

Witness To A Launching

LEADERS of the state's Apollo 8 crew were always in the spotlight. One of the witnesses to the launching of Apollo 8 at Cape Kennedy Saturday (December 16, 1968) was Mr. McKean. He was in the area via special delivery letter sent after the launch but it was not received in time for last week's edition of the Scout. Even though the Apollo crew is safely back from their journey around the moon, we feel an eye witness report is still timely. Here are Mr. McKean's thoughts at launch time.

Years ago, when I was miles and then was in the almost 400 miles to the launch site, I was located at a point in a park and around town. It was now about midnight and I was without an evening meal. I took a walk and bought a sandwich and an apple. Then I went to bed. I had a call from the launch site. At 5 a.m. the passion, traffic awakened me and I got up. The morning was cool and broke the stars shining brightly. About 10 miles north on Route 1 I found many cars parked in a large clearing with a magnificent view of the launching pad. It was brightly lit and could be seen for miles. My first reaction to this great step in the exploration of space was one of indifference. My purpose for stopping to see this event was one of curiosity and to be able to say "I saw there."

But, as I sat and had time to think I began to see what a great event this was. I put myself in the position of an astronaut. What must he be feeling on this morning, realizing he will be shot into the air at a great speed and travel literally hundreds of thousands of miles in space? It was me, my stomach would be full of butterflies and I would be wondering what it is this thing that is so huge here on earth and so small in space never gets off the ground? And then if it does fall something goes wrong in flight when thousands of miles from earth. One thing could be that with

the launch of Apollo 8, the crew was always in the spotlight. One of the witnesses to the launching of Apollo 8 at Cape Kennedy Saturday (December 16, 1968) was Mr. McKean. He was in the area via special delivery letter sent after the launch but it was not received in time for last week's edition of the Scout. Even though the Apollo crew is safely back from their journey around the moon, we feel an eye witness report is still timely. Here are Mr. McKean's thoughts at launch time.

Years ago, when I was miles and then was in the almost 400 miles to the launch site, I was located at a point in a park and around town. It was now about midnight and I was without an evening meal. I took a walk and bought a sandwich and an apple. Then I went to bed. I had a call from the launch site. At 5 a.m. the passion, traffic awakened me and I got up. The morning was cool and broke the stars shining brightly. About 10 miles north on Route 1 I found many cars parked in a large clearing with a magnificent view of the launching pad. It was brightly lit and could be seen for miles. My first reaction to this great step in the exploration of space was one of indifference. My purpose for stopping to see this event was one of curiosity and to be able to say "I saw there."

But, as I sat and had time to think I began to see what a great event this was. I put myself in the position of an astronaut. What must he be feeling on this morning, realizing he will be shot into the air at a great speed and travel literally hundreds of thousands of miles in space? It was me, my stomach would be full of butterflies and I would be wondering what it is this thing that is so huge here on earth and so small in space never gets off the ground? And then if it does fall something goes wrong in flight when thousands of miles from earth. One thing could be that with



Murphy's 1968 news about Kentucky Higgins' sports car which struck the rear of a truck injuring two adults, possibly the accident occurred just inside the city limits on U.S. 19 east of Murphy on 6:19 p.m. Sunday. (Photo by Jack Davidson)

Youth Regains Consciousness Following Car-Truck Accident

A Charlotte youth regained consciousness Tuesday morning at Providence Hospital after receiving head injuries in a car-truck accident Sunday.

David Freeman, 15, had been in a coma since the 8:40 p.m. accident which also injured his grandmother, Mrs. Louise Stewart, 52, of Charlotte.

Investigating State Trooper Don Reavis said the accident occurred when Glen Lanier, 17, of Bessemer City, Ala. backed his truck into the east bound lane of U.S. 19 and into the path of Mrs. Stewart's car.

Road Construction Totals \$6.8 Million Since 1965

Highway construction in Cherokee County since 1965 has totaled \$6,800,000, according to a report by the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

Hiwassee Dam Native Assumes Georgia Post

Ed Spivia, 1968 graduate of Hiwassee High School, recently became Director of Public Relations for the department of Industry and State for the state of Georgia.



ED SPIVIA

In this position, in addition to regular news chores, the young reporter conducted a number of outstanding personality interviews, notable among which were four-hour interviews with Senator Herman Linn and Rev. Martin Luther King. Perhaps his most memorable achievement in 1968 resulted from his taped interview with Julian Bond, controversial elector to the Georgia House of Representatives. Spivia's two tapes of this interview, offering incontrovertible evidence of Bond's unapologetic attitudes, served as the basis for the See HIWASSEE NATIVE on page 4.

1968 In Review; A Year Of Contrasting Stories In The News

The past 12 months have been a year of contrasts in Cherokee County as stories of violence, crime, automobile accidents and Vietnam deaths have shared the front pages of the CHEROKEE SCOUT with accounts of progress within Cherokee and Clay counties that have been greater than any other year.

JANUARY
A 1,500 pound safe containing over \$7,000 in cash was stolen from four stores in the Hanging Dog section of Cherokee County just after the first of the year. Most of the money in the safe was payments made to Blue Ridge EMC by local residents.

FEBRUARY
The Clay County Board of Commissioners rejected a contract with the U.S. Forest Service that would have given Clay County unlimited assistance in forestry protection. The controversial decision by the Board was based on the County's proposed inability to pay \$1,825 toward the salary of a forest protector.

MARCH
The citizens bank and trust company of Hayesville was notified of \$36,712.21 March 12th, with the accused robbers being captured the same day. Two Dalton, Ga. men were charged after being captured in two separate north Georgia counties. Most of the money was recovered shortly after the robbery. The two men walked into the Hayesville branch office and ordered one of the cashiers to fill up a bag. One of the men carried a shotgun, the other a pistol.

APRIL
The Cherokee County Courthouse and jail were described as "filthy" in a report submitted by the Grand Jury during the March-April session of the superior court. The jury also made recommendations for several schools throughout the county. One of the jurors, Floyd Wallace, disagreed the jury report and said that the Bechtler school was "dirtier than the jail." According to Wallace, the jurors did not discuss the findings in the jury report.

MAY
Congressman Roy Taylor announced that new post offices will be built at Marble and Warm. Both buildings would replace present, outdated facilities.

JUNE
Western Telephone Company announced that \$283,000 will be spent in the near future to improve the telephone system in Clay County. The major objective of this expenditure would be to increase the number of lines within the county and increase the long distance calls.

JULY
The Murphy Jaycee July 4th celebration was a success as all of the week's activities received popular support. Miss Donna Chastain of Murphy was crowned Miss Lake Hiwassee in the annual beauty pageant.

AUGUST
Murphy Elementary School was accredited for the first time in its history by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Accreditation was approved after various deficiencies in the buildings and programs were corrected.

SEPTEMBER
Ben Scott resigned as Chairman of the Democratic Committee of Cherokee County claiming party disunity and petty politics as reasons for his resignation. Scott later claimed to be heading up George Wallace's campaign in WNC, which was later repudiated as a misunderstanding.