

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"Before you go into your room, let me tell you that some of th' guys picked up several moments of Guion Hall that they thought you'd like to have!"

Apollo past midpoint of journey to the moon

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) —The Apollo 14 astronauts flashed past the halfway point Monday of their quarter-million-mile voyage to the moon, with doubts dispelled that a pesky docking apparatus would block their lunar landing.

The spacemen, Alan B. Shepard Jr., Edgar D. Mitchell and Stuart A. Roosa, awoke from a day-long sleep only a few hours after officials announced that a spacecraft docking problem had apparently cleared itself.

Mission Control engineers said the problem with a docking mechanism that failed to work properly Sunday had apparently worked itself out and space officials gave a go-ahead for Shepard and Mitchell to guide the Apollo 14 lunar module down into the forbidding Fra Mauro lunar highlands Friday.

Apollo 14 sped past the halfway point at 6:08 p.m. CST. The spacecraft was then 125,350 miles from both the earth and the moon, and was flying through space at about 3,200 miles per hour.

At 9:39 p.m. CST, the astronauts fired the power service propulsion rocket engine on the back of their spacecraft for 10 seconds. This increased their speed of flight by 48.6 m.p.h. and adjusted their time of arrival and altitude at the moon.

The course correction rocket firing will cause the spacecraft to go into an orbit 69 miles above the moon early Thursday morning. Without the rocket firing, the spacecraft would have curved around the back of the moon, 2,420 miles above its surface, and headed back toward earth.

The astronauts retired about

6:50 a.m. CST Monday after a difficult 19-hour day. They awoke about 5 p.m. CST and reported they felt refreshed.

Although the world was kept in suspense on whether Apollo 14 would land on the moon, there apparently was no doubt in the astronaut's minds when they settled down for a 10-hour rest period early Monday.

At a news conference Monday, Mission Director Chester Lee firmly announced an extensive analysis of the docking mechanism uncovered no problem now but failed to explain why it did not operate properly Sunday. He said the mission would continue as planned.

"We're proceeding with every intention of making a full lunar landing mission," said Lee. "We can find nothing wrong with the (docking) probe. We are confident now that the docking probe is good."

The statement was made at a news conference Monday afternoon after engineers on the ground had spent all night examining models of the docking mechanism to try to find out why it failed to operate properly in five docking attempts Sunday.

Astronaut James McDivitt, manager of the Apollo Spacecraft Program, told newsmen, "I can't help but feel there was some foreign object that got into the system. Where the foreign object came from and where it went, we don't know."

Once the spacecraft had been launched, had orbited earth 1½

times and was then fired off in space toward the moon, Roosa pulled the command ship out from the lunar module and spent third stage rocket Sunday night. He turned it around and tried five times to rejoin it nose to nose with the lunar module. And five times three small metal latches failed to capture and hold.

Space officials explained Monday that the two craft finally were linked when Roosa drove the plunger-like docking probe into the lunar module Drogue and the three small latches sprang into place. As the latches engaged they triggered a contraction of the probe. This drew the craft together and 12 large docking latches slammed into place with 3,000 pounds of force, clamping the craft together.

The astronauts removed the docking device and brought it inside the command ship early Monday. With the aid of a flashlight and instructions radioed from earth, they carefully inspected the probe and the drogue, which is the section of the docking device that is attached to the lunar module.

But they could find nothing amiss. They were able to latch the two pieces together by hand with ease, trying without success to repeat the earlier failure.

The docking mishap had put the astronauts' chances of landing on the moon in doubt. Such a landing in the rugged old Fra Mauro highlands of the moon has been scheduled for 3:16 a.m. CST Friday.

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Bulletin Board

TONIGHT
South Louisiana Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the MSC lobby to have pictures made for the Aggeliand.

Texas A&M Model Airplane Club will meet at 8:15 in room 202 of the Physics building to collect dues and plan spring contests.

WEDNESDAY
Houston Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Art Room of the MSC to elect a sweetheart.

Omega Phi Alpha will meet at 7:30 p.m. in room 3A of the MSC to discuss a constitution, advisers and projects.

Dallas Hometown Club will meet at 8 p.m. in room 3D of the MSC to discuss the Easter party.

Port Arthur Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in lounge B, between dorms 2 and 4.

North-South Carolina Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in lounge D in the cadet area to discuss future parties.

Mid-Jefferson County Hometown Club will meet at 7 p.m. at the east gate Ralph's Pizza for a reactivation meeting. Free pizza for all Aggies from Nederland, Port Neches, Groves and Port Acres.

Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship will meet at 7:30 p.m. in room 304 of the Physics Building.

THURSDAY
Student Senate will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room on the second floor of the library.

Meeting is open to all students. American Meteorological Society will meet at 8 p.m. in room 102 of Nagle Hall. Aggeliand picture will be taken at 7:30 p.m. in front of the MSC.

tonight on the tube

Numbers in () denote channels on the cable.		6:00	3 (5)	Evening News
2:30	3 (5)	6:30	3 (5)	Beverly Hillsbillies
15 (12)	3 (5)	7:00	3 (5)	Green Acres
3:00	3 (5)	7:30	3 (5)	Hee Haw
3:30	3 (5)	8:30	3 (5)	All in the Family
15 (12)	3 (5)	9:00	3 (5)	Marcus Welby, MD
3:00	3 (5)	9:30	3 (5)	CBS News
3:30	3 (5)	10:00	3 (5)	Final News
15 (12)	3 (5)	10:30	3 (5)	Movie of the Week
3:00	3 (5)			
3:30	3 (5)			
15 (12)	3 (5)			
3:00	3 (5)			
3:30	3 (5)			
15 (12)	3 (5)			
4:00	3 (5)			
4:30	3 (5)			
15 (12)	3 (5)			
5:00	3 (5)			
15 (12)	3 (5)			
5:30	3 (5)			
15 (12)	3 (5)			

Bingo—Weekdays at 5, BCS-TV/9. Nothing to buy. You need not be present to win.

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Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 300 words in length. They must be signed, although the writer's name will be withheld by arrangement with the editor. Address correspondence to Listen Up, *The Battalion*, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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By Charles M. Schulz

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IT'S IN THE WASH. TODAY IS MONDAY, ISN'T IT?
ANOTHER LETTER FROM WOODSTOCK
"DEAR FRIEND OF FRIENDS"
"I ALMOST BROUGHT A GIRL HOME TO MEET YOU, BUT SHE RAN OFF WITH A STUPID ROBIN"
"IT'S HARD TO COMPETE WITH A ROBIN... NOT ONLY FROM THE STANDPOINT OF LOOKS, BUT ALSO WORMWISE"
"WORMWISE"??