

# CREWS CHOSEN FOR ORBITAL TEST FLIGHTS

Three crews for the Orbital Test Flights, which begin in early 1979, were announced on March 16, 1978 by the Johnson Space Center in Houston. The first flight crew will have John W. Young, a veteran of four space flights, as commander and Cmdr. Robert L. Crippen, who will be making his first space flight, as the pilot. Their backup crew will also be two pilots who await their first space mission. Col. Joe H. Engle, commander and Cmdr. Richard H. Truly, pilot. The two other crews named are: Fred W. Haise, commander and Lt. Col. Jack R. Lousma, pilot; and Vance D. Brand, commander and Lt. Col. Charles G. Fullerton, pilot. The last two crews named will get their assignment later. There are six orbital tests planned and the Young-Crippen mission will probably last no longer than 54 hours. It will be launched from Cape Canaveral and land at Edwards AFB in Calif. The next three will also land at Edwards, but the following two and most other shuttle operational flights will land at the cape.

We have one cover postmarked, machine cancel, Houston March 16, 1978 p.m. and properly cacheted for selection of the crews and priced at only 80¢ each. We must limit any one purchase to three covers since we were surprised with the announcement, as was everyone else. In addition, we have a set of four covers, one for each of the four different crews. This set of four has our special Mailer's Postmark cancel (We have Houston Permit #1) and each cover will feature the two members of that particular crew. Again, we must limit it to three sets per order to give all a chance at their needs. Price is \$2.75 per set

## "ENTERPRISE FLIES AGAIN"

But this time the trip is for getting it from Edwards, Calif. where the recent Manned Free flights were made, to the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. Once at the MSFC, it will undergo tests and will be readied for space orbital missions in the 1980's.

Mounted atop the carrier NASA 747, the OV-101 "Enterprise" left Edwards on March 10 and arrived in Houston at 2:00 p.m. at Ellington AFB, near the Johnson Space Center. It was open to the public from that arrival time till 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from early in the morning till about 5:00 in the afternoon. During the three days of public viewing, about 250,000 people took advantage of the chance to see this "giant" up close. And to a person, everyone who saw it, said it was something that would not be forgotten. Then at 8:00 a.m. on March 13 it left Ellington and landed at about 11:00 a.m. at the Marshall Space Flight Center.

We have a set of four covers, all machine canceled and appropriately cacheted. The first one from Edwards on original take-off, the second on arrival at Ellington (canceled Houston) and third canceled Houston on departure and the fourth canceled MSFC on arrival there. This is truly a set that tells the entire story and one that you will happily add to your space cover collection. Price is only \$2.75 for the set.

## SKYLAB IN THE NEWS AGAIN

Latest data on the orbiting Skylab Workshop is that it could begin reentry into the Earth's atmosphere as early as late summer of 1979 and as late as the second quarter of 1980. That would be before a Shuttle mission could rendezvous with it and NASA has taken means to alter the negative situation. Engineers from the Johnson Space Center and Marshall Space Flight Center, along with NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center tracking crews have made contact with Skylab from a ground station in Bermuda. Initial contact was made on March 6, a triple charge to on-board batteries made on March 7, full charge of batteries made on March 8 and turn on of Skylab command and telemetry systems made on March 10. Then on March 13, a final pass of Skylab was made and the contact closed down. Plans are, after mid-April 1978, from the Mission Control Center in Houston, through the Bermuda and Madrid ground stations, to make contact with Skylab and to activate the attitude reference and control system. This will then determine the space station's attitude and possibly modifying it and add months to its orbital lifetime. Skylab was launched May 14, 1973 from Florida and was visited by three astronaut crews during 1973 and 1974. The final crew departed February 8, 1974.

The SCCS serviced one cover canceled Houston (machine cancel) March 13 on the close down of this attempt. Those covers contain a single of the 10¢ Skylab commemorative along with a 3¢ stamp and each cover is appropriately cacheted. Only 200 were serviced in this manner as that is all of the Skylab stamps we could muster up at that time. These covers are priced at \$1.00 each. For those that wish a set of the other four dates of attempts made at Skylab, we have a set of four with our Mailer's Permit Cancel postmarked on March 6, 7, 8 and 10, 1978. That set is \$2.75 Unless you have been previously ordering more than one set please just order one single or one set so that all can have an equal chance at these few covers we have.

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NINTH ANNUAL LUNAR AND PLANETARY SCIENCE CONFERENCE.....The Moon and other worlds were the focus of the ninth annual Lunar and Planetary Science Conference, a weeklong meeting held at NASA's Johnson Space Center. It began Monday, March 13 and attracted more than 500 scientists from the U. S. and abroad. As we have done in the past years for this event, we have one cover canceled on the beginning day, March 13, (machine cancel Houston) and attractively cacheted. Price is 80¢ each.

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

Please send me the following space covers:

_____ Orbital Test Flights Crews Chosen. Single cover @ 80¢ . . . . .	\$ _____
_____ Same except set of 4 Mailer's Postmark Cancel @ \$2.75 per set . . . . .	\$ _____
_____ "Enterprise Trip set of 4 covers @ \$2.75 per set . . . . .	\$ _____
_____ Skylab "Wake-up" single cover @ \$1.00 . . . . .	\$ _____
_____ Same except set of four @ \$2.75 per set (Mailer's Postmark Cancel) . . . . .	\$ _____
_____ Ninth Lunar Science cover @ 80¢ each . . . . .	\$ _____
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Please send one addressed gummed label with your order. Thank you. (March 1978)