

## Shuttle Update

Final preparations are underway both at Kennedy Space Center and here at JSC for the second flight of Columbia, now scheduled for October 9. The launch date was slipped nine days as a result of a series of minor problems during the turnaround process.

The last long-duration simulation in Mission Control was held August 31 through September 2, followed by an interface test with KSC which was completed last Friday.

Engineers at the Cape also have completed the Pad Validation Test to make certain the configuration of the Shuttle has not changed since it was moved to the pad and to verify the connections between the launch pad and the Mobile Launcher Platform.

Back-up astronauts Ken Mattingly and Henry Hartsfield also participated in an emergency egress test, getting briefed on the slide wire system and driving the armored personnel carriers which would be used to transport the crew from the vehicle in the event of an emergency escape before launch.

The dry Countdown Demonstration Test was scheduled for this week, taking the launch sequence up through ignition without cryogenic propellants onboard. A cryogenic loading test is scheduled for Monday.

The last few tiles to be bonded were placed on the vehicle a week ago.

## Today at Teague Auditorium: Employees & contractors honored

The largest number of JSC employees ever honored following a space flight will be spotlighted for their work in the Teague Auditorium, September 11, at 2 p.m.

NASA's Deputy Administrator, Dr. Hans Mark, will lead the ceremony. The program will honor 275 employees for their outstanding contributions to the historic first flight of the Space Shuttle Columbia.

Eight persons will receive the agency's highest award given to government employees, the NASA Distinguished Service Medal.

The medal will be presented to Dr. Christopher C. Kraft, Center Director; George W. S. Abbey, Director of Flight Operations; Arnold D. Aldrich, Deputy Manager, Space Shuttle Program Office; Aaron Cohen, Manager, Orbiter Project Office; Lynwood C. Dunseith, Director of Data Systems and Analysis; Maxime Faget, Director of Engineering and Development; Eugene F. Kranz, Deputy Director of Flight Operations, and Robert F. Thompson, retired Manager of the Space Shuttle Program Office.

Astronauts John W. Young and Robert L. Crippen, the crew on Columbia's first flight, were presented the Distinguished Service Medal by

President Ronald Reagan at the White House May 19.

The corresponding award given to non-government employees is the NASA Distinguished Public Service

Medal. For their contributions to the Space Shuttle Program, NASA is honoring Charles W. Feltz, Space Transportation System Development and Production Division, and Seymour Z. Rubenstein, Shuttle Orbiter Division, of Rockwell International Corporation, and John B. Jackson, Federal Systems Division of IBM Corporation.

Eleven civil service employees will receive the agency's second highest medal, the Outstanding Leadership Medal. The recipients are: Aleck C. Bond, Clifford E. Charlesworth, Sidney C. Jones, Jr., Kenneth S. Kleinknecht, Richard H. Kohrs, Allen J. Louviere, Owen G. Morris, Richard P. Parten, Ralph S. Sawyer, Scott H. Simpkinson, Donald K. Slayton.

A new award, the NASA Exceptional Engineering Achievement Medal, for advancing the state of the art engineering, will be given to 14 individuals. The recipients are: John W. Aaron, Kenneth J. Cox, Robert L. Dotts, Philip C. Glynn, Dorothy B. Lee, Lubert J. Leger, Clarence T. Modlin, Jr., Thomas L. Moser, William L. Swingle, James A. Chamberlin (Posthumous), Robert G. Minor, Norman E. Sears, Edward P. Smith, Tommy D. Steele.

Other awards to be presented include the NASA Exceptional Service Medal to 93 JSC employees, the NASA Public Service Medal to 24 non-government employees, the NASA Public Service Group Achievement Award to 44 contractor organizations, the NASA Group Achievement Award to 13 groups of civil service employees or teams composed of both civil service and contractor employees, and certificates of appreciation to 65 individuals.

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## JSC History office moves archives to Rice Univ., asks employees for material

Beginning in September, the JSC History Office will begin transferring portions of its archival holdings to the Woodson Research Center at Rice University's Fondren Library. The agreement to move these documents, the Memorandum of Understanding, was signed by JSC and Rice University on July 31. These documents were used in the preparation of project histories for Mercury, Gemini, Skylab and the Apollo Soyuz Test Project.

The JSC History Office Archival holdings consist of non-record copies of correspondence, reports, interviews and related materials that have been collected for nearly 20 years. Although these materials are exempt from preservation under the terms of the federal records management program, JSC and Rice University decided they represent a unique collection of many aspects of early years of manned spaceflight.

After an initial review of the JSC History Office Archives, Rice proposed the establishment of a campus-based Manned Spaceflight Archives. The basic collection will be housed on the fifth floor of the Fondren Library in a secure section of the stacks with a humidity and temperature controlled environment.

Rice will also provide personnel to index and arrange the collection while NASA will retain title to the documentation under the conditions of their previous agreement.

This transfer of JSC History Archives' materials will permit easier access by scholars and other interested persons.

University personnel will index the

collection with a Word One Key Search computer using the same program as the JSC History Office's inventory of Apollo and Shuttle documents.

The JSC History Office will continue to maintain large document collections relating to Apollo, the Space Transportation System, space stations, and JSC institutional history.

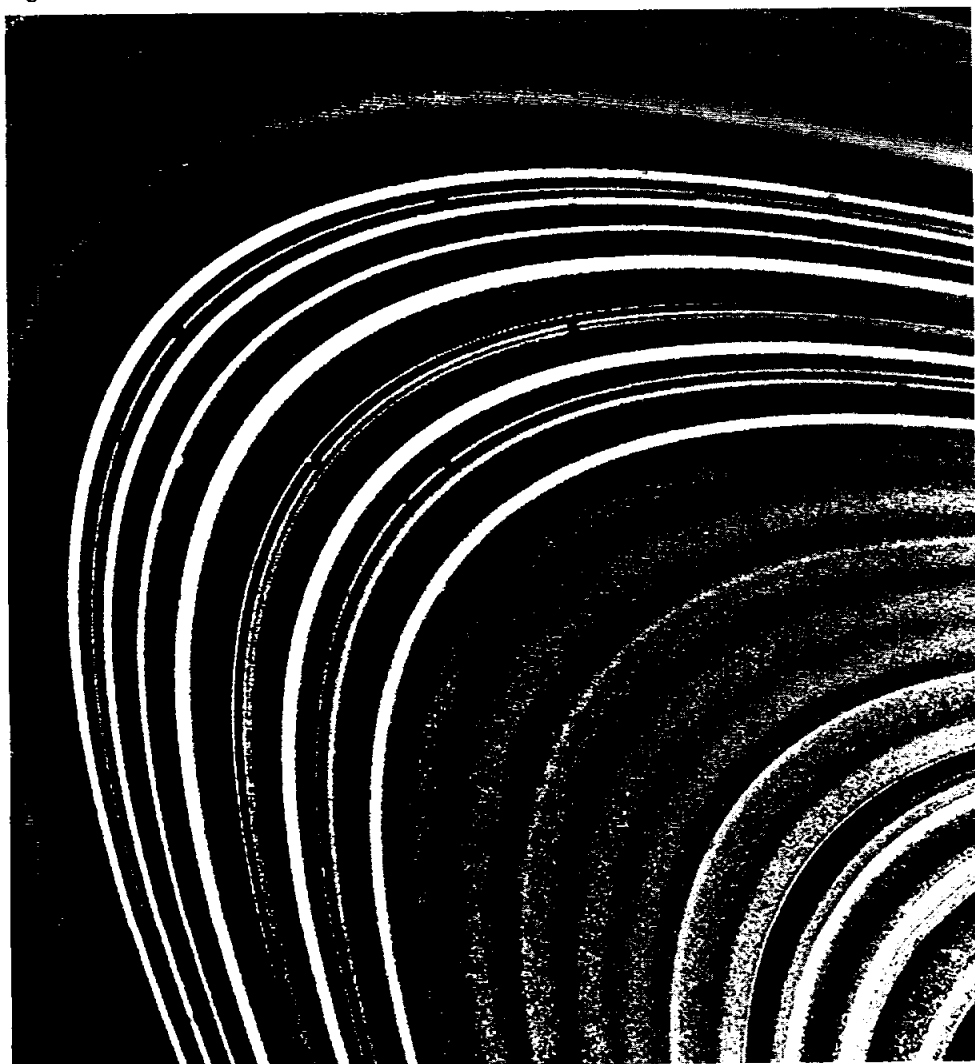
Rice University staff members will be contacting industrial firms that participated as contractors to the program and retired NASA employees to see if they have documents or related items that would contribute to the collection.

Here at JSC, employees are asked to consider contributing any Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, Skylab or ASTP items that they think may have some value to the JSC History Office or to the new collection at Rice.

Materials including mission documents and reports, spacecraft familiarization manuals, test reports or notes on tests, professional publications relating to manned spaceflight, correspondence, photographs, and drawings are all needed.

The History Office will determine if the materials are suitable for the collections. Persons having potential materials for the collection are encouraged to call Dr. Ed Ezell at x2838 or drop him a note, BE4.

JSC and Rice University hope the collection will grow into a valuable historical resource for scholars and other students interested in the contribution of the people of the Johnson Space Center and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to this era of manned space flight.

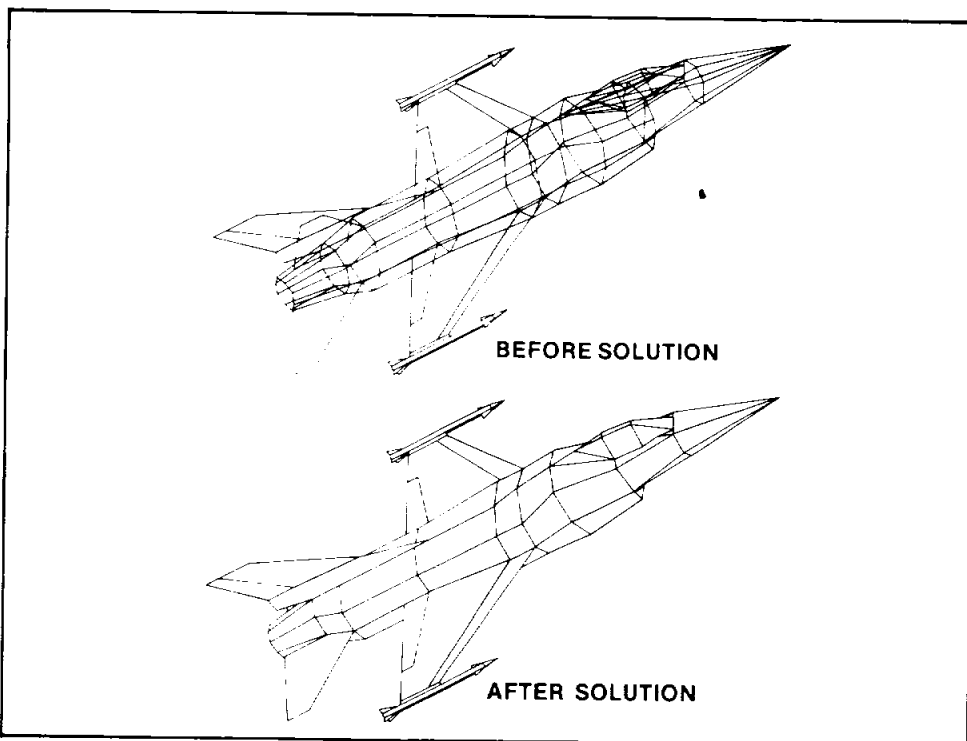


Those mysterious rings

This view focusing on Saturn's C-ring (and to a lesser extent, the B-ring at top and left) was compiled from three separate images taken through ultraviolet, clear and green filters. On Aug. 23, when it acquired these frames, Voyager 2 was 1.7 million miles from the planet. More than 60 bright and dark ringlets are evident here: the small, bland squares are caused by the removal of resseau (reference) marks during processing. In general, C-ring material is very bland and gray, the color of dirty ice. Color differences between this ring and the B-ring indicate differing surface compositions for the material composing these complex structures.







#### A solution to an old problem

David Hedgley, a NASA Dryden mathematician, has solved the solid object computer graphics problem. The top view shows how a computer normally represents a solid object. It shows every line and angle regardless of viewer perspective. But the lower view, Hedgley's solution, shows how a computer has been instructed to delete all but angles and lines visible from the viewer's perspective. This is a solution that computer experts have been trying to solve since the early development of computer graphics.

## NASA employee solves solid image computer graphic problem

A problem that confounded computer graphics experts since the technology of computer-aided designing began, has been solved by mathematician David Hedgley of NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, Calif.

Hedgley's efficient and effective solution is a new computer program which can be applied to computer-graphics designing of any solid objects and surfaces regardless of complexity, including automotive design, architecture, metallurgy, and anything that can be expressed as a function of two variables.

The problem is that a computer does not "see" a solid object the way a human sees it. The computer defined the whole object at once without regard to one particular or perspective.

Consequently, when asked to produce a picture of the object, the computer would show all the object's surfaces, angles, and curves regardless of whether they are located on the side facing the viewer or on the back, which the eye cannot see. This resulted in cluttered, confusing and ambiguous pictures.

Hedgley's solution permits the computer to depict an object from a specific viewpoint just as the eye would see it, and does so efficiently. Furthermore, the solution works with any object or group of objects, no matter how complex. "We needed to make it general and make it very fast," says Hedgley. "That's what I've done."

Mathematicians around the world

have worked the problem for years. Some achieved partial solutions. But until Hedgley's new program, none could be applied to any three-dimensional scene and few were reliably accurate. In fact, specialists considered the hidden-line problem to be the most difficult in the field.

Hedgley's program has just undergone computer testing at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in California by experts Bruce Brown and Steve Levine. The test verified the solution's workability with respect to speed, accuracy and generality to all cases. Brown and Levine found the speed to be surprisingly high. Previous solutions broke down when dealing with complex scenes because execution time increased with the square of the number of polygons. Hedgley's solution avoids this problem, so it is not hampered when rendering complex objects.

Dryden researchers are starting to use Hedgley's solution in aircraft experimentation. They are finding it highly effective for analyzing wing flutter problems in unsteady aerodynamics. In addition, they have begun creating simple structures on small computers and expect to expand this into simulated aircraft flight — a task requiring a more sophisticated computer. Such simulated flight will enable a pilot to practice chasing a synthetic target airplane by watching the image on a TV-like cathode ray tube. Speed becomes an essential ingredient in this sort of exercise, where the program must be executed rapidly.

## 1981-82 Federal Campaign begins at JSC this month

Sometimes it's not easy being human. Medical libraries are filled with diseases of the body and mind. And, as if that weren't enough, we humans tend to create many of our own problems. It's all part of being human, and all part of why there's a United Way.

The United Way is an organization devoted to making it easier to deal with the problems of being human. An organization dedicated to making humanity more humane. And since each of us is responsible for keeping the United Way successful, it's like a gift we give to each other for being human.

The JSC 1981-82 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), an annual fund raising drive for Federal Agen-

cies, began with a kickoff meeting on September 8, 1981. The campaign supports the United Way, the National Health Agencies, the National Service Agencies, and International Service Agencies. The CFC eliminated the old system of several drives a year and provided the use of the Government approved payroll deduction plan which spreads the donation over the year in small convenient installments.

JSC personnel have traditionally given whole-hearted support to the CFC drive. Contributions to this year's campaign will not only help the community, but could possibly help a neighbor, a friend, or a loved one — when they need it most.

Thanks to you it works for all of us.

## NASA studies launch impact on environment

Airborne concentrations ranged from 16 parts per million (ppm) peak at 10 minutes to 2 ppm at 2 hours after launch, levels which are not considered excessive. Aluminum oxide dust was deposited from the cloud in areas several miles to the north of the launch pad. Close to the pad, the dust was acidic and caused some localized spotting of vegetation. The area affected by the dust deposits did not exceed four miles in any direction.

Sound levels from the launch were measured at 111 decibels at about three and a half miles from the launch pad. These levels are similar to those produced by passage of a large truck nearby and about 10 decibels less than the sound level experienced at a rock music concert. These levels are very close to the predicted values and are similar to the sound produced in the Apollo launch program. No significant effects on wildlife behavior were observed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel.

For STS-2, a more detailed study is planned of the particle fallout from the cloud by aircraft and additional ground collectors to obtain samples. Also, the model used prior to launch to predict cloud travel will be modified to predict the location of maximum dust deposits. Based on more than 12 years of meteorological data, fall winds occur predominantly from the east to northeast.

Deposition is not expected to be a problem in areas of the community surrounding the Center, based upon the STS-1 experience and the extensive prelaunch studies.

Until additional information is collected, precautions are planned to protect the public who come into the center to view the launch from any unforeseen effects of the launch cloud. The visitor locations northwest of the Vehicle Assembly Building and in the vicinity of the barge basin south of the Vehicle Assembly Building will not be used during the STS-2 launch. Visitor operations will be centered on the NASA Causeway between Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and other locations outside a four mile radius of the launch pad.

The launch cloud effect will not be a launch constraint. An extensive monitoring program emphasizing launch cloud fallout will be under-

taken for the STS-2 launch in order to enhance the capability to predict the cloud direction, movement and diffusion. An evaluation of the STS-1 data for determination of any long term effects is continuing.

The launch of the first Space Shuttle mission on April 12, 1981, from the Kennedy Space Center, Fla. was the most completely investigated launch in the Center's history from the standpoint of its impact on the local environment.

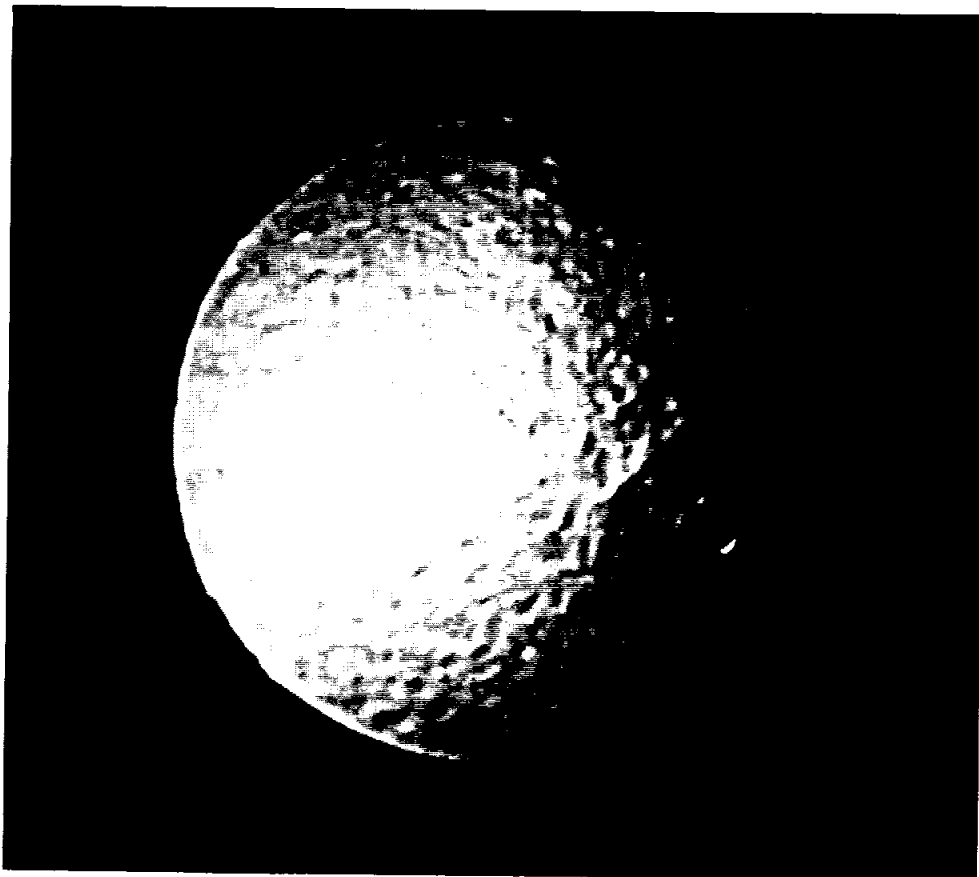
Launch of the Space Shuttle produces a cloud of exhaust products which causes a temporary and localized degradation in air quality near the launch site areas. These areas are also subjected to moderately elevated sound levels of mostly low frequencies for a few minutes.

The direction, movement, and diffusion of the ground cloud have been the subject of an intensive analytical study during the past several years.

A mathematical model was developed which uses the characteristics of the rocket exhaust products and launch site meteorology to predict rise, growth, and dispersal of the ground cloud. To validate the model prior to STS-1, seven Titan launches were monitored at the Kennedy Center using aircraft, ground, and seabased instrumentation to measure cloud concentration and fallout of hydrogen chloride, and aluminum oxide particles. These are the primary exhaust products of the solid rocket motors which are of concern. In all cases, there was reasonable agreement between measurements and the model predictions.

As part of the first Space Shuttle launch operation, monitoring was performed on selected environmental areas to determine ecological effects. These effects were measured by a team of specialists drawn from NASA, the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, the Canaveral National Seashore, the Air Force and several universities.

As predicted, the STS-1 ground cloud travelled north of the launch pad. Hydrogen chloride and dust from the exhaust cloud were measured with a variety of instruments both at ground level and inside the cloud, using aircraft. Gaseous hydrogen chloride concentrations measured at the surface were essentially zero.



#### Saturn's icy moon

Special processing has brought out surface detail in this Voyager 2 image focusing on the large crater on Tethys. The spacecraft took this photograph Aug. 25, when it was 513,000 miles from the icy moon of Saturn. Here, resolution is about nine miles. The crater has been flattened by the flow of softer ice and no longer shows the deep bowl shape characteristic of fresh craters in hard ice or rock. It appears to have been formed early in Tethys' history, at a time when its interior was still relatively warm and soft.