

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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With the problem of Viking 1's jammed soil sampler arm corrected, scientists prepared at Roundup press time to begin the search for evidence of Martian life.

The digger was scheduled to reach out Wednesday and scoop up two ounces of the red Martian soil for delivery to the hopper of Viking's three life-detection instruments.

Additional scoops of dirt will be dropped in an instrument which looks for organic molecules and one which analyzes the inorganic chemistry of the soil.

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George A. Rodney will head the new Safety, Reliability and Quality Assurance Office at NASA Headquarters as Associate Administrator for SR&QA.

In announcing the new office and position, Dr. Fletcher said establishment of the office is in response to the Presidential Commission on the Space Shuttle *Challenger* Accident which recommended that NASA establish an SR&QA office with direct authority throughout the agency. He also emphasized that objectives of the office are to ensure a NASA SR&QA program that monitors equipment status, design validation problem analysis and system acceptability in agency-wide plans and programs.

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ANASA study released last week indicates that the Sahara Desert, the world's largest, has undergone a variety of fluctuations in size during the past 11 years.

Since 1980, scientists at Goddard Space Flight Center have studied data from a variety of Earth observing satellites in an effort to provide insight on global climatic change. One study focused on the size of the Sahara Desert in Africa using meteorological satellite data.

The data indicates that the southern boundary of the desert had expanded to the south about 80 miles from 1980 to 1990, but that there were rather dramatic movements both northward and south-

Something old, something new

Recently Astronaut Bill Shepherd personally delivered an Alaskan bear mask back to Boeing employee Dick Cogo. The mask traveled with Shepherd and stayed aboard the International Space Station (ISS) during the astronaut's four-month tour as commander of the Expedition One crew.

Cogo, who supported Shepherd in the early stages of the International Space Station, said he used to tease Shepherd about having an Alaskan native aboard the station.



"I was thrilled when he agreed to take this artifact," Cogo said. "This mask represents my Alaskan heritage and, since I couldn't go to the station, this was certainly the next best thing."

The ancient mask is from the Tongass Tribe of the Tlingit-Haida Nations of People, who have occupied southeast Alaska for more than 10,000 years.

The mask is owned by the Sealaska Corporation and is being returned to the company in Juneau, Alaska. There it will be put on display along with pictures of its trip to the ISS. ■



IN MEMORY

John F. Yardley, Human Space Flight Pioneer, dies

John F. Yardley, a leading figure in the early days of human space flight and the Space Shuttle program, died June 26 at age 76. He is survived by his wife Phyllis, four daughters, one son, one sister, nine grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

Yardley spent many years in private industry working closely with NASA on the Mercury and Gemini programs. His work on those projects earned him NASA's Public Service Medal in 1963 and 1966.

At NASA, Yardley served as Associate Administrator for Manned Space Flight (later renamed Space Transportation Systems) where he led the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project and Spacelab, and was responsible for development and acquisition of the Space Shuttle, launching a new era in human space flight.

Longtime JSC contractor Clyde Sapp dies June 11

Longtime JSC contractor employee Clyde Sapp passed away on June 11, 2001.

He began his distinguished career at JSC by helping establish the Video Digital Analysis System (VDAS) laboratory, which played a key role in the photographic and video analysis of the Space Shuttle *Challenger* accident. Sapp received numerous awards and commendations, including the coveted Silver Snoopy and Space Flight Awareness award.

Sapp was born in Kankakee, Ill., in 1955. He is survived by his wife Carol and their seven children and four grandchildren. A tree will be planted in Sapp's honor in the JSC memorial tree grove located on 5th St., across from Building 110. A date has not yet been set for the planting ceremony.

To make a donation to Sapp's memorial fund please contact Robert Scharf at (281) 483-2756 or email robert.scharf@jsc.nasa.gov.

Ticket deadline for NASA Day at Enron Field is Aug. 10

The Astros will be hosting NASA Day at Enron Field on Saturday, Aug. 18, at 12:15 p.m. The Astros will be playing the Pittsburgh Pirates.

The STS-104 crew will be recognized at the game, and one crewmember will throw out the first pitch. JSC exhibits will be on display throughout the concourse, and there will be photo opportunities and panel displays on the International Space Station. Astronaut Steve Hawley is scheduled to do a live radio interview with Astros broadcaster Milo Hamilton during the second inning.

As a part of the pre-game activities, and just prior to the start of the game, a special JSC video presentation will be broadcast on the giant Diamond Vision screen.

Tickets are \$27-field box, \$26-club seats and \$13-mezzanine. Purchase your tickets from the B11 Exchange Store and enter to win drawings for Astros memorabilia. The last day to purchase tickets is Aug. 10.

Don't miss out!

American Heritage Week is August 6-10, with the Grand Finale on August 10, from 4-7 p.m. at the Gilruth Center. A new attraction has recently been added courtesy of the JSC Safety Action Team. They will have a laminating booth at the event to make "The Reason I Work Safely" badges. Everyone is invited to bring a maximum of two pre-cut pictures no larger than 2 by 2.5 inches to show everyone at work the reason they work safely.

