

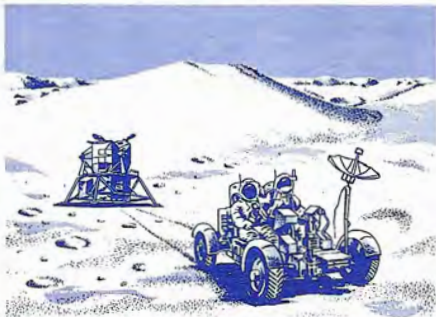


JACK SCHMITT



RON EVANS

**Evans
maps Moon
in
'America'**



Cernan and Schmitt, activate experiments, find volcanic activity and most ancient moonrocks



GENE CERNAN

**'Challenger'
lands at
Taurus-Littrow
Dec. 11, 2:55 pm**

Apollo 17 Moon landing

LUNAR VOYAGE CACHETS

Moon Is 'A Paradise'

'We Is Here! Man, We Is Here!'

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — "We is here! Man, we is here," came the cry of jubilation from 250,000 miles away. Eugene A. Cernan and Harrison H. Schmitt were on the moon.

"A geologist's paradise," said Schmitt, a geologist. The joy in his voice was like the spring in his step on the one-sixth gravity of the moon.

They stood there in the rock-strewn flats of Taurus-Littrow, a mountain-ringed moonscape more stark than any Hollywood ever dreamed up. The 11th and 12th Americans, maybe the last, to leave man's footprints for the ages.

"I tell you, I think the next generation ought to accept this as a challenge," said Schmitt. "Let's see them leave footsteps like these some day."

Cernan, hard put to keep up with the bubbly, vocal Schmitt, was more solemn about it. As he stood on the footpads of the lunar lander, Challenger, he said:

"As I step off at the surface of Taurus-Littrow, we'd like to dedicate the first step of Apollo

Apollo Explorers Encounter No Difficulties

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Two Apollo 17 explorers stepped onto a boulder-strewn moon valley Monday and Harrison H. Schmitt, the first scientist in space, called it "a geologist's paradise."

17 to all those who made it possible."

And then his composure left him.

"Jack, I'm out here. Oh, my golly. Unbelievable. Unbelievable," he shouted to his moon-mate, whose nickname is Jack.

They struggled with their lunar rover folded frog-like in a lower compartment of their space ship. And when they had it out, Cernan exclaimed "the seat belts fit perfect."

"Shoot," said Schmitt. "I thought I was going to get to drive."

They started punning.

"Gnomon is an island," said Cernan as he pulled out a space age level.

And Schmitt, referring to a

Schmitt and commander Eugene A. Cernan immediately began a scientific quest, using Schmitt's trained geologist's eye to seek missing links in lunar history. His experience is expected to produce the most

rake for collecting samples, parodied William Shakespeare: "My kingdom for a scoop."

From the most airless prairie ever touched by man, came the melodious tones of Cernan: "Oh, bury me not on the lone prairie, where the coyotes howl and the winds blow free."

They'd been on the surface for an hour when they finally turned on their television camera, showing a barren land with mountains enough to make a skier drool.

"I don't think there's any place to land around here that you wouldn't have one foot in a crater," Schmitt said.

They erected the American flag—the sixth implanted on the moon—and Cernan said "this is

meaningful lunar data yet on what may be man's last visit to the moon in the 20th century.

He was logged on the valley floor at 7:05 p.m. EST, about four hours after he and Schmitt made a perfect landing.

the proudest moment of my life, I guarantee you."

He added: "I don't know how many of you are aware of this, but this flag has hung in the MOCR (mission control) since Apollo 11. We very proudly deploy it on the moon to stay for as long as it can in honor of all those people who have worked so hard to put us and every crew here—and to make the country, United States, and mankind different than it was."

They had touched down right on time, within 300 feet of their target, a few hours earlier and Cernan announced it with: "Okay, Houston, the Challenger has landed."

It was a cry heard first on July 20, 1969, from Neil Arm-

strong on Apollo 11. "The Eagle has landed," he said then. It was repeated from Intrepid and Antares and Falcon and Orion—the names of the lunar landers that followed.

Now it was Challenger.

Carrying Cernan—who had seen the moon from eight miles away on Apollo 10—and Harrison H. Schmitt, the effervescent geologist who's making history by being the first scientist to feel and study another celestial body.

"The majestic moment of my life," Schmitt called from a quarter million miles away.

And there was chuckling and laughter as the astronauts bantered back and forth, like a couple of schoolgirls primping for a date.

"Oh, man," Schmitt shouted, "look at that rock out there."

In scientific genealogy he was a direct descendant of William Gilbert, who prepared the earliest known map of the moon in the 16th century; of Galileo Galilei in 1609 who studied the moon with aid of a telescope; and Johann Tobias Mayer, who made the first reliable set of lunar coordinates around 1750.