

HOUSTON

Mon, July 28-69,

Discovery at Houston - a discovery of sorts, anyway. Space scientists examining today a plug of material taken from the moon; when suddenly they found inside - a glassy, peanut shaped object.

Composition of this Moon nugget - as yet ~~undetermined~~ undetermined. They weren't quite ready at the time - to study it thoroughly. However, a Space official promising - "It will be examined in detail later."

~~Here is~~ The lady - home from the sea! Pert,
vivacious Sharon Sites Adams - sailing her thirty-one
foot ketch into San Diego harbor ~~today~~ ^{and} Thereby becoming
the first woman sailor - ever to cross the Pacific solo.
Her six thousand mile voyage - all the way from Tokyo -
taking seventy-five lonely, agonizing days.

~~And~~ One of the first questions she was asked on
reaching shore: "Why?" To which she replied, in effect:
"Because." Although she did admit - a few doubts along
the way. Said lovely Sharon: "It isn't that you wish you
hadn't done it - you just wonder sometimes when you'll get
home."

BANGKOK

Reassurance at Bangkok - as you may have heard by now. President Nixon telling the people of Thailand - that the U.S. will ^(defend) ~~defend~~ that Communist threatened country; will defend it against either outside aggression - or internal subversion.

This an attempt to allay Thai fears - in the wake of the President's earlier statement at Guam, Manila, Jakarta; ^{his} statements to the effect that the non-Communist countries of Asia - must assume the greater burden of their own defense. U.S. officials now noting that Thailand is a special case - serving as a base for U.S. airstrikes into Vietnam. A fact also recognized by the President - who said of the U.S. in Thailand: "We have been together in the past - we are together in the present - and the United States will stand proudly with Thailand - against those who might press it from abroad or within."

UBON FOLLOW BANGKOK

Underscoring the President's remarks - an attack earlier today on the big U. S. airbase at Ubon in northern Thailand. With a band of guerrillas - shooting their way past a sentry; damaging two cargo planes - and knocking out the field ground control approach system for almost three hours. This the second such attack - in a little over a year.

SAIGON FOLLOW UBON

Now the latest: America's top officials in Saigon - flying to Bangkok. U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth and Field Commander General Clayton Abrams - there to confer with President Nixon. Further adding to speculation that the President will shortly visit Vietnam - before continuing on with his world tour.

VIETNAME

Meanwhile, the lull in Vietnam continues - now
in its sixth week. Except for a brief attack against
government troops at Hue ^{were} enemy forces confining themselves
to harassing tactics today, ^{which did take their toll when} ~~Although one such extracting~~
~~a heavy toll.~~ Vietcong gunners down^{ed} ~~ing~~ a U. S. medical
helicopter - on an emergency flight near DaNang. Killing
all ten aboard - nine Americans and one POW.

Here at home - Seattle, Washington - Vice President Spiro Agnew was key-note speaker today at the Annual Western Governor's Conference. Voicing again his hope - that an American will land on Mars by the year two thousand. Asserting: "We can - as the song goes - dream the impossible dream and reach the unreachable star."

~~The Vice President then went on to say - there is no need to cut back our Space effort to resolve earthly problems; problems such as clogged freeways - polluted air - hungry children. Spiro Agnew declaring: "We do not need a transfer of dollars from the Space Program - we need a transfer of its spirit - and infusion of American dedication to purpose and hard work."~~ And he added: "The danger lies not in daring to dream or to reach - but in dreaming timid dreams and making feeble grasps."

PENTAGON FOLLOW SEATTLE

BAck in Washington - Defense Secretary ~~Melvin~~
Laird - ~~front and center~~ today at the Pentagon for forty-five
minutes & answer^{ed}~~ing~~ questions fired at him by a group of
~~summer~~ government interns. Including first and foremost
the question: "Why does the U.S. persist in developing
chemicals and biological weapons?"

Answer - said Melvin Laird - because the
Russians are doing the same. Indeed, they have a "much
greater" capacity in this area - than we do - said he.
Adding, therefore, that U.S. chemical and biological
weapons - actually serve as a deterrent in the cold war.
In effect, a necessary evil - said he - "if we want to see
that these things are never used in our time."

BUDGET FOLLOW PENTAGON

Elsewhere in Washington - the government closed its books today on fiscal 1969. Coming up with something of a surprise - a three billion dollar surplus. This marking the first time in nine years - that the Federal budget has ended up in the black.

Matter of fact - the surplus was nearly two billion higher than President Nixon had earlier predicted. The last minute monetary boost - coming almost entirely from income tax receipts far greater than anticipated.

50 1/2
Here's a report from The Population Reference Bureau in Washington; entitled simply: "The U.S. Family - A Thriving Institution." Noting that America now has a record fifty million families - an increase of five million over 1960; including a record two million newlyweds for the past year. This - we are told - "giving the lie to those gloomy souls - who predict the eminent collapse of family life in the U.S."

On the debit side - the report also noted a rising tide of divorces. The figure last year topping half a million for the first time since 1946. However, the Bureau explains that American couples - "have become increasingly disinclined to suffer marriages that are unhappy." Adding that the great majority of divorced persons - do eventually marry again. Did you hear that Stew Metz? Said second marriages proving - as someone once said - Stew - that's the ultimate triumph of hope over experience.

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TORQUAY, ENGLAND

At Torquay, England - a traditional British
^{south coast city,}
Navy ~~town~~ it was just like old times today. The streets
awash with brass. Also, a carnival air; with more than
a hundred thousand on hand - to welcome the arrival of
Britain's Royal Family, who ^{arrived there to} ~~were themselves there to~~
inspect thirty-nine ships of Her Majesty's Western Fleet;
biggest assembly of British Naval craft - since the Queen's
Coronation sixteen years ago.

Later, the Queen visiting with her Admirals -
while Princess Anne was down below shooting dice. ~~so to~~
~~speak~~. The Princess arriving aboard the HMS EASTBOURNE
at the critical point in an inter-fleet game of "Giant Uckers"
- which is something akin to Parcheesi. The crew of the
EASTBOURNE needing a "six" to win. Princess Anne tossing
the dice; and presto - a "six" the hard way. Followed -
no doubt - by a Royal Flush.