Moon Musings *

BY JACK TELL

The Moon Landing, of course, topped anything that accompanied the event itself.

The billions of words written, and the myriads of billions of words spoken, in every language by all peoples, have unquestionably covered infinate aspects as inconceivable as the event itself. It was described in terms ranging from the greatest happening in all manking to merely the biggest step forward since Columbus discovered America. So much for that.

Other things of high magnitude took place, overshadowed by the Moon Landing.

For one, it is estimated some 500,000,000 persons viewed the First Step. This is twelve and a half times more than those who watched Elvis Presley's first appearance on the Ed Sullivan show. For another, a tv program covering the event lasted 32 continuous hours, which tripled the time we sat glued to the set when Humphrey lost by a nose.

It does not seem possible that ever again will our daily routine be disrupted to this extent. Perhaps something personal may pop up in the future that will command all our attention for a longer period, certainly nothing of general appeal.

Thousands of thoughts flittered through our mind during the long vigil. We respected Cronkite's thoroughness in advance preparation and his professional presentation, but as the hours waned we became annoyed at his incessant pounding away indoctrinating us of the importance of the event, which we knew all the time. While realizing the necessity of sponsorship, we will never forget that ideas come from trees, that phone calls will be transplanted and that a man can lose his shorts, but never his morning mush.

We contemplated how the Moon Landing would affect certain aspects of our society. Naturally, the comics will introduce Moon jokes in their routines. We can visualize the high-paid writers wracking their brains to concoct tidbits of mirth from man's leaving the earth. Then will come the songs that are certain to capitalize on the event, like "Lucky Lindy" and "Here We Go into the Wild Blue Yonder." There will be books, and plays

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Evenings

8:00 p.m.

and tv shows, followed by movie versions. To get back to the humorists. We couldn't help but feel sorry for them when one of the earthmen on the Moon stole the thunder and wiped out a full segment of "original" word-contriving, by commenting on blast-off: "Are we number one on the runway?"

This eliminates all variations of one earthman tapping the other on the shoulder, who, without turning, asks "Who is it?" Or, as the second climbs through the hatch for return, the first queries, "Is Everyone in?" But at \$5,000 a week there will be others. On this you can bet.

Then we contemplated the possiblility of life on the Moon. Although those who should know, said there was nothing living there, how could they be absolutely positive? What if, as we watched the two men on the Lunar surface, we suddenly saw a horrible monster appear on the screen. There was never a mention of the equipment containing a gun or any weapon of defence. That's how our simple mind worked and that's why we were most relieved when it was announced they were safely back inside with the hatch closed.

While others hoped, we believe for certain with full honesty and deep sincerity, the Moon Landing will bring changes in understanding and deeds among peoples on earth. Something universal will take place to supercede, what now appears as petty differences. We had fleeting pangs of shame for the parts, no matter how minor, we are playing in the Viet Nam and Israeli-Arab conflicts, poverty, crime, juvenile eruption, etc. "When" or "how", we can't answer, but we know now the "Why" the improvements for mankind will take place.

Here are a few of our random thought jottings of actual and imaginary happenings that could of been taking place immediately before, during and after the First Step: PRES. NIXON: "Fellow Republicans."

ARMSTRONG'S NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR: "Haven't seen

you around. Been away?"

INTELLECTUAL: "Could have used that 26 billion to feed

MOON HIPPY: 'Dig those crazy earthmen traveling a quarter million miles for a few rocks. Must have rocks in their heads,"

MARY MANNING, LV SUN STAFFER: "In the immortal words of the Beatles."

NY TMES BULLPEN: "But Mr. Bernstein, isn't MAN STEPS ON MOON a bit trite? Raymond McCaw would have written the headline: "THEY MADE IT-HOT DOG"

LV CASINO SPECTATOR: "Why did you leave the tables to watch tv? I'm winning." CRAP SHOOTER: "Why didn't you watch this epic event?

I'm losing."

HOWARD HUGHES: "I'll buy it."

SONG WRITER: "What rhymes with Wapokeneta?" RUTHE DESKIN AND A MILLION GRANDMOTHERS: "I'm crying grandchildren, because I'm moon happy." HORSEPLAYER: "What's the price on splashdown?" QUEEN ISABELLA: "Hock my jewels for a bunch of

rocks, you nuts?"

ABE LINCOLN: "Four score and twenty moons ago." JFK: "Its not what the moon can do for us, but what can we do for etc.?"

JIMMY DURANTE: "What's the moon got you can't find on my nose?"

HELEN MORGAN: "Maybe he'll come on Moonday, maybe Tuesday, maybe never."

JOE FRISCO: "On the way to the mmmmmmmmoo -hell, they're back."

BONNIE TELL: "You been to the moon grandpa? Did

you bring something back for me?"

MRS. PETILLO: "You writing on the moon? That's good, Nobody else wrote about it,"

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