

## Milestones to Apollo 11

*Editor's Note: On July 16, 1969, three American astronauts lifted off on a journey to the Moon atop a Saturn V provided by the Marshall Center. Now, 30 years later, the Marshall Star is publishing some of its stories that led up to the launch of Apollo 11.*

A Marshall Star article on June 11, 1969, described testing under way on the Apollo/Saturn launch vehicle.

The Star reported that "Apollo 11 Astronauts Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Edwin Aldrin are working in mission simulators this week while the vehicle that will take them into space is put through a series of checks following a successful flight readiness test.

"The Apollo/Saturn V (AS-506) flight readiness test was completed at about 4:07 p.m. CDT Friday, June 6, with the third stage translunar injection burn. Simulated liftoff took place at 1:17 p.m. No major launch vehicle or spacecraft problems were noted during the test."

The towering 363-foot Saturn V was a multi-stage, multi-engine launch vehicle standing taller than the Statue of Liberty. Altogether the Saturn V engines produced as much power as 85 Hoover Dams.



File photo

**Dr. Wernher von Braun pauses near the Saturn V rocket being readied for the historic Apollo 11 lunar landing mission.**

## Marshall's annual picnic, Apollo anniversary set July 17

The Marshall Center's annual picnic celebration will be held July 17 at the Marshall picnic grounds. The theme will focus on "Celebrating the Past...Creating the Future" in honor of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apollo landing.

Traditionally the picnic features a classic, antique and custom car show. Motorcycles have been added this year. To show a "bike" or car at the picnic, call Rich Wegrich at 544-2626. Airplanes also will be on display. To show an airplane, call Paul Johnson at 544-3793 to make the necessary arrangements. Prior permission is required from the military so call early.

One event unique to this year will link Marshall's observance of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission with the picnic itself.

An easy-paced relay run will offer an opportunity for runners and joggers to participate in a symbolic "passing of the torch" from the Apollo era to today. The event — loosely patterned on the Atlanta Olympics Torch Relay — is intended as a combination of fun and symbolism: to convey the legacy established by Marshall's Apollo and Saturn team is alive and strong, and being carried into the future by members of today's "New Rocket Team."

Details about how to participate in the event — or show your support for those who do — will follow in a future Marshall Star.

## NASA pledges funds to bring teachers to Space Camp

Demonstrating its ongoing commitment to excellence in education, NASA pledged \$70,000 to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center for its annual International Space Camp program July 31-Aug. 6 in Huntsville.

Each year International Space Camp plays host to the nation's finest educators — the U.S. Teachers of the Year. They are joined by outstanding educators from 30 countries for a week of space science education, teacher enrichment activities and professional collaboration.

"We are very grateful that NASA has once again elected to support International Space Camp," said Mike Wing, president and chief executive officer of the Space & Rocket Center. "This unique educational program crosses cultural and ethnic boundaries, promoting cooperation and unity among nations — an endeavor shared by NASA."

NASA is a long-time supporter of the Space & Rocket Center and U.S. Space Camp programs. "We believe that NASA's investment in education is indeed an investment in America's future," said Jim Pruitt, manager of Marshall's Education Programs Department. "NASA is about inspiration, real science and learning by doing. It's important for educators to have access to the science and technology generated by our nation's space program."

The funds will cover transportation, food, lodging and Space Camp tuition.