

Cape Connections

Official Newsletter for the Air Force Space & Missile Museum

November 2022

QUOTATION OF THE MONTH:

"We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails." *Dolly Parton*

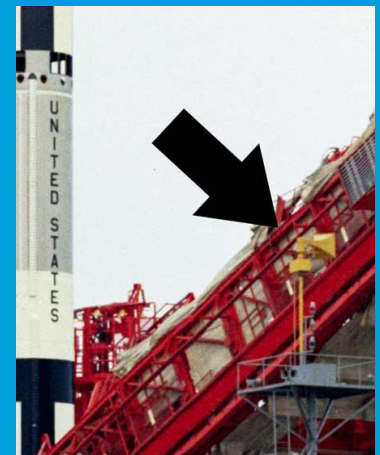
TROPICAL CYCLONE IAN STRIKES

Museum facilities officially closed 28-30 September as Tropical Cyclone Ian swept through the region. NASA reported peak wind gusts of [108 mph](#) at LC-39B. Nearly [nine inches](#) of rain fell on Cape Canaveral. Brevard County government departments estimated a total of [\\$14 million](#) in damage to county facilities and land. Fortunately, Museum facilities fared quite well.

Museum staff inspected all facilities, outdoor displays, and several historic launch complexes. Besides a few minor leaks, the only significant damage was to the Navaho missile restoration. The tailfins blew off but were retrieved. Repair work has been authorized and will commence soon. Efforts will be made to reinforce the connections to prevent future damage.



DID YOU KNOW?



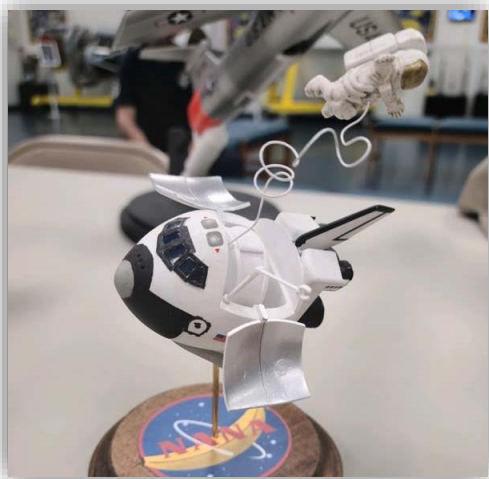
Early Cold War-era air raid sirens were used for warning signals on launch complexes. This image of a Gemini-Titan prepped for launch on LC-19 clearly shows a Thunderbolt Model 1000 Air Raid Siren in use. It made sense as a safety precaution. This offers another example of how technology and equipment was repurposed for launch activity at Cape Canaveral.



MUSEUM UPDATES & NEWS

MUSEUM DIRECTOR BRIEFS CSO

General Jay Raymond, USSF Chief of Space Operations, and Chief Roger Towberman, CMSgt of USSF, toured Patrick Space Force Base in mid-October. Museum Director Jamie Draper provided them with a briefing on the initial vision of future museum expansion. The Museum Foundation will lead the fundraising and development for the expansion. *(To the right, Mr. Draper elaborates on land usage, strategic objectives, and conceptual designs.)*



PLASTIC MODELING EVENT

The CAPE (or Creative Activities Promoting Education) Series event for September included another collaboration with the local International Plastic Modelers' Society. The held a model display and information session at the Sands Space History Center on Saturday, 10 September. *(The image to the left shows one of Museum Curator Bill Paul's fantastic creations. It was among many models displayed during the event.)*

PIE EVENT AND TOUR

The Museum hosted a group of PIE (Partners In Education) coordinators from Brevard Schools. It began with a breakfast sponsored by SpaceX in the History Center. Then they toured the Museum at LC-26 and Hangar C. The participants also toured the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. *(Museum Volunteer Jim Hale provided the expert tour of the Cape. The image to the right shows him pointing out the unique architectural elements of the Blockhouse.)*





MUSEUM UPDATES & NEWS



WEATHER PRESENTATION

Museum Volunteer Association meetings resumed for the season in early September. Museum Volunteer George Bartuska provided an enthralling presentation on weather. He shared his expertise on meteorology, hydrology, and oceanography, and described how knowing the basics of all three will help one understand Florida's unique weather systems. *(To the left, Dr. Bartuska presents his briefing on Florida weather systems to a captivated audience in the History Center.)*

MORE EVENTS AND TOURS

Another two months have passed with increased demand for specialty tours and events. NOTU, 1 ROPS, and the Military Affairs Council are among the groups who held ceremonies and events in multiple Museum facilities. Many other military units, contractors, and commercial launch groups received tours. *(To the right, Vice Admiral Johnny R. Wolfe, Jr., gives a speech to a large crowd during a NOTU event in Hangar C.)*



SPACE ENTHUSIAST SOCIAL

The Missile, Space and Range Pioneers held a Space Enthusiast Social at the Sands Space History Center on 22 September. The unique event gave local space professionals and aficionados an opportunity to connect and network. The missions of the Pioneers and the Museum overlap quite a bit. Expect to see further collaborations in the future. *(To the left, Mr. Draper and Rupert the Space Armadillo enjoyed the event. Rupert made plenty of new friends among the crowd!)*



MUSEUM UPDATES & NEWS

BUD YEAGER INTERVIEW

Jamie Draper interviewed Maurice “Bud” Yeager as a beta test for a new oral history initiative. Mr. Yeager worked Vanguard, Titan, and Pershing programs on the Cape beginning in the late-1950s. He also received a special tour of Museum facilities. Special thanks to Curt Mason for filming and editing, and Tim Bucklin for subject matter expertise. *(To the right, a scene from the interview held in Hangar C. Mr. Yeager once had an office in Hangar C.)*



CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS +60

The October CAPE Series event featured a special presentation by Dr. Charles Dusch, Director of History and Heritage for SLD-45. He delved into the Cuban Missile Crisis on its 60th anniversary. The presentation placed the crisis into the broader context of the Cold War and also revealed how the military prepared Florida’s Space Coast for potential nuclear war. *(To the left, Dr. Dusch captivates attendees at the History Center with Cold War history.)*



SPACEX TRUNK-OR-TREAT

As a special Halloween event, SpaceX coordinated and hosted a Trunk-or-Treat experience on 26 October. The History Center was opened for the event. Hundreds of people came in to explore the exhibits and the gift shop. Cape Canaveral fire trucks came out for the kids. Food trucks offered additional treats. *(To the right, even the Museum Director participated in the Halloween event. Don’t worry, the alien returned him home safe and sound that evening.)*





MUSEUM FOUNDATION UPDATES

Foundation:

The US Space Force Historical Foundation's Legacy Wall is a popular site on the Foundation's website recognizing men and women and their organizations – military and civilian. It also recognizes the present-day personnel who carry on that spirit and tradition for the next generation. [US Space Force Historical Foundation Legacy Wall](#).

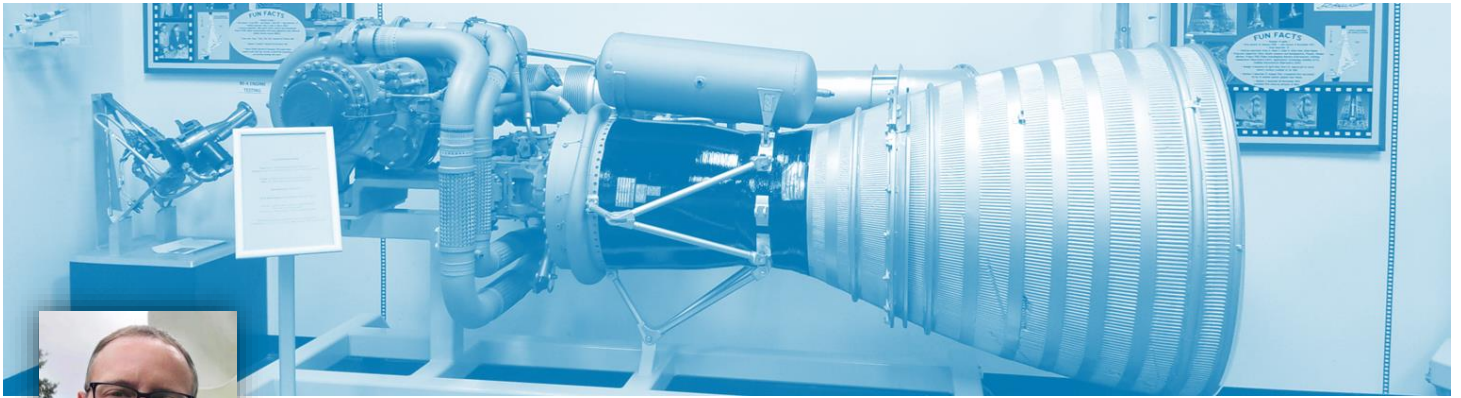
Gift Shop:

Artemis logo items: T-shirts in two colors, Artemis Program patches and Artemis-1 Challenge Coins (Bronze & Color).

Miss Baker Plush toy: Miss Baker has arrived and is back in stock!

Space Force logo items: Currently in stock is a great 16oz Pilsner glass sporting the Space Force Delta. The Space Force Delta logo shot glasses are also in stock. USSF polos in Navy have been added to our inventory.





Message from the Director

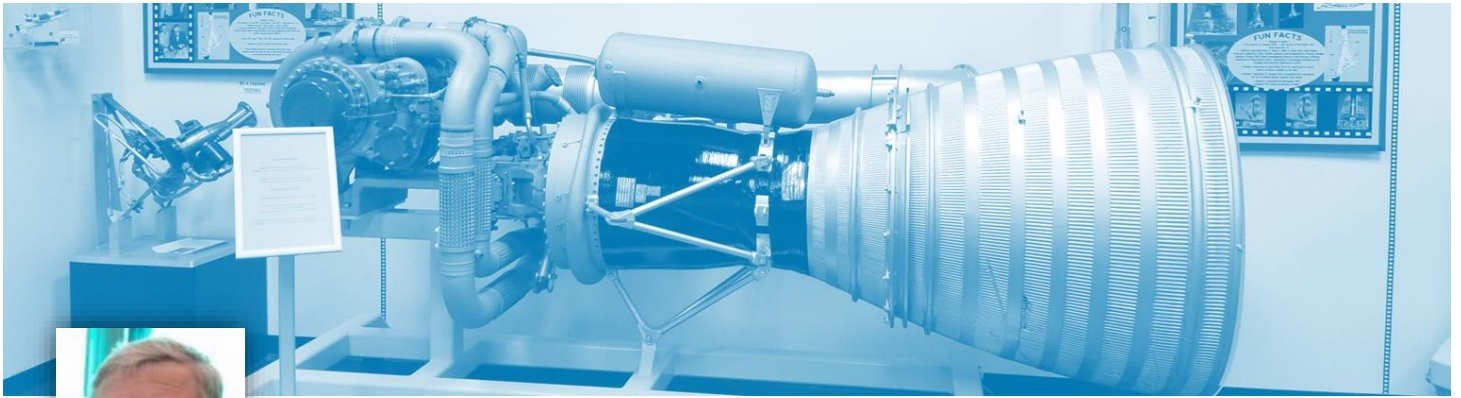
Roger McCormick shared with me a fantastic photo of preparations for a Gemini-Titan launch at LC-19 in 1965. That yellow Thunderbolt Air Raid Siren caught my immediate attention. Here was a piece of equipment installed throughout the country as a Civil Defense initiative to warn the populace of incoming Soviet bombers during the 1950s. By the 1960s, they appeared on launch pads as warning systems. Yet another great example of versatility during America's early space programs in repurposing existing equipment and technology! That adaptability is on display throughout the Cape, from the Noble bridge cranes added to traditional Air Force Hangars to transform them into missile assembly buildings to the commercial scales under the pads at Launch Complex 26 used for measuring fuel loads. Versatility has been a persistent theme throughout the history of Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.

I tapped into the spirit of George Bartuska's presentation in selecting the opening quote for this issue of *Cape Connections*. We cannot control all the circumstances around us, but we can control our reactions to them. Preparation is always important, but versatility is essential. Our staff, volunteers, and supporters have allowed our museum operation to adapt and thrive in challenging circumstances. KSC bus tours are *STILL* down, but (in many ways) they have been temporarily replaced with scores of specialty tours and events. Our amazing museum volunteers have adapted to unpredictable schedules, and I cannot thank them enough for their versatility and flexibility.

We remain consistently versatile in determining a vision, strategic objectives, and courses of action for our future museum expansion. It requires vigilance in negotiating obstacles and ever-changing complexities. Our supporting Museum Foundation has done yeoman's work in establishing a process forward, working with an expanding group of stakeholders and supporters.

The versatility and resilience of our museum operation is tested daily. Our many improvements to facilities, preservation, exhibits, and tour/event scheduling pay huge dividends. From exploding rats knocking out power to our facilities to a tropical cyclone tearing the tailfins off our Navaho, we continue to restore, improve, enhance, and expand through unique challenges. Versatility is in our DNA at Cape Canaveral!


James W. Draper, Museum Director



The Curator's Column with Bill Paul

For The Love of Space

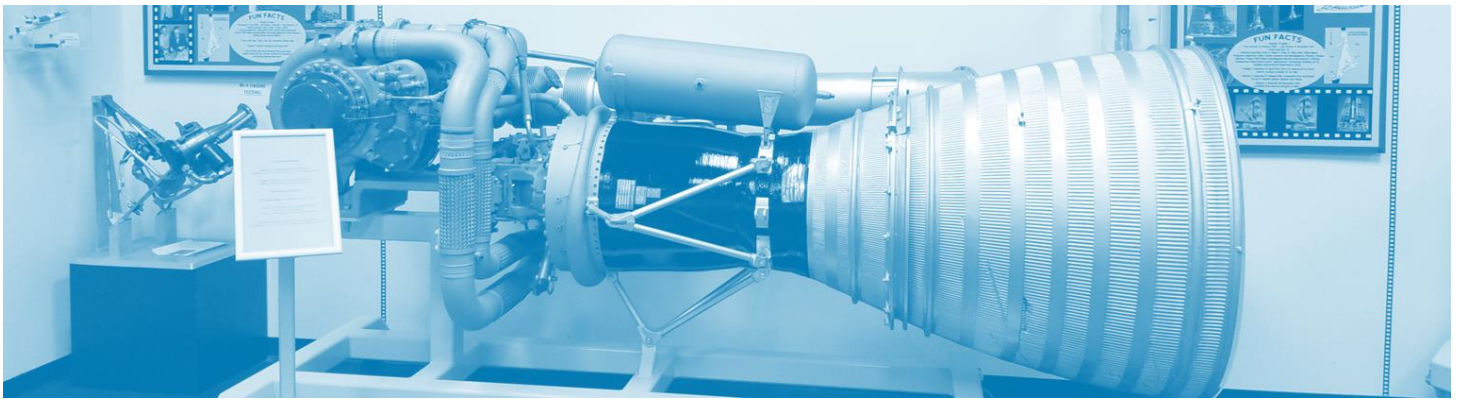
It's amazing to me how rocketry and spaceflight captures the imagination of people. Not just those who have worked on the different programs over the years but with the public as well. As with all things, public interest in the space program has waxed and waned, probably hitting its peak during the heyday of the Apollo program when millions of people around the world followed the exploits of the astronauts at the Cape. Even so, there has always been a relatively sizeable number of hardcore enthusiasts who proudly wear the title of "space nerd" and "geek" (me included). Many of us collect mission patches, photos, autographs, and other memorabilia, some can quote you verbatim transmissions between Gemini 6 and Mission Control, others can rattle off the serial number of every tile on the Atlantis, but some people take their love for the space program to a whole other level.

We recently received a collection from the family of one such person. Edith Peterson wasn't directly involved with the space program but worked for the Army Corps of Engineers at their district office in Jacksonville, FL during the 1960s and 1970s. Along with her passion for the U.S. space program, her other hobbies included painting and writing. As the Apollo program advanced toward its goal of landing an American on the Moon, she wanted to create something to commemorate the event for her two nieces. Using her artistic talent, she created a series of "Mission Books" documenting the Apollo lunar landing missions (Apollo 11 thru Apollo 17) each with a written account of the events of the mission and illustrated with her own paintings and drawings of the highlights of each voyage. For the covers, she created a 3-D relief painting based on an iconic photo associated with that mission. From the quality and detail of the artwork it's easy to see that she spent hundreds of hours creating each book.

No long-winded analysis or historical implications this time. Just some photos of Edith's "Mission Books"—I'll let her talent and creativity speak for itself—Enjoy!



All seven of Edith Peterson's
"Mission Books"



Cover for the book on Apollo 17



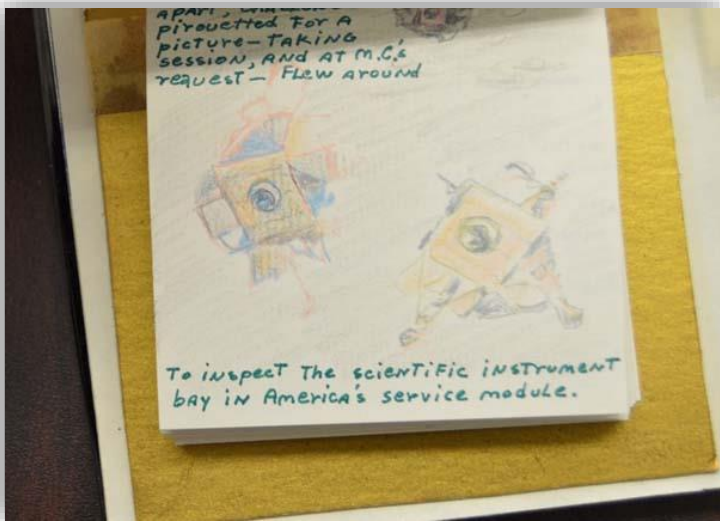
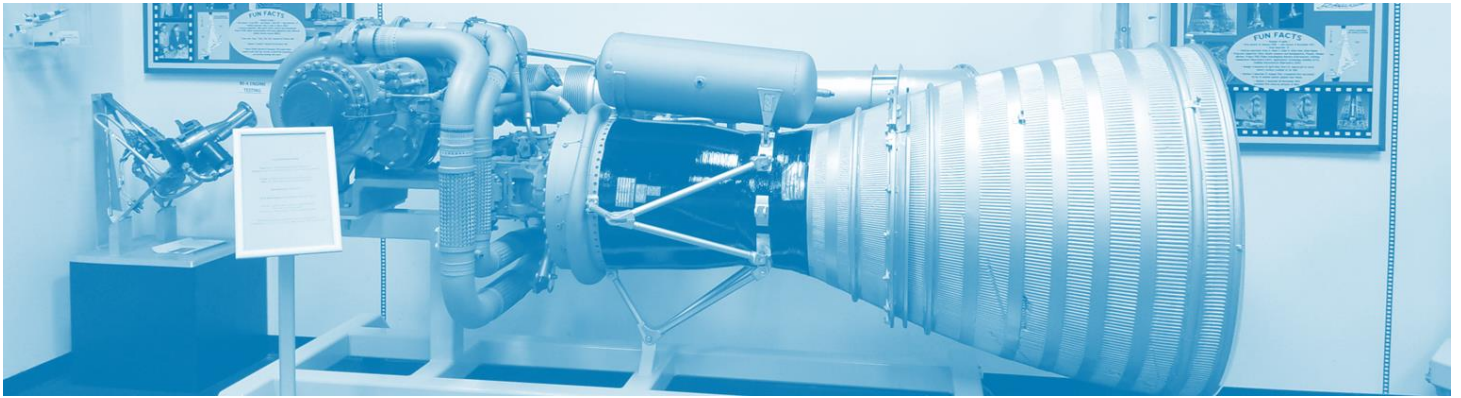
Painting of Harrison Schmitt on the lunar surface



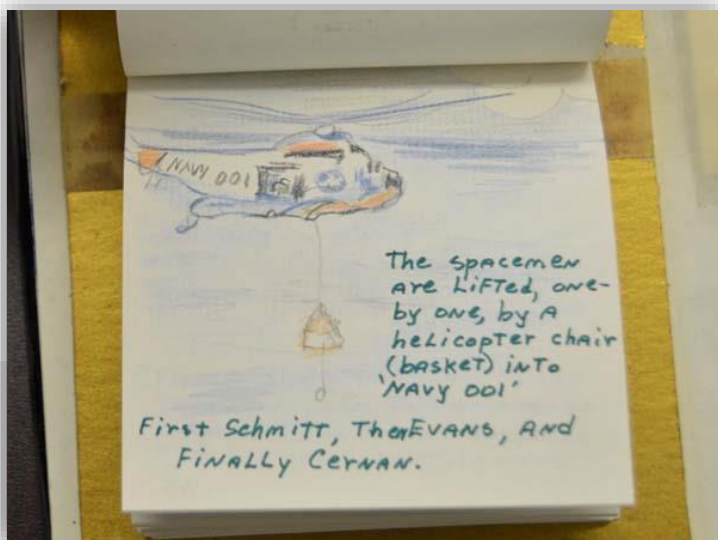
Painting of Ron Evans retrieving the film canister from the Service Module

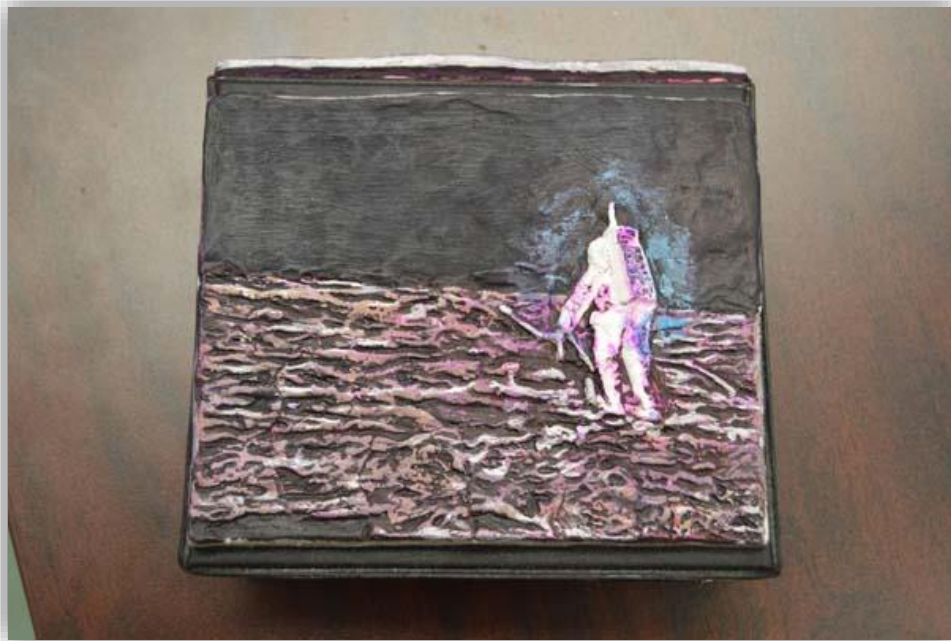
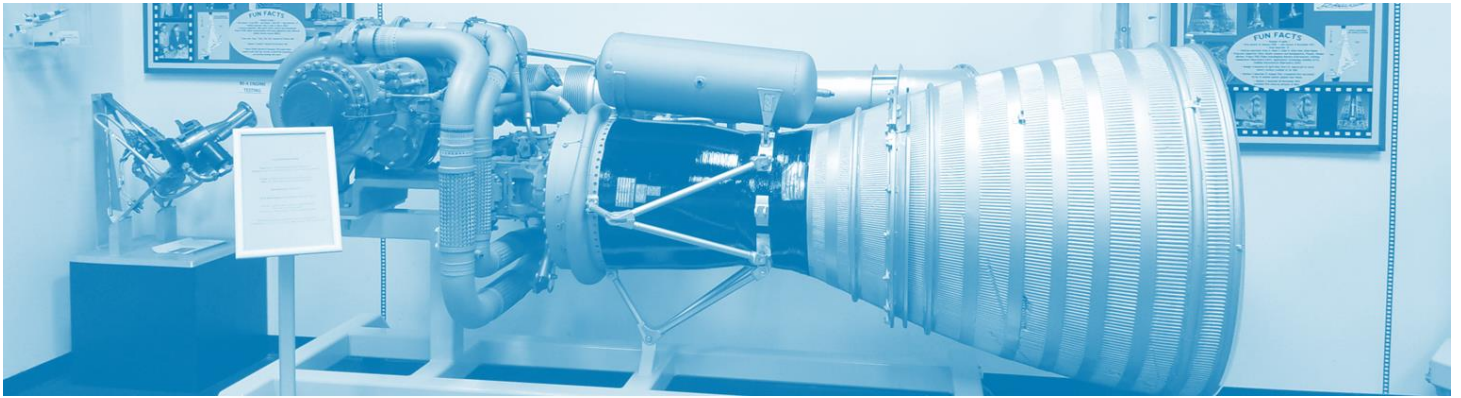


Painting of the Apollo 17 crew



A selection of sketches and drawings from Edith's Apollo 17 "Mission Book"

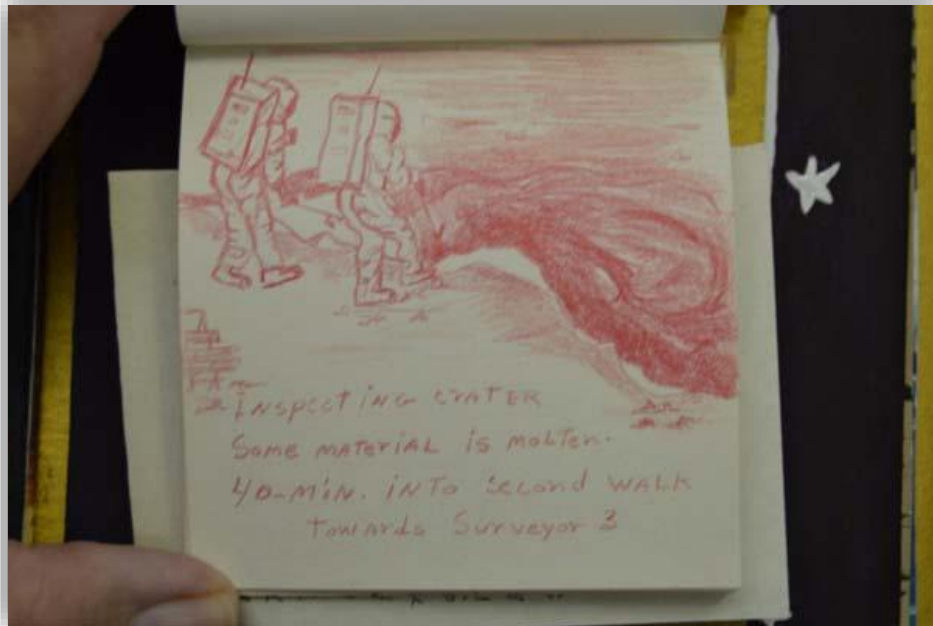
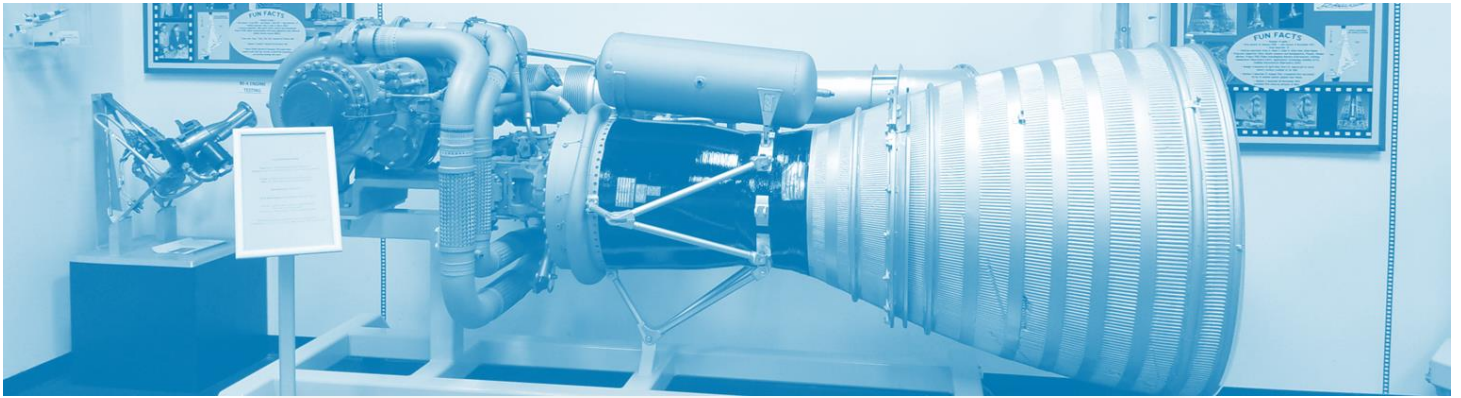




Cover for Edith's Apollo 12 "Mission Book"



Painting of the Surveyor 3 Apollo 12 Lunar Module "Intrepid"



Sketch of astronauts Allen Bean and Charles Conrad on the lunar surface during Apollo 12 mission



Covers of Apollo 13 and Apollo 15 "Mission Books"



Our Museum Family

Museum Staff:

James Draper, Museum Director
Bill Paul, Museum Curator

Museum Volunteer Association:

Randy Wehrung, Chairperson
Lee Kjesbo, Vice Chair
Bill Jelen, Secretary

Museum Foundation

Executive Committee Members:

Raymond Sands, Chairman
Steven Lepper, Major General, USAF
(ret.) Vice Chairman
Rob Quigg, Treasurer
Roger McCormick, Secretary

Board Members:

Robert VanVonderen
Stephen Houser
Therrin Protze
Victor Latavish
Tim Oliver

Foundation Employees:

Deborah Allison, Foundation Services
Manager
Sharon Rodriguez, Executive Assistant



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