

Ripped from the ROUNDUP

Ripped straight from the pages of old Space News Roundups, here's what happened at JSC on this date:

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A team of scientists recently accompanied members of the Apollo 15 prime and backup crews, Commander David Scott and Lunar Module Pilot James Irwin of the prime crew and Richard Gordon and Harrison Schmitt of the backup crew, to a rugged area, part of the Rio Grande River Gorge, six miles west of Taos, New Mexico. The purpose of the trip was to familiarize the astronauts with geological features similar to ones they may encounter in the Hadley-Apennine area of the moon where they are scheduled to land in late July.

In particular, the area near Taos was selected because of its similarity to what geologists expect members of the prime crew, David Scott and James Irwin, to find as they explore Hadley Rille, one of the main features of the lunar landing area.

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Astronauts John Young and Robert Crippen last week donned their new three-piece shuttle spacesuits: upper torso, lower torso, and helmet (with visor). Then, in a vacuum chamber pumped dry of air, they tested, "bought off," and ordered the "three-piecers" delivered to their shuttle orbiter, *Columbia*, at Cape Kennedy in case they need to take an unscheduled walk in space next month.

The space-walk suits were tested with the space-certified primary life-support systems (backpacks) supplying the oxygen and suit pressure as they would if needed during the first orbital flight named STS-1.

No space walk is planned, but if required, it would be performed by Crippen. A space walk would be required if *Columbia's* payload bay doors are jammed by debris or fail to lack shut. A 100-foot tether would connect the suited crewman to the orbiting spacecraft.

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The STS-37 crew is scheduled for launch aboard *Atlantis* possibly as early as April 5 carrying the Gamma Ray Observatory. The orbiting observatory is designed to remain in space and study short-wavelength gamma rays in hopes of uncovering clues to the nuclear processes that transform matter and energy into celestial sources.

During the upcoming flight, two crew members also will conduct the first spacewalk since 1985. This spacewalk will demonstrate the feasibility of moving around Space Station Freedom's truss structure using a gliding track to reduce astronauts' workload.

New pavilion opens at Gilruth Center

Employees and visitors are now able to enjoy the comfort and amenities of a new, larger pavilion at the Gilruth Center for their picnics and barbecues.

Completed in February, the new pavilion expands seating capacity by 50 percent and features four ceiling fans, electric lights, a hot-water generator and cold-water drinking fountains. It also has a portable wireless speaker system with a wireless microphone.

"The old pavilion was not structurally sound and needed to be replaced," said David Adair, NASA Gilruth manager. "The 'winged wonder,' as it was called, was too small for most of the larger functions and had served us well over the years. The new pavilion should meet our customers' needs for the next twenty years."

The covered area measures 50-feet by 50-feet. With the 10-foot easement around the perimeter, total area is 60-feet by 60-feet. The pavilion has an additional 25-foot by 25-foot cooking area, complete with a built-in stainless steel cooking grille and smoker and a sink. Pit Masters of Tomball, Tex., specially made the grille.

Limestone tile covers the columns and the cooking area. There are power outlets and receptacles on the columns.

Due to structural problems, the old pavilion, which measured 40-feet by 60-feet and was built in 1974, was demolished last November and construction of the new facility began. The facility



NASA JSC 2001e05574 Photo by David Dehoyos

The new pavilion at the Gilruth Center, completed in February, offers employees more pace for outside events.

was built under contract with Romet, Inc. of Bellaire, Tex. Construction inspection was provided by Jim Premeaux of Gilbane Building Co.

"The new pavilion is quite an improvement from the 'winged wonder,'" said Melissa McKinley, Center Operations Directorate project manager. "The old pavilion had deteriorated due to age, and the new one has quite a few added features that patrons will enjoy. The separate cooking area will allow cover while cooking and can be used alone for small gatherings as well. Aesthetically, the new pavilion's style stands out."

The new pavilion is just one of many improvements that have been made to the Gilruth Center over the past year. Others

include installation of an automatic irrigation system to water the softball and soccer fields, replacement of the driveway leading to the Gilruth and installation of new lights in the parking lots leading to the softball fields.

The next major improvement will be remodeling the dining room, conference rooms and hallways on the second floor of the Gilruth Center, including adding new wallpaper, window treatments, carpeting, furniture and audiovisual equipment.

Also for a modest fee, civil servants and contractors can reserve the pavilion for their own private parties. For more information, call the Gilruth Center at 281-483-0326. ■

Construction On-site

Teague Auditorium in Building 2 South is getting some upgrades of its own. A new fire extinguishing system is being installed and the fire detection and alarm system is being upgraded. Previously, the Teague Auditorium only possessed a detection system, so "this project will install a wet pipe system in accordance with National Fire Protection Act 13," according to Project Manager Charles Noel. Along with the sprinkler and alarm renovations, the workers will perform asbestos spot abatement. The work, which is being completed by Arteaga Construction Co., is scheduled to be completed June 24.

Until then, those wishing to use the facility can contact Space Center Houston, Wanda Norris for the Building 30 Auditorium or the Gilruth Center as alternatives. ■

The JSC Employee Assistance Program Presents

Conflict Management*

Dr. Malinda Lea

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

12:00 - 1:00

Building 30 Auditorium

Join us as Dr. Malinda Lea discusses skills and techniques for positive conflict management. Dr. Lea will discuss positive and negative styles of communication; give strategies for dealing with difficult people (peers, supervisors, subordinates) and will discuss how to deal with explosive situations.

Dr. Lea received her Master's Degree from University of Houston-Clear Lake and her Doctorate from Texas A&M University. Currently, she is a psychologist in private practice in Clear Lake. Prior to entering private practice, she held various management positions. As a manager for a large hospital system, she conducted training for managers and employees on topics such as stress management, team building, effectively dealing with difficult people, assertiveness, positive managing, motivation, cultural diversity, and violence in the workplace.

*This presentation is highly recommended for supervisors, but is open to all on-site civil servants and contractors.

TICKET WINDOW

	JSC Price	Gate Price (includes tax)
AMC Theaters	\$5.00	\$7.50
Astroworld Early Bird (purchase by June 17)	\$19.50	\$38.96
Astroworld One Day Admission	\$20.50	\$38.96
Astroworld 2 Day Admission	\$31.00	\$43.29
Fiesta Texas Adult	\$21.50	\$38.82
Fiesta Texas Child (under 48")	\$18.75	\$19.42
Moody Gardens (2 events)	\$10.75.**	\$27.01 all day
** ticket does not include Aquarium Pyramid		
Moody Gardens - Aquarium only		\$9.25
Sea World adult.....	\$30.00	\$36.75
Sea World child (ages 3-11).....	\$20.50	\$25.93
Space Center Houston.....	\$9.25	\$16.18

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- Chocolate-covered Pecans . . . \$8.00 per lb.

For additional information, please call x35350.

Please bring your driver's license to pay by personal check.

