



September 1966

Vol 10 September 2012



Keeping the Memory Alive

THE TRACKERS'

C R O N I C L E

We ran out of CRO supported NASA manned space flight missions of the sixties and seventies a while back, so until we can come up with a new, suitable and lasting, theme (suggestions still welcomed) the newsletter will a) continue to be somewhat patchwork in content, or b) have to be reduced in size. You will also gather that I am getting desperate for suitable material.

It is out there.

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Anything to Declare?

Courtesy Space.com

GENERAL DECLARATION (Outward/Inward)			
AGRICULTURE, CUSTOMS, IMMIGRATION, AND PUBLIC HEALTH			
Director or Operator: NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION			
Marks of Nationality and Registration: U.S.A.		Flight No.: APOLLO 11	Date: JULY 24, 1969
Departure from: MOON (Place and Number)		Arrival at: HONOLULU, HAWAII, U.S.A. (Place and Number)	
FLIGHT ROUTING (*Place* Columns always to last airport, every en route stop and destination)			
PLACE	TOTAL NUMBER OF CREW	SUMMER OF PASSENGERS ON THIS STAGE	CARGO
CAPE KENNEDY	COMMANDEER NEIL A. ARMSTRONG		
MOON	<i>Neil Armstrong</i>	Director: <i>Neil Armstrong</i>	
JULY 24, 1969	COLONEL EDWIN E. ALDRIN, JR.	Embarking: HIL	MOON ROCK AND MOON DUST SAMPLES Cargo Manifest Attached
HONOLULU	<i>Ed Aldrin</i>	Through en route flight: HIL	
	ST. COLONEL MICHAEL COLLINS	Arrival: <i>Michael Collins</i>	
		Disembarking: HIL	
		Through en route flight: HIL	
Declaration of Health Persons on board known to be suffering from illness other than sickness or the effects of accidents, as well as those cases of illness disseminated during the flight: NONE		For official use only	
Any other condition on board which may lead to the spread of disease: TO BE DETERMINED		HONOLULU AIRPORT Honolulu, Hawaii ENTERED <i>Ernest J. Meyer</i> Customs Inspector	
Details of each disinfecting or sanitary treatment (place, date, time, method) during the flight. If no disinfecting has been carried out during the flight give details of most recent disinfecting:			
Signed, if required Crew Member General			
I declare that all statements and particulars contained in this General Declaration, and in any supplementary forms required to be presented with this General Declaration are complete, exact and true to the best of my knowledge and that all through passengers will routinely have continued on the flight.			

Just what did Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins have to declare? Moon rocks, moon dust and other lunar samples, according to the customs form filed at the Honolulu Airport in Hawaii on July 24, 1969 - the day the Apollo 11 crew splashed down in the Pacific Ocean to end their historic moon landing mission.

The customs form is signed by all three Apollo 11 astronauts. They declared their cargo and listed their flight route as starting Cape Kennedy (now Cape Canaveral) in Florida with a stopover on the moon.

This is real, but Messrs Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins did not actually have to fill out this form—they did so as a lark.

Another Mystery Photograph



Thanks to Trevor Mosel, we have a photograph from the archives; this time Town Office staff—but with some missing names.

From left to right, rear—Stan Parkes, Norm Pitt, ???.

Front - ???, Margaret Arthur, ???.

As usual we could do with some help in identifying the “missing” crew members.

Whereabouts

As a result of Paul Dench supplying his "staffing list", augmented courtesy Brian Milne, the "Whereabouts" table of those for whom we have no contact details has expanded to more than one page. Thanks to those who have sent updates.

C Abott	Jim Crossland	Peter Hardwicke
Eric Ainsworth	Noel Cunningham	Ron Harmes
Gay Albon	F Dawes	Anne Harvey (Brookes)
Bill Arbery	Peter Dawson	D Hatch
Allan Barber	Peter Del Fante	Gail Heileman
John (Allan) Barber	Andrew Dempster	Stan Hills
Matt Barber	Jean DeVis	Ernie Hindley
Keith Barnard	Marilyn Dick	Dave Hine
Barrow	Olive Dick	A Holgate
Deidre Beaumont	Neville Dippell	Phyllis Hook (Watson)
Elizabeth Beckett	Cheryl? Dixon	J Hopkins
Keith Beveridge	L Donkin	Vivienne Lawer (Hopper)
Michael Billings	John Draper	Ted Hopper
Denis Black	Mike Dresser	Deidre Howard
G Bond	Bruce Duff	B Hughes
S Boyce	I Dunleavy	B Hunter
Bill Boyle	Bob Dwyer	D Hutchins
B Bradley	Dave Elliot	Ian Jones
Phil Brindley	J Erickson	S ??? Judd
Hans Britz	Ross Eyre	Vera Kastropil
Dave Brooks	Ian Few	John Keane
Charlie Brown	Ian Findlay	Mike Keen
T.F.A Brown	G Francis	Jim Keenan
W Brown	Ben Franklin	John Kelman
J Burdett	David Froom	Joy King
R Burdett	Jamie Gardiner	M King
Martin Burgess	L Gardner	L King
Robert Burns	S Garner	Roy Kjellgren
Joe Cabone	C George	Gloria Klarie
Joy Cameron	Joe George	Peter Kloppenburg
Geoff Cardwell	J Gerschwitz	Henry Larsen
G Carrick	G Goodlace	Russ Leighton
Brian Clarke	L Gore	G Linney
Brian Clifford	Lyn Grant	F Lippett
Keith Clifton-James	Claude Granville	Alex Liu
Barbara Cobcroft	Bob Halse	Gloria Lyon-Roberts
Bill Comstock	Geoff Hammond	Ross MacDonald
?? Coombs	R Hanes	John Mahaffey
Ron Cottis	Bea Hardman	Peter Maine

The quest continues; the list never seems to get very much shorter.

I have been given information concerning the possible whereabouts of a few of these, but so far have not been successful in obtaining, or confirming, details. The Reunion Dinner brought out some missing persons, but there are also a few who do not wish to be contacted.

Whereabouts ctd.

Roy Mallinson	Diane Pitman (Housley)	George Small
Bob Marr	John Platten	Lyn Smart (Willis)
Keith Mathieson	Gerry Plummer	J Smith
Alec Matthews	D Powell	Mary Smith
K McCarson	M.J.K Power	P Smith
Ian McDonald	Wendy Puccinelli	Roger Smith
S McDonald	Lorna Quinn	Bill Smythe
Frank McGregor	Roger Ramsden	Hazel Snook (Howse)
Eileen McLaughlan	A Rees	Dave Standbury
Don McLellan	Dave Rendell	John Stanton
Nola Meiklejohn (O'Byrne)	Frank Rice	Alex Stevenson
R Miller	Doug Richards	Barbara Stephenson (Vernon)
Ray Mills	D Richardson	Barbara Teahan
Marilyn Milner (Gobby)	Harry Richmond	Barbara Teasdale
John Mogg	Ralp Richmond	Des Terrill
Sharon Morgan (Todd)	Dave Rickards	Alan Thomas
J Murray	G Riley	Christine Thomas
Dennis Naylor	Brian Robinson	Howard Thomas
Gloria Neal	Lynne Rosser	Don Thompson
Ellie Nichols	Ted Rosser	Jack Thompson
K Elton Nickerson	Lindsay Sage	Patsy Thompson (Nolan)
Graham Nielsen	Stewart Sands	Larry Tomkins
John Noble	Ron Sargeant	Frank Toomey
? O'Brien	Russell Schwarzer	Mike Travell
Joan Oats	Bob Scott	Norma Turner
W Oliver	Michael Scott-Malcolm	Ernst Uhl
Denis Owens	Lorraine Scott-Malcolm (Erlandsen)	Tony Vingerhoets
John Paddon	Dorcas Sefton-Bellion	Dave Walker
??? Mrs Parkinson	George Sefton-Bellion	Mrs B Ward
John Parkinson	D Selby	Tom Ward
Alan Paterson	Ron Shand	N Wardle
? Paull	Fred Sharland	A Watermeyer
Mike Pender	E Sharples	Irene West
Wendy Petersen	? Sheehan	Bernie Wilbourne
Don Pettitt	Jeff Shuttleworth	Garnet Wilmott
T Phillips	P Sims	Brian Wilson
	Ray Skender	Ray Zatorski

Quotations

*"The flight was extremely normal... for the first 36 seconds then
after that got very interesting.*

- Pete Conrad

*"Another real problem was over putting our helmets on for re-entry, because
we all had severe head colds. They couldn't come up there and make us.
Houston, you have a problem!*

- Wally Schirra

*"Be thankful for problems. If they were less difficult, someone with less ability
might have your job.*

- Pjames Lovell

The Things People Say

From a report on Buzz's speech on his arrival at Carnarvon airport:

"I've heard of Carnarvon in very high esteem since, I guess, 1962," he said."

From an Ex-OTC Facebook page:

"It was interesting to see how quickly the history is rewritten.

The event was overrun by ex NASA 'Trackers' as they called themselves and there was lots of ill-informed conversation and confusion about the OTC site. At best I could describe 'the museum' is a jumbled collection of 'space junk'. However the committee is well meaning and I hope that somewhere along the line they get the story straight."

A comment from 'Ken of Melbourne' on the PerthNow web page:

"How embarrassing to be entertaining this man who has spent most of his life perpetuating the myth that he landed on the moon in the 60's."

Another comment on the same page:

"I'd like to meet you Ken. Then I could do to you what Buzz did to the guy who called him a liar for saying he'd been to the moon. Drop him."

And another:

"And guess what Ken, I worked at the Carnarvon Tracking Station and was in the control room watching it on the monitors. When you get up ... I would like the opportunity to drop you again."

For something positive, for a change; from 'Jules of Tasmania' commenting on another PerthNow web page:

"Well done to Carnarvon for recognising the Tracking station as an important part of Carnarvon's history. My father was employed at the tracking station for 10yrs and Im proud of his involvement in making the landing on the moon a possibility. I have fond memories of growing up there."

From an ABC news item:

"Mr Youd says the museum is a celebration of the role Carnarvon played ... We are calling this phase one and phase one basically is we are in a very small building but we figure we have to start somewhere and this is to get the ball rolling. We have got displays, we have pieces of equipment, we have video, we have interpretive panels telling the whole story of Carnarvon's role in the space race."

And finally, from Super J himself :

"I am real glad to see a museum and other things at CRO to commemorate every thing that the people and the station did for the US manned space program. I hope in the building of this museum people realize how much more CRO did for supporting Gemini than Apollo. Kranz always talks about how we learned and tested all of our sequences, operations and preparations for going to the moon with project Gemini, which people have a tendency to forget. CRO was one of the major players in that program."

LOS

It is with the deepest regret that I have to advise that my mate Ian Shardlow was reported missing at sea on Thursday 16th August.

As this issue goes to press there has been no further news since the search was scaled down late on Saturday 18th August.

Our sincerest condolences go to his wife Kerry and his family.



*Ian Shardlow
at Museum opening
Photo - Louise McGreevy*

Opening of Carnarvon Space



At long last the time had come; not only recognition of Carnarvon Tracking Station, but also acknowledgement of the part played by Western Australia in man's exploration of space.

An attempt was made to preserve and display artefacts from the Tracking Station in 1989, but unfortunately it fizzled out due to lack of support and availability of skilled backing. This time there has been a more professional approach; the opening of just the first stage of a much larger picture with sponsorship funds and qualified management.



Opening of original Museum - 1989

Those of us who were fortunate enough to travel to Carnarvon on the 22nd of June experienced an unforgettable and emotional 34 hours.

We commenced with a "Meet and Greet" at Perth Airport on the chilly morning of the Friday, and finished up with a luncheon fest provided by Carnarvon Growers before flying back to Perth. In between there was the presentation by Paul Dench, Jim and Alison Gregg and Terry Kierans; the Cocktail Fund Raiser and the Museum opening ceremony.

Buzz Aldrin with attending ex-Trackers

It was announced, initially, that photographs would not be allowed. It seems to faze Buzz when one of the women asked him with a request for him to be photographed by a newspaper when she was photographing him. When she called him, "Dr. Aldrin, aren't you a tracker aren't you? It's Buzz Aldrin," her local (Collie) paper provided full page coverage of her report on the event.



Buzz Aldrin with Kathryn
Photographer

Science and Technology Museum



Trackers - Photograph Louise McGreevy

that publication of any
allowed. However this did not
Teeney Bopper" approached
hold up a copy of her local
ographed with him. Additionally,
rin" he responded with, "You're
!" Much to the lady's delight
ed her with a two to three
n the event.



Frarin at Perth Airport
er - Unknown

For me, the highlight was Buzz's keynote speech at the Cocktail Fund Raiser, at which I had a front-row seat; he gave new meaning to the expression, "He held the audience in the palm of his hand". The vision and the humility of the man were so evident.

The official opening of the Museum, after we all had a good look round, was preceded by speeches from various dignitaries and culminated in Buzz cutting the ceremonial ribbon with the assistance of little Anika Hird who had won that important rôle in a competition.



Cutting the Ribbon
Photograph - Museum

It was then that all the attending trackers were requested to assemble for group photographs – plus, to our obvious joy, we were unexpectedly joined by Buzz for several more.

Fortunately, tracker Hamish Lindsay had the foresight to bring a voice recorder (being an ex-Comms man), so in forthcoming issues of the CRONicle we will be bringing excerpts from Buzz's speech, plus Hamish's own recollections of the event.

The Fisherman Who Rode a Horse

Continuation of an extract from the autobiography of Ken Watters.

I let the fight go on for about ten minutes in which time Mallard landed enough to close Bub's left eye and to leave several nasty looking grazes on his cheeks. Then I stepped in grabbed Mallard's left arm and raising it above his head I declared him the winner and new world champion.

"I haven't finished." he screamed.

"Oh yes you have. You're the winner."

"No way man, I'm gunna kill the prick."

I pushed him back and took my shirt off.

"Bub's finished if you want to fight now then you will have to fight me." I said standing chest to chest with him.

He stepped away and grabbing hold of the biggest fella there he shoved him in my direction urging him to take me on. I recognised Colin Cook the club champion of the East Carnarvon Football Club and I think the champion player of the local competition. There was no way either of us could back out of this all the fellas standing around us were urging us on and as Colin's fist came up into position I said ten Hail Mary's and ten Our Fathers and hit him as hard as I could square on the chin.

He stepped back shook his head and came back very slowly and looking into his eyes I knew that I was in big trouble. Colin was the only fella that I fought with in Carnarvon or the Bay that could throw a real straight punch. It was nearly impossible to see them coming as I had been able to do with every other of my previous opponents. We must have been going for half an hour, I had landed what I thought were real good punches and I had taken just as many back. I was really starting to hurt.

"Christ Colin what are we fighting for?" I asked as we circled each other looking for an opening.

"Don't know." Colin grunted back at me.

"This is not our fight and I think that we are both going to be very sore in the morning." I panted out.

"Sure are."

"I'll be happy to call it quits now if you are." I said with another Hail Mary under my breath.

"OK."

We both stood back gave each other a grin stepped back up and shook hands. It was all over, I had been let off the hook, Bub had earned the respect of the locals and he never had that type of trouble again. We climbed back into the Landrover and went around to the Greasy Spoon although we would both have preferred to go home; but this was necessary to gain more face in the eyes of the locals. They soon joined us and in no time we were all buddy buddies slapping each other on the back and reciting running commentaries on the evening's events.

To be continued

Social Club News - April 1969

THE FULL LIFE ctd.

BY BURGEE

Not only that, but as all three boats are fastened together, only one of them need have sails, and the extra two are towed along for nothing. The best set of sails from all three boats is selected, and for convenience, erected in the middle, whilst the worst sails from the two spare boats, are sold to Quickcat owners. The miscellaneous poles and sticks left over are used for fending off jetties and people.

However, back to the weekend. The invitation usually comes about 4 p.m. on Friday after an all night mission. "Very good" you say, "what time aboard?" "Six o'clock sharp - the tide is at three quarter spring neaps and a sou'westerly over Port Hedland is setting the meridian aback - you can tell by the mares' tails on the stratus nimbus - we'll just make it over the treee fathoms bar accidents. Bring some warm clothing." Sounds good.

Having opted out of your family weekend at the Blows, your kid's party, Saturday's shopping and Friday's tea, all at 5 minutes notice, you don your warm longjohns and ask your wife to take you to the rubbish tip. The answer is a natural - she does so with pleasure. Four hours later, when the local dogs and mosquitoes have given you a good going over and you have exhausted your witty chatter about the town's refuse, the Captain arrives. "Hope you've had something to eat" he says, "we gotta look sharp.. Best thing would be for me to go out first - you follow later with the stores." So you settle him into the dinghy, nice and dry, roll up your slacks to your ankles and prepare to push him off. ZAP!. up to your knees in soft goo, mouldy cardboard, rotten eggs and putrid garbage. "Bit soft round here" he says cheerfully, "Try running."

To be continued

Engineering Heritage International Marker



The Very First Engineering Heritage International Marker to be Awarded in Australia.
Awarded by Engineers Australia.
Photograph - Kathy Franin

Appreciation

As owner of *CROTrak*, a subsidiary of my main business, I decided to take it upon myself to create some form of recognition for those people I considered had contributed, substantially, to *Keeping The Memory Alive*. So I created an appreciation certificate.



The initial recipients are: Phil Youd, Alison Gregg, Paul Dench, Colin Mackellar (for his unending work on the Honeysuckle website) and Annalisa Smith, my granddaughter's teacher, for teaching her primary school class about Apollo 11 (and her grandfather).

KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE



Carnarvon Tracking Station 1964 - 1975



Present Day

[Click for full size](#)

Mick and Sue Coffey's Carnarvon Steel Supplies of Cornish St Carnarvon fabricated and donated the sign

Signwriting generously donated by W&K Painting of Egan St, Carnarvon

Photograph by Phil Youd - Edited by Terence Kierans

[Click here to commence entry to the original station](#)

My sincere thanks to all of those who have contributed to the website so far; listed at: http://crotrak.com/thank_you.htm.

At long last I have included some more photographs from the 40th Anniversary Reunion Dinner, courtesy Joan & Tito Teraci. Plus a few sites have been updated with photographs from Hamish Lindsay. Just wish I had more than two hands, and more free time. Now I need to add some from Buzz's visit.

A call goes out, yet again, for material. I can arrange copying, scanning, whatever, so as to get them uploaded to our website, or published in The CRONicle; you need have no fears regarding their safety.

Turtles in Space

On September 15th 1968 the Soviet Union launched the Zond 5 spacecraft with a biological payload including two turtles, wine flies, mealworms, plants, seeds, bacteria, and other living matter. On September 18, Zond 5 made a loop around the moon and safely returned to earth on the 21st.

On re-entry the capsule splashed down in the Indian Ocean and was successfully recovered, but the turtles were subjected to 20G due to a failure of the reentry guidance system.

Keeping the Memory Alive

Tracking Station Tours

From the memoirs of Ted Cockram

When I had mapped out a tour of the plantations and the Agricultural Research Station, Roy Chippie who operated the Avis hire car franchise purchased a 24-seater bus. By now the Tracking Station Management could see how we were operating and allowed me to take over the complete running of all tours except VIP. Initially I was instructed by Station Staff on where the tours could go and the information to be conveyed. I was then able to train Chippie's coach drivers who took the local tours and bureau staff who escorted visiting tour coaches.

On one occasion the Yugoslav Consul General were showing him around. They brought him into the Tourist Bureau where I gave him some brochures on the North West and on looking at a colour photo of Python Pool near Wittenoom he asked if he could see it in a day. Thinking that they could charter a light aircraft I said yes. When he asked how far away it was I said about 500 miles and he laughed. He said I can never explain the distances in Australia to my people back home; in Canberra I know a politician who lives in Cairns and he flies home at the weekend, that is as far as London to Moscow. I then

asked if he would like to see the Tracking Station and I phoned the office to ask if they could arrange a VIP tour. This almost caused an international incident because Yugoslavia was a communist country. The Station phoned Canberra and fortunately approval was granted but it was a good lesson for me to be more careful in future.

With the Tracking Station tours under way I approached NorWest Whaling who agreed for the Bureau to conduct tours of their prawn processing plant on Babbage Island. On one occasion I had an amusing incident when taking a safari tour through the Prawning Station. A coach on its way from Darwin had an advanced booking for a tour and called at the Bureau immediately on arrival. I asked if they wanted to set up camp and clean up but they wanted to do the tour first. Camping on the road I don't think they had showered since leaving Darwin and when I boarded the coach the sickly smell of unwashed bodies almost turned my stomach. When I began taking them through the Prawning Station I looked around to see some of the women on the tour holding handkerchiefs over their noses. I suppose it was a matter of what you were used to because to me the smell of the fresh prawns was way in front.

If undelivered, please return to:

CRO Trackers

PO Box 93, Quinns Rocks, WA 6030