

JOURNEY TO VENUS

PIONEER VENUS 1....It's a mind-boggling trip and everyone interested in space exploration is anxiously awaiting the results. Pioneer Venus 1, the first of two spacecraft that will explore the planet most-like Earth, was launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla., on May 20, 1978 at 9:13 a.m. EST. Pioneer Venus 1 is an orbiter and should reach the planet on December 4, 1978. And to reach it, the Orbiter will fly more than half way around the sun on its seven-month journey, traveling outside the Earth's orbit for the first three months and inside it the last four. Plans are to have it circle the planet for at least eight months.

PIONEER VENUS 2....This is a multiprobe spacecraft and will be launched August 7 and arrive on December 9, 1978. This spacecraft is made up of a transporter Bus, a large probe and three identical small probes. The Bus will obtain data on the composition of the upper atmosphere before burning up. The other four probes will measure the atmosphere from top to bottom as they fly down to Venus' searing surface. The probes are not designed to survive after impact.

We will have a cover for each of these two launches, (the Pioneer Venus 1 cover is ready now). We also have a cover for the arrival of the Pioneer Venus 1 spacecraft at Cape Canaveral on March 15, 1978. The spacecraft left El Segundo, Cal., on March 14, from the Hughes Aircraft Co., where it was built. This cover may prove to be an elusive one as some servicers and dealers did not process any. The we have one postmarked Mountain View, Cal. for the launch of Pioneer Venus 1. This is the control center and spacecraft operations for the Pioneer Venus 1 and 2. It is located at the Ames Research Center, at Mountain View,

VIBRATION TESTS ON SHUTTLE

Continuing with our coverage for you on important Space Shuttle events, we have a set of two covers on the first of three Vibration Tests on Enterprise (Orbiter 101). NASA's technical name for these tests is Mated Vertical Ground Vibration Tests (MVGVT). All of the work in being done at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. Information from the tests will allow the center to verify the system design and mathematical models that predict how the Shuttle's control system will react to the much more severe vibrations expected during launch and flight into orbit.

The first test included the orbiter and external tank to simulate the high altitude portion of a Shuttle mission after the solid rocket boosters have separated. We have a set of two covers, both properly canceled at Marshall Space Flight Center and appropriately cacheted. The first one is postmarked April 19, 1978, the time of completion of loading onto the test-stand. The second is postmarked April 23, the start of the first phase of the three different planned tests. (The other two will occur later this year and the SCCS will be on hand to service covers for this balance of these tests.)

FIRST SPACELAB SCIENCE CREW SELECTED

Two Americans were named May 30, 1978 by NASA as part of an international group of five scientists who will serve as payload specialists during the first Spacelab mission scheduled for the latter part of 1980. These two are Dr. Michael L. Lampton, 37 of Berkeley, Cal., and Byron K. Lichtenberg, 30 of Natick, Mass. Payload specialists are new to the space program. Their responsibilities will be to perform experiments in space aboard NASA's Space Shuttle, which will carry Spacelab into Earth orbit. NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center is responsible for the payload specialists' training activities as part of its overall management responsibility for the Spacelab mission.

We have a cover for this important Spacelab event and it is properly canceled at Marshall Space Flight Center on May 30, the date of the selection. Is is cacheted and price is only 80¢ each.

SPACE SHUTTLE-- PRELUDE TO LIVING IN SPACE

NASA is carrying out numerous experiments involving adults in almost all age groups in a continual effort to recreate on Earth the environment to which humanity eventually must adapt in outer space. On February 5, 1978, at NASA's Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, Cal., eight men began rigorous and demanding medical tests. This series ended on February 28. Participants, all civilians from the San Francisco area, were: James Barber, Ted Hammill, Pat Mauch, Edward Medellin, Allen Moore, Fred Pfost, Martin Sprinsock and Albert Waldman.

We have a cover for this event, canceled at Moffett Field on the last day of the test. This is a scarce cover and total amount of covers processed for everyone was very small. Our's is priced at only \$1.50

TO: SPACE CITY COVER SOCIETY, P. O. Box 53545, Houston, Texas 77052

Please send me the following covers:

_____ Pioneer Venus 1 Launch cover (Postmarked Cape Canaveral) @ 80¢	_____
_____ Pioneer Venus 1 Launch cover (Postmarked Mountain View, Cal) @ \$1.25	_____
_____ Pioneer Venus 1 Arrival at Cape Canaveral @ 80¢	_____
_____ Pioneer Venus 2 Launch cover (Postmarked Cape Canaveral) @ 80¢	_____
_____ Set(s) of Vibration Test covers set of two for 1st Test @ \$1.75 per set	_____
_____ First Spacelab Science Crew Selected cover @ \$1.00	_____
_____ Moffett Field Test cover of Feb 28, 1978 @ \$1.50	_____

Postage and handling30

Pioneer Venus 2 will be shipped about 4 weeks
after launch. Thank you. Others ready now.

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please include two addressed gummed labels with your order. Thank you. (June 1978)