969.

MARS EQUATOR....The early orbiting of Mariner 9, which was every 12 hours at an altitude ranging from 861 miles to 10,655 miles, confirmed that Mars has a small equatorial bulge. Radar scans of Mars from Earth showed the bulge might be there and tracking of the Mariner 9 vehicle confirmed it. If Mars were viewed from a point directly above one of its poles, the equator would be "out of round" by about a mile or two. Earth's equator, on the same scale, is circular.

EARLY DECEMBER MARS PHOTOS....A photograph showing "fantastic" detail of the 16 by 13 mile Martian moon Phobos was hailed by scientists at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory as a "fantastic achievement" for Mariner 9. The picture showed deep craters with mound-like sides, smaller flat-sided craters, desert-like areas and a general surface which at first glance looks much like earth's moon. Phobos appeared like a bizarre human skull with a huge misplaced socket. The clarity of the photograph was in striking contrast to those of Mars itself which was cloaked in a dust storm.

MARINER 9 DETAILS....Mariner 9 should be an operating satellite for at least 90 days and possibly "live" for up to a year. Once she is no longer an operating satellite, it will remain an orbiter for about 17 years. During her operating lifetime, she should deliver more than 5,000 television pictures of the planet. And with the clearing of the dust storm the spacecraft could map about 70 percent of the planet. Instruments will send scientists much more information about the planet's surface and atmospheric composition, will search for water and seek answers about changes in the polar caps and color of large surface areas.

PROJECT VOYAGER....

Voyager, once the pride-to-be of the American unmanned space fleet is now a forgotten, shelved, scrubbed project. It was to have been the first spacecraft to land on another planet - Mars. It was to have been a scientific package much the same as the Russian Mars 3 is now. And Mars 3 is nothing that this country could not have had by at least the same time with Voyager. It was planned that way, but someone chose to delay. And now the earliest the U. S. intends to put its mark on Mars is five years away. Let's all hope that further space cuts don't leave out other important projects, too.

NEW MOON ROCK FACILITY AT MSC....Work began late in the year and is to be completed by February on a curatorial facility at the Manned Spacecraft Center for the approximately 187 pounds of stored moon rocks at MSC. The facility, which is being built into an existing building, will cost about \$154,000 and besides providing a "clean room" atmosphere for the rocks and separate cabinets for the different missions, the facility will make available space to prepare samples for detailed examinations, displays and work on core tubes of rock and dirt. The 2,500 square-foot facility will be in Building 31, which now houses mostly offices of the Planetary and Earth Sciences Division.

SCIENTIST-ASTRONAUT PICKED FOR APOLLO 17....A geologist, Dr. Harrison H. Schmitt, has been chosen over pilot-amateur geologist Joe Engle to be one of the last two men to explore the moon in the Apollo program. Capt. Eugene A. Cernan, veteran of Gemini and Apollo missions, will command the Apollo 17 flight and Lt. Cmdr. Ronald E. Evans, who has yet to fly in space will be the third member of the crew. Schmitt, 36, will thus become the first and only scientist by profession to explore the moon during the Apollo program. The Apollo 17 flight is scheduled for December 1972.

DR. CHARLES A. BERRY GETS NEW NASA JOB....Dr. Berry, often referred to as the astronauts' doctor, has been appointed director of life sciences at the headquarters of NASA in Washington. He has been director of medical research and operations at MSC. In his new position, Dr. Berry will be responsible for the management of all life science activities in the Office of Manned Space Flight. He succeeds Dr. James W. Humphreys Jr., who resigned to become secretary-treasurer of the American Board of Surgery in Philadelphia.

SHEPARD U. N. AIDE....Astronaut Alan B. Shepard, who has walked on the moon, has added a new side to his many-faceted career: International diplomacy. He was sworn in by the U. S. Ambassador to the United Nations, George Bush, as alternate delegate to the 26th General Assembly. Shepard, a Navy admiral on loan as chief of the astronaut office at MSC, will represent the U. S. in negotiations on matters involving space.

JAPAN'S FIRST SCIENTIFIC SATELLITE....Japan's first scientific satellite is in orbit, a major step in the nation's quietly progressing space program. The 143-pound satellite was launched atop a four-stage rocket from the University of Tokyo's Institute of Space and Aeronautical Science Center in Uchinoura, near Kagoshima, at the southern tip of Japan. Scientists said the satellite was sending signals regularly from its orbit, 1187.9 miles at its highest point and 524 miles at its lowest. It was orbiting the Earth once every 114.3 minutes.

SPACEMAN GORDON RETIRES....Astronaut Richard F. Gordon Jr. is retiring from the Navy and the space corps to become an executive with the New Orleans Saints football team. A veteran of two space flights and an ardent sportsman, Gordon's effective date of retirement will be January 1, 1972.

NEIL ARMSTRONG NAMED PROFESSOR....Neil A. Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, is now on the faculty of the College of Engineering at the University of Cincinnati. Armstrong had been deputy associate of administration for aeronautics at NASA headquarters in Washington, D. C. His fundamental assignment will be aerospace engineering, but he will also be assigned to geology, astronomy, physics, chemistry, psychology, biology and medicine. Armstrong will be a close associate of Dr. Paul Hergett, head of the U. of Cincinnati observatory. Hergett was consultant to the early Vanguard space project.

ATA SPACE UNIT....One thing the Space City Cover Society has prided itself in is that we have not tried to compete with other groups but rather work hand in hand with them. We are all space collectors and most everyone wants to share what knowledge we have on space stamps and covers with each other. And now that some of the early space covers are becoming "classics" in their own right, and going for \$25, \$50 or even as high as \$100 each in certain instances, it is imperative that the collector gets what he pays for. The Space Unit of the American Topical Association has done more than its share for collectors by making them aware of possible fraudulent space covers. They have a full 14-page report on various aspects of possible fraudulent covers for \$1 plus a stamped, self-addressed envelope (4 1/8 x 9 1/2") and we believe that this report should be in the hands of every space collector. You can get your copy by sending the above mentioned to Les, Winick, 2121 Maple Road, Homewood, Ill. 60430. Les is the able president of the Space Unit and if you are not a member of that group ask him for details on the organization. Tell him that you heard about it from SCCS.

MEMORIAL PLACED BY APOLLO 15 CREW ON MOON....One of the little publicised acts of the Apollo 15 mission was placing a plaque on the Moon honoring the fourteen American and Russian spacemen who have died during the development of the space age. The plaque and a figure representing a fallen astronaut were left in a shallow crater in the rolling plains near the lunar Apennine Mountains, David R. Scott, mission commander disclosed.

EUROPEAN SPACE PROGRAM FIZZLES....On November 5 at Kourou, French Guyana, more than \$600 million of European space effort exploded and splashed into the Atlantic Ocean 4.5 minutes later. It was the eleventh launch in the Europa series, which has yet to put a payload into successful orbit. (Five early launches tested only the British Blue Streak rocket). A second Europa II, scheduled for mid-April may be delayed until fall of 1972, if the program isn't entirely cancelled, officials said.

USED PAIRS OF 8c TWIN STAMP....From the mail we have seen about 95% of the recent space stamps are the single variety, so if you get the complete pair on any of your mail, we would suggest that you save them and don't throw them away. Have any of our readers been one of the lucky ones to find any true varieties of this stamp? If so, let us know and we will share the information on these pages with collectors.

USTAMPOLL 71 ANNOUNCED....David R. Halaas is Director of USTAMPOLL (United States Stamp Poll) and everyone is requested to vote for their "favorite" and "least liked" U. S. commemorative stamp issued in 1971. It is suggested that voting be based on not only design, but on every aspect of the stamp. Votes (a post card will do) should be sent to USTAMPOLL 71, Ballot SCCS, 1514 East Minnehaha Parkway, Minneapolis, Minn. 55417.

COVERS WANTED....Wm. Yachwak, Editor of EXPLORER, official publication of the International Association of Space Philatelists, has first day covers of the space twin issue (unaddressed) to exchange for launch and/or recovery covers of satellite and manned flights. Write him at 41 4th St., Troy, N. Y. 12180, enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope.

THE SPACE LOG....May we remind you that there is no charge for this publication. If you have a friend that would be interested, have them send in a large, stamped, addressed envelope and we will send a copy to them along with other particulars on SCCS.