

As STS-5 became our first operational Space Shuttle, there were some events that are important to the space collector and the following were commemorated by SCCS covers. All are hand cancelled Houston (Mailer's Permit Postmark) on the correct dates and each has its own cachet.

FINAL PRE-FLIGHT PRESS CONFERENCE...Held at the JSC on Oct 7, 1982 with the crew saying that they had "completed 99% of their training for the first operational flight."

LAUNCH COUNTDOWN BEGINS...On November 7, the launch countdown began for STS-5

STS-5 CREW LEAVES JSC FOR LAUNCH SITE...On Nov 10, Flight Commander Vance D. Brand, Marine Corps Col. Robert F. Overmyer, pilot, and mission specialists Joseph P. Allen and William B. Lenoir flew their T-38 jets to the Canaveral launch site, arriving at 11 a.m.

LANDING SITE CHANGED.. Mission officials decided on Nov 10 to land Columbia on the concrete runway at Edwards AFB instead of the longer but rain-drenched lake bed. As Gen. Abrahamson said, "We have the only desert in the world that when you really want to use it, it floods."

STS-5 HAS MANY FIRSTS...As STS- 5 landed on Nov 16, it had become the Shuttle Mission to claim many "firsts". (1) First commercial mission. (2) First four-man astronaut crew (3) First deployment of commercial satellites. (4) First 102% rated power of main engines throttled at launch and ascent; done to increase cargo-carrying capacity. (5) First use of a new payload ejection system (6) First propulsive stage of a Delta-class payload assist module (PAM-D) to project satellites from low earth to geosynchronous orbit. (7) First flight without emergency ejection seats and (8) First use of fire retardant cotton jumpsuits.

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

Please send me the following STS-5 event covers (MPP Houston cancel):

Final Pre-Flight Press Conf (Oct 7) @ \$1.25	\$	_____
Launch Countdown Begins (Nov 7) @ \$1.25		_____
STS-5 Crew Leaves JSC For Canaveral (Nov 10) @ \$1.25		_____
Landing Site Changed (Nov 10) @ \$1.25		_____
STS-5 Has Many "Firsts" (Nov 16) @ \$1.25		_____
	Postage and handling35
	Total remittance	\$ _____

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(Feb 83 #3) Please include one addressed, gummed label with order. Thank you.