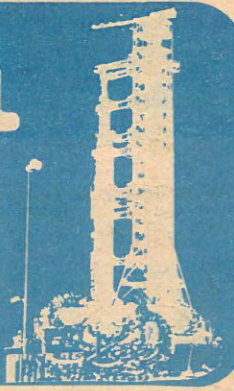


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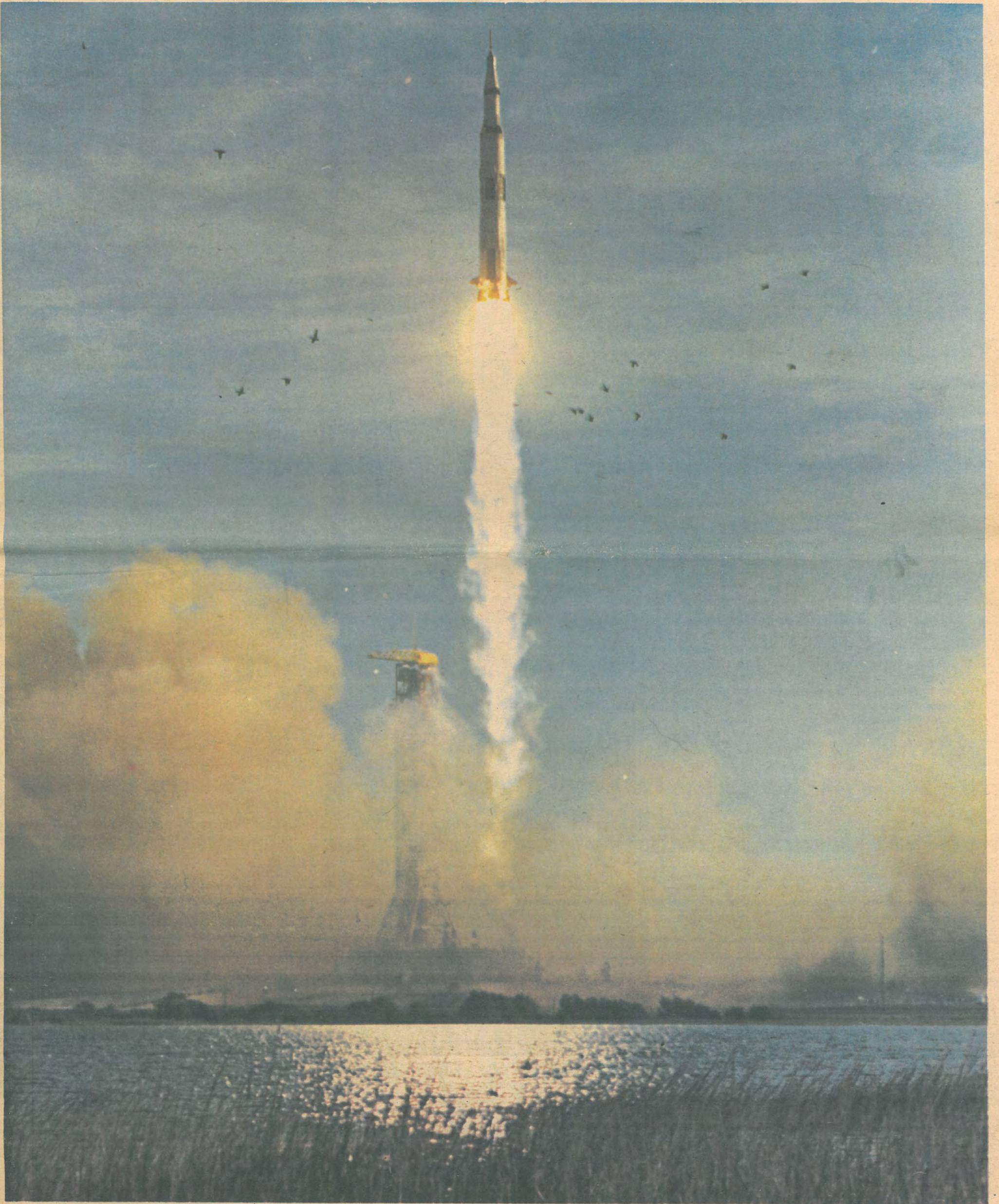
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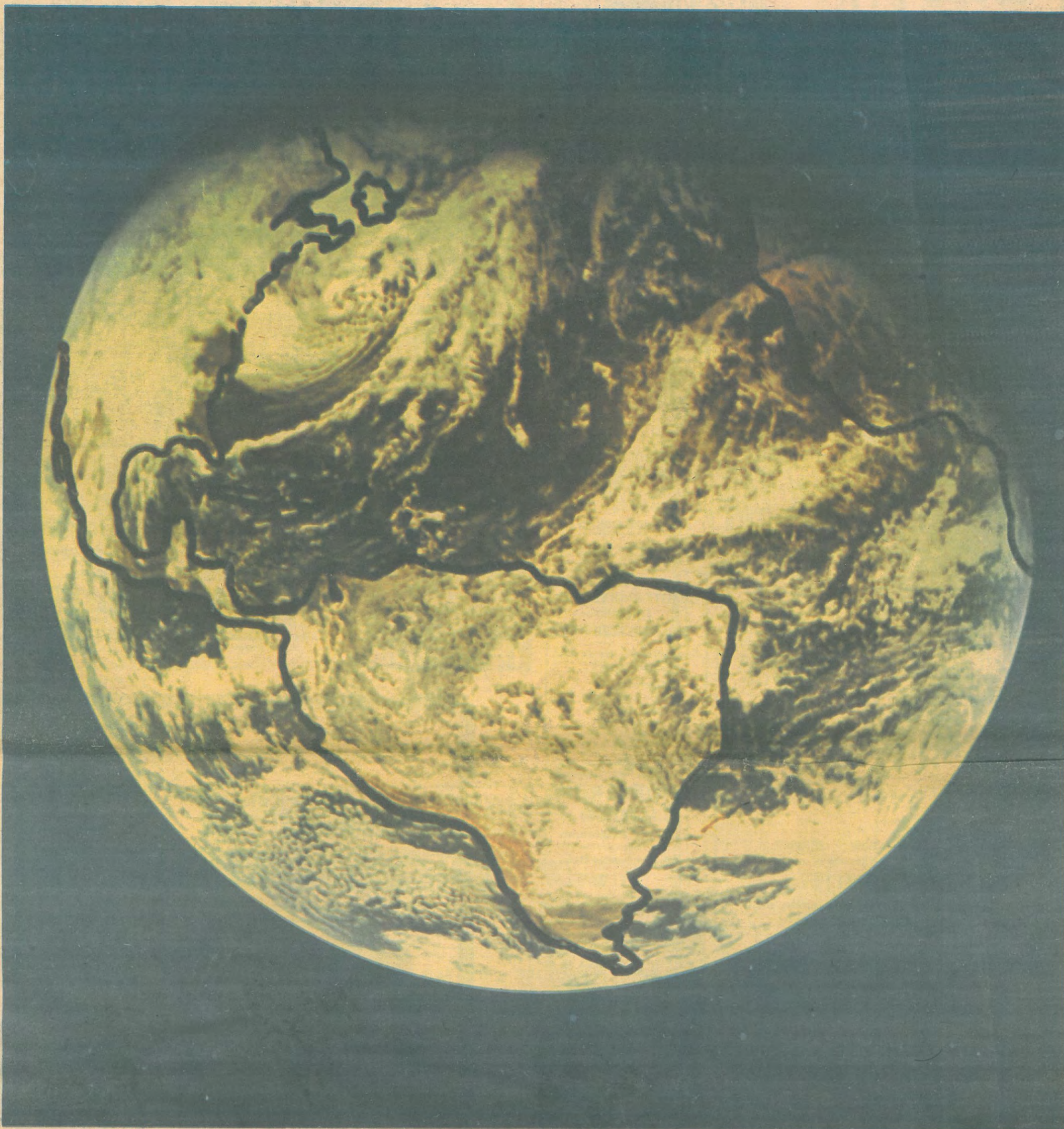
January 1969

5^D

No. 1028



Blast off—Saturday December 21, 1968 Time—1.51pm BST



EARTH—in all its glory—from Apollo 8

THIS STRIKING colour picture from Apollo 8 shows nearly the entire Western hemisphere from the mouth of the St. Lawrence river,

including nearby Newfoundland extending to Tierra del Fuego and the southern tip of South America.

Central America is

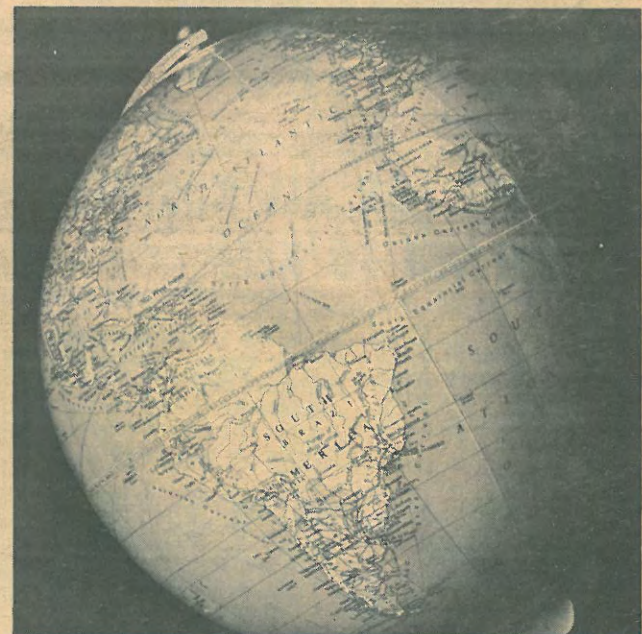
clearly outlined — even before the land masses were pencilled in.

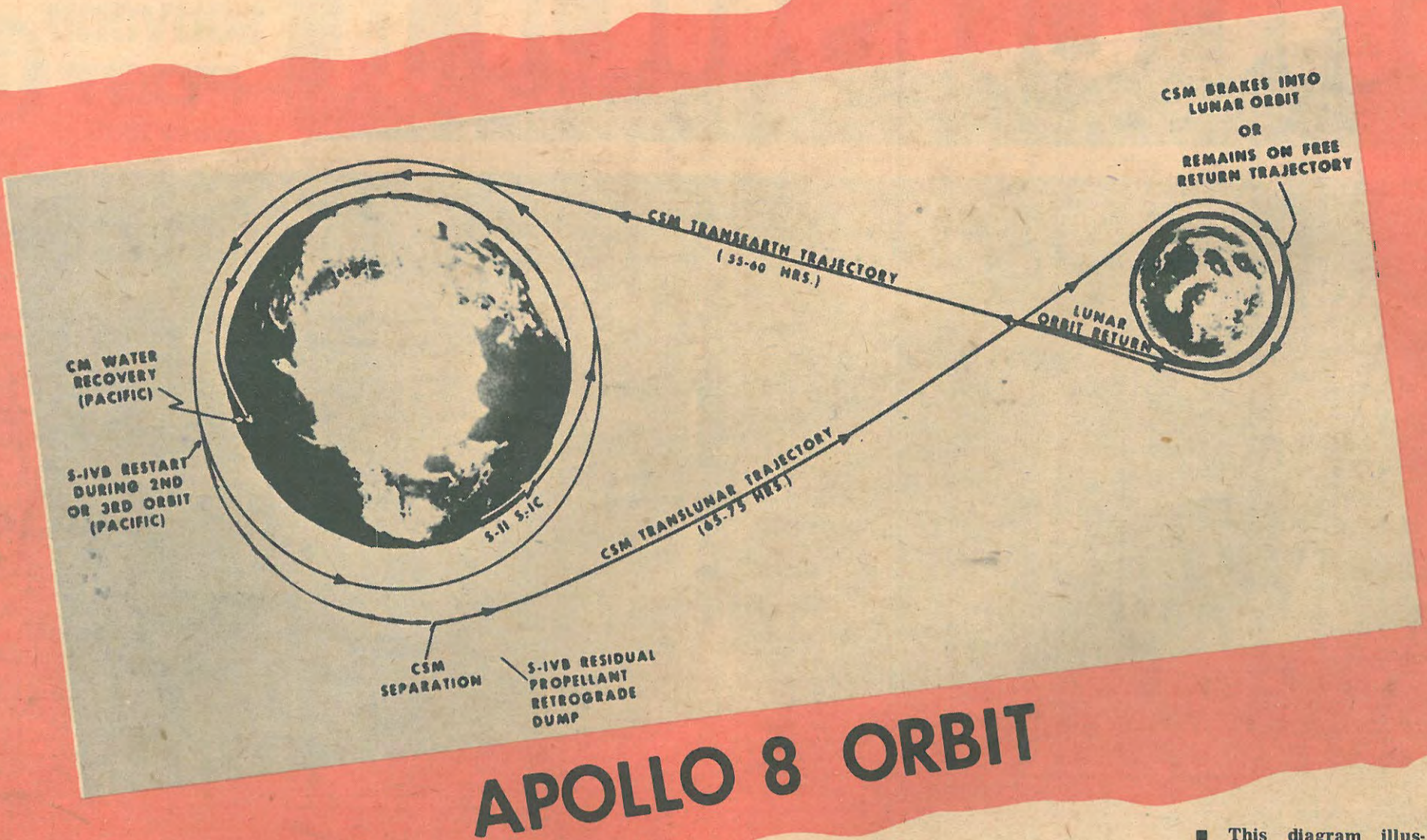
Nearly all of South America is covered by clouds except the high

Andes mountain chain along the west coast.

A small portion of the bulge of Africa shows along the sunset line at the right.

How does all this compare with the school-room approach to the Earth? Compare with the globe on the right — it's all there!





APOLLO 8 ORBIT

■ This diagram illustrates the project — and the astronauts hit their targets on the button!

Lasso round the moon—the story of Apollo 8

WHEN the 363-foot Saturn rocket inched upward on a rising pillar of smoke and flame from the launch pad at Cape Kennedy on December 21, few of the anxious spectators all over the world could have anticipated the unblemished success of Apollo 8.

Only a mere decade ago, man was making his first tentative probes into near space. Yet here he was, poised to soar beyond the Earth's atmosphere towards the Moon — through the mystery of space.

The flight began without a hitch. On pad 39A, Borman, Lovell and Anders lay strapped in the 11-foot command module perched on top of the Saturn rocket.

The car horns of the thousands who had come to Cape Kennedy to watch the lift-off sounded in unison as the rocket with a deafening bellow, started to rise.

"We have lift-off, we have lift-off," the ground controller told the world.

The rocket spurted into Earth orbit. During its second turn around the planet, it accelerated from 17,400mph to 24,200mph — enough to escape the Earth's gravity and send Apollo 8 hurtling towards the Moon.

Only hours later they were thousands of miles from home, yet it looked as if there was one thing the astronauts could not escape, they reported flu symptoms. But medicine was prescribed from Houston and they soon felt better.

Desolate

They reached the moon 69 hours after blast-off. A desolate landscape lay below them, less than 70 miles away. And back in the void of space hung the Earth, looking blue and brown, mottled by large patches of white.

Soon they were in orbit round the Moon, 230,000 miles farther away from home than any humans had ever travelled before. And back on "the good Earth", millions ate their turkey and mince pies and got an armchair TV view of the lunar surface.

"The Moon is essentially grey, no colour," reported Lovell. "Looks like plaster of Paris, or sort of a greyish deep sand."

"We can see quite a bit of detail. The Sea of Fertility doesn't stand out as well here as it does on Earth. There's not as much contrast between that and the surrounding craters," came the voice from space.

"The craters are all rounded-off. The round ones look like they've been hit by meteorites or projectiles of some sort," added Lovell.

Familiarity

The details the astronauts gave and the familiarity with which they referred to the lunar landscape showed that space travel is well and truly out of its infancy. The Sea of Fertility, the Pyrenees Mountains, the craters of Colombo and Gutenberg — they all rolled off the tongue like everyday geographical features.

But it was on Christmas Eve, during the ninth orbit, that we got the best description from the astronauts.

"This is Apollo 8 coming to you live from the Moon," reported Borman as he focused a camera on the lunar surface.

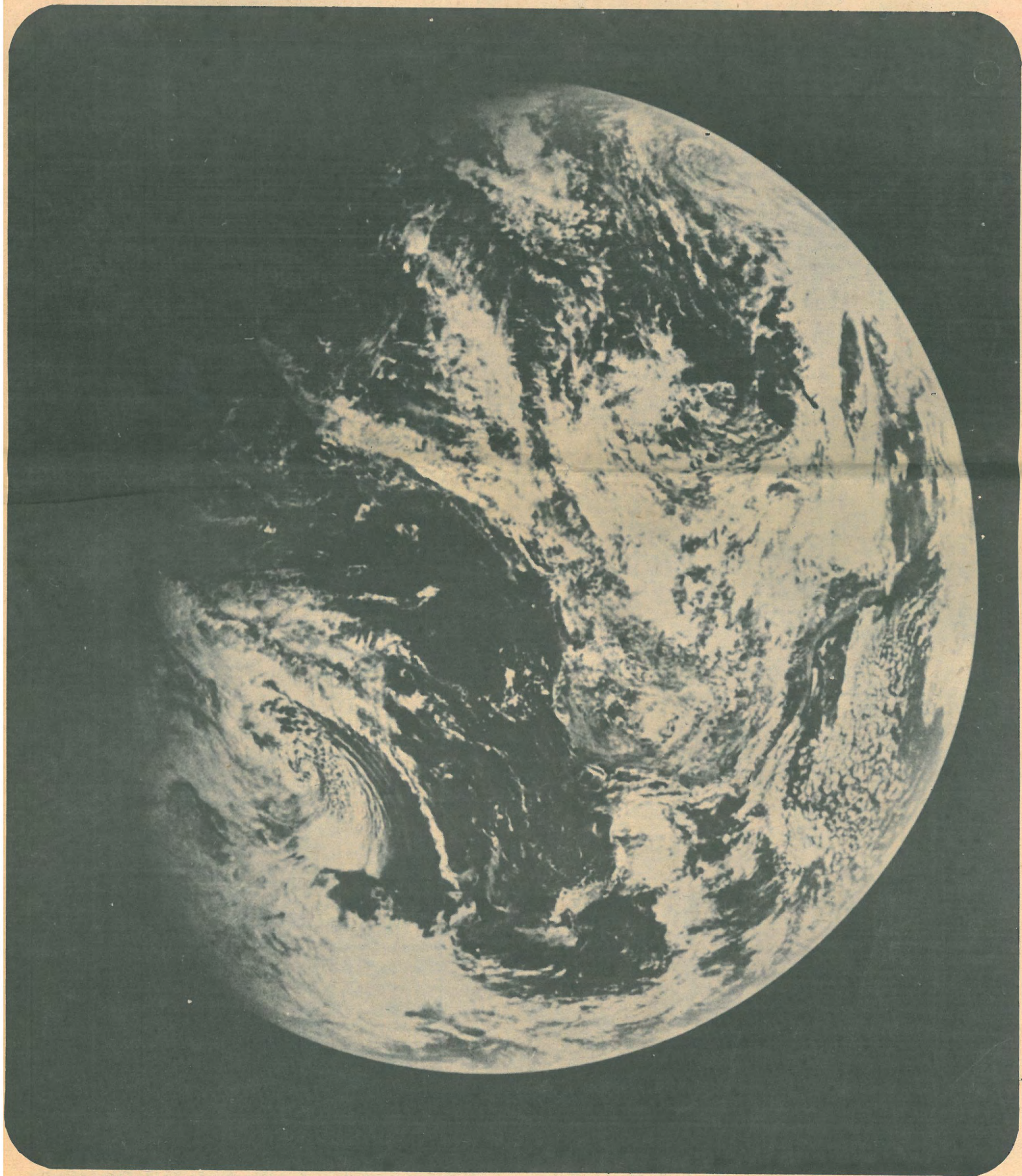
"The Moon is a different thing to each of us. My own impression is that it's a vast lonely, forbidding-type existence — a great expanse of nothing that looks rather like clouds and clouds of pumice stone. It certainly

Continued on page 6



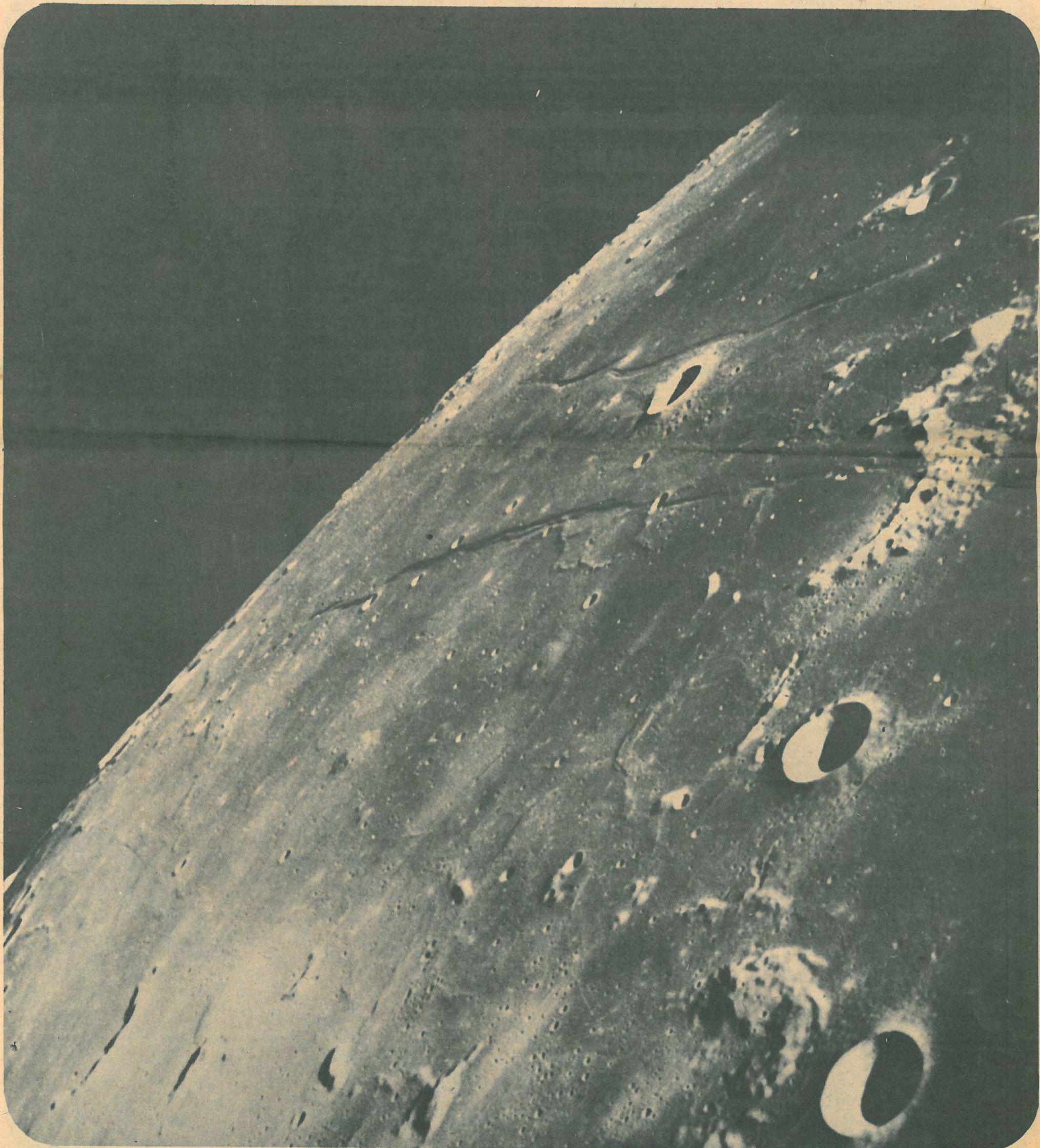
■ Walking into the history books. The Apollo 8 trio move towards their spacecraft. Frank Borman leads James Lovell and William Anders (rear) to the Saturn 5 rocket which would take them into the Moon orbit.

In focus—a spaceman's profile of Mother Earth



■ EARTH — just one of the dramatic pictures taken by the astronauts. The North Pole is in the 11 o'clock position. South America is in the centre and the United States at the upper left.

They take the Moon in their superstride . . .



■ Apollo 8 journeys on. The astronauts take the Moon in their stride. In the picture, the Sea of Tranquility. The view is towards the north-west and includes the Cauchy Scarp in the

foreground and rills in the background with the Cauchy Crater between them.

The heavenly trio—



■ The astronauts — left to right, Anders, Lovell and Borman — in their capsule.

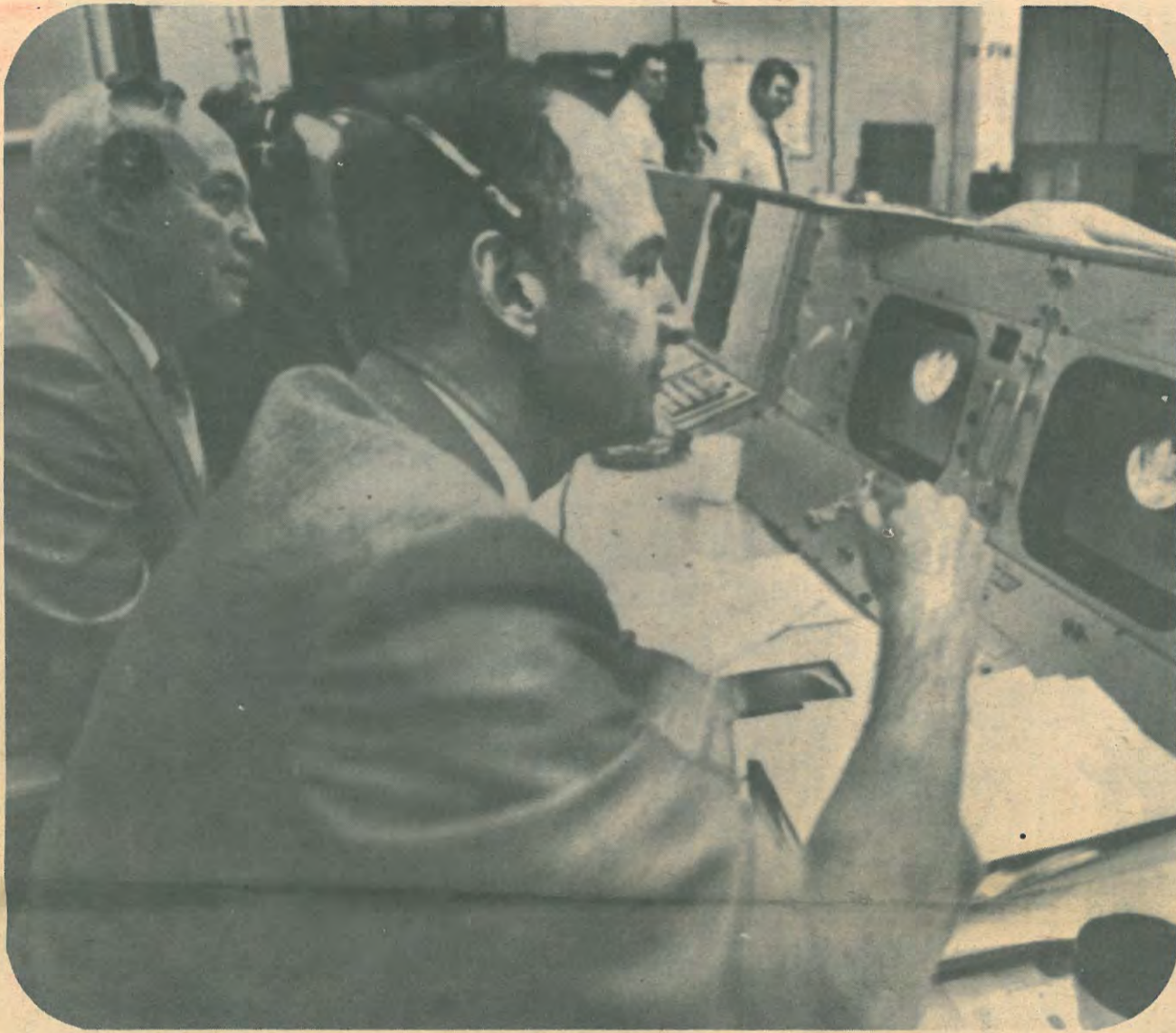
—in capsule close-up



■ The craters of the Moon. This was the Apollo 8 view of the large crater Goclenius (in the foreground) which is nearly 40 miles from rim to rim. The three clustered craters are

Magelhaens, Magelhaens A and Colombo A. Picture was taken from 69 miles off the Moon.

Apollo 8 heads for home



■ Mission control centre at Houston, Texas — the astronauts link with home and the world. Dr. Robert E. Gilruth, Director of Manned Spacecraft Centre, left, and Mr. George M. Low, Apollo Programme Manager, watch a telecast from the spacecraft.

Carbon copy of a space hero



■ Little Jeffrey Lovell, aged 3, the son of James Lovell had a space helmet for Christmas. He insisted on wearing it when his father splashed down on the Friday.

Mission control—and the wives who waited

■ From Page 2.

Lasso round the moon

would not appear to be a very inviting place to live or work," added Borman.

Lovell agreed. "My thoughts are very similar. The vast loneliness up here is awe-inspiring and it makes you realise just what you have back there on Earth. The Earth from here is a grand ovation to the big vastness of space."

"The horizon is very stark. The sky is pitch-black and the Moon is quite light. The contrast between the sky and the Moon is a vivid dark line," said Anders.

Roundness

"One of the most amazing features of the surface is the roundness that most of the craters have instead of sharp, jagged rocks. Only the newest features have any sharp definition to them, and eventually they get eroded down by the constant bombardment of small meteoroids," said Lovell.

Then the space craft sped towards the terminator (the continually moving line that divides the day and night hemispheres of the Moon), and the Sun dropped to the horizon bringing out more surface detail. Anders observed that the Sea of Crises was "amazingly smooth as far as the horizon" and another crater "has strange circular cracks patterned around the middle of it."

To end their Christmas Eve telecast, the astronauts took turns in reading the

first ten verses of Genesis: "In the beginning, God created the Heaven and the Earth." With the background of the lunar landscape, the effect was impressive.

Critical

The mood of this broadcast was in stark contrast to the mood of the astronauts early on Christmas Eve morning as the time neared for the mission's most important decision — whether to allow the spacecraft simply to orbit the Moon once and then head back to Earth or to fire the Service Propulsion System (SPS) engine and place the craft in lunar orbit.

At this critical time, the astronauts and their Houston controllers fell strangely silent. Only essential communications were made — and these were short and tense.

Finally the Apollo was sent on a course that would send it 70.7 miles above the lunar surface and eventually around the back of the Moon, where its radio communication with Earth was blocked.

"We'll see you on the other side," called Houston to the astronauts — then came the tense countdown until loss of signal.

Then after a terse "Roger" from Borman, all was silent. Apollo was then behind the Moon and out of contact for 45 agonising minutes. Until it emerged, no-one would know if the SPS engine had fired on



■ All smiles. The wives of the three astronauts wait for the return of their husbands. Left to right, Mrs. Frank Borman, wife of the flight commander; Mrs.

William Anders, whose husband was the lunar module pilot, and Mrs. James A. Lovell, wife of the command module pilot.

schedule or fired long enough to place the craft in orbit.

Too short a burn could send the craft plunging to the Moon's surface. There was also the fear that Apollo's third stage rocket, jettisoned shortly after it pushed the spacecraft out of Earth orbit and toward the Moon and scheduled to pass the horizon of the Moon about the same time that Apollo emerged from behind it, would collide with Apollo.

Finally, from Houston came the message that everyone had been waiting for: "We've acquired a signal but no voice contact yet." Then came: "We've got it. We've got it. Apollo 8 is in lunar orbit."

And so to the tenth and

final orbit, when the craft was scheduled to increase speed from 3,625 to 5,980mph, enough to propel them out of lunar orbit and back to the Earth. Failure of the engine to fire would leave them stranded in lunar orbit.

There were no quips or sentiment. "All systems are go on Apollo 8," reported control. "Roger," came back Borman's terse reply, and the craft passed into radio silence for the last time.

Thirty-seven minutes later, Lovell's voice came back to Earth: "Please be informed that there is a Santa Claus."

The homeward journey was comparatively uneventful, but the astronauts managed to send back some

spectacular views of the Earth — from a distance of 207,000 miles. Lovell acted as commentator: "In the centre is South America — all the way down to Cape Horn. I can see Baja, California and the southwestern part of the U.S."

He reported that the Earth's waters were different shades of deep blue, the land areas different tones of brown, the clouds white and the total reflection of light much greater than from the Moon.

Towards this multi-coloured globe the spacecraft hurtled at increasing speed towards its greatest challenge — re-entry of earth's atmosphere, at a speed of 24,629 mph.

Flying over the Pacific, the pilot of a Pan American jet airliner reported seeing the craft's fiery track — five miles wide and 100 miles long.

On schedule, the spacecraft's parachutes functioned perfectly, followed by the three main chutes, and the craft floated to a splashdown in the Pacific about 7,000 yards away from the carrier Yorktown.

It was 10.51am and a perfect space trip was complete. The splashdown was a few seconds earlier than the predicted time, and only 7,000 yards away from the carrier.

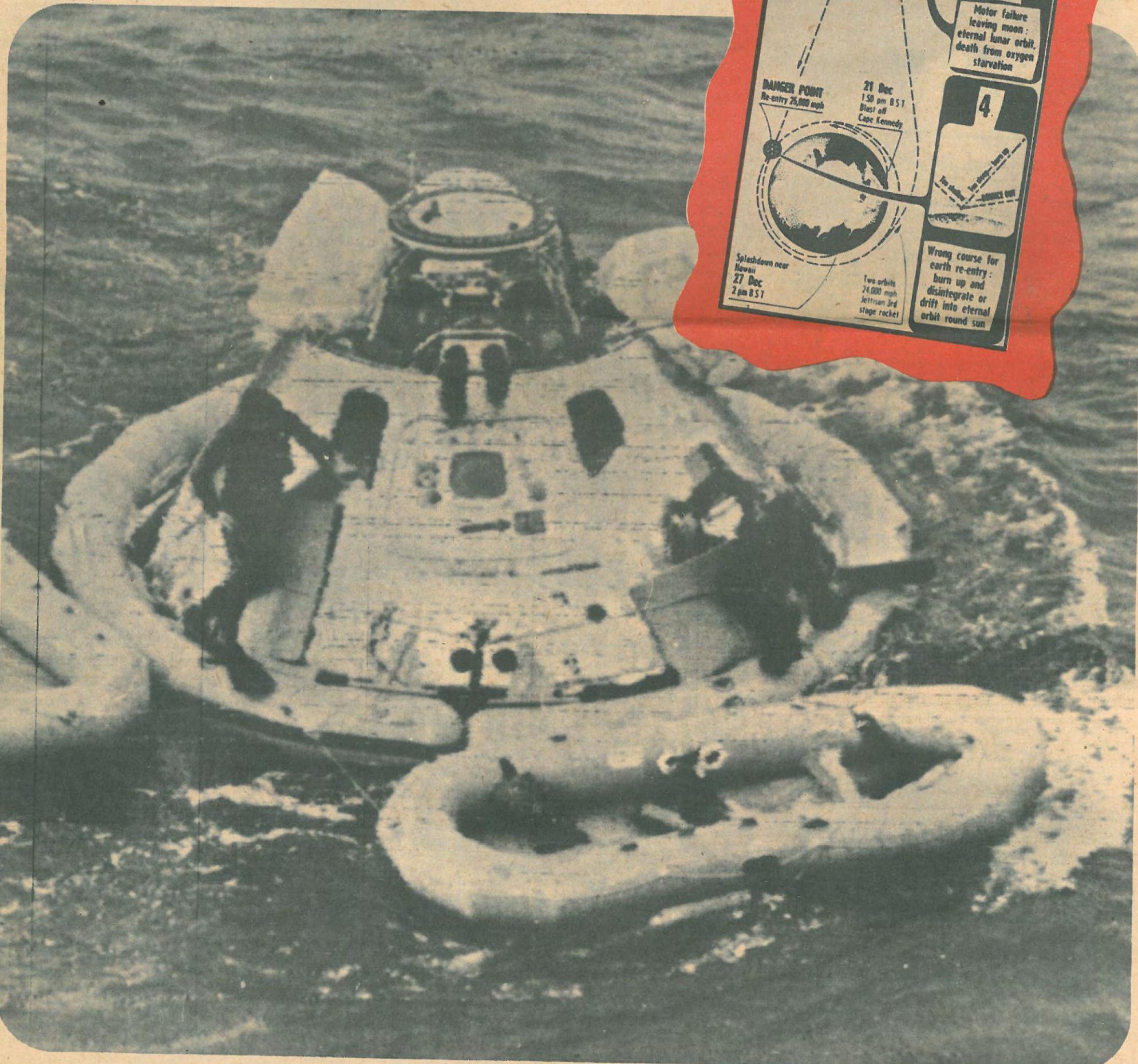
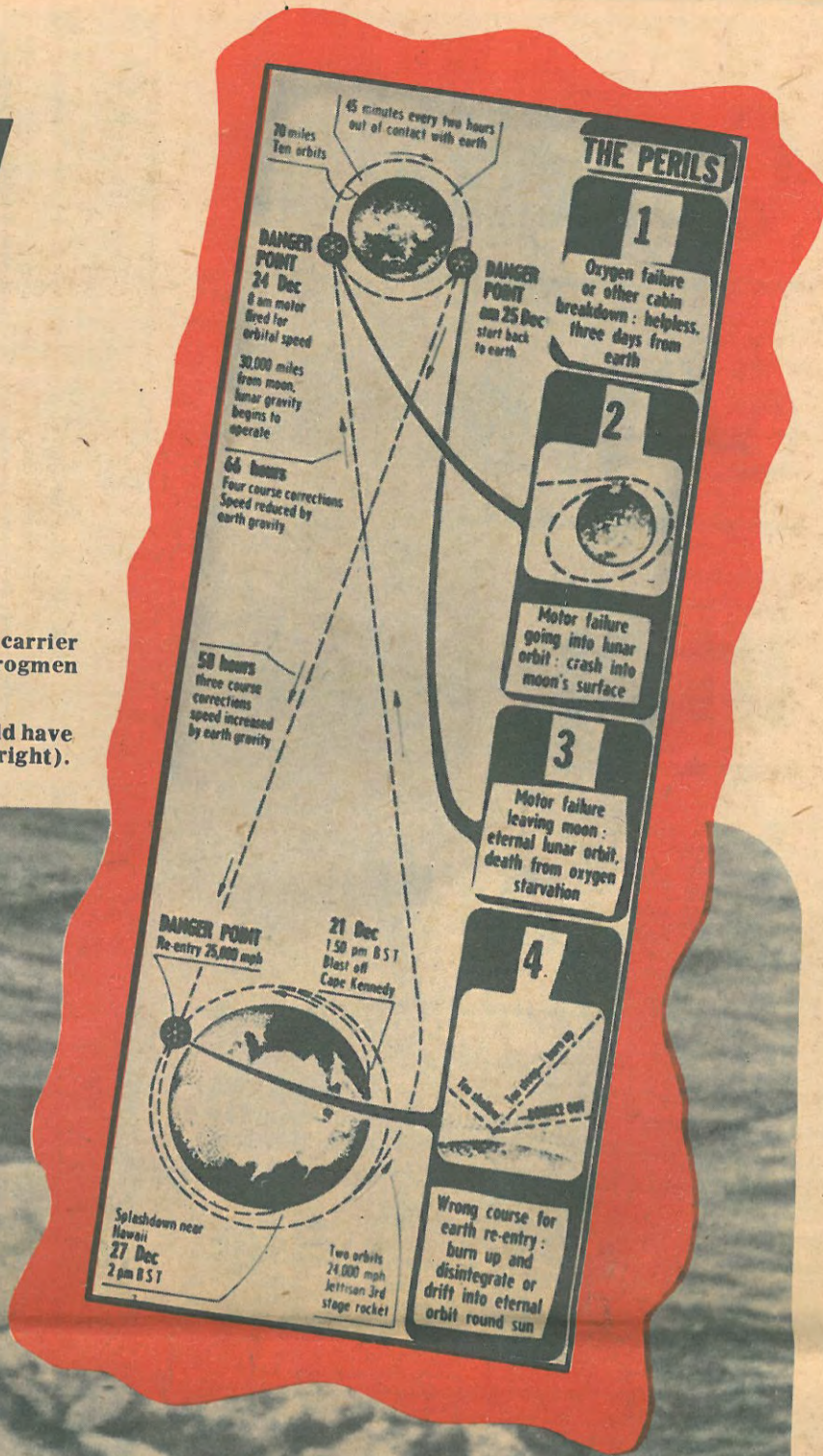
Project Apollo 8 had been a tremendous success — and three men had seen what no human had ever seen before.

The happy return...

■ They're back — and they're safe. The world waited anxiously on that Friday while Apollo 8 returned to Earth. Everything had gone so well. Could anything go wrong at the last moment? But all systems were going magnificently for the spacecraft. It splashed down in the Pacific within

7,000 yards of the American aircraft carrier Yorktown. Picture shows the U.S. frogmen boarding the Apollo and making it secure.

Man's greatest mission was over. What could have gone wrong is illustrated in the diagram (right).



The astronauts in colour—see centre pages

Count- down into history

THE VOYAGE of Apollo 8 began on December 21 and was completed six days three hours later on December 27. The log of the flight is as follows (all times BST).

SATURDAY: 8.36 — The three astronauts rose. They were medically inspected. Ate breakfast together.

11.00 — Ready for the flight after 1,100 hours of intensive training, the astronauts, each in his 100,000 dollar space suit, climbed into capsule to make last checks.

13.51 — Loaded with 786,000 gallons of liquid oxygen and hydrogen fuel, the Saturn 5 rocket — as high as a 36-storey building and costing £127 million with rocket motors of 7,500,000lb thrust — blasted the space craft into the sky.

13.53 — At a speed of 6,000mph the booster rocket which lifted the craft from the ground, fell away at an altitude of 38 miles.

The second stage rocket took speed to 17,000mph and into orbit round the Earth.

16.41 — Over the Pacific Ocean, second stage rocket replaced by third. Speed of the craft rose to 24,200mph to take it on the way to the Moon.

17.14 — Third stage rocket dropped off. The spacecraft continued toward the Moon at a decreasing speed.

□□□□

SUNDAY: 00.51 — Course correction made half-way to the Moon at 3,623mph and 120,000 miles from Earth.

21.01 — First live television broadcast from the 12-foot capsule, 139,000 miles from Earth.

□□□□

MONDAY: 20.58 — Second live broadcast at 212,173 miles from Earth; voices taking 16 seconds to get back to Earth.

21.30 — Apollo 8 came under gravitational pull of Moon at 214,000 miles from Earth.

□□□□

TUESDAY: 10.57 — Spacecraft braked 79 miles above the Moon. Then service engines were fired for the first time — for four minutes — to put craft into an elliptical orbit round the Moon.

13.59 — Live television broadcast as the craft went round the Moon at 5,720mph.

15.26 — After two elliptical orbits of the Moon, the engines were fired for ten seconds to put the craft into circular orbit 69 miles above the surface. Each orbit now took two hours, of which 45 minutes were behind the Moon out of contact with Earth.

□□□□

WEDNESDAY: 03.31 — Second television broadcast from above the Moon.

07.10 — Last of ten orbits completed and the crucial moment of starting back for Earth was successful when the engines were given three minute burst.

18.38 — Spacecraft left Moon's gravitational pull and came under Earth's influence 202,000 miles away.

21.51 — Course correction at 192,000 miles from Earth.

22.15 — At a distance of 191,750 miles from Earth the astronauts made another television broadcast.

□□□□

THURSDAY: 21.51 — Last television broadcast, traveling at 25,000mph.

□□□□

FRIDAY: 14.41 — Course corrected ready for re-entry into Earth's atmosphere.

16.31 — The craft's cabin separated from its service module and the engines. Crew prepared for the intense heat caused by the speed of re-entry by turning the floor of their cabin downwards to serve as a heat shield.

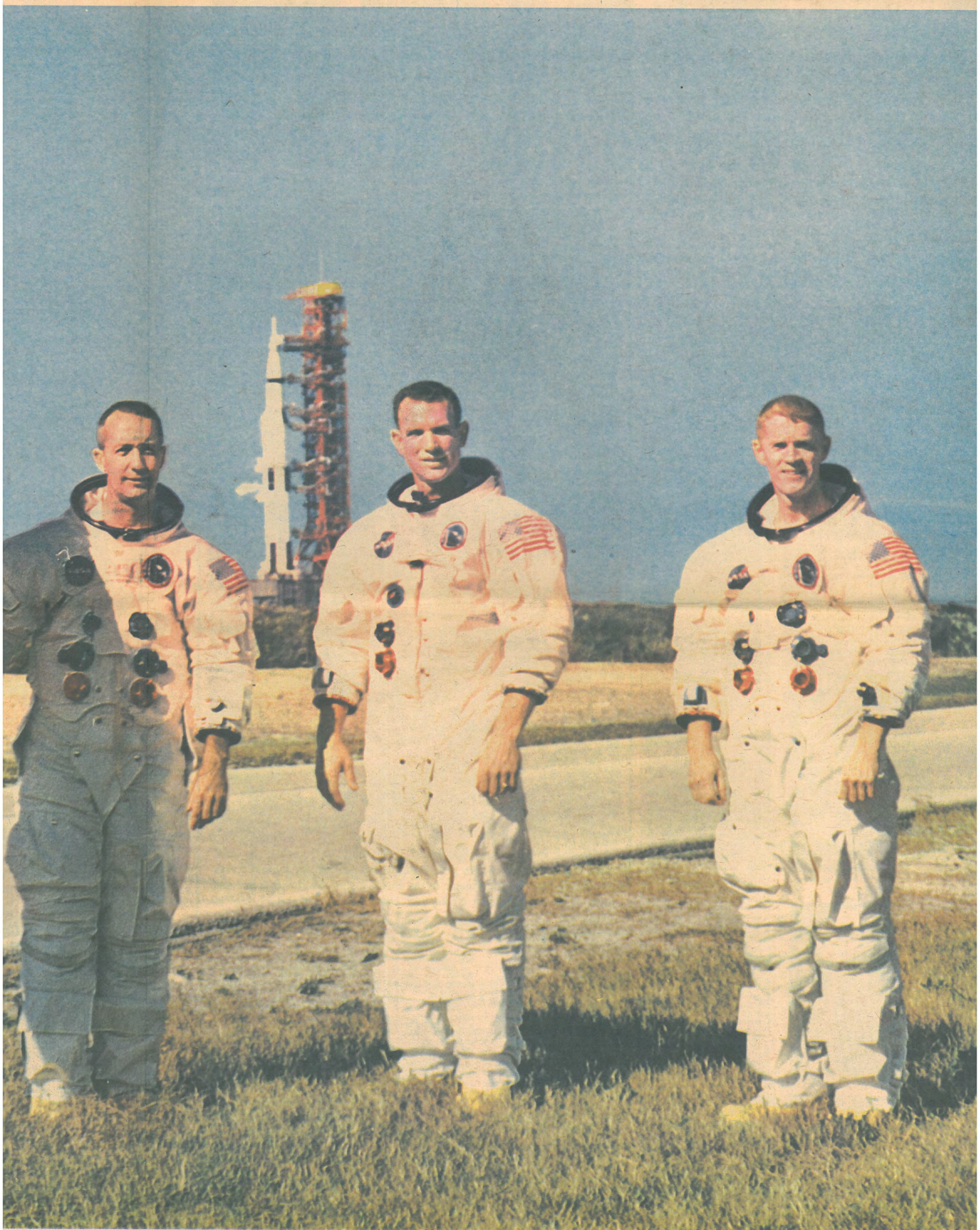
16.41 — Apollo 8 re-entered at a speed of 24,629mph. Temperature of the heat shield was 5,000 deg. F. — half the temperature of the surface of the Sun. There was a three-minute radio blackout due to atmospherics.

16.51 — The capsule splashed down in the Pacific Ocean 7,000 yards away from the rescue ship, the aircraft carrier Yorktown.

As the capsule approached the water its speed was slowed down to 22mph by parachutes. Frogmen surrounded the craft and the astronauts were picked up by helicopters.



Part of their Christmas message: 'And God called the dry



called the dry land Earth and the gathering together of the waters called He seas; and God saw that it was good.'

Rocket bombs spark race to the Moon



■ Lift-off for Blanchard and Jeffries in 1785. Their historic flight by hydrogen-filled balloon took them across the English Channel.

Feathers, wax hydrogen and the Flyer

FOR CENTURIES man has looked skywards and was soon tempted to experiment in flying under his own power.

According to legend, Daedalus, an Athenian, and his son Icarus were the first to fly, on wings made of feathers and wax. But Icarus flew too near the Sun which melted the wax and he fell into the sea.

His example was painfully followed by others, until the idea of the balloon was developed by the Montgolfier brothers in France in the 18th century.

But man wanted to go faster and 65 years ago Orville Wright made the first power-driven flight in the rickety Flyer at Kitty Hawk in the United States on December 17. In his 12-second flight he reached a speed of 30-35mph.

Others soon followed, and the First World War provided a stimulus to inventors and scientists.

The jet

In peace time there were soon airline routes all over the world, to be improved in the 1930s with the development of the jet engine by Sir Frank Whittle.

The first jet aircraft flew in Germany in 1939, but the Second World War did not see its complete development, although it did see the first use of the next stage the rocket, used by the Germans.

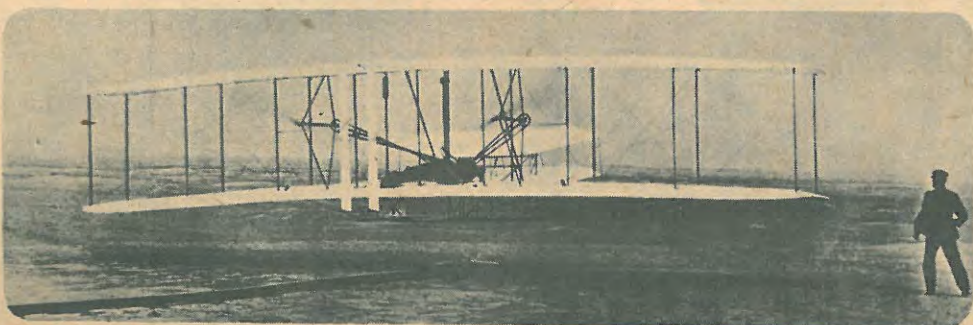
The first steps into the higher atmosphere were taken by jet-powered planes — the U.S. began to experiment with rocket engines in their X-15.

In the fifties both Russians and Americans started work on rockets, often using German scientists who had worked on the V rockets.

The next step was logical — the exploration of space.



■ Orville Wright and (below) his brother Wilbur.



■ Up and away, soon to reach a speed of 35mph. The Wright Brothers Flyer makes history on December 17, 1903.

RUSSIA or America — who will be the first man on the Moon?

With the Christmas success of Apollo 8 it now looks as though the U.S. will win the great space race.

But although the race has narrowed to two runners, it was the Germans who in July 1942 made the first attempt to explore the unknown. At the German experimental station at Peenemunde on the Baltic, Professor Werner von Braun, the scientist who was later to be responsible for America's early space satellites, launched the first V-2 rocket, the forerunner of all long range missiles.

Fourteen years elapsed before the next move, this time by the Soviet Union, who announced in August 1956 that they had successfully tested the "ultimate weapon" an inter-continental ballistic missile which could reach an altitude of 600 miles.

In October 1957, the Russians followed up with their 184lb Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite. A month later, Sputnik 2, carrying the dog Laika, demonstrated the power of launching rockets. A third Sputnik was launched in May 1958, shortly after the Americans had put up a smaller Explorer satellite.

In May 1959 two monkeys Able and Baker were shot 300 miles into space from Cape Canaveral and recovered alive and in September the same year, Russia's Lunik 1 hit the Moon.

August 1960 saw the Russians launch and recover a four-and-a-half-ton Sputnik, containing two dogs, rats, mice and insects.

The first man in space, Yuri Gagarin, made his successful 27,000-mile 108-minute single-orbit flight in his four-and-a-half-ton space ship Vostok 1, on April 12, 1961. His height was between 100 and 200 miles and his speed 18,000mph. The Russians followed this with a 24-hour space flight by Gherman Titov.

On May 5 the same year, U.S. Commander Alan Shepard sealed in a one-ton capsule, was shot to a height of 115 miles.

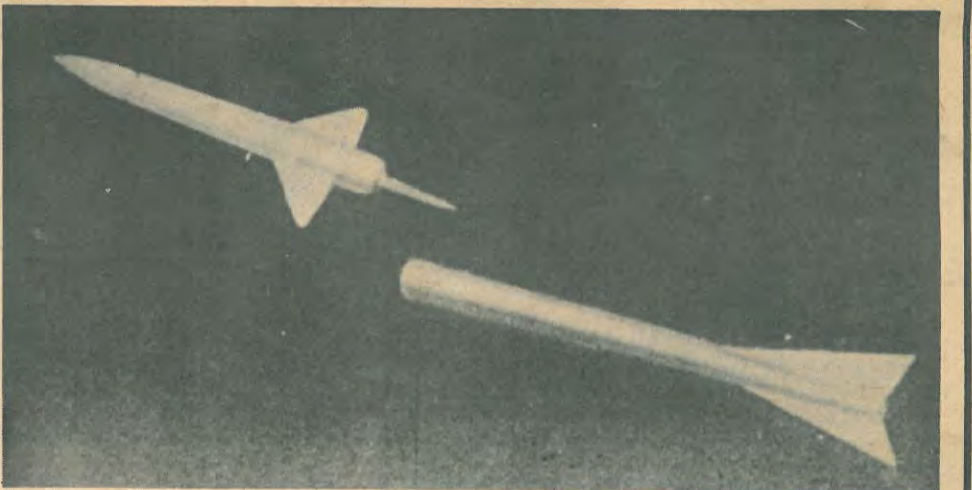
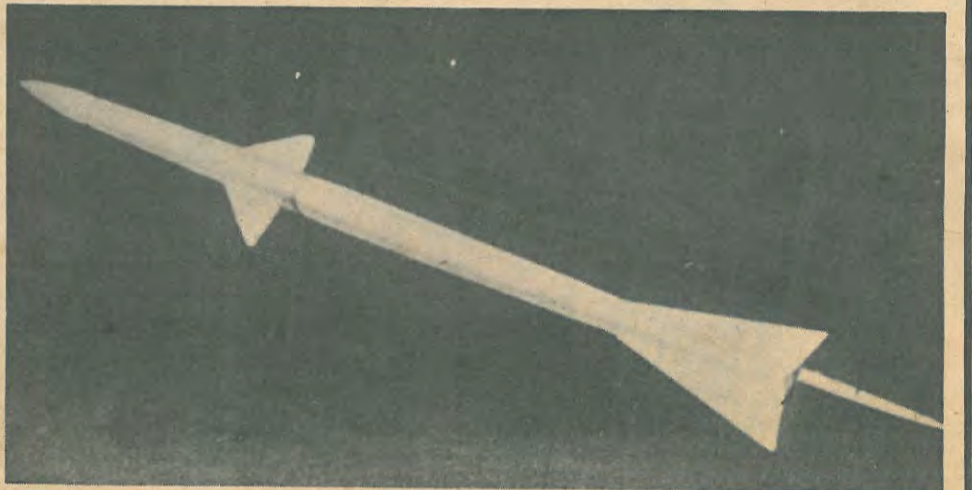
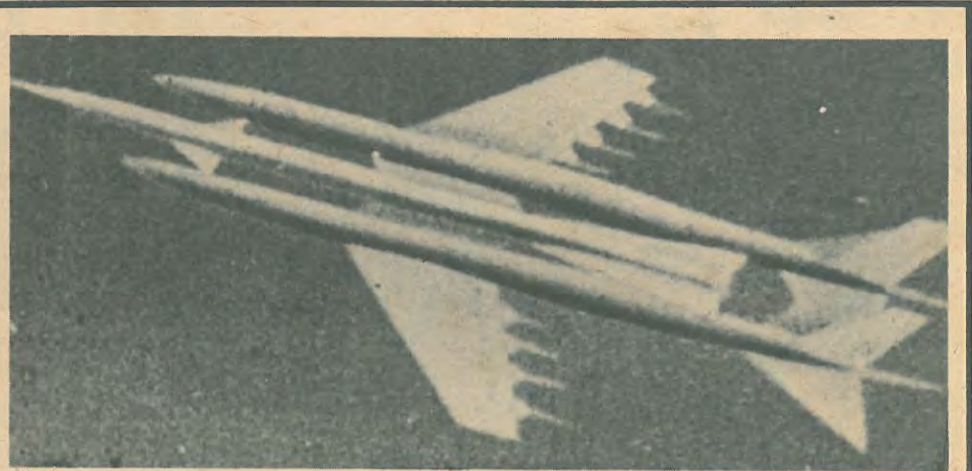
Narrow escape

In July 1961, Captain Virgil Grissom repeated Shepard's flight but had a narrow escape. He landed in the sea, and his capsule was lost.

The next Russian move came in August when Major Herman Titov in Vostok 2 landed safely after completing 17 orbits and travelling about 434,960 miles.

In February 1962, after brief sub-orbital flights by Shepard and Grissom, John Glen became the first American to go into orbit in a four-and-a-half hour flight. U.S. Mariner 2 made a faultless journey to pass within 21,000 miles of Venus, transmitting information 36 million miles back to earth.

In June 1963 the only woman astronaut, Valentina Tereshkova, in Vostok 6, joined Valery Bykovsky in orbit after he had been up for two days. She was in



■ The first spacecraft — Sputnik 1, launched by the Russians in October 1957. Top picture shows the satellite beginning its flight from Earth cradled in a giant rocket plane. In the middle picture the rocket is in flight after discarding its plane cradle, and, above, the second stage rocket is discarded.

space for three days, hot for five.

During 1965 there were three space firsts: Alexei Leonov became the first walker in space, leaving his Voshkod 2 spacecraft for 10 minutes, moving away 15 feet and taking pictures with a cine camera.

Mars pictures

U.S. Mariner 4 sent back the first pictures of Mars across 134 million miles of space after a journey lasting more than seven months. And, after several earlier attempts had failed, there was the first rendezvous in orbit by Gemini 6 and Gemini 7.

In the early part of 1966, the Russians were predicting that they would have a man on the Moon by 1970 and in the spring were making plans for men to fly round the Moon. Their Lunar 9 made the first soft landing on the Moon and sent back pictures of the surface, confirming that it was firm and suitable for a manned landing.

The Americans, in Sept-

ember, set a record for the highest manned space flight — 850 miles up, and in November Major Edwin Aldrin in Gemini 12 made a record space walk of two hours nine minutes. January 1967 saw the tragedy of three American spacemen killed in a fire during a rehearsal on board the Saturn rocket at Cape Kennedy. The entire crew of the Apollo 1 spacecraft — Virgil Grissom, Edward White and Roger Chaffee died.

Then America took the lead when the Apollo 4 spacecraft, scheduled to land an American on the Moon by the end of the decade, splashed down in the Pacific after its first unmanned test launching at Cape Kennedy.

The winners?

The race hotted up last autumn with predictions of a Christmas chase round the Moon.

But the success of the Americans with Apollo 7 test flights in October indicated that they would be the winners.

There was expert debate

throughout November whether Apollo 8 should make the journey round the Moon with three men on board, the main criticism coming from Sir Bernard Lovell, director of the Jodrell Bank radio telescope.

On November 27, as Russia was said to be planning a flight within the next two or three weeks, the launching date for America's attempt in Apollo 8 was set for December 21.

Col. Frank Borman, Captain James Lovell and Major William Anders, on board Apollo 8, were launched to orbit the Moon. They transmitted the first live television pictures from the lunar orbit, and splashed down in the Pacific just before dawn on December 27.

Now America plans next summer to make a Moon landing from Apollo 11 — if Russia has not got there first. Russian space scientists are now under heavy pressure to make the first manned landing on the Moon early this year.



■ Columbus



■ Drake



■ Cook



■ Borman



■ Lovell



■ Anders

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The first heartbeats in space came from Laika, a small brown dog dotted with technical equipment, who soared skywards in 1958. She went into orbit in Russia's Sputnik 2 — and died there.

Laika's death brought a world-wide protest from animal lovers, but Russian scientists claimed experience gained from the flight helped Gagarin's trip.

They launched other dogs into space, like the one above, shown in its cabin before installation in the second earth satellite.

World opinion warmed to the Russians when they brought dogs back safely. Some later gave birth to "space puppies".

The USSR never sent monkeys into space, but these animals, with their more human-like tendencies, became favourites for United States tests.

The sight of monkeys being wired up to provide technical data brought new protests, but the animals were again given credit for aiding man's foothold in space.

The big new tree in Queen Victoria Street, Reading.

There's a new District Bank at 20 Queen Victoria Street, Reading.

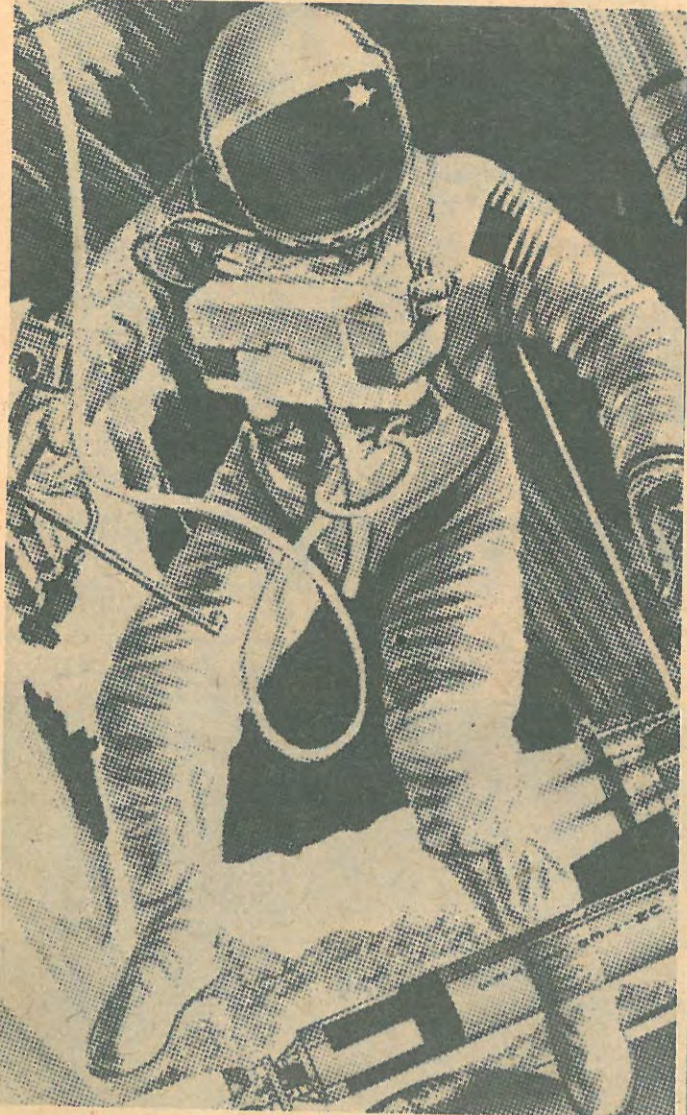
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... and the
only woman



■ The only woman astronaut, Valentina Tereshkova. She was launched in Vostok 6 in June 1963.

■ Goodbye comrades! The first man into space, Yuri Gagarin, waves to Soviet technicians from the top of the iron staircase leading to Vostok 1. Gagarin's success, on April 12, 1961 excited the world. He made a 27,000-mile orbit of the Earth in 108 minutes. Vostok 1 reached a height of about 150 miles and travelled at a speed of 18,000mph.



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**A fire,
a tangled
chute,
a plane
crash
—the five
who died**



■ Three U.S. astronauts who died when fire flashed through their oxygen-filled space capsule on Cape Kennedy's Firing Pad 34 in January 1967.

Virgil Grissom, 40 (left), Edward White, 36, and Roger Chaffee, 31, were rehearsing for America's first three-man space flight, planned for February 1967, when they were killed.

Space experts pessimistically said after the tragedy there would be little hope of landing an American on the Moon by 1970.

Two armen died a few days later in similar conditions in a spacecraft simulator at San Antonio, Texas.



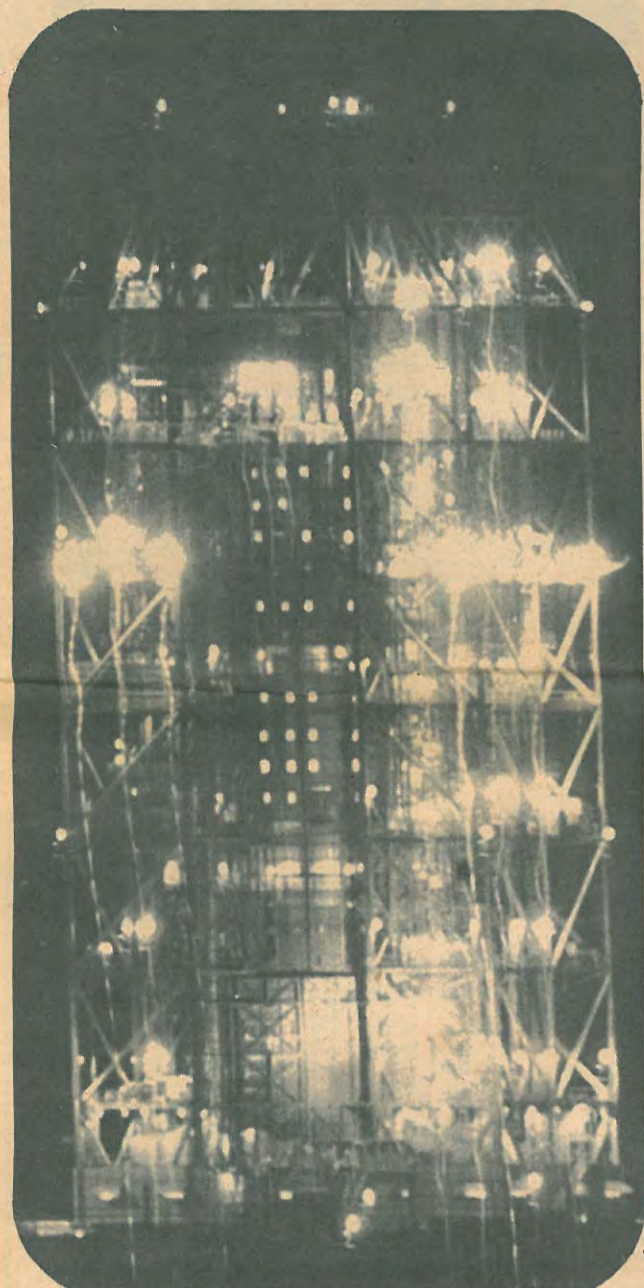
■ The first man to die during a space trip was Soviet Cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov. He was killed in April 1967 while trying to land his spaceship Soyuz-1 after making a successful re-entry through the Earth's atmosphere.

The straps of the parachute slowing the spacecraft's fall became entangled four miles above Earth. Komarov, said the Russians, remained to the end "a model of sensible and crisp information, self-possession and calmness."



■ The world's first spaceman, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, died in March 1968. Ironically he was killed when he crashed while flying a plane which had not been fully tested.

Nearly seven years previously Gagarin made his historic orbit of the Earth in Vostok 1. In 1961 — three months after the trip — he was given a tremendous welcome when he visited Britain.



■ The gantry where American spacemen Grissom, White and Chaffee died in 1967. They were trapped in a "rehearsal" capsule when fire swept through the pure-oxygen atmosphere. There was no escape mechanism because the gantry was wrapped round the rocket — and the spacemen could not open the hatches from inside in time.

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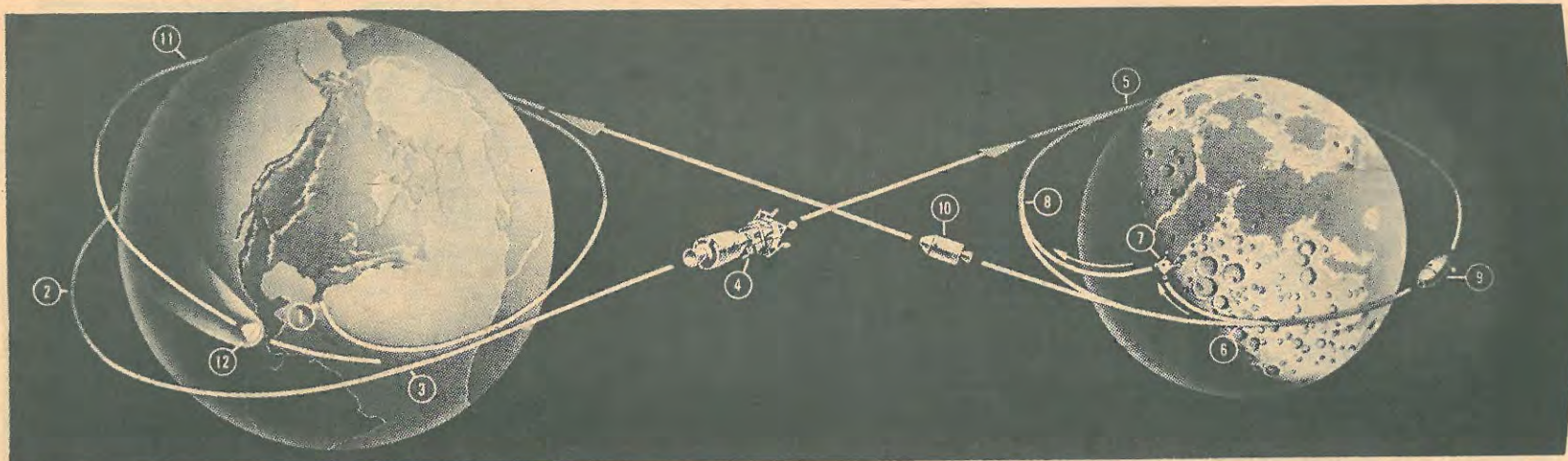
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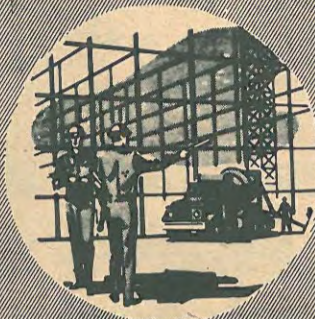




- The plan for a Moon landing
- 1 Launch
- 2 Coast flight in Earth orbit
- 3 Injection on course for the Moon.
- 4 Midcourse, with four-legged Lunar Landing Ship (LEM) attached to nose of Apollo
- 5 Entry into orbit
- 6 Two-man LEM detaches
- 7 LEM landing on Moon
- 8 LEM rendezvous and docking
- 9 Start of Apollo return flight to Earth after LEM is left in lunar orbit.
- 10 Apollo on course
- 11 Apollo approach
- 12 Conical command craft scorching through atmospheric re-entry and parachutes to ocean landing.

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Men on the Moon, and a look at Mars

WHEN President Kennedy forecast in 1961 that men would land on the Moon in 1969, most people thought he was being optimistic. But Apollo 8 has now made it a probability.

The mission's unblemished success and the spacecraft's safe return prompted U.S. Air Force Lt. General Samuel Phillips, the Apollo programme director, to announce that Apollo 9 had been scheduled for a February 28 launch date.

On that flight, a three-man team, headed by astronaut James McDivitt, will orbit the Earth and practise rendezvous and docking with the Lunar Module, which has not yet been tested in manned flight.

If Apollo 9 is a success, Apollo 10 will attempt to orbit the Moon in May, carrying two astronauts, who will fly to within 50,000 feet of the lunar surface, while a third astronaut remains in the orbiting Apollo craft.

But Phillips discounted rumours that Apollo 10 might attempt a landing. Apollo 11 is now scheduled for the landing mission with a fully-equipped Lunar Module in July or August.

A space official in Washington has said that the crew on this trip will be Borman, Lovell and Anders, the three who have just returned to Earth.

Two of these brave astronauts will take man's first step on the Moon.

Their job will be simple. No one knows what working on the Moon in a space-suit will be like; no one can be sure that a meteorite will not puncture one of the suits. So the first party will quickly collect samples of the lunar surface and set up some scientific equipment

Moonquakes

One piece of equipment is designed to detect Moonquakes — lunar earthquakes. Another is a laser reflector, which will enable observers on Earth to measure accurately the speed of the Earth's rotation and to see if the continents on the Earth are moving, as scientists believe. A third device will sample the charged particles which stream from the Sun in the solar wind.

Some of these early experiments should tell us what the Moon is made of, suggest how the craters were caused, and tell us something of the heavy bodies that lie beneath six of the craters.

In the early seventies, the

Americans plan to launch several space craft that will go into orbit round Mars and send instrument packages down to the surface. Scientists are even more interested in a once-in-a-century chance that will occur in 1977-78, when the great outer planets Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune will be aligned in such a way that spacecraft could exploit their fields of gravity.

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