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Obituary

May 8th 2021 edition

The third man

Michael Collins died on April 28th

The pilot of the command module for the Moon landing was 90



May 8th 2021



THE MOON that filled the window of the spacecraft *Columbia* was not one Michael Collins had ever seen before. It was absolutely three-dimensional, its belly bulging out towards him. Cascading sunlight formed a halo round it. The lighter

lunging out towards him. Cascading sunlight formed a halo round it. The higher parts were a lot lighter than usual, the jagged mountains darker. It was electrifying. Then the feeling passed. "Hello Moon!" he quipped. "How's the old backside?"

This was the closest he had come, as the Apollo 11 crew on July 19th 1969 scouted out their best landing place. But he knew all about the Moon: dry, lifeless, rough as a

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