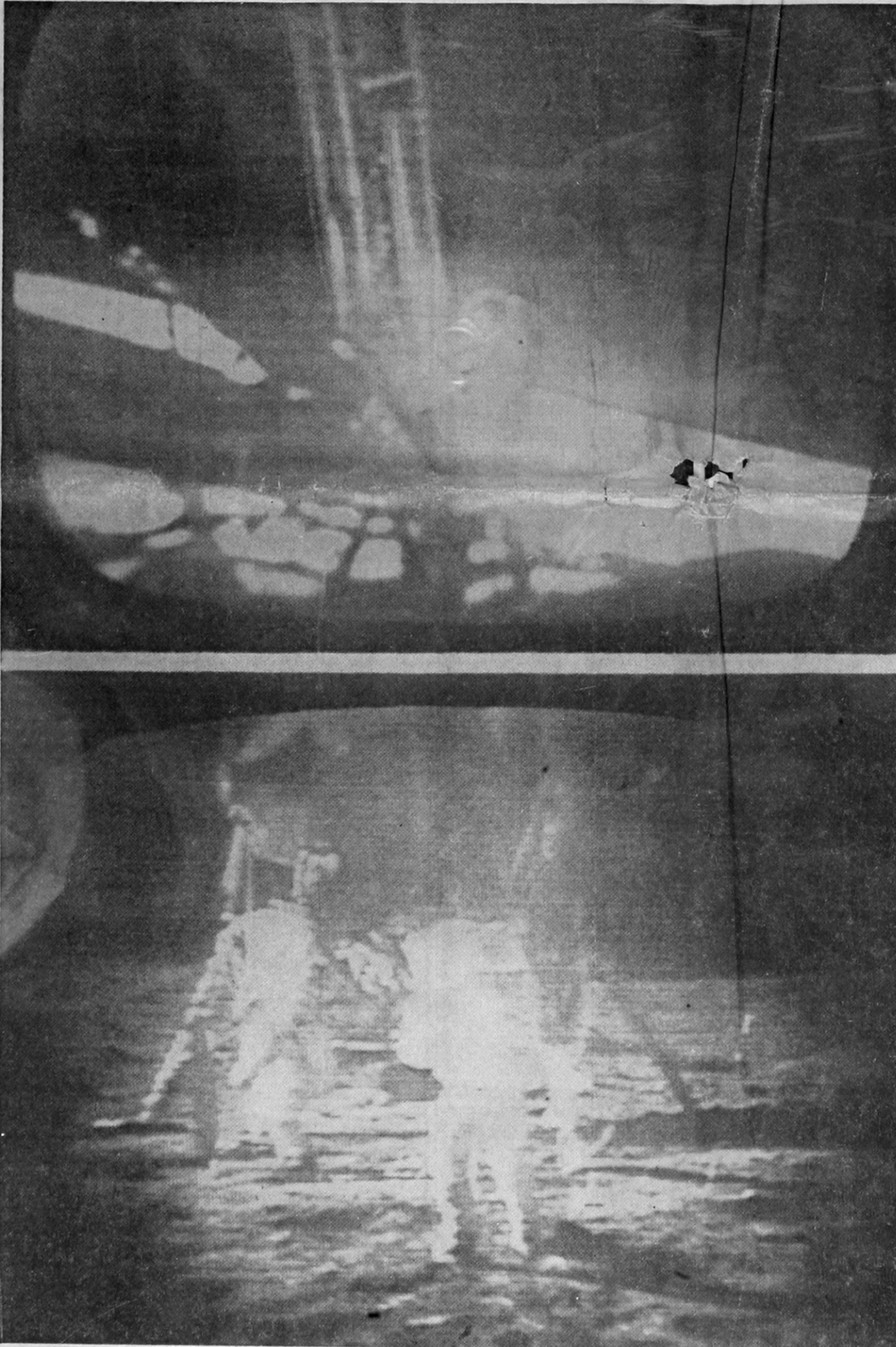


MEN LAND ON THE MOON: 'GIANT LEAP FOR MANKIND'



Vast Global Audience Sees Historic Walk

By JOHN NOBLE WILFORD

© 1969, New York Times News Service

HOUSTON — Men have landed and walked on the moon.

Two Americans, astronauts of Apollo 11, steered their fragile, four-legged lunar module safely and smoothly to the historic landfall at 1:17:40 p.m. (Tucson time) Sunday.

Neil A. Armstrong, the 38-year-old civilian commander, radioed to earth and the mission control room here:

"Houston, Tranquillity base here. The Eagle has landed."

The first men to reach the moon — Armstrong and his co-pilot Col. Edwin E. Aldrin Jr. of the Air Force — brought their ship to rest on a level, rock-strewn plain near the southwestern shore of the arid Sea of Tranquillity.

About six and a half hours later, Armstrong opened the landing craft's hatch, stepped slowly down the latter and declared as he planted the first human footprint on the lunar crust:

"That's one small step for Man. One giant leap for mankind."

His first step on the moon came at 7:56:20 p.m. (Tucson time), as a television camera outside the craft transmitted his every move to an awed and excited audience of hundreds of millions of people on earth.

Armstrong's initial steps were tentative tests of the lunar soil's firmness and of his ability to move about easily in his bulky white spacesuit and backpacks and under the influence of lunar gravity, which is one-sixth that of the earth.

"The surface is fine and powdery," the astronaut reported. "I can pick it up loosely with my toe. It does adhere in fine layers like powdered charcoal to the sole and sides of my boots. I only go in a small fraction of an inch, maybe an eighth of an inch. But I can see the footprints of my boots in the treads in the fine sandy particles."

After 19 minutes of Armstrong's testing, Aldrin joined him outside the craft.

The two men got busy setting up another television camera from the lunar module, planting an American flag into the ground, scooping up soil and rock samples, deploying scientific experiments and hopping and loping about in a demonstration of their lunar agility.

They found walking and working on the moon less taxing than had been forecast. Armstrong once reported he was "very comfortable."

And people back on earth found the black and white television pictures of the bug-shaped lunar module and the men tramping about it so sharp and clear as to seem unreal, more like a toy and toy-like figures than human beings on the most daring and far-reaching expedition thus far undertaken.

During one break in the astronauts' work, President Nixon congratulated them from the White House in what, he said, "certainly has to be the most historic telephone call ever made."

"Because of what you have done," the President told the astronauts, "the heavens have become a part of man's world. And as you talk to us from the Sea of Tranquillity it requires us to redouble our efforts to bring peace and tranquillity to earth."

"For one priceless moment in the whole history of man all the people on this earth are truly one — one in their pride in what you have done and one in our prayers that you will return safely to earth."

Replied Armstrong:

"Thank you, Mr. President. It's a great honor and privilege for us to be here representing not only the United States but men of peace of all nations, men with interests and a curiosity and men with a vision for the future."

Armstrong and Aldrin returned to their

landing craft at 10:11 p.m. (Tucson time) after opening the hatch on the moon. While the third member of the crew, Lt. Col. Michael Collins of the Air Force, kept his orbital vigil overhead in the command ship, the two moon explorers settled down to sleep.

Outside their vehicle the astronauts had found a bleak world. It was just before dawn, with the sun low over the eastern horizon behind them and the chill of the long lunar nights still clinging to the boulders, small craters and hills before them.

Aldrin said that he could see "literally thousands of small craters" and a low hill out in the distance. But initially he was impressed most of all by the "variety of shapes, angularities, granularities" of the rocks and soil where the landing craft, code-named Eagle, had set down.

The landing was made four miles west of the aiming point, but well within the designated area. An apparent error in some data fed into the craft's guidance computer from the earth was said to have accounted for the discrepancy.

Suddenly the astronauts were startled to see that the computer was guiding them toward a possibly disastrous touchdown in a boulder-filled crater about the size of a football field.

Armstrong grabbed manual control of the vehicle and guided it safely over the crater to a smoother spot, the rocket engine stirring a cloud of moon dust during the final seconds of descent. Soon after the landing, upon checking and finding the lunar module in good condition, Armstrong and Aldrin made their decision to open the hatch and get out earlier than origi-

(Continued on 7A, Col. 1)

Astronauts Go 'Ashore'

Index

Bridge	12A	Mostly Hers ..	10-11A
Comics	10-11B	Movies	5B
Crossword	4A	Pub. Rec.	5B
Editorial	12B	Radio-TV	11B
Horoscope	10B	Sports	2-4B