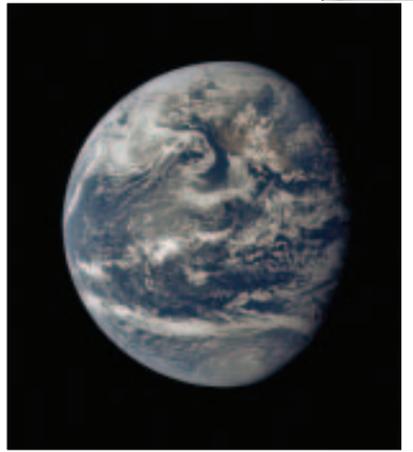


18 July 1969,  
4:40 p.m.

One of the clearest television transmissions ever sent from space is begun, with the spacecraft 175,000 nautical miles from Earth and 48,000 from the Moon. It lasts one hour and 36 minutes.



*At the tender age of nine years, I was in my space jammies, seated motionless on my rec-room sofa in our Earthbound house...*

*Mark A. Bowman, Hardware Engineering Integration, International Space Station Payloads Office*

On Sunday, July 20, 1969, I was a nine-year-old boy living with my family in Seattle, Wash. Dad worked for North American Rockwell, and he was on a temporary assignment as a tech rep to Boeing on the 747 program. Mom gave me special permission to stay home from evening church services to watch the landing and the first lunar EVA. Since most of our belongings were in storage, Dad and I watched the whole thing on a portable black-and-white TV with a nine-inch screen (at the time quite a novelty). We watched with particular interest, because prior to moving to Seattle, Dad had spent five years working on Apollo GSE. I was an avid space nut, and was glued to the TV watching the coverage for every spaceflight. I dreamed of some day working for NASA and flying in space. One out of two ain't bad.

*D. Smith, Software Administrator*

My father had sparked my interest in our nation's space program when I was about five years old. He bought me a set of small science-related books that included a model of the Gemini and Apollo spacecraft. We always looked forward to watching the news coverage of NASA events. When the Eagle landed I was nine years old and living in N.C. My father and I had stayed up late that night to see history being made. I had

fallen asleep on the couch beside my dad, but he woke me up because he knew I wanted desperately to watch. Little did I know that 30 years later I would be working here at JSC and actually meet Neil Armstrong and shake his hand.

*Roger H. Weiss, Technical Integration Specialist, International Space Station Payloads Office, SAIC*

At the tender age of nine years, I was in my space jammies, seated motionless on my rec-room sofa in our Earthbound house in Wilmette, Ill., along with Mom, Dad, older brother and sister all watching without blinking, waiting without patience, and wishful without reservation about the wildly exciting (albeit fuzzy) black-and-white video images of Neil Armstrong descending Eagle's ladder right before our dazzled eyes. Young as I was, having witnessed launches and splashdowns on grainy closed-circuit TVs in school, I innately understood the colossal significance of this world-shaking event, with help from Dad's enthusiasm ensuring that I forever comprehended the impact of this ultra-historic footstep. Like countless others, that single occurrence launched my passion to embrace exploration however/wherever/whenever possible. And, 9037 days later as a NASA worker, I had the privilege of shaking the First Man's hand here in Houston, introducing him to my sons – and thanking him – for all he has achieved for humankind.



*Karina Shook*

*EVA Instructor/  
Flight Controller*

I was born nearly two years after the Apollo 11 Moon landing. Of all the historical events that I wish I could have witnessed, that's at or near the top of the list. I can read all kinds of books and accounts of how things were back then, but I still have questions about what it was really like. Sometimes I try to draw parallels or comparisons between the early programs and what I've experienced with the Shuttle and ISS programs, but it's difficult to do when I don't really know what it was like during those early days. I envy those who saw it, and envy even more those who were able to participate in it.

I think of it as a time when the U.S. space program was really rolling – less bureaucracy, better funding, and a real drive to get the job done. I hope that the near future will be an equally exciting time at NASA, given realistic yet challenging goals and proper funding.

*At the time, I didn't understand what was so interesting about the fuzzy, black-and-white images on the screen. Now, I'm glad my mom...*

*William K. Dwyer, JSC Avionic Systems Division*

On the evening of the Apollo 11 landing, a good friend from college and I and our wives were getting ready for the formal social event that was part of our graduation from Navy Officer Candidate School in Newport, R.I. Our wives had moved to Newport and rented a very small and inexpensive third floor apartment in an old home there in town. On this evening, we were granted leave from the Navy base to prepare for the evening. As the four of us scooted around each other and the ironing board while preparing for the formal social that night, we watched the Apollo 11 activities on a nine-inch, black-and-white TV that we had bought at a garage sale there in town. Needless to say, we were late to the social, but then, so were a lot of other people.

*Sonia Ried James, Design Engineer, Lockheed Martin*

I was on the island of Japan in 1969 with my parents and seven-year-old big brother. My dad was working with some Japanese rocket scientists for NASA/JSC. I remember sitting in a chair in front of the neighbor's television set, while my Mom kept turning my head to face the TV screen so I wouldn't miss mankind's historic first steps on the Moon. At the time, I didn't understand what was so interesting about the fuzzy, black-and-white images on the screen. Now, I'm glad my mom knew how important it was to watch Neil Armstrong step out

onto the Moon. Today, I'm privileged to work onsite at the JSC, and to have been able to help design hardware that has flown in space.

*Bonnie Kennedy, Secretary to the Deputy Director, Office of Procurement*

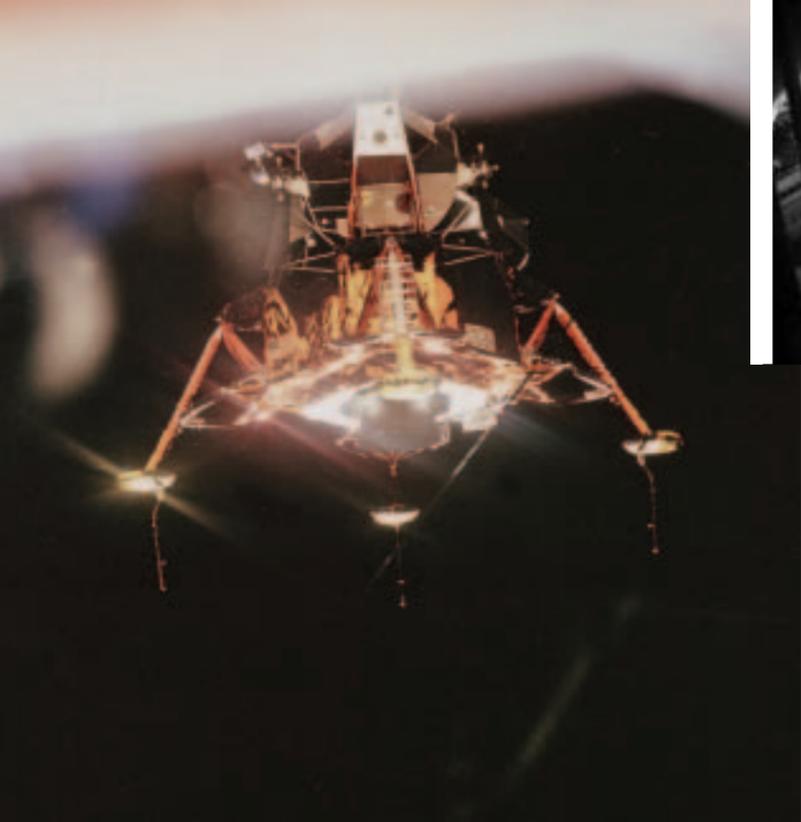
In 1969 I was living in Fort Wayne, Ind., and had been closely following the space program. With the impending Moon landing we knew this event justified the purchase of a color TV. We threw all caution to the wind and did it the all-American way and CHARGED it.

The day before the scheduled landing we proudly brought home our new TV and invited several of our friends for a Moon landing party. Ten of us sat around the new color TV eagerly waiting for the landing and discussed how our future would be affected. You can imagine our surprise when this historical event was broadcast in BLACK and WHITE. However, the significance of the event overshadowed our disappointment of a color transmission.

On that day never in my wildest dreams could I have thought eventually I would be part of NASA and its history.

*Jeff Ashby, NASA, Astronaut*

I was working as a dishwasher at a restaurant in Colorado. The restaurant owner walked into the kitchen and told me to remove my apron and go to the dining room. There was a small



20 July 1969,  
1:47 p.m.

*The Lunar Module "Eagle" carrying Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin, after separating from the Command Module "Columbia." Michael Collins, aboard the Columbia, took this picture of the LM as it prepared for its descent to the Moon.*

*(Inset, above) This interior view of the Apollo 11 Lunar Module shows Astronaut Edwin E. (Buzz) Aldrin, Jr., Lunar Module pilot, during the lunar landing mission.*

*I don't recall anyone else around as I watched the grainy images that night – I was singularly focused on taking it all in, and the...*

TV on the fireplace mantle, and I stood in a mixed group of staff and customers while we watched the grainy, black-and-white video of Neil Armstrong stepping from the LM ladder to the lunar surface. I remember thinking that Neil had a much better job than I did.

*John Connolly, currently detailed to NASA HQ, Project Constellation Office*

My brother Kevin had the honor (he would argue with this) of being born on July 20. As a nine year old in 1969, I honored his third birthday by placing a Lunar Module model on his birthday cake. He didn't care much for this, and the moment was captured in a picture that ran in the local paper. I was fully aware what was to transpire later that Sunday evening, and though only heading to fifth grade, I sensed it was big. I don't recall anyone else around as I watched the grainy images that night - I was singularly focused on taking it all in, and the television was the only light on in the entire house. My brother may debate me, but to me, that night was Christmas, and birthdays and the Fourth of July all rolled into one.

*John Rivers, DO4*

On the day of the Apollo 11 landing (it was Sunday afternoon in Houston), the second floor MOCR was open to employees who weren't working the mission, which I wasn't. The big plot board was up and we could monitor the Flight and Air/Ground

loops, so we were able to follow all the proceedings. The first words spoken from the lunar surface were "OK, Engine Stop" by Buzz Aldrin. At that point everyone jumped to their feet, yelling at the top of their lungs.

*Silvia Molano, Human Resources Specialist, AH8/HR Employment Operations*

I was out of school for the summer and spending a few days at my aunt's. My older cousin insisted that I stay up late and watch the adventure unfold on TV.

Growing up in a family of immigrants, we were awestruck by the achievements of the space program, and landing humans on the Moon opened our eyes to how far knowledge and hard work could take you. Our parents couldn't afford color TVs and late-model cars, but we had access to opportunities to learn and contribute to our nation's future.

I am the second individual in my family to obtain a college degree. The cousin who cheered along with me when Armstrong and Aldrin set foot on the Moon was the first. My parents were never more proud of me than when I told them I was going to work at NASA.

*Tony Butina Sr., L&M Manager, ISS*

I was a 23-year-old Marine Sergeant in Chu Lai, Republic of Viet Nam, with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. I still remember that it was another hot and sticky day in Viet Nam. I had been

*R. Matthew Ondler  
Deputy Division Chief  
Aeroscience and Flight  
Mechanics Division*

I was six years old watching on my parents black-and-white television at 1443 E. Third Street in Casper, Wyo. It is one of the most vivid memories of

childhood and was undoubtedly the moment that started me on this path. I actually remember having a feeling of anxiety because I thought I had missed out on the greatest adventure in the history of mankind. Here we were putting a man on the Moon and I was stuck in the first grade. I couldn't wait to grow up and be part of it. Later I realized there was still some adventure left and many dreams yet to realize. And on those days when the bureaucracy and politics particularly wear, I think it is still that moment, which is so indelibly etched in my psyche, that keeps me part of our grand endeavor. It is still that idea of adventure planted in that awestruck little boy that keeps me chasing these dreams.



*Growing up in a family of immigrants, we were awestruck by the achievements of the space program, and landing humans on...*

there four months and had seen the story on the Armed Forces Television Network. I remember seeing the story and then walking outside and looking at the sand and wondering if the Moon surface was like sand. It is still a very clear picture in my mind. And back then I would have never dreamed that some day I would work for NASA.

*Laura Vincent, USA/SFOC Comm-NSS Training Group*

July 1969: I was nine years old and we were in the process of moving from our house in Westchester, Calif., to Lomita, Calif. But I remember watching a black-and-white TV for hours on the front room floor while pictures and reports showed Neil Armstrong step out of the Lunar Module and make his "one small step for man...one giant leap for mankind." And the following days where Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong explored the Moon for the first time, with Michael Collins circling around then in the ship they would return to Earth. Looking back, I believe this is where the seed was planted to wonder about the Moon, stars and planets and begin my quest to explore them throughout school. Thus knowledge of God's universe became a lure that eventually landed me at NASA, JSC 17 years later. Hopefully the current programs are starting the quest to return and maintain our vision and quest to future generations.

*Ellen A. Gillis, Publicist, Astronaut Appearances Office*

I was 10 years old and was staying with my cousins at their beach house in South Jersey. As my family and I gathered in front of the TV, a huge electrical storm formed way out over the ocean, so as we waited for Neil Armstrong to come out of the LM, we watched the lightning dance across the sky. Over the TV commentary you could hear my grandmother say, "You know, every time we send astronauts into space, we have the worst weather!" Then Neil Armstrong descended from the LM, and we collectively held our breath as he first stepped onto the Moon. I realized then that we would never look at the Moon the same way again: There were men on another planet, looking back at us while we watched them on TV! I feel that same excitement when the ISS passes overhead with our friends and coworkers inside. The legacy continues...

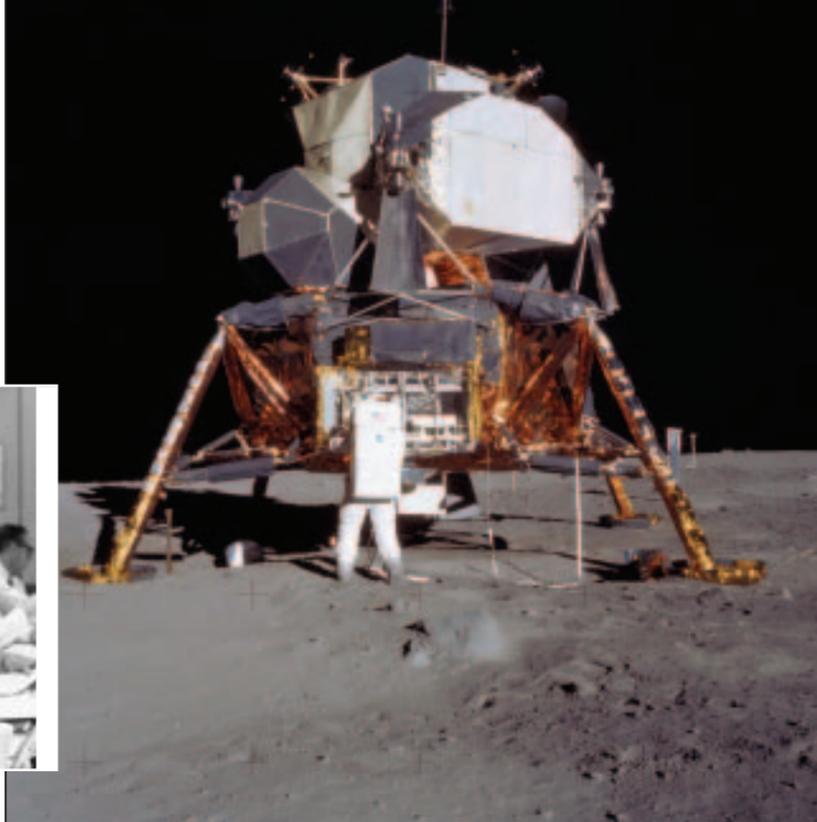
*Debra Gatti, NASA, Program Analyst*

I was twelve years old and living in Omaha, Neb., when Apollo 11 landed on the Moon. My father was in the USAF, stationed at Offutt AFB. He and my mom had gone to dinner at the Officers' Club and were watching it on a TV there. I was at home with my little brother Randy and my best friend Millie. We made marshmallow treats to celebrate the event, and sat on the couch in the TV room. We watched Neil Armstrong slowly place his foot on to the surface of the Moon. It seemed to me that

20 July 1969,  
4:18 p.m.

The craft settles down with a jolt almost like that of a jet landing on a runway. It is at an angle of no more than four or five degrees on the right side of the Moon as seen from Earth. Armstrong immediately radios Mission Control: "The Eagle has landed."

(Inset) Flight controllers watch in anticipation as the Lunar Module makes its descent to the lunar surface.



*I thought, maybe someday it will really be like "Lost in Space," and we would travel throughout the universe. It was magical...*

time stood still, and I realized that most of the people in the world that had TVs were doing the same thing I was doing: watching a human from our planet enter into another world. I thought, maybe someday it will really be like "Lost in Space," and we would travel throughout the universe. It was magical.

*John Hirasaki, ARES Corporation*

July 20, 1969, remains quite vivid in my memory because Dr. Bill Carpentier and I were sitting inside of the Mobile Quarantine Facility (MQF) on the hanger deck of the USS Hornet, the Primary Recovery Ship for the Apollo 11 mission. At that time, I was working for NASA in the Landing and Recovery Division as a Recovery Engineer responsible for the testing and operational qualification of the MQF for the Apollo Program and was selected to be quarantined with the Apollo 11 crew following their return from the Moon.

Prior to the Apollo 11 mission, four of us (Randy Stone, Ralph Culbertson, Frank Janes and myself) from the Landing and Recovery Division had volunteered to serve as a Recovery Engineer to be quarantined with the Apollo crew for lunar landing missions. We all knew that there was some personal risk if there was a lunar contamination source that was hazardous to humans but, realizing that the risk was small, we all had an intense desire to participate in one of the greatest exploration programs to be undertaken by mankind.

*Mike Groat, Systems Engineer, Lockheed Martin*

What have the Moon landings meant to me? How have the landings affected my everyday life? Ever since I've been old enough and educated enough to know better, I've been nothing but inspired by the Moon voyages. The Moon landings were accomplished when the odds were stacked against them. The technology used was barely enough to get the job done. If it hadn't been for the people involved, both on the ground and in the spacecraft, it never would have happened. They were determined to do something that shouldn't have been possible. When I think about that, it makes my everyday life not seem so difficult or impossible. Even when I don't have all the necessary tools and resources, I know with some creative thinking and lots of determination I can still finish a job.

*Craig Dinsmore, Chief, EC5/EVA and Space Suit Systems Branch, Crew and Thermal Systems Division, NASA*

I was nine years old and my dad worked for TRW here at JSC. I was in my bedroom at our house in League City and I remember him coming in and saying to my sister and me, "Come on kids, it's time." We all sat down on the floor in front of the black-and-white TV and I remember the ghostly images and the beeps of the side tones as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin descended the LM ladder and moved and spoke strangely on another world. At the time, the importance of the event didn't register with



*John R. (Jack) Garman  
Director, Enterprise Solutions  
Central Operations, Lockheed  
Martin Information Technology*

I was 24 years old, just three years out of college, and in the control center at the "AGC Support" SSR position (years later the "DPS" MOCR position). During the landing one moment stands out, even more than the pesky alarm codes that momentarily put a number of us squarely "on the spot." It was Buzz Aldrin's voice saying "we've got dust now" as they neared the lunar surface. I had participated in endless simulations – seeing the landing through the flight computer's "eyes" and hearing the astronauts in their rhythm of activities and callouts. While we certainly knew that day was the "real thing," his remark jerked me into higher reality. It was almost like a play with dress rehearsals, and this was "opening night." But...one of the stars changed their lines, and the enormity of the moment hit me. It became really real – heart-thumping, stomach-aching, real!

*I remember wondering if the astronauts were cold. When Neil Armstrong set foot on the Moon, my shiver bumps got shiver bumps.*

me, and I realize now that my mom and dad were ten or twelve years younger than I am now. That event was the very reason that my family had moved to Texas three years earlier, and it's the reason why I'm here at JSC today.

*Dawn Ward, AST/PTT Project Manager, NASA*

It was the summer between high school and college. I had a job as a lifeguard at the White Sands Missile Range, N.M., Officers' Club. There was a party celebrating the landing and I had volunteered to guard for it. About ten minutes before Neil Armstrong was scheduled to walk on the Moon, I cleared the pool. I ran inside the bar to watch, since it had the only TV. I was wet and freezing in the air conditioning. I remember wondering if the astronauts were cold. When Neil Armstrong set foot on the Moon, my shiver bumps got shiver bumps. That was the proudest I have ever been to be an American. When I went back out to the pool I looked up, and there was the fat crescent Moon hanging in the empty desert sky. It looked so incredibly far away. I have never looked at the Moon again without an echo of that summer's Moon in my heart.

*Dr. Anthony J. Vanchu, Director, JSC Language Education Center, TechTrans International, Inc.*

I was all of 12 years old, returning from a trip with my mother to visit relatives in the Soviet Union (the first such trip for both of us). Our return flight from Paris to New York was

delayed and we arrived later than expected. After we had gone through customs and met my father and sister, who had come to get us, we then passed through a large arrivals hall before going outside to get to the car. In that hall, I remember seeing a large TV screen showing live images of the Moon landing. Even in my travel-weary stupor, I remember us all standing there for several minutes to watch history being made.

What makes this particularly noteworthy for me is that my current work at JSC is in the capacity as a Russian language instructor and director of the JSC Language Education Center. It seems that even then, my love of studying foreign languages and my love of space exploration were somehow connected.

*Tracy Calhoun, DX34 - Photo/TV*

I was six years old when we first landed on the Moon. I was sitting on my sister's lap as my family watched TV in the den. Years later, after I moved to Houston and started work as a Flight Controller, my sister and I compared memories of that moment. She mentioned that during the Moon landing I pointed at the TV and said, "I want to do that." I assumed that I pointed at the astronauts. She corrected me, saying that I pointed at the images of Mission Control. I have to admit that most of my family's tales are exaggerations for the sake of good story telling, but I have a suspicion that I was nerdy even at age six.



24 July 1969,  
12:51 p.m.

Spacecraft splashes down 825 nautical miles southwest of Honolulu and about 13 nautical miles from the recovery ship, the USS Hornet.



(Inset) President Richard M. Nixon was in the central Pacific recovery area to welcome the Apollo 11 astronauts aboard the USS Hornet. Already confined to the Mobile Quarantine Facility are (left to right) Neil A. Armstrong, commander; Michael Collins, command module pilot; and Edwin E. (Buzz) Aldrin Jr., lunar module pilot.

*...because of what you have done the heavens have become part of man's world...For one priceless moment in the whole history of man all of the people on this Earth are truly one.* *President Richard M. Nixon*

13 August 1969  
New York City welcomes the Apollo 11 crew in a showering of tickertape down Broadway and Park Avenue in a parade termed the largest in the city's history. Pictured in the lead car, from the right, are Astronauts Neil A. Armstrong, Michael Collins and Edwin E. (Buzz) Aldrin Jr.



*The Moon People* Some of the faces behind the success of Neil Armstrong's landing on the Moon during Apollo 11 can still be found at JSC today. Left to right: Bob Nute, Earl Thompson, Jay Greene, Ben Ferguson, Donald Ward, Diane Robinson, Jack Knight, David Whittle and Jack Garman

*Bernie Roan, JSC Chief Counsel*

I was three weeks into "Swab Summer," the Coast Guard Academy boot camp program. With a full day of PT, classes, military indoctrination and intramural sports, we weren't allowed to see the actual landing. I heard about it from a classmate while playing football that afternoon. He was spreading the word to all the sports fields. Later that evening all 440 of the incoming class crammed in front of a few TVs in the cadet barracks to watch the landing replay and the "small step." I think it was the only TV I saw that entire summer. There must have been 150 of us watching the same TV, but you could hear a pin drop for the hour or so we were allowed to stay up past "Taps." When it happened, there wasn't a cheer; it was more of a roar. Twenty-five years later I became part of NASA.

*Jack L. Colopy, NASA*

After my two years aboard a Navy destroyer, I came to Houston for a family visit instead of going straight to work for IBM at Cape Canaveral, where I had my first real job waiting for me. While here I was introduced to a V.P. with Lockheed. He offered me a job here, working for Lockheed in Bldg. 12. I was so impressed I didn't feel that I could reject the offer. I stayed. Back then Bldg. 12 was just one big computer and I worked in the tape library, giving me access to Mission Control and history. I not only remember holding my breath at critical moments, the elation of a successful landing and liftoff from the Moon, the safe ride home and the splashdown and recovery. I also

remember, "kinda sorta," the biggest "Splashdown Party" this area has ever seen; second only to Apollo 13.

*Bob Hoyt, GFE Safety & Mission Assurance*

When Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins made their historic journey to the Moon, I was on one of my own greatest adventures. I was a 14-year-old Boy Scout and was in the middle of a two-week canoe trip across the Finger Lakes in New York State. We ported, plodded and paddled across two of the lakes and had set up in a campground on Lake Seneca. As the sun began to set, word began spreading around the camp that a local resident had invited everyone to his farmhouse to watch the broadcast of the Apollo mission. He did not have great television reception, but he brought his TV onto the front porch and for several hours we sat, completely enthralled by what was happening above us. I remember looking at the Moon and, for a brief moment, had an adventure inside of an adventure.

**NOTE:** Apollo 11 images used in this story were found on the following Web sites:

- <http://io.jsc.nasa.gov/browser.cfm?catid=10>
- <http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/gallery/images/apollo/apollo11/ndxpage1.html>
- <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/pao/History/ap11ann/kippphotos/apollo.html>