

Pressure Built at MSC as LM Headed for Moon

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bob Peek, Battalion photographer-columnist, is working with the Associated Press news team covering the Apollo 12 moon shot from the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston. During his employment, Bob had planned to write an article a day for The Battalion to provide an inside glimpse into happenings at the MSC during a space flight. A 22-hour work day kept Bob from calling in a story for Wednesday, so here is the second of his inside looks.

Lunar Module to separate from the Command Module and begin its descent to the moon's surface neared. In the face of a 20-hour day, unexpected problems become even more frustrating to the harried newsmen. Despite potentially serious incidents, no one "lost his cool."

Early Tuesday morning, Apollo began its daily telecast from space, but the picture didn't appear on the closed-circuit TV screen in the newsroom. Writers and editors exchanged puzzled looks for a few seconds, then everyone moved at once.

One man reached for a phone and called CBS, the "cool" network, who was supplying the pic-

tures for the closed-circuit monitor.

The assistant AP bureau chief for Texas ran upstairs to personally visit CBS' headquarters.

The writers gathered about the man on the telephone or sat around looking disgusted.

"How do you write about a broadcast if you can't see it?" seemed to be the consensus of opinion.

An editor from the AP photo lab walked in looking as if someone had stabbed him in the back. The lack of a picture on his monitors was tantamount to disaster. The AP gets its pictures of the TV broadcasts by setting tripod-mounted Hasselblat 500-C cameras inches from the two small monitor screens.

Without the monitors, the photographers had to rely on NBC's nationwide broadcast. Unfortunately, the picture quality of network television is inferior to the small closed-circuit monitors. Thus, photographs of the broadcast would be of inferior quality.

CBS said their broadcast was on a different circuit than the AP's receiver but that everything would be straightened out in time for the next broadcast, the moon walk itself.

The grumbling in the newsroom diminished, but didn't disappear for some time.

Later Tuesday morning, another problem arose. A scheduled radio broadcast from Apollo 12 wasn't coming over the closed-circuit radio speaker. NASA was

blithely continuing its broadcast of a press conference while Mission Control talked with the astronauts and newsmen steamed in their press rooms.

Finally, NASA switched to the astronauts. More grumbling.

Some of the problems involved pratfall humor. There are two telephones and three odd-looking headset telephones scattered around the AP newsroom. About 6 p. m. Tuesday every phone in sight was in use. Then the phone rang.

"Where is it?" someone shouted.

"There isn't one," someone else answered, laughing at the ridiculous situation.

AP writer John Barbour dove behind the main desk and emerged

seconds later with a headset and a smile stretching from sideburn to sideburn: "I got it!"

Barbour is one of the more colorful newsmen covering man's return to the moon. He came to work Tuesday night dressed completely in white with the distinct exception of his starkly black socks.

Equally colorful is Harry Rosenthal, AP writer from Washington, D.C. He is the sort of man anyone likes, despite his being over 30. Harry is short but athletic, with black curly hair that's beginning to thin from the back.

He is equally recognizable by the glasses and enormous pipe which part the air in front of him wherever he walks.

The day after the launch, he flew in from Cape Kennedy and upon his arrival in the newsroom, headed straight for the trunk (national) wire.

"My kid's marching on the Justice Department right now," he explained. "I want to see how he's doing."

Monday, the editors wanted a story about the Russian space program.

"I've got a Russian expert," Rosenthal offered. "One of the secretaries in the Soviet Embassy."

"Does he know anything about the Russian space program?" the editors queried.

"He ought to," Rosenthal replied. "He's their chief spy."

Intrepid Blasts Safely Away From Moon

Howard Benedict, AP Aerospace Writer, reports from the Space Center, Houston. Apollo 12 explorers Charles "Pete" Conrad Jr. and Alan L. Bean blasted off the moon into lunar orbit today and began the complex chase to catch and link up with their mother ship for the long journey home. The fiery liftoff climaxed a busy day on the moon in which Conrad and Bean trekked a mile across lunar wastelands and carefully collected a treasure trove of scientific instruments.

Conrad and Bean will transfer into the command ship and later today the astronauts plan to deliberately crash Intrepid on the moon, about 15 miles from Apollo 12's base, to excite a moonquake device left on the surface.

Then they'll spend an extra day in lunar orbit, photographing future landing sites before starting back to earth Friday. Splashdown is scheduled for 3:57 p. m. Monday in the Pacific Ocean.

Shortly before liftoff, Mission Control assessed Intrepid's systems and reported: "You're good to cast off," using a nautical term for the all-Navy crew.

"Liftoff and away we go," Conrad exclaimed as the tiny craft rocketed off the moon.

The four-legged descent stage that lowered them to the moon Wednesday served as a launching pad today and was left behind on the moon, along with five scientific instruments and unneeded boots, tools, trash and other items dumped there by the astronauts.

The astronauts had two regrets: The failure of a color television camera and the fact that they didn't have more time to spend on the surface. The camera failed, apparently because its image tube was burned when Bean pointed it at the sun, after only 45 minutes' operation during the first moon-walk Wednesday.

"I'm sure sorry the television didn't work," Conrad apologized. "It's a beautiful sight to see Intrepid and Surveyor sitting here on this crater."

"We could spend eight or nine hours right here," Conrad said at one point when Mission Control instructed the astronauts to move on to another crater. Later, he looked longingly at a large boulder in the distance and said: "I sure wish we had time to go over to that boulder. It's the biggest one we've seen."

Conrad and Bean were as excited as amateur rockhounds on a geology field trip as they shuffled across the bleak lunar landscape. They kept up a lovely commentary for scientists listening in Mission Control as they moved from one crater to another—Head Crater, Bench Crater, Halo Crater, Triple Crater, Surveyor Crater and Blocke Crater. The trail etched an irregular ellipse so that at no time were the astronauts more than 1,500 feet from the safety of Intrepid. They found varying shades of color in the lunar soil.

"In places, the rocks are brown," Bean reported. "In other places they're grey, and in others they're white."

They also inspected and photographed what they described as old and fresh craters, the latter with mounds of dirt piled up on the rims.

But everywhere there was the thick layer of soot-like dust that dirtied the astronauts' white suits and at times collected on their cameras and tools.

"We're really grimy," Conrad commented. Their voices were filled with excitement whenever they spotted interesting rocks or other features.

"Hey, look at this one!" or "We gotta get that one!" were frequent exclamations.

"Man!" Conrad shouted near Head Crater, "have I got the grapefruit rock of all grapefruit rocks." It was big, he said, and he wanted to know if he could roll it down the crater slope so that a seismometer deployed earlier could get a reading of its roll.

He made sure Bean was standing still and said: "Houston, on my mark, I'm going to roll it. Hit, hit, now! It's just rolling, roll, roll, roll, still rolling. Still rolling, still rolling, slowly, then it stopped."

The seismometer needles moved with its bounce and the information was relayed a quarter million miles to Mission Control.

In another test of the seismometer, Conrad and Bean were standing still and said:

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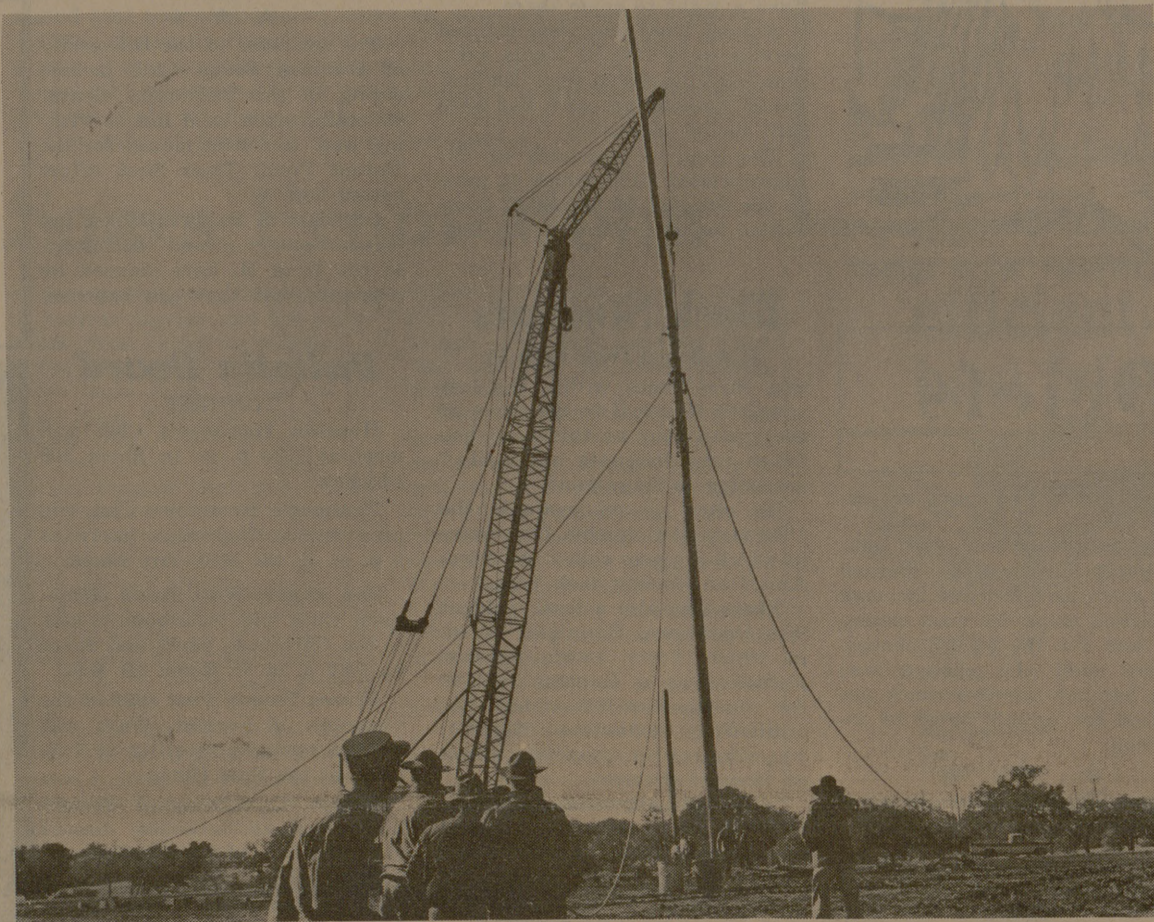
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RAINMAKER Something about a hole and timber on the Duncan Hall drill field at Texas A&M causes rain. The 105-foot centerpole for the annual Thanksgiving football game bonfire went up Wednesday under the direction of company D-1 (Spider D) after a two-day rain delay. Yell leaders believe the conical stack of logs will be the biggest ever, despite almost three inches of rain that slowed the start of construction. Core logs were trucked in Wednesday and stacking in earnest begins Saturday. The symbolic flame will burn Wednesday. (Photo by V. L. Scott)

May Set Up Black Student Committee Again A&M Blacks to Organize Today

By Gary Mayfield, Battalion Staff Writer. Seven black students were scheduled to gather at 4 p. m. today with Howard Perry, director of civilian student affairs, to organize a 1969-70 Black Student Committee.

This same group met last week with Perry and exchanged ideas for a possible organizational conference for a Black Student Committee. The University's Executive committee had previously sent letters to each of them, encouraging support for linking the administration with the problems of black students.

Among those involved is Allen Giles, chairman of the Afro-American Society. The other six are Nokomis (Butch) Jackson, Shelton Wallace, Frederick Kay, Raymond Hart, Marvin Taylor, and Isaiah Thompson.

Today's organizational meeting should determine the future status of the committee, according to Jackson, who is also Election Commission chairman for the Student Senate. He predicted that the students will decide whether or not they want to continue with the committee and if so, map out a plan for immediate action.

This attempt in coordinating a Black Student Committee is, according to Perry, a revamping of the committee which began last March and virtually vanished by the end of May. Organized by Edwin Cooper, former director of civilian student activities, the Committee on Black Student Affairs was aimed primarily at reaching an understanding between the administration and the university's black students.

Cooper told The Battalion in a recent interview that he was disappointed in last year's com-

mittee because the members did not exercise good judgment in leading the Afro-American Society, an off-campus organization of A&M black students which issued written demands to A&M resident Earl Rudder concerning extra black benefits.

A group of 15 black students last May, according to a written statement from the President's office, submitted the list of demands in a two-hour conference with the President. The demands called for more black literature in the library, employing of black professors and Negro-oriented

studies, more recruiting of black athletes, recruiting of black high school students by blacks already in A&M. The demands drew a resolution of criticism from the A&M Student Senate, which said the black student group did not further its complaints through Senate channels and also they did not contact the administration through the Committee on Black Student Affairs.

"We went directly to the administration because we felt the bonds of communication had been cut," Giles commented.

California Congressman James C. Corman will speak here tonight on Congress' welfare and tax programs. The 8 p. m. presentation in the Memorial Student Center Ballroom will mark the legislator's second visit to A&M, announced Thomas C. Fitzhugh, Great Issues chairman of Waco.

To enhance student involvement, a residence hall and corps unit will host the speaker, Fitzhugh added. Keathly Hall and Gary Mauro, hall president of Dallas, will host Congressman Corman at an informal reception before the program. Company K-1, commanded by Dennis Garbis of Falls Church, Va., will participate in a reception after the presentation.

Fitzhugh noted admission to the Great Issues presentation is

free but that subscriptions to support Great Issues are solicited. Congressman Corman keynoteed last December the Black America Seminar conducted by Great Issues.

Member of the House Ways and Means Committee, the 49-year-old Democrat of Van Nuys, Calif., was elected to his first term in 1960 and has been returned to the House in the 88th, 89th, 90th and 91st Congresses.

Corman chairs the government procurement and economic concentration subcommittee of the House Select Committee on Small Business. The Democratic Steering Committee member was appointed by the president to the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders and was ap-

pointed by the speaker to the Select Committee to investigate the conduct of Rep.-elect Adam Clayton Powell.

Corman, a reserve lieutenant colonel in the Marine Corps, is a 1942 UCLA graduate and completed work at the University of Southern California Law School in 1948. He practiced law eight years and for work in the courts and many civic organizations of which he is member, Corman received the 1964 Human Rights Award for "outstanding service in fostering goodwill and understanding among religious and racial groups."

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A&M, TU Note Standing Policy On Vandalism

Texas A&M and University of Texas at Austin officials issued a reminder Tuesday that students will be suspended for committing acts of vandalism on the campus of the rival school.

The long-standing policy agreement between the UT regents and A&M board of directors was re-emphasized as students at both universities prepare for their annual Thanksgiving Day football game, to be held here this year.

The joint statement by A&M President Earl Rudder and UT-Austin President Norman Hackerman pointed out that a student "who goes to another campus with the intent to paint or otherwise deface statues, buildings or other property or to commit any act of vandalism" will be suspended for at least one semester.

"Fortunately, in recent years such misconceived enthusiasm has been infrequent," the two presidents agreed.

WEATHER Friday — Partly cloudy. Wind South 10 to 15 m.p.h. High 68, low 39. Saturday — Partly cloudy to cloudy. Wind South 10 to 20 m.p.h. High 71, low 47.

Pre-Registration for Spring Will Be Held Next Month

Pre-registration for the spring semester at Texas A&M will be held Dec. 1-12, announced Registrar Robert A. Lacey.

A meeting of deans, department heads and registration advisors involved with pre-registration will be held at 3 p. m. Tuesday in Room 001 of the YMCA, Lacey noted.

The registrar encouraged all seniors to register as soon as possible during the pre-registration period in order for them to get courses needed to graduate.

Lacey released the following schedule for the spring semester. —Pre-registration, weekdays, 8 a.m.-noon, 1-5 p.m. —Delayed registration, weekdays, Jan. 26-30, 8-noon, 1-5 p.m. —Late registration, weekdays, Feb. 2-6, 8-noon, 1-5 p.m.

University National Bank "On the side of Texas A&M." —Adv.

—Spring semester classes begin Monday, Feb. 2.

Each student must visit with his major department during pre-registration to obtain his registration card packet and to schedule a meeting with his registration advisor for pre-registration counseling, Lacey explained. Identification cards will be required in order to obtain the registration card packet.

The registrar said all students must secure a fee data card from a Housing Office representative. All day students, civilians and cadets, must report to the Leggett Hall Lounge for the fee data card. Cadets in the Duncan area will report to the Corps guardroom.

Civilian students report to the following areas:

—Lounge C office, between Walton and Schuhmacher — Hart, Milner, Schuhmacher and Walton Halls.

—Lounge A-2 office, north end of Hughes Hall — Moses Hall.

—Lounge B office, between Moore and Crocker — Crocker, Davis-Gary, McInnis and Moore Halls.

—Lounge A-1 office, south end of Hughes Hall — Fowler, Henderson, Hughes, Keathley and Leggett Halls.

—Purveyor Lounge — Hart, Law, Mitchell and Purveyor Halls. Registration card packet and the fee data card should then be taken to the registration headquarters, Room 001, YMCA.

Lacey said fee statements will be mailed to the student's local mailing address about Dec. 15. All fees must be paid by Jan. 9, or the student's pre-registration will be subject to cancellation, he added.

After the fees have been paid, the student's class schedule will be forwarded to the local mailing address.