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John F. Kennedy Space Center

NASA

Spaceport News

Vol. 25, No. 1

January 3, 1986

1986 Spaceport News Summary

Followup From the 1985 Spaceport News Summary

Of note, the 1963, 1964 and 1965 Spaceport News were issued weekly. Starting with the July 7, 1966, issue, the Spaceport News went to an every two week format. The Spaceport News kept the two week format until the last issue on February 24, 2014. Spaceport Magazine superseded the Spaceport News in April 2014. Spaceport Magazine was a monthly issue, until the last and final issue, Jan./Feb. 2020.

The first issue of Spaceport News was December 13, 1962. The two 1962 issues and the issues from 1996 until the final Spaceport Magazine issue, are available for viewing at [this website](#). The Spaceport News issues from 1963 through 1995 are currently not available online.

In this Summary, black font is original Spaceport News text, blue font is something I or someone else provided and purple font is a hot link.

All links were working at the time I completed this Spaceport News Summary.

From The January 3, 1986, Spaceport News

On page 1, "**Launch of 61-C Set For Jan. 6**". A portion of the article reads "Preparations are on target to launch the Space Shuttle Columbia on its seventh flight into space on Monday, January 6. At the T minus 14 second mark on Dec. 19, the ground launch sequencer in the Launch Control Center commanded a countdown stop when it detected a problem with one of the hydraulic power units on the right hand solid rocket booster. That unit is part of the booster's steering mechanism. A new HPU and

an electronics assembly have been installed and successfully tested. The exact cause of the Dec. 19 cutoff is still being investigated...

The 61-C seven crew members are scheduled to arrive at KSC today to begin launch preparations. The countdown begins at 1 a.m. Saturday. This will be the first flight for the Space Shuttle Columbia since Nov. 28, 1983 on STS-9, the first Spacelab flight. Hundreds of modifications were made to reconfigure the ship from a development flight vehicle to a fully operational orbiter."



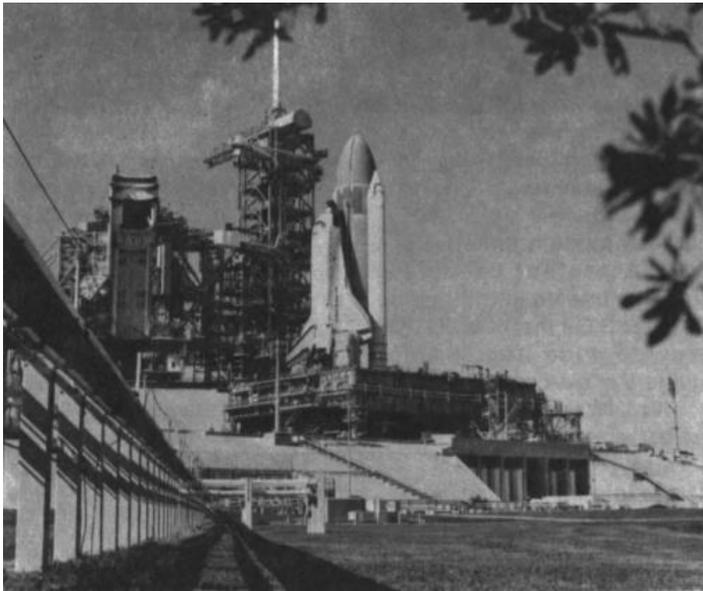
"61-C CREW members walk out of the O&C Building enroute to Pad A and the Space Shuttle Columbia. Crew members from back to front are: pilot Charles Bolden, Payload Specialists Bill Nelson and Robert Canker, Mission Specialists George Nelson, Franklin Chang-Diaz and Steven Hawley and Commander Robert Gibson."

Also on page 1, "**JSC Director G. D. Griffin Resigns Effective Jan. 14**". In part, the article reads "Gerald D. Griffin, director of NASA's Johnson Space Center, Houston, announced recently that he will leave the agency on Jan. 14 to become president of the Houston Chamber of Commerce. Robert C. Goetz, deputy director of JSC, will become acting director upon Griffin's departure... Griffin has been the JSC director since August 1982. He has served with NASA for more than 20 years in a number of key positions..".



Griffin

Lastly, on page 1.



“CHALLENGER ROLLED to KSC's newly modified Launch Pad 39-B, on Dec. 29 in preparation for Jan. 3 liftoff of mission 51-L, the first space shuttle launch for that pad. The crew for that six-day flight includes Commander Francis A. Scobee, Pilot Michael J. Smith, Mission Specialists Judith Resnik, Ellison Onizuka, Ronald E. McNair and Payload Specialists Christa McAuliffe (Teacher In Space) and Gregory B. Jarvis of Hughes.

From The January 17, 1986, Spaceport News

On page 1, “**Columbia Makes Strong Comeback**”. Part of the article reads “All eyes viewing the colorful pre-dawn skies last Sunday morning (Jan. 12) were directed toward the bright and ground-shaking launch of the Space Shuttle Columbia at 6:55 a.m. EST. After four previous times at loading the external tank and boarding the flight crew, Bob Sieck, Director of Shuttle Operations said, “The launch team was tired, but very happy and proud.”

In a news conference after launch, Launch Director Gene Thomas said, “I don't remember the launch team demonstrating such clapping and exuberance since STS-1.” He went on to say that rounds of applause also followed booster separation and negative return or “No RTLS”. The countdown for Mission 61-C was halted on Dec. 19 due to an out of tolerance turbine reading on a right SRB hydraulic power unit. A second launch attempt on Jan. 6 was halted at T -31 seconds due to a problem with the lox fill and drain valve and end of the launch window. On Jan. 7, the countdown was held at the T-9 minute mark while the launch team waited for weather to clear at the Trans Atlantic Abort site and at KSC for a RTLS. A launch attempt on Jan. 10 was abandoned at 8:44 a.m. due to heavy rains in the pad area.”



On page 3, **Teacher Helping Promote Space**. Part of the article reads “One of the ten finalists for NASA's Teacher In Space program is at KSC fulfilling NASA's request of staying on with the agency to spread the word about America's Space Program. Judy Garcia, chairperson for the Department of Foreign Languages at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Fairfax County, Va., will be at KSC until March. "My agreement with NASA is that, apart from speaking engagements, I am to work on a specific project during the year I will be with the agency," she said...

Garcia recalls that it took a month to fill out the 15 page application form for NASA's Teacher In Space Program which was reviewed first by the state and then by NASA Officials... It was on to Houston for the 10 eager teachers. There they spent long days undergoing extensive mental and physical examinations. "The exams were so thorough that I felt like I should have a stamp on me saying 'NASA Approved'," she laughed. Garcia said one of the highlights was the parabola rides in NASA's KC-135 aircraft used to simulate zero gravity...

More than 11,000 applied for the position, and on July 19, Vice President Bush announced that Sharon Christa McAuliffe would be the teacher to go into space aboard the Space Shuttle in January 1986. Barbara Morgan was selected as the backup, and the remaining eight were to be assigned to various NASA centers to utilize their unique and diverse backgrounds to bring an abundance of new space-related materials to the classroom.”



“JUDY GARCIA is one of the Teacher In Space semi-finalists and will be at KSC through March making speeches and working on her project.”

The following article provides some more insight about Judy; in the [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) from 2011. Barbara Morgan is mentioned in the above [Spaceport News](#) article, Christa McAuliffe’s backup. Barbara was selected as an astronaut candidate in 1998 and flew on STS-118 as a Mission Specialist. According to [Wikipedia](#), “...on June 28, 2008, Morgan announced that she would leave NASA for a teaching job at Boise State University... [The Challenger Center website](#) shows Barbara as “Education Committee Co-Chair and Distinguished Educator in Residence, Boise State University”.

On pages 4 and 5, **“25th Space Shuttle Launch, Teacher, Comet Study, TDRS Deployment To Highlight 51-L Flight”**. In part, the article states “the launch of a high school teacher as America’s first private citizen to fly aboard the Shuttle in NASA’s Space Shuttle in NASA’s Space Flight Participant Program will open a new chapter in space travel when Challenger lifts off on the 25th Shuttle mission.... A science payload programmed for 40 hours of Comet Halley observations and the second of NASA’s Tracking and Data Relay Satellites will be aboard for Challenger’s tenth flight...

Challenger’s liftoff will mark the first use of Pad 39-B for a Space Shuttle launch. Pad 39-B was last used for the Apollo-Soyuz mission in July 1975... Four Shuttle veterans will be joined by rookie astronaut Michael Smith, teach observer Christa McAuliffe, and Hughes payload specialist Gregory Jarvis for a mission that will extend just over six days...

The second of NASA’s Tracking and Data Relay Satellites (TDRS) will be deployed on the first day of the flight... The scientific objective of Spartan-Halley is to measure the ultraviolet spectrum of Comet Halley as the comet approaches the point of its orbit that will be closest to the sun. The SPARTAN will be deployed from the Shuttle cargo bay and then retrieved later in the mission for return to earth...”.

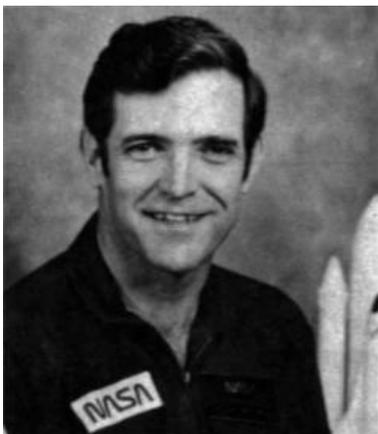


“51-L CREW MEMBERS in the white room at Pad 39-B during the recent countdown demonstration test. From left to right are: Teacher-Payload Specialist Christa McAuliffe, Hughes Payload Specialist Gregory Jarvis, Mission Specialist Judy Resnik, Commander Dick Scobee, Mission Specialist Ron McNair, Pilot Mike Smith and Mission Specialist Ellison Onizuka.”

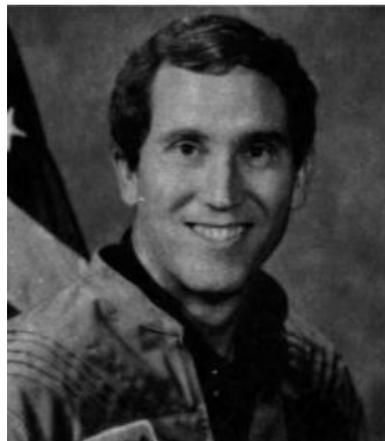
From The February 14, 1986, Spaceport News

On page 1.

51 - L . . . Hail And Farewell



**“DICK” SCOBEE
COMMANDER, 1939-86**



**“MIKE” SMITH
PILOT, 1945-86**



**CHRISTA McAULIFFE
TEACHER IN SPACE,
1948-86**



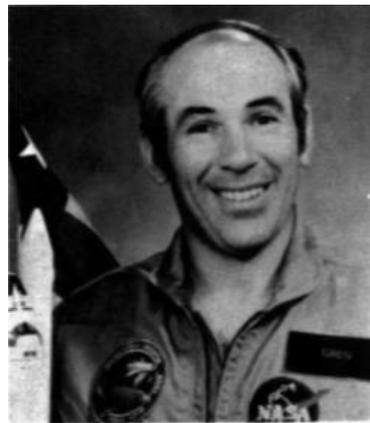
**"EL" ONIZUKA
MISSION SPECIALIST,
1946-86**



**"JUDY" RESNIK
MISSION SPECIALIST,
1949-86**



**"RON" McNAIR
MISSION SPECIALIST,
1950-86**



**"GREG" JARVIS
PAYLOAD SPECIALIST,
1944-86**

[On page 2.](#)



"CENTER DIRECTOR Dick Smith addressed crowd of about 5,000 during the 51-L Astronauts memorial service at KSC. From left to right are: Jim Harrington, shuttle flow director; Robert Overmyer, astronaut; Smith (at podium); Father David Ferguson; Ben Abramowitz; and Rev. V. Benford Friar, II."



On the left, "JIM HARRINGTON, shuttle flow director for Challenger, carried the wreath for the seven 51-L crew members. The wreath was 36 inches in diameter and was made of seven red carnations, white chrysanthemums and blue statice." On the right, "AS PART of the Kennedy Space Center employees memorial service for the crew of STS 51-L, a wreath was dropped at sea at 11:39 a.m. on Feb. 1, 1986, marking the exact time of the accident on Jan. 28, 1986."

"We are gathered here today to honor the memory of our fallen friends and teammates of Challenger Mission 51-L. We come together not only as members of the launch team, but also as the Kennedy Space Center family - government and industry, men and women of every discipline, every color and every creed.

"Here among the machines and edifices of space exploration, we are reminded by the tragic events of the past few days that humans are our most precious resource. For it is people who build the machinery, who construct the buildings, who assemble and test the equipment and hardware, and who fly it.

"And amongst this important commodity . . . people . . . we have lost seven of our own - brave men and women who dared to chart the pathways of the universe that future generations will follow.

"While we mourn their passing, we must not lose sight of their beliefs, the desires of their families and loved ones, the pledge of President Reagan that we will push on . . . to fly the Space Shuttle again and establish a Space Station.

"We are confident that Dick Scobee, Mike Smith, El Onizuka, Judy Resnik, Ron McNair, Greg Jarvis and Christa McAuliffe would want us to do no less. To this end, we will remember our lost friends and dedicate ourselves to the future they so nobly pursued."

***-Richard Smith
Director, John F. Kennedy Space Center
Feb. 1, 1986***

On page 3, **"The World Grieves For Fallen Heroes"**. In part, the article states "As Americans and friends all over the world grieved for the seven crew members of Mission 51-L, memorial services were held at KSC and at the Johnson Space Center at Houston, the Marshall Space Flight Center at Huntsville and the Dryden Flight Research Facility at Edwards AFB..."



"PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN speaks to an estimated crowd of 12,500 at the 51-L crew ceremony held at the Johnson Space Center on Jan. 31, 1986."

On page 6.



"VICE PRESIDENT George Bush speaks to Kennedy Space Center employees in the Launch Control Center hours after the Space Shuttle Challenger accident. Also present are (from left to right): John Conway, Director Payload Management and Operations; Jim Harrington, Shuttle Flow Director; Bob Sieck, Director Shuttle Management and Operations; Jesse Moore (behind Bush), Associate Administrator for Space Flight; Richard Smith, Director, Kennedy Space Center; and U.S. Sens. Jake Garn and John Glenn."

On page 7, "**President Names Challenger Commission**". In part, the article reads "President Ronald Reagan announced on Feb. 3 the formation of a Presidential Commission to take a hard look at the Space Shuttle Challenger accident... The responsibility of these "distinguished Americans" is to review the circumstances surrounding the accident, determine the probable cause or causes and develop recommendations for corrective action. The commission will report back to the President within 120 days.

William P. Rogers, former secretary of state and attorney general, has been appointed chairman, and Nell A. Armstrong, former astronaut and chairman of the board of Computing Technologies for Aviation, Inc., was designated as vice chairman..."

Ten other Commission members were appointed, including Sally Ride, Chuck Yeager and Richard Feynman.

A Message From the 51-L Astronaut Families

"The 51-L Crew families want to thank the people of our country and all the countries of the world for their thoughts, their feelings and words of encouragement.

"Space flight serves as an outlet for our human need to learn and expand. What's out there will make our lives better on Earth and help satisfy mankind's natural curiosity to explore and push the borders of the 'known universe.'

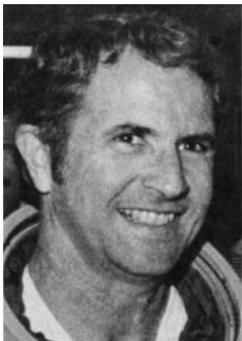
"So that their lives were not lost in vain, we must rededicate ourselves to the exploration of space and to keep the dream alive."

From a personal perspective, the time leading up to and including Challenger was very busy for me and the Lockheed systems engineering group I was in at the time. For our systems, we were getting LC39B ready for its first Shuttle launch, helping with Shuttle preparations at Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB) and supporting other Shuttle processing at KSC. I had worked some 30 days straight leading up to Challenger, including a trip to help with preparations at VAFB, after Columbia's STS 61-C launch, before Challenger.

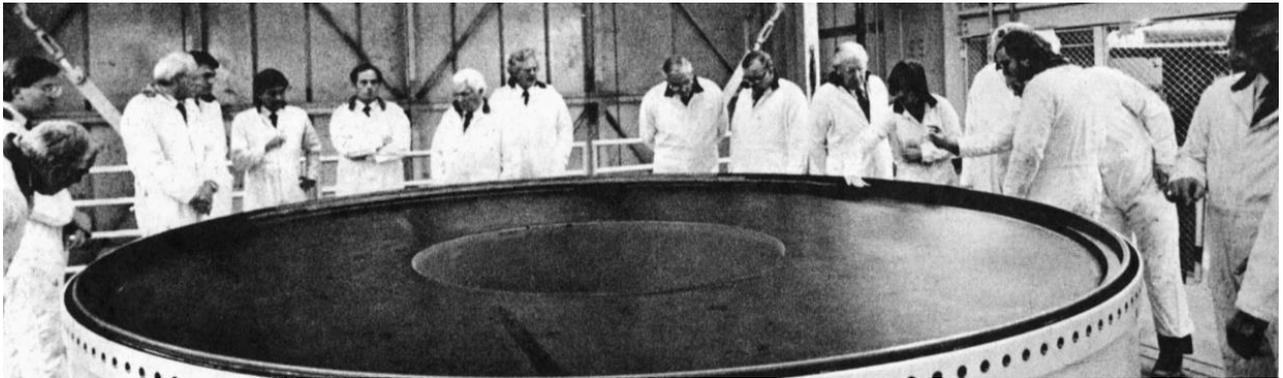
From The February 28, 1986, Spaceport News

On page 1, "**Truly Named Head Shuttle Program**". In part, the article reads "Rear Adm. Richard H. Truly, USN, Commander of the Naval Space Command, was appointed Associate Administrator for Space Flight, NASA Headquarters, on Feb. 20 by Acting Administrator William Graham. Truly will head NASA's Space Shuttle program and will assume direction of the agency's Design and Data Analysis Task Force which is reviewing the Shuttle Challenger accident of Jan. 28. He succeeds Jesse W. Moore in both roles.

Truly became a NASA astronaut in 1969, and was a member of the astronaut support crew and a capsule communicator for all three of the manned Skylab missions and the Apollo-Soyuz mission... His first space flight was STS-2 (Nov. 12-14, 1981) as pilot of the Shuttle Columbia. He was commander of STS-8 (Aug. 30-Sept. 5, 1983) aboard the Shuttle Challenger...".



The caption for the photo on the following page is "PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION members look intently at a solid rocket motor in the Rotation Processing and Surge Facility, north of the VAB. The solid propellant is clearly visible inside the segment. The Commission, appointed by the President to investigate the Challenger accident, recently toured KSC and met with members of NASA's 51-L Task Force."



Bob Crippen is facing the camera on the middle left. William Rogers, Sally Ride and KSC Center Director Richard Smith are on the right. The following photo, from a 2014 AmericaSpace article, shows the latter three with better clarity. The gentleman on the far right is Al Keel, one of the Commission members.



On page 3.



“WRECKAGE FROM the Space Shuttle Challenger is recovered from the ocean floor and lifted aboard the Navy ship USS Preserver. The Preserver is concentrating its efforts in an area 16-18

miles off the coast of Cape Canaveral and in water 120 feet deep. Coast Guard, Air Force, Navy and NASA vessels and aircraft were involved in the intense search, recovering about 12 tons of floating debris. The area searched along the coast extended from N. Carolina to Vero Beach. The recovery effort now is concentrating on objects on the ocean floor. Mini submarines are being used to help map and document the location and type of debris. Pieces of the 51-L right hand solid rocket booster, positively identified, will be retrieved for analysis. At right, crew members of the Solid Rocket Booster Recovery ship "Freedom Star" assist Lockheed employee Jim Melton aboard while underwater search efforts for wreckage of Challenger proceed."

From The March 14, 1986, Spaceport News

On page 1, "**Fletcher Chosen To Head NASA**". Part of the article reads "The President on March 6 announced his intention to nominate James C. Fletcher to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He would succeed James M. Beggs... He served as administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in 1971-1977..."

Also on page 1.



"PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION members held open hearings at KSC's Spaceport USA Galaxy Theater last week as part of their continuing investigation of the 51-L accident. Front row from left are: Neil Armstrong, vice chairman, and William Rogers, chairman. Back row from left are: Joseph Sutter, Robert Rummel and Major General Donald Kutyna."

On page 3, "**Ground Broken For \$10 Million Orbiter Facility**". A portion of the article reads "Ground has been broken for a 50,000-square-foot Shuttle Orbiter Modification and Refurbishment Facility... Plans for the Orbiter Modification and Refurbishment

Facility (OMRF) call for a 95-foot-tall high bay and a two-story low bay. The OMRF - which is a part of NASA's long-range facility plan - will provide needed space in which to perform modifications, rehabilitation and overhaul on Space Shuttle orbiters...”.

The OMRF would become OPF-3 (Orbiter Processing Facility), which is now the Commercial Crew and Cargo Processing Facility (C3PF), for Boeing commercial crew. The following photo of C3PF, is from a Space Florida website; one of the more colorful buildings at KSC

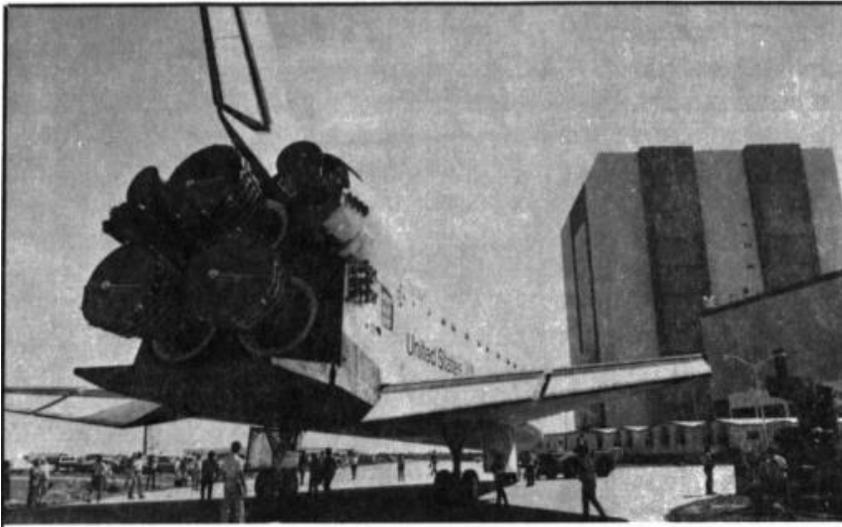


From The March 28, 1986, Spaceport News

On page 1, **“Ted Turner Speaks To KSC Management Club”**. In part, the article reads “Ted Turner, chairman of the board and president of Turner Broadcasting System, Inc., recently spoke to about 170 members and guests of the NASA KSC Management Association at the dinner meeting at the Royal Oak Country Club in Titusville. Turner began by saying he would not have had the opportunity to be as successful had it not been for NASA launching satellites to broaden communications... He noted that Cable News Network, CNN, has covered every one of the launches live, and they will continue to do so... Thinking big and dreaming seem to be part of Turner's success. He has sailed around the world three times and dreams of exploring other galaxies "just to see what's there...".



Also on page 1.



ATLANTIS WAS towed to the Vehicle Assembly Building on March 17. and is parked in the transfer aisle for temporary storage to allow modification of equipment in the Orbiter Processing Facility.”

On page 6, **“Space Art's Home Will Be At KSC”**. In part, the article reads “When NASA's "The Artist and the Space Shuttle" exhibit finishes its travels to many of the world's prestigious art museums, it will make its home at Spaceport USA. The collection of 70 outstanding paintings and drawings are just a part of the results of the NASA art program started in 1962... Since 1962 NASA has gone to great lengths to place artists on the frontlines during all of the space agency's major undertakings.

Selected artists have been permitted to observe astronauts train for their mission. They have been at Cape Canaveral for vehicle preparations, rollouts and launches, aboard recovery ships for splashdowns, and in Johnson Space Center's Mission Control for in-flight observations... The many subjects available in such an exciting program have attracted some of America's most eminent modern day artists. Lamar Dodd, Wilson Hurley, Bob McCall, and Robert Rauschenberg are just a few who currently have works on display in "The Artist and the Space Shuttle," NASA's traveling art show. More than 400 works are included in NASA's Space Shuttle collection...

Although "The Artist and the Space Shuttle" exhibit is now on loan to the Smithsonian -- on a revolving tour of the world's finer art museums -- future plans call for it to be permanently displayed at Spaceport USA, the Kennedy Space Center's visitors center... The walls of Spaceport USA's Galaxy Center are being put to good use in the meantime serving as backdrops for more than 60 members of the Space Shuttle collection...”.



“THE LIGHT SHIP, a painting depicting the first night launch of the Space Shuttle, Is by Attila Hajja.”

From The April 11, 1986, Spaceport News

On page 1, “**61-G Destacking Scheduled This Month**”. A portion of the article reads “Destacking of the solid rocket motors for use on Space Shuttle mission 61-G, originally scheduled to support launch of the Galileo spacecraft to Jupiter, is scheduled to begin this month as a data-gathering activity in support of the Challenger accident investigation. The principal objective of the destacking exercise is to gather information to assess the preflight conditions in and around the vicinity of solid rocket motor field joints. Of primary interest will be the condition of the field joint "O" rings...

Any data relevant to the investigation of the Challenger accident will be assembled by the NASA 51-L Data and Design Analysis Task Force and provided to the Presidential Commission...”.

On page 2, “**Memorial To-Astronauts Will Be Built**”. Part of the article reads “NASA and the Astronauts Memorial Foundation, Inc. announced plans last week to build a memorial at KSC, dedicated to astronauts who have lost their lives while flying or training for space flight.

NASA will provide a site for the memorial at the Kennedy Space Center, while the foundation will raise funds for the design, construction and perpetual care of the memorial. U.S. Sen. Jake Garn and U.S. Rep. Bill Nelson, both of whom have flown on

the Space Shuttle, are co-chairing national fundraising efforts for the private, nonprofit foundation, based in Cape Canaveral, Fla...”.

On page 5, **“Truly Maps Shuttle Return”**. In part, the article reads “Safely returning the shuttle to flight status was the topic of a recent address to all NASA employees by Associate Administrator for Space Flight Richard Truly. Truly stressed the importance of a conservative approach to resuming shuttle flights, and encouraged all employees to “look forward” to the resumption of the shuttle program... Important things to be done prior to the next shuttle flight, Truly said, are reassessment of the entire Space Transportation System management structure, and redesign of the solid rocket motor joints by a team of engineers from the Marshall Space Flight Center.

He also called for a complete review of the Critical Items List (CIL) and the Operations and Maintenance Instructions (OMI), as well as a reassessment of the Operational Maintenance Requirements and Specifications Document (OMRSD). He also proposed that all rules and philosophies connected with launch and launch abort procedures be reviewed “to provide an acceptable margin of safety to the vehicle and crew.”

Specific guidelines for planning the first of the resumed shuttle flights, he said, include:

- Daylight KSC launch
- Conservative flight design to minimize Trans Atlantic Abort exposure
- Repeat payload (not flying a new payload class)
- No waiver on landing weight
- Conservative launch/landing abort/landing weather criteria
- NASA-only flight crew
- Engine thrust within the experience base
- No active ascent/entry detailed test objectives
- Conservative mission rules
- Early, stable flight plan with supporting flight software and training load
- Daylight landing at Edward Air Force Base

Truly went on to note that the flight schedule for the first year of operations, which is yet to be officially determined, will reflect a conservative launch rate... He also said that decisions on each launch will be made only after thorough review of the previous mission's solid rocket motor joint performance, as well as after examination of all other specified critical systems' performance.

According to Truly, NASA will operate during the first year within its current flight experience base. Any expansion of that base, he said, will come only after a very thorough safety review. He went on to explain that the development of a safe sustainable flight rate will be conducted in a "bottoms up" approach in which all work in the flow is identified and optimized in relation to the available work force...”.

On page 7, **“Floating Across Floors Not Just For Astronauts”**. A portion of the article states “During missions in space, astronauts are always “light on their feet.” on their feet.” However, when KSC employees want to get light on their feet, they attend meetings of the KSC Social Dance Club. The dance club recently started its 1986 season with a dance party held at the Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Melbourne.

After a period of socializing, students then engaged in ballroom dancing. Once the social period and undirected dancing had been completed, the studio instructors then separated students into three groups: beginning, intermediate, and advanced dancers. After demonstrating various dance steps, instructors then stepped back to allow students to apply what they had learned...”.



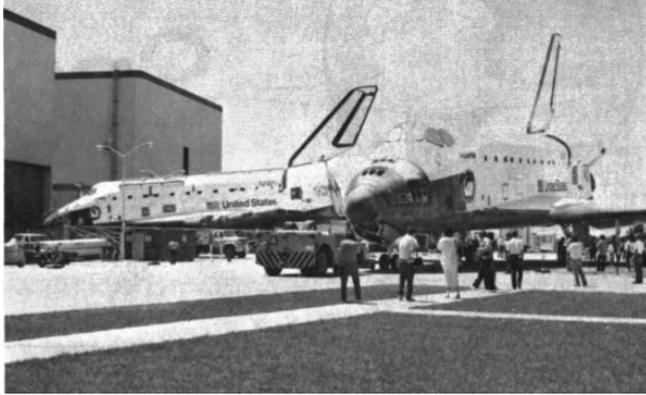
“MEMBERS of the KSC Social Dance Club learn a host of dance steps from Fred Astaire dance instructors at the club's recent dance/social. The event was held at the Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Melbourne. The club's next social is scheduled for April 19 on Merritt Island.”

From the April 12, 1986, Spaceport News

On page 2, the captions for the next two photos are as follows:

“SHUTTLE ORBITERS Discovery and Atlantis were moved recently. Atlantis was moved into the Orbiter Processing Facility Bay 2 and Discovery was moved into the Vehicle Assembly Building...”.

“A 4,000 POUND, 11 by 20 foot piece of Challenger's right-hand solid rocket booster is off-loaded from the Stena Workhorse ship. It was recovered about 35 miles northeast of Cape Canaveral in 560 feet of water. This piece is from the aft-center segment tang joint and contains a 15 by 28 inch burned out area.”



From The May 9, 1986, Spaceport News

On page 1, **"Phillips, Lyon Earn New Posts"**. A portion of the article reads "Two major management changes have been announced by KSC Director Dick Smith. James D. Phillips, director, Mechanical and Facilities Engineering Directorate, has been named director, Engineering Development, succeeding Peter A. Minderman, who retired recently. The appointment was effective May 1..."

John R. "Dick" Lyon, director, Project Management, Directorate of Design Engineering since July, 1980, has been named deputy to John Conway, director of Payload Management and Operations. Lyon reported to his new job May 5..."



PHILLIPS



LYON

On page 2, **“Search Yields Sought-After Piece ... Booster Destacking Continues”**.



“THE LOWER half of the burned through joint area on Challenger's right hand solid rocket booster was recovered by the Siena Workhorse on April 26. The piece was positively identified by previously recorded characteristics unique to that piece. The recovery of this component and the previously recovered upper half of the burned through joint area has completed the deep water recovery operations. This piece will be used to validate their technical assessment of the failure area of the right booster which caused the loss of the Challenger and crew on Jan. 28, 1986.”



“TWO SEGMENTS of the left-hand booster, originally slated for space shuttle mission 61-G, are separated in the VAB. Destack operations on the left hand booster have been completed, and destacking at the right hand booster is in progress.”

Also on page 2.



“51-L CREW remains were moved from KSC to Dover Air Force Base, Delaware via a Military Airlift Command C-141 on April 29. NASA officials, a military honor guard and escorts from the Astronaut Office were present at the Shuttle Landing Facility for the departure.”

On page 3, **“A Restored Rocket Represents An Era.”** Part of the article reads “The recent 25th anniversary of NASA's Freedom 7 launch has drawn attention back to America's first manned space mission and the rocket which lofted Alan B. Shepard Jr. into that historic 15- minute flight... Less than 100 yards from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station's Complex 5/6 launch pads is the concrete blockhouse in which the Mercury Redstone team controlled the lift-off of Freedom 7. The blockhouse and a mock-up of the Mercury Redstone rocket were refurbished and configured into their original positions for the ceremony commemorating the 10th anniversary of the launch...”

The blockhouse had held up well over the years and even with the passing through of thousands of TWA tour visitors, only required periodic maintenance. Nature's elements, however, had not been so kind to the vulnerable capsule and rocket. High humidity and a salty breeze combined to dull the surface and gnaw holes through the skin of the Mercury Redstone. Dick Humphrey, a NASA site manager who oversees maintenance of the Air Force Museum, was involved with the Freedom 7 launch and was the key proponent in the recent push to have the vehicle spruced up for both history and tourists.

In 1983, Humphrey began pushing for a contract and money to rebuild the Redstone, but permission to work on the rocket was slow in coming... One year later, Pam American World Services began sandblasting and painting the rocket. In late 1985, the Mercury Redstone was once again erected atop its pedestal...”



On the left, "MERCURY-REDSTONE RENEWED". On the right, "THE 25TH anniversary of Alan Shepard's historic Freedom 7 flight was celebrated with an informal reunion at Launch Complex 5/6, where America's manned space program was launched. Guest speakers, from left, are Col. Jerry L. Sinclair, USAF, vice commander, Eastern Space and Missile Center; Andrew J. Pickett, associate deputy director, KSC; Richard G. Smith, KSC director; John Yardley, president, McDonnell Douglas Astronautics; Thomas R. Brown, vice president, Planning Research Corporation, KSC; and Astronaut Bob Crippin. "Where we are and where we will go," Crippin told the gathering, "we owe to the likes of you."

From The May 23, 1986, Spaceport News

The headline is "**Fletcher Becomes NASA Administrator**". In part, the article states "Dr. James C. Fletcher was sworn in as the Administrator of NASA on May 12 at the White House. He is the seventh administrator of the agency and succeeds James M. Beggs... Prior to his return to NASA, Fletcher served as a consulting engineer and as a professor at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Fletcher's first tenure as NASA Administrator was from 1971-1977."

He received a B.A. degree in physics from Columbia University in 1940. In 1948 he received his Ph.D. in physics at Caltech. Since then, Fletcher has worked at Hughes Aircraft Company, Ramo-Woolridge Corporation's Guided Research Missile Division and Aerojet General Corporation. He was president of the University of Utah for seven years...".



"DR. JAMES C. FLETCHER was sworn into office on May 12 at the White House. Vice President Bush administered the oath of office and President Reagan spoke afterwards."

On page 1, "**Key Positions Filled By Sasseen, Rice**". A portion of the article states "KSC Director Richard Smith recently announced the appointment of two employees to key positions at KSC. George T. "Ted" Sasseen was designated manager, Advanced Projects and Technology Office effective May 6. This position was vacated by Dr. Robert H. Gray who retired. James E. Rice has been designated director of Center Support Operations also effective May 6. Robert G. Long recently retired from this position.

Sasseen joined the NASA Space Task Force Group at Cape Canaveral as a control and guidance systems engineer in 1961... He has held division chief positions in the Spacecraft Operations Directorate, serving most of his time as chief of the Engineering Division. From 1976 to 1983, he was director, Shuttle Engineering in Shuttle Management and Operations...

Rice came on board at KSC as an attorney-advisor in the Office of Chief Counsel in 1964... he held branch chief positions spanning launch and systems services as well as support services and construction contracts areas in Procurement... Since December 1982, Rice has served as deputy director of Center Support Operations...".



SASSEEN

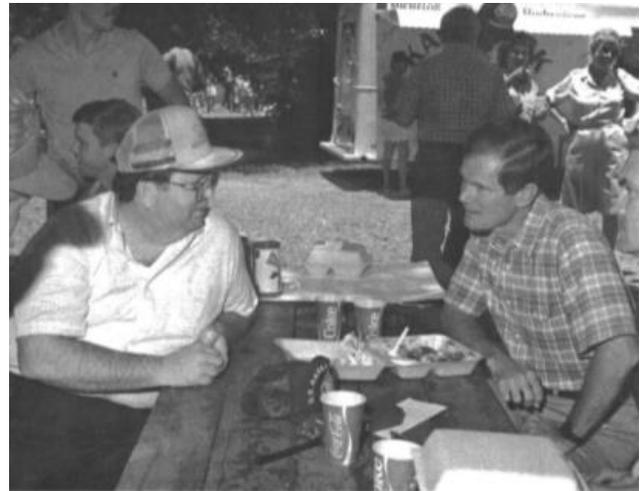


RICE

On page 8, a few photos from May 17, 1986.

KSC

All American Picnic



On the left, "FLORIDA HONEY BEARS entertained children at the KSC All American Picnic at KARS park, which drew an attendance of about 2400." On the right, "TOM UTSMAN, KSC's Deputy Director and Congressman Bill Nelson talk over a bar-b-que chicken lunch. Utsman officially welcomed the crowd at the beginning of the picnic."



On the left, "ASTRONAUT candidate Linda Godwin spoke." On the right, "C. M. GIESLER, left, and Bob Sieck, right, take time out at the Coke wagon at the All American Picnic."

Linda Godwin would fly on four shuttle missions, retiring from NASA in August 2010. And from the [Columbia Daily Tribune](#) in July 2019, "...Since 2011, Godwin has been a

professor of physics and astronomy at the University of Missouri. She accepted the retirement incentive faculty members were offered recently and retires from the university in September...". The Columbia Daily Tribune article includes a video with Linda.

On page 7, "**KSC Lab Provides Computer Training**". Interesting to look back in time! A portion of the article reads "Thanks to the efforts of the NASA Personnel Office, a KSC on-center computer training lab is providing valuable instruction for those who want and need to learn more about various software packages. The lab also provides time for those who otherwise might not have work access to a personal computer. The Computer Training Laboratory (CTL), located in Room 112 of the Training Auditorium, first became operational in February of this year. According to Robert Halsey of NASA's Personnel Training Office, over 200 KSC employees have received training through the CTL since February.

The Computer Training Laboratory consists of 10 IBM and IBM-compatible personal computer workstations and a variety of software packages, including Symphony and Wordstar 2000, as well as more advanced programs in graphics and data base management. According to Halsey, the Introduction to Personal Computers course is currently the most popular offering of the CTL..."

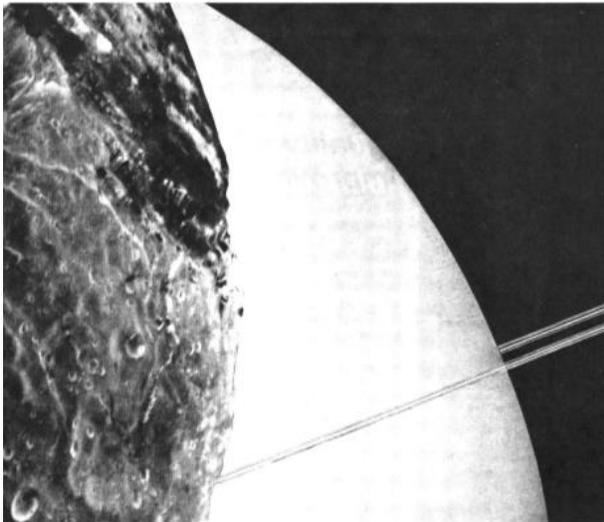


From a Winworld pc website, "WordStar, originally from MicroPro, was a popular word processor during the early 80s... It competed directly against many word processors, including WordPerfect, Microsoft Word for DOS, and Multimate. By the late 80s most business word processing had moved to WordPerfect. In the early 90s, Microsoft Word for Windows took over..." From Wikipedia, "...Lotus Symphony was an integrated software package for creating and editing text, spreadsheets, charts and other documents on the MS-DOS operating systems..."

From The June 6, 1986, Spaceport News

On page 1, "**Uranus Gives Up Secrets**". In part, article reads "Combined data from two instruments aboard the Voyager 2 spacecraft during its recent Uranian flyby have established that the length of the Uranian day is just under 17 hours, 15 minutes... The Uranian rotation period is considerably slower than that suggested by the movement of Uranian clouds - traveling at several hundred miles an hour faster than and in the same direction as the planet's rotation..."

Voyager 2's closest encounter occurred when it was 1.8 billion miles from Earth and flying 50,600 miles above the cloud tops of the planet. The unparalleled probe of the planet took place from early Nov. 1985 through late Feb. 1986. Much of the data was gathered during Voyager 2's closest approach to Uranus at 1 p.m. (EST) Jan. 24, 1986..."



"THE ICY surface of the Uranian moon Miranda dominates this artist-enhanced Voyager 2 image superimposed on the mother planet."

From The June 20, 1986, Spaceport News

On page 1, "**NASA Administrator Responds To Report**". Part of the article states "The Presidential Commission appointed by President Reagan to determine the probable cause of the 51-L accident and make recommendations for corrective action, released their final report to the President on June 6 and to NASA on June 9..."

NASA Administrator Dr. James C. Fletcher made this statement later that afternoon: "...Today, the Rogers Commission has issued its report on the event... Its conclusions, no matter how tough, how pointed, how questioning they may be, are not unexpected

and certainly not entirely undeserved. We – and I mean all of us at NASA – will be studying the Commission’s judgments and recommendations carefully and thoroughly during the days ahead. We will be offering to the President and to all Americans our specific responses...”.

On page 2.



A very small portion of the Commission Report is included in the Spaceport News issue, including the Report’s main recommendation areas/subjects, which are as follows:

- (1) DESIGN
- (2) SHUTTLE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE
- (3) CRITICALITY REVIEW AND HAZARD ANALYSIS
- (4) SAFETY ORGANIZATIONS
- (5) IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS
- (6) LANDING SAFETY
- (7) LAUNCH ABORT AND CREW ESCAPE
- (8) FLIGHT RATE
- (9) MAINTANANCE SAFEGUARDS

The Commission Report is available [at this site](#).

On page 4, “**President’s Commission Reports, The Next 50 Years In Space 'A Species Destined To Expand'**.” In part, the article reads “The National Commission on Space has reported to President Ronald Reagan the results of more than a year of interviews, hearings and projections on the next 50 years of the Space Age and America's part in extending humanity's home to other worlds... The report, "Pioneering the Space Frontier," is dedicated to the crew of Space Shuttle Challenger, Flight 51-L...”

The commissioners propose a future-oriented civilian space agenda with mutually supportive thrusts to advance understanding of our Solar System and the Universe, explore, prospect and settle the Solar System, and stimulate space enterprises to directly benefit the people on Earth... To establish a new, long range civilian space program, the commissioners point out, America must make a long range commitment to

advancing technology across a broad spectrum to assure timely availability of critical capabilities, and creating and operating systems and institutions to provide low-cost access to the space frontier...”.



“WHAT ARE these people doing? If the potential of the coming 50 years, as seen by the National Commission on Space, is implemented, these pressure suited astronauts of the future at a settlement on Mars are helping to extend humankind's heritage of exploration and settling new frontiers across our Solar System and beyond...”.

The report is available at [this site](#).

On page 1, **“Trials Don't Erase Proud Record- Smith”**. Part of the article reads “A message from Center Director Richard Smith.



None of us who witnessed the Challenger tragedy of Jan. 28 will ever forget the events of that day. But from that failure we have derived a new resolve and a renewed dedication to excellence in everything we do. History has shown in the past and will again in the future that our agency has found new strength in adversity...

While NASA has accepted the responsibility for the 51-L accident and the criticism of design and management failures which led to the tragedy some of the published stories and accusations are incorrect and unfounded. It would be an additional tragedy if we allowed this critical barrage to cripple our self-confidence and obscure our many shining achievements since the agency was created nearly 28 years ago...”.

From the July 4, 1986, Spaceport News

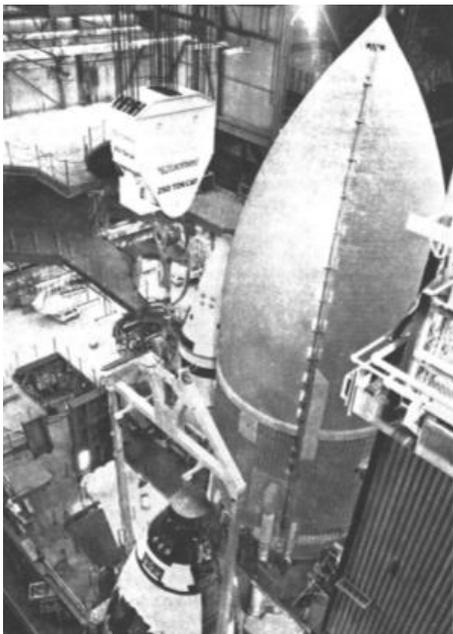
On page 1, "**Centaur Cancelled For Use On Shuttle**". In part, the article reads "NASA Administrator Dr. James C. Fletcher recently announced his decision to terminate development of the Centaur Upper Stage for use aboard the Space Shuttle... At the time of the Shuttle 51-L accident, the Centaur was in the final months of preparation for the then scheduled 1986 launches of the Galileo and the Ulysses spacecraft for their exploration missions to Jupiter and the polar regions of the sun..."

The final decision was made on the basis that even following certain modifications identified by the ongoing reviews, the resultant stage would not meet safety criteria being applied to other cargo or elements of the Space Shuttle system...

The Ulysses spacecraft, which arrived at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station Jan. 6, 1986, was shipped back to Europe at ESTEC, the Netherlands, on June 17... Preparations are beginning for shipping Galileo back to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in August for storage and modifications when an upper stage is selected..."

Galileo subsequently launched on STS-34, October 18, 1989, and Ulysses launched on STS-41, on October 6, 1990, using solid propellant upper stages, versus the Centaur liquid propellant upper stage.

On page 1.



"THE SHUTTLE Atlantis is currently undergoing testing in the Vehicle Assembly Building. The orbiter is scheduled to remain stacked with the external tank and booster set while future processing plans are being identified."

From The July 18, 1986, Spaceport News

The headline is “**Smith To Retire From NASA**”. In part, this article reads “Richard G. Smith, Director of Kennedy Space Center, on July 10 announced his retirement from NASA effective July 31. He will become President and Chief Executive Officer of General Space Corporation in Pittsburgh, Pa. on August 1. Deputy director Thomas E. Utsman will serve as Acting Director until a new director is appointed by NASA Administrator Dr. James Fletcher. In 1979, Smith became KSC's third director since it's formation as NASA's principal launch base in 1962. Prior to this appointment, he served as NASA Deputy Associate Administrator for Space Transportation Systems and Deputy Director of Marshall Space Flight Center...

He received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Auburn in 1951. Smith became a member of the rocket research and development team at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. in June 1951. He transferred to NASA in July 1960 when the Development Operations Division of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency became the nucleus for the establishment of the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center...

Smith served in positions of increasing responsibility at the Marshall Center... In January 1974, Smith became Director of Science and Engineering and served in that position until he was named Deputy Director of the Marshall Center in 1974.

A few photos from the issue follow.



On the left, “1973 - and Dick Smith, who would become director of KSC six years later, joined then-Director Kurt Debus, at far left, and Ted Sasseen, chief engineer for Spacecraft Operations, in a Flight Readiness Review meeting for Skylab 4.” On the right, “DIRECTOR of Shuttle Operations George Page introduced new KSC Center Director Smith to members of the Orbiter Integration Test team in Firing Room 1 on Dec. 18, 1979.”



On the left, “SPIRITS AND SHUTTLES soared as Vice President George Bush, at KSC for a special Memorial Day observance in 1983, accepted special mementoes and unique, Shuttle-borne gifts from Director Smith.”. On the right, “KSC DIRECTOR Smith followed the progress of STS-4 as George Page, far left, congratulated Al O’Hara on his first mission as launch director, in this view of Firing Room 1 taken by a remote camera tripped seconds after liftoff of the fourth Shuttle mission. At Smith’s left, Tom Utsman, director of Technical Support, watched the successful liftoff.”

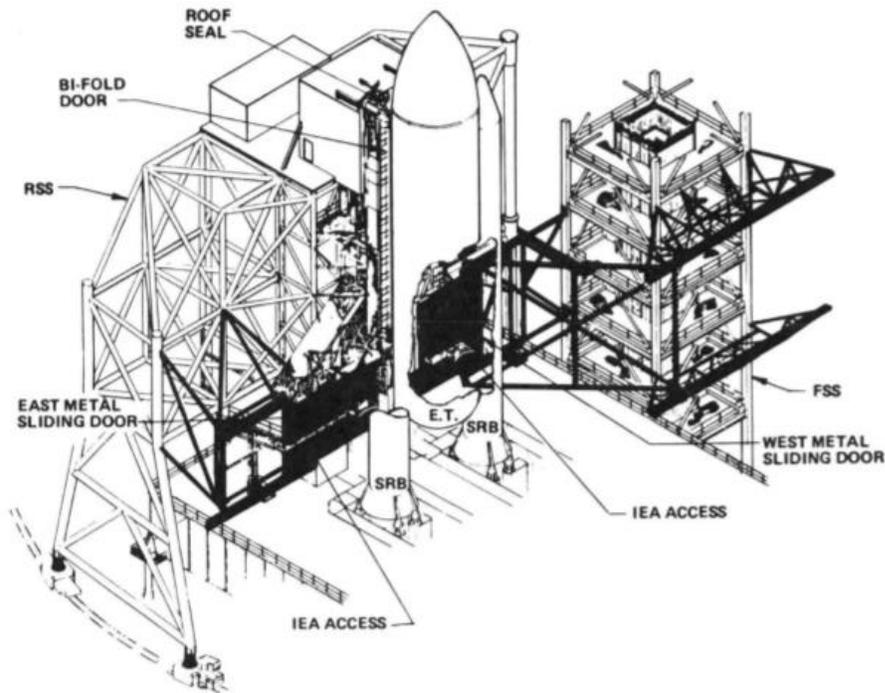
On page 2, “**Fletcher Submits Report To Reagan**”. A portion of the article reads “NASA Administrator James Fletcher recently submitted to President Reagan a report entitled, “Actions to Implement the Recommendations of the Presidential Commission on the Space Shuttle Challenger Accident... At a recent news conference, Fletcher said, “We have responded favorably to each of the nine recommendations by the Rogers Commission.” The report Fletcher gave to Reagan states, “NASA agrees with the Commission’s recommendations and is vigorously pursuing the actions required to implement and comply with them.”

From The August 1, 1986, Spaceport News

On page 1, “**Atlantis To Help Test Protective System**”. In part, the article states “An assembled Space Shuttle vehicle is scheduled to be rolled out to Launch Pad 39-B to support verification testing of newly installed weather protection structures. Orbiter Atlantis and the other STS elements currently stacked on Mobile Launcher Platform 1 in the Vehicle Assembly Building are slated to be transported to the pad no earlier than September 3 for the test operations...”

The system of sliding and folding doors and seals will cover previously exposed portions of the orbiter to greatly reduce the risk of damage to the Shuttle’s fragile heat protection tiles. Without the shielding, the tiles are susceptible to damage from hail and windblown

debris. Heavy rains can erode the waterproofing on the tiles... Atlantis and the other Shuttle elements had been originally assembled to support planned testing of Shuttle/Centaur hardware at Pad A this summer. Existing weather protection systems at Pad 39-A are slated to be upgraded to the Pad B designs next year...".



CUTAWAY SHOWS PROTECTIVE STRUCTURES

On page 2, "**Astronaut Visits KSC Employees**".



"ASTRONAUT JAY APT, above right, talked with about 1,000 employees during the three OPF shifts and signed autographs during a recent two-day Manned Flight Awareness visit to the Orbiter Processing Facility."

Jay flew on STS-37, STS-47, STS-59 and STS-79. The [Carnegie Mellon University website](#)

shows Jay as Professor and Co-Director, Carnegie Mellon Electricity Industry Center.

From The August 15, 1986, Spaceport News

On page 1, "**New SRB Facility Dedicated At KSC**". Part of the article reads "The new state-of-the-art Solid Rocket Booster Assembly and Refurbishment Facility at KSC was dedicated on Aug. 1. Officials said this new Marshall Space Flight Center complex is a commitment to the future and a growing program. Approximately 570 people will be employed in an area that includes a separate administrative office and manufacturing building and several storage and support structures..."



"A GRAND OPENING ribbon-cutting ceremony was recently held for the new Solid Rocket Booster Refurbishment and Assembly Facility on Schwartz Rd. Participating in the ceremony are from left: former KSC Center Director, Dick Smith; Acting Director of Marshall Space Flight Center, Jack Lee; UTC President, Bob Daniell; USBI-BPC Executive Vice President and General Manager, George Murphy; NASA Deputy Administrator, William Graham; Florida's Lt. Gov. Wayne Mixson; Robert Alligood, president of Reynolds, Smith and Hills, (building architects and engineers); and William Mills, chairman of the board, Federal Construction Company (construction managers). Work in the facility is performed under contract to MSFC."

On pages 4 and 5, "**KSC Bids Bon Voyage**". Part of the article states "KSC employees, fellow executives and community leaders gathered recently to make their affectionate and frequently humorous farewells to retiring Center Director Dick Smith... Employees gathered in exceptional numbers to share memories and make their goodbyes at coffees held in the O&C Mission Briefing Room, presenting the popular director with mementos ranging from serious remembrances to such items as photographs..."

At a dinner held at the Cocoa Beach Hilton, leaders of the community, that has been Smith's home for seven years, had a chance to add their praises to those of the director's associates in the space enterprise... It all added up to a torrent of toasts,

tributes and teasing ... designed to express the simple fact that the people of the KSC community care about the man who has proved so often that he cares about them...".



On the left, "DIRECTOR SMITH and Mrs. Smith cut their "good luck" cake at farewell coffee. Below, Smith registers appreciation for a gag gift of "money to burn" in their new home." On the right, "Smith receives a drawing of himself in the LCC firing room from the artist, Bill Little, a computer engineer in the Shuttle Engineering Directorate."

From The August 29, 1986, Spaceport News

On page 1, "**Gen. McCartney New KSC Director**". In part, the article states "Lt. Gen. Forrest S. McCartney, Commander of the Space Division, Air Force Systems Command, Los Angeles, was named Director of Kennedy Space Center on August 20. On assignment from the Air Force, he is expected to report to NASA on approximately Oct. 1..."

McCartney was graduated from Gulfport Military Academy in 1949; received a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, in 1952; and earned a master's degree in nuclear engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, in 1955...

Gen. McCartney became vice commander of the Space Division in 1982... Upon activation of the U.S. Space Command, he was redesignated commander of the Space Division in 1985... He was promoted to lieutenant general May 1, 1983..."



LT. GEN. McCARTNEY

Also on page 1, "**Morgan New Director, Payload Projects**". Part of the article reads "JoAnn H. Morgan was designated as Director, Payload Projects Management effective Aug. 6. She succeeds John Neilon who retired earlier this year...Morgan began her professional career with KSC in 1964 when she was appointed as an aerospace technologist in the Instrumentation Directorate. From 1964 to 1976, she held various technical management and engineering assignments in the Information Systems Directorate... For the last three years she has been involved in the payloads area including the position of deputy director, STS Cargo Operations."



MORGAN

On page 2.



"FOUNDERS OF The Astronauts Memorial Foundation, Inc. recently kicked off the beginning of a fund-raising campaign at the Galaxy Theater in hopes of raising \$24 million to design, construct, dedicate and maintain a memorial at KSC. With education as a principal objective, the purpose of the foundation is to honor astronauts who have lost their lives in the line of duty."

Also on page 2, "**Ride Is Named Special Assistant**". The article states "Dr. Sally K Ride has been detailed to the position of Special Assistant to the Administrator for

Strategic Planning. In this position, she will be responsible for reviewing NASA's goals and objectives for near to long-term planning.

Ride was selected by NASA as an astronaut candidate in 1978. She has been a mission specialist on two Space Shuttle flights- STS-7 in June 1983 and STS 41-G in October 1984. Recently she served as a member of the Presidential Commission on the Space Shuttle Challenger Accident.

A native of Los Angeles, Ride is a graduate of Stanford University, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in physics and Bachelor of Arts degree in English in 1973, and a Master of Science and Doctorate degrees in physics in 1975 and 1978, respectively."



RIDE

On page 3, **"Go-Ahead' Given on Orbiter, Private Sector's Role Changes"**. A portion of the article states "Recent announcements by President Reagan concerning NASA include giving the "go ahead" to build a replacement orbiter and directing that the agency phase out launching private satellites. The President stated, "The United States will, in fiscal year 1987, start building a fourth Space Shuttle to take the place of Challenger which was destroyed on January 28th..."

"NASA and our shuttles will continue to lead the way, breaking new ground, pioneering new technology, and pushing back the frontiers. It has been determined, however, that NASA will no longer be in the business of launching private satellites... "The private sector, with its ingenuity and cost effectiveness, will be playing an increasingly important role in the American space effort.

Free enterprise corporations will become a highly competitive method of launching commercial satellites and doing those things which do not require a manned presence in space. These private firms are essential in clearing away the backlog that has built up during this time when our shuttles are being modified. NASA and our shuttles can't be committing their scarce resources to things which can be done better and cheaper by the private sector..."

Also on page 3, "**Alumni Group To Support NASA Goals, Activities**". In part, the article reads "A NASA Alumni League was formed recently to support the goals, objectives, programs and activities of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as outlined in the National Space Act of 1958. Gerald Griffin, former director of Johnson Space Center, is president of the league. Membership is open to anyone who has ever been a NASA employee..."

According to Robert C. Seamans, chairman of the League's Board of Directors, "The Alumni League is committed to the principle that America's civil space program is fundamental to the evolution of the human spirit, to the healthy progress of civilization and to a strong United States. The league will have close ties with NASA and will strive to assist the agency in its endeavors, while maintaining independence in policy matters..."

From The September 12, 1986, Spaceport News

On page 2.



"JOHN F. KENNEDY, JR., right, recently toured Kennedy Space Center facilities, including the Orbiter Processing Facility, Launch Pad 39A, the Launch Control Center, Vehicle Assembly Building and the Operations and Checkout Building high bay. Bob Sieck, Director, Shuttle Management and Operations, presented Kennedy with a photographic memento of a Shuttle launch. KSC was named after his father in Nov. 1963, shortly after the assassination."

On page 3, "**Record Marine Salvage Operation Ends**". In part, the article reads "Characterized as the largest marine salvage operation in history, the 51-L effort - which began hours after the accident - came to an end on Aug. 28. Rear Adm. Richard Truly, NASA Associate Administrator for Space Flight, said the search yielded up from the

ocean about 45 percent of the Challenger, 50 percent of the external tank and twin solid rocket boosters, 95 percent of the Spartan-Halley spacecraft, 35 percent of the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite and 90 percent of the Inertial Upper Stage.

At its peak in February, the 51-L salvage effort included 22 ships, 6,000 NASA, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard and contractor personnel and numerous aircraft. Salvors worked in depths to 1,100 feet to the east and northeast of the Kennedy Space Center covering 429 square miles of the ocean floor and 93,000 square miles on the surface from North Carolina to South Florida... During the search more than 800 contacts were investigated by submarine, divers, manned submersibles, and remotely operated vehicles. Among those contacts were a 300 pound grouper, a sink, a toilet, a suitcase, shipwrecks, aircraft and other rocketry debris.”



“THE NR-1 Navy Research Submarine assisted in the 51-L search and recovery operations by providing video and sonar documentation in deep water areas.”

From The September 26, 1986, Spaceport News

From page 2, “**A Special 'First' Launched At KSC**”. A portion of the article states “Two KSC employees collaborated recently in a new "first" for the Center - the launch of a new life. For the first time a baby - the daughter of Mike and Christine Brown - was born on the reservation, in this case just outside the emergency entrance of the Occupational Health Facility where an abundance of medical personnel could have assisted if nature had given them another couple of minutes. Seven-pound, three-ounce Keely Coral, however, made her entrance into the world with the sole assistance of her mom.

The "launch sequence" was initiated automatically, but two weeks ahead of schedule. After a short drive to the OHF from EG&G Heavy Equipment Operations where Chris

works as a scheduler, the sequence came to a rapid, successful conclusion while Mike was summoning help. "I went in through an area that was unoccupied at the moment," Mike said, "And by the time I spotted somebody dressed in white, told them we were having a baby and then rushed back to Chris, she was sitting there holding the baby. 'It's a girl,' she said." "Keely arrived just about the time everybody got to the door," Chris related...Mike, a Lockheed software engineer in Launch Processing, said the unusually short time frame for the natal event bypassed a large chunk of the couple's carefully worked out plans...

"We had the drill all planned," Mike said, "so we finished what we were doing and I left work at about 3:30, to pick her up at about 3:45. But she went into hard labor before I got there, and just as she got to the car the baby started coming. We decided to try for the OHF, about two blocks away, instead of the hospital in Cocoa Beach. Dr. Moore and all of the staff were very professional, quieted our apprehensions, made sure everyone was all right, then wrapped the baby in a blanket with foil to preserve her body heat and sent Chris and Keely to the hospital in an ambulance..."



"MOM AND DAD, Mike and Chris Brown, pose at home with "K.C." (Keely Coral), the first baby to be born at KSC."

From The October 10, 1986, Spaceport News

[On page 1.](#)

A Personal Message To All KSC Employees

"I am pleased to be here at KSC and I am looking forward to working with you in this vital phase of America's space program. I cannot tell you how important I believe it is for

our Center, for this country, and indeed for the world, that we get our shuttle fleet back into space. We must also dedicate ourselves, with the same enthusiasm, to maintaining the outstanding record you have achieved with our expendable launch vehicles.

The KSC civil service/contractor team has established a world-wide reputation for competence and dedication. I am proud to become a part of your team. KSC's role in the space program has been well-established by you and those who came before you. I see no need for immediate changes in the way we do business. Changes that come will be the result of changing and maturing programs.

In the days ahead, I hope to meet as many of you as possible. I plan to involve myself in what you see as the Center's significant problems and support you in the solutions to those problems. The coming years will be exciting, rewarding, and a test of our strengths and abilities. The time between now and the next Shuttle launch will pass swiftly and we will face a number of challenges. As we meet those challenges, we will be doing our part to return our space program to the position of preeminence it has held for many years."



DIRECTOR McCARTNEY

On page 3, "**Challenger Center Proposed**". In part, the article states "Families of the 51-L crew have joined together to form a space science education facility called Challenger Center and are "asking all Americans to share their vision of a living memorial to carry on the Challenger mission - to fly, to explore, to teach and to touch the future through the children." Plans for the non-profit center were recently announced in conjunction with a national fund-raising kickoff at a Washington inner-city school. Plans call for the The Challenger Center to be located in the Washington, D.C. area. The families hope to raise \$1 million from individuals and corporations to start a center designed so that the public can learn more about space..."

[The Challenger Center](#) has grown a lot since 1986.

On page 8, “**Challenger Debris Will Be Kept At Complexes 31, 32**”. Part of the article states “NASA announced on Oct. 3 that recovered Challenger debris will be put into long-term storage at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station (CCAFS). In preparation for the storage, the U.S. Air Force has transferred to NASA the deactivated Minuteman facilities at Complex 31 and 32 on CCAFS. The Minuteman facilities, which were deactivated in the early 1970's, include two below-ground launch tubes that were used in early testing of the Minuteman ICBM system. These silos contain about 31,000 cubic feet of storage space. Included in the transfer to NASA will be several equipment rooms and a launch control block house...”

Other options considered included construction of a special building or underground facilities and utilization of the Vehicle Assembly Building or of various silos. The CCAFS facilities were selected because they are close to KSC and present few handling problems, provide adequate volume to store the approximately 215,000 pounds of debris and are currently available...”.

From The October 24, 1986, Spaceport News

On page 1, “**Atlantis Rolls Out To Launch Pad 39-B**”. A portion of the article reads “The Space Shuttle Atlantis and other assembled flight elements were rolled out to Launch Pad 39-B on Oct. 9 to support a seven-week test program. The primary purpose of the operation is the checkout of newly installed weather protection structures at the launch pad. Other key activities planned during Atlantis' stay at the pad include a variety of special vehicle tests, a launch team proficiency exercise and emergency egress simulations...”.



“SPACE SHUTILE ATLANTIS completes rollout to Launch Pad 39-8.”

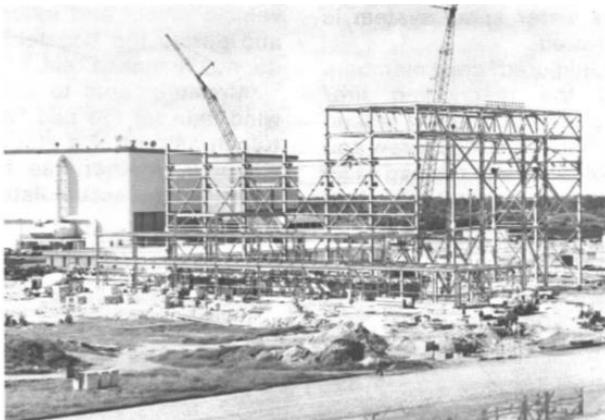
On page 3. **“Director Stresses KSC's Importance”**. In part, the article reads “KSC Center Director Forrest S. McCartney was the featured speaker at a recent NASA Kennedy Management Association meeting. About 200 members and spouses attended the meeting at the Cocoa Beach Hilton which kicked off the second year of the NKMA.

McCartney shared his thoughts on KSC's importance to the nation's Space Program. "America's national space pride is vested in the people at KSC. The things we do here at KSC are looked upon by many as the national space effort," he said. He stressed the space program's importance to the nation...”.



“CENTER DIRECTOR McCARTNEY and his wife, Ruth, cut a welcome-to-KSC cake, with the assistance of NKMA member Susan Hilding, at the NASA Kennedy Management Association meeting.”

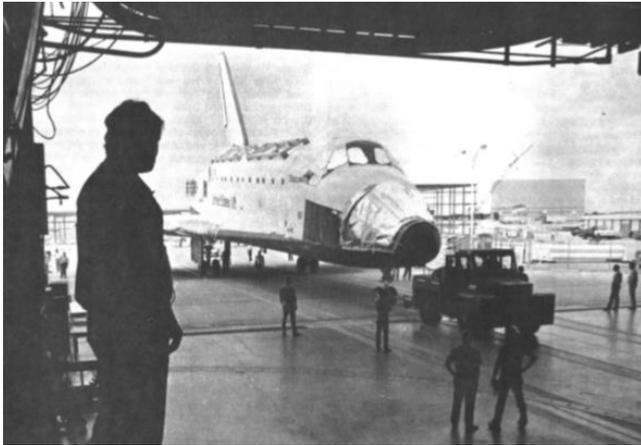
On page 7.



“CONSTRUCTION OF the Shuttle Orbiter Modification and Refurbishment Facility is well under way at a location north of the Orbiter Processing Facility. Completion date is scheduled for March 1987...”.

From the November 7, 1986, Spaceport News

On page 3, "**Discovery Moved For Modifications.**" A portion of the article reads "The move of Discovery to the Orbiter Processing Facility on Oct. 30 marks a milestone in the Space Shuttle's return to flight. The transfer initiates a planned 13-month modification and processing flow to complete a package of vehicle upgrades... and potential changes that may stem from the post 51-L... Discovery has been in the VAB's storage bay since early September while facility modification work was performed in Bay 1 of the Orbiter Processing Facility..."



"Discovery Rolls to OPF"

On page 2, "**Lamberth Retires From NASA • Not Space**". Part of the article states "Horace L. Lamberth retired from NASA October 31 after 22 and a half years, but has not left the "rocket ranch." He accepted a job with Lockheed Space Operations Company as Vice President of Engineering - a position similar to the one he retired from at NASA where he was Director, Shuttle Engineering..."

Lamberth's teenage dream of being a pro-baseball player led to a post high school stint as pitcher and shortstop for a team called the Hopkinsville Hoppers in Kentucky... He was drafted into the U.S. Army, serving in 1954-56. "I had to decide whether I was going to play baseball or go to college. I decided to go to school," he reminisced. He attended Tennessee Technological University and received his bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering in 1960. He worked with Union Carbide as a systems engineer prior to joining NASA in 1964..."



LAMBERTH

From the November 21, 1986, Spaceport News

On page 1, **"New Appointments Announced At KSC"**. In part, the article states "Recent personnel promotions at Kennedy Space Center were announced effective Nov. 3. Bill A Tolson is designated director, Mechanical and Facilities Engineering and Walter T. Murphy is now deputy director of Engineering Development.

Tolson replaces Jim Phillips, who is now director of Engineering Development. Prior to his new position, Tolson served as chief of the Launch Accessories Branch since February 1984. In 1961, Tolson joined NASA at Marshall Space Flight Center as a test engineer on Flight Systems. He transferred to KSC in 1965...

Smith, deputy director of Shuttle Engineering since May of this year, replaces Horace Lamberth who recently retired from NASA. From 1966-1971, Smith served in the Apollo Program as a lead systems test engineer, assistant to the lead spacecraft project engineer and engineering mission team leader. He then held supervisory positions...

Murphy has served as associate director of Shuttle Engineering at the Vandenberg Launch Site since June 1984. He joined the NASA Preflight Team at Cape Canaveral as a data systems specialist in June 1963. Two years later he transferred to the Manned Spacecraft Center as a mathematician and electronics engineer in the Checkout Systems Branch. He joined KSC in 1973..."



BILL TOLSON



JACKIE SMITH



WALTER MURPHY

On page 3, **"Management Operations Structure Set"**. Part of the article states "Dale D. Myers, NASA deputy administrator, announced on Nov. 5 the new management and operations structure for the National Space Transportation System (NSTS)... Myers was joined at a press conference by Rear Admiral Richard H. Truly, associate administrator for Space Flight; Arnold D. Aldrich, currently manager, NSTS, at the Johnson Space Center; and astronaut Robert L. Crippen..."

Aldrich was named to the position of director, NSTS, in Washington, D.C., with full responsibility and authority for the operation and conduct of the NSTS program... Crippen was named to the position of deputy director, NSTS Operations, reporting

directly to the director, NSTS and responsible for all operational aspects of STS missions... In addition, he will present the Flight Readiness Review (FRR), which will be conducted by the associate administrator for Space Flight; manage the final launch decision process; and chair the Mission Management Team (MMT)...”.



ALDRICH



CRIPPEN

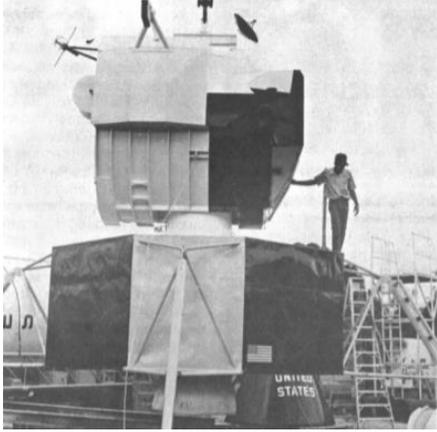
On pages 4 and 5, **“Used Rocket Business Booms Anew”**. In part, the article states “Only in America could a person buy discarded space vehicles for a hobby and store them on his own property... That’s exactly what KSC engineer Charlie Bell has done. “I’ve been going to government auctions and buying abandoned space artifacts since about 1965,” he said...

Bell stores his collection of assorted space artifacts on a narrow stretch of land in Williams Point, between the Indian River and U.S. 1... Over the years, Bell has provided various museums and organizations around the world with space artifacts for public display...

For six months, the Puerto Rican Government asked Bell to help them obtain old space rockets and displays for their “Parque de las Ciencias...”. Bell said he and his crew of about 20 fabricated some of the pieces that will go to Puerto Rico from scratch... “They will be getting nine trailer loads of artifacts including ‘Redstone, a Lunar Module, an Atlas, two Mercury spacecraft and escape towers, a Gemini spacecraft and a Titan II rocket, a display of a Centaur engine, radar dishes, consoles, pieces of a Saturn V vehicle and a small launch tower,” said Bell...”.



“...an Atlas vehicle and a Mercury Spacecraft that... will be on display in Bayamon, Puerto Rico.”



“A COPY of a Lunar Module was fabricated by NASA engineer, Charlie Bell and his team of workers. The LM will be on display at a new 37-acre science park in Puerto Rico.”

Via Googling, I found the directly below recent vintage photo, of what looks like the same Charlie Bell fabricated lunar module, on display, at Bayamon, Puerto Rico. According to Wikipedia, [Parque de las Ciencias](#) “...is an educational and recreational park located in Bayamón, Puerto Rico focused on science-related exhibitions...”.



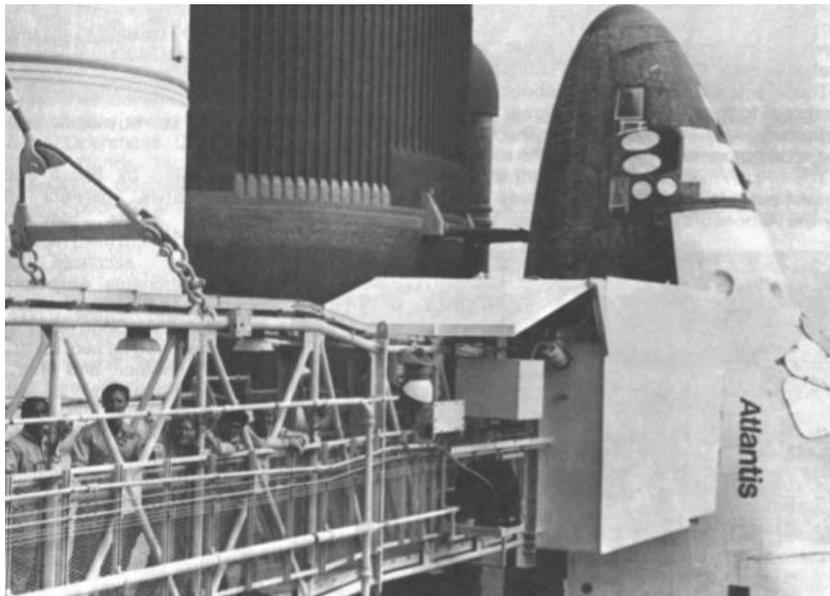
Similarly, Googling got me to the next photo of an Atlas rocket, at Parque de las Ciencias, which appears to be the same Atlas rocket, with transporter, and Mercury capsule, as shown in the 1986 photo, on the previous page.



Charlie Bell unexpectedly passed in 2000. Jonathan Ward has a good read on Charlie at [Apollo Launch Control](#) and there is more information about Charlie at [collectSPACE](#). If you do some Googling, you will find Charlie Bell hardware for sale on line.

From the December 5, 1986, Spaceport News

On page 1, **“Test Renews Team Morale”**. In part, the article reads “Atlantis has returned to the "barn" after completing more than six weeks of on-the-pad testing that provided a wealth of new engineering data and a much needed boost to launch team morale and confidence... "We're very pleased with what we accomplished the last six weeks," Launch Director James A. "Gene" Thomas proudly reported. "I feel that the launch team is still intact and that we're ready to launch a Shuttle again when we get the chance."...

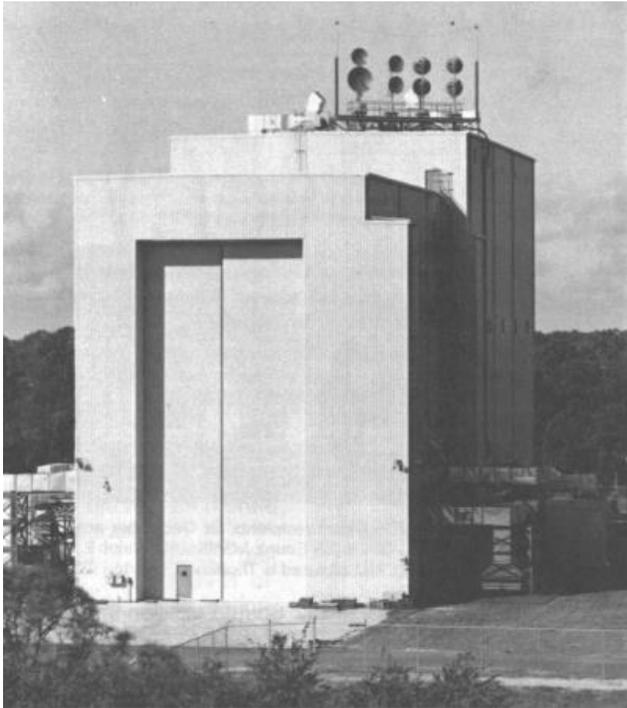


“VETERAN CREW MEMBERS of STS-61 C stand on the access arm to Orbiter Atlantis at Pad 39-B following the Terminal Countdown Demonstration Test From left, they are: Pilot Charles F. Bolden, Commander Robert L. Gibson and Mission Specialists George Nelson, Franklin Chang-Diaz and Steve Hawley.”

On page 7, **“Hazardous Servicing Facility Progresses”**. Part of the article states “Major construction has been completed and workers are putting finishing touches on KSC's new facility for hazardous payload operations, said Gene McDilda, chief, Site Management Branch, Payload Support Office...

Such activities as loading fuel and oxidizer aboard satellites or unloading the volatile materials from unlaunched or recovered satellites, formerly conducted in facilities at the

CCAFS industrial area, soon will be accomplished in the Payload Hazardous Servicing Facility...”.



“THE PAYLOAD HAZARDOUS SERVICE FACILITY towers above the surrounding piney woods in its remote, peaceful setting.”

[On page 8.](#)



“EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH Award recipients for December are, from left: Ralph R. Roe, Jr. (NE), Judy L Green (SI), Emma J. Griffin (AC), Ralph E. Dom (CM), and Tommy L Mack, Jr. (DE). Not pictured is Thomas L Overton (GM).”

From the December 19, 1986, Spaceport News

On page 1, "**Management Team Realigned**". In part, the article reads "Center Director Forrest S. McCartney, of NASA's Kennedy Space Center, announced on Dec. 12 a restructuring of the KSC shuttle management team to bring it into alignment with the new NASA Headquarters shuttle organization. Shuttle Operations and Shuttle Engineering will be combined into a single group. A separate first-line directorate will be created for Safety, Reliability and Quality Assurance (Safety, R&QA)..."

McCartney said. "Accordingly I have asked Thomas E. Utsman, my deputy, to take on the added responsibility of the newly established position of director of Space Transportation System (STS) Management and Operations through the next few shuttle flights." Reporting to Utsman, as launch director, will be Robert B. Sieck, current director of Shuttle Operations, and George T. Sasseen, Jr., as engineering director..."

"In order to strengthen the Safety, Reliability and Quality Assurance (Safety, R&QA) function at KSC, I am assigning James A "Gene" Thomas to serve as director of Safety, R&QA, a new first level directorate," McCartney announced. The new directorate will centralize safety, reliability, maintainability and quality functions..."



THOMAS E. UTSMAN



ROBERT B. SIECK



GEORGE T. SASSEEN, JR.



JAMES A. THOMAS

On pages 7, **“Satellite Exchange Barber Shop Opened At LC-39.”** In part, the article reads “KSC employees in Launch Complex 39 now can get clipped closer - closer to their places of employment, that is. The new satellite shop to the KSC Barber Shop that has long been located in the Headquarters Building began operation on Dec. 8 in Complex B of the "trailer city" south of the VAB and the Saturn V/Apollo display...”.



“BARBER BRUNI ROMAN is pictured with Ann Bufalo of Lockheed, the first KSC employee to be served by the new satellite Exchange Council barber shop in the LC-39 Complex.”

I found the following neat photo, with Enterprise next to the Saturn V, circa fall 1985, on [Pinterest](#), including part of “trailer city”, in the upper left. Complex B is highlighted. Thanks a bunch Pete Chitko!



On pages 4 and 5, **“Christmas Coffee”**. In part, the article reads “The mood was mellow. But the predictable feeling of happy anticipation, traditional for this time of year, included something extra at KSC's 1986 Christmas Coffee ... as a sense of renewed purpose accompanied the holiday season's festivities. A new Center Director had brought something new ... a "best yet to come" spirit ... to the closing days of a difficult year. Employees beamed ... with the bright promise of things to come... as KSC's employees gathered in the Headquarters and O&C Buildings and the LCC to wish each other the best of times”...



“THE KSC CAROLERS gather around the Christmas Tree in the Headquarters Building Lobby.”



“CENTER DIRECTOR AND MRS. FORREST McCARTNEY enthusiastically participated in KSC's annual observance of the holiday season”