

Apollo Kids, Pete and Al, Romp on Moon Playground

By Harry F. Rosenthal
Associated Press Writer

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Al and Pete returned to their earthly playground Wednesday night, as full of zip and laughter as the first time they touched lunar soil. It wasn't a moonwalk. It was a romp.

The television camera that astronauts Alan L. Bean and Charles "Pete" Conrad put on the moon still didn't work. "That dang-a-ling camera," Conrad called it.

But even without television, segment one and segment two of the moonwalk, made a price-as radio show. Bean, the straight man. Conrad, the comedian and his own delighted audience.

There never was a sound from space like Pete Conrad's cackle. He hummed while he worked the moon. He sang. He whistled, he laughed and he chuckled. He bubbled with joy every new wonder. But mostly he cackled.

They were being very business-like, when suddenly Conrad exclaimed: "Man, have I got the grapefruit rock of all grapefruit rocks."

Bean joined in. "That's gotta be home in the space vehicle. It'll never fit in the rock box."

A few minutes later they were rolling a rock down a crater to photograph its track and to allow earth to read the squiggles of a seismometer experiment.

"Let me ask you a question, Houston," said Conrad. "How big a rock?"

Mission Control said whatever size was convenient.

"I'm still standing still, Houston," said Conrad as he let his favorite rock tumble: "Hit. Hit. Now! It's just rolling. Roll, roll, roll. Still rolling."

His happiness sang across 240,000 miles of space. "It's really a shame, Houston," he said. "We could work out here for eight or nine hours."

And Bean said, "The work is no strain at all."

The whole time on the moon, Conrad was the kid let loose in the toy store, the burglar with the key to the mint, the only boy on the block with Joe Namath's autograph.

He was Pete Conrad, delighted to be on the moon. "Whooo," he shouted, picking up a rock. "Just like the one-sixth-G airplane, Al. Flies up in the air. Chase it around. Wild, I'll tell you. You know this sun, it really is just like somebody's got a superbright spotlight."

And he laughed. Never mind that nobody on earth knew what he was laughing about because the television conked out just after it showed Conrad and Bean getting out of their lunar taxi.

It was like radio of the 40s where you got caught up in the thing whether you knew what was happening or not. Pete and Al were having their adventure and you zipped along with them. You laughed when Pete laughed, even when nobody said anything funny.

Mission Control, like an indulgent mother, urged them to start getting back to the spaceship. Put away the toys and come in boys.

"Hey," Conrad shouted, "I just threw something, and it bounced

up and must have gone 300 feet." The stuff discoveries are made of.

Bean admonished: "Hey, quit playing and get some work done." "We suggest you go at a relaxed hustle," was Mission Control's reply. Mother was getting more insistent for the moonwalk to end.

So they head back, and from the hard breathing it was a hustle that was not too relaxed but then something else got Pete's attention.

"Halt, halt, halt!" he said. "Look at that! Never saw one like that before. Look at that! That green? What is it?"

"Let's see it," said Bean.

"No, it was green," Conrad said. "I mean, that's why I stopped. Heck with it. Bring the rock back." More heavy breathing. On radio it's obvious they are carrying it.

The boys were almost back home. Mother, that big Mission Control Center on the earth, has got them back. Bean climbed back in first.

"Hey Al and Pete," said the man from Mission Control.

"That was a hell of a show. Too bad the TV didn't work." Obviously, Mother was too young to remember radio.



READING IMPROVER

Students have at their fingertips 50 of the reading pacers used here by Chris Gavlak, Counseling and Testing Center secretary. The mechanically-operated bar moves down a page of reading material, forcing the reader to improve speed and comprehension through more efficient eye movements. Fred Dodson, who runs the Reading Skills Program for counseling and testing, noted pacers, reading material and instructions are available to students through civilian hall advisors and unit scholastic officers. Chris is the wife of forestry major Joe Gavlak.

Intrepid Soars From Moon

(Continued from page 1) meter, the astronauts loped about in the one-sixth gravity field, and Mission Control told them their steps were thundering on the recorder.

"You ever see those pictures of giraffes running in slow motion?" Conrad laughed. "Exactly what I feel like."

Scientists in Houston asked them several times to look at

Management Coed Wins C of C Grant

Mrs. Diane Valera, senior management major, has been awarded a \$300 Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce scholarship.

The scholarship was presented to the first A&M coed recipient by Lowell Jones, vice president of the Chamber's commercial division.

Business Dean John Pearson noted Mrs. Valera, a Distinguished Student whose grade point ratio "is one of the best anywhere at A&M," praised the college's scholarship committee for her selection.

"Mrs. Valera was chosen over a number of quality applicants," the dean said. "We feel that the commercial division of the Chamber of Commerce should be pleased with this investment of their funds."

The award rotates annually through the chamber's divisions and to appropriate colleges at A&M.

certain craters or to take pictures of various objects, and the astronauts were happy to comply.

But they balked when asked to climb down Head Crater to inspect what they said looked like melted rock in the center.

"That crater is a little too steep," Conrad explained. They didn't go.

They had some advice for future Apollo crews.

"If we had a belt to strap to a guy's back," Conrad said, "one guy could hold on to it and the other could bend over and pick up rocks. It would save a lot of time."

Because of the bulky space suits, the astronauts have to use scoops or tongs to collect samples.

And for his counterpart on the Apollo 13 mission, Bean had this advice: "Tell Fred Haise that he

might quit working on running and start working on holding things. You don't get tired walking, but you get tired holding these tools."

They regretfully ended the second excursion at 2:45 a.m. EST and re-entered Intrepid's cabin to eat, rest and prepare for blast-off. They could look out the window at the array of scientific instruments they deployed on their first moonwalk.

Looking ahead, Conrad asked: "What's up with Yankee Clipper this morning?"

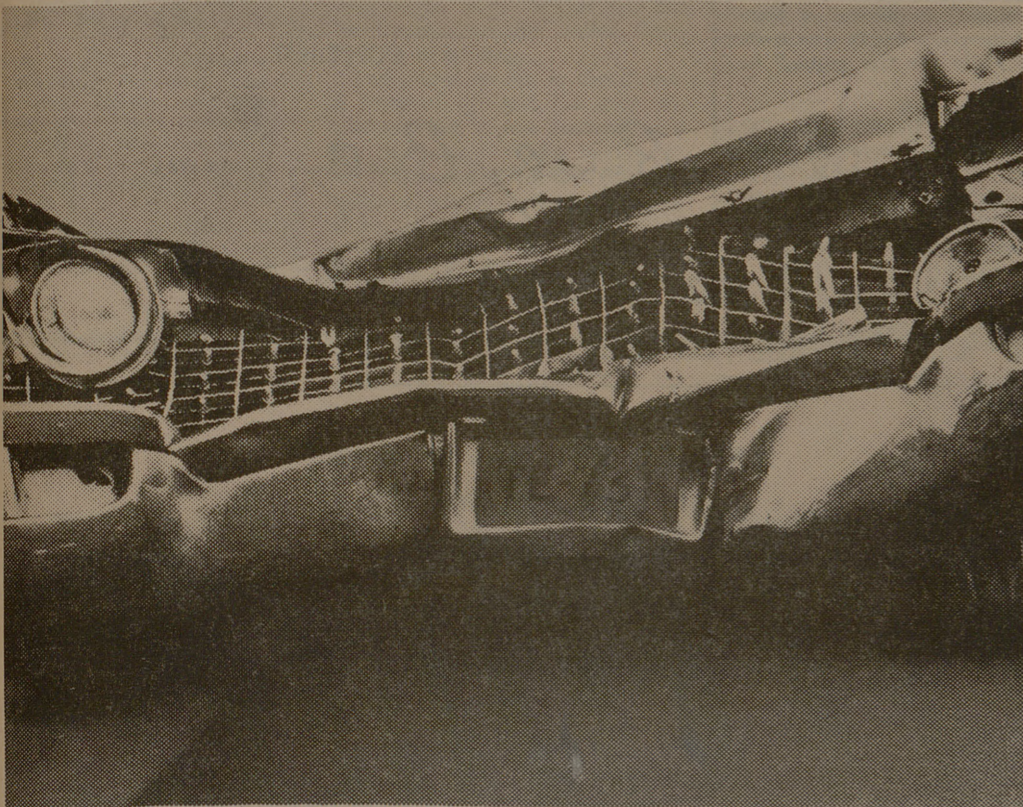
"Yankee Clipper is doing real good," Mission Control replied.

"Now all we have left is a little rendezvous," Conrad said, looking to the reunion with Richard F. Gordon Jr., whom they last saw Tuesday night before the third and fourth men went to the moon.



APO SELLING PAPERWEIGHTS

Alpha Phi Omega member Bill Cronrath holds an "Old Sarge" paperweight that APO will be selling until Dec. 17. "Old Sarge" stands more than nine inches tall, weighs at least two pounds, and costs \$3. He can be obtained from any APO member or by writing the service fraternity at Box 7454, College Station. Cronrath said APO will also have a booth set up in the Memorial Student Center on Thanksgiving Day.



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