

## Space shuttle returns to KSC after layover

United Press International  
BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. — Bolted atop a gleaming Boeing 747 jet, the space shuttle Columbia left on the second leg of its 1,543-mile trip home Tuesday after a rousing refueling stop before an estimated 40,000 cheering fans.

The cumbersome coupling of jet transport and spacecraft left the air base in northwest Louisiana on schedule at 12:30 p.m. — with a fresh crew and 20,000 gallons of fuel.

The flight to Cape Canaveral was expected to take 2½ hours. The 747 and shuttle arrived about 10 minutes early on its 738-mile trip from White Sands, N.M., to Barksdale. Officials opened the air base to civilians for the once-in-a-lifetime

chance to see the history-making space shuttle during an expected two-hour refueling layover.

The piggyback aircraft-spacecraft combination made one pass over the north-south runway before turning for a landing in a 15-knot crosswind and took 8,000 feet of runway to come to a halt.

"It was a beautiful touchdown," said Capt. Dick Cole of the Barksdale information office.

Jim Harrington, National Aeronautics and Space Administration ground operations manager for White Sands, said there were no major problems in mounting the Columbia for its third postflight trip to Kennedy Space Center.

"It took a little longer than we anticipated to get it off of the four jacks," he said, "but once we got it up to the base height, I think it was just a little over 2½ hours until we had it mated.

Once the Columbia gets to KSC workers will go to work on it immediately, readying it for its fourth voyage into space, scheduled to begin June 27.

Buck Gay, operations manager at Northrup Strip, the remote desert landing site where Columbia returned to Earth one week ago, said preparation work for the flight back to Florida went smoothly.

Operations have been going around-the-clock at Northrup Strip since the spacecraft touched down at the morning of March 30.

## Brazos farms productive, ag commissioner says

by John P. Lopez  
Battalion Reporter

Brazos Valley farms and ranches are some of the most productive in the country, Reagan V. Brown, Texas commissioner of agriculture, said Tuesday.

"Farmers in the Brazos Valley are generating \$28 million to the economy of this area," he said.

Brown was speaking at a banquet honoring farmers and ranchers in the Brazos Valley area. About 400 people attended the banquet.

Awards were given to outstanding farmers and ranchers in four categories. Don Angonia was named outstanding farmer, Albert Newcomb outstanding rancher, Walter S. Britten outstanding agricultural community lead-



Reagan V. Brown

er and Jacquetta Ayers outstanding adult leader-youth groups. Brown congratulated the

recipients saying they helped contribute to the Brazos Valley's successes in agriculture.

"These people in the Brazos Valley are producing the foods and fibers that we need so desperately," he said. "Seventy percent of the Brazos Valley is either a farm or ranch, thank you for contributing so much to Texas agriculture."

Brown also congratulated the farmer for making significant gains in all aspects of agriculture over the past few years.

"The farmer in Texas today is producing over \$10 billion worth of agricultural products a year," he said. "That's fourth largest in the nation."

Texas is the number three state in the nation in exporting agricultural goods, he

added.

"We are exporting \$3.1 billion worth of products," he said.

The exportation of goods was cited by Brown as one of the most significant improvements in Texas agriculture.

"In the past twelve months Texas has exported 200,000 head of cattle to Mexico alone," he said. "We'll work with everyone, friend or foe, in short of war and breaking of diplomatic relations. Our goal is to triple the exportation of goods within the next three years."

Brown also said the exportation of goods is good for Texas job market.

"Everytime we can increase the exports by \$1 million, we create 32,000 jobs," he said.

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## Gun shows draw crowds

United Press International  
OKLAHOMA CITY — According to the Beatles, "Happiness is a warm gun," an opinion at least one shopper at a recent gun show seemed to favor when asked about the aura of guns.

"Why would anybody suck their thumbs?" he says. "It's whatever you feel secure with."

The speaker was one of the thousands of people who flock to the bustling martial flea markets known as gun shows. Outside of a small conventional war, it probably would be impossible to find more weapons in one place than at a gun show. There are rifles, shotguns, handguns of all sorts, blowguns, swords, Oriental weapons and bows.

Gun shows are held across the United States, with Houston and Los Angeles hosting the largest gun shows in the world drawing up to 70,000 people in a weekend at each site, says Claude Hall, a gun show promoter from Edmond, Okla.

"There are gun shows going on, I'd say, every weekend, with a major gun show every two to three weeks in the United States some place," Hall said. Oklaho-

ma City and Dallas host probably the next-largest shows, he said.

Of course, Hall said, European flea markets for guns cater to the continental buyer and feature more exotic hardware, with captured and black market weaponry of all sorts changing hands openly.

"It's an open market there," he said.

Some 10,000 gun enthusiasts streamed into Hall's show in Oklahoma City recently carrying rifles on their shoulders or pistols in their belts. Many wore assorted outfits ranging from combat camouflage to Civil War duds to outfits of the French Resistance.

Guns hold a certain fascination for people, says one young gun browser wearing a tiger stripe camouflage outfit that "you can't buy anymore" and toting a high-powered crossbow and aluminum arrows. Most gun show fans are normal people, he says.

"There's always some weirdos in the crowd," Hall said, recalling the time a motorcycle gang, who thought they should not have to pay the entry fee,

had to be escorted out of the building.

With some rare guns going for thousands of dollars, the weaponry is a good financial investment, say some dealers and purchasers. Others say they like guns for protection.

In addition to providing weapons, gun shows offer security in other forms.

For survivalists with enough foresight, there is gear to last through the anarchistic chaos after foreign takeover or total economic collapse.

"They (survivalists) just think there's going to be some sort of an attack or something, riots in the streets," said one gun vendor.

For the decorative at heart, there are belt buckles, small boxes and pendants, all with guns on them.

There are souvenir, apparently non-explosive, grenades and there is an assortment of reading material, including "Getting Even — The Complete Book of Dirty Tricks," and "The Vigilante Handbook."

There's even a manual for "The Trapping and Destruction of Executive Armored Cars."

Although local and law enforcement agencies close eye on the proceeding law of supply and demand busy at work, Hall said, he talk around the shows that can buy almost anything — live grenades to land mine stolen military weapons — you talk to the right people.

"You can get the stuff you want and you've got to buy it," he said. "I've heard kinds of stories of people running guns to South America, running dope, stuff like that."

"Like any other business, you can get in as deep as you want," Hall said, but he said 90 percent of gun dealers are completely legitimate.

For those who want a weapon, gun shows provide assortment of machine guns. Some states ban private ownership of machine guns, but registration is allowed in many states by registering with the government and an initial fee of \$200.

A physician in Oklahoma bought one, one dealer said. "He just wanted a toy with," the dealer said.

## Two try to catch attacker; save hundreds for victim

United Press International  
HOUSTON — Two men waiting for a bus came to the rescue of an elderly man when he was attacked by someone trying to take his envelope, which was packed with \$100 bills.

"If that was my grandfather, I'd want somebody to help him," Tom Watkins, 25, said. "So I did."

Watkins and Effron Williams, 19, Monday rescued Peter

Wolf, 89, who was jumped by a man described as being 6-foot-3 and 20 years old.

Police said Wolf was standing in a crowd of people when he was attacked, and only Watkins and Williams came to his rescue.

Watkins said the attacker punched Wolf, grabbed a big envelope from him and ran away. Watkins and Williams chased and tackled the man, who fell through a plate glass window, but escaped.

When the rescuers caught the man, the envelope with hundred dollar bills spilled on the ground and the attacker fled.

Bob McCowen, a store owner nearby, said: "Hundred dollar bills were everywhere. One of my clerks picked up five or six."

All the money was collected and returned to Wolf, who would not explain why he carried so much cash.

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