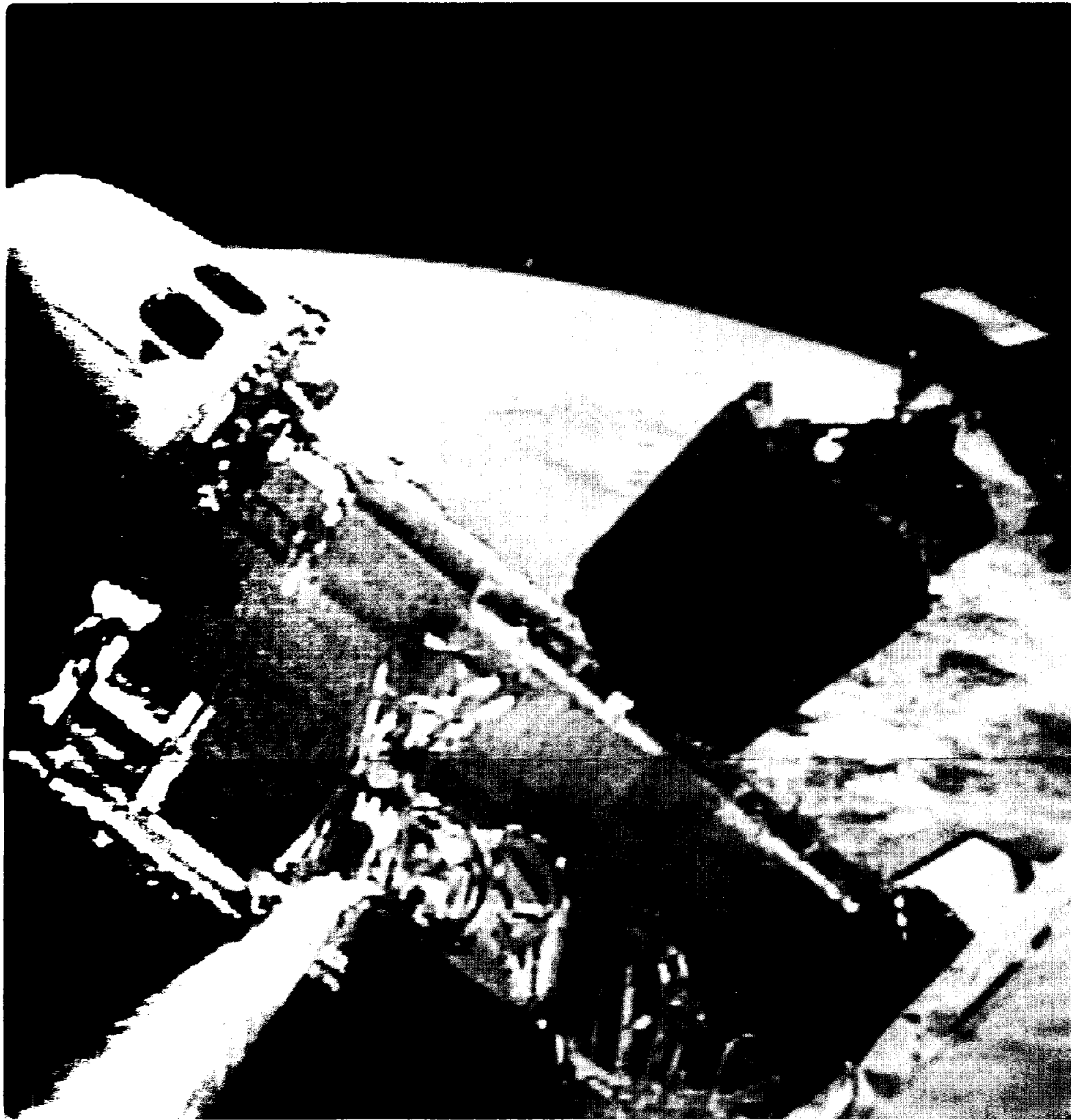


Space News Roundup

Vol. 23 No. 21

November 16, 1984

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



Ace Wrecker Co. goes 4 for 4

"We've got two satellites down and locked in the payload bay," 51-A Commander Rick Hauck told Mission Control at *Roundup* press time, as the retrieval operations for the Palapa and Westar satellites became an entry for the history books. This view above (recorded from television downlink) shows Mission Specialist Joe Allen holding onto Westar as Dale Gardner prepares to attach the berthing adapter ring. For coverage and photos of the flight, see the next issue of the *Roundup*.

Challenger tile problems cause delay in 51-C

NASA will delay the launch of the STS 51-C Space Shuttle mission, originally scheduled to lift off from the Kennedy Space Center Dec. 8, 1984, due to a problem with OV-099's thermal protection system.

The decision came in the wake of tests in late October and early November which showed that up to 2,800 thermal protection tiles on the underside of the Orbiter *Challenger* have to be replaced due to degradation of the bonding material.

NASA is in the process of determining the earliest possible new launch date. Jesse Moore, Associate Administrator for Space Flight, said fixing the tiles on *Challenger* would take approximately six weeks.

The degradation is thought to be related to waterproofing of tiles on the Orbiter, Moore said. *Challenger* had undergone six waterproofing procedures, while *Columbia* and *Discovery* have only undergone two each.

When *Challenger* returned from space after STS 41-G, a black tile from the left wing chine area, just behind and below the crew door area, was missing. As a result, troubleshooting tests were conducted, and about 100 tiles were removed from the Orbiter. During those tests, it was found that the substance used to smooth irregularities in the surface of the Orbiter had softened. This substance, known as a screed, is applied directly over the aluminum skin of the Orbiter. It is a white Room Temperature Vulcanizing (RTV) material, and is used in much the same way that body putty is used on a car. Screed hardens and can be sanded smooth after it dries.

The operative theory is that the waterproofing chemical, which is injected into each tile, has reacted chemically with the screed over time and softened it.

The screed is used on areas of the body of the vehicle, such as the underside of the fuselage, body flap, elevons and the sides. Other areas of the Orbiter are covered with a primer called red RTV-560, which is used as an adhesive for bonding the strain isolation pads (SIP) to the body.

(Continued on page 2)

Teacher flight set for early 1986

An Announcement of Opportunity (AO) was released Nov. 8 specifying the eligibility requirements for selection of the first Shuttle passenger—a teacher—to fly in space in early 1986.

The announcement was released by NASA in conjunction with the Council of Chief State School Officers, which will aid the Agency as a focal point for the thousands of applications expected.

President Reagan announced Aug. 27 that an elementary or secondary school teacher from the U.S. would be the first Shuttle passenger under NASA's new Space Flight Participant Program.

Through the program, NASA will extend Shuttle flight opportunities to a wide segment of private citizens. These space flight participants will be expected to

communicate the experience of space flight to the public through educational and informational programs. NASA eventually intends to fly various categories of space flight participants—teachers, artists, writers, journalists, etc.—two to three times each year.

Teachers meeting the requirements specified in the AO may request an application packet, which will be available after Dec. 1 from the NASA Teacher in Space Project, Council of Chief State School Officers, 400 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 379, Washington, D.C. 20001. The application period is from Dec. 1 to Feb. 1, 1985.

The opportunity is open to elementary and secondary level teachers in all public, private and parochial schools in the United

States and U.S. territories and in Department of Defense overseas dependents schools, as well as in Department of State overseas schools and schools run by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Under the Announcement of Opportunity, the teacher must:

- Be a U.S. citizen;
- Be a full-time classroom teacher;
- Have been a full-time classroom teacher for the past five years;
- Provide verification of teacher eligibility and consent to participate in post-flight educational and informational programs;
- Meet all medical requirements as defined in the AO;
- Not be a spouse of a current or former NASA employee.

In addition, the school in which the teacher works, if it is non-public, must advertise that it does not discriminate in admissions based on race.

Teachers applying for this flight opportunity will submit an application to illustrate their qualifications and excellence as an educator and to demonstrate how they would share the experience with the public.

All applications received will be screened to eliminate those not meeting the basic requirements. Remaining applications will be forwarded to State Review Panels which will evaluate the proposals and select two teachers per state as nominees. With the addition of nominees from U.S. territories, Departments of Defense and State dependent schools and Bureau of

Indian Affairs schools, the number of nominees by next summer is expected to be 120. All of them will be invited to attend a teacher's workshop and recognition banquet next summer in Washington, D.C.

At that workshop, the nominees will be told of current developments in the Shuttle program, and they will also undergo further evaluation and screening by a National Review Panel through personal interviews.

From the 120 nominees, the National Review Panel will select 10 teachers as semifinalists for consideration by a NASA panel, the Space Flight Participant Evaluation Committee. The committee will be comprised of seven senior NASA officials.

(Continued on page 2)

Bulletin Board

Symphony to hold concert Dec. 1

"A Salute to Broadway" is the program to be presented by the Clear Lake Symphony during its Dec. 1 concert, which begins at 8 p.m. in the Atrium II section of the Bayou Bldg. at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Dr. Charles Johnson will conduct the symphony. The guest artist will be pianist Sean Steiner, who will play "Rhapsody in Blue." Reservations can be made for table seating, where refreshments of punch, wine and cheese will be served for \$12.50. Balcony seating is also available for \$4. Call the Needle Art Shop, 488-7154, for ticket information and reservations.

Christmas boat parade planned

The 22nd Annual Clear Lake Christmas Boat Lane, billed as the "World's Largest Christmas Boat Parade," will be held beginning at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1. The parade route will be on Clear Lake and through the Kemah-Seabrook Channel. Traditionally, boats are decorated with lights, and this year the parade will also feature a Goodyear Blimp. The parade is sponsored by the NASA Area Shrine Club. For more information, call Jack Campbell at 339-3272 or 334-3311.

PC Organization to meet

BAPCO, the Bay Area PC Organization, will hold its next monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 20 at the Holiday Inn on NASA Road One. BAPCO, the local IBM-PC user's group, meets regularly on the third Tuesday of each month. For more information, call Earl Rubenstein at x3501 or Hattie Thurlow at x2213.

Space News Briefs

China reserves Shuttle space

The Chinese Broadcasting Satellite Corp. (CBSC) has deposited \$200,000 earnest money with NASA for Shuttle launch reservations in January and September, 1988. The reservations are for the launch and deploy of two domestic direct broadcast satellites. NASA Administrator James M. Beggs met Oct. 29 with senior members of a CBSC delegation which is in the United States to discuss the procurement of satellites and launch services. At press time, the delegation was also planning to observe the STS 51-A launch at the Kennedy Space Center, then come to JSC to view the first scheduled satellite retrieval. The delegation also plans to meet with U.S. firms vying for the satellite contract.

Enterprise leaves Louisiana Exposition

The Orbiter *Enterprise*, on display at the Louisiana World Exposition since April, left New Orleans by barge Nov. 3 for a trip to Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. The *Enterprise* was scheduled to arrive at Vandenberg Nov. 15, where it will be used for launch facilities form and fit check tests in support of the first Shuttle launch from there, now scheduled for October 1985. *Enterprise* left the exposition in much the same way as it arrived April 5. A transporter trailer moved the 150,000-pound Orbiter to a double-stacked barge. A barge trip down the Mississippi River took *Enterprise* through the Chandeleur and Mississippi Sounds into the Gulf of Mexico and on to Mobile, Alabama. In Mobile, a 90-wheel transport trailer took *Enterprise* to Brookley Field, where large cranes hoisted it atop the 747 Shuttle Carrier Aircraft. During the cross country trip, *Enterprise* went on display during a stopover at the Kansas City International Airport.

NASA retires last C-47

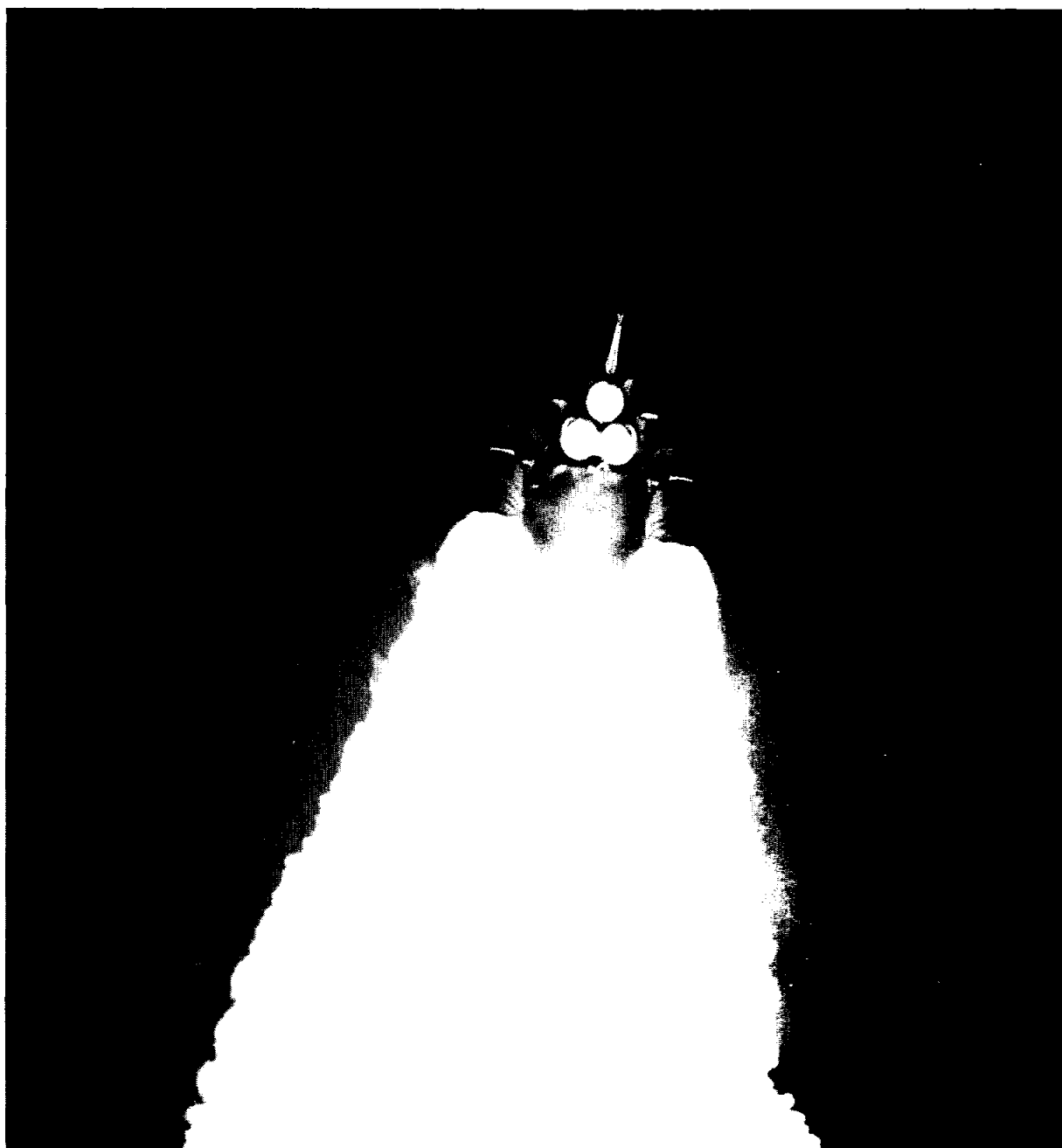
As NASA welcomes the newest aircraft—the X-29—to the Ames-Dryden Flight Research Facility, it is also retiring the oldest aircraft in the NASA fleet, a C-47. The military version of the DC-3, the C-47 was first acquired by the Langley Research Center (then the NACA's Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory) in January 1946. The all-metal, twin-engine aircraft, designated a C-47D, was built in 1943 and has flown a total of 8,193 hours over the course of 635 flights. C-47s were utilized primarily as support aircraft at Ames-Dryden, supporting such programs as the X-15, lifting body flight tests and the Space Shuttle. The C-47 will be flown to Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington, where it will go on static display.

Telescope optics arrive at Lockheed

The Optical Telescope Assembly (OTA) for the Hubble Space Telescope arrived on the West Coast Nov. 1 for integration by the Lockheed Missiles and Space Co. The assembly, which is 10 feet in diameter and 30 feet long, consists of the primary and secondary telescope mirrors, associated electronics and the supporting structure for the telescope's instruments. It was shipped from the Perkin-Elmer Corp. in Danbury, Conn. and made most of the trip via the NASA Super Guppy. At Lockheed, the assembly will be integrated with other scientific instruments then checked out and prepared for a Shuttle launch aboard STS 61-J, now set for August 1986.

Commercial Space Launch Act passed

The U.S. Congress approved the Commercial Space Launch Act before the fall recess, giving the Department of Transportation lead federal agency status in licensing and monitoring commercial launch services. The act is an outgrowth of President Reagan's policy on the commercial uses of space and his order last February establishing an Office of Commercial Space Transportation within the Department of Transportation. The one commercial launch in the U.S. so far, by Space Services of Houston, required clearance by 18 federal agencies and had to pass 22 separate statutes. This act is designed to streamline that process and bypass the many regulations. Under the act, NASA and the Departments of State and Defense are consulted where appropriate.



This view from the business end of *Discovery* was recorded as the Orbiter made its second flight into space for the flight of the 51-A mission.

51-C delay

(Continued from page 1)

Tiles are then attached to the SIP.

The 51-C mission is the first completely dedicated Department of Defense flight. One previous mission, STS-4, carried a DOD payload as part of its cargo, but was flown primarily as the final development mission for the Orbiter *Columbia*.

A statement released by the Air

Force said in part, "Obviously, we are disappointed with the delay in getting the first dedicated DOD STS mission off. The Air Force, like NASA, is interested in achieving routine operations of the STS. We will never risk mission success or personal safety to maintain schedule and we will not fly an Orbiter NASA feels is less than fully operational."

The screw situation with *Chal-*

enger prompted a series of test pulls on the newer Orbiter *Discovery*, as well as tests on the *Columbia*, which is undergoing modifications at Rockwell's Palmdale, California plant. The tests on *Discovery* were performed prior to rollout to Pad 39A for Mission 51-A. The tests were satisfactory and did not result in a delay of the 51-A launch countdown.

Teacher flight

(Continued from page 1)

The semifinalists will come to JSC for thorough medical examinations, in-depth briefings and interviews by the NASA Evaluation Committee. Based on results of this phase in the selection proc-

ess, five finalist candidates will be selected.

The names of the five finalists will be submitted to the NASA Administrator, who, along with the Evaluation Committee, will select the primary and back-up

candidates to undergo training for space flight.

The specific flight number and date are still under review. It is NASA's intention, however, to fly the first teacher on a Shuttle mission early in 1986.

Cookin' in the Cafeteria

Week of November 19 - 23, 1984

Monday: Chicken Noodle Soup; Wieners & Beans, Round Steak w/Hash Browns, Meatballs & Spaghetti (Special); Okra & Tomatoes, Carrots, Whipped Potatoes. Standard Daily Items: Roast Beef, Baked Ham, Fried Chicken, Fried Fish, Chopped Sirloin. Selection of Salads, Sandwiches and Pies.

Tuesday: Beef and Barley Soup; Beef Stew, Shrimp Creole, Fried Chicken (Special); Stewed Tomatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Broccoli.

Wednesday: Seafood Gumbo; Fried Perch, New England Dinner, Swiss Steak (Special); Italian Green Beans, Cabbage, Carrots.

Thursday: Thanksgiving-Holiday.

Friday: Seafood Gumbo; Baked Flounder, 1/4 Broiled Chicken w/Peach Half, Salisbury Steak (Special); Cauliflower au Gratin, Mixed Vegetables, Buttered Cabbage, Whipped Potatoes.

AT BUILDING #3

On Wednesday we feature The Reuben:

Corned Brisket, Swiss Cheese on a bed of Sauerkraut, Poupon Mustard on Rye and 1/4 Pickle. Delicious

Monday & Thursday check out our French Dip Sandwich

Week of November 26-30, 1984

Monday: Chicken & Rice Soup; Wieners & Sauerkraut, BBQ Ham Steak, Steak Parmesan, Beef & Macaroni (Special); Green Beans, Carrots, Au Gratin Potatoes. Standard Daily Items: Roast Beef, Baked Ham, Fried Chicken, Fried Fish, Chopped Sirloin. Selection of Salads, Sandwiches and Pies.

Tuesday: Tomato Soup; Potato Baked Chicken, BBQ Spare Ribs, Mexican Dinner (Special); Squash, Broccoli, Ranch Beans, Spanish Rice.

Wednesday: Seafood Gumbo; Liver & Onions, Baked Turbot, BBQ Ham Steak, Baked Meatloaf w/Creole Sauce (Special); Beets, Brussels Sprouts, Green Beans.

Thursday: Beef & Barley Soup; Chicken & Dumplings, Corned Beef w/Cabbage, Smothered Steak w/Cornbread Dressing (Special); Spinach, Cabbage, Cauliflower au Gratin, Parsley Potatoes.

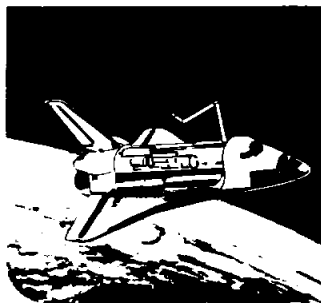
Friday: Seafood Gumbo; Pork Chop w/Yam Rosette, Creole Baked Cod, Tuna & Salmon Croquette (Special); Brussels Sprouts, Green Beans, Buttered Corn, Whipped Potatoes.

NASA
Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center

Space News Roundup

The **Roundup** is an official publication of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas, and is published every other Friday by the Public Affairs Office for all space center employees. **Roundup** deadline is the first Wednesday after publication.

Editor: Brian Welch



Gallery

Bean's art stresses realism, stark beauty

Alan Bean began studying art in night school 23 years ago while still a test pilot for the Navy at Patuxent River, Maryland. Now, after walking on the Moon and logging almost 1,672 hours in space, he has become the first artist ever to explore another world and return to paint what he saw.

Bean, who retired from the Astronaut Office in June 1981 to pursue his art full time, will have his first one-man show in Houston beginning Nov. 20 at the Meredith Long Gallery, 2323 San Felipe. The show will run through the first week of December, and is

open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. His only previous one-man show, held at the Opera Association in Fort Worth last year, sold 75 percent of the paintings on display in the first 30 minutes, he said.

"I want to create paintings that artistically record for future generations mankind's first exploration of another world. The art I make now is the beginning of a new category in the progression of art history, art of human experience off our home planet Earth. I have the honor and responsibility of being first."

Bean's paintings stress both visual and technical realism, and his most prevalent subject is the Apollo explorations of the Moon. As Apollo 12 Lunar Module Pilot in 1969, he was the fourth person to walk on the Moon. His work also includes images from the Space Shuttle Program.

The work, he says, is something he plans to do for the rest of his life. "I want to try to tell the beginning of man's exploration into space," he said. "When I realized that most of us who actively participated in this incredible adventure and could tell

all the stories first-hand would be gone in less than thirty or forty years, I began to realize that if any credible artistic impressions were to remain for future generations, I must paint them now."

Bean works for about four hours each morning, averaging about one month per painting. He characterizes his work as being in the same tradition as that of Frederic Remington or Charles Russell, artists who documented the Old West after first experiencing it.

The tales which accompany the paintings are an important part of his work as well, part of what

Bean sees as recording history (the captions to the accompanying art work were written by Bean). He said he hopes to gather more ideas for paintings as he talks with other people who have journeyed into space.

"I've always been lucky," Bean told *Southern Living Magazine*, which profiled him in the October 1984 issue. "When they picked me for the astronaut program, I was just lucky to be standing in the right place at the right time. I had the background they were looking for. It's the same with my painting; I've got a lucky feeling about it, too."



Senator Schmitt Samples Subsurface Soil

"Astronaut Harrison 'Jack' Schmitt is taking a scoop of lunar material from the lip of a small crater. Behind him, Apollo 17 Commander Gene Cernan is readying two sample bags to contain the soil for the quarter million mile journey to Earth. I phoned Jack one morning as I was working on this painting. He recalled trenching into a crater at one point during his lunar surface exploration. 'Many craters are formed when meteoroids coming in from deep space strike the Moon's surface at very high speeds, say 10,000 miles per hour or more,' Jack said. 'At the point of impact the soil and rocks are ejected up and out, resulting in the deepest and oldest material coming to rest at the surface. It's similar to the effect experienced when one turns back the bed covers—the sheet rests on top of the bedspread. By returning samples of soil from a variety of depths, we begin to understand how long ago the crater was formed, and the subsequent cosmic ray and solar wind activity.' Jack is the only practicing professional geologist in all history to make firsthand observations any place other than our good old Planet Earth."

Moon Rock—Earthbound

"Collecting a Moon rock was more than just reaching down and grabbing one we happened to like. The first problem was to know which rocks of the many that can be seen are worth the time and energy to document, collect and return. We learned a lot about rocks in the six years of geology training on Earth prior to going to the Moon. Usually, the first rock we selected was one that looked most like all the other rocks in the area. This typical rock was photographed from two positions before we disturbed the ground. Picking up the rock was not simple either, and I have painted John Young using the long tweezer-like tongs at a site near where Apollo 16 landed. Charlie Duke is inspecting the rock, making specific comments to Earth, then placing it in a numbered sample bag. This is a big day for the selected rock, as it has probably been sitting right here for at least three billion years just waiting for some human being to single it out for a quick trip to Planet Earth."



The Eagle Is Headed Home

"The Eagle has lifted off. Neil Armstrong at the left hand window and Buzz Aldrin at the other are just lifting off from Tranquility Base to rendezvous with Mike Collins in the orbiting command module. I remember the lift off from the Moon as a big bang followed by what feels like a super fast, quiet elevator ride. The big bang is the explosive bolts separating the ascent stage from the descent stage and the quiet ride occurs because in the airless environment of the Moon, the rocket makes no sound. I have accentuated the glow from the rocket engine to give a feel for one of the most exciting moments in space flight."

