Neil Was 'A Nice, Normal Kid'

By TOM TIEDE
NEA Staff Correspondent

WAPAKONETA, Ohio—(NEA)—To hear some people in his home town tell it, astronaut Neil Armstrong didn't leave for the moon just a few days ago—the journey actually began years before, here in middle America

Never mind that it was the 1930s and '40s then and rocketry was still in the Roman-candle stage. Never mind that the farthest man had yet gotten from earth was five miles, and that in a balloon

Armstrong, the locals insist, "was years ahead of his time"

Old John Crites seems to remember it better than anyone He's a retired science teacher who taught the astronaut in high school (1944-47)

"Neil was always coming over to my house, don't you know, to talk about things And well, one night we were standing on my porch and there was a big harvest moon shining down on us, from the east I remember I said to Neil—he was a graduating senior then—I said 'Neil, what's next for you?' And he looked up at the moon, pointed his finger and replied 'Mr Crites sometime I want to meet that man up there'"

That's the way it was, they say so help 'em

Of course it wasn't that way. Neil Armstrong, as a skinny, sometimes awkward, often shy, kid growing up here on the farm plains of Ohio, really didn't think much more about the moon than anybody else. And local recollections about the "born spaceman" with the "burning desire" are, while good for sighs, not terribly accurate.

Those who remember Armstrong best say he was indeed unusual in a couple of ways—but there was little to hint in his childhood that he would one day be the stuff of legends

A former chum, cabinet maker Jerre Maxson, says, "I suppose you could say we grew up together But I don't want anybody to think we were best friends All of a sudden, everybody in town seems to be Neil's bosom buddy Actually, I don't think he had any bosom buddies He was just a quiet, nice kid who kept a lot to himself

"The thing I remember best about him was nothing to do with space We played music together in a funny little German brass combo called the Mississippi Mudcats Neil was very good on a baritone horn, you know He could play a little piano too Anyway, we got a lot of laughs out of it

"I remember the only money we ever made in that combo was $5 apiece for two nights' work at the Uniopolis Institute. It's an annual social event and we played at the intermissions. I'll never forget it. We wound the whole thing up drinking beer—the first we'd tasted"

Maxson remembers this episode in Armstrong's youth with especial emphasis Because, as many agree such Armstrong extravagances were rare

He was not outward but inward He did not participate in any but catch on athletics (he preferred playing in the school band) He did not hang around with friendship cliques He was moderate in most things dress, speech and actions

"I don't think Neil even dated very much" says another school pal florist Dudley Schuler "Oh, we went out on doubles once in a while, but he was not a great woman's man I suppose he was interested in girls like we all were but he seemed to be more interested in other things

"Those model planes of his, for instance Man he loved to make them They came traced out in balsa wood and you'd have to cut them apart and glue them together P-38s or B-17s For most of us, I remember it was just kicks but for Neil I think, it seemed to be something else"

To be sure, the record shows it was something else Richard Brading, a druggist who once employed Armstrong (at 40 cents an hour) says, "The boy used to spend every minute he could reading all the aviation magazines on my rack"

Jacob Zint, a local amateur astronomer, says, "He always wanted to know about atmospheric conditions and things like that"



Neil Armstrong

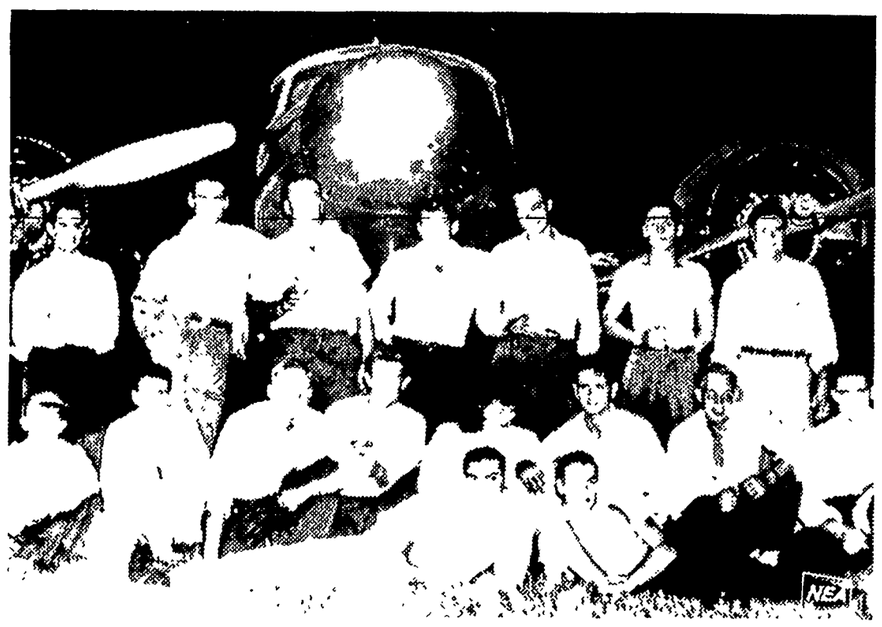
At 14, Armstrong was taking private lessons on a now deserted airstrip north of town At 14½, he helped rebuild an old twin-engine junker And at 15, before he could drive a car, he was a licensed pilot.

Undoubtedly, Neil Armstrong's early affection for aviation is what leads some people in his birthplace to remember him as something he wasn't—extraordinary

He grew up quietly, he made few waves, he was mostly average

"Neil," says his old study hall teacher, Victor Blanke, "was just a nice, well-mannered, normal kid, that's all Like millions of others just like him And isn't this what's really extraordinary? That here a nice, normal kid from nowhere is the first man on the moon I'm proud of that simple fact—and I think history should be proud of it, too"

(Newspaper Enterprise Assn)



YOUNG NEIL ARMSTRONG (kneeling, third from left) and fellow aviation enthusiasts with the twin-engine aircraft they rebuilt.

The buck Ends here . . . .

By Ivan D.E. Beaumont

It was about 7 a.m., when I dialed the number.

"Hello," said Dwight Wilberger of D & D Electric.

"Got a problem," I said.

"Gimme 25 guesses," was the answer.

It took a moment for my expert opinion of what went wrong with the air conditioner when Dwight said he would be right up.

I offered to fry him bacon and eggs, toast and coffee. (But no strawberry preserves. Them's is special).

He didn't decline. Just sorta backed away when I explained that, like my talent as a repairman, I'm also an expert at cookin'.

Well, that was about all I could do to stir up the community in the morning, besides it was hot and sticky so early in the morning, so I slipped out of the house and went to the air conditioned office.

And at the office, there was a letter.....

Peggy Peoples, 15, daughter of Mr and Mrs Oren Peoples Syracuse, sent in a good color picture of herself and a cocker spaniel named, "Blacky" and an accompaning letter.

Yes, Peggy, your dog, Blacky, is from our cocker's litter. You were only three or four years old at the time.

Tootsie's other pups (we call her "the old girl" as she approaches her 13th birthday) went to Bob Melton and Max Moyer in Nebraska City. The blond pup went to Illinois to the granddaughter of the late Edgar Lightbody and Mrs Lightbody.

Mr and Mrs Earl King and family of Cheyenne, Wyo., are returning to Nebraska City. Earl managed the Cook Paint store in Nebraska City and took over management of a store in Cheyenne a year or so ago.

He will work for a shade company and hopes to establish headquarters in Nebraska City.

This cartoon was clipped from the Pittsburg Press in Pennsylvania by Dr G.E. Mann.

Like the man sez, "how's that grab you?"



Nebraska FFA boys, sponsors and friends will soon kick off a fund raising campaign for a 27-acre State FFA camp near Aurora.

The boys, vocational agriculture teachers in the state, and the many friends of the FFA, have put cash in the pot to make the camp come true.

Sev Sorensen, vo ag teacher in Nebraska City, said the camp is needed and its location is acceptable because of the closeness to Nebraska City.

Cunningham gets five year term

Jeffrey Cunningham, 18, Nebraska City, was sentenced to not less than five years and not more than 10 years in the Nebraska Penal and Correctional Complex at Lincoln in district court at Otoe county courthouse Friday by Judge Walter Smith.

Cunningham had pleaded guilty on July 10 to a charge of assault with intent to commit rape in an information filed by County Attorney Richard Hoch.

The incident, which involved a 57-year-old woman, occurred on July 3.

Cunningham was represented by Deputy County Attorney Bernard M Spencer.

Deputy Sheriff Tom Durant said that Cunningham would be taken to Lincoln later in the day.

COURTHOUSE NEWS

COUNTY COURT

Marriage license issued to Robert Lee Lynn and Betty June Harshbarger, both of Nebraska City.

DISTRICT COURT

In the cases of the State vs Robbin D Dayley and Cletus H Goible, habeas corpus. Motion to dismiss filed by the respondent, Sheriff Bill Miller, was overruled. Petition for habeas corpus of Goible and Robbin were set for hearing on July 30 at 3:30 p.m. The respondent was granted to and including July 28 in which to file an answer. Robbin and Dayley were charged with informations filed by County Attorney Richard Hoch for possession for more than a half pound of marijuana.

State vs Elbert (Bert) Claude Hutchison, failure to support. Judge Smith modified an order issued on May 12, 1969, to read "That he shall reasonably and adequately support his wife and dependent children" at the request of Jack Ryder, adult probation officer, since Hutchison is now living with his family.

An order was filed by Judge Walter Smith in the matter of the valuation and assessment (1968) of improvements on leased ground, owned by Lincoln Grain, Incorporated, a Behlen warehouse in Syracuse. The order stated that the fair market value was $6,000 on January 1, 1968, and that its assessed valuation for 1968 was $2,100. The Board of Equalization was ordered to change its records accordingly. Findings of the board of assessed valuation of $5,750 on May 31, 1968, reduced to $5,450 in 1969, were ordered set aside.

State vs James T White and Kenneth L Neighbors, attempted burglary and possession of burglary tools. Judge Smith ordered a judgment of default in the amount of $2,000 against White and his bonding company, American Bonding company. White failed to appear for jury trial April 9. Neighbors, meanwhile, was finded $300 on an amended complaint in the case charging him with maliciously injuring a building or structure on land.

NEW CARS LICENSED AND TITLED

Nebraska City Coca Cola Bottling Company, Inc., Dodge truck, Rowe; James L or Helen R Van Renan, Honda motorcycle, Rowe; Clarence E or Margaret Spitz, Syracuse, Williams Craft caravan, Abco Recreational Vehicle, Omaha; Josephine Brugman, Chevrolet; Yingling Chevrolet, Wichita, Kansas; Joseph Lorenz or Loetta Ruth Saall, Garden Grove, California, Ford, Holmes; Arnold C or Patricia Anne Draeger, Dunbar, Chevrolet, DuTeau Chevrolet, Lincoln.

George L or Nancy C Davis, Chevrolet truck, Haley, William E. Tempelmeyer, Honda motorcycle, Bellevue Honda; Bill Cropp, Cook, Chevrolet truck, Strong, Four Mile Leasing, Buick, Novak; Howard H or Karen W Carver, Chevrolet, Haley; Ben Kohout, Jr., Chevrolet, Haley.

Don or June Payne, Talmage, GMC truck, Novak; Strong Brothers Leasing, Syracuse, Chevrolet, Strong; Timothy D Jr., or Anna Marie Crook, Mercury, Holmes; Bando Camper and Trailer, Chevrolet truck, Haley's; Kenneth Arthur, Buick, Novak.

Chemical plant blasts hurt many

ADA, Mich. (UPI)—A chemical plant explosion Friday night injured at least 15 workers here. Another 12 workers were unaccounted for and authorities feared they might be trapped in the burning building.

The fire at the Amway Corp., which manufactures home care products ranging from soaps to cosmetics, consumed the chemical plant and continued burning early today.

Smaller explosions caused by bursting alcohol vats fueld the blaze which threatened other buildings owned by the company located in this west Michigan community.

All ambulances from nearby Grand Rapids and Cascade were rushed to the scene and four Grand Rapids hospitals reported they were taking in injured workers. At least four were reported in critical condition.

Deluge guns, water cannons mounted on top of fire trucks, were being rushed from nearby coomunities while other units came to the scene from as far as 40 miles away.

Apollo timetable

SPACE CENTER, Houston (UPI)—The Apollo 11 timetable for Sunday and Monday based on the flight plan and subject to change:

Sunday

7:32 a.m. EDT—Crew awakens for first of two very busy days.

9:32 a.m. — Aldrin enters moon lander without his spacesuit.

10:20 a.m.—Armstrong enters moon lander, wearing spacesuit, and starts final check of systems.

10:47 a.m.—Aldrin exits lander, puts on spacesuit in command ship and returns to landing craft.

1:47 p.m.—Lunar lander and command ship separate slightly.

2:12 p.m.—Collins in command ship visually inspects outside of lunar module for any damage.

3:11 p.m.—Astronauts fire descent engine in lunar lander, drop it into lower moon orbit and begin the long ride down toward the surface.

4:07 p.m.—Lander's big engine begins final descent approach firing, braking ship out of orbit at 50,000 foot altitude on sloping path toward the selected landing site.

4:19 p.m.—Lander touches down on lunar Sea of Tranquillity.

6:23 p.m.—Armstrong and Aldrin begin first meal on moon's surface.

7:03 p.m.—Two men begin four hour rest period prior to leaving moon lander's cabin.

11:03 p.m.—Rest period ends and crew eats snack.

Monday

2:02 a.m.—Armstrong and Aldrin depressurize the cabin and open the hatch in preparation for moonwalk.

2:12 a.m.—Armstrong leaves lander and begins descent of ladder. He pulls on D-ring, opening equipment stowage area door and allowing television camera a view of surface and foot of ladder.

2:21 a.m.—Armstrong places left foot on surface, becoming first man to set foot on the moon.

2:39 a.m. — Aldrin leaves moon lander, begins descent of ladder.

2:56 a.m.—Astronauts collect bulk, non-selective sample of moon material (about 50 pounds of dirt and rock fragments).

3:38 a.m.—Moon explorers deploy scientific experiments on lunar surface.

3:42 a.m.—Astronauts begin collection of detailed sample of moon material. Same (also about 50 pounds) taken from documented areas and data carefully recorded on it.

4:24 a.m.—Aldrin climbs back up ladder and enters cabin of lander.

4:39 a.m.—Armstrong reenters cabin of moon lander. Astronauts pump air back in and take off outer moonwalk garments.

5:51 a.m.—Astronauts open cabin hatch and toss out equipment and supplies they no longer need. Hatch closed.

6:13 a.m.—Armstrong and Aldrin eat, then rest for four hours and 40 minutes.

1:15 p.m.—Astronauts fire ascent engine of lunar lander, a critical step if they are to return to command ship circling overhead.

2:02 p.m.—Ascent half of landing craft inserts into intermediate moon orbit.

2:53 p.m.—Lander begins series of maneuvers, aiming toward rendezvous and docking with command ship where Collins waits.

5:32 p.m.—Command ship and lunar lander dock. Armstrong and Aldrin vacuum clean their equipment and spacesuits in preparation for entering mothership.

9:25 p.m.—Ascent stage of moon lander jettisoned from command ship and abandoned in moon orbit.

4-H Club News

JULIAN —(N-P) The Borderline Feeders 4-H club held their annual 4-H tour Sunday. They held a watermelon feed at the Homer Anville home.

John Hodges and Homer Anville are leaders of the club.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Required by law to inform citizens of matters affecting them or their property.

NOTICE OF GUARDIAN'S SALE

In the Matter of the Application of John R. Simms, Guardian of The Estate of Lura Vesta Simms, Incompetent, For Leave to Sell Real Estate.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to an order by the Honorable Walter H. Smith, judge of the District Court of Otoe County, Nebraska, made on the 9th day of July, 1969, for the sale of the real estate hereinafter described, there will be sold at public auction, for cash, on the premises, in the City of Nebraska City, Nebraska, on the 30th day of July, 1969, at 1:30 o'clock p.m., the following described real estate, to-wit: Lots Four (4) and Five (5), Block Twenty-nine (29), Prairie City Addition to Nebraska City, Otoe County, Nebraska. The Guardian reserves the right to refuse any or all bids at his discretion.

Dated this 10th day of July 1969.

JOHN R. SIMMS,
Guardian

SPENCER & HOCH, Attorneys
Nebraska City, Nebraska
813—July 13, 20 & 27, 1969.

QUICK QUIZ

Q—Which two chapters of the Old Testament are identical?

A—The 37th chapter of Isaiah and the 19th chapter of the second book of Kings are alike.

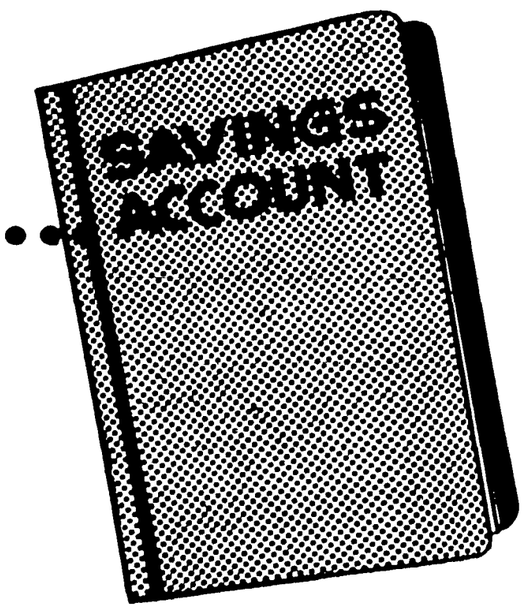
Q—Which is the largest gulf in the world?

A—The Gulf of Mexico, with a shoreline of 3,100 miles from Cape Sable, Fla., to Cabo Catoche, Mexico.

Q—By what name are American Girl Scouts known in Great Britain and Canada?

A—In some countries, such as Canada and Great Britain, Girl Scouts are called Girl Guides.

The One Book . . .



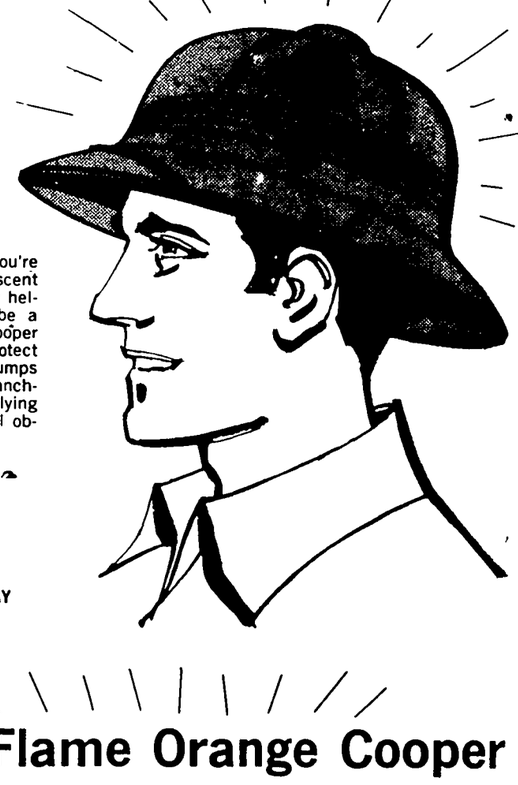
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SAFE

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ON THE HIGHWAY

COOL

Your Cooper helmet is sturdy and built to take rough treatment, yet is cool and light (less than 8 ounces). It has an adjustable head band and small "breather" holes to help keep your head cool It's waterproofed and has a chin band for use on those gusty, windy days.



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