

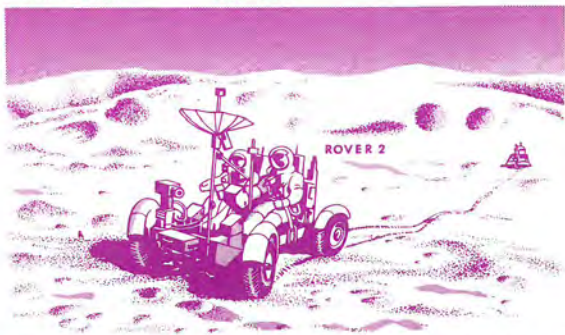


CHARLES DUKE



JOHN YOUNG

• Orion lands
at Descartes
9:23 pm EST
April 20th



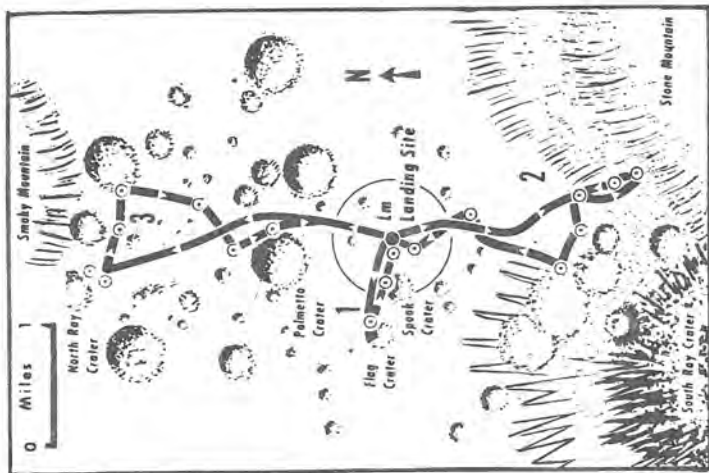
KEN MATTINGLY

• maps Moon
in 'Casper'

LUNAR VOYAGE CASPER

Young & Duke explore Descartes area in 3 rides,
obtain rock samples and activate experiments

Apollo 16



APOLLO 16;
3 SUCCESSFUL
MOON
EXPLORATIONS

On April 20th, when they finally touched down on the mountain-ringed plateau in the highest region on the front side of the moon at 9:23 p.m., Duke exclaimed: "Orion is finally here, Houston! Fantastic!" They were to have started their first of three seven-hour excursions four hours after touchdown. But the long, exhausting day had taken its toll and Mission Control told them to sleep.

On April 21st, starting in the a.m., for seven hours and 11 minutes the two Apollo 16 astronauts worked outside their lunar ship Orion, protected from the harsh environment by pressure suits and portable backpacks that provided the comforts of earth. Young, who stepped out on the moon first, said at the time: "Here you are, mysterious and unknown Descartes highland plains. Apollo 16 is going to change your image." They went about their work with professional aplomb, but the strange environment took its toll. Young's foot became tangled in a cable, and suddenly the most important experiment carried with them to the Descartes highlands, an electronic package designed to measure heat given off by the moon, was shattered. But they laid out the rest of the scientific instruments without incident, and, in their little electric car, went about the task of collecting pieces of the moon to return to earth.

Beginning the second space walk on April 22nd, explorers John W. Young and Charles M. Duke took a bumpy ride through moonscape debris and conquered the "steep, steep" slopes of Stone Mountain collecting clues to the lunar interior and its creation. "Wow, what a place!" exulted Duke when he and Young ended their 35-minute, 2.6-mile ride, hampered by a malfunction on the control panel of their \$8 million lunar buggy. "This is so neat," Duke enthused, picking through the rocks on the 1,660-foot Stone Mountain. They found rocks on the flanks of Stone Mountain that were angular and appeared to have been battered repeatedly by meteoroid impacts.

The third ride was undertaken on April 23rd, and with Captain Young driving, the two astronauts headed north about three miles and arrived at North Ray crater at 11:40 a.m. What they found was spectacular. At the crater's rim was a giant boulder about the size of a house. Other rocks, many with sharp edges, lay all around—the debris from the explosive impact that gouged out the mighty crater, estimated to be about 3,000 feet in diameter. Driving down the side of North Ray to their second stop on the crater rim, Young got the Rover up to 10.5 miles an hour even though he had the brakes on moving down the 15-degree slope.

Packing 213 lbs. of precious moon rocks, the Apollo 16 astronauts rocketed off the moon on April 23rd, after three days of exploration. Capt. John W. Young of the Navy and Lieut. Col. Charles M. Duke Jr. of the Air Force rode their lunar module Orion away from the rugged Descartes region at 8:25 p.m., EST. The explosive launching was televised by a camera left at the landing site. It was the second televised lunar lift-off, but the first time the vehicle was tracked by the camera for at least two minutes.