

THE WEATHER
NORTHERN SAN JOAQUIN: Fair through tomorrow, with patchy morning fog. High tomorrow 45-50, low tonight 29-32. Gentle winds.

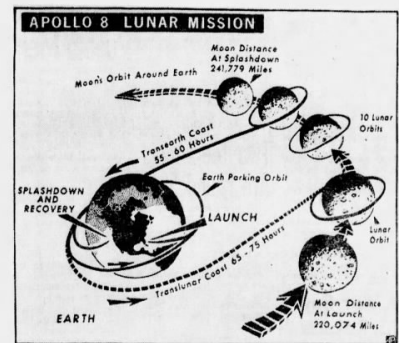
SEVENTY-FOURTH YEAR X Single Copy 10c STOCKTON, SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA—SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1968 FIFTY-SIX PAGES No. 221

Stockton Record

Stockton, California's Dominant Newspaper Since 1911

Central California's Outstanding Newspaper Since 1955

3 Off to Moon at 24,000 m.p.h.



TO THE MOON AND BACK—Here's the approximate timetable for the Apollo 8 lunar mission which started this morning with the launch-

Christmas Eve Orbit Planned

HOUSTON (UPI)—Apollo 8 astronauts Frank Borman, James Lovell and William Anders rode the awesome Saturn 5 rocket into space today and headed for the moon.

The monstrous rocket lifted itself from a pool of orange flame at Cape Kennedy at 4:31 a.m. (PST) and went into orbit around the earth.

Three hours later the astronauts fired its top stage a second time and sped at 24,000 miles an hour toward the moon a quarter of a million miles away. They will orbit it 10 1/2 times Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

A European space expert called it "one of mankind's greatest days."

"You're on your way now," Chris Kraft, the space agency's top flight director, radioed the astronauts after they restarted their Saturn's third stage, fired it for five minutes and 11 seconds at 7:42 a.m. to lock out of earth orbit toward the moon, and put themselves into the history books.

At the home of Air Force Maj. Anders, a Roman Catholic priest said a mass in the family room for Valerie Anders and her five children. A few blocks away, at the home of the Rev. Col. Lorman, an Episcopal minister came to be with Susan Borman and her two teenage sons.

At the center of the family room, a mass in the family room for Valerie Anders and her five children. A few blocks away, at the home of the Rev. Col. Lorman, an Episcopal minister came to be with Susan Borman and her two teenage sons.

It was raining steadily in Houston as the first of seven astronauts' wives arrived at the Borman home to take up the vigil. The visitors included the widows of astronauts Ed White and C. C. Williams.

Five of the visiting wives had gone through similar experiences—watching their husbands rocket into space.

SECOND TIME
For Susan Borman it was the second time. Frank was command pilot on Gemini 7—the 14-day flight that ranks as the longest one to date. But you never become accustomed to a launch. During the countdown she sat with hands tightly clasped.

Anders, however, was going into space for the first time and the group at his home was more somber. It included the wife of astronaut Dave Scott and two friends whose husbands work for the space agency.

No one spoke as the group huddled around a television set until after the liftoff and there were tears in Valerie Anders' eyes.

U.S. and VC Set Battlefield Talks on Freeing 3 Yanks

SAIGON (UPI)—Ten unarmed men will meet under a Viet Cong flag on a river bank northwest of Saigon Christmas Day to arrange the release of three American servicemen held prisoner by Communist forces.

The United States mission agreed today to the unprecedented meeting with agents of the guerrilla Viet Cong. The Viet Cong proposed the meeting in a radio broadcast Thursday.

In Paris Thursday, National Liberation Front Viet Cong representatives identified the three captured Americans they intend to release as Thomas Nelson James, Donald N. Smith and James W. Brigham. They did not disclose the hometowns of the men and the details of their capture.

The Viet Cong said they would send five unarmed men to a riverbank in Tay Ninh province about 30 miles northwest of Saigon and five miles from the Cambodian border Christmas Day. They said they would mark the spot with a Viet Cong flag.

The United States broadcast its reply today over the U.S. Armed Forces Radio Network in Vietnam. It said it would send no more than five armed representatives to the spot "to receive U.S. prisoners or to discuss the means of their release."

The broadcast said there would be no exchange of prisoners.



WILLIAM ANDERS FRANK BORMAN JAMES LOVELL

U.S. Might Try to Put Men on Moon Next May or June

CAPE KENNEDY (UPI)—Lt. Gen. Samuel Phillips, head of the Apollo program, today raised the possibility that the United States might try to land men on the moon on Apollo next May or June.

Phillips told a news conference, however, the possibilities of this happening, and thus speeding by one flight America's lunar landing timetable, are still remote and present plans call for Apollo 11 to be the first flight with the capability to land men on the moon, possibly in July or August.

Phillips said there are possibilities the lunar landing module (lunar) scheduled to fly on Apollo 11 could be installed on Apollo 10 if a decision were made "rather immediately."

He said, the entire Apollo 10 landing craft and rocket could be skipped.

The moon lander's first test with men is scheduled for late February or early March on Apollo 9. But that particular craft is too heavy to use.

"Our present plans are to fly Apollo 10 two and a half months after the first lunar orbit, but would be incapable of landing."

"Most of us in the Apollo program believe that as our experience continues to mount we will still want to fly the (lunar) in the moon vehicle before committing to a landing," Phillips said.

"Now circumstances change and we might want to exercise a more ambitious option," he said.

Rocket scientist Werner von Braun predicted that Apollo 9 is just the first of "very many flights to follow" in leaving earth orbit.

Although Steinbeck wrote 24 works of fiction, several of which were dramatized for the stage and screen, he is best remembered for the novel "The Grapes of Wrath," which won him the Pulitzer Prize in 1940.

He was the most recent American winner of the Nobel Prize for literature, a distinction he shared with Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, Pearl S. Buck, Eugene O'Neill and Sinclair Lewis.

1962 Award
The Nobel award, a recognition of his "sympathetic humanism and social perception," was presented to Steinbeck in 1962.

His book, "Travels With Charley," appeared in that year, but he had done relatively little writing since then. His health had been uncertain since 1967, when he was operated on for a ruptured spinal disk.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 3)

Strike Halts Shipping in East, Gulf

NEW YORK (AP)—Dock operations at ports from Maine to Texas were at a standstill today after the International Longshoremen's Association renewed its walkout against shippers.

President Johnson said both sides should end the dispute immediately.

The walkout continues a strike that began Oct. 1 but was halted the next day by an 8-day cooling-off injunction imposed by the President under the Taft-Hartley Act.

The strike resumed at 7:05 p.m. Friday, the time the injunction expired.

Industry sources estimated the walkout cost \$5 million each day the 75,000 longshoremen stayed off the job.

Thomas W. Gleason, president of the I.L.A., announced the walkout following a final closed-door session.

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2 Teen-Agers Found Slain Near Vallejo

VALLEJO (AP)—A teenage couple on their first date, returning from a high school Christmas concert, were shot to death on a rural road five miles northeast of here shortly before midnight Friday.

The body of David Faraday, 17, was found lying outside the right side of his car. The body of Bettina Jensen, 16, was about 10 feet behind the vehicle. Each was slain by a bullet in the head.

Coroner Dan Horan said the sheriff's office is investigating the possibility the couple may have been involved in a fight.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 7)

Football Results

By the Associated Press
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Lancaster Conference Playoff
Crested Hills 14, Lancaster 10
(Story in Sports Section)

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU, TOO! WE GOT 2 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

Kidnaped Coed Found Safe in Bizarre 'Coffin'

MIAMI (AP)—Kidnap victim Barbara Jane Mackle returned to her parents today after she was freed from a box in which she was buried for more than three nights in the red clay of freezing North Georgia woodlands. Her parents paid a \$300,000 ransom.

"My fine, I'm fine, Uncle Frank," Barbara told Frank Mackle by telephone after the rescue.

And the 20-year-old coed told her mother that during the more than 80 hours she lay in the box buried 18 inches in the clay of an isolated hill woodland she worried most that her family was worrying about her.

"It's in there. We know the other two are not with him," an unidentified FBI man said.

This was the first return of three suspects in the case. The only other person named by the FBI thus far in the kidnaping has been Ruth Ettemann Schier, Knott's 38-year-old blonde girlfriend.

Newsmen discovered the location of the buried box near Atlanta after FBI agents scoured about the area this morning, questioning a number of residents and possible witnesses. Residents said FBI men kept people away from the locale Friday afternoon.

The coffin-like prison box was placed in a snug-fitting trench about 3 feet deep, 2 feet wide and 6 feet long.

The hole, dug in red clay on a wooded section, along Florida's southwest coast.

(Continued on Page 1, Col. 3)



BARBARA JANE MACKLE Entombed by Kidnappers

22-Degree Low Record for Dec. 20

Stockton weather set a new record last night when the mercury dropped to a bone-chilling 22 degrees.

It was the coldest Dec. 20 ever recorded here. The previous low of 25 degrees was set in 1907, 1928 and 1963.

The high yesterday in Stockton was 41 degrees. Normal high and low readings for the date are 54 and 36 degrees.

Continued fair and cold weather is predicted for the area through tomorrow except for some patchy morning fog.

The forecast is for a low tonight of 23 to 26 degrees and a high tomorrow of 45 to 50.

Winds are expected to be gentle. Fair skies are predicted for the Sierra Nevada with high temperatures in the 20s and the low dropping below zero at higher elevations.

Sectors reported a high temperature yesterday of 42 degrees and a low this morning of 18.

San Francisco's temperature ranged from a high of 44 degrees to a low of 22.

Chills are required for motorists on Highways 120 and 41 and advised on 140.

WEATHER STATISTICS
12-21 Today Yesterday
Temperature 41 42
Humidity 65 65
Barometric Pressure 30.1 30.1
Wind SWS 11 11

Today's Record

Amateur	..... 27
Amateur	..... 27
Books	..... 12
Bridge	..... 12
Central California News	..... 29
Church Section	..... 21
Classified Advertising	..... 18
Comics	..... 16
Crossword Puzzle	..... 27
Farm Section	..... 29
Hobbies	..... 27
Horoscope	..... 31
Markets	..... 30
Patterns	..... 18
Progress	..... 27
Sports	..... 27
Television Section 17
Travel 27
Vital Statistics 31
Weather 30

JOHN STEINBECK

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